

March 25, 2019



Chief Executive Officer
Michael L. Thurmond

Office of the Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

Michael L. Thurmond
Chief Executive Officer

Executive Order No. 2019-001
Creation of a Charter Review Commission to
Examine the DeKalb County Form of Government

Board of Commissioners

District 1
Nancy Jester

District 2
Jeff Rader

District 3
Larry Johnson

District 4
Steve Bradshaw

District 5
Mereda Davis Johnson

District 6
Kathie Gannon

District 7
Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

WHEREAS, the Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County (CEO) seeks to provide the highest quality and most efficient government for citizens of DeKalb County, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the CEO desires a comprehensive review of the Organizational Act of DeKalb County (Org. Act) to ensure that the government of DeKalb County is representative of all citizens of DeKalb County and responsive to the needs and demands of the citizens of DeKalb County; and

WHEREAS, the CEO would like to review the Org. Act to harmonize all parts of the Org. Act and recommend changes in order to achieve the best delivery of services to the citizens of DeKalb County; and

NOW THEREFORE, the Chief Executive Officer hereby issues the following Executive Order:

(1) There is hereby created the DeKalb County Charter Review Commission (the Charter Commission).

(2) The Commission shall be composed of 17 citizens of DeKalb County (the County) who have been residents of DeKalb County for at least one year immediately preceding the date of taking office and who remain residents of DeKalb County while in office.

(a) The members of the Charter Commission shall be selected as follows:

(i) One member shall be appointed by the board of education of DeKalb County;

(ii) Three members shall be appointed by the CEO. Of those three members, at least one appointee shall be a resident of that portion of DeKalb County lying south of the southernmost corporate boundaries of the City of Decatur, and one shall be a resident of that portion of DeKalb County lying north of the southernmost corporate boundaries of the City of Decatur. The third

member may be appointed from any jurisdiction within DeKalb County. Two of the three CEO appointees shall serve as Chairperson and vice Chairpersons for the commission.

(iii) Seven members, each residing in a separate district of commissioner Districts 1 through 7, shall be appointed by the Board of Commissioners (BOC), which shall determine the manner in which it shall consider a prospective member's skills, knowledge, training, and experience which are directly related to the stated duties of the Charter Commission.

(iv) Three members shall be appointed by the DeKalb County delegation in the House of Representatives of the General Assembly, and one may be a member of the DeKalb County delegation in the House of Representatives of the General Assembly.

(v) Three members shall be appointed by the DeKalb County delegation in the Senate of the General Assembly and one may be a member of the DeKalb County delegation in the Senate of the General Assembly; and

(iv) The chairpersons of the DeKalb County delegation of the House of Representatives of the General Assembly and Senate of the General Assembly shall be members of ex officio.

(3) The appointees' names shall be submitted to the Office of the CEO and to the Clerk to the BOC.

(4) Members shall serve without compensation.

(5) In the event any member of the Charter Commission, without good cause, fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Charter Commission, the member's position on the Charter Commission shall become vacant.

(6) When a vacancy occurs, written notice shall be provided to the entity or official that originally appointed the member who shall fill the vacancy in the same manner as the original appointment. If the appointing entity or official fails to fill the vacancy within twenty (20) business days from written notice, the CEO shall fill the vacancy.

(7) The Charter Commission shall convene from May 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020.

(a) It shall be the duty of the appointed co-chairpersons to call an organizational meeting of the Charter Commission. The co-chairpersons shall convene the meeting and shall preside over the election of a secretary, and such other officers as the Charter Commission deems necessary, by majority vote.

(b) The co-chairpersons shall preside over meetings, to lead and direct the Charter Commission and its activities, and act for the Charter Commission when so authorized by the Charter Commission. The presence of a least one co-chairperson shall be necessary for the transaction of any business by the Charter Commission.

(c) Eight members of the Charter Commission shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. However, any recommendation from the Charter Commission to add, eliminate, modify or change any provision of the Org. Act must be approved by at least ten members of the Charter Commission. No vacancy on the Charter Commission shall impair the authority of the Charter Commission to carry out its duties under this Executive Order.

(d) The Charter Commission shall have the authority to adopt by-laws, rules or regulations governing its operations, establish its schedule and it may organize itself into such committees and sub-committees as it deems necessary and appropriate.

(8) The Charter Commission shall work with the County's Executive Assistant to gather any and all county related information necessary to advance its work.

(9) The Charter Commission shall refer to all previous studies of the DeKalb County government. It shall specifically consider the reports of the two previous charter commissions created by the General Assembly: the Local Government Commission (1954) and the DeKalb County Government Reorganization Commission (1979).

(10) The CEO requests the DeKalb County governing authority (Governing Authority) and the Charter Commission to agree that the Charter Commission must conduct a mutually agreed upon number of public hearings throughout the County, to include but not be limited to each commission district during its study period and deliver mutually agreed upon periodic written and oral updates to the Governing Authority.

(11) All meetings held by the Charter Commission shall be open to the public and meeting notices shall be widely distributed through local publications, the internet and electronic mail. Proceedings of the Charter Commission shall be taped and available for on-demand viewing on the County's website. The County shall create a specific website for the work of the Commission where presentations, background materials, minutes of the meetings and other documents can be accessed by the public. An opportunity for public comments will be allowed at each meeting.

(12) The Charter Commission shall submit its final written recommendation(s) to include the appropriate form of government of DeKalb County and/or any suggested changes to the Org. Act no later than December 31, 2020 to the CEO and BOC.

(13) A copy of the final report shall also be presented to each member of the General Assembly from DeKalb County, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House and chairpersons of the Senate State and Local Governmental Operations committee and the House Governmental Affairs committee.

(14) Any changes to the governance structure of DeKalb County should be advanced through local act of the General Assembly (i.e., local legislation) sponsored by elected officials representing a portion of DeKalb County.

March 25, 2019

This Order is effective immediately.

So issued this _____ day of _____ 2019.

Michael L. Thurmond
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County, Georgia

ATTEST:

Barbara H. Sanders, CCC
Clerk to the CEO and BOC

This Executive Order shall remain in the custody of the County Clerk. Certified copies are available upon request.

March 25, 2019



December 31, 2019

To: DeKalb County Charter Review Commission Members

Re: DeKalb County Charter Review Informational Meeting

Dear Commission Members,

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the DeKalb County Charter Review Commission (Commission). I realize this is a significant commitment on your part and I appreciate your willingness to serve on this important initiative.

The Commission is authorized by Executive Order to conduct a comprehensive review of the Organizational Act of DeKalb County (Org. Act) to ensure that our government is representative of and responsive to the needs and demands of all citizens of DeKalb County.

If necessary, the Commission is empowered to recommend changes in order to achieve the best delivery of services to the citizens of DeKalb County.

To begin this effort, we will hold our informational meeting on January 29th at 6:30pm in the Manuel Maloof Auditorium, 1300 Commerce Drive, Decatur GA 30033. This meeting will allow you to meet your fellow commission members, your Chair and Vice Chairpersons and review next steps.

I look forward to working with you in 2020 and thank you in advance for the work that you will do on behalf of the citizens of DeKalb County.

Please contact my office to confirm your attendance and to answer any additional questions you may have.

Michael L. Thurmond

Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County Georgia