



**FULTON
COUNTY**

**Fulton County Board of Commissioners
November 1, 2023**

**2024 Proposed State
Legislative Agenda**

Operational Funding for Behavioral Health Crisis Center

J-SPLOST

Equitable Property Tax Appeals Process

Equal Access to Judicial Personnel Benefits

Elections

Effective & Efficient Justice System

Medicaid Expansion

Senior Homestead Exemption Simplification

MARTA Board Appointment Parity

National Use of Force Data Collection Participation

Definition of Antisemitism

Limit Clerk of Superior Court Passport Fees

CROWN Act



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Primary Policy Priority: BHCC Operational Funding

Fulton County seeks a jointly funded partnership with Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (GA DBHDD) for the operational expenditures of the Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC) opening in 1Q2024. The County requests an annualized state budget amount of \$13 million for full operational funding beginning with Fiscal Year 2025.

- GA DBHDD requested \$5,688,919 in the Amended Fiscal Year 2024 Budget to annualize BHCC funding. We will track the amount placed in the Governor's Budget once released.

BHCC Progress Photographs

Retention Pond In Progress
As of 10/6/2023



Retention Pond In Progress
As of 10/13/2023



Grading In Progress
As of 10/6/2023



Grading In Progress
As of 10/13/2023



Primary Policy Priority: J-SPLOST

Fulton County seeks a Justice Special Local Option Sales Tax (J-SPLOST) to help fund expenditures for the construction of a new Detention Center.

Primary Policy Priority: Equitable Property Tax Appeals Process

Fulton County supports property tax appeal reform including:

- Fulton County seeks changes in current law that would require large commercial property owners to submit additional data at the time of an appeal of their property assessment to ensure equitable access to information.
 - Our research partnership with Georgia Tech University and counties across the state will be complete by the beginning of the 2024 Legislative Session.
- Fulton County seeks changes in current law that would place restrictions on the three-year lock in assessed values after a property tax appeal.
 - This priority aligns with the 2024 ACCG Legislative Priority: Property Tax Assessment and Appeal Reform.

Other Fulton County Priorities: Equal Access to Judicial Personnel Benefits

Fulton County supports the repeal of legislation that prohibits the equitable participation of Judges in the Fulton County and Georgia Judicial Retirement System programs with passage of [House Bill 643](#).

- [House Bill 643](#) will allow Fulton State Court Judges to participate in the County's retirement plan. The required review by the State Auditor was conducted and a certificate was issued. ***Effective Date: July 1, 2024***

Other Fulton County Priorities: Elections

Fulton County supports adjustments in the Election Day equipment allocation formula, recognizing that analysis of current data and voting trends demonstrate that more than half of Fulton County voters choose to participate in Early Voting.

Other Fulton County Priorities: Effective & Efficient Justice System

Fulton County supports legislation that creates a more efficient and effective justice system and improves outcomes for victims, defendants and taxpayers including:

- Fulton County seeks the addition of one judge to the Fulton County Superior Court.
- Fulton County supports proposed legislation to create a modernization framework to develop minimum standards for digitally recording proceedings in courts throughout the state and is willing to serve as a pilot program participant.
- Fulton County supports justice system reforms to help the Chief Judge address court efficiency including case backlog.

Other Fulton County Priorities: Medicaid Expansion

Fulton County urges the General Assembly to fully expand Medicaid coverage in order to increase access to high-quality, affordable health insurance for low-income residents. Medicaid expansion will also decrease County costs related to medical care for uninsured residents.

2023 Carryover Policy Priorities: Senior Homestead Exemption Simplification

Fulton County supports simplification of administrative processes for senior homestead exemptions for Fulton County seniors living on low incomes.

- Sen. Sonya Halpern (39th) will introduce a revised version of [Senate Bill 303](#) that includes referendum language to comply with the Governor's [2023 Veto Statement](#).

2023 Carryover Policy Priorities: MARTA Board Appointment Parity

Fulton County seeks to reestablish parity with other MARTA signatory agencies in making direct appointments to the MARTA Board.

- Current MARTA Board members (15 total including Ex-Officio members holding respective State Office) can be found [here](#) and include appointments from: Fulton County (3), DeKalb County (4), City of Atlanta (3), Clayton County (2) and the Governor (1).
 - Ex-Officio members: Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation and Executive Director, State Road and Tollway Authority.
- Fulton County will begin discussions with potential sponsors on this issue prior to the 2024 Legislative Session.

2023 Carryover Policy Priorities: National Use of Force Data Collection

Fulton County requests the General Assembly require law enforcement agencies in Georgia to participate in the FBI's Use-of-Force Data Collection program and enact laws to establish decertification registries and practices or enhance existing ones.

- Fulton County will begin discussions with potential sponsors on this issue prior to the 2024 Legislative Session.

2023 Carryover Policy Priorities: Definition of Antisemitism

Fulton County will monitor and report on passage of the bills below which provide a definition of antisemitism for purposes of state government:

- [House Bill 30](#) – Rep. John Carson (46th)
 - *Status: Referred to Senate Judiciary Committee*
- [House Bill 144](#) – Rep. Regina Lewis-Ward (115th)
 - *Status: Senate Tabled*

2023 Carryover Policy Priorities: Limit Clerk of Superior Court Passport Fees

Fulton County will monitor and report on passage of the bill below which limits Clerk of Superior Court passport fees:

- [Senate Bill 19](#) – Sen. Kay Kirkpatrick (32nd)
 - *Status: Recommended to House Judiciary Committee*

2023 Carryover Policy Priorities: CROWN Act

Fulton County will monitor and report on passage of the Creating a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair (CROWN) Act:

- [Senate Bill 82](#) – Sen. Tonya Anderson (43rd)
 - *Status: Referred to Senate Insurance and Labor Committee*

Upcoming Legislative Dates

- Wednesday, November 15: 2024 Prefile Legislation
 - Relevant bills will be shared with BOC and Executive Team
- Friday, December 1: Sunset of 2023 Study Committees
 - Relevant final reports will be shared with BOC and Executive Team
- Wednesday, December 6: 2023 Legislative Reception
 - RSVP Deadline: Thursday, November 30