

TAG LEGISLATIVE AGENDA 2019

ADVANCING THE TECHNOLOGY
INDUSTRY IN GEORGIA



www.tagonline.org

TAG's mission is to educate, promote, influence and unite Georgia's technology community to foster an innovative and connected marketplace that stimulates and enhances a tech-based economy.

Contents



03	About TAG
04	A Message From TAG President & CEO
05	Principles
08	Business & Industry Actions
09	Economic Development & Taxation Actions
10	Innovation & Entrepreneurship Actions
11	Education & Workforce Actions

About the Technology Association of Georgia

The Technology Association of Georgia (TAG) is the leading technology industry association in the state, serving more than 30,000 members and hosting over 200 events each year. TAG serves as an umbrella organization for 27 industry societies, each of which provides rich content for TAG constituents. TAG's mission is to educate, promote, influence and unite Georgia's technology community to foster an innovative and connected marketplace that stimulates and enhances a tech-based economy. The association provides members with access to networking and educational programs; recognizes and promotes Georgia's technology leaders and companies; and advocates for legislative action that enhances the state's economic climate for technology.



Larry Williams

TAG President & CEO

LWilliams@tagonline.org

Heather Maxfield

Vice President, Government

Relations & Statewide

Heather@tagonline.org

Contact Information:

75 Fifth Street NW

Suite 625 Atlanta, GA 30308

Direct: 404.920.2022

A Message from Larry Williams, TAG President & CEO



Greetings,

On behalf of the Technology Association of Georgia (TAG) and our more than 30,000 members across the state, I would like to extend warm wishes for a productive and successful legislative session.

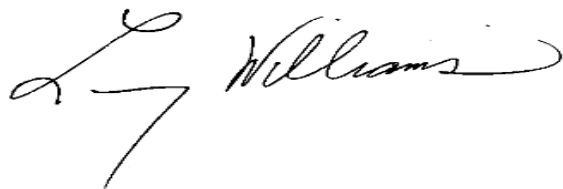
As the leading voice of the technology industry \$113 billion economic impact accounting for 17% state's economy, TAG's mission is to foster an innovative and connected marketplace that stimulates a tech-based economy. Each year, the TAG Government Relations Task Force works to identify and influence the legislative initiatives that are important to the state's industry.

TAG has successfully influenced policies that have increased access to venture capital funds through the Invest Georgia program. TAG also helped to create Georgia's Science & Technology Strategic Plan, and worked with the Georgia Department of Education to amend state policy to allow computer programming courses to satisfy core high school

Building upon the success of these past efforts, TAG's agenda for the 2019 Legislative Session will focus on policies relating to talent, capital and innovation. To assist in these efforts, the TAG-Education Collaborative (TAG-Ed), was formed. As TAG's charitable arm, TAG Education Collaborative drives STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiatives for every school district across Georgia and places high school students in STEM internships around the state through partnerships with the Department of Education, higher learning institutions, community partners and corporate supporters.

TAG & TAG-Ed are committed to work with our elected officials to promote sound public policies that enhance the advancement of Georgia's technology industry and Georgia's overall economic growth. Our 2019 legislative agenda focuses on six major areas - business & industry, education & workforce development, diversity & inclusion, innovation & entrepreneurship, economic development & taxation, and procurement.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of our 2019 legislative priorities. We look forward to



Larry Williams
President and Chief Executive Officer



BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

The success and growth of the technology sector in Georgia is critical to our state's long-term growth. Through targeted policies, the state can enable both entrepreneurial startups and established tech companies to prosper in urban and rural areas. Georgia must and can be a leader not just in the southeast but in the country.

- TAG supports policies that promote a well-balanced, equitable and competitive environment for the development of all technology companies.
- TAG supports policies that encourage business and partnerships between Georgia public and private sectors.
- TAG supports market-based solutions free from unnecessary government regulation or rule.
- TAG supports incentives to drive ideation, patent protection and processing of Intellectual Property to become a more competitive state for technology and innovation.
- TAG supports creative and economically sound initiatives that attract the most talented workforce to fill talent gaps in Georgia.
- TAG supports the growth and expansion of the sharing economy and encourages the economic opportunities and technological advances the sharing economy promotes.
- TAG supports incentives to promote and grow the tech infrastructure in Georgia.
- TAG supports the modernization of tech-related and communications laws.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TAXATION

The technology industry has over a \$113 billion economic impact on the state of Georgia, which accounts for nearly 17% of the state's economy. It is vital that we sustain and cultivate this maturing industry to ensure Georgia's economic success in the years ahead.

- TAG supports utilizing technology to bolster statewide economic development.
- TAG supports the study of emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning and recognize the impact the technology industry can have on Georgia's economic development.
- TAG supports business-friendly policies and tax incentives that promote the growth and development of technology companies and infrastructure throughout Georgia.
- TAG supports legislation that will encourage the development, growth, recruitment and retention of technology companies.
- TAG supports a tax system that is fair and equitable across all functions of business and services.
- TAG supports the continuation of R&D tax credits.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

TAG values, supports and celebrates diversity and inclusion, which is vital to a successful culture.

- TAG opposes legislation that would create discriminatory practices against any business, organization or individual which could negatively impact the state.
- TAG supports the allocation of state funds for computer science curriculum in underserved communities.

INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A critical component to economic success and job creation in Georgia is through the support of early to growth-stage, Georgia-based technology companies. In order to ensure this success, the state of Georgia should pursue policies that stimulate innovation, encourage entrepreneurial activities, retain intellectual capital and grow knowledge-based jobs. This can be accomplished by assuring access to capital, implementing creative and effective tax reforms, and encouraging support programs that advance the competitiveness of Georgia technology companies.

- TAG encourages the support of early- and growth-stage Georgia companies that impact the technology industry and support Georgia's economic development.
- TAG supports policies to increase access to capital for technology companies.
- TAG supports creative and effective tax reform legislation that will help foster innovation and support for statewide entrepreneurship activities.
- TAG supports legislation that stimulates innovative business concepts, fosters competition, reduces barriers to entry and provides retention and growth for high-tech entrepreneurs and technology businesses.
- TAG supports legislation that will result in greater innovation and support for R&D activities.
- TAG supports efforts to increase opportunities for technology transfer to create new technology companies.
- TAG supports policies that create an environment that increases technology-enabled entrepreneurship.



EDUCATION & WORKFORCE

Education is the foundation for a competitive workforce that is required to drive innovation in our 21st century economy. In order to remain globally competitive, TAG supports public policy that fosters STEM education at all levels of learning while inspiring a new generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.

- TAG supports the alignment and efforts to advance quality STEM curriculum with identified needs of the business workforce.
- TAG supports the continual development of professionals' technical skills, including K-12 teachers, through incentives or additional pay.
- TAG supports incentives to encourage and enable companies to pro-actively engage in workforce development.
- TAG supports benchmarking to assess current capabilities and set future goals.
- TAG supports policy and funding efforts to encourage on-line interactive and digital learning initiatives.
- TAG supports efforts to include technology needs for students as part of the state's QBE funding formula.

PROCUREMENT

Georgia government, at both the state and local level, relies on technology solutions and services provided by private sector companies. The state should ensure an accessible, competitive environment where all vendors are treated equally based on technically sound and cost-effective solutions.

- TAG supports efforts to increase the use of technology and open data to improve government efficiency.
- TAG supports policies that encourage Georgia companies to do business with technology companies based in or with operations in Georgia.
- TAG supports the simplification of the state's procurement process with respect to government departments and agencies.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY ACTIONS

DATA INFORMATION SECURITY

TAG SUPPORTS

- A national standard for data breach notification that would provide consumers and businesses with consistency and predictability on how consumer notice must be provided.
- A national standard for data privacy & protection to ensure a uniform and accountable framework for consumers and businesses.
- Fostering the public-private partnership that already exists between the government and industry by creating a trusted environment that makes the sharing of information easier for both contingents.
- The growth and expansion of the Internet of Things and policies that enhance development of future solutions. TAG also encourages companies to use data security and privacy best practices when collecting and using IoT data.
- Responsible use and stewardship of student data by schools, districts, and service providers, including analyzing student data to deliver personalized learning experiences to improve products for use.
- Training and resources to enhance the overall cybersecurity behavior skills, and knowledge for every segment of the population, enabling a safer cyberspace for all.

BROADBAND ACCESS

TAG SUPPORTS

- Eliminating and lowering barriers that make it difficult or prevent investment and deployment of broadband facilities, regardless of delivery technology.
- Eliminating sales tax on investments in broadband networks to avoid taxation of business inputs to incentivize more investments in Georgia.
- Ensuring uniform, compensatory rates and competitively neutral terms for communication pole attachments on all utility poles by providing statutory clarity that the formula, terms & conditions used by the FCC for investor-owned poles applies uniformly on all poles in Georgia, specifically those owned by electric membership cooperatives.
- The development and deployment of 5G cellular networking throughout the state of Georgia.
- Educating Georgia communities about the potential benefits of broadband services and programs that help communities gain access to high-speed internet at home and work. This is key to strengthen and create a robust economy in industries where Georgia leads.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TAXATION ACTIONS

INVEST GEORGIA

TAG SUPPORTS

- Funding the Invest Georgia fund which will increase access to capital for investments into early- and growth-stage, job-producing companies within Georgia. The Invest Georgia program has a significant amount of accountability, high level of governance structure

FILM & POST-PRODUCTION TAX INCENTIVES

TAG SUPPORTS

- The continuation of the film and post-production tax incentives to maintain Georgia's dominance as an entertainment production mecca in the film, television, and post production industry.

BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY

TAG SUPPORTS

- A resolution supporting the development of Blockchain Technology which has the potential to transform traditional industries and the way they conduct business.

INNOVATION & ENTREPRENEURSHIP ACTIONS

FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGIES & PAYMENT PROCESSING

TAG SUPPORTS

- The implementation of an innovation district that cultivates crowdfunding systems, financial data analysis and security, which certainly complement the other FinTech initiatives in the state. Such a move could attract more talent, capital and startups from around the nation and strengthen Georgia.
- The creation of a FinTech regulatory sandbox to stimulate innovation in the finance and payment systems industry.

AUTONOMOUS VEHICLES

TAG SUPPORTS

- The development of autonomous vehicle technology and discourages the implementation of any legislation or regulation which would impose limits on research and innovation.

SMALL BUSINESS INNOVATION RESEARCH PROGRAM

TAG SUPPORTS

- The expansion of funding for the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) and the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) programs. TAG also supports expanding agency eligibility so that more federal agencies can participate in SBIR and STTR.



EDUCATION & WORKFORCE ACTIONS

COMPUTER SCIENCE FOR ALL

TAG SUPPORTS

- The adoption of a comprehensive K-12 computer science education plan that benefits all students in the state of Georgia.
- The requirement that schools should offer at least one computer science course at the elementary, middle and high school levels.

CYBERSECURITY INVESTMENTS

TAG enthusiastically supports The Georgia Cyber Innovation and Training Center, a state-of-the-art facility that will co-locate state, federal, and private sector partners to meet the workforce demand needed to address the shortage of cybersecurity talent in the state and nation. The Center will house resources from the Technical College System and the University System of Georgia, along with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, The Georgia Technology Authority and other state, federal, and private partners.

TAG SUPPORTS

- The strategic investment by the state in constructing this facility and the efforts of the public higher education systems to expand opportunities for students to train to protect our public and private cyber infrastructure. The efforts of Georgia's research institutions to create new technologies, and the integration of those technologies into programs of study and career preparation will enable all Georgians to compete in the 21st century workforce.

AGRICULTURAL-MACHINERY SYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY DEGREE PROGRAM FOR TCSG

TAG SUPPORTS

- Expansion of Agricultural-Machinery Systems Technology Degree programs in the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG). This area offers career opportunities in agricultural production systems, machinery, farm structures and precision agriculture.



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TASK FORCE

Brian Hudson
(Chairman) Hudson Group

Elizabeth Harwood
(Vice-Chair) AT&T

Casey Aultman
Georgia Tech

Leanna Brown
Metro Atlanta Chamber

Jon Burton
ReLX, Inc

Chris Carpenter
Public Strategies 360

Justin Clay
NCR

Kevin Curtin
AT&T

Robert Davis
Verizon

Jordan Dawson
NCR

Cameron Fash
GTA

Catherine Fleming
Charter Communications

Jim Flowers
Clayton State University

Kim Ford
First Data Corporation

Slade Gullledge
Cobb Chamber of
Commerce

Brandon Hembree
Massey, Bowers &
Hembree

David Hickerson
IBM

Deron Hicks
TSYS

Sam Hill
Troutman Sanders

Nathan Humphrey
NFIB

Mitch Hunter
Public Strategies 360

Lilyn Hester
Google

Cosby Johnson
Georgia Chamber

Tyler J. Kaplan
J.L. Morgan Company

David Katz
Nelson Mullins Riley &
Scarborough LLP

Loretta Lepore
Lepore Associates

Michele Madison
Morris, Manning
& Martin

Ragen Marsh
Troutman Sanders

Sarah Matz
CompTIA

Ash Miller
Consulate General of
Canada in Atlanta

David Muia
UGA / NanoLumens

Jason Newman
Hewlett Packard

Matthew Ralston
Troutman Sanders

Michael Smith
ADP

Nathan Smith
Anthem

Steven Strickland
GTS

Sam Taussig
Kabbage

Kaylyn Tinsley
TSYS

Graham Thompson
Thompson Victory Group

Chris Vaughan
McKesson Corporation

Michael Wall
Comcast

Elizabeth Wharton
Prevailion

Pat Williams
McKenzie Daniels &
Associates

Robb Willis
Troutman Sanders

Maria Strollo Zack
Strollo Group