

Georgia's 2018 gubernatorial election

Details on candidates, campaign spending and more

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Overview of the 2018 Georgia gubernatorial election

Primary election:

May 22, 2018

In the event no candidate receives a majority, a primary runoff will be held on July 24, 2018. Only the top two finishers, one Republican and one Democrat, will advance to the general election



Nathan Deal

- Republican
- Current Georgia governor
- Originally elected in 2010
- Spent his career as a lawyer
- Served from 1993 to 2010 in the U.S. House of Representatives, first as a Democrat, and then as a Republican starting in 1995
- Has reached his term limit for the governorship

General election:

November 6, 2018

The governor and lieutenant governor run on separate tickets

The Cook Political Report:

Solid Republican

rating for Georgia's gubernatorial election

Cagle secures early funding, but still faces a tough pool of opponents



Casey Cagle (R)

- Currently: Lieutenant governor of Georgia
- Previously: Georgia state senator
- Founded his first business at 20, became a leader in small business in NE Georgia
- Announced candidacy for the governorship in April 2017
- The last reporting period showed that Cagle had \$2.7 million saved for the election

Key policy issues



Cagle sees **tax and regulatory reform** as a key issue in the upcoming election. His first initiative as governor would be to set up a liaison for businesses in Georgia to streamline the permitting processes in the state. He has also pledged to **cut taxes by \$100 million** in his first 100 days in office. To accomplish this goal, he will increase the personal exemption and increase the standard deduction.



Cagle will also make **job growth** a top priority. He has developed a three-part plan that would **add 500,000 jobs** to the state of Georgia during his first term. His vision is to make Georgia hospitable for technology firms and start-up ventures.



Infrastructure will also be a top issue for Cagle. Repairing roads, bridges and expanding **high-speed broadband connections to rural areas** are central to his platform. Sustaining infrastructure, including hospitals, is especially important to the candidate.

Sources: Greg Bluestein, "Financial reports present an early test in Georgia governor race," Atlanta Journal-Constitution, July 10, 2017; Casey Cagle, "A Leader on Conservative Solutions," Cagle for Governor, 2017; Casey Cagle, "Casey's vision for a better Georgia," Cagle for Governor, 2017.

Kemp looks to capitalize off of populist rhetoric



Brian Kemp (R)

- Currently: Georgia secretary of state
- Previously: Georgia state senator
- Kemp has founded and developed many small businesses. He remains an active small business owner involved in agribusiness, financial services, and real estate management and investment
- Announced candidacy for the governorship in March 2017
- The last reporting period showed that Cagle had raised \$1.7 million for the election

Key policy issues



Small business is Kemp's first priority. He has pledged to "chainsaw ridiculous regulations and burdensome mandates." He also plans to fight against health care reform that he believes punishes small businesses.



Kemp has pledged to end government waste. He has supported a **state spending cap** that adjusts with population and inflation. He also hopes to eliminate bureaucratic and wasteful state-run programs.



Kemp's platform vows to "put Georgia first," echoing President Trump's 2016 campaign. He takes a hard stance **against illegal immigration**. Kemp has vowed to **defund sanctuary cities and campuses**, as well as stop taxpayer-funded subsidies for illegal immigrants.

Sources: Office of Brian P. Kemp, "Brian P. Kemp biography," Georgia Secretary of State, 2017; Greg Bluestein, "Financial reports present an early test in Georgia governor race," Atlanta Journal-Constitution, July 10, 2017; Brian P. Kemp, "Kemp's 4 Point Plan to Put Georgia First," Kemp for Governor, October 2017.

Hunter Hill highlights impressive military career in his campaign



Hunter Hill (R)

- Currently: Georgia state senator
- Previously: An officer in the U.S. army serving three tours in the Middle East
- Founded his own real estate development company in Georgia
- Announced candidacy April 2017
- Has raised \$1 million dollars for the campaign

Key policy issues



Hill has proposed **eliminating the state income tax**. He believes that eliminating the tax will create more jobs across the state, attract more businesses to Georgia and benefit citizens with increased spending power.



Hill has also supported **doubling Georgia's investment in infrastructure without raising taxes**. He has not divulged the financial specifics of this proposal, but claims infrastructure spending will benefit the economy.



Opposing "Common Core" in statewide education is also an important part of Hill's platform. He supports giving parents more options for their children's education and reducing statewide oversight of educational programs.

Other Republican candidates crowd the field, and two Democratic women counter the all-male Republican showing



Clay Tippins (R)

- 44-year-old tech executive and former Navy SEAL
- No previous political experience, Tippins hopes to win support as an outsider



Michael Williams (R)

- State senator and local businessman
- The first state elected official to endorse Donald Trump for the presidency



Stacey Abrams (D)

- Head of the Democratic Caucus in Georgia
- Known to take bipartisan approaches to issues, rather than writing off GOP initiatives



Stacey Evans (D)

- State representative known for activism on education



Doug Craig (L)

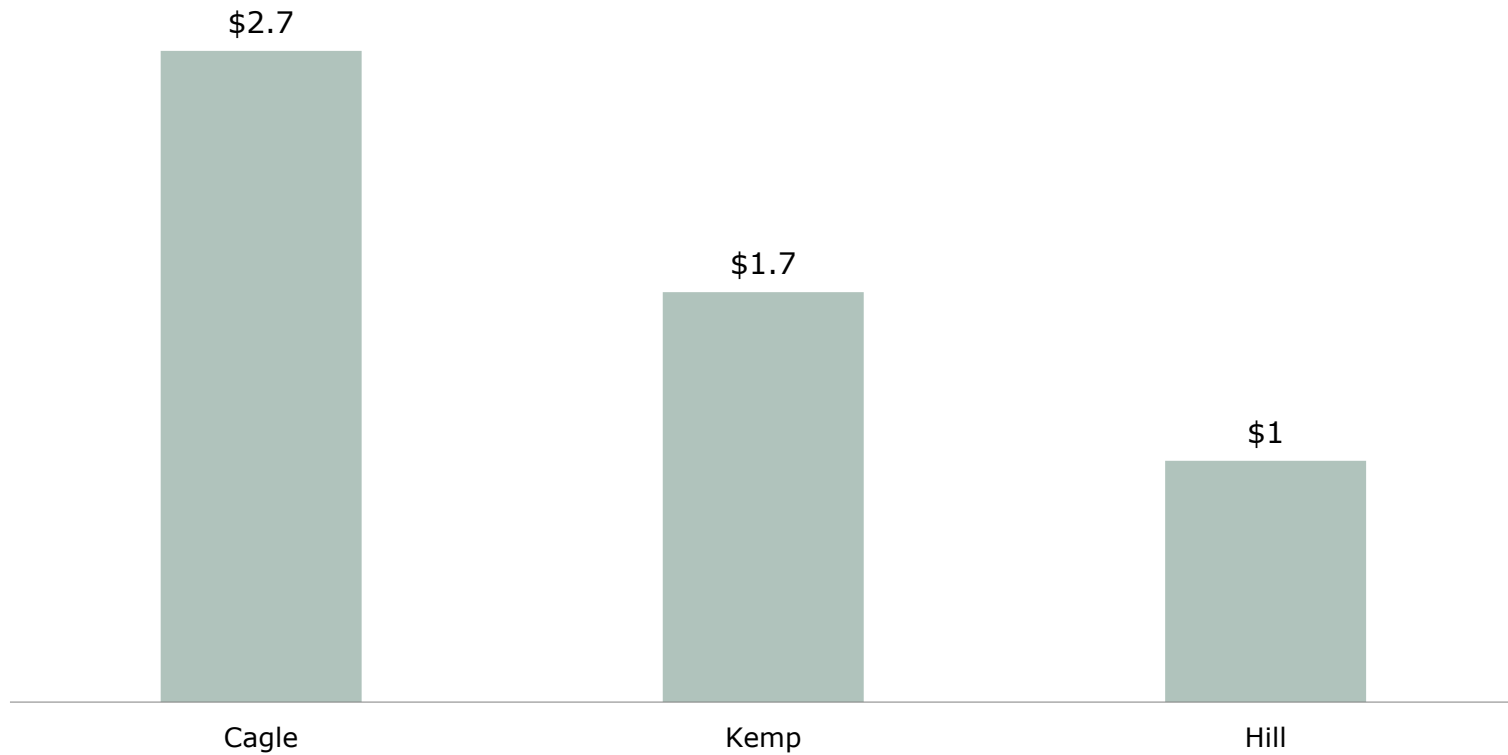
- A veteran of the Gulf War and former chair of Georgia's Libertarian Party

Sources: Greg Bluestein, "Georgia 2018: Who is running to be Georgia's next governor," Atlanta Journal-Constitution, September 14, 2017.

Cagle has a comfortable funding lead heading into 2018

Total amount raised since start of campaign

In millions of dollars



Sources: Greg Bluestein, "Financial reports present an early test in Georgia governor race," Atlanta Journal-Constitution, July 10, 2017.