

# Stacey Abrams

Stacey was born on December 9, 1973, in Madison, Wisconsin to parents who were deeply involved in the Civil Rights Movement. Her parents were kicked off buses for sitting in the front and were jailed for their participation in boycotts and marches. Education was extremely important in the Abrams household, and Abrams' siblings went on to become professors, social workers, judges, and scientists. Stacey followed suit and became involved in civil rights and political action as a highly qualified attorney.



At age 17, Abrams' work as a speechwriter for a congressional campaign kickstarted her political career. Maynard Jackson, Atlanta's first Black mayor, noticed her and hired her as the only undergrad college student on the staff of his Office of Youth Services in 1993. Abrams received a master's degree from the University of Texas and a JD from Yale, then returned to Atlanta to work as a tax attorney, eventually becoming the Deputy City Attorney. In 2006, Abrams was elected to the Georgia House and centered her policies around criminal justice reform, educational opportunity, Medicaid expansion, and more robust mental illness projects. In 2018, after losing the Georgia gubernatorial election, Abrams founded Fair Fight, an organization dedicated to addressing voter suppression.

In 2013, Abrams created the voter registration non-profit, the New Georgia Project, completing 86,000 voter applications that primarily served voters of color. In 2018, Abrams was the first African American woman to receive a major party's nomination for governor and, although she lost, this kickstarted her involvement in election reform. Abrams received the John F Kennedy New Frontier Award, Friend of Labor Award, and a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize as a result of her books, work with organizations, and position as a public servant.



Stacey's fight and the change she has brought comes from personal experience: in 1991, Abrams was chosen as valedictorian of her high school. She and her parents took the bus to the governor's mansion for her reception, but at the gate the guard on duty told them to leave. This experience of racial discrimination resonated with Abrams – she says, "all I remember that day was a man at a gate, telling me I don't belong." Abrams' Democratic primary win and focus on extending her New Georgia Project work brought her national awareness and continues to shape elections and equitable voting.

