

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



GATES MEMBERS - CALL TO ACTION

Legislative Awareness Campaign

Labor Day kicks-off the fall campaign season for elected officials. The next two months are the most critical time when candidates are seeking every vote. While most races were decided in the primary there are still districts with competition for the General Election November 4th. Every candidate, whether incumbent, newly elected or competing in the General Election needs to fully understand the economic importance your organization serves in their community.

Please schedule a visit with the House and Senate candidates in your community by October 23 so that we can have a strong report at the Oct 24th GATES Board meeting. In some cases this will just be the person who won the primary. In others this will be both candidates for an office. You can find your candidates on the Georgia Secretary of States website ([HERE](#)). There is also a more personalized page you can use for several purposes called My Voter Page or MVP ([HERE](#)) where you can find your elected officials, polling place and even register to vote online. Once you log in you will see the Districts in your area and then choose the qualified candidates. When it pulls up the next page just choose General Election and either State Representative or State Senate from the drop down boxes. Do not choose Party so you can see all the qualified candidates who are in the General Election. Remember you need to invite both candidates in a competitive race but they can visit your site on different days.

We will continue to focus on the leaders who comprise the power structure in the legislature. Below are the targets in each Chamber. If one of these is in your area please make it a high priority for them to visit your site.

Here is the GATES fact sheet ([click here to read/print](#)) We will also

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[FALL CAMPAIGN](#)

Special Announcements



**GRA
Conference**
Riverfront Marriott
Savannah, GA
Sept. 3-5, 2014

**State Use
Council**
September 25,
2014

continue to use the GVRA fact sheet ([click here to read/print](#)) created for the 2014 legislative session throughout the fall campaign season. A new fact sheet will be developed for the upcoming session. Please share the current Fact Sheet along with your organization's marketing material with each candidate.

Finally, once the candidate has visited with you please send Charles and Dawn a 1-2 paragraph report with the candidates name, date & location visited, comments they made and questions they asked. This will help tremendously during the budget process.

Please note the biggest change will be in the Senate and our toughest area to influence.

With a huge turnover in the Senate and dramatic leadership change we need to find our next set of champions for vocational rehabilitation services.

House Leadership *(none of them have competition)*

House Speaker David Ralston - Blue Ridge (R)
House Speaker Pro-Tempore Jan Jones - Milton (R)
House Majority Leader Larry O'Neal - Bonaire (R)
House Majority Caucus Chairman Matt Hatchett - Dublin (R)
House Minority Leader Stacey Abrams - Atlanta (D)
House Minority Caucus Chairman Virgil Fludd - Tyrone (D)
House Approp Chairman Terry England - Auburn (R)

Senate Leadership - *Republican Leadership will change after the election*

Lt. Gov Casey Cagle - Gainesville (R) opponent is Connie Stokes - Atlanta (D)
Senate Speaker Pro-Tempore David Shafer - Duluth (R)
Senate Majority Leader - will be decided after election
Senate Majority Caucus Chair Butch Miller - Gainesville (R)
Senate Minority Leader Steve Henson - Tucker (D)
Senate Minority Caucus Chair Horacena Tate - Atlanta (D)
Senate Approp Chair Jack Hill - Reidsville (R)

Appropriations Subcommittees

House

Vice Chair of Human Resources - Katie Dempsey - Rome (R) opponent Richard Cleve Garrett (D)
Bubber Epps - Dry Branch (R) opponent Joyce Denson (D)
Buzz Brockway - Lawrenceville (R)
Buddy Harden - Cordele (R)
Michele Henson - Stone Mountain (D)
Calvin Hill - Canton (R)
Mary Margaret Oliver - Decatur (D)
Ed Setzler - Acworth (R)

Senate - there will be new members next year

Vice Chair of Human Development & Public Health - Renee Unterman - Buford (R)
Butch Miller - Gainesville (R)
Horacena Tate - Atlanta (D)

Location: TBD

THE PORTAL is a regular publication of GATES. If you have staff or others associated with your organization that you would like to receive THE PORTAL, please send their email address to: Charles Hall, chall@asqinfo.net

House Members of importance

Debbie Buckner - Junction City/Columbus area (D) opponent Stacey Sherrad Jackson (R)
Amy Carter - Valdosta (R)
Mike Cheokas - Americus (R) opponent Kevin Brown (D)
Pat Gardner - Atlanta (D)
Ben Harbin - Evans/Augusta (R)
Rusty Kidd - Milledgeville (R)
Tom McCall - Elberton (R)
Ron Stephens - Savannah (R)

Senate Members of importance

Charlie Bethel - Dalton (R)
Emmanuel Jones - Decatur (D)
Tommie Williams - Lyons (R)

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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



GATES

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