

**Town Hall Political Forum
for AT&T Management Employees
RSA Plaza Terrace - October 30, 2012**

Agenda

11:30 am to 12 noon – Fellowship and lunch on sixth floor of RSA Plaza

12 noon to 1 pm – Informal Discussion facilitated by AT&T State President Fred McCallum

Panelists:

- State Representative Barry Mask (House District 31)
- State Representative Paul Beckman (House District 88)
- Steve Flowers, syndicated columnist and political analyst

Question 1: A few weeks ago, Alabama voters voted 2 to 1 for transferring more than \$437 million dollars over the next three years from our state's education trust fund to the General Fund to pay for non-education expenses such as courts, prisons and Medicaid. Does this solve our general fund budget issues for the next three years? Should we expect further measures to reduce the cost of state government?

Question 2: Montgomery elected officials have hinted once again at an effort to establish an occupational tax for workers employed in Montgomery. As representatives of the River Region's major bedroom communities, what is your reaction to the proposed occupational tax?

Question 3: The entire nation is very anxious about the future of health care in our country. What do you believe is the state of health care in Alabama and how can the state legislature impact it?

Question 4: As we get closer to the presidential election, Americans continue to debate the struggle with building consensus between our two dominant political parties. Put another way – it seems that the

polarization of views between the Republican and Democratic parties has left little or no room for compromise on major issues facing our country – is this a good thing or a bad thing? How do you view those relationships on a national level and how are we doing here in a state government with a Republican majority?

Question 5: Confidence in Public Education is an ongoing issue for Alabama taxpayers. In light of recent events with the Birmingham School Board and the grade-changing scandal in Montgomery Public Schools, what can be done to restore taxpayer faith in the current education system in Alabama?

Question 6: The Alabama State Legislature has been one of the most progressive in the country in recent years in modernizing communications laws. How do you feel about the communications industry – chiefly broadband and wireless- and the role they play in our economy and our lives?

Time permitting; questions will be taken from attending AT&T employees.

Biographies of Panelists



Barry Mask **Alabama State Representative, District 31**

Mask was born in Alexander City, Al. on July 25th, 1959. His family moved to Montgomery in 1971 and he attended Dalraida Elementary, Goodwyn Jr. High and was the Student Council President at Robert E. Lee High School. He was very active in numerous YMCA programs such as Blue Ridge Assembly, Youth City Council and the YMCA Youth legislature. Representative Mask credits these programs for developing his keen appreciation in state government and civic affairs.

At Auburn University, Representative Mask continued his leadership development in the Student Government Association, being elected President of his fraternity, Phi Kappa Tau, and by being elected by his peers as president of the Interfraternity Council (IFC). He was a co-founder of the Shug Jordan/Dean Katherine Cater Leukemia Fund. However, Representative Mask is most noted for being selected as Auburn University's first official "Aubie the Tiger" mascot in 1979, and was named Best Mascot at the 1979 UCA Camp Competition. Barry received his Bachelor of Science in Public Administration.

After college, Mask began a career in governmental affairs working for the Alabama State Employees Association, the Alabama Association of Realtors, the Business Council of Alabama and the Alabama Industry & Manufacturers Association. In 1999 he began a new career in the private sector working for an architectural and engineering firm. He was the project manager for Montgomery's much lauded Riverfront master plan in 2000-2001.

In Elmore County, Representative Mask was a co-founder and vice chairman of the Elmore County Economic Development Authority where he now serves as the organization's executive director. He is a life member of the Auburn Alumni Association and an elected member of the National Council of the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity. He serves on the board of the Elmore County Community Foundation. He is a member of the Lion's Club of Wetumpka and the Redland Community Association.

Representative Mask and his wife Jill live in the Redland community outside of Wetumpka. Mask enjoys quail hunting and dove shoots, bass and crappie fishing on Lake Martin and Lake Jordan and Auburn football.



Paul Beckman
Alabama State Representative, District 88

Beckman was elected to the Alabama House of Representatives on November 2, 2010, and is in his first term as a state representative.

He is an attorney and is a partner in the law firm of Capouano, Beckman and Russell, L.L.C. Prior to practicing law, he spent 15 years working for various financial institutions with an emphasis in banking and shopping centers. He is also a former classroom teacher and held an Alabama teaching certificate until 2002.

Representative Beckman received a Bachelor of Science in Education from Florida State University and a juris doctorate from the Thomas Goode Jones School of Law at Faulkner University. He was admitted to the Alabama Bar in 1994.

He is a member of the Alabama State Bar Association, American Bar Association, Montgomery County Bar Association, and is a member of the Knights of Columbus and a variety of civic and community organizations.

Born in Ft. Lewis, WA, Representative Beckman is married to Linda Beckman and they have one son, Jamie. He is a member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Prattville.



Steve Flowers
Syndicated Columnist and Political Analyst

Flowers was born and raised in Troy, Alabama. He attended public schools in Troy. He became a Page in the Alabama Legislature at age 12 and worked at the State Capitol throughout his high school years. Upon graduation from high school in Troy, he continued on to the University of Alabama where he was a student leader and served in the Student Senate. He graduated from the Capstone in 1974 with a degree in Political Science and History.

In 1982, at age 30, he entered politics and was elected State Representative from Pike County. In that, being his first race, he received the largest number of votes ever cast for any person in a political race in the history of Pike County. He was overwhelmingly reelected four times. He left undefeated and uncontested, choosing not to seek reelection in 1998 after sixteen years in the House of Representatives.

As a lawmaker he was selected by Alabama Magazine as the Outstanding Freshman House Member. Also, in his first term he quickly earned a reputation as a stalwart leader of the conservative and pro-business efforts in Alabama. He was primary sponsor and author of the sweeping changes in Alabama's civil liability laws known as Tort Reform. He also became a champion of Victims of Crimes and Leniency and was at the helm of efforts to rid Alabama of pornography and obscene literature. He was awarded the cherished Guardian of Small Business Award by the National Federation of Independent Business. The Business Council of Alabama and the Alabama Alliance of Business and Industry both honored him for his consistently high pro-business voting record. As a member of the Legislature, Steve served as Chairman of the Insurance Committee from 1991-1994. He also served as Chairman of the Health Committee from 1995-1998.

Steve sustained a perfect attendance record for 16 consecutive years. In 1988 his House colleagues passed a resolution naming him the Most Ethical Member of the House and in 1992 he was voted by his colleagues as the Most Outstanding Member of the Alabama House of Representatives.

Steve has been an up-close participant and observer of Alabama politics for more than 45 years.