

Election Guide 2014: Georgia's Candidates for United States Senate Address our State's Most Critical Health Challenges

Session Organizer: Gary D. Nelson, PhD, President, Healthcare Georgia Foundation

Speakers:

- Terry Mathews, Mathews and Maxwell, Inc.
- Scott Maxwell, Mathews and Maxwell, Inc.

Respondents:

- Mary Eleanor Wickersham, DPA, Assist Professor of Public Affairs, College of Coastal Georgia
- Andy Miller, MEd, CEO & Editor, Georgia Health News

Facilitator: Robert Nesbit Jr., MD, Board Member, Healthcare Georgia Foundation



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About the Election Guide

- Nonpartisan public education effort designed to inform Georgia voters about our state's health challenges and each candidate's vision for a healthier Georgia.
- Each candidate was invited to provide prepared responses to questions identified by key stakeholders
- The positions, opinions and policies of all the candidates are presented exactly how they were submitted by the candidates



The Candidates

- Cong. Phil Gingrey
Republican



- Cong. Jack Kingston
Republican



- Mr. David Perdue
Republican



- Cong. Paul Brown
Republican



- Ms. Karen Handel
Republican



- Ms. Michelle Nunn
Democrat



- Dr. Branko Radulovacki
Democrat





Paul Brown- Republican





Phil Gingery-Republican





Karen Handel-Republican





Jack Kingston-Republican





Michelle Nunn-Democrat





David Perdue-Republican





Branko Radulovacki-Democrat





Question 1

- How do you believe our country should address the problem of 48 million Americans without health insurance?



Question 2

- The United States has poor health outcomes and high health expenditures when compared to other industrialized countries. What approach would you take towards improving outcomes and lowering costs?



Question 3

- Do you believe government has an obligation to provide healthcare for people who cannot do so for themselves? If so, what circumstances should trigger government support?



Question 4

- What role should the government play in trying to impact people's individual behaviors (smoking, poor eating habits, etc.) that affect the cost of their healthcare?



Question 5

- A significant portion of Medicaid and Medicare dollars are currently spent on the aged and disabled. What is your plan to address the needs of this demographic as it rapidly swells with a wave of aging baby boomers?



Question 6

- America suffers from great health disparities correlated to race, ethnicity, income, and geography. What are your ideas to address these differences?



Question 7

- The Affordable Care Act reduces funding to hospitals that care for a disproportionate share of the indigent and uninsured because it assumed such support would not be needed with the expansion of Medicaid eligibility. Without disproportionate share (DSH) support, many safety net and rural hospitals say they will have to reduce services to all patients. Should federal DSH support be reinstated for states that do not expand Medicaid eligibility?



Thank you for attending!

A copy of the Election Guide is available for download on the Foundation's website: www.healthcaregeorgia.org