

## **Gwinnett Opinions: VOICE OF GWINNETT; Immigration, health care top priorities**

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### **Body**

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**Gwinnett Opinions** asked members of the **Gwinnett** legislative delegation to give us their **top priorities** for the 2006 session of the Georgia General Assembly.

We also asked readers who are members of our **Voice** of **Gwinnett** online panel what the Georgia General Assembly's **top** three **priorities** should be.

A collection of responses were printed in Sunday's **Gwinnett Opinions** section.

Here are additional responses, from a lawmaker and readers:

1. One thing you can count on is that our legislators will not tackle the tough but important issues facing Georgia --- namely, the need for a comprehensive transportation plan that includes state funding for MARTA.
2. With the meltdown of our antiquated **health care** delivery system, many states are looking at a state **health** insurance plan that covers all citizens; . . . not Georgia.
3. Finally, lets's stop corporate welfare by companies hiring illegals. Enact a SOCIAL IMPACT FEE for every illegal that is hired. Let the employer foot the bill for the social costs of hiring cheap, illegal [workers]. Use the money to reimburse the schools and **health** department, which carry this burden for companies employing these workers.

GEORGE WILSON, Stone Mountain

1. I would like our seniors to have Medicare coverage for hearing aids.
2. I would like to offer our adult, low-income **Gwinnett** County legal residents adequate dental **care**. It is available to children but not adults on an emergency basis. The best a resident can do is make an appointment with a downtown office and be put on a two-month waiting list for dental services.
3. I would like our county and/or state to offer a shopping/delivery service for those who cannot drive. For instance, the blind, disabled and aged should have access to the same stores the rest of the population does. This service should not be priced out of the range of the average recipient of Medicare.

MARIA I. HODGES, Lawrenceville

## Gwinnett Opinions: VOICE OF GWINNETT; Immigration, health care top priorities

1. Do something about illegal immigration and its benefits now. We are giving away our country. The bleeding hearts obviously don't read the laws governing this whole situation.
2. Give everyone over 65 (or lower) a break from paying school tax. Isn't payment for 45 or more years enough? Most people this age cannot even afford to pay their property tax.
3. Do not give free care for illness that is not an emergency in our local hospital emergency rooms. Either send them to a clinic or get money up front. The true emergency doesn't stand a chance.
4. I must add a fourth: Declare English as the one and only language for Georgia and recommend that it be done so for the United States. Be sure that every sign is also written in English to help our police and firemen.

BRENDA ROGERS, Snellville

I would like --- when the Georgia General Assembly gets rolling --- to make the strange tradition of taking very expensive toilet paper (75 cents a roll) and throwing it over trees in the middle of the night and making yards and neighborhoods look like white-trash nirvana [an act that is] illegal and punishable by law.

Those who do it should be made to stand out in front of their school in the morning and afternoons with a cardboard sign around their neck saying, "My weekends are so pathetic and boring that I cannot think of anything better to do than throw toilet paper on someone else's property. I am a loser."

Are these little precious darlings aware that there are children in China who go to bed at night with no toilet paper? What do the parents do? It seems to me that parents view it as innocent fun.

However, I remember some teenage girls dying a few years ago when the owner of a house being rolled chased them and the car was involved in an accident and the girls died. What are these parents teaching these children? That it is totally legal and cute to trash someone else's property?

Next, the kids will be involved in shooting out lights with BB guns, throwing eggs at houses, ditching yards with their cars that Mommy and Daddy have bought them. How cute is that?! Aren't they adorable?!

DEBORAH LEE, Duluth

The Voice of Gwinnett is a panel of Gwinnett residents who answer online questionnaires on various topics. It is prepared for the Internet and analyzed by the Marketing Workshop Inc. To have your voice included as part of Voice of Gwinnett, go to [ajc.com/voiceofgwinnett](http://ajc.com/voiceofgwinnett).

FROM THE CAPITOL

1. Fiscally responsible budget
2. Transportation
3. Eminent domain
4. Ensure only legal Georgia residents receive state services
5. Increase local control of education
6. Equalize funding for public health

REP. DONNA SHELTON

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## Graphic

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Photo: Ben Baxter / SpecialSome residents would like for English to become the state's official language, banning signs like these.

Photo: Donna Sheldon

## Classification

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