

June 9, 2026

Dear Members of the Fayette County Legislative Delegation,

In a spirit of unity and cohesion, we, the Mayors of Peachtree City, Fayetteville, Tyrone, Brooks, and Woolsey wish to share our position on the issues surrounding property tax legislation in Georgia.

For more than 100 years, Georgia property tax law has been based on the fundamental tenet that local control is best: community leaders at the City and County level know their communities and their constituents. City and County leaders determine property taxes based on local priorities, inflation, and growth.

City and County leaders create their budgets and set related property tax rates annually, in a transparent process involving public meetings, workshops, and public hearings. We are accountable to our neighbors.

Using property tax revenue, we fund public safety, parks, roads, libraries, recreation, beautification, buildings and facilities and more, for our communities. We also work to attract economic development and achieve a balanced tax base.

Recent changes and current proposals by the Georgia General Assembly make it more difficult for cities and counties to generate the revenue we need to provide essential services and maintain the infrastructure our citizens rely on – even for responsible governments like ours.

In addition to 2025 legislation that capped property tax assessments, in 2026, state legislators proposed completely eliminating property taxes on homesteads. Even if this were done in a phased approach, by 2032 that's approximately 64% of Tyrone's overall property tax revenue – gone. That's approximately 57% of Peachtree City's overall property tax revenue – gone. In Fayetteville, 44% – gone.

Recommendations from state legislators to substitute property tax with sales tax fall short. While sales tax can be an important component of how cities and counties fund services, sales tax revenue is unpredictable – in economic downturns, sales tax revenue drops, sometime precipitously, even as demand for services increases. This volatility compromises our ability to plan responsibly.

As an example, if the decision is made on the local level to slightly raise the millage rate while offering a local homestead exemption, we can soften the millage rate burden while still increasing overall revenue from non-homestead property. The state is simply not agile enough to make decisions like this.

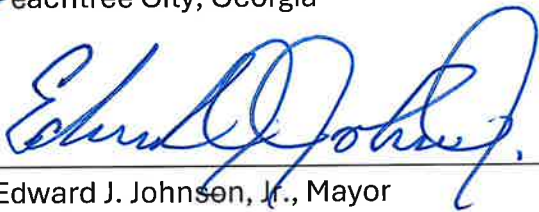
Further, not all cities are the same. What works for a city with a strong retail base won't work for our small towns, bedroom communities, or rural counties.

To be clear, as leaders in a largely conservative community, we are all about finding ways to minimize the property tax burden on homeowners, but these decisions should be made by City and County leaders, not the state. If the state wants to relieve our tax burden, we encourage you to do so by lowering state taxes. We are positioned to support you in this effort.

With sincere regards,



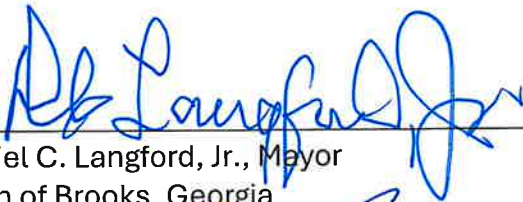
Kim Learnard, Mayor  
Peachtree City, Georgia



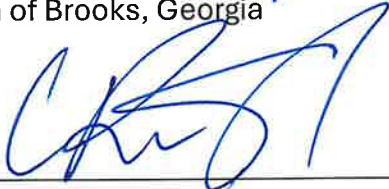
Edward J. Johnson, Jr., Mayor  
Fayetteville, Georgia



Eric Dial, Mayor  
Town of Tyrone, Georgia



Daniel C. Langford, Jr., Mayor  
Town of Brooks, Georgia



C. Ron Smith, Mayor  
Town of Woolsey, Georgia

**Cc:** Lee Hearn, Chairman, Fayette County Commission  
Jim Thornton, Georgia Municipal Association  
Josh Bonner, State Representative, District 72  
Karen Mathiak, State Representative, District 82  
Debra Bazemore, State Representative, District 69  
Derrick Jackson, State Representative, District 68  
Marty Harbin, State Senator, District 16  
Kenya Wicks, State Senator, District 34