

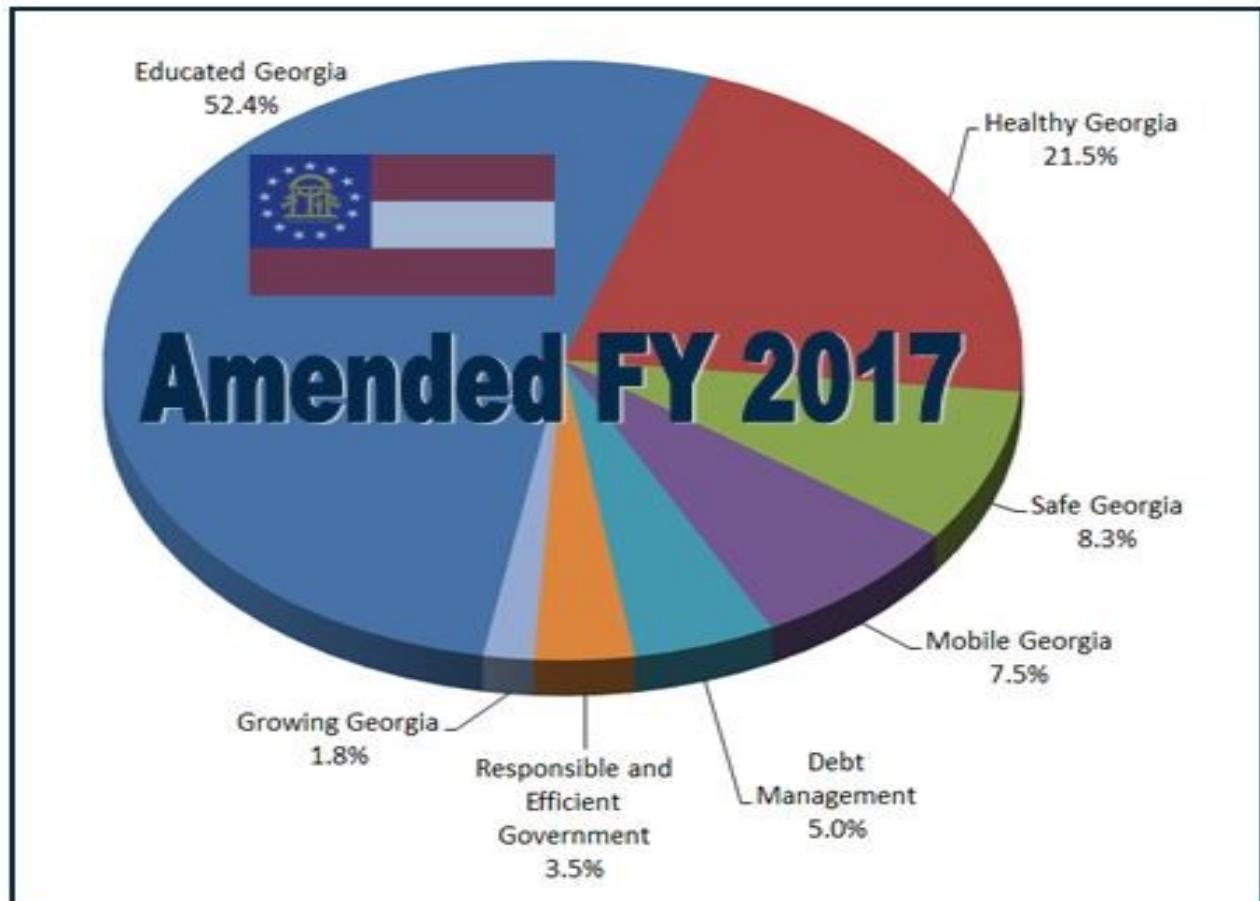


## Senate District 15 – Session Update – Week Two- 2017

### 2017 Fiscal Year- Spending Changes

The 2017 budget will be amended to reflect a more accurate estimate of state revenue and accounts for any discrepancies between the projected estimate that was passed last year and actual revenue obtained. Due to additional revenue and population growth, we are able to allow for “new” funding to account for adjustments in the 2017 fiscal year budget. Governor Deal has made recommendations to the Appropriations Committees on where additional funding should be allocated. The Governor’s largest amended 2017 proposal includes funding for the development of the Cyber Innovation and Training Center in Augusta. Highlighted below are a few spending increases Governor Deal is proposing for the 2017 amended budget, which will end June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year:

- \$85 million in the midterm adjustment to fund k-12 enrollment growth
- \$7 million for Medicaid enrollment growth
- \$118 million for Transportation initiatives
- \$74 million to Healthcare programs and the various departments within
- \$95 million to Safe Georgia initiatives

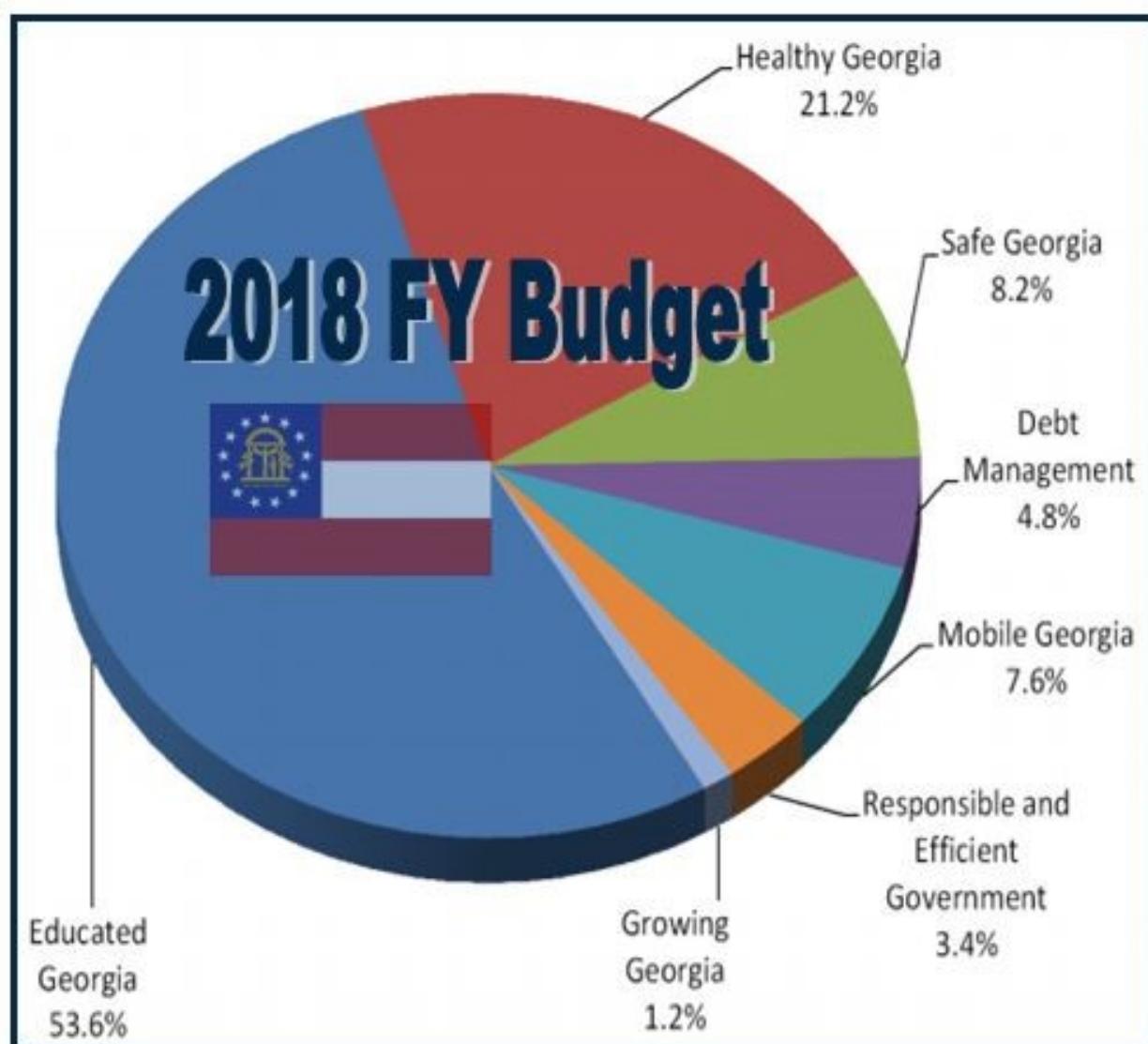


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### 2018 Full Budget

As Georgia's economy continues to grow, state revenue and spending have also grown. In his State of the State Address last week, the governor announced that the 2018 fiscal year budget proposal is the largest budget in Georgia's history at \$25 billion. The governor listed his funding priorities, and as expected, education remains a top priority for 2018 along with public safety, healthcare and transportation. The 2018 proposal also includes pay raises for some state employees, Law Enforcement Officers and teachers. Below is a highlight of Governor Deal's 2018 budget proposals:

- \$400 million allocated to "Grow Georgia" efforts, which includes the Departments of Agriculture, Community Affairs, Economic Development and Natural Resources.
- \$1.9 billion to Transportation improvements and infrastructure
- \$13.4 billion to Education systems- Pre-K through Higher Ed
- \$2 billion towards Public Safety and law enforcement initiatives
- \$5.3 billion allocated to Healthcare initiatives, which includes \$22 million towards the Veterans Service Department



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### **What's Next?**

After a long week of budget hearings, the balancing act continues. House Appropriation subcommittees will dive even further into the governor's budget proposals and will eventually pass portions of the suggested budget out of their respective committees. Following this process, those individually passed budgets will then go before the full House Appropriations Committee. After a couple of more checks and balances, the budget will eventually receive a full vote on the House floor. If the House passes the budget, it then moves over to the Senate and the process begins all over again as we change or approve the House version. If both Chambers agree on the budget, it goes to the Governor's desk for his approval and signature. I will let you know what portion of the budget is allocated to our district, but we will not know for sure until the final budget is signed into law.

As always, I will continue to update you on all that is happening under the Gold Dome! Representing the people of our district is such an honor and I grateful that you have given me the opportunity to learn from you, to listen to you and most importantly, to serve you. If you need anything at all, please don't hesitate to contact me anytime.

Ed Harbison  
GA State Senator of the 15<sup>th</sup> District