



## 2015 Budget is Set

### Fund Balanced Doubled

January 7, 2015 marked the inauguration of the Fulton County Commissioners. It was a very humbling experience for me to be sworn in to service along with my six colleagues on the commission. I was honored to have several friends and family join me at the event.

It was then time to get to work for the citizens of District 2 and Fulton County. We were tasked with approving our 2015 budget by the end of January. In a quick time frame, we engaged in a great deal of collaborative discussion and were able to put together a budget framework that provides a basis for greater fiscal responsibility, taxpayer relief



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as well as improved delivery of services. Though not perfect, it was a collective effort and resulted in an Alternative General Fund Budget that I presented. It was approved unanimously by the Board of Commissioners on January 21st, marking the first unanimous approval for a county spending plan since 1991.

Some highlights of the budget include the following:

- Restoration of library hours to the FY2013 levels (expected to be effective on April 1st)
- Over \$7 million in Administrative Cost Reductions
- Revenue Projections which presume some level of millage rate rollback (actual millage rate determined mid-year)

In addition to the budget, I was pleased to have Chairman John Eaves and Commissioners Liz Hausmann and Lee Morris join me in co-sponsoring a resolution to double our minimum fund balance requirement (rainy day fund) from 8.33% to 16.66% of the General Fund budget, which equates to 2 months of operational cost reserves and provides the county with a more solid financial footing.

I am encouraged by the early work of the Commission and am honored to serve you. Please feel free to reach out if I can be of service to you!

**- Bob Ellis**

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## INAUGURATION SPEECH

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