



# **Fulton County Board of Commissioners January 18, 2023**



**FULTON  
COUNTY**

**2023 State  
Legislative Update**

**Funding for a Behavioral Health Crisis Center**

**Equitable Property Tax Appeals Process**

**Senior Homestead Exemption Simplification**

**Effective & Efficient Justice System**

**Equal Access to Judicial Personnel Benefits**



**FULTON  
COUNTY**

**2023  
State Legislative  
Agenda**

# Legislative Session Overview

- January 9: The Georgia General Assembly convened the 2023-2024 Legislative Biennium.
- January 9-March 29: Legislative Days 1-40 scheduled in the Adjournment Resolution ([SR 6](#)).
- January 17-19: Joint House and Senate Budget Hearings on the Fiscal Year 2023 Amended and Fiscal Year 2024 budgets.
- January 25: Governor Brian P. Kemp will address a Joint Session of the Georgia General Assembly to provide his 2023 State of the State Address.

# Fulton Legislative Delegation Overview

32 Members:

- 12 New Members: 3 Senate, 9 House of Representatives

23 Democrats, 9 Republicans:

- Senate: 6 Democrats, 4 Republicans
- House of Representatives: 17 Democrats, 5 Republicans

Members in Leadership Positions:

- Rep. Jan Jones, Speaker Pro-Tempore
- Sen. Matt Brass, Majority Caucus Vice Chair and Rules Chair
- Senate Committee Chairs:
  - Sen. John Albers, Public Safety
  - Sen. Brandon Beach, Economic Development and Tourism
  - Sen. Matt Brass, Rules
  - Sen. Donzella James, Urban Affairs
- House Committee Chairs

# Primary Policy Priority: BHCC Funding

- The budget released by Governor Kemp on Friday, January 13 includes \$5,688,919 to operate a Behavioral Health Crisis Center (BHCC) for adults within Fulton County.
- Serving as a regional facility, the BHCC would offer 15 crisis beds and 18 temporary observation chairs.
- We continue to engage delegation members and other key stakeholders to advocate for this funding.



# Other Fulton County Priorities

- Fulton County is collaborating with the City of Atlanta and other metro counties in review of data and opportunities for legislation to address commercial appeals process.
- Fulton County is working with delegation members to introduce local legislation to address the low-income senior homestead exemption.
- Fulton County is meeting with legislators to finalize sponsorship for bills related to the remaining priorities: Equal Access to Judicial Personnel Benefits and Codification of legal representation for minors in legitimation, dependency and termination cases.

# State and Local Government

| Bill #/Author   | Description   | Status   |
|---|---|--|
| <b><a href="#">SB 1</a> Remove automatic repealer on the prohibition on state and local governments from requiring proof of COVID vaccination for government services   Sen. Greg Dolezal (27<sup>th</sup>)</b> | This bill amends Chapter 1 of Title 50 of the O.C.G.A., relating to general provisions regarding state government, so as to remove the automatic repealer on the prohibition on state and local governments from requiring proof of COVID vaccination for government services.  | Referred to Senate Health and Human Services Committee |
| <b><a href="#">SB 3</a> Reducing Barriers to State Employment Act of 2023   Sen. John Albers (56<sup>th</sup>)</b>  | This bill requires state departments, agencies, boards, bureaus, offices, commissions, public corporations, and authorities to assess educational, experiential, and training requirements for positions of employment; to identify positions of employment for which such requirements can be reduced; to require efforts to reduce the number of positions for which a four-year college degree is required | Referred to Senate Government Oversight Committee      |

# Elections

| Bill #/Author  | Description  | Status   |
|--|--|--|
| <a href="#"><u>HB 2</u></a> <b>Primaries and elections; advanced voting; runoffs; provisions   Jasmine Clark (108<sup>th</sup>)</b>          | This bill amends Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to revise provisions relating to advance voting; to extend the period of mandatory advance voting; to revise the time for holding runoffs in general and primary elections. | House Prefiled                                   |
| <a href="#"><u>HB 10</u></a> <b>Elections and primaries; visually disabled to vote electronically   Rep. Kim Schofield (63<sup>rd</sup>)</b> | This bill allows electors who are visually disabled to vote by absentee ballot using a secure electronic voting internet portal.   | House Prefiled                                   |
| <a href="#"><u>HB 17</u></a>   <b>Elections; sealing of ballots in secure containers; provide   Alan Powell (33<sup>rd</sup>)</b>            | This bill amends Chapter 2 of Title 21 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to primaries and elections generally, so as to provide for the sealing of ballots in secure containers; to provide for chain of custody documentation and procedures; to provide for related matters.                   | Referred to House Governmental Affairs Committee |



# Prefiled Legislation

| Bill #/Author  | Description  | Status         |
|--|--|----------------|
| <b><a href="#">HB 4</a> Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities, Department of; create and maintain electronic inpatient psychiatric bed registry   Rep. Sandra Scott (76<sup>th</sup>)</b>         | This bill requires the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to create, operate, and maintain an electronic inpatient psychiatric bed registry. The registry shall be a web-based resource to identify available psychiatric beds in Georgia categorized by patient gender, acuity, age, and diagnosis. The registry shall be accessible through the department's website. An advisory committee will be established to provide guidance on the creation, operation, and maintenance of the registry.   | House Prefiled |
| <b><a href="#">HB 9</a> Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Department of; create and maintain Georgia Crisis and Access Line; statutorily require   Rep. Sandra Scott (76<sup>th</sup>)</b> | This bill statutorily requires the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities to create, operate, and maintain the Georgia Crisis and Access Line which shall be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The access line will provide behavioral health care provider data to the public; support calls with sufficient access to behavioral health services and supports; and require any state-operated registry of available inpatient psychiatric beds, crisis residential beds, or substance use disorder beds to report data for purposes of the access line. | House Prefiled |

# Governor Brian P. Kemp's Budget Highlights

- \$2,000 raise for state employees. The proposed increase would apply to county commissioners, county constitutional officers, and some coroners and magistrate court judges.
- \$1 billion to provide a second state income tax refund, ranging from \$250 for single filers to \$500 for joint filers, to every eligible taxpayer in Georgia.
- \$1.1 billion for a one-time Homeowner Tax Relief Grant program which will provide property tax relief of, on average, \$500 for every eligible homeowner.
- \$166.7 million in the Amended FY 2023 budget for the Regional Economic Business Assistance program that will assist local governments in providing incentives to support business development statewide.
- \$3.2 million for a loan repayment plan for state and local law enforcement, providing up to 800 officers with loan repayment of up to \$20,000 per officer in exchange for five years of service.

# Legislative Calendar ([SR 6](#)) & Special Days at the State Capitol

- Monday, January 23: Legislative Day 5
- Tuesday, January 24: Legislative Day 6
- Wednesday, January 25: Legislative Day 7
- Thursday, January 26: Legislative Day 8
- Monday, January 30: Legislative Day 9
- Monday, March 6: Legislative Day 28 (Crossover Day)
- Wednesday, March 29: Legislative Day 40 (Sine Die)

- Thursday, February 16: [Fulton County Day at the Capitol](#)

