

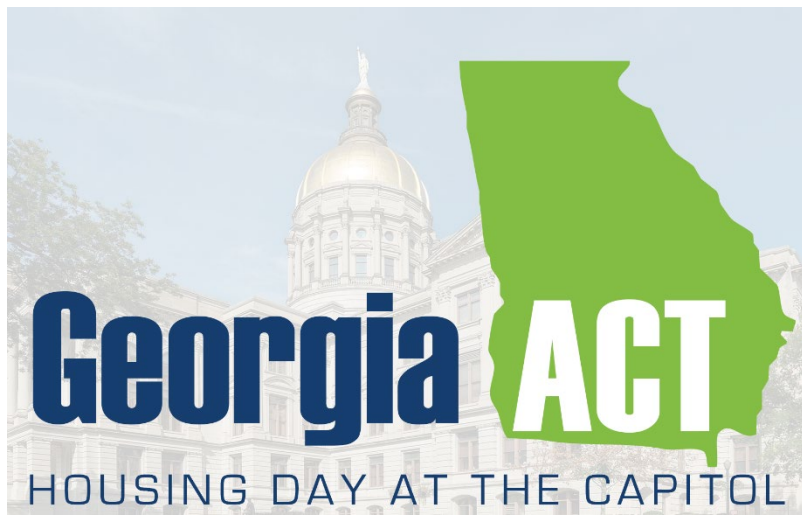


**Pre-Housing Day Webinar**

**February 9, 2022**

**Noon until 1:30 PM**

**DIGITAL PROGRAM**



## **2022 Pre-Housing Day Webinar**

**Wednesday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Noon until 1:30 PM**

### **AGENDA**

Welcome & Greetings

Rita B. Gibson, Board Chair, Georgia ACT  
State Senator Sonya Halpern

Federal Housing Updates

Frank Woodruff, Executive Director,  
NACEDA

Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

Callan Wells, Health Policy Manager,  
GEEARS

Best Practices to Reduce Homelessness

Cathryn Marchman, CEO, Partners for  
Home

Policies Ensuring Housing Stability

State Representative Marvin Lim

Voting and Redistricting

State Representative Stacy Evans

Advocacy Training & Issue Briefing

Elizabeth Appley, Esq.

Closing Remarks & Announcements

Dr. Bambie Hayes-Brown, President &  
CEO, Georgia ACT

Post Webinar [Survey](#)

## **Elizabeth J. Appley Esq., Legislative Analyst Georgia ACT**



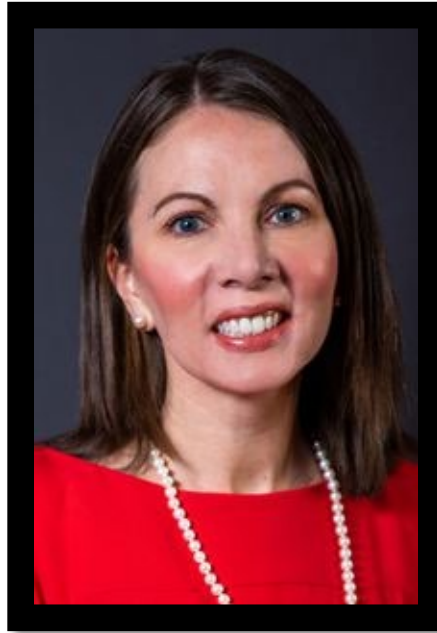
Experienced attorney and public policy advocate engaged in private practice in Atlanta, providing arbitration, mediation, litigation and lobbying services. Elizabeth has worked on a wide range of housing, health, education, employment, economic justice, social service and budget issues at the state and federal levels in the judicial, legislative and executive branches of government.

Elizabeth represents numerous organizations at the state capitol and has secured significant legislative successes at the Georgia General Assembly on budget and policy issues over the past 27 sessions. In addition to other clients, she advocates for Georgia Advancing Communities Together (Georgia ACT), Enterprise Community Partners, Presbyterians for a Better Georgia, and the Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, working to enact policies and secure resources to prevent and ameliorate homelessness and increase state support for affordable housing and healthy housing. In 2018 she created the Healthy Housing Georgia coalition, and in 2019 she led the effort to enact tenant protections against retaliatory evictions based on complaints relating to the health and safety of residential rental property. In 2020 she amended unemployment insurance legislation to enable the state to reduce layoffs and increase the ability of willing employers to bring people back to work amid the coronavirus pandemic.

She has won groundbreaking cases in state and federal court in the areas of health, education, employment, constitutional law, and disability rights. Elizabeth is a Past President of the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers (GAWL). She was a founding Board member of the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute (GBPI).

Elizabeth is rated as a Georgia Top Lawyer by lawyers and judges in the areas of Civil Law, Health Law and Government Law. She has been recognized for outstanding advocacy by Metro Fair Housing Services, the Georgia Association for Women Lawyers, the Atlanta Bar Association, the Georgia Campaign for Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention, the National Council of Jewish Women, *Atlanta Woman Magazine*, and others.

## State Representative Stacey Evans



Evans (Democratic Party) ran for election to the Georgia House of Representatives to represent District 57. She won in the general election on November 3, 2020.

Evans is a former Democratic member of the Georgia House of Representatives, representing District 42 from 2010 to 2017. She resigned her seat in the state House on September 5, 2017, to focus on her run for governor. Evans was a 2018 Democratic candidate for Governor of Georgia. The Georgia gubernatorial Democratic primary decided which Democrat would run to succeed term-limited Gov. Nathan Deal (R) in the November general election.

A former state representative from Cobb County, Stacey Evans looked to capture the votes of reliable Democratic voters as well as moderate Republicans and rural Georgians, particularly those displeased with President Donald Trump (R), in her bid for governor. "We must have conviction in our message," Evans said. "But we must also wield that conviction to build the broadest coalition possible. And spread our message far and wide. Not just to those who already believe."

The central policy issue Evans invoked was the HOPE Scholarship, a Georgia program established in the 1990s to use lottery proceeds to pay college tuition for high school students with B averages. In 2011, the HOPE Scholarship was changed so that only students with certain standardized test scores would receive full tuition benefits, while the benefits for other eligible students would be based on lottery revenues. Evans called for reverting back to the pre-2011 HOPE program and criticized Stacey Abrams for helping to craft the changes. Abrams said she had no choice due to the weak 2011 economy and that her actions staved off larger benefit cuts. Evans' supporters included former Gov. Roy Barnes (D), political strategist Paul Begala, and a number of state House Democrats.

Evans was first elected to the Georgia state House in 2010. Prior to that, she worked as an attorney and was involved in a \$495 million whistleblower lawsuit against dialysis chain DaVita Healthcare Partners. She used money from that settlement to create a \$500,000 scholarship fund for first-generation college students at the University of Georgia Law School, which she graduated from in 2003. She attended UGA for her undergraduate education on a HOPE Scholarship. She was born in Ringgold, Georgia.

## **Rita Gibson, Georgia ACT**



Mrs. Gibson's career spans more than 25 years in affordable housing development, project management leasing, facility operations and finance. Her passion for affordable housing is focused on the preservation and development of affordable workforce housing in communities of color facing gentrification.

She is the former Interim Executive Director for the University Community Development Corporation (UCDC), a nonprofit CDC located in the Atlanta University Center. UCDC's mission is to create safe, vibrant, healthy, and sustainable communities in and around The Atlanta University Center.

During her career, Mrs. Gibson has worked cooperatively with for profit and not for profit developers, lenders, and community-based organizations, to ensure preservation strategies for affordable housing.

In addition to serving a Chair of the Board for Georgia ACT, Rita also serves on numerous boards including Vice Chair for Voices for Georgia's Children, Villages at Carver YMCA, West End CID, and the Family Health Centers of Georgia. Rita holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Spelman College, an MBA from Howard University, and is a 2020 graduate of the ULI – Center for Leadership Program.

## State Senator Sonya Halpern



Sonya Halpern is a member of the Georgia State Senate, representing District 39. She assumed office on January 11, 2021. Her current term ends on January 9, 2023. Halpern ran in a special election to the Georgia State Senate to represent District 39. She won in the special Democratic primary runoff on December 1, 2020. Halpern completed Ballotpedia's Candidate Connection survey in 2020. Born in Atlanta, Georgia, Halpern earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Massachusetts and an M.B.A. from the University of Hartford. Her career experience includes working in executive roles with the YMCA, YWCA, President's Advisory Committee on the Arts, Electing Women Alliance Atlanta, Atlanta School for the Arts Foundation, Public Broadcasting Atlanta, and South Arts.

## **Dr. Bambi Hayes-Brown, Georgia ACT**



Dr. Bambi Hayes Brown is a native of Cordele, Georgia and holds a Bachelor's in Business Management, an MBA, a Doctor of Theology, a PhD in Biblical Studies, and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management. She is the CEO of Georgia Advancing Communities Together, Inc., a statewide membership organization of housing and community development agencies. She has 25 years' experience in rural and urban housing, community and economic development and serves on numerous Boards and advisory committees. Dr. Bambi is also the Founder and CEO of Hayes Brown Enterprises, LLC, a registered lobbyist, Real Estate Broker, and Certified Economic Development Finance Professional. Formally homeless and a former public housing resident, Dr. Bambi is a highly sought-after speaker who advocates for those with limited housing choices and for equitable community development.

## State Representative Marvin Lim



State Representative Marvin Lim represents the citizens of House District 99, which includes portions of Gwinnett County. He was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives in 2020. Rep. Lim immigrated to Georgia from the Philippines at the age of seven. Benefitting from various forms of public assistance growing up, he eventually earned his Bachelor of Arts from Emory University, where he graduated magna cum laude. He performed job development for refugees and immigrants on behalf of Catholic Charities Atlanta and testified for the first time at the state House in 2009. He later obtained his Juris Doctor degree at Yale Law School, where he was awarded the Benjamin N. Cardozo Prize for moot court. Rep. Lim has established a career in both civil rights and securities law and has been with Holcomb + Ward, LLP since 2015. As a Fulbright Scholar and a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Rep. Lim has also been a frequent writer on law and religion issues and the ethics of life. He is also an avid marathoner and an Ironman.



## **Cathryn Marchman, Partners for Home**



Cathryn Marchman has dedicated her career to working with individuals experiencing homelessness and marginalized communities for over 20 years. As a licensed clinical social worker, Cathryn has provided direct clinical care and advocacy to disenfranchised individuals in jails, criminal justice, residential, medical and outreach settings. Prior to her current role, Cathryn served concurrently as the Legal, Policy and Compliance Officer for St. Joseph's Health System, and the Behavioral Health Coordinator for Mercy Care, Inc., Atlanta's healthcare for the homeless organization. There, she was instrumental in the development and management of a holistically integrated medical and behavioral health care program across 10 clinic sites. Prior to these roles, she served as the Program Director for City of Refuge, a shelter for homeless women and children, and where she also lived on site with women and children experiencing homelessness. Cathryn has a Juris Doctor from Georgia State University School of Law, a MSW from Hunter College School of Social Work and was admitted to the Georgia Bar in 2012. When she's not strategizing on making homelessness rare and brief in Atlanta, Cathryn is exploring her new East Atlanta neighborhood while trying to keep up with her 8-year-old son.

## **Callan Wells, Georgia Early Education Alliance for Ready Students (GEEARS)**



Callan Wells leads GEEARS' health policy work, with a specific focus on growing the infant and early childhood mental health (IECMH) system of care in Georgia. Callan serves on the exploratory board for the Georgia Association of Infant Mental Health: Birth to Five (GA-AIMH) and the IECMH task force convened by the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL), where she chairs the Workforce Development Workgroup. Additionally, she co-leads the Interagency Directors Team's Prevention and Early Intervention Workgroup. In 2019, Callan worked with state leaders in the Georgia House of Representatives on the Infant-Toddler Social-Emotional Health Study Committee.

Before joining GEEARS, Callan worked for Georgia Legal Services Program, where she ran a project helping rural Georgia families access health care and other supports. She earned her B.A. from Agnes Scott College and an M.S. in the Social Foundations of Education and a graduate certificate in Public Health, both from Georgia State University.

Callan lives in Grant Park with her husband Nick and their cat Claude.

## **Frank Woodruff, National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations (NACEDA)**



Frank Woodruff's passion is to improve lives by inspiring great places. Frank joined the National Alliance of Community Economic Development Associations (NACEDA) in September 2010, becoming executive director in January 2012. He is dedicated to addressing the challenges and opportunities facing our country's low- and moderate-income communities. Frank thoroughly enjoys leading NACEDA and wakes up every day with renewed resolve, committing his career to community prosperity and equity whether in the public, philanthropic, governmental, or private sector.

Frank holds an Executive Education Certificate from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, an MA in public policy from George Washington University, and a BA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His publications include *The Mortgage Interest Deduction: An Example of Upside Down Federal Government Housing Subsidy*, *Transforming Community Development through Arts and Culture: State Policy Innovations to Support Creative Placemaking* published in the *Community Development Innovation Review* of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. He co-authored two essays entitled "Redlining," which were published in *The American Middle Class: An Economic Encyclopedia of Progress and Poverty* and in *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Urban and Regional Studies*.