

GEORGIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CHUCK MARTIN

HOUSE DISTRICT 49



Dear Neighbors in Alpharetta, Roswell, and Milton,

In the 2025–2026 Legislative Session, the Georgia House continued the work that started with HB 1437, the largest income tax cut in state history. This year's bill, detailed inside, brought the rate down to 4.99%. Lawmakers also sent rebate checks to qualifying Georgia taxpayers in both 2025 and 2026 and cut school taxes for Fulton County seniors. We also funded the 2026 Homeowner Tax Relief Grant, worth about \$500 in additional property tax savings for any homeowner with a homestead exemption, on top of what the exemption itself already saves you. You'll see this relief in your own family's budget.

As your State Representative, I serve as Chairman of the House Higher Education Committee, a member of the Appropriations Committee, and Subcommittee Chairman on Ways & Means. These positions mean I don't just vote on the budget and the tax code; I help write them. Turn the page for the full rundown: what passed this session on property taxes, income taxes, and public safety, bill by bill. This summer, folks across our neighborhoods told me the same thing: they don't always know about the tax savings, homestead exemptions, and education opportunities already available to them. That's why I wanted to put this in your hands directly, not bury it on a government website.

Georgia's economy remains strong, and unemployment remains low, though rising housing and everyday costs are stretching family budgets in our communities. My focus stays the same: lowering taxes, providing opportunities for jobseekers, strengthening our schools, and keeping our community safe.

If there's anything I can do for you, or if your neighborhood would like an in-person walkthrough, reach out anytime.

Yours In Service,

Chuck



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

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PRIORITIES THIS LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DELIVERING TAX SAVINGS

Georgia's largest income tax cut in state history continues to deliver for hardworking families, and I was glad to help build on it this year. As Ways and Means Subcommittee Chairman, I'm focused on keeping more of your money in your home, not in Atlanta. We stayed the course on the 2022 tax cuts, lowered the state income tax rate to 4.99%, and sent real rebate checks to Georgia taxpayers who paid state income tax in the qualifying prior years: \$250 for single filers, \$375 for heads of household, \$500 for married couples. Taxpayer dollars belong to you first, and we'll keep returning them when we can. **Check your rebate status at dor.georgia.gov.**

CUTTING PROPERTY TAXES FOR FULTON SENIORS

Seniors are an important part of our community, and rising school property tax assessments shouldn't jeopardize their ability to stay in their homes. I partnered with other members of the Fulton County legislative delegation, working alongside the Fulton County School Board, to pass HB 776 and HB 777, providing a 25% homestead exemption at age 65 and 50% at age 70. Fulton County voters approved it on the November 4, 2025, ballot with more than 75% support. **If you're 65 or older and already have a basic homestead exemption, this is applied automatically. If not, apply by April 1 at fultonassessor.org.**

PROTECTING GEORGIA'S NEWBORNS

Every child deserves a safe start. This session, I supported HB 350, expanding Georgia's Safe Haven law so parents in crisis have more places to safely and anonymously surrender a newborn without fear of prosecution. It's quiet legislation, but for the families it reaches, it can mean the difference between tragedy and a second chance.

STRENGTHENING GEORGIA'S SCHOOLS

This session delivered college-planning help for families in Alpharetta, Roswell, and Milton. As Higher Education Chairman, I authored HB 1413, the framework for the DREAMS Scholarship, now signed into law as Georgia's first comprehensive need-based college aid program, offering up to \$3,000 a year for students who've earned their shot.

Apply through the FAFSA and GAfutures.org. The same package improved the Path2College 529 plan, so families saving early have more options. **Learn more at Path2College529.com.** I also proudly voted to send every Georgia elementary school a literacy coach through the Early Literacy Act, because kids who can't read on grade level struggle for the rest of their careers. Save early, read on grade level, or cross the finish line to a degree.

MODERNIZING GEORGIA'S 9-1-1 SYSTEM

When someone in Alpharetta, Roswell, or Milton calls 9-1-1, the dispatcher should be able to see what's happening, not just hear it. In 2025, I led a study committee, starting at Roswell City Hall and traveling statewide to hear from our 9-1-1 community. What we learned became HR 1243, the Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund, which I sponsored and guided to passage with bipartisan support. HR 1243 puts a constitutional amendment on the ballot this November: voting yes is the next step toward Next Generation 9-1-1 in Georgia, letting 9-1-1 centers receive texts, photos, video, and precise location so first responders know what they're walking into before they arrive. No new fees, no new taxes, just faster, smarter help when your family needs it most.





SIGNIFICANT LEGISLATION PASSED IN THE 2025 - 2026 SESSION

HB 974 | 2027 State Budget - Fully funds education, provides for the Homeowner Tax Relief Grant, reduces the state's debt, and maintains Georgia's AAA credit rating

HB 463 | Income Tax Rate Reduction - Reduces Georgia's state income tax rate to 4.99% for 2026, continuing the path toward 3.99%

HB 112 | 2025 Tax Rebate - Provides a tax rebate of up to \$500 per filer for taxpayers who filed in 2023 and 2024, returning \$1B to Georgia taxpayers

HB 1000 | 2026 Tax Rebate - Provides a second round of taxpayer rebates for filers who filed in 2024 and 2025

HB 81 | Mental Health - Increases access to mental health services for students

HB 1413 | DREAMS Scholarship - Establishes Georgia's first statewide need-based college aid program, up to \$3,000 per year for up to eight semesters; enacted via SB 556, signed May 2026

HB 1193 | Early Literacy Act - Funds a literacy coach in every Georgia elementary school and creates a statewide literacy task force

SB 591 | Protecting Faith Communities - Safeguards worship services of every faith from unwanted protests

HB 943 | Early Autism Screening - Provides funding for screenings, clinical evaluations, and training to identify autism in children in foster care

HB 1379 | School Funding By Foreign Adversaries - Requires schools to disclose funding from foreign adversaries

HB 1344 | Insurance Reform - Making insurance more affordable by making claims processing faster, fairer, and more transparent

HB 579 | State Licensing - Streamlines the professional licensing process and strengthens Georgia's workforce

HB 129 | Strengthening Our Workforce - Enhances Georgia's workforce by aligning educational programs with high-demand careers

HB 945 | Protecting Seniors - Allows financial institutions to pause suspicious transactions to prevent elder financial abuse

HB 350 | Safe Haven For Newborns - Expands safe haven protections for newborn babies

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE **CHUCK MARTIN** *SERVING GEORGIA'S 49th DISTRICT*

ABOUT CHUCK

As Chairman of the House Higher Education Committee, Chuck also serves on Appropriations, Ways and Means, Rules, Regulated Industries, Energy, Utilities & Telecommunications, Retirement, and Creative Arts & Entertainment. That's eight committees in all. It gives him a direct hand in the issues that matter most to Alpharetta, Roswell, and Milton families. His committee work has also earned him leadership roles with the Southern Legislative Conference and the Council of State Governments. He also serves on the Southern States Energy Board and as a Georgia appointee to the Southern Regional Education Board.

Before his service in the General Assembly, Chuck served on the Alpharetta City Council and as Mayor of Alpharetta. He has also been a passionate advocate for youth in our area, serving as Community Coach at Milton High School and a youth coach with the Wills Park Youth Baseball Association and Alpharetta Youth Football Association.

Chuck's family roots in Alpharetta run deep. He's a native of Alpharetta and a Milton High School graduate who earned a BBA in Management Science from the University of Georgia. Today, he applies that background through Connected Strategies, LLC, helping others navigate challenges he's tackled throughout his career. He and his wife, Johnna, have two sons, Lance and Miles, both Milton High School graduates. Chuck's favorite role of all is being "Papa Chuck" to his five grandchildren.

