



FULTON COUNTY 2020 PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Department of External Affairs – December 4, 2019



**SUPPORT LONG-TERM TRANSIT FUNDING AND
REGIONAL COOPERATION**

**ENSURE AUTONOMY FOR
FULTON COUNTY AIRPORT**

**CREATE EQUITY IN APPEALS PROCESS FOR
COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS**

**PROTECT LEGACY HOMEOWNERS IN
GENTRIFYING NEIGHBORHOODS**

**STRENGTHEN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MODEL &
FUNDING FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION**

**PROTECT
AIR QUALITY**

**IMPROVE BOARD OF
EQUALIZATION PROCESS**

**ENSURE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE
TRANSPARENCY**

**CREATE MORE EFFICIENT
JUSTICE SYSTEM**



**FULTON
COUNTY**

2020 Proposed
State Legislative
Agenda

**ENSURE SECURE &
ACCESSIBLE ELECTIONS**

**SUPPORT
CREATIVE INDUSTRIES**

**SUPPORT
HOMEOWNER PROTECTIONS**

**GREATER TRANSPARENCY
FOR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ACTIONS**

**SUPPORT HOUSING SOLUTIONS &
AFFORDABILITY**



**FULTON
COUNTY**

2020 Proposed
State Legislative
Agenda

PROTECT LEGACY HOMEOWNERS IN GENTRIFYING NEIGHBORHOODS

- Fulton County supports tax policies that would protect legacy/longtime homeowners against unmitigated tax increases in gentrifying neighborhoods.
- Specifically, Fulton County seeks to amend the definition of Residential Transitional Property in O.C.G.A. § 48-5-7.4 (c) as “an un renovated home is affected by a change in conditions such as a neighborhood where at least one-third of the homes have undergone new construction and substantial renovation as evidenced by property owner, and the neighborhood is experiencing revitalization in the areas of desirability and price point.” Properties that meet definition would receive a reduction in tax burden as provided by O.C.G.A. § 48-5-7.4 (c) that would remain in effect for 10 years with eligibility for renewals.

UPDATED
HELD - NOVEMBER 20, 2019

STRENGTHEN BEHAVIORAL HEALTH MODEL & FUNDING FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

- Fulton County seeks \$1.5 million in annual funding to support behavioral health services for formerly homeless individuals in permanent supportive housing. This will allow Fulton County to maintain and establish services that began following the 2019 legislative session.
- Fulton County supports policies and additional funding to create greater capacity related to opioid and addiction prevention, treatment and recovery programs.
- Fulton County seeks to serve as the safety net provider for behavioral health services for uninsured and underinsured residents in our county. Toward that end, Fulton County plans to fund a feasibility study for crisis stabilization units and the behavioral health service delivery model, and will bring forward additional recommendations based on the outcomes that study.

UPDATED
HELD - NOVEMBER 20, 2019

FULTON COUNTY AIRPORT

- Fulton County seeks local legislation to ensure the portion of the Fulton County Airport property currently in unincorporated Fulton County remains so in perpetuity.

**UPDATED LANGUAGE
APPROVED - NOVEMBER 20, 2019**

SUPPORT HOUSING SOLUTIONS & AFFORDABILITY

- Fulton County supports legislation that provides quality affordable housing for low to moderate income residents.
- Fulton County requests that the State of Georgia allocate ongoing housing funding to address the growing homeless population.

REQUESTED - NOVEMBER 20, 2019

CREATE GREATER EQUITY IN APPEALS PROCESS FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTY ASSESSMENTS

Fulton County proposes changes in the appeals process for assessments of commercial properties. Proposed changes include:

- Requiring mandatory reporting of all income and expenses associated with the commercial property at the time an appeal is filed.
- Amendment of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-299 (c) to clearly Define “significant / material” change in existing law to include includes changes in income, vacancy and cap rates.
- Updating appeals forms for commercial properties to require declaration of recent fee appraisals.
- Limiting appeal rights on Development Authority parcels during all or part of the 10-year “ramp up” period.

APPROVED - NOVEMBER 20, 2019

SUPPORT LONG-TERM TRANSIT FUNDING AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

- As the largest county in Georgia and the economic center of the state, Fulton County is the heart of Georgia's transit system, and has provided financial support for transit for more than 40 years.
- **Fulton County supports the designation of a permanent seat on the ATL Board to be filled by a County elected official, to ensure the interests of the citizens and businesses in Fulton County are met.**
- Fulton County continues its support for long-term financing tools to help local governments address their transit capital and operational needs to ensure appropriate integration and equitable connectivity.
- Fulton County requests that the State of Georgia provide ongoing allocated funding for transit.

APPROVED - NOVEMBER 20, 2019

PROTECT AIR QUALITY

Fulton County supports stronger protections for air quality including:

- Stricter zoning provisions and greater reporting requirements for businesses that emit harmful chemicals, including ethylene oxide and others;
- Stronger requirements and processes for state regulatory agencies to report air quality issues to the public.

APPROVED - NOVEMBER 20, 2019

IMPROVE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION PROCESS

- Fulton County supports an efficient, fair and timely appeals process for taxpayers. Pursuant to O.C.G.A. Title 48 regarding county boards of equalization, review of assessments and citizen appeals, Fulton County proposes an opt-in opportunity for e-notification to taxpayers appealing their hearings.
- If the taxpayer chooses to exercise the one-time change of date/time of their scheduled hearing as allowed under statute, Fulton County requests that the rescheduled hearing be held in a time period that does not exceed 90 days beyond the initial appeals hearing date unless there are other extenuating circumstances including military service.

APPROVED - NOVEMBER 20, 2019

SIMPLIFY HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION PROCESS

- Fulton County seeks opportunities to simplify the homestead exemption process to improve outcomes for taxpayers.
- Fulton County supports property owner education programs to assist property owners with understanding their rights and responsibilities in the property tax process, including homestead exemptions, appeals, and more.

APPROVED - NOVEMBER 20, 2019

CREATE A MORE EFFICIENT JUSTICE SYSTEM

- Fulton County supports legislation that creates a more efficient justice system and improves outcomes for victims, defendants and taxpayers.

APPROVED - NOVEMBER 20, 2019

ENSURE SECURE & ACCESSIBLE ELECTIONS

- Fulton County is committed to providing secure elections in compliance with state law and **requests additional state funding for the implementation of new voting machines and associated costs borne by County governments in conducting elections.**
- Fulton County supports efforts to maintain early voting opportunities.
- **Fulton County supports legislation that allows electors within the county to vote at any precinct in the county on Election Day in a primary, general, special or runoff election.**

APPROVED - NOVEMBER 20, 2019

SUPPORT CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

- Fulton County supports legislation that continues incentives that support job creation and business opportunity through creative industries, including film and television, **post-production**, fashion, music and **e-sports**.

APPROVED - NOVEMBER 20, 2019

SUPPORT EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE TRANSPARENCY

- Fulton County supports improvements in emergency medical services. Fulton County specifically supports HB 264, introduced in 2019, which includes provisions to ensure that EMS vendors cannot serve on committees that select EMS service providers.

APPROVED - NOVEMBER 20, 2019

SUPPORT HOMEOWNER PROTECTIONS

- Fulton County seeks changes to O.C.G.A. Title 44 to provide for Community Associations Protection and Transparency to include specific requirements for governance, financial management, and business best practices for homeowner associations, and protections for individual property owners.
- Fulton County supports HR 329 introduced in 2019 which would create the House Study Committee on Homeowners' Associations, Condominium Owners' Associations, and Property Owners in Community Associations.
- **Fulton County opposes HB 302 and SB 172 introduced in 2019 which would prohibit local governments from adopting or enforcing ordinances or regulations relating to or regulating building design and zoning elements as applied to one or two-family dwellings.**

APPROVED - NOVEMBER 20, 2019

IMPORTANT DATES

- November 15, 2019 – First Day to Pre-file 2020 Legislation
- January 13, 2020 – Georgia General Assembly Begins Legislative Session