



Pat Gardner

YOUR State Rep. District 57

Holding State Government accountable to you

January 2012

www.patgardner.org



2012 session to see return of tax reform debate

Having failed to agree on tax reform legislation last year, the Republican majority leadership is expected to try again during the 2012 session of the Georgia General Assembly, which convened Jan. 9.

Proposed changes include large tax breaks for corporations and tax increases on Georgia families in the form of reinstating the 4 percent state sales tax on food. Taxes will be a hotly debated issue again this year. Other issues expected to be at the top of the agenda include:



Transportation: A proposal has been made to change the election date for the regional sales tax (T-SPLOST) vote from July to November. If approved, the tax would bring in \$6.1 billion to the metro Atlanta region over the next 10 years.

Criminal Justice: A special council has recommended an increased use of probation and flexibility in sentencing for non-violent offenders to reduce the financial and human costs of Georgia's overcrowded prisons.

Requirements for Assistance: Legislation has been introduced to require drug testing for those receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits. A separate proposal would require those receiving unemployment benefits to complete 24 hours of community service each week.

School Funding: Lawmakers will consider recommendations on revising the state funding formula for local public school systems, which has been cut by billions of dollars over the past nine years.

You're Invited!

TOWN HALL MEETING

With Rep. Pat Gardner and Rep. Kathy Ashe

Tuesday, January 17, 2012
6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

**Grady High School Auditorium
929 Charles Allen Drive,
Atlanta, GA 30309**

"As your State Representative, I want to meet you and hear your views. Please join us!" - **Pat**

Call 404-656-0265 for more information

Let me hear from you!

Please contact me at the State Capitol with your views on the issues, or whenever I can be of service.

BY MAIL:

Rep. Pat Gardner
604 Coverdell Legislative
Office Building
Atlanta, GA 30334

BY PHONE:

404-656-0265

BY EMAIL:

pat@patgardner.org

Pat in action in House District 57



Rep. Gardner reads "The Little Engine That Could" to children at the Brook Valley Early Learning Center on Sheridan Road.

Rep. Pat Gardner

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Redistricting plan under scrutiny by Justice Department and courts

In a strictly partisan political action, the Republican majority in the Georgia General Assembly approved proposed maps with new boundaries for all 180 districts in the state House of Representatives and all 56 districts in the state Senate, as well as Georgia's 14 congressional districts.

I value your opinion. Please visit our website, www.patgardner.org, to participate in an online survey on the issues for the 2012 session.

As a result, our current House District 57 has been

shifted entirely into Fulton County, moving into South Atlanta and dividing Intown neighborhoods among several legislators. Also, I have been placed into the same district as another Democratic House member, one of several such pairings of Democratic incumbents across the state, especially in the metro Atlanta area. To review the proposed maps, visit www.patgardner.org.

Gov. Nathan Deal rubber-stamped the new legislative districts, which were developed in the office of the general counsel of the Georgia Republican Party. On Dec. 23, the U.S. Justice Department pre-cleared the redistricting plan, which still must undergo a likely federal court challenge to determine compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

Redistricting at the federal, state and local levels is required every 10 years following a U.S. Census count to ensure that citizens have equal representation in the legislative branch of government.

At the local level, the City of Atlanta and Atlanta Public Schools are in the middle of the redistricting process for city council wards and school board districts. Citizen involvement is a vital part of the process. Please contact your local officials to express your concerns about redistricting.



Rep. Gardner addresses her colleagues in the House of Representatives.

MEET PAT GARDNER

Pat Gardner is serving in her 11th session as State Representative in 2012. She presently serves on the House Appropriations, Transportation, Higher Education and Natural Resources & Environment Committees and the Appropriations Committee's Health Subcommittee. She is the Treasurer

of the Working Families Caucus, Chair of the Health and Welfare Subcommittee of the Fulton County Delegation, and immediate past chair of the Women's Legislative Caucus. Recent appointments by the Speaker include the Regional Transit Authority Governance Commission and the Health Committee of the National Conference of State Legislators. Governor Deal appointed Pat to the Health Insurance Exchange Advisory Committee. As a member of the Morningside community where she has lived for more than 38 years with her husband and two children, Pat has served on the Board of the Morningside/Lenox Park Association. She has also served on the Boards of the League of Women Voters, the Learning Disabilities Association of Georgia, the Mental Health Services Coalition, Project Interconnections, the Besser Foundation and Georgians for Choice. She is a member of the Midtown Atlanta Rotary Club and Leadership Atlanta.

Sign up for Pat's weekly legislative e-newsletter by sending an email to pat@patgardner.org.

Please attend Pat's Town Hall Meeting

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