

Public Policy Network of Western NC and North Georgia
Candidate Profiles—GA Congressional District 9
Financial Security

Josh McCall-Democratic Challenger

From his website & remarks at a Town Hall Meeting in Blairsville (10/1/2018)

- **Do you have any plans to ensure that vulnerable low-income, elderly and disabled individuals and families in Georgia who rely upon Medicaid for their healthcare will NOT be negatively impacted by Congress' efforts to reduce the federal budget?**

Mr. McCall's website and published remarks do not specifically address the impact of federal budget cuts on Georgia's Medicaid program; but he does address his commitment to advocate on behalf of the elderly who rely upon Medicare and Social Security: "Our aging population has already sacrificed so much on our behalf; they deserve the security of food, shelter, and medical care."... These "benefits" are not entitlements; they are taxpayer investments to secure a long-term future."

At the Town Hall meeting in Blairsville on October 1st, Mr. McCall indicated that he supports "scrapping the cap on Social Security" in order to ensure its future viability. If elected, Mr. McCall says that he will "advocate for our aging population to receive the return on their taxpayer investment and ensure that seniors have a decent and dignified living. Congress should no longer be allowed to "borrow" from Social Security or Medicare, and both programs should be expanded to ensure that all of our aging neighbors are cared for."

- **Do you support an increase Georgia's minimum wage (to supplement the federal minimum wage)?**

At the Blairsville Town Hall meeting, Mr. McCall indicated that he supports raising the minimum wage to \$15/hour. He also said, "We need to start moving back to a market economy, driven by productivity--not consumption, so that people are rewarded for their

hard work." On his website, Mr. McCall also discusses the importance of workers being paid a living wage: "Employees working in full-time jobs should be able to support themselves and provide for their families without having to rely on regular government benefits to supplement food costs, health care, and other necessities in life."

- **Do you believe the new federal tax legislation provides the greatest benefits to the wealthiest Americans? If so, what measures would you take to try to remedy the inequity?**

"While the unemployment rate has been going down since 2010, we have not seen the expected increase in wages. In fact, although corporations have been given significant "permanent" tax cuts, the savings from those cuts have benefitted shareholders more than employees." In Blairsville, Mr. McCall stated that he supports a progressive tax system so that corporations and wealthy individuals pay their fair share. He believes that the current tax cuts to the wealthy and corporations had no strings attached, including no requirements to produce jobs, so most of the profits went to CEOs and shareholders. There would be a greatly reduced deficit and money to fund health care and other services that benefit people if we have a fair tax system.

Mr. McCall's Job Development Proposals: Mr. McCall advocates for development of a "Green New Deal" for America, which would result in high paying jobs in renewable energy and would reduce our dependence on foreign oil. He supports high speed rail in heavy traffic areas to produce more jobs. He supports tuition-free college to build a skilled work force that is ready to compete with that in other nations.

Financial Security

Doug Collins-Incumbent (R-GA)

Rep. Collins' office indicated that they do not respond to surveys and, as of October 1, 2018, PPN was unable to document what the Congressman's official positions are on the following public policy issues which impact Financial Security in our region; however, the New York Times reported that Rep. Collins voted for the new federal tax law.

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 - Do you support an increase Georgia's minimum wage (to supplement the federal minimum wage)?
 - Do you believe the new federal tax legislation provides the greatest benefits to the wealthiest Americans? If so, what measures would you take to try to remedy the inequity?

Source cited:

<https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2017/12/19/us/politics/tax-bill-house-live-vote.html>