

SENATE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS



2017-18 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

New Legislation

Public Election Financing

Implement a system where small dollar donations are matched with public funds so that elected officials can run campaigns without being reliant on large donors and corporate money

Medical Marijuana

Implement a medical marijuana program that allows for in-state cultivation and actually provides access to marijuana and marijuana based medicines

Death with Dignity

Allow terminally ill patients to opt to die on their own terms

Ban "Drug Recognition Experts"

Eliminate the practice where officers can get certified as "drug recognition experts" and write DUIs to people that pass the breathalyzer and sobriety test

Eliminate Cash Bail

Eliminate cash bail and only deny bail for people that are a flight risk or a danger to society

Adopt Paris Accords

Adopt the goals of the Paris Accords and commit to reducing emissions 26-28% from 2005 levels by 2025.

Net Neutrality

Implement net neutrality at the state level and require ISPs in Georgia to treat all traffic the same, regardless of source

Ban Bump Stocks

Prohibit the sale or transfer of bump stocks in Georgia

Free Credit Freezes

Prohibit any fees for freezing or unfreezing one's credit report

Legislation from Prior Years

Real Earned Income Tax Credit

Earned Income Tax Credit of 10% of the federal EITC that scales positively with income

Georgia Civil Rights Act

Give full nondiscrimination protections based on race, color, religion, natural origin, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity

Spanish Education Study Committee

Look at ways to improve bilingual/multilingual education by providing more comprehensive foreign language education and expanding it to more grades.

Gun Safety Package

GCIC app to allow private party background checks

No guns for people on the no fly/terrorism watch list with appeal process (details pending)

"Rooney Rule" for State Government

Require the governor and state agencies to interview at least one person of color before making an appointment or hiring a high level employee

\$15 Minimum Wage with COLA

Raise Georgia's minimum wage to \$15 and increase it annually based on the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)

Medicaid Expansion

Expand Medicaid so long as the federal government is providing at least 90% funding.

Employee Misclassification

Update Georgia's definition of employee to match the federal definition to make it easier to prove misclassification

Community Schools

Create a state level grant program to fund wraparound social services programs in schools such as additional education, health and nutrition, adult education, and other community involvement programs

Voting Rights Package

Same Day Voter Registration

Add Another Saturday Early Voting Day

Expand Early Voting

Repeal Voter ID

Automatic Voter Registration

Citizens Redistricting Commission

Constitutional amendment and enabling legislation to create a bipartisan citizens redistricting commission to draw redistricting maps

Fair District Amendment

Constitutional amendment to require judicial review of new district maps and to provide a remedy in the event of gerrymandered districts

"Bou Bou's Law"

Limit no knock search warrants to situations where necessary to protect human life or prevent the imminent destruction of evidence

Require Police Body Cameras

Require police to wear body cameras when on duty and for public access to any video of encounters between police and others. Video would be kept for at least 30 days; video depicting an encounter involving the use of force, of an arrest or detention, or where a complaint has been filed would be kept for three years

Gun Safety Package

Prohibit Guns in Government Buildings

Require Training for Carry Permit

Allow Police to Inspect Carry Permits

New Americans Program

Create a New Americans Program to assist legal permanent residences with navigating the naturalization process and becoming citizens

Division of Supplier Diversity

Create the Division of Supplier Diversity to promote minority and women owned businesses in state contracting and assist them with the state contracting process

Georgia Equal Pay Act

Prohibit employers from paying employees less based on gender and create a right of action for an aggrieved employee. Employers would not be allowed to retaliate against employees that discuss their pay

Georgia Family Medical Leave Act

Constitutional amendment to create a paid family leave fund to provide up to six weeks paid leave for people suffering from disability or to care for ill family members paid by a payroll tax of up to 1.5%

Georgia Family Planning Initiative

Create a program that can accept public or private funds to provide long term birth control and other family planning services to low income and uninsured women