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in the 2020 Election



The First Issue

A magazine about Atlanta for Georgia Tech.
Exploring news, politics, and more.

34 84

Magazine

Spring 2020



@3484mag

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The content presented in opinion articles reflects the opinion of the author and not that of the 3484 Magazine. While the editors respect the rights of the authors to express their opinions, the editors will apply to the opinion articles the same editorial standards applied to other parts of the newspaper. 3484 Magazine accepts submissions for opinion pieces, but we reserve the right to edit submissions for clarity. If you have feedback for 3484 Magazine or would like to submit an opinion, please contact 3484mag@gmail.com

What is 3484?

3484 Magazine is a news magazine focusing primarily on politics and social issues in the Atlanta area. We dive deeply into policies in Atlanta and Georgia to investigate how they impact real people and Georgia Tech students.

34° N, 84° W are the geographic coordinates of the City of Atlanta, rounded. We picked this name because of our focus on the Atlanta area.

When we're not working on publishing a magazine we cover events, like presidential debates and protests, on our social media accounts, @3484mag.

In the future, we will continue to cover issues that impact Atlanta and Tech students. You can expect to see a lot more on the presidential and senate races, healthcare, climate policy, and city planning, as we continue to explore ways policy shapes Tech students' lives.

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Skyline

A Look at Atlanta's Planned and Under-Construction Buildings

SAM BASKIN, creative director



Image Courtesy of Cousins Properties

8th @ West
Tech Square
Cousins Properties new 31-story office high-rise just north of Tech Square that will also feature ground level retail



Image Courtesy of Gensler

GWCC Hotel
Downtown
Signia Hilton Hotel at the Georgia World Congress Center will be 30 stories and feature conference space.



Image courtesy of Georgia Tech

Phase III
Tech Square
The next phase of Tech Square will include space for the business and industrial engineering schools at Tech.



Image courtesy of CA Ventures

Student Housing
Tech Square
A 27-story student housing building that will feature 320 apartments as well as ground level retail.



Image courtesy of Norfolk Southern

Norfolk Southern
Tech Square
Norfolk Southern's new Atlanta headquarters featuring a style similar to the nearby Coda and Anthem Buildings.



Image courtesy of No. 2 Opus Place

98 14th St
Midtown
Luxury mixed use building. At 54 stories, it will be the second tallest building in Atlanta.



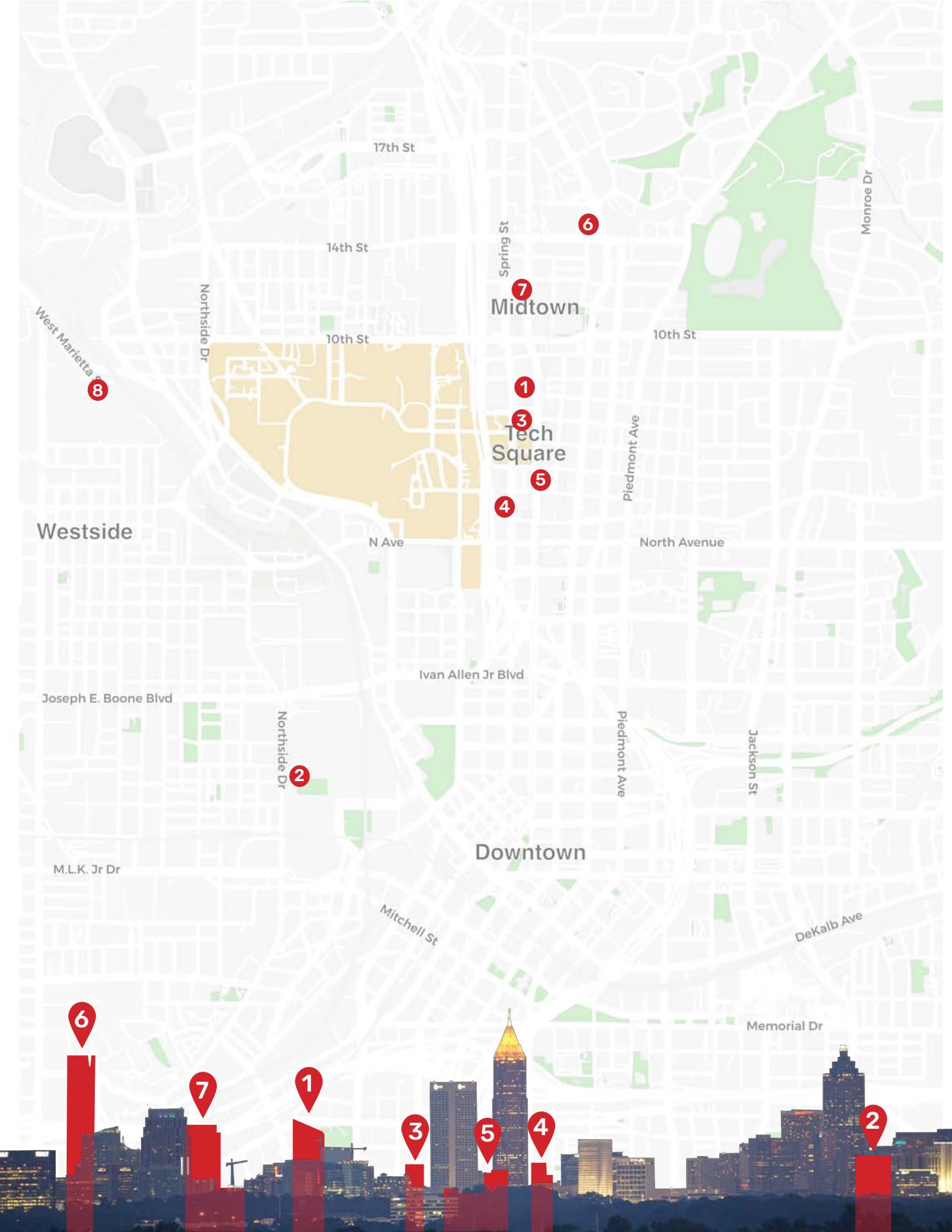
Image courtesy of 1105 West Peachtree

1105 W Peachtree
Midtown
31-story mixed use building in Midtown, featuring apartments, hotel rooms, office space, and retail.



Image courtesy of 788 W Midtown

788 W Midtown
Westside
19-story Westside residential building featuring luxury condos.



Visibility of HIV/AIDS



Battling the Stigma of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic of Metro-Atlanta

RASHI AGRAWAL, Staff Writer

MIRA DHINGRA, Designer

In the everyday life of most Americans, Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) and the accompanying Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) are vaguely known as life-changing illnesses that are not very relevant to their lives, but ones that exists in a world different to theirs. As a result, many people have only been exposed to the concept of HIV/AIDS through popular culture, either by famous celebrities coming out with their diagnosis, like Charlie Sheen, Magic Johnson, and Freddie Mercury or popular movies featuring the illness like Dallas Buyers Club, Queen, and The Normal Heart. HIV is a viral infection that is transmitted through either sexual contact or exposure to infected blood leading to a defective immune system in which your own white blood cells are destroyed. The final stage of HIV is referred to as AIDS and the body becomes drastically susceptible towards fatal infections and cancer.

"The stigma against an HIV/AIDS diagnosis still remains tainted by the prejudiced past."

The relative invisibility of HIV/AIDS can be significantly attributed towards the negative stigma towards the ailment in the past and even the current judgment of some who live with the life-threatening illness. Before being called HIV/AIDS, the auto-immune disease was classified as Gay-related immune deficiency, or GRID for short. When the ailment was first detected in the United States, people most commonly affected were gay men, as the illness is often sexually transmitted. At that time, protection during sex, especially in the gay community, was not a common practice with up to 70% of men admitting to intercourse without protection. When first mentioned in 1982 by the NYTimes, healthcare providers did not give GRID much attention due to the already present prejudice against LGBT persons at that time.



HIV mortality in Atlanta is high at **375 deaths** in 2017 and increasing to **800 deaths** for all of Georgia



Georgians living with HIV in 2017

Statistics from AIDSVu

Although research now shows that HIV/AIDS is not only an illness that only affects homosexual males, the stigma against an HIV/AIDS diagnosis still remains tainted by the prejudiced past. Currently, the lack of knowledge about HIV/AIDS can be traced to the population that is most infected: the LGBT community and people with low socioeconomic status. Both of these communities are often overshadowed in terms of health care and social awareness. Furthermore, HIV/AIDS is often considered a problem distant from the United States, as many people know that sub-Saharan Africa is ravaged by this disease. AIDS is the leading cause of death in that region.

However, according to Carlos del Rio, the co-director of the Emory Center for AIDS Research, there is a generalized HIV epidemic in Downtown Atlanta that mimics some African cities. The high rates of HIV/AIDS in Atlanta is especially prevalent in gay or bisexual young, black men. He additionally found that AIDS is so rampant in that community that it has now become the leading cause of death for black men in Georgia between the ages of 35 and 44. AIDSVu, an organization that organizes HIV epidemic data in an interactive online tool, has found some staggering numbers regarding HIV prevalence in Georgia. The number of people living in Georgia with HIV in 2017 was 37,155 with a significant portion being African American (70.4%) and male (80.4%).

Furthermore, HIV mortality in Atlanta is high at 375 deaths in 2017 and increasing to 800 individuals for all of Georgia. In 2016, HIV/AIDS claimed 15,807 lives across the United States with the deaths not being equally distributed in all the regions with approximately 47% of the deaths

occurring in the South. Due to the disease being prevalent in a highly disenfranchised group, receiving treatment or even testing is a significant obstacle to curbing this epidemic. Affected people have even more pressing issues, such as where they will get their next meal or a place to rest.

Recent investigations by the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development into Atlanta's troubled housing program--for people living with AIDS and HIV--have exacerbated housing difficulties for afflicted individuals. The current program that handles housing for its clients is HOPWA which works in conjunction with nonprofits that help subsidize rent, administration costs, and other services. With investigations into inadequate housing, potential corruption, and more concerns, the controversy has threatened about 250 HIV/AIDS-afflicted clients homeless.

While the significant presence of HIV/AIDS in Atlanta may seem insurmountable, Atlanta has taken a new approach to this public health concern. Recently, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms created a new government position: chief health officer. Their duties involve creating a support system around the greater Atlanta community to reduce new HIV transmissions. Dr. Angelica Geter Fugerson is the first person appointed to this position, and she has extensively researched HIV/AIDS and the equity and health disparities around it. Finally, Emory University has taken charge in the national stage by investing in new efforts to tackle this epidemic through research, treatment, education, and changing perceptions around HIV/AIDS.

Even though HIV/AIDS seems like a distant

problem for most college students, it is still important to know that it does not discriminate in who it affects. Everyone should be aware of its damaging impact. Georgia Tech Stamps Health Initiatives partners with AIDS Healthcare Foundation to provide free HIV testing for Georgia Tech students.

A Health Educator at Stamps Health Initiatives listed a variety of reasons why students get tested: they see it and are interested, they get extra-credit for their APPH health class, they are following CDC recommendations which is to get tested once or twice a year, or even after personal risky behavior/ "scare". Participating for any reason in the free HIV testing can help show other students that there should be no stigma against practicing healthy preventative behavior and there should be no different behavior around HIV/AIDS-infected individuals.

Contracting HIV

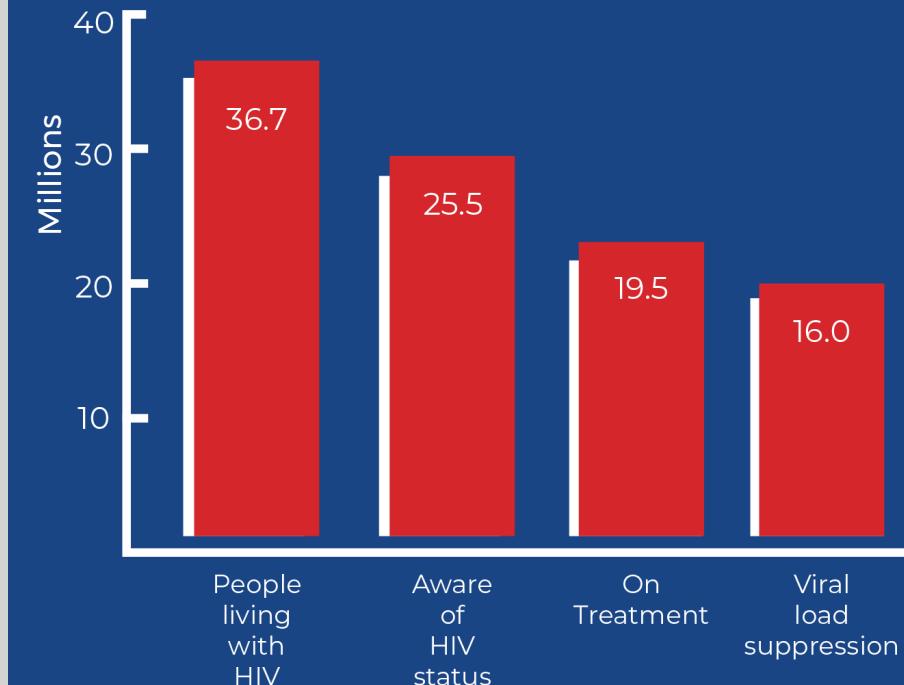
CAN

- Unprotected sex
- Passed from mother to baby
- Sharing injecting equipment
- Contaminated blood transfusions and organ transplants

CAN'T

- Sharing food
- Insect bites
- Bathing
- Sneezing/Coughing
- Kissing
- Sweating

Worldwide HIV Testing and Care Continuum (2018)



Statistics from World Health Organization

800-551-2728 Georgia AIDS/STD Information Line

information, counseling, and linkage to care

The Testing Gap

More than 30% of people are unaware that they are living with HIV



Moving the Needle

ELLA STEWART, writer
Design, SAM BASKIN

From the viral video of the turtle with a plastic straw in their nose, to Greta Thunberg's powerful speeches in front of world leaders, tides are turning in terms of environmental conversation worldwide. Reusable straw trends parallel the increase in climate-change related natural disasters. The atmosphere of environmental conversation is increasingly heated, but what is Georgia doing for the climate crisis?

Interestingly enough, Atlanta has made some strides in terms of climate action within the past few years. Atlanta's last mayor, Kasim Reed, supported the development of a Climate Action Plan for Atlanta. At that time, Georgia had never engaged in a climate initiative so direct and methodical, so this was a relatively radical idea. The Atlanta Climate Action Plan went on to become the first Climate Action Plan in the southeast United States. The plan aimed to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG's) and save energy.

The plan was instigated by an extensive greenhouse gas inventory of Atlanta published in 2013. From there, the team set a goal of 20% reduction in GHG's by 2020 and 40% reduction by 2030 (based on 2009 emissions).

"The Climate Action Plan was adopted unanimously by the city council in September 2015", said Dr. Jairo Garcia, the author of the plan. He is a passionate and knowledgeable expert in urban sustainability who now teaches at Georgia Tech. He was also a leader in the Climate Strike on the Atlanta Capitol this past September.

"Atlanta has made some huge strides in terms of climate action within the past few years"

The complete plan is available to the public, and just by scrolling through it, a viewer can see the effort and dedication put into the project. The plan aimed to reduce carbon emissions from seven angles: in commercial/industrial buildings, residential buildings, energy production,

materials management and recycling, water and wastewater management, transportation, and greenhouses/food security.

The Atlanta Climate Action Plan meant business. Professionals worked to quantify the carbon reduction potential of initiatives across these seven sectors. Partners, such as CHARM and Environment Georgia, came together to offer their solutions. It was not just wishful thinking; it was a thorough and specific plan to reduce Atlanta's emissions.

However, Garcia states that this systematic approach to curb emissions here in Georgia was short-lived. The plan did achieve some reduction since its enactment in 2015, but reached a standstill with the election of Keisha Lance Bottoms in 2017. According to Jairo, "Between 2015 and 2017, we achieved some reduction but not the 20% required by the plan. Unfortunately, nothing has been done since then except for making more plans."

'In May 2017, before Bottoms' election in November, the Atlanta City Council directed the Mayor's Office of Resilience to construct a plan towards 100 percent clean energy in the city of Atlanta by 2035. Bottoms essentially scrapped the Atlanta Climate Action Plan to pursue this new project entitled Clean Energy Atlanta, which will reduce emissions by working toward clean and efficient energy systems. This plan will also operate on a cycle where every three years a process report, revisions, and updates will be made. Clean Energy Atlanta is working alongside previous initiatives for emissions reduction throughout Atlanta. These other projects include Alternative Fuel Vehicle Adoption, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, Atlanta Better Buildings Challenge, Energy Savings Performance Contract, Sustainable Building Ordinance, Clean Energy & Equity, Commercial Buildings Energy & Water Efficiency Ordinance, and Solar Atlanta.

So, the intentions of the Atlanta Climate Action Plan are no longer being tracked. Clean Energy Atlanta seems to lack some sense of direction compared to the Climate Action Plan. For instance, Clean Energy Atlanta lacks carbon reduction projections, collaboration with climate experts, progress reports, and an overall sense of urgency.

To Garcia, Clean Energy Atlanta is a "wishlist".

In his opinion, this initiative focuses on the energy efficiency and economic sides of the issue instead of being direct about climate change in order to not offend those against climate action.

"The plan was enacted in 2015, but reached a standstill with the election of Keisha Lance Bottoms in 2017."

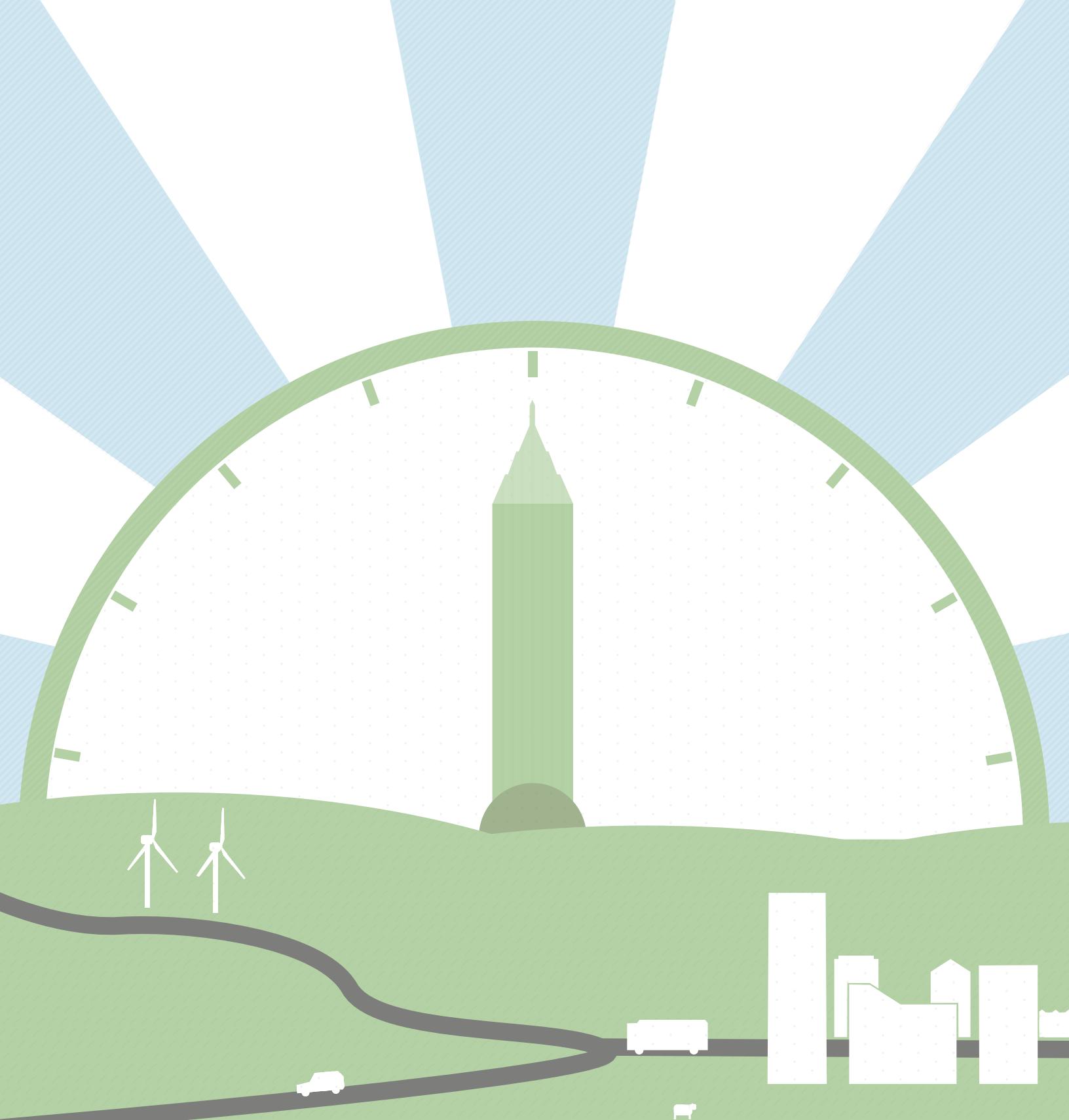
If Clean Energy Atlanta were to quantify and report their actual carbon reduction, perhaps Garcia and others could be more optimistic about it. This initiative also leaves out the original Climate Action Plan's emphasis on green spaces, food security, and materials management.

The Atlanta Climate Action Plan's efforts are not being tracked, so the city seems to be falling even more behind, and all of the work done by dedicated professionals may be going to waste at least for now.

The next big stride for climate action in Georgia as a state is the Georgia Drawdown Project. Funded by the Ray C. Anderson Foundation and inspired by Paul Hawken's Project Drawdown. Georgia Drawdown aims to measure and model the most effective and impactful actions that can reduce carbon emissions specifically in Georgia. Paul Hawken's Project Drawdown found these climate solutions for the world, ranging from plant-rich diets to educating women and girls. The Georgia Drawdown Project intends to find which climate solutions are the most applicable to our state in particular. Narrowing down the best climate solutions on the local level is part of the project's goal to push for "drawdown", or carbon neutrality, in Georgia.

The Georgia Drawdown Project recently started in 2019. The team is comprised of professionals from Georgia Tech, Emory, and the University of Georgia. Once the climate solutions are narrowed down and their prices evaluated, these solutions will be offered to stakeholders. These suggestions, or "data-driven guidance" per Cobb, could be ready as soon as May or June 2020.

John Lanier is the Executive Director of the



Moving the Needle

Atlanta and Georgia's Efforts Toward Carbon Neutrality

Ray C. Anderson Foundation, the legacy of industrialist-turned-environmentalist Ray C. Anderson. Anderson revolutionized sustainable business as an entrepreneur, dedicated his work to promotion of sustainable business, and left this foundation to Lanier to fund climate work in Georgia. Lanier, Anderson's grandson, is enthusiastic about this legacy and Georgia Drawdown. Lanier highlights the importance of this state-wide project, "[W]e (the Ray C. Anderson Foundation) feel like Georgia is where our network is, it's our home, and it's the right size where we can make a difference. We can show what's possible in Georgia."

"Atlanta cannot simply rely on the government, corporations, or people to change; we likely need all three to properly address and overcome these issues."

Dr. Kim Cobb, one of the Georgia Tech leaders with Georgia Drawdown, says the project is "trying to quantify what are the top solutions for reducing our emissions, increasing our natural carbon sinks, and at the same time...advancing economic opportunity for Georgia residents as well as equity for Georgians". Cobb, a lively and established professor of Earth and Atmospheric Science at Georgia Tech, emphasized the holistic approach of Georgia Drawdown. She detailed

the importance of the Beyond Carbon section of the plan that illustrates some intersection between the advancement of climate action and improved social and economic opportunity.

For instance, Cobb explored the multiple benefits of further investment in clean energy. Not only would increasing our clean energy and focus on energy efficiency be more eco-friendly, but it could help struggling families. For instance, communities that are more vulnerable to temperature extremes could benefit from increased energy efficiency when heating and cooling their homes. Lower energy costs could mean a world of a difference for these Georgian families. These climate solutions could tackle environmental issues and equity problems simultaneously.

But what can a list of solutions do? The Ray C. Anderson Foundation has no authority to tell people what to do and how to do it, nor do they want to.

Cobb mentions, "We aren't here to be prescriptive." Instead, the team aims to hold up this list of solutions with hope and confidence. Georgia Drawdown is not finding win-lose climate solutions, where economic or personal benefit is lost to environmental initiatives. Rather, the team hopes to compile solutions that are win-win-win, for climate, the economy, and society.

Lanier, Cobb, and Garcia all mentioned this potential short-coming of the project, but their process still plans to tackle this issue. Stakeholders will be encouraged to consider the document's suggestions. This resource will always be available to anyone interested in reducing emissions for

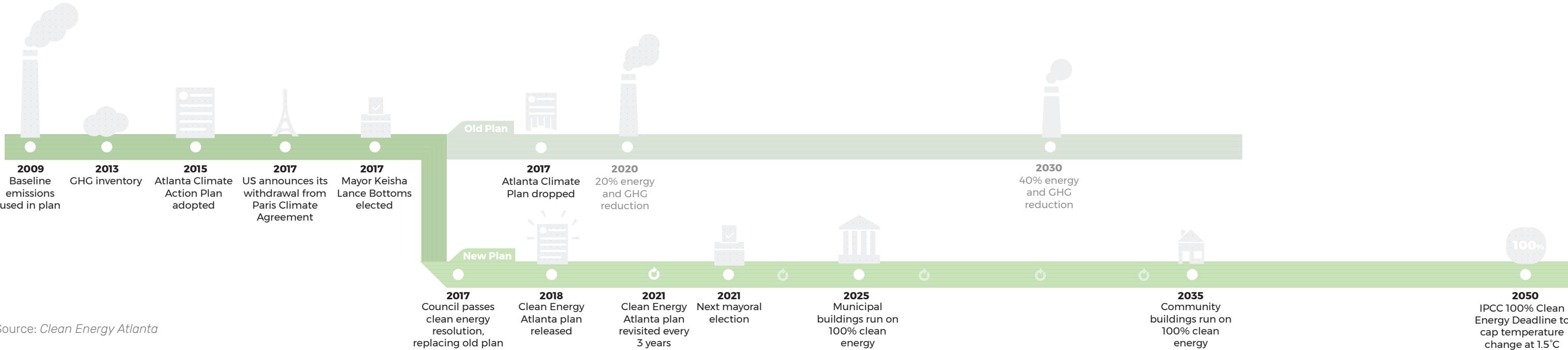
Georgia. Even though these solutions will not be legislated, it is research dedicated to the solutions of climate change, not whether or not it exists. The science of the problem is accepted, so now this work can go to actually fixing it.

"Every day we have to be moving the needle, and everyday people have to be reminded about how much this matters."

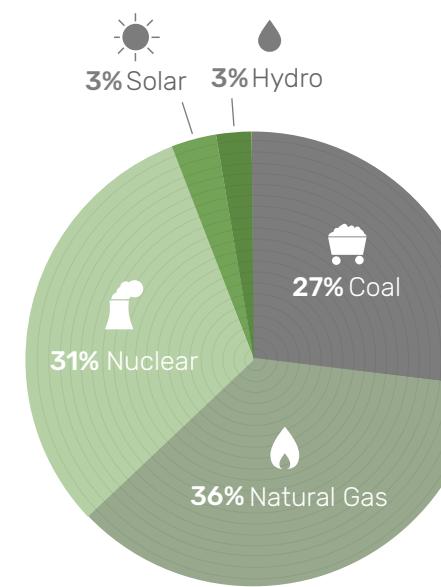
However, there are obstacles to sustainability in Georgia. Some of our biggest obstacles include how far behind Atlanta is on climate action (along with many other regions), governments that do not prioritize bold climate action, and a lack of concern or action.

These obstacles unlock enormous possibility for future climate efforts. Dr. Kim Cobb admits worry over our climate issues, but also beams with excitement for our potential as a state. "We have tech industries, corporate headquarters, a major transportation hub system, the airport, the port, vast quantities of sunshine. . .That's the exciting opportunity space that we have." If Georgia can get ahead of the incoming storm of climate change, we can make a world of a difference in our emissions.

Fighting climate change is a holistic effort.

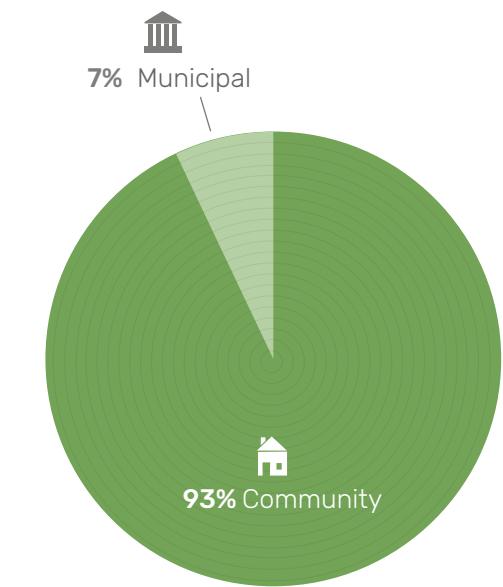


Atlanta's Energy Sources 2018



Data from *Clean Energy Atlanta*

Building Electricity Consumption



downfall of anthropogenic climate change. Taking personal actions can help to stir change, start conversations, and even offer us comfort among this crisis.

As Dr. Kim Cobb said, "[E]very day we have to be moving the needle, and everyday people have to be reminded about how much this matters, what the stakes are, and what we could do if we come together."

Georgia cannot simply rely on the government, corporations, or people to change; we likely need all three to properly address and overcome these issues.

Although we have wonderful projects such as Georgia Drawdown, there is much more work to be done. Citizens can tackle this issue by doing the basics: voting for the world they want with their dollar, reducing their carbon footprint using guides such as Georgia Drawdown, and more. Something more universal, however, is acting politically. Citizens can research candidates and

vote to support data-driven policy. In Atlanta, activists can petition for the Atlanta Climate Action Plan to be reenacted or for Clean Energy Atlanta to report its carbon reduction.

THE DARK SIDE OF PROGRESS

A look into gentrification's rapid takeover of Atlanta

SARAH KALLIS, editor-in-chief



"It's really impossible to create any kind of improvement without causing the same types of challenges," Ryan Gravel said

about the product of his graduate thesis that transformed into a community grassroots movement and eventually a major city project. The Beltline is often seen as a story of success, but it has also become physical manifestation of gentrification of the Atlanta Area.

Gentrification has become a buzzword in national conversations about equity, often conjuring up images of wealthy white hipsters moving into a predominantly black area until they slowly but surely take over. While this popular media image of gentrification isn't the whole story, there is some truth to it.

Simply put, gentrification is the process of refurbishing a lower-class area to appeal to the middle class, often pushing out its original residents. But, there are many layers to the process of gentrification and displacement.

Gentrification causes change in the economics, culture, and politics of an area, and can be categorized by the primary type of change it causes.

"Economic is probably the type [of gentrification] that gets the most traction and that's really visible too," Ted Ward, educational director at the Center for Civil and Human Rights said. Economic gentrification usually leads to cultural and political gentrification as well.

Although racial change in an area often seems to be the most obvious indicator of displacement, Ward mentions that it is tied to economic gentrification. "Race and economics are intertwined in the south," he said, "It becomes easier to see through a racial lens."

So what exactly causes gentrification? Often, an area gains a large amount of public or private investment, sometimes as a result of a grassroots community movement such as the Beltline, or a larger city-wide event such as the 1996 Olympics

"Naturally, investment is gentrification because you're taking an area and repurposing it," Ward said.

As an area gains public investment through gentrification, costs of living in that particular area often rise dramatically, and many of the

lower-class original residents are no longer able to afford their homes.

"The people who have waited decades for public investment in their area, once they finally get it, it's actually a driver of their displacement and removal. That to me is the underlying tragedy of all of this. They've been paying taxes longer than all of us in these neighborhoods, waiting for this type of investment, and once it comes, they can't afford to stay around to enjoy it," Ward said.

And, even if a resident is able to afford their home despite rising property taxes, Ward mentions that they may run into other troubles, "Even if you can afford to live there, the area doesn't fit your needs anymore".

Although the image of wide-scale cultural displacement may seem sudden and dismal, it is important to remember that gentrification is not a recently-developed phenomenon.

Some people connect gentrification back to the founding of the United States, citing displacement of indigenous people as the original act of gentrification.

More locally, a major shift in the culture of Atlanta as a result of gentrification took place shortly before the 1996 Olympics.

In preparation for the olympics, the city of Atlanta systematically eliminated poverty in the areas surrounding the olympic stadium. However, they did not do so by providing equity to the impoverished areas, but instead by implementing anti-homeless architecture and destroying public housing. The Techwood homes, the first public housing project in the United States and a Georgia Tech Alum's project, was among the homes demolished and replaced with a mixed-income apartment community before the Olympics. Centennial Place, the apartment complex that replaced the Techwood homes, is still standing and sits slightly behind the North Avenue Apartments.

According to the Georgia Encyclopedia, the city of Atlanta spent over \$5 billion (\$1 billion of which was public money) to fund improvements to the areas surrounding the games. The government of Georgia describes the renovations as an "impressive new face". New hotels and chain restaurants were also erected in Downtown and Midtown to house visitors, and the city spent most of the public funds on improving sidewalks and streets.

As a result of the influx of investment in Atlanta, costs of living rose. Many historic residents were forced to move to more suburban areas, and homeless people were pushed out of the center of the city.

While the olympics were a monumental and obvious cause of gentrification, many neighborhoods have continued to change since

then.

One of the most obvious recent areas of change is the Old Fourth Ward Neighborhood, which is home to Ponce City Market and the east side of the Beltline trail. The Beltline is largely blamed for the gentrification of Old Fourth Ward.

"It's physical thing, it's a tangible thing, so it's easier to point fingers to blame at that then to actually try to follow a very complex situation," Beltline creator Ryan Gravel said about the popular blame of the project.

However, Gravel is happy that the Beltline has sparked conversation about gentrification. "As long as it doesn't stop the project, if that kind of finger pointing and blaming does generate the conversation about the Beltline and other infrastructures, then have at it," he said.

Gravel is an advocate for affordable housing and equity, and has publicly stated that he will consider the Beltline Project a failure if it does not provide affordable housing. Additionally, he left the Beltline Project over frustration from affordable housing. "It was clear that the beltline partnership was not going to advocate sufficiently for housing affordability," he said.

Another key aspect of the Beltline project is creation of a light-rail transportation system, which has not yet been implemented. Gravel considers this as an important equalizer in communities, because it provides access to transportation around the city.

"Let's talk about transportation in terms of equity-not just mobility, because it matters," he said.

It is also important to remember that the Beltline is not yet a completed project. "We're still in the early stages of the project, and I think we're in the process of course-correcting there. I do feel strongly that the answer is not to not build. The answer is to build it, but to be intentional about who we're building for," Gravel stated.

Still, Gravel warns about the potential dangers of urban sprawl, particularly how it will disproportionately affect power people. "The people who can't afford it are stuck inheriting the sprawl," he continues, "If you think about urban poverty in the past century- maybe these people were stuck in some terrible conditions in a ghetto, but at least they were downtown where they could get to jobs and stuff. Now they're going to be stuck at the end of some cul-de-sac, invisible to the world."



"Just imagine this dystopian kind-of outcome. It's not hard," he said.

While having these types of conversations about gentrification, a fundamental question often comes up: Should housing be a human right or a commodity?

As a capitalist society, The United States generally views housing as a commodity. When a person goes to buy a home, they are expected to pay for it, often through a series of home loans from a bank. That person is also expected to pay property tax on their home, and if they are unable to afford those taxes or their payments, they are evicted from their home.

If housing were to be seen as a human right, everyone would have access to housing in some form whether they could afford property tax or not.

Sharah Hutson, a resident of Atlanta and college student, "feel[s] pretty strongly that it should be a human right.

"Everyone deserves housing. That shouldn't be something that we are arguing" they said.

Sharah currently lives in a black community, and although they do not feel that their neighborhood is currently under threat of gentrification, they are mindful of other communities facing this issue.

"I live about 5 minutes away from the West End community. Right before you get to the Mercedes Benz Stadium, I saw that the Beltline was over there, and that was concerning," they said.

Hutson also states that they are "nervous for the West End community." The West End is currently undergoing the process of gentrification, as many new restaurants and apartment complexes are popping up, potentially as a result of new investment in the area from Mercedes Benz Stadium. The historically black area has also seen an influx of white citizens in recent years.



"Are people moving to these neighborhoods and not realizing they're committing an act of gentrification?" Hutson said. They also worry about the cultural displacement of the West End. "I see anti-blackness as a global commodity," they said, "If these white folks have intention of moving into a black community, are they actually going to get along?"

Defenders of gentrification often refer to it as "reverse white flight", arguing that integrating neighborhoods is a positive development.

However, Hutson, has their doubts. "Can you really ever reach a neighborhood that has a good mix of people and everyone is getting along and appropriately understanding each other?" they said.

As rising property taxes push people out of their homes, it is natural to wonder where the displaced people go to live. "I haven't seen anything that can directly point to where these people are moving," Hutson said.

It is difficult to track exactly where displaced families tend to move when they are no longer able to afford their homes in gentrified areas. Common theories point to the suburbs, where housing prices tend to be cheaper.

Although the houses may be cheaper, moving to suburbs comes at a heavy price for many impoverished families: less access. MARTA does not extend far into the suburbs, making it harder for working adults to find a way into the city for their job. Public green space is often a driver of gentrification, as it has many mental health benefits, and often it is scarce in poorer suburbs of Atlanta. Additionally, the public greenspace within the city is often overtaken by upper class people using it.

As dismal gentrification can often seem, the city of Atlanta has begun to recognize the issue. "I think the city definitely is learning from its mistakes," Ward said,

"You were seeing a lot of issues with affordable housing because they weren't being proactive. Now, I think they're doing a better job of being reactive to it and proactive in areas where they know the

beltline will bring the same issues."

Some of the reactions from the city to counteract rising housing prices include expanding inclusionary zoning, which is currently being implemented on the Westside. "Any new construction over 10 units needs to include 10% at 60% AMI (average median income) or 15% at 80% AMI", Ward said, "It is not an incentive; it is a mandate."

The city of Atlanta also created the Anti-Displacement Tax Fund, more commonly known as Anti-displacement zones, where property taxes are frozen at a certain rate for historic residents, in order to counteract economic and cultural displacement.

However, the battle is not won yet, and displacement continues to be a chronic issue because of new developments. "We are still at a point where our policies are too favorable for developers," Ward said.

Luckily, residents of Atlanta are able to advocate against gentrification.

"If people cared more, like really cared, such that it affected who they voted for, and what kind of things they demanded of their elected officials, we would have better outcomes," Gravel said.

Ward mentions that the most effective way to pressure officials is to be involved in the conversation about gentrification by attending city council meetings, and speaking up during the public input section.

Gravel agrees with this statement, also recommending that investors be held accountable to their promises of equity in the same manner the Beltline was. "We had this rag-tag group of people who wanted the best for their community, and there were housing advocates there, so we embedded those aspects as part of the vision, which is what makes it so easy to point at a project and hold it accountable to what we've been saying all of these years. We should have a similar plan to holding all of these other investors accountable with outcomes," he said.

Overall, it is important to remember that continued advocacy in pressure will make a difference. "Democracy is continued participation in our civic institutions," Ward said.

\$2,375

average rent per month for an apartment in Old Fourth Ward

\$500 Million

amount of private and public investment in the Atlanta Beltline Project

\$1,382

average rent per month for an apartment in The West End Community

\$1 to Ride



How e-scooters have changed Atlanta and what's in store

SAM BASKIN, creative director

In May of 2018, Bird scooters began appearing in Atlanta. They popped up on sidewalks, street corners, and even around Georgia Tech's campus. People could walk up to one of the hundreds of scooters around the city, scan a QR code, and then ride to their destination. As Bird began gaining traction, other scooter companies emerged in the city.

As scooters continued to increase in popularity, there were also growing complaints from Atlanta locals. Citizens took to social media to complain about improper scooter parking and irresponsible riders. The Instagram account @atlantabeltlinehatesyou gained over 7,000 followers, with its posts frequently criticizing the implementation of e-scooters in Atlanta. However, the account also frequently advocates for the expansion of infrastructure for bikes and scooters.

Citizens took to social media to complain about improper scooter parking and irresponsible riders.

The city adopted legislation that regulates sharable mobility devices in Atlanta, aiming to make e-scooters in the city safer and more organized. It created a \$12,000 permit fee that allows companies to operate up to 500 devices in the city. Every additional scooter after that first 500 costs \$50 each to operate. It also codified specific rules about parking and riding e-scooters, such as making riding on the sidewalk illegal.

In April 2019, the Scoot Smart campaign was released. It aims to increase public awareness about proper scooter usage, in an attempt to improve road etiquette. The campaign focuses on responsible parking and riding. Graphics painted on sidewalks around the city read "Never Ride on Sidewalks" and "Park Here."

The BeltLine has been strongly promoting trail etiquette, with parking and riding signage placed along the eastside trail.



Graphic by Sam Baskin

Additionally, in June, a geofenced reduced speed zone was created on the Beltline, reducing scooter speeds during rush hour on the trail. Any scooters within the zone have their speed capped at 8 mph.

Over the course of three months in summer 2019, four people were hit and killed by cars while riding scooters in the road. The first death occurred in the early morning on May 20, 2019, when Eric Amis Jr. was struck by a car on West Lake Avenue.

Then, on July 17, 2019 William Alexander died after being struck by a bus on West Peachtree Street in midtown around 10 PM.

After this death, the city government began to act. Councilmember Amir Farokhi stated,

"In addition to a time of mourning, it's also a call to act. We need to invest more in complete streets -- streets that accommodate cyclists, scooters, and pedestrians as much as they do cars. It's in our power to ensure these sorts of tragedies are absent from our city."

"The city cannot allow this rapidly growing industry to move faster than our ability to regulate it."

On July 27, Amber Ford was struck by a car on 14th St at about 10 PM, marking the third scooter death. The fourth and final death of the summer was on August 6, when Quinterry McGriff was struck by a car in East Point at approximately 6 AM.

This final incident was closely followed by the mayor enacting a nighttime ban of scooters between the hours of 9 PM and 4 AM, which

went into effect on August 8.

In the mayor's press release, Commissioner of City Planning, Tim Keene said, "As a major city, we believe there is potential in engineering the smart integration of this popular mode of transportation. The devices go a long way in providing last-mile connectivity and convenience to residents, students, businesses and visitors. But it is vital that we pause and assess how we move forward in a responsible way, with public safety always being the top priority."

Transit advocates in Atlanta argued that the deaths were a result of the city's poor bike and LIT (Lite Individual Transportation) infrastructure, and advocated for city-wide improvements.

Transit advocates in Atlanta argued that the deaths were a result of the city's poor bike and LIT infrastructure.

Serna and several others also advocated for a city-wide 25 mph speed limit. At the same city council meeting, Hewey Hamilton of PEDS Atlanta said, "We're here to support reducing the speed limit to 25 on all roads where pedestrians and bicyclists are allowed. Data shows that slowing down the speed of cars from 35 to 25 results in a 61% drop in chances of a pedestrian being killed by a car. But we also know that lowering speeds is not just good for pedestrians. A decrease in speed by just 1 mph can reduce the risk of road crashes by 3%. And so, we really encourage the city to consider reducing the speed limits and reconfiguring our roads to make our streets safer for all modes of transportation."

In September, the mayor announced a \$5 million plan to improve bike infrastructure over the next two years. The plan adds safety features to 20 miles of streets, and triples the amount of protected bike lanes. One of the top priorities of the Bottoms administration has been building a safer and more equitable mobility network. Bottoms said, "The way that people are getting around Atlanta is changing as the city grows quickly, and this plan will help keep pace with new demands across our transportation network."

The plan's first project was a temporary bike lane on 10th street during the month of October. The pop-up lane was painted by volunteers, and protected with temporary orange and white traffic barriers.

Dan Hourigan, the director of transportation and sustainability at Midtown Alliance, stated "We've traditionally designed bike lanes that are very high quality with lots of physical protection, meaning not just a plastic bollard, but a raised curb. I think the mayor's action plan suggested that we're not gonna go for grade A facilities everywhere, because we need to get stuff out and get stuff built sooner than later. So they're shifting their focus more towards quick wins."

Although the temporary 10th street bike lane extension was rolled out quickly, it still showed the importance of new bike and scooter infrastructure. Bike and scooter rides increased

In September, the mayor announced a \$5 million plan to improve bike infrastructure over the next two years.

58 percent, and 92 percent of westbound bikes used the new lane. 83 percent of scooter riders said they felt safer in the lane. After signal changes were made, there was little change to car travel times.

Around the country, many cities such as New York City, West Hollywood, and Winston-Salem banned the operation of rentable e-scooters. Even some metro-Atlanta cities such as Alpharetta, Marietta, Norcross and Woodstock have imposed bans.

The City of Atlanta imposing only regulations and not a full ban shows that the city is committed to adapting e-scooters into the city's infrastructure.

However, many scooter companies are pulling out of Atlanta, with only Bird, Boaz, and Jump remaining.

When asked if e-scooters are here to stay, Hourigan was unsure, but guessed that they would change over time in design to be safer.

Overall, opinions on using LIT in Atlanta seem to be changing. Dan Hourigan states, "Being



on the street as a scooter rider gives them an understanding of the challenges that come with being a pedestrian, scooter rider, bike rider, whatever, from the safety perspective that they may not have thought about."

However, areas that could benefit most from last mile transportation solutions are often neglected. The city has imposed regulations that require scooter companies to distribute a portion of their fleet in four equity zones around the city. However, increasing the amount of scooters without also increasing the amount of LIT infrastructure could be a dangerous combination.

Scooter rides are likely leading to a decrease in car rides in the city.

Scooters in Atlanta seem to have an uncertain future. What is certain is that they have impacted the city on many levels. The city government revealed that it is committed to improving infrastructure, Atlanta residents have started to see that a bikeable (and scooter-able) Atlanta is in reach, and according to data from the Atlanta Department of City Planning, scooter rides are likely leading to a decrease in car rides in the city. The number of e-scooter and e-bike sales in the US have significantly increased since the emergence of sharable e-scooter companies. Even if those companies die out, many Americans have started to get around cities in new ways. Dan Hourigan states, "I think if all the scooters have done is provide more focus about the importance of how we allocate public right of way, then that's a huge benefit." E-scooters have pushed Atlanta towards becoming a city that is not forced to rely on cars.

In 2019,

there were



4M

Over 4 Million trips

3M

Over 3 Million miles ridden



2.6 average daily trips per device



Over 3,500 parking complaints



Over 440 crashes



Over 200 injuries

Data from City of Atlanta Office of Mobility,
between February 2019 and December 2019

City of Opportunity

Investment and Gentrification in Atlanta's Opportunity Zones

LOGAN DORRILL, Writer
GEHNA CHAUBAL, Designer





Photographs Creative Commons. Graphic by Sam Baskin

Over the past couple of years, President Donald Trump and his Republican colleagues have faced a firestorm of criticism in response to their policies. As real and pressing as these political controversies can feel, they can just as easily be perceived as distant: separated from us by the bureaucracy of Washington. But a walk two minutes down North Avenue, to Mercedes Benz Stadium, or to Edgewood would land you in

It's a shot at a campaign promise: a measure designed to improve infrastructure and alleviate urban poverty.

one of thousands of specifically designated areas affected by Trump's legislative agenda.

More specifically, this policy is the Federal Opportunity Zone (OZ) Initiative. It's a shot at a campaign promise: a measure designed to improve infrastructure and alleviate urban poverty by encouraging investment in low income areas. The thinking behind OZs has been championed by capitalist thinkers for generations, and more recently endorsed by people of the likes of Sean Parker (the first president of Facebook) and Jared

Bernstein (Economic Advisor under the Obama Administration). Its neoliberalist, or market-based approach to solving social issues, received a fair amount of bipartisan support in Congress, and with Trump as its political cheerleader, the OZ initiative arrived in the White House and was signed into law as a part of the 2017 Tax Reform Bill.

Communities eligible for Opportunity Zone status must have over 20 percent of their population living under the poverty line. State governors then hand select up to a fourth of the eligible communities to be approved by the US Department of the Treasury for official Opportunity Zone status. Now enter the investors. They are people who have had a capital gains event, such as selling a business or a property, and would normally have to pay a twenty percent or higher tax on these gains. Now, these individuals can shield themselves from taxes by putting their money into "qualified opportunity funds" which include contributions to real estate, housing, business or infrastructure inside of one of the OZs. If they leave their money in these projects for seven years they only have to pay for 85 percent of the taxes owed initially. Leave it for ten years and they owe no taxes. Either way, a break of this magnitude represents a huge savings when applied to an investment of millions of dollars.

Emanuel Friedman, a real estate mogul speaking through bouts of excited laughter said "I'm here to tell you this is the biggest program that anyone has ever seen in their lifetime."

But a lucrative opportunity for an investor might

Trump claims that OZ's will "draw investment into neglected and underserved communities of America so that all Americans... have access to the American dream."

not always translate to relief for those living in extreme poverty. Trump claims that OZ's will "draw investment into neglected and underserved communities of America so that all Americans regardless of ZIP code have access to the American dream."

Many are not so optimistic. Critics raise concerns that the policy will disproportionately serve investors by allowing them to invest in already gentrifying "trendy" areas while sidelining the communities that need the investment most. Amazon is under fire for allegedly trying to take



Map of Opportunity Zones in the Metro Area

advantage of Opportunity Zone incentives to build one of its headquarters in a zone in New York that houses wine bars and views of Manhattan. There is also speculation of a conflict of interest where the people close to Trump are profiting disproportionately. Jared Kushner, Michael Milken and Trump himself have all been publicly accused of gaming the system to put more money in their own pockets.

"The increase in economic activity, the increase in tax base, does have a multiplier effect"

Even still, many people remain optimistic. Sacramento Kings owner Alex Bhathal asserts that "The increase in economic activity, the increase in tax base, does have a multiplier effect." With the worst income inequality in the US, twenty-four percent of residents living below the poverty line and serious problems related to public transportation and traffic, Atlanta has a lot

he says, "with capital preservation in mind I would probably be more likely to invest in that neighborhood where gentrification has already begun."

Atlanta is the United States' fourth fastest gentrifying city, and the OZ policy has potential to accelerate the already quick rate at which it's occurring.

Left unchecked quickening rates of development can serve to hurt the autonomy of people who have lived in an area for years by pushing them to leave because of a heightened cost of living. Lipscomb asserts that local governments need to be aware of this shift and legislate to prevent it. "Additionally, we need job and skills training to happen concurrently with investment, so that local people can become employed and complete their jobs well" Dr. Lipscomb says. "Otherwise, I'm not convinced that this policy is the best way to deal with urban poverty."



The Challengers

Three Democrats face off against a Republican Incumbent for a seat in the U.S. Senate
SARAH KALLIS, editor-in-chief



David Perdue

Photo courtesy of the United States Congress

Sen. David Perdue is seeking re-election after one term in the U.S. Senate. He has emerged as one of President Donald Trump's foremost supporters in the U.S. Senate.

Perdue is a former business executive, working for Sandra Lee, Pillowtex, Reebok, and the dollar general. He also ran a consulting firm in Atlanta before entering politics. He is an Atlanta Native, and Georgia Tech Grad.

Five-Thirty-Eight reports that Perdue votes in accordance with Trump's position 94 percent of the time. He has historically voted pro-life and has voted to confirm every nominee Trump has made for cabinet position and judges.

Perdue also voted to acquit Trump of both impeachment charges. According to a January Atlanta Journal-Constitution poll, 57 percent of Georgia voters thought Trump's fate should be decided at the polls, not in an impeachment trial. Some Democrats have criticized Perdue's loyalty to Trump. However 51 percent of Georgia voters in the AJC poll say they "approve" or "strongly approve" of how he is handling his job as a U.S. Senator.

2019 Fundraising:

\$1.9M

* 4th quarter fundraising amount

Editor's Note:

The four democratic candidates will face off in a primary election on May 19th, 2020. The winner of the primary will be on the ballots against Perdue in the November general election.

Perdue's Stances:

Abortion:

Perdue is anti-abortion.

Healthcare:

Perdue supports the Trump Administration's healthcare waivers.

Trade War:

Perdue supports toughening up on China.

Middle East:

Perdue is pro-Israel, and supports "increasing US Security" in the Middle East.

Climate Policy:

Perdue has voted to support the Trump Administration's rollbacks of environmental regulations.

Immigration:

Perdue said he wants to reduce immigration into the US.

Border Wall:

Perdue voted to fund Trump's \$5.7 billion border wall.



Teresa Tomlinson

Photo courtesy of the Teresa Tomlinson for Senate Campaign

Columbus Mayor Teresa Tomlinson has been involved in politics for most of her life. "My best friend's dad was in the GA legislature so while other girls were watching Disney movies and having sleepovers we were actually going to town halls and neighborhood association meetings so early in life I respected government as a tool to respect our challenges," she said. Because of her exposure to government processes at such an early age and continued passion through life, Tomlinson calls the U.S. government the "greatest civic invention ever known to man."

However, she was motivated to run for congress because she was concerned about the "level of dysfunction" she saw.

"They're frankly just addicted to the fight. They're not solving any problems they're just sitting around fighting with each other," she said about U.S. Congress.

With a background as federal litigator, Tomlinson said she is used to handling people who are at odds.

In addition to being a federal litigator, Tomlinson was Mayor of Columbus for two terms.

"My job as mayor was to make government work every day. I didn't have the luxury of shutting down the government to prove some point or to get in an ego battle with someone I perceived as a nemesis," she said.

Working in local and federal government taught Tomlinson that "government is a tool...and you have to know how to use it at different levels and different jurisdictions."

Like Amico, Tomlinson will prioritize healthcare

Tomlinson's Priority Issues

Voters' Rights:

Tomlinson says she wants to pass a "voting Rights" act in all 50 states to protect citizens' rights to vote.

Structure:

Tomlinson told 3484 Magazine she would request to be on the Rules Committee in the Senate if she were to win the seat. The rules committee decides what bills the General Assembly hears.

The Environment

"We don't have a single second to waste on climate change," she said, citing that agriculture is the Georgia's biggest industry and is impacted by climate.

"My job as mayor was to make government work every day. I didn't have the luxury of shutting down the government to prove some point."

2019 Fundraising:

\$532K

* 4th quarter fundraising amount



Sarah Riggs Amico

Photo courtesy of the Sarah Riggs Amico for Senate Campaign

Business woman and former candidate for Lieutenant governor said it was an “easy choice” to challenge Sen. David Perdue for his seat.

“None of the stuff I was fired up last year about is fixed. So when Stacey Abrams decided not to run, it was a pretty easy decision for me,” she said.

Amico travelled to “all corners of the state” while running for lieutenant governor in 2018.

“I was stunned not only by the goodness of the people in Georgia but also by the lack of basic healthcare in many places,” she said.

Amico considers healthcare reform a top issue in her campaign.

“Nobody should be poor because they’re sick or sick because they’re poor,” she said.

Her passion for healthcare dates back to early days of managing her trucking company, Jack Cooper Ventures. Amico said that providing healthcare for her employees was important to her, and said she took a salary cut during difficult financial times to avoid cutting corners with her employees’ healthcare.

Amico said this choice contrasted her rival, Sen. David Perdue, when he found himself in a similar situation in the early 2000s with Pillowtex filing for bankruptcy.

“the way we behaved in those moments of contrast are starkly different. For me, we represent very different ideas of how American capitalism should work,” she said.

Alongside managing a company, Amico has two young daughters. She would like to see more moms in Congress.

“Whether it’s reducing child poverty, paid leave, pay equity so many of these rights are at the front of our political debate, impacting women with families. And fewer than 5 percent of the members of U.S. Congress that are women with small children and I think that’s a massive gap. If you put a bunch more moms in congress, we’re not going to be debating things like pay equity anymore or birth control or access to abortion care. There’s a voice that needs to be held,” she said.

I was stunned not only by the goodness of the people in Georgia but also by the lack of basic healthcare in many places,”

Amico’s Priority Issues

Healthcare:

Amico considers healthcare her main priority, and told 3484 Magazine that the issue prompted her to switch her political affiliation in 2015. She wants to expand access to affordable healthcare.

Right to Vote:

Amico said her time travelling around Georgia with Stacey Abrams to mobilize voters during her Lieutenant Governor campaign ignited a passion for voting rights that she will continue to prioritize.

Economics:

Amico said she wants to expand economic opportunities in Georgia, and take on the “war on poverty.”

2019 Fundraising:

\$140K

*4th quarter fundraising amount



Jon Ossoff

Photo courtesy of the Jon Ossoff for Senate Campaign

“I may not have a traditional politicians profile. I’m younger than most politicians and I haven’t made my career in elected office. I’m an investigative journalist and I run a company that exposes corruption, war crime, and human rights abuses all over the world,” Jon Ossoff said.

The investigative journalist garnered national attention in 2017 when he ran for the U.S. House District 6 seat against Karen Handel, which became the most expensive house race in U.S. History. That seat is currently held by Rep. Lucy McBath.

But, Ossoff’s interest in politics started long before the House Race. He interned with Congressman John Lewis in high school, and currently runs a media company called The World Investigates, which produces documentaries about human rights abuses and government exploitation.

Ossoff intends to bring the same message of exposing corruption into his political career. “I’m passionate about fighting corruption, and I’m going to Washington to fight for the people of Georgia,” he said.

If he is elected as a senator, Ossoff wants his first move to be to overturn the Citizens’ United Decision, a supreme court case that allowed corporations to spend unlimited amounts of money on campaign ads. Ossoff wants to reduce the amount of money that donors can give to Political Action Committees (PACs), which are organizations that pool donations for candidates. Ossoff said it was important to him to challenge

Sen. David Perdue for his seat instead of Sen. Kelley Loeffler.

“David Perdue is the caricature of Washington corruption,” Ossoff continues, “he has taken so much money from PACs he broke federal election law.” Perdue’s campaign was fined \$30,000 for fundraising violations in the 2014 Senatorial elections.

Ossoff said he will also focus on taking on the fossil fuel industry and lowering the cost of pharmaceuticals. “These are policies that extremely well-funded lobbies have been working for decades to defeat because they threaten the profitability of some of these industries,” he continues, “There’s big money that stands to lose if we do the right thing.”

As the youngest candidate in the Senate race, Ossoff says he plans to mobilize youth voters. He said, “My message for people today is that more of the same isn’t going to work. We need younger people in office.”

“There’s big money that stands to lose if we do the right thing”

Ossoff’s Priority Issues

Healthcare:

Ossoff said he wants to lower costs of pharmaceutical drugs, to consumers.

Energy:

Ossoff said he wants to reduce reliance on fossil fuels and expand clean energy.

Limiting PAC Donations:

Ossoff told 3484 Magazine he wants to get dark money out of politics, and will start by reducing giving limits to political campaigns.

Transit:

Ossoff wants to expand transit options for U.S. residents, while also investing in transit infrastructure, like roads and train tracks.

2019 Fundraising:

\$1M

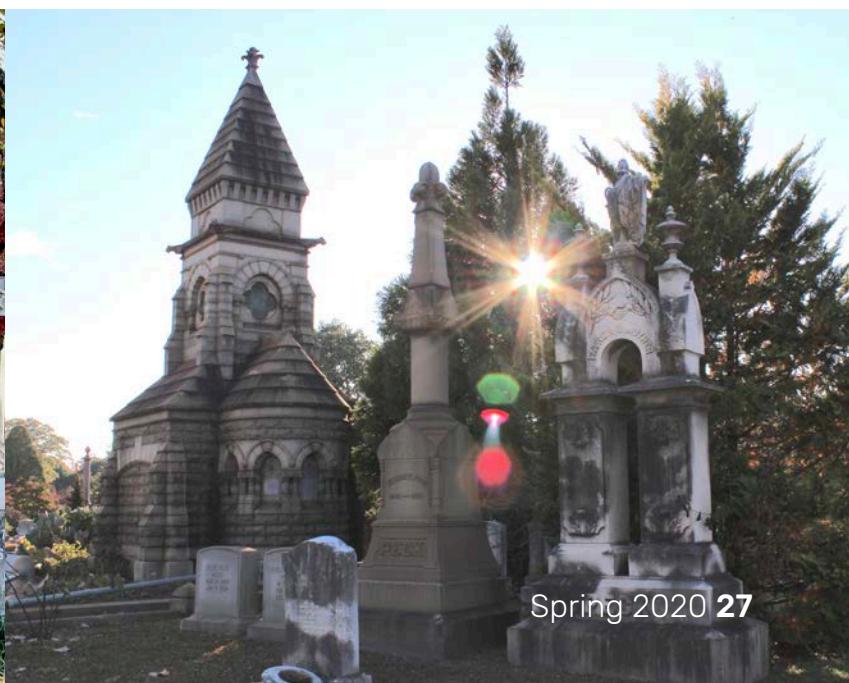
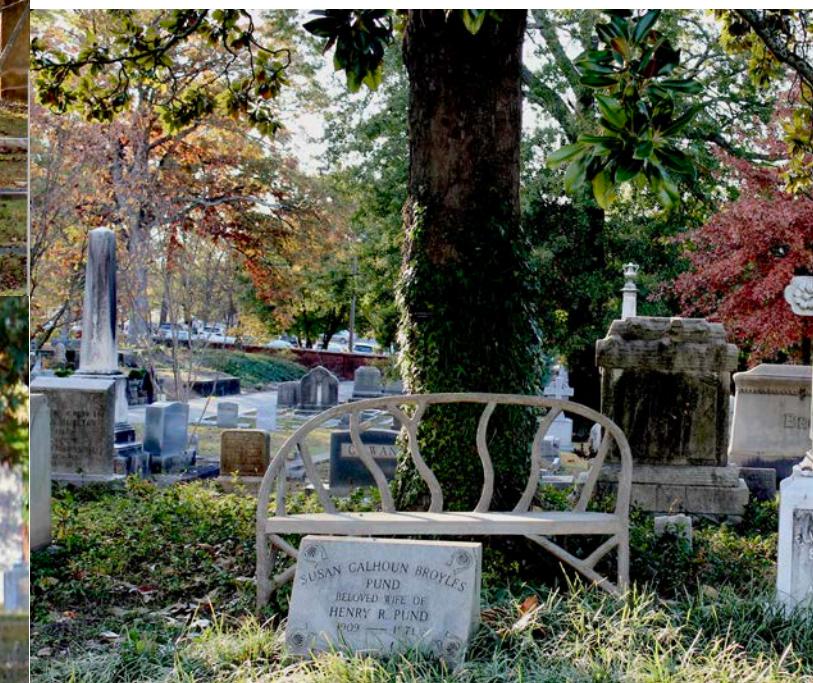
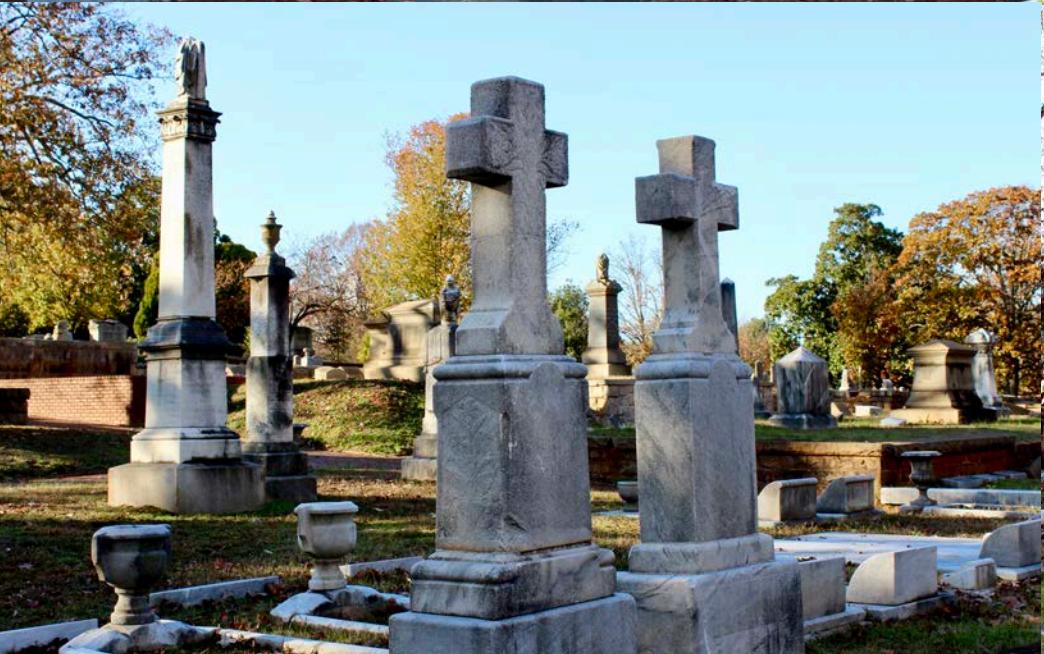
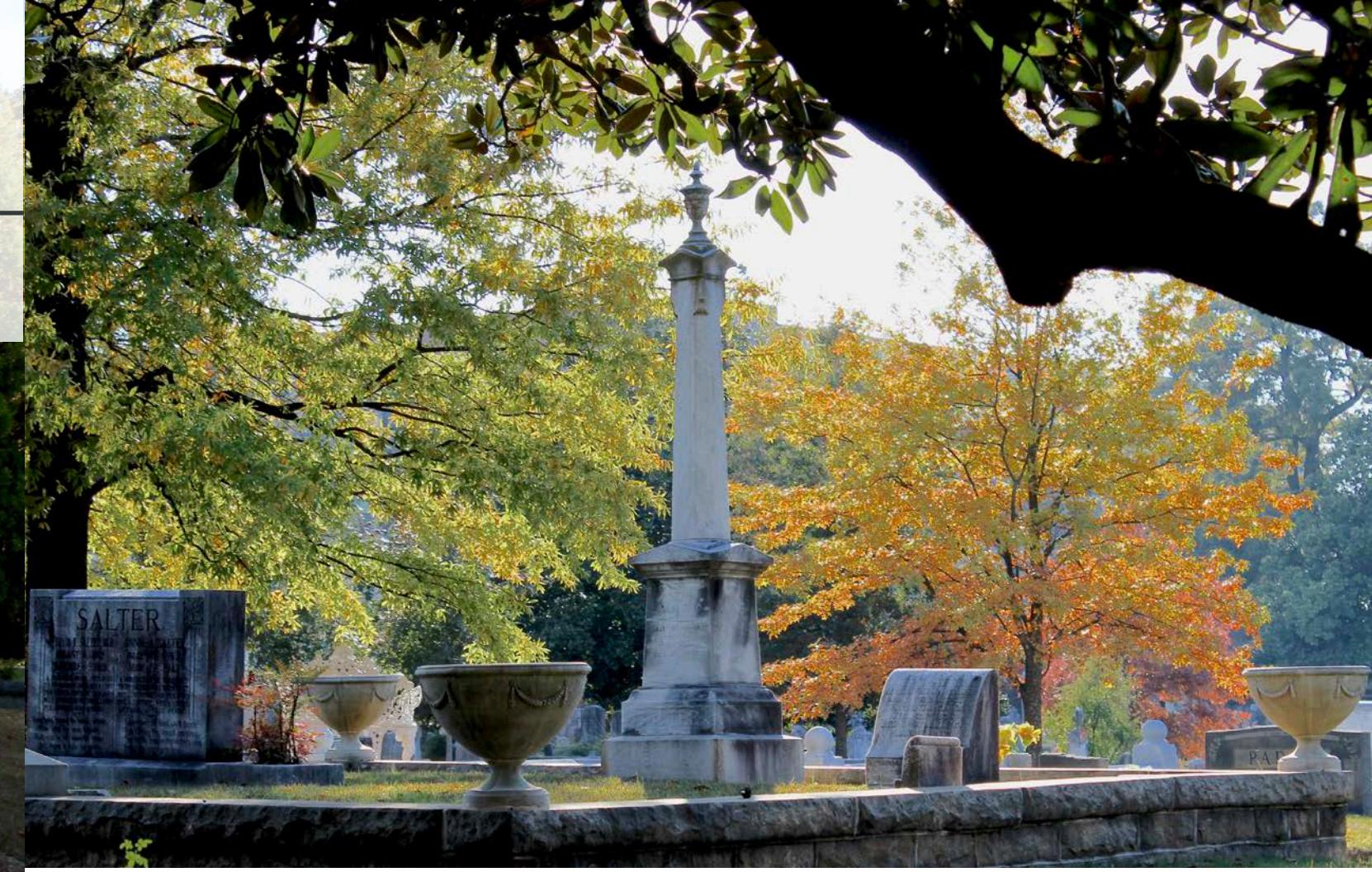
*4th quarter fundraising amount

Spring 2020 **25**

Atlanta's Past Lives

Scenes from Atlanta's most famous cemetaries

CASEY BARTON, writer



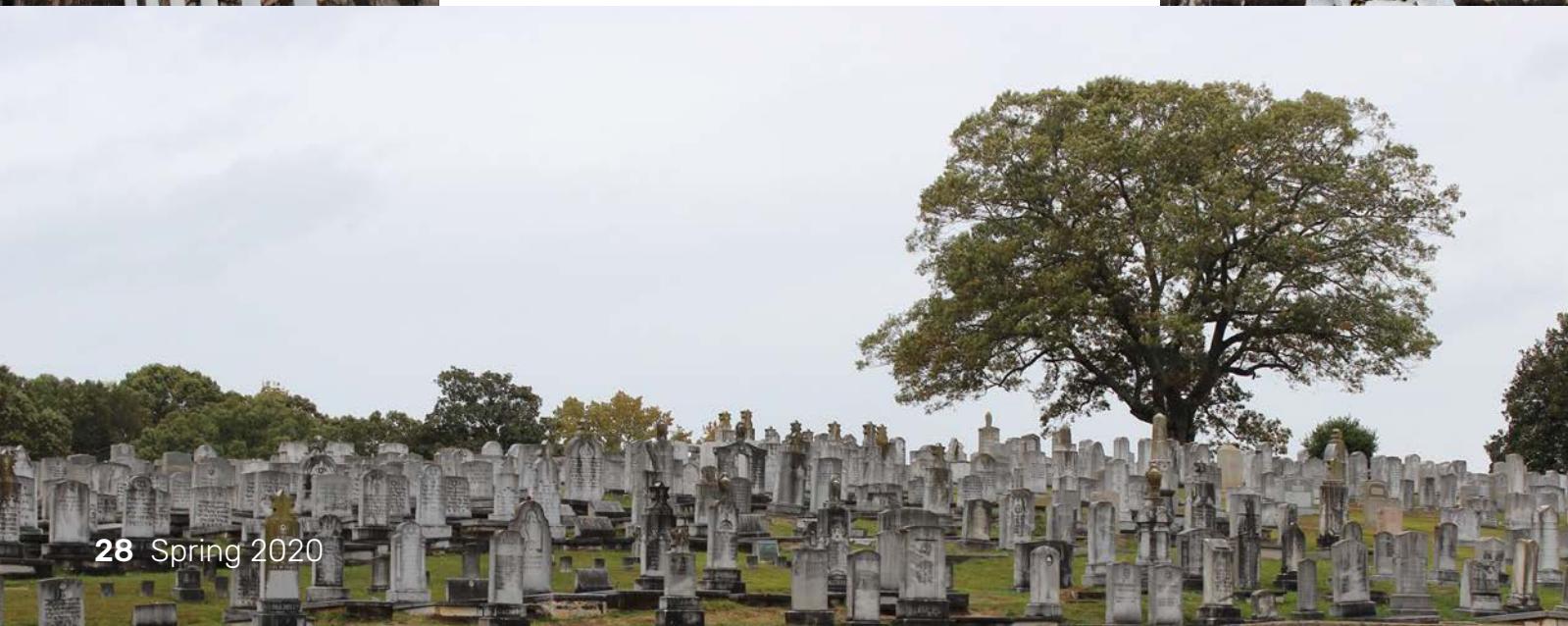
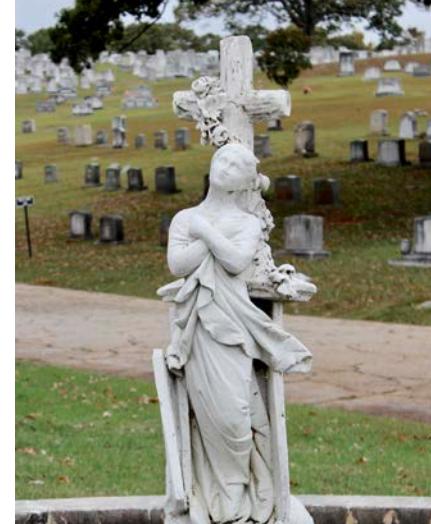
OAKLAND

Oakland Cemetery is Atlanta's oldest public park and arguably its most historic cemetery. On a typical Saturday afternoon in mid-November, it is full of strolling families, dogs, tourists, and guides touting knowledge of its notable interment figures like Margaret Mitchell, Ivan Allen Jr., and Maynard Jackson. Six acres were originally purchased in 1850 with the intention of creating a burial ground for Atlanta, and due to pressures from the Civil War, it eventually increased to forty-eight acres. The graveyard regularly hosts tours and other events like music festivals, pop-up shops, and scavenger hunts. Due to its popularity and idyllic scenery it attracts all sorts, and it is also the site of a few unusual happenstances: Death Cafe Atlanta hosts gatherings with cake where individuals can discuss what they think happens after death, and you may see a man lying in a hole listening to an audiobook, despite the fact that doing such an act in a graveyard is likely to alarm other visitors.



GREENWOOD

The first cemetery I visited was Greenwood. I parked in the farthest corner I could find and skirted around the group of people in purple t-shirts carrying shovels (I think they were planting flowers). Its hills, concrete paths, and serene nature would make it ideal for a mid-impact cardio workout, and the different Chinese, Greek, and Jewish sections make it a captivating cross section of Atlanta's diverse history.



WESTVIEW

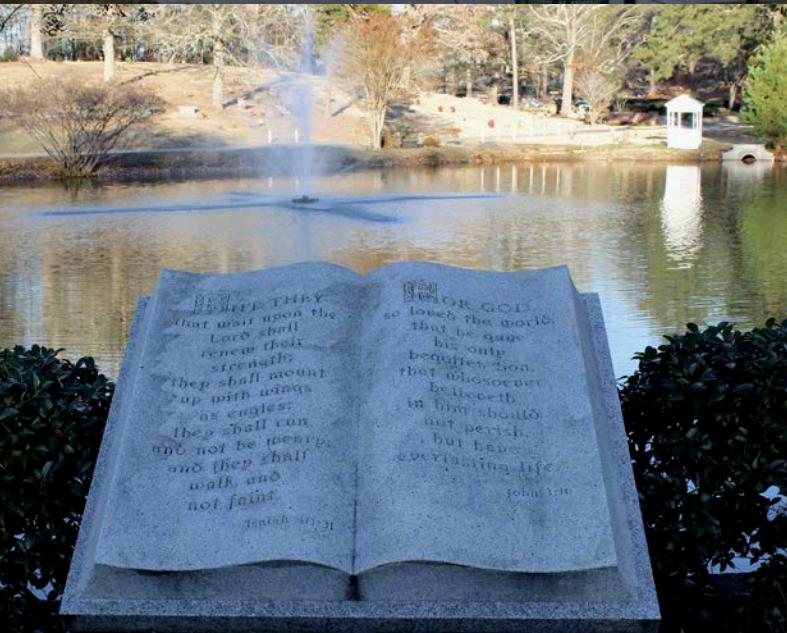
Westview Cemetery is the largest civilian cemetery in the southeast; it is so large that I walked and drove all over the place for over an hour and still failed to see over half of what the cemetery contains. Near the front entrance is a tall stone tower-looking building that turned out to be a water tower, but looked just like the tower that Rapunzel was hidden in. Westview's biggest structure is a castle-like mausoleum with a chapel and stained glass windows, which remains unlocked during the day, if anyone has a desire to amble around a silent space covered in marble. Besides the mausoleum, there are countless other monuments, statues, and gardens to explore, and with the cemetery's miles of paved roads and rolling hills, it might be a nice place for a stroll or a bike ride on a sunny day. If you're more interested in the history contained here, the cemetery also offers self-guided driving tours and bus tours (but you definitely need a car if you want to see the whole thing).





ARLINGTON

Located north of Atlanta in Sandy Springs, Arlington Memorial Park was created to serve the metro area's growing population. Rather than rows upon rows of headstones, Arlington has lots of little gardens and columbariums, private family estates and lots, and a large mausoleum, and while most of the memorial park is made up of water features, tasteful landscaping, and marble markers, a pit in the center contains a group of statues recreating Jesus's resurrection from the dead. Similar to Westview Cemetery, if you want to explore all of Arlington, you'll definitely need a car; I wandered around for close to an hour and failed to see half of the cemetery.



SOUTH VIEW

South View Cemetery was chartered in 1886 by nine black men who were tired of the disrespect and unequal treatment they experienced when trying to bury their loved ones in post-Civil War Atlanta. The cemetery has since expanded to contain Martin Luther King Jr. (who was later relocated to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center). It is maintained by the South View Cemetery Association and is still in use today. The cemetery is interesting to walk through, because due to restoration and grave-locating projects, the dates of the tombstones' placement is often very different from the burial date. Some sites were made in haste, or without stone headstones, and some have been reburied or remarked over the years.



Less Hotbed, More Outskirts

WILL THOMAS, writer

On September 16, 2017 I was at a party in Home Park. A friend recently moved into a new apartment and held a housewarming party. Like most Home Park parties, it was a mix of students, mostly from Georgia Tech. At this time Tech and I were taking a break from each other. I was interning for campaigns and nonprofits. All of us got the GTENS alerts at the same time, warning us to avoid west campus due to possible violence. We saw cop cars rush up Hemphill. With no idea what was happening less than half a mile away from us, we shrugged it off and turned our attention back to the party.

The next morning, I awoke to a flurry of GroupMe messages and found out what exactly happened. A Georgia Tech Police Department officer shot and killed Scout Shultz, the president of Georgia Tech's Pride Alliance. Two years out from this, I really have nothing to add, at least in this article, on what happened. The failings of mental health resources, a lack of proper officer training, cut back resources for queer students. These conversations came to the forefront and continue to dominate the minds of many students at Tech.

The next day, Monday September 17, 2017, a vigil was held for Scout. Out of this large vigil, a group split-off for a black-bloc style protest march down Ferst. Waving signs, chanting, and with flares in hand, this group (including some close friends of Scout) was met by GTPD, resulting in scuffles and a GTPD car being set ablaze. At the time, this was completely unbelievable, a moment for

"At the time, this was completely unbelievable."

GT students where we remember exactly where we were when this happened. (Hallie Lieberman wrote an amazing article about the incident and aftermath, which I highly recommend.)

Tensions on campus were high. Some students started fundraisers to support GTPD purchasing a new car, some put up signs showing their support for GTPD, and others even organized a "Thank a GTPD Officer" day. On the other side of the political spectrum, something much more surprising happened - progressive students organized. The Progressive Student Alliance, an organization originally cofounded by Scout to organize against HB 51, put together working groups based around campus policing, mental

health, and issues for queer students, eventually wrote a list of demands and raising awareness on the structural failings around campus. The Alliance drifted apart after the end of the semester, but out of it came YDSA (Young Democratic Socialists of America) at Tech, a full chartered student organization. Despite the creation of this new group, the momentum died out once the new semester rolled around, and most of the campus was back to business as usual.

"For many students, including myself, this was a turning point."

For many students, including myself, this was a turning point. The traditional college campus in the USA is thought of as a hotbed of progressive ideas and activism. While Georgia Tech had groups that filled this description, it was by no means a hotbed. Perhaps even more shocking was the flurry of right-wing action, along with apathy from large swaths of the student body. In my time away from GT, I had long discussions with students at other universities about their campuses, and about their political scenes. Although I hadn't realized it before gaining these points of comparison, it struck me: compared to most college campuses, Tech much further to the right politically and more politically apathetic than most other schools. Why?

I propose a simple thesis: Georgia Tech is a relatively right-wing and politically apathetic school due to a convergence of factors. First, Tech is administered by a conservative political organ. Second, Tech receives tremendous funding from conservative institutions. Finally, the elements Tech uses to market itself and the degree programs the school offers attracts a (comparatively) more conservative student body than most other college campuses.

Materially there is less support for queer students and students struggling with their mental health than, in my opinion, there should be. This is not due to a lack of need. There is an extremely loving and open queer community on campus, and there are people of all sexualities and gender identities represented at GT. The problem goes a bit deeper, to who controls Tech and the overall politics of GT.

As a public university in Georgia, GT is overseen by the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents is appointed by the Governor, and Georgia's Governor is nearly always a conservative cishet white man. The appointees usually reflect the person appointing them, with token exceptions. Of the 19 members, 17/19 are white, 15/19 are men, 13/19 work in the private sector, 2/19 work in government, 3/19 work in the legal field, and 1/19 works in education, at a Christian pre-k through 8th grade school. This board, which "oversees the public colleges and universities that comprise the University System of Georgia", is hardly representative of the student body of the University System of Georgia. How can such an unrepresentative board be suitable for making decisions affecting students' lives?

As of the Fall 2019 semester, the USG has 335,507 students, 48.3% of which self-identified their race/ethnicity as white, 9.7% as Hispanic/Latino, 0.2% as American Indian or Alaska Native, 10.1% as Asian, 25.9% as black, 0.1% as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 3.9% as two or more races/ethnicities, and 1.8% as undeclared. Gender was self-reported as 53% female and 47% male (no other gender options were listed in the

"The traditional college campus in the USA is thought of as a hotbed of progressive ideas and activism. While Georgia Tech had groups that filled this description, it was by no means a hotbed."

USG's report). Simply, put the Board of Regents does not represent the makeup of the student body of the USG and, although they are indirectly selected by students through the selection of the Governor (although 37.3% of students are non-

residents of Georgia.

The other large factor is the overall political climate of the student body. Tech is much more conservative or politically apathetic than the average university. I'll break this down even more.

a. Much of the funding of research at GT (and especially the GTRI) comes from the defense sector and oil industry, mostly due to GT's main research areas (mechanical engineering, aerospace engineering, etc.).

According to the GTRI's 2018 annual report, 22.5% of funding came from the US Navy, 18.7% of funding came from the US Army, 24.5% of funding came from the US Air Force, and 22.5% of funding came from other areas of the DoD. The graph at the bottom of the page, from the report, shows the breakdown.

The student body reflects these sources and often comes to Tech to specifically go into these fields. People with a desire to go into these areas are, typically, more conservative.

b. GT's majors typically result in high paying jobs immediately. The median salary for BS recipients in 2018 is \$70,050. GT advertises this fact heavily, attracting students who come here explicitly to quickly make a ton of money when they enter the workforce. This justification is completely understandable in the competitive world we live in, especially with the rising costs of university. However, beyond the intuition that everyone who wants to earn a ton of money holds conservative political beliefs, scientific research backs up the idea that fear and anxiety steer the political beliefs of conservative leaning individuals.

As a generation that came of age during and immediately after the Great Recession, many current, former, and soon to be students at GT are acutely aware of the possibility of financial ruin and choose to attend GT to avoid that. One of the common refrains I hear is that of the fiscally conservative, socially liberal. However often that phrase is repeated, it still tends to be the exception not the rule. Simply put, and illustrated in the graphic from Gallup above, individuals tend to hold



Source: GTRI

Comparison of Ideological Identification on Social vs. Economic Issues

	Social Conservative	Social Moderate	Social Liberal
Economic Conservative	31%	11%	3%
Economic Moderate	6%	15%	10%
Economic Liberal	1%	4%	15%

Note: Figures are the percentage of the total sample with the ideological profile. Those who did not give an opinion on either question are not shown.
Gallup, May 3-6, 2012

politically consistent viewpoints - in fact, those who self-identify as economic conservatives tend to be the most consistent. Simply put, GT advertises itself as a school to attend if you wish to earn a lot of money. This claim attracts students who tend to hold economically conservative opinions, and more often than not also hold socially conservative opinions.

c. GT is a technology school. Obvious point, but it has an effect. We have a great liberal arts college and no matter the major, requirements exist ensuring that students take at least some liberal arts courses. However, the fact that the majority of students take few liberal arts classes, where engaging in civil discourse, considering other viewpoints, and carefully structuring arguments, does mean that these skills are less valued at GT as they are engaged less frequently, hindering open dialogue and an exchange of ideas.

d. Because GT is, first and foremost, an institute of technology, students often have the misconception that STEM work occurs in a bubble. Calls for more political awareness and engagement in the STEM field is nothing new, but, based on my own experiences, a level of apathy still exists on campus when it comes to engaging with political ideas. A few loud exceptions to this exist, but the political does not pervade the work and learning at GT, although the effects of the work and learning at GT will be felt throughout the world. Science being political is nothing new, but unfortunately there's still a ways to go at GT.

In my time writing this article, I feel that it has grown, unfortunately, more important.

Private (Universities, Businesses, Non-Profits)	\$15M
State and Local Governments	\$8M
Other Non-DoD Federal Agencies	\$30M
Navy	\$101M
Army	\$84M
Air Force	\$110M
Other Department of Defense	\$101M
Total	\$449M

Activism: Facts or Feelings?



ELLA STEWART, writer

I don't think I can call myself an activist quite yet. I put a lot of time and energy into my two biggest passions, veganism and environmentalism, but for now I would simply consider myself an advocate. I spent countless hours watching vegan activists online before I became vegan, and I frequently engage with the environmentalist community online. After attending my first strikes and marches, I have a renewed perspective on the activism for these two issues.

I attended the Global Climate Strike at the Capitol in Atlanta this September. It was nice to join with like-minded people and rally together, but otherwise, it left me kind of sick to my stomach. I couldn't help but wonder if this gathering would actually cause any substantial change. Sure, we were demonstrating that the movement is growing, but what else? Did we all drive gas cars to get there? How many of us were going to stop at McDonald's on the way home? Was the march empowering spectators to take their own action in slowing climate change? It felt pointless.

On November 10, I attended the first ever Animal Rights March in Atlanta. Before arriving, I was scared that the turnout would be low or that the attendees would be leaning on extreme. I care about veganism a lot, and I didn't want to end up disappointed if this first march just reinforced that vegans are outspoken extremists. When I arrived, however, the turnout was lovely. Some of the phrases on our posters were blunt, but I wasn't too worried.

"I couldn't help but wonder if this gathering would actually cause any substantial change."

After marching slowly around the Georgia Aquarium, surrounded by young children and their families, I started to feel icky again. People were filming us. We got very few cheers or signals of appreciation. Some of the organizers of the event



Graphic by Sam Baskin

shouted profanity through the microphone near these kids. I was worried about the movement. Instead of promoting peace, were we distancing people from veganism? Were we perpetuating that all vegans are crazed lunatics?

I can't poll the families that saw the Animal Rights March, but I can make a guess that it didn't push most people closer to veganism.

Despite these sentiments, I am still grateful that I could attend these two events and be a part of this turning point in history for veganism and environmentalism. It really is wonderful. My only concern is the effectiveness, or lack thereof, of these demonstrations.

This all pushes me to think about that infamous Ben Shapiro quote, "Facts don't care about your feelings." I mean, clearly facts don't care about feelings, but people do. Even though these movements are just spreading facts, they should still consider how their audience will feel about the movement.

I have realized that I believe both facts and feelings are equally important. I can spout my logic on animal exploitation however I want, but I won't change anybody's heart unless I present it in the right way (Earthling Ed and Benny the Vegan on YouTube are experts at this!). Failing to consider people's feelings and reactions can hinder the progress of logic.

I should mention that, in some cases, disregarding emotions can be effective activism depending on

the audience. That's why so many people resonate with Ben Shapiro. It is also why Gary Yourofsky's blunt and honest vegan activism changed so many hearts back when he was a world-renowned activist.

For an inexperienced advocate like me that handles topics as controversial as climate change and veganism, however, I think a more calm, calculated, and deliberate approach to activism is necessary. We shouldn't shy away from exposing the dark truths of the world and the things that deserve attention. We should present movements, however, in a way that meets the audience where they're at. In my case, many people are completely uninformed on these issues and their solutions. Instead of dividing people and pushing them away from movements, the focus should be on education and empowerment. Activists can educate their audience on the reality of these issues, and they can follow up by empowering them with solutions to these problems.

Hopefully, this way, activism can gain more momentum and peaceful movements can be interpreted as just that: peaceful.



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