



**FULTON  
COUNTY**

**Fulton County Board of Commissioners  
November 6, 2024**

**2025 Proposed State  
Legislative Agenda**

**Resources for Superior Court Judges & Judicial Officers**

**Resources for State Court Judges**

**Support for Detention Center Transfer**

**Online Publication of Legal Notices**

**Transportation Board Membership and Parity**

**Support for Legislative Proposals for Child Attorneys**

**State Funding for Behavioral Health Resources**

**Amendment to Fulton County Housing Authority  
Resident Commissioner Requirements**

**Support for Medicaid Expansion**

**Change Personal Property and Freeport Return Dates**

**Clarification of Purchasing Powers for Constitutional Officers**

**Authorize Digital Court Reporting**



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## **2025 Proposed State Legislative Agenda**

# Primary Policy Priority: Judicial Resources – Superior Court

- Fulton County seeks local legislation to authorize Superior Court judicial officers to handle non-serious felony and civil cases by assignment of the Chief Judge.
- Fulton County seeks three additional judgeships within Superior Court to effectively manage the high volume of cases, including caseloads specific to Georgia's Capital County.

# Primary Policy Priority: Judicial Resources – Additional State Court Judges

- Fulton County seeks the allocation of two additional State Court judges, increasing the court from 10 to 12 judges. This recommendation is supported by a judicial workload assessment conducted this year by the Georgia Council of State Court Judges.

# Primary Policy Priority: Detention Center Transfer

- Fulton County supports the Senate Public Safety Fulton County Jail subcommittee's recommendation to transfer the Atlanta City Detention Center to Fulton County.



# Ongoing State Investment – Behavioral Health

Fulton County seeks ongoing state funding for Behavioral Health beds, as recommended in the 2023 Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) bed study. This includes:

- Additional funding for Behavioral Health Crisis Centers
  - Collaborate with Georgia DBHDD on the design study for the North Fulton Crisis Center
  - Advocate for South Fulton Crisis Center
  - Seek funding for future youth crisis services.
- Increased availability of mental health beds for justice-involved individuals.

# Online Publication of Legal Notices

- Fulton County supports legislation allowing for publication of legal notices on the legal organ's website, to allow for timely advertisement of these notices.
- Fulton County supports an amendment to the Georgia Taxpayer Bill of Rights to permit the online publication of millage rate advertisements.

# Transit Board Representation

Fulton County seeks amendments to enhance representation on both the ATL and MARTA Boards, ensuring appointments are equitable and reflective of the county's size and taxpayer base.

- ATL Board: Establish permanent membership for Fulton County Government.
- MARTA Board: Reestablish parity with other MARTA signatory agencies in making direct appointments to the MARTA Board.



# Housing Authority of Fulton County

Fulton County requests an amendment to the requirements for resident commissioners of the Fulton County Housing Authority to ensure compliance with *O.C.G.A. § 8-3-50*.

- Allow Fulton County residents who are beneficiaries of the Housing Authority and live in areas without current representation.

# Office of the Child Attorney

- Alignment of Guardianship Laws: Fulton County seeks legislative changes to align the transfer from probate statutes with existing guardianship law and clarify the juvenile court's authority regarding the termination of temporary guardianships.
- Automatic Appointment of Attorneys: Mandate the automatic appointment of legal representation for minors in dependency cases, as this is currently left to the discretion of the minor parents.

# Clarification of Purchasing Powers – Constitutional Officers

- Fulton County seeks clarification regarding the purchasing powers of constitutional officers and urges the Georgia General Assembly to require compliance with purchasing and procurement policies for constitutional officers.

# NextGen 911

- In alignment with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, Fulton County supports work of the Georgia Emergency Communication Authority in implementing a statewide Next Gen 911 system.

# Medicaid Expansion

- Fulton County supports Medicaid expansion, which would increase health access for our residents and would result in an annual savings of \$50 million for the Fulton County General Fund.

# Change Personal Property and Freeport Return Dates

- Fulton County supports efforts by the Board of Assessors to change the Personal Property and Freeport return dates from April 1 to March 1 annually to improve processing efficiency.
  - Georgia Association of Assessing Officials (GAAO) is expected to introduce legislation.

# Authorize Digital Court Reporting

- Fulton County supports legislation that authorizes the use of digital court reporting in courts, and for the Judicial Council to establish rules and regulations for the use of such systems.
- This proposal is aimed at lowering the personnel cost of courts by offering digital transcription and recording services.
- ACCG encourages the General Assembly to provide funding for digital recording systems.



# Key Legislative Activity Dates

- Sunday, December 1: Sunset of 2024 Study Committees
  - Relevant final reports will be shared with BOC and Executive Team
- Monday, January 13, 2025: General Assembly Convenes
- Thursday, February 20, 2025: Fulton Day at the State Capitol