Georgia is home to a robust and diverse technology sector, which serves as a vital component to the state’s overall economic growth. Technology accounts for more than $53 billion annually in direct economic impact. Georgia continues to be one of the nation’s top 10 technology markets with over 280,000 private sector technology employees in 2022. Over 16,000 technology business establishments call Georgia home. The state is 6th in nation in net tech employment jobs added and is 1st in the nation for the diversity index quartile. This growth is significantly stronger than the national average. Atlanta was ranked 4th for Best Places for Tech Jobs for 2022.

Critical to the continued success and development of the state’s technology industry is the implementation of policies that promote a well-balanced, inclusive, and competitive environment where technology companies can thrive.

TAG POLICY OVERVIEW

TAG is comprised of 30,000 tech and tech-enabled members representing all sectors and supports the following policies:

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

- Policies that promote and protect business-friendly policies, incentives and a tax structure to attract, retain, create and grow technology companies and infrastructure throughout Georgia.

- Policies that provide for the growth and expansion of emerging technologies and implementation of market-based solutions free from unnecessary government regulation or rule.

- Policies that modernize tech-related and communications laws.

- Policies to attract the most talented workforce to fill talent gaps in Georgia.

- Policies to encourage business and partnerships between Georgia’s public and private sectors, increase technology use and open data to improve government efficiencies, and simplification of the state’s procurement process.

- Policies that ensure the standards governing consumer data privacy are uniform throughout the United States, consistent across state lines, compatible with existing international standards, and do not create an inconsistent regulatory environment.

INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- Policies that stimulate innovation, encourage high-tech entrepreneurial activities, foster competition and reduce barriers to entry.

- Policies that support early- and growth-stage Georgia companies through increased access to capital, creative and effective tax incentives and opportunities for technology transfers to create new tech companies.

- Policies to advance the state’s technology ecosystem by incentivizing ideation, patent protection, processing of Intellectual Property and support of R&D activities.
SOCIAL JUSTICE & EQUITY

TAG values, supports and celebrates diversity, equity and inclusion, which is vital to a successful, innovative state; therefore, TAG opposes policies that would create discriminatory practices against any business, organization or individual, which could negatively impact the state.

• TAG seeks to advance equitable policies, both short- and long-term, to dismantle persistent racial, gender, geographic, and economic inequities and other barriers that non-dominant groups experience.
• TAG supports the allocation of state funds for computer science curriculum in underserved communities.
• TAG supports policies that encourage a “Buy Georgia” program, especially in support of minority-owned businesses.

EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

• Policies that align and advance K-12 STEM curriculum to meet identified needs of Georgia’s technology workforce through deferential pay for qualified teachers and benchmarking capabilities.
• Policies that support and develop a workforce through higher education and certification programs that adapt to industry needs.
• Policies that incentivize Georgia companies to proactively engage in workforce development, including in-house training for new and existing employees.
• Policies and funding efforts to encourage on-line interactive and digital learning initiatives.
• Efforts to include technology needs for students as part of the state’s QBE funding formula.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TASK FORCE

Kaylyn Tinsley
Chair, Global Payments
Ryan Mahoney
Vice Chair, Apple
Brad Alexander
Impact Public Affairs
Webb Armentrout
Workday, Inc.
Julia Ayers
Comcast
Nick Blessing
QTS
Leana Brown
Metro Atlanta Chamber
Nick Buford
Amazon
Jon Burton
RELX, Inc. / LexisNexis
Kristen Casimir
Salesforce
Chris Carpenter
Cornerstone Public Affairs
Justin Clay
NCR Corporation
Kevin Curtin
Georgia EMC
Robert Davis
Verizon
Jordan Dawson
NCR Corporation
Cameron Fash
Georgia Technology Authority
Catherine Fleming
Charter Communications
Kim Ford
Fiserv
Marshall Guest
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Lily Hester
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Deron Hicks
Global Payments
Misty Holcomb
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Georgia Cable Association
Brian Hudson
The Hudson Group, LLC
Nathan Humphrey
National Federation of Independent Business
Mitch Hunter
Public Strategies 360
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TJ Kaplan
J.L. Morgan Company
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