

RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION BY THE GOVERNING AUTHORITY OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA, TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY PROPOSING A COUNTY CODE AMENDMENT RELATED TO THE EQUALIZED HOMESTEAD OPTION SALES AND USE TAX APPROPRIATION PROCEDURES

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Governing Authority requests that the DeKalb County Delegation to the Georgia General Assembly amend Chapter 2, Division 2 of the County Code of Ordinances related to the equalized homestead option sales and use tax appropriation procedures; and

WHEREAS, DeKalb County continually seeks to become a more equitable and fiscally prudent entity through its practices, including through the means in which taxes are levied county-wide; and

WHEREAS, homestead exemptions provide a significant reduction in annual property taxes, are available to individuals who own and reside in a home in DeKalb County, and provide an influx of capital investments for County infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 the Governing Authority of DeKalb County determined that it is in the best interest of the citizens of DeKalb County to suspend HOST and impose an EHOST (Equalized Homestead Exemption Sales Tax) to apply one hundred (100) percent of the proceeds collected from the tax to reduce ad valorem property tax millage rates; and

WHEREAS, this budget decision changed the County's course of history; the EHOST will provide \$129 million in property tax relief in 2021, providing qualified homesteaded property owners a one hundred (100) percent credit for the county-wide millage rates levied for the General and Hospital Funds.

WHEREAS, the current exemption applies to the assessed taxable value of any home that qualifies for this exemption, regardless of the amount of the assessed value; and

WHEREAS, according to County data, homes within DeKalb County at a fair market value with a valuation at or above \$1 million, are eligible for a combined EHOST tax credit of \$8,631,624.00 for the year 2021; and

WHEREAS, this legislation seeks to amend the County code to allow a more equitable and affordable distribution of the homestead exemption to qualified homeowners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the DeKalb County Governing Authority requests that the DeKalb County Delegation to the Georgia General Assembly amend Chapter 2, Division 2 of the County Code of Ordinances related to the equalized homestead option sales and use tax appropriation procedures to include language that places an assessed value cap on eligible homes and hereby requests:

- 1) The Governing Authority requests a value cap on the maximum assessed taxable value of homes within the County eligible for the Equalized Homestead Exemption Sales Tax (EHOST) credit.
- 2) The maximum assessed taxable value cap for the qualified exemption shall be set at \$400,000. This is concurrent with O.C.G.A. 48-5-7, in which all taxable tangible property in the State must be assessed at 40% of its fair market value.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ___ day of _____, 2021.

STEPHEN R. BRADSHAW
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this ___ day of _____, 2021.

MICHAEL L. THURMOND
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD, CCC
Clerk to the Board of Commissioners and
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney
DeKalb County, Georgia