



**GWINNETT COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

75 Langley Drive | Lawrenceville, GA 30046-6935
O: 770.822.7000 | F: 770.822.7097
GwinnettCounty.com

Nicole L. Hendrickson, Chairwoman
Kirkland Dion Carden, District 1
Ben Ku, District 2
Jasper Watkins III, District 3
Marlene M. Fosque, District 4

Official

Informal Presentation Minutes

Tuesday, October 5, 2021 – 3:00 PM

Present: Nicole L. Hendrickson, Kirkland D. Carden, Ben Ku, Jasper Watkins III, Marlene M. Fosque

1. County Administration

Legislative Planning

Joel Wiggins of The Southern Group of Georgia discussed legislative planning and items of interest to Gwinnett. No official action taken.

*GWINNETT
COUNTY BOC
LEGISLATIVE
PLANNING*

JOEL WIGGINS, THE SOUTHERN GROUP

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

- Local Government Lobbying Experience
 - Statewide – 5 Sessions Representing Georgia’s 538 Cities with GMA.
 - City/County/Authority Specific – Represented City of Fort Valley and Macon-Bibb Industrial Authority on specific needs before the General Assembly and State Government.
- Developed Local Government Policy Platforms
 - Experience coordinating with GMA’s Legislative Policy Platform to develop legislative strategies.
- Executed Local Government Policy Platform
 - Experience coordinating with the General Assembly, local delegation and Executive Branch to execute legislative strategies.

LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

- Local Impact
 - Roughly 1/3 of all legislation filed at the General Assembly has an impact on local governments.
- Threats to Home Rule at the General Assembly
 - Pre-emption Legislation – Statewide legislative attempts to remove local authority annually.
 - Unfunded Mandates – Legislative mandates on local governments without funding.
 - Local Pre-emption – Targeted legislation that pre-empts specific local governments.
- Coordination and Coalition Building
 - ACCG, GMA, and other subject matter experts can help the County achieve legislative goals through strategic advocacy.

2022 LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK

- Special Session – The Governor’s Call included language relating to local government regulations.
- Election Legislation – Senate leadership will be bringing election reforms.
- Annexation – Annexation and Cityhood Study Committee has met in the interim and will have legislation to change the arbitration process.
- Tax Reform – Budget surplus has invited conversation for state and local tax cuts.
- Public Safety Reforms – Policies to combat spikes in crime will be addressed.



LEGISLATIVE PLANNING

- State and Local Outlook and Expectations
- Legislative Agenda Development
 - What issues are most important to the Gwinnett County BOC?
 - What issues are important to counties as a whole?
- Political Capital Calculation
 - Determining the amount of outreach and coordination for priority issues.
 - Factoring in defense of home rule and local decision making.
- Outreach
 - Communicating priorities to the local delegation.
 - Communicating priorities to the General Assembly and Executive Branch.

LEGISLATIVE TRACKING AND REPORTING

- The Southern Group provides an interactive bill tracking system that is updated daily during session.
 - Local Legislation
 - Statewide Legislation with Local Impact
- The Southern Group provides emails with relevant news articles.
- The Southern Group provides a weekly legislative report during session.
- Any legislative issues that would impact Gwinnett County will be reported to the BOC immediately.
- Any legislative positions from the BOC will be communicated to the delegation immediately.



DISCUSSION AND Q&A:

Joel Wiggins, Partner

The Southern Group of Georgia

Mobile: 404-971-2690

Email: Wiggins@thesouthernngroup.com