RESJ
Robins, Eskew, Smith & Jordan
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS AND CONSULTANTS

The General Ledger

A Financial & Tax Update for Clients and Friends of Robins, Eskew, Smith & Jordan

SUMMER 2026

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FROM A LOCAL WORKSHOP TO A LASTING MISSION

Creative Enterprises, Inc. traces its beginnings to 1976 in Lawrenceville, Georgia when Gwinnett/Rockdale/Newton Mental Health Services rented additional space and established a workshop to help individuals with disabilities connect with employment opportunities. The plan was to establish a nonprofit corporation dedicated to providing work evaluation and work adjustment services for individuals with disabilities. In 1979 that vision became a reality.

Beginning with just six clients through a contract with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD), Creative Enterprises today has 53 dedicated employees serving more than 400 clients through six campuses. At the heart of Creative Enterprise's mission is Executive Director Leigh McIntosh, who has spent 45 years steadily guiding the nonprofit. The organization provides a wide spectrum of programs and services for people with disabilities and other employment barriers, providing them opportunities to enjoy life and explore employment offerings while being fulfilled, challenged and encouraged to excel.

THE COMPLIANCE CHALLENGE

RESJ first met the Creative Enterprises leadership team when the firm's Duluth office completed a community service project at the Lawrenceville campus. RESJ

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A Proactive Approach to Nonprofit Compliance

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stayed in touch after the service day, which made the firm a natural resource when Creative Enterprises needed a more reliable accounting partner. “When our previous accounting firm began missing important filing deadlines, we knew it was time to find a firm that was experienced in working with nonprofits and understood the importance of filing requirements and deadlines,” said Leigh. Those deadlines matter. All tax-exempt nonprofits must file Form 990 each year with the IRS. The form provides details about income, expenses and governance, and it helps maintain a nonprofit’s tax-exempt status. Missing a Form 990 deadline can result in penalties, and consecutive misses can jeopardize a nonprofit’s tax-exempt status.

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> – Leigh McIntosh

A PROACTIVE AUDIT SOLUTION

Led by Audit Partner Matt Chandler and Audit Manager Taylor Pace, the RESJ team discovered that Creative Enterprises is required to have an annual single audit because of the amount of federal funding it receives through large state contracts with DBHDD and the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency. The previous firm’s failure to identify the requirement could have jeopardized the organization’s funding. RESJ now performs the single audit in conjunction with the financial statement audit. The team handles the additional testing procedures, reporting requirements and submission of the audit to the Federal Audit Clearinghouse.

PEACE OF MIND FOR THE NEXT CHAPTER

Leigh and Creative Enterprises Compliance and Finance Manager, Brandi Cook, are grateful for RESJ and the relationship that has developed over the past several years. They appreciate that RESJ is proactive and responsive whenever questions arise. That confidence is especially important as Creative Enterprises prepares for a leadership transition. “Working with a firm that shares many of the same values as Creative Enterprises has been a plus. As I look to retire later this year after more than four decades with the organization, I have great peace of mind knowing that RESJ is our audit firm and that there will be a seamless transition when the new executive director comes on board,” said Leigh.

Learn more by visiting the Creative Enterprises website.

House Bill 463 enacts sweeping personal income tax reductions.

Senate Bill 33 focuses on rising property taxes tied to increasing home values across the state.

Gov. Kemp Signs Tax Relief Bills Into Law

REDUCTIONS TO INCOME AND PROPERTY TAXES ON THE WAY FOR GEORGIANS

In May, Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp signed a pair of major tax relief bills into law that will lower income and property taxes for many Georgians. Most of the income tax changes take effect beginning January 1, 2026, while the property tax provisions will phase in over the next several years.

HOUSE BILL 463: GEORGIA ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2026

House Bill 463 enacts sweeping personal income tax reductions. Specifically, the bill lowers the state's individual income tax rate from 5.19% to 4.99% starting in 2026, with yearly 0.125% cuts down to 3.99%. The bill also increases the standard deduction for individuals and married couples filing jointly, and the deduction for dependents, with similar provisions for annual increases and potential delays. Additionally, the legislation raises the retirement income exclusion to $70,000 beginning in 2027 and increases deductions and offers temporary exemptions for overtime and cash tips through 2028.

STANDARD DEDUCTION INCREASE SCHEDULE

Filing Status	Current Deduction	Initial Increase	Annual Increase	Maximum Deduction
Married Filing Jointly	$24,000	$30,000	$750 per year	$36,000
Single Filer	$12,000	$15,000	$375 per year	$18,000

Important note: The annual increases only take effect in years when state tax collections grow by at least 3%.

Bill 463 repeals various tax credits, including those for teleworking expenses, manufacturers of medical supplies and equipment, alternative fuel vehicles, and businesses headquartered in the state while also eliminating certain sales and use tax exemptions, with an exception for existing certificates related to pollution control equipment.

SENATE BILL 33: HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY AND MARKET EQUALIZATION (HOME) ACT OF 2026

Senate Bill 33 focuses on rising property taxes tied to increasing home values across the state. The bill expands statewide homestead exemption protections by requiring a floating homestead exemption statewide. The law creates a new Local Homestead Option Sales Tax (LHOST) which allows local governments to use sales tax revenue to fund homestead exemptions and reduce property tax bills for homeowners. The legislation also closes loopholes that previously allowed local governments to opt out of taxpayer protections. The provision is intended to help limit rapid increases in taxable home values for qualifying homeowners, providing greater predictability and long-term tax stability for Georgia families.

Launch of Trump Accounts

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

As of July 1, Trump accounts have officially launched and are accepting contributions. Created as part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the official account name is a "530A IRA." In simple terms, a Trump account is a tax-deferred retirement account designed to provide long-term financial security for America's next generation.

Q. WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
A. All U.S. children under 18 with a valid Social Security number are eligible to establish a Trump account.

Q. WHO CAN RECEIVE THE ONE-TIME TREASURY CONTRIBUTION?
A. Every American child born between January 1, 2025 and December 31, 2028 who opens an account is eligible to receive a one-time $1,000 Treasury contribution.

Q. WHO CAN OPEN AN ACCOUNT?
A. Parents and legal guardians can open and manage accounts on behalf of their children.

Q. HOW MUCH CAN BE CONTRIBUTED TO A TRUMP ACCOUNT EACH YEAR?
A. Families, friends and employers can contribute up to $5,000 per child/account per year.

Q. WHAT WILL THE FUNDS BE INVESTED IN?
A. Funds will be invested in a diversified investment vehicle designed to maximize long-term growth while minimizing risk. Additional investment options will be added.

Q. WHEN CAN FUNDS BE USED?
A. Funds can be accessed without penalty when the child turns 18 for qualified expenses like education, or a first home purchase. Withdrawals may be subject to restrictions and would be taxed at ordinary income rates.

Q. HOW DO YOU OPEN AND MANAGE A TRUMP ACCOUNT?
A. Download the Trump account mobile app through the Apple App Store or Google Play, or go to TrumpAccount.com to log in, set up and manage a Trump account. The mobile app and website will allow eligible individuals to activate the account, as well as track and manage account activity. You may open a Trump account for your eligible children using IRS Form 4547. You can complete and submit the form in the app, when you file your taxes or through the secure IRS website called Individual Online Accounts, or IOLA.

BUSINESS CONTRIBUTIONS: A POTENTIAL EMPLOYEE BENEFIT
Businesses may contribute up to $2,500 per year to a Trump account for an employee's child. These contributions are tax-deductible for the business, helping employers enhance their benefits offerings while supporting employees' long-term savings for their children.

FIRM NEWS RESJ

Welcome Summer Interns

INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION OF ACCOUNTING PROFESSIONALS

This summer, RESJ is excited to welcome an exceptional group of interns representing some of Georgia's top talent from the University of Georgia and Georgia College & State University. Over the course of the eight-week internship, these students are gaining hands-on experience across our firm, rotating through key service areas including tax, audit and client accounting.

Our internship program is designed to provide much more than technical experience. We are committed to investing in our interns' professional and personal growth by offering workshops focused on topics such as work-life balance in the accounting profession, effective networking strategies, personal branding and LinkedIn best practices, and career development.

In addition, our interns are participating in a summer book club centered around "Atomic Habits" by James Clear. We intentionally selected this book because its message resonates strongly with college students and young professionals. The book explores how small, consistent actions can lead to remarkable results over time, which is an invaluable lesson as they begin building successful careers and establishing lifelong habits.

Internships provide a unique bridge between the classroom and the workplace, allowing students to apply their knowledge, explore different career paths and develop meaningful professional relationships. We are proud to play a role in shaping the future of these talented individuals and look forward to seeing the impact they will make during their time with us and throughout their careers.