

**BYLAWS FOR THE DEKALB COUNTY
2018 - 2024 SPLOST CITIZENS OVERSIGHT GROUP**

Article I. Name and Mission

The SPLOST Citizens Oversight Group (COG) was created by the DeKalb Board of Commissioners (BOC). The Mission of the COG is to provide transparency and accountability to the citizens of DeKalb County regarding the expenditures from the SPLOST approved by voters on November 7, 2017.

Article II. Purpose

The purpose of the SPLOST Citizens Oversight Group shall be to ensure that revenue collected under the SPLOST is spent in accordance with DeKalb SPLOST law.

2.1 Project Review. Oversee BOC-approved projects funded by the unincorporated DeKalb portion of the SPLOST to help assure that funds are used efficiently and equitably and that projects are well managed and well distributed throughout the unincorporated area of the County.

2.2 Reporting. Provide as necessary and appropriate advice, review, reports and recommendations to the public, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), and the BOC on SPLOST spending, budgets and projects. At a minimum, an annual report shall be completed each year, beginning April 1, 2019 and a final report shall be completed at or near the conclusion of the 2018-2024 SPLOST, containing the findings, evaluations and recommendations of the COG. The final report shall be submitted to the CEO or his designated staff and to all members of the BOC.

Article III. Oversight Group Membership

3.1 Appointment. A citizens group of 9 members of the community shall be appointed, who shall serve without pay. Each member of the DeKalb County Board of Commission shall be entitled to appoint one member and the CEO, 2 members, to the COG.

3.2 Term of Office. Each member appointed to the COG shall serve a term that runs concurrently with the term of the appointing elected official and at that elected official's pleasure. If an appointing elected official is no longer in office due to a general election or special called election, any member appointed by that elected official shall serve until their respective successor is appointed by the new elected official.

3.3 Public Office. No member shall hold elective office and upon qualifying to run for elective office a member automatically resigns from the SPLOST COG.

3.4 Removal. A member may be removed from the COG in writing by the elected official who made the appointment, with a copy of the removal letter sent to the Clerks of the CEO and the BOC.

3.5 Vacancies. Vacancies occurring for any reason shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as the original appointment.

Article IV. Meetings

4.1 Regular Meetings. Regular meetings (at least quarterly) of the COG shall be held at a designated time and place or as the COG may determine. COG members shall receive a notice of each meeting, the proposed meeting agenda and minutes of the previous meeting at least one (1) week in advance. Notice of such meeting and the proposed agenda shall be posted on the County SPLOST website at least one (1) week in advance. The COG shall set its own meeting schedule and establish the meeting agenda. All meetings are open to the public and shall allow for public comment.

4.1 Special Called Meetings. Should special called meetings be necessary, the COG may transact only that business of the organization for which the meeting was called and for which appropriate notice was given.

Article V. Quorum

Any 5 members of the COG shall constitute a quorum. Members who call in may fully participate in all aspects of the meeting, including constituting a quorum, making / seconding motions, voting, etc.

Article VI. Officers

6.1 Officers. There shall be a Chair and a Co-Chair of the COG.

6.2 Selection. Officers shall be nominated and elected at the meeting directly preceding April 1 for a term beginning on April 1, and elected by majority vote.

6.3 Term. Each officer shall serve a one (1) year term. Any and all officers elected may serve for consecutive years.

Article VII. Secretary

A secretary shall be provided by DeKalb County to record the minutes of all COG meetings, record all official actions of the COG, give notice of meetings to the members, keep a roll of attendance, and perform other duties as requested by the COG. All COG books and records shall be maintained by the Secretary and kept in the office of the DeKalb County CEO

Article VIII. Committees

Ad Hoc Committees may be authorized for specific tasks when need has been determined by the COG which will specify the purpose of the Ad Hoc Committee and the members who will serve. An Ad Hoc Committee shall have 3 members and shall be terminated automatically when its assigned task(s) is completed or at the direction of the COG.

Article IX. Responsibility of the CEO or his Designee

9.1 Meeting space. The CEO or his designee shall provide meeting space, attend each meeting and make available all information, input and assistance that is reasonable and necessary for the COG to perform its duties. This includes but is not necessarily limited to providing secretarial assistance to the COG.

9.2 Information. The CEO or his designee shall cause to be created regular reports for the COG and the public that quantify the progress and implementation of the SPLOST program.

9.3 Communication. The CEO or his designee shall assist the Group to effectively communicate with the public, the BOC, and the CEO.

9.4 Website. The CEO or his designee shall develop and maintain a website that shows timely and relevant information that tracks the revenues, expenditures, budgets, projects and progress of the SPLOST program.

Article X. General

10.1 Parliamentary Authority. Any rules of parliamentary procedure not covered by these bylaws shall be governed by the latest edition of the Robert's Rules of Order, Edition IX.

10.2 Amendments. These bylaws may be altered or amended as necessary by majority vote of COG members.

10.3 Adoption and Effective Date. These bylaws, and any amendments thereto, shall be effective immediately upon approval by majority vote of the COG.

10.4 Disbanding. As of June 30, 2024, the 2018 SPLOST Citizens Oversight Group shall cease to exist.

10.5 Conflicts of Laws. To the extent these bylaws conflict with the DeKalb County Organizational Act, the enabling resolution of the Citizens Oversight Group, or any state or local law of the State of Georgia, these bylaws are subordinate thereto.