Laura Meadows
Dr. Laura Meadows is the director of the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia. She assumed this leadership role in February 2012 after serving as interim director for approximately six months. She joined the Vinson Institute in 2009 as associate director of its training division, which provides professional and leadership development opportunities to thousands of local and state government officials and staff each year. Dr. Meadows came to UGA in 2007 as associate vice president for economic development. Prior to her arrival at UGA, she served as commissioner of the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, executive director of the OneGeorgia Authority, assistant secretary of state for the State of Georgia and state director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development. Dr. Meadows earned her MPA from Brenau University and her B.S. in agriculture from the University of Georgia.

Paul Burks
Paul Burks is a Georgia native and a graduate of the University of Virginia with a BA in Government and a Master’s in Governmental Administration from Georgia State University. After serving as an officer in the United States Air Force, he returned to Georgia and spent 31 years in state government, with much of the time as a department head under four governors. He retired in 2006 and has worked for the Carl Vinson Institute of Government on a part-time basis since 2008. He and his son are currently hiking the Appalachian Trail, and thus far they have hiked continuously from North Georgia to New Hampshire.

David Tanner
David Tanner is the associate director of the State Services and Decision Support Division at the UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government. As part of the public service and outreach mission of the University of Georgia, Mr. Tanner focuses on helping governments address some of the state’s most pressing issues such as juvenile justice reform, workforce development, economic development and improving decision making through data analytics. At the Institute of Government, David oversees the Institute’s survey research, program evaluation, state services, and demographic and economic analysis units. Prior to joining the Institute, Mr. Tanner served as the deputy director at the Georgia Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget (OPB), where he worked with three different governors in addressing key budget and policy issues for more than 12 years. He has a BA in History and an MPA, both from Brigham Young University.
Rick Ruskell
Rick Ruskell joined the Office of Legislative Counsel in September 2003. He was elected to the position of Legislative Counsel by the Legislative Services Committee effective August 16, 2018. He previously served as the attorney for the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Finance Committee. Prior to joining the Office of Legislative Counsel, Rick was employed as the managing editor and assistant vice president of The Harrison Company, a legal publishing firm located in Norcross, Georgia. He has authored numerous legal treatises for Georgia attorneys. Rick graduated with a B.A. in Journalism from the University of Georgia in 1976 and received his law degree from the University of Georgia School of Law in 1979. He served as the program director for WUOG-FM, the student-operated radio station serving the campus community.

Budget Update—2:00 p.m.

Representative Terry England
Representative Terry England has spent his entire working life as a farmer and agribusinessman. Elected into the House of Representatives in 2004, representing House District 116, he currently serves as Chairman of the House Appropriations Committee and Co-Chair of the Agricultural Education Advisory Commission. He also serves on the following committees in the House: Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Education, Natural Resources and Environment, Industry and Labor as well as Ways and Means. In the General Assembly he serves on the Legislative Services Committee and the Fiscal Affairs Sub-committee. He has served as Chairman of the Southern Legislative Conference Agricultural and Rural Development Committee and currently serves on the Executive Committee of that organization.

Martha Wigton
Ms. Wigton has 28 years of executive level experience, which includes service in the Georgia House of Representatives Budget and Research Office since 2003, and includes working directly with two lieutenant governors and four Georgia House of Representatives speakers. She has extensive knowledge of Georgia’s political process and specializes in the areas of policy, budget, strategy and office management. Under her directorship, the House Budget and Research Office provides analytical research for 180 members of the Georgia House of Representatives and 38 standing committees, including but not limited to drafting the appropriations bill and handling historical data on expenditures and revenues. Alongside 48 legislators and state employees from across the country, she was named a 2016 Henry Toll Fellow from the Council of State Governments, which recognizes public servants for their leadership development. Also in 2016, she received the National Legislative Staff Leadership Award by the National Association of Legislative Fiscal Officers. She is currently the staff vice chair of the National Conference of State Legislatures. Ms. Wigton has a bachelor’s degree in English from Georgia Southern University.
Senator Jack Hill
Senator Hill, of Reidsville, was first elected to the Georgia Senate from the 4th District in 1990 and was reelected in 2018 to his 15th two-year term. Senator Hill is chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, vice chairman of Senate Rules Committee and also serves on the Natural Resources and the Environment and Regulated Industries and Utilities committees as well as an ex-officio member of the Finance Committee. Past chairmanships include: K-12 Education, Ethics, and Higher Education. Senator Hill served 33 years in the Georgia Air National Guard as a unit commander and as State Inspector General. He retired in 2004 from the United States Air Force Reserve as a Reserve Forces Officer assigned to the Selective Service System. His military service totaled 37 years. Senator Hill graduated from Reidsville High School and Georgia Southern University (formerly Georgia Southern College) and is a retired grocer.

Melody DeBussey
Ms. DeBussey serves as the director of the Senate Budget and Evaluation Office (SBEO) for the Georgia State Senate. In this role, she provides fiscal and budgetary analysis and support to the State Senate and its committees, specifically the Senate Appropriations Committee. Ms. DeBussey oversees a staff that coordinates budget development and support, budget review and evaluation, as well as responding to fiscal inquiries from the state’s 56 senators and the President of the Senate, the Lieutenant Governor. Ms. DeBussey previously worked in the private sector at The Home Depot in the Corporate Compliance Division following three years in the public sector as a performance auditor for the Georgia Department of Audits and Accounts. In 2006, she earned a Bachelor of Science in Public Policy with highest honors from the Georgia Institute of Technology. In 2017-2018, she represented Georgia as a member of the National Association of Legislative Fiscal Officers and serves as treasurer of the board. She is also a member of the Legislative Staff Coordinating Committee for the National Conference of State Legislatures. Ms. DeBussey is also a recipient of the Georgia Tech Distinguished Alumni Award.

Opening Plenary – 4:00 p.m.

Myah Rose Paden
Ms. Paden is a young mezzo-soprano in her 4th year of studying Vocal Performance at the University of Georgia. She grew up in Columbus, Georgia, with no intentions of pursuing a music degree until encouraged by her first voice teacher in her freshman year of college. This past summer, Myah Rose was a member of the Janiec Opera Company of the Brevard Music Center in Brevard, NC, and was the recipient of the Encouragement Award at the 2018 Opera Guild of Atlanta Scholarship Competition. Most recently she was invited to the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses annual Leadership in Fine Arts event in Washington D.C. as a scholarship recipient and guest performer and performed the national anthem for the 2018 National Town Hall.
President Jere W. Morehead
President Morehead became the University of Georgia’s 22nd President on July 1, 2013. Prior to becoming president, he served UGA in many key administrative roles, including senior vice president for academic affairs and provost, vice president for instruction, and associate provost and director of the Honors Program.

President Morehead is the Meigs Professor of Legal Studies in the Terry College of Business, where he has held a faculty appointment since 1986. He is a co-author of several books and book chapters, including The Legal and Regulatory Environment of Business, and he has published scholarly articles on legal topics ranging from export controls to jury selection. He has served as editor-in-chief of the American Business Law Journal and previously held several other editorial board positions with the ABLJ.

President Morehead has received several university-wide teaching awards, including the Josiah Meigs Award—UGA’s highest honor for teaching excellence—the Richard B. Russell Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, the Teacher of the Year Award in the Terry College of Business, and the Lothar Tresp Outstanding Honors Professor Award. He also received the Distinguished Service Scroll Award, the Law School Alumni Association’s highest honor, and has been included in Georgia Trend’s list of Most Influential Georgians for five consecutive years.

President Morehead received his law degree (J.D.) from the University of Georgia in 1980 and served as an assistant United States attorney with the Department of Justice from 1980 to 1986. He is the first alumnus of UGA to serve as president since 1986.

Lt. Governor-elect Geoff Duncan
Lieutenant Governor-Elect Geoff Duncan was previously elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 2012. He and his wife Brooke have been married for 20 years and have three boys: Parker, 16, Bayler, 12, and Ryder, 8. Their family resides in Forsyth County and attends Browns Bridge Community Church, which is an affiliate of North Point Community Church.

Geoff and Brooke are high school sweethearts who both later attended Georgia Tech. Geoff was a scholarship pitcher on the baseball team at Tech and was later drafted by the Florida Marlins Organization. Geoff spent six seasons pitching in the minors and reached the AAA level until retiring due to injury in 2001.

After retiring from baseball, Geoff and Brooke started a small marketing company, eventually allowing them the opportunity to work with several Fortune 500 companies. They grew the company and four years later sold it and moved onto their next challenge. Geoff currently remains active as an entrepreneur with a focus in the venture capital space. Most recently, Geoff served as CEO of a health tech startup company.

Since being elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 2012, Rep. Duncan has authored several very important pieces of legislation such as HB749-The Cargo Theft Act, HB152-Michael’s Law, and most recently SB258, which is bringing over $200 million to Georgia’s rural hospitals.
Geoff is an instrument-rated private pilot, has coached 23 youth sports teams and leads a couples’ Bible study every week with Brooke.

**Speaker of the House David Ralston**

Speaker David Ralston is the 73rd Speaker of the Georgia House of Representatives, a position he has held since 2010. He was first elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 2002 and represents House District 7, which includes Fannin and Gilmer counties and a portion of Dawson County.

Prior to serving in the House, Speaker Ralston served in the Georgia State Senate from 1992 until 1998 when he won the Republican nomination for Attorney General of Georgia. He serves as an Executive Committee member of the National Speakers Conference, the National Conference of State Legislatures and the Southern Legislative Conference.

Born in Ellijay, Speaker Ralston is a graduate of Gilmer County High School. He went on to attend Young Harris College and North Georgia College (now the University of North Georgia), where he earned his bachelor’s degree with honors. He later received his law degree from the University Of Georgia. Aside from his legislative duties, Speaker Ralston is an attorney in Blue Ridge. He is an active member of his community, participating with the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce and the Blue Ridge Mountains Arts Association.

**Maria Taylor**

Maria Taylor joined ESPN as a college analyst and reporter in 2014. One of the network’s most versatile commentators, Taylor was named a reporter for College GameDay Built by Home Depot and ABC Saturday Night Football in 2017. She had previously served as the host of SEC Network’s traveling pregame show SEC Nation, alongside analysts Tim Tebow, Marcus Spears and Paul Finebaum. Ms. Taylor’s versatility is showcased on a variety of ESPN’s shows and platforms, as she hosts College Football Live, Big Monday and NCAA Women’s Final Four studio coverage and works as a sideline reporter on Saturday Primetime and marquee men’s basketball games throughout the season. In addition, Ms. Taylor is an analyst on other SEC and ESPN telecasts, including volleyball and women’s basketball. She is also a part of ESPN’s NBA Draft coverage and has been a guest host on Get Up! during the 2018 NBA Finals.

Prior to her role on SEC Nation, she served as a college football reporter on SEC Network with commentator Brent Musburger and Jesse Palmer. In 2013, she was the sideline reporter on ESPN2’s weekly Saturday night primetime college football telecast in addition to the Orange Bowl, her second consecutive year covering the annual bowl game. Additionally, she has been an analyst on the NCAA Women’s Basketball Selection Show, NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament Preview Show and also ESPN’s coverage of both the NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament and Women’s Volleyball National Championship for the previous two years.

Prior to 2012, Ms. Taylor was a reporter and host for IMG College at the University of Georgia for three years. She also appeared on various studio shows including Dawg Report, SEC Men’s Basketball Tonight, and SportsNite.
Ms. Taylor attended the University of Georgia where she played volleyball and basketball for the Bulldogs. She was named to the All-SEC volleyball team three times and was also a member of the USA A2 National Volleyball team. She graduated from the University of Georgia in 2009 with a degree in broadcast news. She returned to the University to pursue her Master of Business Administration, which she completed in May of 2013. She is a native of Alpharetta, Georgia.

**Breakfast – 7:30 a.m.**

**Griffith Lynch**
Mr. Lynch is the executive director of the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA), a 1,100-person strong state port authority that owns and operates strategic gateways serving the U.S. Southeast. As executive director, Mr. Lynch oversees all port activity involving the deep-water ports of Savannah and Brunswick, as well as inland terminal operations in Bainbridge and Columbus. Directing one of Georgia’s largest economic engines, he administers a $280 million annual budget.

Before becoming executive director, Mr. Lynch served as GPA chief operating officer for five years. As COO of the single largest container terminal in North America and second busiest U.S. auto port, he was responsible for sustaining the profitable growth and development of all operations and maintaining world-class operating standards. His duties included overseeing ambitious capital improvement and development programs for five deep-water ports and two inland terminals while maintaining strong relationships with numerous customers, labor officials and supply chain partners.

Mr. Lynch brings nearly 30 years of experience in the design and implementation of major port expansions, the effective execution of sustainable profit and productivity models, and identifying winning sales and marketing strategies.

Mr. Lynch graduated from the State University of New York at Maritime College in 1988 and immediately began his training as a vessel planner. Over the course of his career, Mr. Lynch held executive positions in both sales and operations before joining the GPA in 2011.

**Frank Poe**
Mr. Poe became executive director of the Georgia World Congress Center Authority in April 2010. Prior to accepting the position, he was director of the Convention/Event Service Department for the City of Dallas (Dallas Convention Center, Union Station, Dallas Farmers Market, Office of Special Events, and Reunion Arena) where he started his career in 1972 as a part-time laborer. He was appointed general manager of the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando from 1979 to 1980 and found his way back to Dallas for the next 17 years holding several leadership positions in the center’s Event Services and Cultural Affairs departments. He was named executive director of
Alabama’s Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex in 1997, a position he held for seven years until moving back to Dallas in 2004 to assume the aforementioned director position for the next six years.

He serves on the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce Board of Advisors and on the Board of Directors for Central Atlanta Progress. Most recently he’s spearheaded fundraising efforts for a possible $46 million expansion of Centennial Olympic Park, which the GWCC oversees as part of its 220-acre campus. Since signing on with Georgia World Congress Center Authority, Mr. Poe has played integral roles in the new stadium and luring the College Football Hall of Fame to Georgia. He was awarded the prestigious 2016 Convention Center Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Association of Venue Managers. Mr. Poe graduated from Texas A&M University-Commerce with a degree in political science and history.

**Plenary Session: Transportation and Transit Update – 8:30 a.m.**

**Wes Clarke**
Dr. Wes Clarke has served at the Carl Vinson Institute of Government since 2004 and conducts economic impact studies and program evaluations to help governments with decision making and program improvement. He maintains the Tax and Expenditure Data Center that provides access to local government fiscal data. Dr. Clarke spent more than a dozen years in private sector financial management and nine years on the faculty at the University of North Texas, where he taught graduate-level budgeting, finance, and research methodology courses. While at North Texas, he developed exams for the state’s government finance officers association and administered the certification program. He is a past Chair of the Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, a section of the American Society for Public Administration.

**Representative Kevin Tanner**
Representative Tanner has spent nearly 30 years in public service. He was recently elected for his fourth term as a State Representative for District 9, which includes Lumpkin and parts of Dawson and Forsyth counties.

Prior to his first term as State Representative, Kevin was the Dawson County Manager where he oversaw day-to-day operations as the county’s chief operating officer. Kevin was recognized in 2011 as the Appointed Official of the Year by Georgia’s Association of County Commissioners. Representative Tanner started his career with Dawson County as a volunteer fireman in 1989. He then worked for the Dawson Sheriff’s Office in 1990 where he served in many positions, including 11 years as Chief Deputy/Undersheriff supervising all aspects of the department. He received his undergraduate degree from North Georgia College and State University and earned his Masters of Public Administration from Columbus State University.

He currently serves as the Chairman of the House Transportation Committee and has been a member of several other committees in the House, including Appropriations, Education, Special
Russell R. McMurry
Commissioner Russell McMurry was appointed commissioner of the Georgia Department of Transportation by the State Transportation Board on January 20, 2015. Prior to being named commissioner, he was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal as planning director. He had served as chief engineer since January 1, 2013, where he was responsible for the Divisions of Engineering, Construction, Operations, Intermodal, P3/Innovative and Program Delivery, as well as the Offices of Organizational Performance Management and Engineering Services. He previously served as the division director of engineering. Commissioner McMurry began his career with the Georgia Department of Transportation in 1990 as an engineering trainee. He graduated cum laude from Georgia Southern University with a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering Technology and is a registered Professional Engineer in the state of Georgia. Georgia Trend named Commissioner McMurry Georgian of the Year in January 2018. Also, in 2018, he received the Inaugural Engineering Influence Award from the American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia (ACEC Georgia) in recognition of his exceptional leadership in response to the I-85 bridge collapse and rebuild.

Christopher Tomlinson
Mr. Tomlinson serves as the executive director of the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) and the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA) and as interim executive director of the newly created Atlanta-region Transit Link Authority (the ATL). SRTA operates all toll facilities within Georgia and serves as a transportation funding/financing arm for the state. In addition, SRTA manages Xpress, the state’s regional commuter coach transit service, and administers the Atlanta region’s vanpool program. GRTA serves as the Governor’s voice for strategic direction and approval of metro Atlanta’s federally required overall transportation plan and reviews Developments of Regional Impact to understand their effect on the region’s transportation network. The ATL provides transit governance and funding oversight for all transit projects and operators within the 13-county metro Atlanta region.

In his combined executive leadership roles, Mr. Tomlinson leads three state-level authorities whose shared missions are focused on improving mobility in Georgia by providing reliable, innovative transportation solutions to Georgia motorists and transit commuters. He serves as primary liaison to the Georgia Department of Transportation’s (GDOT) Public-Private Partnership program. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) and the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association (IBTTA), where he is first vice president.

Prior to being appointed executive director for GRTA and SRTA, he served as deputy executive director and general counsel for SRTA. In this role, he was responsible for day-to-day operations and legal issue management.
Before joining SRTA, he served as general counsel for several state agencies, including GDOT, the Georgia Technology Authority and the Georgia State Financing and Investment Commission, where he was also deputy director for the Construction Division. Mr. Tomlinson graduated cum laude from Morehouse College with a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science and earned a Juris Doctor degree from the Georgia State University College of Law.

**Senator Brandon Beach**
Senator Brandon Beach was elected to the Senate in 2013. He represents District 21 which includes portions of Cherokee and Fulton counties. Senator Beach is the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Transportation. He is also a member of the Economic Development, Higher Education, MARTOC, and Science and Technology committees. Senator Beach previously served as the President and CEO of the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce, leading the fourth largest chamber in the metro area. He played an integral role in helping North Fulton grow and prosper in his years in Atlanta. Senator Beach was elected to the Board of the GDOT by state legislators from the 6th Congressional District in 2008. In addition, Governor Sonny Perdue appointed Sen. Beach to the board of Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA). Senator Beach received an undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University and a Masters in Business Administration degree from Centenary College. He is also a graduate of the Regional Leadership Institute and a former member of the Alpharetta City Council and the Alpharetta Planning and Zoning Commission.

**Plenary Session: Rural Development – 10:30 a.m.**

**Christopher Nunn**
Commissioner Christopher Nunn was appointed to lead the Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) by Governor Nathan Deal in September 2017. At DCA, he oversees state efforts to create and support workforce housing, community infrastructure, downtown development and economic development. DCA manages nearly $300 million each year of state and federal dollars through its 65 programs, providing funding and technical assistance throughout Georgia, and partnering with local communities to create a climate of success for Georgia’s families and businesses.

Prior to his lead role at DCA, Commissioner Nunn served as commissioner of the Department of Administrative Services (DOAS) beginning in March 2017. And before joining DOAS, Commissioner Nunn was deputy commissioner for Community Development & Finance at DCA, where he led efforts to support community and economic development activities beginning in September 2015.

Before entering public service, Commissioner Nunn provided professional services and leadership in the private sector. He held the role of chief operating officer for an Atlanta-based accounting firm, where he was responsible for all business aspects of the $25-million, 150-person firm. Commissioner Nunn also spent eight years with Russell Reynolds Associates, a global leader in executive recruitment and assessment. Commissioner Nunn’s private sector career began at Arthur Andersen as a strategy consultant.
Originally from Perry, Georgia, he graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Emory University with a B.A. in Political Science. He later earned a Master of International Relations degree from the University of St. Andrews in St. Andrews, Scotland. Commissioner Nunn serves as chairman of the Board of Directors at Wesley Woods, a senior living ministry that serves more than 1,800 individuals through 10 facilities across North Georgia.

**Calvin Rhodes**

Mr. Rhodes has served as chief information officer for the state of Georgia and executive director of the Georgia Technology Authority since 2011. He has successfully led the state’s public/private partnership to transform state government’s IT enterprise. The initiative has strengthened security, modernized infrastructure and networks, improved reliability, and increased transparency. Under his direction, the state is now evolving its service delivery model to enable state agencies to more easily benefit from changes in the IT marketplace. The state of Georgia’s leadership position in using technology to improve service delivery has been affirmed by the Center for Digital Government, which awarded the state a letter grade of A, the highest ranking possible, in the 2018 Digital States Survey.

Mr. Rhodes chairs Georgia’s Statewide Cybersecurity Board and leads GTA’s oversight of the construction and partner coordination for the Georgia Cyber Center, which was announced by Governor Nathan Deal in January 2017. The Cyber Center’s first building opened on July 10, 2018, with a second building slated for completion in December 2018.

Mr. Rhodes is a past officer and active member of the National Association of State Chief Information Officers. He is a member of the Georgia CIO Leadership Association and received the association’s 2018 CIO of the Year ORBIE Award for the nonprofit/public sector. Mr. Rhodes serves on the Technology Association of Georgia’s Science and Technology Executive Committee and was honored by the association for his leadership in 2015. Computerworld named him a Premier 100 Technology Leader in 2016. In addition, Mr. Rhodes was selected by Government Technology as one of the nation’s Top 25 Doers, Dreamers and Drivers for 2016. Mr. Rhodes holds a bachelor’s degree in computer information systems and a Master of Business Administration.

**Jannine Miller**

Ms. Miller serves as senior advisor for Rural Infrastructure to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue. She leads comprehensive, data-driven analysis to optimize effectiveness of infrastructure-related policies, programs, regulations, and budgets. Her responsibilities at USDA include supporting rural prosperity, developing new infrastructure investment options, enhancing rural broadband connectivity, and evaluating efficient transport of agriculture commodities.

Prior to her service at USDA, Ms. Miller was director of the Center of Innovation for Logistics, a division of the Georgia Department of Economic Development, where she led transportation infrastructure analysis to guide private-sector investment in the manufacturing, retail, and agriculture and food processing industries. Throughout her 20-plus years of service in the public and private sectors, Ms. Miller has also served in management, finance, policy, and planning
roles, such as: senior manager for Supply Chain Finance at The Home Depot, executive director of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority, and transportation policy advisor to Governor Sonny Perdue.

She holds a Master of Business Administration in Global Commerce from Georgia Tech, a Master of Public Administration from Georgia State University (concentration in Economic Development & Planning), and a Bachelor of Science degree in Community Nutrition. She has been recognized by Georgia Trend as a Notable Georgian (2008, 2016, 2017) and as one of the state’s “Top 40 Under 40 - Best and Brightest.”

**Representative Jay Powell**
Representative Jay Powell represents House District 171 which encompasses an area of southwest Georgia. He is chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee and co-chair of the House Rural Development Council. In addition he is a member of the Rules Committee, Government Affairs Committee, Judiciary Committee, MARTOC, and ex-officio of Appropriations. He was elected to the House in 2008 and was Mayor of Camilla from 1996 to 2007. A partner of the law firm of Powell and Erwin, PC, in Camilla, Representative Powell has a degree in Political Science from Florida State University and a law degree from the University of Georgia.

**Senator Steve Gooch**
Senator Steve Gooch was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 2010. Senator Gooch represents the 51st District, which includes Fannin, Union, Gilmer, Lumpkin, White, Dawson and parts of Pickens and Forsyth counties. Senator Gooch was elected as the majority whip of the Senate Majority Caucus in 2014 and reelected in 2018. Prior to serving as the Senate majority whip, Senator Gooch served as the secretary of the Senate Majority Caucus and as chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.

Senator Gooch serves as vice-chairman of the Transportation Committee and secretary of the Appropriations Committee. Additionally, he serves on the Finance and Regulated Industries and Utilities Committees and as ex-officio on the Assignments and Rules Committees.

Senator Gooch graduated from North Georgia College and State University, where he earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration. He currently serves as the executive director for the Development Authority of Lumpkin County and is a former Georgia Department of Transportation board member. Prior to being elected to the Georgia State Senate, he served as the sole Lumpkin County Commissioner.
Luncheon – 12:00 p.m.

**Representative Wes Cantrell**

Representative Wes Cantrell represents House District 22, located in the Woodstock area. He is vice-chairman of the Small Business Development Committee, secretary of the Information and Audits Committee, and also serves as a member on the Education, Juvenile Justice, and Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications Committees.

Representative Cantrell graduated from Georgia Tech with a degree in Industrial Management and then attended Southwestern Seminary. Representative Cantrell is a minister and received his Masters of Divinity and became the youth pastor at the Fairview Baptist Church in Columbus, MS, in 1985. After seven years in Columbus, Representative Cantrell became the associate pastor of Student Ministries at Piedmont Baptist Church in Marietta. In 1997, Representative Cantrell helped start an organization called First Priority in metro Atlanta, serving as executive director for nine years. The goal of First Priority was to build networks of churches in a community that would then serve the schools of their community. In 2006 he became the young adult pastor of the Woodstock First Baptist Church.

**Chancellor Steve Wrigley**

The Board of Regents named Dr. Steve Wrigley the 13th chancellor of the University System of Georgia effective January 1, 2017. He oversees 26 public colleges and universities with an $8.8 billion annual budget, more than 48,000 faculty and staff, and 320,000 students. The Georgia Public Library System and the Georgia Archives are also part of the University System. He currently serves on the Alliance of Education Agency Heads and is a member of the board of the Georgia Wildlife Federation. In the past, he served on the boards of the Nature Conservancy of Georgia and the Georgia Humanities Council.

Prior to becoming chancellor, Dr. Wrigley served as executive vice chancellor of administration for the University System of Georgia from June 2011 until his appointment as chancellor. As executive vice chancellor of administration, Dr. Wrigley oversaw the day-to-day operations of the System’s budget, facilities, information technology services, human resources, legal affairs and strategic planning units.

Dr. Wrigley formerly served as senior vice president for external affairs, as well as vice president for government relations, at the University of Georgia. He also served as director of the Carl Vinson of Government.

Prior to his work in the University System, Dr. Wrigley worked in state government in Georgia, including five years as chief of staff to former Governor Zell Miller. During his career, Dr. Wrigley has worked on a number of key issues, including the creation of the state lottery and the HOPE scholarship, along with campus consolidations within the University System of Georgia. Dr. Wrigley earned his undergraduate degree from Georgia State University and his doctorate in history from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.
Plenary Session: Workforce Development – 2:00 p.m.

Angela Pringle
Dr. Angela Pringle began serving the Richmond County School System as Superintendent in September 2014. Her priority for the 31,000 students in Richmond County is to increase student achievement through community engagement, communication, a high-performing culture and workforce, and operational effectiveness.

Before coming to Richmond County, she held leadership positions in Virginia and in Gwinnett and DeKalb counties for more than 25 years – serving as a region superintendent and principal at all grade levels: Elementary, Middle and High. Dr. Pringle received a dual undergraduate degree in mathematics and business management from Averett University; a Master’s Degree from Hampton University; and her doctorate in Educational Leadership from Virginia Tech.

She has received numerous awards for her work as an educator. Most recently, she was recognized by the University of Georgia with the “Excellence in Educational Leadership” award and was the recipient of the “Katie Hall Education” community award which recognizes educators for vision and leadership. She was also recognized in Trend Magazine for Leadership and Workforce Development. She was also named as a Transformational Woman for Leadership in transforming the community and received a national award through Jobs for Georgia.

Morris Leis
Dr. Leis began his tenure in Coffee County in August 2011. Serving as superintendent of the school district for the past eight years, the school district was recently named the 2018 Charter School System of the Year.

Completing his 25th year in education, Dr. Leis has served in numerous roles as an educator including elementary and high school principal in Fitzgerald, Georgia, and superintendent of Wayne County Schools in Jesup prior to his tenure with Coffee County Schools. Additionally, he serves on the Georgia School Board Association Superintendent’s Advisory Council, Board of Control for Okefenokee RESA and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Charter System Foundation. In 2015, Dr. Leis served on Governor Deal’s Superintendent Education Advisory Board.

Brian Cooksey
Mr. Cooksey is the director of Operations Training for Shaw Industries Group, Inc., in Dalton, Georgia. Shaw, a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, Inc., is the world’s largest carpet manufacturer and a leading floor covering provider (carpet, hardwood, laminate, ceramic, resilient and sports turf products) with nearly $6 billion in annual sales, more than 100 manufacturing and distribution locations and 23,000 associates across the globe. Shaw’s corporate university, the Shaw Learning Academy, has annually been named one of the world’s top training organizations by both Training and ELearning magazines.

Through his role at Shaw, Mr. Cooksey has become a recognized leader across the state for workforce development. In June 2015, Mr. Cooksey was honored to be named as the “Face of Manufacturing” by the Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership (GaMEP) at Georgia Tech.
In addition to working at Shaw, he serves on the board of directors for two public charter college and career academies in Whitfield County and Gordon Counties, is a member of the State of Georgia’s Charter Advisory Committee, serves on the board of directors for both Georgia FIRST® Robotics and Great Promise Partnership, and serves on the workforce development committees for the Georgia Association of Manufacturers and Floor360, a flooring industry consortium. Mr. Cooksey is a graduate of the University of Georgia’s Terry College of Business.

**Commissioner Matt Arthur**
Commissioner Arthur became commissioner of the Technical System of Georgia in January of 2018. He previously served as the deputy commissioner from January 2015. He also served as the director of education reform for the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget. During his career he has worked as a teacher, coach, director of career and technical education, assistant principal and secondary principal. He was also the superintendent of the Rabun County School District for 13 years. He has held leadership roles with the Georgia School Superintendent Association and Georgia’s Education Reform Commission. He received the University of Georgia College of Education Lifetime Achievement Award and was recognized as a post-graduate scholar by the National Football Foundation. Commissioner Arthur is a graduate of the University of Georgia and played on the 1980 national championship football team.

**Senator Brian Strickland**
Senator Strickland was elected to serve in the State Senate in a special election in January 2018. In the Senate, he served as a Governor’s administration floor leader and sits on the Judiciary, State and Local Governmental Operations, State Institutions and Property and Higher Education committees. Prior to his election to the Senate, he served in the state House of Representatives, where he was Chairman of the Industry and Labor Committee. Senator Strickland is a 2006 graduate of Valdosta State University with a B.B.A in Economics. He received his Juris Doctor in 2009 from the Florida Coastal School of Law where he currently serves on the alumni board. Senator Strickland practices law in McDonough at Smith, Welch, Webb & White.

*Plenary Session: Literacy – Get Georgia Reading – 3:00 p.m.*

**Wendell Dallas**
Mr. Dallas is the vice president of operations for two Southern Company Gas subsidiaries, Atlanta Gas Light and Chattanooga Gas. In this role, he is responsible for ensuring the company’s operational excellence in delivering clean, safe, reliable and affordable natural gas to more than 700,000 customers in five Georgia and Tennessee regions. Mr. Dallas has more than 25 years of operations, management and engineering experience in the natural gas industry. In 2000, he joined Atlanta Gas Light as a service area manager in Macon and shortly afterward began serving as the southeast Georgia region manager in Savannah. He has also served as the Atlanta Gas Light vice president and general manager. Prior to his current position, he served as the vice president of economic and community development for the Southern Company Gas multistate footprint.
Mr. Dallas came to Atlanta Gas Light from the Macon office of El Paso Energy, where he served as an operations supervisor responsible for transmission pipeline operations in central Georgia. Mr. Dallas serves on several non-profit, community and industry boards. He co-chairs the Georgia Literacy Commission, a business-led commission of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education and Literacy For All. He is a gubernatorial appointee and board chairman of the state of Georgia’s Workforce Development Board. In addition, he serves on the boards of the Georgia Chamber of Commerce and the Auburn University Engineering Alumni Council. He is a former board chair of Gwinnett Technical College and Communities in Schools of Georgia. In 2013, Mr. Dallas received the Multicultural Leadership Award from the Georgia Diversity Council for his commitment to advancing his peers within his organization and the community.

A native of Opelika, Alabama, Dallas earned a degree in mechanical engineering from Auburn University. Dallas is a graduate of Leadership Georgia, Leadership Atlanta and Leadership Savannah.

**Arianne Weldon**

Ms. Weldon is the director of the Get Georgia Reading Campaign and is with Georgia Family Connection Partnership, the lead organization for the campaign. Her work includes connecting decision-makers across Georgia to create the conditions essential for all children to succeed. In this role, she applies her background in epidemiology to help leaders across the state use data and research to employ new – many times unexpected – solutions. Ms. Weldon serves by appointment as a board member for the Sandra Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy; as a member of the Medical Care Advisory Committee for the Georgia Department of Community Health; and as a member of the Georgia Children’s Cabinet. Ms. Weldon holds a Master’s Degree in Public Health from Emory University and a Bachelor’s Degree in Sociology from Georgia State University.

**Commissioner Amy Jacobs**

Governor Nathan Deal appointed Amy M. Jacobs as interim commissioner of Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning in June 2014. In January 2015, she was sworn in as permanent commissioner. Commissioner Jacobs leads the agency responsible for the early care and education of hundreds of thousands of Georgia’s children. She oversees an annual budget of $700 million for programs focused on child care licensing, child and adult care nutrition, child care quality, and early childhood education, specifically Georgia’s Pre-K Program.

Before joining Bright from the Start, Commissioner Jacobs served as senior policy adviser for the Governor’s Office of Planning and Budget (OPB). She began her career at OPB in 2001 in the planning, research and evaluation division focusing on strategic planning and program evaluation. Also while at OPB, she served as director of the Education Division and the General Government Division. She also worked for two years in the Georgia Court of Appeals.
Commissioner Jacobs serves on the Governor’s Innovation Fund Advisory Board, the Governor’s Education Reform Commission, the Georgia Child Fatality Review Panel, the Alliance of Education Agency Heads, and the board of the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education. Commissioner Jacobs is a graduate of the University of Georgia.

**Senate President Pro Tempore Butch Miller**
Senator Butch Miller was elected to the Georgia State Senate in 2010 to represent the 49th Senate District, which is comprised of the majority of Hall County. Sen. Miller was elected by his colleagues to serve as Senate President Pro Tempore. The Senate President Pro Tempore presides over the Georgia Senate when the President of the Senate is absent and is in charge of managing the administrative duties for the Senate.

In addition to his duties as Senate President Pro Tempore, Senator Miller serves as Chairman of the Administrative Affairs Committee and as a member of the Senate Appropriations, Assignments, Banking and Financial Institutions, Ethics, Regulated Industries and Utilities and Rules Committees. He also serves as an Ex-Officio on the Government Oversight Committee and is a member of the joint Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Overview Committee (MARTOC) and the Chairman of Georgia World Congress Center Authority Oversight Committee.

Senator Miller is a former chairman of the Georgia Automobile Dealers Association’s board of directors and of the National Automobile Dealers Association 20 Group. He is also past chair of the North Georgia Honda Dealers’ board of directors and the Georgia Baptist Children’s Home board of directors and is a former president of the North Georgia Honda Dealers.

**Representative Robert Dickey**
Representative Robert Dickey became a member of the Georgia House of Representatives in 2011 and represents District 140, which covers Crawford County and parts of Bibb, Houston, Monroe and Peach Counties. He is the chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, secretary of the House Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee, and a member of Banks and Banking, Higher Education, Natural Resources and Environment, and Energy, Utilities, and Telecommunications Committees.

A fourth generation peach and timber grower, Representative Dickey, along with his father, owns Dickey Farms, Inc., which was started by his great-grandfather in 1897. He is very active in the agriculture industry serving as a current board member and past president of the Georgia Peach Council. He has also served as president and treasurer of the National Peach Council. He is a member of the Georgia Commodity Commission for Peaches and the Georgia AgriBusiness Council. He received his Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from the University of Georgia in 1976 and his MBA from Georgia College.
Breakfast – 7:30 a.m.

Dr. Charles Bullock III

Dr. Charles Bullock III holds the Richard B. Russell Chair in Political Science and is Josiah Meigs Distinguished Teaching Professor and University Professor at the University of Georgia. He has been at the University of Georgia since 1968, with the exception of one year when he served as legislative assistant to Congressman Bill Stuckey and two years when he was Professor of Political Science at the University of Houston. In 2005 and 2009 he was a senior fellow at Oxford University’s Rothermere American Institute.

Dr. Bullock is author, co-author, editor or co-editor of 30 books and more than 150 articles. His interests include Southern politics, legislative politics, and elections and electoral systems. He also serves as a litigation consultant and speaker. He earned his Bachelor’s at William Jewell College and his Master’s and Ph.D. at Washington University, all for Political Science.

In 2015, Dr. Bullock was named University Professor, an honor bestowed on faculty who have had a significant impact on the University of Georgia beyond normal academic responsibilities. The honor was first awarded in 1974, and no more than one University Professor can be named in any year.

Dr. Bullock’s teaching and research specialties are legislative politics and southern politics. He has been recognized for outstanding teaching by the Department of Political Science, the Honors Program, and the Student Government Association. In 1993, Dr. Bullock was one of four professors in the College of Arts and Sciences to receive its highest teaching award. He was named the outstanding professor in the School of Public and International Affairs in 2003. In 2005 he won the University of Georgia’s highest teaching award.

He has received research grants from the National Science Foundation, the National Institute of Education, the Pew Charitable Trusts and the American Enterprise Institute. His research has won awards from the Southern Political Science Association, the Southwest Political Science Association and the Georgia Political Science Association. In 1991, Dr. Bullock received the William A. Owens Creative Research Award presented by the University of Georgia.

Dr. Bullock has served as a consultant to the attorneys general in 11 states and to more than 70 states and local governments. Since the 1970s, he has consulted on statewide redistricting litigation in more than a dozen states.
**Plenary Session: Critical Issues in Healthcare – 8:30 a.m.**

**Nelly Miles**
Ms. Miles is as the director of the Office of Public Affairs for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. The Georgia Bureau of Investigation is comprised of three divisions with 850 employees: the Georgia Crime Information Center, the Crime Laboratory, and the Investigative Division. Miles is responsible for disseminating information to the media and the public. In this role, she also serves as a liaison between the agency and Georgia’s legislature. Ms. Miles has been employed with the agency for 17 years and has held previous positions as the deputy director of the Office of Public Affairs, forensic chemistry manager, forensic chemistry assistant manager, and forensic chemist. She has held previous memberships in the Southern Association of Forensic Scientists (SAFS), the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD), and the American Chemical Society (ACS). She received her Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry from Emory University.

**Interim Commissioner Gerlda Hines**
Interim Commissioner Gerlda Hines previously served as the chief of staff and chief financial officer of the Georgia Department of Human Services (DHS). She has more than 25 years of financial management experience and 17 years of state service, including experience as the deputy commissioner of DHS, chief financial officer for the Georgia Student Finance Commission and deputy chief financial officer for the Department of Community Health. Ms. Hines is a certified public accountant and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. She earned a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Loyola University in New Orleans.

**Commissioner Judy Fitzgerald**
Commissioner Fitzgerald was appointed commissioner of the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) by Governor Nathan Deal in 2016. She has been with DBHDD since 2012, previously serving in the roles of chief of staff and deputy commissioner. Fitzgerald is a social worker with a career-long focus on behavioral health and public service delivery systems.

Prior to joining DBHDD, she worked in a variety of health and human service settings. She served as vice president of strategy for View Point Health, one of Georgia’s 25 community service boards. She has also worked as a consultant on child and adolescent services in several states and was the executive director for the Mental Health Association of Georgia.

Commissioner Fitzgerald began her career in the Mental Health Program of The Carter Center, working for former First Lady Rosalynn Carter on domestic and international advocacy and policy efforts to promote mental health and reduce the stigma of mental illness. Commissioner Fitzgerald earned her master’s degree in social work from the University of Georgia.
Representative Sharon Cooper
Representative Cooper serves as the chair of the House Health and Human Services Committee. She was first elected in 1996 and represents the 43rd district which is located in East Cobb County. She was appointed chairman of the Special Committee on Certificate of Need as well as chair of the Special Committee on Grady Hospital. Representative Cooper is also a member of the Rules, Judiciary Non-Civil and Regulated Industries committees.

She holds several degrees, including a B.S. in Child Development; a M.A. in Education and MSN in Nursing. She has written two textbooks on Psychiatric Nursing. She continues to author and foster legislation that promotes improved health care for Georgians such as: the HIV Screening Bill for Pregnant Women, Georgia Smoke-Free Air Act, and the "Health Share" Volunteers in Medicine Act.

Senator Renee´ Unterman
Senator Unterman was elected to the State Senate in 2002 and represents District 45, part of Gwinnett County. She is chairman of Health and Human Services and vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee. She is a member of the Administrative Affairs, Assignments, Insurance and Labor and Rules committees and serves as an Ex-Officio on the Regulated Industries and Utilities and Finance Committees.

During her tenure in the Senate, Senator Unterman has concentrated on healthcare policy, serving seniors and children, as well as disadvantaged Georgians. In 2016, she passed legislation placing a Constitutional Amendment on the ballot to create the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund.

Senator Unterman grew up in Gwinnett County and graduated from Berkmar High School. She holds a degree in nursing from Georgia State University and trained at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta. She also has a degree in Social Work from the University of Georgia. After graduation, she worked as an emergency room and critical care nurse. Senator Unterman previously served on the Gwinnett County Commission, as Mayor of Loganville and in the State House.

Plenary Session: Public Safety – School Safety – 10:30 a.m.

Senator John Albers
Senator John Albers represents the 56th District, which includes portions of Fulton and Cherokee County. He serves as chairman of the Senate Public Safety Committee and the Senate Study Committee on School Safety. Senator Albers also serves as vice-chairman of the Senate Finance and the Regulated Industries and Utilities Committees, as a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and as an ex-officio of the Rules and Veterans, Military and Homeland Security committees.

Senator Albers has long been an active member of his community. His affiliations include the Board of Directors for: World Chamber of Commerce, Greater North Fulton Chamber of
Commerce, Alpharetta Public Safety Foundation (past chairman), Roswell Fire & Police Foundation, Chamberlain Nursing College, MediStreams, Saratoga Holdings, Concord, GreenPrint, Gilsbar Holdings, Tony Nobis Foundation and Sigma Phi Epsilon KY Beta Alumni Board.

He is a fourth generation firefighter serving as a volunteer in Alpharetta and member of the Georgia Firefighters Association. In 2011, 2015 and 2017, Senator Albers was named Legislator of the Year by the Georgia State Firefighters Association and the Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs. Senator Albers earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership from the University of Louisville. He also completed graduate programs from the University of Georgia and Harvard University. When not attending to state business, Senator Albers is an executive, business owner and entrepreneur.

**Homer Bryson**

Mr. Bryson has served as director the Georgia Emergency Management & Homeland Security Agency since December 1, 2016, and brings 37 years of public safety experience with him to the position. As director, he has lead the agency during activations for hurricanes, tornados, wildfires, and ice storms. He is also a member of the Super Bowl LIII Public Safety Executive Steering Committee. Previously, he served as commissioner of the Department of Corrections. He served as the deputy commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources and as colonel of the DNR Law Enforcement Section.

Bryson also served as the hurricane coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources. He participated in security planning for the 1996 Olympic Games and the 2004 Group of 8 Economic Summit on Sea Island. He was a supervisor on a Georgia state law enforcement detail assigned to Hurricane Katrina. He has taught Critical Incident Management at Columbus State University.

He currently serves as a trustee for the Peace Officers’ Annuity and Benefit Fund and is a past president of the Peace Officers’ Association of Georgia. He earned a master’s degree in Public Administration from Columbus State University.

**Garry W. McGiboney**

Dr. McGiboney is the deputy state superintendent for External Affairs and Policy at the Georgia Department of Education where he has served for 11 years. He has over 30 years of experience in public education including work in elementary, middle, high and alternative schools.

Dr. McGiboney was appointed by the Governor of Georgia to serve on the Joint Study Committee on Mental Health Access, the Joint Study Commission on Leadership, the 2020 Census Commission, and the Senate Study Committee on Dyslexia. He also serves by appointment on the Georgia Supreme Court’s Justice for Children Committee; the Juvenile Detention Alternative Initiative Steering Committee of the Georgia Council on Criminal Justice; the Get Georgia Reading Campaign Cabinet; the Mental Health America – Georgia Advisory Committee; the Georgia Accrediting Commission, the Children in Need of Services (CHINS) Juvenile Justice Initiative, and other committees. He is also the chair of the executive committee that oversees a multi-million dollar National Institute of Justice grant.
Dr. McGiboney has over 30 professional journal publications on education, psychology, and youth-related issues, and he is the author of eight books. Dr. McGiboney is the recipient of several awards, including NAACP Educator of the Year; the National Association of School Psychologists National Friend of Children Award; Georgia School Counselors Advocate of the Year Award; Georgia Association of School Nurses Hero Award; School Social Workers Association of Georgia Friend of Children Award; Mental Health America Board Member of the Year, and others. The National Campaign for Grade-Level Reading named Dr. McGiboney to its Council of Champions. Also, he was named by the United States Environmental Protection Agency as a Children’s Environmental Health Hero. Recently, he was inducted into the Georgia Board of Regents Hall of Fame for his career-long efforts on behalf of children.

Shannon Flournory
Dr. Flournory serves as the executive director for safety and security for Fulton County Schools. In this role he provides strategic direction and leadership for the overall administration and coordination for the district including security, policing and health services. With over 20 years of experience with Fulton County Schools, Dr. Flournory has served as assistant principal and principal of the 1100-plus student Stonewell Tell Elementary School. In addition he has served as a classroom mathematics teacher and a police officer. He is also a certified flight instructor and contract pilot. He has a degree from Jacksonville State University, a Master’s degree from the University of West Georgia and a Doctor of Education from Georgia Southern University.

Representative Rick Jasperse
Representative Jasperse represents House District 11 which includes all of Pickens, part of Gordon, and a small part of Bartow counties. He serves as the chairman of the House Higher Education Committee and chairman of the House School Security Study Committee and as a member of the following House committees: Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Appropriations, Health and Human Services, Human Relations and Aging, and Public Safety and Homeland Security.

Upon graduation from the University of Georgia’s College of Agriculture with a degree in food science, Representative Jasperse worked as an assistant county agent in Bartow County, Bleckley County, and later as a county agent in Pickens County. He retired in 2009, after 29 years as a county agent.

Luncheon – 12:00 p.m.

Senator Lee Anderson
Senator Lee Anderson was elected in 2016 to serve Senate District 24, which includes all of Elbert, Hart, Lincoln, Oglethorpe, Taliaferro, and Wilkes Counties and part of Columbia and Richmond Counties. In the Senate, he serves as the vice chairman of the Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee, the Science and Technology Committee and as a member of the Economic Development and Tourism, and Public Safety committees.

He formerly served in the State House of Representatives from 2009 until 2012. After Senator Anderson left the House in 2012, he was appointed by Governor Deal to serve on the Board of
Corrections. He also served on the Columbia County Board of Education and the Columbia County Board of Commissioners. He previously served as the State Young Farmers Chair and is now a board member of the Columbia County Farm Bureau. Senator Anderson is also active in supporting numerous ministries that help those affected by addiction.

After attending Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Senator Anderson returned to his home in Columbia County to farm. As a small-businessman and farmer, he operates his farm on the same land his family has farmed since the early 1900s.

**Governor-elect Brian Kemp**
Brian Kemp is a husband, father, businessman and public servant. On November 6, 2018, he was elected as Georgia’s 83rd governor — earning more votes than any gubernatorial candidate in state history.

Governor-elect Kemp built his first business – Kemp Development and Construction Company — with a pick-up truck and a shovel. Over thirty years later, he is a successful entrepreneur with businesses and investments in banking, farming, timber, manufacturing and real estate.

Kemp served on the Board of Suncrest Stone in Tifton, as a founding director of First Madison Bank and on the St. Mary’s Hospital Board in Athens. From the backhoe to the board room, Governor-elect Kemp understands how to successfully create jobs, grow companies, recruit start-ups and make deals on the international stage while also providing opportunities for hundreds of hardworking Georgians.

Out of frustration with government, he ran for public office in the early 2000s. In the State Senate, Kemp was instrumental in fighting to cut fees, taxes and mandates on job creators and Georgia’s families. As secretary of state, he utilized technology and innovation to cut bureaucratic red tape, slash spending and streamline government.

As governor, Brian Kemp will fight to make Georgia #1 for small business through regulatory reform. He will ensure that all parts of our state — including rural Georgia — have opportunities to grow and thrive. Kemp will fundamentally reform state government, keep our families safe, and will always put hardworking Georgians first.

Kemp, 55, is married to the former Marty Argo of Athens. They are the proud parents of three daughters — Jarrett, Lucy and Amy Porter — and are active members of Emmanuel Episcopal Church.