

NEWSLETTER

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



Announcement on Proposed Tax Refunds for Georgians

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On **Tuesday, October 22nd**, Lt. Governor Burt Jones issued a statement supporting Governor Brian Kemp's proposed tax refunds for Georgians. Lt. Governor Jones attended the announcement along with Governor Brian Kemp, Speaker of the House Jon Burns, and other elected officials.

"Under our state's strong conservative leadership, we've balanced the budget every year while lowering our income tax rate and returning billions of dollars to taxpayers. I want to thank Governor Brian Kemp for his leadership and for prioritizing the budgets of Georgia's families. Priorities like the one announced today will help Georgians keep more of their hard-earned money and will separate us from the failed policies in Washington. I made a promise to the people of Georgia that as your Lt. Governor, I would work every year to lower your taxes and keep more of your hard-earned dollars in your pockets, and I look forward to working with the Governor and the Speaker to do that again when we reconvene in January."



Hurricane Helene Survey and Resources

Last month, Hurricane Helene caused historic damage across Georgia, Florida, North Carolina and several other states across the Southeast. Several communities in Georgia were devastated, some even experienced generational damage. Major disaster declarations were issued for over 41 counties.

Lt. Governor Burt Jones partnered with local delegations, EMA offices, first responders and others to survey the storm damage in several damaged communities including Augusta, Glenwood, Hazlehurst, Mt. Vernon, Valdosta and Vidalia.

"The damage we have seen across Georgia and in the Southeast is unprecedented. I will continue to work with Governor Kemp, state agencies and local communities to help our neighbors across Georgia, as they work to help one another and rebuild. This is the Georgia way and that's exactly how we will come out stronger than before."

Please visit the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency Hurricane Helene for Individual and Public Assistance Resources: <https://gema.georgia.gov/hurricane-helene>

Please visit the Georgia Department of Agriculture Hurricane Response: Resource page for agriculture storm damage resources: <https://agr.georgia.gov/hurricane-response-helene>



Lt. Governor Jones, Senator Max Burns, Senator Blake Tillery and EMA Volunteers in Hazlehurst, GA.



Lt. Governor Jones meeting with the EMA Office roundtable in Augusta, GA.



Lt. Governor Jones meeting with recovery response teams in Valdosta, GA.

2024 Statewide Ballot Questions

In two weeks, on **November 5th**, citizens across Georgia will have a chance to vote on proposed Constitutional Amendments and a statewide referendum question. Each county and/or city may also have local referendums on the ballot along with these statewide ballot questions.

During the 2024 legislative session, Lt. Governor Burt Jones prioritized two pieces of property tax reform legislation, one of which is on the ballot for a vote on November 5.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment 1 ([House Bill 581](#) and [House Resolution 1022](#)), if enacted, will place an annual cap on the amount by which home values can rise for property tax purposes.

Lt. Governor Jones encourages all Georgians to learn more about the statewide ballot questions before heading to the polls to cast their vote.

To read each piece of legislation and the text of the ballot questions, please visit the Georgia General Assembly's website at the link below <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/all>) or visit your local Board of Elections website or office.

2024 STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTIONS IN GEORGIA

The General Assembly passed several important pieces of tax legislation in 2024 that require voters' approval before going into effect. These questions will appear on the November ballot:

Proposed Constitutional Amendment 1 (HB 581 and HR 1022)

- This proposed amendment would allow legislation to go into effect that limits annual home property value increases to the rate of inflation for purposes of property taxes.
- If passed, local governments would have until March 2025 to opt out of this limitation after public notice and hearings.

Proposed Constitutional Amendment 2 (HB 1267 and HR 598)

- This proposed amendment would create the Georgia Tax Court to handle cases involving tax disputes, appeals from tax decisions, and tax rules of the state Department of Revenue. The Court will not have jurisdiction to consider tax questions involving alcohol or motor vehicles.
- The Tax Court would replace the current Georgia Tax Tribunal and will be part of the state judicial branch.
- If passed, the Tax Court will begin accepting cases in August 2026.

Statewide Referendum Question (HB 808)

- Georgia provides a property tax exemption for tangible personal property of up to \$7,500. This excludes certain types of property like automobiles. HB 808 increased that exemption to \$20,000, but the State Constitution requires the change to be ratified through a statewide ballot referendum before going into effect.

Events Around the State

- On October 15, Lt. Governor Burt Jones issued a statement applauding Super Bowl LXII coming to Atlanta, Georgia in 2028. Lt. Governor Jones attended the announcement along with Speaker Jon Burns, Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, Arthur Blank and other stakeholders.

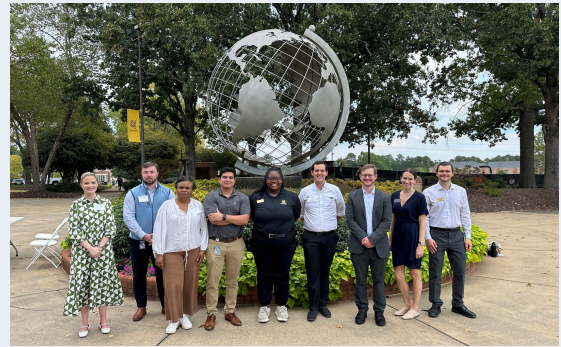
“Hosting events like the Super Bowl serve as premiere opportunities for economic development and for Georgia to show the nation and world all that our state has to offer and why this is the best place to live, work, and raise a family. I want to thank the NFL for selecting Atlanta as the host city for Super Bowl LXII and highlight the partnership between the city, state, and corporate community that makes this all possible. I look forward to working with this partnership group and everyone across Georgia to ensure Atlanta, our state’s capital city, remains a great place to host these major events. We are proud to host Super Bowl LXII and look forward to everyone joining us in 2028!”



- Lt. Governor Burt Jones and staff members traveled around the state to meet with constituents, hear about their concerns and also present proclamations to outstanding organizations and Georgia citizens who are making a difference from the north Georgia mountains to the coast.



T.J. Hudson (Field Representative) hosted a community roundtable to hear from constituents on a variety of issues.



Denese Sampson (Director of Constituent Services) attended a tour and met with staff/students at Kennesaw State University.



Denese Sampson hosted a tour for the Swedish Parliament Delegation at the Capitol.



Denese Sampson, Cameron Jeffares (Intern), and Luke Hetland (Field Representative) attended the launch of the Georgia Reads Campaign.



Luke Hetland at the Governor’s Workforce Summit with Paul Oh, Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce Director of Policy/Community Affairs.