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Award

Winners

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PRESIDENTS' fDAY DINNER - February 17 - U.S. Representative Doug Collins

The featured speaker is Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee. He gave a detailed analysis of the motives and weaknesses of Democratic efforts to Impeach the President, with their remarkable lack of any real evidence. See pages 2 and 3.

PHOTOS OF FEBRUARY 17 PRESIDENTS' DAY DINNER

See pages 4 thru 6.

TRUE PERSPECTIVES FORUM - JANUARY 14

Featured two GOP candidates for Chair of Chatham County Commission; Primary to be held June 9. Jason Buelterman, Former Mayor of Tybee Island and Dr. Billy Hair, former Chatham County Commission Chair. See page 7.

SEMINARS, SAVANNAH COUNCIL ON WORLD AFFAIRS

On January 16, former Director at the National Security Council, Robert Suettinger, gave his view of China as a major threat to the U.S. On February 20, Georgia Tech Business School Dean Maryam Alavi gave her perspective on the transformation of needed workforce skills. See pages 8 and 9.

GOP GEORGIA PRIMARY CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT 1 U.S. HOUSE SEAT

Forum illustrating qualifications and positions on major issues among:

Earl (Buddy) Carter (incumbent), Daniel Merritt, and Ken Yasger.

See pages 10 and 11.

SIRC SUSTAINING MEMBERS, See page 12.

JUNE 9 PRIMARY- (early voting May 18), U.S. Congress District 1 GOP (see pp 10, 11); GOP candidates for Chatham County Commission Chair (see page 7)

Other non-partisan Election, Chatham County Superior Court Judge; between:

Lisa Goldwire Colbert, Savannah State College, University of Georgia law school, 1994. Chatham County Juvenile Court judge, July 2012 - present.

Tracy O'Connell, Boston College, University of Georgia law school, cum laude, 1993.

Partner: Ellis, Painter, Ratterree & Adams, 1993 - present.

FUTURE EVENTS

Georgia Primary - June 9.

Election Day - November 3.

At a sold-out audience for this year's SIRC Presidents-Day Dinner, one of the heroes of the President's impeachment trial defense, Doug Collins gave a virtuoso performance describing why the acquittal was forever.

He described his upbringing as the son of a state trooper who risked his life as a public servant. To this day, Collins is reviled by many on the left who denigrate police officers to appeal to liberal elites. They are consistently in a DC bubble, out of touch with the values of mainstream America.

Their hatred of Trump was evident even before he shocked them with a dominating electoral college victory in 2016 by vowing to drain the swamp. They hate him even more now that he had the audacity and skill actually to do what he had promised.

Impeachment Fever Started Very Early

The fear that Trump could change the whole game that enriched the ruling elite caused an immediate 2017 promise that appeared in the *Washington Post* that the "impeachment process begins now."

This is why Collins believes a serious reinvestigation is needed immediately on the corrupt cabal, e.g. "Operation Hurricane Crossfire" that tried the coup to unseat Trump.

When the midterms flipped the House in 2018, they jumped at what they believed was their best chance, after the Mueller fiasco fizzled. Jerry Nadler actually campaigned for Judiciary Chairman because he had the most experience in an impeachment process from the Clinton Impeachment in 1998. Never mind that there was no evidence of an impeachable event (and never mind that new Speaker Pelosi said it shouldn't be done without overwhelming bipartisan support).

When Collins was named Ranking Member as a foil to Nadler, he made a pledge to not allow Nadler a chance to even take an easy breath during impeachment. (Did that cause Pelosi to take the whole process away from Nadler, and give it to Adam Schiff? Was that the reason the whole charade took place in the obviously inappropriate committee, Schiff's Intelligence Committee?)

Using Ukraine Phone Call: a Weak Pretense

Why did it take 18 days after Trump's innocuous congratulatory call to the new Ukraine president for the so-called whistle blower to make his complaint? And why were there numerous errors in his report? Maybe it was because he never actually heard the live phone call? Why didn't they fold the case after Trump surprised them with the ultimate defense by releasing the full transcript of the call, showing there was no pressure. Further, nothing was offered and nothing done to try to get the help, and the significant military aid was given (while, in contrast, Obama never gave Ukraine any real military aid).

It was fairly obvious why the Democrats unleashed this very weak case for Impeachment. In the face of

Trump's successes in rejuvenating the economy, the military and U.S. standing in the world: his reelection appeared inevitable! Their only chance at fulfilling the coup was to try impeachment. Even if a conviction was certain to fail in the Senate, Pelosi's cry that he is "impeached forever" might sway a few independent votes in the Fall. Of course, we now know that the opposite happened, as Trump's popularity is now the highest it's ever been.

...precedent has now been set to use totally partisan tactics to try to undo the will of the people in fair elections

Lessons Learned

The bitterness of the fight makes it hard to believe that civility will return to politics very soon .

The tactics of the left seem desperate, even to the point of violating a basic belief in traditional justice. Democrats promoted the fallacy that the burden of proof is on the accused to prove his innocence, even in the face of patently false accusations. Civil liberties have been turned absolutely on their head.

Also, the precedent has now been set to use totally partisan tactics to try to undo the will of the people in fair elections. How will history treat this obviously craven tactic by a desperate Democratic Party? They even brag about continuing the idea of impeachment in Trump's second term and perhaps in the end of his first term. (Maybe they should do some polling to see if the public is willing to stomach this ineffectual practice?)

Future Republican Messaging

The general conditions are certainly ripe for total victory in November. Jobs and the economy are booming. National defense is stalwart, and opportunity for all segments of society has never been higher. (Editor's note: this was all prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.)

But do not be complacent. Generally, the emotional appeals of Democrats have been better than traditional Republican messaging. 3% growth and 30,000 Dow Jones industrials are just numbers. Even the tax reform has accounting appeal but doesn't resonate unless you give substance to the success, e.g. you now can look forward to keeping your good full time job, and not be worrying about losing your house.

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The criminal reform that Trump got through Congress gives a valued reprieve to Tony Rankin, a homeless army veteran who had an excessive sentence and now can live a productive life outside of prison. Or the charter school scholarship gives real hope to a black child Janivah Davis stuck in a failing school, from a Democratic governor vetoing school choice options.

These visual images from Trump's inaugural address petrify the traditional Democrats that take the minority vote for granted, without ever showing any results in improving their lives. Trump's tangible results in draining the swamp give hope to the majority of Americans that we are now truly on the right track.

Q & A

Q1. Can you describe the exculpatory evidence that the Schiff people withheld?

A1. The whole Democratic unfair process was exculpatory, especially after the President released the actual transcript showing no aberrant acts.

Q2. How stable is Pelosi's speakership, e.g. even if he House does not flip back, will she survive?

A2. Pelosi will likely survive. She is a very astute politician, with tight control over the Democrats

Q3. Will the House continue more impeachment efforts, or do they realize it backfired?

A3. There well could be more hearings in the House where Democrats s want to keep up the pressure. Further, the Stone sentencing issue will put pressure on both Barr and the President.

Q4. Will a future GOP House ever retaliate in kind against a Democratic president, with a precedent set for a totally partisan impeachment?

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A4. Hopefully not, as the GOP would go back to common sense and the real business of governing.

Q5. What is likely the real reason for Romney's lone vote, and will it have any effect?

A5. No idea about Romney's motive. There may be an effect in Utah but maybe not. Did he split his vote on impeachment to give himself cover?

Q6. Beyond Trump's coattails, what else do Republicans in Congress run on?

A6. Look at the accomplishments of the first two years, without the obstructions of a Democratic House: Tax Cuts, a first step in criminal justice reform, opioid crisis measures, sanctions against North Korea and Russia, and VA reforms.

Q7. Do you believe Adam Schiff's denial of even knowing the Whistle Blower, and if lying why does that not count as lying to Congress, a felony for some others?

A7. Schiff was not been under oath, and while few doubt he told the truth, there is a federal law protecting legislators for behavior in Congress.

Q8. For the other likely liars, e.g, Strzok, Comey, Clapper and Brennan, will they ever be held accountable?

A8. This cabal of DOJ and Security officials against the President are only top officials who have been implicated; the rank and file are honest and hard working.



SIRC Presidents' Day Dinner Pictures



SIRC Presidents' Day Dinner Pictures



SIRC Presidents' Day Dinner Pictures



True Perspectives Candidate Forum - January 14 - Chair, Chatham County Commission

The Republican Primary to run for the Chatham County Commission Chairman is now June 9. The two registered candidates on the GOP ticket appeared at the SIRC Forum at Plantation Club January 14.

Jason Buelterman

After a coin toss, Jason spoke first. He has been Mayor of Tybee Island for the past 14 years. A graduate of the University of Cincinnati, he worked for Senator Rob Portman's (R-Ohio) congressional office when he was a member of the House, before moving to Tybee and managing the IB program at Johnson High School.

Jason first ran for office in 2001, and was elected to the Tybee City Council, after a campaign of knocking on almost every door on the island. His early and enduring philosophy is financial strength and wise spending of government's limited resources. He continued as mayor for 14 years, by keeping the millage rate low, while building the city's reserve from a one-month cushion to now over ten months – a key to a hurricane prone area.

He also helped bring a free public charter school to Tybee (Tybee Maritime Academy) after its only private school closed.

As County Commission Chairman, he would continue fiscal conservatism, while addressing the current strategic threats, principally a lack of County coordination and communications. He currently has the support of all the Republican County Commissioners and virtually all the mayors of local municipalities.



Billy Hair

He has previously served as County Commission Chairman, for two terms, and was term limited in 2004. He won reelection with a plurality of 13,000 votes, with a legacy of bringing people together to govern effectively. He likened the job of the County's chief executive as running a good size corporation, with a budget of over \$250 million.

He first came to Savannah to serve as president of Savannah Tech, and helped to achieve higher education credentialing for its students. He has PhD in Education, an MBA, and an undergraduate degree in Finance, Real Estate and Insurance.

His goals include restricting the growth of government by capping property taxes at the rate of inflation and de-indexing Stephens Day limitations. Plus using SPLOST funds for maintenance as well as construction.



Q&A Session

Q1. Where are the biggest opportunities to cut the fat in current budgets?

A1. Jason: Not in community safety programs (police, fire, EMS, 911 system) but virtually everywhere else. We need to budget through zero-based practices instead of carry-

ing forward previous year line items to ensure taxpayer dollars are used efficiently.

A1. Billy: Head counts for county staffing have grown too high. And SPLOST funds spend too much on new construction and don't consider follow-up maintenance costs.

Q2. What is your best accomplishment in your previous government service?

A2. Jason: building Tybee's fund balance from almost zero to 10 month's worth (83%) of the annual municipal budget. This was done while simultaneously cutting the millage rate for property owners and despite weathering the 2008 recession and hurricanes Matthew and Irma.

A2. Billy: Helping to bringing JCB manufacturing operations to Savannah. One of their biggest reasons for the move was their confidence in the government leadership here in Chatham County. JCB is one the three largest construction companies in the world.

Q3. How can you deal with the large unfunded pension liability of Chatham County?

A3. Jason: We successfully tackled this issue head-on with respect to Tybee and now have a pension plan that is in excellent condition. Chatham County's pension fund is actually in good shape—it has 94 of its long liabilities funded which exceeds actuarial recommendations. However, it's OPEB liabilities (retiree health care insurance) is only funded at 25%. This needs to be addressed by changing the benefits offered to employees hired going forward.

A3. Billy: the right way is to convert all new employees to defined benefit plans, e.g. 401k's, from the antiquated pension systems that municipalities are stuck with now. Care must be used not to violate state or federal regulations in the conversion.

Q4. Why do all new employees have to be interviewed by only the County Chairman or County manager?

A4. Billy: They don't. Bring in the heads of the divisions to whom they report, for their expertise.

A4. Jason: Let the stakeholders—citizens and direct reports—also have a say in who gets hired. (Editor's note: the question implies that some cronyism has been used in the past in who gets hired.)

Q5. Have you looked at the inequities in the Board of Assessors actions on property values?

A5. Jason-Yes. It would be beneficial to have a few fresh sets of eyes on the Board to address this issue especially as it relates to commercial properties which are exempt from Stephens-Day protections.

A5. Billy: most assessors are voluntary jobs; there may be a need to pay for some professional advice.

Q6. With the move to expand the Hutchinson Island Trade Center, will there be any resumption of the past attempts to pay for hotel expansion using public funds?

A6. Audience members knowledgeable in this arena were adamant that no such public funds would be accessed, and all new hotel construction, if any, will use private funding.



Seminar - January 16 - The U.S. vs the People's Republic of China (PRC)

At a SCWA Seminar on January 16, Robert Suettinger gave a major perspective on the threat of China. He is retired from positions at the CIA and the National Security Council (as well as think tanks such as the Rand Corporation and Brookings), having had a long career in observing China US relations.

He first touched on the recent signing of a major Trade Agreement with China, characterizing it as merely a step back from a potential worsening relations, which is a very good thing. There was no brink of war, anyway.

We also didn't give much, as we just promised not to increase tariffs on another \$500 million of products. In exchange, China promised to buy some \$200 billion more of our products in manufacturing and farming. It is not clear that even U.S. markets have that much more to sell, as the recent trade differences may have caused a finding of alternative markets to sell those products.

The rest of the agreement has a lot of "trust each other to do the right things in the future." It was also clear now that what brought China to the table was they took a much bigger hit than people realized from the U.S. tariff threats.

We also found out that President Xi's negotiations mean he took a hit from his hard liners in the Communist Party in China. The speaker made a major distinction between China and the PRC (the corrupt leaders of their ruling Communist Party). The vast majority of China's citizens do not trust them, but fear their power.

Looking Back on Relations with China

For centuries The Chinese were very distrustful of foreigners, more so of European nations which had colonizing ambitions, than the U.S. But little was known of their true feelings, as their language is very difficult to master.

Their help was appreciated in World War II in fighting the Japanese, but afterwards the struggle between the Communists and the Nationalists were not well understood. General Marshall (architect of the European recovery) tried to intervene in China, but he struggled to find any solutions that would help the U.S. and he abandoned the effort in 1947.

Chairman Mao tse-tung (Zedong in China) for a while cozied up to the Soviets to get leverage over the emerging U.S. domination of military strength, but even he distrusted the Soviets, and abandoned them as an ally.

Also, the emergence of Formosa (Taiwan) as an independent economic entity is a major thorn in the PRC's side that they can never allow to stand, without the risk of losing face in their view of the Chinese philosophy. This is similar to their view of losing face in the seeming independence of Hong Kong,

Numerous U.S. Presidents tried to gain advantage by scrutinizing China's policies, from Nixon to Bush to Clinton and Obama, and now Trump. Each has failed in their own way, as the PRC culture is so hard to discern. Pushing civil rights has a major push back from the PRC, as is economic reform so far.

Most analysts seem to miss the fact that there really is no real independent profit enterprise in any corporations in China, as no one really owns property independent of the state's control.

The new regime under Xi is also fairly different from previous leaders in China. He has aggressively pushed a military buildup (no doubt from huge revenues from a trade imbalance with the U.S.), and a more aggressive technology investment (mostly from stealing U.S. trade secrets). Much of that has been willingly allowed by U.S. companies' greed in thinking they can sell much more to a market of over a billion people not formerly available to them.

The PRC also has pursued both soft and hard tactics in gaining political influence in the U.S. to avoid blow-back.

Their huge cash investments in the NBA for example or in Hollywood has gotten them endorsements from popular stars, who are influenced by money.

A major surprise is why they have held off on punishing Hong Kong for its move towards independence. One possibility is that PRC's corrupt leaders themselves have invested in Hong Kong entities to stash their ill-gotten gains, instead of hoarding them in cash or gold.

Q&A Session

Q1. China is in a way similar to the Soviet Union under communism: paranoid, and often ill-informed on how western democracies function with consumer freedom. Why have we not learned from defectors from the PRC on how ill-informed they are?

A1. While they have hundreds of thousands of students in the U.S. studying our way of life, most of them are loyalists and merely report back potential useful info on US corporations. The students are not very representative of the PRC leaders. We have very few people in China learning their language and culture, and we have a hard time appreciating how resentful they are at US success. It is felt that they have a major goal to show how successful they can be, by outperforming the U.S., rather than jointly succeeding by economic cooperation. Freedom of their citizenry and a true market economy are totally foreign to their way of thinking.

Q2. What is your view of the *Vision of Victory* book describing an alleged Belt & Road Strategy to achieve world dominance by 2049?

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A2, He hasn't read it yet as he is .writing his own book. He did say there there are many new experts on China, but the fear is that these authors are merely guessing on PRC's true strategy, projecting their own views on what China is up to. Another book is Pillsbury's *Hundred Year Marathon*. A lot of the new "experts" are merely guessing on PRC's true strategy. Many don't appreciate three major likely precepts of the PRC.

They have a true Marxist philosophy, and they have a major xenophobic view of the world They have a strong incentive to show the outside world powers that China is better than they are.

Q3. What is your view of the PRC's investment in Confucius Institutes in the U.S.?

A3. These are mostly propaganda efforts. Universities should be careful of these funded programs, which come with strings attached.

Q4. Are you aware of the Bloomberg Corporation's ties to China, given that its founder Michael Bloomberg is trying to "buy" the U.S. presidency?

A4. They are not alone in being tied to China's funding machine, as Goldman Sachs, Apple and Microsoft are very dependent on China investments, as well as the NBA and Hollywood producers. He is very upset about these entities appearing to ignore the moral hazard of being so beholden to China. There are some 700 U.S. corporations beholden to China, or that have false hopes that profits might accrue from access to 1.4 billion residents of China. Some of that expectation is based on either stupidity or greed. U.S. corporations need to take a long view of dealing with China.

Q5. What is China's view of North Korea?

A5. North Korea is merely a pliable tool of China, to tweak the U.S. on a potential threat. Russia backs North Korea for similar reasons. Without China's support Kim Jong Il would fail fairly quickly, as they are an economic disaster. For the same reasons, China appears to support other rogue states, like Iran and Venezuela and Cuba.

Q6. Was the U.S. pullout from the TPP a wise move?

A6. In short, yes. No one really knew how TPP was supposed to work.



Digital Transformations – Global Shifts in Workforce Skills - February 20, 2020 Seminar

At another SCWA event, Maryam Alavi, Dean of the Georgia Tech Business School, reviewed occupational prospects in the near and long erm. The overarching dynamic is that future changes are in a highly accelerating mode, due to breakthroughs in technology.

Look at two successful companies that don't even produce anything, and couldn't even exist without computer capabilities: Uber and Airbnb. Uber uses drivers with cars to provide transportation to millions of customers who avoid driving in cities.

Airbnb threatens hospitality giants (e.g. Marriott) who need huge physical plant and employee investments.

Amazon and eBay also thrive via colossal internet access to customers.And Netflix couldn't exist without streaming.

Technology Breakthroughs

Artificial intelligence (AI) – which has been proven to outperform humans at a huge number of tasks.

Robotics – which have taken over the manufacturing and distribution business.

Augmented Reality –

Global Connectivity – 2.5 Billion people with smart phones.

The business model acceleration is represented by the progress of just four generations of people: Baby boomers preferred phone calls. Gen X quickly went to emails. Millennials quit that for texting. Now Gen Z just relies on posting.

Future progress is likely to be even swifter than the above—all occasioned by rapid changes in demographics, global connectivity and new business opportunities and challenges.

How to Prepare for this – What skills are needed?

The major recommendation is to prepare for a lifetime of new learning. Having a preferred degree is not much of an advantage without the ability to learn how to learn.

Higher order skills are needed such as problem solving, soft skills and creativity.

Emotional intelligence will be a key driver of success: judgment, empathy, courage and the ability to motivate others, all components of leadership acumen.

Career success for many will be determined by complex interactions, collaboration, and the ability to work in virtual teams of humans and computers.

Disappearing in the future will be man jobs that are routine and structured, e.g. bank tellers, cashiers, order takers. The future belongs to those with high order skills, plus tech knowledge and some softer skills.

Q&A Session

Q1. If 90% of the future jobs available to those born today do not now exist, how do you prepare for that world?

A1. Continuously learning. Have some tech skill, but that only gets you started. You need the aforementioned higher order skills.

Q2 How do universities even teach courses that will be relevant in the future?

A2. Georgia Tech uses AI in its teaching methods. Delegate routine learning to the computer and use professors to do mentoring and wisdom and judgment.

Q3. How crucial is cybersecurity in the future workforce?

A3. Very, and Georgia Tech has an online graduate program devoted to this, that will be continuously upgraded as technology progresses.

Q4. What are the prospects for workers in the future that will clearly be left behind with structured works kills being replaced by computers?

A4. The classic philosophical and sociological questions. This is the dark side of computer progress. Should government or the private sector take the lead in solving these problems?



GOP CANDIDATES FOR U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Three Running For GOP U.S. House Seat

Incumbent Buddy Carter has two rivals for the GOP Primary June 9: Danny Merritt and Ken Yasger. In lieu of a live SIRC Forum showing their credentials, below are bios they sent and their answers to our key questions.

Earl “Buddy” Carter is a pharmacist with 30 years of caring for thousands of patients and creating hundreds of jobs. As Mayor of Pooler, he helped spur three decades of growth that continues today. In the Legislature, he was an early leader in combatting opioid abuse. In Congress, he’s worked with President Trump to build the strongest economy we ever saw. Buddy married his college sweetheart, Amy. The Carters make their home in Pooler, have three married sons, and four grandchildren.



Danny Merritt. A conservative outsider with the right experience to fix Washington. He’s an 18-year combat Veteran (fought in Iraq and Afghanistan), and now a Major in the U.S. Army Reserves. He has a Master’s Degree in Business & Security Management. The Co-Founder of Nine Line Apparel, he also owns businesses in retail and real estate investment. He lives in Savannah with his wife Sarah and four children.



Ken Yasger grew up in Illinois. In 2011, after 3½ years of college, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and spent four years in the 1st Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment. In 2015, he transitioned to the Army National Guard. He served two combat tours to Afghanistan with the Ranger Regiment and one combat tour with the National Guard.



Best qualified for Congress?

Buddy Carter. I’m a businessman and know how to encourage private sector job creation and expansion. I’m prepared to help lead the great American comeback, rebuilding our economy. As the only pharmacist in Congress, I’ve used my experience to improve health care in this country. I worked with President Trump to end gag clauses that prevented pharmacists from navigating patients to the cheapest price for their prescriptions. In business and public service, I’ve dedicated my life to making our community, our state, and our country a better, stronger, and more prosperous.

Danny Merritt had success in the private sector, starting Nine Line Apparel from scratch and growing it to 200 employees in five years. He understands selfless service (18 years in the military). He is not a politician and has never run for office before now. He wants to bring real Leadership to Washington DC. Set term limits to get government back to its main mission of representing the people, not personal interests. Preserve the Second Amendment, freedom of speech, Judeo-Christian values (he is Pro-Life) and a framework of morality necessary for our system of limited government.

Ken Yasger. I have always served people since my teenage years. Whether it be serving people at various restaurants, serving the community doing volunteer work with the elderly or homeless, or serving the people in the United States Armed Forces. Serving people is what I have always done and have always been among the people of lower to middle classes. I

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have been working for a living my entire life so I know the struggles that the everyday American faces on a daily basis. You have struggled, I have struggled, and we will make our lives better together when you send me to Washington to serve you on that level.

Key Issues for the Next U.S. Congress

Carter: 1. Recovering from the Coronavirus
2. Staging the Great American comeback
3. Retaking control of our supply chain
4. Meeting the Needs of the First District.

Merritt:

1. National Security (Build that Wall)
2. Budget & Spending
3. Health & Mental Health Services
4. Local Issues: Economic Development /Workforce.

Yasger: 1. COVID-19 Response and Prevention
2. Decriminalization of Marijuana on the Federal Level
3. Education
4. War in Afghanistan.

Positions on Issues

Carter

Coronavirus: Recovery and Preventing Future Outbreaks - I support President Trump’s unprecedented actions speeding development of treatments and a vaccine. We cannot take our foot off the pedal.

In recovery, we must fully understand this outbreak. I want to investigate China and the World Health Organization for their lies, coverup, and failures that exacerbated this crisis. They must be held accountable.

Finally, we must prepare for the future by expanding our stockpiles of medical equipment and supplies to prevent the bottleneck we saw in the early days of this outbreak.

Staging the Great American Comeback - Reopening smartly restores public confidence. We all want to feel normal again.

Businesses that follow appropriate protocols in reopening – or critical businesses that never closed – must be protected from frivolous litigation.

Also reduce onerous and duplicative regulations that keep the private sector on the sidelines with infrastructure investment. We were in the midst of the most robust economy in our history when this all started. Getting back there means getting government out of the way.

Retaking Control of our Supply Chain - We are too dependent on China for our basic needs. Approximately 90% of basic medications are made in China. Disturbingly, we don’t know the actual number. I’m leading the effort in the House to retake control of our pharmaceutical supply chain. With bold action and a little commonsense, we can rebuild American medicine production while increasing access to the ingredients to produce them. We cannot stop there. I’m committed to breaking our dependence on China wherever it exists.

Meeting the Needs of the First District - Beyond national priorities, a Congressman must understand and attend to the needs the district. I secured the first-ever full-year funding for Savannah Harbor expansion. Now we must see the project through.

Military installations not only provide for our defense but serve as economic engines for our communities. I will never stop seeking additional missions while maintaining existing ones. Georgia’s natural resources – from the bounty of our farms and forests to the beauty of our coast – must be preserved and promoted.

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Merritt

National Security (Build that Wall) - Support U.S. Senator Tom Cotton proposal (& President Trump) to end the diversity visa lottery program. Make substantial cuts to family immigration — to stop “chain migration.”

Deny state and federal funds to any public or private entity, including (but not limited to) sanctuary cities that are not in compliance with immigration laws.

Require employers to use E-verify to confirm eligibility of their employees to work in the United States.

Budget & Spending – Support Rand Paul’s Penny Plan: For every on-budget dollar the federal government spent in FY18 (excluding the Balanced Budget Amendment), spend one penny less for the next five years (at which point balance is reached). Thereafter, limit spending growth to one percent annually, (Social Security not included).

Protect Social Security and pass legislation that would not allow use of Social Security funds for anything else. Cut wasteful government spending such as redundant agencies and programs.

Grow the economy by eliminating misguided regulations that hinder businesses.

Health Services - Promote healthcare coverage that is adequate, affordable and accessible for all.

Repeal and replace ACA with free market solutions and competition - Allow insurance purchase across state lines. Publicly post all hospital costs.

Reduce Prescription Drug Prices - Increase pharmaceutical competition. Test reimbursement models that incentivize values and outcomes.

Improve Veterans Healthcare – Help veterans transition into civilian life. Improve mental health results (in substance abuse and suicides averaging 22 a day).

Support Local Issues - Georgia Ports Authority (in Savannah and Brunswick), and Gulfstream.

Advocate for loggers (and others in the Forestry/Paper Industries); Implement “The Safe Hauls Act of 2019”

Less regulation, e.g. sports fishing & oyster industries.

Support expansion of Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Georgia.

Yasger

COVID-19 is obviously going nowhere. This fight will take years to control and for a permanent treatment to be discovered and implemented. We need to open the country back up as soon as possible, if not immediately, and each state can treat their citizens, their economies, and utilize their National Guard’s as needed. The Federal Government should do their best to support each state’s decision and to work with our allies on a permanent treatment.

Pharmaceutical companies are running the medical world. While politicians and corporations are making billions, the people are suffering. While the states should decide on their own how to utilize medicinal or

recreational marijuana laws, the Federal Government needs to not interfere. This begins with decriminalizing marijuana at the highest level so the FDA can conduct proper research and the states can implement their own laws without the threat of federal action against them.

The Department of Education should only be utilized to monitor, not control. We must completely do away with Common Core and all Federal standardized testing. Each state should focus on their public schools, trade schools, and they should establish statewide standardized testing based off the needs of that individual state. If a state begins to fail, there should be something done on the federal level, but Georgia will not be punished due to the failures of another state.

Coming home from Afghanistan is a goal for our service members, but that must not happen before the mission is complete. I have spent too much time there and I will go over as much as needed to prevent the Taliban taking control and, once again, oppressing their people. I now have many Afghan friends who just want freedom in their country that we enjoy here. The Taliban have proven they cannot be trusted. We will win the war.

How Best to Get Out GOP Vote for November

Carter: Washington Democrats are eying Georgia on the route to their socialist takeover. We cannot let that happen. I’ve worked with Trump Victory on trainings – both live and virtual – throughout our area to equip Republicans with the tools we need to outwork the other side.

When Biden and Pelosi promote a socialist takeover of our country, we have to remind the American people of what makes us great: our freedom and our unyielding spirit. We can win the debate.

Merritt: Donald J. Trump will go down as the greatest President in History. Yet the mainstream press is countering his legacy, qualifications and success. Their created controversies will bring all walks of life to the Polls.

Getting the right message out that the only way to make change in DC or other elected positions is to get out and vote. EVERY Vote Matters.

Yasger: We cannot focus on registered GOP voters, we need more young people to register as Republicans. We must embrace ideas such as LGBTQ and marijuana rights.

The young people of this country will be winning elections in the future and if the Republican Party keeps fighting issues like these, we will just continue to push those new voters away. I am the candidate to win over many of those voters from the Democratic Party and ensure victory in the future.

