

STATE

Peter Hubbard won the Democratic runoff for Public Service commission, District 3 and will face incumbent Republican Fitz Johnson. Hubbard is an advocate for more clean energy.

Former House Minority Leader Bob Trammel of Luthersville has launched his campaign for Attorney General - go to bobtrammell.com for more information.

Several new laws took effect as of July 1st including:

- State income tax rate drops slightly (from ~5.39% to 5.19)
- An Increases in Georgia's child and dependent care tax credit and creation of a new \$250 credit for each child under age 6.
- Ends subminimum wages for workers with disabilities.
- Raises funding for education from \$300 million to \$375 million in effort to improve quality of education.
- Details of the new laws are on the website

A Blue-Ribbon Study Committee on Election Procedure had their first of six meetings on July 15. The committee aims to craft legislation on changes to the number of early voting days, voter registration sharing between states and a potential switch from electronic vote counting to paper ballots. Their findings will be recommended to next year's legislature.

The Georgia Secretary of State has announced the cancellation of 477,883 Georgia voter registrations for maintenance of the voter rolls. Please check your voter registration.

Looking ahead to next year's Senate race against Jon Ossoff, Insurance Commissioner John King withdrew his bid for the seat leaving Rep. Buddy Carter, as the only announced candidate so far but Rep. Mike Collins is announced Wednesday.. Both of these are strong Maga candidates. Governor Kemp however, is pushing Derek Dooley, the son of the late Georgia coach Vince Dooley, to run which is upsetting those close to Trump.

A commission created in 2024 by Gov. Brian Kemp and state lawmakers to evaluate health care challenges facing low-income Georgians has not met this year, yet the chair of the panel formally known as the Comprehensive Commission on Health Care is set to release a report next week. This decision follows the lead of state Republican leaders who have decided against a special session of the legislature to discuss the repercussions of the so-called big, beautiful bill for state spending.

The governor's budget office has directed agencies to prepare amended fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027 budgets with no spending increases, except for enrollment-based programs such as schools and health care. If the agencies lose federal money, they're instructed to deduct that money from their budgets rather than ask the state to make up the difference, according to the instructions.

BBB - Effects of The Big Beautiful Bill on Georgia

The legislation will slash Medicaid by \$1 trillion during the next 10 years.

The bill could result in 750,000 Georgians losing health coverage due to cuts in the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid.

Cuts to Medicaid contained bill put 37 Georgia nursing homes at risk of closing.

Seventy percent of Georgians living in nursing homes rely on Medicaid.

Eighteen rural hospitals are already at risk and this bill will increase that risk.

The bill's cuts to clean energy tax credits could negatively impact Georgia's growing renewable energy sector and lead to job losses as we have already seen with the loss of the Freyr battery factory that was scheduled to come to Newnan.

The bill would shift some of the costs of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to the state, impacting food assistance for low-income Georgians.

LOCAL

The county commission has scheduled three hearings to discuss an increase in the millage rate that they feel is necessary to fund increased health insurance costs for the county.

Hearings will be on August 5 @ 6pm, Aug.19 @7:30 am and Aug 19 @ 6pm - after the hearings. The millage rate will adopted at the Aug 19 meeting.

Because of the senior tax reduction called for in House Bill 581, a floating local option sales tax of 1% will be on the ballot to offset lost revenue.

The City Council voted to transfer the 57 East Broad Street property to the Downtown Development Authority to advance a \$4.2M mixed-use development. Red Hills Hospitality plans include restaurants, retail, office space and a Marriot hotel.

FROSTY THE CONMAN

I'm sure most of you have heard about the recent local scandal concerning the \$140 million dollar Ponzi scheme run by the Frost family. Over a million dollars of the money that they bilked out of investors went to campaign donations which Secretary of State Raffensburger and the Georgia Republican party have asked recipients to return (several candidates are refusing to return the money). Campaign contributions were made not only in Georgia but also in several other states including Alabama where a current candidate for Secretary of State not only accepted contributions but was also one of the investors.

Among Brant Frost IV's expenditures were \$2.4 million on credit card bills and \$75,000 dollars a year for a vacation in Maine for several years. According to documents uncovered so far, First Liberty began as a legitimate business but began the illegal scheme around 2021. Frost initially accepted full responsibility and was cooperating with the SEC and other investigators but is now pleading the Fifth. His son, Brant Frost V, who is also chair of the Coweta GOP, was said by many investors to have been the main negotiator of their investments. The daughter, Katie Frost still sits on the Georgia GOP financial oversight committee and is chair of the GOP 3rd congressional district and Krista Frost is still the second vice chair of the Coweta GOP and secretary of the 3rd district. Brant V pretended to step down as chair but was back in charge two days later. Also, one day before this story broke, Brant Frost V applied to open another similar business, and he has now been subpoenaed by state regulators.

However, the Republican party has not acted to remove any of the Frost family from their positions in the party. We need to make sure local Republicans know of the corruption in their party and that the chair of the state Republicans has refused to address this matter.

Latest update- the State Election Board announced that the Frost family's political action committee has been charged with 61 violations of election laws.