

Advocating with Heart

Georgia 2026 Lobby Day

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In the chat, let us know:

1. Your Name
2. Your City
3. Will this be your first time at the Gold Dome?



American
Heart
Association.

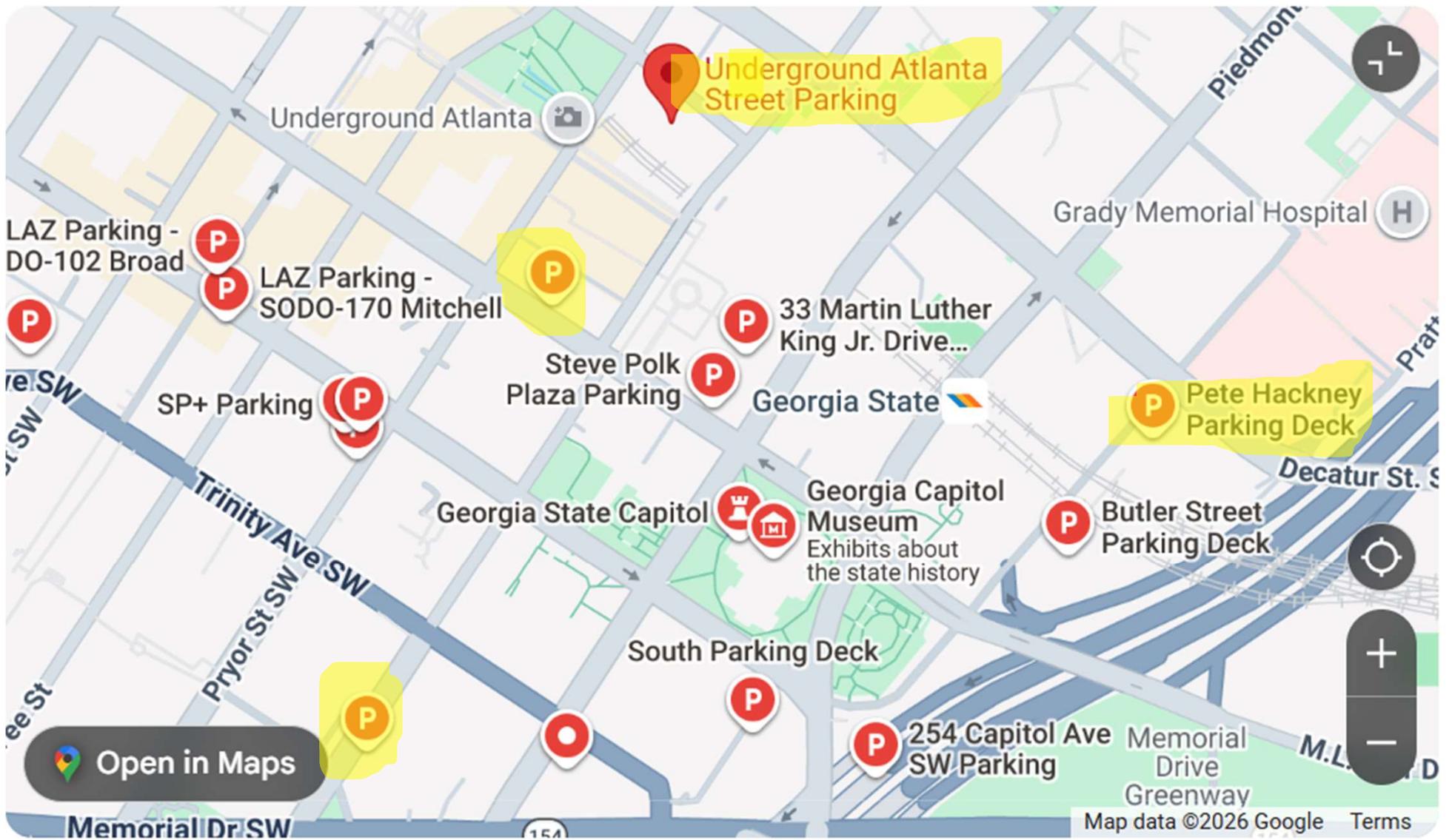
Today's Training Session Agenda

- Review schedule of events
- Issues overview
- Materials and legislative leave behind
- What to do if you have a question or problem during the event
- Building advocacy skills
 - Tips on sharing your story and experience
- How to have successful meetings with lawmakers

Getting there

Parking Options

- Pete Hackney Parking Deck (\$10, 8-minute walk)
- Government Parking Garage by City Hall (\$13, 8-minute walk)
- Underground Parking Deck (\$21, 7-minute walk)
- Underground Street Lot (\$15, 7-minute walk)
- Take MARTA (6-minute walk)
- Street parking (limited)



Underground Atlanta Street Parking

LAZ Parking - DO-102 Broad

LAZ Parking - SODO-170 Mitchell

SP+ Parking

Steve Polk Plaza Parking

33 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive...

Georgia State

Pete Hackney Parking Deck

Georgia State Capitol

Georgia Capitol Museum
Exhibits about the state history

Butler Street Parking Deck

South Parking Deck

254 Capitol Ave SW Parking

Memorial Drive Greenway

Grady Memorial Hospital

Underground Atlanta

Open in Maps

Map data ©2026 Google Terms

Getting into and around the CAP!

Watch the video of where to go
Thursday morning here:

<https://youtu.be/lx48MMCrpjY>

Getting into and around the CAP!

- Don't forget your ID!
- PLEASE check email that morning for last minute room changes
- Capitol (CAP) vs Coverdell Legislative Office Building (CLOB)



Advocacy Day Agenda

8:30 am	Opening/Training
9:30 am	Photo on Steps with Legislators
10:00 am	Session Starts/Resolution Reading
11:00 am	Meet with Legislators at Ropes
12:00 pm	Lunch

**NOTE: Plan to be flexible!
Times will likely change!**

Key Things to Know About the Day

At the ropes, Photo on the steps, Resolutions in Chambers



Meeting at the Ropes

Watch the video of how to request and have a meeting at the ropes here:

<https://youtu.be/zhjIMkU4GSQ>

Legislative Priorities



Coverdell
Stroke Registry
Funding



Heart Screenings
for
Student Athletes



Medicaid
Cessation
Coverage

Coverdell Stroke Registry Funding

- The registry is named in honor of Paul Coverdell — a U.S. Senator from Georgia who died of a stroke in 2000.
- In 2001, Congress provided funding to CDC to establish the Paul Coverdell National Acute Stroke Registry as part of a nationwide effort.
- The registry has facilitated collaboration among hospitals, EMS agencies, rehab centers, and public health to continuously monitor and improve stroke care quality.
- Led to improved stroke treatment and outcomes.
- Lost funding in December 2024.
- Advocating for a \$500,000 appropriation





Medicaid Cessation Coverage

- Medicaid recipients smoke at a rate of twice as high as privately insured and costs Georgia \$600 million a year
- Research suggests that if 1% of Georgia Medicaid recipients quit, there would be a savings of \$38.7 million the following year
- Advocating to remove barriers to cessation services for Medicaid recipients
- Last year made it ALMOST across the finish line!



Heart Screening for Student Athletes (HB970)

Support heart screening for student athletes during their regular sports physicals using an evidence-based, layered approach that includes a review of personal and family history, along with a physical exam. This is the best way to identify serious heart conditions that may require further testing.

The goal of HB970 is to build on the Georgia High School Association's existing policy to strengthen the identification of serious heart conditions in student athletes.



How Legislators Make Decisions: Where Your Story Fits

Head



Heart



Health



Key Meeting Elements for Success

#HeartAtTheCapitol

- Introductions
- Tell your story
- Deliver the asks
- Exchange information & give them the leave behind
- Ask for a photo op & post to social media

After the Meeting

- Complete meeting report and return to Laura.Bracci@heart.org OR use the QR code on the report form
- Send a thank-you note

Remember These Meeting Tips

- Stay on message and be positive even if your lawmaker doesn't agree with you.
- Focus on the AHA priorities – save other issues for another time.
- Use bridging to help you stay focused (such as, “that is really interesting but today I came to discuss...”)
- Don't be afraid to say “I don't know.”
- Get a photo!



Social Media for the Day

#HeartAtTheCapitol

- WEAR RED!
- Connect with the AHA on social media:
 - Facebook: American Heart Association Georgia
 - Instagram: @aha_georgia
- Find your lawmaker on social media
- Use Hashtags:
 - #HeartAtTheCapitol
 - Example: Enjoyed talking with @RepLupton during @americanheartga #HeartAtTheCapitol day about how we can save lives.

Final thoughts

- At the Ropes
- Lunch
- Homework: Look up, get to know, and email your legislators!





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Thank you!!

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