

Anne Bartoletti

From: Rep. Elly Dobbs [newsletters@wordexpress.ccsend.com] on behalf of Rep. Elly Dobbs [newsletters@wordexpress.info]
Sent: Monday, October 05, 2009 12:22 PM
To: anne@vayasol.com
Subject: House District 53 Legislative Update

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State Representative Elly Dobbs

GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

October 5, 2009

Dear Anne,

Today is the deadline for registering to vote in the Nov. 3 general and special election in the City of Atlanta. If you are not registered, please go to the information below and do so before 5 p.m today.

In addition, I have included additional information to those in our district that were effected by the flooding these past weeks. My heart goes out to all those who have had to deal with this tragedy. Before Fulton County was declared a disaster area, in order to become eligible for FEMA funds, I was assisting the Mayor's office and the Governor obtain data about the homes in our district that were effected by the flood. During the first two days while going door to door to these neighborhoods, I visited over 100 homes that were over 50% flooded. I hope that this information will be helpful to all those effected. The FEMA and GEMA web sites are especially helpful.

Feel free to circulate this email to friends and neighbors. You can subscribe to our newsletter by emailing newsletters@wordexpress.info or visiting my web site at <http://www.ellydobbs.com>. I also welcome any submissions for news stories or community events and information that would be interesting to those in our District. Please forward them to my email address at elly.dobbs@house.ga.gov.

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

Flood Relief Information from the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA)

Housing Information: Provides detailed information about rental properties and helps people find housing to best fit their needs. The service can be accessed at no cost [online](#) 24-hours a day or through a toll-free, bilingual call center at 1-877-428-8844, available M-F, 9:00 am - 8:00 pm.

General Information: GEMA launched a new page on its [website](#) dedicated to providing the general public with basic information and resources as it relates to the recent floods.

Donations and Contributions: This [site](#) serves as the state's central clearinghouse for corporations and organizations to donate much needed money,



equipment, and goods, to the hundreds of thousands of Georgians who are recovering and preparing to rebuild from the devastation of natural disasters that effect the state. As specific needs are identified, they will be posted.

Additional Flood Information: To get help, please call: Disaster Services Individuals and families affected by natural and man-made disasters in the metro Atlanta area 1-866-RCHELPS (1-866-724-3577). The Red Cross opened five shelters in metro Atlanta.

FULTON COUNTY - Flood Damage Assistance

Fulton County has established its Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) on the first floor of the Government Center Building, 141 Pryor Street in downtown Atlanta. The operations for the DRC will be from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Sunday. The DRC is housed in the office adjacent to the Tax Commissioner's office. Staff from the FEMA, GEMA, SBA and County Departments will be stationed in the office to assist citizens seeking help.

The county is providing vouchers for parking at the Underground Atlanta parking decks for FEMA applicants. Applicants will take a ticket dispatched from the gate activation station at the entrance to the parking deck. FEMA will distribute the vouchers for the parking charges that are to be given to the cashiers at the exit gate to either lot.

Fulton County residents and business owners can also apply for Individual Assistance by registering online at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or by calling 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), or 1-800-462-7585 (TTY) for the hearing and speech impaired. The toll-free telephone numbers will operate from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Sunday.

Residents must apply to receive any assistance for which they are eligible. At the time of the call, residents should be prepared to provide a phone number, their Social Security number, their current mailing address, the address of the damaged property, a brief description of damages, and their insurance information (if they have it).

Homeowners should first contact their insurance providers. For questions about insurance, residents may contact the Georgia Insurance Commissioner's Consumer Affairs Division at 1-800-656-2298 or 404- 656-2070 (8 a.m. to 7 p.m.), or log onto www.gainsurance.org.

Government disaster assistance covers basic needs only and will not normally compensate for the entire loss. For residents and businesses with insurance, the government may help pay for basic needs not covered by an insurance policy. Some disaster aid does not have to be paid back, while other forms of help may come in the form of loans.

FEMA's temporary housing assistance and grants for public transportation expenses, medical and dental expenses, and funeral and burial expenses do not require individuals to apply for a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan. However, applicants who receive SBA loan applications must submit them to SBA loan officers to be eligible for assistance that covers personal property, vehicle repair or replacement, and moving and storage expenses.

Health&Safety: Fulton County health officials are reminding residents that standing water from heavy rains and the flood can pose serious health risks such as exposure to water- borne diseases and dangers associated with cleaning up flood-damaged areas. Untreated sanitary waste can end up in waterways and on streets when excess water from flooding or heavy rain overwhelms sewer systems and treatment plants. During flood conditions, people are more likely to become exposed to diseases like tetanus, E. coli, and other pathogens. The best way to avoid exposure to these diseases is to stay away from floodwaters altogether.

Standing water is also a perfect breeding ground for microorganisms. Even when the water recedes, E. coli and other pathogens remain present in pools of standing water. Additionally, mosquito larvae develop in standing water and even a small volume of water can support large numbers of larvae that produce biting mosquitoes and increase the chances of getting a disease like the West Nile virus.

More Help: American Red Cross, Metro Atlanta Chapter can be reached at 404-575-3730 or at www.atlantaredcross.org. United Way 211 is reachable by phone: just dial 211, for referrals to shelters open on a regular basis, and more information on food, clothing, repairs and individual needs.

Insurance Information: Homeowners should check with their insurance providers regarding flood coverage. Residents with questions about insurance coverage may contact the Georgia Insurance Commissioner's Office at 404-656-2070 or visit www.gainsurance.org.

You can also call 1-800-427-4661 or visit www.floodsmart.gov.

[FEMA web site](#)

H1N1 Update

The novel H1N1 influenza campaign includes plans for mass immunization, however, the choice to receive the novel H1N1 vaccine is an individual choice. There is no current mandate for school-aged children or any other Georgian to receive the H1N1 vaccine.

For additional information on seasonal flu and novel H1N1 please consider:

<http://dch.georgiagov>
www.health.state.ga.us
www.georgiahealthinfo.gov
www.cdc.gov/flu
www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu
www.flu.gov/seasonalflu

Monday is registration deadline for City Election

Early voting period also begins Oct. 5

Monday, Oct. 5, is the deadline for registering to vote in the Nov. 3 general and special election in the City of Atlanta. If you are not registered, please make sure you do so before 5 p.m. Monday.

Monday is also the opening of early voting and voting by mail for this election, For more information, call the Municipal Clerk's Office at 404-330-6500.

[More information...](#)

Quick Links

- [Rep. Elly Dobbs](#)
- [State Government](#)
- [Georgia General Assembly](#)
- [City of Atlanta](#)
- [Atlanta Public Schools](#)
- [Fulton County Government](#)
- [Fulton County Schools](#)
- [Democratic Party of Georgia](#)
- [Register to Vote](#)
- [Georgia Crisis & Access Line 800-715-4225](#)

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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