

# MEAG Power 2023 Mayor's Summit State Political Scene

November 11, 2023



# What to Expect in 2024

- ▶ 2023 Special Session
- ▶ Presidential Election Year - Expect initiatives with wide public appeal.
  - ▶ Elections
  - ▶ Tort Reform
- ▶ Study Committees
  - ▶ Tax Credit Study Committee
  - ▶ SDS
  - ▶ LOST
  - ▶ Ad Valorem Ad-Hoc Committee
  - ▶ Senate Ethics Special Committee



# 2023 Special Session

- ▶ On October 26<sup>th</sup> Governor Kemp announced a Special Session to convene on November 29<sup>th</sup>.
- ▶ The General Assembly can only act on items listed by the Governor in the call.
- ▶ The call included:
  - ▶ Redistricting
  - ▶ Local Legislation
  - ▶ Ratify Executive Orders
  - ▶ Senate Confirmation of Governor's Appointments



# 2024 Political Environment

- ▶ Legislative Agendas Driven by the Governor and House and Senate Leadership.
- ▶ Tort Reform - Governor Kemp announced at the Georgia Chamber's Congressional Luncheon in August that limiting frivolous lawsuits will be a priority of his in the 2024 session.
- ▶ Elections - This summer University of Michigan Computer Science professor, Alex Halderman released a report that Georgia's voting machines were vulnerable.
  - ▶ Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger has largely minimized the report and remained confident in the State's election security.
  - ▶ Lt. Governor Burt Jones has shown a great deal of concern and has signaled that election security will be a priority of his in the 2024 session.



# Joint Tax Credit Review Panel

- ▶ Panel created by Speaker and Lt. Governor to review and analyze a wide array of Georgia Tax Credits.
- ▶ The Committee is Chaired by Representative Shaw Blackmon (R-Bonaire) and Senator Chuck Hufstetler (R-Rome), the Chairs of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee respectively.
- ▶ The Committee has met five (5) times to discuss the state's existing credits, while focusing largely on the film tax credit and research and development tax credit.
  - ▶ Atlanta (June 14<sup>th</sup>) - Intro and testimony from State Agencies
  - ▶ Savannah (August 23<sup>rd</sup>) - Testimony from local industry in the Savannah area
  - ▶ Rome (September 20<sup>th</sup>) - Testimony from local manufacturers
  - ▶ Athens (October 4<sup>th</sup>) - Testimony on Film Tax Credit
  - ▶ Columbus (November 8<sup>th</sup>) - Testimony on Low-Income Housing Tax Credit and Historic Preservation Tax Credit

# Other Notable Study Committees

- ▶ Joint Committee on Service Delivery Strategy (SDS)
  - ▶ Senate Resolution (SR 175) by Senator Ginn created the Joint Study Committee on Service Delivery Strategy (SDS).
  - ▶ House Government Affairs Chairman, Rep. John LaHood and Senate State and Local Government Operations Chairman, Senator Frank Ginn co-chair the committee to identify points of contention between cities and counties in the SDS Process.
  - ▶ First meeting was held on September 18<sup>th</sup> and featured presentations from GMA and ACCG on the history of SDS and some of the major challenges.
  - ▶ Second meeting was held on October 3<sup>rd</sup> in Valdosta and featured local presentations on SDS negotiations.
  - ▶ Future meetings will be held and a report will be issued prior to the 2024 legislative session.

# Other Notable Study Committees

## ▶ Senate Study Committee on LOST

- ▶ Senate Resolution 147 by Senator Derek Mallow (D-Savannah) created the Senate Study Committee on LOST.
- ▶ The Committee is chaired by Senator Mallow.
- ▶ First meeting was held on August 14<sup>th</sup> and featured presentations from the Department of Revenue, and GMA. GMA focused on the perspective of city governments throughout the negotiation process.
- ▶ The second meeting was held on October 17<sup>th</sup> in Savannah, where ACCG presented on the perspective of county governments throughout the process.

# Other Notable Study Committees

## ▶ Ad-Hoc Committee on Ad Valorem Taxation

- ▶ The House Ways and Means Committee has created an ad-hoc committee to look at property taxes. The Committee is chaired by Representative Dale Washburn.
- ▶ The Committee met on October 11<sup>th</sup> and October 18<sup>th</sup> and featured testimony from Dr. David Sjoquist of Georgia State, GMA, ACCG and the Department of Revenue (DOR).
- ▶ Dr. Sjoquist gave a historical account of property taxes in the state, while GMA largely focused on the notice required to notify citizens of tax increase any time the digest as a whole experiences an increase.
- ▶ ACCG used the opportunity to highlight several legislative priorities, including changes to the Board of Equalization and the 3-year lock associated with appeals.
- ▶ DOR presented on their role in the process and focused on digest approval.



# Other Notable Study Committees

- ▶ Senate Ethics Committee Meeting

- ▶ Senator Max Burns (R-Sylvania), Chairman of the Senate Ethics Committee called a meeting of the committee on November 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ▶ The purpose of the meeting was to address vulnerabilities outlined in the Halderman report and question the Secretary of State and Dominion Voting Machines on those findings.



Joel Wiggins, Partner  
The Southern Group  
[wiggins@thesouthernngroup.com](mailto:wiggins@thesouthernngroup.com)