

**THE UNIFIED GOVERNMENT OF  
ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY**

**FY09**

**BUDGET IN BRIEF**



**ANNUAL OPERATING  
& CAPITAL BUDGET**

**JULY 1, 2008 - JUNE 30, 2009**

This *Budget in Brief* has been produced to provide an overview of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County's (ACCUG) Annual Operating and Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2009 (July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009). This document provides a brief and understandable summary of the FY09 Budget. We hope that you find this document a helpful tool in understanding the financial plan for Athens-Clarke County for the upcoming year.

A more detailed copy of the FY09 Budget can be viewed at the Clerk of Commission's Office, Room 204 of City Hall, the Athens Regional Library on Baxter Street, or at Athens-Clarke County's website [www.athensclarkecounty.com/documents](http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/documents) (scroll down the page to the Finance Department heading).

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# **ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY MISSION STATEMENT**

**Athens-Clarke County,  
an open and responsive government,**

**facilitating a positive environment  
for individuals to obtain a high quality of life  
and local organizations to achieve success**

**by providing innovative, high quality services and  
responsible stewardship of the community's resources,  
to benefit current and future generations.**

Adopted November 4, 1997

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## **Mayor and Commission**

Mayor	Heidi Davison
Commissioner - District 1	Doug Lowry
Commissioner - District 2	Harry Sims
Commissioner - District 3	George Maxwell
Commissioner - District 4	Alice Kinman
Commissioner - District 5	David Lynn
Commissioner - District 6	Carl Jordan
Commissioner - District 7	Kathy Hoard
Commissioner - District 8	Andy Herod
Commissioner - District 9	Kelly Girtz
Commissioner - District 10	Elton Dodson
Manager	Alan Reddish

## **Athens-Clarke County at a Glance**

Form of Government:	Commission-Manager Mayor and Ten Commissioners. (Mayor elected at large and Commissioners elected by district).
Population:	112,787 (2006 US Census Bureau)
UGA Enrollment:	32,177 (Spring 2008)
Land Area:	122 square miles or 78,000 acres
Median Age:	24.5 (2006 US Census Bureau)
Median Household Income:	\$30,574 (2006 US Census Bureau)

### **Major Attractions:**

University of Georgia  
State Botanical Gardens  
Georgia Museum of Art  
Downtown Athens  
Morton Theatre  
Classic Center (Convention Center & Theater)  
Historic Homes

### **Principal Employers:**

University of Georgia  
Athens Regional Medical Center  
Clarke County School District  
Pilgrims Pride Poultry Company  
Athens-Clarke County Government  
St. Mary's Health Care System  
Gold Kist, Inc.

Median Price of an Existing Home (Owner Occupied):  
\$158,200 (2006 US Census Bureau)

Estimated Property Taxes for a \$158,200 home in 2008 (with  
Homestead Exemption):

ACCUG	\$ 690	39%
School	\$ 1066	60%
State	\$ 15	1%
State Tax Credit	<u>(\$266)</u>	
Total	\$1,505	100%

## **Annual Budget Development Process**

The Annual Operating and Capital Budget is the financial plan for raising revenues and expending funds for all Athens-Clarke County departments, offices and constitutional officials.

The process to develop the Annual Operating and Capital Budget begins about nine months prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. Departments and Constitutional Officials submit Operating and Capital Budget requests for review by the Manager and the Mayor. No later than the end of April, the Mayor must submit a Recommended Budget to the Commission for Review. The Commission will review the Mayor's Recommended Budget and make any adjustments they feel are necessary prior to adopting it in June. Major steps in the Annual Budget development process include:

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| November         | Mayor & Commission Establish Budget Goals   |
| November         | Departments Submit Capital Project requests and updates to 5 year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). |
| January          | Departments Submit Operating Budget Requests.   |
| February         | Mayor & Commission review preliminary Capital Budget and CIP.                                     |
| February         | Mayor & Commission review Budget Requests from Independent Agencies.                              |
| February - March | Manager and Mayor meet with Department and Constitutional Officials to review Budget requests.    |
| April            | Mayor sends Recommended Budget to Commission.   |
| May              | Commission reviews Mayor Recommended Budget.  |
| June             | Commission adopts Budgets for next fiscal year and establishes the property tax millage rate.     |
| July             | Budget for next fiscal year begins on July 1.   |

## **FY09 Significant Budget Issues**

- This Budget includes a \$104.2 million General Fund Operating Budget in FY09, an increase of 4.8%. The Operating Budget for all Other Funds totals \$57.4 million. The Capital Budget is \$229.6 million, a \$167.9 million increase compared to the FY08 Capital Budget. The total FY09 Budget is \$391.2 million, an increase of \$178.3 million.
- The proposed millage rate for 2008 is 12.95 mills, an increase of 0.15 mill. With this millage rate, Athens-Clarke County residents will continue to pay lower property taxes for local government services than most other surrounding counties and other similar communities in Georgia. This increase will add about \$7.50 to the property tax bill for a home valued at \$150,000. Currently, this homeowner will pay about \$1,400 for school and local government services.
- General Fund departments requested increases totaling \$6.4 million for current services. This budget includes an increase of \$4.1 million, primarily for compensation for employees. To meet budget constraints, reductions of \$1.1 million to the General Fund Operating Budget have been included in FY09.
- Departments requested \$2.9 million of increases in operating expenditures for New Initiatives and \$204,700 for SPLOST projects. This Budget includes an increase of \$535,900 for new initiatives and \$204,700 for operating expenses related to new SPLOST projects.
- New Initiatives:
  - The Superior Court Budget includes operating expenditures of \$619,000 and first year capital expenditures of \$133,000 to implement a Misdemeanor Probation Program for the ACC Court Systems. For FY09, revenue from participant fees will provide \$642,600 to offset the cost of this new program. In previous years, this service was provided by contracted firms.

- This budget includes funding of \$192,500 to provide for expansion of weekday transit services through added peak hour trips on the Atlanta Highway and Barnett Shoals/Cedar Shoals corridors. This increase frequency will provide added opportunities to use the Athens Transit System on these heavily used routes. This expansion of services is consistent with the recommendation from the OneAthens Program.
- \$93,000 is included to establish an Affordable Housing Development Fund in FY09, another OneAthens Program recommendation.
- Operating Increases for SPLOST Projects:
  - \$160,000 is included to fully fund the operating cost of the Police Department's Computer Added Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS) in FY09. The UGA Police Department is also a participating partner in this new system.
- This budget includes a total of 1,541 full-time positions, 15 more than FY08. The additional positions are included in the Superior Court, the Solid Waste (Landfill) Department, the Transit System, and the Public Utilities Department. Even with the additional positions, ACCUG's ratio of full-time positions remains below 14 per 1,000 citizens.
- This Budget includes an increase of \$3.6 million to recruit, retain, and reward employees that provide the current level of services to ACC citizens, approximately \$2.6 million for the General Fund and \$1.0 million for all Other Funds.
- The cost of gasoline and diesel fuel will require significant increased funding in FY09. This Budget includes \$345,000 in the General Fund and \$755,000 in other funds to provide for an increase up to \$1.50 per gallon in the cost of gasoline and diesel fuel in FY09. ACCUG Departments will continue to use less fuel when possible to meet budget constraints.

- The General Fund Budget for FY09 includes a total of \$1,255,100, an increase of \$515,100, to fund the projected cost of boarding inmates in other jails. The estimate of \$1,255,100 is based on boarding an average of 75 inmates per day during FY09.
- This budget authorizes the issuance of \$215 million of Water & Sewer revenue debt in FY09 to provide capital funding for the upgrade and expansion of all three water reclamation plants (North Oconee, Cedar Creek, and Middle Oconee).

## **Mayor and Commission Goals and Objectives for FY09**

The following goals and objectives were developed by the Mayor and Commission in February and November 2007 to help guide the development of the FY2008 and FY2009 Budgets.

**A. Goal: INFRASTRUCTURE - Provide infrastructure that is supportive of sustainable growth, is environmentally sensitive, and is fiscally sound.**

### **Objectives:**

- **Leaf & Limb Service** - Increase leaf and limb pickup frequency from once every six (6) weeks to once every four (4) weeks in all areas of the community.
- **Transit Service** - By the end of FY09, identify a priority listing of additions and/or revisions to transit routes, or other alternatives that will provide enhanced cost effective public transportation service to underserved areas of the community.
- **Energy Conservation** - By the end of FY09, reduce the Unified Government's use of all forms of conventional energy resources by 15% compared to consumption during FY06.
- **Water Supply** - By the end of FY09, adopt a program to reduce the peak month water usage (MGD – million gallons per day), when compared to the annual average usage (MGD), to a peaking factor of not more than 1.3 within five (5) years from date of adoption of the program.
- **Greenspace Acquisition** - By the end of FY09, commit all to date appropriated funds toward acquisition of properties identified by the M&C approved Greenspace Acquisition Program.
- **Corridor Enhancement** - By the end of FY09, identify one (1) community corridor for enhancements and develop a funding proposal for inclusion in the FY09 Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.
- **Jail Needs** - By the end of FY09, complete a jail assessment study to determine current and projected inmate facility needs, with consideration of alternative programs/initiatives, and

develop proposed funding options and/or strategies for consideration by the M&C.

- **Judicial Space Needs** - By the end of FY09, fund and complete a Courthouse assessment study to determine judicial space needs and develop proposed funding options and/or strategies for meeting the defined needs.
- **Solid Waste Management** - By the end of FY09, achieve a reduction of not less than 25% per capita in the amount (measured in pounds) of Athens-Clarke County community generated solid waste directed toward landfills compared to such volumes in FY06.
- **E-Government** – By the end of FY09, upgrade the ACCUG web-site to achieve a more visual identity and interactive functionality.

**B. Goal: NEIGHBORHOODS - Enhance and sustain quality of life in Athens-Clarke County Neighborhoods**

**Objectives:**

- **Housing** - By the end of FY09, adopt and implement an infill housing ordinance that will address community concerns regarding such development patterns.
- **Public Spaces** - By the end of FY09, amend development standards to encourage and/or require public spaces in new and existing neighborhoods.
- **Electronic Information** - By the end of FY09, expand the Neighborhood Notification Program to include information of interest, to neighborhood associates and individuals, from additional ACCUG departments and increase opportunities for electronic interaction between such departments and the public.
- **Citizen Leadership** - By the end of FY09, develop a strategy for developing and encouraging individual citizens to serve in neighborhood leadership roles.

**C. Goal: WORKFORCE - Recruit and retain a workforce with the skills to meet the diverse needs of the Athens-Clarke County Community**

**Objectives:**

- **Pension Benefits** - By the end of FY09, amend the Defined Benefit Pension Plan to provide incentives for retaining long-term employees.
- **Retiree Pay Adjustment** - By the end of FY09, adopt a plan for periodically addressing pay increases for retired employees.
- **Recruitment** - By the end of FY09, adopt and implement a recruitment plan for difficult-to-fill positions.
- **Wage Plan** – Annually adopt, as part of the budget process, adjustments to the ACCUG’s wage plan to retain a competitive compensation position with peer communities.
- **Alternative Workforce** - By the end of FY09, adopt and implement non-traditional work options to meet the future employment needs of the ACCUG.
- **Non Salary Incentives** - By the end of FY09, adopt incentives for ACCUG employees to use the Athens Transit system for commuting to work.
- **Succession Planning** - By the end of FY09, adopt a program to aid ACCUG employees to voluntarily improve job knowledge, skills, and abilities to increase their opportunity for internal promotions and professional growth.

## **Structure of Budgets**

The A-CC Budget is split into a number of Funds, or separate units for accounting and tracking the revenue and expenditure of specific activities. For example, some activities are required by law to be accounted for in a separate fund (e.g. Hotel/Motel Tax Fund and Emergency Telephone (E911) Fund), while other funds have been established by management to track specific activities (e.g. Water & Sewer Enterprise Fund and Landfill Enterprise Fund). A listing of revenues and expense budgets by fund can be found on pages 12 and 13.

The General Fund is the largest fund and accounts for over half of government wide revenues and expenditures. The General Fund budget supports the major portion of basic governmental services such as police, fire, judicial, planning, public works, leisure services, etc. These services are primarily supported from tax revenues such as the property tax and the sales tax. The FY09 General Fund Operating Budget totals \$104.2 million. A listing of budgeted revenues and expenditures by department in the General Fund can be found on pages 14 and 15.

Special Revenue Funds are established to account for specific revenue sources that are legally restricted such as designated taxes, grants or other restricted revenue sources. Funds included in this group are the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Hotel/Motel Excise Tax, Building Inspection, the Grants Fund and others. Budgets for Special Revenue Funds in FY09 total \$10.6 million.

Capital Project Funds account for financial resources used for the acquisition, construction and significant maintenance expenditures for major capital facilities and equipment (other than those financed by Enterprise Funds). Budgets for the Capital Project Funds in FY09 total \$6.1 million.

Enterprise Funds are used to account for operations that are similar to a private business or the governing body has identified a need to

account for an operation in this manner. Funds in this group include the Water & Sewer operation, the Solid Waste Collection operation, the Landfill, the Airport, the Transit System (The Bus), and the Stormwater Utility Program. Enterprise Fund budgets in FY09 total \$267.4 million.

Internal Service Funds are used to account for the operations of departments that provide goods and services to other government departments or agencies on a cost reimbursement basis. These include items such as vehicle maintenance, self-funded insurance programs, employee health insurance, and a vehicle replacement program. The budgets for Internal Service Funds in FY09 total \$20.6 million.

## SUMMARY FY2009 BUDGET ALL FUNDS

	<u>FY08</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>FY09</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>%</u> <u>INC/</u> <u>(DEC)</u>	<u>%</u> <u>OF</u> <u>TOTAL</u>
<b>REVENUES:</b>				
PROPERTY TAXES	\$43,378,500	\$46,132,500	6.3%	11.0%
SALES TAX	\$21,500,000	\$22,500,000	4.7%	5.4%
OTHER TAXES	\$20,971,200	\$21,659,900	3.3%	5.2%
LICENSES & PERMITS	\$2,038,482	\$2,199,950	7.9%	0.5%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES	\$5,201,504	\$5,174,852	-0.5%	1.2%
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$78,960,782	\$83,382,890	5.6%	19.9%
FINES & FORFEITURES	\$3,733,800	\$4,602,600	23.3%	1.1%
OTHER REVENUES	\$1,822,442	\$1,900,793	4.3%	0.5%
TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER FUNDS	\$59,374,921	\$222,843,025	275.3%	53.3%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$236,981,631</b>	<b>\$410,396,510</b>	<b>73.2%</b>	<b>98.2%</b>
USE FUND BALANCE	\$6,724,483	\$6,066,483	-9.8%	1.5%
USE OF NET ASSETS BALANCE	<u>\$432,260</u>	<u>\$1,514,900</u>	250.5%	0.4%
 SUB-TOTAL REVENUE & OTHER SOURCES	 \$244,138,374	 \$417,977,893	 71.2%	 100.0%
LESS INTERFUND TRANSFERS (1)	( <u>\$31,130,921</u> )	( <u>\$26,711,025</u> )	-14.2%	
<b>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; OTHER SOURCES</b>	<b><u>\$213,007,453</u></b>	<b><u>\$391,266,868</u></b>	<b>83.7%</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURES (BY FUND):</b>				
GENERAL FUND	\$105,553,187	\$108,439,134	2.7%	26.2%
<b>SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS:</b>				
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM (E911)	\$1,750,000	\$2,158,493	23.3%	0.5%
HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FUND	\$2,007,600	\$2,050,400	2.1%	0.5%
COMMUNITY DEV. BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)	\$1,493,854	\$1,456,740	-2.5%	0.4%
GRANTS FUND	\$1,008,760	\$645,731	-36.0%	0.2%
BUILDING INSPECTION FUND	\$1,032,732	\$1,292,990	25.2%	0.3%
HUD HOME GRANT FUND	\$892,306	\$874,471	-2.0%	0.2%
SPECIAL PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES FUND	\$1,377,611	\$1,591,020	15.5%	0.4%
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING GRANT FUND	\$366,345	\$215,877	-41.1%	0.1%
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PRGM	\$221,214	\$234,777	6.1%	0.1%
SHERIFF INMATE FUND	\$20,000	\$36,800	84.0%	0.0%
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND	\$50,000	\$0	-100.0%	0.0%
CORRECTIONS INMATE FUND	<u>\$10,000</u>	<u>\$12,000</u>	20.0%	0.0%
SUB-TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$10,230,422	\$10,569,299	3.3%	
<b>CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS:</b>				
GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	\$7,146,900	\$5,550,600	16.6%	1.3%
PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY FUND	<u>\$583,200</u>	<u>\$583,200</u>	0.0%	0.1%
SUB-TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS	\$7,730,100	\$6,133,800	-20.7%	

## SUMMARY FY2009 BUDGET ALL FUNDS

	<b>FY08</b>	<b>FY09</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
	<b><u>BUDGET</u></b>	<b><u>BUDGET</u></b>	<b><u>INC/ (DEC)</u></b>	<b><u>OF TOTAL</u></b>
<b><u>ENTERPRISE FUNDS:</u></b>				
WATER & SEWER FUND	\$76,869,377	\$246,288,829	220.4%	59.6%
TRANSIT FUND (less depreciation)	\$4,898,150	\$5,789,750	18.2%	1.4%
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FUND	\$3,503,859	\$3,578,060	2.1%	0.9%
LANDFILL FUND	\$3,484,560	\$5,007,026	43.7%	1.2%
STORM WATER UTILITY FUND	\$3,156,564	\$3,491,753	10.6%	0.8%
AIRPORT FUND	<u>\$2,565,882</u>	<u>\$3,255,499</u>	26.9%	0.8%
SUB-TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS	\$94,478,392	\$267,410,917	183.0%	
<b><u>INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS:</u></b>				
SELF FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE FUND	\$12,045,668	\$10,332,888	-14.2%	2.5%
FLEET MANAGEMENT FUND	\$2,942,000	\$3,717,573	26.4%	0.9%
SELF FUNDED INSURANCE & CLAIMS FUND	\$2,914,621	\$2,824,448	-3.1%	0.7%
INTERNAL SUPPORT FUND	\$1,880,700	\$1,859,827	-1.1%	0.5%
FLEET REPLACEMENT FUND	<u>\$1,765,800</u>	<u>\$1,820,600</u>	3.1%	0.4%
SUB-TOTAL INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS	\$21,548,789	\$20,555,336	-4.6%	
SUB-TOTAL EXPENDITURES ALL FUNDS	\$239,540,890	\$413,108,486	72.5%	100.0%
LESS INTERFUND TRANSFERS (1)	<u>(\$31,130,921)</u>	<u>(\$26,711,025)</u>	-14.2%	
<b>TOTAL OPERATING &amp; CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$208,409,969</b>	<b>\$386,397,461</b>	85.4%	
DESIGNATED FOR FUTURE CAPITAL & DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS (2)	\$4,597,484	\$4,869,407	5.9%	
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES &amp; DESIGNATIONS</b>	<b><u>\$213,007,453</u></b>	<b><u>\$391,266,868</u></b>	83.7%	

NOTES: (1) - Interfund transfers represent charges and transfers between A-CC funds. The amount of these inter-fund charges and transfers are subtracted from the revenue and expenditure totals to avoid "double counting".

(2) - For comparison purposes, Transit depreciation expense was not included in the numbers above. Therefore, the designated for future capital amount shows \$677,500 more than the FY09 Budget Document.

## SUMMARY FY2009 BUDGET GENERAL FUNDS

	<u>FY08</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	<u>FY09</u> <u>BUDGET</u>	%
			<u>INC/</u> <u>(DEC)</u>
<b>REVENUES:</b>			
PROPERTY TAXES	\$43,378,500	\$46,132,500	6.3%
SALES TAX	\$21,500,000	\$22,500,000	4.7%
OTHER TAXES	\$18,941,200	\$19,579,900	3.4%
LICENSES PERMITS	\$1,005,750	\$1,063,950	5.8%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES	\$1,005,800	\$1,041,500	3.5%
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$7,968,154	\$8,603,270	8.0%
FINES & FORFEITURES	\$3,215,800	\$3,706,600	15.3%
OTHER REVENUES	\$1,272,183	\$1,078,014	-15.3%
TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER FUNDS	\$1,606,900	\$16,800	-99.0%
USE OF FUND BALANCE-(for capital)	<u>\$5,658,900</u>	<u>\$4,716,600</u>	-16.7%
<b>TOTAL REVENUE &amp; OTHER SOURCES</b>	<b><u>\$105,553,187</u></b>	<b><u>\$108,439,134</u></b>	2.7%
<b>EXPENDITURES (BY DEPARTMENT):</b>			
MAYOR AND COMMISSION MANAGER	\$715,890	\$707,910	-1.1%
ATTORNEY	\$716,978	\$698,704	-2.5%
AUDITOR	\$597,770	\$582,515	-2.6%
FINANCE	\$228,325	\$229,410	0.5%
HUMAN RESOURCES	\$2,010,688	\$2,010,002	0.0%
TAX COMMISSIONER	\$1,332,358	\$1,365,229	2.5%
BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS	\$1,294,522	\$1,332,602	2.9%
BOARD OF ELECTIONS	\$1,051,326	\$1,061,677	1.0%
HUMAN & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$367,586	\$528,121	43.7%
GENERAL SUPPORT GROUP	\$294,499	\$325,321	10.5%
COMPUTER INFORMATION SERVICES	\$254,050	\$254,071	0.0%
OTHER GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$2,239,549	\$2,491,749	11.3%
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	<u>\$4,184,622</u>	<u>\$6,547,350</u>	56.5%
	\$15,288,163	\$18,134,661	18.6%
SUPERIOR COURTS	\$1,169,530	\$1,816,525	55.3%
CLERK OF COURTS	\$997,474	\$1,002,014	0.5%
STATE COURT	\$630,472	\$659,363	4.6%
SOLICITOR GENERAL	\$931,292	\$942,853	1.2%
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	\$803,878	\$802,231	-0.2%
SHERIFF	\$13,072,281	\$14,123,414	8.0%
JUVENILE COURT	\$350,009	\$365,842	4.5%
MAGISTRATE'S COURT	\$618,833	\$681,651	10.2%
CORONER	\$38,715	\$40,459	4.5%
PROBATE COURT	\$334,391	\$333,076	-0.4%
MUNICIPAL COURT	<u>\$649,239</u>	<u>\$670,078</u>	3.2%
TOTAL JUDICIAL	\$19,596,114	\$21,437,506	9.4%

## SUMMARY FY2009 BUDGET GENERAL FUNDS

EXPENDITURES (BY DEPARTMENT):	<b>FY08 BUDGET</b>	<b>FY09 BUDGET</b>	<b>% INC/ (DEC)</b>
POLICE SERVICES	\$20,341,904	\$19,542,477	-3.9%
FIRE SERVICES	\$12,935,035	\$12,988,058	0.4%
CORRECTIONS	<u>\$2,177,712</u>	<u>\$2,255,922</u>	3.6%
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	\$35,454,651	\$34,786,457	-1.9%
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS	\$4,224,048	\$4,191,540	-0.8%
SOLID WASTE	\$748,554	\$704,233	-5.9%
PLANNING & ZONING	\$1,171,212	\$1,183,354	1.0%
BUILDING INSPECTION (Community Protection Div)	\$773,792	\$797,558	3.1%
CENTRAL SERVICES	<u>\$6,595,232</u>	<u>\$6,766,745</u>	2.6%
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	\$13,512,838	\$13,643,430	1.0%
LEISURE SERVICES	\$7,684,598	\$7,658,236	-0.3%
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	<u>\$152,728</u>	<u>\$148,966</u>	-2.5%
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	\$7,837,326	\$7,807,202	-0.4%
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES	\$4,449,774	\$4,682,253	5.2%
DEBT SERVICE	\$354,100	\$351,400	-0.8%
TRANSFERS OUT TO OTHER FUNDS	\$2,901,321	\$3,379,625	16.5%
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$99,394,287</b>	<b>\$104,222,534</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
CAPITAL FOR CURRENT SERVICES (CS)	\$3,649,000	\$2,823,600	-22.6%
CAPITAL FOR ADDITIONS & IMPROVEMENTS	<u>\$2,509,900</u>	<u>\$1,393,000</u>	-44.5%
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL</b>	<b>\$6,158,900</b>	<b>\$4,216,600</b>	<b>-31.5%</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING &amp; CAPITAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b><u>\$105,553,187</u></b>	<b><u>\$108,439,134</u></b>	<b>2.7%</b>
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES</b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	<b><u>\$0</u></b>	

**GENERAL FUND BUDGET REVENUE - \$108.4 million**

**PROPERTY TAXES -**

43%  
\$46,132,500



**SALES TAX -**  
21%  
\$22,500,000



**OTHER TAXES**  
- 18%  
\$19,579,900



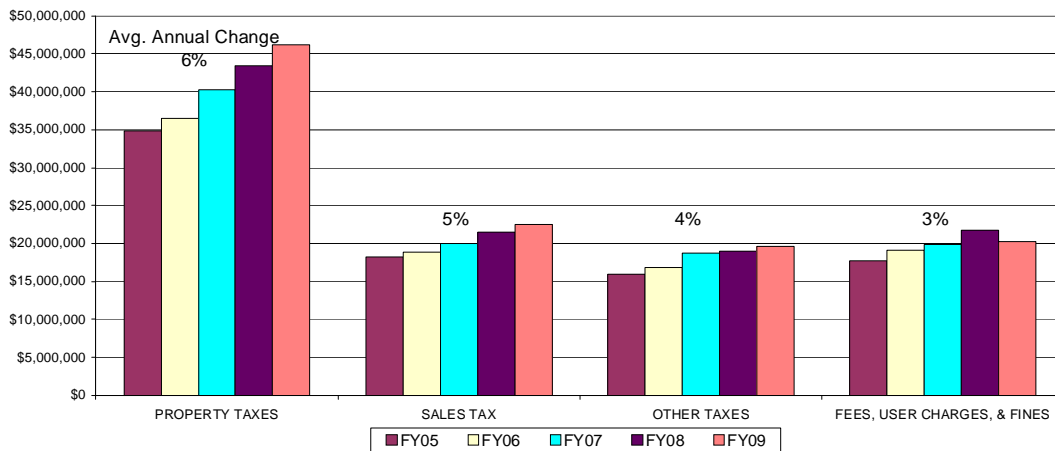
**ALL OTHER REVENUES -**  
14%  
\$15,510,200



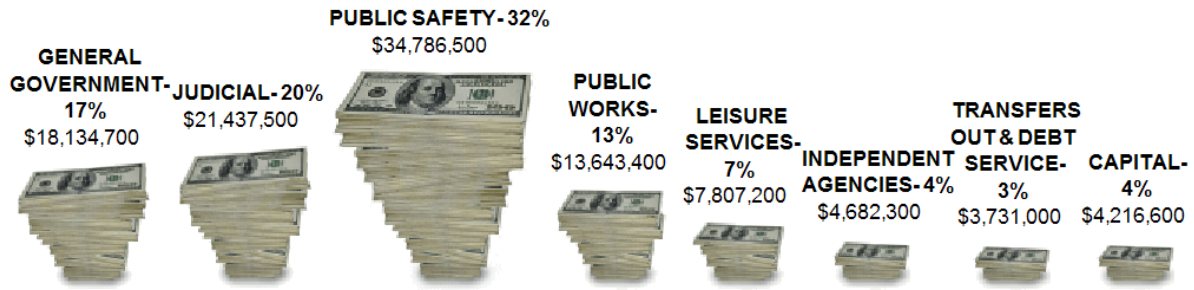
**USE OF FUND BALANCE - 4%**  
\$4,716,600



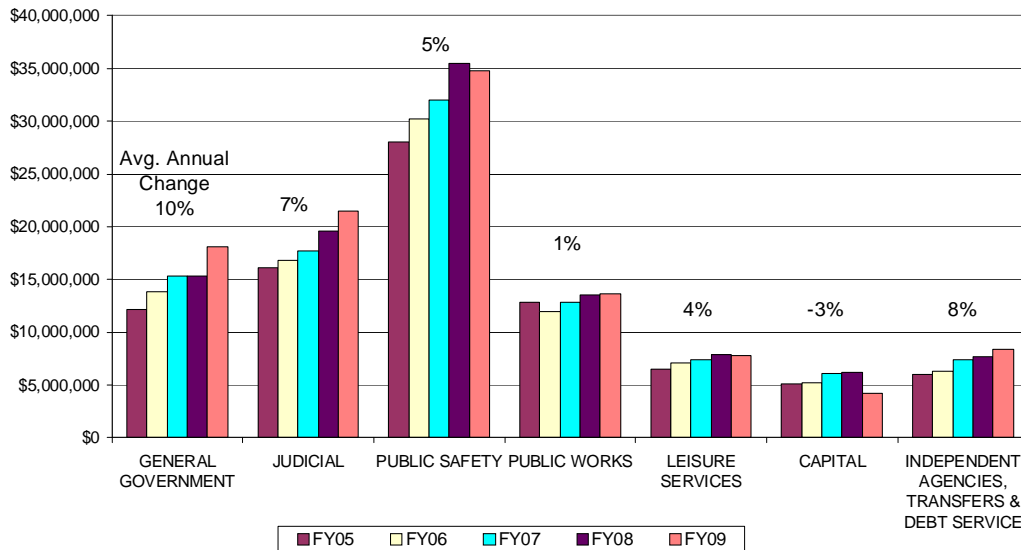
**REVENUES - GENERAL FUND BUDGET  
Five Year Trend (FY05-FY09)**



**GENERAL FUND BUDGET EXPENDITURES - \$108.4 million**



**EXPENDITURES - GENERAL FUND BUDGET  
Five Year Trend (FY05-FY09)**



## General Fund Revenues and Expenditures Per Capita

General Fund Revenues: Property taxes account for the largest source of revenue - 43% or \$413 per capita - in the General Fund. The \$0.01 Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) accounts for approximately one-fifth of General Fund revenues. All tax revenues - property, sales and other - account for about 81% of all General Fund revenues. On average, each ACC resident will pay \$970 for General Fund services in FY09.

<b>Per Capita Revenue by Type</b>		
	FY08	FY09
PROPERTY TAXES	\$393	\$413
SALES TAX	\$195	\$201
OTHER TAXES	\$171	\$175
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$72	\$77
ALL OTHER REVENUES	\$44	\$29
USE OF FUND BALANCE	\$51	\$42
FINES & FORFEITURES	\$29	\$33
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$955</b>	<b>\$970</b>

General Fund Expenditures: More than half of all General Fund dollars are expended in the areas of Public Safety (Police, Fire and the Correctional Institute) and Judicial services (Sheriff, Jail, Courts and prosecuting offices). ACC expends approximately \$503 per capita for these services. Departments included in each functional area (Public Works, General Government, etc.) can be found on page 14 and 15.

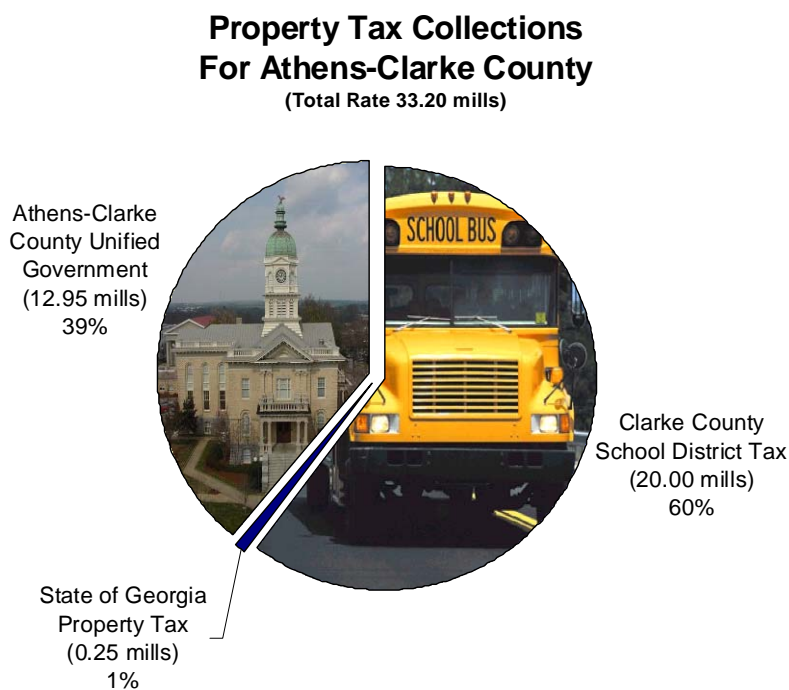
<b>Per Capita Expenditure by Function</b>		
	FY08	FY09
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$321	\$311
JUDICIAL	\$177	\$192
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$138	\$162
PUBLIC WORKS	\$122	\$122
LEISURE SERVICES	\$71	\$70
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES	\$40	\$42
CAPITAL	\$56	\$38
TRANSFERS & DEBT SERVICE	\$29	\$33
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$955</b>	<b>\$970</b>

## Understanding Property Taxes

The property tax rate or millage rate is adopted annually for the Unified Government and the Clarke County School System. A tax rate of one mill is equal to a tax of \$1 for every \$1,000 of assessed property value. (Note; the assessed property value is equal to 40% of a property's fair market value). Taxes may be reduced further by certain exemptions and tax credits such as the State Homeowner's Tax Relief Credit and the Homestead Exemption. In general, the property tax would be calculated as follows:

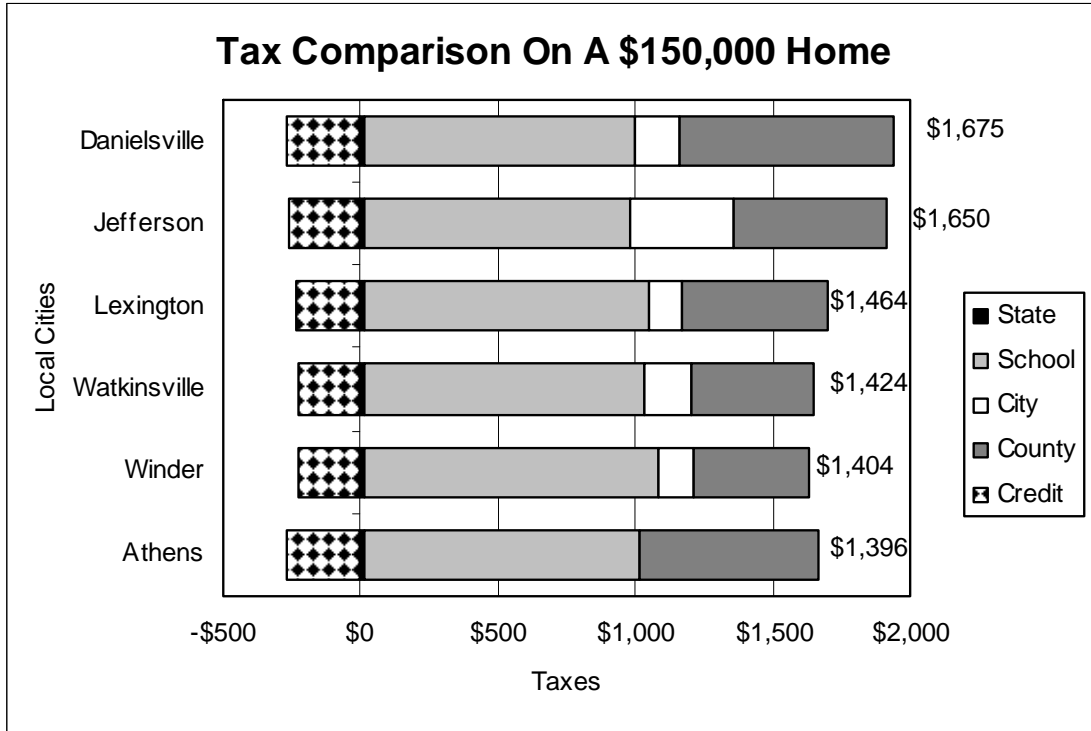
Fair Market Value X 40% = Assessed Value  
Assessed Value – Exemptions = Taxable Value  
Taxable Value X Tax Rate = Amount of Tax Bill

Over the last 10 years, the millage rate for Athens-Clarke County governmental services has dropped from 13.70 mills to 12.95 mills. The Clarke County School Board, which sets its millage rate separate from the ACCUG, set a rate of 20.00 mills for FY09. The State of Georgia levy's a rate of 0.25 mills.

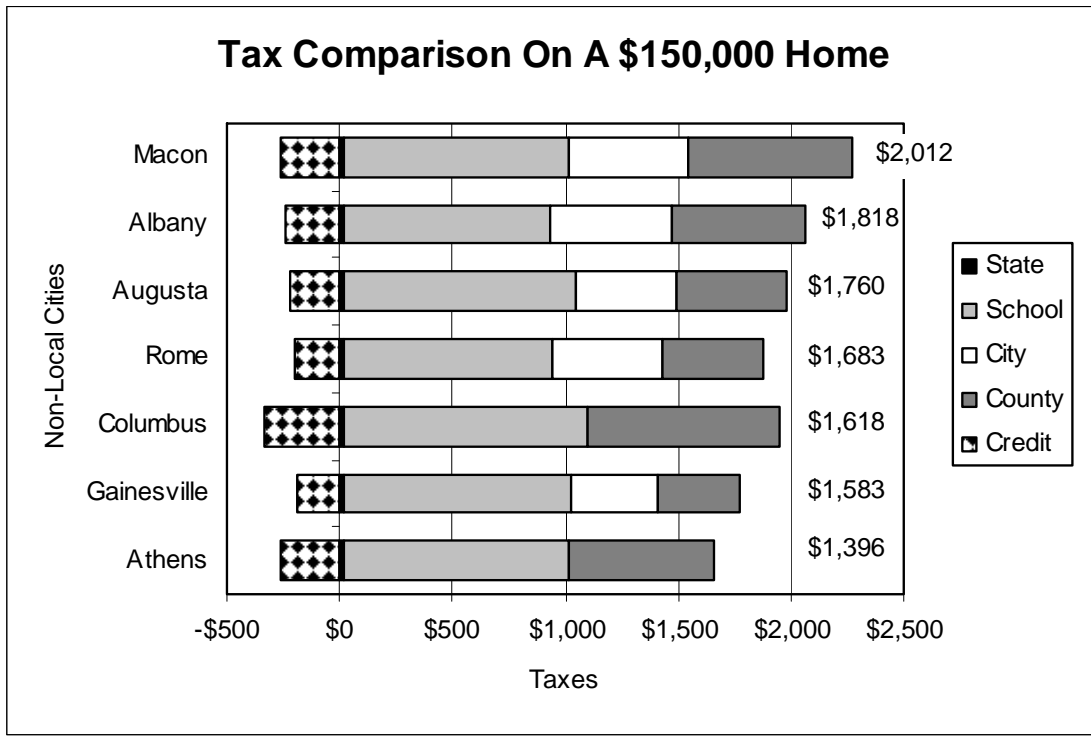


## Comparative Property Taxes for a \$150,000 Home

Using the prior year's property tax bill for comparison, the taxes on a \$150,000 home in Athens-Clarke County for government services and the school system are lower than all of the surrounding cities and counties.



In addition, a comparison of similar size cities and counties throughout Georgia shows that Athens-Clarke County property taxes on a \$150,000 home are the lowest.



## Understanding Sales Taxes

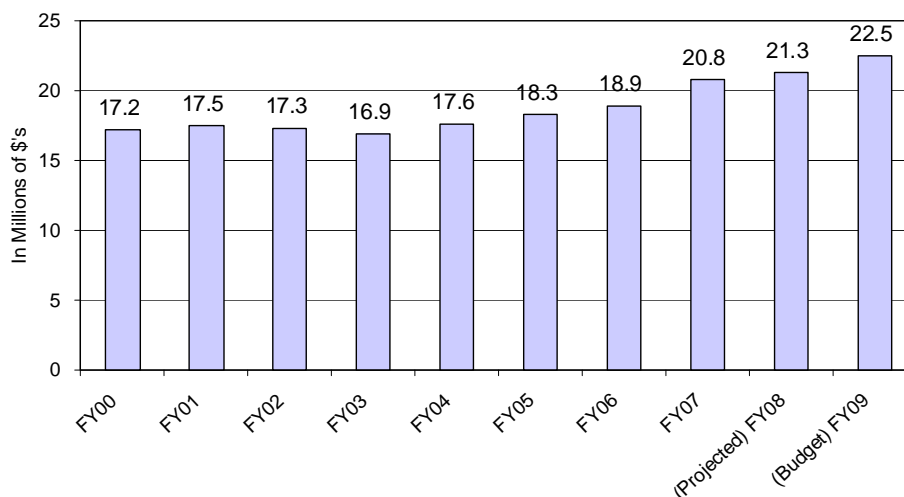
The tax rate on retail sales in Clarke County is \$0.07 for every \$1.00 of sales, similar to most Georgia counties. The \$0.07 sales tax is divided as follows:

- \$0.04 State of Georgia
- \$0.01 LOST (Local Option Sales Tax) ACCUG General Fund
- \$0.01 SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax) Projects
- \$0.01 ELOST (Education Special Purpose L.O.S.T.) Projects
- \$0.07 Total Sales Tax

The LOST tax is the only sales tax revenue that goes into the Athens-Clarke County General Fund to fund ongoing operating expenditures. The SPLOST revenues are accounted for separately and can only be used for capital projects approved by a voter referendum. The ELOST revenues go to the Clarke County School System and can only be used for school system capital projects approved by a voter referendum.

The current SPLOST was approved in November 2004 and collections of the tax begun in April of 2005. The referendum funds a diverse list of 33 community improvement projects over six years totaling \$122 million. The planning, design and construction of the SPLOST projects are reviewed and approved by the Mayor and Commission at regularly scheduled meetings.

### **Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) Collection History**



## **The FY09 Capital Budget**

A capital project is defined as an individual asset or project of at least \$20,000 and includes facilities, equipment, vehicles, infrastructure repairs and improvements. The FY09 Capital Budget for all Funds totals is \$229,626,100. In addition to the Capital Budget adopted each year, the Budget includes a five-year Capital Improvement Plan to guide and prepare for future Capital Improvements. Some of the major Capital Projects budgeted in FY09 include:

### **GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND:**

T&PW - Pavement Maintenance Program	\$1,200,000
Leisure Services - Repair & Maint - Existing Facilities	\$450,000
CIS - Replace Equip & Software	\$385,000
Central Services - Facilities Life Cycle Maintenance	\$356,900
Central Services - Space Allocation, Implementation	\$250,000
Bridge Maintenance Program	\$200,000
800 Mhz Radio Replacement Program	\$150,000
Airport - Equipment & Facilities Replace	\$150,000
Pumper Truck Station #9 (2 of 3 years)	\$135,000
Superior Court-Probation Services (Start-up Cost)	\$133,000
Sidewalk Enhancement & Improvements	\$125,000
Other General Fund Projects	\$2,015,700
Sub-total	<u>\$5,550,600</u>

### **ALL OTHER FUNDS:**

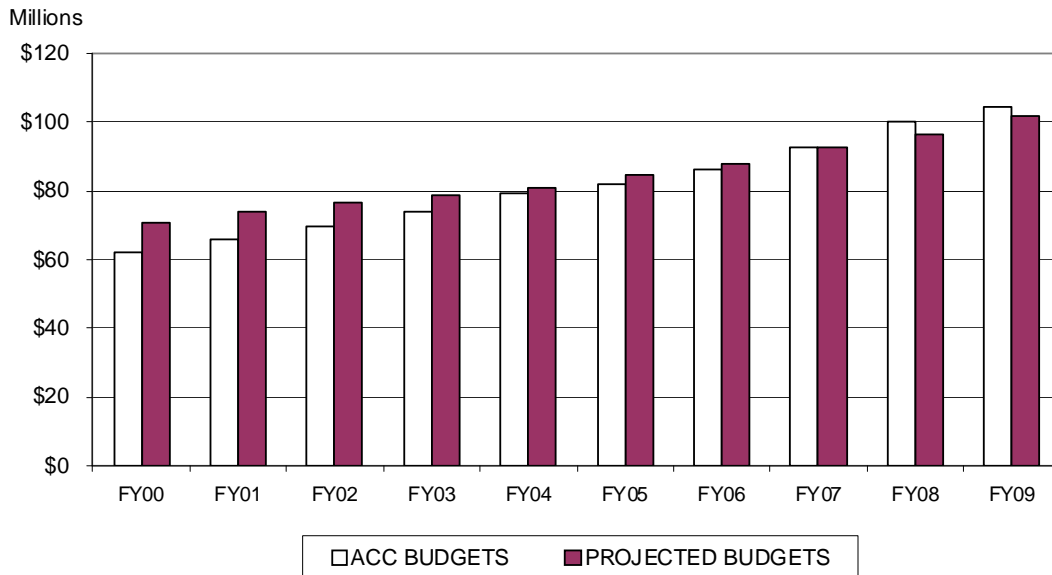
Wastewater Reclamation Facilities	\$215,000,000
Other Water & Sewer Fund Projects	\$5,574,100
Fleet Replacement Program	\$1,730,600
Landfill - Compost Operation Pad & Equip	\$755,000
Other Landfill Fund Projects	\$399,000
Special Prog - Mobile Computers, Replace	\$106,300
All Other Projects	\$510,500
Sub-total	<u>\$224,075,500</u>

**TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET - ALL FUNDS** \$229,626,100

## Budget History and Trends

The FY09 General Fund Operating Budget is \$104.2 million, an increase of 4.8% over FY08. Over the past 2 years, the General Fund Operating Budget has grown at a rate greater than the combined current annual increase of the CPI (4.6%) and population increase for the last year (nearly 1.2%) as shown in the graph below.

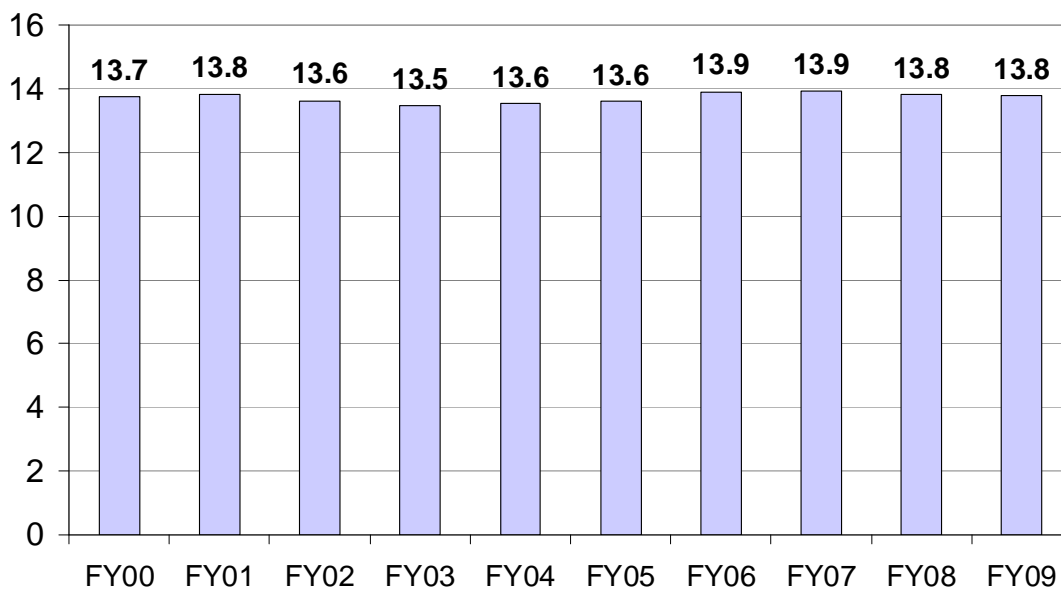
**GENERAL FUND BUDGETS COMPARED TO POPULATION AND  
CPI INCREASES (FY00-09)**



## Full-time Employees: Trends and Comparisons

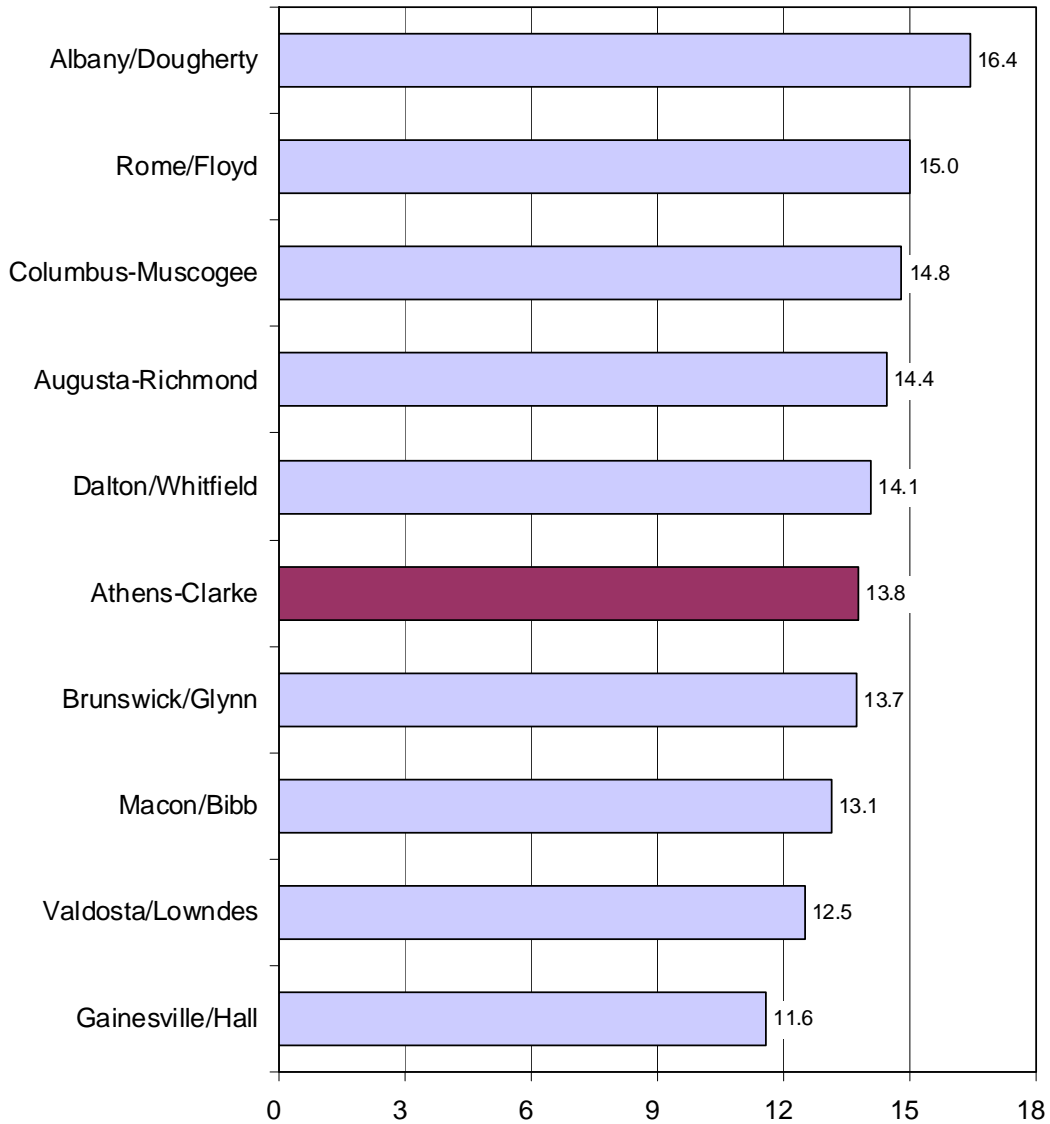
This Budget will raise the number of full-time authorized employee positions to 1,541, a net increase of 15 compared to the FY08 level of 1,526. This increase still maintains the number of full-time employees per thousand residences below 14. The 10-year trend of full-time employees per thousand residents has remained just below 14.

**Employees per 1,000 Population - History FY00- FY09**



Athens-Clarke County's 13.8 full-time employees per 1,000 of population is comparable to most similarly sized governments in Georgia as shown on the graph below.

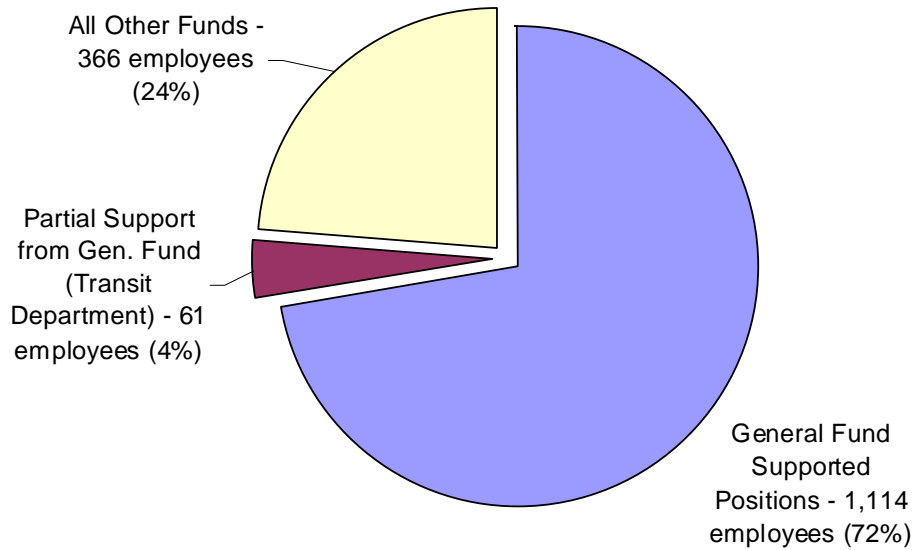
### Employees Per 1,000 Population - Comparison



## Full-Time Employees - By Function Total of 1,541



## Full-Time Employees - By Funding Source Total of 1,541



**FULL-TIME AUTHORIZED POSITIONS**

<b><u>Department or Office</u></b>	<b><u>FY09</u></b>	<b><u>Change From FY08 to FY09</u></b>
Airport	7	-
Attorney	6	-
Auditor	3	-
Board of Elections	3	-
Building Inspections & Permits	25	-
Central Services	75	-
Clerk of Courts	17	-
Computer Information Services	18	-
Cooperative Extension	1	-
Corrections	29	-
District Attorney	13	-
Finance	28	-
Fire & Emergency Services	190	-
General Support Group: Organizational Development	3	-
Human & Economic Development	10	-
Human Resources	20	-
Juvenile Court	3	-
Leisure Services	80	-
Magistrate Court	10	-
Manager	5	(-1)
SPLOST Management	3	-
Mayor and Commission	1	-
Clerk of Commission	2	-
Public Information	2	-
Municipal Court	11	-
Planning	22	-
Police	292	(-1)
Probate Court	4	-
Public Utilities	195	2
Sheriff	161	-
Solicitor General	15	-
Solid Waste	65	-
State Court	9	-
Superior Courts	21	12
Tax Assessor	14	-
Tax Commissioner	19	-
Transit	61	4
Transportation & Public Works	98	(-1)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,541	15

## **Legal and Charter Requirements for the Annual Budget**

There are several requirements under Georgia Law and the Unified Government's Charter that must be met as a part of preparing and adopting the Annual Budget. Some of these requirements include:

- Budgets must be balanced so that projected expenditures do not exceed projected revenues and available fund balances.
- Budgets must be provided at least at the department level and be separated by fund.
- A separate Operating and Capital Budget must be submitted and adopted.
- The Mayor's Recommended Budget must be submitted to the Commission at least 60 days prior to beginning of the fiscal year.
- At the time the Recommended Budget is provided to the Commission, it shall be made available for public review.
- Public Hearings must be held to receive public input on the proposed budget at least one week prior to the budget being adopted.
- Public Hearings must be held to receive public input if the proposed budget will include an increase in the property tax millage rate.

During the fiscal year, the Mayor and Commission may change the Budget as needed through the adoption of a budget ordinance identifying the change. Also, departments can transfer budget funds between line items within their department's budget to cover unanticipated expenses with approval of the Finance Director. However, the department's total budget or full-time authorized positions cannot increase without Mayor and Commission approval.

Mailing Address:  
Athens-Clarke County Finance Department  
Management & Budget Division  
375 Satula Avenue  
P.O. Box 1868  
Athens, Georgia 30603-1868

John S. Culpepper III, Director of Finance

Phone number: (706) 613-3040

Website: [www.athensclarkecounty.com](http://www.athensclarkecounty.com)