



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

A Briefing for Faculty & Staff of the University System of Georgia No. 1, January 10, 2005

“Creating a More Educated Georgia”

Session’s Opening Ceremonies, Including Election of New Speaker, to be Followed by Governor’s Address, Long Recess

Today, Jan. 10, is the first day of the Georgia General Assembly’s 2005 legislative session. In addition to swearing in the 236 members of the House of Representatives and Senate, the schedule today included the election of Glenn Richardson of Dallas as the new Speaker of the House.

At 44, Richardson is one of the youngest

state House speakers in the nation. He is a two-time graduate of *Georgia State University*, having earned both his undergraduate degree and a law degree there during the 1980s.

In 1996, the lawyer became the first Republican from Paulding County to serve in the House of Representatives in modern times. Richardson served as floor leader under Gov.

Sonny Perdue in 2003 and, most recently, as the House minority leader.

Legislators also will convene at the State Capitol tomorrow, Jan. 11, and Wednesday, Jan. 12. The schedule for the first three days of the session will be filled largely with ceremonial and organizational tasks.

The Governor plans to deliver his combined

State of the State/Budget Address at 8 p.m. on Jan. 12 in the House chamber. After that, the General Assembly will recess until Monday, Jan. 24. However, various committees of legislators will meet during the recess to begin work on their session duties. 🏛️

Senate, House Filled with Freshmen Members

The general election this past November produced 65 new state legislators, one of the largest groups of “freshmen” ever welcomed by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

In the 56-member Senate, there are 21 new members, including five who have moved from the House

to the Senate this year. The latter are: **Curt Thompson** of Norcross, **Doug Stoner** of Smyrna, **John Douglas** of Covington, **Chip Rogers** of Woodstock and **Bill Heath** of Bremen. Two of the new senators – **Charles Walker** of Augusta and **John Wiles** of Kennesaw – returned to the state legislature after having served it in the past.

The 180-member House welcomed 44 new members, including six former legislators who have been returned to office. The latter are: **Chuck Scheid** of Woodstock, **Terry Johnson** of Marietta, **Harry Geisinger** of Roswell, **Dan Lakly** of Peachtree City, **Paul Jennings** of Atlanta and **Bobby Reese** of Sugar Hill.

Next Up:

◆ Highlights of Gov. Sonny Perdue’s combined State of the State/Budget Address (scheduled for 8 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 12, in the House Chamber). 🏛️

A complete listing of this year’s freshmen legislators appears on p. 2 of this newsletter. 🏛️

New to the Georgia House of Representatives This Year

Roberta Abdul-Salaam, Riverdale
Tim Bearden, Villa Rica
Tommy Benton, Jefferson
Bob Bryant, Garden City
Jon Burns, Newington
Charlice Byrd, Woodstock
Buddy Carter, Pooler
Mike Cheokas, Americus
Jim Cole, Forsyth
Clay Cox, Lilburn
Steve Davis, McDonough
Tom Dickson, Cohutta
Terry England, Auburn
Allen Freeman, Macon
Harry Geisinger*, Roswell
Mark Hatfield, Waycross
Doug Holt, Social Circle
Billy Horne, Newnan
Mike Jacobs, Atlanta
Paul Jennings*, Atlanta
Terry Johnson*, Marietta
Shelia Jones, Atlanta

Mike Keown, Coolidge
Jane Kidd, Athens
David Knight, Griffin
Dan Lakly*, Peachtree City
Roger Lane, Darien
Ed Lindsey, Atlanta
Barry Loudermilk, Cassville
Gene Maddox, Cairo
Jeff May, Monroe
John Meadows, Calhoun
Phyllis Miller, Lawrenceville
Robert Mumford, Conyers
Jay Neal, LaFayette
Bobby Reese*, Sugar Hill
Chuck Scheid*, Woodstock
Martin Scott, Rossville
Ed Setzler, Kennesaw
Freddie Sims, Albany
Richard Smith, Columbus
Willie Talton, Warner Robins
Brian Thomas, Lilburn
Steve Tumlin, Marietta

New to the Georgia Senate This Year

Joseph Carter, Tifton
Ronnie Chance, Tyrone
Jeff Chapman, Brunswick
John Douglas,** Covington
Greg Goggans, Douglas
Johnny Grant, Milledgeville
Bill Heath,** Bremen
Judson Hill, Marietta
Emanuel Jones, Ellenwood
Steen Miles, Decatur
Chip Pearson, Dawsonville
J.B. Powell, Blythe
Chip Rogers,** Woodstock
Nancy Schaefer, Turnersville
Cecil Staton, Macon
Doug Stoner,** Smyrna
Curt Thompson**, Norcross
Charles Walker*, Augusta
Dan Weber, Dunwoody
Jim Whitehead, Evans
John Wiles*, Kennesaw

* *returning to service (members who've served previous terms)*
** *members who've moved from the House to the Senate this year*