



Fulton County Taxpayers Foundation

Non-Profit Advocate Of Lower Property Taxes In Atlanta/Fulton County

501(c)3 Non-Profit Advocate of Lower Property Taxes in Atlanta/Fulton

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How Taxpayers In Atlanta, Fulton County, The Public Schools & State Could Save Up To 50% Of Their Tax Millage!

Local Example

On December 5, 2005, the City of Sandy Springs was incorporated. That same day, Mayor Eva Galambos and the Sandy Springs City Council outsourced every city service other than Police, Fire and 911.

Today, almost four years later, the City of Sandy Springs Property Tax Millage is 4.7 compared to 10.12 for the City of Atlanta. The Millage of Sandy Springs is less than half the Millage of Atlanta, while the Sandy Springs services are far superior, i.e., Sandy Springs was recently cited by Forbes Magazine as “one of the 25 best American cities to live.” Governing Magazine refers to Sandy Springs as “A Model City.” Contrasting this, the City of Atlanta has not outsourced a single city service in the last eight years, while the recent Deloitte Audit of the Atlanta Finance Department, the Atlanta Watershed Department, the Atlanta Fleet Management Department, etc. speaks for itself.

So successful has Sandy Springs been in reducing taxes through outsourcing that Johns Creek, Milton and Dunwoody have emulated outsourcing every city service other than Police, Fire, and 911. With the economic recession continuing, it behooves the City of Atlanta, Fulton County, Atlanta/Fulton School Districts and the State of Georgia itself to adopt the same successful principle of outsourcing all services other than Public Safety.

State Example

In 2004, Governor Jeb Bush and the Florida State Legislature – with the help of the Reason Foundation - created a Council On Efficient Government which took the initiative on outsourcing state services which are proven (through bids) to be more economical and efficient.

In four years, the State of Florida privatized 138 government services and activities and saved taxpayers \$574 million. In 1999, there were 16 privatization contracts; in 2007, there were a staggering 551 contracts totaling over \$8 billion! This year, Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal recognized the value of Florida’s approach and created a Commission On Streamlining Government. Other states that have emulated Florida include Virginia and Utah, while 28 states are considering the formation of Councils On Efficient Government.

In 1999, Florida had a bleak economic outlook, with the State forecasting a fiscal shortfall to such an extent that the State could not balance its budget. Governor Jeb Bush brought a vision which embraced the power of the free market and competition to deliver high quality services to taxpayers at significantly lower costs. During Bush’s term (1999-2007), Florida engaged in 138 privatization/managed competition initiatives, saving the taxpayers \$574 million . When many other states were raising taxes, these initiatives reduced taxes by \$20 billion during the Bush term. Over the same period, the total number of authorized positions – including the Courts, Lottery, National Guard and elected or appointed officials – fell by 3,808.

What Services Have Been Privatized by the State of Florida?

Although ALL services have been considered by the Florida Center For Efficient Government, Privatization initiatives have ranged from Highway Maintenance (\$83.7 million in savings alone),

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Information Technology, Fleet Management, Medicaid Billing, Toll Collections, Online Professional Licensing, State Psychiatric Hospitals, Prison Food Service, Maintenance of State Parks, Custodial Services, etc.

Funding Florida's Core Programs

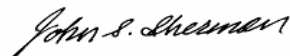
During Bash's tenure, spending on core programs like Education, Public Safety, and Health Care increased, but all of it was done without a State Income Tax and without raising other taxes. Privatization was the key to facilitating this.

Florida's Center For Efficient Government (CFEG)

The CFEG mission is "to promote fair and transparent best business practices in government in order to foster accountability, competition, efficiency and innovation in the way state agencies serve Florida's citizens." The mission goes beyond that – it serves as the enterprise-wide gateway for best business practices in competitive sourcing and standards how the state identified opportunities, conducts competition, and awards and manages contracts for government services. CFEG serves as a trained unit that assists agencies with their competition initiatives, accountability, and communication. In addition, it explores opportunities for enterprise-wide solutions or initiatives.

Conclusion

Through outsourcing, the new cities of Sandy Springs, Johns Creek, Milton and Dunwoody, as well as the State of Florida, have achieved fiscal solvency, reduced taxes, and eliminated wasteful, non-essential government functions. Taxpayers in Atlanta, Fulton County, the Atlanta and Fulton School Districts, and the State of Georgia must urge their local and State governments to emulate the outsourcing success of Sandy Springs, Johns Creek, Milton, Dunwoody, and the State of Florida.



John S. Sherman

President

Unite the Fight To Bring Better Government to Atlanta and Fulton County!

I enclose my annual membership of:

\$25 Senior___ \$50 Family___ \$100 Patron___ \$200 Corporate___ \$1000 Champion___

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If you prefer, you can charge your membership or a donation online at www.fctf.org

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Fulton County Taxpayers Foundation
Black-Tie Dinner/Dance

October 10th, 2009

The Fulton County Taxpayers Foundation cordially invites you to a black-tie dinner/dance on Saturday evening, October 10th, at the Capital City Club – Brookhaven. Any proceeds will benefit the Taxpayers Foundation, a non-profit community organization, Cost of tickets, including a three-course dinner, dinner wine, dance music and valet parking is \$100, tables of 10, \$1000. Seating is extremely limited.

ONLY 28 SEATS LEFT!

Cash bars will open at 7PM, dinner at 8PM.

The theme of the evening will be "A New Future For Atlanta." with the Guest Speaker Mayor Eva Galambos of Sandy Springs. Sandy Springs has outsourced every city service other than Police, Fire and 911, and is today considered a "Model City" by Governing Magazine as well as "one of the best cities in America" by Forbes Magazine. The Property Tax Millage of Sandy Springs is 4.7 compared to 10.12 of Atlanta. The City of Atlanta is more than double the tax rate of Sandy Springs!

All contributions are tax-deductible.

Please join us for a fun evening!