

News from under the Gold Dome

The 2026 Legislative Session has officially adjourned Sine Die—literally meaning no more days. While our work under the Gold Dome is over for the year, my work on your behalf continues. I now look forward to bringing that same focus and commitment back home to the 8th Senate District, where it matters most.

Since January, my colleagues and I have worked to pass legislation that lowers costs, strengthens our communities, and keeps Georgia on a strong path forward.

One of our most important responsibilities each year is passing a balanced state budget, and I am proud of the one we delivered for Fiscal Year 2027. Because we have wisely managed your tax dollars, we can invest in key priorities while maintaining Georgia's strong financial position. This includes meaningful support for education, our workforce, and our state's largest industry—agriculture.

We also confronted a hard truth this session. Too many of our children are falling behind in the classroom. When only about a quarter of students are reading on grade level, doing nothing is not an option. That's why we made a serious \$70 million investment to place literacy coaches in every K-3 school and passed the Georgia Early Literacy Act of 2026. We are drawing a hard line and committing to changing the trajectory for our next generation.

At the same time, we know families are feeling squeezed by the rising costs that are hitting kitchen tables across this state. That's why we took action to let you keep more of what you earn. Through House Bill 463, we lowered Georgia's income tax rate and

expanded the standard deduction, delivering real, lasting relief.

This year, we also took meaningful steps to provide long-term property tax relief for Georgia homeowners. Under legislation passed by the General Assembly, local governments must now cap annual reassessment increases at no more than 3% or the rate of inflation, bringing predictability and protection for families facing rising home values. In addition, counties and cities now have new tools, pending voter approval, to significantly reduce or even eliminate property taxes through local sales tax options like the Floating Local Option Sales Tax (FLOST) and the Local Homestead Option Sales Tax (LHOST). These measures could save you and your family hundreds of dollars as soon as this year, with even greater relief in the years ahead. In many communities, homeowners could see their property tax bills cut in half or, in some cases, eliminated entirely, while ensuring that growth and investment remain balanced and sustainable.

Meanwhile, the Senate agreed to the House's changes to Senate Bill 10, allowing judicial circuits with 15 or more superior court judges to appoint up to five additional judges. Simply put, when courts get backed up, families and businesses are left waiting for answers. This bill helps move cases along and makes sure folks can have their day in court without unnecessary delays.

It is an honor to serve the people of South Georgia, and I look forward to seeing you back home in the district.

Sen. Russ Goodman serves as Chairman of the Senate Com-

mittee on Agriculture and Consumer Affairs. He represents the 8th Senate District, which includes Atkinson, Clinch, Echols, Lanier, Loundes and Pierce

counties, as well as a portion of Ware County. He may be reached by phone at (404) 463-1318 or by email at Russ.Goodman@senate.ga.gov.

Russ Goodman
STATE SENATOR



russ.goodman@senate.ga.gov



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

For New Students ONLY—Clinch County Pre-K students do not need to register.

Monday-Thursday, April 20-April 23 2026

From 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Children currently attending Clinch County Pre-K will be screened during the regular school day. Parents of these students do not have to attend registration.

Documents Required for Registration

- 1) Official birth certificate
- 2) Immunization Record – Georgia Certificate of Immunization (GA Form 3231). This form is available from your child's physician.
- 3) Certificate of Vision, Hearing, Dental and Nutrition Screening (Georgia Form 3300). This form is available from your child's physician.
- 4) Social Security Card
- 5) Proof of residence (utility bill, rental agreement, cable bill, mortgage agreement, or land line phone bill only--statements must be current--within the last 30 days.
- 6) Guardian papers (if applicable)
- 7) Kindergarten Assessment--Completed at time of registration by teacher. Student must be present.

*Please visit our school website at www.clinchcounty.com to access the 2026-2027 kindergarten registration packet on the CCES page. If you do not have the capability to download and print the registration packet, one can be picked up at CCES.

Registration is not complete until all documents have been received

If you have any questions, please contact Brooklyn Crews at bcrews@clinchcounty.com or call 912-487-5385.

Note: Kindergarten students must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2026.

John E. Hughes Memorial

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Friday
May 8, 2026

Start Time 11:30 am

Okefenokee Country Club

- Four-person scramble
- \$400 per team
- \$10 Mulligans per person
- Prizes for lowest net, gross, closest to pin, longest drive
- Includes meal
- \$100 hole sponsor

Clinch County Lions Club

Register a Team or Become a Sponsor Today!

Len Robbins – 912-218-2255

Brent James – 912-520-0753

Or contact any
Clinch County Lions Club member.



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HELP WANTED

Stephen C. Foster State Park in Fargo, GA is now hiring for Administrative Support. Minimum qualifications are a High School Diploma or GED AND ability to perform basic office functions and computer related duties. The entry salary is \$29,020.16. Please go to <https://gadnr.org/careers>. From this page you can view the DNR Vacancy Announcement (pages 14 and 15) and access the DNR Application for Employment. Email applications to Parks6@dnr.ga.gov or bring/mail your completed application to Stephen C. Foster State Park at 17515 GA Highway 177, Fargo, GA. This position is open until filled. Call the park at 912-637-5274 if you have any questions.