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TODAY'S EXPLAINER 7TH DISTRICT RACE



Carolyn Bourdeaux and David Kim are running for the Democratic nomination in Georgia's 7th congressional district. Bourdeaux ran the Georgia Senate's budget office from 2007 to 2010, while Kim grew his tutoring company, C2 Education, into a national brand. CURTIS COMPTON / CCOMPTON@AJC.COM; CHRIS HUNT / SPECIAL

Democrats fighting for 7th District nod

Carolyn Bourdeaux, David Kim emerged from crowded field.

By Tamar Hallerman
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Perhaps no congressional district in Georgia has seen demographic shifts quite as profound as the 7th.

Spanning portions of Gwinnett and Forsyth counties, the district was once lily white and deeply conservative. But an influx of immigrants, particularly in Gwinnett, has heralded a major political shift, demonstrated by Hillary Clinton's win there in the 2016 presidential race.

Despite the changes, Republican U.S. Rep. Rob Woodall has easily cruised to re-election in recent years.

A bevy of Democrats stepped forward this spring to try to change that. Two of them — Carolyn Bourdeaux and David Kim — remain and will go head to head in Tuesday's runoff for the chance to face Woodall this November.

Background

Bourdeaux: 48 years old; Yale University, University of Southern California and Syracuse University graduate; college professor,

THE WHOLE STORY

2018 CAMPAIGN
As part of its coverage of the issues and the candidates in this busy election year, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution this week is offering breakdowns of the races in next Tuesday's runoff. Look for more at PoliticallyGeorgia.com.

former Georgia budget official
Kim: 39 years old; Harvard University graduate; business owner, teen magazine publisher

Biggest claim to fame

Bourdeaux: Ran the Georgia Senate's budget office from 2007 to 2010.

Kim: Grew his tutoring company, C2 Education, into a national brand with more than \$100 million in annual revenue.

Favorite talking points

Bourdeaux has made health care a main focus of her campaign. She said her father's experience with swelling health care costs and her own frustration with the GOP's effort to repeal and replace Obamacare drove

her to run for office.

"I cannot sit behind my desk anymore," she told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution last summer as she announced her candidacy.

Bourdeaux hasn't been shy about courting female voters who have become one of the major driving forces in Democratic politics. She's campaigned on equal pay for men and women while promoting abortion rights and paid family medical leave.

Kim is the son of South Korean immigrants and frequently discusses how he's been able to live the American dream, putting himself through Harvard with a tutoring business that he quickly grew.

He's touted the need for overhauling the country's immigration laws "to enable those who want to contribute to our great American melting pot to come here legally and safely." He's also advocating for providing a pathway to citizenship for so-called Dreamers, young people who were brought to the U.S. illegally as children.

What they don't want to talk about

Bourdeaux's opponent has sought to tie her to the policies of the Republican-led state Legislature, where she worked during

7th District continued on B8

AJC TOP LOCAL STORY EARLY VOTING

Today final day to vote early for Tuesday's runoff

Republicans have cast 77% of 153,000 ballots turned in since July 2.

By Maya T. Prabhu
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Friday is the last opportunity Georgia voters have to cast their ballots early for next week's primary runoff election.

Those who aren't able to cast a ballot by then will have to go to their polling place Tuesday to vote.

Many Georgia voters have taken advantage of the early-voting window.

As of Wednesday, more than 153,000 people had cast ballots since early voting opened July 2.

Republicans continue to outpace Democrats at early-voting booths, but they have more on the line. Republicans still have to choose their nominees for governor, lieutenant governor and secretary of state.

A little more than 77 percent of the ballots cast so far have been in the Republican runoffs.

About 22 percent of the ballots cast have been in the Democratic

runoffs. The top two elected offices for the party's nominees were set during the May primary. Only 771 early-voting ballots have been cast in nonpartisan races.

The runoffs are required in Georgia for races in which no candidate won a majority in the May 22 primary.

In the Republican runoffs, Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle and Secretary of State Brian Kemp are vying for the governor's mansion while state Sen. David Shafer and former state Rep. Geoff Duncan hope to fill the state's second-highest office.

The Democratic nominees for governor and lieutenant governor are former state House Minority Leader Stacey Abrams and business executive Sarah Riggs Amico, respectively.

On the Democratic side in the runoffs, voters are selecting candidates for Congress in metro Atlanta's 6th and 7th districts. They'll also decide the Democratic nominee for state school superintendent.

Early-voting locations and hours can be found online at www.mvp.sos.ga.gov.

AJC CONTINUING COVERAGE EDDIE LONG



Jamal Parris and Spencer LeGrande were among those who shared similar accounts about Bishop Eddie Long. CHANNEL 2 ACTION NEWS

Four young men who accused Bishop Eddie Long to pen book

By Christian Boone
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and Shelia Poole
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It has been seven years since four young men went public with accusations that their mentor, Bishop Eddie Long, used his position, wealth and fame to coerce them into sexual relationships.

Now, 18 months after the controversial pastor's death from an

aggressive form of cancer, the alleged victims' story will finally be told — with a twist.

Spencer LeGrande told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution that he is collaborating, along with some of Long's other accusers from a 2010 lawsuit, on a novel.

The roman a clef — "Foursaken" — centers around a scandal involving the charismatic preacher of a thriving megachurch. While

Long continued on B8

TODAY'S EXPLAINER 6TH DISTRICT RACE

Political newbies vie in Democratic runoff

By Tamar Hallerman
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Kevin Abel and Lucy McBath are seeking Democratic nomination.

It wasn't all that long ago when Democrats had trouble finding any credible candidates to challenge the GOP's dynasty in Georgia's 6th Congressional District.

But the political grounds shifted after Democrat Jon Ossoff, a previously unheard of millennial filmmaker, nearly won the seat in a special election last spring. Ossoff ultimately lost to former Georgia Secretary of State Karen Handel, but the contest energized Democrats in suburban districts like the 6th that had long been controlled by Republicans.

This year, two political newbies — Kevin Abel and Lucy McBath — are facing off in a July 24 Democratic runoff to take on Handel in the November general election.

Background

Abel: 53 years old; University

THE WHOLE STORY

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of Texas graduate; small business owner

6th District continued on B8

AJC DIGGING DEEPER INVEST ATLANTA

Invest Atlanta CEO given reprimand, but keeps job

By J. Scott Trubey
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Invest Atlanta CEO Eloisa Klementich has been reprimanded, but she will not lose her job following an investigation into a \$40,000 payment to cover luxury airfare for former Mayor Kasim Reed and several staffers who traveled to South Africa last year.

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms announced Thursday that Klementich will be stripped of her employment contract — and the protection of a golden parachute

totaling more than \$600,000 if the city ended her contract early.

But Klementich will remain chief executive of the city's economic development agency as an "at-will employee."

Thursday's announcement came after a nearly three-hour executive session of the Invest Atlanta board in which members discussed outside law firm McFadden Davis' report on its examination of the payment. Bottoms' office said the review

Invest Atlanta continued on B8

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6th District

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McBath: 58 years old; Virginia State University graduate; gun control advocate, former flight attendant

Biggest claim to fame

Abel: Started a technology consulting company with his wife in Alpharetta that now employs two dozen people.

McBath: Became a national gun control advocate after her teenage son was fatally shot following a dispute over loud music.

Favorite talking points

Abel frequently discusses his personal journey as a South African immigrant who went on to start a successful business, and he stresses the need to preserve the American dream for others. He's had particularly strong words about President Donald Trump's move to end an Obama-era program that shielded young immigrants from deportation.

He's also spoken about the need to improve civil discourse in politics and rebuilding faith in government.

"I am committed to engaging earnestly with members of both parties to find the common ground for which our fellow Americans across the country so deeply yearn," Abel states on his campaign website.

McBath's family history is front and center in her campaign. She frequently discusses the tragic death of her son in 2012 and how it prompted her to become politically involved as a spokeswoman for the gun control groups Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

"Either you are completely about the business of saving people's lives or you're not," McBath said in an interview this spring. "There's no in-between."

She also frequently discusses her past bouts with breast cancer and the need to protect the Affordable Care Act and women's health

care access, including abortion rights.

What they don't want to talk about

Abel has been framed by McBath as a moderate who's out of sync with Democrats. She's cited articles from his personal blog in which he pondered the need for a centrist third party.

Abel hasn't denied that he authored those posts, and he's emphasized the need to appeal to the political middle even while pledging his allegiance to the Democratic Party.

Abel also backtracked after criticizing McBath for benefiting from dark money spent by the political arm of Everytown. He said he supports the mission of the gun control group but also said he wished it would spend its money elsewhere.

McBath has made gun control and her son's death the cornerstones of her campaign for Congress, but she's been criticized by Abel for being too focused on a single issue.

She in recent months has moved to broaden her portfolio, particularly on health care and immigration-related issues. Still, she's stuck to stories from her own life to frame why those issues are important.

McBath has also been forced to answer questions about a brief move to Tennessee that caused her to miss Georgia elections in 2016. McBath said she was living with her husband, a Tennessee resident, during a family emergency and that she has since returned to living in Marietta full time.

Biggest backers

Abel has self-funded a sizable chunk of his campaign, loaning himself \$150,000 as of July 4. He's also boosted his fundraising efforts in recent months, with most of his campaign donations coming from inside Georgia.

McBath had a slow start to the moneymaking game after switching from a statehouse bid to a congressional race at the eleventh hour. She's recently ramped up fundraising with the help

of the left-leaning Democratic group Emily's List. Her efforts have also been aided by outside spending from the Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund. The gun control group's super PAC has spent more than \$1.1 million on her behalf in recent months.

What they're about to get into

The winner of Tuesday's contest will take on Handel in the Nov. 6 general election.

After emerging from last year's special election with a 4-point margin of victory, the Roswell Republican is battle-hardened and well-funded, and she's spent the past year quietly raising money. She kicked off July with roughly \$1 million in the bank — a substantial financial advantage over her opponents.

Should either Abel or McBath defeat Handel, the winner would face immediate tests upon arriving in Washington.

Among the first decisions would be whether to support Nancy Pelosi as the House Democratic leader. The California septuagenarian has been under increasing pressure to step down to let a new generation of leaders come forward.

Abel has said that "new leadership is desperately needed in both parties." McBath has sidestepped the question, refusing to comment on the leadership race before the full slate of candidates is known.

Why it matters

Democrats haven't held control of the 6th Congressional District, which stretches from east Cobb County to north DeKalb County, for decades. Winning the seat would be a coup for the party, in no small part because of Ossoff's loss and the seat's previous occupants, which include former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich and U.S. Sen. Johnny Isakson.

Democrats would also see a pickup in the 6th District as a sign of the party's renewed viability in traditionally Republican suburban districts.

Long

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technically a work of fiction, LeGrande said there should be no doubt the sordid tale of power and betrayal is one they experienced firsthand.

"The last man standing is the strongest," said LeGrande, now 30 and living in Charlotte.

LaGrande, along with former New Birth Missionary Baptist Church members Maurice Robinson, Anthony Flagg and Jamal Parris, shared similar accounts about their relationship with Long, who, they alleged, filled a void left by absent or abusive fathers.

An undisclosed financial settlement reached in 2011, after a fifth accuser, Centino Kemp, came forward, prevents them from discussing Long or New Birth.

The 2010 civil lawsuit claimed Long used "monetary funds from the accounts of New Birth and other corporate and non-profit corporate accounts to entice the young men with cars, clothes, jewelry, and electronics." Each alleged that, once they reached the age of consent, Long coerced them into sexual relationships. Though he agreed to pay for their silence, Long continued to deny their allegations.

But the damage was done, to his legacy and the Stonecrest church that once counted more than 25,000 members. Attendance steadily declined in the years since. Long, who in his heyday wielded global influence as one of the most prominent proponents of the "prosperity gospel," remained New Birth's pastor until his death in January 2017 at the age of 63.

His successor, Bishop Stephen A. Davis of New Birth Birmingham, recently resigned and a nationwide search is being conducted to find a new senior pastor.

In one of his last inter-



Bishop Eddie Long, who in his heyday wielded global influence as one of the more prominent proponents of the "prosperity gospel," died in 2017. He denied allegations of coercing a group of young men into sexual relationships. ASSOCIATED PRESS 2010

views, Long told comedian Steve Harvey that the settlement prevented him from discussing any aspects of the case brought against him.

Asked by Harvey, "Did you ever have sexual relationships with any of your accusers?" Long stood firm. "I'm bound by court that I can't make any statements about that," he said in the 2016 interview.

The longtime pastor also skirted the allegations in his final book, "The Untold Story: The Story of Adversity, Pain and Resilience." LeGrande said he was determined that Long's book wasn't going to be the last word on the most devastating chapter of his young life.

He, along with the other accusers, sans Kemp, recently filed a petition to vacate the arbitration award in DeKalb County.

That filing remains sealed. "We weren't trying to get out of the agreement as much as we wanted to find out what we could and could

not say," LeGrande said. "(Long) wrote a book. We wanted to see if we could write one, too."

In a 2011 interview with The Atlanta Journal-Constitution in 2011, LeGrande recounted his first meeting with the bishop following a sermon on the importance of fathers.

"When I started crawling, that was the day [my father] left," LeGrande said. "A lot of years I didn't even see him." Long told the 15-year-old, "I got you ... I will be your dad," LeGrande recalled.

By the following year he was accompanying his pastor on trips to Kenya and Johannesburg, where he dined with Winnie Mandela.

The following year, when they returned to Kenya, LeGrande said he and Long shared a room. Soon, they would be sharing a bed. LeGrande felt indebted to Long, who he said would use Bible verses to rationalize the intimacy.

With Long exerting more control over his life, encouraging him to move to Atlanta and study for the ministry, LeGrande finally ended their relationship. Interest in Long, his alleged victims and the church they left behind remains high.

LeGrande expects "Forsaken" will reach a large audience. But Thomas W. Dortch Jr., chairman of the board at New Birth, warned the former members he will not stand for any violation of the settlement agreement. "If they cross the line, then they'll answer for it," Dortch said.

"If they violate the agreement or, if at this point, try to embarrass Bishop Long's family, there will be consequences."

"We'll take whatever action is necessary within the law."

"Foursaken" will be completed and available before year's end, LeGrande said. (The group expects to settle on a publisher shortly.)

7th District

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the height of the Great Recession. In order to adhere to the balanced budget law, Georgia lawmakers slimmed the state's budget as revenue shrank. Bourdeaux said she was serving in a nonpartisan role as a budget official and that as a staff member her hands were tied.

Bourdeaux has also been slammed by Kim for being anti-immigrant after she criticized him for not voting in previous elections.

"When Carolyn Bourdeaux attacks me, she is attacking millions of first-generation immigrants and minorities who have not felt welcome in the process," Kim said.

Kim, meanwhile, has been denounced by Bourdeaux as a fair-weather politico for his lack of voting history.

"It is a big jump to go from never having voted to running for the U.S. Congress," Bourdeaux told Kim in a televised debate this spring. Voting, she said, is a "sacred trust."

Bourdeaux said Kim was "appropriat(ing) the violence and tragedies that African-Americans had to endure" to "score cheap political points" after he accused her campaign of "voter suppression" earlier

this month.

Who's funding them?

Bourdeaux has outfund-raised all of her 7th District opponents, including Woodall, for much of the 2018 cycle. That's due in no small part to the political action committee Emily's List, which seeks to elect Democratic women who believe in abortion rights. Much of her money has come from out of state.

Kim has self-funded a substantial chunk of his campaign. And while he entered the race with \$250,000 in seed money — more than half of it from his own wallet — he's struggled with fundraising since then.

What they're about to get into

The winner of the runoff will take on Woodall on Nov. 6.

The four-term Republican is not as strong a fundraiser as many of his U.S. House colleagues from Georgia, but he's still had time to put money away ahead of the general election. He kicked off July with roughly \$529,000 in the bank, according to his campaign's latest filing.

Should either candidate

defeat him, Bourdeaux or Kim would need to almost immediately weigh in on whether to extend Nancy Pelosi's tenure as the House Democratic leader.

Another major question is how to approach President Donald Trump. Should Democrats retake control of the House in November, the party will also need to decide whether to pursue impeachment proceedings against him. That prospect has already deeply divided the Democratic Party.

Bourdeaux previously said she had "very serious concerns" about Trump's "conflicts of interest," but she also said Special Counsel Robert Mueller's inquiry should continue before making any decisions. Kim has also endorsed waiting for Mueller's investigation to conclude.

Why it matters

The number of Democrats serving in the Georgia delegation has shrunk over the past two decades. Now only four are left in a group of 16. Winning back a seat would be a major boost for the party.

A November victory by Kim or Bourdeaux would also be a major victory for the national Democratic Party. As recently as two years ago, the 7th District was seen as a "safe" Republican seat.



Invest Atlanta CEO Eloisa Klementich will be stripped of her employment contract. CONTRIBUTED



Ex-Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed took nine employees to South Africa in 2017. HYOSUB SHIN/HSHIN@AJC.COM 2017



Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms launched the probe in April. JENNA EASON/JENNA.EASON@COXINC.COM

Invest Atlanta

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found no criminal violations.

Bottoms launched the probe in April after The Atlanta Journal-Constitution and Channel 2 Action News uncovered the unusual transaction. Taxpayer money was donated by the city to an Invest Atlanta-tied charity that then returned the money to the city to cover the airfare.

A federal grand jury investigating corruption at City Hall issued a subpoena for records related to the charity, Partners for Prosperity, days after the AJC/Channel 2 report.

In a statement, Bottoms praised Klementich for her leadership and commitment to attracting jobs and adding affordable housing. But, the mayor said, "along with that transformational progress comes an unflinching demand for accountability."

"Dr. Klementich is aware of the gravity of the Board's concerns and has been strongly reminded of the expectations of transparency and fiscal stewardship in all matters with Invest Atlanta and its partners," Bottoms said.

The controversy arose when Reed took nine employees to South Africa during the spring of 2017 to learn about filmmaking, urban agriculture and to recruit jobs.

Most flew business class. Reed caught flight for the trip's overall \$90,000 price tag and promised to find nongovernmental funds to pay the \$40,000 difference between coach and business-class airfare.

In April, the AJC and Chan-

THE WHOLE STORY

An AJC and Channel 2 investigation uncovered an unusual transaction in which the city donated \$40,000 to a dormant charity that donated the money back to the city to pay for business class airfare for former Mayor Kasim Reed and several staffers who visited South Africa last year. The city ordered a review into the matter and a federal grand jury issued a subpoena seeking information about the charity. On Thursday, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms office said a report on the matter found no criminal wrongdoing.

nel 2 found the airfare was paid for by Partners for Prosperity, a dormant charity tied to Invest Atlanta.

City Council approved a \$40,000 donation to the charity in December upon the recommendation of Reed's office.

The funds came from an account that held money from a raise Reed had deferred. But council wasn't informed that the money would be used to pay for airfare Reed promised would be covered by private sources.

On Dec. 29, days before he left office, Reed approved a new contract for Klementich, who also serves as a Partners for Prosperity officer and director. The same day, the city sent \$40,000

to the charity.

This past March, then-city chief financial officer Jim Beard sent a city invoice from his personal email address to Klementich's seeking \$40,000 from the nonprofit. Days later, Klementich signed a check for \$40,000, but Partners for Prosperity's board didn't formally approve the payment until early April, board minutes showed.

Though Bottoms said McFadden Davis found no criminal wrongdoing, she said the firm did fault Klementich's lack of adherence to unspecified board governance standards of the charity.

City Council President Felicia Moore said she would reserve judgment until she could review the law firm's report. But Moore called it a positive step that the city and Invest Atlanta would not be on the hook to pay out another large executive contract.

The AJC requested a copy of the report but did not receive one before press time.

A spokesman for Reed did not return a message seeking comment. Reed has denied any wrongdoing involving the payment.

Klementich has defended the donation and said it was in line with the charity's mission of job creation and aiding in development of affordable housing.

"I appreciate the mayor and the board's ongoing support of my role as CEO of Invest Atlanta," she said in a statement. "I look forward to continuing to serve the citizens and businesses of Atlanta."

SOUTHWEST ATLANTA

Mother, adult son die in house fire

By Chelsea Prince
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

A mother and her adult son were killed in an early morning house fire in southwest Atlanta, neighbors told Channel 2 Action News.

Witness Lynn Blake said she could hear the man and woman screaming for help from inside the two story house in the 10 block of Pope Street.

"Traumatizing," she told

the news station. "You could hear the screams. They stopped."

She described the scene. "Bursting flames," Blake said. "Fire was humongous."

Firefighters who responded to the blaze just after 1 a.m. Thursday had to use a ladder to access the second floor because the first was filled with flames, Atlanta fire Sgt. Cortez Stafford told Channel 2.

"One of our companies

went inside the second floor that was heavily involved with fire and flames through the roof and they were able to get the victims out, but unfortunately it was too late," Stafford said.

While investigators are still on scene working to determine the cause of the fire, preliminary findings indicate the blaze started in a corner on the front porch and spread upward, officials told Channel 2.