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From: Rep. Elly Dobbs [newsletters@wordexpress.ccsend.com] on behalf of Rep. Elly Dobbs [newsletters@wordexpress.info]
Sent: Friday, April 03, 2009 3:49 PM
To: anne@vayasol.com
Subject: House District 53 Legislative Update

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In this issue...

- [CAPITOL UPDATE](#)
- [LEGISLATION IN PROGRESS](#)
- [Free tax assistance available at libraries](#)
- [www.ellydobbs.com](#)
- [JOB HUNTING RESOURCES](#)
- [INTERNSHIPS](#)

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Plant the community gardens for the Atlanta Community Food Bank

Saturday, April 4
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Join Democrats Work volunteers to help plant community gardens in low-income areas of Atlanta. Working with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, we will help make sure neighborhoods have fresh, nutritious food to eat.
We will know the location of the garden two weeks prior to our work day, so stay tuned!

[Democrats Work](#)

[Job Announcements](#)

[Georgians for a](#)

State Representative Elly Dobbs

GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

April 1, 2009

Greetings!

I am sending you another email before the last week of the session since so much is happening that may be of interest to you. The House is meeting for long days the last week of the General Assembly and I will send you a final update next week. As always, please do not forget to [contact me](#) with your views on any issue that needs to be addressed or whenever I can be of service to you.



Elly Dobbs

CAPITOL UPDATE

TRANSPORTATION

There are still major disagreements between the House and Senate on the transportation issues of funding and governance. On Wednesday, the House voted to approve a compromise version of [HR 206](#) and [HB 277](#), which would allow voters to decide on a statewide 1 percent sales tax to generate \$25 billion to fund transportation projects over the next 10 years.

The amended version of the legislative package provides that if the statewide referendum fails, then counties would be authorized to implement a regional sales tax, which matches the Senate's preferred approach. But the Senate rejected that compromise on Thursday, meaning that a conference committee must work out a final agreement before April 3, or the legislature's chance to come up with a transportation funding solution in this session will be lost.

Gov. Perdue's proposal to strip the state Department of Transportation (DOT) board of its authority and replace it with a new State Transportation Authority, whose members would be hand-picked by the governor, lieutenant governor and House speaker, has yet to reach the House floor for a vote. Many lawmakers feel moving away from the current process of the legislature electing the DOT board members by congressional districts would weaken the voices of many areas of the state, and this particular plan appears to be losing support in the House as the session draws to a close.



Healthy Future

Please send (via mail, e-mail or fax) a cover letter, resume, three references, and a salary history to:
Terri Theisen, Theisen Consulting LLC, 7140 Northgreen Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30328, fax 770-396-2385

E-mail

2010 Census Jobs Available

For more information, contact the local Census office or call the agency's toll-free jobs line at (866) 861-2010.

Link to website

Director of Communication

Georgia Budget and Policy Institute

Please send resume, writing sample (i.e. clips of published op-eds, press releases, or other published works), cover letter, names and contact information of three references, and salary requirements to Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, Communications Director Search, 100 Edgewood Ave, Suite 950, Atlanta, Georgia 30303.

E-mail

FY 2010 BUDGET

As I reported last week, the House of Representatives majority passed an \$18.6 billion budget proposal on March 19, but the Senate has yet to send its plan back to the House. When the Senate does finalize its budget, the Appropriations Conference Committee will have only a short time to work out differences between it and the House plan before final adjournment of this session, which is scheduled for Friday, April 3.

PROPERTY TAXES

House members also approved an amended version of [HB 233](#), which would freeze property valuation reassessments for the next two years. The Senate agreed to final changes, sending the bill to the governor for his signature. But for the second time this session, a proposal to double the homestead exemption from \$2,000 to \$4,000 fell short of receiving the needed two-thirds majority approval in the House. [SB 83](#) is dead for the 2009 session.

LEGISLATION IN PROGRESS

The following legislation originating in the Senate was approved by the House last week:

LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE

[SB 13](#), which would allow a sentence of life without parole to be imposed, even when prosecutors do not seek the death penalty. Currently life without parole is allowed only as an option in death penalty cases.

SCHOOL BOARD ELIGIBILITY

[SB 14](#), which would prohibit anyone on the national or state sex offender registry from being eligible for election to or service on local school boards.

GEORGIA PRODUCTS

[SB 44](#), which would require school systems to give preference to products manufactured in Georgia when purchasing supplies, equipment and food.

LIFE SETTLEMENTS

[SB 61](#), which would establish the Life Settlements Act, providing oversight and regulation of life settlement contracts and requiring brokers to be licensed and regulated by the Georgia Department of Insurance.

EXPLOITATION OF CHILDREN

[SB 69](#), which would require citizens to report suspicions of sexual exploitation of children.

STREAM BUFFER ZONES

[SB 155](#), which would remove buffer zones from streams carrying mostly rainwater. I voted against this proposal because it offers too broad an exemption from environmental protection measures.

HEALTH CARE ELIGIBILITY

[SB 165](#), which would authorize the Department of Community Health to obtain income eligibility verification from the Department of Revenue for Medicaid and PeachCare for Kids applicants.

BUSINESS IN SUDAN

[SB 170](#), which would prohibit companies that do business in Sudan from submitting proposals for Georgia state contracts in the future.

Free tax assistance available at libraries

Fulton County residents who are preparing their taxes can find assistance at branches of the Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System. Federal and state forms are available at all 34 library locations, and volunteers are available at 12 libraries to assist.

Tax Aide Sites, Dates, Times <http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/images/stories/Library/Tax%20Aide%20Sites%202009.pdf>

List of Library Locations for Tax Forms http://www.afplweb.com/cms/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=10&Itemid=11

Atlanta-Fulton County Public Library website <http://www.fultoncountyga.gov/>

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JOB HUNTING RESOURCES

Georgia Department of Labor: <http://www.dol.state.ga.us/>

Careers.ga.gov: <https://www.careers.ga.gov/careersLocations.asp>

AJC Jobs - Atlanta listings: <http://hotjobs.yahoo.com/job-search-l-Atlanta-GA-m-0?partner=ajcjobs>

SimplyHired - Atlanta listings: <http://www.simplyhired.com/a/jobs/list/l-Atlanta%2C+GA>

CNN - Job Hunting articles and resources:
<http://money.cnn.com/news/specials/jobs/index.html>

INTERNSHIPS

Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper For more information on how to apply, [click here](#).

The Democratic Party of Georgia is currently accepting Intern applications for the spring semester. For more information visit the party [website](#).

The White House Project Women Helping Women Win Internship Program - To apply please send your resume and cover letter to [Stacey Chavis](#). The subject line should be Capitol Internship: Your Name.

Quick Links

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- [Fulton County Government](#)
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Representative Elly Dobbs

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