COUNTY AGENDA REQUEST

Department:	Commissioner	Presenter(s):	Chairman Steve Brown
Meeting Date:	Thursday, March 28, 2013	Type of Request:	New Business

Wording for the Agenda:

Consideration of Chairman Brown's recommendation to adopt Resolution 2013-10 supporting Home Rule for Metropolitan Atlanta's Counties and Cities.

Background/History/Details:

See the attached resolution.

What action are you seeking from the Board of Commissioners?

Approval of Chairman Brown's recommendation to adopt Resolution 2013-10 supporting Home Rule for Metropolitan Atlanta's Counties and Cities.

If this item requires funding, please describe:

Not Applicable.

Has this request been considered within the past two years?	No	If so, when?	
Is Audio-Visual Equipment Required for this Request?*	No	Backup Provided with Request?	No

**** All audio-visual material must be submitted to the County Clerk's Office no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. It is also your department's responsibility to ensure all third-party audio-visual material is submitted at least 48 hours in advance.***

Approved by Finance	Not Applicable	Reviewed by Legal	
Approved by Purchasing	Not Applicable	County Clerk's Approval	Yes
Administrator's Approval			

Staff Notes:

The Destruction of **Home Rule**

Fulton County

Rep. Lynne Riley
Rep. Jan Jones
Rep. Joe Wilkinson
Rep. Wendell Willard
Rep. Harry Geisinger
Rep. Charles Martin
Rep. Ed Lindsey
Rep. Tom Rice
Rep. Tom Taylor
Rep. Mike Jacobs

HB 171
Forced legislative re-districting of Fulton County.

HB 265
The local Legislative Delegation would get to nominate the chairman of the Fulton County Board of Registrations and Elections.

HB 444
Would require Fulton County to give Superior and State Court Judges a pay raise.

HB 541
Would double the Fulton County property tax homestead exemption to $60,000 over three years beginning in 2015. *Voters would have to approve the increase in 2014.*

HB 594
Would make all new Fulton County employees (public safety exempt) "unclassified," allowing the county to dismiss, demote or suspend them for any reason not prohibited by law.

HB 598
Would make all new employees of Superior, State and Magistrate Courts "at-will" employees who would not be subject to the county merit system of employment.

Henry County

State Senator Rick Jeffares created local legislation producing a PAY CUT and LIMITATION OF POWERS for the new Henry County Commissioner Chairman.

Clayton County

Reps. Mike Glanton and Valencia Stovall are trying to increase Clayton County's homestead exemption without the consent of the county commission (HB 330).

County of Fayette;
State of Georgia

RESOLUTION 2013-10

RESOLUTION OF REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR HOME RULE FOR METROPOLITAN ATLANTA'S COUNTIES AND CITIES

WHEREAS, Fayette County is a recognized governmental entity, chartered by the State of Georgia; and

WHEREAS, Fayette County is a member of the Atlanta Regional Commission which serves as the metropolitan planning organization, providing intergovernmental coordination for 10 counties; and

WHEREAS, The Fayette County Board of Commissioners recognizes that "home rule" (self-government) is prescribed in the Georgia Constitution, authorizing counties to control their own ordinances and regulations that are consistent with the Georgia Constitution; and

WHEREAS, For generations, local governments in the State of Georgia have maintained a good working relationship with the Georgia Legislature, utilizing local legislation as a tool to make substantive positive changes to local jurisdictions through state law with the **consent** of the local governments and their respective legislative delegations; and

WHEREAS, The Fayette County Board of Commissioners is disappointed that the tool of local legislation is now being used a weapon against local governments, especially in metropolitan Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, The Fayette County Board of Commissioners believes that local government is closest to the people and the most efficient and accountable form of government; and

WHEREAS, The Fayette County Board of Commissioners believes that the **citizens of the local jurisdictions** should be the agent of change in counties and cities through public redress such as the ballot box and, if necessary, the courts; and

WHEREAS, The Fayette County Board of Commissioners believes that the legislative actions affecting the structure of local governments without consent of the locally elected officials is wrong and has the potential to bring significant harm to the local taxpayers;

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County does hereby formally request to our Legislative Delegation and all members of the State Legislature that the practice of local legislation be reverted back to a process that benefits local counties and cities with the consent of the locally elected body. Be it further resolved, we formally request that our Legislative Delegation oppose or leave the chamber when bills are called for a vote that impede the governance of Fulton, Clayton and Henry Counties, observing that obstructing government closest to the people and disregarding home rule is not in the best interest of the State of Georgia.

So resolved this 14th day of March 2013, by the

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA

Attest:

_____
Steve Brown, Chairman

_____
Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk