



Several bills have been proposed that will have an effect on Fulton County's operations. Below are some key facts about the impact of these bills on Fulton County operations.

House Bill 170

Sponsors: Rep. Jones, Rep. Lindsey, Rep. Riley, Rep. Wilkinson, Rep. Martin

This bill would have a significant economic impact on Fulton County Government, particularly in the area of revenue. This bill proposes a referendum to increase Fulton County's Homestead Exemption from the current amount of \$30,000 to \$60,000.

- Fulton County already has the highest homestead exemption rate in the state of Georgia.
- Using 155,000 homesteaded properties, with a \$30,000 increase in the homestead exemption and the current millage rate with a two year phase in 15,000 increments the impact is estimated to be \$24 million each year for a total impact of \$48 million.
- Approximately 80% of Fulton County's revenue comes from property taxes.
- Doubling the homestead exemption would shift the burden of property taxes to commercial property owners and homeowners with more valuable homes.

HB170 also proposes to cap the Fulton County General Fund millage rate.

- Fulton County is the only county in metro Atlanta that has not increased its millage rate. Since the beginning of the 2008 economic downturn, Cobb, Gwinnett and DeKalb counties have all increased their millage rates.
- Fulton County has maintained the current General Fund rate of 10.281 mills since 2007.
- Fulton County has not increased its millage rate since 1991.
- Fulton County has managed within its budget by reducing spending by \$61,076,505 from 2007 to 2012. The Board of Commissioners reduced spending by \$8.7 million from 2012 to 2013.

For the FY2013 Budget, revenue reductions had a significant impact on Fulton County Services the Board of Commissioners was able to avoid taking measures that were under consideration such as:

- Reduction in hours or closing of libraries specifically having an impact on funding for the operations of libraries that are a part of the Library Bond program passed overwhelmingly by Fulton County citizens
- Reduction in hours or closing of senior citizens centers specifically having an impact on our newly approved senior program in Milton.
- Closing of Nature Centers that have great support in the community for their educational value
- Reduction of hours or closing of Health Centers having a serious impact on the County's ability to address services to treat viruses such as the recent flu epidemic and especially prevention and treatment for the spread of HIV/AIDS.
- Reduction of funding to Grady Hospital to provide trauma care services for citizens throughout the state.

- Reduction or elimination of funding for the arts, in areas that include community arts centers and grants to arts organizations that receive funding from the Fulton County Arts Council such as the following: the Atlanta History Center, the Alliance Theatre, the Atlanta Ballet, the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, the Center for Puppetry Arts, the High Museum of Art, Imagine It! The Children's Museum of Atlanta, the National Black Arts Festival (NBAF), the Theater of the Stars, and the Young Audiences Program at the Woodruff Arts Center.
- Reduction of funding to the justice system to promote public safety, in particular those programs that have proven results to reduce recidivism such as the Accountability Courts and Drug Courts which are diversionary and in line with Governor Deal's mandate to reduce Georgia's prison population by diverting non-violent and drug offenders to alternative programs in the courts such as drug courts, DUI courts, mental health courts, day reporting centers and expanded probation and treatment options.

House Bill 171

Sponsors: Rep. Riley, Rep. Wilkinson, Rep. Willard, Rep. Geisinger, Rep. Jones and others

HB 171 seeks to change the current commission district lines for the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. This bill would increase the number of district commission seats and eliminate the second at-large seat that currently exists. This bill changes the distribution and layout of the current geographic commission districts. It also establishes staggered terms for Fulton County Commissioners.

HB 172

Sponsors: Rep. Martin, Rep. Riley, Rep. Wilkinson, Rep. Willard, Rep. Geisinger

HB 172 seeks to make changes to Fulton County's civil service system for employees. Any employee who is hired after the adoption of this bill would be automatically placed in unclassified status. Any current employee who is in classified status but who accepts another position within Fulton County Government will be placed in unclassified status. Positions that are currently unclassified will remain unclassified.

- HB 172 mirrors legislation adopted by the Board of Commissioners in 2012 affecting employees in the justice system.
- Approximately 3,628 employees, or 63.25%, of Fulton County's current workforce of 5,736 are in classified status.
- Department directors, deputy directors, staff of elected officials and others make up the 36.75% of employees who are unclassified.