

**RESOLUTION OF THE DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO
AMEND THE FY25 BUDGET TO ESTABLISH THE OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE
COUNSEL AND AUTHORIZE THE HIRING OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL**

WHEREAS, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners (the “Board”) recognizes the need for dedicated legal and policy expertise to assist with legislative research, ordinance and resolution drafting, and analysis of proposed state and federal legislation affecting DeKalb County; and

WHEREAS, the Board desires to ensure that its legislative initiatives, county code amendments, and policy actions are legally sound, consistent with Georgia law, and effectively advanced before the Georgia General Assembly and other relevant bodies; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of an Office of Legislative Counsel will provide independent, confidential, nonpartisan legal and policy support to the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Home Rule authority granted under the Georgia Constitution and O.C.G.A. § 36-5-22.1, the Board may amend the adopted budget to provide for necessary operational functions; and

WHEREAS, the Board finds it in the best interest of DeKalb County to allocate funding for one (1) full-time Legislative Counsel position, legal and administrative support position(s) as determined by Counsel, and associated office setup and operating costs within the Board of Commissioners’ budget;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners that:

Section 1. Establishment of Office

The Office of Legislative Counsel is hereby established under the direct supervision of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners to provide legal drafting, policy analysis, and legislative monitoring services for the Board.

Section 2. Position Authorization

One (1) Legislative Counsel position is authorized and funded for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025. Funding will continue in 2026 for the full year and will be ongoing into future years.

The Legislative Counsel shall:

- Draft ordinances, resolutions, and amendments as directed by the Board.
- Provide legal analysis of proposed or pending state and federal legislation affecting DeKalb County.
- Advise Commissioners and staff on matters of statutory interpretation and home rule authority.
- Conduct research as requested and needed by the Board.
- Coordinate with the County Attorney's Office, BOC Central Staff, DeKalb Administration, Legislative Delegation, and other relevant stakeholders as necessary.

Section 3. Budget Amendment

To fund the Legislative Counsel position and office operations, the following adjustments shall be made to the current fiscal year budget:

Fund	Department	Account	Description	Amount
General Fund	Board of Commissioners	Personal Services	Legislative Counsel (salary & benefits)	\$30,000 (Nov + Dec 2025)
General Fund	Board of Commissioners	Operations	Office setup, technology, and supplies	\$25,000
General Fund	Board of Commissioners	Professional Services	Legislative research tools & subscriptions	\$10,000

Total 2025 Amendment: \$65,000* (based on salary & benefits \$180,000 annually)

* Legislative Counsel may appropriate up to \$20,000 in 2025 for additional support

* Budget for 2026 and beyond will be reviewed during the annual budget planning process and funding included in the annual budget

Funds shall be reallocated from the General Fund's unassigned fund balance or savings within the Board of Commissioners' existing operational budget, as determined by the Presiding Officer and BOC Chief of Staff.

Section 4. Implementation

The Finance and Budget Directors are hereby authorized to make the necessary accounting and budget entries to effectuate this amendment.

Recruitment for the Legislative Counsel shall begin immediately upon adoption of this resolution, with the goal of office establishment as soon as possible.

Section 5. Effective Date

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon approval by majority vote of the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners.

ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, this ____ day of _____, 2025

Michelle Long Spears

Presiding Officer

Board of Commissioners

DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED by the Chief Executive Officer, this _____ day of _____, 2025

Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

Chief Executive Officer

DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWOOD

County Clerk

Board of Commissioners

ZACH WILLIAMS

Chief Operating Officer

DeKalb County, Georgia

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

WILLIAM J. LINKOUS III

County Attorney DeKalb County, Georgia