

Public Policy Network of Western NC and North Georgia
Candidate Profiles—Georgia Gubernatorial Candidates
Financial Security

Stacey Abrams-Democratic Candidate
From her website, and sources cited

- **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?**

Ms. Abrams' has indicated that her top priority is to expand Medicaid in Georgia. (See Abrams' candidate profile: Health.)

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

The Intercept.com reports that Ms. Abrams co-sponsored legislation to increase the minimum wage in Georgia from \$5.15/hour (one of the lowest in the country) to \$8.25 an hour in 2012; but she has not specifically called for an increase in Georgia's minimum wage in her gubernatorial campaign. Ms. Abrams does call for the creation of a state level Earned Income Tax credit in the State of Georgia, a policy which currently exists in 29 other states and the District of Columbia.

- **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?**

Ms. Abrams' website does not comment on the impact of the new federal tax legislation; however, her Economic Mobility Plan addresses many of these issues.

Jobs/Economic Development Proposals

Ms. Abrams has developed a five-point "economic mobility plan" that is focused on "building an economy that works in all 159 Georgia counties, for every Georgian and helps families thrive."

1. Keep more money in the pockets of working families through the Georgia Earned Income Tax Credit and the Cradle to Career Savings program.
2. Generate thousands of long-term, good-paying jobs through small business capital programs, clean energy investment and Medicaid expansion.
3. Invest in Georgia's infrastructure and education systems to create jobs, improve transit, support business, bridge the skills gap, and grow our workforce statewide
4. Set a goal of 22,000 apprenticeships by 2022 to build a stronger path to the middle class; and
5. Promote Georgia as an open and inclusive state.

Sources cited:

<https://staceyabrams.com/economicmobilityplan/>

<https://theintercept.com/2018/02/13/georgia-governor-race-democratic-primary/>

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Brian Kemp - Republican Candidate

PPN was not able to find any published positions from Mr. Kemp's campaign that address these PPN Survey questions:

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

On Jobs/Economic Development: Mr. Kemp's website emphasizes that it is his priority to "spur economic growth and opportunity for all Georgians." He pledges to "take a chainsaw to burdensome regulations," taxes, and mandates that he says "crush local businesses." He also pledges to "grow jobs and bring economic development projects to rural Georgia, and make our state #1 for small business." "As governor, Brian Kemp will cap government spending and lower taxes on Georgia families. He will stand against big government programs that cost too much and fail to deliver for taxpayers."

Sources cited: <https://www.kempforgovernor.com/>

<https://politics.myajc.com/news/state--regional-govt--politics/georgia-2018-where-the-candidates-for-governor-stand-the-issues/N1YoGuvGdkQKEgrjFYxiCI/>