

**ABOUT DOUG**

Doug Heckman has long-standing ties in Gwinnett County and has lived here for 20 years. He has devoted his life to “Service Before Self” starting with college at West Point and serving in the Regular Army as a Green Beret. He remains a Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve and has been deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq in Special Forces operations. Doug experienced how bringing all the sides together in Iraq brought effective solutions and believes we can and should do that here.

Doug also received an MBA from Duke University and his business background includes serving as a Managing Director and now a Marketing Executive in a large financial firm. His leadership and communication skills have been constantly developed and refined throughout his business and military career.

Doug and his wife Pat have been married for 28 years. They are active members at Simpsonwood United Methodist Church, where Doug has chaired numerous committees. His two sons are currently cadets at West Point and their daughter is a 10th grader at Norcross High School.



**DOUG HECKMAN ON THE ISSUES — IN BRIEF**

**National Security** requires a strong military but also relies on a broad foundation of other measures in our society. Success in Iraq and Afghanistan is key to our continued security, but we have to put high importance on care for our veterans, energy independence, security of our borders, and national preparations for the impact of climate change.

**Energy Security** requires a U.S. energy independence plan that spans the private and public sectors. It must include improved conservation, increased domestic oil production with environmental safeguards, improved power generation with reduced emissions, and alternative and renewable energy sources.

**Education** is the silver bullet for so many of our nation’s problems. The key to any real education reform is to treat educators like the professionals they are and make sure that they are at the table when policy is made. Reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act should require sustainable funding, closing achievement gaps, and make sure educators have what they need to get the job done.

**Tax Reform.** It’s an issue, no doubt! For a great and *realistic* solution, check out the bipartisan Wyden-Gregg tax plan currently circulating in Congress. It is revenue neutral. It cuts the number of tax brackets, cuts top corporate tax rates, and kills the Alternative Minimum Tax. It triples the standard deduction (a middle-class tax cut!) and authorizes Lifetime Savings Accounts.

**Fiscal Discipline.** The Federal deficit is unacceptable, and both parties share the blame. There are many avenues for savings, from reallocating funds from the Iraq war (which is quickly drawing down) to significant overhauls of bloated bureaucracies and readdressing Federal versus State spending. Additionally, it’s time to reintroduce a Balanced Budget Amendment.

**Doing the right thing for America.** We need people in Congress who want limited government, lower taxes, and liberty but who also understand that our national issues are incredibly complex and their solutions require compromise. Let’s build a cooperative and constructive relationship between the private and public sectors, and leave behind lobbyists and rigid ideologies and outlooks that don’t foster progress.



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