



GWINNETT COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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Nicole L. Hendrickson, Chairwoman
Kirkland Dion Carden, District 1
Ben Ku, District 2
Jasper Watkins III, District 3
Matthew Holtkamp, District 4

Official

Informal Presentation Minutes

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 – 3:00 PM

Present: Nicole L. Hendrickson, Kirkland D. Carden, Ben Ku, Jasper Watkins III

Absent: Matthew Holtkamp

1. County Administration

Legislative Pre-Session Planning

Joel Wiggins of The Southern Group led a discussion on the 2025 Legislative Pre-Session planning. No official action taken.

Gwinnett County BOC 2025 Legislative Preview

October 15, 2024



What to Expect in 2025

- ▶ Current Events Impact
 - ▶ Elections
 - ▶ Immigration
 - ▶ School Safety
- ▶ Study Committees
 - ▶ Rural Development Council
 - ▶ Private Water Systems
 - ▶ Navigable Streams
- ▶ Past Legislative Issues
 - ▶ Tort Reform
 - ▶ Mental Health Reform
 - ▶ Data Center Energy Usage

2025 Political Environment



- Tort Reform - Governor Kemp has stated again that tort reform will be revisited this session after little movement in the 2024 session.

- Elections - With the 2024 election looming, election integrity issues have been prevalent.

State Election Board has utilized rulemaking powers that could impact 2024 election.

Lt. Governor Burt Jones has shown a great deal of concern and has signaled that election security will be a priority of his in the 2025 session.

- School Safety and Mental Health Reform - In the wake of the tragedy at Apalachee High School, the Speaker, Governor and Lt. Governor have all made statements about school safety reforms.

Study Committees with Local Impact

- ▶ House Rural Development Council
 - ▶ Met on August 29th and focused on infrastructure issues:
 - ▶ State of State's Power Resources - Dr. David Gattie, UGA
 - ▶ DOT, DCA, and GEFA Presentations on Local Infrastructure
 - ▶ GMA and ACCG Presentations on Local Government Issues
 - ▶ Met on September 19th and focused on Healthcare Issues:
 - ▶ Presentations from DPH and DCH
 - ▶ Presentations on Mental Health from DBHDD
 - ▶ Will Meet on October 22nd and 23rd to Discuss Agribusiness and Economic Development.
- ▶ House Study Committee on Private Water Systems
 - ▶ Met September 18th and Focused on Privatization of Water/Sewer
- ▶ House Study Committee on Navigable Streams
 - ▶ Met on August 15th and Focused on Legal/Legislative History and DNR/EPD
 - ▶ Met on September 20th and Focused on DNR's Law Enforcement Efforts

Upcoming Study Committees with Local Impact

- ▶ House Rural Development Council
 - ▶ Recurring Study Committee that is scheduled to meet in Americus on October 22nd and 23rd.
- ▶ House Study Committee on Private Water Systems
 - ▶ Next meeting was scheduled for October 9th, but is being rescheduled.
- ▶ House Study Committee on Navigable Streams
 - ▶ Next meeting was scheduled for October 11th, but is being rescheduled.

HB 581 and Local Impact

- ▶ House Bill 581 passed the General Assembly in 2024 and is subject to a statewide referendum prior to being effective on January 1, 2025, pending voter approval. The legislation would make the following changes to ad valorem taxation for local governments:
 - ▶ Would implement a “floating homestead exemption” for all taxing jurisdictions that would limit all assessed values to an increase based on the “inflationary rate”.
 - ▶ Would eliminate the “three-year lock” for appealed properties if a value reduction is not issued upon appeal.
 - ▶ Removes the provision that the sales price is the maximum allowable fair market value, which should improve DOAA’s sales ratio study.

HB 581 (cont.)

- ▶ The legislation would make the following changes to sales tax for local governments:
 - ▶ Revising the sales tax cap to include ESPLOST and up to one percent of one of the transportation sales taxes (TSPLOST, Transit SPLOST, MARTA).
 - ▶ Creates a new local sales tax referred to as a “flex penny”.
 - ▶ To be able to levy the tax every city within the county and the county have to adopt the floating homestead exemption created by this legislation.
- ▶ Local governments have the option to opt-out of the floating homestead provision.
 - ▶ Must hold public hearings and run notifications in the legal organ.



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