# LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX MEDIATION

**September 23, 2022** 































### LOST NEGOTIATION TIMELINE

Deadline for county to issue call to commence renegotiation.

Parties have 60 days to reach agreement.

Arbitration requested by Cities'.
County yet to commit

Mediation

Deadline to file certificate with DOR

July 1, 2022

September 1, 2022

**September 23, 2022** 

October 7, 2022

**December 30, 2022** 

**December 31,2022** 

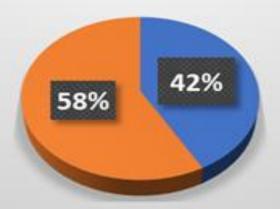
Deadline to reach agreement.

If failure to agree, must submit to mediation or nonbinding arbitration. Mediation

If no decision or agreement is reached, LOST will lapse.

## DOING AWAY WITH LOST SHOULD NOT BE THREATENED

42% OF SALES TAX REVENUES COME FROM PERSONS RESIDING OUTSIDE FULTON CITIES AND FULTON COUNTY: PULL FACTOR



"We should all begin planning for life after LOST."

Conservative Projection: \$3.8 BILLION in LOST revenues over next Decade.

Nearly half or 1.8 BILLION in Sales Tax Dollars Brought in From Outside Fulton County.

Outside Sales Tax Revenues help keep property taxes low.

# REDUCTION IN UNINCORPORATED COUNTY POPULATION AND SERVICE AREA OVER TIME

2000

County's Share - LOST 35%

Uninc. Pop: 229,924

Total Pop: 28.18%

Service Area: 253 sq. m.

Service Area: 48%

<u>2013</u>

County's Share - LOST 14%

Uninc. Pop: 87,478

Total Pop: 9.5%

Service Area: 86 sq. m. % of Service Area: 16%

2022

County's Proposals LOST 35%-25%

Uninc. Pop: 889

Total Pop: 0.08%

Service Area: 1.62

sq. m.

Service Area: 0.38%

### NEGOTIATION RANGE

On August 5, the Cities' negotiating team met with County's negotiating team. Mayor Dickens, City of Atlanta, and other Mayors expressed a willingness to discuss a phased in increase to the County's share of LOST ending the 10-year period within the range of 5% to 15%.

On August 12, the County's subsequent proposal gave the Cities three options resulting in a County percentage ranging from 25% to 33%.

Remember, County agreed to 14% of LOST in 2013.

# FULTON COUNTY'S OFFER AUGUST 12, 2022

#### **Option I**

 County start at 6% (not current 4.98%) and ramps up to 25% over 10-year period.

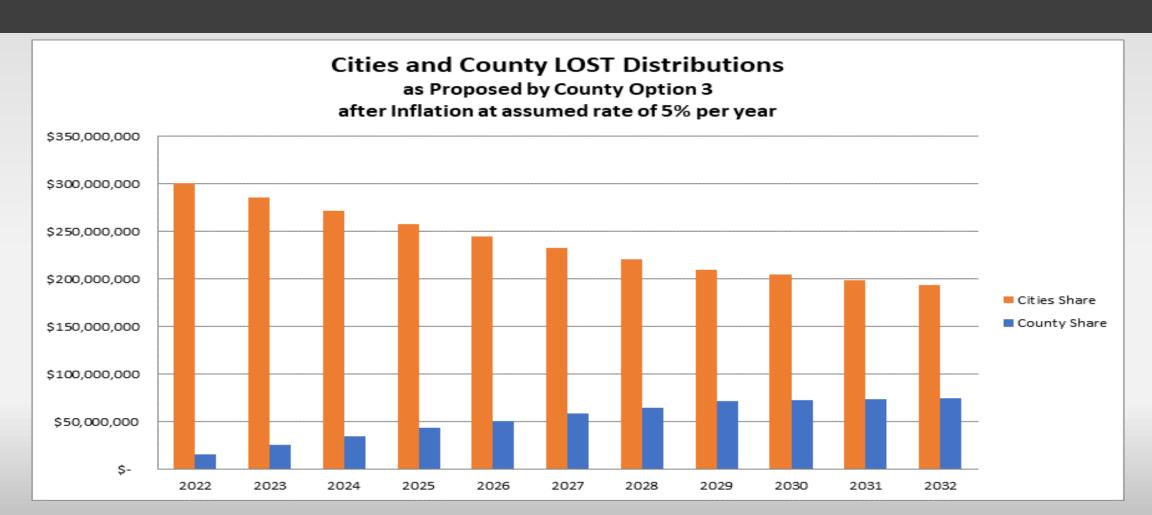
#### **Option II**

- Cities' share remain constant at 2021 levels (not current levels; \$301 million vs. \$311 million) in all years. Cities receive NO share of the growth.
- County's share grows to 32.64% by year 10.

### **Option III**

- Cities' share remain constant at 2021 levels (not current levels; \$301 million vs. \$311 million) until the County's share grows to 25% in year 2029. Cities' share in growth for only last three years.
- County's share grows to 27.74% by year 10.

# EFFECT OF FREEZING CITIES' GROWTH



# ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL

- County's proposal is to take LOST revenues away from Cities to pay for hospitals, jails and courts. "Fulton County LOST Fact Sheet" <a href="https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/news/2022/09/19/fulton-county-releases-lost-fact-sheet">https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/news/2022/09/19/fulton-county-releases-lost-fact-sheet</a>
- It will force the Cities to raise Property Taxes to fill the hole in their budgets for local police and fire protection.
- If funding of hospitals, jails and courts are important to the County, then why is the Board of Commissioners lowering property taxes during this crisis?
  - "Fulton County Board of Commissioners voted to reduce the General Fund millage rate for 2022 to 8.87 mills, a full rollback reduction from the current rate of 9.33 mills. Since 2017, the Board has voted to reduce its General Fund millage rate by 2.19 mills." <a href="https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/news/2022/08/19/fulton-county-reduces-millage-rate-for-2022">https://www.fultoncountyga.gov/news/2022/08/19/fulton-county-reduces-millage-rate-for-2022</a>

### GRADY & MEDICAL SERVICES

- Governor Kemp pledged \$130 million for more beds in Grady Memorial Hospital in response to the closing of Atlanta Medical Center. (Bluestein and Landeran, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, September 15, 2022.)
- On September 21, Fulton County Commissioners approved \$27 million contact with the firm that provides medical services. (Brasch, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, September 21, 2022.)
- Unlike jails and courts, LOST may be spent on hospitals; and the Cities' proposal shows a willingness to help.

## CITIES' COUNTER PROPOSAL **AUGUST 26, 2022**

Increase County's share from 4.98% to 6.5% over 10 years

- 83.01%

   increase in
   County's LOST
   revenues
- 30.45%

   increase in
   County's LOST
   share

### OFFER SUMMARY

#### **COUNTY**

- ❖County Consultant: County 45%;
  Cities 55%
- ❖July 15 Offer: County 35%; Cities 65%
- ❖ August 12 Offer (three options): County's Share ranging from 25% to 33%; Cities' Share ranging from 75% to 67%

#### **CITIES**

- ❖Using "Service Units" (i.e., Population): County 0.08%; Cities 99.92%
- ❖ July 26 Offer: County 2.45%; Cities 97.55 %
- ❖ August 26 Offer (ending within 5-15% range phased in over ten years): County 6.5%; Cities 93.5%

### CONCLUSION

Cities are interested in hearing a counter-offer where the County is willing to accept a LOST share that:

- (1) Over the next decade, the County's share ends within the range of 5%-15%; and
- (2) Such a shift in LOST revenues from Cities to County is phased in over the decade.