



**FULTON  
COUNTY**

**Fulton County Board of Commissioners  
November 20, 2024**

#24-0764

**2025 Proposed State  
Legislative Agenda**

**Resources for Superior Court Judges & Judicial Officers**

**Resources for State Court Judges**

**Support for Detention Center Transfer**

**State Funding for Behavioral Health Resources**

**Online Publication of Legal Notices**

**Transit Board Representation**

**Amendment to Fulton County Housing Authority  
Resident Commissioner Requirements**

**Support for Legislative Proposals for Child Attorneys**

**Clarification of Purchasing Powers for Constitutional Officers**

**Premises Liability Reform**

**Next Generation 911**

**Support for Medicaid Expansion**

**Change Personal Property and Freeport Return Dates**

**Authorize Digital Court Reporting**

**Raise Highschool Dropout Age (Youth Commission)**



## **2025 Proposed State Legislative Agenda**

# Primary Policy Priority: Judicial Resources – Superior Court

- Fulton County seeks local legislation to authorize Superior Court judicial officers to handle non-serious felony and civil cases by assignment of the Chief Judge.
- Fulton County seeks three additional judgeships within Superior Court to effectively manage the high volume of cases, including caseloads specific to Georgia's Capital County.



# Primary Policy Priority:

## Judicial Resources – Additional State Court Judges

- Fulton County seeks the allocation of two additional State Court judges, increasing the court from 10 to 12 judges. This recommendation is supported by a judicial workload assessment conducted this year by the Georgia Council of State Court Judges.

# Primary Policy Priority: Detention Center Transfer

- Fulton County supports the Senate Public Safety Fulton County Jail subcommittee's recommendation to transfer the Atlanta City Detention Center to Fulton County.

# Ongoing State Investment – Behavioral Health

Fulton County seeks ongoing state funding for Behavioral Health beds, as recommended in the 2023 Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) bed study. This includes:

- Additional funding for Behavioral Health Crisis Centers
  - Collaborate with Georgia DBHDD on the design study for the North Fulton Crisis Center
  - Advocate for South Fulton Crisis Center
  - Seek funding for future youth crisis services.
- Increased availability of mental health beds for justice-involved individuals.

# Online Publication of Legal Notices

- Fulton County supports legislation allowing for publication of legal notices on the legal organ's website, to allow for timely advertisement of these notices.
- 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 amendments to enhance representation on both the ATL and MARTA Boards, ensuring appointments are equitable and reflective of the county's size and taxpayer base.

- ATL Board: Establish permanent membership for Fulton County Government.
- MARTA Board: Reestablish parity with other MARTA signatory agencies in making direct appointments to the MARTA Board.



# 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*.

- Allow Fulton County residents who are beneficiaries of the Housing Authority and live in areas without current representation.

# Office of the Child Attorney

- Alignment of Guardianship Laws: Fulton County seeks legislative changes to align the transfer from probate statutes with existing guardianship law and clarify the juvenile court's authority regarding the termination of temporary guardianships.
- Automatic Appointment of Attorneys: Mandate the automatic appointment of legal representation for minors in dependency cases, as this is currently left 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.
  - By enacting premises liability reforms, Georgia can foster a more stable, sustainable housing market while ensuring fair protections for both property owners and tenants.

# Policy Position: NextGen 911

- In alignment with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, Fulton County supports work of the Georgia Emergency Communication Authority in implementing a statewide Next Gen 911 system.

# Policy Position: Medicaid Expansion

- Fulton County supports Medicaid expansion, which would increase health access for our residents and would result in an annual savings of \$50 million for the Fulton County General Fund.



## Policy Position:

# Change 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.
  - Georgia Association of Assessing Officials (GAAO) is expected to introduce legislation.

## Policy Position: 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 for the use of such systems.
- This proposal is aimed at lowering the personnel cost of courts by offering digital transcription and recording services.
- ACCG encourages the General Assembly to provide funding for digital recording systems.

## Policy Position:

# 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 6th and 17th birthdays.

- Current age: 16
- Students will still have the option to withdraw early if they meet graduation requirements before reaching the age of 17.

# Study Committee Recommendations

- In coming weeks study committees are expected to issue reports. We are monitoring these and will bring back possible legislation relevant to Fulton County.

# Changes in Legislative Delegation

## New Members:

- Senator RaShaun Kemp, District 38
- Rep. Bryce Berry, District 56
- Rep. Mekyah McQueen, District 61
- Rep. Robert Dawson, District 65

## No Longer in Fulton Delegation Due to Redistricting:

- Senator Matt Brass

# Key Legislative Activity Dates

- Sunday, December 1: Sunset of 2024 Study Committees
  - Relevant final reports will be shared with BOC and Executive Team
- Wednesday, December 4: 2024 Legislative Reception
- Monday, January 13, 2025: General Assembly Convenes
- Thursday, February 20, 2025: Fulton Day at the State Capitol