

Anne Bartoletti

From: Rep. Elly Dobbs [newsletters@wordexpress.ccsend.com] on behalf of Rep. Elly Dobbs [newsletters@wordexpress.info]
Sent: Thursday, May 21, 2009 8:34 AM
To: anne@vayasol.com
Subject: House District 53 Legislative Update

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Citizens' CourtWatch Training

**Government Center,
South Fulton Annex**
5600 Stonewall Tell
Road
College Park, GA
30349

Saturday, May 30
10 to 11:30 a.m.
Citizens' CourtWatch is a program that helps community members actively participate in the criminal justice system. Contact Janet Martin at 404-699-5297 by May 25 to register. CourtWatch is sponsored by the Fulton County District Attorney's Community Prosecution Program.

State Representative Elly Dobbs

GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

May 21, 2009

Greetings!

Forty days have passed since the end of the General Assembly and the Governor has made decisions on the bills passed by the legislature. Below I recap some of his actions.

The latest news on state tax revenue collections continues to be dismal. I returned from an NPU meeting this evening where discussion concerned the cuts to the City of Atlanta's budget and the increases in local taxes. These are hard times for state and local governments. However, I continue to look on the positive side and hope that our economy will turn around soon.

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

Governor vetoes job tax credit, capital gains tax cut

Last week, Gov. Perdue vetoed [HB 481](#), which would have provided a tax credit of \$2,400 to businesses when they hire an unemployed worker, suspended the collection of \$100 corporate filing fees, cut the capital gains tax by 50 percent and eliminated the corporate net worth tax for businesses.

In his veto statement, the governor noted, "Estimates of the revenue impact to the State and the related additional cuts in services to residents as well as reductions in state purchases and employment aggregate in excess of \$1.5 billion over the next three years, with over \$145 million in reductions required in Fiscal Year 2010, which begins on July 1, 2009. Given that (1) Georgia cannot deficit spend; and (2) the additional revenue reduction of over \$145 million in Fiscal Year 2010 with even larger reductions projected in the years to follow, more drastic cuts would be necessary in needed services and other expenditures. Such cuts are not



E-mail for more information

NASA Inspire Program

NASA's Interdisciplinary National Science Program Incorporating Research Experience, known as Inspire, is accepting applications from high school students through June 30. NASA will make selections in September. The project is designed to encourage students to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math. Students selected for the online learning opportunity will have the option to compete for experiences during the summer of 2010 at NASA facilities and participating universities.

Web site

supported by the current budget act and the policy decisions expressed therein. In short, while this legislation may be supportable in different economic times, given our constitutional and fiscal constraints, I do not believe this legislation, although well meaning in intent, can be afforded at this time."

While I voted for the original version of HB 481, which dealt only with tax relief for creating jobs, I voted against the version as amended by the Senate and agree with the governor's veto.

The governor vetoed 15 other bills last week, while signing dozens of other measures, including [HB 119](#), which is the budget for fiscal year 2010. He exercised the line-item veto for only three budget items totaling around \$2 million in an \$18.6 billion budget.

[Click here for a complete list](#) of legislation from the 2009 session the governor signed into law or vetoed. It takes a two-thirds vote of both the House and Senate to override a governor's veto.

Revenue collections fall more than 20% in April

Tax revenue collections in Georgia plunged by 20.6 percent in April, continuing a trend that brings the decline to nearly 10 percent for fiscal year 2009, which ends June 30.

The Georgia Department of Revenue released figures showing that tax collections were approximately \$1.4 billion in April, a dropoff of more than \$362 million from the same month a year ago.

State revenue collections stand at almost \$13 billion for the first 10 months of the fiscal year, off some \$1.4 billion or 9.5 percent from last year.

Gov. Perdue will likely have to drain the rest of the revenue reserve fund to keep the state budget from finishing in the red this year. House Speaker Glenn Richardson indicated at the end of the 2009 legislative session that lawmakers might have to meet in special session to rewrite the FY 2010 budget if revenues continued to decline on a monthly basis.

Individual income tax collections were down 16.9 percent in April, while sales tax collections were off 24.5 percent, corporate income tax collections fell by 33.1 percent and motor fuel tax revenues were down 29.4 percent.

Fix Atlanta's sidewalks - Sign the Petition!

Atlanta residents are fed up with tripping and falling over the City's busted sidewalks. People can't even push a stroller on most Atlanta sidewalks without waking the baby! PEDS, metro Atlanta's pedestrian advocacy group, set up an online petition to give concerned citizens a voice.

Unlike Alpharetta, Decatur, East Point, Marietta, Roswell, and unincorporated DeKalb County, the City of Atlanta makes sidewalk repairs the responsibility of adjacent property owners. The policy is unfair to property owners and unpopular with voters. So it's no surprise that government officials lack the political will to enforce it. As a result, broken sidewalks rarely get repaired and pedestrians stumble on dangerous sidewalks throughout Atlanta.

Public Works officials agree with PEDS that the City's sidewalk ordinance should be changed and that a bond referendum would be the best way to fund sidewalk repairs. It's up to us to get Atlanta's elected officials on board. The petition urges the City of Atlanta to amend its ineffective sidewalk ordinance and to hold a bond referendum that allows voters to choose to fund sidewalk maintenance.

[Sign the online petition](#)

City of Atlanta budget hearings scheduled

The City Council is preparing to vote on the FY 2010 balanced budget as proposed by Mayor Shirley Franklin, which also includes a 3.0 millage rate increase, on June 22, 2009. Prior to that date there will be a series of public hearings held in the Atlanta City Council Chambers (located at City Hall, 55 Trinity Avenue, SW) where you will have an opportunity to voice your concerns, thoughts and suggestions. The meeting dates are as follows:

Thursday June 4 at 9.00 am
Thursday June 11 at 9.00 am and 6.00 pm

[FY 2010 City of Atlanta Budget Document](#)

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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>

Employment opportunities: Cbeyond and Delta

Communications and information technology provider Cbeyond is doubling the size of its operations in Georgia, with more than 600 new jobs and new call center and training facility in Cobb County. [Click here for more information](#) if you are interested in applying for a position.

Delta Air Lines is hiring for the summer, with jobs starting at \$10.82 per hour with airlines privileges. [Click here](#) for more information.

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Representative Elly Dobbs

Representative Elly Dobbs represents the 53rd District (Fulton County) in the Georgia House of Representatives. Contact her at 512 Coverdell Office Building, Atlanta, Ga. 30334; by phone at 404-656-7859; or by e-mail at elly.dobbs@house.ga.gov. For more information, visit her web site at www.ellydobbs.com.

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