

State Legislative Agenda *Fulton County, Georgia*

2025



Each year, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners adopts its top legislative priorities. Below are the key policy priorities for the 2025 State Legislative Session. We look forward to working with the Georgia General Assembly on these matters.

Fulton County's Top Policy Priorities

Resources for Superior Court

The Atlanta Judicial Circuit ranks first among 50 judicial circuits in both the volume of its caseload as well as the complexity of its cases. For the Superior Court to continue handling the massive caseloads under its jurisdiction, the County is making the following legislative requests to the Georgia General Assembly, based on the State Administrative Office of the Court's calculation that the Court's workload requires 23.6 judges:

- Fulton County requests one or more additional judgeships for Superior Court to more effectively manage the Circuit's high volume of cases and its unique level of complex cases.
- Fulton County seeks approval of local legislation to authorize Superior Court judicial officers to handle non-serious felony and civil cases by assignment of the Chief Judge. Increasing the authority of judicial officers, who currently handle only family law cases, will create greater efficiency with the case management process.

Resources for State Court

Fulton County seeks the allocation of two additional State Court judges, increasing the Court from 10 to 12 judges. This request is supported by a case workload assessment conducted by the Georgia Council of State Court Judges which demonstrates that the Fulton County State Court has the highest caseload in the state of 16.55 Judge Workload Value (2023).

Behavioral Health Resources

Fulton County seeks continued state funding for behavioral health beds, as recommended in the 2023 Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities bed study. This includes additional funding for Behavioral Health Crisis Centers and increased availability of mental health beds for justice-involved individuals.

Adopted by the Board of Commissioners on November 20, 2024

Other Legislative Priorities

Other Fulton County Policy Priorities

Online Publication of Legal Notices:

- Fulton County supports legislation allowing the publication of legal notices on the legal organ's website, to ensure timely and efficient advertisement.
- Fulton County supports an amendment to the Georgia Taxpayer Bill of Rights to permit the online publication of millage rate advertisements.

Transit Board Representation: Fulton County seeks a permanent seat on the ATL Board and parity with other MARTA agencies in appointment of MARTA Board members.

Housing Authority of Fulton County: Fulton County requests an amendment to the requirements for resident commissioners of the Fulton County Housing Authority to ensure compliance with O.C.G.A. § 8-3-50.

Support for Legislative Proposals for Child Attorneys:

- Fulton County seeks to align the transfer from probate statutes with existing guardianship law and clarify the juvenile court's authority regarding the termination of temporary guardianships.
- Fulton County seeks to mandate the automatic appointment of attorneys for minor legal parents in dependency cases, rather than leaving it to the discretion of the minor parents.

Clarification of Purchasing Powers – Constitutional Officers: Fulton County seeks clarification regarding the purchasing powers of constitutional officers and urges the Georgia General Assembly to require compliance with purchasing and procurement policies for constitutional officers.

Premises Liability Reform: Fulton County recommends reforms to limit property owner liability for minor, non-serious injuries or incidents that occur on their property due to factors outside their control. The Georgia General Assembly is encouraged to establish guardrails to prevent abusive or excessive lawsuits, reducing litigation risks and insurance costs for property owners.

Fulton County Policy Positions

The Fulton County Board of Commissioners supports the legislative efforts of partner agencies and officials pursuing the following:

Healthcare Access: Fulton County advocates for increased healthcare access for residents, including the expansion of Medicaid.

Next Generation 911: Fulton County, in alignment with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia fully supports the work of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority in implementing a statewide Next Generation 911 system.

Change of Personal Property and Freeport Return Dates: Fulton County supports efforts by the Board of Assessors to change the Personal Property and Freeport return dates from April 1 to March 1 annually to improve processing efficiency.

Authorize Digital Court Reporting: Fulton County supports legislation that authorizes the use of digital court reporting in courts, and for the Judicial Council to establish rules and regulations governing its use.

Raise High School Dropout Age to 17: The Fulton County Youth Commission supports legislation to raise the high school dropout age by revising O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1 to require school attendance for students between their 16th and 17th birthdays.

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