



April 2018 Newsletter

This legislative session was historic with numerous significant accomplishments. I am very proud of the work we completed. I worked tirelessly to pass 14 bills out of the Senate, 16 House bills and presented 15 resolutions. As you will see below in more detail, we cut the GA Income Tax, fully funded education, passed property tax relief for North Fulton and so much more. It has been a sincere honor to serve you these past 8 years and this without a doubt was the most successful year.

I hope everyone had a very Happy Easter and Passover. The Albers family enjoyed some quality family time and the beautiful weather. I do love the spring time and wonderful community events and hope to see you around North Fulton and Cherokee.



Education Funding

For the first time in recent history the General Assembly fully funded the Quality Basic Education (QBE) funding formula and eliminated austerity cuts in its final passage of the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget.

Full funding for the QBE is essential to the future success of our state. The 2019 budget will set the tone for generations of future growth. We have removed austerity cuts, increased funding for our school systems and ensured the security of the Teachers Retirement System (TRS).

The budget allocates more than \$167 million to the Department of Education for additional funding in K-12 schools. The budget also includes \$15 million in new spending to purchase nearly 200 new school buses and \$16 million to fund school safety grants throughout the state.



Promise Made - Promise Kept!

Solutions for the Opioid Crisis

I have been working diligently on solutions to combat

the Opioid crisis in Georgia. We have been working with treatment centers, prescription monitoring, pain clinics, etc. Last year, I worked closely with the GBI to replicate the successful drug task force program state wide. I was able to add millions of dollars to the budget this year to address this issue and put the dealers behind bars. Here is link to the news story:

STORY

Promise Made - Promise Kept!

Highlights from the 2018 Session

I was proud to author and sponsor many important bills and budget items. I have listed below many other important highlights and will continue to do so in coming editions.

Distracted driving has become a serious problem and we passed legislation to be "hands free" beginning this summer. Please be safe and keep your eyes on the road.

We passed a comprehensive update to our laws governing adoption to help children find safe and loving homes.

We passed a comprehensive transit solution. I worked hard with my colleagues to protect North Fulton from additional tax increases and assure all solutions are timely, prudent and responsible.

I repealed several tax exemptions not providing a return on investment (ROI) and other laws not providing value to our state.

I am leading a School Safety Study Committee to protect our students and educators.

Promises Made - Promises Kept!

Fulton Property Tax Relief

I am thrilled we passed the long-term fix to the cities in North Fulton County as well as Fulton County Schools to address the tax assessment fiasco. In addition, we increased the Senior Citizen tax exemption to \$50,000 for Fulton County! These were some of my top priorities and will make a difference to every homeowner.

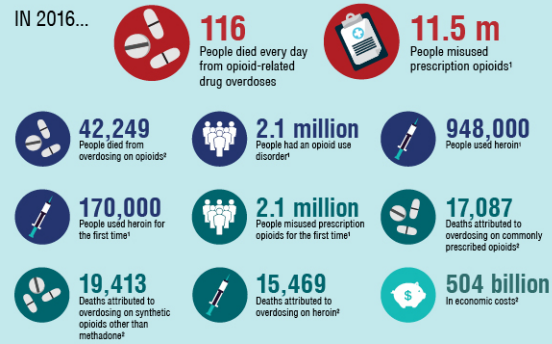
This legislation will ensure a maximum cap of 3% on all three portions of your residential property tax bill. You will have the final say and need to vote in favor of this important change on the November 6th ballot. I am very proud of this work.

Promise Made - Promise Kept!

STAR House Foundation

I was honored to recognize the STAR House Foundation for their 25 year anniversary. STAR

THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC BY THE NUMBERS



Sources: ¹ 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, ² Mortality in the United States, 2016 NCHS Data Brief No. 293, December 2017, ³ CEA Report: The underestimated cost of the opioid crisis, 2017



House Foundation is a non-profit organization in Roswell that makes a difference in kids' lives by providing an after school tutoring and mentoring program for at-risk children throughout North Fulton County. They currently serve over 270 children within four schools as well as a summer camp bridging the gap for elementary students by focusing on academic retention to combat summer learning loss.

To learn more about STAR House, please visit: <https://www.starhousefoundation.org/>



Roswell Area Parks Gold Award

In 2017, Roswell became the first city in Georgia to win the National Recreation and Parks Association's (NPRA) Gold Medal Award for Excellence in Parks and Recreation Management. Roswell Recreation, Parks, Historic & Cultural Affairs maintains more than 900 acres of parkland and 22 parks while hosting hundreds of annual classes, programs, camps, and special events.

I am very proud of our parks and enjoy them regularly. I was also fortunate to coach many of my son's teams on the sports fields. Way to go Roswell Parks!



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