



DAVID RALSTON
SPEAKER

House of Representatives

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Dear Members of the Georgia House of Representatives,

On March 13, the 2020 session was suspended in response to the growing COVID-19 pandemic. That decision was made jointly with the Senate and after consultation with the leadership of both caucuses in the House. The session will resume upon agreement by the Lieutenant Governor and me.

Following discussions over the past week, I have proposed that session resume on June 11. This date was selected for one overriding reason: to enable the members of the General Assembly to have the most current data available on the revenue and expenses as we make what will surely be significant changes to the FY 21 budget.

Our priority when session resumes will be the only thing we are required to do- pass a balanced state budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

We will not have April revenue numbers until the end of May. It is a given that substantial cuts will need to be made in the budget. I do not believe it is sound practice to make these difficult decisions without the best and most current information. In addition, the governor would need time to consider this data as he sets a revised revenue estimate.

With this in mind, it is my determination that it does not make sense to try to prepare a budget before early June.

The work has begun in the House to examine what the FY 21 budget may look like. Over the next couple of weeks, Chairman England will be scheduling subcommittee meetings as part of our preparation.

We will let you know as soon as arrangements have been finalized to resume session.

We will also provide to you details on policies and procedures for the remainder of session. I anticipate that the bi-partisan committee tasked with examining how we conduct our business will begin meeting in the next week or two.

I continue to pray for the health and safety of each of you and your families. These are challenging days for every Georgian. We will get through this because we are Georgia strong.

Sincerely,

David Ralston, Speaker
Georgia House of Representatives