



Fall is upon us, and I hope you and your family are enjoying the cooler weather and everything this time of year brings to our communities. With festivals, football games, and other local events underway, there is plenty to look forward to across our district.

It is also a good time to pay attention to what is happening in your local government, particularly when it comes to taxes. Local governments make important decisions that directly affect what families pay, and I encourage you to stay informed and make your voice heard. As a state, we have taken steps to lower taxes, provide property tax relief, and return money to taxpayers. I believe that same focus on affordability is important at every level of government.

Affordability remains one of my priorities, and this year, the state took several steps to help families keep more of what they earn. We lowered the state income tax rate again with additional reductions scheduled in the years ahead and increased the standard deduction so more income can remain tax-free. The new law also provides tax relief for portions of overtime compensation and cash tips.

We also took another step toward property tax relief. Senate Bill 33, the Homeownership Opportunity and Market Equalization Act, establishes a new Local Homestead Option Sales Tax to provide homeowner tax relief and includes changes to Georgia's statewide homestead exemption.

Georgia taxpayers are also receiving a fourth round of state income tax refunds. Eligible taxpayers can receive up to \$250 for individual filers, \$375 for heads of household, and \$500 for married couples filing jointly. More than \$1 billion is being returned to taxpayers through these refunds. Families also received relief at the gas pump this year. The state motor fuel tax was suspended beginning in March and extended through June 3, providing additional savings for drivers during the spring and early summer.

These measures take different approaches, but they share an important goal: helping Georgia families manage the cost of living and keep more of their hard-earned money.

Early Voting Information

Early voting for the November midterms begins on Tuesday, October 13th, and runs through Friday, October 30th. To make sure you are registered, visit the Secretary of State's [My Voter Page](#). Registration ends October 5th, so don't wait!

For Cherokee County polling locations, click [here](#).

Cobb County residents can view their polling locations [here](#).

Finally, if you live in Fulton County, you can view your polling locations [here](#).

Gas Tax Suspension

We are working hard to lower costs in Georgia. The suspension of the gas tax will help our families and businesses.

GOV BRIAN KEMP & SENATOR JOHN ALBERS



WORKING TO LOWER COSTS

Sen. Albers talks to Home Builders

Small businesses are the backbone of our local communities, and I believe Georgia's policies should make it easier for them to grow and continue serving their communities. As a member of the Senate Finance Committee, I have worked on policies that encourage investment, reduce unnecessary burdens, and give entrepreneurs the opportunity to succeed.

At the same time, we have to address the rising cost of housing. Homeownership is becoming increasingly difficult for many Georgia families, and one part of the solution is making it easier and less expensive to build new homes. This year, I supported [legislation](#) to streamline the homebuilding process, including reducing unnecessary inspection delays and requiring greater transparency when local governments deny building permits. These changes can help builders bring more homes to the market while giving families clearer information as they work toward homeownership.

I will continue working to create an environment where small businesses can grow and where more Georgians have the opportunity to own a home and put down roots in our communities.



Reading to Pre-K Students

Education is one of the most important investments we can make in Georgia's future. From the classroom to the workforce, the opportunities we provide our children today will help shape the communities and economy we have tomorrow.

Over the last few years, Georgia has fully funded K-12 education and continues providing additional resources to meet enrollment growth and other needs. This year's state budget also includes funding to reduce class sizes, expand Pre-K opportunities, and strengthen programs that prepare students for the workforce.

Keeping students safe is just as important as providing them with a quality education. Georgia has established recurring funding for school safety and has continued to provide resources that local school systems can use to address their individual security needs. These include requiring mobile panic alert systems, anonymous reporting tools, and behavioral threat assessment plans. Protecting our students and teachers must remain a priority as we work to provide safe environments where children can learn and succeed.

We are also taking steps to help families with the cost of child care. Georgia recently increased its tax credit for qualifying child and dependent care expenses and created a \$250 tax credit for each qualifying child under age six. The state also created a tax credit for employers that provide qualifying child care assistance to their employees. We are preserving access to reliable child care for our hardworking parents and our businesses that depend on a strong workforce.



Gov. Kemp: Georgia Remains No. 1 for Business

Governor Brian P. Kemp, in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Economic Development, announced that the state has again secured the No. 1 state for business ranking by *Area Development* magazine for an unprecedented **13th year in a row**, demonstrating an unmatched consistency in creating a successful, business-friendly environment. Working closely with economic developers across the state and the General Assembly, Governor Kemp has maintained this coveted distinction for Georgia throughout his entire eight years in office.

“Georgia is at the heart of the American comeback story across a wide range of industries, including manufacturing,” **said Governor Brian P. Kemp**. “The workforce talent, facilities and project sites, and partnerships we've cultivated over these last eight years will only further that momentum in the years to come. I want to thank and congratulate the economic development community, the General Assembly, the educators and workforce developers, and most of all the hardworking Georgians themselves who made this possible. This announcement is yet another testament that we're delivering on the shared goal of creating more jobs for Georgians.”

“I was proud to work alongside Governor Kemp and my colleagues to achieve this important designation and support our working families,” said **Senator John Albers**.



Ballot Questions

Georgia voters will also see three proposed constitutional amendments on the November 3 ballot. I wanted to take a moment to explain what each proposal would do and why these issues matter to our state.

The first proposal, House Resolution 32, would increase the maximum acreage that can qualify for Georgia's conservation use property assessment from 2,000 to 4,000 acres. This could be particularly meaningful for Georgia's farmers and timber industry after the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene.

The second proposal, House Resolution 251, would require probate judges to be elected in nonpartisan elections. Probate courts handle important matters involving wills, estates, guardianships, and conservatorships, making the work of these courts important to families across Georgia.

The third proposal, House Resolution 1243, would authorize the creation of the Georgia Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund. The fund would provide a dedicated source of revenue for the expansion, maintenance, and operation of 9-1-1 systems as Georgia continues transitioning to Next Generation 9-1-1 technology.

I supported these proposals during the legislative process because I believe each addresses an important need for Georgia. I encourage everyone to take the time to read the ballot language and make an informed decision at the voting booth. The Georgia Secretary of State's [My Voter Page](#) is also a resource for reviewing your sample ballot and the statewide questions.

2026 GEORGIA STATEWIDE BALLOT QUESTIONS: EXPLAINED

The following proposed constitutional amendments (CA) will appear on the November 2026 ballot.

PROPOSED CA #1: HOUSE RESOLUTION 32

"SHALL THE CONSTITUTION OF GEORGIA, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROTECTING FAMILY FARMLAND, BE AMENDED SO AS TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM ACREAGE TO QUALIFY FOR ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION AS A BONA FIDE CONSERVATION USE PROPERTY FROM 2,000 ACRES TO 4,000 ACRES?"

- If H.R. 32 is ratified, it would allow a single landowner to receive Conservation Use Valuation Assessment tax-benefit program on up to 4,000 acres of qualifying farmland or timberland, instead of the current 2,000-acre limit.

PROPOSED CA #2: HOUSE RESOLUTION 251

"SHALL THE CONSTITUTION OF GEORGIA BE AMENDED SO AS TO REQUIRE THAT ALL PROBATE COURT JUDGES BE ELECTED IN NONPARTISAN ELECTIONS?"

- Probate judges oversee matters involving wills, estates, guardianships, and conservatorships. If H.R. 251 is ratified, candidates for probate judges would not be elected under a political affiliation.

PROPOSED CA #3: HOUSE RESOLUTION 1243

"SHALL THE CONSTITUTION OF GEORGIA BE AMENDED SO AS TO AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO DEDICATE CERTAIN EXISTING REVENUES, INCLUDING REVENUES REALLOCATED BY LAW, TO A NONLAPSING FUND TO BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE EXPANSION, MAINTENANCE, AND OPERATION OF EMERGENCY 9-1-1 SYSTEMS IN THIS STATE?"

- If ratified, H.R. 1243 would allow Georgia to create a dedicated fund for 9-1-1 systems, helping pay for their expansion, maintenance and operation, including the transition to the updated Next Generation 9-1-1 system. The technology would expand 911 capabilities to include text messages, photos and videos during emergencies.

*For more information on the 2026 Georgia Ballot initiatives,
please visit: www.sos.ga.gov*





CONTACT INFORMATION