New Video, Ethics Expert Confirm SOS Site Violates Law Traffic Sent to Kemp for Gov. Page also Endorsing Handel

ATLANTA GA – VoterGa is doubling down on its claim that the official Georgia Secretary of State (SOS) web site is in violation of Georgia campaign law. The site has directed traffic to a **Kemp for Governor Campaign page** on Facebook and Twitter for **over 6 months**. A new 3 minute VoterGa <u>video</u> produced by Operation Educate explains that **an agency cannot give anything of value to a candidate** and illustrates valuable links programmed into the official government site at taxpayer expense. Most importantly, the video shows the **exact clauses of Georgia campaign law** that are being violated. [O.C.G.A. § 21-5-30.2(b), O.C.G.A. § 21-5-30.2(b)]

A VoterGA member discovered that a citizen trying to get after hours help at the SOS web site is directed to Secretary Kemp's campaign page promoting his bid for governor. In addition, Kemp campaign Facebook and Twitter links in the main SOS page header direct traffic to Kemp campaign social media. A **former Ethics Commission executive** who was aware of the social media links confirmed, *"That is a problem especially since he is running for another office"*

A taxpayer funded link on an official government web site creates a political advantage for an incumbent that contradicts the obvious intent of Georgia law. But Brian Kemp's social media not only promotes Kemp's bid for governor, it also sometimes features 6th District candidate **Karen Handel.** Although the SOS office is supposedly **non-partisan**, Kemp's featured <u>photo</u> of her and his <u>Twitter</u> stream contain Brian Kemp's <u>endorsement</u> that reads in part, "*I look forward to working with Karen in the weeks ahead to ensure victory at the ballot box*"

The Kemp campaign claims taxpayer funded links are *"standard practice"* but he is **the only incumbent known to be using government web pages promoting a campaign**. Casey Cagle had Facebook and Twitter links on the official Lieutenant Governor page but **removed** them after being questioned earlier this month.

Although a Kemp campaign manager verbally attacked a VoterGa co-founder for exposing misuse of the SOS site, the new educational video reserved its sharpest criticism for an attorney. Page Pate told a local TV reporter that Georgia law "only prevents a state agency from giving a contribution to a campaign committee" The video shows that the clear plain text of the law defines a contribution as anything of value and explicitly prohibits such contributions to a candidate. The video concludes by asking viewers if the attorney tried to create "fake news".