

NAME: Christopher James Irvin
PARTY: Democratic
SEEKING: Commissioner of Agriculture



Why are you seeking your office?

To return attention of agriculture, back to its consumer oriented roots, not only to give it to the profit driven agribusinesses that currently control it. To protect the food Georgian's consume from the ground up. To limit the number of pesticides used on crops and ingested by livestock. To preserve the state's farming community. To not change policy to only benefit big business and to represent all farmers before policy changes take affect. To respect democracy and not play dictator to farmers like recent situations in the onion industry. To stop the power grab toward the Soil and Water Conservation districts.

What do you expect to accomplish if elected?.

I expect to strengthen food protection by making sure people are assigned by expertise and not just textbook knowledge. To utilize the latest technology to respond to crisis faster. To work toward real time monitoring that would have been useful during the lastest pitted fruit recall.

I expect better promotion of local farm co-ops, CSA's, and the investment in practices related with sustainable farming and healthier food production. It is necessary to work toward education and ideas that will promote and recruit the newer generations of farmers.

What distinguishes your candidacy?

I am a blue collar servant. A small farmer and business owner of over 15 years. I know what it takes to adapt to economic struggles and survive hard challenges. I have been apart of agriculture all my life. I have had the honor of being the grandson of former Commissioner Irvin and know the inner workings of how to lead people, run business, and serve the farming community. Most of all, I am a working man, not a politician. Agriculture is not a partisan issue, it is a personal one.

What are the key issues in your race?

Three key issues are protecting, preserving, and growing Georgia's agriculture. The critical issues currently are budget restraints, failure of consumer protection through gas inspection no longer dated with loss of accountability, bypassing legislation to force government into the lives of farmers in the onion industry to pander special interest, and the power grab into Soil and Water Conservation further forcing government into the lives of our communities.

Pick one issue. Expand on how you will address it.

Shipping date changed to onion growers. The current commissioner was the chief lobbyist and chairman of the agribusiness council for 20+ years. The onion industry contributes \$150 million annually. One onion grower has about 35% of that market. When the USDA grades the onions #1 the onions can be shipped. Special interest influence caused a new ship date enforcement flooding the market and driving the price down taking money from farmers. This was done without the legislative process. This is a huge betrayal of a constitutional seat.

Give a 100 word summary of your background.

In my youth I worked 8 years in a country store. My duties were produce, bait, tackle, preparing food for consumption, fuel, weights and measures, stock and orders. I made two trips a day to the laying house to gather eggs. Though duties in the laying house went beyond gathering. I have and continue to manage two family farms that consist of cattle, horses, gardens, and all the duties that follow. I management inherited timber land and utilize it in my construction business I started after 5 years of college. I was an athlete and majored in history/ pre-law. I (100)