

AN ORDINANCE

**AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE CODE OF DEKALB COUNTY, GEORGIA,
AS REVISED 1988, CHAPTER 20, ARTICLE VIII, TO RECOGNIZE GENERAL
ELECTION DAY AS A PAID COUNTY HOLIDAY.**

WHEREAS, the 26th Amendment to the United States Constitution generally provides citizens age 18 or older the right to vote, which enables our democracy and impacts our individual and community well-being;

WHEREAS, Georgia and federal laws currently provide for general elections to take place on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November;

WHEREAS, many states, including Georgia, have seen an increase in election legislation that could negatively impact voter turnout by restricting mail-in ballots and access to ballot boxes and limiting weekend voting hours, that could create barriers for citizens to vote;

WHEREAS, failure to provide voting resources or ample time for participation on General Election Day could preclude those who are constrained by outside barriers of work, school, or transportation, from voting, thereby creating a disparity in voter representation between those who have the advantages of time and access and those who do not;

WHEREAS, a study published on November 3, 2020 by the Pew Research Center reports that voter turnout in the United States trails voter turnout in many developed countries;

WHEREAS, more than a third of U.S. states and the territory of Puerto Rico observe General Election Day in November as a public holiday or half-holiday;

WHEREAS, DeKalb County recognizes the importance of the right to vote and wants to encourage its employees to participate in the democratic process, and;

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County governing authority seeks to facilitate County employees' participation in the democratic process by designating the Tuesday after the first Monday in November, General Election Day, as a paid county holiday;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it ordained by the Governing Authority of DeKalb County, Georgia, and it is hereby ordained by the authority of the same, that Chapter 20, Article VIII of the Code of DeKalb County, Georgia, as Revised 1988, be and the same is hereby amended as follows:

PART I: ENACTMENT

By replacing Section 20-164(a) of the Code of DeKalb County, as revised 1988, with the following:

Sec. 20-164. – Holidays.

a) The County will observe twelve (12) paid holidays per year. These are:

- January 1, New Year's Day.
- Third Monday in January, Martin Luther King's Birthday.
- Third Monday in February, George Washington's Birthday.
- Last Monday in May, Memorial Day.
- June 19, Juneteenth.
- July 4, Independence Day.
- First Monday in September, Labor Day.
- Tuesday after the first Monday in November, General Election Day.
- November 11, Veteran's Day.
- Fourth Thursday in November, Thanksgiving Day.
- Friday immediately following Thanksgiving Day.
- December 25, Christmas Day.

PART II. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall become effective upon adoption by the Board of Commissioners and approval by the Chief Executive Officer.

PART III. SEVERABILITY

Should any section or provision of this ordinance be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the ordinance as a whole, nor any part thereof, other than the part so declared to be invalid or unconstitutional. All ordinances or resolutions or parts thereof, in conflict with this ordinance are repealed.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this _____ day of _____, 2022.

ROBERT J. PATRICK
Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners
DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this _____ day of _____, 2022.

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 SUBSTANCE:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

BENITA RANSOM
Human Resources and Merit System Director

VIVIANE H. ERNSTES
County Attorney