



**FULTON  
COUNTY**

**Fulton County Board of Commissioners  
April 1, 2026**

**2026 Legislative  
Session Update**

**Resources for Superior Court**

**Online Publication of Legal Notices**

**Support Local Control and Oppose Sovereign Immunity Waivers**

**Increase State Support for Behavioral Health and Diversion Programs**

**Expand Healthcare Access and Strengthen the Healthcare Workforce**

**Housing Authority of Fulton County**

**Cybersecurity and Ransomware Protection**

**Support for Clarification of Estimated Rollback Rate Implementation**

**Next Generation 911**

**Ensure Secure, Fair and Accessible Elections**

**Transit Board Representation**

**Support for Legalization of Gambling and Casinos**

**Eviction Writ Execution Administrative Fee Authorization**

**Family Justice Centers**

**Repeal LIFE Act**



**FULTON  
COUNTY**

**2026**

**State Legislative  
Agenda**

# Legislative Session Overview

- Sine Die: **Thursday, April 2.**
- The Fiscal Year 2027 budget ([HB 974](#)), set by a revenue estimate of \$38.5 billion, passed the Senate and is now under consideration by the Joint Appropriations Conference Committee.
- Senate version highlights include:
  - Removal of funding for an additional Superior Court judgeship in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, as well as for additional Assistant District Attorney and Assistant Public Defender positions.
  - \$20.9 million to pay for 1,217 more people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to receive state services.
  - \$13.6 million for Local Maintenance and Improvement Grants for local resurfacing projects.

# Fulton County Delegation Updates

- Departments of Community Development and Cooperative Extension presented at the last meeting on **Friday, March 27**.
- Local Legislation: Monitoring final passage.
- Upcoming: Department Impact Tours with delegation members, scheduled Q2-Q3 by External Affairs.

## Primary Policy Priority: Judicial Resources – Superior Court

### House Bill 1215: Superior Court Judges in Atlanta, Middle, Gwinnett, Northeastern and Clayton Judicial Circuits

- **Sponsors:** Representatives Jones of the 25th, Silcox of the 53rd, and others
- **Status:** Passed Senate As Amended
- **Summary:**
  - Adds a 21st Superior Court judge to the Atlanta Judicial Circuit.
  - Requires state funding in the FY 2027 budget for implementation.
  - Also creates additional judgeships in the Middle, Gwinnett, Northeastern and Clayton Judicial Circuits.

# Family Justice Centers

## House Bill 1283: [Family Justice Center Act; enact](#)

- **Sponsors:** Representatives Panitch of the 51st, Gunter of the 8th and others
- **Status:** Passed Senate As Amended
- **Summary:**
  - Authorizes counties, municipalities and district attorneys to establish Family Justice Centers using four models.
  - Co-locates law enforcement, prosecution and community-based providers to serve victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, child abuse and human trafficking.
  - Authorizes the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) to administer grants, provide oversight and requires annual reporting.
  - Preserves existing disclosure obligations, court authority and victim/defendant rights.
  - Does not require state funding; however, state funding may be identified as a potential future funding source.

# Next Generation 911

**House Resolution 1243:** [Georgia Next Generation 9-1-1 Fund; authorize creation - CA](#)

- **Sponsors:** Representatives Martin of the 49th, Burns of the 159th and others
- **Status:** Senate Passed
- **Summary:** Proposed constitutional amendment to authorize the General Assembly to dedicate certain existing revenues, including revenues reallocated by law, to a non-lapsing fund to be used exclusively for the expansion, maintenance and operation of emergency 9-1-1 systems, including the statewide transition to Next Generation 9-1-1.

# Property Tax Reform

## House Bill 1116: [Homeownership Opportunity and Market Equalization Act of 2026](#)

- **Sponsors:** Representatives Blackmon of the 146th, Burns of the 159th and others
- **Status:** Senate Passed By Substitute
- **Summary:**
  - LHOST: New local option sales tax alternative to FLOST; requires voter approval; does not raise total sales tax.
  - Establishes a property tax revenue growth cap for counties, cities and schools at 3% or CPI, whichever is greater. Revenue cap can only be exceeded through a local referendum or a local act of the General Assembly.
  - Requires updated millage rollback calculations and mailed notice to taxpayers if the rollback rate is exceeded.
  - Effective: Upon Governor's Signature

# Property Tax Reform

## Senate Bill 382: Ad Valorem Taxation; make the state-wide base year homestead exemption mandatory for all political subdivisions

- **Sponsors:** Senators Hufstetler of the 52nd, Albers of the 56th and others
- **Status:** House Ways & Means Committee Passed By Substitute
- **Summary:**
  - Sales Tax Cap: Local sales tax capped at 5%; previous categorical restrictions on 3 of the 5 pennies removed.
  - FLOST: Can be initiated via intergovernmental agreement; proceeds offset property tax revenue lost from statewide homestead exemptions; excess used to offset non-homestead exemptions.
  - Eliminates all provisions related to the floating/base year homestead exemption from HB 581.
  - Requires updated millage rollback calculations and mailed notice to taxpayers if the rollback rate is exceeded.
  - New Homestead Exemption: Phased in over five years (2027: 10%, 2028: 20%, 2029: 30%, 2030: 40%, 2031+: 50%) for counties, consolidated governments and cities; applies in addition to existing exemptions.
  - Statewide Referendum in November 2026: Nonbinding vote on eliminating homestead property taxes.
  - Effective: Upon Governor's Signature

# Taxation

Bill   Sponsor	Description	Status
<p><a href="#">HB 439</a> Revenue and taxation; revise deductions allowed to dealers   Rep. Bill Yearta</p>	<p>Authorizes counties/municipalities levying ad valorem taxes to create (by local referendum) a homeowner incentive grant fund to offset remaining property tax liability after homestead exemptions, with credits capped by the Constitution and funding allowed only when revenues exceed prior and projected fiscal benchmarks.</p>	<p>Senate Passed By Substitute; House Agreed to Senate Substitute</p>
<p><a href="#">HB 1558</a> Palmetto; ad valorem tax for municipal purposes; provide homestead exemption   Rep. Lydia Glaize</p>	<p>Provides a homestead exemption from City of Palmetto municipal ad valorem taxes for residents 65 years old and older, effective 2027 pending voter approval in November 2026</p>	<p>House Passed; Referred to State and Local Governmental Operations Committee</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 306</a> Bona Fide Conservation Use Property; impending expiration sent via certified mail; require notices   Sen. Randy Robertson</p>	<p>Requires county tax assessors to notify CUVA and bona fide residential transitional property owners of covenant expirations via first-class mail (certified if requested); electronic copies can also be sent if requested; if notice was not received, the covenant may be reinstated and any excess taxes refunded without interest.</p>	<p>House Passed By Substitute</p>
<p><a href="#">SB 566</a> Ad Valorem Taxation of Property; acceptance of tax digests in event of publication error made by a newspaper   Sen. Chuck Hufstetler</p>	<p>Revises property tax administration by requiring tax bills to show savings from exemptions/credits, mandating timely reporting of lost homestead eligibility (with penalties), creating a statewide exemption database, updating assessment notice requirements, and eliminating rollback rate provisions.</p>	<p>House Passed By Substitute; Senate Agreed to House Substitute</p>

# Policy Position Request: Governor's Veto

## House Bill 369: Nonpartisan Elections for Metro Atlanta Counties

- **Sponsor:** Sen. Dolezal
- **Status:** Senate Passed by Substitute; House Agreed to Senate Substitute
- **Summary:**
  - Requires nonpartisan elections for most elected county offices in “consolidated law enforcement counties” where the elected office of county coroner has been abolished.
  - Applies to offices such as: County Commissioner, Tax Commissioner, Clerk of Superior Court, Solicitor-General and District Attorney.
  - Exemptions: Sheriff and County governing authority offices established by or authorized through local constitutional amendments.
  - District Attorneys in qualifying circuits elected nonpartisan in November (no primary).
  - Establishes qualifying procedures and aligns with existing nonpartisan election processes.
  - Effective date: January 1, 2028

## House Bill 960: Omnibus Elections Bill

- **Sponsors:** Senator Dolezal of the 27th and others
- **Status:** Senate Passed by Substitute; Returning to House for Agree/Disagree
- **Summary:**
  - Requires hand-marked paper ballots tabulated by optical scanners beginning July 1, 2026, with limited accessibility exceptions.
  - Mandates posting of eligible voter lists prior to advance voting.
  - Authorizes civil fines for failure to remove registrations after successful challenges.
  - Requires posting of lists of voters who cast ballots and related election data.
  - Provides for statewide posting of scanned ballot images.
  - Establishes mandatory hand recounts when the margin is 2% or less.
  - Modifies risk-limiting audit procedures and oversight from Secretary of State to the State Election Board.

## Senate Bill 214: Omnibus Elections Bill

- **Sponsors:** Senators Burns of the 23rd, Williams of the 25th and others
- **Status:** House Rules
- **Summary:**
  - Requires the State of Georgia to transition to an optical scan paper ballot system using hand-marked paper ballots and provide new voting equipment by January 1, 2028.
  - Authorizes ballot-on-demand (BOD) printing at polling locations and sets procedures for ballot design, proofing, printing, security, storage and recordkeeping.
  - Allows use of optically scanned paper ballots, including BOD ballots and ballot marking device (BMD) ballots without QR codes, after December 31, 2027.
  - Requires ballot scanners to create digital images and reject overvotes, allowing voters to review and correct ballots before submission.
  - Requires voting equipment to be certified by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission and ensures accessible ballot marking devices are available at each polling place.
  - Establishes an advisory committee and authorizes pilot programs by the State Election Board to test optical scan systems using BOD and BMD technology.
  - Updates election procedures, including ballot proofing, auditing, digital ballot image posting and equipment oversight.
  - Establishes a phased implementation timeline, with most provisions effective January 1, 2027, and certain requirements and prior law updates delayed until January 1, 2028.

# Sine Die Bills

**HB 377: [QBS Mandate](#)**

**SB 74: [Harmful Materials to Minors; exemption for libraries and librarians from Code Section 16-12-103](#)**

**SB 406: ["Georgia Property Owners' Bill of Rights Act"](#)**