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Legislative Agenda

*Adopted by the Fulton County
Board of Commissioners | December 17, 2025*



FULTON COUNTY'S TOP POLICY PRIORITIES

Resources for Superior Court

The Atlanta Judicial Circuit ranks first among Georgia's 50 judicial circuits in both the volume and complexity of its caseloads. Analysis by the State Administrative Office of the Courts indicates that the current workload requires 25.6 judges; the Atlanta Judicial Circuit bench currently includes 20 judges. For the Superior Court to continue to efficiently handle the massive caseloads under its jurisdiction, additional judicial resources are needed. Fulton County makes the following requests to the Georgia General Assembly:

- Fulton County requests the creation of one or more additional Superior Court judgeships to effectively manage the consistently high volume and increasing complexity of cases within the Circuit, which includes those initiated by the State of Georgia.
- Fulton County supports final passage of **Senate Bill 10**, which authorizes the Chief Judge of Superior Court to appoint up to five judicial officers. These officers would handle civil and non-serious felony cases, as assigned by the Chief Judge, to alleviate caseloads and improve efficiency.

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.

Support Local Control and Oppose Sovereign Immunity Waivers

Fulton County opposes any legislation that diminishes home rule authority or restricts the rights of duly elected officials to govern local affairs. The County also opposes efforts to weaken local control or to waive sovereign immunity protections.

Fulton County is proud to serve as Georgia's Capital County

ADDITIONAL POLICY PRIORITIES

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

Increase State Support for Behavioral Health and Diversion Programs

- Fulton County supports continued investment by the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) to expand behavioral health resources, including increased funding for the crisis care network, hospital beds and forensic beds. The County also supports additional state funding to expand the availability of community-based services.
- Fulton County supports advocacy for DBHDD programs that reduce the cost burden of behavioral health medications for individuals in county jails.
- Fulton County requests state support to increase use of the Fulton County Diversion Center by local law enforcement and to expand pre-arrest diversion programs as alternatives to incarceration.

Expand Healthcare Access and Strengthen the Healthcare Workforce

- Fulton County advocates for increased healthcare access for residents, particularly in communities that have experienced limited access to healthcare providers and facilities.
- Fulton County supports expansive access to health insurance programs including Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act healthcare marketplace and other affordable healthcare solutions.
- Fulton County supports the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG)'s initiative urging the Department of Community Health and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to maintain healthcare coverage for pre-adjudication inmates. Federal and state funding ends when individuals enter jail, causing excessive healthcare costs that strain local budgets.
- Fulton County supports increased state funding for medical residency programs to grow the healthcare workforce and improve access to care, particularly in underserved areas.

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.

Cybersecurity and Ransomware Protection

Fulton County supports final passage of **House Bill 886**, which prohibits the use of public funds for ransom payments and requires state and local entities to report ransomware incidents to the Georgia Technology Authority, ensuring a coordinated statewide response.

Support for Clarification of Estimated Rollback Rate Implementation

Fulton County supports ACCG's efforts to clarify and improve the implementation of the estimated rollback rate, established under **House Bill 581** (2024) and revised under **House Bill 92** (2025). Confusion remains due to inconsistent application across jurisdictions:

- Mixed Notices: Some jurisdictions included the estimated rollback rate in notices while others did not, causing the Department of

Revenue to issue three notice forms: one with estimated rollback rates only, one without and one mixed. Fulton County supports efforts to standardize and clarify the Annual Notice of Assessment (NOA).

- M&O Only: The estimated rollback rate applies only to the maintenance and operations (M&O) millage levy and does not include special service district or other levy types. This causes those levies to be underrepresented or not represented on the NOA. Fulton County supports efforts to clarify this issue.

Next Generation 911

Fulton County, in alignment with ACCG, fully supports the work of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority's implementation of a statewide Next Generation 911 system. While the Fulton County 911 Center, which serves 5 South Fulton cities, is NextGen 911 compatible, implementation of consistent standards across the state will improve interface with all 8 public safety answering points operating within Fulton County.

Ensure Secure, Fair and Accessible Elections

- Fulton County is committed to administering secure, fair and accessible elections in compliance with state law. The County supports legislation that provides clear state guidance for new election laws and state funding to cover related county costs.
- Fulton County supports ACCG's efforts to require the State to reimburse counties for all expenses incurred in special elections to fill vacancies in statewide offices, the Georgia General Assembly, the U.S. Congress or to approve statewide referendum.
- Fulton County also seeks state support for costs associated with changes in state law related to equipment and supplies used for election operations.

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.

Support for Legalization of Gambling and Casinos

Fulton County supports the new sources of local government revenue, including from casinos or parimutuel sports betting, with the recommendation of dedicating funding for public safety, mental health and public health services.

Eviction Writ Execution Administrative Fee Authorization; Clarification of H.B. 1203 Language

Fulton County supports amending O.C.G.A. § 44-7-55, as previously amended by **House Bill 1203** (2024), to allow the Fulton County Marshal's Office and other agencies responsible for carrying out eviction writs to collect a \$50 administrative fee from landlords when an off-duty officer is used to complete the eviction. The fee would help offset the additional burdens placed on local law enforcement agencies and would be used for official law enforcement purposes only, such as paying officers and support staff. Fulton County also supports amending O.C.G.A. § 44-7-55 to clarify the provisions relating to evictions by off-duty officers.

Family Justice Centers

Fulton County supports legislation to create and fund Family Justice Centers statewide. These centers centralize law enforcement, victim advocacy, and social services to better address domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse and human trafficking.

- Existing centers in Bibb, Ware, and Cobb counties have demonstrated measurable success in improving survivor outcomes and streamlining local responses to violence.
- Centralized service delivery also reduces court and healthcare burdens, prevents future crimes, and saves taxpayer dollars. Establishing a center in Fulton County would create a model for tracking and improving outcomes statewide.

Repeal Living Infants and Fairness Equality (LIFE) Act (H.B. 481)

Fulton County urges the Georgia General Assembly to repeal the Living Infants and Fairness Equality (LIFE) Act (**House Bill 481**). The law bans abortions after six weeks and went into effect in 2022, causing significant health risks and legal complications for healthcare providers and patients. Repeal of this law will protect the health and rights of women in Georgia.

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