LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY 2018 CASA DAY AT THE CAPITOL

PRESENTED BY:

ANGELA TYNER – GEORGIA CASA

DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY & PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

OVERVIEW

- Legislative Advocacy 101
 - -Legislative Process
 - Budget Cycle
 - -Communications with Legislators
- Under the Gold Dome in 2018
 - -Current Session
 - -GA CASA Advocacy Strategy & Messaging
- CASA Day at the Capitol Logistics and Details
 - -Know Before You Go

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY 101

GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

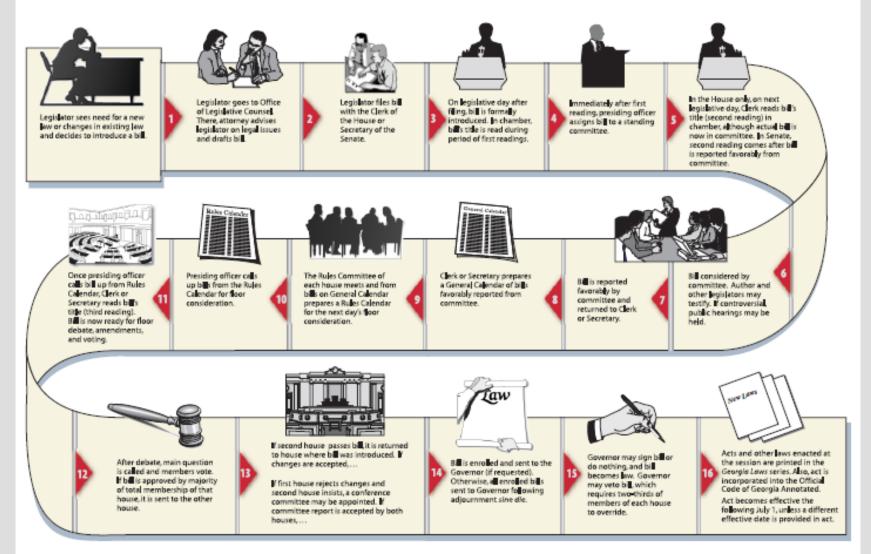
- Bicameral
 - 56 Senators and 180 Representatives
 - Lt. Gov. presides over Senate
 - Speaker presides over House
- Citizen Legislators
- Biennial Session
- Meets for 40 Days, beginning 2nd Monday in January
 - Day 28 is Crossover Day
- Only legislation required to pass each year is the state budget
 - Governor-strong state





HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

How a Bill is Passed in the Georgia Legislature



BUDGET CYCLE

https://opb.georgia.gov/sites/opb.georgia.gov/files/imported/vgn/images/portal/cit_1210/44/31/162982494ga_budget_cycle.pdf

State of Georgia Budget Cycle GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING & BUDGET











Budget Request Instructions Sent to Agencies:

In early summer, the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) sends guidelines to agencies for budget requests.

Agencies Prepare Budget Request:

Agencies prepare requests and get board approval (if applicable),











Budget Request Submitted:

BUDGET

Agencies submit all requests for current and upcoming fiscal year to OPB by September 1.

Budget Request Analyzed:

The governor, OPB staff, and agency leaders review and assess current and new budget requests,











Governor Finishes Budget:

By the end of the calendar year, the governor finalizes the budget proposals.

Budget Documents Sent to the General Assembly:

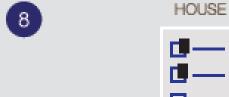
In January, within the first five days of the General Assembly session, the governor presents budget proposals.





Legislative Appropriations Process:

The Appropriations committees in the Georgia House of Representatives and Senate hold budget hearings for the current and upcoming ficsal year.



House Approves Its Budget

The House votes on changes to governor's budget proposals, Passes its version to the Senate,



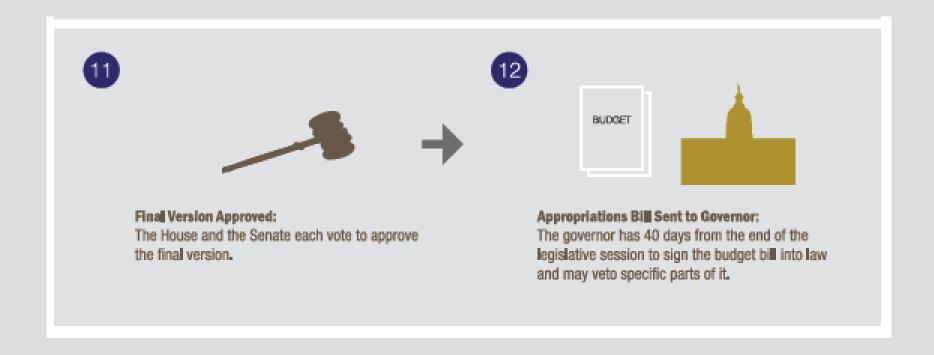
Senate Approves Its Budget:

The Senate reviews the House-passed budget for the current and upcoming fiscal years, can make changes, then votes on latest versions.

Conference Committee Meets:

The lieutenant governor and Speaker of the House appoint a conference committee to negotiate a single version of the budget.





Source: Georgia Budget and Policy Institute 2016 Budget Primer

Pgs. 4-5

http://gbpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Georgia-Budget-Primer-2016.pdf

EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY STRATEGIES

- Plan ahead
- Be honest and direct, concise
- Be passionate, persistent, polite, positive
- Personalize issues
- Show appreciation
- Seize opportunity
- Work both sides of the aisle

TIPS FOR COMMUNICATIONS WITH LEGISLATORS

Phone Calls

- Likely will speak with an assistant, intern, or staffer who will relay your message
- Identify yourself, organizational affiliation, and mention if you live in the legislator's home district
- Explain why you're calling and make your ask, have 1-2 concise points to support your position
- Provide any local or personal examples of why it matters
- Thank the person for their time

Email

- Convenient, but may be less effective because less personal, may be preferred method for some
- Put your position in the subject line (e.g., Please support HB___)
- Form letters won't have same weight as personalized ones
- One issue per letter
- State purpose in first paragraph
- Include personal stories, highlight specific examples that support your position, including local impact
- May request a response asking whether legislator will support your position



UNDER THE GOLD DOME

HOW TO STAY INFORMED:

- Barton Child Law and Policy Center at Emory Law Schools' Newsletter and weekly Legislative Updates
- Voices for Georgia's Children
 - Georgia CALL "closed door" weekly meetings
 - Legislative Updates
 - Two-minute Take videos
- Legislator newsletters
- Georgia General Assembly page--www.legis.ga.gov



2018

- Today is Day 12; Crossover Day is Feb. 28; Sine Die is March 29th
- Second year of session
- Governor ending his second term
- Substantive Legislation
 - HB 159 was introduced last year by Rep. Bert Reeves and would read comprehensively update the adoptions code.
 - HB 359
 - SB 131 was introduced last year by Sen. Tilllery and would require a stay of adoption proceedings until any appeal of the termination of parental rights order is concluded.
 - HB 53 was introduced last year by Rep. Mary Margaret Oliver and would amend the Juvenile Code relating to penal institutions to raise the age of criminal jurisdiction for juveniles from 17 to 18 years.
 - DFCS's priorities include CB 21 and legislative change to TPR statute



FY 18 AMENDED BUDGET/SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET/LITTLE BUDGET

- \$15.1 Million Added for out-of-home care for children in foster care (DFCS)
- All the Child Health amendments were regarding monies to serve children (0-21 years old) with Autism as follows:
 - \$1.25 Million Added for Crisis Services (DBHDD)
 - \$2.27 Million Added to develop capacity for behavioral health services (DBHDD and DCH)
 - \$300,000 in existing funds for telehealth services (DBHDD) and three positions for behavioral health services (DBHDD) plus one program coordinator (DCH) and one program support coordinator position to provide behavioral health services (DPH)
 - \$1.1 Million allocated within the State Health Benefits Plan to reflect enrollment growth to match
 Medicaid age requirements for the treatment of autism (DCH)



FY 19 BUDGET/BIG BUDGET

- **Child Health** regarding children (0-21 years old) with Autism:
 - \$5.9 Million Added for Crisis Services (DBHDD)
 - \$948,000 Added to develop capacity for behavioral health services (DPH and DCH)
 - \$367,500 in existing funds for telehealth services (DBHDD) and three positions for behavioral health services (DBHDD) plus one program coordinator (DCH) and one program support coordinator position to provide behavioral health services (DPH)
 - \$2.2 Million allocated within the State Health Benefits Plan to reflect enrollment growth to match Medicaid age requirements for the treatment of autism
- Regarding recommendations from the Commission on Children's Mental Health:
 - \$79,000 Added to prevent opioid abuse by children and youth (DBHDD)
 - \$84,000 Added for one-time funds for crisis respite services (DBHDD)
 - \$10.32 Million Added for crisis services for children and youth (DBHDD)
 - \$4.29 Million Added for the Georgia Apex Program (GAP) for an additional 13 grants (DBHDD)
 - \$382,500 Added for telemedicine service (DBHDD)
 - \$1.1 Million Added for child/youth suicide prevention (DBHDD)
 - \$611,000 Added for high fidelity wraparound services training (DBHDD)
 - \$3.06 Million Added for supported employment and education assistance for an additional 500 young adults at the rate of \$6,120 per year (DBHDD)
 - \$2.26 Million Added for care coordinator positions to improve mental health outcomes for children in foster care (DHS)

FY 19 BUDGET CONTINUED

- \$15.1 Million Added for growth in Out-of-Home Care for children in foster care (DHS)
- \$7.46 Million Added for a \$2.50 per day increase for relative foster care rates (DHS)
- \$2.67 Million Added for a \$2.50 increase for child placement agency (CPA) foster parent per diem rates (DHS)
- \$2.43 Million Added to increase child caring institution (CCI) per diem rates by 2.5% (DHS)
- \$1.17 Million Added to increase child placement agency (CPA) administrative costs by 2.5% (DHS)
- The following additions are for accountability courts in the state (GBI/CJCC). Accountability courts can make families stronger since, by design, they approach justice by attempting to address the root behavioral cause of an offense. Georgia has increased the number and type of accountability courts drastically under the Deal administration. This year is no exception:
 - \$2.12 Million Added to expand 53 existing courts and to create three new adult felony drug courts
 - \$1.06 Million Added to expand 28 existing courts and to create three new mental health courts
 - \$741,000 Added to expand 18 existing courts and to create three new family dependency treatment courts
 - \$514,000 Added to expand 15 existing courts and to create two new veterans' courts
 - \$475,000 Added to expand 21 existing courts and to create two new DUI accountability courts



Georgia CASA Growth Plan

2015-2018

GEORGIA

Strategy 1 Increase CASA Volunteers

@ Expand local, regional & state volunteer recruitment efforts

Screen & train over 1,000 volunteers annually

	Children Served	CASA Volunteers	
2016	10,280	2,300	-/
2017	11,240	2,400	١
2018	13,000	2,800	1

CASA projects a 30% Increase in the number of foster children served at the end of

Strategy 2 Increase Staff Support for Volunteers

Seek & maximize funding for staff support & volunteer supervision

CASA Advocacy Model



Key Funders







Strategy 3 | Strengthen Local Affiliate Management & Resources

- Provide intensive support for local CASA affiliates
- Utilize advanced data reporting & planning tools

For more information

Strategy 1 & 2 - Recruitment & Staff Support Strategy 1 & 3 - Recruitment & Intensive Support

Strategy 1, 2 & 3 - Recruitment,

Staff Support & Intensive Support

Year 3 Target Areas Represents high-need areas, affiliate capacity and network engagement

> CASA service areas Strategy 1 - Recruitment Strategy 3 - Intensive Support

Georgia Court Appointed Special Advocates, Inc.

404-874-2888 info@gacasa.org www.gacasa.org

Strategy 4 | Enhanced Georgia CASA Support

- Garner adequate financial support for expanding CASA network
- Offer comprehensive training & support for local affiliates



GEORGIA CASA LEGISLATIVE STRATEGY

- We will not be actively seeking a funding increase for FY 19.
- For the coming year, we have been and will continue to build relationships with legislators both in the district and in Atlanta throughout the session:
 - Thanking legislators for their continuous support of CASA in Georgia and sharing progress and growth
 - Engaging legislators in discussions around key issues in child welfare
 - Serving as a sounding board and resource on welfare issues as the session progresses
 - Providing joint opportunities to recruit and engage constituents in supporting youth in care
 - Asking legislators to become CASA ambassadors in the community by sharing local CASA information with constituents and attending local CASA events
 - Inviting legislators to participate in a listening session or to observe CASA in action in court
 - Laying the groundwork for needs and support for FY 2020.

MESSAGING

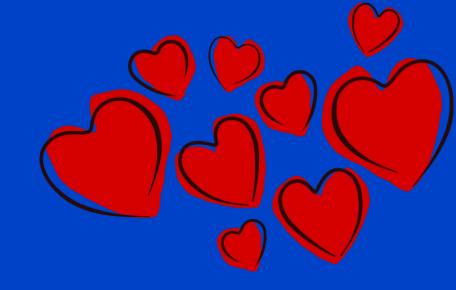
- CASA advocacy is essential to abused and neglected children in Georgia.
 - Every abused and neglected child needs the individualized attention and sense of urgency that a
 CASA volunteer brings in promoting a child's safety, permanency, and well-being
 - Studies have consistently shown that a child with a CASA is more likely to find a safe, permanent home; half as likely to re-enter foster care; and less likely to languish in long-term foster care
 - CASA volunteers provide consistency and continuity for a child involved in the child welfare system
 and help to connect information among DFCS staff, foster placements, providers, schools and many
 other stakeholders
 - CASA program helps to maximize community resources and support by involving community volunteers in supporting juvenile courts and children/families in foster care, resulting in additional resources, expertise and connections for children, families and services
- CASAs advocate for approximately 50-55% of children in foster care
- GA CASA has a statewide 3 year growth plan to dramatically increase the number of foster children with a CASA by 30%

BUDGET MESSAGING

- State funding supports the recruitment, screening and training of CASA by providing Istaff to supervise 30 volunteers
- CASA network's current operating budget is approximately \$13 million, including state appropriations of \$3.37 million
- CASA is an exemplary public-private partnership that demonstrates a 75 to 1 return on investment
 - State funding represents approximately 20-25% of the program's annual budget in GA
- Past increases have provided significant investment in network expansion
 - Funding enables CASA programs to recruit, screen, and train additional community volunteers, provide volunteers with access to experienced and knowledgeable staff, and provide volunteer advocacy for additional children in the state's custody

FOR CAPITOL DAY:

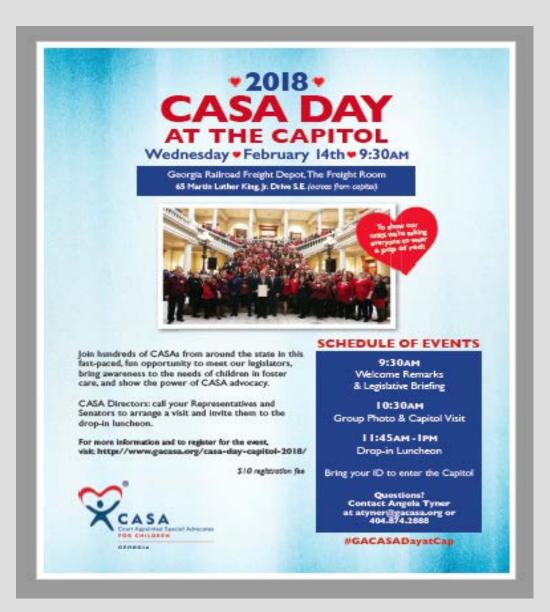
- Share your CASA story
- Express appreciation for ongoing support
- Bring attention to needs of children in foster care in your community
- Engage legislators in the CASA movement



CASA DAY AT THE CAPITOL

KNOW BEFORE YOU GO!

CASA DAY AT THE CAPITOL



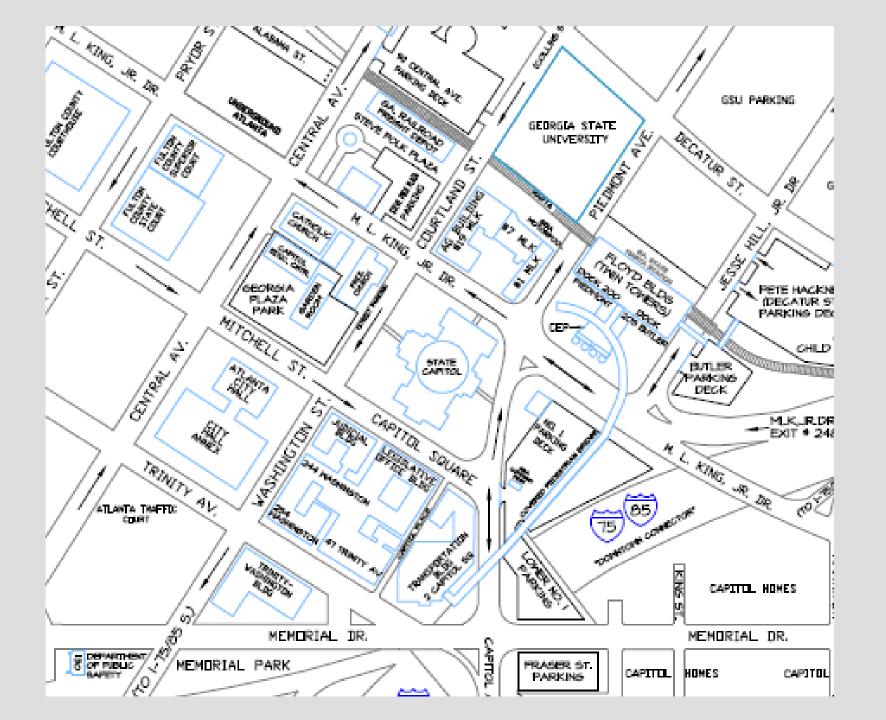
For more details and to register, visit: https://www.gacasa.org/casa-day-capitol-2018/

Flyer
Schedule of Events
Directions and maps
Packet Contents
Paging slips
Legislator contact info
Sample letter to invite legislator
Registration link
Hotels

PARKING

- Depot Lot -pay with exact cash or credit @ station-closest to the Capitol
- Underground Decks-pay with cash or credit
- Memorial Dr. Lots-pay w/ exact cash or credit-know license tag #
- Pete Hackney Garage-convenient to Floyd Building, \$5 pay on entry
- MARTA: Georgia State E-1 on the Blue Line. Trains every 15 minutes. Station at Floyd Building.
- Allow ample time!!!
- http://www.atlantadowntown.com/guide/getting-around/parking



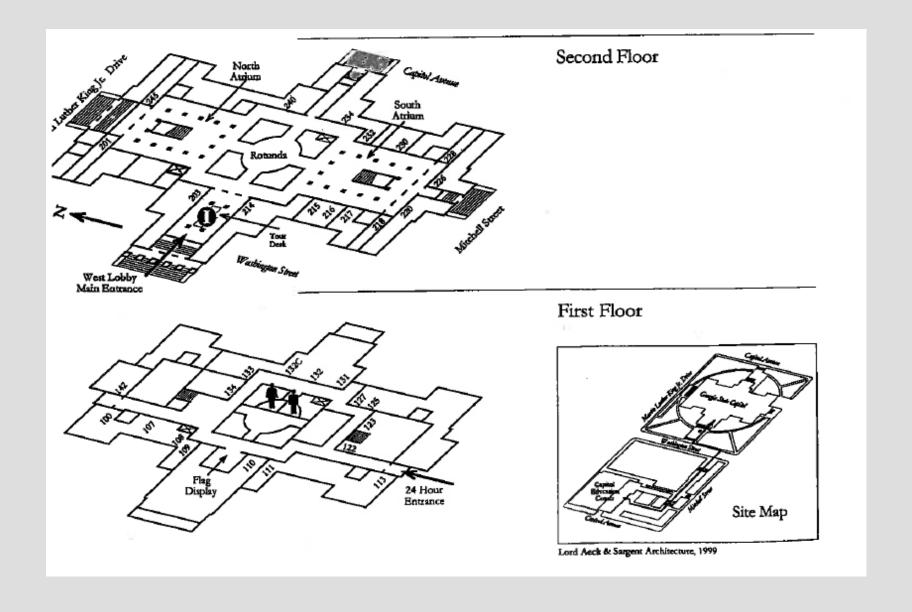


SECURITY

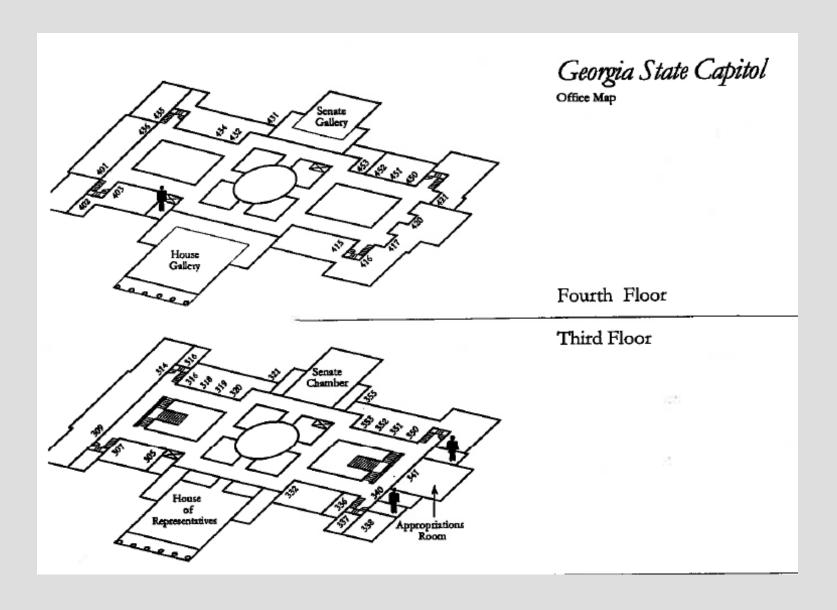
- Bring your driver's license or state-issued photo ID.
- You will be required to show it at the Capitol.
- Metal detectors located at the Capitol.



1ST AND 2ND FLOOR MAPS



3RD AND 4TH FLOOR MAPS



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SCHEDULE

- Beginning at 8:45 am--Coffee and pastries in the Depot
- 9:30--Program begins
 - Nyeelah Innis, EmpowerMEnt representative
 - Wendi Clifton, Legislative Briefing
- [10:00 Privileged Resolutions]
 - Rep. Ballinger
 - Sen. Gooch
- II:00--Group photo
- 11:00--11:45--*CapitolVisit
- Luncheon--11:45-1 pm
- I:00—CapitolVisit



*CAPITOL VISIT

- Observe from Gallery (4th floor):
 - Have been known to be strict with the use of phones, lpads, cameras, etc.
 - No drinks.
- *Page your legislator (3rd floor)
- Stop by legislative office.
- Tour the capitol.
- Afternoon: attend a committee hearing

*PAGING

- Know your legislators in advance.
- Complete the paging slips before you get to the ropes on the 3rd floor.
 - Luncheon reminder
 - Come out to speak
- Proceed to page desk.
- Remember what your Page looks like.



LEGISLATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Make in advance
- Stop by office and talk to Aide

LEAVE BEHINDS

• S'mores



LUNCHEON

- 11:45-1,The Depot
- Make sure someone is there the entire time.
 - Go through the buffet in shifts.
- Cheer for all legislators.
- Come greet your legislator. Fix their lunch. Make room at the table.
- There will be set seating for programs situated geographically close to be near each other to accommodate shared representatives and senators.

2017 DAY AT THE CAPITOL



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

- Invite your legislators.
 - If you haven't already done so, do! (sample language on website)
 - If you haven't heard back, send a reminder.

• Who is my legislator?

- Find your district number and use the charts.
- Or, enter your street address online at http://votesmart.org/

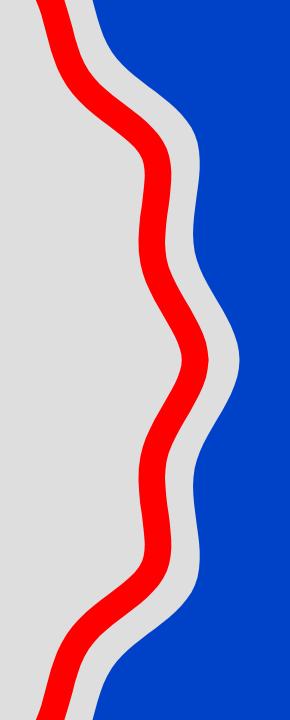
Prepare your volunteers.

- Have a call in advance for those attending
- Provide info about all legislators in your program's service area
 - Photo, biographical info, committees, relevant sponsored legislation

SEE YOU ON VALENTINE'S DAY!

- Don't forget:
 - -Know your legislators
 - -Wear a pop of red!
 - Allow plenty of time for travel
 - -Bring your smart phone and use #GACASADayatCap
 - -Have fun!





THANK YOU

QUESTIONS??

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