Tyler Perry, Arthur Blank to lead transition for Georgia Gov.-elect Keisha Lance Bottoms

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Tyler Perry. Arthur Blank. Roz Brewer.

Those are a few of the Atlanta business heavyweights who will help Georgia Gov.-elect Keisha Lance Bottoms prepare to take office as the state's first Democratic governor in more than two decades. The former Atlanta mayor named her transition team at a Nov. 6 press conference, a few days after defeating healthcare executive Rick Jackson in this year's gubernatorial race.

"Governing begins with the people, and the decisions that we make over the next few weeks about who will lead our agencies will shape how we will deliver for all Georgians over the next four years," Bottoms said. "Our goal is simple: to be ready to govern on day one."

The transition effort, known as Georgia's Promise, includes business executives, state political figures, civic leaders and former Atlanta officials who served in the Bottoms administration.

Jon Keen, the chief operating officer of Atlanta-based Treaty Oak Clean Energy, will serve as the COO of the transition team. Keen previously was the city of Atlanta's COO for two years under Bottoms.

Bottoms has spoken with Gov. Brian Kemp, who offered all the "resources and support that he can to make this a smooth and orderly transition," she said.

Amid speculation, Kemp said Nov. 4 he would not call a special legislative session to diminish the powers of the executive branch or pursue redistricting changes. However, he said state lawmakers may be called back to the Capitol before January to address potential budgetary issues.

These are the co-chairs of the transition team:

- Arthur Blank, co-founder The Home Depot, chairman of Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, and owner of the Atlanta Falcons and Atlanta United FC
- Rosalind "Roz" Brewer, who was most recently the interim president of Spelman College. She previously served as CEO of Walgreens Boots Alliance and COO and group president of Starbucks.
- Tyler Perry, the Atlanta media mogul, filmmaker and actor. He is the founder and CEO of Tyler Perry Studios.
- Jason Carter, chair of the Carter Center Board of Trustees. A lawyer and former state senator, he was the Democratic nominee in the 2014 Georgia gubernatorial race. He is the grandson of former U.S. President Jimmy Carter.
- Carmen Chubb, president of Columbia Residential. Chubb served as Bottoms' chief of staff during her time as Atlanta mayor, and she also spent more than two decades with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs.
- Richard Cox Jr., senior vice president of airport customer service at Delta Air Lines. He also served as the city of Atlanta COO under the Bottoms administration. He sits on the board of

directors for Genuine Parts Co., and he previously held leadership roles at Cox Enterprises and Cox Automotive.
- Jane Kidd, a former Athens-area representative in the Georgia State House. She previously chaired the Georgia Democratic Party, and she served as special assistant to the president at Piedmont College for nearly a decade until her retirement.
- Michelle Nunn, president and CEO of CARE USA. She was the Democratic nominee for Georgia's U.S. Senate seat in the 2014 race, and she is the daughter of former U.S. Sen. Sam Nunn.
- Vicki R. Palmer, president of management consulting firm The Palmer Group. She was a longtime executive at Coca-Cola Enterprises, where she served as executive vice president of finance and administration prior to her retirement from the company.
- Rashad Taylor, a political consultant and former Atlanta-area representative in the Georgia State House. He also served as the city of Atlanta's chief equity officer and as a senior adviser to Bottoms during her time as mayor.

Bottoms also shared a list of honorary co-chairs supporting her transition:

- Georgia Public Service Commissioners Peter Hubbard and Alicia Johnson
- Former Georgia Public Service Commissioner and Chair David Burgess
- Georgia House Democratic Leader Rep. Carolyn Hugley
- Georgia Senate Democratic Leader Harold Jones II
- Former Georgia Govs. Roy Barnes and Joe Frank Harris
- Former Georgia Lt. Govs. Pierre Howard and Mark Taylor
- U.S. Sens. Raphael Warnock and Jon Ossoff
- Former U.S. Sens. Wyche Fowler and Sam Nunn
- Former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and Atlanta Mayor Andrew Young
- Former Synovus executive and longtime state Rep. Calvin Smyre
- Former Georgia House Speaker Terry Coleman
- Former Georgia Attorney General Thurbert Baker
- Georgia College & State University President and former Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox
- Former Georgia Insurance Commissioner Tim Ryles
- Former Georgia Labor Commissioner and DeKalb County CEO Michael Thurmond