

Stephen Loftin – Professional Biography

Stephen Loftin has 26 years of experience serving the business community in government affairs roles with organizations such as the GA Chamber of Commerce, the Regional Business Coalition, and the GA Cable Association. Over that time, he has saved clients millions of dollars through successful legislative and regulatory initiatives.



Beginning as an aide to the Senate Minority Caucus during the 1994 session, Stephen worked his way into roles on campaigns and was then hired to serve as the legislative liaison for the Public Service Commission in 1995. His work at the Commission included passing legislation to bring the state code up to federal standards regarding pipeline safety as well as representing the Commission during the Natural Gas Deregulation bill and negotiating compromises within the telephone industry on county and regional long-distance calling plans. Three years later he joined the GA Chamber of Commerce as the Vice President of Government Affairs where he worked on multiple issue areas including tax policy, transportation, education and natural resources. Wins included defeating legislation that would have put companies at a disadvantage in water resource disputes, preventing changes that would have weakened the worker's comp system and passing a landmark education reform bill that strengthened standards and incentivized high-performing teachers.

Stephen later joined the Regional Business Coalition as its Executive Director in 2004 where he raised the group's profile through successful events involving the Speaker and Lt Governor, providing additional sponsorship funds for the organization and pursuing legislation that allowed the metro Atlanta region to better address its transportation and air quality issues by giving the region more flexibility in how it spent its transportation money as well as creating a metro-wide water planning council to better coordinate protection of the region's water resources.

He was recruited to assume the role of the GA Cable Association executive director in 2008 and led the transition of the group from a focus on trade shows to an organization with a full-fledged legislative and regulatory affairs effort that produced results for the industry. Through his leadership, the cable broadband industry saved millions of dollars by reducing utility costs through a combination of legislative proposals and regulatory proceedings. Initiatives Stephen created included policy events such as the Freshman Legislator Orientation and Broadband University which provided the industry with a high level of credibility on critical broadband issues among legislators and other public policy leaders. Stephen transitioned out of his role as the executive director in September of 2019, leaving the group with a healthy balance sheet including reserves of over \$400,000 and a reputation as an effective organization that must be included at the table when discussing telecommunications and broadband policy.

Stephen now operates his own public affairs shop, Loftin Public Affairs, where he is able to bring his creative energy, strategic mindset and deep relationships to clients. Recent success includes leading the coalition that helped pass legislation important to the natural gas industry as well as serving on the team that delivered a high-profile regulatory win for the GA Electric Membership Cooperatives.

He and his wife Dawn live in Marietta with their youngest child. Their two older children are attending the University of Georgia and Samford University respectively.