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

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

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

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

<sup>\*</sup> Budget for 2026 and beyond will be reviewed during the annual budget planning process and funding included in the annual budget

budget entries to effectuate this amendment.	
Recruitment for the Legislative Counsel shall begin resolution, with the goal of office establishment as s	
Section 5. Effective Date	
This resolution shall become effective immediately DeKalb County Board of Commissioners.	upon approval by majority vote of the
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ADOPTED by the DeKalb County Board of Comm	day of, 2025
	Michelle Long Spears
	Presiding Officer
	Board of Commissioners
	DeKalb County, Georgia
<b>APPROVED</b> by the Chief Executive Officer, this _	day of, 2025
	Lorraine Cochran-Johnson
	Chief Executive Officer
	DeKalb County, Georgia
ATTEST:	APPROVED AS TO SUBSTANCE:

The Finance and Budget Directors are hereby authorized to make the necessary accounting and

BARBARA SANDERS-NORWO	OOD	ZACH WILLIAMS
County Clerk		Chief Operating Officer
Board of Commissioners		DeKalb County, Georgia
APPROVED AS TO FORM:		
WILLIAM J. LINKOUS III		

County Attorney DeKalb County, Georgia