



## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Board of Commissioners  
**FROM:** Office of the County Manager  
**DATE:** January 17, 2023  
**SUBJECT:** January 18, 2023 Meeting Presentation for  
Agenda Item # 23-0045

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Attached you will find the January 18, 2023 BOC Meeting presentation for the agenda item listed below.

### **23-0045 - Registration & Elections**

Request approval of a Resolution amending the cost to be charged to municipalities who authorize Fulton County to conduct any or all of their municipal elections; and for other purposes.

Thank you



**FULTON  
COUNTY**



**DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS**

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION  
COST RESOLUTION**

# 2019 MUNICIPAL COST RESOLUTION

With the conclusion of the 2022 General Elections, the Fulton County Department of Registration & Elections has diligently analyzed Election cost for all Election types.

The 2022 November and December Elections are the first General Elections to have all new legislative requirements in place to illustrate voter turnouts for Advance Voting and Election Day for future Elections.

Voter turnouts for all Election types from 2020 to 2022 were reviewed.

With this data, Fulton County Registration & Elections will continue to streamline processes for efficiency and Election cost reductions.

In the interim, Election Cost have increased since the Municipal Cost Resolution was established. Therefore, we are seeking approval to have the resolution revised to not have the County incur Municipal Election Cost.

# 2019 MUNICIPAL COST RESOLUTION

## CURRENTLY OUTLINES:

- » municipalities pay a cost per voter flat rate based on calculations of Election cost from **2017** Election Budgets
- » the resolution was to be re-evaluated upon the installation of the new voting equipment
- » the resolution is based on cost sharing with the County which contradicts election code

***O.C.G.A. § 21-2-45(c) requires municipalities to pay all costs a county incurs while conducting the municipality's requested elections services***

# ELECTION COST INCREASES

The Election Budget has increased due to various factors throughout the years. Following are examples of increases outlined in the memo forwarded:

|                                 | 2017         | 2019<br>ATLANTA DID NOT HAVE A MUNICIPAL | 2021         | 2022<br>GENERAL ELECTION | DESCRIPTION OF INCREASE  | 2023<br>ADJUSTMENTS IF APPLICABLE                                   |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|--------------------------|--|---|
| TOTAL ACTUAL NOVEMBER EXPENSES: | \$ 3,032,909 | \$ 818,672                               | \$ 7,404,971 | \$ 8,968,460             |  |   |
| Rent/Lease Equipment            | \$ 57,678    | \$ 25,983                                | \$ 243,841   | \$ 329,208               | Increase in vehicle rentals due to voting equipment size and legislative requirements. Example: 15 ft to 26 ft box trucks needed verses cargo vans. Rental vehicles needed to empty absentee ballot drop boxes daily verses on the last day of advance voting, per Senate Bill 202 (SB202) requirement | n/a   |
| Rent/Lease Facility             | \$ 43,681    | \$ 15,535                                | \$ 92,434    | \$ 115,969               | Increase in Election Day polling locations   | Cost should decrease as Election Day polling sites are reviewed for |
| Printing                        | \$ 44,565    | \$ 11,748                                | \$ 235,375   | \$ 319,169               | Increase in quantity of ballot printing for emergency / provisional ballots forms and recaps sheets for new voting equipment   | n/a   |
| Photocopying                    | \$ -         | \$ -                                     | \$ -         | \$ 1,150                 |  |   |
| Office Supplies                 | \$ 65,080    | \$ 28,691                                | \$ 146,596   | \$ 95,215                | New voting equipment requires purchase of printer ink cartridges, ballot paper, and seals for Ballot Marking Device (BMD)  | n/a   |



# COUNTY INCURRED COST

In 2021, Fulton County incurred **over \$2 million in election cost**, since the cost per voter rate is insufficient to cover Election cost.

## **PRIOR TO THE 2019 RESOLUTION:**

- » Cost to each Municipality was based on percentages of Election cost
- » The County would draft a budget for the current year and municipalities would pay a percentage based on their number of registered voters.
- » The County would not incur cost and municipalities were refunded any unexpended funds.

# REQUEST FOR RESOLUTION TO BE REVISED

Therefore, to not have the county incur cost in conducting Municipal Elections, Fulton County Registration & Elections is requesting approval to have the Municipal Cost Resolution revised

- » **Reverting to the percentage of election cost distribution based on the Municipalities number of registered voters**
- » **Reinstating refunds to Municipalities of unexpended funds**
- » **Elimination of a set cost per voter rate will allow the County to adjust the budget due to possible fluctuations in cost caused by legislative changes, vendor rates, etc.**
- » **Elimination of a set cost per voter will allow the Department of Registration & Election to continue to evaluate and implement cost reductions annually without continually revising the resolution**



# MUNICIPALITY VOTING METHOD CHOICES

While Fulton County is happy to conduct Municipal Elections, Municipalities have the option to conduct their own election. They have the freedom to choose which method of voting works best for them. These options may allow for cost savings. County conducted Elections are not allotted these options.

## **County Conducted Election**

The county conducts the election according to the Intergovernmental Agreement

## **Contracting Use of Voting Equipment**

Contracting use of county owned state mandated voting machines without county involvement

## **Paper ballots – Optical Scan Count**

Counting with use of the Optical Scanners with no county involvement

## **Paper ballots - Hand Count**

Counting the ballots by hand with no county involvement

## **Shoup Machines**

No county involvement

We encourage Municipalities to explore these options for cost saving measures





# ELECTION BUDGET REDUCTIONS

The Fulton County Department of Registration & Elections will continue to review Election budgets for possible reductions for all Election types, including the 2023 Elections

Reverting to a percentage-based resolution cost will allow our Department to continually work on this process

# QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

