

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 Lieutenant Governor



Greg Hecht



Jim Martin

ARCHE did not receive responses from

- **Griffin Lotson**
- **Steen Miles**
- **Rufus Terrill**

Republican Candidates for Lieutenant Governor



Casey Cagle



Ralph Reed



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

Democratic Candidates' Responses

Greg Hecht

- 1. Maintaining and improving educational excellence and research:** We need to use all the tools available to protect and increase excellence in Georgia's educational and research institutions. We need to make sure appointments to higher education posts and boards are not politicized. One of metro Atlanta's and Georgia's strongest selling points in recruiting new business from various industry sectors has been the ability to offer a well-educated and skilled work force. In particular, our universities' leadership in research spending and degrees granted in biosciences supports metro Atlanta's competitive advantage in growing our bioscience industry base.
- 2. Education access to all qualified students:** Protecting our HOPE Scholarships. Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally is Georgia's unique scholarship program that rewards students with financial assistance in degree, diploma, and certificate programs at eligible Georgia public and private colleges and universities, and public technical colleges. Since the HOPE program began in 1993, more than \$3 billion in HOPE funds has been awarded to more than 900,000 students attending Georgia's colleges, universities, and technical colleges. We cannot allow any cuts to the most successful higher education program in the nation. As lieutenant governor I will use all my powers to protect our premier higher education financial assistance program.
- 3. Strong financing for all state institutions of higher education:** Overcrowding in our institutions. Atlanta has a large and diverse mix of academically strong colleges, universities, and institutions of higher learning, which makes it a national leader in higher education and which helps make it one of the 'hottest' economic regions in the country. With the population growth of our area, we need to address the demands of the increase in the students who are being educated here. We can work together using innovative ideas and technologies such as distance learning to help make our schools less crowded.

Jim Martin

- Maintaining excellence in classroom instruction
- Providing first-rate facilities
- Offering competitive compensation for college professors

The focus of the state's support for higher education should be on the students. In order for students to succeed, the state must provide first-rate facilities for students. The state must also set an expectation of excellence in classroom instruction.

In addition, in order to provide students with excellent teachers, the state must offer salaries for professors that are competitive with other colleges and universities and with private industry. As lieutenant governor, I will support these initiatives.





1. (Continued from page 2)

Republican Candidates' Responses

Casey Cagle

The most critical and consistent challenge facing higher education in Georgia remains funding. With educational costs increasing at a rate faster than inflation, it is critical to ensure we have the necessary funding mechanisms in place to ensure Georgia schools remain at the forefront of American higher education.

On other issues, continuing to improve metro Atlanta's transportation infrastructure – particularly along the perimeter and in such areas as the Clifton Corridor – is of paramount importance. Being able to access facilities is obviously central to seeing them grow.

Finally, I believe we need to continue building centers of excellence in specific disciplines at Georgia colleges and universities. And, we should focus on taking the research that comes from those centers and integrating it into concrete applications in our state as rapidly as possible. In turn, that investment will stem new funding for education and a host of other priorities.

Ralph Reed

I believe the three most important issues facing Georgia's colleges and universities are: First, to grow funding for higher education, given the relative decline in the state contribution to university and college budgets over the past roughly 20 years. Whereas a generation ago the state contributed up to half of the budgets of our colleges and universities, that figure has fallen virtually in half, and is likely to continue to decline. Our higher education and state leaders must have a strategy to grow revenue to meet the increasing demands on our institutions of higher learning, without relying entirely on the state. This is not a phenomenon that is limited to Georgia, so there is much to be learned from other states, including Florida and California. Second, attracting and retaining the best faculty in the nation. Third, maintaining the HOPE scholarship while continuing to deal with pressure on tuition and other revenue sources.

I look forward to helping Georgia colleges and universities address these issues by assisting with generating funding from a wide variety of sources, including but not limited to foundations, the federal government, state government, and alumni. I will work to insure the long-term financial viability of the HOPE scholarship, such as the HOPE Chest Amendment proposed by Governor Perdue. Third, as a trained educator with a Ph.D. from Emory University, I understand the academic profession and what we must do to recruit and retain outstanding faculty.





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

Democratic Candidates' Responses

Greg Hecht

Georgia's main challenge is to grow our economy for all Georgians while maintaining and enhancing our quality of life. This goal can be best achieved by a well educated and informed public which allows Georgia to offer a quality work force to potential employers. My plan is utilize state-sponsored programs for biofuels in Georgia to have the state of Georgia start a biofuels economic development fund. The purpose of this fund shall be to make loans and grants and fund training programs to start ethanol and other alternative energy source projects. Coupled with the development of alternative energy initiatives, I would propose that the state of Georgia develop community planning standards in conjunction with new energy-efficient transportation systems that would interconnect all of Georgia. The universities and colleges of Georgia would be a critical component to this project to train our work force and develop products.

Jim Martin

The main challenge facing Georgia over the next decade is improving elementary and secondary education. Too many of our students do not complete high school. Higher education has the primary responsibility for adequately training teachers both before they begin teaching and during the course of their careers. In addition, higher education has responsibility for identifying problems caused by the inadequacy of preparation of students for college and for working with school systems to address these problems.

Republican Candidates' Responses

Casey Cagle

Continuing job growth is absolutely critical. In a globalized economy, the best edge Georgia can ever have is an educational one. This means investing in education is nothing short of critical if we want to compete at the top of the pack economically.

Ralph Reed

The main challenge facing Georgia in the next decade is really two-fold: first, growing our economy and creating jobs; second, creating the high-quality education system, especially in K-12, that will attract businesses to Georgia and provide them with the educated workers and managers for the 21st century economy.

Higher education is critical to meeting both of these needs. First, higher education is one of Georgia's leading industries, employing tens of thousands of people and driving many local economies across our state. Its total economic impact is the equivalent of having an Olympics in Georgia every single year. Second, our colleges and universities, through Quick Start and other workforce development efforts, play a vital role in providing the job training needed to attract business and industry to Georgia.





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 Lieutenant 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

Greg Hecht

The Georgia Research Alliance, Intellectual Capital Partnership Program, and Advanced Technology Development Center are all excellent programs that should be supported and expanded. Georgia universities and colleges need to streamline the technology transfer process and to create an intellectual enterprise zone (IEZ). This will encourage leading educators to come to, and stay in, Georgia. Some factors of designing the IEZ: 1) Mentoring programs where business people and academics advise start-up companies (scientific, managerial, real estate, networking); 2) Innovative intellectual property policies: funnel government benefits from tech transfer back to University System to offset lack of licensing fees; 3) Access to financing, and availability of space at a reasonable cost; 4) Partnership encouragement between government and venture capital firms so that companies can find their required funding at one place.

Jim Martin

The state should support research and development programs in colleges and universities with an emphasis on technology and training in areas that will help grow Georgia businesses, including agribusiness. Currently, alternative forms of energy and health care are the areas in which the needs of Georgia businesses are greatest. The impact on Georgia's agribusiness of the development of alternative fuel technology could be enormous. In addition, the state will need 110,000 additional health-care professionals in the next decade.

Republican Candidates' Responses

Casey Cagle

Yes. I would direct readers to the jobs plan posted online at www.caseycagle.com. We propose an aggressive mix of tax credits and technology transfer mechanisms to ensure discoveries move rapidly from the lab to the market (and that those technologies remain here in Georgia).

Ralph Reed

I have mentioned Quick Start above, and I believe by having the Board of Regents and the adult and technical and community colleges board working closely together, higher education can play a pivotal role in developing the work force of the 21st century. In 2004 Quick Start provided training for 283 projects with client companies, creating 29,451 direct or indirect jobs. More than 1,600 companies contracted with technical colleges to provide training for more than 120,000 trainees. I support dramatically increasing joint and dual enrollment programs between high schools and adult, technical, and community colleges to raise our high school completion rate and train students for their future careers. Second, I support a closer partnership between the business community and colleges that will truly create a "lifetime of learning" culture for workers, many of whom will hold multiple jobs in a variety of fields or industries during their careers.





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 Lieutenant 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

Greg Hecht

I would support and expand existing programs as well as develop new programs. The Quick Start program, which has been singled out by *Fortune* magazine for its effectiveness in providing the most comprehensive and advanced training in the nation, needs to be expanded. Programs are custom-designed. Training is delivered through a network of 34 technical colleges, multiple satellite campuses and four associated university programs throughout the state. Businesses such as General Mills, Johnson & Johnson and E*Trade have all used and recommend Quick Start training. Programs like this will help lead Georgia into a 21st -century economy with high skilled, highly paid jobs.

Jim Martin

I support public-private partnerships like the Georgia Research Alliance. I support the state's participation along with the private sector in funding and applying research to address Georgia's needs, including business development.

Republican Candidates' Responses

Casey Cagle

Here again, technology transfer represents an essential pathway to boosting both higher education and our overall economy. I have proposed setting up several specific mechanisms to improve this process, particularly in such areas as biotechnology, nanotechnology, logistics and agribusiness. Specifically, I support growing designated and structured partnerships such as GRA to facilitate the transfer process. And, I am committed to using the lieutenant governor's office to remove any bureaucratic roadblocks that may impede transfer, as well as actively recruiting private-sector capital to incubate new research-based businesses.

Ralph Reed

Yes, I strongly support such programs and will assist in expanding them. One example is the nanotechnology initiative under way at Georgia Tech, which has received critical funding at both the state and national levels. Second, I believe we have models of success like the recently opened Paul D. Coverdell Biomedical Research Center at the University of Georgia, which also received university, federal, and state funding and will be a magnet for research on cutting-edge biomedical technology.

The connection between the higher education community and the high-technology community is not new. One sees it in Silicon Valley, where Stanford and UC-Berkeley have been a breeding ground for Internet start-ups like Google and eBay, or in the nexus between Duke, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Wake Forest, and N.C. State University with the Research Triangle. Georgia should have a vision for a similar "high-technology corridor" from Athens to Atlanta and beyond. I would look forward to working with higher education, public policy, and business community leaders to realize the unique opportunity that Georgia has in this area.





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 Lieutenant 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

Greg Hecht

My primary priorities would be providing operating support and capital funding for the HOPE scholarship program. Research Alliance initiatives are also important and should be funded well. I have supported, and will continue to support, tuition equalization grants for private colleges as a wise investment for the state of Georgia.

Jim Martin

These elements of the state budget are important. Consistent with the state’s financial capability, funding for these programs should be increased. I believe these programs are listed in the correct order of priority in the question: 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.

Republican Candidates’ Responses

Casey Cagle

I support funding higher education at a rate that accurately reflects the real cost of education. A key part of that process is fully funding and protecting the HOPE scholarship. However, we must continue devoting an appropriate level of taxpayer funding to ensure students can afford the dream of a higher education, and that our institutions are attracting the best and brightest faculty and administrators. I am also dedicated to pursuing innovative partnerships with private sector companies that can help bring in additional funding to teach students skills that are critical to economic success.

Ralph Reed

The importance of higher education to our state will be reflected in my legislative, budget, and public policy priorities. The HOPE scholarship is a necessary but not a sufficient condition for the financial health of higher education in Georgia. As indicated by this question, there are also significant needs for capital funding, tuition equalization, and research and development initiatives. I will be supportive of such efforts within the parameters of responsible fiscal policy that recognizes the need for investments in higher education that will yield greater economic growth for our state.





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 Lieutenant 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

Greg Hecht

Absolutely. It is imperative for the wellbeing of all Georgians that our schools and institutes of higher learning work together to improve our educational performance. Mentoring, tutoring and specialized programs are needed to help our K-12 students. Programs such as Communities in Schools of Georgia help school systems across the state to create learning-centered environments. Working closely with the Georgia Department of Education, Communities in Schools of Georgia provides training, consultation and technical assistance to 52 school systems in 48 counties of the state. It is programs like this that need to be expanded. I will support the efforts of the State Board of Education to coordinate the preparation of high school graduates with the admission expectations of post-secondary institutions. As lieutenant governor I will support the continuing efforts of all education agencies and institutions to evaluate their expectations of students and "raise the bar" to produce the quality of graduates needed to compete successfully in today's economy and job market.

Jim Martin

I would put in place financial and organizational incentives to encourage cooperation between colleges and universities and public school systems. Colleges and universities and public school systems should be encouraged to partner together, and state funding should be made available for tuition assistance and other financial assistance for these programs.

Republican Candidates' Responses

Casey Cagle

The education plan posted on our campaign Web site, www.caseycagle.com, focuses specifically on increasing the ties between secondary and higher education. In my view, a core component of any successful plan to lower the dropout rate must be helping kids understand the value of education. Often, that means giving them options through colleges and universities that start integrating college and technical training into their high school course loads. Additionally, we must continue to work on raising overall achievement levels so students arrive on college campuses better prepared to learn at the appropriate level.

Ralph Reed

The first initiative I have proposed in this area is mentioned above, dramatically increasing joint and dual enrollment. According to a recent study by the Carl Vinson Institute of the University of Georgia, the high school completion rate for secondary students who are in dual or joint enrollment programs at a technical, adult, or community college is 98 percent, compared to only 62 percent for a student not dual enrolled. Their job placement rate is nearly 100 percent. The record is clear that such programs, like Advanced Placement courses, are a reliable predictor of future academic and job performance.

Second, I support lowering bureaucratic barriers to charter schools, allowing Georgia colleges and universities to assist in the creation of and partner with charter schools. These schools are producing student achievement rates roughly 10 points above traditional public schools, and we should encourage innovation by them. Third, I believe there are other opportunities for partnership between the K-12 system and higher education in Georgia, including speech and debate, athletics, math and science partnerships, and many other shared endeavors.

As lieutenant governor, I would look forward to assisting in creating new initiatives and expanding existing ones to create a higher quality education system for all our young people.





In addition to providing answers to the questions submitted by ARCHE, candidate Ralph Reed submitted the following conclusion:

Ralph Reed

It is impossible to imagine Georgia, not only now but at any time in her history, without her institutions of higher learning. From the founding of Franklin College in the late eighteenth century, the rise of church colleges in the nineteenth century, and the emergence of engineering and technical education with the rise of industrialization and urbanization, the history of higher education is the history of Georgia in so many ways. As a trained educator who originally sought an academic career, I believe I am uniquely suited to understand the critical role that colleges and universities play in our state, and will be a leader in insuring that that role is protected and enhanced.



ATLANTA REGIONAL COUNCIL *for* HIGHER EDUCATION

www.atlantahighered.org



Educational Background and Contact Information

Democratic Candidates

Greg Hecht

- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, University of North Carolina
- Juris Doctor, University of Georgia

Friends of Greg Hecht
171 N. Main St., Jonesboro, GA 30236
(404) 348-4881
www.greghecht.com
info@greghecht.com

Griffin Lotson

ARCHE did not receive responses from Griffin Lotson.

Jim Martin

- Bachelor of Arts, Pre-Law, University of Georgia
- Juris Doctor, University of Georgia
- Master of Laws, University of Georgia
- Master of Business Administration, Georgia State University

1211 Williams Street, Atlanta, GA 30309
(404) 249-9921
www.jimforgeorgia.com
info@jimforgeorgia.com

Steen Miles

ARCHE did not receive responses from Steen Miles.

Rufus Terrill

ARCHE did not receive responses from Rufus Terrill.

Republican Candidates

Casey Cagle

Attended Georgia Southern University and Gainesville College

P.O. Box 489, Oakwood, GA 30566
(770) 536 9998

www.caseycagle.com
casey@caseycagle.com

Ralph Reed

- Bachelor of Arts in History, University of Georgia
- Doctor of Philosophy in American History, Emory University

Reed for Lt. Governor
P.O. Box 956125, Duluth, GA 30095
(678) 957-0000
www.ralphreed.com
ralph@ralphreed.com





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

Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education Suite 710, 50 Hurt Plaza Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 651-2668 arche@atlantahighered.org



ATLANTA REGIONAL COUNCIL *for* HIGHER EDUCATION