

NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of Georgia's 13th
Lt. Governor Burt Jones



2024 Legislative Priority Announced “Red Tape Rollback”

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On November 7, Lt. Governor Burt Jones announced a 2024 legislative priority – the “Red Tape Rollback”. The announcement was attended by members of the Senate Majority Caucus and representatives from AFP, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce, the Metro Atlanta Chamber, and NFIB.

The proposed legislation will focus on the initiatives below:

- Improve the process for obtaining professional and occupational licenses while giving licensing boards more flexibility.
- Strengthen the power of the General Assembly to oversee and review proposed state agency regulations.
- Empower members of the General Assembly to request economic analyses of proposed legislation and agency regulations that would impact small business, similar to the current fiscal note process.
- Amend the Administrative Procedure Act to expand the definition of “small business” from 100 employees to 300 employees.
- Reduce the size and scope of state government by eliminating defunct or duplicative boards and commissions.

REDTAPE ROLLBACK INITIATIVE

Empowering Georgia's Small Businesses

Georgia's small businesses are the backbone of our economy. Through legislation, the General Assembly has the opportunity to empower these businesses. This Senate initiative agrees to protect small businesses from unnecessary bureaucracy, increase government efficiency, and enable lawmakers to request economic analyses for bills impacting small businesses.

KEY POINTS

- 01. Helping Small Businesses:**
This initiative acts as a shield for small businesses. It protects them from excessive rules and paperwork, whether from the state or local governments. The goal is to make things easier for small businesses to succeed in Georgia.
- 02. General Assembly Oversight on State Agency Regulations:**
Lawmakers will have the ability to ask for detailed studies – a “Small Business Impact Analysis” (SBIA) for every piece of legislation considered in the General Assembly. Much like the fiscal note structure already in place, the SBIA will focus on evaluating the economic impact of proposed bills specifically on small businesses.
- 03. Expanding the Small Business Definition:**
This initiative also seeks to amend the Administrative Procedure Act by broadening the definition of a “small business” from 100 employees to 300 employees. This change allows for more benefits, less paperwork, and fewer reporting requirements for more businesses.
- 04. Streamlining Government:**
This initiative will make the state government more efficient by getting rid of boards and commissions that are duplicative or no longer needed. In turn, this will make better use of resources and makes the government more effective.

BY PRIORITIZING TRANSPARENCY, CONSISTENCY, AND REDUCED REGULATORY BURDENS, THIS BILL WILL CUT THROUGH RED TAPE TO HELP SMALL BUSINESSES AND BRING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR GEORGIA'S ECONOMY.

OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
BURT JONES
Georgia's 13th Lt. Governor



Savannah State University Meetings and Tour

On October 16, Lt. Governor Burt Jones and Senator Sonya Halpern (D - Atlanta) met with Savannah State University Interim President, Cynthia Robinson Alexander, J.D., leadership staff and students. Savannah State University is the the oldest Historically Black Public University in the state. Lt. Governor Jones and Senator Halpern toured HBCUs, met with the Presidents, and engaged in discussions with staff and students during September and October. This was the final stop of the HBCU fall legislative tour.

“I want to thank Senator Halpern for organizing these tours and meetings,” **said Lt. Governor Burt Jones.** “Learning about the innovative and unique initiatives underway at our HBCUs is critical as we prepare for the 2024 Legislative Session. I look forward to using what we learned from each school to partner together to ensure that legislation, like the bill creating the HBCU Innovation and Economic Prosperity Planning Districts Commission, is prioritized during the next session.”



Senator Halpern, LG Jones and Interim President Alexander

Mobile Office Hours Monthly Update

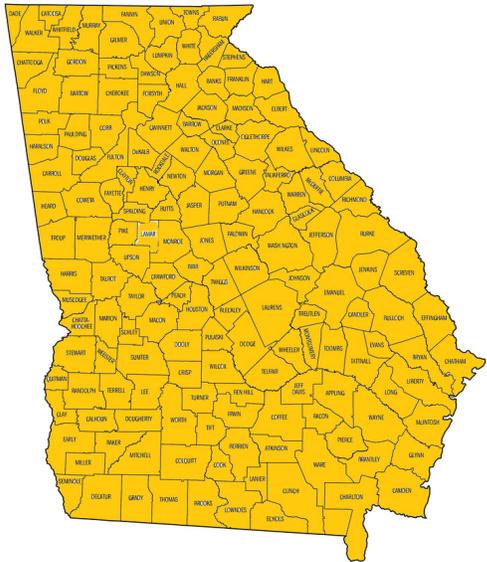
Since March, each Field Director has hosted weekly mobile office hours throughout their assigned regions and responded to constituent requests and questions. **As of today, the team has hosted mobile office hours in all 159 counties across the state. Community members were able to meet with field representatives to ask questions and address constituent issues. The mobile office hours will continue in 2024!**

Please visit this dedicated page for contact information for each representative with Georgia’s map detailing each region and a constituent contact form. This page will be updated with future meetings, town halls, and other events held in each region throughout the year:

<https://ltgov.georgia.gov/constituent-services-0/statewide-field-representatives>

**159 out of 159 counties
visited as of
November 17, 2023**

GEORGIA



Capitol Meetings

- On November 7, Lt. Governor Jones and Mrs. Jan Jones met with Emily Onyekwere, University of Georgia College of Veterinary Medicine 2023 Compassionate Care Scholarship Recipient. For the past eight years, the Humane Society Veterinary Med Association has awarded scholarships to veterinary students who have demonstrated a dedication to animal welfare. This year, Emily received a \$10,000 scholarship award for her interest in animal welfare and commitment to access in veterinary medicine.
- On November 7, Lt. Governor Jones and staff met with representatives from the AJC, American Jewish Committee, to discuss support for the well-being of Jewish people in Georgia, the United States, and World.



Events Around the State

- Brad Vaughan, Legislative Director and Counsel, attended the 2023 #NDEAM (National Disability Employment Awareness Month) event at the Carter Center. Representatives from across the state, including the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency and the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), attended the event to discuss workforce initiatives underway and proposals for future efforts.
- Denese Sampson, Director of Constituent Services, attended the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) State of the Region event. Ms. Sampson met with ARC staff, business leaders, local elected officials and representatives from the offices of Senator Jon Ossoff (D - GA) and Congressman Rich McCormick (R - GA6).
- Loree Anne Paradise, Chief of Staff, joined Senator Kay Kirkpatrick (R - Marietta), Senator Michael 'Doc' Rhett (D - Marietta) and Sharon Mason, Cobb Chamber President and CEO, at the 71st Annual Military Appreciation Luncheon.
- Denese Sampson, Director of Constituent Services, and Luke Hetland, Georgia Field Director/Region 1 attended at Legislative Reception with state and local elected officials at Atlanta City Hall.



National Disability Employment Awareness Month Event



**Denese Sampson & attendees
ARC State of the Region**



**Sen. Rhett, Ms. Mason
Sen. Kirkpatrick
Loree Anne Paradise**



**Denese Sampson
Atlanta Council Chair Doug Shipman
Luke Hetland**