

The Special Council on Tax Reform and Fairness for Georgians had its first meeting yesterday, July 28th, to discuss their upcoming goals and agenda. Between now and year end the Council will perform a comprehensive review of Georgia's tax system. Once this review is complete, the Council will present suggested changes and modifications to the tax code to the legislative Special Joint Committee on Georgia Revenue Structure. The Committee will consider these proposals and submit a package of legislation to be voted on by the Georgia General Assembly.

The Lieutenant Governor, Casey Cagle, and Speaker of the House, David Ralston, addressed the committee emphasizing the need for jobs in the state. Both asked the Commission to focus on mainstream changes that will cause minimal impact to the state and its' citizens. Those objectives, later echoed by the Governor and the Commission, include a focus on tax fairness, tax compliance, tax enforcement, revenue stability, and an analysis of sales and use tax.

A.D. Frazier was elected Chairman of the Commission, please see attached bio. Frazier also reiterated the importance of creating an open and communicative relationship between citizens/businesses and the Commission.

The Commission will hold Fact Finding Sessions throughout the state of Georgia. These "sessions" will allow citizens to voice any comments or concerns regarding the current tax structure in Georgia. In addition, Chairman Frazier will start holding one on one meetings with citizens and businesses. The Commission will publish all comments, presentations, questions, research findings, as well as meeting times and locations on their website. Today, you can find the Georgia's Tax Revenue Portfolio, a breakdown of Georgia's current tax structure, standings, and revenues. The website is listed below.

<http://fiscalresearch.gsu.edu/taxreform/>

The recommendations of the Commission will be posted by late fall.