



JANUARY 11, 2010 DAY-1

Upper Chamber Report

Raegan Weber, Press Director
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TOP STORY

2010 Legislative Session Kicks Off at State Capitol

By Natalie Strong

CHAMBER (Jan. 11, 2010)- Legislators, staff and media returned to the State Capitol to begin the 2010 Legislative Session. On Sunday evening, more than 1,500 lawmakers, state employees and lobbyists packed the historic Georgia Freight Depot for the 48th annual Wild Hog Supper. The event, which featured barbeque, sweet tea and peach ice cream cones, is a tradition each legislative session held the Sunday evening before session is convened.

The 2010 Legislative Session began with the ceremonial call to order by Lt. Governor Casey Cagle and the Pledge of Allegiance. The traditional devotion was given this year by the Chaplain of the Day, Pastor Jason Bolin, Senior Pastor of Trinity Chapel.

“It was an honor to welcome Pastor Bolin to the Senate today. The tradition of the Senate to begin each day with a devotional and prayer allows us to set our mind and heart in the right direction as we make important policy decisions.”

Pastor Bolin spoke on the culture of encouragement and challenged all senators to “lead the state with a spirit of encouragement.”

“Many Georgia residents face very challenging times right now and these challenges demand strong leadership. It was my honor to have prayed for Georgia’s senators today and to have encouraged them in God’s truth, that with strong faith and with hearts to serve others they are equipped to lead our state through the challenges ahead,” said Pastor Jason Bolin.

“During the difficult circumstances surrounding the floods that battered our state this past September, the church body answered a call to serve and met the needs of hundreds of Georgians. As we face daunting challenges as well this session, I’m confident that the Senate will also answer the call to serve. Today, Pastor Bolin’s message encouraged senators and inspired each of us to lead our state in the right direction,” Lt. Governor Casey Cagle said.

Jason Bolin is currently the Senior Pastor of Trinity Chapel in Powder Springs, Georgia and has served at the church for over ten years. Trinity Chapel has grown from a storefront church of five families to several thousand who gather each week. Trinity Chapel took an active role in responding to the September flood that forced many Cobb residents out of their home and are planning a concert to benefit families affected by the floods on January 21st. Bolin is a graduate of Lee University and earned his Master’s degree in Organizational Leadership from Regent University.

Lt. Governor Casey Cagle recognized Sen. Earl “Buddy” Carter (R-Pooler) and Sen. Donzella James (D-College Park). Sen. Carter was elected to fill the seat vacated by former Sen. Eric Johnson. Sen. James filled the seat vacated by former Senator and newly elected mayor of Atlanta, Kasim Reed (D-Atlanta). However, Sen. James is no stranger to Georgia’s General Assembly. Sen. James previously served 10 years in the same Senate seat, taking office in 1994.

Lt Governor Casey Cagle Announces Key Budget Task Force

By Jaillene Hunter

(Atlanta, GA) – Lt. Governor Casey Cagle, along with Senate leadership, announced today a budget task force comprised of experienced leaders who will provide meaningful recommendations to the Senate regarding both short and long-term budget solutions.

“We will face some of the most difficult budget decisions in over a decade in the coming session and the Budget Task Force will be a valuable enhancement to the ongoing work of our budget experts and committee chairman. Many of the members of this task force have years of experience in managing multi-billion dollar budgets with revenues that may fluctuate, especially in the current economy,” said Lt. Governor Casey Cagle. “This efficient and experienced group will bring real life business solutions and we welcome their recommendations. It is clear that our budget decisions must position our state for economic growth and job creation and that is my top priority this session.”

“There is no question that the budget will dominate the session. Now more than ever, it is critical that we get this right and we welcome the counsel of this talented group of individuals,” said Senate Appropriations Chairman Jack Hill.

The Task Force will provide the Senate with a list of specific suggestions for both short-term and long-term budget solutions includ-

ing consolidation of services, greater efficiency and cutting unnecessary spending. The group will be tasked with identifying new ways to balance the budget without drastic cuts to essential services or raising taxes in this economy.

The task force will hold several meetings throughout the month of January and will present a list of recommendations in early February.



The Budget Task Force Members are as follows:

Max Blocker – Partner, Assurance, PricewaterhouseCoopers

Max Blocker is an Atlanta based Assurance Partner with over 23 years of experience serving a broad range of companies within the Fortune 1000 as well as midcap public and private multinational companies. In addition, he has served in a variety of leadership roles within PricewaterhouseCoopers during his career including Market Assurance Leader for the Greater Atlanta Assurance Practice (states of Georgia,

Alabama and Tennessee) and as the Southeast Regional Leader of the Commercial and Industrial Industry Group Practice. He is a Certified Public Accountant.

Monye Connolly - President, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia Inc

In 2006, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Georgia (BCBSGa), the state’s largest health benefits provider announced the appointment of Monye Connolly as president. Connolly, who joined the company in 1986, most recently served as vice president and general manager of BCBSGa’s individual and small group business.

Greg Duncan - President North American Operations, UCB Inc.

Greg Duncan is President, North American Operations at UCB, Inc. and is responsible for providing leadership and strategic direction to all aspects of the biopharmaceutical’s operations in both the United States and Canada. Duncan joined UCB in 2007 as President of European Operations. In 2008, he became President of Operations for both Europe and Emerging Markets (Asia, Af/ME, Latin America).

Edward Heys - Atlanta Deputy Managing Partner, Deloitte& Touche LLP

With over 27 years of experience with the firm, Ed primarily serves companies in the banking and fi-

nancial services industries. Deloitte& Touche has over 2,000 professionals in Atlanta and Ed serves as the Deputy Managing Partner for the Atlanta and Birmingham offices.

Ronnie Labrato – Executive Vice President, CFO and Treasurer, Georgia Power Company

As Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer, is responsible for Georgia Power’s accounting and finance functions. Georgia Power is the largest subsidiary of Southern Company, with over 7,000 megawatts of electric generating capacity. Ronnie has 30 years of experience with Southern Company and its affiliates. He is a Certified Public Accountant.

Kelly McCutchen - President, Georgia Public Policy Foundation

McCutchen is president of GPPF, an independent think tank that proposes practical, market-oriented approaches to public policy to improve the lives of Georgians. He

was Assistant Vice President in the Trust Department of Trust Company Bank in Atlanta before joining the Foundation in 1993. Kelly writes on education, tax, health care and economic policy. He has served on the boards of the Georgia Tech Alumni Association and Leadership Georgia and currently chairs the Governing Board of Tech High, a math, science and technology-focused public charter school in Atlanta.

Suzanne Sitherwood – President, Atlanta Gas Light
Sitherwood was named President of Atlanta Gas Light in 2004. Primary among her responsibilities is executive oversight of the three utilities – Atlanta Gas Light, Chattanooga Gas and Florida City Gas. As vice president, Sitherwood directed the natural gas distribution infrastructure, gas control, gas measurement, marketer relations, customer-related services, interstate pipeline relationships, asset management, and management of storage facilities.

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Senate Transportation Chairman, Jeff Mullis, Named 100 Most Influential Georgians by Georgia Trend Magazine

Georgia Trend Magazine has released the 12th edition of the 100 most influential Georgians, honoring the states most powerful and influential citizens, drawn from business, industry, government, politics, education, science and the arts.

Georgia Trend identified Senator Jeff Mullis as “one of the state’s most influential leaders on transportation matters. His efforts to establish a high-speed rail system linking Atlanta and Chattanooga got a big boost in September when the U.S. Department of Transportation awarded a \$14.2 million study grant for the project.”



"I would like to thank Georgia Trend magazine for this prestigious honor. I am extremely humbled to be listed with such instrumental leaders in Georgia. I look forward to continuing our work with Georgia's leaders and citizens to solve the transportation issues facing this great state while creating jobs in this difficult economic environment" says Senator Mullis.

Senator Jeff Mullis resides in Chickamauga, Georgia with his wife Teresa and two children. This is the second time he has been honored with this award.

Legislative Process Dates

Important Dates in the Legislative Process

Introduction - Last day to file and/or 1st Read in Senate.

30th day - last day to introduce General Senate bills and resolutions (even year). [Rule 3-1.2 (b)]

30th day - last day to accept General House bills and resolutions. [Rule 3-1.2 (b)]

39th day - last day to introduce General Senate bills and resolutions (odd year). [Rule 3-1.2 (b)]

**Note: Senate bills and resolutions must be filed with the Secretary before 4:00 p.m. to be 1st read on the next legislative day.*

Deadlines for passage in current year

Committee Report Deadlines - Last day to read report. Report submitted to Secretary by convening.

28th day - General Senate bills and resolutions.

38th day - Local Senate bills and resolutions.

38th day - General House bills and resolutions.

40th day - Local House bills and resolutions.

Calendar Management

Calendar in numerical order after 2nd reading of legislation; days 1-5. [Rule 4-2.10 (a)]

Rules Committee sets the calendar for days 6 - 40. [Rule 4-2.10 (b)]

General Senate Bills and Resolutions

26th day - File with Secretary of the Senate. [Rule 3-1.2 (a)]

27th day - 1st Reading and referral to committee. [Rule 3-1.2 (b)]

28th day - Committee report read upon convening. (A recommitted bill already 2nd read - report day 29.)

29th day - 2nd Reading. [Rule 4-2.6]

30th day - Passage [Rule 4-2.10 (a)] and immediate transmittal to House. [Rule 4-2.14]

Local Senate Bills and Resolutions

35th day - File with Secretary of the Senate. [3-1.2 (a)]

36th day - 1st Reading and referral to committee. (Cannot pass for 2 days.) [Rule 4-2.4 (c)]

38th day - Favorable report by committee, passage and immediate transmittal to the House. [Rule 4-2.14]

39th day - 2nd Reading in House.

40th day - Favorable report and passage in House.

General House Bills and Resolutions

30th day - Transmitted from House and received by Secretary.

31st day - 1st Reading and referral to committee. [Rule 3-1.2 (b)]

38th day - Favorable report upon convening and 2nd reading. (Applies to days 36 - 38) [Rule 4-2.6]

39th day - Passage. [Rule 4-2.10 (a)]

40th day - Passage of bills or resolutions tabled day 39; removed from the table on day 40. [Rule 4-2.10 (a)]

Local House Bills and Resolutions

39th day - 1st Reading and referral to committee.

40th day - Favorable report by committee and passage.

** Note: On the 30th day and on the last three days of session, bills and resolutions needing action from the House are automatically immediately transmitted. [Rule 4-2.14]*

40th day - Passage of bills or resolutions tabled day 39; removed from the table on day 40. [Rule 4-2.10 (a)]

Local House Bills and Resolutions

39th day - 1st Reading and referral to committee.

40th day - Favorable report by committee and passage.

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