

News from under the Golden Dome

Important legislation to help Georgia’s workforce . . .

The Governor is continuing to prioritize signing important legislation we passed in the General Assembly over the last session. Bills to address Georgia’s health-care needs, protect small businesses, and prevent the trafficking of stolen goods on the internet were all part of a busy week enacting laws that benefit District 154.

Healthcare
Healthcare can be complicated and expensive for Georgians, which is one of the reasons I supported several healthcare reforms this year signed into law by Governor Kemp to ease access to care and simplify the bureaucracy.

House Bill 733 and House Bill 937 both address the importance of breast cancer screenings for women in Georgia, requiring that diagnostic examinations be covered in the same way as mammograms while requiring notification to eligible recipients of mammogram coverage for women over 40.

Senate Bill 341 recognizes that compliance with insurance regulations can be a burden on Georgians by allowing a patient to receive prior authorization for up to a year, cutting red tape for those seeking treatment for chronic conditions.



Representative Gerald Greene

Legislation like this is only helpful if care is available in our Georgia communities, which is why I also supported Senate Bill 340 to increase access to healthcare training, House Bill 1041 to encourage Georgians to financially support rural hospitals, and House Bill 1069 to create new licensing categories to make mental health treatment more readily available.

Small Business Week
As part of Small Business Week, which occurred this year from May 3 - 8, the Governor signed legislation to cut red tape and allow Georgia’s small businesses to thrive.

Senate Bill 331, the Protecting Georgia Businesses

and Workers Act, prevents local governments from overregulating the relationship between Georgia’s workers and their employers.

House Bill 1058 simplifies the tax filing process for affiliated businesses, allowing a business owner to file a consolidated return rather than multiple separate returns. Complying with the tax code is hard enough - ensuring a fair process is better for everyone.

House Bill 1443 protects the safety of Georgia diners while simplifying the permitting process for mobile food service establishments such as food trucks and caterers.

With this legislation, a food truck can operate in additional Georgia counties so long as it has appropriate permitting and inspections in its home county.

Enforcing Georgia’s Laws
Platforms like eBay and Amazon provide great tools for Georgians in all corners of our state to make extra money. Unfortunately, criminal gangs have reportedly begun taking advantage of these tools to sell stolen loot.

Senate Bill 332, the Inform Consumers Act, requires that high-volume sellers making over \$20,000

a year on a platform provide financial and contact information, while platforms are required to create a reporting mechanism.

With this law in effect, criminals won’t be able to take advantage of Georgians by selling them contraband and leaving them with no recourse. At the same time, law-abiding businesses won’t have to deal with unfair competition from those selling stolen property.

Conclusion
I will continue to advocate for Georgians in District 154, protecting access to healthcare while supporting small businesses and defending you against criminals.

Legislation like that signed this week addresses many needs in these areas, but I know there’s always more work to do.

Should you have ideas about legislation that could address issues faced by you or your neighbors, remember you can always reach out to me at 404.656.9210 or Gerald.greene@house.ga.gov.

Gerald Greene represents District 154 in the Georgia General Assembly and serves as the Chairman of the State Properties Committee.

Financial Focus

Harness the power of budgeting

When you hear the word “budgeting,” your first thought might be that it’s mostly for young people starting out in their careers and adult lives. Yet, budgeting can be important for everyone, no matter their age. And even if you feel that you’re in pretty good financial shape, with a reasonable amount of savings and investments, you can still benefit by establishing a budget or improving your current one.

Here’s what budgeting can do for you:

- **Give you feelings of control** – Not knowing where your money is going can be bewildering. But when you follow a budget, you’ll get a clear picture of your money movements. Consequently, you’ll feel more in control of your finances – and possibly your life, too.
- **Help you identify your priorities** – A budget is, first of all, a practical tool that can help you manage your finances by showing what you must spend on your needs – mortgage, utilities, car payment and so on. But a good budget should also have space for your wants – which can range from mundane things, such as new clothes and entertainment, to more aspirational items, such as gifts to charitable organizations you strongly support. By having your needs and your wants in front of you, on a piece of paper or a computer screen, you can determine if you’re spending too much on things that aren’t important to you and not enough on those that are. Consequently, you may be able to adjust your budget in a way that allows you to put more financial weight behind your priorities.
- **Save for emergencies** – You never know when you’ll need a major car repair or a new furnace or face a large medical bill – all of which can be true budget busters. That’s why, within your monthly budget, you should designate a certain amount to an emergency fund, with the money held in a liquid, accessible account. To make it easier to contribute to this fund, you can set up automatic transfers from your checking or savings account into a separate, liquid, low-risk account. It’s a good idea to keep at least three to six months’ worth of living expenses in your emergency fund.
- **Help you pay down debt** – By sticking to a budget, you can determine how much money you can devote to paying down your debts. And if you find opportunities within your budget to cut back on your spending, you can use the savings to reduce your debts further.
- **Save for your future** – Here’s another important category for your monthly budget: the future. You should always try to put away some money, even if it’s only a relatively small amount, to a retirement account such as an IRA. As your salary goes up, you can increase these amounts. Of course, you may already be contributing to a 401(k) or similar account where you work, but you could spend decades in retirement, so you’ll want to accumulate as many resources as you can for those years.

A budget is a humble-appearing document. But, as we’ve seen, it can play a far more meaningful role in your life than you might have thought – so use it wisely.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.
Edward Jones, Member SIPC

Timothy J. Thompson
Edward Jones Financial Advisor
timothy.thompson@edwardjones.com
(229) 246-6400

Compassionate Friends group meets the second Thursday of every month

Compassionate Friends of Southwest Georgia, an organization made up of members who have lost children, offers friendship, understanding, and hope to bereaved families that have experienced the death of a child. The group meets monthly on the second Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m., at 224 South West Street in Bainbridge. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12th at 6:15 p.m. For additional information contact June Faircloth at 229-416-6134. Faircloth commented, “If one mother or father is helped by what we do, it’s all worth it. Parents, Grandpar-

ents & Siblings to a child who is gone too soon are welcome to our grief support group. We have all been through the struggles and are just a group of individuals trying to help others in the community. We learn to lean on each others’ shoulders and we are all the better for it. Come join us!”

Notice of Elections for Parent/Business Owner School Council Members

PURPOSE OF EACH SCHOOL COUNCIL:

- School councils are advisory boards for each school
- To improve communication and participation of parents and the community in the management and operation of the school
- To bring communities and schools closer together in a spirit of cooperation.
- To solve difficult education problems
- To improve academic achievement
- To provide support for teachers and administrators.
- To assist the local board of education in developing and nurturing participation.
- To bring parents and the community together with teachers and administrators to create a better understanding of and mutual respect for each other’s concerns.
- To share ideas for school improvement.

SCHOOL COUNCIL MEMBERS MUST:

- Be 18 years of age.
- Have a child in the school or will have a child enrolled at the beginning of the 2022-2023 year/Own or operate a business in Seminole County.
- Maintain a school-wide perspective on issues
- Regularly participate in school council meetings.
- Participate in information and training sessions.
- Act as a link between the school council and the community.
- Encourage the participation of parents and others within the school community.
- Work to improve student achievement and performance.

TIME COMMITMENT:

- Two-year term of office.
- Attend monthly meetings.
- Attend training programs
- Attend other meetings, training, and information sessions.
- There is no salary or remunerator for school council members.

SEMINOLE COUNTY MIDDLE HIGH SCHOOL

Seminole County Middle High School will hold a parent school council member election meeting Friday, May 13th, at 12:00 p.m. in the front office. Parents or guardians of children, who will be enrolled at Seminole County Middle High School next school year, 2022-2023, are eligible to serve as parent school council members. SCMHS employees cannot serve as parent school council members at SCMHS. One parent or guardian will be elected to serve as a parent school council member.

Eligible parents and guardians can nominate eligible individuals to serve as parent school council members prior to the election meeting. Those parents or guardians who wish to nominate parents for this school council position prior to the election meeting should complete the nomination form and give the form to the school principal. Nominations will be accepted during the election meeting.

SEMINOLE COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Seminole County Elementary School will hold a parent/business owner school council member election meeting Friday, May 13th, at 12:00 p.m. in the front office. Parents or guardians of children, who will be enrolled at Seminole County Elementary School next school year, 2022-2023, are eligible to serve as parent school council members. SCES employees cannot serve as parent school council members at SCES. Owners or operators of businesses in Seminole County are also eligible to serve as business owner school council members. One parent or guardian will be elected to serve as a parent school council member and one business owner will be selected to serve as a business owner school council member.

Eligible parents and guardians can nominate eligible individuals to serve as parent or business owner school council members prior to the election meeting. Those parents or guardians who wish to nominate parents or business owners for these school council positions prior to the election meeting should complete the nomination form and give the form to the school principal. Nominations will be accepted during the election meeting.

Parent/Business Nomination forms can be found at the front office of each school.

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Timothy J. Thompson
Financial Advisor
102 E Broughton Street
Bainbridge, GA 39817
229-246-6400

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