



# POLICY POSITIONS

## 2022 - 2023

## TAG POLICY OVERVIEW

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 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.

### **TAG's Mission**

TAG drives innovation among Georgia's technology community, inspires tech leaders and fosters inclusivity through four foundational pillars—connect, promote, influence and educate.

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## **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 differential 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**

Metro Atlanta Chamber

### **Brandon Hembree**

Impact Public Affairs

### **Lilyn Hester**

Google

### **Deron Hicks**

Global Payments

### **Misty Holcomb**

Barnes & Thornburg LLP

### **Hunter Hopkins**

Georgia Cable Association

### **Brian Hudson**

The Hudson Group, LLC

### **Nathan Humphrey**

National Federation of Independent Business

### **Mitch Hunter**

Public Strategies 360

### **Hannah Irvin**

Troutman Pepper

### **TJ Kaplan**

J.L. Morgan Company

### **Sally Kilpatrick**

Cornerstone Public Affairs

### **Stephen Loftin**

Loftin Public Affairs

### **Michele Madison**

Morris, Manning & Martin LLP

### **Ragen Marsh**

Troutman Pepper

### **Colin Martin**

Fayette Chamber of Commerce

### **Morgan McCombs**

Georgia Institute of Technology

### **Rufus Montgomery**

Cascon Group

### **Nancy Palmer**

Georgia Chamber of Commerce

### **Matthew Ralston**

Troutman Pepper

### **Elizabeth Reynolds**

AT&T

### **Theresa Robertson**

Thompson Victory Group

### **Amanda Seals**

Cobb Chamber of Commerce

### **Malcom Smith**

Aflac

### **Nick Smith**

UPS

### **Graham Thompson**

Thompson Victory Group

### **Matt Tremblay**

FanDuel

### **Collins Udekigbo**

Equifax

### **Robb Willis**

Troutman Pepper