



January 2018 Newsletter

Happy New Year! Today the Georgia General Assembly returns to legislative session. I have a busy calendar and many important bills to pass. I am working closely with my colleagues to pass tax reform, improve public safety and support families. I look forward to hearing your great ideas to continue to make Georgia the best place to live, work and play.

We enjoyed a very exciting ending to 2017 with my son Will graduating college from the University of North Georgia. We are thankful for his education and thrilled to see him move into this next chapter of life. Our younger son Ryan continues to enjoy a great sophomore year at Roswell High School and looks forward to competing in upcoming rifle team matches.



New Committee Chairmanship

I have been honored to chair several committees in the Senate during my tenure. I was recently named the Chairman of the Public Safety Committee. This very important committee has general jurisdiction over legislation related to the security and safety of Georgians. Additionally, the committee reviews most legislation related to law enforcement, firefighters, corrections, and safety on Georgia's roads. I have significant experience in this area and look forward to the challenge.



Study Committee Final Report

The final report for my Georgia Senate Special Tax Exemption Study Committee was delivered to Lt. Governor Casey Cagle. I was proud serve as Chairman of the committee and the excellent work which was done.

The committee has several recommendations including a new business case process for future tax credits/exemptions, continuous 5-year review of all existing credits/exemptions and specific recommendations to continue with some and eliminate others. The full report can be found online



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THE FINAL REPORT OF THE
SENATE STUDY COMMITTEE ON SPECIAL TAX EXEMPTION

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Senator John Albers – Chair
District 56

Senator Chuck Hufstetter
District 52

Senator Jack Hill
District 4

Senator Ellis Black
District 8

HERE.

GBI Expansion

I was proud to join Governor Nathan Deal, Director Vernon Keenan and others to officially open the expanded crime lab and morgue for the Georgia Bureau of Investigation. Public safety is always my #1 priority. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I am directly involved with law enforcement serving as the subcommittee chairman over this area of the budget. I commend the excellent work being done and ask for your continued support and prayers for all our first responders and military heroes.



2017 Election Cycle

Elections are a profound expression of our great republic and liberty. As Americans, we should never take for granted our freedom of self-determination. Running for elected office is very difficult and I have the joys and scars of a few election cycles. Anyone who puts themselves forward to be placed on a ballot will endure a tremendous stress on themselves, families, friends and business. I respect and thank everyone who participated in the process.

Congratulations to those who won. I urge you to be magnanimous, build bridges and serve with honor. If you came up short on votes, thank you for putting yourself forward and stay involved. There are many ways to serve our community. Please call personally to concede the race and find a time very soon to meet personally with your former opponent to find common ground and work together.

Campaigns provide an opportunity for candidates to share ideas and meet citizens. The experience is exciting and overwhelming. Sometimes and all too often campaigns turn negative. It is unfortunate and typically occurs when heightened emotions become the focus. However, what binds us all together is the notion of serving other people and making a real difference. Similar to a family quarrel, we must heal our wounds quickly and move on together. After all, the goal of public service is just that – serving the public. Time to get to work!



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