

# ARCHE Voter Information Guide

## GEORGIA PRIMARY ELECTION JULY 18, 2006



The Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education (ARCHE) has published this non-partisan voter guide to help inform Georgians who are interested in the future of higher education in our state. We encourage voters to learn as much as possible, from a variety of sources, about candidates' qualifications for office and their positions on a broad range of issues.

ARCHE does not support or oppose candidates, political parties or their positions. As a nonprofit organization, ARCHE does not endorse candidates for office or lobby any branch of government.

To prepare this voter guide, ARCHE submitted six questions to all candidates running in the July 18 primary election for the offices of governor and lieutenant governor. The questions address the candidates' positions on higher education-related topics. Follow-up efforts were made, where necessary, to encourage all candidates to respond.

Candidates' responses are listed in alphabetical order and reproduced in their entirety.

### About ARCHE

ARCHE brings together 19 public and private colleges and universities in the Atlanta region. ARCHE builds awareness of the size, scope, impact and value of higher education and helps its members share strengths through cooperative programs.

### Democratic Candidates for Governor

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**Bill Bolton**



**Cathy Cox**



**W.G. "Mac"  
McCarley**



**Mark Taylor**

### Republican Candidates for Governor

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**Gov. Sonny  
Perdue**

*ARCHE did not receive responses from*

- **Ray McBerry**



## 1. What do you consider to be the three most important issues currently facing Georgia's colleges and universities? As Governor, how would you address these issues?

### *Democratic Candidates' Responses*

#### **Bill Bolton**

1. Tenure! Both of the professors and the testing accreditation system.
2. Connecting to Outstanding High School Students. Have a special three-day seminar for selected high school students in a region. The emphasis is on region. Because one region may be academically behind another region and hence the three-day seminar may have to be specially tailored.
3. Selling to High School Students. My plan is that Georgia high school students grades 11 and 12 choose their future direction and choose the curriculums and possibly their high schools. In that effort, colleges would also sell to the students career and development paths for the students. Students may go directly to vocational colleges and work high school credits off in other ways. Or they may come back to high school realizing they need to finish in a proper way. The issue is to let them learn to choose and plan. However, colleges should be in the picture. For example, Georgia Tech has a program named CEISMC. It is designed to attract students to Georgia Tech.

#### **Cathy Cox**

Georgia's colleges and universities operate today under an expectation of excellence that is without precedent in our history. Future prosperity demands that universities not only prepare students for a new economy, but also participate in the very creation of the economy. This expanded responsibility must be met with a renewed commitment from the state, and a specific determination by the Governor to provide the resources necessary to meet the new demands on our colleges and universities. Our success as a state hinges on the successes of our universities, and support of these will be among my top priorities as Governor.

#### **W. G. "Mac" McCarley**

Grading system must be standardized. A student related a horror story to me recently. She said that within a class, broken down to smaller class sizes, with different instructors for each class there would be wide variations in their grading.

Are you using race-based quotas? I thought that was passé but am told it still goes on. I think it should be stopped as soon as possible.

The HOPE scholarship program should be expanded as much as possible.

#### **Mark Taylor**

- We lack the overall capacity to handle the growth of students (traditional and non-traditional), as they prepare to compete in a global economy.
- We need to expand access to education to every citizen of Georgia. One way to encourage this is for our colleges to make course transfer, course delivery and registration a one-step process.
- We need to adapt to the fast-paced needs of a global, knowledge-based economy – requiring innovation, less bureaucracy, less micro-managing by governors and legislators – more accountability, more transparency, and a commitment to continually educating and training our workforce.

As Governor, I would:

- Support education funding as well as the tuition equalization programs necessary to let Georgia students attend our fine private universities.
- Support efforts to create alternative delivery and teaching methodologies to maximize access for Georgians to education. I'd look at using library, K-12 and other facilities for informal learning spaces, advocating the use of new Web tools for electronic delivery of training, formal classes, etc. We simply have to adapt our 19th-century model of education for the needs of 21st-century commerce.
- Return our commitment to identifying and building the capacity for new science and technology in this state.
- Encourage local chambers of commerce, business and political leaders, and families to recognize the importance of education to our economy.

### *Republican Candidates' Responses*

*Governor Sonny Perdue submitted a letter in response to ARCHE's questions. Please see page 8 for the full text of his letter.*





## 2. What would you identify as the main challenge facing Georgia over the next decade and, as Governor, what role – if any – would you see for higher education in helping meet this challenge?

### *Democratic Candidates' Responses*

#### **Bill Bolton**

Outsourcing is our biggest challenge. When we outsource jobs to foreign countries, we reduce the need for talent in our own country. Lowering the costs of education will help. However, I feel apathy is part of our children and it is reflective of a shift from engineering to religion.

#### **Cathy Cox**

We are competing in a new and more global economy. It is no longer acceptable to be better than Alabama or Mississippi. Our children, our work force and our business leaders must now be able to succeed against the best and brightest from around the world. In order to create jobs, attract industry and continue the economic vitality which Georgians enjoy, we must have a world-class educational system which provides opportunities for excellence.

#### **W. G. “Mac” McCarley**

With the economic policies of our President, with huge losses of jobs in manufacturing, we should be expanding our technology to make up for these losses.

#### **Mark Taylor**

- Creating and supporting a knowledge-based workforce, and providing the infrastructure and intellectual capacity for Georgians and Georgia businesses to innovate, invent, create products and ideas that will fuel our economy and compete successfully against any country or state.
- Our institutions of higher education should be partners with our K-12 institutions – using initiatives like PRISM (Partnership for Reform in Science and Mathematics) – to encourage more students to succeed in math and science. We have to reach those 6th and 7th graders

and let them understand the opportunities that await them as they explore learning opportunities available at our community colleges, state colleges and research universities.

- Higher education should also look at its approach to education, following the model established by the college of computing at Georgia Tech – an effort noted in the latest revision of Thomas Friedman’s book, *The World is Flat*.
- Higher education can help by providing the very best in graduates from its colleges of education – the teachers we need to improve our K-12 system.

### *Republican Candidates' Responses*

*Governor Sonny Perdue submitted a letter in response to ARCHE’s questions. Please see page 8 for the full text of his letter.*





**3. Georgia higher education has a long track record of working with business and industry. Statewide initiatives like the Georgia Research Alliance (GRA), Intellectual Capital Partnership Program (ICAPP), QuickStart, and Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC) are complemented by a large number of individual-campus initiatives and programs. Together, these efforts help take innovative ideas from the laboratory to the marketplace, enhance workforce development, and boost prosperity.**

**As Governor, would you propose to support or expand existing programs – or to create new programs – linking higher education with business and industry? If so, what specifically would you propose?**

*Democratic Candidates' Responses*

**Bill Bolton**

Part of higher education is a monopoly and the Public Service Commission needs to be involved. Groups that coordinate actions between higher education and private industry in themselves can provide competition relieving the need for the PSC.

**Cathy Cox**

I fully support these education partnerships. That's why part of my agenda to lead Georgia forward in education places a strong focus on creating a link between high school, post-secondary education and a career. In addition to being good for business and good for higher education these efforts help create a climate where new businesses can flourish and higher paying jobs can be created.

**W. G. "Mac" McCarley**

Questions 2, 3 and 4 are so similar about all I left out was the inclusion of our research programs. Basic research in stem cell, with proper safeguards, and other horrible diseases.

**Mark Taylor**

• First, I would return the Georgia Research Alliance (GRA) to the funding levels that existed prior to the current administration. We provided \$0 to GRA last year, and only minimal funding this year. When it comes to cutting-edge research, other states have passed us

in the fields of nanotechnology, biotech, environmental research and biofuels.

- Second, I would work to “free” ideas from the bureaucratic traps found within our institutions and help businesses and entrepreneurs partner with our researchers to bring those ideas to market more quickly.
- Third, I would encourage local business councils to partner with their community colleges and universities so that those running our research and teaching efforts can better understand the needs of the business community.
- Fourth, I would create a science and technology advisory council composed of the brightest from our research community, the chambers of commerce, economic developers, and experts outside our state to advise me on future directions required to keep Georgia competitive in this century.

*Republican Candidates' Responses*

*Governor Sonny Perdue submitted a letter in response to ARCHE's questions. Please see page 8 for the full text of his letter.*





**4. The Georgia Research Alliance has worked for more than a decade to bring together research universities, the business sector, and state government to capitalize on innovative, university-based research and development to help build a thriving, technology-rich economy. In addition, the universities have established many of their own initiatives connecting campus research with business and industry.**

**As Governor, would you propose to support or expand existing programs – or to create new programs – for utilizing the results of university research to foster an innovative and entrepreneurial economy in Georgia? If so, what specifically would you propose?**

*Democratic Candidates' Responses*

**Bill Bolton**

Research is very important and I support allocating funds to research projects. How the money flows would be based on technical concerns, but I would still want the Public Service Commission to be watchful of monopolistic interests.

**Cathy Cox**

I would aggressively expand this effort. To create the high-paying and high-skill jobs of Georgia's future, we must foster just the sort of environment created by the efforts of the GRA. The high-tech and biotech opportunities we enjoy as a state are vast. A chief strategic imperative of the next Governor will be using the power of the office to ensure that we capitalize on them.

**W. G. "Mac" McCarley**

See above. [Question 3]

**Mark Taylor**

- First, I would restore GRA to the funding levels it enjoyed prior to this administration.
- Second, I would advocate expansion of programs like the student entrepreneur group found at Georgia Southern University and Georgia Southwestern – to encourage students to think like entrepreneurs while they learn their field of study. Such a program should be available at every campus – and high school

students should be exposed to such opportunities as well.

- Third, we have to support the building of infrastructure – wet labs to attract biotech research, expansion of the light rail initiative to bring the latest in communication technologies to our campuses, public and private, and better transportation (Yes – the Brain Train can ride!) to connect our researchers, businesses and students to be a productive and innovative workforce.
- Fourth, we need to do a better job letting the public and business community know how to do business with our laboratories, researchers and other services.

*Republican Candidates' Responses*

*Governor Sonny Perdue submitted a letter in response to ARCHE's questions. Please see page 8 for the full text of his letter.*





**5. While the HOPE Scholarship program has been instrumental in helping keep bright young people in Georgia to attend college, it is only one piece of Georgia’s overall financial investment in higher education.**

**As Governor, what priority would you give to funding other parts of the state’s higher education budget, including: a) public college and university operating support, b) public institution capital funding, c) tuition equalization grants for private colleges, and d) Georgia Research Alliance initiatives?**

*Democratic Candidates’ Responses*

**Bill Bolton**

Funding would be based on competitive track records of research entities, would be based on utilizing private companies for research, and would be based on even doing duplicate tasks by different groups. In all, the Public Service Commission would be reviewing the monopolistic aspects.

**Cathy Cox**

Georgia must be a leader in all aspects of higher education. Building a world-class higher education system cannot be done on the cheap. But few public investments have a richer yield for its citizens. As Governor I would always place a high priority on completing the work we have just begun to make Georgia’s higher ed opportunities the envy of the nation.

**W. G. “Mac” McCarley**

I think the legislature should make block grants and let each agency administer the grant.

**Mark Taylor**

- I will restore all cuts made to the HOPE scholarship. I strongly opposed those cuts in 2004 and still do.
- Like so many of our funding formulas, we need to look at an update on higher education instruction and capital projects. We must ensure that they meet the needs of 21st-century Georgia.
- Capital projects have to be placed on a fast track – not only will the construction projects provide employment

across the state, but the sooner these facilities come on line the sooner we can increase our ability to produce more and better educated Georgians.

- Tuition equalization grants should keep pace with tuition growth so that future students who choose to attend private schools will appreciate the same level of support from state government as today’s students.
- GRA initiatives would be returned to the priority they enjoyed prior to this administration. And the mission of GRA should be reviewed to ensure that our research investment will meet the needs of Georgia now and in the future.

*Republican Candidates’ Responses*

*Governor Sonny Perdue submitted a letter in response to ARCHE’s questions. Please see page 8 for the full text of his letter.*





**6. The quality of Georgia’s education system, from K-12 through college, is critical to the state’s future economic vitality and quality of life. ARCHE research reveals that there are more than 300 outreach programs at its member colleges and universities that assist public schools and their teachers and students.**

**As Governor, how would you encourage closer cooperation between higher education and the K-12 system to improve achievement levels so that more students complete high school and go on to college?**

*Democratic Candidates’ Responses*

**Bill Bolton**

For grades 11 and 12, higher education would sell its services and provide seminars. For K-10, higher education cannot be involved except as education assistance to the K-10 teachers. My real concern is that the GOD Nation within our country does not respect higher education. The result shows in the scores of our students.

**Cathy Cox**

The closer the nexus between our K-12 and our higher education aims, the stronger each will be. No child in Georgia should complete requirements in a Georgia high school and not be academically ready for work in a Georgia college. Because I believe that a link between high school, college and a career is so essential, the focus of my education initiatives is creating a pipeline for students so that they have the opportunity to succeed.

**W. G. “Mac” McCarley**

Perhaps we could use our college students in the first year or two of a child’s schooling to make sure they can “read, ‘rite and do ‘rithmetic.” Perhaps they would learn about teaching and then you would have some changing of their majors. All of this would be with a small stipend and college credits.

**Mark Taylor**

- We must stop the cuts to our K-12 education system and we must reduce class sizes. Additionally, we must offer professional development to our teachers.

- As I mentioned earlier, all of our education efforts should be tightly coordinated. Resources from local college campuses should provide mentoring to K-12 systems and their students. We should use the lessons learned from PRISM and other such programs to grab students’ attention and excitement in the middle school years and maintain support for those students in their high school years. We should not penalize bright, aggressive students who want to explore their options in community and state colleges (as we have done by taking away support for joint enrollment programs, counting their hours against HOPE) and instead provide them every opportunity to expand their horizons, their intellect and Georgia’s economic future.

*Republican Candidates’ Responses*

*Governor Sonny Perdue submitted a letter in response to ARCHE’s questions. Please see page 8 for the full text of his letter.*





*Sonny Perdue submitted this letter in response to ARCHE's questions.*

Dear Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education:

Thank you for your invitation to respond on issues of interest to your organization. I am proud of the progress we have made to improve the state of education in Georgia. I look forward to working together in a second term to continue our progress by investing in education where we know it will improve achievement.

Ensuring access to a quality higher education is critical for the success of our citizens and for the future of our state's economy. We should be proud that Georgia's marquee scholarship program, the HOPE Scholarship, has been so successful. However, during the short history of the Lottery, over \$1.8 billion of revenues have been spent on priorities other than HOPE Scholarship or Pre-Kindergarten by previous administrations. I ended that practice. With the growing demand for Lottery funds, I have pledged to protect the HOPE Scholarship for future generations. Earlier this year, I proposed a constitutional amendment that would limit the use of Lottery revenues to the HOPE Scholarship, Pre-Kindergarten or reserves. This constitutional amendment will ensure that Georgia saves any excess revenue for a rainy day as the number of students entering higher education continues to grow.

While preserving the HOPE Scholarship is important for public university access, Georgia is also blessed with great private universities. I am proud that with an improved economy the FY 2007 budget includes Tuition Equalization Grant (TEG) funding that raises the grant to \$1000 per student for the first time in years. Returning the TEG grant award to \$1000 will provide needed assistance for students attending our private colleges and universities.

Affordability and predictability as families plan for college costs is another benefit that the University System of Georgia can provide as a part of its tuition policy. I am proud of our teamwork with the Board of Regents to implement a new policy guaranteeing a fixed tuition rate for all students beginning with their freshman year of college. Under this new plan, tuition for Georgia students will be 'fixed for four' years. Entering freshman will be guaranteed a fixed tuition rate for four years. This policy will eliminate the worry of adjusting the family budget every year due to the rising cost of college tuition. Georgia's new program will provide tuition predictability, while simultaneously encouraging students to graduate on time.

As our students gain access to a quality education in Georgia and graduate into their professions, the partnerships between our public and private universities and the business community will be the key to a thriving economy. That is why we began a complete overhaul of our workforce development efforts on the state level. We have tremendous resources in our business community that are eager to see our post-secondary institutions thrive. With that in mind, I established the Governor's Office of Workforce Development along with restructuring the State Workforce Development Board to better engage post-secondary and business leadership in the future of our state's workforce readiness and to develop a workforce readiness strategy that will better prepare Georgia for a global economy.

Funding and infrastructure for research will also help Georgia attract the best talent, drive innovation and make our state more competitive by fostering an innovation and entrepreneurial economy. That is why, during this last budget cycle alone, my budget included over \$80 million to enhance the research infrastructure and the entrepreneurial outcomes of our research in Georgia, including: investments in nanotechnology and life sciences, recruiting Eminent Scholars and Cancer Scholars through Georgia Research Alliance, Seed Capital for technology start-ups and building broadband access throughout Georgia.

Over the course of this term, education has been my number one priority. Despite a challenging economic environment, we have invested significant resources in improving the future of education, over \$1 billion in new money for education. These are but a few highlights of what my administration has done over the past four years to improve current and future access to a quality education in Georgia. I am committed to improving higher education in Georgia and I will continue to ask for your guidance in doing so. I am hopeful for another four years of partnership in which the education of Georgia's students will always come first.

Sincerely,

Sonny Perdue  
Governor





## Educational Background and Contact Information

### *Democratic Candidates*

#### **Bill Bolton**

- Bachelor of Engineering Science and Mechanics, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Bachelor of Civil Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology
- Master's in Sanitary Engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology

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#### **Cathy Cox**

- Associate's in Agriculture, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
- Bachelor of Arts, Journalism, University of Georgia
- Juris Doctorate, Mercer University

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### *Republican Candidates*

#### **Ray McBerry**

*ARCHE did not receive responses from Ray McBerry.*

#### **Gov. Sonny Perdue**

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**About Higher Education in the Atlanta Region**

ARCHE member colleges and universities provide an extraordinary mix of missions and campus settings. The region is home to research institutions, liberal arts colleges, single-gender and historically black institutions, comprehensive universities and specialized schools of art, medicine and theology. As a result, ARCHE institutions offer a remarkable array of degree programs and majors to address the needs of a diverse range of students.

Beyond academic programs, ARCHE institutions advance discovery and invent products through research ... serve as valuable partners to business and government ... and reach out to communities across Georgia and around the nation and world to improve the quality of life of people of all ages and backgrounds.

Statistics show that the Atlanta region is a leading center of higher education opportunity. ARCHE's 19 member colleges and universities enroll over 147,000 students and award more than 32,000 degrees annually. These institutions account for 40 percent of full-time-equivalent college enrollment in Georgia – and for nearly 60 percent of all degrees awarded statewide at the bachelor's level and higher.

Among America's largest metro areas, the Atlanta region ranks 7th in college enrollments and 6th in the number of degrees awarded annually. Research spending alone across ARCHE member institutions tops \$1 billion each year.

*(ARCHE members are accredited, four-year degree granting and higher, public and private-nonprofit institutions.)*

**More Information**

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ATLANTA REGIONAL COUNCIL *for* HIGHER EDUCATION