

Local

# Chamber and GRADD hosting legislative breakfasts Saturday

✍ By Jacob Dick Messenger-Inquirer

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Two Saturday events will give residents a chance to hear from legislators about the most important issues from the current General Assembly.

The Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a legislative update from 8 to 9 a.m. on the third floor of the Commerce Center on East Third Street for chamber members.

State Senator Joe Bowen and Reps. Jim Gooch, Suzanne Miles, DJ Johnson, Matt Castlen and Robby Mills have been invited to answer questions in a forum-style event moderated by Mark Martin.

Candance Brake, president and CEO of the chamber, said members' questions during the session are usually related to small-business concerns.

Legislators from the seven-county Green River Area Development District will also be discussing issues from the current legislative session at the GRADD 2018 Legislative Breakfast on Saturday.

GRADD has invited the public to hear from their representatives at the free event, with breakfast served at 9, followed by the 9:30 a.m. forum at the GRADD office, 300 GRADD Way.

Jiten Shah, executive director of GRADD, said the agency is looking forward to large participation considering the controversial topics legislators will likely discuss.

"We are hoping for a big crowd, especially in light of the proposed pension bill," Shah said. "I would expect a lot of teachers and government employees will be there."

Shah said tax reform and the state budget will also likely be discussed.

Senators Bowen, C.B. Embry and Dorsey Ridley, as well as Reps. Gooch, Miles, Dean Schamore, Johnson, Castlen and Mills have been invited to speak.

Each legislator will have an opportunity to speak on issues or sponsored bills they have been working on in the session and will answer questions from the public.

The forum will also be streamed on the GRADD Facebook page, and updates will be posted on the GRADD Twitter account, @GRADD\_KY.

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