

NEWSLETTER

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



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2026 Priority: Property Tax Reform

On Tuesday, **January 13, 2026**, Today, Lt. Governor Burt Jones announced a priority for the 2026 Legislative Session – property tax reform, which aims to address longstanding rising property taxes and the cost of living for all Georgians.

“As Lt. Governor, I have prioritized property tax reform legislation over the past three years. As part of our ongoing efforts to keep costs low and put more money back in Georgians’ pockets, this legislation will limit increases in home values for property taxes year to year and require more accountability and transparency in our local taxation procedures. The Senate passed this same legislation two years ago. I encourage our friends in the House to agree with us this time and prioritize making the property tax process both less confusing and less expensive for Georgia taxpayers.”

In 2024, the Senate passed **Senate Bill 349** with bi-partisan support, a vote of 42-7, in an effort to address rising property taxes. This session, the key elements of that bill are back for consideration in **Senate Bill 382**, sponsored by Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R – Rome). This legislation would make annual caps on increases in home values mandatory for any jurisdiction that does not already have such a system in place and would eliminate the ability of local governments to opt-out of the annual caps, as current law allows.

Senate Bill 382 was assigned to the Senate Finance Committee and will be heard in committee, before moving to Senate Rules and then to the Senate Floor for a consideration by the Georgia Senate. The full text and additional information on **Senate Bill 382** can be found here: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/72161>

Additional information on Lt. Governor Burt Jones’ 2026 Legislative Session Priorities can be found using the QR code below or here: <https://ltgov.georgia.gov/priorities>



Expanding Workforce and Education Opportunities

On **Friday, January 16, 2026**, Lt. Governor Burt Jones visited the Central Education Center in Newnan with United States Secretary of Education Linda McMahon and Congressman Brian Jack, along with many others. They showcased the hands-on, career-focused education offered to prepare students for future opportunities in a variety of fields.

The Central Education Center was created to bridge a gap in the Coweta County community: students did not have access to advanced training to compete in a growing economy. Community leaders and educational systems came together to make this project come to life. The State of Georgia has since invested over \$200 million in 50 counties to recreate the success of this approach. Lt. Governor Burt Jones expressed his appreciation to Congressman Jack for welcoming everyone to the facility and providing an opportunity to discuss educational initiatives in Georgia.



On **Tuesday, January 20, 2026**, Lt. Governor Burt Jones attended a School Choice Press Conference with Governor Brian Kemp, Speaker Jon Burns, and members of the Georgia General Assembly. Lt. Governor Jones issued the following statement in support of the announcement:

“Thank you to President Trump for leading the national charge on school choice and to Governor Kemp and Speaker Burns for their partnership in expanding educational options for Georgia’s families. Yesterday’s announcement that Georgia will be opting into the new federal program, which will complement Georgia’s existing donor-funded school choice tax credit, known as the Georgia GOAL Scholarship Program, is the latest win in efforts I have championed. From the creation of the Georgia Promise Scholarship to the expansion of our state-level credit program supporting student scholarship organizations, my commitment to ensure that every Georgia family can find the school setting that is right for them, and their children will not waver.”



2026 Senate Committees

On **Monday, January 12, 2026**, Lt. Governor Burt Jones and the Senate Committee on Assignments announced new standing committee chairs and committee membership for the second session of the 158th Georgia General Assembly.

“I want to thank members of the Senate Committee on Assignments for their partnership during this important process and the members who are serving this session. The committee appointed new chairs and changes in committee membership based on each Senator’s areas of expertise, background, and member requests. These appointments reflect the Senate’s priority to ensure issues under each committee are adequately addressed based on the needs of Georgians. The Senate has made a lot of positive progress over the past three years, and I look forward to building on those successes by working together with these Chairs and all committee members.”

A comprehensive list of committee appointments can be found here: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/committees/senate>

2026 Georgia Senate Standing Committee Chairs

Sen. Russ Goodman (R - 8): Agriculture and Consumer Affairs Committee.	Sen. Blake Tillery (R - 19): Appropriations Committee.
Sen. Carden Summers (R - 13): Banking and Financial Institutions Committee.	Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (R - 32): Children and Families Committee.
Sen. Drew Echols (R - 49): Economic Development and Tourism Committee.	Sen. Billy Hickman (R - 4): Education and Youth Committee.
Sen. Sam Watson (R - 11): Ethics Committee.	Sen. Chuck Hufstetler (R - 52): Finance Committee.
Sen. Tim Bearden (R - 30): Government Oversight Committee.	Sen. Ben Watson (R - 1): Health and Human Services Committee.
Sen. Max Burns (R - 23): Higher Education Committee.	Sen. Marty Harbin (R - 16): Insurance and Labor Committee.
Interstate Cooperation Committee - VACANT	
Sen. Sen. Brian Strickland (R - 42): Judiciary Committee.	
Sen. Lee Anderson (R - 24): Natural Resources and the Environment Committee.	
Sen. John Albers (R - 56): Public Safety Committee.	
Sen. Mike Hodges (R - 3): Reapportionment and Redistricting Committee.	
Sen. Bill Cowsert (R - 46): Regulated Industries and Utilities Committee.	
Sen. Rick Williams (R - 25): Retirement Committee.	
Sen. Matt Brass (R - 6): Rules Committee.	
Sen. Ed Setzler (R - 37): Science and Technology Committee.	
Sen. Ed Harbison (D - 15): State Institutions and Property Committee.	
Sen. Clint Dixon (R - 45): State and Local Governmental Operations Committee.	
Sen. Greg Dolezal (R - 27): Transportation Committee.	
Sen. Donzella James (D - 28): Urban Affairs Committee.	
Sen. Chuck Payne (R - 54): Veterans, Military, and Homeland Security Committee.	

Events Under the Gold Dome

The 2026 Legislative Session began on **Monday, January 12, 2026** and will end on *Sine Die* - scheduled for **April 2, 2026**. Last week, the Senate and House agreed on an adjournment resolution, **House Resolution 998**, members introduced legislation and Governor Brian Kemp delivered his eighth and final State of the State address. This week, members are holding joint budget hearings on the Governor's Amended Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 budget proposals. Legislative Day 6 is scheduled for Monday, January 26th and standing committees in both chambers will start holding committee hearings.

For additional information on the Senate Committee schedule, please follow this link: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/schedule/senate>. For information on legislation that has been introduced, please follow this link: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/all>.



Senator Larry Walker was elected to serve as President Pro Tempore.



The First Lady of the Senate, Jan Jones, joined the Lt. Governor for Legislative Day 1.



Governor Brian Kemp, Lt. Governor Burt Jones and Speaker Jon Burns at the 2026 State of the State Address.



Lt. Governor Burt Jones and Senator Matt Brass recognizing Ms. Denese Sampson for her 30 years of service to the state of Georgia.



Governor Brian Kemp delivering the 2026 State of the State Address in the House Chamber.