

NEWSLETTER

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



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2026 Priority Op-Ed: Let Georgia citizens keep what they earn

On **December 8, 2025**, Lt. Governor Burt Jones published the following Op-Ed in support of letting Georgia citizens keep what they earn:

"Across the state, I keep hearing the same thing from Georgians. Workers want to know that after a hard day or an extra shift, they get to keep what they earn. Our citizens want jobs that stay here for the long term, not talent leaving the state because someone across the border offers more tax incentives. I believe we can make Georgia a magnet for opportunity while protecting the services on which families rely.

Georgia has momentum. Under Republican Gov. Brian Kemp's leadership, we cut rates and returned surplus dollars to families through targeted relief. I led those efforts in the state Senate because they put money back into people's pockets. It's time to take the next step: small incremental cuts are not enough. At 5.19% today, the income tax rate is still a drag on growth and a brake on hiring decisions for businesses weighing whether to expand in our state.

Every dollar matters for families sitting around kitchen tables across our state. Folks are facing higher prices from years of Bidenflation on groceries, housing, and more. When we take money out of their paychecks through the state income tax, that makes it harder for them to get ahead. How do we build a system that rewards hard work, not punishes it?

That's why I created the Senate Special Committee on Eliminating Georgia's Income Tax. The committee has spoken with tax experts, economists, and everyday Georgians who are just looking to pay grocery bills, get college savings started, and build a life in their Georgia hometown.

The committee has found a clear case for action. Getting rid of the income tax creates a powerful incentive for job creation. Companies evaluate the total cost of doing business when they decide where to invest. A predictable, low-tax environment multiplies the returns on capital and labor. It encourages firms to open facilities here, to raise wages, and to hire more Georgians. Economic development professionals across the country cite state tax structures as a headline factor in site selection. If we want to compete with our neighbors, we must be willing to match their ambition."

The full text of the Op-Ed can be found at this link: [Let Georgia citizens keep what they earn](#)

Georgia Hurricane Helene Block Grant Applications

On December 12, 2025, Georgia Agriculture Commissioner Tyler Harper announced that Georgia's Hurricane Helene Block Grant Program will be opening soon. Commissioner Harper's office will announce the opening of the application period and more program details pending final approval from the United States Department of Agriculture. Lt. Governor Burt Jones issued the following statement in support of the announcement and grant program:

"Thanks to the hard work by Commissioner Tyler Harper and our partners at the Georgia Department of Agriculture, relief is coming to Georgians impacted by Hurricane Helene. This historic storm left devastation across Georgia and recovery will take decades. These block grants are essential as our communities and friends work hard to rebuild and come back stronger than before. Thank you to everyone who made this possible."

More information on this announcement and the block grant program can be found here: farmrecovery.com.

GEORGIA HURRICANE HELENE BLOCK GRANT

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER TYLER J HARPER



Block Grant applications are not open at this time. The application period and other additional details will be provided pending USDA approval.

HURRICANE HELENE LOSSES ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATION

Georgia farmers, ranchers and foresters in eligible counties that have suffered losses in timber, infrastructure, poultry, beef cattle, dairy cattle, milk loss, dairy feed loss, pecans, blueberries, citrus, nursery, plasticulture and bare ground practices due to Hurricane Helene may apply for assistance to the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

BLOCK GRANT

The Georgia Department of Agriculture will be accepting online applications soon for the Georgia Hurricane Helene Block Grant (HBG). Please visit our website periodically for enrollment dates and other important information.

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COMPENSATION

Applications that are approved will receive payments after signup ends.

This document is a brief summary of application questions and required documentation.

Ver. 20251208

GEORGIA HURRICANE HELENE BLOCK GRANT

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COMMISSIONER TYLER J HARPER



TYPICAL DOCUMENTATION NEEDED FOR APPLICATION TO PROVE LOSSES

- Deeds
- 2024 Tax Assessments
- Lease Contracts
- Documentation verifying timber losses
- Acreage Reports
- Crop Insurance Records
- Veterinarian Records
- Poultry Lost Production Cycles
- Tree, Bush, Nursery Damage
- Damages to Buildings
- Receipts for Medications
- Receipts for Milk Production
- Animal Numbers Pre- and Post Hurricane Helene
- Expense Invoices
- Sales Receipts
- Trucking Receipts
- Repair Bills
- Demolition Bills
- Reconstruction Invoices
- Photographs
- Aerial Photography
- Replacement Invoices
- Other Documentation necessary to substantiate losses

Documentation listed here is NOT comprehensive. Applicants may submit additional documentation they believe will support their application.

BLOCK GRANT

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Update: 2025 Senate Study Committees

2025 Study Committees have finalized their work for the year. Each study committee filed a report, including legislative, regulatory and/or budget recommendations.

Please follow the links below to learn more about each committee's work as outlined in the final study committee report.

Senate Study Committee on Additional Services and Resources for Transition Age Youth in Foster Care: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/other-committees/senate/2025/services-resources-foster-care>

Senate Study Committee on Combating Chronic Absenteeism in Schools: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/other-committees/senate/2025/chronic-absenteeism>

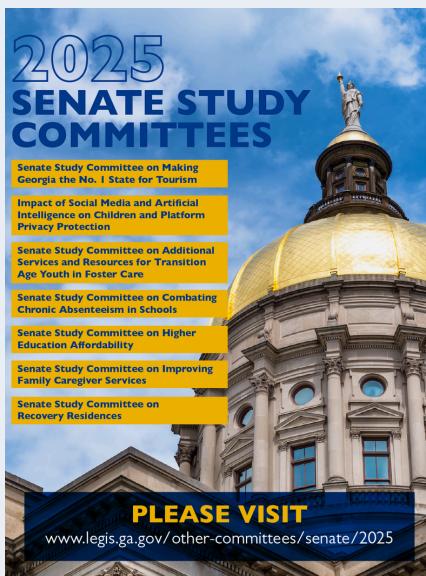
Senate Study Committee on Making Georgia the No. 1 State for Tourism: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/other-committees/senate/2025/tourism>

Senate Study Committee on Recovery Residences: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/other-committees/senate/2025/recovery-residences>

Senate Impact of Social Media and Artificial Intelligence on Children and Platform Privacy Protection Study Committee: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/other-committees/senate/2025/social-media-platform-privacy>

Senate Study Committee on Higher Education Affordability: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/other-committees/senate/2025/higher-education-affordability>

Senate Study Committee on Improving Family Caregiver Services: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/other-committees/senate/2025/family-caregiver-services>



Events Around the State

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.



Lt. Governor Burt Jones meeting with the GA Restaurant Assoc. Board



Lt. Governor Burt Jones meeting with Senator Russ Goodman and constituents in Blackshear



Lt. Governor Burt Jones meeting with staff, leaders and students at the GA Cyber Center



Lt. Governor Burt Jones meeting with constituents at the Roswell Rotary Club



T.J. Hudson attending the John Mixon Building GA Forestry Commission Dedication



T.J. Hudson attending the Ferst Readers Wagon Full of Books Event



The Lt. Governor's Office wishes everyone a joyful and prosperous holiday season. Wishing you all the best in 2026!!!