

#26-0224



**FULTON  
COUNTY**

**Fulton County Board of Commissioners  
April 15, 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

- **Thursday, April 2:** The General Assembly adjourned Sine Die.
- **Tuesday, May 12:** Governor's Veto Deadline.
- Highlights from the adopted Conference Committee Report for the Fiscal Year 2027 budget **(HB 974)**:
  - Removal of funding for an additional Superior Court judgeship in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit.
  - \$2.4 million for behavioral and mental health services stabilization and \$916,000 to conduct a colorectal cancer (CRC) screening project for uninsured patients. These funds will help screen over 1,500 uninsured patients ages 45 to 64 years old.
  - Added 900 NOW/COMP waivers to expand services for Georgians with intellectual or developmental disabilities, plus \$284,380 for waiver staffing.
  - \$11.2 million in new funding for graduate medical education (GME).
  - \$1.5M for the Department of Veterans Service to implement a veteran case management platform connecting veterans with vital community services.

## Primary Policy Priority: Judicial Resources – Superior Court

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

- **Sponsor:** Representatives Parrish of the 158th, Jackson of the 128th, Hagan of the 156th and Prince of the 132nd
- **Status:** Passed
- **Summary:**
  - Creates additional judgeships in the Atlanta, Clayton, Middle, Gwinnett and Northeastern Judicial Circuits.
  - Atlanta and Clayton Judicial Circuits were subject to appropriations; funding was not included in 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:** Passed
- **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.
  - Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) administers grants, provides 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.
  - Victims who do not report an alleged sexual assault at the time of evidence collection have their evidence maintained by law enforcement for 10 years.

# 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:** Passed; House Sent to Governor
- **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.
  - Will be on **November 2026** ballot. If approved by voters, enabling legislation will be introduced during the 2027 Legislative Session.

# Transit Board Representation

## House Bill 297: [Georgia Transportation Efficiency Authority \(GTEA\)](#)

- **Status: Passed**
- **Summary:**
  - Extends the sales tax for MARTA from 2057 to 2067.
  - Creates the Georgia Transportation Efficiency Authority (GTEA), replacing the Atlanta Transit Link (ATL) Authority and assuming certain duties of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA). Transfers ATL and GRTA employees and property to GTEA.
  - 13 member GTEA board appointments: 8 by the Governor, 2 by the Lieutenant Governor, 2 by the Speaker of the House and 1 by the Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioner. At least 7 board members must reside in a nonattainment area (13 metro Atlanta counties).
  - Counties without transit services before 2026 need approval from the board and a referendum to start services. GTEA can provide transit services to any county with an agreement.
  - Assumes responsibility for federal transit funds and transportation improvement programs in nonattainment counties.
  - GTEA must submit an annual transit report to House and Senate Transportation Committees.
  - Effective date: Upon Governor's Signature

# Property Tax Reform

## Senate Bill 33: [Homeownership Opportunity and Market Equalization Act of 2026](#)

- **Status: Passed**
- **Summary:**
  - Floating Homestead Exemption ([HB 581](#)) is now mandatory statewide for all jurisdictions.
  - Local Homestead Option Sales Tax (LHOST) introduced as an alternative to FLOST for additional property tax relief via local act:
    - 1% max; up to 10 years; voter-approved
    - Can apply to all properties or only homesteads
  - Tax digest correction limits: Non-fraudulent mistakes cannot be retroactively taxed
  - Local tax referenda moved from presidential primary. New election date options include November general, odd-year March or even-year general primary.
  - School district changes: QBE updated; Increase reserve funds max from 15% to 25%
  - Effective date: Upon Governor's Signature

**Did Not Pass: [House Bill 1116](#) and [Senate Bill 382](#)**

# 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>Passed; House Sent to Governor</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>Passed</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>Amends O.C.G.A. 48-5-7.4 to allow a single owner with multiple bona fide conservation use parcels to consolidate under one new 10-year covenant if eligible, permits covenant expiration notices via certified mail or email at taxpayer request, clarifies conservation use may include carbon sequestration and caps the state low-income housing tax credit at \$100M annually for tax years 2026-2028.</p>	<p>Passed</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>Passed</p>

# House Bill 369: Nonpartisan Elections for Metro Atlanta Counties

- **Status:** Passed; House Sent to Governor
- **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
- ACCG Request for Veto Letter sent to Governor on **Friday, April 3**

## House Bill 960: Omnibus Elections Bill

- **Status: Did Not Pass**
- **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

- **Status: Did Not Pass**

- **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.

# 2026 Study Committees: Senate

Bill #/Author	Description
<b><a href="#">SR 533</a> Senate Study Committee on Enhancing Public Safety and Civic Health   Donzella James</b>	Creates the Senate Study Committee on Enhancing Public Safety and Civic Health to study emergency response for individuals with PTSD and ASD, including the use of official alert bracelets, with report due by December 1, 2026.
<b><a href="#">SR 789</a> Senate Study Committee on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence   Donzella James</b>	Creates the Senate Study Committee on the Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Creative Industries to study AI's effects on filmmaking, writing and TV with report due by December 1, 2026.
<b><a href="#">SR 890</a> Senate Study Committee on Protecting Free and Fair Markets in Georgia   Sonya Halpern</b>	Creates the Senate Study Committee on Protecting Free and Fair Markets in Georgia to study antitrust enforcement, economic concentration, and impacts on consumers, small businesses, housing and key industries with report due by December 1, 2026.
<b><a href="#">SR 925</a> Senate Study Committee on a Museum of African American History and Culture of Georgia   Sonya Halpern</b>	Creates the Senate Study Committee on a Museum of African American History and Culture of Georgia to study needs, preservation and promotion of African American history with report due by December 1, 2026.

# External Affairs Next Steps

- Legislative Liaison Wrap-Up in May: BOC and Staff will be invited
- 2026 Legislative Session Final Report:
  - Monitor Governor's Veto Statements and Signed Legislation for Effective Dates
- 2027 Legislative Agenda Department Survey
- Attend ACCG Policy Committee Meetings
- Attend Study Committee Meetings:
  - Monitor announcement for House of Representatives