



Georgia in General

- 1) Briefly share your qualifications for the office.

I am a tried and true conservative with a lifetime of experience fighting for Georgian values. I grew up in Northeast Georgia, where I learned about public service from my dad, a Georgia State Trooper, and my mom, a care provider to local senior citizens. Following their example, I have lived a life of faith, public service and conservative values.

I have a tested record as President Trump's top defender in Congress and will continue to fight for the President in the U.S. Senate. As the top Republican on the House Judiciary Committee, I led the fight against the Democrats' baseless investigations into President Trump.

I have proudly represented Northeast Georgia in the U.S. House of Representatives since 2013. In 2018, I worked hand-in-hand with President Trump to achieve the most significant overhaul of the federal criminal justice system in a generation through my legislation, the First Step Act. I also spearheaded the most significant piece of copyright legislation in decades, which protects creators and songwriters by modernizing music licensing law. My bill, the Music Modernization Act, was signed into law by President Trump in 2018.

Before serving in the U.S. House I represented Georgia's 27th District in the Georgia State House. During my time in the state house, I served as the Governor's Floor Leader, where I shepherded legislation to strengthen the HOPE scholarship program for future generations of Georgia students. Prior to my time in public service, I pastored Chicopee Baptist Church for 11 years.

In addition to my service as a pastor and representative, I have also ministered to our military as a chaplain in the Air Force Reserve since 2002. Stationed at Balad Air Force Base, I served a combat tour in Iraq from 2008-2009.

While I have served as a pastor, a Congressman, an attorney, and an Air Force Chaplain, I remain foremost a husband to Lisa and father to daughter Jordan and sons Copelan and Cameron.

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

I have three reasons for running for U.S. Senate – Jordan, Copelan, and Cameron. Those are my three children, and to me they resemble exactly what I'm fighting for every day: a better future for the next generation of Georgians. I will work hard in the U.S. Senate to preserve conservative values, to defend the President, and to create opportunities for every American to achieve the American Dream. I will continue building off my success in the U.S. House of Representatives by always standing up for the U.S. Constitution and the God-given rights it protects, including fighting for the unborn, our Second Amendment rights, and our religious liberty. I plan to advance



economic policies that lift every Georgian by fighting burdensome regulations and keeping taxes low. Ensuring opportunity for all means giving Georgians access to the tools they need to succeed, which is why I will continue working to expand access to broadband. Georgia is home to a thriving agriculture industry and hardworking farmers, growers, ranchers, and processors, and it's a priority of mine to advance strong trade deals and fight unfair foreign trade practices to ensure we put Georgia farmers first. Putting America first means securing our border and building the wall and holding bad actors like the Chinese Communist Party accountable for the decades of harm they have inflicted on the United States. Most of all, I look forward to partnering with President Trump to further his America First agenda, which will ensure that we always put Georgians – and Americans – first.

Farm Bill

- 1) 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 Farm Bill is vital for national security. Producers must have certainty. During past Farm Bills, I have advocated for favorable commodity policies for seed cotton, peanuts and additional research and marketing programs for specialty crops. In the 2018 Farm Bill, I led the efforts in the House Rules Committee to stop amendments opposed by House Ag Committee leaders that would have harmed Georgia family farms. As you know the Farm Bill is critically important to our growers but when natural disaster strikes outside of Farm Bill consideration, many times the federal government has to step in to assist family farms. We saw this with Hurricane Michael and with our state's important blueberry crops. After the harm blueberry crops endured in 2017, it was critical that these growers got the assistance they needed, and I was proud to be a part of that effort in 2018 and 2019. With the help of Farm Bureau members, I expect to serve on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. I will champion policies beneficial to Georgia with specific guidance from Farm Bureau Policy and input from Georgia's family of agriculture groups.

A Farm Bill discussion could take dozens of pages. Here are a few of my thoughts.

The **Nutrition Title** of the bill has long been overlooked as a potential source of enhanced economic opportunity for producers. I commit to work on 21st Century USDA feeding programs that show preference to locally produced, Georgia Grown products. This would be particularly important for school nutrition. Our students should be fed with our products. I commend the county



Farm Bureau Women’s and Young Farmer Committees in Georgia have really stepped up their activities in this area cooperating with local school nutrition officials. We can do more. Farm Bureau members can count on me to be a strong partner.

The **Research Title** helps ensure a competitive edge for the next generation of Georgia producers. As your Senator, I will be the lead advocate for investments that meet the core competencies of our UGA research programs. Our poultry, livestock, plant breeding, peanut, cotton and fruit/vegetable teams are the best in the nation. Working with Farm Bureau and commodity leaders, I am certain that we will be able to advance research priorities that are important for Georgia. Other elements of the Land Grant Mission, namely teaching and extension, are funded under different statutes. Farm Bureau leaders, UGA teaching and extension faculty can trust that I will protect and enhance Georgia’s preeminent position in these programs. For students, America needs FFA and 4-H now more than ever. Know that National Blue and Corn Gold and the Green of a cloverleaf are my favorite primary colors.

Enhancing access to rural broadband must be a funding, and perhaps regulatory reform priority in the **Rural Development Title**. I have consistently supported efforts to fund Rural Utilities Service (RUS) loans from the USDA – which bolster rural broadband efforts – in appropriations bills and worked with Rep. Austin Scott to author important language in the 2018 Farm Bill that would have addressed outdated broadband systems and authorized middle-mile infrastructure. In 2020, we can see already see how important high-speed Internet access is to our farms. In 2023, that statement will be even more true. We have to work now to secure the broadband infrastructure that will connect our nation’s farmers for generations to come.

Recent Farm Bills have shifted some “safety net” resources to programs within the **Conservation Title**. I believe these efforts have merit but deserve strict monitoring. Farmers and ranchers are our state and nation’s leading stewards of land and water. Conservation programs are typically WTO compliant. I just want to be sure that future commodity programs are not displaced. Georgia’s Soil and Water Conservation Districts are doing so much good work. I would like to explore how to improve funding at the local level. Local supervisors have a better understanding of the needs of the community. I have been particularly impressed with the cooperation between the Districts and NRCS in combatting feral hogs across the state. I would like to see greater intentional priorities placed on feral hog eradication within practices of the NRCS EQIP Program.

There is not an official **Strategy Title** of the Farm Bill, but there will be in the Collins Senate Office. I commit to work with Farm Bureau to educate our citizens and other Members of the Georgia Congressional Delegation to ensure broad-based support when the Farm Bill vote is taken. I promise to call for Farm Bill hearings in Georgia, and I will host a farm tour for any Member of Congress anywhere, anytime with any County Farm Bureau to make sure Georgia voices are heard.

Trade



- 2) 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 persevere through 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 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?

I agree that the recent trade deals spearheaded by the Trump Administration are vital for growers and, if adhered to, will have great effects on our state's economy. The Market Facilitation Program (MFP) payments to farmers have been critical for ensuring the stability of their farms as they face a global health crisis and unreliable trade partners like China in tandem. Overall, MFP seems to have been a positive for Georgia, however we must also address parts of the formula that disadvantaged certain farms and farmers based on factors out of their control. I am committed to working with the Administration to ensure parity in payments for similarly situated farmers in need. While the news of China's increased purchases is good for Georgia's farmers, that country's Communist Regime is clearly not known for sticking to its word. Holding China accountable for its role in the coronavirus and for holding up its side of the deal on agricultural purchases is a top priority of mine. Earlier this year, I introduced legislation to give the President the resources he needs to hold the Chinese Communist regime accountable for their coverup of the coronavirus pandemic. Similarly, if China were to miss the mark on agricultural purchases for this year, we have to hold it accountable. I am keeping a close eye on our country's dealings with China, including their agricultural purchase target and our country's broader trade deal. Any signals that China is not taking the deal seriously or may miss its mark will be met with intense scrutiny and I look forward to working with the Trump Administration to give it the resources it needs to hold China to its word.

Georgia is not represented on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee on Commodities, Risk Management and Trade or the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Agricultural Research and Specialty Crops. I will aggressively seek these subcommittee assignments. Why? Georgia leads the nation in the production of peanut, pecan, poultry and forest products. We rank second in the production of cotton. Expanding export markets and ensuring enforcement of trade agreements relating to these commodities and more are responsibilities I will gladly accept without any conflict of interest. As Senator, I will partner with Georgia Grown producers, the leadership of our wonderful ports and economic development professionals to build relationships and help search for and secure markets for our products and services.

- 3) 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?

Unfair foreign trade practices have resulted in a lop-sided market for several of Georgia's important commodities and, while it is unfortunate this was not fully addressed in the USMCA, I am optimistic about the Administration's commitment to this issue. On July 15, Rep. Austin Scott and I sent a letter to U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer highlighting this issue and urging him to protect the interests of Georgia's farmers in addressing Mexico's unfair trade practices. I was also pleased to have joined Ambassador Lighthizer during the USTR's virtual hearing on August 20th to testify about this issue. In my testimony I requested a Section 301 investigation so that the Administration can wield its full power in negotiating with Mexico about its damaging, trade-distorting policies. USTR has agreed to a 201 investigation for blueberry. I commend Georgia's Blueberry Commission Chairman and Farm Bureau member Jerome Crosby for his rapid work in garnering sufficient resources from blueberry grower groups from across America to fund this legal fight against Mexico.

Additionally, I will use the hearings on the next Farm Bill to draw attention for greater food safety, invasive species, and disease detection at our ports of entry. Trade is vital to our industry's health, yet we must improve border inspection and protection capabilities to better guard against drug trafficking, animal, and plant disease, and even guerilla marketing tactics like those of the recent Chinese seed scandal.

Ag Labor

- 4) 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?

Many of the problems we face today with Ag Labor have been generations in the making. It seems that the only thing that changes with ag labor is the calendar. As the former Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, I routinely called for them to step up and address the crisis at our southern border, but those calls fell on deaf ears. I will continue introducing legislation, like the Fix the Immigration Loopholes Act, to address the weak points in our nation's immigration system and halt illegal immigration at our southern border. That said, there is no denying the important role agricultural guestworkers play in Georgia's economy. I have long worked to ensure that Georgia's agricultural industry has the workforce it needs through H-2A and other programs. H-2A is a great tool for our farms to acquire workers but it lacks the flexibility many agricultural businesses need. I know many farms spend a lot of time and money applying for H-2A workers only to have their applications not processed in time. I've worked with my colleagues in the



Judiciary Committee to address the problems in H-2A while highlighting the program's critical benefits to Georgia's agricultural economy. In 2019, we were close to having consensus on fixes to the H-2A program that would have added flexibility and made it easier to address the labor shortage for our nation's farms, but unfortunately Democrats had other plans. Their bill, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, fails to fix H-2A and, in fact, includes many provisions that would exacerbate the program's issues. I look forward to continuing my work to fix the H-2A program on behalf of Georgia's agricultural industry and working with the Trump Administration to fight illegal immigration.

I support moving the administration of agricultural guestworker programs to the US Department of Agriculture. I support ensuring that guestworker programs cover the needs of all types of agricultural production and processing sectors. The goal should never be to displace an American worker. Conversely, the goal should be to have a streamlined, sensible program to meet the labor needs of our food and fiber industry.