



**FULTON
COUNTY**

**Fulton County Board of Commissioners
January 29, 2025**

#25-0085

**2025 Legislative
Session Update**

Legislative Session Overview

- January 13: The Georgia General Assembly convened the 2025 Legislative Session.
- January 13-April 4: Legislative Days 1-40 scheduled, per the Adjournment Resolution ([SR 6](#)).
- January 16: Governor Brian P. Kemp addressed a Joint Session of the Georgia General Assembly to provide his [2025 State of the State Address](#).
 - In a follow-up press conference, the Governor announced his plans to enhance eligibility for the Georgia Pathways to Coverage program with an addition of a new qualifying activity. New qualifying activity would extend Medicaid coverage to parents and legal guardians of children aged 0-6 in households with incomes at or below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level. Coverage would also be extended to new mothers post-partum (after the one-year period) and to new fathers upon the birth of a child.
- January 28: State of the Judiciary delivered by Chief Justice Michael Boggs
- The House Appropriations Subcommittees will begin reviewing the Amended Fiscal Year 2025 budget this week.

Governor Brian P. Kemp's Budget Highlights

- \$1.2 million for the Attorney General to prosecute gangs and sex trafficking
- \$4 million to complete the statewide replacement of voting machine batteries
- \$4.8 million for 67 new forensic beds at three regional state hospitals
- \$10 million for capital repairs across the state's five regional state hospital campuses
- \$25 million for the Morehouse School of Medicine for a new academic building
- \$47 million for upgrades to remove QR codes from voting machine marked paper ballots
- \$250 million for the Georgia Department of Transportation's (GDOT) Local Road Assistance (LRA) Program for grants to counties and cities
- \$530 million on transportation projects to help move freight
- \$600 million to improve state prison conditions
- \$1 billion for a one-time state income tax rebate

Resources for Superior Court Judges & Judicial Officers

Resources for State Court Judges

Support for State Funding for Behavioral Health Resources

Online Publication of Legal Notices

Transit Board Representation

Amendment to Fulton County Housing Authority

Resident Commissioner Requirements

Support for Legislative Proposals for Child Attorneys

Clarification of Purchasing Powers for Constitutional Officers

Premises Liability Reform

Next Generation 911

Support for Medicaid Expansion

Change Personal Property and Freeport Return Dates

Authorize Digital Court Reporting

Raise Highschool Dropout Age (Youth Commission)



**FULTON
COUNTY**

2025

**State Legislative
Agenda**

Primary Policy Priority: Judicial Resources – Superior Court

- Fulton County requests at least one additional judgeship for Superior Court to more effectively manage the Circuit's high volume of cases and its unique level of complex cases.
 - Distribution and review of current caseload comparisons with other Circuits.
- Fulton County seeks approval of local legislation to authorize Superior Court judicial officers to handle non-serious felony and civil cases by assignment of the Chief Judge. Increasing the authority of judicial officers, who currently handle only family law cases, will create greater efficiency with the case management process.
 - Lobbying Team is securing legislative sponsors.
 - County Attorney's office is on standby for legal notices.

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.

- Lobbying Team is securing delegation sponsors.
- County Attorney's office is on standby for legal notices.

Primary Policy Priority:

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
 - Monitoring DBHDD Budget Presentations this week.
 - Provide updates to delegation about current BHCC.
- Increased availability of mental health beds for justice-involved individuals.
 - Monitor proposed budget for DBHDD and Georgia Department of Corrections.

Senate Bill 7: Jails; certain municipal corporations make municipal detention facilities or jails available for use by a sheriff; require

- **Sponsors:** Senators Albers of the 56th, Robertson of the 29th, Beach of the 21st, Still of the 48th, Payne of the 54th and others
- **Committee:** Senate Public Safety
- **Summary:** Aims to establish a process for allowing counties access to existing municipal jails under specific conditions, including a fee cap that ensures the charge does not exceed the actual cost incurred by the municipality in operating the detention facility or jail.

House Bill 92: Revenue and taxation; postpone date by which local governing authorities can opt out of base year homestead exemption

- **Sponsors:** Representatives Blackmon of the 146th, Kelley of the 16th, Williams of the 148th, Erwin of the 32nd, Washburn of the 144th, and others
- **Committee:** House Ways & Means
- **Summary:** Extends the local government opt out deadline from March 1, 2025 to May 1, 2025. This allows local governments more time to make an informed decision about opting out of the new floating homestead exemption authorized for all local governments under [HB 581](#) passed during the 2024 Legislative Session.
 - ACCG does not recommend waiting until this bill becomes law to make the decision.

Fulton County Delegation Updates

- Below are leadership election results:

House of Representatives	Senate
Chair: Rep. Park Cannon	Chair: <i>Vote expected on Wednesday, January 29</i>
Vice-Chair: Rep. Debra Bazemore	Vice-Chair: <i>Vote expected on Wednesday, January 29</i>
Secretary: Rep. Mekyah McQueen	Secretary: <i>Vote expected on Wednesday, January 29</i>

- The first Joint meeting is on **Thursday, January 30 at 4 p.m. in CAP 216** where the Department of External Affairs will present the 2025 Legislative Agenda.
 - Full meeting schedule will be shared with BOC once adopted.

Legislative Calendar (SR 6) & Events at the State Capitol

- January 29: Legislative Day 8
- January 30: Legislative Day 9
- February 3: Legislative Day 10
- February 4: Legislative Day 11
- February 5: Legislative Day 12
- February 6: Legislative Days 13
- March 6: Legislative Day 28 (*Crossover Day*)
- April 4: Legislative Day 40 (*Sine Die*)



- Georgia Council on Aging and Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly Senior Day on **Tuesday, February 11**
- Fulton Day at the State Capitol on **Thursday, February 20**
- ACCG Capital Connection Conference on **Monday, February 24-Tuesday, February 25**

More events included in weekly written reports