MARCH 14, 2025 VOL.21

NEWSLETTER

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



2025 Legislative Priorities Update

IN THIS ISSUE

2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES UPDATE

AMENDED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET SIGNED

MOBILE OFFICE HOURS
ACROSS GEORGIA

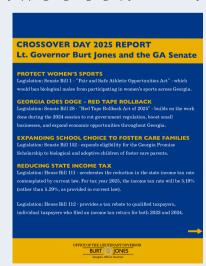
EVENTS UNDER THE GOLD DOME



On **Thursday**, **March 6th**, the Georgia General Assembly marked a key deadline in the 2025 Legislative Session - Crossover Day. This was the last day for a bill originating in one chamber to pass that chamber and be eligible for consideration in the other chamber.

All 11 of the legislative priorities announced by Lt. Governor Burt Jones passed the originating chamber and made the deadline. The bills have now been assigned to committees and will be heard in preparation for Sine Die on Friday, April 4th.

Please review the graphics below for a complete list of Lt. Governor Jones' priorities that made the Crossover Day deadline. Additional information can be found here: https://ltgov.georgia.gov/priorities or by scanning the QR code.



INCREASING SCHOOL SAFETY ACROSS GEORGIA
Support Governor Brian Kemp's allocation of \$50 million in the amended faceal year 2025 budget for one-time additions to shool safety grants.

Legislation: Senate Bill 17 - "Ricky and Alysas's Law" - would require all Georgia schools to install mobile panic alarm systems directly linked to emergency responders and state and local law enforcement.

Legislation: Senate Bill 61 - would strengthen Georgia's law so that attempted homizides and terroristic threats and acts directed toward schools will be offenses for which juveniles will be tried as adults.

Legislation: Senate Bill 70 - would require a transferring student's academic and disciplinary records to be transferred to the new school administration within 10 days and requires the parent or guardian to be notified of the transfer within five days.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Legislation: Senate Bill 79 - "Pentanyl Eradication and Removal Act" - would establish stiffer criminal penalties for fentanyl offenses.

CHILD TAX CREDIT AND CHILDCARE TAX PROGRAMS

Legislation: Senate Bill 80 - would create a child tax credit and expand existing childcare tax programs.

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Legislation: Sarate Bill 81 - would waive sovereign immunity for local governments that adopt and implement "sanctuary" policies.



MARCH 14, 2025 VOL. 21

Amended Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Signed

On **Thursday**, **March 6th**, Lt. Governor Burt Jones joined Governor Brian P. Kemp, Speaker Jon Burns, House and Senate Appropriations Chairmen Tillery and Hatchett, constitutional officers, and members of the Georgia General Assembly, at the signing of the <u>Amended Budget for Fiscal Year 2025</u>.

Lt. Governor Jones issued the following statement in support of the AFY25 Budget:

"This budget includes critical midyear adjustments for Georgia's education system, economic development projects, transportation infrastructure and public safety. Additionally, over \$250 million is included for Georgia's agriculture and timber communities impacted by Hurricane Helene, along with relief for our fellow Georgians and local communities for recovery and cleanup efforts. I want to thank Governor Kemp, Speaker Burns, Chairman Tillery, and all members of the Senate Appropriations Committee for their hard work to ensure we passed a balanced and fiscally conservative budget, as we prepare for fiscal year 2026. Georgia is a shining example of how to budget efficiently and effectively, while putting Georgian's hard earned dollars back in their pockets. I look forward to our continued work to appropriate taxpayer dollars in a fiscally, conservative manner."

Among the \$867 million including in funding for Hurricane Helene relief:

- \$285,000,000: Provide disaster relief assistance to farmers and timber producers impacted by Hurricane Helene.
- \$50,000,000 for state and local match (25%) of debris removal from local roads and rights of way due to Hurricane Helene.
- \$25,000,000: Funds to engage nonprofit community through grants for rebuilding and recovery efforts for victims.
- \$21,970,723: Funds for public rural and critical access hospitals to assist in financial stabilization and recovery efforts.

Another priority for the Lt. Governor was included for school safety improvements across the state:

• \$50,000,000 for school security grants. Grants will be provided to systems at \$21,635 per school for one-time security expenses.





GEORGIA SALE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF THE

Field Reps visited 10 counties as of February 1 with over 10 office hours planned for next month.

Mobile Office Hours Across Georgia

The Lt. Governor's Field Representative Program continues in 2025. Each Field Representative will hold weekly mobile office hours throughout their assigned regions and will respond to constituent requests and questions. Community members will be able to contact their designated representative for event and meeting attendance.

T.J. Hudson

South Georgia Field Director/ Counties Region 2 <u>TJ.Hudson@ltgov.ga.gov</u>

Luke Hetland

North Georgia Field Director/Counties Region 1 <u>Luke.Hetland@ltgov.ga.gov</u>

Please visit this dedicated page for contact information for each representative, 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/statewide-fieldrepresentatives

MARCH 14, 2025 VOL. 21

Events Under the Gold Dome



Catoosa and Walker Counties Day at the Capitol



Meeting with Georgia Electric Membership Corp. (EMCs)



SPIA 2025 Legislative Outlook Update with Professor Bullock, III



Magistrate Judges Day at the Capitol



Probate Judges Day at the Capitol



Georgia Military College Day at the Capitol



Chiefs of Police Day at the Capitol



Honoring Former Governor Nathan Deal's book launch with Speaker Jon Burns



Celebrating Georgia Pre-K Week



Nolan Smith visit with Senate Pages and Senator Sonya Halpern and Senator Derek Mallow