



**FULTON
COUNTY**

**2022 Proposed State Legislative Agenda
Fulton County Board of Commissioners – Nov. 17, 2021**

Ensure Local Home Rule: Redistricting

Authorize County-Level Nonpartisan Elections

**Strengthen Behavioral Health Model & Funding
For Substance Abuse Treatment & Prevention**

**Create A More Efficient & Effective
Justice System - Compensation for Officials**

**Create A More Efficient & Effective Justice System
– Diversion & Reentry Programs**

**Create A More Efficient & Effective Justice System
– Codify Judicial Practices**

Support Certain Evictions Record Sealing

**Support Homeowner Protections With Greater
HOA Transparency**



**FULTON
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**2022
State Legislative
Agenda**

2022 State Legislative Priorities



**FULTON
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Ensure Local Home Rule: Redistricting

Fulton County seeks approval of its 2021 redistricting proposal as published to the residents of Fulton County and approved by the County's Governing Authority.

A proposed map is anticipated prior to the start of the 2022 Legislative Session.

Authorize County-Level Nonpartisan Elections

Fulton County seeks a change to the State Elections Code to allow county residents to determine, by referendum, if their Board of Commissioners are elected through partisan or non-partisan elections.

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 wrap-around support services that began in 2019.
- Fulton County supports policies and additional funding to create greater capacity related to substance abuse and addiction prevention, treatment and recovery programs.
- Fulton County seeks annual state funding to support proposed Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis Center.
- Fulton County supports funding from State opioid settlements to return to local governments that were party to the lawsuits.
- Fulton County seeks to be recognized and funded as the primary safety net provider for behavioral health services for uninsured and under-insured residents in our county.
- Fulton County seeks additional long-term behavioral health treatment beds at the Georgia Regional Hospital.

Create A More Efficient & Effective Justice System – Compensation for Elected Officials

- Fulton County supports ACCG's position to strongly urge the Governor and the Supreme Court to create a Unified Salary Study Committee for state constitutional officers. (ACCG urges the eventual elimination of local supplements and shifting the salaries to the state budget.)
- Fulton County supports additional compensation studies and salary increases for all elected officials serving Fulton County.

Support Certain Evictions Record Sealing

Fulton County proposes that eviction records filed due to non-payment of rent be sealed under the following guidelines:

- A court of competent jurisdiction will order the immediate sealing of all public records that are in the custody of the clerk of court making civil case records permanently unavailable to the public in dispossessory actions when the plaintiff does not prevail.
- In periods of a public health emergency, a one-time sealing of civil case records in dispossessory actions shall be effective immediately provided that such dispossessory action was due to non-payment caused by uncontrolled loss of income.
- If a settlement agreement is effectuated or when three years have lapsed since a resolved case of dispossessory action caused by non-payment.

Create A More Efficient & Effective Justice System – Diversion & Reentry Programs

- Fulton County supports additional state funding to expand the scale of existing diversion programs and allow new diversion programs to be established.
- Fulton County supports authorization for prosecutors to divert detainees to Accountability Courts prior to indictments—aligning with current procedures for pre-trial diversion programs.
- Fulton County seeks the establishment of a state-supported transition center in our county to help offenders successfully reenter the community providing employment preparation, access to healthcare, access to housing, addiction treatment, and case management.

Create A More Efficient & Effective Justice System – Codify Judicial Practices

- Fulton County supports amending the juvenile code to add O.C.G.A. § 15-11-11.1 to give statutory rights to children for a child attorney in legitimation cases that accompany a dependency or a termination case in the same way the law provides for a child attorney in the dependency and termination cases.
- Fulton County supports amending O.C.G.A § 24-6-603(b) so that the subsection includes children's competency in termination of parental rights cases.
- Fulton County supports amending O.C.G.A § 24-8-826 to allow a flexible time requirement for use and intent of narrative form medical reports in juvenile dependency and termination cases.

Support Homeowner Protections With Greater HOA 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.

2022 State Policy Positions



**FULTON
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Policy Positions

Caption	Description
Ensure Ongoing COVID-19 Response Resources	<p>Since March 2020, Fulton County has provided a robust public health, social service and economic response to COVID-19.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• As the pandemic continues, Fulton County seeks ongoing support from the State of Georgia to ensure equitable access to state and federal resources.• Fulton County COVID-19 funding priorities include mortgage, rental and utilities assistance, testing, and increased vaccination efforts.
Ensure Secure, Fair & Accessible Elections	<p>Fulton County is committed to providing secure, fair, and accessible elections in compliance with state law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fulton County supports legislation that provides practical state guidance for the implementation of new voting laws and funding for associated costs borne by County governments in conducting elections.
Support Funding for Fulton County Executive Airport – Brown Field	<p>Fulton County encourages greater funding for Georgia’s General Aviation airports including the Fulton County Executive Airport – Brown Field.</p>

Policy Positions

Caption	Description
<p>Support Development Authority of Fulton County Reforms</p>	<p>Fulton County supports recent operating and procedural reforms adopted by the Development Authority of Fulton County (DAFC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulton County will continue to collaborate to ensure best practices are used for economic development throughout the County. • Fulton County opposes a state takeover of DAFC.
<p>Support for Increased Efforts and Funding to Prevent Crime, Sex Trafficking and Gang Activity</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulton County supports state funding for local law enforcement and justice agencies to provide gang prevention training and intervention. • Fulton County seeks state funding for training, prevention and intervention services to address sex trafficking for adult and juvenile-serving agencies.
<p>Support Housing Solutions & Affordability</p>	<p>Fulton County supports inclusive, affordable housing solutions for all residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulton County supports legislation that provides quality affordable housing for low to moderate income residents. • Fulton County requests that the State of Georgia allocate increased funding to address the growing homeless population.

Policy Positions

Caption	Description
<p>Simplify Homestead Exemptions</p>	<p>Fulton County supports opportunities to simplify the homestead exemptions to improve outcomes for taxpayers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulton County supports property owner education programs to assist property owners understand their rights and responsibilities in the property tax process, including homestead exemptions, appeals and more.
<p>Support Long-Term Transit Funding & Regional Cooperation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 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.
<p>Support Medicaid Coverage For Heart Transplants</p>	<p>Fulton County supports an equitable, patient-first approach to heart organ transplantation for Georgia patients suffering end-stage heart disease. Accordingly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fulton County urges the State of Georgia to update its Medicaid Handbook by amending the Medicaid Standards for Organ Transplant Services to include authorization for adult heart transplantation.

Policy Positions

Caption	Description
Support Creative Industries	Fulton County is an ardent supporter of arts and culture in all communities. 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.

ACCG 2022 Policy Priorities

1. County Participation in Development Authority Tax Abatements
2. Continue Single County TSPLOST Through Maximum Time Period
3. Reform Annexation Dispute Resolution / Arbitration Process
4. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Reforms to Funding and Staffing
5. Mental Health Expansions & Reforms
6. Funding to Implement Next Generation E-911
7. Expansion of Sales Tax to Include Digital Goods
8. Increase Tag & Title Fee Revenue to Fund County Administrative Costs
9. Compensation for Private Utilization of County Right-of-Way



IMPORTANT NOTES:

- The 2022 Legislative Session will begin Monday, January 10.