

**Columbus Consolidated Government  
Council Meeting Agenda Item**

<b>TO:</b>	Mayor and Councilors
<b>AGENDA SUBJECT:</b>	<b>2026 Legislative Agenda Items – Additional Proposed Items</b>
<b>AGENDA SUMMARY:</b>	Approval is requested of the resolutions for the 2026 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly.
<b>INITIATED BY:</b>	<b>City Manager’s Office</b>

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**Recommendation:** Approval is requested of the additional proposed resolutions for the 2026 Legislative Session of the Georgia General Assembly.

**Background:** Each year elected and appointed officials of the Columbus Consolidated Government develop a list of issues important to the citizens of Columbus that requires action by the Local Legislative Delegation. Once approved, a meeting will be held with the Delegation to explain the rationale behind these issues and to solicit their support. The Hometown Connection and Legislative Agenda meeting will be held on October 15, 2025.

**Analysis:** Staff, elected and appointed officials were asked to present issues they felt were important to the operation of city government. Research and justification for these issues were presented to the City Manager and a list was prepared for presentation to the Mayor/Council.

**Recommendations/Actions:** Consider the attached resolutions.

**1. PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR AMENDMENT:**

The Columbus Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly enact local legislation to amend the Charter of Columbus, Georgia to remove the of Public signed duties to direct, supervise, and coordinate the administration and activities of the Department of Public Safety; to create a new position of Public Safety Director; and to provide for the qualifications, appointment, removal of that position. The Charter amendments referred to herein shall not become effective and shall not apply unless this act is approved by a majority of Muscogee County voters at a referendum set as specified by the General Assembly for November, 2026. *(Request of Councilor Toyia Tucker)*

**Explanation:**

It is the desire of this Council to allow the voters to determine whether a dedicated Director of Public Safety should be added as a City Officer defined by the Columbus, Georgia Charter. Such changes would require amendments to the Columbus Charter which must be adopted by local act of the General Assembly and approved by a majority of Muscogee County voters.

**2. SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 601:**

The Columbus Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly support currently pending H.B. 601 or any subsequent revision thereof which includes a reinstatement of the requirement of licensing for lawful weapons carry except under certain exceptions. *(Request of Councilor Walker Garrett)*

**Explanation:**

House Bill 601 was introduced in the 2025 Session of the Georgia General Assembly and will be carried over for consideration in the 2026 Session. Among other provisions concerning gun safety, this legislation reinstates the requirement of licensing for lawful weapons carry. This Council supports the concept of licensed carry to address security issues which have been illustrated in recent incidents of gun violence that have occurred in Columbus, Georgia.

**3. STATE COURT SOLICITOR – SALARIES:**

The Columbus Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce legislation to amend the local act found at Georgia Laws 1999, p.3803. The salary of the Solicitor General shall be no less than 90% of the state paid salary and the local supplement of the junior State Court Judge. The salary of the Chief Assistant Solicitor General shall be no less than 80% of the state paid salary and local supplement of the Solicitor General. The salary of all other attorneys in the Solicitor General's Office shall be determined consistent with the pay plan for other attorneys serving the County and State governments. *(Request of Councilor Walker Garrett)*

**Explanation:**

The salaries for the Solicitor General, the Chief Assistant Solicitor, and all additional assistant solicitors for the State Court of Muscogee County are established by an Act of the Georgia General Assembly at Georgia Laws 1999, page 3803 (“the Local Act”). The Local Act sets the Solicitor General’s Salary at 85% of the District Attorney’s salary and all other salaries in the Solicitor General’s office are set as certain percentages of the current Solicitor General’s. The Solicitor General has requested a revision of the salary structure in his office to keep pace with current economic conditions and allow for easier recruitment and the more efficient operation of his office.

**4. SOVERIGN IMMUNITY:**

The Columbus Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly support the ACCG policy position with respect to the waiver of sovereign immunity for local governments. (*Request of Councilor Toyia Tucker*)

**Explanation:**

The Association of County Governments (“ACCG”) has adopted its legislative priorities for the 2026 Session of the Georgia General Assembly. One of the policies adopted is to oppose legislation that attempts to waive county sovereign immunity.

**5. SPECIAL ELECTION COST REIMBURSEMENT:**

The Columbus Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly support the ACCG policy position with respect of cost reimbursement for certain special elections. (*Request of Councilor Toyia Tucker*)

**Explanation:**

The Association of County Governments (“ACCG”) has adopted its legislative priorities for the 2026 Session of the Georgia General Assembly. A part of one of the policies adopted by ACCG is to support legislation that would protect counties from the burden of cost of special elections by providing for the State to reimburse counties for the cost of conducting special elections held to fill a vacancy in any statewide office, the Georgia General Assembly, the offices of U.S. Senator or Representative, or to approve a statewide referendum.

**6. OUT OF NETWORK AMBULANCE SERVICES:**

The Columbus Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly support the ACCG policy position with respect to in network treatment for all emergency ambulance service providers. *(Request of Councilor Toyia Tucker)*

**Explanation:**

The Association of County Governments (“ACCG”) has adopted its legislative priorities for the 2026 Session of the Georgia General Assembly. One of the policies adopted by ACCG is pertaining to emergency medical services is to support legislation which would require that insurance companies pay for emergency medical ambulance services whether or not they are “out of network”.

**7. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES REIMBURSEMENTS:**

The Columbus Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly support the ACCG policy position with respect to Medicaid reimbursements for emergency medical services. *(Request of Councilor Toyia Tucker)*

**Explanation:**

The Association of County Governments (“ACCG”) has adopted its legislative priorities for the 2026 Session of the Georgia General Assembly. One of the policies adopted by ACCG pertaining to emergency medical services is to support legislation which would require that Medicaid reimbursements for emergency medical services be increased by 10%.

**8. NEXT GENERATION 911 SYSTEM:**

The Columbus Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly support the ACCG policy position with respect to implementation of the Next Generation 911 system. *(Request of Councilor Toyia Tucker)*

**Explanation:**

The Association of County Governments (“ACCG”) has adopted its legislative priorities for the 2026 Session of the Georgia General Assembly. One of the policies adopted by ACCG is to support legislation which would support the implement the Next Generation 911 system in Georgia to include:

1. Appropriating additional funds to build the infrastructure for a statewide Next-Generation 911 system
2. Increasing 911 fees on phone bills to support counties upgrading their infrastructure to be able to use the Next Generation 911 System
3. Supporting the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority’s initiatives and appropriations for the implementation of Next Generation 911

## A RESOLUTION

NO. \_\_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING AMENDMENTS TO THE CHARTER OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA TO REMOVE THE MAYOR’S ASSIGNED DUTIES TO DIRECT, SUPERVISE, AND COORDINATE THE ADMINISTRATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY; TO CREATE A NEW POSITION OF PUBLIC SAFETY DIRECTOR; TO PROVIDE FOR THE QUALIFICATIONS, APPOINTMENT, AND REMOVAL FOR THAT POSITION; AND TO REQUEST A REFERENDUM OF THE VOTERS OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA /MUSCOGEE COUNTY TO APPROVE SUCH AMENDMENTS.**

**WHEREAS**, it is the desire of this Council to allow the voters to determine whether a dedicated Director of Public Safety should be added as a City Officer defined by the Columbus, Georgia Charter; and,

**WHEREAS**, such changes would require amendments to the Columbus Charter which must be adopted by local act of the General Assembly.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:**

This Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly enact local legislation to amend the Charter of Columbus, Georgia to remove the Mayor’s assigned duties to direct, supervise, and coordinate the administration and activities of the Department of Public Safety; to create a new position of Public Safety Director; and to provide for the qualifications, appointment, removal of that position. The Charter amendments referred to herein shall not become effective and shall not apply unless this act is approved by a majority of Muscogee County voters at a referendum set as specified by the General Assembly for November, 2026.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly

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Introduced at the regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 14th day of October, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_\_\_ members of Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Anker voting	_____.
Councilor Chambers voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor Hickey voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

**A RESOLUTION**

**NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE LOCAL DELEGATION TO SUPPORT  
H.B. 601 WHICH WAS INTRODUCED IN THE 2025 SESSION OF THE GEORGIA  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY.**

**WHEREAS**, H.B. 601 was introduced in the 2025 Session of the Georgia General Assembly and will be carried over for consideration in the 2026 Session; and,

**WHEREAS**, among other provisions concerning gun safety, this legislation reinstates the requirement of licensing for lawful weapons carry; and,

**WHEREAS**, this Council supports the concept of licensed carry to address security issues which have been illustrated in recent incidents of gun violence that have occurred in Columbus, Georgia.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY  
RESOLVES:**

This Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General support currently pending H.B. 601 or any subsequent revision thereof which includes a reinstatement of the requirement of licensing for lawful weapons carry except under certain exceptions.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

Introduced at the regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 14th day of October, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of nine members of Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Anker voting	_____.
Councilor Chambers voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor Hickey voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

## **A RESOLUTION**

**No.**\_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, the salaries for the Solicitor General, the Chief Assistant Solicitor, and all additional assistant solicitors for the State Court of Muscogee County are established by an Act of the Georgia General Assembly at Georgia Laws 1999, page 3803 (“the Local Act”); and,

**WHEREAS**, the Local Act sets the Solicitor General’s Salary at 85% of the District Attorney’s salary and all other salaries in the Solicitor General’s office are set as certain percentages of the current Solicitor General’s; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Solicitor General has requested a revision of the salary structure in his office to keep pace with current economic conditions and allow for easier recruitment and the more efficient operation of his office; and,

**WHEREAS**, this Council desires that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce legislation to amend the Local Act to contain the provisions set forth below.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:**

We hereby respectfully request that the local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly introduce legislation to amend the local act found at Georgia Laws 1999, p.3803 to provide as follows:

1. The salary of the Solicitor General shall be no less than 90% of the state paid salary and the local supplement of the junior State Court Judge.
2. The salary of the Chief Assistant Solicitor General shall be no less than 80% of the state paid salary and local supplement of the Solicitor General.
3. The salary of all other attorneys in the Solicitor General’s Office shall be determined consistent with the pay plan for other attorneys serving the County and State governments.

Let a copy of this resolution be forwarded by the Clerk of Council to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

\_\_\_\_\_



Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 14th day of October 2025, and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_\_\_\_ members of Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Anker voting	_____.
Councilor Chambers voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor Hickey voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
B.H. "Skip" Henderson III, Mayor

**A Resolution**

No. \_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE LOCAL DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORT THE ACCG POLICY POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE WAIVER OF SOVEREIGN IMMUNITY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Association of County Governments (“ACCG”) has adopted its legislative priorities for the 2026 Session of the Georgia General Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the policies adopted is to oppose legislation that attempts to waive county sovereign immunity; and

**WHEREAS**, this Council desires that the members of its local delegation support the efforts of ACCG in this respect.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:**

This Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly work with ACCG and other organizations which support local governments to oppose any legislation which would waive the sovereign immunity to which any municipality, county or consolidated government is currently entitled.

Let a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced at the regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 14th day of October, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_\_\_ members of Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Anker voting	_____.
Councilor Chambers voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor Hickey voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
B.H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor

**A Resolution**

No. \_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE LOCAL DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORT THE ACCG POLICY POSITION WITH RESPECT COST REIMBURSEMENT FOR CERTAIN SPECIAL ELECTIONS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Association of County Governments (“ACCG”) has adopted its legislative priorities for the 2026 Session of the Georgia General Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, a part of one of the policies adopted by ACCG is to support legislation that would protect counties from the burden of cost of special elections by providing for the State to reimburse counties for the cost of conducting special elections held to fill a vacancy in any statewide office, the Georgia General Assembly, the offices of U.S. Senator or Representative, or to approve a statewide referendum; and

**WHEREAS**, this Council desires that the members of its local delegation support the efforts of ACCG in this respect.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:**

This Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly work with ACCG and other organizations which support local governments to support legislation which would reimburse counties for costs incurred in conducting special elections that are not local in nature.

Let a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced at the regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 14th day of October, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_\_\_ members of Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Anker voting	_____.
Councilor Chambers voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor Hickey voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
B.H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor

**A Resolution**

No. \_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE LOCAL DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORT THE ACCG POLICY POSITION WITH RESPECT TO IN NETWORK TREATMENT FOR ALL EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICE PROVIDERS.**

**WHEREAS**, the Association of County Governments (“ACCG”) has adopted its legislative priorities for the 2026 Session of the Georgia General Assembly; and,

**WHEREAS**, one of the policies adopted by ACCG is pertaining to emergency medical services is to support legislation which would require that insurance companies pay for emergency medical ambulance services whether or not they are “out of network”; and,

**WHEREAS**, this Council desires that the members of its local delegation support the efforts of ACCG in this respect.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:**

This Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly work with ACCG and other organizations which support local governments to support legislation which would require insurance companies to treat all available ambulance emergency service providers in an area as in network.

Let a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced at the regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 14th day of October, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_\_\_ members of Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Anker voting	_____.
Councilor Chambers voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor Hickey voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
B.H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor

**A Resolution**

No. \_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE LOCAL DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORT THE ACCG POLICY POSITION WITH RESPECT TO MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENTS FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES.**

**WHEREAS**, the Association of County Governments (“ACCG”) has adopted its legislative priorities for the 2026 Session of the Georgia General Assembly; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the policies adopted by ACCG pertaining to emergency medical services is to support legislation which would require that Medicaid reimbursements for emergency medical services be increased by 10%; and

**WHEREAS**, this Council desires that the members of its local delegation support the efforts of ACCG in this respect.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:**

This Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly work with ACCG and other organizations to support legislation which would increase Medicaid reimbursements for emergency medical services by 10%.

Let a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced at the regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 14th day of October, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_\_\_ members of Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Anker voting	_____.
Councilor Chambers voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor Hickey voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
B.H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor

**A Resolution**

No. \_\_\_\_

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE LOCAL DELEGATION TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SUPPORT THE ACCG POLICY POSITION WITH RESPECT TO IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEXT GENERATION 911 SYSTEM.**

**WHEREAS**, the Association of County Governments (“ACCG”) has adopted its legislative priorities for the 2026 Session of the Georgia General Assembly; and,

**WHEREAS**, one of the policies adopted by ACCG is to support legislation which would support the implementation of the Next Generation 911 System in several ways; and,

**WHEREAS**, this Council desires that the members of its local delegation support the efforts of ACCG in this respect.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA HEREBY RESOLVES:**

This Council requests that the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly work with ACCG and other organizations to support legislation which would provide support to implement the Next Generation 911 System in Georgia to include:

1. Appropriating additional funds to build the infrastructure for a statewide Next-Generation 911 system;
2. Increasing 911 fees on phone bills to support counties upgrading their infrastructure to be able to use the Next Generation 911 System; and
3. Supporting the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority’s initiatives and appropriations for the implementation of Next Generation 911.

Let a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to each member of the local delegation to the Georgia General Assembly.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Introduced at the regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia held on the 14th day of October, 2025 and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of \_\_\_\_ members of Council.

Councilor Allen voting	_____.
Councilor Anker voting	_____.
Councilor Chambers voting	_____.
Councilor Cogle voting	_____.
Councilor Crabb voting	_____.
Councilor Davis voting	_____.
Councilor Garrett voting	_____.
Councilor Hickey voting	_____.
Councilor Huff voting	_____.
Councilor Tucker voting	_____.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lindsey G. McLemore, Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
B.H. “Skip” Henderson III, Mayor