

## Gold Dome Update - Highlights from the House January 14th - January 17th

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Monday, January 14, marked the first day of the 155th meeting of the Georgia General Assembly and the beginning of a brand new Legislative Term. The first order of business was for all elected members to be sworn into office. Soon after we began preparation for the legislative days ahead. Issues such as healthcare access, education, medical cannabis oil, casino gaming and public safety initiatives will be up for debate. Over the remaining days, my colleagues and I will be introducing and discussing new bills that may become law, which is why it's important we come together to communicate, listen and strive to better our great state.

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### Governor Kemp's Inauguration

The inauguration of Georgia's 83rd governor, Brian Kemp, was marked by thousands of citizens flocking to Atlanta to witness the historic ceremony. Kemp's inaugural address encouraged our leaders and citizens to continue to build on our state's accomplishments, while calling for bipartisan leadership with the hope of Georgia becoming a "state united."

[Click here to watch Governor Kemp's Inaugural address.](#)

#### Other statewide officers taking the oath of office include:

Lt. Governor, Geoff Duncan  
Secretary of State, Brad Raffensperger  
Attorney General, Chris Carr  
State School Superintendent, Richard Woods  
Insurance Commissioner, Jim Beck  
Agriculture Commissioner, Gary Black  
Labor Commissioner, Mark Butler

To learn more about each office, please [click here](#).  
We look forward to their leadership over the next four years!

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## State of the State

Thursday, January 17, marked Governor Kemp's first [State of the State](#) address while in office. Kemp began his address by reflecting on our state's great accomplishments in recent years.

Georgia has become the epicenter of job growth, the Hollywood of the South and will soon become the Cyber Capital of the World. While highlighting our progress, Gov. Kemp also set forth his plan to continue our growth, vowing to continue work with state and local officials to keep wages rising and unemployment rates low.

Among his initiatives, Gov. Kemp announced plans to establish the Georgians First Commission to review regulations that make it difficult for companies to hire, expand and invest in our state. Kemp also discussed his budget priorities for improvement within the education, public safety and healthcare sectors.

This coming week, the Appropriation Committee will be reviewing the Governor's proposed budget, which includes a \$3000 pay raise for our hardworking teachers. We will bring you a full update on budget proposals in the coming week.

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## Budget Hearings

The only thing the General Assembly is required to do by law is pass a balanced budget. Budget hearings begin Tuesday, January 22. In the coming days, we will anxiously await as the [Appropriations Committee](#) deliberates and makes suggestions as to where state funds should be allocated. The budget is a living document that will change many times before final passage in the last days of session. Look out for future budget news and as always, our local delegation will work hard to ensure that our region receives necessary funding and assistance from the state level for future capital investments.

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## Committee Assignments

At the end of a very busy first week, we also received our [committee assignments](#) for the 2019-2020 legislative terms. I am honored to serve on the following Committees: Appropriations

(Transportation Sub-Committee Chairman), Ways & Means, Governmental Affairs, Juvenile Justice, Special Rules, Small Business, Rules and Economic Development and Tourism. I have also been appointed to continue service on the Joint Defense Commission.

The folks in our region will be taken care of under the Gold Dome as our own State Senator, Larry Walker has been named Senate Majority Caucus Vice-Chair and our colleague, Rep. Heath Clark, has been named Chairman of the House Defense and Veterans Affairs Committee. Our local delegation is grateful for the opportunity to serve our district and state citizens through our committee and leadership roles.

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## Page Program

We would like to invite any students from our district wishing to serve as a page to reach out to our office. This is a great opportunity where students ages 12-18 have the chance to experience our government at work!

[Click here for more information on the House Page Program.](#)

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## Share with Shaw...

Last week, we asked you to participate in an online survey regarding important issues which will impact all Georgia citizens. To ensure that your voice is heard and we are fully representing your views, please take time to answer these important questions dealing with issues that will be hotly debated topics this session. The survey has 10 questions and only takes a few minutes to complete.

[Click here to participate in our annual Share with Shaw Issue Survey](#)

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As we make our way through the legislative session, be on the lookout for updates on the latest issues, as well as, the budget. With an aggressive agenda ahead, we look forward to working in unison to pass legislation for the betterment of our great state and district! Representing your voice is our top priority. As always, if you ever have questions or concerns regarding legislative matters, we encourage you to contact us anytime as we continue to work towards simple, smart and effective government.

Shaw Blackmon  
Representative of Georgia's 146th House District



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Rep. Shaw Blackmon represents District 146. He currently serves as a Deputy Whip and as a member of Ways & Means, Economic Development and Tourism, Special Rules, Insurance and Governmental Affairs Committees. Shaw is also a member of the Military Affairs Working Group.

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