



## October 2016 Newsletter

Election season is in high gear and we have the opportunity to exercise our rights as Americans to vote and choose our leaders. I recently spoke to a group and a few said they were not going to vote for one reason or another. I quickly reminder them of the privilege we have to live in the land of the free and it was because we are the home of the brave. For 240 years brave men and women gave selflessly including their lives to preserve liberty and vote. I hope each of you will join me November 8th or vote early.

The fall is my favorite time of the year I was thrilled to have my Dad join us on the Roswell Rotary Patriot Flight. He served as a firefighter, officer and Chief continuing our family legacy and passing it to me. It is my prayer Will and/or Ryan will continue the our family tradition. One of my hobbies is collecting old classic fire engines with my friend Brian. We are restoring a 1931 American LaFrance Engine, I will post updated pictures on social media as we continue the process.



### Patriot Flight

The first annual Roswell Rotary Patriot was a huge success taking our First Responders to the 9-11 Memorial & Museum in New York City. We left with a police escort to the airport and continued with an escort to Manhattan. The plane received a water cannon salute from the Airport Fire Department and we toured the Freedom Tower, 9/11 Memorial & Museum. During our visit we met with local fire and police officers and gave the recognition to those who protect and serve us.

It is my vision and dream that groups all over America will initiate their own Patriot Flights. [thepatriotflight.com](http://thepatriotflight.com).



### GA Constitutional Ballot Questions

On November 8, 2016, Georgia citizens will vote on four key ballot measures. All of these ballot questions are constitutional amendments and must

be voted on by citizens statewide.

**Amendment 1:** Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow the state to intervene in chronically failing public schools in order to improve student performance?

I support this and encourage you to vote yes in favor of Amendment 1. If passed, the Opportunity School District would be established to help our failing local schools. A strong education is essential for the intellectual development of our children and that cannot occur in schools that are failing. Something must be done to help certain school systems and ensure they improve. This would not apply to any schools in our area. In fact, our schools are some of the best in the state and nation.

However, other areas of the state have failed for years and even generations. Those students and parents deserve better and we cannot sit idly by and watch any longer. All of Georgia children deserve a great education. Learn more at: [www.gaopportunity.org](http://www.gaopportunity.org)

**Amendment 2:** Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow additional penalties for criminal cases in which a person is adjudged guilty of keeping a place of prostitution, pimping, pandering, pandering by compulsion, solicitation of sodomy, masturbation for hire, trafficking of persons for sexual servitude, or sexual exploitation of children and to allow assessments on adult entertainment establishments to fund the Safe Harbor for Sexually Exploited Children Fund to pay for care and rehabilitative and social services for individuals in this state who have been or may be sexually exploited?

I support this and encourage you to vote yes on Amendment 2. Protecting our children is a top priority and funding restorative services for victims of these heinous crimes is critical. These victims deserve assistance and as many resources as we can provide. Establishing a designated fund to support the restorative services is important and ensures that funding will only be used for this purpose and nothing else. I proudly support the End Human Trafficking movement.

**Amendment 3:** Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended so as to abolish the existing Judicial Qualifications Commission; require the General Assembly to create and provide by general law for the composition, manner of appointment, and governance of a new Judicial Qualifications Commission, with such commission having the power to discipline, remove, and cause involuntary retirement of judges; require the Judicial Qualifications Commission to have procedures that provide for due process of law and review by the Supreme Court of its advisory opinions; and allow the Judicial Qualifications Commission to be open to the public in some manner?

I support this and encourage you to vote yes on Amendment 3. According to recent findings, the commission has lost credibility and needs to be reorganized. The new commission should be restructured to increase accountability and to set a standard of practice that is acceptable for the commission.

**Amendment 4:** Shall the Constitution of Georgia be

## PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

- 1 -

**Provides greater flexibility and state accountability to fix failing schools through increasing community involvement.**

Senate Resolution No. 287  
Act No. 309  
Ga. L. 2015, p. 1498

"Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow the state to intervene in chronically failing public schools in order to improve student performance?"

YES

NO

- 2 -

**Authorizes penalties for sexual exploitation and assessments on adult entertainment to fund child victims' services.**

Senate Resolution No. 7  
Act No. 306  
Ga. L. 2015, p. 1497

"Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow additional penalties for criminal cases in which a person is adjudged guilty

amended so as to provide that the proceeds of excise taxes on the sale of fireworks or consumer fireworks be dedicated to the funding of trauma care, firefighter equipping and training, and local public safety purposes?

Support this and encourage you to vote yes on Amendment 4. As a firefighter myself, I fully understand the important impact the additional revenue would have on safety, care and additional training for our firefighters and local public safety overall. They put their life on the line every day and we must do everything in our power to give them the proper funding and overall support.

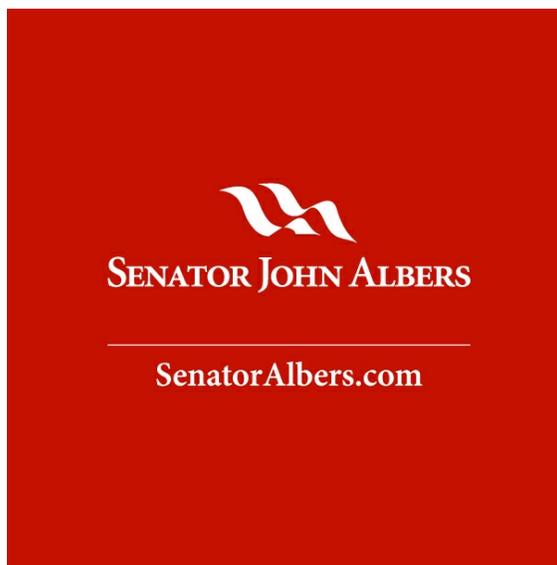
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## 2016 Campaign Final Stretch

Thank you again for the privilege to serve you in the Georgia Senate the past six years. This November, I will be on the ballot to earn your vote for another term. I sincerely appreciate your support and will never take for granted the opportunity and honor to serve you.

My campaign philosophy is simple. If you are doing your job well, involved in your community, communicate often, introduce and vote on positive legislation the only difference between doing your job and campaigning is: yard signs. I will continue to work tirelessly for you.

If you would like a yard sign, please send us an email at: [helpjohn@senatorialbers.com](mailto:helpjohn@senatorialbers.com).



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