



# DeKalb County Government

Manuel J. Maloof Center  
1300 Commerce Drive  
Decatur, Georgia 30030

## Agenda Item

File ID: 2025-1189

Substitute

2/10/2026

Public Hearing: YES  NO

Department: Board of Commissioner - District 2

### **SUBJECT:**

**Commission District(s):** All Commission Districts

A Resolution Adopting Digital Accessibility Compliance Measures to Meet the Requirements of Title II of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA)

**Information Contact:** Commissioner Michelle Long Spears

**Phone Number:** 404-371-2863

### **PURPOSE:**

To accept the substitute resolution and to formally commit DeKalb County to achieving and maintaining compliance with federal digital accessibility requirements under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as recently clarified by the U.S. Department of Justice.

### **NEED/IMPACT:**

This resolution is needed to ensure DeKalb County complies with new federal digital accessibility requirements under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which mandate that all public-facing websites, applications, and electronic documents meet WCAG 2.1 Level AA standards by April 24, 2026. By formally committing to these standards, establishing governance and oversight, and allocating funding for audits, remediation, training, and accessible procurement, the County will guarantee that residents with disabilities have equitable, effective, and timely access to its digital services-reducing legal risk, promoting inclusion, and demonstrating a proactive commitment to serving all members of the community.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

None

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

To approve the substitute and authorize the chief executive officer or her designee to execute all necessary documents.

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING DIGITAL ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE  
MEASURES TO MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF TITLE II OF THE  
AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA)**

**WHEREAS**, Part A of Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) prohibits public entities, including state and local governments, from excluding qualified individuals with a disability from participation in or denying the benefit of services, programs, or activities;

**WHEREAS**, specifically, 42 U.S.C.A § 12134(a) authorizes the United States Attorney General to promulgate regulations implementing Part A of Title II;

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) published a final rule on April 24, 2024 adopting Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (“WCAG”) 2.1, an internationally recognized accessibility standard for web access, as the technical standard for web content and mobile application accessibility under Title II of the ADA;

**WHEREAS**, the newly adopted Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (28 C.F.R. §§ 35.200-35.209), effective June 24, 2024, provide that a public entity with a total population of 50,000 or more must comply with the WCAG 2.1. Level AA criteria beginning two years after publication of the final rule; and

**WHEREAS**, DeKalb County recognizes the importance of ensuring that all residents, regardless of disability, can access its digital services, online resources, and electronic communications in a manner that is equitable, effective, and timely; and

**WHEREAS**, adopting a countywide policy, roadmap, and governance structure in compliance with the federal standard for web content and mobile application accessibility will promote transparency, accountability, and consistency across all departments; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners seeks to formally commit to achieving and maintaining WCAG 2.1 Level AA compliance across all county- operated websites, web applications, mobile applications, and digital documents; and

**WHEREAS**, the County further seeks to implement procedures to ensure that all new and procured digital tools and content are accessible from inception.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE DEKALB COUNTY GOVERNING AUTHORITY IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Commitment to Accessibility  
DeKalb County hereby commits to meeting or exceeding the technical requirements of WCAG 2.1 Level AA for all county-operated digital content, websites, mobile applications, and electronic documents by the statutory compliance date.
2. Create an Office of Disability to steward this project, conduct manual audits on an ongoing basis, and inform the Board of Commissioners and Administration on best practices, innovations, policy recommendations, etc.
3. Scope

This resolution applies to all digital content and services created, managed, or procured by DeKalb County, including but not limited to:

- Websites and subdomains;
- Web applications and portals;
- Mobile applications;
- Public-facing documents and PDFs;
- Online forms, multimedia content, and third-party hosted services under county control.

4. Implementation Plan

The Executive Assistance/COO, in coordination with the ADA Coordinator, the Chief Innovation and Information Officer, and departmental leadership, shall within 120 days develop and present to the Board:

- A digital accessibility audit of all existing public-facing digital assets;
- A phased remediation schedule prioritizing high-impact and high-use services;
- A procurement accessibility policy requiring all technology vendors to demonstrate conformance via a Voluntary Product Accessibility Template (VPAT) or equivalent;
- Training programs for staff responsible for creating and maintaining digital content.

5. Accessibility Governance and Monitoring

The ADA Coordinator shall be responsible for:

- Coordinating implementation across departments;
- Publishing and updating a public accessibility statement on the County's website;
- Establishing a public complaint and feedback process;
- Providing annual progress reports to the Board on compliance status and improvements.

6. Funding

The Board directs the inclusion of necessary funding in the FY 2026 and FY 2027 budgets to support technology upgrades, staff training, vendor services, and accessibility monitoring tools.

7. Effective Date

This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption, with implementation activities commencing no later than the statutory compliance date.

8. Severability

If any provision of this Resolution is found invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

**ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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**MICHELLE LONG-SPEARS**  
Presiding Officer  
Board of Commissioners  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**APPROVED** by the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

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**LORRAINE COCHRAN-JOHNSON**  
Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County, Georgia

**ATTEST:**

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

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

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**TERRY PHILLIPS**  
County Attorney