

1 **A RESOLUTION BY THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
2 **AMENDING THE COST TO BE CHARGED TO MUNICIPALITIES WHO**
3 **AUTHORIZE FULTON COUNTY TO CONDUCT ANY OR ALL OF THEIR**
4 **MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Registration and Elections (“BRE”) is the
7 entity empowered to supervise and conduct elections in Fulton County, Georgia (the
8 “County”) pursuant to 1989 Ga. Laws p. 4577; and

9 **WHEREAS**, O.C.G.A. § 21-2-45(c) authorizes the governing authority of any
10 municipality to contract with the county within which that municipality wholly or partially
11 lies to conduct any or all elections; and

12 **WHEREAS**, O.C.G.A. § 21-2-45(c) empowers a municipality to, by ordinance,
13 authorize a county to conduct such elections; and

14 **WHEREAS**, O.C.G.A. § 21-2-45(c) requires municipalities to pay all costs a county
15 incurs while conducting the municipality’s requested elections services; and

16 **WHEREAS**, agreements between the County and its municipalities have been
17 utilized for conducting elections since the passage of Resolution 17-0628 at the August
18 2, 2017 meeting of the Board of Commissioners (the “BOC”) pursuant to which the BOC
19 directed that municipalities would pay the County based on the pro-rata share of
20 registered voters for requested County provided election services; and

21 **WHEREAS**, these agreements between the County and its municipalities are for
22 individual election cycles and new agreements are required for subsequent election
23 cycles if the municipalities authorize the County to conduct all or part of their election; and

24 **WHEREAS**, with the passage of Resolution 19-0630 at the August 7, 2019
25 meeting, the BOC changed the calculation for municipal elections from pro-rata share of
26 registered voters to a set monetary amount for each registered voter; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the costs associated with conducting general, special and runoff
2 elections are increasing and demand greater commitment and provision of resources by
3 the County; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in 2021, the total number of voters registered to vote in the County
5 was 819,926; and

6 **WHEREAS**, in 2021, the cost associated with conducting elections for these voters
7 was \$5,174,403.63; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in 2021, the total revenue paid to the County by municipalities for
9 municipal elections was only \$2,426,980.00; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the BOC recognizes the need to fairly apportion the costs of
11 conducting elections to all citizens and voters of the County and comply with the
12 requirements of O.C.G.A. § 21-2-45(c); and

13 **WHEREAS**, the BOC desires to implement a more accurate cost structure at the
14 start of the 2023 election cycle to ensure that municipalities pay all costs the County incurs
15 while conducting the municipalities' requested elections services; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the BRE has researched the issues related to the cost municipalities
17 pay for the County conducting their municipal elections and believes that the pro-rata
18 share approach better captures all costs incurred by the County in conducting said
19 elections over the specific cost per registered voter approach adopted in 2019; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the BOC agrees with the BRE's analysis.

21 **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Fulton County Board of
22 Commissioners that in even numbered years when the County is holding a regularly
23 scheduled federal, statewide or County Primary, Primary runoff, General Election or

1 General Election runoff, the County will pay the costs of conducting the election.

2 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in odd-numbered years when municipalities
3 hold regularly scheduled municipal general elections, municipalities requesting County
4 election services will pay an upfront pro-rata share of the cost of those services, based
5 on the municipalities' respective number of registered voters, but in the event of a
6 concurrent County election with overlapping territory, the County shall assume its own
7 pro-rata share of costs, with Election services to include a number of early voting sites to
8 be determined by the County.

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that as part of its budget process, the Board of
10 Registration and Elections shall include a line item identifying the expected costs to the
11 County to conduct municipal elections and this budget line item shall form the basis of the
12 pro-rata share the municipalities shall be required to pay in advance to the County when
13 they request the County conduct their municipal elections.

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, for the 2023 election period, the maximum budget
15 line item that shall form the basis of the pro-rata share for the municipalities' advance
16 payment to the County shall not exceed \$5,200,000.00 plus 10% or (\$5,720,000.00) to
17 conduct general municipal elections and shall not exceed \$2,229,000.00 plus 10% or
18 (\$2,451,900.00) to conduct any associated municipal runoff elections.

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if the pro-rata share cost calculations result in
20 payments less than the total cost of the election services which were requested by all or
21 some of the municipalities and provided by the County to the municipalities, the County
22 shall request a subsequent payment of the excess amount from the municipalities, to
23 comply with O.C.G.A. § 21-2-45(c).

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if the pro-rata share cost calculations result in
2 payments in excess of the total cost of the election services which were requested by all
3 or some of the municipalities and provided by the County to the municipalities, such
4 excess payments shall be refunded to said municipalities upon request and on a pro-rata
5 basis.

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in odd-numbered years, the County will
7 coordinate with the municipalities in setting the dates of elections.

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Board of Commissioners that this policy
9 shall be effective for all Fulton County municipalities beginning with elections in 2023 and
10 shall be used as the basis for any agreement with any municipality requesting County
11 election services.

12 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that this Resolution shall become effective upon its
13 adoption, and that all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict with this Resolution
14 are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.

15 **SO PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County
16 this 1st day of February 2023.



17 **FULTON COUNTY**
18 **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

19 

20 _____
21 Robert L. Pitts, Chairman
22

23 **ATTEST:**

24 
25 _____
26 Tonya R. Grier, Clerk to the Commission
27

1 APPROVED AS TO FORM:
2
3

4 
5 _____
6 Y. Soo Jo, County Attorney

7 [https://fc0365.sharepoint.com/sites/CountyAttorney/CALegislation/Elections/Resolutions/Resolution 23-0045 amending municipal elections costs .docx](https://fc0365.sharepoint.com/sites/CountyAttorney/CALegislation/Elections/Resolutions/Resolution_23-0045_amending_municipal_elections_costs.docx)
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INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM



TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Office of the County Manager
DATE: January 17, 2023
SUBJECT: January 18, 2023 Meeting Presentation for
Agenda Item # 23-0045

Attached you will find the January 18, 2023 BOC Meeting presentation for the agenda item listed below.

23-0045 - Registration & Elections

Request approval of a Resolution amending the cost to be charged to municipalities who authorize Fulton County to conduct any or all of their municipal elections; and for other purposes.

Thank you



FULTON
COUNTY



DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRATION & ELECTIONS

**MUNICIPAL ELECTION
COST RESOLUTION**

2019 MUNICIPAL COST RESOLUTION

With the conclusion of the 2022 General Elections, the Fulton County Department of Registration & Elections has diligently analyzed Election cost for all Election types.

The 2022 November and December Elections are the first General Elections to have all new legislative requirements in place to illustrate voter turnouts for Advance Voting and Election Day for future Elections.

Voter turnouts for all Election types from 2020 to 2022 were reviewed.

With this data, Fulton County Registration & Elections will continue to streamline processes for efficiency and Election cost reductions.

In the interim, Election Cost have increased since the Municipal Cost Resolution was established. Therefore, we are seeking approval to have the resolution revised to not have the County incur Municipal Election Cost.



2019 MUNICIPAL COST RESOLUTION CURRENTLY OUTLINES:

- » municipalities pay a cost per voter flat rate based on calculations of Election cost from **2017** Election Budgets
- » the resolution was to be re-evaluated upon the installation of the new voting equipment
- » the resolution is based on cost sharing with the County which contradicts election code

O.C.G.A. § 21-2-45(c) requires municipalities to pay all costs a county incurs while conducting the municipality's requested elections services



ELECTION COST INCREASES

The Election Budget has increased due to various factors throughout the years. Following are examples of increases outlined in the memo forwarded:

	2017	2019 <small>ATLANTA DID NOT HAVE A MUNICIPAL</small>	2021	2022 GENERAL ELECTION	DESCRIPTION OF INCREASE	2023 <small>ADJUSTMENTS IF APPLICABLE</small>
TOTAL ACTUAL NOVEMBER EXPENSES:	\$ 3,032,909	\$ 818,672	\$ 7,404,971	\$ 8,968,460		
Rent/Lease Equipment	\$ 57,678	\$ 25,983	\$ 243,841	\$ 329,208	Increase in vehicle rentals due to voting equipment size and legislative requirements. Example: 15 ft to 26 ft box trucks needed verses cargo vans. Rental vehicles needed to empty absentee ballot drop boxes daily verses on the last day of advance voting, per Senate Bill 202 (SB202) requirement	n/a
Rent/Lease Facility	\$ 43,681	\$ 15,535	\$ 92,434	\$ 115,969	Increase in Election Day polling locations	Cost should decrease as Election Day polling sites are reviewed for
Printing	\$ 44,565	\$ 11,748	\$ 235,375	\$ 319,169	Increase in quantity of ballot printing for emergency / provisional ballots forms and recaps sheets for new voting equipment	n/a
Photocopying	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,150		
Office Supplies	\$ 65,080	\$ 28,691	\$ 146,596	\$ 95,215	New voting equipment requires purchase of printer ink cartridges, ballot paper, and seals for Ballot Marking Device (BMD)	n/a



COUNTY INCURRED COST

In 2021, Fulton County incurred **over \$2 million in election cost**, since the cost per voter rate is insufficient to cover Election cost.

PRIOR TO THE 2019 RESOLUTION:

- » Cost to each Municipality was based on percentages of Election cost
- » The County would draft a budget for the current year and municipalities would pay a percentage based on their number of registered voters.
- » The County would not incur cost and municipalities were refunded any unexpended funds.



REQUEST FOR RESOLUTION TO BE REVISED

Therefore, to not have the county incur cost in conducting Municipal Elections, Fulton County Registration & Elections is requesting approval to have the Municipal Cost Resolution revised

- » **Reverting to the percentage of election cost distribution based on the Municipalities number of registered voters**
- » **Reinstating refunds to Municipalities of unexpended funds**
- » **Elimination of a set cost per voter rate will allow the County to adjust the budget due to possible fluctuations in cost caused by legislative changes, vendor rates, etc.**
- » **Elimination of a set cost per voter will allow the Department of Registration & Election to continue to evaluate and implement cost reductions annually without continually revising the resolution**



MUNICIPALITY VOTING METHOD CHOICES

While Fulton County is happy to conduct Municipal Elections, Municipalities have the option to conduct their own election. They have the freedom to choose which method of voting works best for them. These options may allow for cost savings. County conducted Elections are not allotted these options.

County Conducted Election

The county conducts the election according to the Intergovernmental Agreement

Contracting Use of Voting Equipment

Contracting use of county owned state mandated voting machines without county involvement

Paper ballots – Optical Scan Count

Counting with use of the Optical Scanners with no county involvement

Paper ballots - Hand Count

Counting the ballots by hand with no county involvement

Shoup Machines

No county involvement

We encourage Municipalities to explore these options for cost saving measures 

ELECTION BUDGET REDUCTIONS

The Fulton County Department of Registration & Elections will continue to review Election budgets for possible reductions for all Election types, including the 2023 Elections

Reverting to a percentage-based resolution cost will allow our Department to continually work on this process



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

