

**20
23**

**State
Legislative
Agenda**

**FULTON COUNTY, GA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Approved: November 16, 2022



**FULTON
COUNTY**

2023 PRIMARY POLICY PRIORITY:

Funding For a Behavioral Health Crisis Center

VISION:

Fulton County proposes to convert a County-owned health facility located at 2805 Metropolitan Parkway to serve as a behavioral health crisis center. This property includes a 48,000-square-foot facility in good condition, located on a 29-acre parcel.

LEGISLATIVE REQUEST:

The Fulton County Board of Commissioners requests operational funding, beginning with the State of Georgia FY24 budget, for a 24-bed, 16-chair behavioral health crisis center (BHCC).

There is an urgent need for behavioral health crisis services in Fulton County. Fulton County faced a behavioral health crisis before the pandemic, which has grown worse over the past two years, as evidenced by significant increases in suicide and overdose deaths. Although Fulton County is Georgia's largest county and home to more than one million residents, there is no state-funded, stand-alone behavioral health crisis center in the county. The lack of behavioral health crisis beds is creating unsustainable pressure on Grady Memorial Hospital and other hospitals, as well as our jails.

The Fulton County Board of Commissioners has committed existing property and capital funding for a Fulton County BHCC and has engaged productively with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities to advance opportunities for operational funding for a potential behavioral health crisis center.

KEY FACTS HIGHLIGHTING UNMET NEED:

- The Fulton County Medical Examiner reported 20% increase in suicide deaths and 61% increase in drug-related deaths from 2017 to 2021.
- Georgia 988 reported 1,699 crisis episodes in Fulton County within first 30 days of launch, or 16.3 per 10,000 residents.
- Although Fulton County is home to 10% of the population of Georgia, there is not a publicly funded, dedicated behavioral health crisis center (BHCC) located here.
- People of color, especially African Americans, are disproportionately affected by lack of access to behavioral health care in the United States.

Fulton County Behavioral Health Network Services



COMMUNITY BASED ADULT

Core Services for Adults

Permanent Supportive Housing
wraparound services



JUSTICE-INVOLVED

Pre-trial services

Accountability Courts

Correctional mental health screenings

Re-entry services

Stepping Up initiative

Familiar Faces project

Diversion Center (2023)



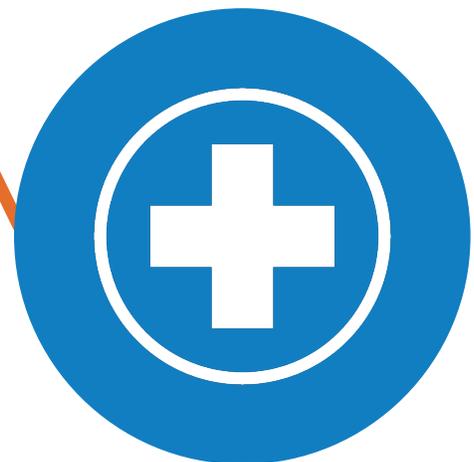
YOUTH-FOCUSED

Core services for youth

School-based counselors

Text 4 Help

Clubhouse



CRISIS SERVICES

Grady Hospital

Fulton County Behavioral Health Crisis
Center (2024)

24 Crisis Beds / 16 Observation Chairs

NOTE: The orange text highlights the *proposed* behavioral health crisis center services for Fulton County.

OTHER FULTON COUNTY POLICY PRIORITIES

EQUITABLE PROPERTY TAX APPEALS PROCESS

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 to ensure equitable access to information.

SENIOR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION SIMPLIFICATION

Fulton County supports simplification of administrative processes for senior homestead exemptions for Fulton County seniors living on low incomes.

EFFECTIVE & EFFICIENT JUSTICE SYSTEM

Fulton County supports the codification of legal representation for minors in legitimation, dependency and termination cases.

EQUAL ACCESS TO JUDICIAL PERSONNEL BENEFITS

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 PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

The Fulton County Board of Commissioners supports the legislative efforts of partner agencies and officials pursuing the following:

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 offenders; and for other purposes.

Efficiency efforts to better implement S.B. 202 including adjustments in the Election Day equipment allocation formula, recognizing that analysis of current data and voting trends demonstrate that more than half of Fulton County voters choose to participate in Early Voting.

The authorization of local legislation for the collection of a user fee by the Probate Court of Fulton County for the purposes of supporting technology improvements in the Court.

STRATEGIC PLAN & VALUES ALIGNMENT

Fulton County supports public policies that align with our strategic priorities, including policies that:

- Protect and support Fulton County's most vulnerable citizens.
- Improve the safety and physical 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.
- Strengthen jobs and economic opportunities Fulton County residents.

Legislative Affiliations:

During the legislative session, Fulton County collaborates with our partners including the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), Grady Health System, Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA), and others.

Guiding Principle:

Fulton County supports Home Rule and opposes legislation that would infringe on the principles of Home Rule or the ability of the Board of Commissioners to fulfill the roles to which they have been elected.

FULTON COUNTY DISTRICTS MAP


FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

ROBB PITTS, CHAIRMAN, DISTRICT 7 (AT-LARGE)

BRIDGET THORNE, DISTRICT 1

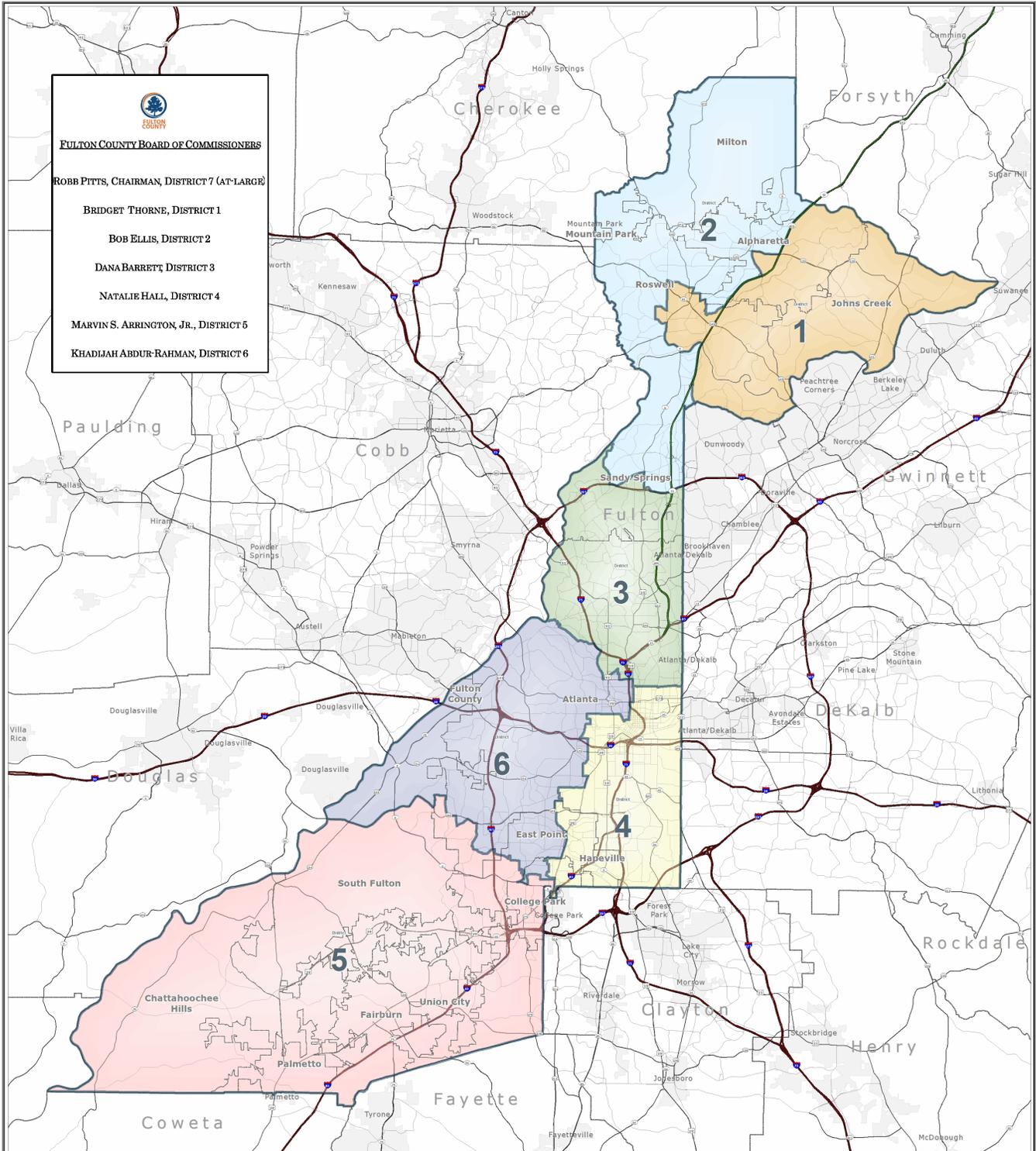
BOB ELLIS, DISTRICT 2

DANA BARRETT, DISTRICT 3

NATALIE HALL, DISTRICT 4

MARVIN S. ARRINGTON, JR., DISTRICT 5

KHADLIJAH ABDUR-RAHMAN, DISTRICT 6



**Fulton County,
Georgia**

**Fulton County
Commission Districts**



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