



2020 Georgia Federal Candidate
Questionnaire

Al Bartell

Background Information

Education: Bachelor's Degree in Business, Certified Mediator, Master Public Engagement Consultant

Where is home? Cartersville, GA

Do you currently hold a public office? If so, how long have you held your current office? No

Past public offices held: None

Additional background information you'd like to share: Vietnam-Era U.S. Air Force Veteran, Georgia Public Policy Leader

Georgia in General

Briefly share your qualifications for the office.

As a Master Consultant of thirty years in Public Engagement strategies, for Georgia and the Southeast region of America, I am aware of the challenges for urban, suburban, and rural Georgia. As a Public Policy Leader of local, state, and federal public policies initiatives, I have proposed highly effective public program reforms and public program evaluations. Additionally, I have developed the ability of neighborhood, community, faith, and small business leaders to impact mandated and situational public policy initiatives. As a Certified Mediator in the area of Public Policy Management, I have successfully mediated conflicts between government and the communities they serve. Finally, growing up in the cultural farming practices of the Deep South, and fully embracing the 21st century challenges of the Southern farmer, I am qualified, empowered, and determined to lead the Georgia farmer into an unprecedented successful future.



Please indicate the reasons you are seeking election and your priorities, overarching policy interests, and any solutions for district-specific challenges.

The daunting challenge of the American farmer is to keep pace with ever-changing global competitive agricultural strategies. The Georgia farmer, more than ever, needs and deserves a 21st century champion for the agricultural way of life. My overarching policy interest is to include the Georgia farmers' decision-making process in the mandated farm accountability of our nation's government. My overarching public engagement interest is to elevate the awareness of the Georgia farmer to match the demands of our nation's government. My overarching public advocacy interest is to provide agricultural data to the Georgia farmer so as to level the playing field of global competition.

It is a public policy duty that I accept the challenge of being a candidate and embrace the opportunity to be elected as a United States Senator for the state of Georgia in the dawn of the 21st century.

Farm Bill

With commodity prices still hovering at historically low levels and so much uncertainty in the agriculture industry, the farm bill – and the safety net it provides – is as vital as it has ever been for Georgia farmers. While the current farm bill runs through 2023, what do you see as the biggest priorities for Georgia in the next reauthorization? Are there specific programs or policies that you believe should be improved?

The FY 24 and beyond reauthorization has to include market access feasibility strategies to prevent low level commodity prices that dismantle agriculture industry sustainability. Market access feasibility strategies have to be expanded to include volume incentives to offset situational decreases in prices. The Georgia farmer market awareness level has to be impacted in such a way that production growth selection decisions are a match for seasonal planting resources. Additionally, an improved Georgia farmer market awareness strategy will decrease the impact of demand shifts on profits. Finally, a Georgia farmer market awareness strategy will significantly improve the effectiveness of long and short-term planting and distribution practices.



Trade

It is no secret that farmers have been negatively impacted by the recent trade disputes with many of our closest trading partners, though trade mitigation efforts like the Market Facilitation Program have helped many weather the tough times. With the finalization of several new trade deals, many Georgia farmers are breathing a sigh of relief. However, the deals must be enforced and our trading partners must be held accountable for the promises they've made. How do you plan to play a role going forward in ensuring that countries like China and Japan follow through with their free trade and agricultural purchases commitments?

The trade and agricultural purchase commitments must have the following four enforceable accountabilities and promises: 1. Enforceable guidelines so as to not have the Georgia farmer be impacted by an unfairly imposed one-size-fits-all distribution practice; 2. Enforce variable agreements to prevent farmers from being impacted by arbitrary unrealistic timetables for delivery; 3. Unwavering accountabilities that allow for global financing incentives to be adjustable and not rigid so as to impose competitive disadvantages; and 4. Enforce incentive-based promises so as to allow farmers to take advantage of situational spikes in demand for agricultural goods and services.

The USMCA agreement was welcome news for many Georgia farmers. However, as you know, certain Georgia growers remain concerned about the lack of an enforceable remedy in the deal for seasonal and perishable products in antidumping and countervailing duty proceedings. We know that the Georgia congressional delegation worked very hard to extract a commitment from the Trump Administration to address the issue, and we are grateful for those efforts. But work remains on this issue. What is your goal moving forward to deal with the dumping of fresh fruits and vegetables during Georgia growing seasons?

We must move forward with improved data-gathering methods on seasonal production and perishable elements of fruits and vegetables. This data would allow monitors to better predict the timing and impact of the dumping of fresh fruits and vegetables during the Georgia growing seasons. Improving monitors, farmers and agricultural stakeholders' abilities to predict and counter dumping practices will increase the strategic intent in antidumping and countervailing duty proceedings.



Ag Labor

Agriculture jobs are difficult and undesired by many. The working conditions and seasonality of the jobs are not what most Georgians prefer, and agriculture relies heavily on a reliable migrant labor workforce, such as H-2A. How do you intend to balance the enforcement of immigration laws while helping provide access to the workers agriculture needs?

The enforcement of immigration laws must include non-arbitrary decisions based on un-informed biases that are politically motivated. Periodic re-evaluation of punitive practices must be included in immigration policy so as to dismantle intended and unintended outcomes of situational reactions. Additionally, immigration policy must include situational and seasonal agricultural demands for labor, such that unrealistic labor control policies are not mandated. Finally, dismantle mandated policies that are imported from other industry models that are not based on the norms of Georgia agriculture migrant labor practices.