



#26-0172



**FULTON
COUNTY**

**Fulton County Board of Commissioners
March 18, 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

The Fiscal Year 2027 budget ([HB 974](#)), set by a revenue estimate of \$38.5 billion, passed the House of Representatives and is now under consideration by the Senate Appropriations Committee. Highlights include:

- Funding for an additional Superior Court judgeship for the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, along with an additional assistant district attorney and assistant public defender.
- \$1 million for treatment of traumatic brain injuries and mental health conditions for veterans and active-duty military members.
- \$1.5 million for behavioral and mental health services stabilization.
- \$13.6 million for Local Maintenance and Improvement Grants for local resurfacing projects.
- \$20.7 million to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council to expand grants and offset the loss of federal funding for victim services providers, including child advocacy centers, domestic violence shelters and sexual assault centers.

Fulton County Delegation Updates

- On **Thursday, March 12**, the Departments of Registration & Elections, Emergency Management & Homeland Security and Emergency Services presented.
- The next meeting will be on **Friday, March 20 at 1 p.m. in CAP 230**. The Department for HIV Elimination, Marshal's Office and Clerk of the Superior & Magistrate Court will present.
- The last meeting will be on **Friday, March 27 at 1 p.m. in CAP 230**. The Departments of Community Development and Cooperative Extension will present.
- Several local legislation bills are expected to pass on the Local Consent Calendar soon, including road naming bills for Victoria Travis Jackson, U.S. Treasurer Brandon L. Beach and former State Representative Roger Bruce.

Primary Policy Priority:
Judicial Resources – Superior Court

House Bill 1365: Atlanta Judicial Circuit; superior courts; provide twenty-first judge

- **Sponsors:** Representatives Jones of the 25th, Silcox of the 53rd, and others
- **Status:** House Passed; Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee
- **Summary:** Adds a twenty-first Superior Court judge in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit. State funding is in the House version of the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget.

Family Justice Centers

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

- **Sponsors:** Representatives Panitch of the 51st, Gunter of the 8th and others
- **Status:** House Passed by Substitute; Senate Public Safety Committee Hearing on **Wednesday, March 18.**
- **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.

Primary Policy Priority:

Support Local Control and Oppose Sovereign Immunity Waivers

House Bill 295: Local government; procedures for real property owners to make claims for compensation for loss of property value or expenses incurred

- **Sponsors:** Representatives Gaines of the 120th, Leverett of the 123rd and others
- **Status:** House Passed By Substitute; Referred to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
- **Summary:** Provides procedures for real property owners to make claims for compensation from local governments for loss of property value or expenses incurred due to the local government's failure to comply with or enforce certain laws, ordinances, and resolutions or due to the local government maintaining a public nuisance. The sovereign immunity of a local government is waived to the extent necessary for enforcing this legislation.

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:** House Passed; Senate Public Safety Committee Favorably Reported
- **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.

Enabling Legislation: TBD, potentially during the 2027 Legislative Session if approved in the November 2026 referendum.

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:** House Passed by Substitute; Senate Finance Committee Hearing on **Tuesday, March 17**
- **Summary:**
 - Converts all LOST sales tax to Local Homestead Option Sales Tax (LHOST) for homestead property tax relief. Applies to both existing and future local sales tax revenues and includes provisions for intergovernmental coordination on LHOST distribution.
 - Allows FLOST to optionally convert to LHOST following a local referendum.
 - 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.
 - Sets up a nonbinding statewide referendum asking voters whether homestead property taxes should be eliminated.

Senate Bill 214: Omnibus Elections Bill

- **Sponsors:** Senators Burns of the 23rd, Williams of the 25th and others
- **Status:** House Governmental Affairs Committee Passed by Substitute
- **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.

Senate Bill 535: Mental Health; the re-creation of community service boards

- **Sponsor:** Senator Kirkpatrick of the 32nd
- **Status:** Senate Passed By Substitute; House Passed; Sent to Governor
- **Summary:** Updates provisions relating to community service boards (CSB). CSB executive directors can serve on governing boards, must be appointed by the commissioner of the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities and will become an employees of the department. Those serving as executive directors as of June 30, 2026 can continue as CSB employees if they choose to do so by August 1, 2026. CSB governing boards must incorporate minimum bylaws as established by the department.

Companion Bill: [HB 1368](#) – House Passed By Substitute; Referred to Senate Health and Human Services

Local Legislation

Bill Sponsor	Description	Status
HB 1349 Fulton County; Board of Education; pension board; revise membership Rep. Lydia Glaize	Revises membership of the Fulton County Schools pension board to include one at-large member, nominated by the pension board and appointed by the Board of Education, who must be an active or retired plan participant.	House Passed; Referred to Senate State and Local Governmental Operations Committee
HB 1367 Fulton County; appointment of a certain number of board members in the case of vacancies on the board Rep. Shea Roberts	Revises procedures for filling board vacancies on community improvement districts in unincorporated Fulton. The bill allows the board to appoint a replacement within 60 days, limits appointed members to serving until the next regular election, caps the number of board-appointed members serving at one time to two and requires a special election under certain circumstances.	Referred to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee
HB 1514 Fulton County; Board of Education; change election date of president Rep. Lydia Glaize	Changes the election date for the Fulton County Board of Education president to the first regular board meeting in December of each even-numbered year.	Referred to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee
HB 1535 Sandy Springs, City of; Redevelopment Powers Law; provide for a referendum Rep. Deborah Silcox	Authorizes the City of Sandy Springs to exercise redevelopment powers under Georgia’s Redevelopment Powers Law, including creating tax allocation districts and issuing tax allocation bonds for community redevelopment projects. Requires approval by Sandy Springs voters in November 2026 referendum.	Referred to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee

Local Legislation

Bill Sponsor	Description	Status
HR 1523 Victoria Travis Jackson Memorial Highway; Fulton County; dedicate Rep. Shelia Jones	Honors the life of Victoria Travis Jackson and dedicates a portion of Georgia State Route 139 from Georgia State Route 280 to Fairburn Road in Fulton County as the “Victoria Travis Jackson Memorial Highway”.	Referred to House Transportation Committee
SB 601 Atlanta Board of Education; residency limitations on qualifications Sen. Sonya Halpern	Removes residency requirements for the Atlanta Public Schools executive assistant to the board, chief financial officer, and internal auditor and updates provisions for their appointment, supervision and evaluation.	Senate Passed; Referred to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee
SB 616 Fulton County; written consent for the creation of community improvement districts Sen. Sonya Halpern	Revises procedures for creating, governing, annexing property into, and dissolving community improvement districts in unincorporated Fulton County, including requiring written consent from property owners meeting specified ownership and property value thresholds.	Senate Passed; Referred to House Intragovernmental Coordination Committee
SR 932 United States Treasurer Brandon L. Beach Highway; Fulton County; dedicate Sen. Jason Dickerson	Recognizes U.S. Treasurer Brandon L. Beach for his service to Georgia and designates a portion of Georgia State Route 9 from Old Milton Parkway to Mayfield Road in Fulton County, Georgia as the “United States Treasurer Brandon L. Beach Highway.”	Referred to Senate Transportation Committee

Support for Legalization of Gambling and Casinos

House Resolution 450: [General Assembly; authorize sports betting in Georgia - CA](#)

- **Sponsors:** Representatives Wiedower of the 121st, Martin of the 49th and others
- **Status:** House Failed (63-98)
- **Summary:** Proposes a constitutional amendment to authorize the Georgia General Assembly to legalize sports betting through general law. The resolution allows for the regulation and taxation of sports betting, establishes the Georgia Sports Betting Proceeds Trust Fund and dedicates revenues primarily to pre-kindergarten, HOPE scholarships and other educational programs, with a portion allocated to problem gambling prevention and treatment.

Enabling Legislation: [HB 686](#)

Did Not Crossover

Taxation

Bill Sponsor	Description	Status
<p>HB 275 Income tax; change certain definitions Rep. Bruce Williamson</p>	<p>Revises property tax assessment notice requirements, allows the Department of Revenue to accept certain digests despite publication deficiencies, requires tax bills to show savings from exemptions and credits, updates assessment notice language and appeal information and repeals the estimated roll-back rate certification requirement. <i>Companion Bill:</i> SB 566</p>	<p>House Passed By Substitute; Referred to Senate Finance Committee</p>
<p>SB 306 Bona Fide Conservation Use Property; impending expiration to be 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 certified mail; if notice is not received, the preferential assessment is automatically extended one year and taxes paid are refunded without interest.</p>	<p>Senate Passed By Substitute; Referred to House Ways & Means Committee</p>
<p>SB 382 Ad Valorem Taxation; make the state-wide base year homestead exemption mandatory for all political subdivisions Sen. Chuck Hufstetler</p>	<p>Makes the statewide base year homestead exemption mandatory for all political subdivisions, provides automatic continuation for eligible homeowners, repeals a related tax notice and revises special district sales and use tax rules to fund property tax relief. <u>Effective:</u> For taxable years beginning January 1, 2026.</p>	<p>Senate Passed By Substitute; House Ways & Means Committee Hearing on Tuesday, March 17</p>

Bills That Did Not Crossover

We will continue to track all language, as it could be attached to another bill via amendment.

House of Representatives

HB 560: Joint county and municipal sales and use tax (LOST); negotiations for distribution of tax proceeds; revise provisions

HB 1137: MARTA; authority of local governing bodies to collect a 1 percent retail sales and use tax; extend sunset

HB 1240: Local government; total ad valorem tax digest limitation upon creating new tax allocation districts shall also apply to the renewal of existing tax allocation districts; provide

HB 1336: Ad valorem tax; levy and collection of tax upon apportioned valuation of aircraft by local tax jurisdictions; provisions

HB 1386: Local government; county development authorities for certain counties shall not operate within certain municipalities

HB 1482: Jails; certain municipal corporations make municipal detention facilities or jails available for use by a sheriff under certain conditions

HR 1114: Homeowner's Incentive Adjustment clause; remove cap on benefits – CA

Bills That Did Not Crossover

We will continue to track all language, as it could be attached to another bill via amendment.

Senate	
SB 538: <u>"Forever Chemicals Transparency Act"</u>	SB 568: <u>Elections and Primaries; the list of eligible voters is posted and made public prior to each primary or election; require</u>
SB 573: <u>Primaries and Elections; the nonpartisan election for county officers and district attorneys in certain counties</u>	SB 577: <u>"Coordinated PFAS Remediation Act"</u>

Legislative Calendar ([HR 998](#))

- March 18: Legislative Day 33
- March 19: Legislative Day 34
- March 20: Legislative Day 35
- March 23: Legislative Days 36
- March 24: Committee Work Day
- March 25: Legislative Day 37
- March 26: Committee Work Day
- March 27: Legislative Day 38
- March 31: Legislative Day 39
- April 2: Legislative Day 40 (*Sine Die*)

