

Houston County Commissioners Meeting
September 9, 2026
Warner Robins, Georgia

The Houston County Board of Commissioners met in a Special Called Session at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at the Houston County Annex in Warner Robins, Georgia. Chairman Perdue presided, and Commissioners Byrd, Gottwals, and Talton were present. Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar, Director of Operations Brian Jones, and County Attorney Tom Hall were also present.

County Attorney Tom Hall led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director of Administration Robbie Dunbar gave the invocation.

Chairman Perdue clarified that this meeting was necessary because the Commission received incorrect figures for calculating the roll-back millage rate. Consequently, the millage rate set at the August 18 meeting was not the correct roll-back rate. After the Tax Commissioner submitted the figures to the State Department of Revenue, they identified the calculation error. Once the correct figures were provided, a public hearing and meeting were required to set the new roll-back rate. The previously incorrect millage was 8.419, while the corrected rate is 8.37 mills.

Chairman Perdue also thanked Houston County residents for raising the fire millage rate to the level needed to support full-time coverage at all County fire stations.

Chairman Perdue read the 2026 Millage Rate Resolution into record:

R E S O L U T I O N
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 6.895 mills to fund FY2027 general fund expenses and a tax of 1.475 mills to fund mandated expenses for a total of 8.37 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 8.37 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 11.567 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 9th day September 2026.

Chairman Perdue closed the regular portion of the meeting and opened the public hearing.

There being no comments, the Public Hearing was closed, and the regular portion of the meeting continued.

Mr. Byrd asked if this action represented a lowering of the millage rate from the previously presented millage rate numbers.

Chairman Perdue explained that, yes, these updated numbers slightly lowered the calculated millage rate.

Mr. Byrd said that it was great to be able to go on the record and say that this Board helped lower the millage rate twice in one year.

Chairman Perdue expressed appreciation to County staff, constitutional officers, and elected officials for maintaining spending levels that enabled a reduction in the millage rate, helping keep taxes low. He clarified that the roll-back rate ensures that properties listed on the digest last year will not pay more in property taxes this year than they did previously.

Motion by Mr. Byrd, second by Mr. Talton, to approve Chairman Perdue signing a resolution setting the Houston County tax levy for 2026 at 19.937 mills in the incorporated areas and 21.614 mills in the unincorporated areas, as hereby specified:

<u>Incorporated</u>	<u>Unincorporated</u>
8.37 mills General County Purposes	8.37 mills General County Purposes
<u>11.567</u> mills Educational Purposes	11.567 mills Educational Purposes
19.937 mills Total	<u>1.677</u> mills Fire Levy
	21.614 mills Total

Upon voting, Mr. Byrd, Mr. Talton, and Mr. Gottwals voted yes. Motion carried.

Mr. Gottwals welcomed his children, Hannah and Trip, to the Commissioners meeting and commented that he was pleased to have them both already involved in civic engagement at such a young age.

Mr. Talton thanked everyone who was involved in preparing the millage rate resolution and the taxpayers of Houston County.

Mr. Byrd commented on the upcoming 25th anniversary of the events of 9/11 and encouraged everyone to reflect on the events of that day, remember the families of those affected by that tragedy, and never forget. He closed by wishing a happy birthday to his son Parker’s girlfriend, Bailey Cannon, as it was her 21st birthday.

Chairman Perdue stated that it was his parents’ 54th wedding anniversary and that the next day would be the 50th anniversary of former Chairman Tommy and Sandi Stalnaker. He then reminded everyone about the change in Commissioners’ meeting dates from Tuesday, September 15, to Tuesday, September 22, due to a need for him to be traveling on a work-related trip. Chairman Perdue closed his comments by echoing those who commented about the upcoming 25th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks and that we should all remember, reflect, and never forget the events of that tragic day and the families who lost loved ones.

Motion by Mr. Gottwals, second by Mr. Talton, to adjourn the meeting. Upon voting, Mr. Gottwals, Mr. Talton, and Mr. Byrd voted yes. Motion carried, meeting adjourned.

Robbie Dunbar
Director of Administration

Chairman

Commissioner

Commissioner

Was not at the meeting so does not sign.

Commissioner

Commissioner