



2020 Georgia State House & Senate Candidate Questionnaire

Ed Setzler

Background Information

Education: BS Physics, Furman University, 1992

Where is home? Acworth, GA

Do you currently hold a public office? If so, how long have you held your current office? Yes – Georgia State House District 35 (2005-Present)

Past public offices held: N/A

Additional background information you'd like to share:

Ed is a veteran, husband, and father of four who represents Acworth and Kennesaw in the Georgia House of Representatives. Married to Tracie, an AP World History and foreign language teacher, Ed is an Eagle Scout and former Assistant Scoutmaster at BSA Troop 2096 in Acworth where he led the troop's outdoor skills training program from 2010-2015. Ed and Tracie enjoy youth and young adult ministry and are active members of the St. Stephen Orthodox Christian Church in Hiram.

Georgia in General

Briefly share your qualifications for the office.

Having served in the Georgia House of Representatives since 2005, Ed is the Chairman of the House Committee on Science & Technology, Subcommittee Chairman in the Judiciary Noncivil Committee, serves on the Education, Transportation, Appropriations, Reapportionment, and Rules committees, and has served as Chairman of the 19-member Cobb legislative delegation.



An authentic citizen legislator, Ed works full-time as a Program Manager for CROFT in Acworth where he has directed architecture/engineering programs nationwide since 2012 including the design of agriculturally themed educational and competitive rodeo facilities. Prior to joining CROFT, Ed served for 11 years as an Environmental Consultant and Program Manager for MACTEC in Kennesaw where he led design, construction, and environmental consulting programs in 40 states, Europe, and the Far East.

Born in Atlanta, Ed grew up in the Southeast and attended Furman University in Greenville, SC where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Physics and the designation of Distinguished Military Graduate with his Army commission in 1992. A graduate of the US Army Ranger School, Ed served as a Regular Army officer for nine years with leadership assignments in Europe, North Africa, and the Persian Gulf. Ed completed active duty at Fort Stewart, GA as the Commander of a 211 soldier truck transportation company in the 3rd Infantry Division.

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

My overarching goal is to build the long-term value and goodness of our communities and state by making thoughtful, principled, long-term decisions that will stand the test of time.

Agriculture & Rural Georgia

What do you think are the three greatest issues facing Georgia agriculture?

- (1) Domestic and foreign agricultural policies that undermine free/fair trade,
- (2) activist-driven regulatory policies that frame honest farmers as enemies, and
- (3) economic/educational opportunity in rural Georgia that allows rural communities to retain and recruit the best and brightest leaders (ambitious young people growing up in rural communities should not have to move to Atlanta to pursue their dreams).

What is your position on the Conservation Use Value Assessment (CUVA) for property taxes and the Georgia Agriculture Tax Exemption (GATE) program for



exemption from sales tax for input costs? Do you support these programs? Do you believe any changes to the programs are necessary? If so, what and why?

I believe in maintaining conservation and agricultural use ad valorem exemptions to support active farming operations and help retain farm property within farming families. I also believe that sales tax should be paid at the point of sale to the consumer, not in producer-to-producer transactions.

House Bill 545, also known as the Right to Farm Bill, was supported by all of the major agricultural organizations in the state throughout the 2019-2020 Legislative Biennium. Does traditional agriculture and our state's right to farm laws deserve protection, and what role do you think the State should play in such protections?

I support the Right to Farm Bill supported HB545 in a 107-58 House vote on March 7, 2019. I also believe the right to maintain low-impact farm animals such as chickens should be preserved, subject to reasonable restrictions, for homeowners in covenant protected neighborhoods.

Animal agriculture is a significant part of Georgia's economy. Animal rights groups are enacting laws around the country to regulate animal husbandry practices. Do you support the laws being enacted, which posture animal rights equal to human rights, or do you see these laws as threats to Georgia's agriculture interests?

While man has the responsibility to respectfully care for livestock and domestic animals, the status of 'person' should be reserved for human beings, including unborn human beings inside of their mothers.