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Performance Summary

Several writers have said: *“The greatest threat to America is an uninformed voter”*. Perhaps this can also be applied to conservative Republicans who become frustrated when nothing changes after they unknowingly vote for establishment candidates who always claim to be conservative. That can happen frequently because **uninformed voters typically vote based on what candidates say not what they have actually done.**

In a small effort to begin to change that, VoterGA has produced the following track record analysis for two Republican senators who have garnered attention from many Georgia conservatives during the 2018 gubernatorial campaign. This analysis intentionally disregards any campaign claims either senator may have made. Instead it considers only their **committee work, voting record and proactive historical stances**. It also considers **actual personal experiences** that our members had at the legislature with the senators during the roughly same time period that they served.

The analysis identifies 18 topics on which the actual performance of the senators differs significantly. Each of the topics has a reasonably clear conservative vs. establishment position. For a couple of topics where the position is not quite as obvious, either senator could sincerely attempt to argue the reverse position that the analysis has taken.

The analysis shows that **In 15 of 18 track record topics or 83% of the time**, Michael Williams adhered to the “grassroots” conservative position while Hunter Hill conformed to the establishment Republican position or took no timely position at all. On only 3 of the 18 track record topics or 17% of the time Hunter Hill proactively took a more conservative position despite claiming to be the “true conservative” in the April 10th Cobb debate.

The analysis **takes no position** on whether conservative or establishment policies are best for Georgians. It simply distinguishes the difference between them and aligns the candidates properly based on **their actual legislative performance.**

Performance Checklist

The following [checklist](#) summarizes the subsequent performance detail of this analysis by topic:

#	Year	Bill	Topic	Hunter Hill		Michael Williams	
Track Record Summary Analysis							
1	2015	HB310	Government Expansion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Williams voted against unlimited expansion of state government and new police powers for the governor. Hunter Hill was present but chose not to vote against the governor's criminal reform bill	
2	2016	HB941	Equal Justice	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Williams voted against a double standard of justice allowing prosecutors to subvert the grand jury process. Hunter Hill voted for the bill in committee and moved it from Rules to the Senate floor where he voted for it again	
3	2015	HB91	Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hunter Hill voted to replace state controlled student graduation testing with AP and IB program performance statements conforming to a common core curriculum. Michael Williams voted to maintain state standards	
4	2017	HB170	Taxation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Williams voted for an additional \$.02 per gallon gas tax and a hotel motel tax. Hunter Hill voted for the smaller gas tax and a \$5 per day rental car surcharge in lieu of the hotel/ motel tax	
5	2017	SR24	Government Transparency	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Williams co-signed a Senate Resolution to record recorded votes for all amendments. Hunter Hill opposed the resolution in committee where it died	
6	2017	HB434	Eminent Domain	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hunter Hill voted to allow local governments to condemn private property of a Georgia citizen for purposes other than public use. Michael Williams voted against condemning Georgians' private property for such purposes	
7	Multi	Multi	Freedom of Speech	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Williams sponsored a freedom of speech bill for education board members to discuss board activities outside of board meetings and defended Cherokee Co. students who were kicked out of class for wearing Make America Great Again T-shirts. Hunter Hill did not co-sign and took no action to defend the Cherokee Co. students	
8	2014	HB575	2nd Amendment Protections	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hunter Hill weakened a safe carry bill to remove carry provisions and add carry exceptions while the bill was in his committee, thus drawing severe criticism from local gun organizations. Michael Williams is one of the leading gun rights advocates in the country, appearing on national news shows and he maintains a NRA A rating	
9	2018	HB649	Government Regulations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hunter Hill voted to require state licensing for lactation consultants who advise breast feeding mothers but do not provide treatment. Michael Williams voted against requiring such professional licensing which is redundant with existing professional licensing for such consultants	
10	2018	SB403	Verifiable, Auditable Voting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Williams amended the voting system bill with a clause intended to prohibit tabulation of unverifiable votes hidden in bar codes. Hunter Hill indicated to our members that voting system concerns were conspiracy theory	
11	2017	SB183	Transportation Infrastructure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hunter Hill voted for final passage of this bill that removed the competitive bid process for toll roads. Michael Williams voted against removing the competitive bid process when it received final passage	
12	Multi	Multi	Illegal Immigration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Williams co-signed SB417 in 2018 to distinguish drivers license for citizens and non citizens. In 2014, Hunter Hill sponsored SB122 which made no such distinction	
13	2015	SB94	Privacy Protection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Williams voted for this bill that had witness identification accuracy provisions but allowed officers to video record in a property without consent of the owner and not disclose the recording. Hunter Hill voted against the bill	
14	2017	SB233	Religious Liberty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Williams co-signed the bill that provided victims of religious discrimination by local government agencies similar state protections that already exist at the federal level. Hunter Hill did not co-sign it	
15	Multi	GRTL	Life and Personhood	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Williams sought and received a Georgia Right to Life (GRTL) endorsement in 2016. Hunter Hill has not received a GRTL endorsement from the time he campaigned for his Senate seat in 2012 to the time he resigned it	
16	2018	SB918	Corporate Welfare	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Williams objected to a Rules suspension that attempted to fast track the extension of a \$40 million jet fuel tax credit and the credit eventually failed in the Senate as momentum against it increased. Hunter Hill had resigned his seat by then but remained silent during the critical early period when the credit was on a "fast track" for passage	
17	2015	HB202	Capital Cronyism	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Williams voted for this bill that contained provisions to protect property tax assessment appellants but contained a million dollar ad valorem tax break for manufacturing headquarters. Hunter Hill voted against this bill	
18	2017	HB650	Historical Preservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Williams took an immediate stand on CNN and elsewhere when Stacy Abrams suggested blasting the carvings off of Stone Mountain. At the same time WABE asked Hunter Hill for comments and he took no clear stand	
				17%	83%	CONSERVATIVE PERFORMANCE	

1. Government Expansion

In 2015, Gov. Nathan Deal achieved passage of his [HB310](#) criminal justice reform package. The bill was strongly opposed by nearly all conservatives because of provisions that:

- a) Established three new large powerful entities that were unnecessary to implement the bill objectives and that performed functions already conducted by other organizations that the bill did not dissolve (Page 1, Line 1-3)
- b) New entities included a massive Department of Community Services (DCS) that had no limitations on the number of units or employees it can have (Page 6, line 168-182)
- c) Previous career employees of those original organizations essentially became political employees who serve at the pleasure of the governor and his DCS Commissioner (Page 5, Line 155-158)
- d) The bill allowed the DCS Commissioner to confer full police powers on any or all employees thus giving the governor his own private police force to arrest and control those who may oppose his policies (Page 6, Lines DCS 191-204)
- e) It bestowed judicial authority on the DCS to handle situations that would normally be handled by a judges in court (Page 19, Lines 616-640) and removed the presumption of innocence in certain cases by allowing DCS employees to impose restrictions or conditions in a pre-trial release program before an individual is convicted of a crime (Page 15 Line 479-508)

How did the senators vote?

- Michael Williams did not vote for the bill when a voice vote was taken in its Public Safety Committee hearing and he [voted](#) against the bill on the Senate floor
- Hunter Hill was present for the [Senate vote](#) but like 13 other senators he did not have the courage to vote against the Governor's bill and the bill passed

2. Equal Justice

In 2016, the Prosecuting Attorneys Council drafted [HB941](#) which set up a double standard of justice for law enforcement officers involved in murders such as that of Dublin's David Hooks who was murdered in his home after a horribly misguided drug raid. The AJC [documented](#) over 170 such cases of Georgians who were fatally shot by police without a single excessive force conviction. The bill pretended to help alleviate the problem but the language actually further subverted the grand jury process by subordinating it to district attorneys who have a track record of protecting peace officers in such cases:

- a) HB941 mandated that 8 jurors must agree to investigate a peace officer, but there is no such requirement to investigate any other individual in current law or in this bill. (8 jurors are required to investigate any elected or appointed official and their office) [Line 22-25]
- b) HB941 prohibited a grand jury from investigating a peace officer until the D.A. has a report, although no such law exists today [Line 25-27]
- c) HB941 prohibited a grand jury from investigating a peace officer for serious crimes if a D.A. makes an indictment on a lesser charge. No such restriction exists today [Line 30-34]

- d) HB941 shifted the power to indict from the grand jury to the D.A since the grand jury can only request the D.A to indict a peace officer and not instruct them [Lines 77-81], [Lines 61-66]
- e) HB941 obstructed a grand jury by requiring them to delay their incident review of a peace officer until a D.A. has a report although no such delay is imposed for a grand jury criminal inquiry of anyone else today or in this bill [Lines 31-33]
- f) HB941 provided a loophole for a peace officer to reduce the statute of limitations on murder to one year if a D.A. fails to assist the grand jury within a year although there is no statute of limitation for murder in all other cases today [Line 27-30]
- g) HB941 gave power of transcript or evidence redaction to a D.A. in cases involving a peace officer although those documents normally are the custody of the Grand Jury Clerk or Clerk of Superior Court [Line 66-70]
- h) HB941 subordinated the current grand jury court reporting power to the D.A. or peace officer in peace officer cases although that normally is a grand jury power in other cases [Line 102-105]
- i) HB941 allowed a D.A. who can have a vested interest in indicting a victim of a peace officer to impanel a grand jury when a peace officer is investigated, although impaneling is normally done in today only by a judge or by petition of an elected official [Line 130-135]

How did the senators vote?

- Michael Williams [voted](#) against this bill on the Senate floor
- Hunter Hill voted for this bill in the Senate Judiciary Non-Civil Committee after ignoring our testimony and written concerns presented to him prior to the hearing. After the bill passed the committee, Hunter then selected the bill to move from Rules committee to the Senate floor where he [voted](#) for the bill. When a member asked why he did that despite all of our concerns, Hunter replied that he did it as a personal favor for his friend Rich Golick, the bill author.

3. Education

Regardless of political beliefs, nearly all Georgians want more local control of education. However, politicians continue introducing bills that federalize more aspects of education such as those with common core components or they centralize more aspects of education under state government control such as the state charter school initiative.

In 2015, [HB91](#) replaced the requirements for Georgia students to pass high school graduation tests with [ambiguous performance statements](#) about nationalized Advanced Placement and the United Nations' International Baccalaureate work. Advanced Placement (AP) is owned by and controlled by a private company named The College Board whose president David Coleman led the Common Core initiative. The College Board recently rewrote the AP U.S. History [framework](#) to remove many American historical facts and replace them with bizarre alternative historical opinions and anti-American propaganda. Their [revisionist history](#) in 2014 continues to be the subject of [outrage](#) both nationally and in Georgia.

How did the senators vote?

- Hunter Hill [voted](#) for HB91 on the Senate Floor and sponsored the 2017 SB68 bill that contained a common core component to require nationally normed student assessments rather than state and locally controlled assessments. Nevertheless, Hunter still claims to be strongly opposed to common core.
- Michael Williams [voted](#) against HB91 on the Senate Floor and withdrew from co-signing SB68 after being alerted to the problems by organizations such as the [Educational Freedom Coalition](#).

4. Taxation

In 2017, the General Assembly passed the [HB170](#) tax package. The bill replaced the sales tax on gas with an increase in the gas excise tax from 7.5 to 26 cents per gallon resulting in a net overall tax increase. The bill removed tax credits for low emission and zero omission vehicles, but maintained jet fuel tax credits. It also authorized counties to levy additional transportation taxes. The bill, as passed by the Senate, offset the gas tax with a 24 cent per gallon increase and a \$5 per day auto rental surcharge for every vehicle rented in Georgia. However, after the bill passed both bodies in different forms, a Joint Conference Committee upped the rate to 26 cents per gallon and replaced the auto rental surcharge with a \$5 per night hotel and motel tax for every room sold in Georgia.

How did the senators vote on the Conference Committee Report?

- Michael Williams [voted](#) for the Conference Committee Report changes
- Hunter Hill [voted](#) against the Conference Committee Report changes

5. Government Transparency

In 2017, Sen. Josh McKoon introduced [SR24](#) a Senate Resolution to require roll call votes for all floor amendments. The proposed change in Senate Rules explicitly stated: "(f) Unless the members of the Senate by unanimous consent otherwise agree, each floor amendment offered for adoption with regard to a bill or resolution being considered by the Senate shall be voted upon by a roll-call vote and the results of which shall be entered into the Journal."

How did the senators support this bill?

- Michael Williams co-signed the resolution
- Hunter Hill voted against the resolution in the Rules Committee which effectively killed it

6. Eminent Domain

In 2017, the House introduced the [HB434](#) eminent domain bill that allows local governments to condemn private property of a Georgia citizen and take control of it through the courts even for purposes **other than** public use.

How did the senators vote on this bill?

- Michael Williams [voted](#) against the eminent domain bill and the house [changes](#)

- Hunter Hill [voted](#) for the final passage of the eminent domain bill and was [not present](#) for the vote on the Senate version

7. Freedom of Speech

In 2016, the General Assembly passed [SB275](#) a simple free speech bill to ensure the right of educational board members to speak freely about policies and actions of their boards outside of board meetings. In 2017, free speech in education became an even bigger issue when two Cherokee County River Ridge High School students were kicked out of class by their math teacher. The teacher made the bizarre claim that their Make America Great Again T-Shirts were akin to a “Neo-Nazi” slogan and a “Swastika”. A Turning Point [video](#) of the teacher’s comments went viral on the internet and brought national attention to the incident.

How did the senators respond?

- Michael Williams sponsored the SB275 free speech bill for educators and sponsored the SB361 free speech bill for students and faculty in 2018. He also organized a rally at River Ridge High and continually brought local TV attention to the matter until the teacher was forced to resign
- Hunter Hill did not co-sign SB275 and was absent for the Senate vote, but voted for the free speech bill on final passage. He took no pro-active action on behalf of the River Ridge students to protect their Constitutional rights

8. 2nd Amendment Protections

In 2014, the House passed [SB875](#) which contained additional provisions involving the right to carry a gun for defense purposes. The bill then went to the Senate Public Safety Committee for consideration prior to a Senate floor vote. There it was weakened without the author being present. New carry provisions were gutted and new carry exceptions were added. The bill eventually died in committee.

What roles have the senators played?

- Hunter Hill was the committee member who weakened SB875 according to postings from the leaders of [Georgia Carry](#) and [Georgia Gun Owners](#). Hunter also indicated on [video](#) in a recent forum that he would support raising the age of gun ownership from 18 to 21. That means 18-20 year olds who are trained to use all sorts of weapons in the military would not be able to own a gun to defend their own family at home. The local gun groups have been severely critical of Hunter’s positions, and he has never been endorsed by the National Rifle Association (NRA)
- Michael Williams was not in the Senate in 2014, but has become one of the leading advocates in America on maintaining current 2nd Amendment gun rights and focusing attention on how to better protect students after the recent Florida high school shooting. He has appeared on CNN and Fox News, has an A rating from the NRA and has not weakened a gun bill.

9. Government Regulation

In 2018, the House introduced [HB649](#) to create a new group within the office of the Secretary of State (SOS) to regulate lactation consultants (line 61) The bill requires any lactation consultant including those in private practice to comply with established international education and clinical standards before being able to offer any advice to child bearing families. (line 106) Lactation consultants are trained to assist mothers in preventing and solving breastfeeding difficulties. The International Board of Lactation Consultant Examiners (IBLCE) already provides an exam and certification for lactation consultants.

Georgia Professional licensing has come under fire for attempting to unnecessarily regulate non-essential service professionals such as cosmetologists and librarians. Such licensing does not protect public health but instead simply generates money for the general fund. Most of the money raised is not returned to the SOS office to cover expenses that it could incur such as purchasing new Georgia voting equipment. It can be argued that lactation consultants perform a health related practice; however, their role is typically limited to an advisory capacity on issues such as soreness and milk supply instead of physical treatment.

How did the senators vote?

- Michael Williams [voted](#) against regulating lactation consultants
- Hunter Hill [voted](#) for regulating lactation consultants

10. Verifiable, Auditable Voting

Georgia's antiquated, unverifiable voting system has been ranked as the worst in the country because it casts and stores internal votes that cannot be verified by the voter, audited by elections officials or recounted for candidates. A new vendor system that was piloted during 2017 in Rockdale County also casts unverifiable votes hidden in bar codes that are tabulated for the results. In 2018, local election Integrity advocates unanimously opposed such a system and sought to prohibit their use in Georgia.

How did the senators respond to these concerns raised by election integrity advocates?

- Michael Williams placed an amendment on Senate Bill 403 during its 2018 Ethics Committee [hearing](#) in an attempt to help prohibit those new unverifiable voting systems that tabulate votes hidden in bar codes. The amendment and bill passed unanimously in the committee
- Hunter Hill has ignored public concerns with the existing unverifiable voting system and indicated to our members that he believes such concerns are mostly conspiracy theory

11. Transportation Infrastructure

In 2017, Gov. Nathan Deal sought passage of [SB183](#) a bill to allow public private partnership operation of Georgia toll roads. It is believed to have been drafted by the Georgia Public Policy Foundation whose leader until recently has been headed by Kelly McCutchen, a cousin of Hunter Hill. The original bill allowed mandatory tolls, permanent tolls, tolls on existing capacity, and extension of credit to contractors even without proper financial qualifications. Some of these provisions that were offensive to

most Georgians were identified and addressed in the House Transportation Committee, but the bill still allowed the removal of the competitive bid process. (Lines 81-84, 126-131) Proponents of the substitute that passed from the House back to the Senate argued for “value engineering” instead, which is a concept that has yet to show it has saved Georgians any money on an end-to-end project.

So how did the senators vote on the substitute?

- Michael Williams [voted](#) against the substitute
- Hunter Hill [voted](#) for the substitute

12. Illegal Immigration

In 2018, the House introduced [SB417](#) to distinguish driver licenses for Georgia citizens vs. those for illegal immigrants who had been temporarily granted deferred action on federal deportation. Standard Georgia driver licenses can be used for activities such as voting and boarding airliners. Some such drivers licenses could have been distinguished in 2013 when the Senate passed [SB122](#) to authorize temporary driver permits for non-citizen applicants that have an expired Georgia driver’s license. However, this bill had no such provisions.

What were the senator’s roles in these bills?

- Michael Williams co-signed SB417 to distinguish different driver licenses and voted for the bill in the Public Safety Committee hearing
- Hunter Hill sponsored SB122 that was passed and did not distinguish the difference between citizen and non-citizen drivers licenses

13. Privacy Protection

In 2015, [SB94](#) began as a simple, effective bill to provide some additional witness identification accuracy provisions and policies. It passed the Senate unanimously and moved to the House Non-Civil Judiciary Committee. There, Chairman Rich Golick attached [HB430](#), and his committee voted for the attachment. HB430 had nothing to do with witness identification, but it had numerous other criminal justice provisions that endanger the rights and protection afforded Georgia citizens. Most of these were eventually stripped from the bill after citizens alerted the author Charlie Bethel. However, one provision was retained to allow law enforcement to video record in a property without the consent of the owner and then not disclose the recording. (Lines 127-142)

How did the senators vote?

- Michael Williams [voted](#) for the bill with attached video recording language on the Senate Floor
- Hunter Hill [voted](#) against the bill with the attached video recording language on the Senate Floor

14. Religious Liberty

In 2017, the Senate introduced [SB233](#) to preserve [religious freedom](#). It is one of several General Assembly bills that have been introduced in response to a string of nearly two dozen violations of Constitutional rights committed by state and local Georgia government officials and agencies. The city of Atlanta previously terminated fire chief [Kelvin Cochran](#) claiming that he did not get permission to publish a book on Christianity. The Georgia Department of Public Health fired Director [Eric Walsh](#) before he could move to Atlanta after they asked to see copies of sermons he wrote as a part-time associate pastor. A Douglasville judge [jailed](#) a Muslim woman for wearing her head covering into court according to her religious beliefs. Savannah State [expelled](#) a Christian group from school by falsely claiming that a foot washing ceremony was “hazing”.

While some of these federal cases were eventually ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, the bill proposed to provide the same federal protections at the state level. That would help prevent local Georgia government officials from discriminating against Georgians because of their religious beliefs and assist the victims in avoiding a long, costly federal lawsuit.

How did the senators respond?

- Michael Williams co-signed the bill, thus demonstrating support of religious liberty for Georgians
- Hunter Hill was in the Senate when the bill was introduced did not co-sign the bill

15. Life and Personhood

Christian conservatives seriously value the pro-life and personhood issues. Both senators advocate for pro-life issues, but neither has a well-established track record on them. For the last 47 years, [Georgia Right to Life](#) (GRTL) has lead pro-life and personhood advocacy in Georgia. They are the only politically independent, all volunteer, pro-life organization with statewide chapters. GRTL endorses many candidates but maintains meticulous conditions for endorsements.

What were the senators’ track records on achieving GRTL endorsements?

- Michael Williams sought and received the GRTL endorsement for his 2016 senatorial campaign
- Hunter Hill was not endorsed by GRTL at any time while campaigning and winning his Senate Seat in 2012 through the current time of this writing

16. Corporate Welfare

In 2018, [HB918](#) was introduced to provide Georgia citizens with some minimal tax relief. In addition, it included a continuance of jet fuel tax credits originally introduced after the 9/11 attacks when Delta Airlines was having financial difficulties in 2005 and 2006. The House passed the bill on February 22. While presiding over the Senate chamber on February 23, Lt Gov. Casey Cagle unsuccessfully attempted to suspend the rules so that the bill could be read for the required third time without waiting the normal extra day. Later that day, Delta announced that it was ending discounts for NRA members traveling to

their convention. Lt. Gov. Cagle subsequently reversed his position in the following week and aligned with other senators who opposed the \$40 million jet fuel tax credit.

How did the senators respond?

- Michael Williams was one of the senators who attempted to strip the jet fuel tax credit in the Senate Finance Committee, Williams then objected to the suspension of the rules that would have “fast tracked” that tax credit. That ultimately caused enough delay to the point where the \$40 million corporate tax credit was eventually removed.
- Hunter Hill had given up his Senate seat by this time and remained silent during the attempts to pass the bill with the jet fuel tax credit in it. He later stated that he was against the credit.

17. Capital Cronyism

In 2015, the House introduced the HB202 tax bill which had some good protections for property owners who appeal their tax assessment. The amended bill passed the Senate unanimously. However, like many other bills it was used as a vehicle to attach other legislative provisions that are not popular with voters. One of them was an ad valorem tax break for manufacturing headquarters that came out of a conference committee report to resolve differences in the House and Senate versions. That tax break was worth over a million dollars to Mercedes Benz. After 10pm in the evening on Sine Die the House passed the amended conference committee version of the bill. The Senate then voted to suspend the two hour rule for legislators to review legislation and passed the amended version [after midnight](#) when the Senate was supposed to be adjourned.

How did the senators vote?

- Michael Williams voted to suspend the Rules and [voted](#) for the bill
- Hunter Hill voted to suspend the Rules and [voted](#) against the bill

18. Historical Preservation

In 2018, [HB650](#) was introduced to allow local governments to relocate, conceal, obscure, or alter state monuments. The bill was sponsored by some minority party members and did not receive a hearing. It was submitted after gubernatorial candidate Stacey Abrams made a 2017 [call](#) to spend millions of Georgia taxpayer dollars blasting carvings of Robert E. Lee, Stonewall Jackson, and Jefferson Davis off the face of Stone Mountain. She stated: “Confederate monuments have nothing to do with any of our American history except treason and domestic terrorism” and called them “monuments to bigotry and racism”.

[In reality](#), Generals Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson defended the people of Virginia against a half-million man, 20 entry point invasion of Virginia that destroyed many Virginians' homes, families, farms, cattle, property and lives. Virginians had voted to stay in the union on April 4th 1861 until Abraham Lincoln issued an April 15th proclamation to all states for 75,000 troops to invade seceding states. Two

days later the Virginia legislature scheduled another vote and on May 23, 1861, the people of Virginia voted to secede by a landslide 4-1 margin. At about 2am that night, before newspapers could publish the results, Lincoln sent 14,000 Union troops across bridges to occupy Alexandria and Arlington.

That was the beginning of an invasion that violated the 9th and 10th amendments of the U.S. Constitution which reserve all unspecified power to the people and the states, respectively. The invasion also violated Art. IV Sec. IV. That requires the federal government to protect the states and its people from invasion and domestic violence. It further violated Art. I Sec. X that prohibits states to *“engage in War, unless actually invaded, or in such imminent Danger as will not admit of delay”* It is not treason for Americans to defend their Constitutional rights.

There were numerous direct attacks on civilians and their property in Virginia, Georgia and states throughout the south all of which had nothing to do with slavery. Racism and bigotry also existed in the north. In an Oct. 16, 1854 speech at Peoria Illinois, Lincoln explained the reason for northern opposition to slavery was the Western territories: *“We want them for the homes of free white people. This they cannot be, to any considerable extent, if slavery shall be planted within them.”*

How did the senators pro-actively respond to the call to destroy the Stone Mountain carvings?

- Michael Williams immediately took a stand to preserve all state monuments and [appeared](#) on television to defend them. He continued with opposition to the bill as soon as it was introduced
- Hunter Hill took no clear public stance on monument preservation when he was [questioned](#) by WABE soon after Abrams’ comments. He has since stated he is for preserving the monuments.