



Mayor & City Council

Workshop Session

~ Agenda ~

City of College Park
3667 Main Street
College Park, GA 30337

<http://www.collegeparkga.com>

404-669-3756 (Main)

Experience College Park
Georgia's Global City

Monday, January 4, 2021

6:00 PM

Council Chambers

1. Presentation by Peachtree Government Relations (PGR) for the 2021 Georgia Legislative Session and consideration of legislative priorities for the upcoming session. See memorandum dated December 29, 2020 from Special Projects Administrator Jackson Myers. Also, see attached Pre-Session Report and General Election Update PowerPoint presentation prepared by PGR.



CITY OF COLLEGE PARK

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WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM

DOC ID: 8511

DATE: December 29, 2020

TO: The Honorable Mayor and Members of City Council

THROUGH: Mercedes Miller, Interim City Manager

FROM: Jackson Myers, Special Projects Administrator

RE: Peachtree Government Relations-State Lobbying Services

- Municipal Option Sales Tax (MOST)
 - o Water and Sewer MOST
 - § The MOST would relieve the burden on utility rate payers and export a portion of the burden to consumers who visit and transact business in College Park. The City of Atlanta has used a MOST to fund its contributions to the Consent Degree improvements required for the Metropolitan Sewer System, while participating municipalities have not had that option. In addition, the participating jurisdictions' sewer flow is an integral part of the qualifying flow that the City of Atlanta uses to meet Georgia statute requirements.
 - § Voters deserve the opportunity to decide
- Modernizing Georgia's Tax Code
 - o Elimination of inventory taxes
 - o Increasing current rate caps to access revenue for municipalities
- Adequate Funding for Transportation Infrastructure
 - o Georgia must stay competitive on the local, regional, and international stages by making serious investments towards transportation infrastructure. The City of College Park has a favorable geographic location as to interstates and airfields that helps in the recruitment and support of businesses. To ensure proper maintenance and new construction of infrastructure projects College Park needs more planning inside our city and the airport.
- CARES Act Funding

- Support for HB 504

- o This bill would eliminate the exemption that the extraterritorial City of Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (H-JAIA) has by amending O.C.G.A. 48-5-41(a)(1)(B) from paying ad valorem taxes on property owned by H-JAIA in the City of College Park

ATTACHMENTS:

- College Park - Pre-Session Report (PDF)
- PGR.presession.report.2021 (PDF)

Review:

- Jackson Myers Completed 12/21/2020 10:24 AM
- Rosyline Robinson Completed 12/23/2020 3:04 PM
- Mercedes Miller Completed 12/29/2020 2:53 PM
- Mayor & City Council Pending 01/04/2021 6:00 PM



Pre-Session Report

It's that time of year again! Time to celebrate the holidays but also to look ahead at the upcoming legislative session. The 2021 session of the Georgia General Assembly is scheduled to begin on January 11th. Below you will find information on early legislation that could affect your industry as well as information on new leadership and more. We are looking forward to representing you at the Capitol for the 2021 Legislative Session.

Pre-Filed Legislation

Each session a number of bills are pre-filed. This can be done for a number of reasons. Legislators often pre-file bills to show their constituents they are taking action early. Sometimes they pre-file a bill to generate early conversations about it. They may want to pass the bill early in the session and want to get a headstart on working with opposition. Below are highlights of the 2021 prefiles. You can find all of the prefiled bills at the following links:

House - <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/Prefiles.aspx?Chamber=2>

Senate - <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/Prefiles.aspx?Chamber=1>

HB 3 - Representative Erick Allen – This bill adds disclosure and transparency measures to buildings that emit ethylene oxide. In 2020 a bill was passed that measured the amount of ETO released by a structure and designated a reporting requirement. This bill further expands the requirements for plants releasing over fifty pounds of ETO in a number of ways. First, the bill requires the division to install equipment that will detect and monitor the ETO emissions from each exhaust point at the permitted location. Second, the bill gives the department continuous access and retention to the direct emission information. The bill directs that buildings must utilize a vent control system and that each applicant must submit an ambient air monitoring plan.

HB 23 - Representative Mary Margaret Oliver - This bill gives the affected local board of education a seat at the table during annexation discussions. It allows the local board of education to object to the annexation due to material increase in burden related to the changes in zoning, density and infrastructure demands. The bill outlines the arbitration process and designates the funding of

the arbitration to the school system in the event that the county does not oppose the annexation and the school system does.

HB 24 - Representative Mary Margaret Oliver – This bill expands the financial disclosure information provided in an annexation petition. Under HB 24, the notice shall include any proposed tax abatements, rebates or other financial incentives that will be provided by the municipal corporation or any development authority incentive the municipality is aware of.

HB 25 - Representative Mary Margaret Oliver – This bill gives the local school system covering the geographic area of the county, municipality or political subdivision desiring to issue bonds the same standing as a citizen in relation to becoming a party to the bond proceedings at or before the time set for the hearing.

HB 36 - Representative Kim Schofield - This bill requires indoor air quality assessments of all public buildings including schools. The air assessment will be based on standards established by the EPA.

New Party Leadership

Both parties have met and elected their Leadership for 2021. Republicans remained the same but there were some major changes in Democrat leadership. With the minority leaders in the House and the Senate not returning, the party had to elect a new leader as well as other open positions. Leadership is as follows:

House

Speaker - David Ralston
 Speaker Pro Tem - Jan Jones
 Majority Leader - Jon Burns
 Majority Whip - Trey Kelley
 Republican Caucus Chairman - Matt Hatchett
 Minority Leader - James Beverly
 Minority Whip - David Wilkerson
 Democrat Caucus Chairman - Billy Mitchell

Senate

President Pro Tem - Butch Miller
 Majority Leader - Mike Dugan
 Majority Whip - Steve Gooch
 Republican Caucus Chairman - John F. Kennedy
 Minority Leader - Gloria Butler
 Minority Whip - Harold Jones
 Democrat Caucus Chairman - Elena Parent

COVID-19 Update

On November 30, 2020, Governor Kemp signed the latest executive order. This order extends Georgia's Public Health State of Emergency until January 8, 2021. The order also extends the current COVID-19 restrictions including banning gatherings of 50 or more and identifying sanitary measures. The current order offers some positive changes including allowing nurses and pharmacists to administer the COVID-19 vaccine. It allows the vaccine to be administered in a drive-thru setting and permits the 15 minute observation by a nurse or pharmacist after injection. You can find the order in its entirety here - <https://gov.georgia.gov/executive-action/executive-orders/2020-executive-orders>

2021 Legislative Session

The 2021 Legislative Session will undoubtedly look different. There are many precautions that must be taken to continue to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 at the State Capitol and in the home districts of legislators. Speaker David Ralston has set up a committee to look at protocols that will make the Legislative Session as safe and efficient as possible.

(https://galobby.com/sites/default/files/speaker_memo_2021_session.pdf)

The Committee includes the following:

Majority Leader Jon Burns

Minority Leader James Beverly

Bill Reilly, Clerk

Spiro Amburn, Speaker Chief of Staff

Holli Pitcock, Director of Office of Constituent Services

Betsy Theroux, House Messenger

We will keep you updated as the committee meets and reports. Among other precautions, we expect them to limit the number of people in the Capitol and in committee rooms. There will likely be a mask requirement as well as limits on group days at the Capitol.

Election results - the facts

The 2020 Election has certainly been one for the history books! Nationwide, tensions are still high. In the State of Georgia, there have been questions swirling around absentee voting procedures, ballot certification and overall election security. These discussions are sure to be ongoing throughout the 2021 Legislative Session. Below is a short synopsis but please find the attached PowerPoint with more detailed information on the 2020 elections.

On December 7th, Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger recertified the results of the November 3rd Presidential election. The results showed Joe Biden as the winner. This recertification came

following an audit-triggered recount and then a formal recount requested by the Trump campaign. Both recounts upheld the original outcome of the race.

The Electoral College will meet on December 14th in their respective states to cast their votes. Georgia's 16 electoral votes will go to Joe Biden.

At the State level, incumbent legislators fared well. Overall, through election losses, the State Senate lost one Republican incumbent and the State House lost three Republicans and one Democrat incumbent. The legislature will face turnover due to retirements and others running for higher office, but the party split remains relatively unchanged. This ensures that there will be more continuity on committee leadership and membership.

Again, please find the attached PowerPoint presentation for more detailed information on the 2020 elections.



General Election Update

Principal – Don Bolia
Laura Norton
Tyler Lewis

Turnout

- In 2016, turnout was approximately 4.1 million voters.
- In 2020, turnout was approximately 4.9 million voters.
 - 3.9 million people voted early or absentee
 - On election day, only 1 million voters went to the polls or dropped their absentee ballots off at official locations.
- Among Georgia's 7 million registered voters, turnout rate was at a historical high of 67.74%.

Defeated Incumbents (GA Senate)

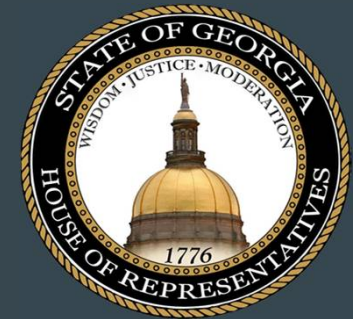
- P.K. Martin (R) - SD 9 – Defeated by Nikki Merritt (D)
 - Martin serves as the Chairman of Education





Defeated Incumbents (GA House)

- Brett Harrell (R) – HD 106 – Defeated by Rebecca Mitchell (D)
 - Harrell serves as Chairman of Ways and Means
- Dale Rutledge (R) – HD 109 – Defeated by Regina Lewis-Ward (D)
- Bob Trammell (D) – HD 132 – Defeated by David Jenkins (R)
 - Trammell serves as the Minority Leader
- Deborah Silcox (R) – HD 52 – Defeated by Shea Roberts (D)
 - Silcox serves as Chairman of MARTOC



New Faces (GA Senate)

- Sheila McNeil (R) – SD 3
- Billy Hickman (R) – SD 4
- Ross Goodman (R) – SD 8
- Max Burns (R) – SD 23
- Jason Anavitarte (R) – SD 31
- Sonya Halpern (D) – SD 39
- Kim Jackson (D) – SD 41
- Clint Dixon (R) – SD 45
- Michelle Au (D) – SD 48
- Bo Hatchett (R) – SD 50



New Faces (GA House)

- Mike Cameron (R) – HD 1
- Stan Gunter (R) – HD 8
- Will Wade (R) – HD 9
- Victor Anderson (R) – HD 10
- Tyler Smith (R) – HD 18
- Charlice Byrd (R) – HD 20
- Brad Thomas (R) – HD 21
- Lauren McDonald (R) – HD 26
- Rob Leverett (R) – HD 33
- Shea Roberts (D) – HD 52



New Faces (GA House) Continued

- Mesha Mainor (D) – HD 56
- Stacey Evans (D) – HD 57 *Returning
- Mandisha Thomas (D) – HD 65
- Yasmin Neal (D) – HD 74
- Zulma Lopez (D) – HD 86
- Marvin Lim (D) – HD 99
- Rebecca Mitchell (D) – HD 106
- Regina Lewis-Ward (R) – HD 109



New Faces (GA House) Continued

- Clint Crowe (R) – HD 110
- Sharon Henderson (D) – HD 113
- Beth Camp (R) – HD 131
- David Jenkins (R) – HD 132
- Robert Pruitt (R) – HD 149
- Derek J. Mallow (D) – HD 163
- Buddy DeLoach (R) – HD 167

Open Chairmanships (Senate)

- Retirement - Ellis Black (Retiring)
- Judiciary - Jesse Stone (Retiring)
- Government Oversight – Bill Heath (Retiring)
- Science and Technology - Renee Unterman (Lost Congressional Bid)
- Agriculture and Consumer Affairs – John Wilkinson (Lost Congressional Bid)
- Education – P.K. Martin (Lost General Election)

Open Chairmanships (House)

- Transportation – Kevin Tanner (Lost Congressional Bid)
- Agriculture and Consumer Affairs – Tom McCall (Retired)
- Appropriations of Public Safety – Andrew Welch (Retired)
- Ways and Means – Brett Harrell (Defeated in General Election)
- MARTOC – Deborah Silcox (Defeated in General Election)



Legislative Turnover

- Among the 21 contested legislative races in the Georgia Senate, 95% of incumbents won reelection.
 - Of those 21 contested Senate seats, only 1 legislator lost reelection.
- Among the 76 contested legislative races in the Georgia House, 95% of incumbents won reelection.
 - Of those 76 contested House seats, only 4 legislators lost reelection.
- In the overall 2020 Election Cycle, the House had a turnover rate of approximately 13%, and the Senate of approximately 18%.
 - All together, the Georgia General Assembly had a turnover rate of 14% in the 2020 Election Cycle.

Georgia's 2020 Political Landscape

- Among the 13 seats Democrats flipped in the State House in 2018, all remained Democratic during the 2020 General Election.
- While Georgia House Democrats were aiming to flip up to 15 seats in mainly metro areas, they only successfully flipped 3 in 2020.
- With Minority Leader Bob Trammell's loss, there is no longer any rural House Districts in Georgia represented by a white male Democrat.
- While the suburbs remained competitive for Democrats, they struggled to compete outside of metro areas.

Runoff Elections

- There was one Georgia legislative runoff occurring in SD 39, vacated by Nikema Williams to run for Congress. Sonya Halpern won the run-off. This district largely encompasses West and South Atlanta.
- Georgia will hold a dual runoff for both of its U.S. Senate races.
 - U.S. Senate Seat 1: Kelly Loeffler (R), Raphael Warnock (D)
 - U.S. Senate Seat 2 : David Perdue (R), Jon Ossoff (D)

Questions?

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