



LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

This week, the Georgia General Assembly convened Monday through Thursday, completing the 4th legislative day of 40. Next week, the 2019 Session Joint Budget Hearings for the FY 2019 Amended and FY 2020 General Budgets are scheduled to begin on Tuesday, January 22nd. The General Assembly will reconvene on Monday, January 28th for Legislative Day 5.

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Yesterday, Governor Brian Kemp spoke before the Georgia General Assembly in his first State of the State Address. In his speech, the governor laid out his priorities for next year that include investing in education and healthcare, supporting farmers and rural Georgia, and continuing to lower taxes and decrease regulations to keep Georgia as the number one place in the nation to do business.

To create and maintain a strong and healthy workforce for Georgia, the governor announced that beginning this year in 2019, the amended budget will include a \$1 million increase in the Department of Community Health's budget to create state flexibility plans for Georgia's Medicaid program to help expand access, and also called upon the General Assembly to grow the rural hospital tax credit and create incentives to attract doctors and healthcare professionals to the state.

Governor Kemp also called upon the General Assembly to continue to stand with and support farmers recovering from Hurricane Michael and pledged to work with U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to bring necessary federal resources to help those still recovering. The governor vowed to continue to work to improve access to high-speed internet, healthcare and education throughout rural Georgia.

To keep Georgia as the number one state in the for business, Governor Kemp said he would continue the work done by Governors Perdue and Deal to foster a healthy environment for business. Over the next

year, Governor Kemp said he will work with the Georgians First Commission and the General Assembly to review and eliminate regulations that make it difficult for job creators to hire, expand and invest, and also called upon the General Assembly to lower the state income tax again while fully funding public education.

EGGS & ISSUES RECAP

The Georgia Chamber hosted its annual Eggs & Issues Breakfast at the Georgia World Congress Center on January 16, 2019. Elected officials and industry leaders from across the state provided a [legislative overview](#) and discussed issues pertinent to Georgia's changing economy. Special guests at this year's sold-out event included newly-inaugurated Governor Brian Kemp, Lieutenant Governor Geoff Duncan, Speaker of the House David Ralston, and Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms.

Georgia Chamber President & CEO, Chris Clark, introduced the Chamber's new strategic plan – [The New Georgia Economy](#), which provides exclusive insight into upcoming trends and risks that will impact the business community across Georgia.

Click [here](#) to view photos from the event.

POLITICAL AFFAIRS UPDATE

The Georgia Chamber is gearing up for the 2020 election cycle and we need your help. Your personal or corporate commitment today to the Georgia Chamber PAC will ensure that we as an organization are prepared to meet the challenges ahead. If you have any questions or would like more information regarding the Chamber's political engagement efforts, please contact Chelsey Ruppensburg at cruppensburg@gachamber.com. If you would like to donate online, click [here](#).

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