

Houston County Commissioners Meeting

Warner Robins, Georgia | August 18, 2026 | 5:00 P.M.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner Talton

Invocation – Reverend Don Feezor

Pastor, First Baptist Church Centerville

Fire Department Deployment Recognition – Chairman Perdue

Approval of Minutes from August 4, 2026

New Business

- 1. Capital Improvement Plan – Commissioner Byrd**
- 2. 2026 Millage Rate Resolutions – Commissioner Byrd**
- 3. Proposal for Services (Echeconnee Creek Park) – Commissioner Talton**
- 4. September Meeting – Commissioner Talton**
- 5. Bid Approval (Vehicles for Sheriff's Office) – Commissioner Robinson**
- 6. Independent Contractor Agreement (Court Reporter) – Commissioner Robinson**
- 7. Personnel Request (MIS) – Commissioner Gottwals**
- 8. Personnel Request (Landfill) – Commissioner Gottwals**
- 9. Approval of Bills – Commissioner Gottwals**
- 10. Personnel Appeals Hearing (H. Smith) – Director of Personnel Ken Carter**

Public Comments

Commissioner Comments

Motion for Adjournment

1. Capital Improvement Plan – Commissioner Byrd

This request is for approval of updates to the County's Capital Improvement Plan for FY2027-FY2031. This plan serves as a long-range planning and financial document intended to improve coordination of capital projects, enhance transparency, and support informed decision-making.

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

☐ approve

☐ disapprove

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the 5-Year Capital Improvement Plan for FY2027-FY2031. Board action at this time is not an appropriation of funds. Individual projects will still require approval through the annual budget process, project approvals, grant awards, or separate Board actions as applicable.

2. 2026 Millage Rate Resolutions – Commissioner Byrd

Chairman Perdue will deliver a presentation of the Proposed 2026 Millage Rate, followed by a reading of the 2026 Houston County Tax Levy and 2026 Houston County Mandate Levy.

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

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Chairman Perdue to sign resolutions setting the Houston County tax levy for 2026 at 20.096 mills in the incorporated areas and 21.773 mills in the unincorporated areas, as hereby specified:

Incorporated

8.419 mills General County Purposes

11.677 mills Educational Purposes

20.096 mills Total

Unincorporated

8.419 mills General County Purposes

11.677 mills Educational Purposes

1.677 mills Fire Levy

21.773 mills Total

RESOLUTION ADOPTING
HOUSTON COUNTY MANDATE LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, the Tax Commissioner has filed the Houston County Digest for the year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the aggregate net value of property on the 2026 Digest is \$7,366,354,399 which includes public utilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED that there be levied a tax of 1.475 mills on all taxable property including public utilities of Houston County to cover all State, Federal and Court mandated costs with a combined amount of \$10,868,162.

SO ADOPTED this the 18 day of August, 2026.

Attested by: Director of Administration

Dan Perdue, Chairman
Houston County Board of Commissioners

The State, Federal, and Court Mandates and amounts associated with each mandate for the Resolution Adopting Houston County Mandated Levy for the Year 2026.

Code Section / Authority	Description	Amount
O.C.G.A. § 15-10-1 et seq.	Establishes County Magistrate Courts; County funds operating costs in excess of estimated court revenue.	\$930,797
O.C.G.A. §§ 48-5-137, 48-5-183	Mandated increases in the Tax Commissioner's minimum salary.	\$18,991
O.C.G.A. § 15-16-20	Mandated increases in the Sheriff's minimum salary.	\$37,622
O.C.G.A. §§ 15-6-88, 15-6-89	Mandated increases in the Superior Court Clerk's minimum salary.	\$38,402
Jury Composition Reform Act of 2011	Compilation and distribution of the statewide master jury list by the Council of Superior Court Clerks of Georgia.	\$4,116
H.B. 1073, 148th Gen. Assemb., Reg. Sess. (Ga. 2006)	Additional Superior Court judge, plus Supreme Court rule changes applicable to Superior Courts; costs in the Superior Court and Clerk's Office.	\$95,161
Georgia Indigent Defense Act of 2003; Georgia Supreme Court Order (March 4, 1999)	Indigent defense caseload guidelines; County funds Public Defender's Office expenditures in excess of State grant funds.	\$2,548,383
Georgia Acts 1445, 1232, 403, 1327, 974, and 1306; Ga. L. 1984, p. 143; Public Law 98-435; O.C.G.A. Title 21, Chapter 2; O.C.G.A. § 21-2-234(a)	State and federal election requirements for the Board of Elections, including 'No Act Notice' mailouts to electors.	\$81,571
Houston County Juvenile Court Orders; Houston County Superior Court Order	Additional Juvenile Court staff and an increase in the Juvenile Judge's minimum salary above State grant funds.	\$182,751
Georgia Juvenile Justice Reform Act	Rewrite of Georgia's Juvenile Code; funds a full-time position in Juvenile Court–Enhancement.	\$81,223
	Excess revenues over expenditures for mandated levies.	\$14,612
O.C.G.A. § 15-9-63	Mandated increases in the Probate Judge's minimum salary.	\$34,862

Code Section / Authority	Description	Amount
O.C.G.A. § 15-9-68	Local custodian for vital records and/or special abstracting agent in Probate Court; the lesser of fees collected or \$7,500 in any calendar year.	\$7,500
Local Government Uniform Chart of Accounts and Reporting Act (H.B. 491); GASB 34	Maintenance of software required to conform to the State's accounting system.	\$302,163
Federal court-ordered pay plan	Maintenance of software required to comply with the judges' ruling.	\$91,081
Ga. L. 1990, p. 3510	Established the office of full-time Chairman of the Board of Commissioners and the position of secretary, and changed travel pay for part-time Commissioners.	\$357,515
O.C.G.A. §§ 36-5-27 – 36-5-28	Training supplements and COLA increases for all part-time Commissioners.	\$6,458
O.C.G.A. § 36-5-24	Authorizes County Commissioners to set their compensation; increase in part-time Commissioners' pay.	\$62,772
O.C.G.A. § 15-18-60	Establishes the office of full-time Solicitor.	\$209,644
H.B. 337, 154th Gen. Assemb., Reg. Sess. (2017); O.C.G.A. § 45-18-5; Georgia Department of Revenue regulations; S.B. 177, Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (Ga. 1999)	Two Tax Assessor III positions under H.B. 337 and Department of Revenue regulations, plus two additional Tax Assessor III positions under the Taxpayer's Bill of Rights, to meet property tax administration requirements (four positions total).	\$381,916
Houston County Superior Court Order	Security personnel and equipment for the courthouse.	\$695,415
O.C.G.A. § 15-16-10	Requires the Sheriff to develop a written comprehensive security plan; funds security personnel in Magistrate Court.	\$158,844
O.C.G.A. § 45-16-11	Mandated increase in the Coroner's salary.	\$17,251
O.C.G.A. § 12-6-93	Increases the forestland assessment for wildfire protection from 4¢ to 10¢ per acre of privately held forestland.	\$6,115
Houston County Superior Court Orders	Court-ordered expenditures.	\$8,755

Code Section / Authority	Description	Amount
Affordable Care Act, employer shared responsibility provision	Form 1095-C health coverage statements furnished to each employee; forms and postage.	\$4,437
H.B. 451	PTSD insurance for all first responders.	\$52,635
S.B. 177, Property Taxpayer's Bill of Rights (Ga. 1999)	Tax Commissioner must mail new property owners a brochure explaining the County's property tax laws and procedures; printing and postage.	\$660
O.C.G.A. § 48-5-306, Comprehensive Tax Reform Bill	Annual assessment notices mailed by the Tax Assessors Office to all property owners.	\$58,197
O.C.G.A. § 21-2-385	Advance voting.	\$175,000
O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-99 – 21-2-101	Training for full-time elections employees.	\$7,000
O.C.G.A. §§ 21-2-300, 21-2-379.3	Maintenance and testing of voting machines.	\$8,100
O.C.G.A. § 21-2-389	Absentee voting.	\$141,241
O.C.G.A. § 21-2-498	Risk-limiting audit obligations.	\$1,070
O.C.G.A. § 21-2-215	Voter record and signature card maintenance, less State reimbursement.	\$1,100
O.C.G.A. § 21-2-379.6	Ballot secure paper.	\$16,000
O.C.G.A. § 42-1-12	Sex Offender Registry maintenance.	\$141,327
O.C.G.A. § 42-4-4	Jail inmate care.	\$2,500,000
O.C.G.A. § 37-3-101; H.B. 1013, the 2022 Georgia Mental Health Parity Act	Emergency mental health transport.	\$30,000
O.C.G.A. §§ 35-3-30 – 35-3-40	GCIC/CJIS compliance audits and policy maintenance.	\$640
O.C.G.A. § 35-8-20	Minimum training requirements for law enforcement officers.	\$280,000
H.B. 146; O.C.G.A. § 25-3-23	Firefighter cancer insurance.	\$5,511
H.B. 1105 (2024); O.C.G.A. § 42-4-16	Criminal Alien Tracking & Reporting Act; Inmate immigration status verification and reporting.	\$11,500

Code Section / Authority	Description	Amount
O.C.G.A. §§ 15-11-50, 15-11-63(a)&(b)	Creates a Juvenile Court in each Georgia county; authorizes the appointment of clerks and other personnel and the Judge's setting of salary, tenure, and other conditions of employment, with salaries paid from county funds.	\$887,428
O.C.G.A. § 15-6-2(21); H.B. 992, 157th Gen. Assemb., Reg. Sess. (Ga. 2024)	Provides a fourth judge of the Superior Courts of the Houston Judicial Circuit, with compensation, salary, and expense allowance paid by the State and the circuit's counties; an additional court reporter; and county-provided facilities, office space, supplies, equipment, and personnel.	\$102,500
O.C.G.A. § 40-2-22	Registration and licensing of motor vehicles, which must be issued by the Tax Commissioner.	\$69,895

RESOLUTION

HOUSTON COUNTY TAX LEVY FOR THE YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, the Tax Commissioner has filed the Houston County Digest for the year 2026; and

WHEREAS, the aggregate net value of property on the 2026 Digest is \$7,366,354,399 which includes public utilities; and

WHEREAS, by local legislation there was enacted a "tax cap" limiting the Houston County Commissioners ability to levy a county tax (Georgia Laws 1982, Page 1601, which was continued in effect by Georgia Laws 1986, Page 4209); and

WHEREAS, sub-paragraph (D) of paragraph (3) of the "tax cap" provides that "the mill rate limitation shall not apply to taxes levied for the express purpose of paying the cost of expenditures which are not funded by state or federal funds,"; and

WHEREAS, the Houston County Commissioners desire to levy a tax of 6.944 mills to fund FY2027 general fund expenses and a tax of 1.475 mills to fund mandated expenses for a total of 8.419 mills countywide; and

WHEREAS, a fire tax of 1.677 mills in the unincorporated areas of Houston County is required to fund FY2027 fire expenses as previously budgeted; and

WHEREAS, this countywide levy and fire tax levy meet the requirements of the local "tax cap" legislation and the requirements of State O.C.G.A. 48-5-32.1 regarding adoption of "rollback" rates or conducting required advertisements, notices and public hearings for rates in excess of the "rollback" rate.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED that a **tax of 8.419 mills** be levied upon all the taxable property of Houston County on the Digest, including public utilities, and on all taxable property not on the Digest for the several County purposes for which the law authorizes and directs county authorities to levy taxes as specified below:

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

To provide for legislative and executive branches of government, the judicial branch, the operation of courts, elections and financial administration.

PUBLIC SAFETY

To provide for law enforcement and other protection.

PUBLIC WORKS

To provide for public roads, bridges and engineering.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

To provide for physical and mental health and other health services and welfare.

LIBRARIES

To provide for library facilities.

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

To provide for the County Extension Service and to provide for the Georgia Forestry Commission.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL

To provide for the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, Development Authority of Houston County, Middle Georgia Clean Air Coalition, and the Perry-Houston County Airport Authority.

MISCELLANEOUS

To provide for social security, workers' compensation, retirement benefits and county insurance.

UNINCORPORATED SERVICES

Insurance premium tax in the amount of \$4,811,942.70 is being used for Animal Control Services, Storm Drainage Improvements, Traffic Engineering, Mosquito Abatement, Fire Department Personnel and Equipment, Recreation Services, 21st Century Partnership, Planning and Zoning and Building Inspection Services within the unincorporated area in lieu of adjusting the unincorporated millage.

MANDATED EXPENSES

To provide for those expenditures mandated by court order or state or federal law and which are not funded by state or federal funds.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that there be levied a **fire tax of 1.677 mills** on all property in unincorporated Houston County, including public utilities, and on all taxable property not on the digest. This fire tax levy is to provide for fire protection in unincorporated Houston County.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that there be levied a **school tax of 11.677 mills** on all property in Houston County as it appears on the 2026 Tax Digest of Houston County, including public utilities, and on all taxable property not on the digest. This countywide tax levy is to maintain the public schools of Houston County, in accordance with Georgia School Laws for the 2026-2027 school year.

ADOPTED this the 18th day of August 2026.

Attested by: Director of Administration

Chairman
Houston County Board of Commissioners

3. Proposal for Services (Echeconnee Creek Park) – Commissioner Talton

This request is for approval of a proposal for civil design, planning, and permitting work related to the development of the Echeconnee Creek Park.

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

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the signing of a proposal with Traverse Land Services, LLC, of Warner Robins, Georgia, with preliminary costs of \$67,750 and administration fees assessed at \$175 per hour, not to exceed \$6,000. This does not include the No-Rise Certification. This project has a timeline of 6 months and will be paid from Recreation Professional Services.



Houston County Board of Commissioners
200 Carl Vinson Parkway
Warner Robins, Georgia 31088
478-542-2115 ext. 4
478-923-5697 (fax)
From the desk of Jake Cox

Memorandum

To: Robbie Dunbar
From: Jake Cox *JC*
Date: August 4, 2026
Re: Echeconnee Creek Park Civil Design, Plans and Permitting

This is a request for Board approval to authorize Chairman Perdue to sign the attached agreement for civil design, planning and permitting with Traverse Land Services, LLC for work related to the development of the Echeconnee Creek Park in north Houston County.

Preliminary costs for this work by Traverse Land Services, LLC will be \$67,750.00 with administration fees assessed at \$175.00/hour.

This agreement has been reviewed by the County Attorney's Office and engineering personnel with Public Works.

Payment will come from 100-6100-52.1200.

4. September Meeting – Commissioner Talton

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

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changing the date of the Houston County Board of Commissioners' second meeting in September from September 15, 2026, to September 22, 2026.

5. Bid Approval (Vehicles for Sheriff's Office) – Commissioner Robinson

This request is for approval of a bid for nine vehicles for the Sheriff's Office.

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

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the bid from Wade Ford of Smyrna, Georgia, the state-contracted vendor, for nine 2026 Ford Interceptors with the 3.0L EcoBoost engine for a purchase price of \$50,000 per vehicle or a total cost of \$450,000. These vehicles will be funded as follows: eight will be charged to the 2018 SPLOST, and one vehicle will be reimbursed by the Board of Education for use as an SRO vehicle.



Houston County Commissioners

Purchasing Department

Director of Purchasing

Vanessa Zimmerman

Office

200 Carl Vinson Parkway
Warner Robins, GA 31088

478-236-1700

MEMORANDUM

TO: Houston County Commissioners

FROM: Vanessa Zimmerman

CC: Robbie Dunbar

SUBJECT: Interceptors for Patrol, Traffic & SRO

DATE: August 10, 2026

The Sheriff's Department has located nine (9) 2026 Ford Interceptors equipped with the 3.0L EcoBoost engine at Wade Ford of Smyrna, Georgia, the Georgia state-contracted vendor for Ford Interceptors.

These nine (9) vehicles will replace the following existing units:

843 with 86,503 miles and engine issues
986 with 95,788 miles and A/C issues
825 with 102,146 totaled by insurance
847 with 97,746 miles
848 with 96,219 miles
849 with 103,363 miles
863 with 97,379 miles
864 with 102,577 miles; and \$21,200 in maintenance completed
891 (SRO) with 106,856 miles

The purchase price for the nine (9) 2026 Ford Interceptors will be **\$50,000.00 per vehicle**, for a total purchase price of **\$450,000.00**.

Eight (8) units will be charged to **320-3300-54.2200**, and one (1) unit designated for the School Resource Officer (SRO) will be charged to **100-3320-54.2200**, with reimbursement to be provided by the Board of Education (BOE).

6. Independent Contractor Agreement (Court Reporter) – Commissioner Robinson

Judge Lumsden's court reporter resigned as of July 31, 2026. This request is to enter into an independent contractor agreement to fill that vacancy.

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

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entering into an independent contractor agreement with Ms. Kristian Daugherty for court reporting services in Judge Lumsden's court, with an annual salary of \$69,500, payable in monthly installments of \$5,791.66, with the twelfth month at \$5,791.74. This agreement will have a term of September 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027.

7. Personnel Request (MIS) – Commissioner Gottwals

This request is for a one-step increase for Ryan Hale, who has attained the Security X Certification. Although not required for his current position, this certification enhances the County's Information Systems Security.

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

☐ approve

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the one-step increase for Ryan Hale bringing his pay grade from a Grade 27 Step G to a Grade 27 Step H effective August 31, 2026.



Houston County Personnel Department

Houston County Board of Commissioners
200 Carl Vinson Parkway
Warner Robins, GA 31088
478/542-2005 (Office) 478/542-2118 (Fax)

To: County Commissioners
From: Kenneth Carter, Director of Personnel
Date: May 27, 2026
Re: Request for Step Increase

Will Davis requests approval of a one-step increase for Ryan Hale upon his attainment of the Security X Certification. Although not required for his current position, this certification enhances the County's Information Systems Security.

Please consider this request effective June 8, 2026.

8. Personnel Request (Landfill) – Commissioner Gottwals

This request is for a one-step increase for Larry Whitfield, who has attained his Landfill Operator Certification. Although not required for his current position, this certification enhances the County's Landfill operations.

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

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the one-step increase for Larry Whitfield bringing his pay grade from a Grade 13 Step B to a Grade 13 Step C effective August 31, 2026.



Houston County Personnel Department

Houston County Board of Commissioners

200 Carl Vinson Parkway

Warner Robins, GA 31088

478/542-2005 (Office) 478/542-2118 (Fax)

To: County Commissioners
From: Kenneth Carter, Director of Personnel
Date: August 5, 2026
Re: Step Increase for Certification

Terry Dietsch requests that Larry Whitfield, Heavy Equipment Operator, receive a one-step salary increase for obtaining his Landfill Operator Certification. While this certification is not required for the Heavy Equipment Operator position, Mr. Whitfield voluntarily completed the certification to expand his knowledge and increase his value to the Landfill Division.

Having additional certified landfill operators enhances daily operations by increasing operational flexibility, improving staffing coverage, and providing greater support for landfill management.

It is recommended that Mr. Whitfield be advanced one step within his current pay grade to **Grade 13, Step C**, effective **August 31, 2026**.

9. Approval of Bills – Commissioner Gottwals

Summary of bills by fund:

General Fund (100)	\$1,879,979.83
Drug Abuse Treatment & Educ (212)	\$6,923.72
Opioid Fund (213)	\$3,780.00
Emergency 911 Telephone Fund (215)	\$141,703.02
American Rescue Plan Act (230)	\$258,351.69
Fire District Fund (270)	\$57,090.99
2018 SPLOST Fund (320)	\$567,344.22
Water Fund (505)	\$331,115.23
Solid Waste Fund (540)	\$457,185.56
Total	\$3,703,474.26

Motion by _____, second by _____ and carried _____ to

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the payment of the bills totaling \$3,703,474.26.

10. Personnel Appeals Hearing (H. Smith) – Director of Personnel Ken Carter

A Personnel Appeals Hearing will be held regarding Humphrey Smith. Action may or may not be taken at this time.