



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Office of the County Manager
DATE: November 14, 2023
SUBJECT: November 15, Meeting Presentation for Agenda Item # 23-0835

Attached you will find the November 1, 2023 BOC Meeting presentation for the agenda item listed below.

23-0835 External Affairs

Request approval of 2024 State Legislative Agenda.

Thank you



**FULTON
COUNTY**

**Fulton County Board of Commissioners
November 15, 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

Definition of Anti-Semitism/Anti-Islamic Hatred

Homeowners Associations Protections & Transparency

Senior Homestead Exemption Simplification

MARTA Board Appointment Parity

National Use of Force Data Collection Participation

Limit Clerk of Superior Court Passport Fees

CROWN Act



**FULTON
COUNTY**

**2024 Proposed
State Legislative
Agenda**

Primary Policy Priority: BHCC Operational Funding

Fulton County seeks continued partnership with GA DBHDD to address the behavioral health needs of our constituents. Specifically:

- Annualized funding for the Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Center, which will open in 1Q24.
- Resources to address unmet needs for youth behavioral health crisis services.
- Resources to address the mental health needs of justice-involved persons in Fulton County, including detainees in the Fulton County Jail with persistent mental illness.

Primary Policy Priority: J-SPLOST

Fulton County seeks legislation that would enable a Justice Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax referendum, providing voters with the opportunity to *choose* the funding mechanism to be used to finance for a replacement Jail facility.

Primary Policy Priority: Equitable Property Tax Appeals Process

Fulton County supports property tax appeal reform that would ensure a more equitable tax burden for homeowners.

Fulton County is collaborating with the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia and the Georgia Association of Assessing Officials, as well as the Georgia Institute of Technology School of Public Policy in developing appropriate policy solutions with careful review of:

- Additional income data from large commercial properties.
- Changes in the 299(c) freeze.

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 flexibility for making 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:

- Additional judgeships within 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. Fulton County State Court is willing to serve as a pilot program participant.
- Fulton County supports justice system changes to improve efficiency, including an elected Chief Judge position.
- Clarification of the purchasing powers of constitutional officers.
 - The County Attorney will provide feedback on this issue prior to the 2024 Legislative Session.

Other Fulton County Priorities: Expansion of Healthcare & Hospital Access

Fulton County supports policy changes that would increase access to healthcare and strengthen the network of healthcare providers within our community, including:

- Support for updates to the Certificate of Need implementation to ensure that approved beds stay within the community for which they are approved.
- Expansion of Medicaid.
- Resources to address the healthcare desert within Fulton County.

Other Fulton County Priorities: Definition of Anti-Semitism / Anti-Islamic Hatred

In 2023, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners voted to support legislation that would provide a definition of Antisemitism for Georgia Hate Crimes laws.

Fulton County opposes hatred in all forms and also supports the definition of Anti-Islamic hatred (Islamophobia).

- The Fulton County Board of Commissioners supports anti-hate and anti-discrimination bills that recognize the dignity of all people and that advance equal treatment under law for all persons.

Other Fulton County Priorities: HOA Protections & Transparency

Fulton County supports statutory changes that will provide for homeowner protections and transparency to include equitable best practice requirements for governance and financial management for homeowner associations. Specifically:

- Homeowner associations must, under law, provide meeting minutes and all other legal documents to sworn successors.

2023 Carryover Policy Priorities: Senior Homestead Exemption Simplification

Fulton County supports equitable homeowner property tax relief through administration of homestead exemptions:

- Request elimination of the two-year renewal requirement for the very low-income senior homestead exemption.
- Equitable administration of floating homestead exemptions and senior homestead exemptions throughout Fulton County.

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.

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.

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 Opens
 - 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