



Ethics and Public Integrity

My ethics and public integrity platform has one message: I promise to serve **you** as the next governor of Georgia. My job will be to earn and keep your trust through an ethical, open, transparent, and secure state government focused on the public interest—not special interests.

I have built my career on ethical and transparent leadership. As a state legislator, I held frequent town halls in my district and sent a legislative session email to constituents detailing my votes on legislation. For constitutional amendments, I explained the pros and cons of the legislation and my reasoning for how I planned to vote. I consistently supported transparency measures, including a bill to launch the Open Georgia website on government finances and a bill requiring an annual accounting of tax breaks. I served as volunteer legal counsel to newly-elected Mayor Shirley Franklin's ethics commission in 2002, and I served as a legal advisor to the city's Ethics Office as Deputy City Attorney from 2003 to 2006. I served as a board member of Kenan Institute for Ethics at Duke University and co-edited a book on ethical leadership in the 21st century.

As governor, I am committed to expanding on that proven track record of ethical leadership to build a state where every Georgian can trust the office of the governor to serve their best interests. I will **publish my daily schedule, protect workers from harassment** and **establish public protocols** to ensure Georgians have a government working in their interest. My plan for strong ethical leadership as governor of Georgia will ensure that voters know I am always on their side.

Set High Ethical Standards

As public servants, we must protect fair and equal access to government services and put public interests over personal interests. As governor, I will:

- **Issue an executive order establishing the Code of Ethics for employees of the Office of Governor and other state employees under the governor's purview.** Additionally, I will work with other constitutional officers to encourage adoption of aligned codes of conduct for the state employees within their departments.
- **Appoint an Ethics Officer for the Office of Governor.** The officer will oversee transparency and ethical conduct. The Officer will be dedicated to ensuring the highest standards of ethical conduct, transparency, and accountability within my administration.
- **Support oversight through the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission.** As recommended by ethics organizations, I believe all branches of government should have appointments to the Commission, and we should seek a greater balance of party affiliation among Commission members.
- **Continue Georgia's standing as No. 1 in the nation for procurements practices.**ⁱ The Georgia Department of Administrative Services' advancements in contract administration, customer service,

training and technology have earned national attention. I will ensure these efficiency efforts are matched with ethical practices that protect our purchases of goods and services from political interference.

Listen to Georgians and Be Transparent About Our Work

Part of serving you as governor is listening to you. Georgians face complex challenges across our state. They deserve a leader who will show up, listen, stand up for their issues, and then report back on the work being done. As governor, I will:

- **Publish my daily schedule**, including when we use a state plane, so you know how I am working for you and how I steward taxpayer dollars.
- **Hold two listening sessions in each congressional district in my first year.** These town halls will be open to the public and to press, offering an opportunity for me to hear your priorities, ideas, and questions.
- **Appoint a Director of Constituent Services** to link citizen concerns and requests with my administration.
- **Launch a Georgia Performance Dashboard** so Georgians can easily see where we stand on important measures in education, health, transportation, financial management, and more. Georgia has performance measures for state agencies, but we need to improve the accessibility of these features for all Georgians.

Protect Workers from Harassment

All workers—including public workers—deserve to feel safe and free from harassment. As governor, I will:

- **Ensure protections against harassment** within the executive branch are strong, comprehensive, and just.
- **Ensure clear practices to address harassment.** I will work collaboratively with legislators to define the rules of conduct, construct clear pathways for complaints, require sexual harassment prevention programs and training, and ensure appropriate penalties.
- **Reform the Georgia Commission on Equal Opportunity** and rename it as the Georgia Commission on Human Rights. This restructured commission will have the ability to set clear pathways for harassment complaints, be a referral point for Georgia workers, and oversee mediation or investigations into harassment for those workers who do not fall under federal purview.

Protect Your Data and Services

Governments hold some of the most sensitive information about our citizens—court records, tax returns, and medical histories, among others. Cyber-attacks can cause havoc on our vital services like public safety and water systems and put our citizens and businesses at risk. We must be vigilant in protecting our citizens and their public services in the face of ongoing attacks. Georgia stands at the forefront of cybersecurity, and I look forward to leading Georgia's efforts in becoming the most cyber secure and security aware state in the nation. As governor, I will:

- **Work with the Cybersecurity Board** to continue to identify and address data security gaps impacting our state, invest in technology infrastructure to mitigate security risks, and train employees to be aware and responsive.
- **Support the new Georgia Cyber and Innovation Center** to ensure the Center stands as a national model for collaboration in cybersecurity. We will be ready and resilient through coordinated planning across

state government, U.S. Army Cyber Command, local governments, higher education, and the private sector.

ⁱ <http://www.governing.com/topics/finance/gov-procurement-special-report.html>