

The season of legislation will arrive on Monday, Jan 9, 2017. The League of Women Voters will again cover the activities thereof and write newsletter of each week's activities generally through Thursday, to be received by Saturday.

This year there will be two editions, one for those receiving this email which will broadly contain bills affecting all aspects of education--students, children, teachers, staff, administration, schools, boards, taxation, health, higher education, etc. The other will include all of the education edition and in addition proposals on governance, courts, crimes, cities, counties, transportation, and local legislation for Fulton County and its cities. It will be received from the LWVAF office and be posted on the website, lwvaf.org.

What can be expected in the first week? It will be slow. Legislators will have to be assigned to offices and committees, committees without chairmen will have to get them which may result in a domino effect as current chairmen of lesser committees get promoted to higher profile ones. The speaker will be reelected, probably. The governor will present his budget speech, usually on Wednesday. New legislation will continue to be introduced, but cannot be taken up in committee until the assignments have been completed.

The second week will be appropriations hearings. By the third week, organizational tasks should be finished and committees can begin processing legislation.

The constitution says that the legislature can meet no more than 40 days, Monday through Friday. The body usually adopts a legislative calendar to designate which days they will meet and which will be recess days. And it may not cover the entire 40 legislative days, especially with a new administration in Washington DC and the unknowns that can affect the state budget (health care, taxation, block grants) and regulations.

Expected are proposals on school funding, religious discrimination, Medicaid eligibility changes, guns on campus, perhaps anti-hacking into elections files, medical marijuana expansion and growing, casino gambling. Campaign promises and campaign donor paybacks are always evident in the first session after an election. How far any of these go depends on the lawmakers reflecting the will of their constituents. So make yourself know to your legislator and express your opinion on these bills.

Be sure to let me know if you wish to be unsubscribed or have another preferred email address.

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League of Women Voters

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