



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished
Budget Presentation
Award*

PRESENTED TO

**Chatham County
Georgia**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

July 1, 2005

President

Executive Director

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) presented an award for Distinguished Budget Presentation to Chatham County, Georgia for its annual budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2005.

In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as an operations guide, as a financial plan and as a communication device.

The award is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current budget continues to conform to program requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA to determine its eligibility for another award.

**CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2006 / 2007
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
2005 - 2008**

CHAIRMAN

Pete Liakakis

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas

CHAIRMAN PRO-TEM

Dean Kicklighter

COMMISSIONERS

Helen L. Stone
Patrick O. Shay
James J. Holmes
Patrick K. Farrell

Harris Odell, Jr.
Dean Kicklighter
David Gellatly
Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas

COUNTY MANAGER

Russell E. Abolt

ASSISTANT COUNTY MANAGER

Patrick Monahan

COUNTY CLERK

Sybil E. Tillman

COUNTY ATTORNEYS

R. Jonathan Hart

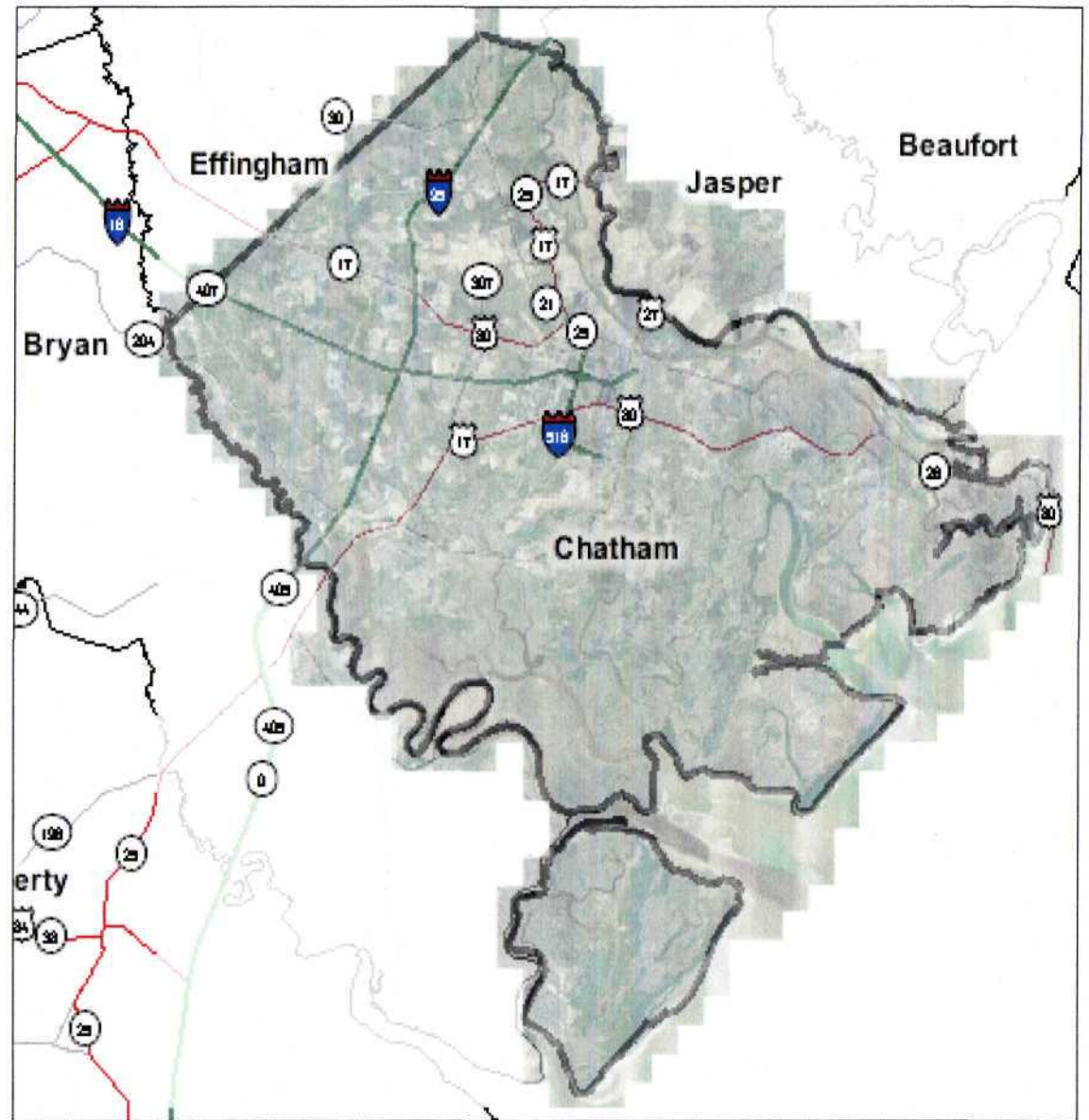
Emily Garrard

COMPILED BY - CHATHAM COUNTY FINANCE STAFF

Linda Cramer, Finance Director
Cheryl Deariso, Assistant Finance Director
Read DeHaven, Budget Officer
Estelle Brown, Assistant Budget Officer
Christopher Morris, Senior Budget & Management Analyst
Michael Grant, Senior Budget & Management Analyst
Lynn Stennett, Senior Budget & Management Analyst
Rhonda McCullough, Budget Technician

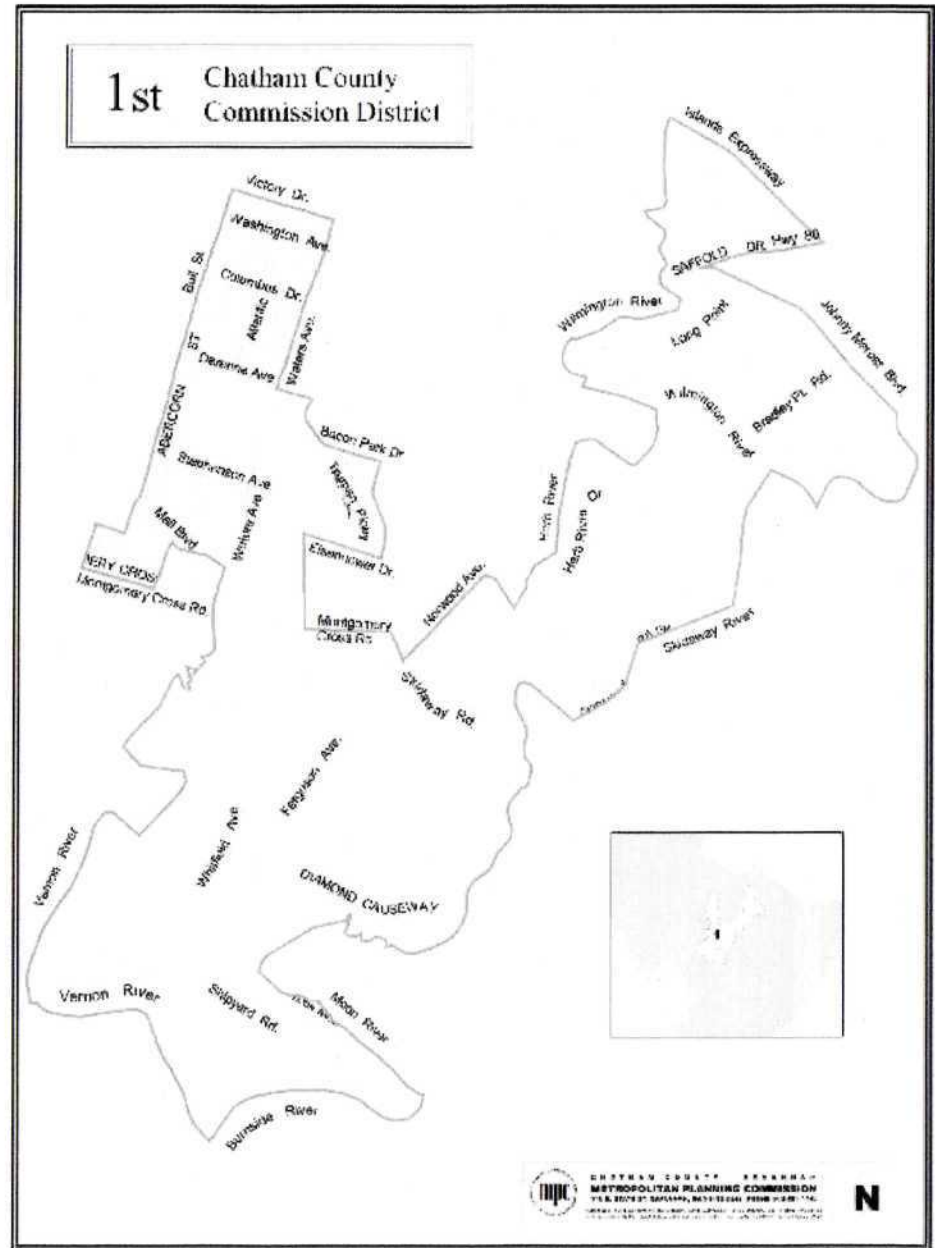


Commission
Chairman
Pete Liakakis



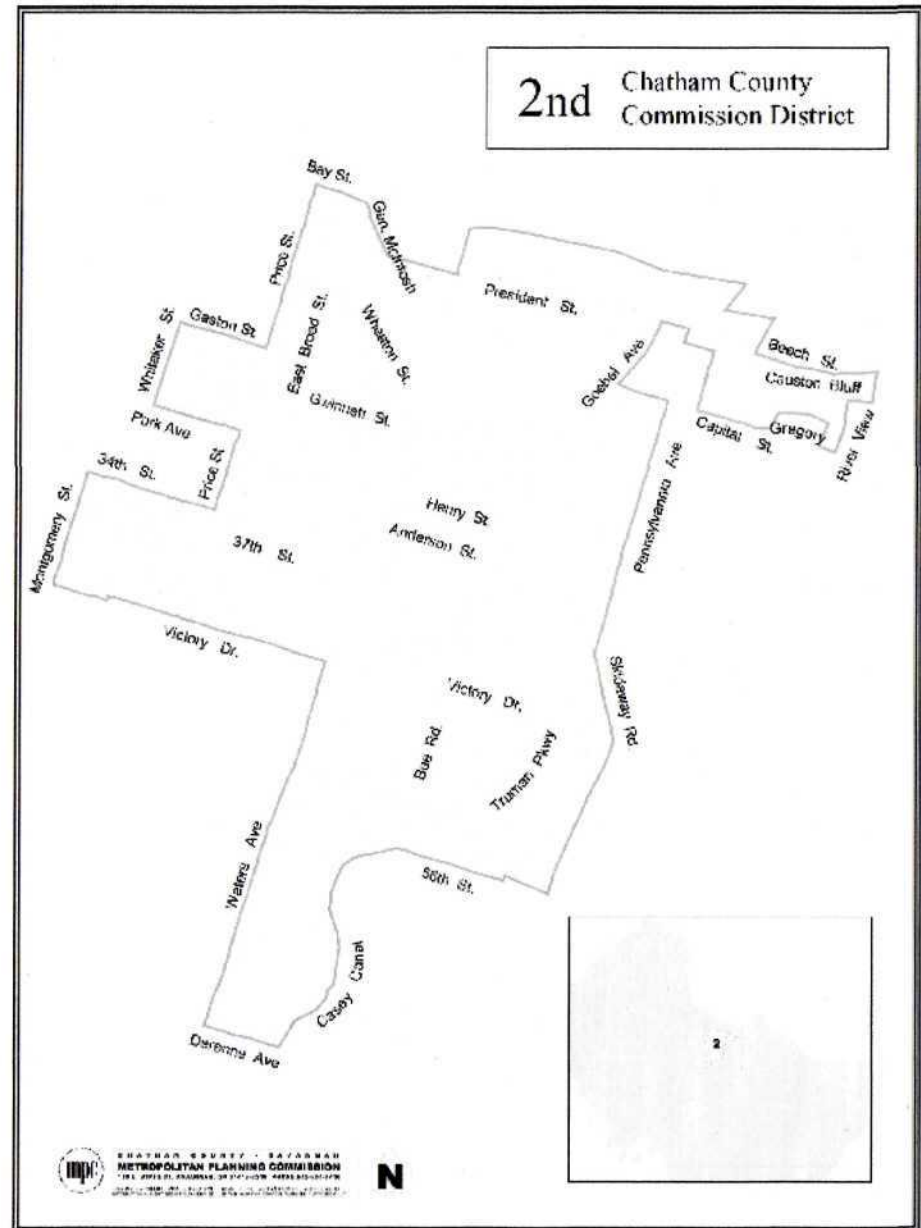


Commissioner
1st District
Helen L. Stone



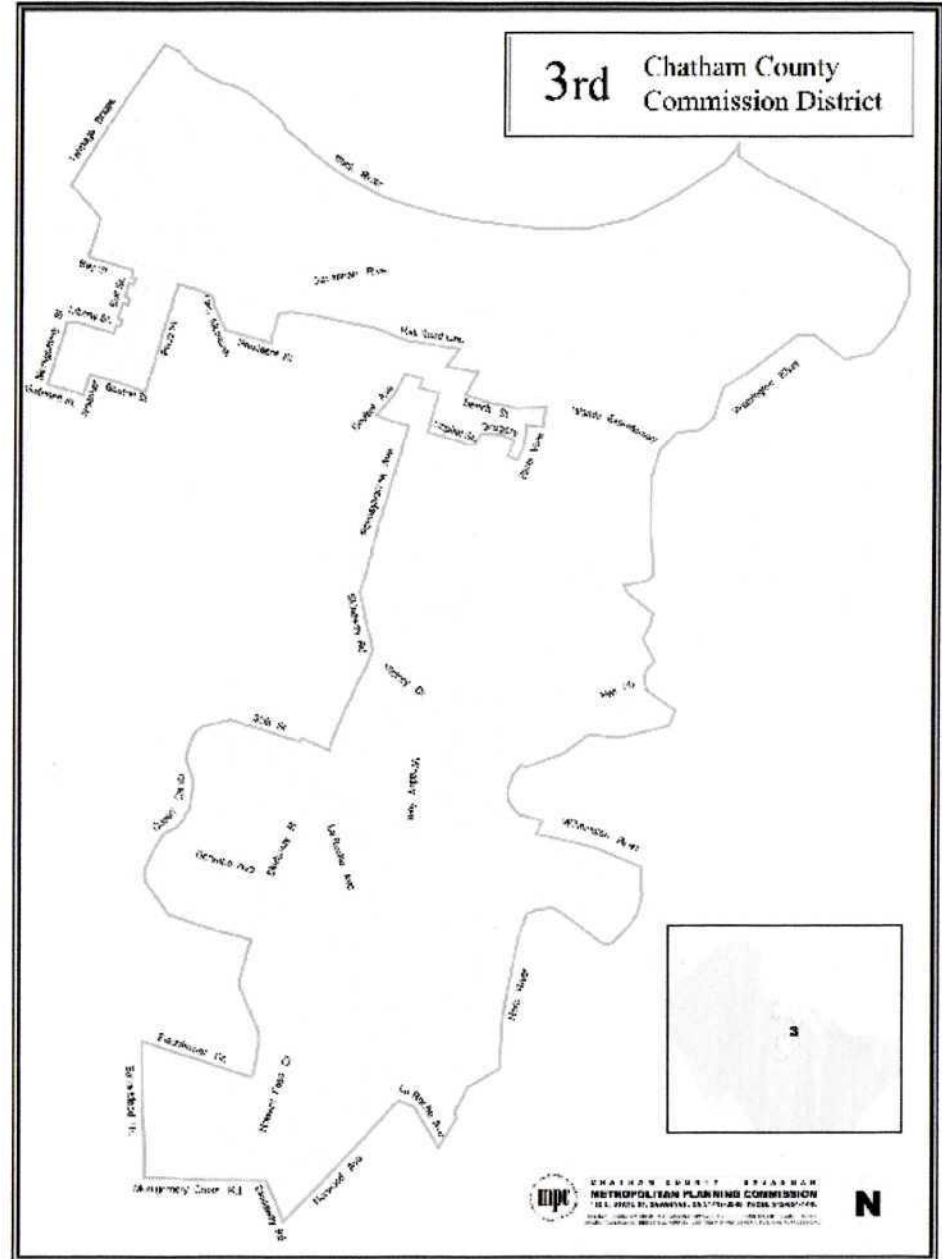


Commissioner
2nd District
John J. Holmes



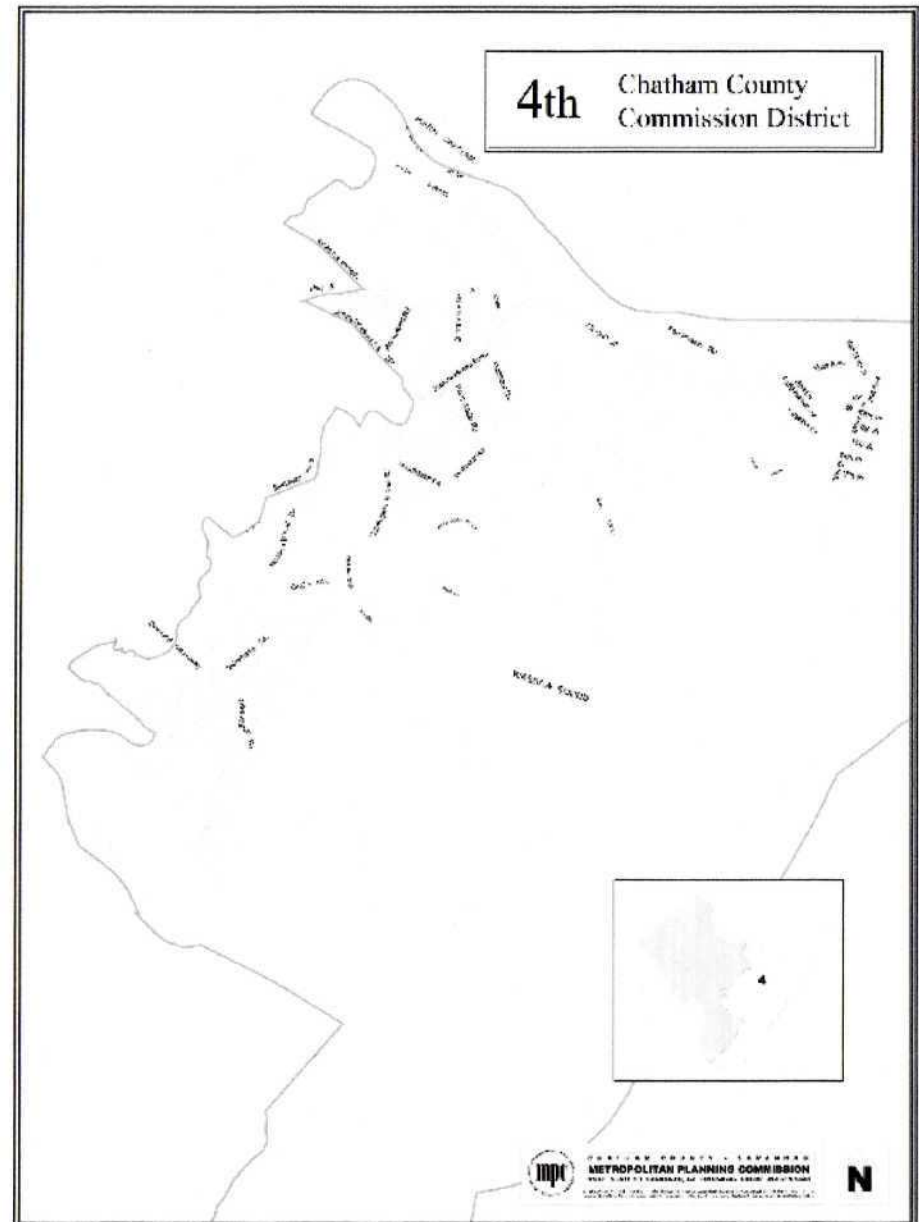


Commissioner
3rd District
Patrick Shay



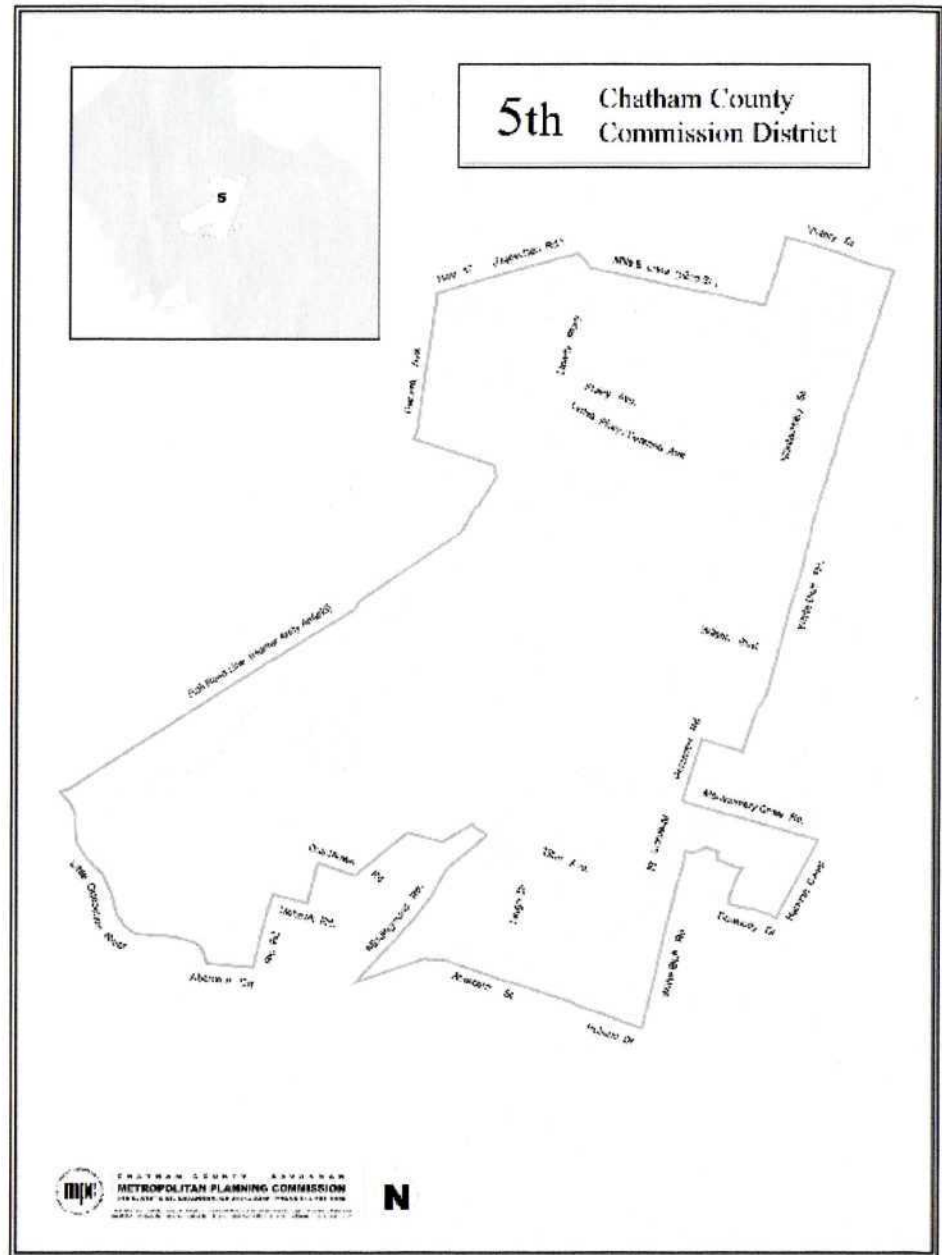


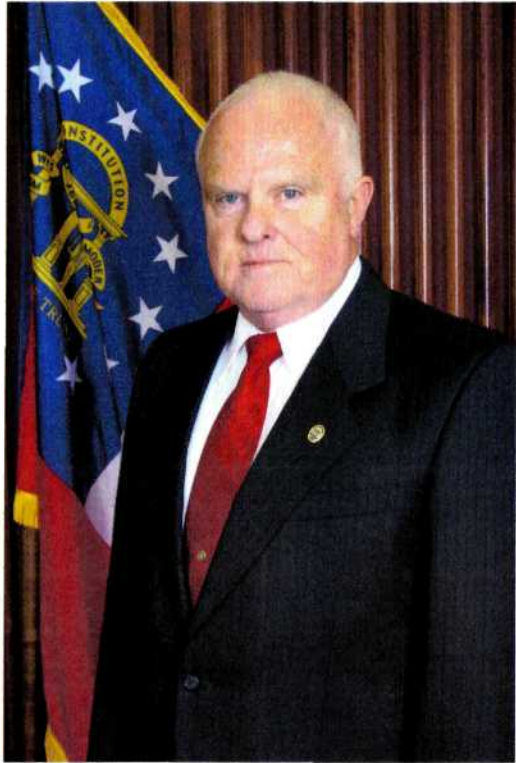
Commissioner
4th District
Patrick K. Farrell



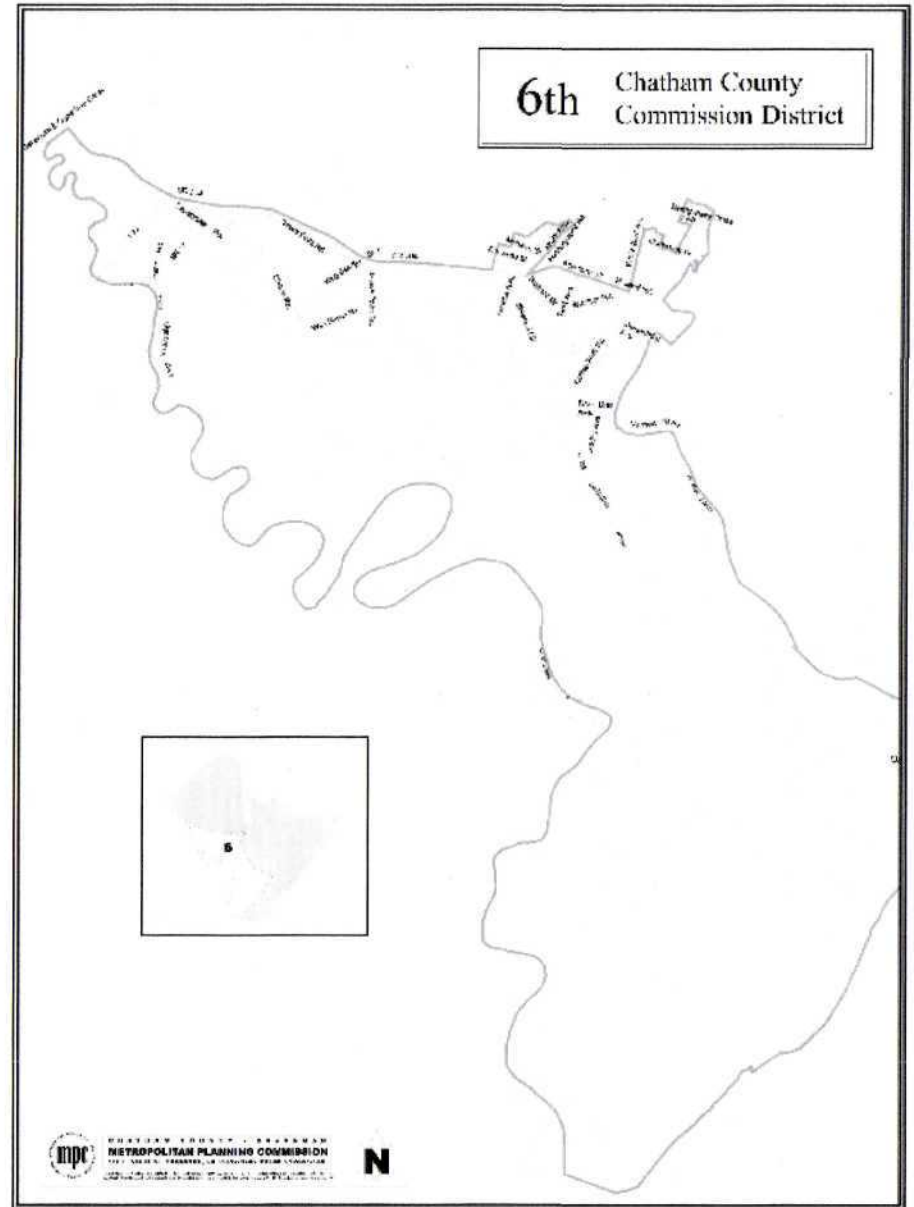


Commissioner
5th District
Harris Odell, Jr.



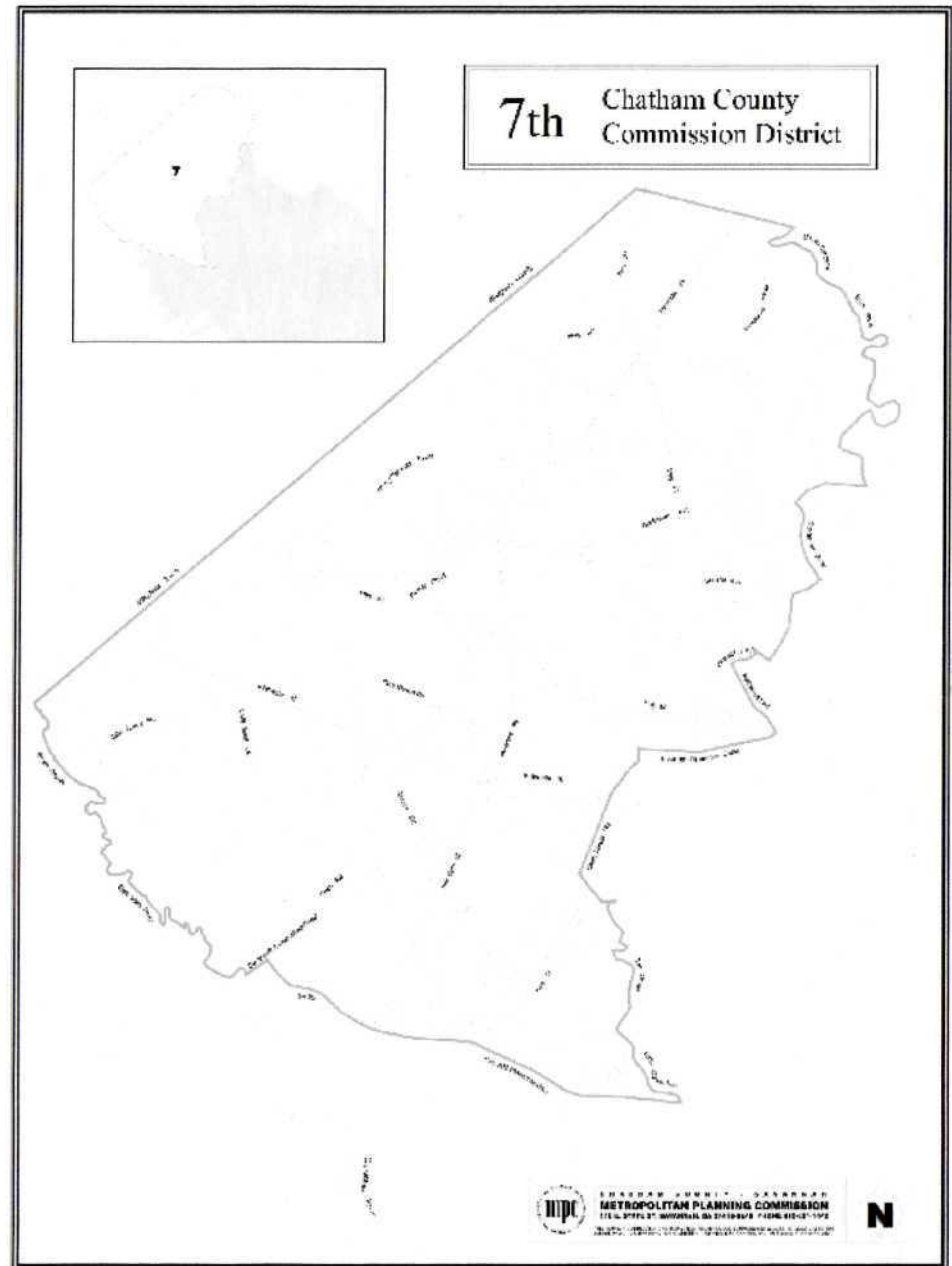


Commissioner
6th District
David M. Gellatly



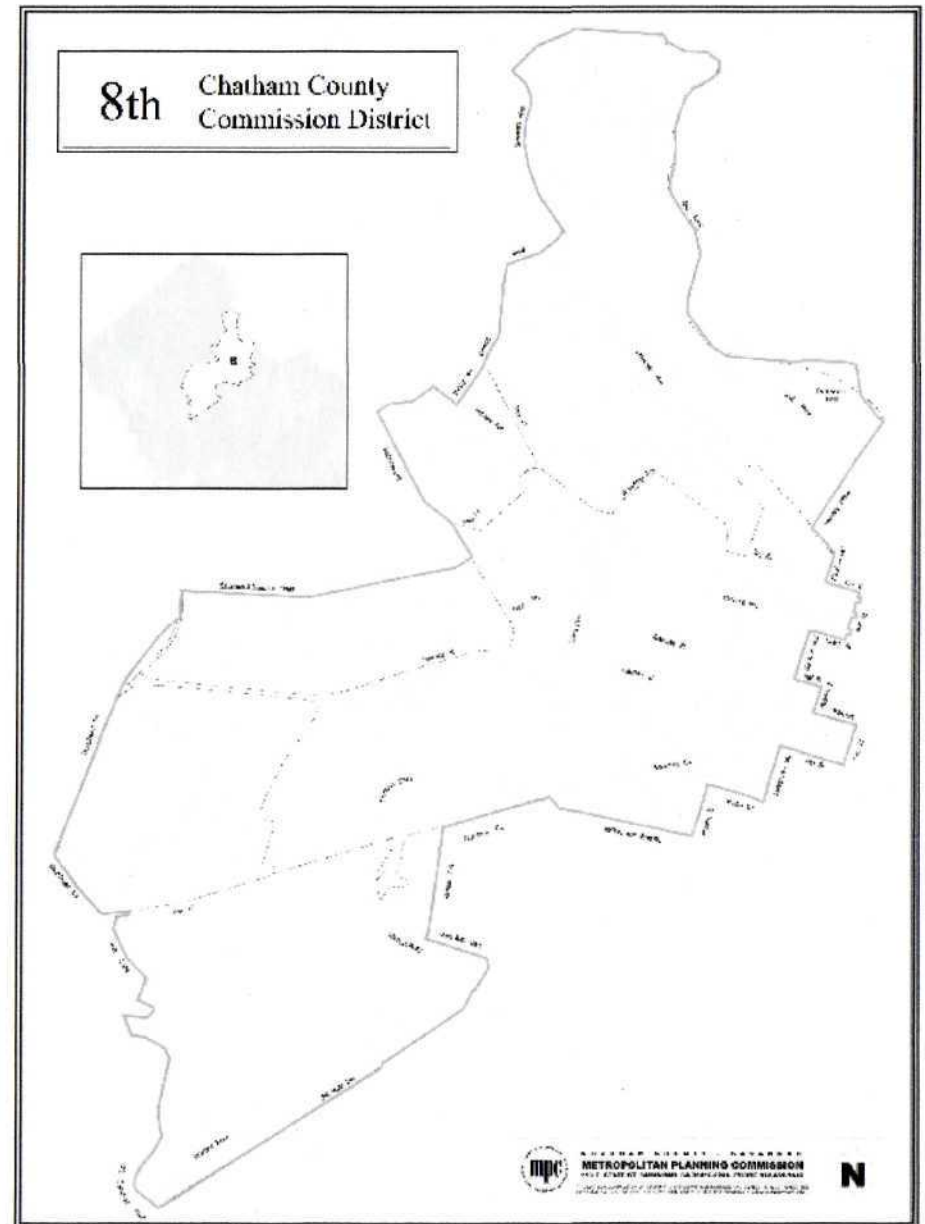


Commissioner
7th District
Dean Kicklighter





Commissioner
8th District
Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas



**CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA
ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS
FY 2006 / 2007 BUDGET**

ELECTED OFFICIALS & JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS

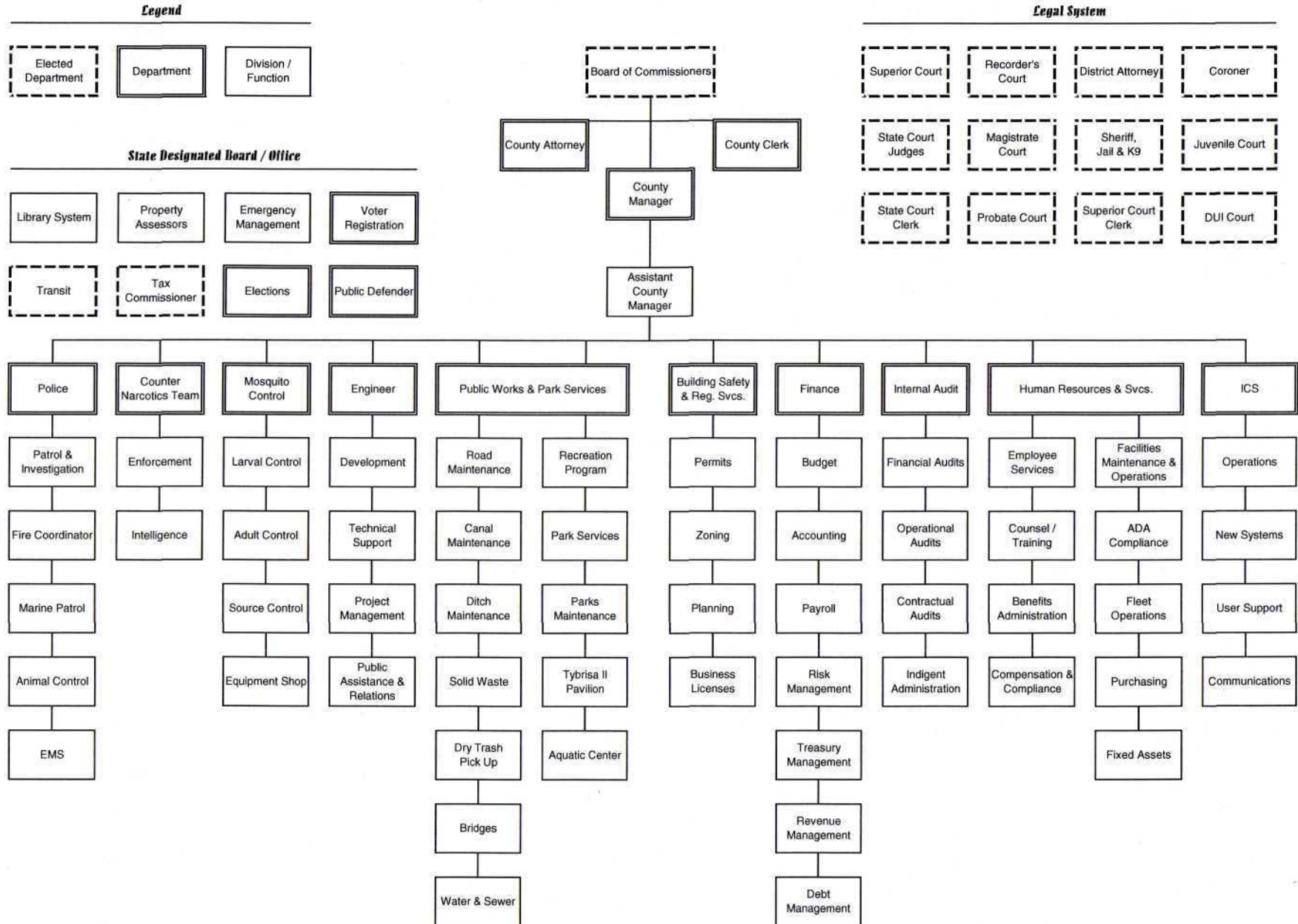
Child Support Recovery	David Lowe	State Court Administrator	Brian Hart
Coroner	Dr. James C. Metts, Jr.	State Court Judge	Ronald E. Ginsberg
District Attorney	Spencer Lawton, Jr.	State Court Judge	H. Gregory Fowler
Jail	Col. McArthur Holmes	State Court Judge	Herman W. Coolidge
Juvenile Court Judge	John W. Beam, Jr.	Superior Court Administrator	Daniel E. DeLoach
Juvenile Court Judge	Patricia Stone	Circuit Public Defender	Michael Edwards
Juvenile Court Judge	Leroy Burke III	Superior Court Clerk	Dan Massey
Juvenile Court Administrator	Gary Smith (Acting)	Superior Court Judge	Perry Brannen, Jr.
Magistrate Court Judge	Mary Kathryn Moss	Superior Court Judge	Michael L. Karpf
Probate Court Judge	Harris Lewis	Superior Court Judge	James F. Bass, Jr.
Recorder's Court Judge	Lawrence G. Dillon	Superior Court Judge	John E. Morse, Jr.
Recorder's Court Judge	Tammy Cox Stokes	Superior Court Judge	Penny Haas Freesmann
Recorder's Court Judge	Claire Cornwell Williams	Superior Court Judge	Louisa Abbot
Sheriff	Al St Lawrence	Tax Commissioner	Daniel T. Powers
		Victim Witness	Helen Smith-Bradley

BOARD APPOINTED POSITIONS AND COUNTY DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

County Attorney	R. Jonathan Hart	Building Safety & Regulatory Director	Gregori Anderson
County Clerk	Sybil Tillman	Internal Audit Director	J.M. "Reese" White, Jr.
County Manager	Russell E. Abolt	ICS Director	Lewis L. Leonard
Assistant County Manager	Patrick C. Monahan	Mosquito Control	Henry Lewandowski
Counter Narcotics Team	Eddie Williams	Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Dept.	Willie Lovett (Acting)
Director of Engineering	Albert Bungard	Public Works & Parks Services	Robert Drewry
Emergency Management Director	Phillip Webber	Tax Assessor	Sheryl Snider
Finance Director	Linda Cramer	Voter Registration Director	Sandra Williams
Human Resources & Services	Michael Kaigler	Elections Supervisor	Russell Bridges

CHATHAM COUNTY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

By Department / Function



Executive Summary

The Fiscal year 2007 Budget was adopted by the Board of Commissioners on June 23, 2006 was significantly amended on July 7, 2006 to incorporate the County's tax digest. Therefore, the July 7, 2006 budget is presented herein as it represents the Board's intended starting point for Fiscal Year 2007. The adopted budget differs from the County's Manager's proposed budget in the following respects:

- Tax digest growth was incorporated into the budget; digest growth rates were 14.41% in the General Fund M&O and 10.71% in the Special Service District. The proposed budget had assumed a 6% digest growth,
- A .2 mill reduction in the County's General Fund M&O millage rate (reduced to 10.837) in response to the digest growth,
- Approval of an employee cost of living adjustment effective July 1, 2006,
- Approval of an allocation to Tybee Island of \$150,000 for Beach Renourishment, and
- Approval of a \$25,000 decision package in the Special Service District for painting Public Works vehicles.

Under Georgia law, the County must adopt a balanced budget. Additional tax revenue was therefore offset against the Contingency expenditure account for future allocation. Originally the Commissioners planned to use the tax revenue for the decision packages they had reviewed during the budget process. However, their ability to fund the packages was overshadowed by emerging needs at the County's Detention Facility. By late fiscal 2006 it had become apparent that the rising inmate population was placing a strain on the facility and its services. In response, the Board amended the Detention Facility's fiscal 2006 budget to accommodate higher service and utility costs. At budget adoption, the Board expressed its need for a solution to the crowded housing situation. Once the solution is determined, costs will be estimated and possibly funded from the General Fund Contingency account.

The Board also began to discuss the need for a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) referendum as a way to fund some of the capital improvements listed in the County's CIP Plan. The prospect of the referendum influenced the Board's decision to delay adoption of decision packages for capital items since, under Georgia law, the County can receive priority funding over the local municipalities for "Level 1" SPLOST projects which would include the Detention Center, judicial courthouses, health facilities, and administrative facilities housing elected officials. The Board set a September 19th referendum date for the SPLOST election.

Reconciliation from the County Manager's proposed budget to the adopted budget is shown in the following table:

Reconciliation

Recommended vs. Adopted

	General Fund M&O		Special Service District	
Revenues:				
Manager's Recommended		\$ 123,166,186		\$ 22,877,796
Adjustments:				
Taxes	5,551,164		549,134	
Licenses & Fees				
Transfers in				
Total adjustments		<u>5,551,164</u>		<u>549,134</u>
Adopted Revenues		\$ 128,717,350		\$ 23,426,930
Expenditures:				
Manager's Recommended		\$ 123,166,186		\$ 22,877,796
Adjustments:				
Reductions				
General Government				
Debt Service				
Other Financing Uses				
Additions				
General Government	5,000			
Judiciary				
Public Works			25,000	
Health & Welfare				
Culture & Recreation				
Housing & Development				
Other Expenditures	5,546,164		524,134	
Total adjustments		<u>5,551,164</u>		<u>549,134</u>
Adopted Expenditures		\$ 128,717,350		\$ 23,426,930

The relationship of the adopted budget to the Board's stated goals is summarized below, as well as a summary of any budgetary transactions occurring between the date of the Manager's message and budget adoption:

Relationship of Goals to Adopted Budget

Goal 1: Expand Parks & Recreation Facilities, services and programs

The FY07 adopted budget continued funding of \$150,000 for Tybee Island Beach Renourishment, the second year of this allocation. In addition, funding for the Recreation Action Plan (RAP) continued in fiscal 2007.

Goal 2: No new taxes

The Board adopted a .2 millage rate reduction in the General M&O Fund. The Board also approved the Mixed Drink Excise Tax of 3%. The proceeds from the tax will be used to fund the D.U.I. Court, a specialty court under the direction of the State Court.

Goal 3: Streamline & improve the building permit process/foster business-friendly environment

During fiscal 2006, the County's enterprise software vendor filed bankruptcy. Additional funds were needed to complete the software installation. Funds were appropriated from the fiscal 2006 budget for this purpose, eliminating a decision package for fiscal 2007.

Goal 4: Traffic improvements near mega-site at Pine Barren Road & Highway 80 – right turn lane

No funding was provided in the adopted budget for this project.

Goal 5: Classification/Compensation study for all County employees

No funding was provided in the adopted budget for this project. Since the study was presented as a decision package, it is possible that the Board may chose to fund this project later in the fiscal year.

Goal 6: Crime reduction initiatives/programs; meet CNT staffing and resource needs

The Counter Narcotics Team (CNT) budget assumes a full staffing model. The General Fund M&O budget also funds a job training program, Project Step-Up, which is a construction apprenticeship program in partnership with the Chamber of Commerce. The purpose of this program is to provide job skills to low income individuals to break the cycle of poverty and crime.

Goal 7: Public Works Improvements

Digest growth in the Special Service District took away the need for reductions in the Public Works department. The department has retained full staffing and prior year service levels. In addition, the vehicle painting decision package was funded by the Board at budget adoption.

Goal 8: Disaster Planning

The Chatham Emergency Management Agency was allocated an additional \$87,780 during fiscal 2007 for additional staff and equipment.

Goal 9: New Arboreal Program in the SSD Fund

The decision package for the Arboreal and Horticulture program was not funded. The growing expense of law enforcement programs absorbed most of the revenue growth in the Special Service District.

Goal 10: Health Care costs and benefits stabilization

The County continues to experience growth in health care costs. The per employee cost rose from \$7,715 to \$8,210 for fiscal 2007. Employee and retiree premiums were also increased. The County continues to work with an independent consultant to identify possible health cost reductions and provide benefit analysis.

Goal 11: Develop a master plan for parks and recreation facility and service needs

No funding was provided in the adopted budget for a parks and recreation master plan.

Goal 12: Develop alternatives to inmate incarceration/establish programs to reduce recidivism

The adopted budget provided \$120,000, twice the fiscal 2006 level, for the Project Step-Up construction apprentice program. The budget also funded the D.U.I. Court, a specialty court of the State Court aimed at repeat D.U.I. offenders.

Goal 13: Fair Evaluations of property – Tax Assessor’s Office

No funding was provided to implement the decision packages put forward by the Tax Assessor.

Goal 14: Job incentive programs for County employees

Longevity benefits were enhanced in the adopted budget, increased by \$100 per service bracket. The County’s costs to maintain benefit levels in the County’s health and pension plans increased \$2.7 million from the prior year. Other benefits remained flat.

Goal 15: Management engineering/systems engineering program

No funding was provided for implementation of the management engineering decision package.

Goal 16: Maintain or pursue additional funding for juvenile programs and facilities

The Board did not allocate additional funds for juvenile programs. However, facility enhancement of the Juvenile Court was identified as a Level 1 SPLOST priority.

Goal 17: Long-term budget stabilization

The five-year forecasting model was utilized throughout the budget process. Funding for the 2006 Vehicle Depreciation continued in the General Fund M&O. However, additional funding to include 2007 Vehicle Depreciation was not provided.

Goal 18: Stabilize police operating costs in the SSD Fund

Due to the terms of the Intergovernmental Agreement for the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department, cost stabilization was not met for fiscal 2007. The Special Service District Adopted Budget offset cost increases for the SCMPD with business license fee increases and optimistic projections for Recorders Court revenues. The SSD budget may require amendment following the internal audit of the Recorders Court. Therefore, the additional digest revenue in SSD may also be used for police operating costs.

Goal 19: Improved contract monitoring and contract management capabilities – staff needs

No decision packages were offered in response to this goal. Funding was not provided to fulfill the staff needs.

Goal 20: Animal Control Issues/Facilities

No additional funding was provided for the Animal Control facility, which is being funded through a \$950,000 allocation from the DSA Series 2005 Bond issue. The Adopted Budget does fund a vehicle for Animal Control and continues current staffing levels.

Background Information

Chatham County's unique history as well as its coastal location provide economic benefits to the region. Data on the County is presented herein:

History of Chatham County



Photo of the court house around 1908
Graphic provided courtesy of Christopher Morris

Chatham County is the nucleus from which the present great State of Georgia has grown. Savannah was the first settlement recognized by the English government in colonial days. At Savannah, on February 12, 1733, with 116 settlers, the colony of Georgia was founded by James Edward Oglethorpe, a member of the English Parliament. In 1741, the Trustees divided the new colony into two colonies - the Savannah Colony and the Frederica Colony. In 1743, Oglethorpe departed for England leaving William Stephens, the first President of Georgia, over the government made up of the two colonies.

In 1758, the province was divided into eight parishes, one being Christ Church, which later formed most of the territory of Chatham County. In 1777, the first regular Constitution of the State was promulgated and at this time, parishes were abolished and counties named in their place. The County is named for William Pitt, the Earl of Chatham, an English nobleman. In 1786, the Chatham Artillery, the nation's oldest active military organization, was organized.

Chatham County is the sixth largest of the State's 159 counties. The County encompasses 438 square miles and still has its early boundaries as laid down in the Revolution. The County is bounded on the north by the Savannah River and South Carolina, on the east by the Atlantic Ocean, the south by the Ogeechee River and Bryan County, and on the west by Effingham County. It is the most easterly county in the State, and has many winding estuaries, rivers, and sea islands. It has as its county seat the main port of the State, the historic City of Savannah.

Background Information

Economic and Financial Condition



Fountain located downtown Savannah in beautiful Forsyth park

Chatham County represents the major metropolitan area in the Southeast Georgia region; ranks sixth in population in the state and is noted for having a stable economy. The number of jobs in this coastal Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) are growing twice as fast as that of the state and of the nation as a whole. Employment is projected to raise by 2.5 percent by the end of 2006, which is the largest percentage gain predicted for any of Georgia's metropolitan areas. The County's dual personality - that of a major tourist attraction and an extraordinarily successful port - gives it a vibrancy that few other places can match. The city of Savannah also is a premier destination for national conventions and trade shows, thus convention business will be one of the area's fastest growing economic sectors.

Population

The County's population together with the population trends for the Savannah Metropolitan Area Counties are presented below. The population of the County has grown approximately 14.9% during a 20 year period from 1980 to 2000, from 202,226 residents in 1980 to 232,347 residents in 2000. This compares with the State's total population growth of 49.9% during the same 20 year period. The most current reports state that the population in 2005 has risen to 236,368 and is estimated to reach 243,819 in 2010.

POPULATION - CHATHAM COUNTY AND SAVANNAH METROPOLITAN AREA

Year	City of Savannah	Chatham County	Effingham County	Bryan County	Total Metro Area
1970	118,349	187,816	13,632	6,539	207,387
1980	141,651	202,226	18,727	10,175	231,128
1990	137,560	216,774	25,687	15,438	257,899
2000	132,985	232,347	37,535	23,417	293,299

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

Background Information

Labor Force / Employment

Chatham County's unemployment rate has either been equal to or less than that of the United State's unemployment rate. The following table presents trends in employment and unemployment in Chatham County, Georgia, and the United States.

EMPLOYMENT DATA - CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

Year	Total Labor Force	Employed Civilian Force	Chatham County % Rate Unemployment	State of GA % Rate Unemployment	United States % Rate Unemployment
2000	110,366	106,275	3.7	3.7	4.0
2001	107,963	104,963	3.3	4.0	4.7
2002	111,134	106,396	4.3	5.1	5.8
2003	115,900	111,252	4.1	4.7	6.0
2004	120,261	114,535	4.8	5.0	5.6
2005	126,300	113,898	4.2	4.6	5.5
2006	130,060	124,686	4.1	4.7	4.4

SOURCES: State of Georgia Departments of Labor, Labor Information Systems (2) GDOL Estimates as of July 2006

Income

Throughout the last seven years, per capita income in Chatham County has grown steadily, keeping pace with growth in U.S. per capita income. Trends in per capita income are shown in the table that follows:

PER CAPITA INCOME

Year	Chatham County	Georgia	United States	Chatham County as a % of US
1999	\$26,424	\$26,359	\$27,939	94.58%
2000	\$27,804	\$27,989	\$29,845	93.16%
2001	\$28,524	\$28,675	\$30,575	93.29%
2002	\$29,115	\$28,689	\$30,804	94.52%
2003	\$30,022	\$29,000	\$31,472	95.39%
2004	\$31,691	\$29,782	\$33,050	95.89%
2005 (1)	\$34,045	\$31,121	\$33,598	101.33%

SOURCES: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Accounts Data. (1) Est. by GEOSTATS

Background Information

Manufacturing

Savannah's manufacturing sector generates an annual payroll of \$757 million while making a variety of consumer goods that range from yachts to corporate jets and from cookies to hair products. Two hundred and fifty-nine companies employ some 15,600 workers who earn an average yearly wage of \$48,516. Listed below is a brief profile of the County's largest manufacturing enterprises.

MAJOR MANUFACTURING EMPLOYERS IN THE CHATHAM COUNTY AREA

<u>Firm</u>	<u>Product</u>	<u>Employment</u>
Gulfstream Areospace	Jet aircraft	4,300
Georgia Pacific Corporation	Paper products	1,461
International Paper Corporation	Paper products	687
Derst Baking Company	Food products	475
Kerr-McGee Pigments Savannah	Titanium dioxide pigment	470
Great Dane Trailers	Refrigerated trailers	450
Brasseler USA	Dental equipment	400
Colonial Group	Petroleum products	400
Imperial Sugar	Refined sugar	400
J.C. Bamford	Construction equipment	300

SOURCES: Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce

Tourism



View of Savannah International Trade & Convention Center
from the Savannah River

The preservation and restoration of Savannah's downtown historic district and the riverfront has served as the anchor for tourism in the area. Complementing the tourism sector is convention trade. Savannah's Civic Center includes a 2,566 seat theater, an arena with a capacity of 9,600, a ballroom with a capacity of 550 and over 25,000 square feet of exhibit space. In addition, the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center has allowed Savannah to compete for larger conventions, meetings and events.

Background Information

Chatham County has over 11,085 hotel/motel rooms and a variety of restaurants in the downtown area and throughout the Metropolitan Area. During the past ten years, the growth in retail trade and service sectors is attributable to increased tourism and reflects its importance to the County's income.

Coastal Georgia tourism again led the state in 2004 in terms of positive growth rates of all tourism measurements. Nearly six million people visited the area in 2004. Direct travel expenditures increased to 1.7 billion dollars, up 8.4% compared to a statewide increase of 2.1%. Increases in traveler expenditures is directly related to jobs. The U.S. Department of Labor estimates nearly 22,000 area jobs were supported by tourism in 2004.

Year	Number of Hotel rooms	Overnight visitor stays	Room Taxes - 6%	Total Direct Visitor Spending
			City of Savannah & Unincorporated Area	
1999	9,371	9,700,000	\$7,770,000	\$1,043,000,000
2000	9,819	11,980,000	\$8,960,000	\$1,526,000,000
2001	10,486	11,350,000	\$9,200,000	\$1,415,000,000
2002	11,157	11,160,000	\$9,460,000	\$1,379,000,000
2003	11,153	12,470,000	\$10,440,000	\$1,542,000,000
2004	11,085	13,230,000	\$11,480,000	\$1,695,000,000

- SOURCES:** (1) Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce
 (2) Savannah & Chatham County Departments of Finance
 (3) Geostats (Arnold Coleman)
 (4) D.F. Shifflet & Associates

Transportation

Logistics Today has rated this area "the most logistics friendly city in the nation" for the last three years - recognizing the area as a superior transportation hub. Here are some of the reasons for the honor:

- Savannah is only a few miles from Interstate 95, as well as at the eastern terminus of Interstate 16 - which gives the residents speedy access to Atlanta.
- Savannah is only two hours away from the burgeoning Florida market, yet has the cost and business advantages of a Georgia location.
- The area enjoys a strategic location on the East coast, but is far more westerly than other coastal cities; located 647 miles due south of Cleveland, Ohio.
- The taxpayers understand the importance of quality infrastructure and improvements by the continued approval of Special Purpose Local Option Sales Taxes (SPLOST).

Amtrak provides rail passenger service to the Savannah area. Freight service is provided by CSX, Georgia Central and Norfolk Southern Corporation. Trucking service is provided by over 100 motor freight carriers to the Savannah area.

Background Information

Port of Savannah



The County's continued economic progress is based to a large extent on the continuing development of the Port of Savannah. The definition of the Savannah Harbor is "that it comprises the lower 21.3 miles of the Savannah River generally forming a boundary between South Carolina and Georgia and 11.0 miles of bar channel for a total length of 32.3 miles." Savannah is the farthest inland port on the East Coast. This places Savannah within a day's haul over road or rail to many major midwestern markets; thus greatly reducing the cost of shipping; and a definite advantage for the Port of Savannah. Although the Port has a large number of private businesses having docking facilities, the Georgia Ports Authority (GPA) has the largest wharfing facilities on the east coast for handling cargo for both imports and exports on the East Coast..

The Port of Savannah, home to the largest single-terminal container facility of its kind on the U.S. East and Gulf coasts, is comprised of two modern, deepwater terminals: Garden City Terminal and Ocean Terminal. Together, these facilities exemplify the GPA's exacting standards of efficiency and productivity.

Garden City Terminal is one of the top five container handling facilities in the United States, encompassing more than 1,200 acres and moving millions of tons of containerized cargo annually. In 2005, more than 1.76 million containers went through the Terminal. This represents an increase of 12% from the previous year.

Ocean Terminal, Savannah's dedicated breakbulk and Roll-on / Roll-off facility, covers 208 acres and provides customers with more than 1.3 million square feet of covered, versatile storage. In 2005, the leading imports were iron and steel, machinery, plywood, cocoa bean, granite, lumber, aluminum, and paper products. While kaolin clay, linerboard, machinery, woodpulp, military ordinance, lumber, and foodstuff were the leading exports.

The Georgia Ports Authority is in the midst of a multi-million dollar expansion of its Savannah facilities. One of the major items under construction is the Intermodal Container Transfer Facility at the Garden City Container Port. It will be the only one of its kind on the East Coast. Spanning more than 150 acres at final build out, it will include 40,000 feet of rail track and 80 acres dedicated to container storage and marshaling operation.

Background Information

As one of the state's largest public employers, the GPA directly employs more than 850 people. The GPA, however, is responsible for generating far more employment throughout the state. GPA operations, together with private sector, port-related operations, account for more than 295,006 jobs statewide, billions of dollars in revenue, and income exceeding \$10.8 billion annually.

The port also includes a foreign trade zone which consists of twenty eight acres at the Savannah International Airport and twelve acres at Georgia Ports Authority facilities. It allows imports into the United States to be processed, displayed, or otherwise handled free from duties and taxes. The 2,600 acre Crossroad Business Center was recently made a part of the Zone. Only when cargo leaves the zone to be distributed in the United States is it subject to these charges. If it is exported, these costs are avoided.

Chatham County Services

Chatham County provides an array of services to its citizens. An overview of these services is shown listed by department:

Board of Equalization

- Conducts hearings on appeals of property valuation and assessment for taxing purposes

Building Safety & Regulatory Services

- Administration and enforcement of business/occupational tax ordinances
- Inspection of business establishments for compliance with fire prevention code
- Issuance of business licenses
- Issuance of building permits and inspection of related property

Chatham County Health Department

- Funds services provided by the CCHD that include immunizations
- Vital records and restaurant inspections

Chatham Emergency Management Agency

- Resources provided to facilitate disaster planning and emergency response

Child Support Recovery Program

- The District Attorney's office supervises the operations of the County's Child Support Recovery Program. This program provides recovery of child support payments to ensure that children are supported by their parents as demanded by law. Operating costs are recovered through a State grant.

Clerk of Commission

- Provides official minutes of meeting of the Board of Commissioners to the public

Commissioners

- Represent the citizens in matters of public policy and direction.

Cooperative Extension Service/Bamboo Farm

- Provide programs related to agriculture, the environment and 4-H for youth and operates the Bamboo Farm facility

Coroner

- Autopsy management and inquests about deaths

Counter Narcotics Team

- Conduct multi-agency drug investigations; Arrest those in violation of laws

County Attorney

- Represents the County in matters of law
- Interprets legal aspect of policies and existing laws

County Manager

- Administers the affairs of Chatham
- Responds to citizen inquiries
- Develops and presents an annual budget
- Ensures that the policies of the Board of Commissioners are carried out

Court System

Full spectrum of courts that provide service to citizens as required by State law including:

Superior Court

- Felony matters - civil and criminal

Magistrate Court

- Judicial, civil, criminal matters including issuing search and arrest warrants
- Conduct of preliminary hearings and binding cases over to higher courts

Probate Court

Probate Court – marriage licenses, pistol permits, court filings, committal hearings, guardianships

- State Court – civil matters without regard to dollar amount and criminal misdemeanor cases; oversees the D.U.I. Court
- Juvenile Court – matters involving children under age 17 or, if an abused or neglected child, under age 18

- Clerk of Superior Court – accept and maintain all Superior Court records, provide record information to the public and the law enforcement community
- Recorders Court – process traffic and criminal accusations, provides warrants for the public and for law enforcement, process fine payments
- Court Administrator – Manages the administration of Superior Court.
- Law Library – provides a library of legal data for citizens

Department of Family & Children’s Services

- Resources provided to DFACS for its administration of services

District Attorney

- Represents the State in criminal cases as well as preliminary hearings in committal courts
- Victim Witness program to assist crime victims
- Alternative dispute resolution program intended to reduce court caseloads and bring resolution among parties
- Grand Jury

Elections Board

- Conducts all county, municipal and special elections; Handles financial disclosures of candidates; Maintains maps of precinct lines; Provides records for public use

EMS

- Oversight of the agreement between the County and its contracted EMS provider to ensure that contract standards/ambulance response times are maintained for the County’s citizens

Engineering

- Construction of roads and facilities approved by SPLOST referendums
- Provides traffic engineering services to the public
- Review of residential and commercial development plans
- Issues development permits
- Ensures compliance with local and State ordinances

Finance

- Provide financial disclosure to citizens and investors
- Provide reports to management for decision making needs
- Provide tax reporting to vendors and employees (1099s, W2s)
- Provide disbursements to vendors and employees

Greenbriar Children's Center

- Resources provided to Greenbriar to assist abused and neglected children

Human Resources & Services

- Handles matters of recruitment, hiring and administrative processing of county employees and retirees
- Ensures equal employment opportunity; Manages benefit plans
- Manages benefit plans
- Procures goods and services in a cost effective manner in accordance with the purchasing ordinance
- Manages the County's vehicle fleet and fleet repairs
- Maintains and repairs county buildings and facilities
- Provides a drivers training program for employee safety

ICS

- Provides computer-related services to County departments
- Provides radio and communication services to County departments
- Provides the County's records management facility

Indigent Health Care

- Primary medical services for indigent citizens provide at the Curtis V. Cooper facility

Internal Audit

- Independent appraisal function that reviews the financial and performance activities of county departments

Live Oak Public Library

- The County provides resources to the Live Oak Public Library to enhance the Library's service level to the Public.

Metropolitan Planning Commission

- Resources provided to MPC for the development of comprehensive zoning and land use plans for the community

Mosquito Control

- Mosquito abatement program
- Reduce mosquito breeding grounds by ditching and drainage
- Spray trucks and aircraft
- Joint use of helicopter with local law enforcement as needed

Parks & Recreation

- Safe and attractive recreational facilities
- Recreational programs for citizens
- Aquatics Center
- Weightlifting Center
- Frank G. Murray Community Center
- Tybee Pier & Pavilion
- Neighborhood parks - 11
- Community parks - 4
- Ball fields - 36
- Lighted tennis courts - 18
- Sports complexes - 3
- Boat ramps - 20
- Fishing piers - 4
- Fitness trail (3 mile) -1
- Beach front areas - 2

Public Defender

- Legal representation for those indigent persons accused of felony offenses
- Management of county's panel of attorneys for indigent representation
- Legal defense of indigent persons arrested in Juvenile Court delinquency proceedings

Public Works

- Safe road conditions; Effective drainage systems
- Safe drinking water and sanitary sewage
- Recycling facilities
- Curbside collection of yard waste and bulky items
- Street lighting at intersections of major roadways
- Energy Costs for traffic signals in unincorporated County
- Round-the-clock operation of drawbridges over intercoastal waterways

Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police

- Enforcement of laws and ordinances of Chatham County
- Respond to citizen emergencies and concerns; Investigate facts surrounding breach of law
- Investigate facts surrounding breach of law
- Patrol and enforce traffic laws
- Conduct drug investigations and arrest violators
- Participate in the Crimestoppers Program
- Enforce laws related to waterways
- Cooperate with other law enforcement agencies in patrols and investigations
- Provide an animal complaint desk
- Investigate reports of animal cruelty
- Impound sick and un-claimed animals in a sanitary animal shelter

Sheriff & Detention Center

- Protection of life and property
- Incarceration of inmates for the public good in manner while providing a safe and healthy environment for
- Court warrants/subpoenas
- Courtroom security

Summer Bonanza

- Resources provided to a nonprofit organization for summer youth

Tax Assessor

- Identification and appraisal of real and personal property in Chatham County including non-homesteaded mobile homes certifies the official annual tax digest
- Receives tax returns and exemption applications for Chatham County, the Board of Education and the City of Savannah
- Prepares and certifies the official annual tax digest

Tax Commissioner

- Provide automobile tag renewal at four facilities
- Bill and collect ad valorem taxes for the State of Georgia, the Savannah-Chatham Board of Education, the Chatham Area Transit Authority, the County and some of its municipalities
- Pursue collection of delinquent taxes
- Collect street lighting fees

Teleride

- The County provides funding for public transportation for the Chatham Area Transit Authority's Teleride program.

Voter Registration

- Registers eligible citizens to vote
- Maintains a current list for all municipalities of eligible voters
- Maintains permanent records on all county voters

Youth Commission

- Provides youth with an opportunity to participate in local government in their community

