

Capitol Office
421 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334
(404) 463-8055

District Office
3330 Preston Ridge Road
Suite 380
Alpharetta, GA 30005
(678) 667-3656
john@senatoralbers.com



Senator John Albers

Committees
Public Safety, Chairman
Finance, Vice Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee, Chairman
Regulated Industries & Utilities, Member
Veterans, Military & Homeland Security, Member
Rules, Member

Chief Deputy Whip

www.senatoralbers.com

COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Resources

Georgia Department of Public Health - <https://dph.georgia.gov/>

CDC - <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Governor Kemp updates - <https://gov.georgia.gov/>

Unemployment - <https://www.dol.state.ga.us/fileaclaim/>

Small Business Association (SBA) Loans - <https://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/disaster-assistance>

President Trump updates - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/>

Substance Abuse & Mental Health - <https://www.samhsa.gov/coronavirus>

COVID-19 Hotline - (844) 442-2681

Schools are closed through April 24th

Businesses & Individuals – Unemployment Benefits

A business can file unemployment for their staff and encouraged to do so online. Individuals can file directly as well. Benefits are available within 48 hours to help and all online. Benefits are expanded with an additional \$600 supplement for the next 4 months. <https://www.dol.state.ga.us/fileaclaim/>

Food Assistance

Fulton County Schools Students - <https://www.fultonschools.org/>

Cherokee County Schools Students - <https://www.cherokeek12.net/>

SNAP/Food Stamps - <https://dfcs.georgia.gov/food-stamps>

Women, Infants & Children SNP - <https://dph.georgia.gov/WIC>

North Fulton Community Charities - <https://nfcchelp.org>

Cherokee Services - https://www.needhelppayingbills.com/html/cherokee_county_food_pantries.html

Food Finder - <https://foodfinder.us/>

Voting – May Primary Election

All voters will receive absentee ballot request forms in the mail - <https://sos.ga.gov/>

Utility Assistance

Georgia Power [suspends utility shut offs for 30 days](#)

Atlanta Gas Light [offers resources](#)

Comcast offers [free internet for low-income households](#), enables [free Xfinity wifi hot spots](#) around the county and has [no disconnections or late fees for 60 days](#).

AT&T is not terminating any wireless, home phone or broadband service - <https://www.att.com/>

Charter Spectrum – no disconnects or late fees <https://www.spectrum.com/>

Cobb EMC <https://cobbemc.com/>

Sawnee EMC <https://www.sawnee.com/>

Rent & Mortgage Assistance

President Trump directed the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to suspend evictions and foreclosures through April as Americans grapple with the fallout of the coronavirus.

Paid Sick Leave, Prescriptions & Insurance

Emergency Paid Sick Leave - Any employee who works for an employer is eligible.

- Full-time Employees – 80 hours of paid sick leave
- Part-time Employees – Paid based on the average number of hours the employee worked for the six months prior to taking this paid sick leave

Expanded FMLA - <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/whd/fmla/pandemic>

GA Insurance Commissioner John King instructed insurers not to cancel health insurance policies of those who miss payments until further notice. <https://www.oci.ga.gov/home.aspx>

Prescriptions (Rx) can be renewed for 90 days and obtain early refills.

Delayed Tax Filing & Student Loans

The deadline to file both federal & state taxes has now been extended to July 15th. This will provide immediate relief to those with pending tax liabilities or access to complete returns. Student loans payments have been suspended for 60 days.

Drivers License & Tag Renewals

Driver's license expiration deadlines are extended 60 days: <https://dds.georgia.gov/>

Tag renewals are extended to 5/15: <https://dor.georgia.gov/vehicle-registration-renewal-faq>

Federal Stimulus

The President and Congress are rolling out significant stimulus programs ongoing. More information on real-time updates can be found at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/>. The CARES Act gives a one-time direct payment to Americans - \$1,200 per adult making up to \$75,000 a year and \$2,400 to a married couple making up to \$150,000, with \$500 payments per child.



CARES Act – Paycheck Protect Program

The Paycheck Protection Program administered through the SBA – that provides up to \$349 billion in loans to eligible entities, with such loans being subject to forgiveness under certain circumstances. The 100 percent federally guaranteed loans are available under a new subsection 36 of Section 7(a) of the Small Business Act. The loans may be used for a variety of purposes, including payroll costs (as described below), rent, utilities, mortgage interest (not principal) and interest on debt existing prior to February 15, 2020.

Loan Amount: 2.5 times monthly average payroll, mortgage/rent, and utility payments based on trailing 12-month average up to \$10 million

Uses:

- Payroll
- Group health care benefits/insurance premiums
- Mortgage, rent, and lease payments
- Utilities
- Interest on debt incurred before health crisis

Loan Terms:

- 10 years
- 4% interest
- No prepayment
- No collateral
- No application fee
- No personal guaranty
- Payments deferred 6-12 months

Forgiveness:

Loan proceeds used for the below purposes will be forgiven if the average number of full-time equivalent employees at the end of 2020 is the same as at the end of 2019.

- Payroll
- Mortgage Interest
- Rent
- Utilities

*The SBA will be writing procedures and creating an application for this program.



Updates from The White House

Expanding Testing Accessibility

- The FDA issued emergency approval for new commercial coronavirus tests to significantly expand testing across the country.
- The President signed legislation that will ensure Americans are able to be tested for free (more [here](#)).
- Admiral Brett Giroir – the Assistant Secretary for Health and head of the Public Health Service – has been appointed to coordinate coronavirus testing efforts.
- The Administration is actively working with state and local partners and the private sector to open up drive-through testing sites.
- The Administration is working with the private sector to develop a website that Americans can utilize to determine whether they need a test and, if so, where to get it.
- HHS is providing funding to help accelerate the development of rapid diagnostic tests for the coronavirus.
- The FDA cut red tape to expand testing availability. Today, Thursday, March 19, President Donald J. Trump announced the approval of existing drugs to test a COVID-19 treatment. The FDA continues to expand its work regarding therapeutic options and has a vaccine trial underway. More [here](#).
- The FDA is empowering states to authorize tests developed and used by laboratories in their states. Every state laboratory is empowered to conduct testing.
- The President signed legislation requiring more reporting from state and private labs to ensure our public health officials have the data they need to respond to this outbreak.

Strengthening Essential Medical Supplies

- The President issued an Executive Order invoking the Defense Production Act. Under the Defense Production Act, the President has the authority to determine that certain supplies are essential for the national defense during challenges like this. The President's action allows the Administration, if it becomes necessary, to order the distribution of health and medical supplies to where they are most needed. You can find the Executive Order [here](#).
- The President signed a memorandum directing his Administration to make general-use face masks available to healthcare workers (more [here](#)).



- HHS announced it will be purchasing 500 million N95 respirators for the Strategic National Stockpile (more [here](#)).
- The Department of Defense announced it will be providing 5 million respirator masks and 2,000 specialized ventilators to assist.
- The President signed legislation removing restrictions that prevented manufacturers from selling industrial masks – which can readily protect healthcare workers – directly to hospitals.

Informing the Public

- The Administration launched a website – coronavirus.gov – to keep the public informed about the outbreak.
- The President launched a partnership with the Ad Council, media networks, and digital platforms to communicate public services announcements about the coronavirus.
- The President announced guidelines (outlined below) for Americans to follow and do their part to stem the spread of the virus.
- The Task Force is holding nearly daily press conferences to provide the American people with the latest information. Press conferences can be viewed [here](#).
- The Task Force has recommended mitigation strategies (outlined below) to heavily impacted communities, like those in New York, Washington, and California.
- CMS announced guidance to protect vulnerable elderly Americans and limit medically unnecessary visits to nursing homes (outlined below).

