

ABOUT THE SPLOST

On **July 22, 2014**, the Cobb County Board of Commissioners approved a referendum on a six-year one-cent Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax that, if approved by voters, will be in effect from **Jan. 1, 2016** thru **Dec. 31, 2021**. The current one-cent SPLOST expires on **Dec. 31, 2015**.

Cobb County currently has one of the lowest sales tax rates in Georgia (6 percent). The **Nov. 4, 2014** referendum will allow voters to determine, upon expiration of the existing 1 percent sales tax, if a new 1 percent sales tax should be utilized for needed capital improvements involving parks, transportation, public safety, libraries, senior centers and other Cobb and city facilities.

If approved by Cobb voters, the 2016 SPLOST will provide funding for:

- ✓ Improvements to public safety communications systems and public health facilities.
- ✓ Park revitalizations including upgrades enhancements and renovations to existing facilities.
- ✓ Infrastructure preservation including resurfacing, drainage and bridges.
- ✓ Traffic congestion relief.
- ✓ Pedestrian improvements including sidewalks.
- ✓ Safety and operational improvements including roadways, intersections and school zones.
- ✓ Library and Senior Services facility improvements.
- ✓ Public safety critical needs (Fire and Police) to replace aging facilities, equipment and apparatus.

COUNTYWIDE PROJECTS

TOTAL	\$38,862,220
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Projects include replacing Animal Control equipment, vehicles and parking lot repairs; upgrades for 800Mhz radio system, new radio towers, replacement of emergency weather sirens, improvements to court facilities, public health clinics, a new Medical Examiner laboratory and replacement of building systems, renovations, security cameras and equipment for Sheriff's Office.

TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS

TRANSPORTATION TOTAL	\$287,331,467
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Projects include infrastructure preservation (resurfacing, drainage, bridges and culverts), pedestrian improvements, safety and operational improvements (intersections, roadways and school zones) and congestion relief and mobility improvements (thoroughfares, traffic management, traffic signals and planning). SPLOST funding will be leveraged to receive additional funding from other sources, including federal, state and community improvements districts.

FACILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENTS

FACILITIES	\$17,940,380
TECHNOLOGY	\$30,079,000
TOTAL	\$48,019,380

Facility projects include infrastructure improvements of existing facilities and the construction of a new millwork shop and new fleet maintenance facility to support the increase in public safety vehicles.

Technology enhancements will provide many upgrades to existing applications, create an eGovernment presence (Web and mobile access to key county services), the construction of a new data center and the creation of a disaster recovery site.

PUBLIC SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS

PUBLIC SAFETY TOTAL	\$87,977,584
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Public Safety enhancements include adding apparatus/vehicles to increase response capability throughout the county. It will improve facilities benefitting training, increasing quality of service to the community and providing equipment and technology to expand communications and provide better on-scene technology.

- Renovate, expand, and add DPS facilities to enhance training, allow adequate working space, modernize operations, enhance security and provide better service to the community.
- Add essential Public Safety vehicles to provide more efficient response capabilities to the community.
- Replace vital communications equipment for all Public Safety departments within the county.

PUBLIC SERVICES

PARKS IMPROVEMENTS	\$77,508,779
LIBRARY IMPROVEMENTS	\$23,203,167
SENIOR CENTER IMPROVEMENTS	\$2,201,580
TOTAL	\$102,913,526

Funding for Parks and Recreation projects will be used for upgrades, enhancements and renovations to existing park buildings, fields and facilities.

Library projects include construction of one regional library consolidating the Acworth and Kennesaw library branches and a replacement East Marietta Library facility with shared functions with Cobb PARKS. There will be upgrades and renovations to other libraries, including Switzer, Gritters, South Cobb Regional and Sibley. These changes include technology enhancements and improvements to allow more efficient and effective use of space.

Senior Center projects include expansion of the existing North Cobb Senior Center and upgrades to other facilities to allow for more efficiency and greater use of space.

2016 SPLOST BUDGET SUMMARY

6 YEAR PROJECTED SALES TAX \$750,000,000

COUNTYWIDE \$38,862,220

E911 Radio System, Courts, Public Health, Sheriff's Office and Medical Examiner

PUBLIC SERVICES \$102,913,526

Includes Library System, Senior Services and PARKS

TRANSPORTATION \$287,331,467

Infrastructure preservation, pedestrian improvements, safety and operational improvements and congestion relief

FACILITIES \$48,019,380

Restore and repair facilities, new Fleet Service facility

PUBLIC SAFETY \$87,977,584

Upgrades to facilities, equipment and apparatus

MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENTS \$184,895,823

Each Cobb city will receive a portion of the funds allocated according to the 2009 Census projections, which indicates 27 percent of Cobb residents reside within city limits.

Acworth	\$21.2 million
Austell	\$6.7 million
Kennesaw	\$31.6 million
Marietta	\$58.4 million
Powder Springs	\$14.2 million
Smyrna	\$52.8 million

Cobb Sales Tax

- Cobb County is one of only nine counties in Georgia with a sales tax rate below 7 percent.
- Of Cobb's current 6 percent sales tax; 4 percent to State, 1 percent to School SPLOST, 1 percent to the current County SPLOST.
- **Not a tax increase** – current SPLOST expires Dec. 31, 2015 and proposed SPLOST begins Jan. 1, 2016 thru Dec. 31, 2021.

What makes up Cobb County's current 6% sales tax?



4 pennies to State



1 penny to School SPLOST



1 penny to County SPLOST

Total Operating & Capital Budgets

Atlanta	
Fulton	
DeKalb	
Gwinnett	
COBB	
City of Atlanta	\$ 1,875,496,112*
Fulton County	\$ 866,110,808
DeKalb County	\$ 1,251,368,748
Gwinnett County	\$ 1,463,496,872
COBB COUNTY	\$ 815,228,731*

*Cobb and Atlanta figures = FY 14, other jurisdictions = FY 13

Cobb County's conservative fiscal policies and tight expenditure controls have resulted in the lowest millage rate and lowest property taxes among the listed counties.

Cobb Property Tax

- Approximately two-thirds of property tax revenue is directed to the school system and one third to the general fund.
- Cobb DOT receives less than 5 percent; an equivalent of approximately \$50 per average household per year.
- Parks also receives less than 5 percent of property tax.
- Funding provides for operation and routine maintenance of existing systems.

Metro Atlanta Millage Comparisons

KEY	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13	FY 14
Atlanta*	21.72	21.99	23.71	21.73	23.80
Fulton*	14.89	15.16	15.16	15.09	16.66
DeKalb	16.86	21.21	21.21	21.21	21.21
Gwinnett	13.25	13.02	13.02	13.75	13.75
COBB	9.60	11.11	11.11	10.91	10.71

Figures are without school & state taxes (based on Fiscal Year)

*North Fulton County *City of Atlanta within Fulton County

This is an official publication of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners.

Tim Lee, Chairman
Helen Goreham, District One; Bob Ott, District Two
JoAnn Birrell, District Three; Lisa Cupid, District Four

David Hankerson, County Manager



COBB COUNTY 2016 SPLOST



Cobb County...Expect the Best!

www.cobbsplost2016.org

Cobb County Board of Commissioners
100 Cherokee St. Suite 300, Marietta, GA 30090
770.528.1000