

Dear Members of the GCCRW,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my views on the questions submitted to the gubernatorial candidates. I have tried to be as thorough as time would permit; but please feel free to contact me if you would like further elaboration on any of my answers.

For Georgia First,

Ray McBerry,
Republican for Governor 2010

1. Illegal immigration is one of the most critical issues facing Georgia in the early years of this century. The excessive influx of illegal immigrants is more than Georgia's infrastructure can effectively accommodate, resulting in neglect to the needs of our citizens and an increased tax burden upon those of us who live here legally. Furthermore, the excessive number of immigrants is unassimilable into our society and culture, creating counterproductive divisions and dangers to our historic way of life.

Every people has the right to preserve its valuable way of life; and Georgians are no exception. As governor of Georgia, I will accept the responsibility to lead our state:

- To secure Georgia's borders from illegal immigrants using all state resources at our disposal, including authorization of numerous state departments who are not currently involved, in the apprehension of illegals.
- Aggressively assist our local sheriffs in their role to detain illegals; if the feds are slow to pick them up, I will have state authorities pick them up from our sheriffs and remove them from our state. Our sheriffs are the highest constitutional officers in each county and should receive the utmost assistance from the governor on this and other areas of need.
- To notify the federal government that it will be billed daily for expenses accrued in the holding of those illegals until they are removed from Georgia.
- To apprehend those illegals already within our borders.
- To forward legislation that will hold employers accountable for the hiring of illegal aliens through the means of both monetary fines and providing for increased access to our citizens for legal recourse against employers who displace them from gainful employment in favour of illegal aliens.
- To impede access of illegal aliens to all of our courts for their purposes of waging suits against Georgia citizens and businesses; no person entering or residing within our state illegally has any legal standing in our courts and, therefore, has no right to wage suit against our people.

These measures, along with others, should make it abundantly clear that those entering or residing within our state illegally are not welcome and should immediately relocate elsewhere. Any amnesty programs by the federal government will be vigorously opposed; and those elected officials from Georgia who promote such programs will be treated as a danger to our state and its laws. There will be no further visits of Mexican officials received by the state of Georgia for the purpose of fostering improved relations until the Mexican government begins to effect an end to the problem of illegal immigration in a real, marked way. I will work with the governors of our sister States who share interest in this common problem for the purpose of ascertaining real, viable solutions, with or without further assistance from the federal bureaucracy.

2. Unlike the relationship between the states and federal government, cities and counties within our state are political subdivisions of the state. As governor, my chief role will be to execute the constitutions of both these United States and the state of Georgia; therefore, any city adopting a "sanctuary" policy with regard to anyone who violates our laws, including entering our state illegally,

will be in violation of our constitutions. Whatever steps are necessary to bring those cities back into compliance with our constitutions will be done, including but not limited to, arresting and removing from office those complicit in the violation.

3. There are several things that we should do to lighten the healthcare burden for Georgians and make it possible for more Georgians to obtain coverage, however.

First, we should abolish the insurance premium tax. Georgia currently has the second highest premium tax in America and is one of only about a dozen states to even have such a tax. We pay nearly \$600 million annually in this state in insurance premium tax -- something inexcusable in a time when many people can barely afford coverage for their families as it is.

Secondly, we should work toward enabling Georgians to purchase insurance coverage across state lines in order to increase competition and reduce rates for our citizens. This must be done while continuing to guarantee that insurance companies will remain accountable to Georgia's state insurance commissioner if they choose to sell to Georgians.

In short, as a true conservative, I believe that the changes to healthcare for Georgians will best be made by getting government OUT of the way, rather than by increasing government involvement and managed healthcare. Georgians should be responsible for their own healthcare... but not for that of everyone else.

4. I believe that America has created the most effective healthcare system in the world, in large part, because it has historically been a function of the private sector and the free market system. I oppose all efforts to federalize and socialize healthcare in our state. For all unconstitutional mandates emanating from Congress, including the recent healthcare bill, which are not specifically enumerated within the proper jurisdiction of Congress under Article I Section 8 of the Constitution, I will invoke the Tenth Amendment mechanisms of interposition and nullification to prevent federal intrusion into our healthcare system and into our budget in Georgia.

5. We are currently dealing with two major problems concerning water in our state: one is Atlanta and the other is Washington.

Every administration which has run the City of Atlanta for the last generation has been fiscally irresponsible and has not properly maintained its own infrastructure, particularly its water and sewer system. Millions of gallons of water are lost regularly through the faulty, leaky, and antiquated lines. These administrations, one after another, have assumed that they could spend their monies on other more glamorous projects than maintenance of their water delivery system because, after all, the people of all of Georgia will have to step in and "bail them out" when things begin to fall apart, since Atlanta is the state capital. I believe that the state of Georgia must begin to force the City of Atlanta to be more fiscally responsible, particularly since it enjoys the benefits associated with hosting our state seat of power.

Secondly, the federal government claims that because the Army Corps of Engineers dug the hole for Lake Lanier, they are entitled to tell our state how we will and won't use our own water supply. I believe in the strongest terms possible that the management of our own natural resources, beginning with our water supply, is a right that inherently lies with the sovereign state and not the federal government. While I do believe that we have a responsibility as good neighbors to sit down with the

governors of Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida to arrive at a solution to the water crisis which exists, I do not believe that Georgia should be compelled to accept federally-contrived decisions on the matter. I believe that decisions related to water use should be made, whenever possible, in consensus with our neighboring states and always with the use of water as it relates directly to drinking and agricultural purposes receiving the highest priority. It is my belief that the water which falls from heaven on our land belongs to the people of Georgia; and I will promote the view that our reservoirs and adjacent lands currently under federal control and management should be resumed by the state of Georgia and, in keeping with the currently depressed real estate markets, our state should pay the federal government the amount deemed appropriate by our General Assembly for said properties.

6. No

7. As your next governor, I will take a firm stand for state sovereignty concerning Intrastate Commerce. Unlike "interstate" commerce which is a constitutional responsibility of the federal government, "intrastate" commerce is NOT within the jurisdiction of Washington according to the Constitution. Intrastate commerce is any business conducted which does not cross state lines. I personally helped to write the "State Authority and Intrastate Commerce Act" which is currently under consideration in the General Assembly. This piece of legislation is being used as a model now to craft similar legislation in at least half a dozen other states. The bill states that any item grown, manufactured, excavated, or produced within the state of Georgia is not subject to federal regulations or taxes until it crosses the state line and leaves Georgia. It is similar to the Montana and Tennessee firearms protection legislation but improves upon both of them by including other goods and also placing real penalties upon federal agents who attempt to violate the law by harassing Georgia citizens. This constitutional view of intrastate commerce would allow for and encourage private investment in offshore drilling within our waters.

I cannot overemphasize the potential boon that this agenda would bring to business and job creation in our state. The immediate result would be greater profitability for all businesses in Georgia, and the long-term result would be job creation on a scale never before seen in America.

8. Although I do not personally drink alcohol, I believe that the right to sell on Sundays is a decision of self-government that should be left up to each county to decide for themselves.

9. The constitutional Republic given us by our Founding Fathers is in great peril today at the hands of an out-of-control federal government; and our states are now the final guardians of our liberty. It is the privilege and duty of the governor to interpose himself between his people and the enemies of their liberty, even when that threat comes from a federal leviathan. As governor, I will take that stand for the people of Georgia and will invoke the doctrine of interposition on their behalf.

There are numerous checks and balances established within our constitution to prevent the usurpation of power by a single branch of the federal government or by the federal government, itself, over the states who created it. In our federated republic, the states created the federal government and, as such, are its masters; it, on the other hand, is servant to the states and to the people that they represent. The Tenth Article of the Bill of Rights, also known as the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution, affirms this right of the states to prevent federal usurpations; and it is high time that the several states began to invoke this right against federal encroachments.

Federal legislation, court rulings, and executive orders do not have supremacy when governing areas not expressly delegated to the federal government in the Constitution. Today, the vast majority of such policies are invalid; yet our duly-elected state officials have remained all but silent, having abdicated their responsibility in protecting our liberties.

In the next several years, we will be facing some of the most draconian federal mandates ever seen on the American continent -- measures which will forever change our republic into the same kind of totalitarian regime that we have opposed in every corner of the globe. We cannot afford the luxury of electing "establishment" politicians who will oppose these measures, at best, in a "business-as-usual" manner. Our day requires a governor who will dare to defy the federal bureaucrats and say plainly, "Get the hell out of our business; and leave my people alone." No other candidate for governor will take this stand... I will.

10. Yes, several.

11. Yes, until unconstitutional welfare programs can be eliminated altogether.

12. No. I am the only former educator in the Republican race for Governor; I taught for more than ten years at both the high school and college level and in both public and private schools. I believe that there are three things that we could begin to do immediately that would greatly improve the quality of education for all of Georgia's children without raising a penny of new taxes.

a. Local control. I believe that our public schools should be run at the local level, without interference from either Atlanta OR Washington. Today, the state and federal governments tell our local school systems from what lists we can choose our textbooks, whether our children can pray before their Friday night football games, what tests we must use to measure the success of both our students AND our teachers, and much more. I believe that control must be returned immediately to the local level. No one knows better how to provide the quality of education that our children deserve than we the parents, teachers, and principals who work with our children daily.

b. More competition. All of us benefit from more competition in every area of life... it makes us strive for excellence in each area. Education is no different. Parents should have the ultimate decision-making power in how and where to best educate our children, whether it be public schools, private schools, Faith Based schools, or homeschooling. The recent allowances made by the General Assembly in Georgia for some parents to use vouchers to pay for private education is a step in the right direction; but, until we change the tax system in Georgia, a better option is tax credits. Tax credits do not come with the strings attached that accepting vouchers has for private schools, and tax credits allow for parents to also choose the option of homeschooling, an option that has produced excellent results for many children. Ultimately, it is the parents who are most capable and most responsible for making the education decisions about our own children; and we parents as taxpayers should have the right to choose which type of education best suits the need of our own children.

c. Vocational Training. Here in Georgia, just like around the country, we have been guilty of misleading an entire generation of our young people by convincing them that if they wanted to be successful in life, they had to get a four-year liberal arts degree from college. The truth is that God did not give us all the same gifts, talents, and abilities. Those young people who have an aptitude, or even just a desire, to go into a vocational trade should be encouraged to do so. It would encourage them to stay in school until they received the necessary training for their career, and it would equip them to be productive

citizens, capable of providing for themselves and their own families. Our state would benefit, in turn, from also having a lower rate of unemployable citizens and from being one of the very few places remaining in America where industry could find a skilled, trained workforce. Business and families would flourish in Georgia as companies that do not wish to relocate to Mexico or India would come to our fair state to set up shop.

Education is an important matter for all Georgians, whether our own children are currently school-age or not; and we cannot afford to have one more governor who does not understand the educational needs of Georgia. Ray McBerry is the only candidate in this race capable of representing educators AND families in leading the way for our children's future.

13. I believe that they are a step in the right direction; but, under our current tax system, tax "credits" for parents to use as they see fit are a better choice. Vouchers, like all government monies, will come with certain strings attached; and most private schools are not willing to accept government involvement... which is why they are "private" schools in the first place. Furthermore, tax credits have the added benefit that parents may also choose homeschooling as an option that best suits their children, a benefit not recognized with the voucher system.

14. No. My father is a Vietnam-era veteran, but I have never been in the military service, personally.

15. I support a state constitutional amendment which contains very strict language limiting the scope of the use of eminent domain to only the most traditional uses, such as infrastructure construction but not practices of social activism nor land redistribution. The recent state constitutional amendment that was put to the voters of Georgia through referendum intentionally left a loophole which allows the General Assembly to re-define the term 'public use,' which is the same problem that created this issue in the first place. It is merely one more example of the neo-cons in power pretending to address very real problems, while actually doing nothing to eliminate it altogether.

Thomas Jefferson's famous quotation from the Declaration of Independence was taken directly from John Locke: the "right to life, liberty, and property." The right to own one's property is a fundamental building block of liberty. A man who cannot own his own property is NOT a free man; he is, at best, a vassal or serf on the land of another."

Eminent domain has and IS being abused in Georgia to seize individuals' land for those who have wealth and power. The current Constitutional Amendment leaves a loophole for abuse and will not protect the property rights of our citizens. As governor of Georgia, I will support a state constitutional amendment which restricts the use of eminent domain to only those infrastructure needs traditionally associated with the use of eminent domain. The only other appropriate use of eminent domain, as I see it, is in reclaiming federally-owned or managed properties in our state, including our reservoirs.

Abuses of eminent domain, such as "revitalization of blighted areas" or "increased tax values" are no different than the unconstitutional practice of judicial activism used frequently by the federal supreme court and amount to little more than thinly-veiled practices of "land redistribution" -- which, to most Georgians, is just a fancy way to say "communism."

The protection of private property rights is essential to the restoration of true liberty for the people of Georgia; and I will be dedicated to greater protection of those rights.

16. I support the abolition of both income and property taxes and the replacement of them with a state sales tax. It is my belief that any graduated tax based upon income is Marxist and should be repudiated. For this reason, vigilance must be maintained in order to make sure that whatever sales tax is put into place should not be tied to income in any way, including the use of rebates; it should be a straightforward simple tax. A man is entitled to his land and the fruits of his labour, and these rights come from God, not government. Indeed, any man who may lose his land for failure to pay his taxes is no more than a serf who is "renting" his land from the overlord and is, therefore, not a "free" man in a real sense; and any man who has the fruits of his labour taken away against his will in differing proportion to his neighbors is the victim of thievery.

Therefore, I propose first a reduction in the size and role of government, back within the confines of our original founding principles; then, for those legitimate financial necessities which still exist, a uniform sales tax is sufficient. The sales tax should exempt necessities such as food and medicine and should not require the use of any identification card, number, or other mark from the buyer. In short, the tax will be voluntary in that an individual will only be liable for the taxes on those items that he elects to purchase.

In so doing, freedom will be restored, privacy will be protected, and the great American entrepreneurial spirit will be rekindled in the hearts of Georgians everywhere.

17. I believe that all children, including the unborn, have a right to life and that the state of Georgia has the responsibility to protect that right. I support amending Georgia law so that it more clearly recognizes these basic rights of the unborn, beginning from the moment of conception.

I will also use the existing laws which are already on the books to begin shutting down abortion mills across the state when elected. Most abortion clinics in our state today are operating under waivers which they have been given by the state which say that they do not even have to meet the same guidelines as other medical clinics. I will work to immediately begin revoking those waivers in Georgia.

It is high time that the victimization of our children, women, families, and communities through legalized abortion on demand be brought to an end. The cost, both financially, morally, and emotionally, related to this practice has needlessly brought ruin to many Georgians, particularly to minorities and low-income families.

The protection of innocent persons is one of the few legitimate roles of government; and as governor of Georgia, I will be the leader of efforts to protect the unborn and to encourage further legislation and adjudication that acknowledge their right to life and liberty, as well as the extension of due process to the unborn. As a firm believer in States' Rights, I support the right of Georgia to provide greater protection of life and liberty and due process than the standard set by the federal government and, as the executive of our state, will oppose any efforts by federal courts to thwart our protection of the children and families of Georgia.

18. I am glad that the recent economic situation has forced the state of Georgia to begin cutting spending and size of state government. The only constitutional and moral roles of civil government in America are the defense of life, liberty, and property. All other functions are illegitimate and should be reduced and, eventually, removed once again.

Besides cutting the size and scope of state government, I believe the next step in guaranteeing that we can provide the constitutional and critical services to Georgians is to adopt the following measures

previously mentioned above for the purpose of stimulating the economy and creating jobs... by getting government OUT of the way, not more involved in our economy.

One of the most pressing issues for many Georgians now is the creation and protection of jobs in our state. As a true conservative, I believe that the key to job creation in our state is not more government involvement in our lives and in our businesses but, rather, getting government out of the way for our citizens to prosper. I believe strongly that Georgians are some of the most industrious and ingenious people that have ever inhabited the shores of America; and, in spite of the huge hole that has been dug for us all by Washington, Georgia can become the most prosperous place in America if we get government out of the way and foster the entrepreneurial spirit for which we are world-renown.

There are three things that I will promote from day one as Governor to encourage job creation. Implementation of these three things will make Georgia the envy of America for families and businesses and will result in the creation of more jobs than any other place in America.

One... abolishing both the income tax AND property tax in Georgia and replacing them with a simple state sales tax. Such a change in our tax system would make Georgia a magnet for business and industry wishing to remain in America, instead of relocating to Mexico and other foreign markets. It would also free investment capital here in Georgia and stimulate the creation of small businesses, as well as large, in communities across our state.

Two... renewed emphasis upon vocational training. By changing the current trend of education in Georgia of attempting to funnel all students toward four-year liberal arts majors, we will encourage those students with an aptitude or desire for a vocation and help them to become skilled, trained workers. In so doing, we will make them productive citizens, able to provide for themselves and their families; and it will make Georgia one of the very few places still remaining in America with a ready workforce, thereby encouraging industry to return to our state.

Three... a firm stand for state sovereignty concerning Intrastate Commerce. Unlike "interstate" commerce which is a constitutional responsibility of the federal government, "intrastate" commerce is NOT within the jurisdiction of Washington according to the Constitution. Intrastate commerce is any business conducted which does not cross state lines. I personally helped to write the "State Authority and Intrastate Commerce Act" which is currently under consideration in the General Assembly. This piece of legislation is being used as a model now to craft similar legislation in at least half a dozen other states. The bill states that any item grown, manufactured, excavated, or produced within the state of Georgia is not subject to federal regulations or taxes until it crosses the state line and leaves Georgia. It is similar to the Montana and Tennessee firearms protection legislation but improves upon both of them by including other goods and also placing real penalties upon federal agents who attempt to violate the law by harassing Georgia citizens.

I cannot overemphasize the potential boon that this agenda would bring to business and job creation in our state. The immediate result would be greater profitability for all businesses in Georgia, and the long-term result would be job creation on a scale never before seen in America.

19. I support a reduction in the role of state government in general. In addition to cutting unconstitutional and unnecessary state departments completely, there are others which could be streamlined by returning responsibility and control back to the counties and local governments. Two of these, for example, are education and collection of sales tax.

I believe that our public schools should be run at the local level, without interference from either Atlanta OR Washington. Today, the state and federal governments tell our local school systems from what lists we can choose our textbooks, whether our children can pray before their Friday night football

games, what tests we must use to measure the success of both our students AND our teachers, and much more. I believe that control must be returned immediately to the local level. No one knows better how to provide the quality of education that our children deserve than we the parents, teachers, and principals who work with our children daily. The size and authority of the state department of education should be radically reduced.

Uncollected amounts of sales tax continue to mount under the state Department of Revenue. If the collection of sales tax was done at the local level, with the counties being assured that they would keep the lion-share of it at home, instead of sending it to Atlanta and having to beg for its return, there would be a greater percentage collected; and the further benefit of having power restored to the local government level would happen, as well. This is one vital part of my proposal to repeal both the graduated income tax and property tax in Georgia and replace both with a state sales tax.