

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



RUN OFF ELECTIONS

on Tuesday, August 10 -
Be Sure To VOTE !!!

VOTE - Run-off August 10th

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You need to vote AGAIN. The rules, if you voted in the Republican Primary you pull a Republican Ballot to vote on run-off races. If you voted in the Democratic Primary you again must pull a Democratic Ballot. If you did not vote in either Primary on July 20th you are free to pull either ballot.

What is at stake? Statewide on the Republican side there are many run-offs starting with the GOP Governor nominee between former Congressman Nathan Deal and former Georgia Secretary of State Karen Handel. Both resigned their seats to devote full time to run for Governor. The decision on Aug 10th will determine who will face former Governor Roy Barnes. There are also run-offs on the Republican side statewide for Attorney General (Sam Olens vs. Preston Smith), Insurance Commissioner (Ralph Hudgens v. Maria Sheffield) and PSC District 2 (John Douglas v. Tim Echols). Democrats have only one run-off statewide - Secretary of State (Gail Buckner v. Georganna Sinkfield).

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Special Announcements



*State Use
Council Meeting
Thursday
Sept. 23, 2010
10 AM
Atlanta, GA*

GATES Board

Of course there are run-offs for one Congressional Seat, a few State House and Senate Seats, and many local county government positions peppered across the state so check your local paper online or in print.

July - Georgia's Primary Month

It has been well covered in the news that former Governor Roy Barnes easily won the nomination for the Democratic nomination to be Governor again. He will face whoever wins the run-off Tuesday. Many other statewide contests were decided and there is a large field of statewide offices to consider in the fall.

The statewide office GATES members are the most interested in is Labor Commissioner. State Representative Mark Butler easily defeated Representative Melvin Everson by carrying 70% of the vote. On the Democratic side it was extremely close. With a recount Darryl Hicks over took former Speaker Terry Coleman by just 596 votes. That is amazing. Now it is Butler versus Hicks for the General Election.

When we take a step back and consider the turnout there is an interesting story to tell. First, one must remember Georgians do not declare a party affiliation when they register to vote. You can vote one year in the Republican Primary and the next time around in the Democratic Primary. However, it was interesting that twice as many Georgians voted in the Republican Primary compared to the Democratic Primary in most Statewide races. For example the bid to be Governor saw 680,444 voters cast Republican ballots while the Democratic opponents had a combined 395,618 ballots cast. The closest ballot contest was for the Superintendent of Schools - 433,653 Republican ballots were cast compared to 338,899 Democratic Ballots. Simple math would say that twice as many Republicans voted to Democrats. But you then need to look at the over all turnout which was extremely low, just under 19% of Registered Georgia Voters exercised their constitutional right. You can find the demographic breakdown for registered voters here (http://www.sos.georgia.gov/elections/voter_registration/vrgraphs.htm). Three months is a long time in political life and we shall see what issues and constituencies begin to coalesce around the candidates. Will folks vote straight party ticket or choose from the various candidates?

For complete results from the top to the bottom of the ticket you can view the [Secretary of State's Election Results](#).

State Fiscal Affairs Update

The Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) sent out a directive recently to state department leaders asking them to prepare budget cuts of 4, 6 and 8 percent for their agencies for the current fiscal year (2011). The bad news is that many agencies are already holding back 4% of spending. The good

Meeting
Friday
Oct. 22, 2010
9:30 AM
location TBA

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news is that July revenue showed gains for the first time since the recession began.

Revenues were up 4.7 percent bringing in an additional \$51 million over July 2009, for a total of \$1.15 billion to begin the fiscal year. All revenue streams saw an increase; individual income taxes up 3.6%, sales tax revenue up a modest 2.4%, corporate income taxes up a huge 40 %, and motor fuel tax up a robust 24.8%. Many have read the business reports that companies are sitting on their cash and still not hiring or spending, so unemployment is still stagnate in Georgia at 10%. Let's bank on the good news that people are traveling as evidence with the gas tax collected and people are getting paid and purchasing goods.

In looking at FY 2012, OPB directed agencies to propose 6, 8 and 10% cuts. Only the Department of Education was directed to offer up a lesser proposal for 2 or 4 percent. The huge challenge is the loss of over \$1 billion in federal stimulus funding across state government and millions of other one-time revenue enhancements. The agencies have until September 1st to submit their proposed budget requests and cuts. Then Governor Perdue's budget staff will work on pulling together its proposal, however, with a new Governor to take office in January this will not be a very predictable budget season.

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Call for Information

THE PORTAL is a communication tool for GATES and GATES members. If you have stories about your organization, staff announcements, program descriptions, or other information you want to share with other GATES members, please send the info to Charles Hall, chall@asginfo.net



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