

Anne Bartoletti

From: Rep. Elly Dobbs [newsletters@wordexpress.ccsend.com] on behalf of Rep. Elly Dobbs [newsletters@wordexpress.info]
Sent: Monday, November 23, 2009 4:47 PM
To: anne@vayasol.com
Subject: House District 53 Legislative Update

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State Representative Elly Dobbs

GEORGIA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

November 23, 2009

Greetings!

With Thanksgiving upon us this week, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve as your State Representative for District 53. I am grateful for the trust and confidence that you have placed in me and I look forward to serving you in the upcoming General Assembly and through out the next year.



Although, the latest State Revenue figures are not positive, the good news for this season is that the price of our turkey dinner has actually gone down 4%. I wish you a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday and hope that you will enjoy the upcoming long weekend with your friends and families.

I would also like to thank those of you who attended one of my "Days at the Capitol" last week. We enjoyed listening to several very interesting and informative speakers on both the H1N1 flu and the job outlook for the state of Georgia, after our tour of the Capitol. I hope that others will join us next year for this program at the Capitol.

In addition, thank you to everyone who supported me in the 3 Day Breast Cancer Walk. Walking 20 miles in a day with thousands of participants was an adventure. Our team of eight, raised close to \$23,000 in honor of our friend Ryland McClendon, Assistant General Manager of MARTA.

Finally, please do not forget to vote in our city wide election by either voting early today through Wednesday, or voting on December 1. Please see the early voting locations below.

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

Advance voting through Wednesday for runoff

Election Day is Tuesday, December 1

On Tuesday, Dec. 1, Atlanta voters will make the final decision on who will serve as our new Mayor and in several City Council posts in the city-wide runoff election.

Advance voting is being conducted Monday, Nov. 23, through Wednesday, Nov. 25. The following locations are open from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. for advance voting:

Fulton County Government Office

141 Pryor Street SW
Atlanta, GA 30303

North Fulton Service Center

7741 Roswell Road
Sandy Springs, GA 30350

South Fulton Service Center

5600 Stonewall Tell Road
College Park, GA 30349

Atlanta/DeKalb Memorial Drive Complex

4380 Memorial Drive, Suite 300
Decatur, GA 30032

North Atlanta High School

2875 Northside Drive NW
Atlanta, GA 30305

Adamsville Recreation Center

3201 M.L. King Jr. Drive SW
Atlanta, GA 30311

On Election Day, your regular polling place will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Be sure to exercise your right to vote in this historic election. For more information, contact the office of the Election Superintendent at 404-330-6500.

[Pertinent information...](#)

October state revenues are down

Last Monday, Governor Sonny Perdue released October's revenue numbers. Collections for the month were down almost \$246.8 million from last year, a decrease of 17.8 percent. This brings the decrease in year-to-date collections to 15.1 percent.

The responsibility of the General Assembly in the 2010 legislative session will be even more difficult when the legislature attempts to address a budget situation that may continue to worsen.

The state has cut the budget for 2009 almost \$1.5 billion, and many state agencies have already cut their budgets between 4 to 6 percent.



Transportation and environmental infrastructure projects

Last Monday, Governor Sonny Perdue announced \$65.8 million in transportation projects that will be funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The complete list of projects can be found on the [GDOT's stimulus website](#).

On Tuesday, Governor Perdue also announced that seven more environmental infrastructure project loans had been approved by the board of the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority. Five of the projects were funded totally or in part by funds from the ARRA. After the ARRA was passed by Congress, GEFA adopted terms of financing that offer counties that qualify as One-Georgia eligible a 70 percent subsidy and other counties a 40 percent subsidy.

FEMA deadline today; SBA Disaster Loan Centers set to close

Monday, Nov. 23, is the final day people can apply for federal disaster grants and low-interest loans for the September floods in Georgia. The total disaster assistance provided so far exceeds \$93 million.

A widespread outreach effort by the Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA), the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has resulted in more than 27,000 applications for federal assistance. Families, individuals and businesses that have not already registered need to do so today in order to receive federal financial aid.

Flood survivors can apply for help by calling 800-621- FEMA (3362), TTY 800-462-7585. Phone lines are open every day from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. ET. Help is available in all languages. Registrations also are accepted online until midnight Monday at www.DisasterAssistance.gov.

SBA Disaster Loan Outreach Centers and Business Recovery Centers will cease operations at close of business Monday, Nov. 23, following approximately 1,000 in-person visits from flood survivors in less than a month. The centers offer one-on-one assistance with loan paperwork to families, individuals and businesses of all sizes. To date, the SBA has approved more than 1,100 disaster loans totaling more than \$41 million.

People can contact the SBA Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or TTY 800-877-8339 Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. ET or send an email to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov or visit www.sba.gov.

Officials urge flood survivors who have not registered for disaster assistance to call FEMA today. For more information go to www.GEMA.ga.gov or call 1-800-879-4362.

Weatherization Assistance Program needs applicants

Southeast Energy Assistance (SEA) actively seeks Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) applicants and asks for your help in publicizing the program that is free to eligible recipients. The WAP provides energy conservation measures designed to increase the energy efficiency of homes and to make the occupants more comfortable.

SEA is a Fulton County 501c(3) non-profit organization with a mission to "provide direct assistance to improve the living and housing conditions of low- income families through conservation programs."

The WAP is available to families whose combined annual income does not exceed 200% of the poverty index. (Please see income eligibility guidelines below. The limit for a single individual is \$21,660; for a family of four the limit is \$44,100.) Households with a member who receives either Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or Temporary Aid to Needy Families automatically meet income eligibility. Fulton County residents whose income is within the limits and whose homes have not been previously weatherized are encouraged to contact SEA to apply for the

program.

For additional information or application assistance, please contact SEA at 404-885-1877 and ask about the Weatherization Assistance Program. SEA staff can discuss the program further and provide guidance through the application process. Applicants will be required to submit proof of income, copies of current gas and electric bills and proof of ownership (tax bill, warranty deed) or authorization from the property owner.

Increased funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) has expanded the program currently funded through the U. S. Department of Energy (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) and the City of Atlanta U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant.

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- [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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