



#22-0885

2023 Proposed State Legislative Agenda Fulton County Board of Commissioners – Nov. 16, 2022

Funding for a Behavioral Health Crisis Center

Property Tax Reform

Effective and Efficient Justice System

**Elections & Administration
Efficiencies & Improvements**

Equitable Access to Healthcare & Human Services



**FULTON
COUNTY**

**2023
Proposed
State Legislative
Agenda**

FUNDING FOR A BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CRISIS CENTER

- Fulton County is seeking funding in the FY24 budget for operation of a Behavioral Health Crisis Center to meet an unmet need for crisis services among our residents.

This priority aligns with requests made by DBHDD as well as priorities of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia.

PROPERTY TAX REFORM

- Fulton County seeks changes in current law that would require large commercial property owners to submit additional data at the time of an appeal of their property assessment in order to ensure equitable access to information.
- Fulton County supports simplification of administrative processes for senior homestead exemptions for Fulton County seniors living on low incomes.

EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM

- Fulton County seeks the addition of one judge to the Fulton County Superior Court.
- Fulton County supports the codification of legal representation for minors in legitimation, dependency and termination cases, expanding the already defined role of the Office of the Child Attorney to represent children in related cases.
- Fulton County urges the adoption of legislation in support of “Mariam’s Law” to amend the State of Georgia Sexual Offender Registry as codified in the official Code of Georgia annotated, Section 42-1-12, et seq. and the official Code of Georgia annotated Section 42-1-14, et seq. to better track sexual offender; and for other purposes.
- Fulton County supports the repeal of legislation that prohibits the equitable participation of Judges in the Fulton County and Georgia Judicial Retirement System programs.
- Fulton County seeks a \$5 fee for estate cases filed in Probate Court to be allocated for court technology purposes.

ELECTIONS ADMINISTRATION EFFICIENCIES & IMPROVEMENTS

- Request a Study Committee on the Impact of SB 202 to review the impact of changes on Election Operations.
- Adjustments in the Election Day equipment allocation formula, recognizing that analysis of historic data demonstrates that in most elections, more than half of Fulton County voters choose to participate in early voting.
- Adjustments to the voter challenge process to shift the administrative burden from the Election Staff.
- Allowance of Voting Centers on Election day to allow voters to cast their ballot at any location within their county, as they do during early voting.

EQUITABLE ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE & HUMAN SERVICES

- Fulton County seeks access to healthcare for all Fulton County residents, including those who are uninsured, and state funding for indigent care providers.
- Fulton County seeks state funding to provide increased, market-rate salaries for Department of Family & Children Services social workers. These salaries are currently subsidized by Fulton County.

Policy Positions

- Protect and support Fulton County's most vulnerable citizens.
- Improve the safety, health and mental health of Fulton County residents.
- Provide support to homeless veterans and addresses suicide prevention among veterans, and long-term care housing for veterans in Fulton County.
- Make Fulton County more resilient to acts of terrorism, cyberattacks, pandemics, and natural disasters.
- Strengthen public infrastructure by investing in an electric vehicle ecosystem, roads, bridges, transit, and water and sewer systems.
- Maximize efficiency and effectiveness of the Fulton County justice and behavioral health systems and reduce Jail population.
- Protect housing options, including programs to mitigate rising rents, and ensure accountability in homeowner associations and community associations.
- Strengthen jobs and economic opportunities Fulton County residents.



IMPORTANT NOTES:

- 2023 Delegation will include 32 Members (36 today)
- Legislators will attend the Biennial Institute in the first week of December 2022