

2020

Georgia

Legislative

Policy Forum

Wisdom, Justice, Adaptation

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A Series of Weekly Webinars Beginning July 15, 2020

Location: ZOOM

Time: 11 AM -12:15 PM

Registration links for each session below.

(The entire series is open to the public, but registration is required.)

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AGENDA

July 15: Opening Keynote

11:00 Welcome and Overview
 Kyle Wingfield, President and CEO, Georgia Public Policy Foundation

11:05 -12:15 U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos

An Education Conversation with Betsy DeVos

Betsy DeVos, the 11th U.S. Secretary of Education, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on February 7, 2017, after being nominated by President Trump.



Secretary DeVos has been involved in education policy for nearly three decades as an advocate for children and a voice for parents. She is especially passionate about reforms that help underserved children gain access to a quality education. For 15 years, DeVos served as an in-school mentor for at-risk children in the Grand Rapids (Michigan) Public Schools. A leader in the movement to empower parents, DeVos has worked to support the creation of new educational choices for students in 25 states and

the District of Columbia.

DeVos firmly believes that neither the ZIP code in which a child lives nor a child's household income should be the principal determinant of his or her opportunity to receive a world-class education. As secretary, she advocates for returning control of education to states and localities, giving parents greater power to choose the educational settings that are best for their children, and ensuring that higher education puts students on the path to successful careers. Read more [here](#).

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July 21: Session One

EDUCATION

11:00 Welcome and Overview
 Kyle Wingfield, President and CEO, Georgia Public Policy Foundation

11:05 -12:15 Opportunities for Education Adaptation

Opportunities for Education Adaptation

Few crises in recent memory have affected the education landscape like the novel coronavirus pandemic. As Georgia shut schools, many families felt helpless as they dealt with uncertainty and inconsistencies in the interim approach. While public K-12 schools will continue as the education home for most Georgia students, a smorgasbord of alternatives is growing increasingly attractive to families.

Moderator: Eric Wearne, Associate Professor, Kennesaw State University; Senior Fellow, Georgia Public Policy Foundation; author, "Little Platoons: Defining Hybrid Home Schools in America," (upcoming).

- **Georgia State Rep. Jan Jones**, House Speaker Pro Tempore
- **Angela Lassetter**, Head of School, Georgia Cyber Academy
- **Ana Martin**, ‘The Libertarian Homeschooler’
- **Kelly Smith**, Founder of Prenda, a microschool network

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July 28: Session Two

BUDGET

11:00 Welcome and Overview
 Kyle Wingfield, President and CEO, Georgia Public Policy Foundation

11:05 -12:15 Budget Calisthenics

Budget Calisthenics

As the state deals with the long-term fallout from COVID-19 and the changing revenue projections, how does Georgia adapt? What are the highs and lows and lessons to learn in shaping new budget expectations and outcomes? What can the state expect from the federal government and what can locals expect from the state?

Moderator: Chris Denson, Director of Policy and Research, Georgia Public Policy Foundation

- **Georgia State Sen. Blake Tillery**, Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
- **Amy Cooke**, CEO, John Locke Foundation; Publisher, Carolina Journal
- **U.S. Rep. Tom Graves** of Georgia, 14th Congressional District
- **Ben Scafidi**, Professor, Kennesaw State University; Senior Fellow, Georgia Public Policy Foundation

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August 4: Session Three

LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

11:00 Welcome and Overview
 Kyle Wingfield, President and CEO, Georgia Public Policy Foundation

11:05 -12:15 The Changing Views of Land Use and Transportation

The Changing Views of Land Use and Transportation

Even before the pandemic, transportation and land use agencies were faced with adapting long-held views and policies that collided with the opportunities provided by rapidly evolving technology. The sea change of COVID-19 responses reinforced the need to reassess options

even more urgently. What does that mean for Georgia, long known as “the poster child for sprawl”?

Moderator: Ashley Jenkins, Legislative Affairs Director, American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Georgia

- **Baruch Feigenbaum**, Senior Managing Director of Transportation Policy, Reason Foundation, Lead Author of Reason’s Annual Highway Report.
- **Adam Hengels**, Founder, Center for Market Urbanism
- **Joel Kotkin**, Chapman University and the Urban Reform Institute; Executive Editor, newgeography.com
- **Tom Hutchinson**, Transportation Director, HNTB
- **T. Dallas Smith**, Georgians First Commission, T. Dallas Smith & Co.

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August 11: Session Four

THE ECONOMY

11:00 Welcome and Overview
 Kyle Wingfield, President and CEO, Georgia Public Policy Foundation

11:05 -12:15 The Economy: Effects and Expectations

The Economy: Effects and Expectations

Has the pandemic created a hurdle or an opportunity in the economy? Is it a V-Recovery, a U-Recovery or an ongoing recession? Why are we here? How do we get out? When do we get out? What needs to change and what has Georgia done right? A panel discussion on the state of the nation and the future of the state’s economy.

Moderator: Gerard Robinson, Vice President for Education at the Advanced Studies in Culture Foundation

- **Rep. Kasey Carpenter** (R-Dalton), small business owner
- **Stephen Moore**, Member, President Trump's Economic Recovery Task Force; Co-founder, Committee to Unleash Prosperity
- **Andy Puzder**, former CEO of Hardee’s, co-author, “Job Creation: How It Really Works and Why Government Doesn’t Understand It.”

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August 18: Session Five

HOUSING

11:00 Welcome and Overview
 Kyle Wingfield, President and CEO, Georgia Public Policy Foundation

11:05 -12:15 Affordable Housing or Housing Affordability?

Affordable Housing or Housing Affordability?

When housing advocates ask about affordable housing, they often look to government for the answer. And government is usually happy to step up. But is a government response the best solution, or are there better options? Is there an opportunity to adapt the approach to alternatives that reduce the role of government and engage the private sector? Think tank and private-sector experts discuss the approaches that can enhance access to housing for Georgians.

Moderator: Sheila Brower, Past President, Georgia Association of Realtors

- **Rep. Vance Smith** (R-Pine Mountain), Sponsor of legislation on aesthetic design ordinances
- **Emily Hamilton**, Research Fellow and Director of the Urbanity Project, Mercatus Center at George Mason University
- **Michael Hendrix**, Director of State and Local Policy, Manhattan Institute
- **Eric Hoplin**, Head of External Relations, Wells Fargo & Co.

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August 25: Session Six

HEALTHCARE

11:00 Welcome and Overview
 Kyle Wingfield, President and CEO, Georgia Public Policy Foundation

11:05 -12:15 Healthcare: The Diagnosis, The Prognosis

Healthcare: The Diagnosis, The Prognosis

Healthcare, naturally, was front and center during the pandemic. The deregulation and technology adopted then will continue to shape healthcare in the future. But what still needs to be done? And how might the pandemic and responses to it affect the national healthcare debate going forward?

Moderator: Marie Fishpaw, Director of Domestic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation

- Rep. Matt Hatchett (R-Dublin), Vice Chairman, House Rules Committee
- Marilyn Bartlett, Senior Policy Fellow, National Academy for State Health Policy
- Brian Blase, president, Blase Policy Strategies; former Special Assistant to the President at the National Economic Council; former Senior Research Fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University
- Avik Roy, Columnist; President, Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity

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August 27: Closing Keynote

11:00 Welcome and Overview
Kyle Wingfield, President and CEO, Georgia Public Policy Foundation

11:05 -12:15 Georgia Supreme Court Chief Justice Harold D. Melton

A Constitution Conversation with Harold D. Melton

Harold D. Melton, appointed to the Georgia Supreme Court in 2005 by Gov. Sonny Perdue, has served as Chief Justice of Georgia's highest court since September 4, 2018.



Before joining the Supreme Court, Melton was Executive Counsel to Governor Perdue, representing the Governor on legal issues covering the entire scope of state government. He helped safeguard Georgia's interests in water rights disputes with Alabama and Florida, and participated in administration efforts to advance the delivery of criminal justice services in the State. Before serving as Executive Counsel, Melton spent 11 years in the Georgia Department of Law under two Attorneys General, where he dealt with issues ranging from the creation of the Georgia Lottery Corporation to the administration of Georgia's tobacco settlement. Prior to leaving to join the Governor's Office, he served as Section Leader over the Consumer Interests Division.

Melton received a Bachelor of Science degree from Auburn University and his Juris Doctor from the University of Georgia. He was a Volunteer Leader of Young Life Ministries for 11 years and serves on a local Young Life Board as well as on the national board. He is also a Board Member of Atlanta Youth Academies. The native of Washington, D.C., grew up in East Point and Marietta and lives in Atlanta with his wife, Kimberly, and their three children.

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Questions? Contact Benita Dodd at 404-256-4050/Benita@georgiapolicy.org.

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SPEAKER BIOS

Marilyn Bartlett



Marilyn Bartlett is a Senior Policy Fellow for the National Academy of State Policy (NASHP), addressing hospital pricing. Bartlett earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of Nevada, and taught high school for one year before returning to school to complete the Accounting/Finance program at Montana State University-Billings. She became a CPA, followed by CMA, CGMA and CFM designations. Bartlett held financial management positions in various industries before her focus narrowed to healthcare financial management. She was Controller for BCBSMT, CFO for a regional TPA, and Special Projects Coordinator for the Montana Commissioner of Securities and Insurance. She took the helm of the State of Montana Employee Benefit Plan in late 2014, moving the Plan from projected reserves of -\$9 million to \$112 million in less than three years. Among her reforms, she implemented reference-based contracting with all Montana hospitals; transparent, pass-through pharmacy benefits; enhanced primary care on-site health clinics; vendor management systems; and a cloud-based enrollment/administration system. As a result, she appeared in an article co-published by National Public Radio and ProPublica, was selected as No. 13 of Fortune Magazine's "World's 50 Greatest Leaders of 2019" and was recently inducted into the Montana Business Hall of Fame by Montana State University-Billings.

Brian Blase



Brian Blase, Ph.D, is an economist and a key architect of President Trump's health policy agenda. He served as the Special Assistant to the President at the White House's National Economic Council from 2017 through 2019. Most notably, he led the process to implement an Executive Order that President Trump signed in October 2017 that resulted in three final regulations to expand affordable health coverage options for employers and families and a comprehensive report, "Reforming America's Health Care System Through Choice and Competition." Blase worked on numerous other administrative actions and legislative proposals, including policies to expand consumer-directed care, reform Medicaid, Medicare, and the individual market, drug pricing reforms, and the June 2019 Executive Order promoting health care price and quality transparency. Blase was a senior professional staff member at the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform from 2011 through 2014. From 2014 through 2015 he served as the health policy analyst at the Senate Republican Policy Committee. In addition to his government service, he has worked at two public policy research institutes: as a health policy analyst at the Heritage Foundation in 2010 and 2011 and as a senior research fellow with the Spending and Budget Initiative at the Mercatus Center from 2015 until entering the White House. Blase received his Ph.D from George Mason University in 2013 in economics, with his dissertation on Medicaid financing. He lives in Northern Virginia with his wife and five children.

Sheila Brower



Sheila Brower is past president of the Georgia Association of Realtors and a member of the Atlanta Realtors Association affiliated with Harry Norman Realtors. She has an extensive volunteer background with the association and its institutes, societies and councils. Brower also has been active with the Women's Council of Realtors for many years, serving as the WCR Georgia Chapter President in 2007. She has received numerous accolades for her service, including the Captain of Industry award, Realtor of the Year, Humanitarian of the Year and

Business Woman of the Year. A dedicated community volunteer, she is a member of the Cobb Chamber of Commerce, the Georgia Public Policy Foundation, the American Cancer Society Swordsman Ball committee and the Cobb County Republican Women, where she is currently serving as president. Brower is also a member of the YWCA, where she devotes a significant amount of time to the organization's domestic violence crises groups. She is married to Paul Brower, a former board member and board chairman of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation, who has served two terms as chairman of the Georgia Real Estate Commission is currently a Commission member.

Kasey Carpenter



Kasey Carpenter (R-Dalton) is a restaurant owner and member of the Georgia House of Representatives since 2018. In addition to serving as a member of the House Ways & Means Committee and secretary for the Transportation Committee, Carpenter is a member of the Industry and Labor, Information and Audits and Regulated Industries committees. Carpenter received his bachelor's degree in Finance from the University of Georgia. A member of the 2014 class of Leadership Georgia, Carpenter lives in Dalton with his wife, Julie, and their four children.

Amy Cooke



Amy Cooke is the Chief Executive Officer of the John Locke Foundation and Publisher of Carolina Journal. For more than 16 years she has been a champion of free markets and limited, constitutional government. Prior to joining the Foundation, Cooke was Executive Vice President of the Independence Institute, Colorado's free-market think tank, which she joined in 2004. She was also Director of the Institute's Energy and Environmental Policy Center. Cooke founded a Colorado nonprofit organization, the Coalition of Ratepayers, to provide a voice for captive ratepayers and to intervene in regulatory proceedings on behalf of small business and residential utility customers. In December 2016, she was the second person named to President Trump's Transition Team for the Environmental Protection Agency. Cooke is a former senior fellow with the influential Independent Women's Forum, a free-market think tank headquartered in Washington, D.C., and a National Advisory Board member for the Steamboat Institute. She has authored and contributed to numerous opinion editorials, issue papers, and issue backgrounders and has appeared on Fox News, MSN.com, "Devil's Advocate," "Colorado Inside Out," and "Power Hour." In 2015, Cooke retired after 10 years of hosting the award-winning daily Amy Oliver Show on News Talk 1310 KFKA. She earned a Bachelor of Journalism in Magazine Journalism from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Master's degree in American History from the University of Northern Colorado. The wife of retired sheriff and current Colorado state Sen. John Cooke is a mother of three and stepmother of two.

Chris Denson



Christopher Denson is the Director of Policy and Research at the Georgia Public Policy Foundation, bringing to the Foundation nearly a decade of experience in the healthcare arena in Georgia. A native of Douglasville, Ga., Denson graduated from Princeton University with a bachelor's degree in Politics and was a member of Princeton's Varsity Football team. He earned his Master's in Public Health (Health Policy and Management) at the University of Georgia after launching his career as a staff member in the Office of U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, managing constituent services and a legislative portfolio of Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs issues. Denson is a member of the Zell Miller Leadership Institute Class of 2019 and has served as a volunteer supporting nonprofit delivery of healthcare to uninsured residents in South Georgia.

Baruch Feigenbaum



Baruch Feigenbaum is Senior Managing Director of Transportation Policy at Reason Foundation, lead author of Reason's Annual Highway Report and a Senior Fellow with the Georgia Public Policy Foundation. Feigenbaum has a diverse background researching and implementing transportation issues including revenue and finance, public-private partnerships, highways, transit, high-speed rail, ports, intelligent transportation systems, land use, and local policymaking. Prior to joining Reason, Feigenbaum handled transportation issues on Capitol Hill for Rep. Lynn Westmoreland. Feigenbaum is a member of the Transportation Research Board Bus Transit Systems and Intelligent Transportation Systems Committees. He is vice president of programming for the Transportation and Research Forum Washington Chapter, a reviewer for the Journal of the American Planning Association (JAPA), and a contributor to Planetizen. He has appeared on NBC Nightly News and CNBC. Feigenbaum earned his master's degree in Transportation Planning with a focus in engineering at Georgia Tech.

Marie Fishpaw



Marie Fishpaw is the director of Domestic Policy Studies at The Heritage Foundation. An experienced leader with White House, Capitol Hill and business experience, Fishpaw oversees policy development on healthcare and welfare issues. She has long advanced conservative strategies for economic and other domestic policy issues. She served as the deputy assistant to Vice President Dick Cheney in the White House and as a senior staff member in the U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Most recently, she led multiple product teams at Bloomberg Government, where she built the product from its start-up phase to a scaled multi-million-dollar company. Fishpaw has been published in The Daily Signal, National Review and The Hill. She holds a bachelor's degree in history and government from the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Tom Graves



Tom Graves, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives since 2010, represents Georgia's 14th Congressional District. A member of the House Appropriations Committee, he is the ranking member (Republican leader) on the Financial Services and General Government subcommittee and serves on the Commerce, Justice, Science and Labor, Health and Human Services, Education subcommittees. He announced in December 2019 that he would not seek re-election in 2020. Before his election to Congress, Graves was a Georgia state representative, from 2003 to 2010. Prior to his elected career, he owned a landscaping business and worked as a real estate investor. Graves, who earned a degree in finance from the University of Georgia, lives in Gordon County with his wife, Julie, and their youngest daughter; their older son and daughter attend Georgia Tech.

Emily Hamilton



Emily Hamilton is a Research Fellow and Director of the Urbanity Project at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Her research focuses on urban economics and land-use policy. Hamilton has authored numerous academic articles and policy papers. Her writing has appeared in USA Today, the Christian Science Monitor, Economic Affairs, and the Philadelphia Inquirer. She contributes to the blog Market Urbanism. Hamilton is a Ph.D candidate in economics at George Mason University. She is an alumna of the Mercatus Center's MA Fellowship at George Mason University. She received her B.A. in economics from Goucher College.

Matt Hatchett



Matt Hatchett (R-Dublin) is a Dublin, Ga., native who was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 2010. He is vice chairman of the House Rules Committee and his committee membership includes Appropriations Health and Human Services and the Special Committee On Access to Quality Care. Hatchett is a director of Development for Mercer University. Hatchett is a member of the Dublin Rotary Cub and has served on the board of the Dublin/Laurens County Chamber of Commerce and as the chairman of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Laurens County as well as the Heart of Georgia United Way. He is presently a member of the Board of Communities in Schools of Laurens County. Before being elected to the Georgia House, Hatchett was a Dublin City Councilman. Hatchett graduated from Presbyterian College with a Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics with an economic emphasis and worked at Delta Air Lines in Atlanta before returning to Dublin, where he and his wife, Kim, have owned and operated several businesses. Hatchett is an Eagle Scout and a member of the Leadership Georgia Class of 2000. He and his wife have two daughters.

Michael Hendrix



Michael Hendrix is director of state and local policy at the Manhattan Institute. Previously, he served as senior director for research and emerging issues at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. Hendrix is a frequent public speaker, and his writings have appeared in, among others, National Review, City Journal, and National Affairs. He holds an M.A. in international relations from the University of St. Andrews (Scotland), as well as a certificate in strategy and performance management from Georgetown University.

Adam Hengels



Adam Hengels is the Founder of the Center for Market Urbanism and Co-founder of Parafin, a software that helps real estate developers acquire development sites by generating optimized building configurations, budgets, and financial models. As a real estate developer troubled by the lack of market-based solutions to land-use and transportation issues, Hengels founded marketurbanism.com and The Center For Market Urbanism in 2008 to make a previously uncommon case: that sprawl, congestion, automobile dependency and housing unaffordability are largely the result of oversupply of transportation systems and top-down regimentation of land use. His mission is to improve the urban experience and overcome obstacles that prevent aspiring city dwellers from enjoying the way of life they desire. Hengels earned his Master's in Real Estate Development at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has a B.S. and M.S. in Structural Engineering.

Erick Hoplin



Eric Hoplin is the Head of External Relations for Wells Fargo & Co., where he leads a team that engages stakeholders across the country to help address challenges plaguing communities and the nation. In this role, Hoplin serves as an ambassador for Wells Fargo, bringing its resources and insights to NGOs, think tanks, trade associations, advocacy groups, academic institutions, and charitable organizations to help them advance their missions and to bring together cross-cutting coalitions to promote commonsense public policy ideas. Hoplin previously served as the Executive Director at the Financial Services Roundtable (now BPI), an organization representing the CEOs of the nation's largest financial services companies. Prior to that, Hoplin worked in management consulting at Booz Allen Hamilton. Hoplin is a leader in the charitable community where he serves as a member of the Reagan Ranch Board of Governors and on the Trust for the National Mall's Corporate Leadership Council. Hoplin holds a Master of International Affairs degree from Columbia University, an MBA from Augsburg College, a B.A. in political science and communications from St. Olaf College, and a Certificate in Change Management from Georgetown University McDonough School of Business.

Tom Hutchinson



Tom Hutchinson (AICP) is Transportation Director and associate vice president at HNTB, an employee-owned infrastructure firm serving public and private owners and contractors. He also serves as the sales manager for HNTB's Georgia and Tennessee offices.

Recently, Hutchinson served as a national tolls consultant helping public sector owners around the country plan for, deliver and operate toll projects and express lane systems. He is also the Chairman of the Tolling and Emerging Payment Technologies Working Group for the OmniAir Consortium. This working group is focused on the development of strategies, requirements, recommendations and test specifications that will lead to nationwide interoperability among toll agencies. Prior to joining HNTB in 2007, he was an engineer at Parsons Brinckerhoff. The Atlanta resident earned his bachelor's degree of science at the University of Tennessee and his master's at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Tom and his wife, Chelsea, have three young children.

Ashley Jenkins



Ashley Jenkins is the Director of Government Affairs for the American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC) Georgia. In this role, she is responsible for leading ACEC Georgia's Political Advocacy efforts on behalf of Georgia's engineering industry at the federal, state and local levels. Jenkins's background as an attorney, former local elected official and lobbyist brings broad knowledge of law, the legislative process and public policy at the local, state and federal levels to the members of ACEC Georgia. Originally from St. Simons Island, Ashley

graduated from the University of Georgia and started her career at the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee. She attended George Mason School of Law and prosecuted domestic violence and child abuse cases in North Carolina. After relocating to Sandy Springs, she served on the first city council of the start-up city. After moving to East Cobb County, she became a contract lobbyist. Most recently, she served as the District Director for U.S. Rep. Karen Handel of Georgia. She and her husband, Mike, have two teenage children.

Jan Jones



Jan Jones (R-Milton) was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 2003, where she has distinguished herself as a passionate advocate for changing lives and increasing economic opportunities through improved public education and government closer to the people. Jones is Speaker Pro-Tempore, the second highest position in the Georgia House of Representatives. The Georgia native was born in Warner Robins and has lived in Fulton County for 25 years. She graduated with a B.A. from the University of Georgia and an MBA in Finance from Georgia

State University. A former marketing manager for Home Box Office (HBO), she also owned a home-based small business while raising her children. She operated an energy consulting business with her husband from 2015-2019. She and her husband, Kalin, have four children.

Joel Kotkin



Joel Kotkin has been described by The New York Times as "America's uber-geographer." An internationally recognized authority on global, economic, political and social trends, Kotkin's work focuses on inequality and class mobility as well as how regions can address these pressing issues. Kotkin is the Presidential Fellow in Urban Futures at Chapman University in Orange, Calif., and Executive Director of the Houston-based Urban Reform Institute. He is a Senior Fellow for Heartland Forward and Executive Editor of the widely read website NewGeography.com.

Kotkin recently completed several studies including on Texas urbanism, the future of localism, the changing role of transit in America, and, most recently, California's lurch towards feudalism. He is co-author of a report published in 2018 on the revival of the American Heartland. As director of the Center for Demographics and Policy at Chapman, he was the lead author of a major study on housing. The author of eight books, Kotkin's

next book, “The Coming of Neo Feudalism: A Warning to the Global Middle Class,” deals with the issue of declining upward mobility and growing inequality in almost all middle and high-income countries.

Angela Lassetter



Angela Lassetter is the Head of School for Georgia Cyber Academy. Previously, she served on various school boards since 2010 for public charter, private and virtual schools offering college preparatory, STEM, and STEAM programs. Additionally, her two children have attended traditional public schools, private schools, charter schools, a virtual school, and have been home schooled. Lassetter is passionate about school choice and providing educational options and resources to allow students the opportunity to continually progress toward reaching their fullest potential. Lassetter, who graduated from Emory University’s Business School with a degree in Business Administration, has served in positions managing corporate operations, human resources and facilities. Her operational areas of specialty include writing SOP manuals, setting and writing policy, developing oversight dashboards, and training. Recently, she completed the Carl Vinson Institute’s Charter Schools Financial Management Certification Program. In addition to her service on school boards, she has served on several school advisory committees, curriculum selection committees, a school improvement team, and has in the past helped write school charters, bylaws, policies, and open new schools. She has also led board training sessions for Georgia’s State Charter School Commission.

Ana Martin



Ana Martin is a full-time homeschooling mom of two. Her older son is 19. He is a self-directed learner who unschooled and attended boarding school. He studies organ performance at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. He began working as an organist at 14. Her younger son is 15 years old. He is a competitive oarsman and he enjoys studying grammar, Swedish, math, and literature. He is a certified Montessori Primary Assistant. For many years Martin wrote essays, answered questions, gave talk, and doled out encouragement to 60,000 homeschool-curious readers as The Libertarian Homeschooler. She has participated in numerous homeschool and education forums. Martin is an advocate for school choice and self-directed learning. She has been on the board of directors at STAC of Georgia, a non-profit homeschool co-op, since 2018. She and her husband, Don, live in Marietta.

Stephen Moore



Stephen Moore is a member of President Trump’s Economic Recovery Task Force and co-founder of the Committee to Unleash Prosperity. He served as a senior economic advisor to the Donald Trump for President campaign, where he helped write the Trump tax plan and worked on energy and budget issues for candidate Trump. Moore is also a senior economic analyst with CNN, where he provides daily commentary on the economy, fiscal policy and politics. From 2014- 2017 he served as a Fox news contributor. From 2005 to 2014 Moore was the senior economics writer for The Wall Street Journal editorial page and a member of the Journal’s editorial board; he is still a regular contributor to the Journal’s editorial page. Moore is a frequent lecturer to business, investment and university audiences around the world on the U.S. economic and political outlook in Washington, D.C. From 1999-2004 Moore served as founder and President of the Club for Growth, a 25,000-member organization dedicated to helping elect free market, tax cutting candidates to Congress. In 2007 he received the Ronald Reagan “Great Communicator” award from the Republican Party for his advancement of economic understanding. Moore has worked for two presidential commissions. In 1988, he was a Special Consultant to the National Economic Commission. In 1987, he was Research Director for President Reagan's commission on Privatization. He is the author of six books; the most recent is “Trumponomics: The Inside Story of the Trump Economic

Boom.” Moore is a graduate of the University of Illinois and holds an MA in Economics from George Mason University.

Andy Puzder



Andrew Puzder is the former chief executive of CKE Restaurants, where he helped turn Hardee’s and Carl’s Jr. into globally known fast food powerhouses. Starting as founder Carl Karcher’s personal attorney in 1986, Puzder became CEO in 2000 and led the company out of serious financial difficulties. Under his leadership, CKE expanded to over 3,800 restaurants. Puzder is a frequent lecturer on economics and politics for various groups and associations as well as at colleges and universities. He is also a Senior Fellow at the Pepperdine School of Public Policy, Director at The Job Creators Network and on the Advisory Board at Prager University. In 2010, Puzder co-authored the book titled “Job Creation: How It Really Works and Why Government Doesn’t Understand It.” In 2018, he authored “The Capitalist Comeback: The Trump Boom and the Left’s Plot to Stop It,” and his latest piece, a Broadside by Encounter Books titled, “Getting America Back to Work,” was released in April 2020. Puzder earned a B.A. in History at Cleveland State University and his law degree from Washington University School of Law in St. Louis, Mo.

Gerard Robinson



Gerard Robinson is Vice President for Education at the Advanced Studies in Culture Foundation. Previously, Robinson was a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, working on education policy issues including choice in public and private schools, implementation of K–12 standards, innovation in for-profit educational institutions, and the role of community colleges and Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in adult advancement. Prior to that, Robinson served as commissioner of education for the State of Florida and secretary of education for the Commonwealth of Virginia. As president of the Black Alliance for Educational Options (BAEO), Robinson worked to ensure that children in low-income and working-class black families in several states and the District of Columbia were given the opportunity to attend good schools.

Avik Roy



Avik Roy is President of the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity (FREOPP), which researches the impact of public policies and proposed reforms on those with incomes or wealth below the U.S. median. Roy was born to Indian immigrants in Rochester, Mich., and finished high school in San Antonio, Texas, where USA Today named him to its All-USA High School Academic First Team, honoring the top 20 seniors in the country. After training as a scientist at MIT and as a physician at Yale Medical School, Roy joined Bain Capital, where he focused on identifying biotechnology companies developing therapies for diseases that had heretofore gone untreated. In 2009, as President Obama’s health reform bill was being debated in Congress, Roy started a blog about health care policy. “I couldn’t find anything to read that I agreed with, so I started writing it myself.” Roy’s blog, *The Apothecary*, was soon picked up at National Review and Forbes. In 2012, Roy joined Mitt Romney’s presidential campaign as a health care policy advisor. By 2014, Roy was Forbes’ Opinion Editor. His health reform Medicare Advantage for All: A Patient-Centered Plan for Universal Coverage and Permanent Fiscal Solvency, is FREOPP’s flagship publication. His work on prescription drug costs has been a key source of ideas for Congress and the drug price reform agenda of Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar; other papers have inspired legislation in Congress. Roy and his wife, Sarah, live in Austin, Texas, with their two young children.

Ben Scafidi



Dr. Benjamin Scafidi is director of the Education Economics Center in the Coles College of Business at Kennesaw State University and a Senior Fellow with the Georgia Public Policy Foundation and EdChoice (formerly the Friedman Foundation). Previously, he was a professor of economics and director of the Economics of Education Policy Center at Georgia College & State University and director of education policy for the Georgia Community Foundation Inc., where his research focused on education and urban policy.

Kelly Smith



Kelly Smith is the Founder and CEO of Prenda, a fast-growing education company that helps people run microschools out of their homes. After earning his master's degree in nuclear fusion at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Smith worked in engineering and marketing roles at various technology companies before selling a small software business and moving home to Mesa, Ariz., in 2013. He started volunteering at the public library in Mesa and launched an afterschool code club at the library, helping children learn computer programming. He became so excited about the power of self-learning that he started the first Prenda microschool in 2018. By the fall of 2020 there will be more than 200 Prenda microschools.

T. Dallas Smith



T. Dallas Smith is the Founder and CEO at T. Dallas Smith & Company, where he leads all new business development initiatives. His role includes overseeing all brokerage affairs related to the company and providing chief liaison services to key clients. Smith, who began his commercial real estate career in 1982 at Atlanta Air Center Realty and became the first African-American broker at Cushman & Wakefield of Georgia in 1989. Smith's affiliation with the company opened doors for many minority brokers. In 1995, he pioneered the brokerage division for H.J. Russell & Company, an African-American owned construction and management firm, where he served as Vice President of the Brokerage Division. In 2006, he opened T. Dallas Smith & Co., specializing in tenant representation. The company has led projects across the country with metrics exceeding more than 7 million square feet of commercial property leasing and acquisitions and 5,000 acres of land purchases. Since its inception, the team has grown exponentially successfully leading transactions totaling over \$15 billion in aggregate value. Smith earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in Management at Georgia State University.

Vance Smith



Vance Smith (R-Pine Mountain) is a Georgia House Representative who chaired the House Study Committee on Workforce Housing in 2019. He was the sponsor of a bill that would have restricted the ability of local governments to impose unwarranted aesthetic design ordinances on the construction of single-family. Smith is vice chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee and a member of the Economic Development & Tourism, Transportation and Ways & Means committees. Smith served two terms in the House before becoming commissioner of Georgia Department of Transportation from 2009- 2011; He returned to the Legislature in 2019. He owns and operates Vance Smith Contracting and Consulting, which provides business development services and consulting to Pond & Co., a Georgia-based engineering company. Smith, who earned his B.A. from Columbus State University, lives in Harris County with his wife of over 40 years, Michele. They have three children and five grandchildren.

Blake Tillery



Blake Tillery (R-Vidalia) is chairman of the Georgia Senate Appropriations Committee. Before his election to the Senate in 2016, Tillery was Chairman of the Toombs County Commission. He has previously served on the Heart of Georgia-Altamaha Regional Commission, Heart of Georgia Workforce Investment Board, Toombs County Boys and Girls Club Board, and cochaired the Leadership Toombs-Montgomery program. Named as a Georgia Trend “40 Under 40” honoree in 2013, Tillery is a graduate of the Leadership Georgia class of 2015, member of the Conservative Policy Leadership Institute and a graduate of Republican Leadership for Georgia. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 2006 with a degree in International Affairs and from the University of Georgia School of Law in 2010 with a Juris Doctorate. He is currently the managing partner at Smith and Tillery, P.C. in Vidalia, Georgia. Tillery and his wife, Ashlee, live in Vidalia. In addition to chairing the Appropriations Committee, he is Vice-Chair of the State Institutions and Property Committee, Secretary for the Judiciary Committee and a member of the Assignments, Economic Development and Tourism, and Reapportionment and Redistricting committees.

Eric Wearne



Eric Wearne is an associate professor with the Education Economics Center at Kennesaw State University and a Senior Fellow with the Georgia Public Policy Foundation. He is the author of “Little Platoons: Defining Hybrid Home Schools in America,” forthcoming from Lexington Books. Previously, he was the Provost of Holy Spirit College in Atlanta and, before that, he was an assistant professor in the School of Education at Georgia Gwinnett College. Prior to joining the college, Wearne was the Deputy Director at the Governor’s Office of Student Achievement under Governor Sonny Perdue, where he helped coordinate data analysis and reporting on all of Georgia’s public schools and education agencies, facilitated research on Georgia’s schools, and served as Governor Perdue’s representative to the National Assessment Governing Board. He is a founding board member at Latin Academy Charter School, a startup middle school in Atlanta, and has helped found a hybrid homeschool/private high school, St. John Bosco Academy. Wearne began his career as an English teacher at Duluth High School in Gwinnett County. He holds a Ph.D in Educational Studies from Emory University, a M.A. in English Education from the University of Georgia, and a B.A. in English from Florida State University. Eric and his wife, Leigh Ann, live in Suwanee with their seven children.

Kyle Wingfield



Kyle Wingfield is President and CEO of the Georgia Public Policy Foundation. A native of Dalton and graduate of the University of Georgia, he joined the Foundation in April 2018 after spending nine years as an opinion columnist for The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He has also worked for The Wall Street Journal, based in Brussels, Belgium, from 2004 to 2009, and for the Associated Press, based in Atlanta and Montgomery, Ala., from 2001 to 2004. At the AJC, Kyle wrote often about state politics and policy, focusing especially on education and school choice, transportation, health care, and state and local taxation. He is a frequent guest on GPB’s “Political Rewind” show and was a finalist for the Reason Foundation’s Bastiat Prize for Journalism in 2013. Kyle’s weekly column continues to appear in 10 newspapers around the state. Kyle received the UGA Grady College’s John E. Drewry Young Alumnus Award in 2006, was named to the UGA Alumni Association’s 40 Under 40 Class of 2012 and is a member of UGA’s Board of Visitors. He is a member of Leadership Georgia’s Class of 2018 and, as an Eagle Scout, remains an active volunteer in Scouting. He lives in Atlanta with his wife, Emily, and their two sons.



A trusted, independent resource for voters and elected officials since its founding in 1991, the Georgia Public Policy Foundation provides actionable solutions to real-life problems by bringing people together. The Foundation is a nonprofit, **independent**, state-focused think tank that proposes market-oriented approaches to public policy to improve the lives of Georgians. The Think Tanks and Civil Society Program ranked the Georgia Public Policy Foundation as one of the “**Best Independent Think Tanks**” in its Global Go-To Think Tank Index. Regular events include Leadership Breakfasts and Policy Briefing Luncheons. Weekly publications are the Friday Facts and Friday Idea commentaries.

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