

Governor Deal Bio

Since taking office in 2011, Governor Nathan Deal has led Georgia to become the No. 1 state in the nation for business for five years in a row - a first in Georgia history - and helped create more than 675,000 private sector jobs. In the last six years, Georgia's job growth has outpaced the national average while its population has jumped from 10th to 8th nationally.

Through tax reform, workforce development initiatives and investment in education and infrastructure, the state continues to grow local small businesses and attract top companies from around the world. During Governor Deal's tenure, Georgia has become a global destination for companies in a wide range of industries. Under his leadership, Georgia has produced seven balanced budgets, saved millions of taxpayer dollars by maintaining Georgia's AAA bond rating and grown the Rainy Day Reserve Fund to more than \$2 billion.

In order to keep up with a growing infrastructure demand, Governor Deal implemented a number of investments in Georgia's transportation system, including the Transportation Funding Act of 2015, which will generate \$10 billion in new transportation funding over 10 years. Transportation projects under Governor Deal have alleviated traffic and improved safety for a growing state, including the completion of the Jimmy DeLoach Parkway extension near the Port of Savannah.

Governor Deal also implemented a series of bipartisan criminal justice reforms, including expanded access to Accountability Courts, greater sentencing discretion for juvenile court judges and removing barriers to give returning citizens a chance to rejoin the workforce and support their families. These reforms have already paid dividends by saving taxpayers \$264 million and reducing the need for 5,000 prison beds.

Governor Deal has also made investments in education a top priority to strengthen the workforce pipeline that runs from the classroom to the job market. As governor, he has devoted a higher percentage of the budget to K-12 funding than any governor in the past 50 years, worked closely with the General Assembly to fully fund K-12 education and save the HOPE Scholarship from bankruptcy, expanded the HOPE Grant for students attending technical colleges, and established the REACH Georgia Scholarship, a public-private partnership that provides scholarships to high-achieving students in underserved areas.

A Sandersville native, Governor Deal served in the U.S. Army at Fort Gordon in Augusta after graduating with college and law degrees with honors from Mercer University. He then began a private law practice in Gainesville, the hometown of his wife, Sandra Deal. While his wife taught in Hall County public schools, Governor Deal began a career in public service, working as a prosecutor, judge, state senator and U.S. Congressman for Georgia's 9th District. Governor Deal was re-elected as governor in 2014.