

The following report is from the GRA Vetting Committee, which has gathered information on the above candidate through various sources. This report is solely to be used to inform GRA members and others on information about the candidates for various offices in reaching a decision on who to endorse or vote for. This report is NOT a statement on the opinion of the entire GRA or any subset thereof, except for the GRA Vetting Committee, and is not designed to assist or support any candidate. This information is to be supplemental to, and not in lieu of, independent research on each candidate.

## **Scott Johnson Candidate Summary for 2019 GAGOP Convention**

This section was derived from [Scott Johnson's answers to questions asked by the Vetting Committee via a conference call interview.](#)

1. Do you support a primary or caucus system for choosing nominees or a hybrid of both?

A: The primary system we currently use functions much more effectively than the caucus because the caucus system does not have a good track record of getting Republicans elected.

2. Should the GAGOP be more or less involved in legislation at the state Capitol?

A: The primary job of the GOP is getting Republicans elected and highlighting our principles. The GOP should not involve itself in our state legislature.

3. Should the GAGOP have a platform that conforms to our stated beliefs?

A: I'm uncertain if Georgia has ever adopted the National Republican Party platform, but I am open to the idea and would bring it up at a state committee meeting. Possibly, Georgia should have a platform of its own to expand our beliefs in certain areas. I participated in developing the current RNC platform.

4. Do you see a potential conflict of interest when a lobbyist whose living comes from the political arena is allowed to serve on the GAGOP Executive Committee?

A: People who earn a living out of politics may have a possible conflict of interest when placed in positions of power inside the party.

5. Do you support closed primaries?

A: I'm not sure if that's a good idea. I'd want to do more research before taking Georgia there. It's worth looking into, but I have no definitive answer on closed primaries.

6. Do you believe that GOP elected officials who fail to follow our Georgia and U.S. Constitutions and Republican principles hurt the party in the eyes of the voters?

A: That's illegal because of their oaths. The GOP shouldn't engage with candidates who don't follow our principles. Elected Republicans who vote left hurt the party in the eyes of the voters, but I don't see this to be a problem for the GOP.

7. What is the proper remedy for a Republican politician who consistently votes contrary to what the Republican Party believes?

A: How voters vote in primaries seems to be the only option to remedy this. Censure should only be used in the rarest of circumstances for a legislator failing to follow the Republican principles such as illegal acts or moral turpitude. A candidate should match his district, so a GOP candidate may have to lean left in lesser conservative districts. On taxes, a representative can be either for or against a new tax such as SPLOST.

8. Should a committee or the convention have the authority to change Republican Convention Rules? (This question deals with Rule 12 which authorizes the party via a committee to make rule changes which could be used to prevent some candidates from being allowed the nomination at convention.)

A: The convention should be in charge of the rules.

9. What can you tell us about the Georgia Republican Assembly?

A: The GRA wants to hold electeds accountable. If elected, I'd work with the GRA and all groups to unite the party.

10. What is your plan to keep Georgia red in 2020?

A: I would set an example and inspire people. I have 30 years in the GOP and solid relationships with Kemp and Perdue. The number one responsibility of the GOP Chair is fundraising. We need to raise lots of money using both small and large donors at events around the state. We need to get younger kids involved, engage and equip the grassroots, & improve communications within the party. We need to register new voters and have the best voter data available to grassroots members.

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