

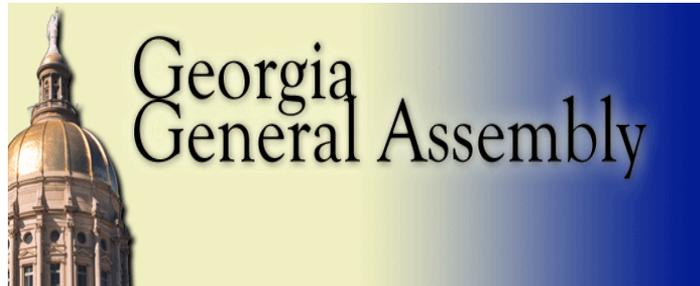


To: Distribution

From: Emma I. Darnell, Vice-Chair, District 5
Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Subject: **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: ACTION ALERT**

Date: March 4, 2013



THE FULTON COUNTY REDISTRICTING (RE-SEGREGATION) BILL: H.B. 171

BOC POSITION: Opposed 5-2

STATUS: Passed House, Friday, March 1. Now in the Senate.

ACTION: **Urge Senators to vote NO on H.B. 171.** Vote YES on the substitute “**BOC REDISTRICTING PLAN**” submitted to the House and Senate Delegations in December 2011 and to be re-introduced today, March 4 by Senator Horacena Tate.

The substitute is the official “**BOC REDISTRICTING PLAN**” developed by the Board of Commissioners with the assistance of an outside redistricting consultant. It does NOT divide the county by race and class. It does NOT reduce minority voting strength. It does NOT provide for “staggered terms” based upon race.

It DOES meet the requirements of the relevant provisions of the U.S. Constitution including “One Man - One Vote” and the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

On February 28, Representative Lynne Riley, sponsor of H.B. 171 confirmed that the Board of Commissioners was not consulted during the development of H.B. 171 nor did the full Fulton County House Delegation meet to discuss it before it was introduced.

THE FULTON COUNTY (DESTRUCTION) BILL: H.B. 170

BOC POSITION: Opposed 5-2

STATUS: (February 28) Referred back to House Intergovernmental Coordination Committee for “technical correction”. If adopted, County estimated loss of revenue: \$45-\$50 million leading to cuts in the following County services: public health, mental (behavioral) health, senior centers, developmentally-disabled centers, courts, corrections, Central Library, branch libraries and Grady Hospital.

ACTION: **Urge House Members to vote NO on H.B. 170.** Millage Rate Cap AND \$60,000 Homestead Exemption over two (or three) years: (Bill could be separated into two bills).

THE FULTON COUNTY (PLANTATION) BILL: H.B. 172

BOC POSITION: Opposed 5-2

STATUS: (February 28) Held in Delegation. A substitute being developed to create an exception for public safety employees.

ACTION: **Urge House Members to vote NO on H.B. 172** – the bill would place any new employee in unclassified status – stripping the employee of any protection from termination for political or non-job related reasons.

ELECTIONS BOARD CHAIR: BOC AUTHORITY TO APPOINT CHAIR CANCELLED: H.B. 346

Fulton taxpayers will continue to pay for the conduct of elections. However, H.B. 346 cancels the authority of the Board of Commissioners to appoint the Chair of the Elections Board - Transferred to Fulton County House and Senate Delegations.

BOC POSITION: Opposed 4-1

STATUS: Passed House, March 1

ACTION: **Urge Senators to vote NO on H.B. 346.**

TAX COMMISSIONER NOT ACCOUNTABLE TO VOTERS AT THE POLLS: H.B. 347

BOC POSITION: Opposed 5-1

STATUS: Passed House, March 1

ACTION: **Urge Senators to vote NO on H.B. 347.** Tax Commissioner to continue accountable to Fulton County residents at the polls.

For more information, contact Commissioner Darnell by e-mail at emma.darnell@fultoncountyga.gov or by phone at (404) 612-8222.