



*Where Quality Is A Lifestyle*

## **Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Message**

June 27, 2008

The Honorable Jack R. Smith, Chairman  
The Honorable Members of the Fayette County Board of Commissioners  
The Citizens of Fayette County, Georgia

### **INTRODUCTION**

It is my pleasure to present the fiscal year 2009 budget for Fayette County Georgia as adopted by the Board of Commissioners on June 26, 2008. The adopted budget covers the period beginning **July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.**

The budget includes **expenditures** of **\$78,898,286** and **operating transfers** of **\$1,014,339** for **total appropriations** of **\$79,912,625**. This budget is representative of the County's long-standing tradition of providing high levels of service to the citizens of Fayette County while maintaining fiscal and managerial conservatism. The Board of Commissioners and its staff continue to identify and allocate scarce resources in a manner that most effectively, efficiently, and economically meets the dynamic needs of a growing Metropolitan Atlanta suburban community with a current estimated population of approximately 106,000.

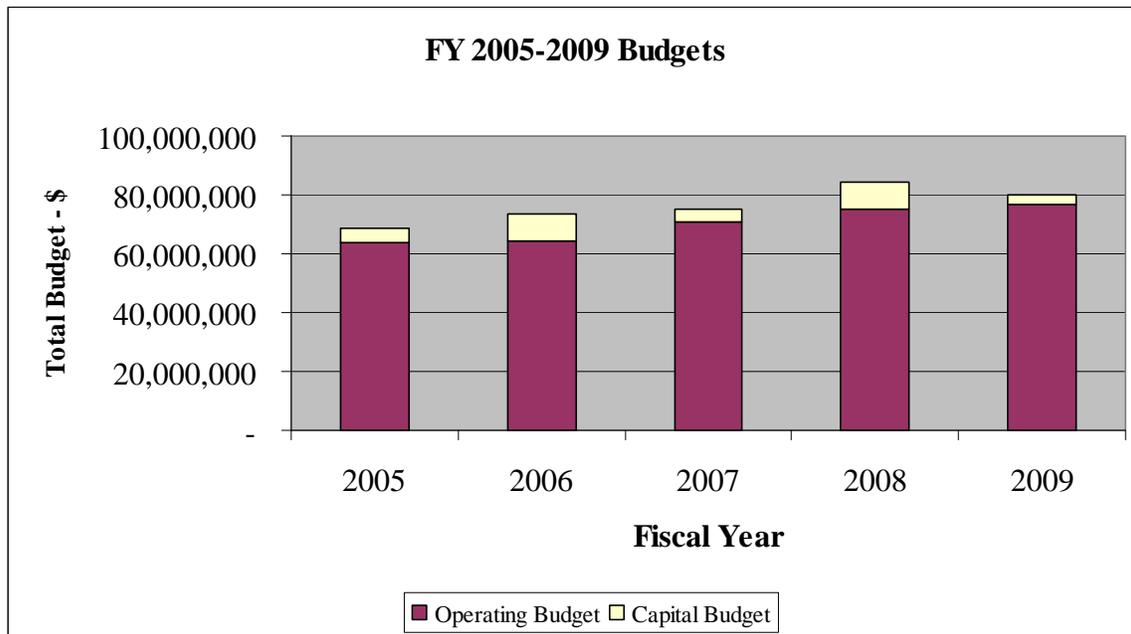
Major components of the approved expenditures include **\$63,025,323** for **operating Governmental Fund** activities, **\$12,893,208** for **Enterprise Fund** activities, **\$1,642,532** for **Capital/CIP** projects, and **\$1,337,223** for **Internal Service Fund** activities.

### **BUDGET IN BRIEF**

The adopted operating budget for FY 2009 totals **\$76,932,870**. This year's operating budget increases by **\$2.0 million** over the previous year operating budget. The **2.7%** increase over the FY 2008 budget level is consistent with our principle of fiscal conservatism. The FY 2009 adopted capital budget is **\$6.6 million** less than the previous year. This represents a decrease of **68.9%**. The total adopted budget for FY 2009 is **\$4.6 million** less than the previous year. This represents a decrease of **5.4%**.

### Fayette County - FY 2005 to 2009 Budgets

Fiscal Year	Operating Budget	% Change	Capital Budget	% Change	Total Budget	% Change
2005	64,048,203	1.9	4,808,831	(56.0)	68,857,034	(6.6)
2006	64,341,631	0.5	9,006,533	87.3	73,348,164	6.5
2007	70,869,280	10.1	4,380,887	(51.4)	75,250,167	2.6
2008	74,913,640	5.7	9,587,782	118.9	84,501,422	12.3
2009	76,932,870	2.7	2,979,755	(68.9)	79,912,625	(5.4)



### SIGNIFICANT ITEMS FOR FY 2008 AND BUDGET FY 2009

1. **New Emergency Medical Services special revenue tax district** – a new special tax district was created during FY 2008 for the purpose of funding emergency medical services for county citizens. The new tax district encompasses the entire county with the exception of the City of Peachtree City who provides emergency medical services to its own citizens. Instead of an additional tax on its citizens, the new EMS tax district represents a shift of the tax burden to the county citizens that are actually receiving emergency medical services provided by the county government. A new special revenue fund was created to account exclusively for revenues generated by the new EMS tax district. Revenues will be generated from property taxes, other taxes, and charges for services. For FY 2009 revenues are estimated at \$3.5 million.
  
2. **Reorganization of the departments of Public Safety Administration, Emergency Management, Fire Services, and Emergency Medical Services** – as a result of the creation of the new EMS tax district, the functions of public safety administration, fire services, emergency medical services, and emergency management were reorganized. The departments of Public

Safety and Emergency Management were merged and will serve as the administrative department for the entire Public Safety Division. These administrative activities will be funded from the General Fund.

**3. Fayette County hired a Staff Attorney** – during FY 2008 the Board of Commissioners approved hiring a Staff Attorney to handle legal matters for the county. A legal department was created to account for payroll and other operating expenditures related to county legal matters. In the past, the county contracted the services of a local law firm. For FY 2008, actual expenditures for the legal department totaled approximately \$176,000 compared to the \$390,000 that had been originally budgeted for outside legal services. This represents savings of over \$200,000 for the fiscal year.

**4. Classification and Compensation Study** – the study conducted by the Carl Vinson Institute of Management of the University of Georgia was completed. Based on updated job functions, employees were placed in the appropriate class and pay grade for their positions. Phase I of the study was implemented during FY 2008. Phase II to be implemented at the start of FY 2009.

**5. Chief Information Officer position** – an organizational study of Fayette County conducted by the University of Georgia recommended the creation of the position of Chief Information Officer. This new position was included as part of the FY 2008 budget. After further review, it was decided to promote the Information Systems Director to Chief Information Officer and abolish the position of IS Director. The resulting savings will be used to hire a consultant to assist the county in conducting a long term strategic plan of technology and infrastructure needs.

**6. Funding of FY 2009 Capital/CIP Projects** – during FY 2008 the Board of Commissioners approved closing prior years' projects that had been already completed or that were no longer necessary. Funding made available from these closed projects would then be used to fund capital and CIP projects approved as part of the FY 2009 budget. Approximately \$1.6 million made available from projects closed during FY 2008 will be used to fund FY 2009 projects.

**7. New Positions/Promotions** – During the FY 2009 budget process it was apparent that the county departments understood that current economic conditions required an aggressive posture of fiscal conservatism. Their requests for new positions and the promotion of current employees were the lowest in recent years. As a result, only **one new full-time position was added. Five additional positions** were either upgraded from part-time to full-time or were approved additional weekly hours. **Twenty-five promotions** were approved. The cost of the additional position, the positions that were upgraded, and the promotions total approximately \$264,000. This is approximately \$1.0 million less than the FY 2008 budget figure for new positions and position upgrades.

**8. Vehicles and Other Motorized Equipment** – FY 2009 budget appropriations total \$1.34 million. A total of thirty-three vehicles and two pieces of field equipment were approved. Again, fiscal conservatism was exercised by the requesting county departments. All the approved vehicles are actually replacing older vehicles that had been certified by the Fleet Maintenance department to be either unsafe or whose high maintenance cost warranted replacing the unit.

**FY 2009 BUDGET SUMMARY**

<b>OPERATING BUDGET</b>			
<b>FY 2009 TO FY 2008 COMPARISON - BY FUND</b>			
<b>FUND</b>	<b>FY 2009</b>	<b>FY 2008</b>	<b>% CHANGE</b>
General Fund	\$ 48,567,898	\$ 47,093,661	3.1
Special Revenue Funds			
Law Library	107,077	89,660	19.4
Confiscated Property-State	\$ 75,600	\$ 68,600	10.2
Emergency Phone E-911	2,645,716	2,555,622	3.5
Jail Construction	500,000	480,235	4.1
Juvenile Supervision	29,000	30,000	(3.3)
Victims Assistance	367,645	360,072	2.1
Drug Abuse and Treatment	54,265	54,265	-
Fire Services Fund	7,467,251	7,173,681	4.1
Street Lights	225,000	234,900	(4.2)
EMS Fund*	3,106,541	2,895,631	7.3
S.P.L.O.S.T. (Library)	265,693	256,493	3.6
Enterprise Funds			
Solid Waste	194,934	152,203	28.1
Water System	13,326,250	13,468,617	(1.1)
<b>Total Operating Budget</b>	<b>\$ 76,932,870</b>	<b>\$ 74,913,640</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<i>*The Emergency Medical Services fund was established as a new special tax district during FY 2008.</i>			

<b>CAPITAL BUDGET</b>	
<b>FY 2009 - BY FUND</b>	
<b>FUND</b>	<b>APPROVED FY 2009</b>
Early Warning Siren Construction Fund	\$ 71,800
Capital Projects Fund	146,062
Capital Improvement Program Fund	1,424,670
Water System Fund*	2,080,000
Vehicle/Equipment Fund	1,337,223
<b>Total Capital Budget</b>	<b>\$ 5,059,755</b>
<i>*Water System capital/CIP projects are included in their operating budget.</i>	

## CONCLUSION

The development of the Fiscal Year 2009 budget could not have been accomplished without the support and clear direction provided by the Board of Commissioners throughout the budget process. Your dedication to addressing the challenges that face our community and organization was vital to the production of a functional and balanced budget that is designed to maintain superior levels of service to the citizens of Fayette County while simultaneously ensuring the elimination of waste and unnecessary activities.

Similarly, Elected Officials and Department Directors should be commended for their presentation of fiscally conservative budget requests recognizing the uncertainty of economic conditions. Their requests reflect genuine thought and planning with only minimal increases requested over prior year operating expenditures. Capital project requests were significantly lower than prior year approvals. In aggregate, estimated FY 2009 expenditures decreased 5.4% from the prior year. In concert with our Elected Officials and program managers we will ensure that our expenditures this fiscal year are reflective of the Board's adopted budget.

Throughout the years and multiple elected Boards of Commissioners, Fayette County has been committed to maintaining a posture of fiscal conservatism reflected through responsible and prudent decision making. This year the Board of Commissioners has maintained the legacy of their predecessors ensuring that Fayette County Government is prepared to meet the economic challenges of tomorrow. Through their actions the county's various fund balances remain strong and capable of meeting unforeseen emergencies. Organizationally, Fayette County continues to be positioned to lead the Metropolitan Atlanta Area in local government innovation, fiscal conservatism, and quality of life for its citizens.

Respectfully,



Jack J. Krakeel

Interim County Administrator

## SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE COUNTY



The County provides a full range of services to its citizens. These services include police and fire protection; emergency medical services; court systems; library services; the construction and maintenance of highways, streets and infrastructure; tax assessment and collection; planning and zoning; recreational activities and cultural events; and inherent administrative and support activities. The County provides the majority of these services since fiscal responsibility has been affixed at the local level by State statutes. However, in keeping with the terms of their individual charters, the cities and towns have chosen to provide some of the above services to their citizens as part of their operations.

The County also operates a potable water distribution system and a solid waste management system. The Water System was established in 1966 and serves over 27,000 customers in the unincorporated areas of the County and through the County-owned distribution systems of the City of Peachtree City and the Towns of Tyrone and Woolsey. The Water System also wholesales water to the City of Fayetteville and the Town of Brooks pursuant to wholesale water contracts, which expire in 2034 and 2024, respectively.

## PROFILE OF THE COUNTY

### History

Fayette County, established in 1821, is a body corporate and political organized and existing under the Constitution and laws of the State of Georgia. Fayette County was the 49<sup>th</sup> county created in the state and was formed from parts of the Creek Indian Territory. The County and the City of Fayetteville, the county seat, were named for the Marquis De LaFayette, one of General George Washington's lieutenants in the Revolutionary War.

### Demographics

Fayette County is bordered on the north by Fulton County with Atlanta as its county seat, on the east by Clayton County with Jonesboro as its county seat, on the south by Spalding County with Griffin as its county seat, and on the west by Coweta County with Newnan as its county seat. Incorporated communities located within the County include Fayetteville, which is the County seat; Brooks; Peachtree City; Tyrone and Woolsey.

Encompassing about 199 square miles, it is one of the smaller counties in the State in area. It is located in the northwestern part of Georgia, situated about 15 miles south of the Atlanta city limits and is considered an integral part of the Metro Atlanta area. From a long-range planning standpoint, it is a member of the Atlanta Regional Commission.

In looking at its demographic statistics, Fayette County is considered for the most part to be a suburban community. About 53 percent of its residents live in incorporated cities and towns. Fayette is the Atlanta region's second least densely populated county, with 0.84 people living per acre of land. The average household size is 2.74 and nearly 93.9 percent of housing is defined as occupied.

Fayette County exhibits some excellent physical characteristics, in terms of climate and geography. Average rainfall for the immediate area is 48.61 inches per year, and average temperatures range from a high of 87 degrees in the summer to a low of 34 degrees in the winter, with a year round average temperature of 61.4 degrees. The area is decorated with dogwoods and azaleas blooming in the spring and a colorful change of leaves in the fall. The general terrain of the area is characteristic of the Piedmont region of Georgia, with hills with broad ridges, sloping uplands and relatively narrow valleys. Land elevations within the County range from a low of 720 to a high of 1,005 feet above sea level.

### **Transportation**

Another important attribute of Fayette County is its location in relationship to major transportation modes, with ready access to several different methods of conveyance. The County is strategically located in proximity to three major interstate highway systems, I-75, I-285 and I-85. In addition, several principal arterial roadways, such as State Highways 54, 74, 85, 92, 279 and 314, pass directly through the County. Citizens also have fairly easy access to the public transportation systems, which serve the immediate Atlanta area. From terminals located in the southern part of Fulton County, travelers can take advantage of the trains and buses operated by the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA). For a very reasonable fare, MARTA offers residents the alternative of an easy, quick commute to Downtown Atlanta or to the various sports venues. And from the private sector, the Greyhound Bus Lines operates a local terminal in nearby Hapeville.

Other transportation needs can also be easily accommodated. For any business needing to move freight, there is direct railway service, which is provided by CSX Railroad. In addition, Amtrak has passenger trains, which pass through nearby Atlanta. For international shipping, Savannah, Georgia and Jacksonville, Florida serve as major deep-water seaports, which can be easily reached by interstate highway in a matter of hours. Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the world's busiest, is located only about 15 miles to the north and Falcon Field Airport which is located on the western fringes of the County serves as a local public airport for light aircraft including small jets.

### **Diverse Lifestyles**

In spite of its relatively small size in terms of area, Fayette County offers its residents a diverse menu of lifestyles, amenities and opportunities. Peachtree City, a planned community situated in the western part of the County, is widely known as a family-oriented locale. This City features three golf courses, two large lakes, 90 miles of golf cart paths, a 2,000 seat amphitheater, a state-

of-the-art championship tennis center, an indoor swimming complex and numerous other recreational facilities. The majority of industry in the County is located in a nearby industrial park.

Fayetteville, the County seat, boasts of its Main Street Program aimed at recognizing the rich history of the City's downtown area and ensuring that much of the small town flavor and architectural designs of the past are maintained. And with street names like Stonewall, Beauregard, Lee and Jeff Davis and buildings such as the Doc Holliday House, one can't help but feel surrounded by history.

For those in search of a more pastoral environment, the Towns of Brooks and Woolsey, located in the southern portion of the County, generally require a minimum residential lot size of five-acres. In Fayette County, one can find a high-tech industrial complex and an airport located just a few minutes drive from cattle farms, woodlands full of deer and turkey, and a historic water mill.

## GOVERNMENTAL STRUCTURE



The governing authority of Fayette County is a **Board of Commissioners** consisting of five elected members. The commissioners serve on a part-time basis and are elected to staggered terms of four years. While all five commissioners are elected at large, three must come from the different road districts within the County. At their first meeting each calendar year, the Commission Chair and Vice-Chair are selected by the Board.

In their policy-making capacity, the Board of Commissioners is authorized to perform the following functions:

- 1) levy taxes;
- 2) direct and control all property of the County;
- 3) establish, alter or abolish roads and bridges;
- 4) fill vacancies in County offices unless others are empowered to do so;
- 5) examine, settle and allow claims against the County;
- 6) examine and audit the accounts of all officers having the care, management, keeping, collection or disbursement of money belonging to the County;
- 7) establish the costs of licenses; and
- 8) make such rules and regulations as necessary for the protection and preservation of health, safety, welfare and morals.

The Board of Commissioners appoints the County Administrator who serves as the County's Chief Administrative Officer. The County Administrator is responsible for the daily operations of all County functions in accordance with the policies of the Board of Commissioners.

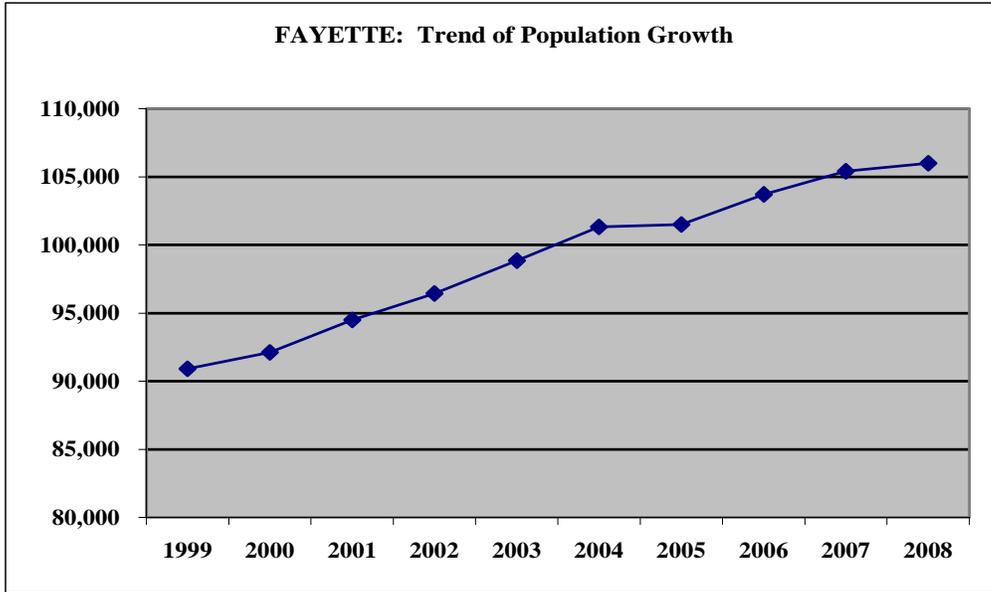
## LOCAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND OUTLOOK

Fayette County continues to benefit economically by being an integral part of one of the top growth areas in the United States. The Metropolitan Atlanta region represents one of the nation's primary transportation and distribution centers as well as being a major financial and consumer services leader. For those counties located on the south side of the Metro Area, Hartsfield - Jackson International Airport is considered to be one of the more important economic engines. The total annual regional economic impact of the airport is more than \$23 billion. The airport has been authorized to spend an impressive \$5.4 billion toward a 10-year development program. This will modernize and expand the current airport facilities to accommodate its current and future traffic demands. Georgia's geographically central location for domestic distribution, excellent surface transportation system, telecommunications infrastructure and proximity to major consumer markets make the state an excellent base for air cargo operations.

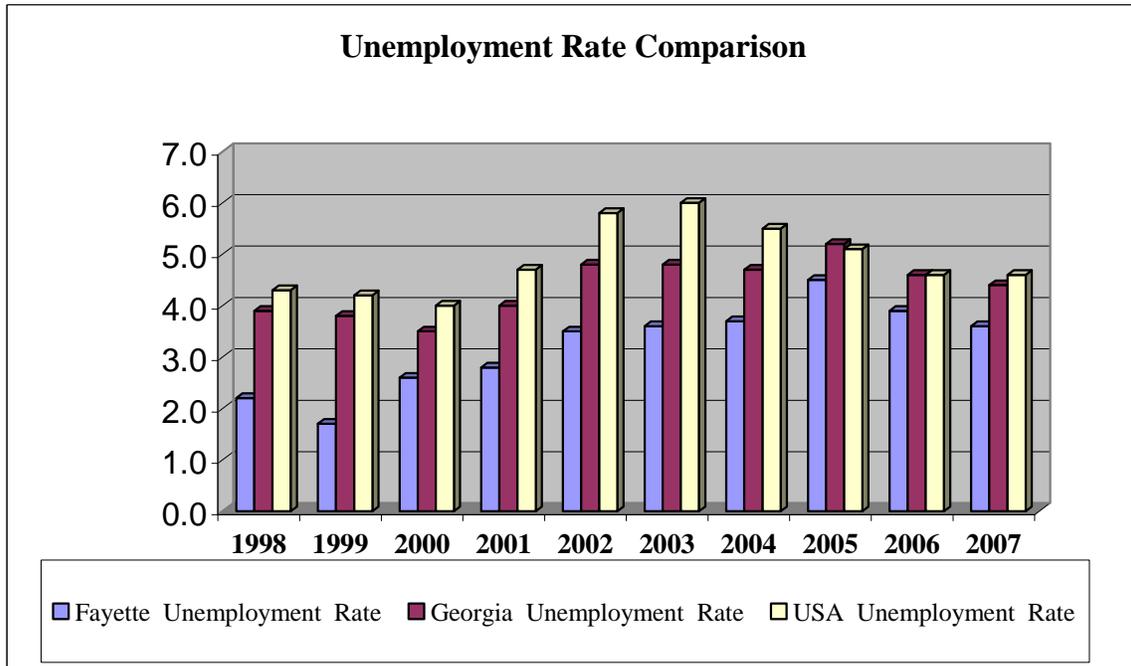
The quality and quantity of services provided by the County to its residents are second to none. The Fayette County Board of Education reported that all 30 schools met Georgia's Adequate Yearly Progress testing criteria and no school will have to offer parents the option of transferring students to other school. The "Adequate Yearly Progress Requirements" is part of the No Child Left Behind law that requires states to set goals based on student achievement data. Also in Fayette County, one will find one of the lowest crime rates in the Metro-Atlanta area, and an efficient County government with one of the lowest millage rates and service costs per capita in the State. Each of these quality-of-life factors combine to make Fayette County an extremely attractive place in which to reside.

More recently, the County has become well known, not only regionally, but nationally, as an ideal place in which to live and to work. Fayette County is considered by many to be the "crown jewel" of metropolitan Atlanta's many fine communities and it indeed offers a quality of life that equals or surpasses any metro area in the United States! The City of Peachtree City has earned accolades by Money magazine and CNN/MONEY as one of the best places to live in the United States. Of cities with more than 14,000 people, Peachtree City was ranked eighth in 2005.

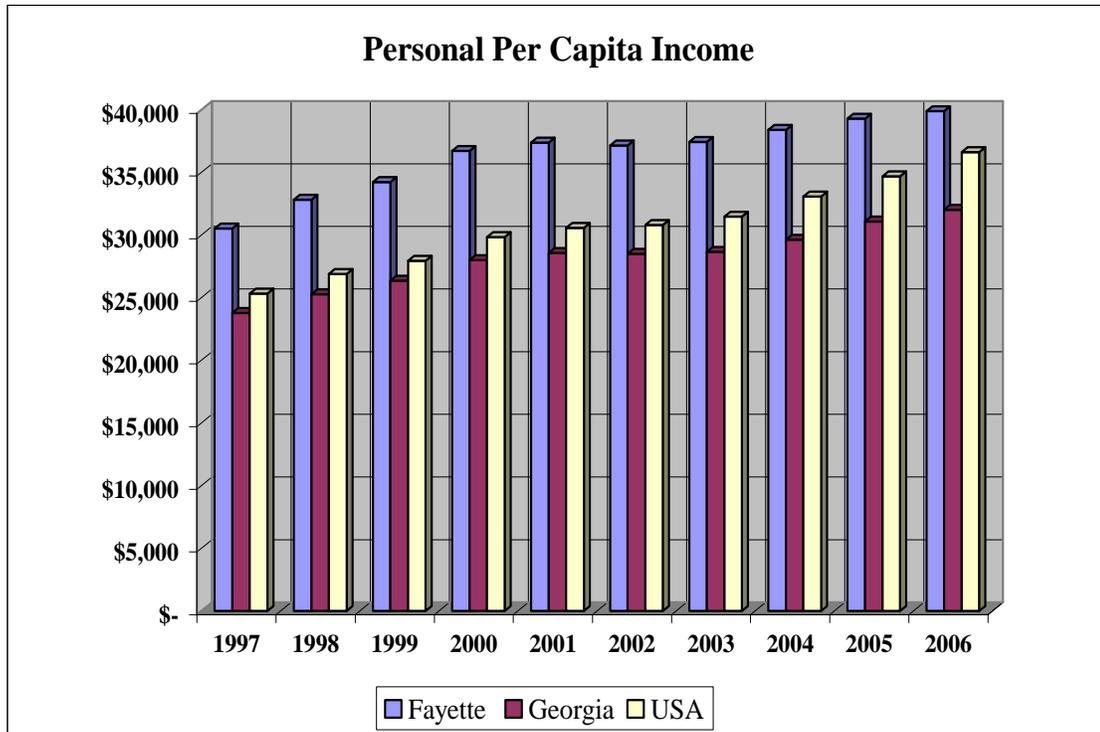
According to the 1980 census figures, Fayette County had 29,043 residents and was the forty-third most populous county in the State of Georgia. For 2008, the estimated population is 106,000. Based on the current trends, the Atlanta Regional Commission estimates that the population of the County will be 107,220 in 2010 and 126,321 in 2020.



In terms of productivity, Fayette County is extremely blessed to have a labor force that is well trained and has many marketable skills. More than 66 percent of our current residents 25 or older have attended some college or have attained up to a graduate degree. The average SAT/ACT scores at local high schools are well above the state and national averages. SAT scores in Fayette County ranked third among the fourteen metro Atlanta school districts. The superior quality of our workforce is supported by the monthly statistics prepared by the Georgia Department of Labor (DOL) which indicate that the County consistently has low unemployment rates. The chart below shows county unemployment trends for the last ten years.



As one might expect from having such a significant percentage of residents permanently employed, the citizens of Fayette County are among the more affluent in the country. The graph below compares the Personal Per Capita Income of the residents of Fayette County with those of Georgia and the rest of the nation for a period of ten years.



As the population and number of skilled workers have continued to grow over the years, the demographics are now such that businesses are being attracted to the area in increasing numbers. It is also important to note that the business climate in Fayette County is conducive to sustained quality growth. The Fayette County Development Authority has formed a partnership with six other adjacent counties-Metro South- for the specific purpose of promoting regional development. To help encourage residential development, a one-stop building permit process has been developed in-house and is now in place and operating.

Another very important attribute to the immediate area is that Atlanta's industrial diversity insulates the region against upheavals in a single market or decisions by a few major employers. Even with the increasing pre-eminence of the services sector of the economy, no single sector accounts for as much as 30 percent of the region's employment. Added benefits of recent growth include the availability of more high-quality products, services and talent. A critical mass of skilled workers in a variety of technical fields encourages innovations and entrepreneurship.

In summary, Fayette County is located in a growing local area and region with economic vitality and favorable prospects for the immediate future. While having a positive impact on the quality of life, this growth also presents significant challenges for Fayette County and its leaders.

## MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2009 AND THE FUTURE



**For the Year:** In preparing the 2009 fiscal year budget, the County was faced with the challenges of determining the proper balance between service delivery to the taxpayers and maintaining financial stability. The prospect of a slowing economy was taken into consideration in determining the allocation of resources.

With those operational pressures in mind, a conservative approach was taken in the preparation of this year's budget. Operating

expenditures increased by only 2.7 percent. Capital budget appropriations were lower than the previous fiscal year. The total budget was 5.5 percent lower than the FY 2008 total budget.

The parameters that guided the development of the FY 2009 budget will enable the achievement of these important goals:

- ☞ Maintaining the compensation and benefits package of county employees comparable with the current labor market,
- ☞ Maintaining a stable property tax rate that supports the maintenance and operations of the county,
- ☞ Funding the continued expansion of the Water System,
- ☞ Continuing the replacement of county vehicles and equipment,
- ☞ Improving the County's roadways,
- ☞ Enhancements in the Public Safety area,
- ☞ Projecting the funding needs of the Capital Improvements Program,
- ☞ Maintaining the fiscal ability to provide for service level increases in response to service demand,
- ☞ Optimizing the use of new technologies and training, and
- ☞ Minimizing the "cost of government" to the citizens while continuing to be responsive to their needs.

Unquestionably, the most important asset of Fayette County is its employees. As part of the adopted personnel policies and procedures, the Human Resources Department is required to periodically compare the employees' compensation and benefits package with those of surrounding markets. The implementation of the findings from these periodic salary comparisons helps guarantee that Fayette County can hire and retain qualified employees. In FY 2008, the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Management completed a Compensation and Classification Study approved by the Board of Commissioners. Phase I of the study was implemented in March 2008. Phase II is to be implemented at the start of FY 2009. Also, funds were again included in the budget to provide training opportunities for the purpose of updating employees on the use of popular software packages such as Windows, PowerPoint, Word, Excel, Outlook, Access, and Project. To ensure that our employees take advantage of these classes, they are required to have a certain number of training hours each year.

As new residents continue to move into Fayette County, they bring with them an immediate impact on traffic flows. With each additional vehicle on the road, the potential for problems to develop increases as traffic counts begin to exceed existing road design capacities and intersections become overcrowded. The County's Transportation Plan (May 2003) has formed



the basis for identifying actions to be taken as far out as 2013 to provide a transportation system capable of maintaining the county's quality of life. It identifies the projects needed to improve safety, reduce congestion, increase mobility options, and enhance Fayette's business and community options. The voters approved the Special Local Option Sales Tax during the November 2004 general election which has provided funding for the County's portion of the work. Key to the success of the plan has been the cooperation with the

county's local communities and with regional and state agencies. On December 13, 2007, the Board of Commissioners agreed to take advantage of Federal Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding available through the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). Doing so will further aid in planning and prioritizing transportation projects and will ensure that Fayette County continues to receive federal dollars for these projects. This program assists with 80% of the funding of the transportation plan while the county provides the remaining 20%.



The revenue generated by the Water System from water payments and meter charges is used to fund daily operations that ensure safe and adequate drinking water for county customers. The Water System serves more than 27,000 customers. It has a total production capacity of 20.375 million gallons per day (MGD). The system complies with the State of Georgia Watering Restriction Program.

The system currently has three raw water storage reservoirs. Lake Kedron is a 235-acre reservoir which stores approximately 1.0 billion gallons of water and will safely yield 3.5 MGD during drought conditions. Lake Peachtree is a 250-acre reservoir which will yield 0.5 MGD

during drought conditions. Lake Horton, a 783-acre reservoir stores 3.5 billion gallons of water and will yield 16-18 million gallons per day during drought conditions.

The Water System includes more than 600 miles of water lines. The water treatment plant located in Peachtree City has the capacity to produce 13.5 million gallons per day. A variety of chemical and biological tests are performed daily to insure compliance with State and Federal requirements for safe drinking water. The Water System currently has 16.25 million gallons of potable water storage. In 2007 a permit was issued to build Lake McIntosh. This is a 650-acre reservoir which will have a reliable yield of 10.4 MGD. The project has started with the dam design, timber cutting, and an archeological site project in progress. The FY 2009 budget includes \$2.026 million in funding for the Lake McIntosh project.

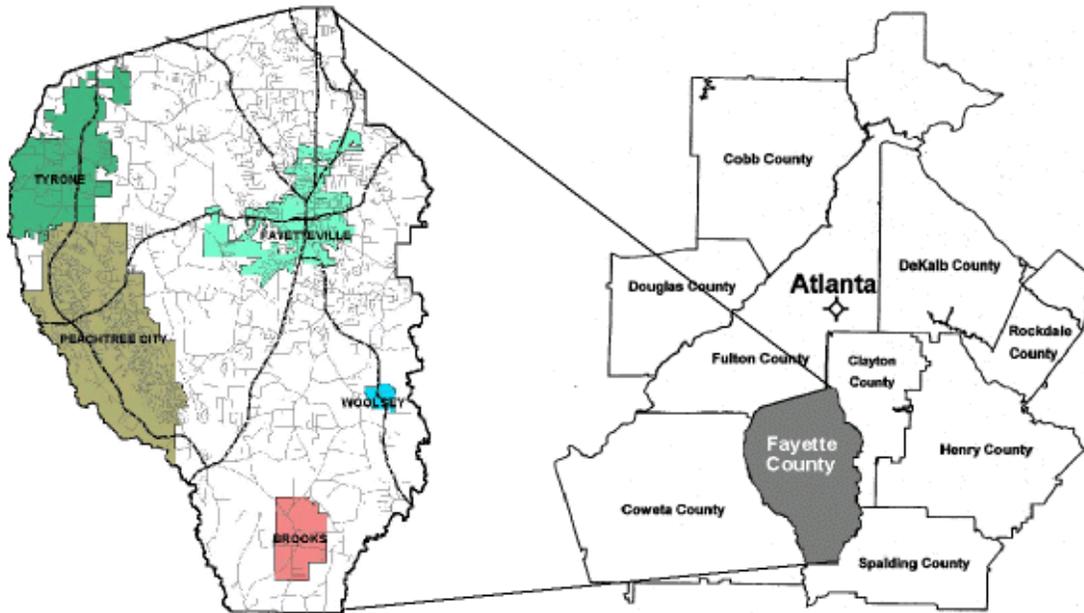
Because of the rapid growth that has occurred in Fayette County in recent years, citizens have become more and more cognizant of the additional costs that are associated with upgrading facilities and infrastructure necessary to provide the same level of superior service to new arrivals. To address this situation being forced to help pay for those due to influx of new citizens, the collection of impact fees for new to and receiving final approval from Affairs, during FY 2001 the County developers which approximate the developments on the capital budget.



where the current residents are capital expenditures incurred Board decided to implement the construction. After submission the Department of Community began collecting these fees from financial impact of new

**For the Future:** It has been said that several of the factors which influence an individual's choice to reside in a particular place include the availability of services in the area, quality of life, and community identity or image. The County is taking a proactive stance in addressing each of these three considerations. Enhancing the existing quality of life, creating a positive image for the County and engendering pride in the Fayette community continue to be a large part of the strategic plan of the Board of Commissioners. The transition of Fayette County from its rural heritage into a dynamic suburbanizing community requires careful planning and implementation of a comprehensive strategy designed to maximize governmental resources. It is not an easy task, but the Fayette County Government is strongly committed to finding the best possible solution to this perplexing challenge.

## Fayette County, Georgia: Municipalities and Proximity to Metropolitan Atlanta Area



Fayette County spans 199 acres and has 5 incorporated municipalities within its boundaries. There is an estimated 106,000 people calling Fayette County home today. Atlanta, with its world of shopping, dining, cultural opportunities, and major league sports, is just 30 minutes away.

### Municipalities

**Fayetteville** – Fayetteville is the county seat of Fayette County and was named for Marquis de Lafayette, one of General George Washington’s commanders in the Revolutionary War. The City was incorporated on December 20, 1823. The original size of town was a half mile circle from the courthouse. The Southern Railroad came through in 1888 and was removed in 1928.

**Peachtree City** – Peachtree City was created in 1959 and includes the communities of Kedron, Aberdeen and Clover. The city now features three golf courses, two lakes, an amphitheater, a tennis center, an indoor swimming complex, and 90 miles of pedestrian and golf-cart pathways connecting all parts of the city.

**Brooks** – The town of Brooks was first known as Haistentown after some of the original settlers. The community became known as Sharon Grove in the 1840’s. When the railroad came through in 1871, Hillery Brooks gave the property for the train station that was known as Brooks Station. In December 1905, the town became known as Brooks.

**Woolsey** – The Southern Railroad came through the area that became Woolsey in 1888. Woolsey was incorporated in 1893. It was named for Dr. I.G. Woolsey, who was the town’s largest landowner. Dr. Woolsey was a Civil War surgeon and a minister.

**Tyrone** - Tyrone was settled by Irish farmers and the town first known as Hopewell. The town was incorporated in 1911 by railroad builders who were mainly Scotch and Irish. They named the town Tyrone because they thought the area reminded them of their home area around County Tyrone in Ireland. Tyrone got its first pave street in 1948.