

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

FY18

BUDGET IN BRIEF



**ANNUAL OPERATING
& CAPITAL BUDGET**

JULY 1, 2017 - JUNE 30, 2018

This *Budget in Brief* provides an overview for the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County's (ACCUG) Operating and Capital Budgets for Fiscal Year 2018 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018).

A more detailed copy of the FY18 Budget can be viewed at Athens-Clarke County's website

<http://www.athensclarkecounty.com/budget>.

Or at the Clerk of Commission's Office, Room 204 of City Hall, or the Athens Regional Library on Baxter Street.

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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

Mayor and Commission

Mayor

Commissioner - District 1

Commissioner - District 2

Commissioner - District 3

Commissioner - District 4

Commissioner - District 5

Commissioner - District 6

Commissioner - District 7

Commissioner - District 8

Commissioner - District 9

Commissioner - District 10

Manager

Nancy Denson

Sharyn Dickerson

Harry Sims

Melissa Link

Allison Wright

Jared Bailey

Jerry NeSmith

Diane Bell

Andy Herod

Kelly Girtz

Mike Hamby

Blaine H. Williams

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:	123,912 (2015 US Census Bureau Estimate)
UGA Enrollment:	34,895 (Spring 2016)
Land Area:	122 square miles or 78,080 acres
Median Age:	26.2 (2015 US Census Bureau Estimate)
Median Household Income:	\$33,430 (2015 US Census Bureau Estimate)

Major Attractions:

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

Principal Employers:

University of Georgia	10,665
Piedmont Athens Regional Hospital	3,500
Clarke County School District	2,503
Pilgrim's Pride Poultry Company	1,800
Athens-Clarke County Government	1,649
St. Mary's Health Care System	1,600
Caterpillar	1,500

Annual Budget Development Process

The Annual Operating and Capital Budget is the financial plan for raising revenues and expending funds for the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County (ACCUG) departments, Appointed Officials, and Constitutional Officials (hereafter referred to as Departments).

The Annual Operating and Capital Budget process begins about nine months prior to the beginning of the fiscal year. Departments, Appointed Officials and Constitutional Officials submit operating and capital budget requests for Manager and Mayor review. 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 five year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- January Departments submit operating budget requests.
- February Mayor & Commission review budget requests from independent agencies.
- February - March Manager and Mayor meet with Departments 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.

FY18 Significant Budget Issues

- For the fifth year in a row, this budget maintains the current property tax millage rate of 13.95. The homeowner of an average priced home in Athens-Clarke County will continue to pay similar or lower property taxes than many neighboring communities and similar sized communities in the state (see page 17).
- The FY18 Budget continues to plan for and support SPLOST funded facilities. The Budget includes two full-time positions (one Leisure Services and one Central Services) for the last three months of FY18 to supervise maintenance crews supporting the expanded Greenway network.
- This Budget includes an increase in bus service for a new “Flex Route” in the north and east of Athens-Clarke County. The net cost of this service is estimated at \$245,000 annually including the addition of two full-time positions.
- The Budget includes funding for a Police Residency Program for ACCUG sworn police officers who locate to or live within the county. This program will be developed in the coming months with planned implementation in January 2018. Funding is estimated to cover a program with a cost up to a \$1,000 one-time relocation payment and a \$200/month residency allowance.
- For FY18, four full-time positions are transferred to the Manager’s Office from various departments to create two offices.
 - Sustainability Office – this office will work across the government to promote and develop new policies and practices to achieve outcomes supported by a long-term sustainability plan. This will also involve land management of greenspace, ecological planning and management, and education regarding ACCUG’s greenspace and ecology. The office includes the transfer of two full-time positions along with additional operating costs.

- Geographic Information Office - this office will work to design and execute a geographic information system (GIS) for the entire government, moving from a decentralized to a centralized approach to managing this data. The office includes the transfer of two full-time positions along with additional operating costs.
- In support of the Mayor and Commission Strategic Commitments and Directions, the following initiatives are included in the current budget plan:
 - \$200,000 towards the recruitment and capture of scheduled passenger air service at Athens Ben-Epps Airport
 - \$100,000 for a Homeowner's Property Improvement Program,
 - \$75,000 to provide seed funding for initiatives that emerge from the Envision Athens program.
 - \$30,000 for expanded participation in the Great Promise Partnership Program.
 - \$50,000 Inclusion Process. Funding for potential inclusivity discussions and programs in the community in FY18.
- This Budget includes a total of 1,649 full-time authorized positions, which is a net increase of twelve full-time authorized position compared to the current level. The authorized level of full-time positions will remain below 14 per thousand of ACC population, as it has since 1991. These additional positions are:
 - Accounting Technician for the Clerk of Courts' Office
 - GIS Coordinator in Transportation & Public Works
 - Family Treatment Court Program Coordinator in Juvenile Court
 - Crew Leader for Greenway Trail Maintenance in Leisure Svcs. (last 3 months of FY18)
 - Crew Leader for Greenway Landscape Maintenance in Central Svcs. (last 3 months of FY18)
 - Two Transit Vehicle Operators to support the new Transit Flex Route program

- Five positions for a Storm Water crew in Transportation & Public Works (These positions are authorized with no funding and are contingent on the passage of the TSPLOST referendum in FY18.)
- The FY18 Budget includes funding in support of the Mayor and Commission goal to attract, retain, and reward talented employees. Across all funds, the budget includes \$1.9 million (\$1.4 million in the General Fund) to provide a 1% increase plus an additional \$500 to employees pay. The Budget includes an increase in both the employee and employer contribution to the Employee Health Insurance program. These increases are needed to keep pace with the current cost of ACCUG's health insurance programs. In addition, this Budget includes a \$25/month increase (from \$170 to \$195) to the retirees' Health Reimbursement Account (65 and older) at a cost of \$155,000.

Structure of Budgets

The ACCUG Budget is split into a number of funds or separate units for 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 **9** and **10**.

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 FY18 General Fund operating budget totals \$124.9 million, and the General Fund Budget for capital projects is \$5.6 million for a total of \$130.4 million. A listing of budgeted revenues and expenditures by department in the General Fund can be found on pages **11** and **12**.

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 FY18 total \$12.3 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 FY18 total \$6.4 million. (Note: Budgets for the Special Purpose Local Option Sales

Tax- SPLOST- are established with referendum approval and are therefore not included with adoption of the annual budget).

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 FY18 total \$93.9 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 FY18 total \$25.6 million.

**SUMMARY FY2018 BUDGET
ALL FUNDS**

	<u>FY17</u>	<u>FY18</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>%</u>
	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>INC/</u>	<u>OF</u>
			<u>(DEC)</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
REVENUES:				
PROPERTY TAXES	\$52,282,000	\$55,260,000	5.7%	20.5%
SALES TAX	\$22,980,000	\$22,400,000	-2.5%	8.3%
OTHER TAXES	\$24,943,700	\$26,315,000	5.5%	9.8%
LICENSES & PERMITS	\$2,756,400	\$2,690,100	-2.4%	1.0%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES	\$6,246,459	\$6,374,139	2.0%	2.4%
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$102,480,503	\$107,821,069	5.2%	40.0%
FINES & FORFEITURES	\$4,138,500	\$3,803,200	-8.1%	1.4%
OTHER REVENUES	\$1,200,560	\$1,215,990	1.3%	0.5%
TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER FUNDS	<u>\$12,062,111</u>	<u>\$12,384,584</u>	2.7%	4.6%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$229,090,233	\$238,264,082	4.0%	88.5%
USE FUND BALANCE	\$8,589,680	\$7,710,184	-10.2%	2.9%
USE OF NET ASSETS BALANCE	<u>\$14,840,186</u>	<u>\$23,256,659</u>	56.7%	8.6%
SUB-TOTAL REVENUE & OTHER SOURCES	\$252,520,099	\$269,230,925	6.6%	100.0%
LESS INTERFUND TRANSFERS (1)	<u>(\$33,856,250)</u>	<u>(\$33,781,678)</u>	-0.2%	
TOTAL REVENUE & OTHER SOURCES	<u>\$218,663,849</u>	<u>\$235,449,247</u>	7.7%	
EXPENDITURES (BY FUND):				
GENERAL FUND	\$126,536,976	\$130,435,854	3.1%	48.6%
<u>SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS:</u>				
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM (E911)	\$2,594,951	\$2,715,806	4.7%	1.0%
HOTEL/MOTEL TAX FUND	\$3,079,402	\$3,098,210	0.6%	1.2%
SPECIAL PROGRAMS & INITIATIVES FUND	\$1,976,534	\$2,389,175	20.9%	0.9%
COMMUNITY DEV. BLOCK GRANT (CDBG)	\$1,232,503	\$1,232,503	0.0%	0.5%
GRANTS FUND	\$913,403	\$899,514	-1.5%	0.3%
BUILDING INSPECTION FUND	\$945,520	\$990,768	4.8%	0.4%
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING GRANT FUND	\$400,000	\$322,943	-19.3%	0.1%
HUD HOME GRANT FUND	\$394,218	\$396,331	0.5%	0.1%
ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION PRGM	\$197,739	\$202,420	2.4%	0.1%
SHERIFF INMATE FUND	\$70,000	\$70,000	0.0%	0.0%
CORRECTIONS INMATE FUND	<u>\$45,000</u>	<u>\$15,000</u>	-66.7%	0.0%
SUB-TOTAL SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$11,849,270	\$12,332,670	4.1%	4.6%
<u>CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS:</u>				
GENERAL CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	\$4,965,000	\$5,660,600	14.0%	2.1%
PUBLIC FACILITIES AUTHORITY FUND	\$538,945	\$536,277	-0.5%	0.2%
ECON. DEV. CAPITAL PROJECT FUND	<u>\$650,600</u>	<u>\$225,000</u>	-65.4%	0.1%
SUB-TOTAL CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS	\$6,154,545	\$6,421,877	4.3%	2.4%

**SUMMARY FY2018 BUDGET
ALL FUNDS**

	FY17 BUDGET	FY18 BUDGET	% INC/ (DEC)	% OF TOTAL
<u>ENTERPRISE FUNDS:</u>				
WATER & SEWER FUND	\$62,908,423	\$65,741,308	4.5%	24.5%
TRANSIT FUND (less depreciation)	\$6,075,915	\$6,448,710	6.1%	2.4%
STORMWATER UTILITY FUND	\$3,759,236	\$6,538,860	73.9%	2.4%
LANDFILL FUND	\$4,926,646	\$7,939,423	61.2%	3.0%
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FUND	\$4,028,637	\$4,347,447	7.9%	1.6%
AIRPORT FUND	<u>\$2,731,618</u>	<u>\$2,891,929</u>	5.9%	1.1%
SUB-TOTAL ENTERPRISE FUNDS	\$84,430,475	\$93,907,677	11.2%	35.0%
<u>INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS:</u>				
SELF FUNDED HEALTH INSURANCE FUND	\$14,504,299	\$15,287,686	5.4%	5.7%
FLEET MANAGEMENT FUND	\$2,565,018	\$2,516,150	-1.9%	0.9%
SELF FUNDED INSURANCE & CLAIMS FUND	\$3,159,363	\$3,174,159	0.5%	1.2%
INTERNAL SUPPORT FUND	\$1,919,751	\$2,007,585	4.6%	0.7%
FLEET REPLACEMENT FUND	<u>\$1,239,765</u>	<u>\$2,570,000</u>	107.3%	1.0%
SUB-TOTAL INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS	\$23,388,196	\$25,555,580	9.3%	9.5%
SUB-TOTAL EXPENDITURES ALL FUNDS	\$252,359,462	\$268,653,658	6.5%	100.0%
LESS INTERFUND TRANSFERS (1)	<u>(\$33,856,250)</u>	<u>(\$33,781,678)</u>	-0.2%	
TOTAL OPERATING & CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	\$218,503,212	\$234,871,980	7.5%	
DESIGNATED FOR FUTURE CAPITAL & DEBT SERVICE REQUIREMENTS (2)	\$160,637	\$577,267	259.4%	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES & DESIGNATIONS	<u>\$218,663,849</u>	<u>\$235,449,247</u>	7.7%	

NOTES: (1) - Interfund Transfers represent charges and transfers between 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.

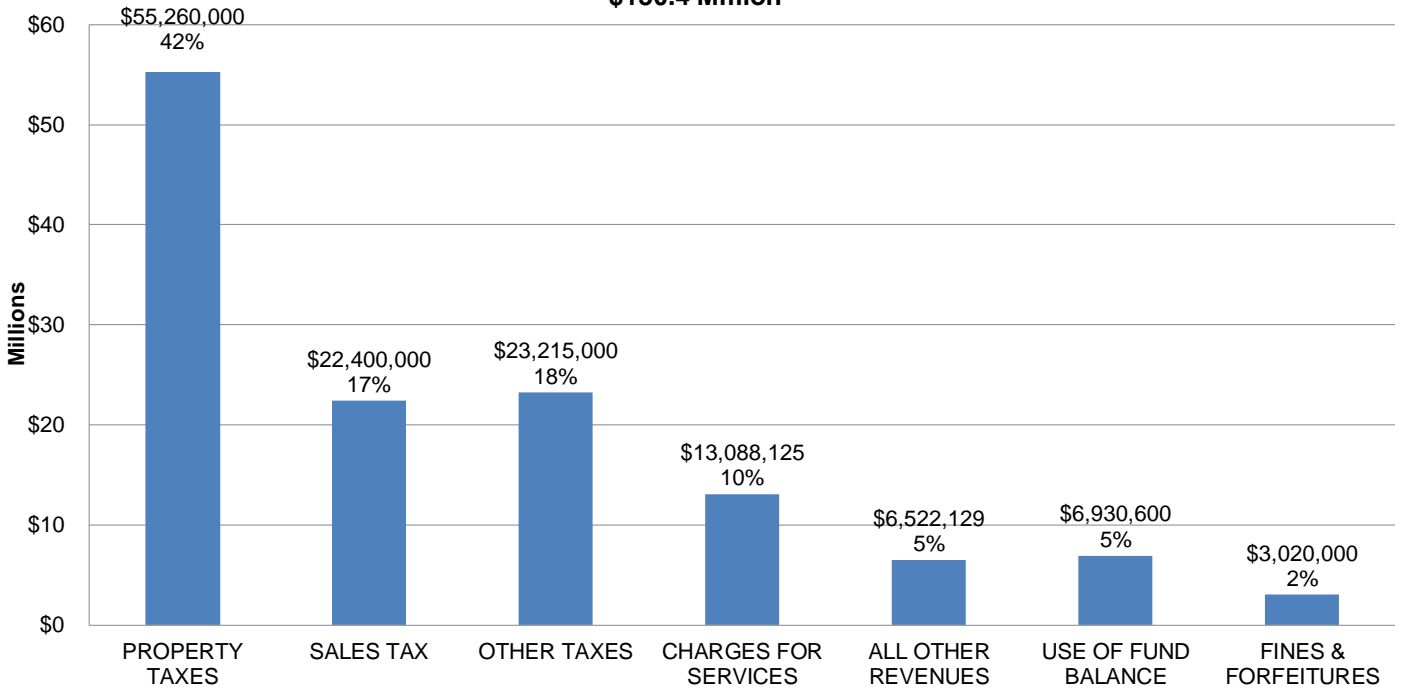
**SUMMARY FY2018 BUDGET
GENERAL FUND**

	<u>FY17 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY18 BUDGET</u>	<u>% INC/ (DEC)</u>	<u>% OF TOTAL</u>
REVENUES:				
PROPERTY TAXES	\$52,282,000	\$55,260,000	5.7%	42.4%
SALES TAX	\$22,980,000	\$22,400,000	-2.5%	17.2%
OTHER TAXES	\$22,143,700	\$23,215,000	4.8%	17.8%
LICENSES PERMITS	\$1,831,400	\$1,715,100	-6.4%	1.3%
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUES	\$977,000	\$987,000	1.0%	0.8%
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$12,331,800	\$13,088,125	6.1%	10.0%
FINES & FORFEITURES	\$3,378,000	\$3,020,000	-10.6%	2.3%
OTHER REVENUES	\$677,864	\$793,174	17.0%	0.6%
TRANSFERS IN FROM OTHER FUNDS	\$2,895,212	\$3,026,855	4.5%	2.3%
USE OF FUND BALANCE	<u>\$7,040,000</u>	<u>\$6,930,600</u>	-1.6%	5.3%
TOTAL REVENUE & OTHER SOURCES	<u>\$126,536,976</u>	<u>\$130,435,854</u>	3.1%	100.0%
EXPENDITURES (BY DEPARTMENT):				
MAYOR AND COMMISSION MANAGER	\$558,060	\$588,101	5.4%	0.5%
ATTORNEY	\$1,395,157	\$1,819,816	30.4%	1.4%
OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS	\$647,731	\$686,080	5.9%	0.5%
FINANCE	\$233,929	\$239,061	2.2%	0.2%
HUMAN RESOURCES	\$2,129,924	\$2,192,231	2.9%	1.7%
TAX COMMISSIONER	\$1,228,482	\$1,408,580	14.7%	1.1%
BOARD OF TAX ASSESSORS	\$1,480,084	\$1,503,306	1.6%	1.2%
BOARD OF ELECTIONS	\$1,089,810	\$1,115,938	2.4%	0.9%
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY	\$600,331	\$547,137	-8.9%	0.4%
OTHER GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	\$3,157,128	\$3,158,182	0.0%	2.4%
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	<u>\$7,743,412</u>	<u>\$8,355,455</u>	7.9%	6.4%
	\$20,264,048	\$21,613,887	6.7%	16.6%
SUPERIOR COURTS	\$3,133,142	\$3,212,551	2.5%	2.5%
CLERK OF COURTS	\$1,095,915	\$1,259,632	14.9%	1.0%
STATE COURT	\$821,245	\$828,240	0.9%	0.6%
SOLICITOR GENERAL	\$1,172,796	\$1,158,809	-1.2%	0.9%
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	\$1,239,501	\$1,292,749	4.3%	1.0%
SHERIFF	\$16,773,746	\$17,226,259	2.7%	13.2%
JUVENILE COURT	\$563,785	\$581,963	3.2%	0.4%
MAGISTRATE'S COURT	\$774,194	\$806,323	4.1%	0.6%
CORONER	\$40,504	\$47,588	17.5%	0.0%
PROBATE COURT	\$469,099	\$507,126	8.1%	0.4%
MUNICIPAL COURT	<u>\$635,720</u>	<u>\$650,415</u>	2.3%	0.5%
TOTAL JUDICIAL	\$26,719,647	\$27,571,655	3.2%	21.1%

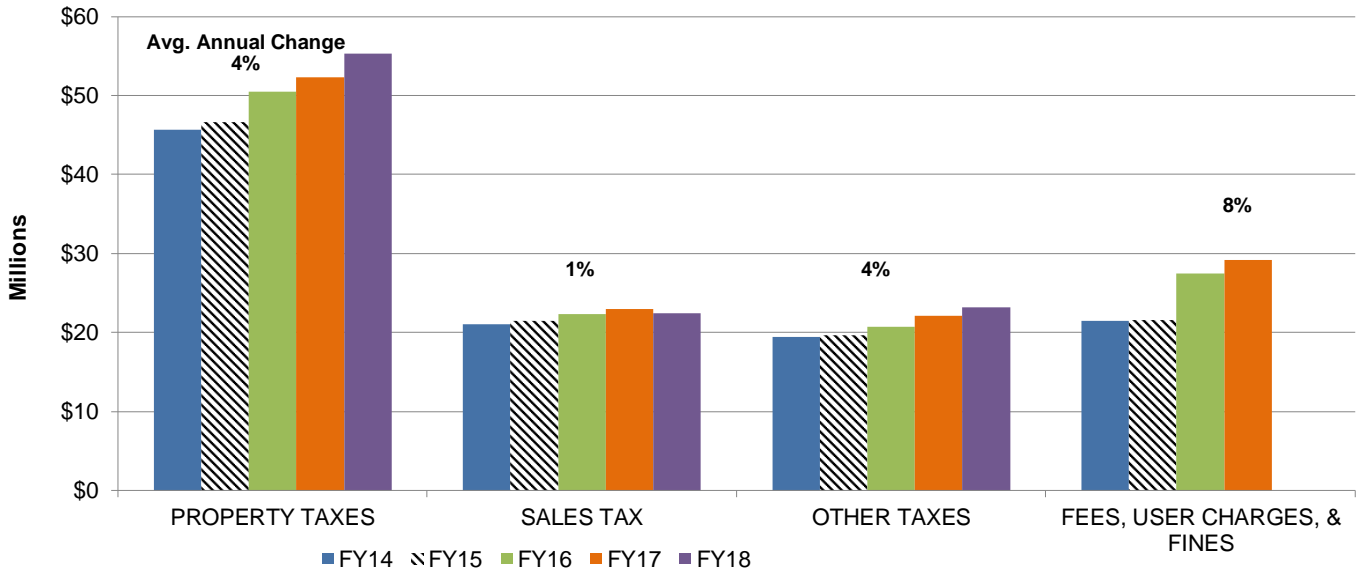
**SUMMARY FY2018 BUDGET
GENERAL FUND**

EXPENDITURES (BY DEPARTMENT):	FY17 <u>BUDGET</u>	FY18 <u>BUDGET</u>	% <u>INC/ (DEC)</u>	% <u>OF TOTAL</u>
POLICE SERVICES	\$21,387,771	\$21,869,627	2.3%	16.8%
FIRE SERVICES	\$13,483,410	\$13,983,289	3.7%	10.7%
CORRECTIONS	<u>\$3,494,200</u>	<u>\$3,563,531</u>	2.0%	2.7%
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	\$38,365,381	\$39,416,447	2.7%	30.2%
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC WORKS	\$4,126,051	\$4,304,795	4.3%	3.3%
SOLID WASTE	\$879,518	\$1,009,777	14.8%	0.8%
CENTRAL SERVICES	<u>\$9,612,559</u>	<u>\$9,944,754</u>	3.5%	7.6%
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS	\$14,618,128	\$15,259,326	4.4%	11.7%
LEISURE SERVICES	<u>\$7,587,851</u>	<u>\$7,794,126</u>	2.7%	6.0%
TOTAL CULTURE & RECREATION	\$7,587,851	\$7,794,126	2.7%	6.0%
HOUSING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	\$369,341	\$446,573	20.9%	0.3%
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$491,907	\$499,007	1.4%	0.4%
PLANNING & ZONING	\$1,327,336	\$1,215,895	-8.4%	0.9%
BUILDING INSPECTION (Cmty Protection Div)	\$799,156	\$822,675	2.9%	0.6%
COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE	<u>\$181,008</u>	<u>\$197,485</u>	9.1%	0.2%
TOTAL HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT	\$3,168,748	\$3,181,635	0.4%	2.4%
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES	\$5,176,936	\$5,318,800	2.7%	4.1%
DEBT SERVICE	\$771,338	\$1,057,249	37.1%	0.8%
TRANSFERS OUT TO OTHER FUNDS	\$5,324,899	\$3,642,129	-31.6%	2.8%
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$121,996,976	\$124,855,254	2.3%	95.7%
CAPITAL FOR CURRENT SERVICES	\$3,506,000	\$4,622,600	31.8%	3.5%
CAPITAL FOR ADDITIONS & IMPROVEMENT	<u>\$1,034,000</u>	<u>\$958,000</u>	-7.4%	0.7%
TOTAL CAPITAL	\$4,540,000	\$5,580,600	22.9%	4.3%
TOTAL OPERATING & CAPITAL EXPENDITURES	<u>\$126,536,976</u>	<u>\$130,435,854</u>	3.1%	100.0%
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>		

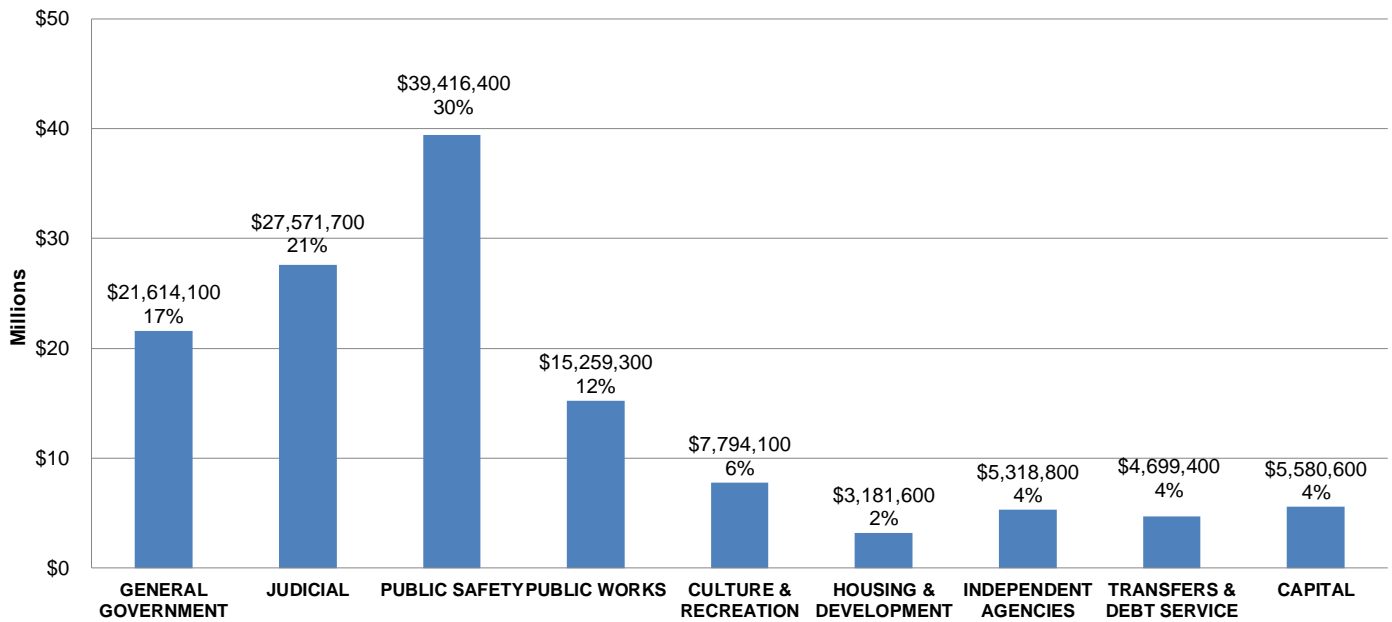
FY18 GENERAL FUND BUDGET REVENUES
\$130.4 Million



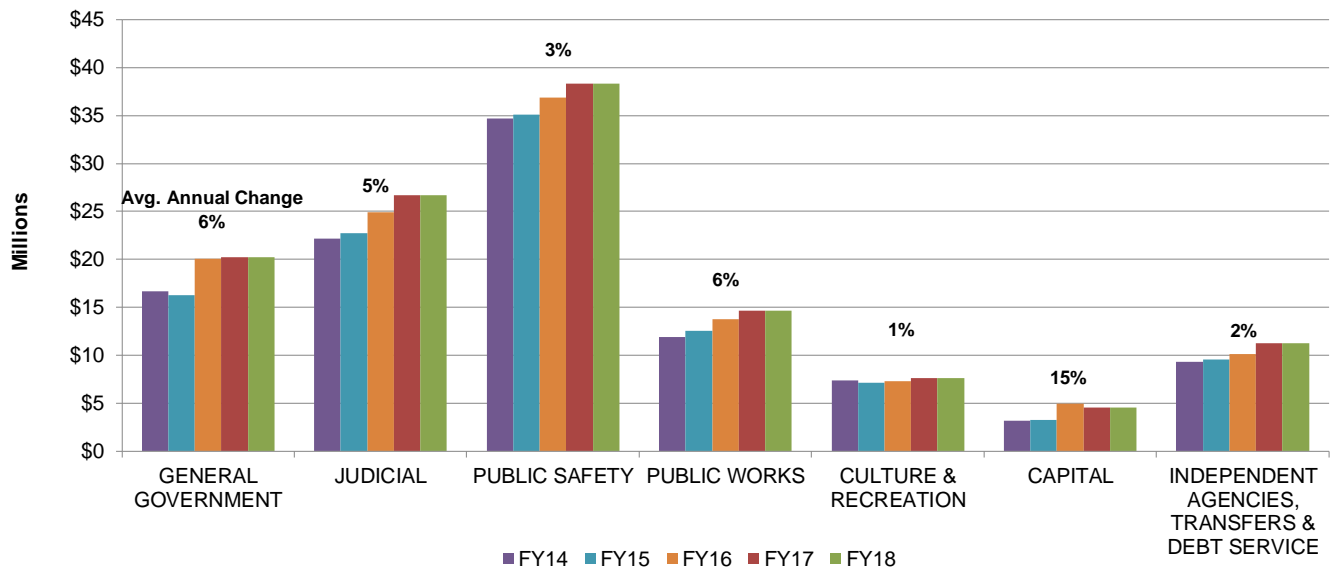
MAJOR REVENUES - GENERAL FUND BUDGET
Five Year Trend (FY14 - FY18)



**FY18 GENERAL FUND BUDGET EXPENDITURES
\$130.4 Million**



**EXPENDITURES - GENERAL FUND BUDGET
Five Year Trend (FY14 - FY18)**



General Fund Revenues and Expenditures Per Capita

General Fund Revenues: Property taxes account for the largest source of revenue - 42% or \$437 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 77% of all General Fund revenues. On average, each ACC resident will pay \$1,032 for General Fund services in FY18.

Per Capita Revenue by Type		
	FY17	FY18
PROPERTY TAXES	\$403	\$437
SALES TAX	179	\$177
OTHER TAXES	166	\$184
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	93	\$104
ALL OTHER REVENUES	46	\$52
USE OF FUND BALANCE	52	\$55
FINES & FORFEITURES	\$28	\$24
Total	\$967	\$1,032

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). ACCUG expends approximately \$530 per capita for these services. Departments included in each functional area (Public Works, General Government, etc.) can be found on page 11 and 12.

Per Capita Expenditure by Function		
	FY17	FY18
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$295	\$312
JUDICIAL	199	\$218
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	161	\$171
PUBLIC WORKS	110	\$121
CULTURE & RECREATION	58	\$62
HOUSING & DEVELOPMENT	24	\$25
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES	40	\$42
CAPITAL	40	\$44
TRANSFERS & DEBT SERVICE	\$41	\$37
Total	\$967	\$1,032

Understanding Property Taxes

The property tax rate or millage rate is adopted annually for ACCUG 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 such as 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

The millage rate for ACCUG services for FY18 is 13.95 mills. The Clarke County School Board, which sets its millage rate separate from the ACCUG, set a rate of 20.00 mills for FY18.

Property Tax Collections For Athens-Clarke County (Total Rate 33.95 mills)



Median Sales Price of an Existing Home (Owner Occupied):

\$159,500 (2016 – Tax Assessor)

Average Sales Price (Owner Occupied):

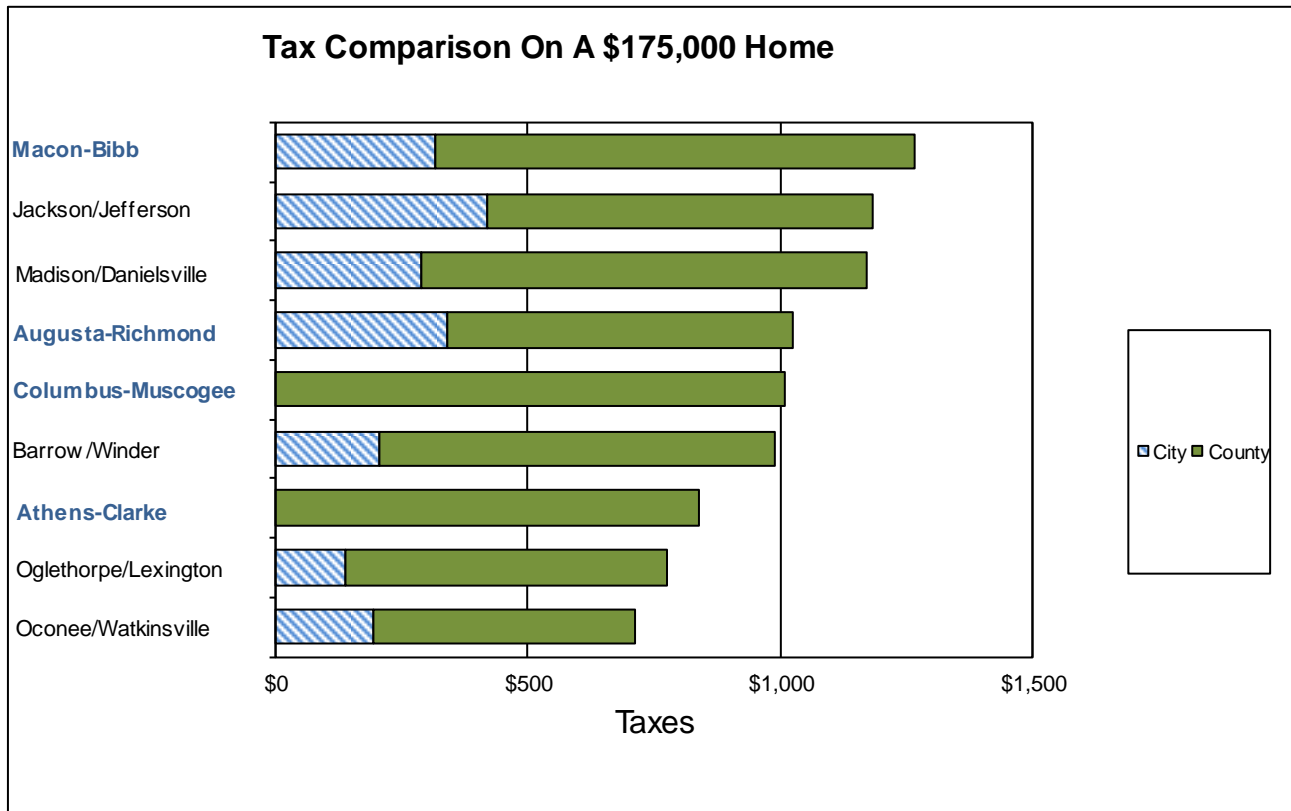
\$184,375 (2016- Tax Assessor)

Estimated Property Taxes for a \$175,000 home in 2016 (with Standard Homestead Exemption):

ACCUG	\$ 837	41%
School	\$ 1,200	59%
Total	\$ 2,037	100%

Comparative Property Taxes for a \$175,000 Home

Using the prior year’s property tax bill for comparison, the taxes on a \$175,000 home in Athens-Clarke County for government services (except schools) are lower than all but two of the surrounding or similar sized cities in the state.



Unified Governments Shown in Blue.

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

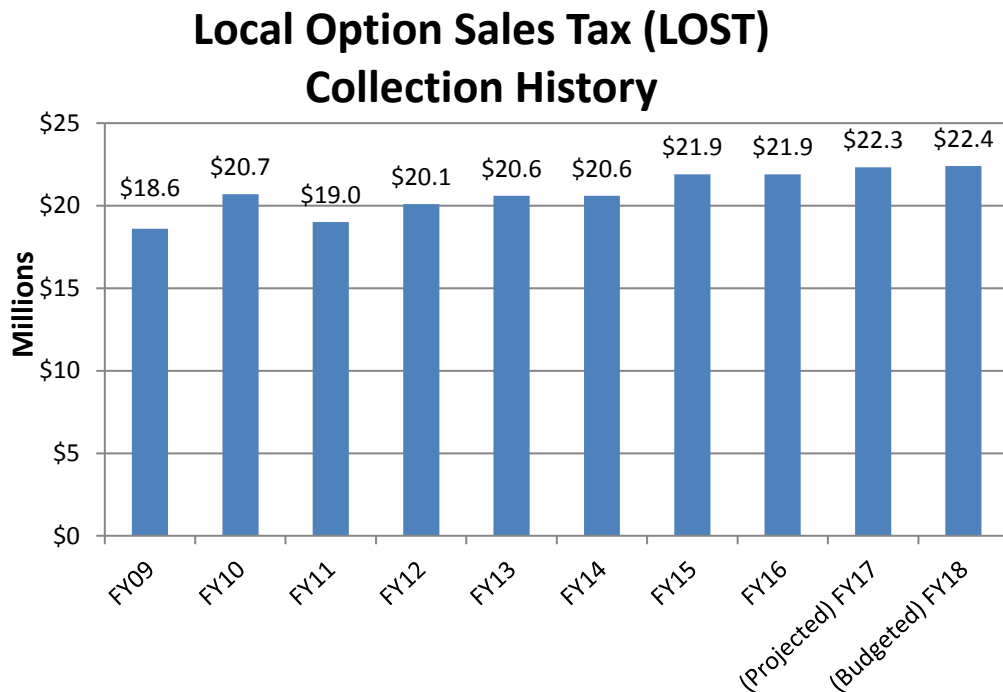
\$0.01 LOST (Local Option Sales Tax) ACCUG General Fund

\$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 go to ACCUG, Winterville, and Bogart and are accounted for separately and can only be used for capital projects approved by a voter referendum and not for operating expenses. 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 (SPLOST 2011) was approved in November 2010 and collections of the tax began in April of 2011. The referendum funds a diverse list of 35 community improvement projects over nine years totaling \$195 million. The planning, design and construction of the SPLOST projects are reviewed and approved by the Mayor and Commission at regularly scheduled meetings.

The FY18 Capital Budget

A capital project is defined as an individual asset or project of at least \$30,000 and includes facilities, equipment, vehicles, infrastructure repairs and improvements. The FY18 Capital Budget for all funds totals \$37.0 million. 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 FY18 include:

General Capital Projects Fund

Facilities Life Cycle Maintenance Program	\$700,000
Pavement Maintenance Program	\$600,000
Telephone System Life Cycle Replacement	\$450,000
Information Technology Equipment Replacement	\$300,000
All Other Projects	\$3,610,600
Subtotal:	<u>\$5,660,600</u>

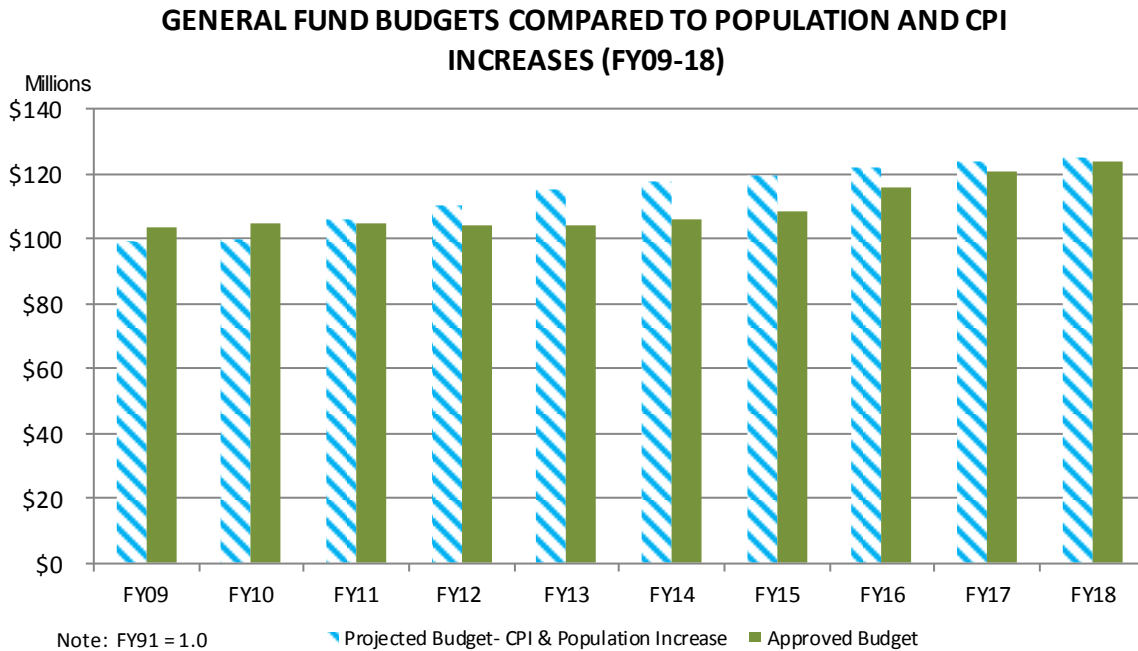
All Other Funds

Rehabilitate and Replace Sewers	\$9,500,000
Replace and Upgrade W&S Facilities and Equip.	\$3,000,000
Improve Water Supply Reliability	\$3,000,000
Landfill Construction Phase V Stages 1-3	\$2,750,000
Stormwater Improvement Program	\$2,700,000
Fleet Replacement Program	\$2,480,000
All Other Projects	\$7,944,200
Subtotal:	<u>\$31,374,200</u>

Total Capital Budget - All Funds	\$37,034,800
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Budget History and Trends

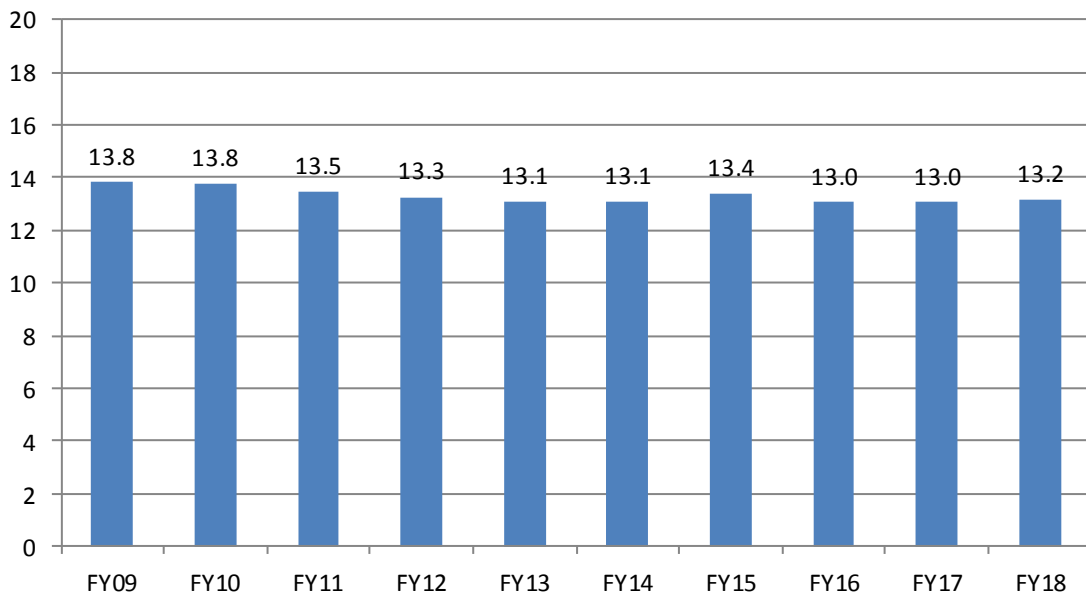
The FY18 General Fund operating budget is \$124.9 million, 2.3% higher than the FY17 Budget. Over the last seven budget years, the General Fund operating budget (Approved Budget) has grown at a rate lower than the combined annual increase of the CPI and population (Projected Budget) as shown in the graph below.



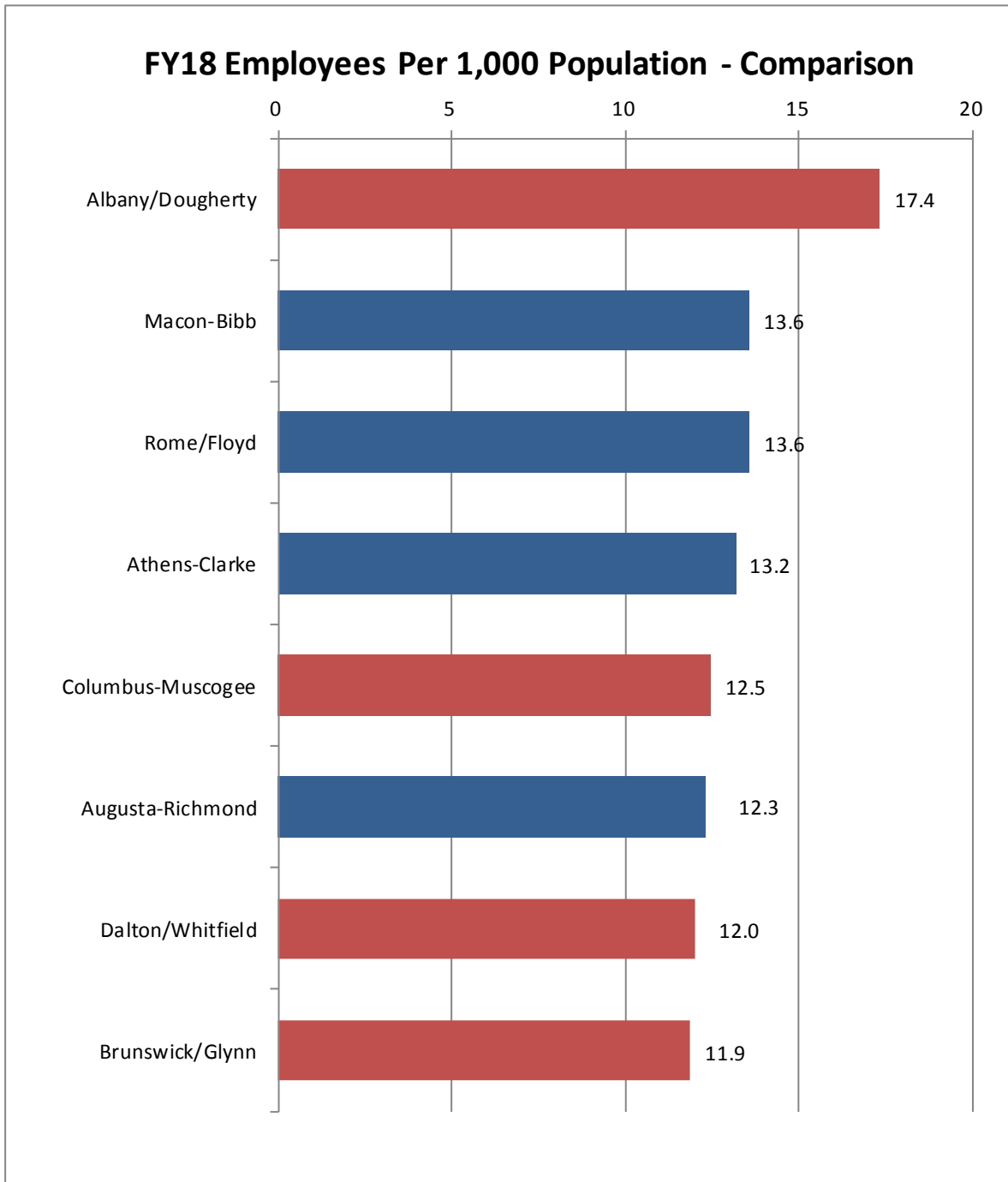
Full-time Employees: Trends and Comparisons

This Budget is based on 1,649 full-time authorized employee positions, an increase of 12 positions compared to the current level. ACCUG continues to maintain the number of full-time employees per thousand residences below 14 for over 10 years.

ACC FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES PER 1,000 RESIDENTS (FY09-FY18)



ACCUG's 13.2 full-time employees per 1,000 of population is comparable to most similarly sized governments in Georgia, as shown on the graph below.

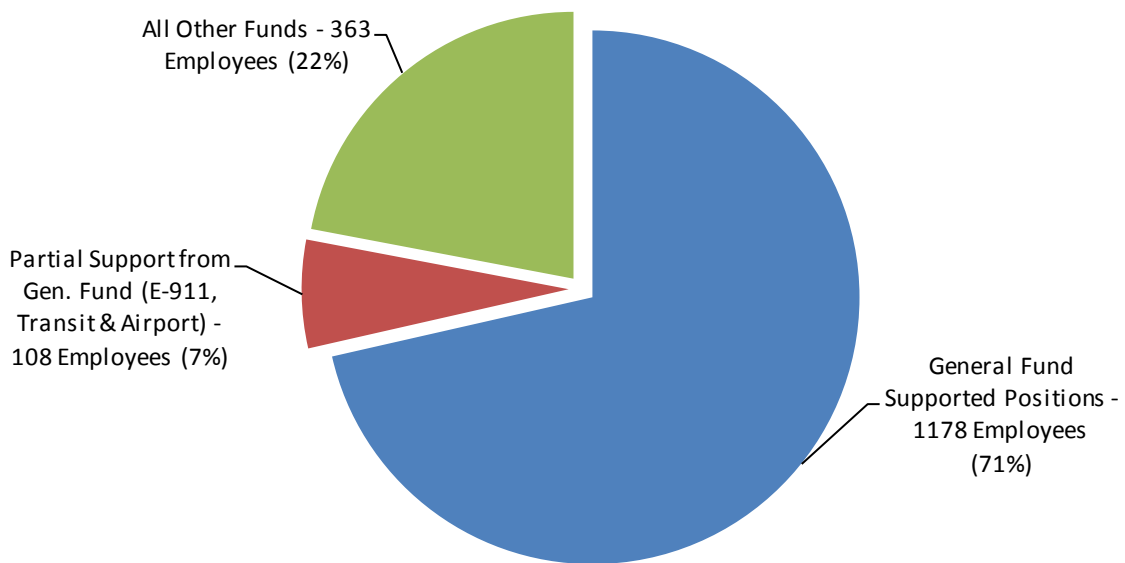


-Unified governments are shown in blue.

Full-Time Employees - By Function Total of 1,649



Full-Time Employees - By Funding Source Total of 1,649



FULL-TIME AUTHORIZED POSITIONS

<u>Department or Office</u>	<u>FY17</u>	<u>FY18</u>	<u>Change From FY17 to FY18</u>
Airport	7	7	-
Attorney	6	6	-
Board of Elections	3	3	-
Building Inspections & Permits	23	23	-
Central Services	102	102	-
Clerk of Courts	19	20	1
Cooperative Extension	1	1	-
Corrections	43	43	-
District Attorney	26	26	-
Economic Development	4	4	-
Finance	28	28	-
Fire & Emergency Services	186	187	1
General Support Group: Organizational Development	0	0	-
Housing & Economic Development	8	8	-
Human Resources	21	21	-
Information Technology	19	20	1
Juvenile Court	4	5	1
Leisure Services	73	73	-
Magistrate Court	11	11	-
Manager	5	5	-
Emergency Management	1	0	(1)
Geographic Information Office	0	2	2
Organizational Development	3	3	-
Office of Substainablity	0	2	2
Public Information	3	3	-
SPLOST Management	3	3	-
Mayor and Commission	1	1	-
Clerk of Commission	2	2	-
Municipal Court	10	10	-
Operational Analysis	3	3	-
Planning	21	19	(2)
Police	309	309	-
Probate Court	6	6	-
Public Utilities	195	194	(1)
Sheriff	194	194	-
Solicitor General	17	17	-
Solid Waste	61	61	-
State Court	7	7	-
Superior Courts	33	33	-
Tax Assessor	13	13	-
Tax Commissioner	19	19	-
Transit	66	68	2
Transportation & Public Works	<u>81</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>6</u>
	1,637	1,649	12

Legal and Charter Requirements for the Annual Budget

There are several requirements under Georgia Law (O.C.G.A, Chapters 36-81) and the ACCUG Charter (Chapter 7) that must be met:

- 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.

Mayor and Commission Strategic Commitments & Directions for FY18

The Mayor and Commission adopted Strategic Commitments, Directions and Actions on December 6, 2016. The FY18 Budget includes specific funding and/or staff time for the following in support of these strategies:

Healthy, Livable, Sustainable Athens-Clarke County

1. Support human and cultural development opportunities
2. Foster an environment to decrease energy use intensity and associated greenhouse gas emissions by incentivizing efficient use and expanding the use of renewable energies.
3. Sustain a culture of conservation that maximizes waste reduction, increases the life of our landfill, and ensures waste is properly handled
4. Pursue high quality built environments that are environmentally responsible and meet the needs of the community.
5. Integrate our built environment while respecting our ecosystem so as to ensure the community benefits from ecosystem services while protecting sensitive resources for future generations.
6. Protect and improve our water resources while efficiently using those resources to support our economic growth, ecological systems, and population needs.

Transportation Mobility and Connectivity

1. Provide a safe, reliable, accessible, well-planned, and pedestrian-friendly transportation network.
2. Support the development of alternative transportation mobility options for the community.
3. Develop innovative transportation infrastructure that supports transportation diversity, equitable access, and environmental stewardship.

Economic Prosperity

1. Cultivate an environment conducive to business prosperity and the creation of jobs.
2. Promote a diverse and innovative economy which provides training and quality jobs for our citizens while expanding our economic base.

Safe and Prepared Community

1. Protect lives, property, and the environment by forming partnerships and implementing programs for a safer, more resilient Athens-Clarke County.
2. Enhance diversion and offender community re-entry programs.
3. Pursue preventative, versus reactive, approaches to the public's safety.

Informed and Engaged Citizens

1. Provide opportunities for citizens to learn about local government services, initiatives, and events.
2. Foster opportunities for citizens to engage with their local government.

Accountable and Responsive Government

1. Attract, retain and reward talented and empowered employees.
2. Promote transparency through improved access to information.
3. Improve internal efficiency and effectiveness.
4. Document and share our actions to cultivate a culture of innovation by piloting new ideas and adopting those with demonstrated benefits.

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Management & Budget Division

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