

1 **A RESOLUTION OF THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO**
2 **REPEAL RESOLUTION 18-0577 PERTAINING TO THE ELIMINATION OF THE**
3 **BUDGET COMMISSION AS THE BODY TASKED WITH SUBMITTING AN ANNUAL**
4 **PROPOSED BUDGET TO THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR**
5 **CONSIDERATION SO AS TO REINSTATE THE BUDGET COMMISSION; TO AMEND**
6 **SECTION 2-261 OF THE FULTON COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES TO REDEFINE**
7 **THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE BUDGET COMMISSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

8

9 **WHEREAS**, from 1953 until 2016, Fulton County's budgeting process was
10 prescribed by a 1953 local law applicable to densely populated counties and enacted by
11 the Georgia General Assembly (1953 Ga. L. 2815), which entrusted the creation and
12 proposal of the annual budgets to a county budget commission; and

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14 **WHEREAS**, the budget commission consisted of the individuals holding the county
15 positions (as they are known currently) of the chairman of the board of commissioners,
16 the county manager, and the chief financial officer; and

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18 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, the Georgia General Assembly repealed the 1953 local law,
19 which had the effect of authorizing Fulton County to establish its own budget ordinance
20 pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 36-81-3; and

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22 **WHEREAS**, on June 15, 2016, Fulton County enacted a budget ordinance at
23 Fulton County Code ("FCC") Sec. 2-261 and 2-262 through Resolution 16-0465, to
24 establish a process for the proposal and adoption of the budget and to ensure
25 expenditures are made in accordance with the budget; and

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27 **WHEREAS**, the 2016 budget ordinance maintained the use of a budget
28 commission composed of the chairman of the board of commissioners, the county
29 manager, and the chief financial officer; and

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31 **WHEREAS**, on August 15, 2018, through Resolution 18-0577, the Board of
32 Commissioners ("BOC") opted to replace the budget commission with a process where

1 the county manager solely creates and submits the proposed budget but is directed to
2 "include the budget requests of all of the county's departments, agencies, elected officials,
3 and authorities" along with the proposed budget; and

4 **WHEREAS**, this process has slowed the flow of information to commissioners
5 about the upcoming budget requests from department heads and officials during the initial
6 creation of the proposed budget, which is then presented only weeks prior to the deadline
7 for the BOC to adopt the final budget; and

8 **WHEREAS**, this process, even though it requires the proposed budget to include
9 the budget requests of all of the County's departments, agencies, elected officials, and
10 authorities, can create transparency issues regarding the disclosure of the original budget
11 requests; and

12 **WHEREAS**, it is critical for all commissioners to have a more complete
13 understanding of the nature of each department's original requests and the methodology
14 undertaken to prioritize the most critical budgetary needs and find synergies across
15 departments to stretch the impact of taxpayers' dollars; and

16 **WHEREAS**, participation in the budget commission by County executive staff and
17 representatives from each commissioner's office will reduce duplication of tasks such as
18 department-level presentations of information supporting budget requests; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the BOC finds that it is in the best interest of the County for the
20 commissioners to have more visibility and involvement in budget preparation and to have
21 the opportunity to voice their preferences and concerns for budget priorities earlier in the
22 process; and

1 **WHEREAS**, a reinstatement of the budget commission and an expansion of the
2 membership of the budget commission to include additional County executive staff and
3 staff representatives employed in each commissioner's office will achieve the goals of
4 having more visibility and earlier input.

5 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Resolution 18-0577 is hereby
6 **REPEALED**.

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that FCC Sec. 2-261 is hereby **AMENDED** to
8 reinstate the budget commission which shall include the chairman of the Board of
9 Commissioners or their designated commissioner staff representative, the county
10 manager, the chief financial officer, the chief operating officer(s), the finance director, the
11 deputy finance director, and one commissioner staff representative designated by each
12 of the remaining commissioners, as follows:

13 **Sec. 2-261. – Proposal and adoption of the budget.**

14 The ~~county manager budget commission~~ shall submit or cause to be submitted
15 annually to the board of commissioners, by no later than November 15, a proposed
16 budget governing expenditures of all county funds, including capital outlay and public
17 works projects, for the following year. ~~The county manager's submission of the proposed~~
18 ~~budget shall include the budget requests of all of the county's departments, agencies,~~
19 ~~elected officials and authorities who receive funding from the county through the budget~~
20 ~~process. The budget commission is composed of the chairman of the board of~~
21 ~~commissioners of Fulton County or their designated commissioner staff representative,~~
22 ~~the county manager, the chief financial officer, the chief operating officer(s), the finance~~
23 ~~director, the deputy finance director, and one commissioner staff representative~~
24 ~~designated by each of the remaining commissioners.~~ This proposed budget will serve, as
25 presented, as the operating budget until a final budget is adopted. The procedures for
26 budget preparation, submission to the governing authority, review by the governing
27 authority, public review, notice, and hearings shall be as provided for in Chapter 81 of Title
28 36 of the O.C.G.A. [O.C.G.A. § 36-4 81-1 et seq.]. The budget shall then be adopted by
29 the board of commissioners by no later than the second regular meeting in January of the
30 year to which it applies, which budget, when so adopted by the board of commissioners,
31 shall constitute the board of commissioners' appropriation of all funds for such year.

1 The county manager is authorized to take all administrative steps necessary to
2 implement the budget as approved. The budget so adopted may be revised during the
3 year only by formal action of the board of commissioners in a regular meeting which has
4 been advertised in accordance with subsection (e) of Code Section 36-81-5 of the
5 O.C.G.A. [O.C.G.A. § 36-81-5] and no increase shall be made in such budget without
6 provision also being made for financing such increase. The proposed budget submitted
7 by the ~~county manager~~ budget commission shall be accompanied by a report containing
8 information and data required by subsection (b) of Code Section 36-81-5 of the O.C.G.A.
9 [O.C.G.A. §17 36-81-5]. A copy of the proposed budget shall be transmitted to the county
10 clerk of the commission of Fulton County on the date it is submitted to the board of
11 commissioners. Upon adoption of the budget, a copy shall be transmitted to the county
12 clerk of the commission of Fulton County.

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that within sixty (60) days, the County Manager shall
14 present a policy detailing the workflow of the budget commission to the Board of
15 Commissioners for consideration and adoption.

16 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED** that all resolutions and ordinances or parts thereof in
17 conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

18 **SO PASSED AND ADOPTED**, this ____ day of _____, 2026.

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21 **FULTON COUNTY**
22 **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
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Sponsored by:

 Moraima Ivory, Commissioner
 District 4

ATTEST:

 Tonya Grier
 Clerk to the Commission

1 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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5 Y. Soo Jo

6 County Attorney

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