

1 **A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A FULTON COUNTY WOMEN'S COMMISSION TO**
2 **ADVISE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON POLICIES, STRATEGIES, AND**
3 **COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS THAT ADVANCE GENDER EQUITY AND ADDRESS**
4 **THE SYSTEMIC BARRIERS IMPACTING WOMEN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

5 **WHEREAS**, Fulton County recognizes that women are foundational to the strength
6 of families, communities, the workforce, and civic life, yet continue to face significant and
7 systemic barriers to realizing political leadership, professional advancement, safety, and
8 overall well-being; and

9 **WHEREAS**, women make up more than half of Fulton County's population, and
10 their full participation in the workforce and community life is essential to the County's
11 social and economic prosperity; and

12 **WHEREAS**, women in Fulton County experience disproportionate health risks and
13 face inequities in access to quality care due to a dysfunctional health system that has
14 historically prioritized men's bodies and underfunded research on women's health; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the State of Georgia's maternal mortality rate is among the highest in
16 the nation, with nearly 38 women¹ per 100,000 live births dying during pregnancy and
17 childbirth, largely from preventable causes, and Black women dying at a rate 3 times that
18 of white women; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Morehouse School of Medicine's 2023 Project Care study identified
20 an alarming shortage of women's health care providers in the south part of Fulton County,
21 disproportionately impacting Black women and contributing to worse health outcomes
22 compared to North Fulton; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Georgia's HB481 has increased the risks for pregnant women by
24 deterring medical providers from delivering timely care during miscarriages, ectopic

1 pregnancies, and life-threatening complications, forcing women to seek emergency
2 treatment out of state, or suffer until they are near death before receiving care; and

3 **WHEREAS**, 70% of domestic violence survivors² are women and 1 out of every 3
4 women³ experience sexual violence at least once during their lifetime (the rate is likely
5 higher due to underreporting); and

6 **WHEREAS**, women face barriers returning to the workforce after family leave due
7 to insufficient access to affordable childcare, paid leave, and workplace accommodations,
8 creating long-term effects on their earnings, career progression, and retirement security;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, restrictions on abortion and efforts to limit contraception access
11 undermine women's right to make decisions about their own bodies and may derail their
12 pursuit of educational opportunities and economic mobility; and

13 **WHEREAS**, women are highly educated, often surpassing men in educational
14 attainment, yet they continue to earn less than men, on average, and miss out on
15 leadership positions and economic opportunities; and

16 **WHEREAS**, in Georgia, women earn 88 cents for every dollar earned by men,
17 while Black women earn only 58 cents⁴ for every dollar earned by white men; and

18 **WHEREAS**, only 11% of Fortune 500 companies are led by women CEOs⁵; and

19 **WHEREAS**, women remain underrepresented in government leadership across
20 Georgia, holding just 34.8%⁶ of the 236 seats in the Georgia Assembly and 43% of the
21 positions for mayor and city council⁷ across Fulton County's 15 cities; and

1 **WHEREAS**, around 160 women's commissions exist across the United States,

2 including the Georgia Commission on Women established in 1992 and the City of

3 Atlanta's Women's Commission founded in 2000; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners routinely establishes

5 advisory councils and commissions to provide expert guidance, community engagement,

6 and policy recommendations on critical public issues; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Fulton County has long set the standard in the state for social and

8 economic progress, and as a leader, it aims to demonstrate its commitment to women by

9 establishing a women's commission; and

10 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Fulton County Board of

11 Commissioners hereby establishes the Fulton County Women's Commission.

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Women's Commission shall serve as an

13 advisory body to the Board of Commissioners, providing recommendations for strategies,

14 policies, funding initiatives, and community partnerships that will improve the lives of

15 women in Fulton County.

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Women's Commission will address issues

17 including but not limited to women's rights, access to healthcare and health outcomes,

18 and economic security and gender equity in the workplace.

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Women's Commission shall comprise 12

20 members who collectively represent expertise across women's health, mental health,

21 economic development, civil rights, housing, gender-based violence prevention, public

22 safety, immigration services, and community advocacy.

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that each of the Fulton County Commissioners,

1 including the Chairman, shall appoint two members to serve on the Women's
2 Commission.

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Women's Commission may create
4 subcommittees that include nonprofit organizations and community members to enhance
5 the commission's mix of expertise and to support the commission's work.

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that members of the Women's Commission shall
7 serve staggered terms, in that each Commissioner's first appointee shall serve an initial
8 term of three (3) years and the second appointee shall serve an initial term of two (2)
9 years.

10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that after these initial terms, county Commissioners
11 may reappoint or appoint new members for two (2) year terms.

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the County Manager will assign a department
13 and/or individual to provide administrative support to the Women's Commission, including
14 reserving meeting space, serving as the commission's initial point of contact, and liaising
15 between the Women's Commission and county management.

16 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that within the first six (6) months of convening, the
17 Women's Commission shall present to the Board of Commissioners its proposed
18 governance structure, bylaws, strategic objectives, and a two-year action plan.

19 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County,
20 Georgia, this 3rd day of December 2025.

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**FULTON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Sponsored by:

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Dana Barrett, Commissioner
(District 3)

ATTEST:

Tonya R. Grier,
Clerk to the Commission

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney

¹ Georgia Department of Public Health, Maternal Mortality Fact Sheet 2020-2022. www.dph.ga.gov/maternal-mortality

² Georgia Commission Family Violence <https://gcfv.georgia.gov/resources/data>

³ CDC <https://www.cdc.gov/sexual-violence/about/index.html>

⁴ Institute for Women's Policy Research (2023). <https://iwpr.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Black-Womens-Age-Gap-Fact-Sheet-2023-Final-1.pdf>

⁵ Women Business Collaborative (2025). <https://www.wbccollaborative.org/women-ceo-report/#:~:text=As%20of%20June%202025%2C%202025,%2Dover%2Dyear%20since%202023.>

⁶ AJC <https://www.ajc.com/politics/georgia-legislature-convenes-with-a-more-diverse-crop-of-lawmakers/ZQR3BCM6E5AWLNBUCAGJ12YYJA/>?

⁷ Based on [data collection](#) from the websites of Fulton County's fifteen cities.