



To: Distribution

From: Emma I. Darnell, Commissioner, District 5
Fulton County Board of Commissioners

Subject: Milton County (H.R. 21): Most Frequently – Asked Questions

Date: March 10, 2010

- 1. What is the effect of the legislation?** The legislation if adopted, begins a process that when completed, will allow the creation of “Milton County” in an area that is now primarily North Fulton County.
- 2. How will the legislation impact residents of Atlanta and South Fulton County?** If adopted, “Milton County legislation” will result in drastic cuts in (County-Wide) services including public health, mental health, environmental services, libraries, health centers, and senior centers. The financial impact of the “secession” of North Fulton from Fulton County will also lead to a substantial increase in residential and commercial property taxes in Atlanta and South Fulton, according to (outside) consultants. Further, it is not clear that the new County will have a legal obligation to support MARTA or the Grady Hospital System. Projected tax increases in residential property have the potential to impact more than 203,000 homeowners in Atlanta and South Fulton.
- 3. How will the legislation affect the residents of the new “Milton County”?** The start-up costs of a new County are “subject to financing assumptions” that could change. Any “savings” to residential tax payers will depend upon the cost for construction of new county facilities, e.g., parks, libraries and senior centers and the compensation Fulton County will require for the sale of County assets located in Fulton County. All “projections” are based upon “current budgets” and “tax base”.
- 4. Will the Atlanta Public Schools be affected?** Yes. Services to children and their families will be reduced. The structure of Atlanta schools will be unchanged.
- 5. Will the Fulton County Public Schools be affected?** Yes. The North Fulton Schools will be a part of the new county. Further, South Fulton taxpayers will see a major increase in school taxes. By comparison, school taxes in the (new) County will be reduced.
- 6. How will the tax revenues and other assets owned by the current School District be divided?** Unknown
- 7. How will the debt service obligations be divided?** Unknown
- 8. What is the status of the Bill (as of March 10)?** To begin the process, H.R. 21 must receive a 2/3 majority vote in the House and Senate. The Bill must pass both the House and Senate by the 30th legislative day. This is the 23rd day

(March 10). The Bill was recommitted to the House State Planning and Community Affairs Committee. A scheduled meeting of the Committee at 12 noon on March 10, 2010 was canceled.

For more information or to comment on this Board Report, contact Commissioner Darnell by e-mail at emma.darnell@fultoncountyga.gov, by phone at (404) 612-8222 or by mail at 141 Pryor St. Suite 10023 Atlanta, Georgia 30303.