

## STATE STRATEGIC PLAN THE NEW GEORGIA: THE VISION

A new day has dawned in Georgia. In a fundamental change of leadership philosophy, our New Georgia will have a state government that is principle-centered and people-focused. People are more important than politics and we will have a state government that truly is of the people, by the people, and for the people.

- The public trust in government will be restored by ensuring that in all business matters, strict codes of conduct and ethics are enforced and that leadership throughout state government provides an impeccable example for others to follow.
- The public voice will be heard and government made more responsive by bringing decision-making closer to those citizens who are affected through local control and recognition of public sentiment on issues of great concern to the citizens of Georgia.
- We will inspire results-oriented innovation and productivity by empowering our state employees on the frontlines; cutting unnecessary bureaucracy and regulation; and providing incentives for an effective and efficient state government in which getting results for the people carries a higher priority than the politics-of-the-day.

This new approach to state government encourages careful stewardship of the people's resources to meet the human needs of Georgians. Our New Georgia will be committed to an Educated Georgia, a Safe Georgia, a Healthy Georgia and a Growing Georgia.

### An Educated Georgia

Education is the means by which we develop Georgia's most important resource, her people. As we work to improve the quality of jobs for Georgians, education will be the foundation of success, both for individual Georgians and for our state as a whole. We are committed to providing every child in this state with an opportunity to learn and to ensuring that no child is left behind. We will set standards for learning

and demand accountability for student progress. We will show respect for teachers by listening to their recommendations and concerns and by giving them greater control of their classrooms. We will enhance local control of education by cutting burdensome bureaucracy and regulations, and giving local superintendents, school boards and parents more control over their community's education decisions.

## STATE STRATEGIC PLAN

We are committed to excellence in our post-secondary education system and to fostering a culture of life-long learning. We will protect the HOPE scholarship, support adult learning and help our institutions of higher learning continue to produce quality graduates and world-class research.

### A Safe Georgia

A fundamental duty of any government is providing for the safety of its citizens. All Georgians should feel safe on their streets, in their communities and in their homes. We will protect our society from violent, dangerous felons. We will provide our law enforcement community with the tools and the resources to detect and prevent crimes—and to respond swiftly and effectively when crimes do occur. We will maintain a criminal justice system that can dispense justice swiftly and surely. And we will increase our coordination and readiness to protect our citizens from the threat of terrorism and to respond to natural disasters.

### A Healthy Georgia

A healthy Georgia is a strong Georgia. We will encourage Georgians to adopt healthy lifestyles and make access to sound and affordable medical care available to every Georgian. We will pay particular attention to the quality of health and human services for our most vulnerable citizens, including provision of child protective services, and care for developmentally disabled citizens and those with mental health challenges.

Georgia will lead the way in quality of life for senior citizens. We will open doors to

more long-term care options and shift the state emphasis in long-term care from nursing homes to home and community-based settings.

We will continue to battle substance abuse in our state. Through a combined awareness, treatment and law enforcement approach, we will fight for a drug free Georgia.

### A Growing Georgia

Our state is blessed with great economic resources and competitive advantages that can create opportunity and prosperity for all Georgians. We are committed to being good stewards of Georgia's economy by practicing fiscal responsibility in state government and by maintaining a business climate that sustains our existing companies, attracts new business and jobs to our state, and empowers small businesses to grow and to create jobs throughout Georgia.

We will train and educate Georgia's workforce to be well prepared for the job opportunities of the 21st century. We will extend our leadership in developing new technology resources and infrastructure and be aggressive in bringing economic vitality to rural Georgia as well as our cities.

We must balance the demands of growing Georgia's economy with ensuring a good quality of life for our citizens. We will improve our transportation systems to reduce congestion and improve mobility, encourage development of livable communities, and protect our air, water, green space and other natural resources for current and future generations.