



August 2024 Newsletter

Please join me in praying for and supporting our families, businesses, farms, and everyone impacted by Hurricane Debby in South Georgia. We will work to help out communities recover and be stronger than ever. In Georgia, we care deeply about our state and citizens.

I am so proud of Georgia for its professional and measured leadership. We continue to experience exponential growth of new residents escaping the poor policies of other states such as California, Oregon, Washington, NY, Illinois, etc. I always remind our new Georgians not to support and vote for the problems they just escaped from!

Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence will have the single greatest impact in our lifetime, significantly transforming our state, nation, and planet. AI's influence grows exponentially by the day, bringing both opportunities and challenges. In 2023, I began hosting joint committee meetings with the Senate Public Safety Committee, where I serve as Chairman, and the Senate Science & Technology Committee. It quickly became apparent that we needed more time and focus on this life-changing technology. Thanks to Lt. Governor Burt Jones, we passed SR 476, creating the Senate Study Committee on Artificial Intelligence.

The committee is comprised of Senate members and industry experts from across the state. Three meetings have been held, with five more scheduled for 2024. I encourage Georgians to attend future meetings in person or online, submit testimony, or contact us directly. To learn more, please visit our [committee website](#). Our work aims to encourage innovation while keeping our citizens safe.

Georgia prides itself on being the #1 place for business over the past decade. To maintain this ranking, we must also lead in Artificial Intelligence. AI will positively and negatively impact our workforce by automating countless tasks and analyzing vast amounts of data for better decision-making. It will significantly boost software development, law, accounting, and manufacturing productivity. Ultimately, AI can provide efficient and personalized customer support in person and online.

Since the dawn of the Industrial Revolution, major innovations have primarily impacted the "blue-collar" workforce. However, AI is unique in that it will disproportionately affect "white-collar" workers. To adapt to AI-driven changes, today's workforce must acquire new skills, with critical thinking and problem-solving becoming increasingly valuable. As a state, we must be prepared for our workforce to evolve in real-time to meet these new demands and challenges.

The need for data privacy and security protections has existed for many years, but in the new AI

world, these concerns have grown significantly. Earlier this year, I authored SB 473, the “Georgia Consumer Privacy Protection Act.” While the bill passed the Senate, it did not achieve final passage in the House. This legislation is crucial to balance the interests of consumers and businesses. Safeguarding consumer data builds trust and confidence in the digital marketplace, encouraging economic growth. Additionally, it can enhance innovation by incentivizing the development of robust security technologies. Strong data protection laws empower individuals to control their personal information, preserving fundamental rights and liberties in the digital age. I urge our business community to embrace this legislation in 2025 so we do not follow the path of states that have lost the balance needed for successful solutions.

Ethical concerns and potential bias in AI algorithms are significant issues that must be addressed. AI systems can amplify potential biases, leading to inequitable decisions impacting individuals' lives. Ensuring fairness, transparency, and accountability in AI development and deployment is crucial to prevent these harms and build public trust.

Our education system in Georgia must also change. For the past 85 years, we have taught in a substantially similar format and content while the world has evolved. Our K-12 and university systems must adapt accordingly. Although institutions like GA Tech continue to lead the way, many state and private universities are lagging. Kudos to our Technical College System for embracing necessary changes to fill essential jobs and teach vital life skills. AI can help bridge the digital divide and level the playing field for our students.

As a firefighter/EMT with over 30 years of experience, and as Chairman of the Senate Public Safety Committee, I am thrilled about the ways AI is transforming public safety. Enhanced 911 dispatch operations now use AI to analyze call data, determine urgency, convert spoken language to text, and improve response times and documentation. AI can identify crime patterns, predict hotspots, and analyze digital evidence to help pinpoint suspects. In firefighting, AI-powered sensors detect early signs of fire, enabling rapid responses and more effective use of resources. Additionally, AI systems assist medical professionals in diagnosing conditions and prioritizing patients, while wearable devices monitor vital signs and alert medical teams to significant changes.

AI also revolutionizes healthcare by enhancing efficiency, accuracy, and patient outcomes. By analyzing extensive medical data, AI aids in early disease detection, accelerates drug discovery, and helps tailor treatment plans to individual needs. AI-powered systems streamline administrative tasks like appointment scheduling and claims processing, allowing healthcare professionals to focus more on patient care. Furthermore, AI enables remote patient monitoring, increasing accessibility and convenience for patients, particularly in rural or underserved areas.

In the transportation industry, AI is driving safety, efficiency, and sustainability advancements. Self-driving cars powered by AI have the potential to reduce accidents caused by human error significantly. AI-driven traffic management systems enhance traffic flow, minimize congestion, and shorten travel times. Additionally, AI optimizes logistics and supply chain operations, reducing costs and improving delivery times. Although challenges such as infrastructure and regulatory issues persist, the potential benefits of AI in transportation are substantial.

As you can see, Artificial Intelligence will change the world. You may be asking, when will this become a reality? The answer is now, with much of what I wrote in my article already happening or in process, with updates coming daily. You may also be wondering who wrote this article. Was it John or AI? The answer is both... 😊





Campaign Season

Elections are a profound expression of our great republic and liberty. We should never take for granted our freedom of self-determination. I ask all those running this November to be magnanimous, build bridges and run your race with honor.

This is what I have done for you and will continue for years to come. After all, the goal of public service is just that – serving the public!

Positive News

I hear from people everyday with good news in Cobb, Cherokee, and North Fulton County: neighbors helping neighbors, our faith-based organizations and civic charities helping someone in need, etc. Ordinary people are doing extraordinary things all of the time. In a time of mass and social media with negative news, let's all take a moment to see the positive all around us. In Georgia, we are leading the way with results and goodness!



Senator John Albers serves as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Safety. He represents the 56th Senate District which includes portions of Cherokee, Cobb and Fulton County. He may be reached at his office at 404.463.8055



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