



## January 2017 Newsletter

This Monday, January 9th I raised my right hand while placing my left hand on the bible and took my oath of office. "I John Albers do solemnly swear that I will support the Constitution of this state and of the United States and, on all questions and measures which may come before me, I will so conduct myself, as will, in my judgment, be most conducive to the interests and prosperity of this state..." I can think of no greater honor which you have bestowed upon me.

Happy New Year! I am very optimistic and confident 2017 will be an exceptional year for Georgia and America. Ryan had a great first semester at Roswell High School while balancing Boy Scouts and his job at Chick-fil-A. Will started his senior year at UNG while fulfilling his Corps of Cadets responsibilities and working at Wolf Mountain Winery. Kari and I enjoyed a nice getaway to NYC right after Christmas with the boys. We cherish our family time and are enjoying every moment!



### Swearing In

The Georgia General Assembly began the first year of the 154th Biennial Session January 9, 2017. We welcomed several new members to the Senate Chamber and I was sworn in to my fourth term as your senator.

Each session, senators have forty days to discuss, debate and pass legislation to be considered by Governor Nathan Deal for 2017. Throughout the 40-day session, my colleagues and I will address numerous issues to continue making Georgia the best place to live, work and play. Any new bills started this year which are not passed will carry over into 2018, for further consideration. I welcome you to join me at your Georgia State Capitol.



### Georgia's Balanced Budget

Governor Deal's State of the State this week will

bring continued good news concerning our economic outlook and his proposed budget recommendations. These recommendations will serve as a guide for the Georgia Senate as we begin working toward a balanced budget for FY 2018. As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I work very closely on the budget.

We must also revise and work with the House of Representatives to approve the current fiscal year budget (FY 2017 amended) to account for any unexpected expenses or revenue changes. Budgets will then go to Governor Deal's desk for his signature, thus receiving final approval. I am always proud to report Georgia maintains a balanced budget and no deficit!



## Becoming a Senate Page

The Senate Page Program offers students ages 12 and older a first-hand opportunity to visit the Capitol to observe and participate in the legislative process. Senate pages serve the Senators by delivering important information and messages to them in the Senate Chamber during the legislative session day.

Please contact my office for additional information by clicking [HERE](#) to or call (404)463-8055.



## Committee Process

The committee system is the heart of the legislative process. The committee does what the Senate and the House of Representatives could not do as well by functioning as a whole. The committee can and should do the fact-finding groundwork.

The committee may go outside the Legislature to learn the opinion of interested persons who may be well informed on the subject of the bill. The committee can subpoena for witnesses and for records. It can also use the research facilities of the Legislature to analyze the situation here and in other states. Citizens who wish to be heard are also allowed to speak at committee meetings.



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