



GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

*Distinguished  
Budget Presentation  
Award*

PRESENTED TO

**Chatham County**

**Georgia**

For the Fiscal Year Beginning

**July 1, 2008**

*Paul T. Rut*

President

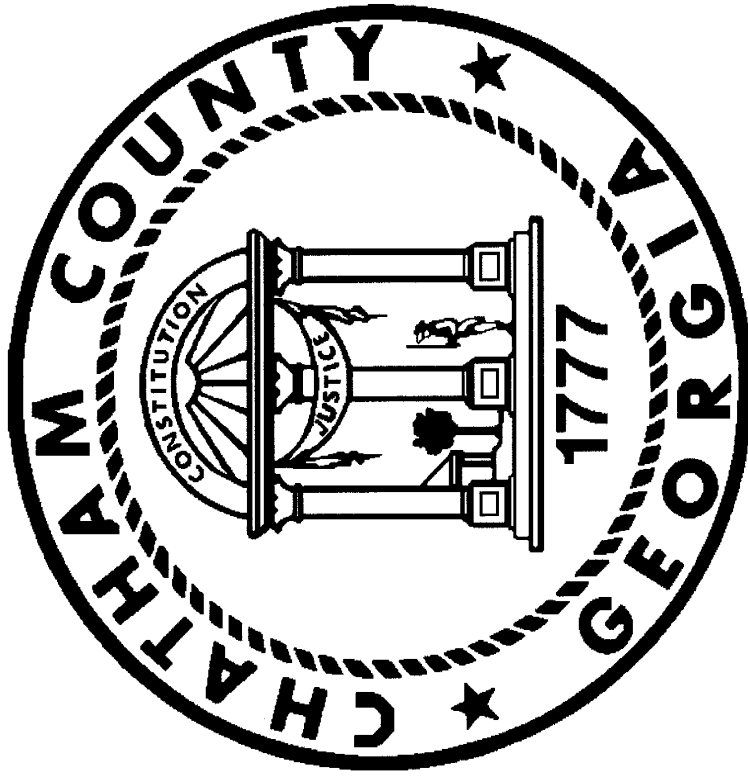
*William R. Brown*

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, 2008.

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  
ADOPTED ANNUAL BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2009 / 2010  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
2009 - 2012

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

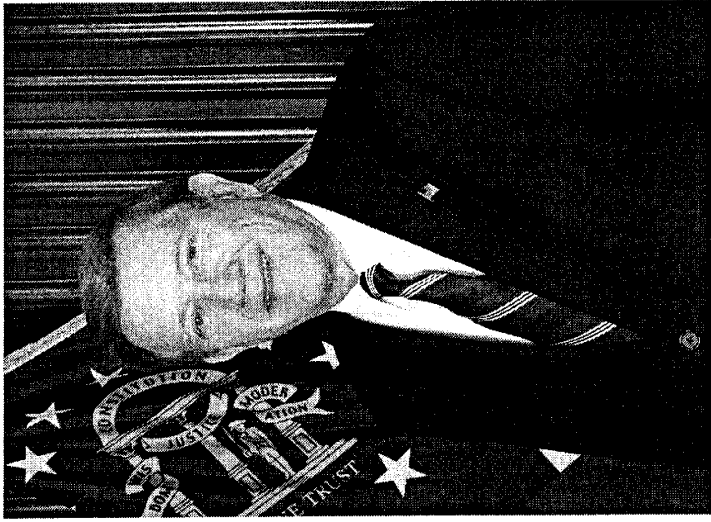
COUNTY ATTORNEYS

R. Jonathan Hart

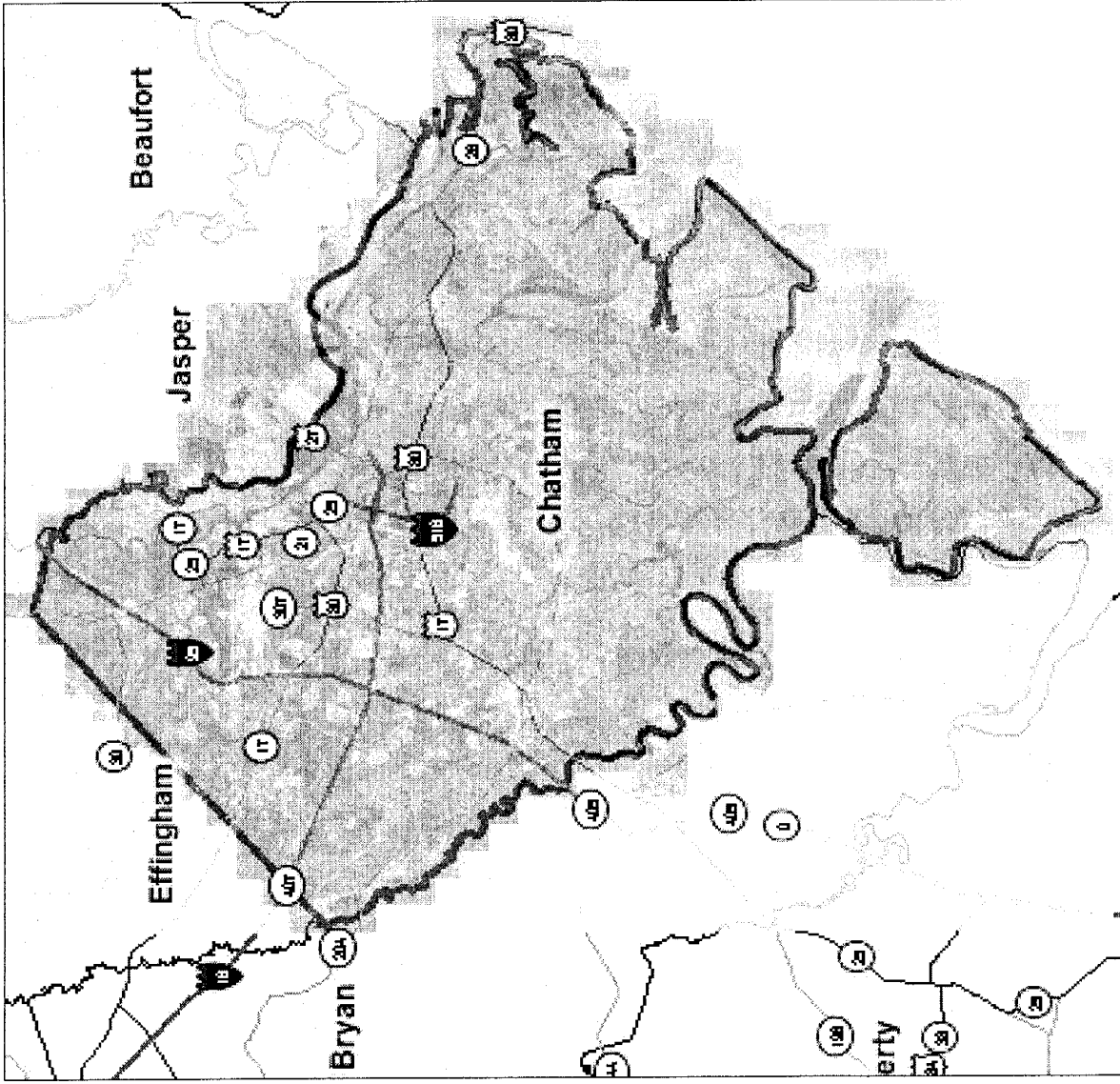
Lisa G. Colbert

COMPILED BY - CHATHAM COUNTY FINANCE STAFF

Linda Cramer, Finance Director  
Read DeHaven, Budget Officer  
Estelle Brown, Assistant Budget Officer  
Tom Drane, Senior Project Analyst  
Christopher Morris, Senior Budget & Management Analyst  
Rushedra Adeshina, Senior Budget & Management Analyst  
Gloria Saugh, Senior Budget & Management Analyst  
Delores Stokes, Administrative Assistant

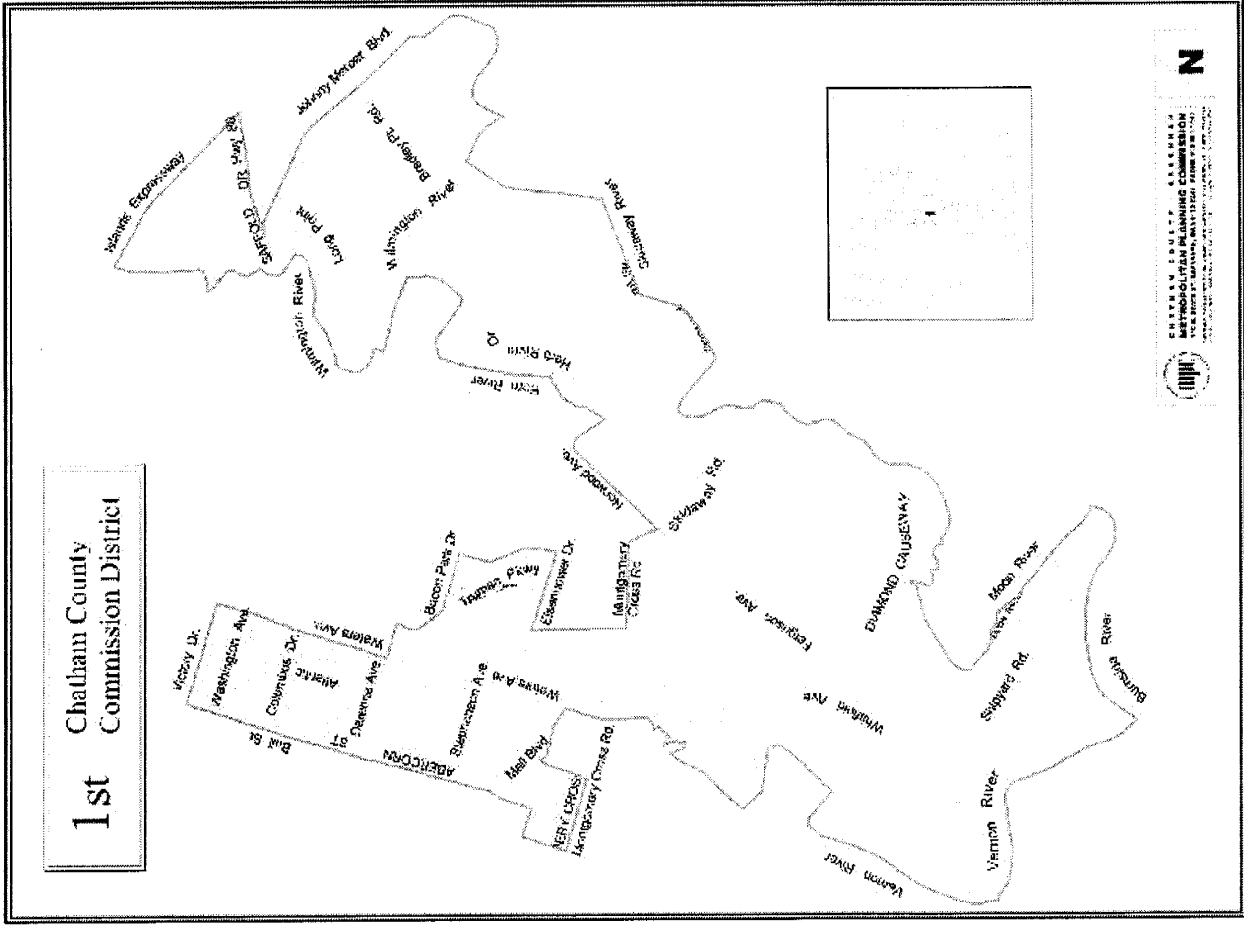


Commission  
Chairman  
Pete Liakakis



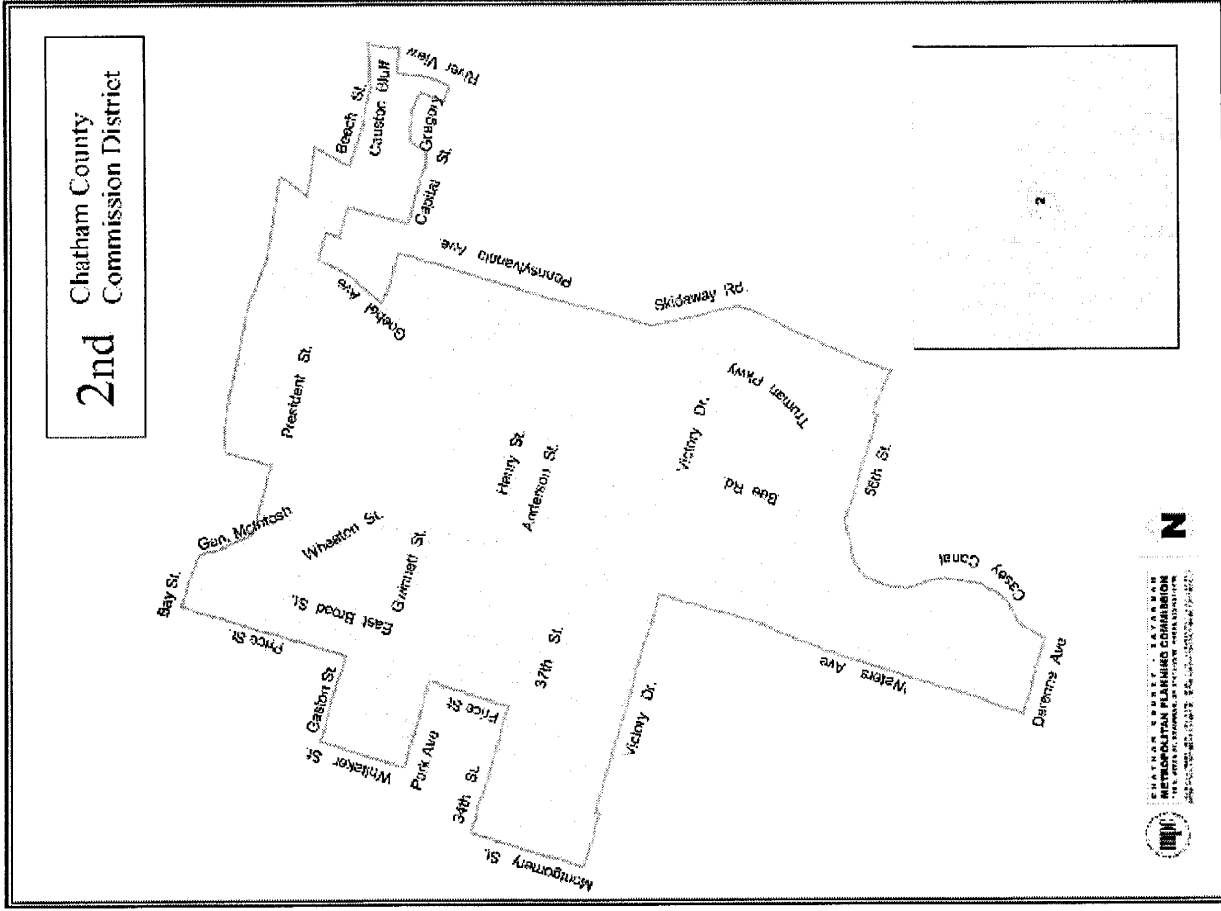


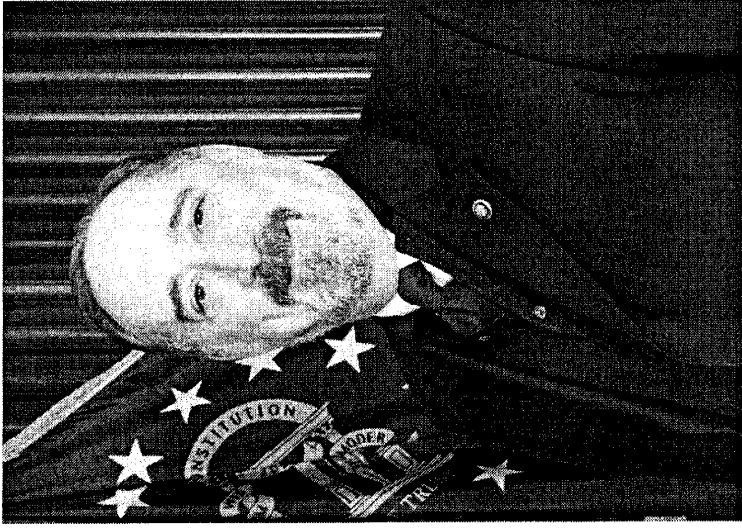
Commissioner  
1st District  
Helen L. Stone



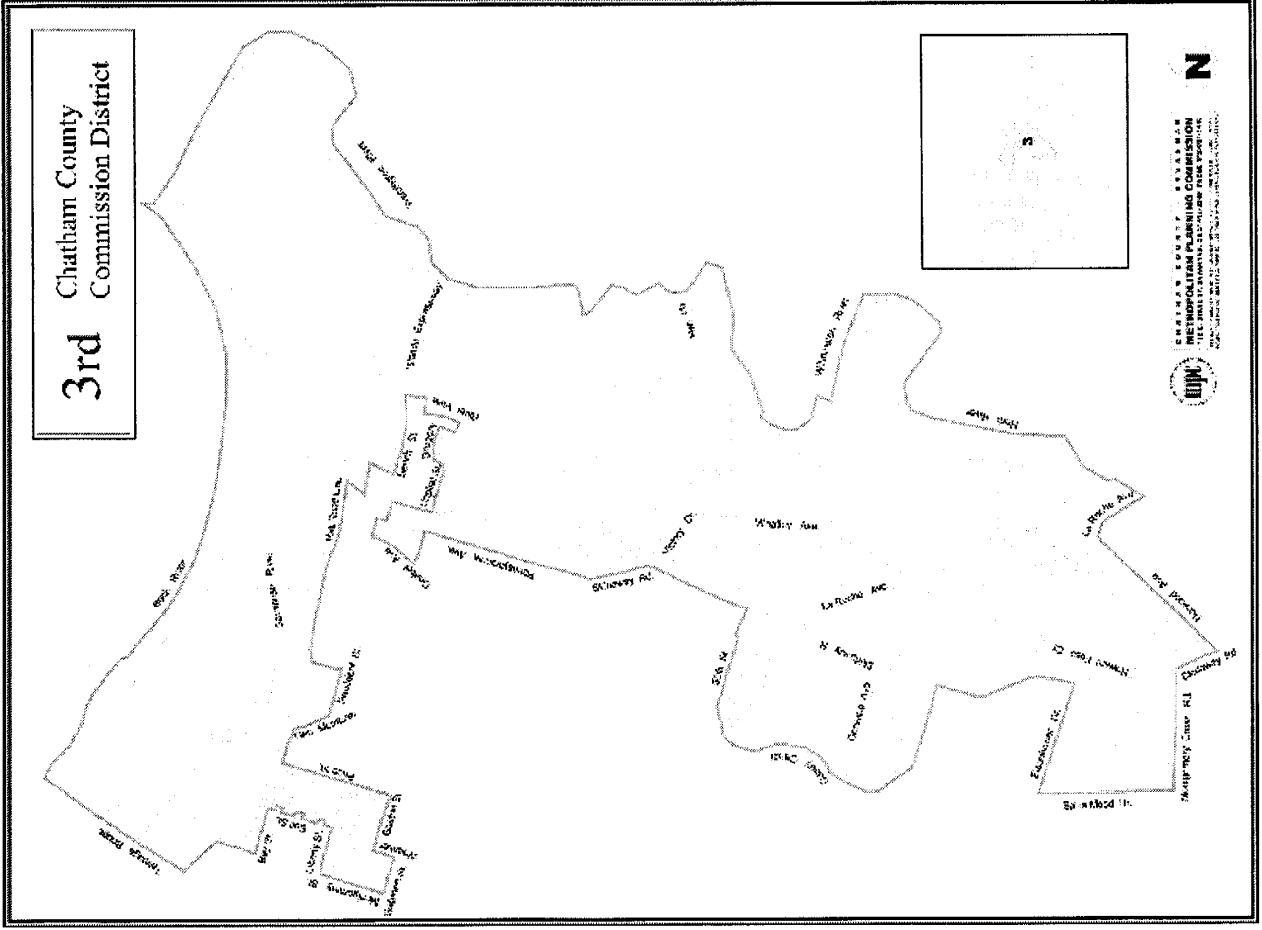


Commissioner  
2nd District  
James J. Holmes



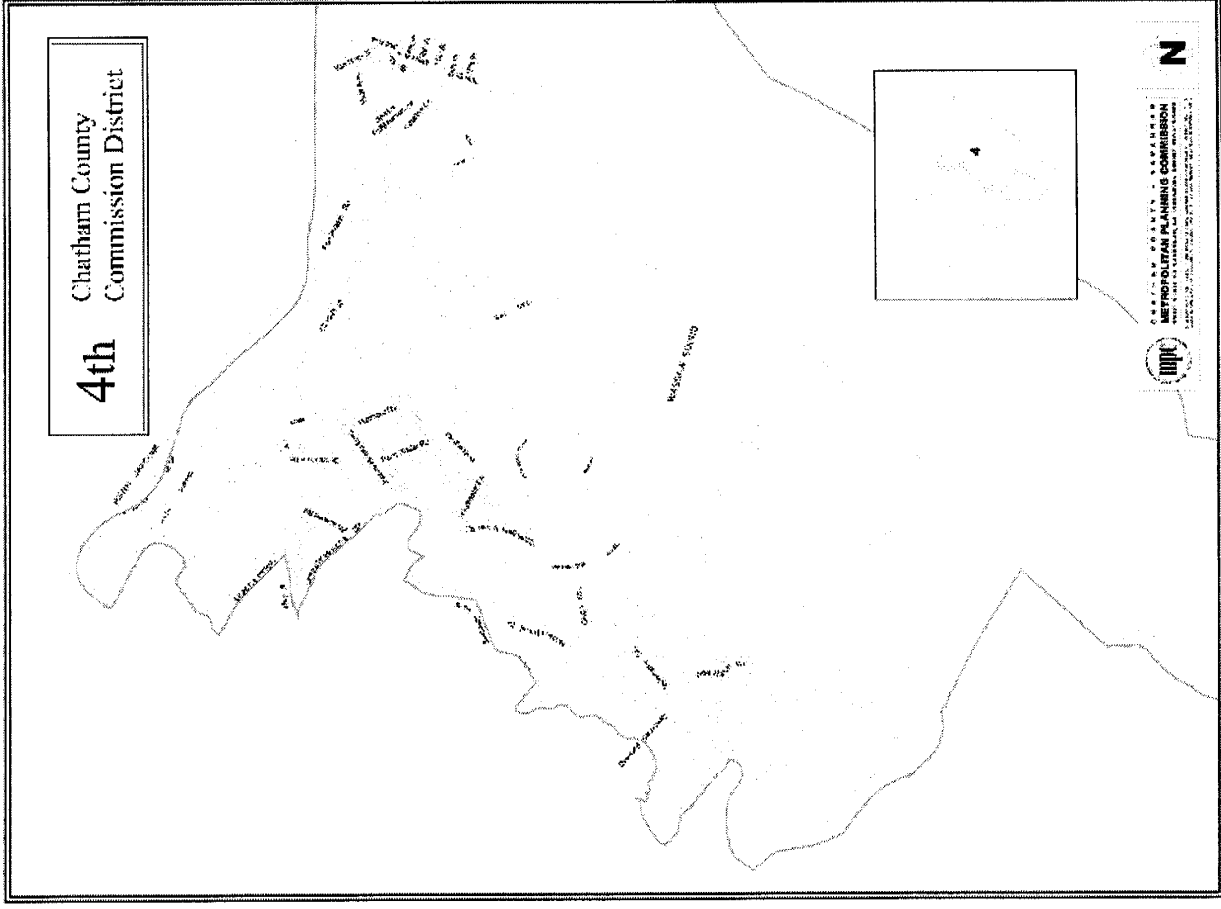


Commissioner  
3rd District  
Patrick Shay

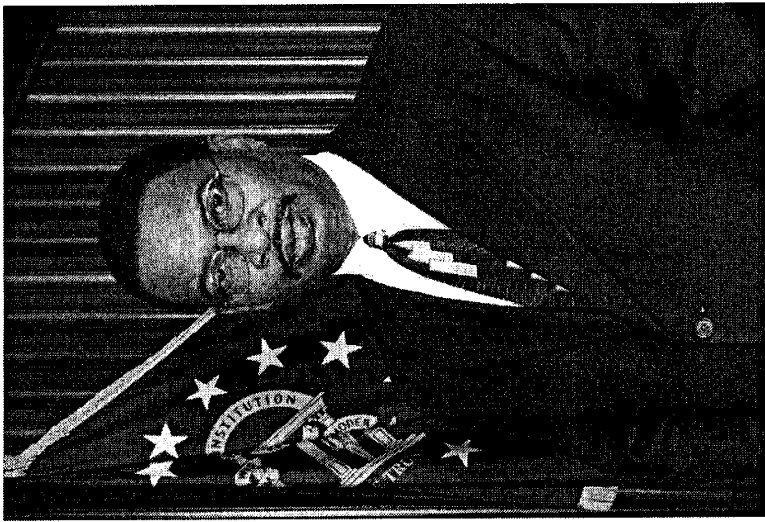




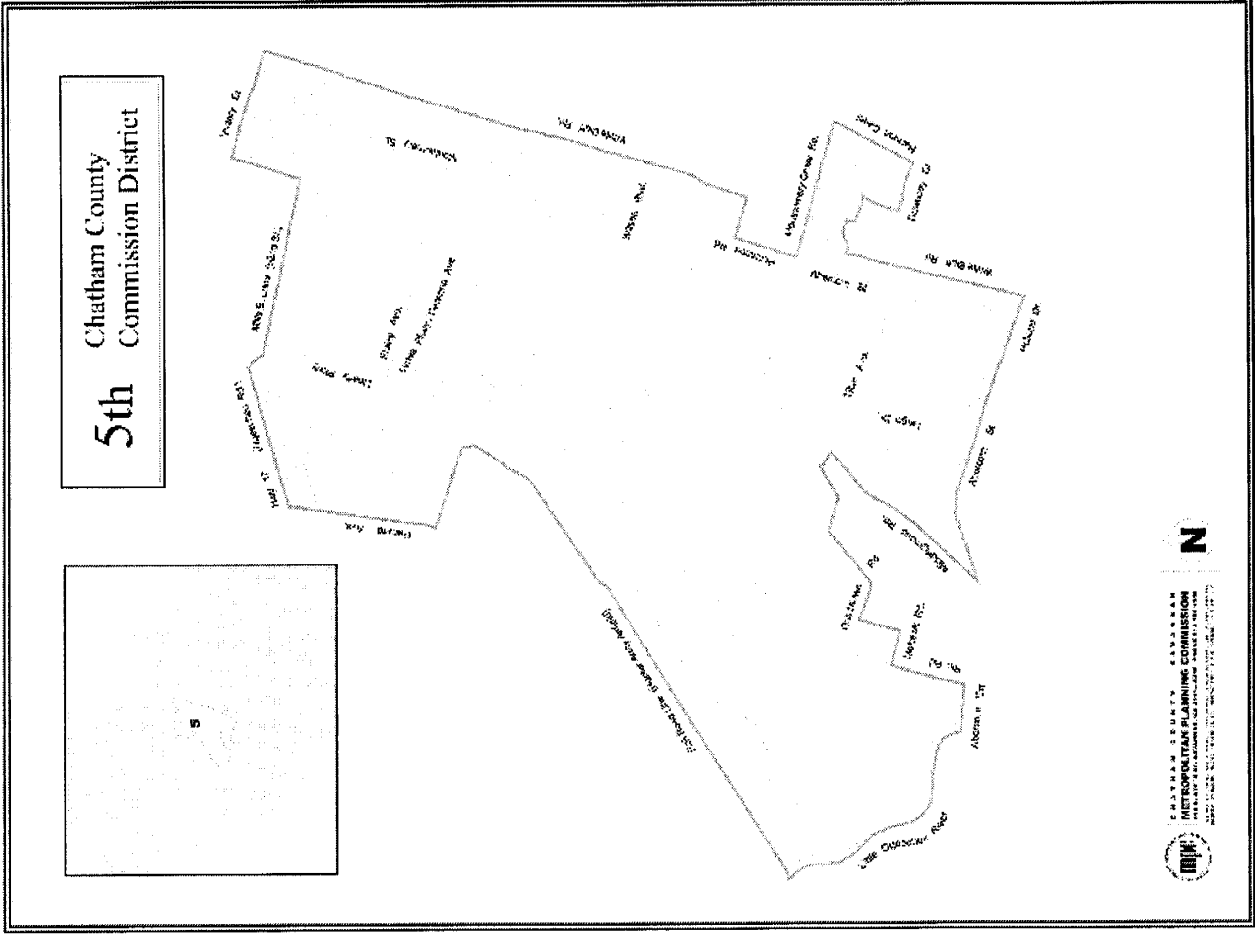
**Commissioner  
4th District  
Patrick K. Farrell**

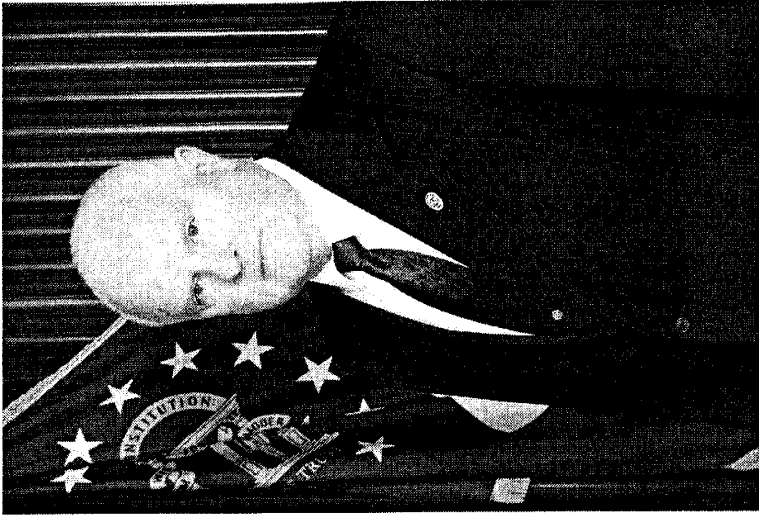




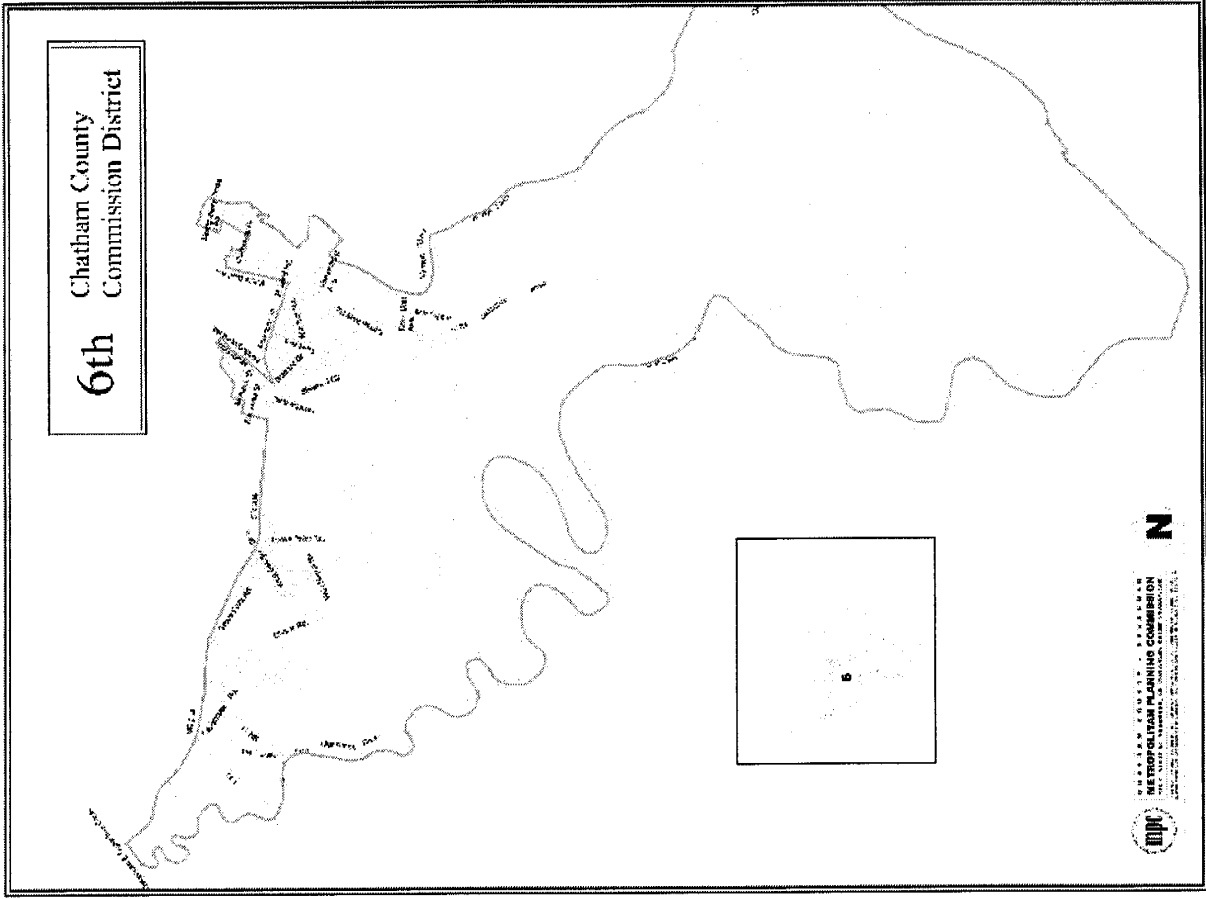


Commissioner  
5th District  
Harris Odell, Jr.



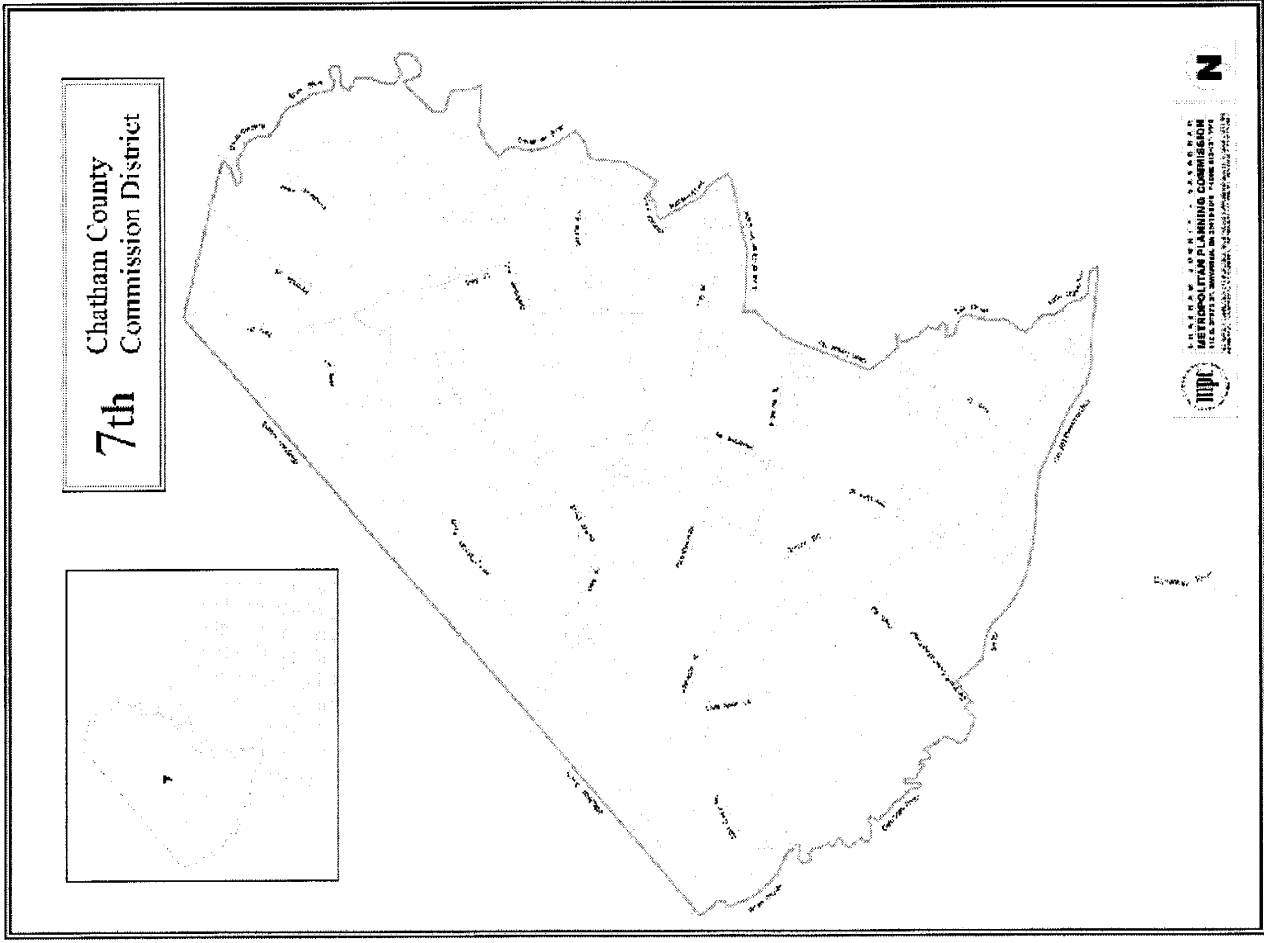


**Commissioner  
6th District  
David M. Gellatly**



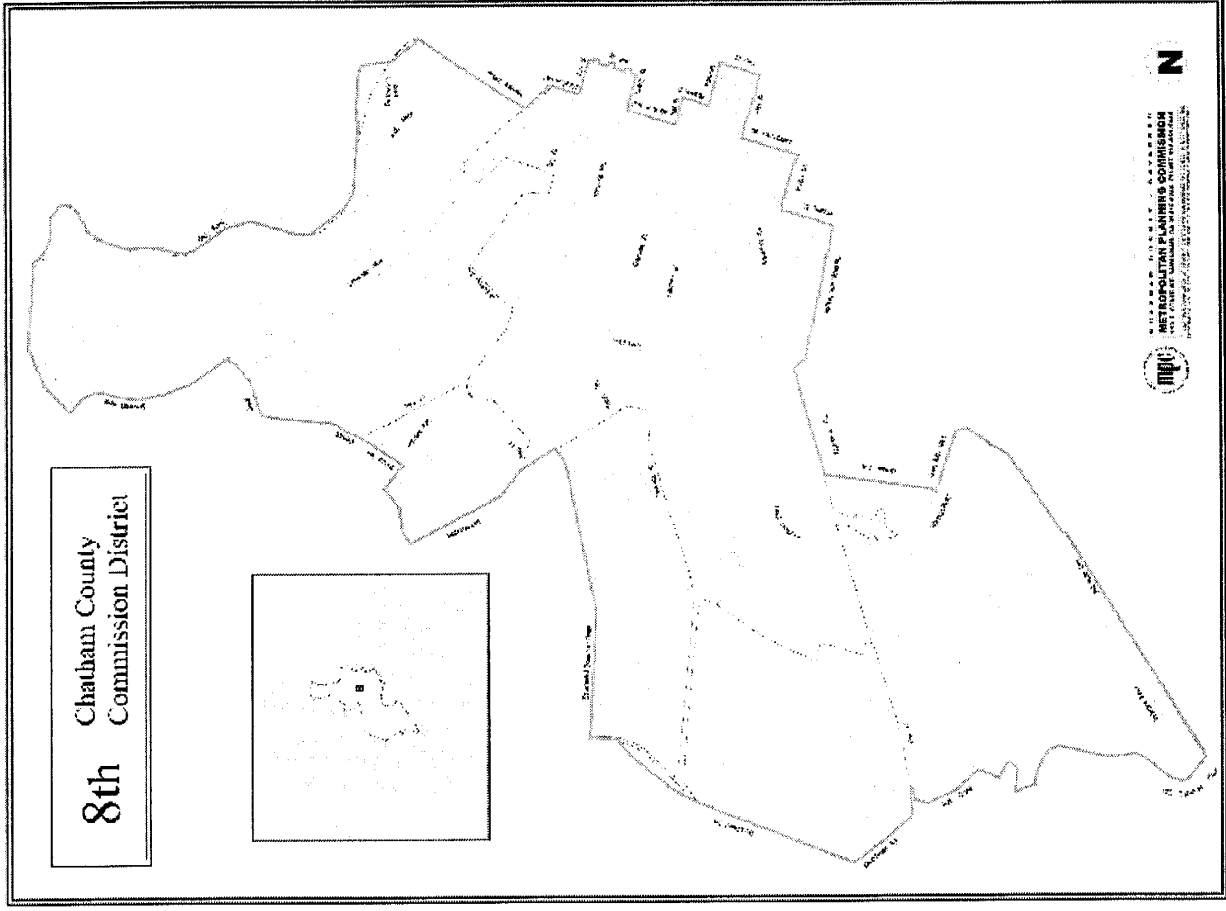


Commissioner  
7th District  
Dean Kicklighter





Commissioner  
8th District  
Dr. Priscilla D. Thomas



**CHATHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA  
ELECTED OFFICIALS & DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS  
FY 2009 / 2010 BUDGET**

**ELECTED OFFICIALS & JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS**

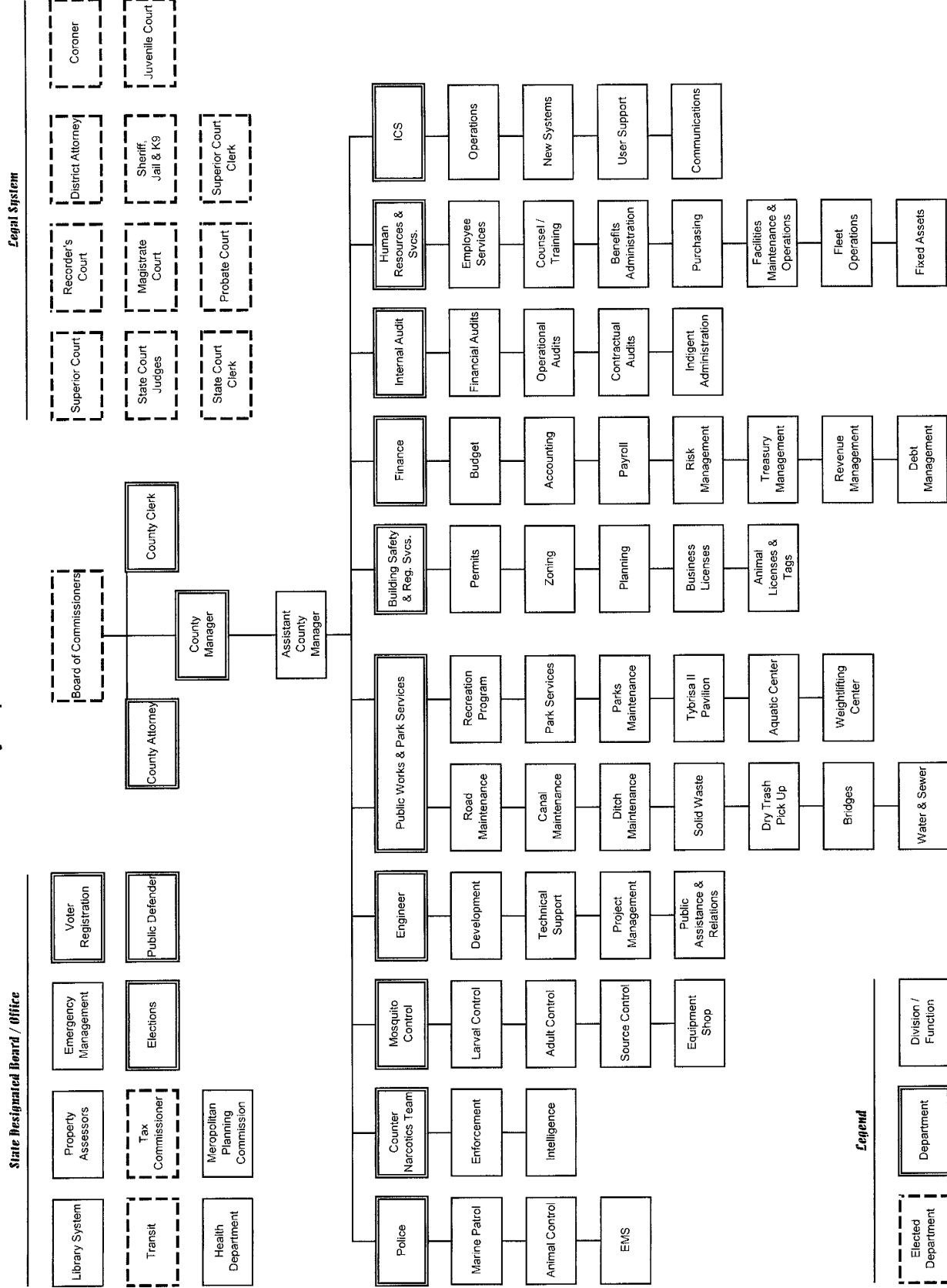
Child Support Recovery	David Lowe	State Court Administrator	Brian Hart
Coroner	Dr. James C. Metts, Jr.	State Court Judge	Ronald E. Ginsberg
District Attorney	Larry Chisolm	State Court Judge	H. Gregory Fowler
Detention Center	Col. McArthur Holmes	State Court Judge	Herman W. Coolidge
Juvenile Court Judge	John W. Beam, Jr.	Superior Court Administrator	Shawn L. Amacher
Juvenile Court Judge	Patricia Stone	Circuit Public Defender	Michael Edwards
Juvenile Court Judge	Leroy Burke III	Superior Court Clerk	Dan Massey
Juvenile Court Administrator	Crystal T. Cooper	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 Cornwall 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	Director Roy J. Harris	Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Dept.	Chief Michael Berkow
Director of Engineering	Albert Bungard	Public Works & Parks Services	Robert Drewry
Emergency Management Director	Clayton Scott	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



## **BUDGET PROCESS**

The Board of Commissioners adopted the FY 2010 Budget Calendar on January 16, 2009. The Board of Commissioners met in March 2009 to develop goals. The Commission goals are discussed in the County Manager's message and the Executive Summary.

Departments and agencies submitted detailed operating budget requests to the Budget Office in the Finance Department on February 13, 2009 in accordance with procedures established by the Budget Calendar. The budget requests of County agencies and departments included basic, reduced, and additional requests. Basic requests are requests to finance currently mandated or authorized services within guidelines, or ongoing expenditures. The budget preparation package for FY 2010 asked each department to submit a budget 3% less than the FY 2009 level. This was in anticipation of a decrease in property tax revenues for FY 2010. Additional requests are over and above the basic FY 2008 / 2009 service levels.

After analyzing the budget requests, Budget staff met with the County Manager, department heads and agency heads during the month of March to review the requests. The County Manager's Recommended FY 2009 / 2010 Budget reflected his consideration of these recommendations in light of revenue projections and real property assessments, and his top priority initiatives are reflected in the Budget Message. Supplemental requests were incorporated into a series of Decision Packages for review by the Board of Commissioners. The Decision Packages reflect additional needs of the department or agency heads not included in the County Manager's recommended budget.

As presented to the County Commission, the Recommended Budget is intended to provide the resources necessary to continue current services. In his Budget Message, the County Manager may also recommend adjustments to the general property tax rates and user fees necessary to finance these services and may identify high priority needs, new initiatives and program changes for County Commission consideration during budget deliberations. These and other issues brought forward at the budget public hearings were addressed during the County Commission budget work sessions in May and June 2009. After careful deliberation, the Recommended Budget, as modified to include the final Add/Delete List of decision packages and the adopted millage rate, was adopted by the County Commission on June 26, 2009. The Final Add/Delete List is incorporated in the adopted budget column in each fund's summary and detail information.

## Executive Summary

The fiscal year 2010 Budget was adopted by the Board of Commissioners on June 26, 2009. The County Manager had submitted a recommended budget proposal to the Board on May 8, 2009 which outlined the County's budget challenges and accomplishments. The County Manager's recommended budget is located after the tab "County Manager's Message". It serves as the basis for the final adopted budget.

The key difference between the adopted budget and the County Manager's recommended budget is the growth in property tax revenues. The County Manager had assumed that there would be no tax digest growth in the General Fund and the Special Service District. However, there was digest growth of 1.64% in the General Fund M&O and 1.92% in the Special Service District. The digest growth equated to increases in budgeted property tax revenues of \$1.92 million in General Fund and \$290,000 in Special Service District Fund.

The County Manager's recommended budget had included an \$85 per year annual solid waste fee charged to single family residences in the County's unincorporated area. After budget adoption, the Board of Commissioners reduced the annual solid waste fee charged to single family residential units from \$85 to \$43. The impact of the fee reduction is reflected in the Solid Waste Fund budget within this document. The fee reduction also resulted in additional expenditures in the Special Service District, and a transfer out to the Solid Waste Fund was budgeted to cover associated expenses.

The County had entered the 2010 budget process very conservatively. Capital project budgeting began in October 2008, and departments began the operating budget process in February 2009. Due to the declining economy, revenue expectations were held level with the prior year. However, increased funding was needed for annual required pension contributions and OPEB costs. As a result, departments were asked to reduce costs at least 3% from their 2009 expenditure levels. In the Special Service District, substantial reductions in excess of the 3% level impacted the following departments:

- Public Works
- Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Dept.
- Metropolitan Planning Commission
- Building Safety & Regulatory Services
- Engineering

Despite the reductions, the Special Service District appropriated fund balance to meet its operating needs. The Board has expressed interest in scheduling a series of workshops in the Fall of 2009 to discuss issues related to the Fund's structural imbalance.



The conservative budget approach allowed the County to avoid staff layoffs in 2010. However, no compensation increases were awarded to general and law enforcement personnel. In addition, employees in the Building Safety & Regulatory Services department have been furloughed one day per month effective July 1, 2009.

Departments presented a number of decision packages for funding consideration. No decision packages were adopted with the 2010 budget.

A reconciliation between the County Manager's recommended budget to the adopted budget is shown in the following table:

<b>RECONCILIATION Recommended vs. Adopted Budget</b>		
	<b>General Fund M&amp;O</b>	<b>Special Service District</b>
<b>Revenues &amp; Fund Balance Appropriations:</b>		
Manager's recommended	\$ 148,857,725	\$ 27,414,203
Adjustments:		
- Digest growth		292,610
Total adjustments	<u>1,920,850</u>	<u>292,610</u>
<b>Adopted Revenues &amp; Fund Balance Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 150,778,575</b>	<b>\$ 27,706,813</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>		
Manager's recommended	\$ 148,857,725	\$ 27,414,203
Adjustments:		
Additions		
- Other Financing Sources		292,610
Total adjustments	<u>1,920,850</u>	<u>292,610</u>
<b>Adopted Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 150,778,575</b>	<b>\$ 27,706,813</b>

The County Commission adopts a set of goals for the upcoming fiscal year in February. The relationship of the adopted budget to the Board's stated goals is summarized below:

**Relationship of Goals to Adopted Budget**

To provide all citizens the best place to live, work and play:

- By protecting the public safety of everyone
- By providing outstanding recreational services and facilities community-wide
- By stimulating economic growth through cooperative business practices to include predictable permitting
- By establishing and maintaining effective management of the County's resources
- By responding to legislative mandates in the most cost-effective manner

The adopted budget seeks to be responsive to these goals and objectives:

*Public Safety*

- Funding is provided for police activities and vehicles within the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department. Animal Control transport compartments are recommended in CIP funding request (\$30,560).
- CIP Fund recommendations include \$350,000 to convert 1/3 of radios from analog to digital. This is the second year of funding related to the conversion.
- CIP Fund recommendations also include \$680,000 for Detention Center improvements to the fire alarm and door lock systems.
- Holding cell renovations for Juvenile Court are reflected within the CIP fund budget, increasing the project by approximately \$270,000.
- Additional funding for the communication tower at the Sheriff's complex is included within the CIP Fund budget (\$578,413).
- Marine Patrol is pursuing grant funding for its capital requests while CNT will use available confiscated funds.
- Police funding in the Special Service District was reduced beginning January 1, 2010 to align with expenditure calculations under the work-measures approach. This resulted in an expenditure decrease of approximately \$600,000 over the fiscal period.
- CIP Fund recommendations include \$200,000 to purchase an Excavator for Mosquito Control related activities.

*Recreational Services and Facilities*

- CIP Fund recommendations include \$561,200 for Memorial Stadium repairs, \$175,000 for Walter Parker Pier repairs, \$456,500 for improvements at the Golden Sports complex, and \$16,905 for design at the Soccer complex.
- Over the past few years, \$1 million has been added to Parks & Recreation for Recreation Action Plan funding. Subject to an overall department reduction of 3%, these funds are retained in the department's budget.

### *Cooperative Business Practices*

- SAGIS funding is maintained at fiscal 2009 levels within the SSD Fund.
- Construction Apprentice program funding is maintained, including staff.
- The Predictable Permitting project is on-going.
- Community Outreach project for Detention Center expansion remains funded.

### *Management of County Resources*

- The proposed budget assumed that property tax digest revenues would be flat from FY2009 to FY2010. There was digest growth in both the General Fund and Special Service District.
- Most of the digest growth in the SSD Fund was used to fund solid waste operations for dry trash pick-up, thereby reducing the annual solid waste fee.
- Tax revenue increases in the General Fund were allocated to an allowance for uncollectibles account and to contingency. Much of the revenue increase resulted from personal property valuations. This category is more subject to appeal; consequently, 15% of the revenue was appropriated as uncollectible.
- Cost reductions of at least 3% were taken in most General Fund departments. SSD Fund departments were cut more significantly in an effort to reduce appropriations of fund balance.
- No lay offs are recommended. Within Building Safety and Regulatory Services activities, a one day per month furlough was implemented on July 1, 2009 to offset revenue declines.
- Proposed reserve levels continue to reflect those found in the County's Financial Policies.
- Increased pre-funding of OPEB (retiree health) benefits is included in the budget. The increase is \$800 per employee or a total of \$2,800 per employee.
- Employee wellness programs are funded in the Health Insurance Fund.
- Employee health premiums were not increased on July 1 due to implementation of wellness initiatives. Premium increases were postponed until January 1, 2010. Premiums will be structured to reflect participation in wellness programs and non-smoking incentives.
- General fund fleet replacements of \$400,000 are included in the CIP Fund recommended projects.
- Old Courthouse improvements for the roof and air conditioning system totaling \$446,000 are included in the CIP Fund recommended projects.

### *Legislative Mandates*

- During its 2009 session, the Georgia Legislature passed several pieces of legislation impacting future property tax digest revenues. The legislation virtually "freezes" property tax values over the next three years. In addition, legislation pertaining to foreclosures will further decrease property tax values. The adverse impact of low property tax digest growth is evident in the five year forecasts that have been prepared for both the General and SSD Funds.

## 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

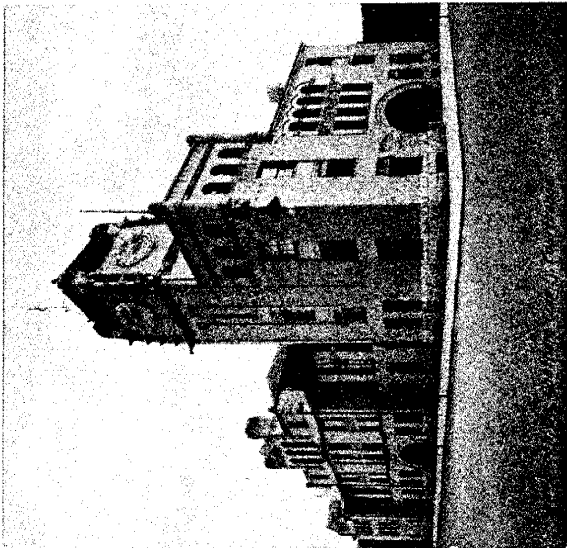


Photo of the court house around 1908  
Graphic provided courtesy of Christopher Morris

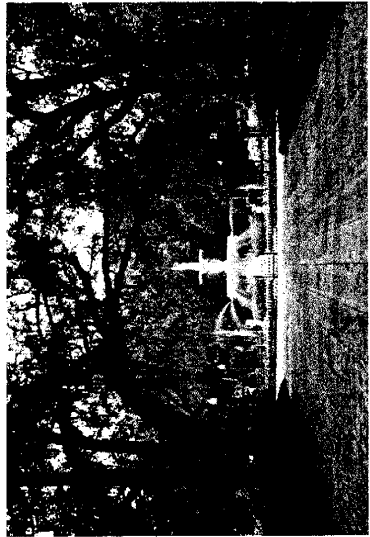
Chatham County is the nucleus from which the present great State of Georgia has grown. Savannah was the first settlement recognized by the English government in colonial days. At Savannah, on February 12, 1733, with 116 settlers, the colony of Georgia was founded by James Edward Oglethorpe, a member 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. Savannah area employers expect to hire at a respectable pace during the fourth quarter of 2009, according to the Manpower Employment Outlook Survey. Among survey participants, the Savannah area employment outlook is the fifth best in the nation.

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. Current US Census Bureau estimates (2008) indicate that this figure has grown to 251,120.

#### POPULATION - CHATHAM COUNTY AND SAVANNAH METROPOLITAN AREA

Year	City of Savannah		Chatham County		Effingham County		Bryan County		Total Metro Area
	Savannah	County	Chatham County	County	Effingham County	County	Bryan County	County	
1970	118,349	187,816	187,816	13,632	13,632	6,539	6,539	207,387	
1980	141,651	202,226	202,226	18,727	18,727	10,175	10,175	231,128	
1990	137,560	216,774	216,774	25,687	25,687	15,438	15,438	257,899	
2000	132,985	232,347	232,347	37,535	37,535	23,417	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 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		State of GA % Rate		United States % Rate	
	Force			Unemployment	Unemployment	Unemployment	Unemployment	Unemployment	Unemployment
2000	110,366		106,275	3.7	3.7	3.7	4.0	4.0	4.0
2001	107,963		104,963	3.3	4.0	4.0	4.7	4.7	4.7
2002	111,134		106,396	4.3	5.1	5.1	5.8	5.8	5.8
2003	115,900		111,252	4.1	4.7	4.7	6.0	6.0	6.0
2004	120,261		114,535	4.8	5.0	5.0	5.6	5.6	5.6
2005	126,300		113,898	4.2	4.6	4.6	5.5	5.5	5.5
2006	130,060		124,828	4.6	5.0	5.0	4.8	4.8	4.8
2007	134,471		128,818	4.2	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7
2008	134,283		128,047	6.2	8.1	8.1	7.2	7.2	7.2
2009	132,383		120,805	8.7	10.1	10.1	9.5	9.5	9.5

**SOURCES:** State of Georgia Departments of Labor, Labor Information Systems

### Income

Throughout the last nine 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:

Year	PER CAPITA INCOME		Chatham County as a % of US	
	Chatham County	Georgia	United States	Chatham County as a % of US
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	\$34,053	\$31,121	\$34,471	98.79%
2006	\$34,476	\$31,891	\$36,276	95.04%
2007	\$36,052	\$33,499	\$38,611	93.37%
2008	\$37,850	\$33,975	\$39,751	95.22%

**SOURCES:** U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Accounts Data.

## Background Information

### Manufacturing

Savannah's manufacturing sector generates an annual economy of over \$2.026 billion while making a variety of consumer goods that range from yachts to corporate jets and from cookies to hair products. Two hundred and ninety one companies employ some 15,960 workers. 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	6,024
Georgia Pacific Corporation	Paper products	1,200
International Paper Corporation	Paper products	738
J.C. Bamford	Construction equipment	400
Imperial Sugar	Refined sugar	350
Derst Baking Company	Food products	295
Colonial Group	Petroleum products	285
Brasseler USA	Dental equipment	185

**SOURCE:** 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 13,110 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.

Travel to Savannah remains strong as the readers of *Travel & Leisure Magazine* ranked Savannah among the "Top Cities in the US and Canada" (July 2008).. Over six million, six hundred thousand people visited the area in 2007. Direct travel expenditures were over \$1.9 billion dollars. Increases in traveler expenditures are directly related to jobs. The Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce estimates nearly 29,235 area jobs were supported by tourism in 2007.

Year	Number of Hotel rooms	Overnight visitor stays	City of Savannah & Unincorporated Area	Room Taxes - 6%	Total Direct Visitor Spending
2001	10,486	2,444,000		\$9,200,000	\$1,059,000,000
2002	11,157	2,555,000		\$9,460,000	\$1,032,000,000
2003	11,153	2,714,000		\$10,440,000	\$1,208,000,000
2004	11,085	2,867,000		\$11,480,000	\$1,213,000,000
2005	11,721	2,845,000		\$12,610,000	\$1,385,000,000
2006	12,448	2,807,000		\$13,190,000	\$1,800,000,000
2007	13,110	2,886,000		\$14,410,000	\$1,980,000,000

**SOURCES:** Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce

## 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.



## Port of Savannah

### **Background Information**

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.

The Port of Savannah is the fourth-busiest and fastest-growing container terminal in the United States. In 2008, the Georgia Ports Authority handled more than 2.6 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit containers handled at the Port of Savannah, a 14.9 percent increase. As of September 2008, Savannah's YTD growth rate (9%) continued to be the fastest among all major US ports. It was three percentage points faster than the next fastest growing port, Norfolk.

The Garden City Terminal is owned and operated by the Georgia Ports Authority, the Garden City Terminal is a secured, dedicated container facility, the largest of its kind on the U.S. East and Gulf coasts. The 1,200 acre single terminal facility features 9,693 linear feet of continuous berthing and more than 1.2 million square feet of covered storage. The terminal is equipped with fifteen high-speed container cranes (4 super post-panamax and 11 post-panamax) as well as an extensive inventory of yard handling equipment.

### **Background Information**

Ocean Terminal is owned and operated by the Georgia Ports Authority, the Ocean Terminal is a secured, dedicated breakbulk facility specializing in the rapid and efficient handling of a vast array of forest and solid wood products, steel, RoRo (Roll-on / Roll-off), project shipments and heavy-lift cargoes. The 208-acre (84.2-ha) facility features 6,688 linear feet (2,039 linear meters) of deepwater berthing, approximately 1.5 million square feet (138,164 square meters) of covered storage and 96 acres (38.8 ha) of open, versatile storage. The leading imports were iron and steel, machinery, plywood, cocoa bean, granite, lumber, aluminum, and paper products. 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.

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 286,000 jobs statewide, \$25 billion of Georgia's Gross State Product (6%), and income exceeding \$15 billion in personal income 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**

- Administers marriage licenses, pistol permits, court filings, committal hearings, guardianships

#### **State Court**

- Handles civil matters without regard to dollar amount and criminal misdemeanor cases; oversees the D.U.I. Court

#### **Juvenile Court**

- Handles 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
- Develop annual operating budgets and multi-year capital plans and forecasts

**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
- 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
- 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 while providing a safe and healthy environment for prisoners
- 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
- 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 or 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

