



R. THOMPSON & ASSOCIATES *A Political Management Group*

ETHICS – COMPLIANCE – STRATEGY

Press Release - Thompson Addresses Spoof Flyer and Georgia's Impending Ethics Legislation *February 7, 2013*

Roswell, Georgia - Rick Thompson, addressing a spoof flyer distributed amongst Georgia lawmakers on Wednesday mocking Speaker David Ralston's proposed ethics legislation, says, "The anonymous flyer, although very amusing, sends an important message. The proposed ethics legislation by the Speaker is beginning to make certain individuals nervous."

"It would appear individuals who have circumvented the lobbyist registration laws for years are now beginning to feel threatened by legislation that creates greater transparency; these individuals may be required to register and report as lobbyists."

Thompson began his regulatory career with the State of Missouri in 1994, coming to Georgia in 2004 and being appointed as the Georgia Ethics Commission's Executive Secretary in 2005. "Since coming to Georgia in 2004, an issue consistently brought to my attention, while serving as the Executive Secretary of the Ethics Commission, is individuals lobbying on behalf of corporations and other entities without registering and reporting as lobbyists."

"Chairman Golick was clear in the first hearing on the legislation that it in no way is aimed at individuals advocating on their own behalf but rather targets individuals, lobbying for corporations and other entities, who have been side stepping the lobbyist registration and reporting laws."

"To me, this flyer makes it clear that certain individuals who know they are lobbyists and know they should be registering and reporting but have not done so are beginning to feel the heat."

Thompson, an advocate of stronger ethics and transparency for all those associated with the inner working of government, has studied and worked within a number of systems across the United States. "In Georgia, transparency must be addressed and real, legislative solutions to the public's perspective must be put into effect. I believe the Georgia Legislature, in both Chambers, is doing a good job by taking the first steps."

"Transparency is the most effective solution to the concerns that continue to be raised by the public as is demonstrated by a number of case studies through the country. Transparency is a real solution. With transparency, everyone has access to understand what is being done."

Rick Thompson is the former Executive Director of the Georgia Ethics Commission. Having left the Commission in 2009, Rick is the Founder and Managing Partner for RTA Political Management Group, a firm that consults with campaigns, PACs, ballot measure committees and government officials nationwide. You can learn more about Thompson and his firm at <http://govethics.org>. R. Thompson & Associates LLC is not a law firm nor are its partners and employees licensed to practice law. Content that is presented herein is for informational purposes. Nothing herein shall be construed as legal advice nor is intended to be legal advice.