

What are we trying to do?

Change the boundary line between Fulton and Coweta Counties so that Chattahoochee Hills is in Coweta County instead of Fulton County.

Has something like this ever been done before?

No. Chattahoochee Hills is the first city in Georgia to attempt to move the county border to change counties.

There have been two previous attempts: once prior to the incorporation of the city, and the second time in 2008. Both of those attempts failed due to Chattahoochee Hills' financial condition at the time, various factors external to the city, and a lack of coordination within the community.

The Chatt Hills Coalition feels these issues have been sufficiently resolved to make a third attempt.

This process is not the same as when some cities in northern Fulton County were trying to secede from Fulton to form a new Milton County about 15 years ago. We are attempting to move the county line, NOT secede from Fulton County.

Why aren't any elected officials in the city leading this initiative?

Chattahoochee Hills legal counsel has strongly advised that this petitioning effort NOT be conducted by any city official – elected or staff. Counsel explicitly indicated that this effort should be initiated and coordinated by a private citizen committee. Thus, the Chatt Hills Coalition, Inc. was formed for the express intent of moving the county borderline to put Chattahoochee Hills into Coweta County.

What are the primary reasons for Chattahoochee Hills to move from Fulton County to Coweta County?

- Better preservation of our rural character
- Improved access to government services
- Enhanced economic growth
- Better schools

What is the process to change the boundary line between Fulton County and Coweta County?

The process is outlined in the [Official Code of Georgia Annotated \(O.C.G.A.\) § 36-3-1 through § 36-3-5](#).

Four steps are required to make the boundary change as listed below. More granular details regarding the process are available at the link to the O.C.G.A. above.

1. The citizens of Chattahoochee Hills must petition the Probate Courts in both Fulton and Coweta Counties. The Probate Judges then present all relevant data to Grand Juries in both counties regarding county boundary change.
2. The Fulton County Grand Jury and Coweta County Grand Jury must BOTH approve the petition by at least a two-thirds (2/3) vote.
3. The petitions must be approved by a majority vote of the Coweta County Commissioners and Fulton County Commissioners, respectively.
4. Once approved, the information is sent to the Secretary of State's office to be certified, and the county boundary will be officially changed.

How long will the process take?

We do not know at this time. COVID-19 has closed Grand Juries for months and it is unknown how that could affect the timing of our petition. Many variables outside of our control could adversely affect the timing of this process. We will update as we know more information.

Will our sales tax change?

Yes. The sales tax for purchases made within the City of Chattahoochee Hills (physically or online) will be reduced by 0.75% from 7.75% to 7.00%.

The [State of Georgia has a 4.00% sales tax](#) for the entire state.

Fulton County has a 3.75% sales tax rate consisting of: [1.00% Local Option Sales Tax \(LOST\)](#), [1.00% Educational Special Local Option Sales Tax \(ESPLOST\)](#), 1.00% MARTA tax, and [0.75% Transportation Special Local Option Sales Tax \(TSPLOST\)](#).

Coweta County has a 3.00% sales tax rate consisting of: [1.00% Local Option Sales Tax \(LOST\)](#), [1.00% Educational Special Local Option Sales Tax \(ESPLOST\)](#), and [1.00% Special Local Option Sales tax \(SPLOST\)](#).

| | Fulton County | Coweta County | | Difference |
|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| State of Georgia | 4.00% | 4.00% | Same | 0.00% |
| LOST | 1.00% | 1.00% | Same | 0.00% |
| ESPLOST | 1.00% | 1.00% | Same | 0.00% |
| SPLOST | 0.00% | 1.00% | Coweta Higher: | 1.00% |
| TSPLOST | 0.75% | 0.00% | Coweta Lower: | -0.75% |
| MARTA | 1.00% | 0.00% | Coweta Lower: | -1.00% |
| Total Sales Tax | 7.75% | 7.00% | Coweta Lower: | -0.75% |

What will happen to our property tax rates if we move from Fulton County to Coweta County?

If Chattahoochee Hills were already in Coweta County, the proposed 2020 aggregated millage rate would be 2.002 points less than the proposed 2020 rate for Fulton County. Chattahoochee Hills proposed 2020 millage rate is to remain unchanged at 10.000 points.

| Proposed 2020 Millage Rates: Fulton County vs Coweta County | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| | Chatt Hills (Fulton) | Chatt Hills (Coweta) | | Difference |
| County Incorporated | 9.776 | 7.460 | Coweta Lower: | -2.316 |
| County School | 17.796 | 18.330 | Coweta Higher: | 0.534 |
| County Bond | 0.220 | 0.000 | Coweta Lower: | -0.220 |
| Chattahoochee Hills | 10.000 | 10.000 | Chatt Hills No Change: | 0.000 |
| Aggregate Millage Rate | 37.792 | 35.790 | Coweta Lower: | -2.002 |

However, property tax rates may not go down immediately. A significant portion of Chattahoochee Hills' city budget comes from allocation of sales tax money from Fulton County's LOST and TSPLOST agreements. These allocations have been trending downward in recent years, from about 31% in FY18 to about 16% in FY21. This funding method will eventually be replaced by the Coweta County LOST and [SPLOST](#), but the timing and amounts must be negotiated.

If an agreement with Coweta County is not in place at the time of the county transition or less than the balance the city received from Fulton County, an increase of the Chattahoochee Hills' millage rate could be enacted to fill the funding shortfall.

Eventually, we hope taxes for Chattahoochee Hills residents will be reduced. This is because the move to Coweta County could attract new residents and businesses to Chattahoochee Hills, thus increasing the city's tax base.

What relative value does Chattahoochee Hills represent to Fulton County and Coweta County?

Chattahoochee Hills provides 0.57% of Fulton County's tax base under the [proposed 2020 Fulton County millage rate and tax digest](#), and the [proposed 2020 Chattahoochee Hills millage rate and tax digest \(Page 10 in link\)](#).

Chattahoochee Hills would provide 3.56% of Coweta County's tax base if Chattahoochee Hills were currently in Coweta County, under the [proposed 2020 Coweta County millage rate and tax digest](#). This amounts to a 721% increase in fiscal importance Chattahoochee Hills provides to Coweta County over our contribution to Fulton County.

Additionally, under the [2019 US Census Bureau estimates](#), Chattahoochee Hills makes up only 0.31% of the population of Fulton County. If in Coweta County, Chattahoochee Hills would be 2.2% of the county's population. **Will annual auto taxes change?**

No. All vehicles purchased or titled prior to March 1, 2013 will continue to be subject to annual ad valorem tax based on vehicle value. Vehicles purchased or titled after March 1, 2013 are still subject to state-mandated [6.6% Title Ad Valorem Tax \(TAVT\)](#)

What will happen to our insurance rates?

Many factors go into how individual insurance companies calculate customer premiums, and the effect would be difficult to determined prior to moving the county line. The committee hopes the move to Coweta County will make it easier for the residents of Chattahoochee Hills to reduce their insurance rates.

Where are the Fulton County and Coweta County seats located?

The [Fulton County seat](#) is located on [Pryor Street in Downtown Atlanta near the Georgia State Capitol building](#). This is where Chattahoochee Hills residents go when called for jury duty. There is a [South Fulton Service Center on Stonewall Tell Road in College Park](#) which provides limited county services.

The [Coweta County seat](#) is located in [Newnan, Georgia](#). Once the county boundary line is moved, all Chatt Hills residents will be able to go to Newnan for jury duty, car registration, court issues, etc.

What are the differences in services provided by Fulton County vs Coweta County?

Both counties provide the same basic services as outlined in [GA House Bill 489](#). These services include: animal control, courts, jail operations, libraries, 911 calls, and voter registration, among other services.

However, one difference is county transportation services for senior citizens.

[Fulton County's website](#) allows seniors over the age of 60 no more than 16 trips per month within 15 miles of the person's home for medical appointments and 10 miles for other activities such as shopping, banking, social activities, etc. Additionally, there is a one-time \$15 registration fee and a \$1 charge per ride. Many medical locations and shopping areas are outside both the 10 and 15-mile county-imposed transportation limits for most Chattahoochee Hills residents.

[Coweta County's website](#) states that transportation vouchers are available at no cost to residents over the age of 60 for destinations such as grocery shopping or doctor's appointments. No mileage limitations are cited.

Will we be in a new county commission district if the border of Coweta and Fulton is changed?

Yes. Today, Chattahoochee Hills abuts [Coweta County District 3](#), currently represented by Bob Blackburn, who is also the Vice Chairman of the Coweta County Commissioners. His term expires on December 31, 2022. After the county line move has been approved, Coweta County will follow the prescribed legal processes to determine if redistricting must occur to ensure each district is equally represented.

What will happen to the Chattahoochee Hills Charter School?

[CHCS](#) will remain a [Fulton County-chartered school](#) unless the school seeks to be chartered in Coweta County or by the [State of Georgia](#). CHCS obtaining a state charter would allow current students could continue to attend CHCS irrespective of the county the school is physically located. This process will be up to school officials, county officials, and the State Board of Education.

Will the current Chattahoochee Hills zoning requirements change?

No. Chattahoochee Hills will still be incorporated as a city and all [zoning will remain under the current requirements](#).

Will changing counties affect anyone operating a home business?

No. [Chattahoochee Hills governs all business licensing](#) within the city borders irrespective of the county in which we reside.

Will anything change with the parks in Chattahoochee Hills?

No. All parks remain assets of the city and will [continue to be maintained and operated by the city](#).

Will mail delivery in the city be affected?

No. Postal service will remain the same.

Will access to internet services improve?

Not at this time.