

A man with short, graying hair, wearing a light blue denim button-down shirt and dark blue jeans with a black belt, stands outdoors with his hands in his pockets. The background is a soft-focus natural setting.

# BRIAN KEMP

A NEW DAY IN RURAL GEORGIA

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GOVERNOR



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# BRIAN KEMP

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## A NEW DAY IN RURAL GEORGIA

With double-digit job losses, educational outcomes below state averages, and limited access to quality healthcare, high speed internet, and new, economic opportunities, rural Georgia needs to be a focus of our state's next governor.

We must ensure that all parts of our state - including rural Georgia - are given the same opportunities to grow and thrive. We cannot be a state divided. We must move forward together.

The following is a framework for strengthening rural Georgia. By empowering local leaders and the private sector, we can realize our full potential as a state and create a bright and promising future for all Georgians - regardless of zip code.

# INFRASTRUCTURE

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## BRING RURAL GEORGIA INTO THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY WITH HIGH SPEED INTERNET

With 25% of rural residents without access to high speed internet, bringing this access to ALL of Georgia is a fundamental component of our plan to strengthen rural Georgia.

By expanding access to high speed internet, we can improve access to quality healthcare, enhance educational outcomes, support small businesses, connect communities, and bolster opportunities for economic development.

### **Harness Existing Technology - and Explore Future Advancements - to Bring High Speed Internet to All of Georgia:**

- Wireless over existing power lines
- Fixed wireless
- TV "white spaces"

### **Incentivize the Private Sector Instead of Expanding Government**

- Eliminate the sales tax on high speed internet equipment for rural counties
- Eliminate state fees for use of right of way
- Explore tax incentives for tech companies and entrepreneurs who are committed to high speed internet expansion in rural Georgia
- Identify and eliminate government red tape that slows expansion
- Explore low interest loans to incentivize public/private partnerships
- Prioritize pro-active communities that are "expansion ready"



# AGRICULTURE

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## KEEP GEORGIA GROWING

With a degree in Agriculture from the University of Georgia and years of experience in agri-business, I understand not only the impact of the agriculture industry but the potential that exists to grow and expand.

To keep Georgia growing, we need to go beyond the talking points and work to support farmers, connect research institutions with farming operations, promote innovation and expansion, and protect crucial natural resources.

- Make the University of Georgia's Agriculture School #1 in the nation through strategic, public/private partnerships
- Continue to strengthen and enhance the extension and research components of the land grant university mission
- Create an Agricultural Workforce Development Program through the Technical College System of Georgia to train future farmers, agri-business leaders
- Protect water access for irrigation, and support innovation efforts
- Staff and expand inland ports to promote ag exports
- Explore ways to keep freight traffic out of Atlanta, I-285
- Take "Georgia Grown" campaign international, help Georgia farmers and agribusinesses take their products to the global market
- Launch ag economic expansion trips to recruit farmers and agribusinesses to Georgia – particularly in high tax, big government states like California
- Harness the next frontier in agriculture through collaboration in ag tech and mechanization



# JOBS & ECONOMY

## SUPPORT BUSINESSES ON MAIN STREET AND EMPOWER ENTREPRENEURS

From family farms and seed stores to retail and restaurants, small businesses are the backbone of rural Georgia's economy. Through regulatory and tax reform on the state-level, we can grow jobs and investment. With focus and determination, Georgia can quickly become #1 for small business.

### Specifically Task Economic Development With Rural Georgia Growth

- Secure resources for the continued development and execution of a rural Georgia growth plan through GDEcD
- Organize economic strike team to partner with local communities, state departments, and universities to utilize their strengths and attract/expand economic development opportunities
- ID regional economic development possibilities and partner with local communities to bring it to fruition

### Support Rural Georgia Efforts Underway in the State House to Attract Venture Capital and Private Equity Interested in Sectors like Biotech, Autonomous Vehicles

- Partner with House and Senate leaders to prioritize, pass pro-rural legislation in the first 100 Days in Office

### Improve Transportation for Rural Employees

- Incentivize employers to provide transportation to employees
- Offer tax credits for carpooling

By harnessing the strengths of rural communities, we can attract the right kind of industry and give our next generation a reason to stay in rural Georgia or to come home.

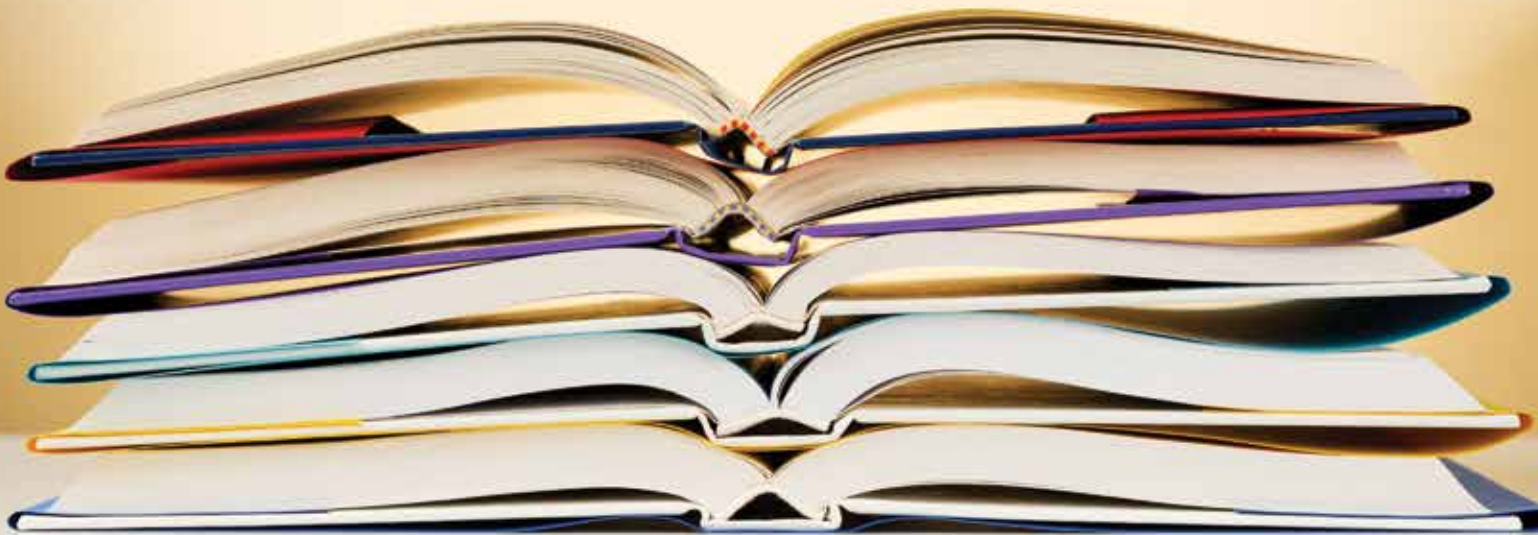
# EDUCATION

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## ENHANCE EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR RURAL GEORGIA STUDENTS

Your zip code should not determine your potential. Rural students deserve the same opportunities and experiences as those who live in highly populated counties. We must give the future generation the tools necessary to learn, grow, and thrive.

- Support and grow virtual learning opportunities for rural students, which includes challenging courses for high achieving students and remedial opportunities for students that need a different environment in order to achieve
- Work with non-profit organizations to fund after school programs that teach soft skills, prepare tomorrow's workforce
- Give students and parents flexibility by doubling the SSO private school Scholarship Tax Credits
- Promote teaching in rural settings
- Encourage school systems to provide after-hours learning and internet access to students
- Enhance local control and allow local school boards to create customized curriculums for students
- Promote charter schools for communities with struggling schools



# HEALTHCARE

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## FIX GEORGIA'S RURAL HEALTHCARE CRISIS

Rural Georgians are struggling with limited access to quality healthcare and more rural hospitals are at risk of shuttering. There is no magic formula, but through innovation, we can expand access to healthcare. By working in tandem with healthcare leaders, experts and local stakeholders, we can improve healthcare outcomes for all Georgians.

- Grow tele-medicine services through the expansion of high speed internet
- Support and expand incentives for medical providers in rural Georgia
- End the stranglehold of Obamacare and promote Georgia-focused, free-market based healthcare reform that will lower costs and expand service and options
- Work with community leaders to develop local solutions to save struggling hospitals
- Explore incentives for companies, hospitals to expand transportation services



# SECURITY & VETERANS

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## DEFEND OUR MILITARY BASES AND SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

Our military bases train American soldiers, protect our Homeland, and secure freedom around the world. Beyond their mission, Georgia's military installations drive the local economy and create countless economic opportunities for rural communities throughout our state.

Defending our bases from BRAC must remain a key priority for our next Governor. We must also work with military leaders to ensure that workforce development opportunities exist for those entering into the civilian world.

### Continue the Governor's Defense Initiative

- Establish A military liaison in the Governor's office
- Support a State-level Military Fund
- Ease the transition for retiring military

### Pilot ESA Program for Military Families

- Empowers parents to choose custom plan for their child's education
- Offers flexibility, better approach to learning
- Enhances outcomes for students

Enhance the working relationships between military base leadership, local governments, higher educational institutions and businesses to ensure joint local economic development strategies are in play.

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