

News from GATES...

Georgia Association of Training, Employment and Supports



THE GATES PORTAL

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Two weeks to go

Special Announcements:

State Use Council Meeting:

Thursday, March 24, 2022, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Zoom

GATES Board of Directors Meeting:

Friday, April 22, 2022, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM, Location TBD

Two weeks to go



**Dawn A.
Randolph, MPA**

March 21, 2022

Key Events This Week

General Assembly will be in four days of voting this week, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. Long Committee Day on Thursday.

There are two weeks left in the session. It will end in two Mondays, on April 4th.

Many, many Candidates Qualified

It is going to be a very busy primary and general campaign season this year. Here is a breakdown of the top statewide offices:

Governor = 4 Republicans and 1 Democrat

Lt. Governor = 4 Republicans, 9 Democrats and 1 Libertarian

Secretary of State = 4 Republicans and 5 Democrats

Attorney General = 2 Republicans, 2 Democrats and 1 Libertarian

Commissioner of Agriculture = 1 Republican, 3 Democrats and 1 Libertarian

Commissioner of Insurance = 3 Republicans and 3 Democrats

State School Superintendent = 2 Republicans and 4 Democrats

Commissioner of Labor = 3 Republicans and 5 Democrats

Public Service Commission, District 2/Eastern Georgia = 1 Republican and 2 Democrats

Public Service Commission, District 3/Atlanta Metro Area = 1 Republican and 3 Democrats

Down ballot there are a lot more that have qualified and there are more contested primaries and general races than we have seen in several decades. If you would like to check who is qualifying in your area here is the link to the GA Secretary of State's candidate qualifying tracking system <https://sos.ga.gov/qualifying-candidate-information>.

Budget Update

Governor Kemp signed the Amended FY22 on March 16th providing a \$5,000 salary increase to all state employees and restoring the \$202,250 to the Statewide Independent Living Council that was cut during the pandemic. This the largest budget yet signed into law at \$30.2 billion, this is \$3 billion more than what was proposed last year. It also included a \$1.1 billion tax refund for Georgians. The refund will result in \$250 for a single filer and \$500 for joint filer. This refund will occur for residents who filed both 2020 and 2021 Georgia taxes. Because there was so much extra revenue the state was also able to provide correctional officers in both Adult and Juvenile agencies a \$7,000 raise, fund the increased enrollment in Medicaid, and fulfill the K-12 enrollment growth and funding formula without cutting other agencies.

Speaker Ralston's Mental Health Bill

The mental health parity bill or [HB1013](#) passed the House on March 8th by a vote of 169-3. Both co-sponsors, Rep. Todd Jones (R) and Mary Margaret Oliver (D) took the well to explain the bill and Speaker Ralston also stood before the House giving his perspective on passing the bill. Not many bills receive standing ovations, but this one certainly did. Now the Senate has divided the bill up into three sections to be picked apart. The subcommittee began meeting last week and has two meetings scheduled this week. They are taking each section of the bill to discuss at each meeting. The Senate subcommittees do not have video for these meetings, so they are not live or recorded. Senators seem to be reserving their support of the bill until it completes these hearings. The Governor is in favor of the bill and the House appropriated \$30 million to fund those areas of the bill that need state funding. The clock is ticking so we will see what the Senate decides soon.

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 Caitlin Hyatt, chyatt@asginfo.net



GATES

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