

LOWNDES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM

SUBJECT: Supporting Reform to Georgia's Annexation Dispute Resolution
Law

DATE OF MEETING: December 14, 2021

Work Session/Regular Session

BUDGET IMPACT:

FUNDING SOURCE:

- Annual
- Capital
- N/A
- SPLOST
- TSPLOST

COUNTY ACTION REQUESTED ON: Resolution Supporting Reform to Georgia's Annexation Dispute Resolution
Law

HISTORY, FACTS AND ISSUES: While annexation of unincorporated areas by municipalities may be appropriate, it may also be abused when its primary objectives are the expansion of the city tax base or to circumvent the county's land use plan or zoning ordinance. These tactics may cause significant service delivery problems, negatively impact surrounding property owners, and create conflicting land uses in an area. As Georgia's population continues to grow, counties will continue to face increased annexation challenges. In hopes of resolving these problems, a uniform annexation arbitration/dispute resolution process was enacted by the 2007 General Assembly. While this process has slightly improved negotiations between cities and counties over controversial annexations, the law has not been changed in 14 years and improvements are needed to help ensure more fairness for unincorporated residents who are negatively impacted.

In 2021, the Georgia House passed a resolution establishing the House Study Committee on Annexation. This Study Committee met five times over the summer and fall, with ACCG submitting its recommendations to improve Georgia's annexation arbitration process. On November 18, the House Study Committee issued its final report, incorporating many of ACCG's suggestions. ACCG urges the General Assembly to pass the recommendations of the 2021 House Study Committee's final report via legislation introduced during the 2022 General Assembly.

ACCG has asked Lowndes County to please consider adopting the attached draft resolution supporting changes to Georgia's annexation law, particularly the arbitration/dispute resolution process.

OPTIONS: 1. Adopt the Resolution.
2. Board's Pleasure

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Board's Pleasure

DEPARTMENT: County Manager

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Paige Dukes

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: