

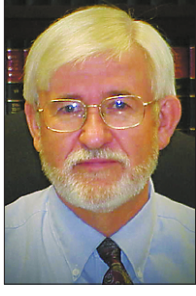
Candidate Q&A

State Senate District 52



Preston W. Smith

33 years old; Attorney; Republican



Jerry Wood

57 years old; Pastor / Mediator / Attorney; Democrat

Experience:

State Senator, 2003-present; Committees: chairman, Judiciary; vice chair, Ethics, Retirement, Reapportionment; member, Health, Appropriations; former administration floor leader.

Teacher, veteran, managing attorney for a statewide legal services program, Juvenile Court judge, Chief Magistrate of Floyd County, pastor of Macedonia Baptist Church.

Do economic development officials need more leeway to conduct private talks with industries considering an investment in Georgia?

Iam supportive of government that is open and accessible. Private discussions to recruit jobs need to include the public at the earliest practical time.

No, government in the sunshine is the best policy.

Do you favor eliminating parole for convicted felons?

Ido not support using early release or parole to reduce prison populations and believe no inmate should be paroled without notice to their victims.

Not retroactively.

Do you support increasing the rate of state funding for local school systems in 2007?

Yes. I support increased funding to our local schools to recruit and retain excellent teachers and to provide them with more tools and increased flexibility.

Yes. The state is failing to meet its own constitutional obligation. Increasing the rate of state funding would give needed tax relief to local property owners.

Should the state ensure that all registered voters have photo IDs before implementing the requirement?

Voter photo IDs ensure everyone's vote counts and cannot be rendered meaningless by others' fraud. They should be secure, free and easily available to everyone.

Yes. Voting is a right not a privilege. When rights are abridged, safeguards need to be implemented.

Should the state pass along 80 percent of federal bioterrorism preparedness money to local first responders, as sought by the Association County Commissioners of Georgia?

The federal government has restrictions and requirements on how a state spends its bioterrorism preparedness money. I support first responders getting priority funding, when feasible.

No. If a first strike happens, resources need to be directed to that specific location, not squirreled away in 159 different locations.

Do you back a proposal that would let a water permit-holder sell or trade its withdrawal allowance to another user?

No. Our community's clean, abundant water deserves protection by treating it less like a commodity and requiring approval of the issuing authority for withdrawal allowances.

No. Water should be viewed as a public resource not a commodity.