Mayor
Derek Easterling
City Manager
Jeff Drobney, ICMA-CM
City Clerk
Lea Alvarez, CMC

Council
Madelyn Orochena
Tracey Viars
Pat Ferris
Antonio Jones
Anthony Gutierrez

City Council
First Millage Rate Hearing Special Called Meeting Agenda
July 28, 2025 6:00 PM
Council Chambers
(2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA 30144)

Livestream: www.kennesaw-ga.gov/publicmeetings/

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1. **Invocation**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Call to Order**
4. **Announcements**
5. **Presentations**
6. **Public Comment**
   This section is for comment on any item on the agenda.
7. **Old Business**
8. **New Business**
9. **Committee and Board Reports**
10. **Public Hearing(s)**
    A. **First Public Hearing: Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Millage Rate**
    Consideration to approve a Resolution adopting the Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Millage Rate.

    B. **First Public Hearing: Bond Millage Rate**
    Consideration to approve a Resolution adopting the Bond Millage Rate.
11. **Consent Agenda**
12. **General and Administrative**
13. **Public Safety**

14. Information Technology

15. Public Works and Building Maintenance

16. Recreation and Culture

17. Community Development

18. Public Comment

This section is for general comment.

19. City Manager's Report

A. Reports, Discussions, and Updates

20. Mayor's Report

A. Mayor and Council (re)appointments to Boards and Commissions. This item is for (re)appointments made by the Mayor to any Board, Committee, Authority, or Commission requiring an appointment to fill any vacancies, resignations, and to create or dissolve boards and commissions, as deemed necessary.

21. Council Reports & Discussions

22. Executive Session

Pursuant to the provisions of O.C.G.A 50-14-3, the City Council could, at any time during the meeting, vote to close the public meeting and move to executive session to discuss matters relating to litigation, legal actions and/or communications from the City Attorney; and/or personnel matters; and/or real estate matters.

23. Adjourn

Item Report

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Jennifer Gordy, Finance Director

DATE: July 28, 2025

TITLE: **First Public Hearing: Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Millage Rate**
Consideration to approve a Resolution adopting the Maintenance and Operation (M&O) Millage Rate.

Summary:
The City of Kennesaw is proposing a millage rate of 7.75 mills for M&O which is the same as last year. The dates of the public hearings and the Current 2025 Tax Digest and 5 Year History of Levy were properly advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 19, 2025, whereas the other advertisements were published on both July 19 and 26, 2025 in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32. The second and third public hearings will take place on August 4, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., respectively.

Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:
1. RES 2025 - M&O Millage Rate Adoption
2. 2. Advertisement of current & 5 year history and adoption date-Kennesaw Tax Year 2025 FY 26 no rollback
3. 3. Notice of Property Tax Increase Ad Tax Year 2025 FY26 UPDATED 7.1.25
4. 4. Additional Ad 2025
5. 5. Press Release Notice of Property Tax IncreaseTY 2025 FY26
6. 2025-07-19 Propert Tax Ad - Five Year Digest & Notice of Tax Increase
7. 2025-07-19 Property Tax Ad - City Not Increasing Tax Rates
8. 2025-07-19 Property Tax Ad - Notice of Tax Increase
9. 2025-07-26 Property Tax Ad - City Not Increasing Taxes
10. 2025-07-26 Property Tax Ad - Notice of Tax Increase

CITY OF KENNESAW
GEORGIA

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

RESOLUTION OF THE KENNESAW CITY COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH A MAINTENANCE & OPERATION (M&O) MILLAGE RATE FOR THE CITY OF KENNESAW FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNESAW, COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the City of Kennesaw, Georgia desires to establish its ad valorem tax millage rate for the fiscal year 2025-2026; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority has advertised its intent to establish said millage rate by placing an advertisement conforming to O.C.G.A. §48-5-32(c) in a newspaper of general circulation of Cobb County serving the residents of the City of Kennesaw, said advertisement appearing two (2) weeks prior to the hearing at which said millage rate is to be considered; and

WHEREAS, the public hearings required by O.C.G.A. §48-5-32(c) were duly held on July 28, 2025, and August 4, 2025, prior to the adoption of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the final millage rate has been calculated by the governing authority to be 7.75 mills for Maintenance & Operation (M&O) and the final millage rate for the Bond will be adopted by separate resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Kennesaw City Council does hereby establish the M&O millage rate for the City of Kennesaw, Georgia, ad valorem property tax, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year at 7.75 mills.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Kennesaw City Council on this __ day of August 2025.

ATTEST:	CITY OF KENNESAW
____________________________	____________________________
Lea Alvarez, City Clerk	Derek Easterling, Mayor

NOTICE

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Kennesaw does hereby announce that the tax millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 will be set at a meeting of the Mayor and Council held in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA on August 4, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32, the City of Kennesaw does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2025 TAX DIGEST AND FIVE YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Real & Personal	1,626,627,090	1,740,178,425	2,018,309,824	2,293,915,007	2,497,672,724	2,666,756,393
Motor Vehicle	10,584,720	8,208,810	7,068,760	6,794,230	5,839,070	5,170,940
Mobile Homes	1,667,223	1,592,910	1,620,674	1,613,365	1,566,354	1,575,073
Timber - 100%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heavy Duty Equipment	30,741	7,873	87,115	36,503	32,339	34,181
Gross Tax Digest	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373	2,302,359,105	2,505,110,487	2,673,536,587
Less M&O Exemptions	334,808,625	321,498,717	466,305,125	537,172,801	609,207,363	618,024,011
Net M&O Digest	1,304,101,149	1,428,489,301	1,560,781,248	1,765,186,304	1,895,903,124	2,055,512,576
Gross M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75	7.75
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00
Net M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75	7.75	7.75
Net M&O Taxes Levied	10,432,809	11,427,914	12,486,250	13,680,194	14,693,249	15,930,222
Gross Tax Digest	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373	2,302,359,105	2,505,110,487	2,673,536,587
Less Bond Exemptions	229,834,718	192,887,844	251,473,580	265,480,930	289,439,587	300,736,582
Net Bond Digest	1,409,075,056	1,557,100,174	1,775,612,793	2,036,878,175	2,215,670,900	2,372,800,005
Gross Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Net Bond Taxes Levied	2,113,613	2,335,650	2,663,419	3,055,317	3,323,506	3,559,200
Net M&O Taxes $ Increase	610,502	995,105	1,058,336	1,193,944	1,013,055	1,236,973
Net M&O Taxes % Increase	6.2%	9.5%	9.3%	9.6%	7.4%	8.4%
Net Bond Taxes $ Increase	137,796	222,037	327,769	391,898	268,189	235,694
Net Bond Taxes % Increase	7.0%	10.5%	14.0%	14.7%	8.8%	7.1%

All concerned citizens are invited to public hearings held at the Kennesaw City Hall Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw GA on the dates and times below:
Monday, July 28, 2025 6:00 PM (Special Called Meeting)
Monday, August 4, 2025 10:30 AM (Special Called Meeting) and 6:30 PM (Final Adoption)

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 1.93 percent for M&O and 1.69 percent for Bond.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this tax increase to be held at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, July 28, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this increase are at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, August 4, 2025 at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 7.75 mills for M&O and 1.50 mills for Bond, an increase of 0.147 mills for M&O and 0.025 mills for Bond. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.603 mills for M&O and 1.475 mills for Bond. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of $375,000 is approximately $22 increase for M&O and $4 increase for Bond and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of $675,000 is approximately $40 increase for M&O and $7 increase for Bond.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
NOTICE TO KENNESAW TAXPAYERS
CITY NOT INCREASING TAX RATES

According to Georgia law, all taxing agencies must advertise a tax increase and hold three public hearings to claim taxes on reassessed properties even if the millage rate remains unchanged as is the case in Kennesaw. The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate equal to last year's millage of 9.25 mills.

PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Kennesaw today announces its intention to increase the 2025 property taxes it will levy this year by 1.93 percent for M&O and 1.69 percent for Bond over the rollback millage rate.

Each year, the board of tax assessors is required to review the assessed value for property tax purposes of taxable property in the county. When the trend of prices on properties that have recently sold in the county indicate there has been an increase in the fair market value of any specific property, the board tax assessors is required by law to re-determine the value of such property and adjust the assessment. This is called a reassessment.

When the total digest of taxable property is prepared, Georgia law requires that a rollback millage rate must be computed that will produce the same total revenue on the current year's digest that last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessments occurred.

The budget tentatively adopted by the City of Kennesaw Council requires a millage rate higher than the rollback millage rate; therefore, before the City of Kennesaw Council may finalize the tentative budget and set a final millage rate, Georgia law requires three public hearings to be held to allow the public an opportunity to express their opinions on the increase.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at the City of Kennesaw Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on July 28, 2025 at 6:00 PM and August 4, 2025 at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.

House sends $9B rescissions package to president's desk

By Rachel Oswald
CQ-Roll Call

Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP/Getty Images/TNS

Director of the US Office of Management and Budget Russell Vought speaks to reporters outside the West Wing of the White House on July 17.

WASHINGTON — The House early Friday narrowly cleared a package to cancel $9 billion in federal spending, the first time in decades lawmakers have agreed to a White House request to claw back funding previously approved by Congress.

The action marks a significant victory for the Trump administration and paves the way for future spending cancellations to be sent to Congress.

The vote, 216-213, would effectively cancel $7.9 billion in foreign aid funding and $1.1 billion in taxpayer support for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which provides grants to NPR and PBS. The package was a high priority for the Trump administration and would effectively codify cuts made by the Department of Government Efficiency, known as DOGE.

Lawmakers voted to adopt a rule that "deemed" the Senate-amended bill as having cleared the House, bypassing any need for further recorded votes. That maneuver sent the rescissions bill to President Donald Trump's desk, where he is expected to sign it quickly.

In the past, leaders of both parties have used the strategy as a way to avoid direct votes on politically contentious issues, such as raising the debt limit.

The last time Congress tried to pass a White House rescissions package was during Trump's first administration in 2018, when their efforts were derailed in the Senate by a surprise "no" vote from then-Sen. Richard M. Burr. The North Carolina Republican was displeased at the time with proposed cuts to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

This time, a small minority of Republican lawmakers — Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania and Michael R. Turner of Ohio — joined with all Democrats in the House to vote against the spending clawbacks, but GOP leaders managed to cobble together enough votes to bring the measure across the legislative finish line.

Congress cleared the package the day of the 45-day statutory deadline set out by the 1974 impoundment control law.

Still, the process in the House was not seamless. Floor action on the measure faced an hourslong delay Thursday as Republicans on the Rules Committee grappled with pressure from Democrats on a measure to provide for the release of Justice Department files on convicted sex-offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Democrats on the Rules panel have taken to forcing votes during recent markups in an effort to compel the release of information related to Epstein. Republicans sought to tamp down the issue by backing a resolution calling on the Justice Department to release the files. Shortly before GOP leaders secured the necessary support to move the resolution to the floor, Trump in a Truth Social post announced he would direct Attorney General Pamela Bondi to release relevant grand jury testimony.

Opponents of the rescissions package, including Democrats as well as a few moderate Republicans like Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, have lambasted the White House for not providing details on which specific foreign aid programs will lose funding from the spending clawbacks.

Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP/Getty Images/TNS

U.S. President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Bahraini Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad al-Khalifa in the Oval Office of the White House on July 16.

Trump diagnosed with vein condition

By Dave Goldiner
New York Daily News

President Donald Trump was diagnosed with a treatable medical condition known as chronic venous insufficiency after undergoing an unscheduled examination prompted by swelling in his ankles, the White House said Thursday.

Trump, 79, was deemed in "excellent health" and there was no sign of more serious health problems like heart failure or blood clots, said White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt.

CVI is a condition caused when veins in the legs become damaged and struggle to return blood back to the heart, causing fluid to pool in lower extremities, especially ankles.

It is fairly common among older people, especially those who are overweight like Trump.

The condition is not serious in itself but can be a warning sign of more serious heart conditions, which may be why Trump's doctors ordered more tests.

The tests showed no evidence of more serious conditions like deep vein thrombosis or arterial disease. An echocardiogram showed normal cardiac structure and function, Leavitt said, adding that all results from testing were "within normal limits."

"The president remains in excellent health," Leavitt said.

Doctors also examined bruising on the back of Trump's hands, which they attributed to regular aspirin usage that may have been worsened by frequent hand shaking.

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'Kimmel is next': Trump gloats after cancellation of Colbert's 'Late Show'

By Lauren Harvey
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — President Donald Trump is celebrating the cancellation of Stephen Colbert's "The Late Show" on CBS — and calling for even more late-night hosts to be axed.

"I absolutely love that Colbert got fired. His talent was even less than his ratings," Trump wrote Friday morning on Truth Social. "I hear Jimmy Kimmel is next. Has even less talent than Colbert!"

He added that Greg Gutfeld, who has a late-night show and co-hosts "The Five" on Fox News, "is better than all of them combined, including the Moron on NBC who ruined the once great Tonight Show," referring to Jimmy Fallon.

Although "Late Night" is the top-rated late-night broadcast show, "Gutfeld!" draws a bigger audience.

Colbert, 61, has hosted the show for a decade and shared the news of its cancellation Thursday night, noting that he was made aware of the decision only the night before. "The Late Show" will end in May.

"It's not just the end of our show, but it's the end of 'The Late Show' on CBS," Colbert said. "I'm not being replaced. This is all just going away."

CBS said the decision was "purely financial." The cancellation comes after Colbert criticized the network's parent company, Paramount Global, for settling a lawsuit filed by Trump last year over the editing of a "60 Minutes" interview with Kamala Harris. Colbert called the $16-million settlement a "big fat bribe" Monday night, noting that Paramount is awaiting federal approval for its $8-billion merger with Skydance Media.

Both branches of the Writers Guild called on New York Atty. Gen. Letitia James to investigate Paramount.

Dave Killen/oregonlive.com/TNS

An aerial view of an Amazon data center near Boardman, Oregon.

State pausing reviews of data center plans

By Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — An Atlanta-based environmental advocate is criticizing the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) decision to pause state reviews of new data center proposals.

While the decision will not stop local governments from approving data center projects, it will rob local water planners of the state's valuable input, Chris Manganiello, water policy director for the nonprofit group Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, said Thursday.

"Rather than the state helping regions think through this stuff, it's going to leave planners flying blind," he said. "We'll end up with a patchwork of moratoria and ordinances at the local level addressing data center development."

Manganiello's comments came during the kickoff meeting of a Georgia House subcommittee examining the potential impacts of the growing number of data centers springing up across the state on water use. A second subcommittee is looking at how data centers are likely to affect consumption of electricity.

Data centers have exploded so quickly that elected officials in DeKalb, Coweta, Douglas, and Bartow counties have imposed moratoria on new projects. The Atlanta City Council voted last month to prohibit data centers from setting up in some neighborhoods and require developers to seek a special-use permit for construction.

Danny Johnson, director of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, told water subcommittee members more than 50 data centers are operating currently in Georgia while more than 40 more have been proposed.

Data centers use huge quantities of water, with a typical data center consuming the same amount of water per day as the cities of Marietta or Valdosta, he said.

However, data center developers have proven willing to install water-saving strategies including "closed-loop cooling" to reduce their water consumption, even though such technology is expensive.

Fossil fuels will remain part of Ga. Power energy-supply mix

By Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

Meet the Commission

Jason Shaw, Chairman

Tim Echols, Vice Chairman

Fitz Johnson

Lauren McDonald

Tricia Pridemore

ATLANTA — Georgia energy regulators Tuesday unanimously approved Georgia Power's plan to keep burning coal and gas to generate electricity, a move critics warned will increase rates to meet the unsubstantiated needs of data centers.

The state Public Service Commission (PSC) signed off on the Atlanta-based utility's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), outlining the mix of energy sources the company intends to rely on for power generation during the coming years. Although Tuesday's vote took place with virtually no discussion, it followed months of hearings on the plan, which Georgia Power submitted in January.

The IRP authorizes Georgia Power to produce at least 6,000 additional megawatts of generating capacity through 2031 and up to 8,500 megawatts if the utility demonstrates a need for it. To help meet that demand, the company plans to continue operating coal-burning plants at Plant Bowen near Cartersville and Plant Scherer near Macon and boost natural gas production at Plant McIntosh near Savannah.

The plan also commits Georgia Power to increasing its use of renewable energy through new utility-scale and rooftop solar projects as well as battery storage.

"As our state continues to grow and thrive, the approval of this comprehensive plan helps to ensure we have the resources and programs we need to reliably and economically meet the future energy needs of our customers," Kim Greene, chairman, president and CEO of Georgia Power, said after Tuesday's 5-0 vote.

"I'm grateful to everyone who helped develop this plan and participated in the process over the last six months, and to the Georgia PSC for its careful consideration and approval of a strategy that will help us deliver the energy Georgians need and deserve."

The company had planned to close all of its coal plants but decided the two Georgia plants and an additional coal plant in Alabama are still needed to help meet an unprecedented increase in generating capacity required to serve the rapid growth of power-hungry data centers springing up across Georgia.

"As data center construction continues in Georgia, this IRP puts us in a safe and secure spot to meet that energy demand," commission Chairman Jason Shaw said. "This long-term plan continues to strike a balance between reliability and affordability."

The PSC passed a rule in January aimed at making sure data centers and other "large-load" customers pick up the costs of the additional capacity they need rather than pass on those expenses to residential and small-business ratepayers. But legislation that would have given that mandate the authority of state law failed to gain traction in the General Assembly this year.

Two weeks ago, the commission approved Georgia Power's plan to freeze base rates for the next three years. However, the company still will be allowed to recover from customers its storm damage costs from Hurricane Helene as soon as next year.

Environmental groups that have opposed the IRP said Tuesday's vote will drive up electric rates while continued use of fossil fuels will harm both the environment and human health.

"The commissioners' reckless vote today means devastating costs and impacts are coming for the people of Georgia," said Neil Sardana, senior policy manager for the nonprofit Georgia Conservation Voters. "In 10 years, bills really could double if we continue down this path."

Opponents also argued the plan is based on unreliable projections of the need for a huge increase in generating capacity. They cited language in an agreement Georgia Power and the PSC's Public Interest Advocacy Staff reached last week endorsing the IRP that acknowledged the projections used to justify the utility's continued need for fossil fuels are uncertain.

Environmental advocates also charged Georgia Power with violating the terms of a previous agreement by abandoning a pledge to expand "demand-side management" programs through energy conservation initiatives.

"I am shocked that Georgia Power did not honor its commitment and heartbroken the commission did not step up and defend billpayers in this moment," said Jennifer Whitfield, a senor attorney in the Southern Environmental Law Center's Atlanta office. "The commission had an opportunity to give this plan a silver lining but instead left meaningful relief for Georgians on the table."

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**IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
NOTICE TO KENNESAW TAXPAYERS
CITY NOT INCREASING TAX RATES**

According to Georgia law, all taxing agencies must advertise a tax increase and hold three public hearings to claim taxes on reassessed properties even if the millage rate remains unchanged as is the case in Kennesaw. The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate equal to last year's millage of 9.25 mills.

Your Hometown Real Estate Company

JOHNNY WALKER REALTY

BEST OF COBB 2025

Call us today for all of your Real Estate needs!

678-626-0403 • 600 Kennesaw Ave., Ste 200, Marietta, GA 30060

4434 Oglethorpe Loop
$2,690,000
Exceptional estate is the prestigious Governors Towne Club.Contact Shannon VanHorn at 404-915-0857..

515 St Barbaras Lane
$1,650,000
Beautifully designed home and grounds, tucked away in premier Marietta location. Contact Johnny Walker at 404-993-9750.

278 N Marietta Pkwy
$1,150,000
Stately brick office building in central Marietta location w/ versatile floor plan. Contact Johnny at 404-993-9750.

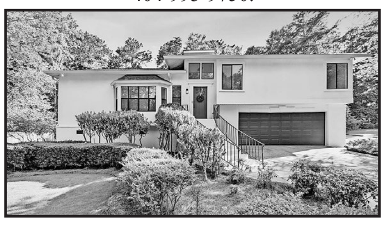
415 S Woodland Dr.
$1,049,999
Charming brick ranch in Whitlock Heights with large guest house & pool, adjacent to golf course. Contact Johnny at 404-993-9750.

4547 Meadow Green Ln
$785,000
Elegant home with luxurious amenities in Acworth's Great Oaks Estates. Contact Paige Walden at 770-841-0866.

946 Cornwall Ct
$695,000
Large home with versatile floorplan in Marietta City's Charlton Forge swim/tennis neighborhood. Contact Meg Burton at 678-749-3126.

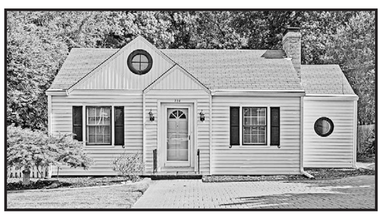
1241 Hightower Crossing
$659,900
Updated townhome with chef's kitchen in Marietta Walk neighborhood. Contact Shannon VanHorn at 404-915-0857.

605 Stone Field Run
$599,900
Meticulously maintained townhome in quaint Marietta Walk community. Contact Shannon VanHorn at 404-915-0857.



2010 Barnes Mill Rd
$550,000
Stunning contemporary home in highly desirable East Cobb community. Contact Keli Sanderson at 770-653-8362.

102-A S Cay Dr
$343,000
Brand new home on nearly an acre with seasonal lake views in Milledgeville. Contact Andrew Hairetis at 678-301-0065.



226 Polk St
$499,999
Adorable 1940's "Bell Bomber" bungalow, just half a mile from the Marietta Square. Contact Johnny Walker at 404-993-9750.

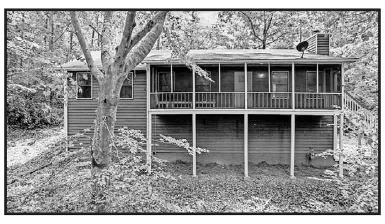
216 Laurelcrest Ln
$415,000
Beautiful home in Dallas with low interest, assumable loan! Contact Shannon VanHorn at 404-915-0857.

2362 St Davids Sq
$715,000
Luxurious, end unit townhome in The Overlook at Marietta CC's Winterfield Ct. Contact Shannon VanHorn at 404-915-0857.

388 Talcott Cir
$610,000
Mid-century brick ranch with a basement, on half an acre, just blocks from the Marietta Square. Contact Elizabeth Denney at 770-262-2893.

9470 Hillside Dr
$574,500
Spacious home in Roswell's coveted Martin's Landing neighborhood. Contact Kelly Sanderson at 770-653-8362.

3425-7 Villa Rica Hwy
$525,000
Investor property with commercial potential. Contact Liz Helenek at 404-805-5729.



5239 Ferry Creek Ln
$385,000
Charming 3-bedroom retreat with a basement on 1.5 wooded acres with a creek. Contact Angie Pfeuffer at 770-597-5740.

206 Five Iron Ct
$435,000
Great home with a flexible layout in North Cobb's Blue Springs swim/tennis neighborhood. Contact Katie Berry at 404-422-4810.

633 Tom Read Dr
$239,000
Fantastic find in City of Marietta - completely remodeled 2 bed/1bath home! Contact Brian McNair at 678-462-9932.

854 Parkway Dr
$325,000
Beautifully updated retreat in the heart of Smyrna. Contact Kelly Sanderson at 770-653-8362.

House sends $9B rescissions package to president's desk

By Rachel Oswald
CQ-Roll Call

Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP/Getty Images/TNS
Director of the US Office of Management and Budget Russell Vought speaks to reporters outside the West Wing of the White House on July 17.

WASHINGTON — The House early Friday narrowly cleared a package to cancel $9 billion in federal spending, the first time in decades lawmakers have agreed to a White House request to claw back funding previously approved by Congress.

The action marks a significant victory for the Trump administration and paves the way for future spending cancellations to be sent to Congress.

The vote, 216-213, would effectively cancel $7.9 billion in foreign aid funding and $1.1 billion in taxpayer support for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which provides grants to NPR and PBS. The package was a high priority for the Trump administration and would effectively codify cuts made by the Department of Government Efficiency, known as DOGE.

Lawmakers voted to adopt a rule that "deemed" the Senate-amended bill as having cleared the House, bypassing any need for further recorded votes. That maneuver sent the rescissions bill to President Donald Trump's desk, where he is expected to sign it quickly.

In the past, leaders of both parties have used the strategy as a way to avoid direct votes on politically contentious issues, such as raising the debt limit.

The last time Congress tried to pass a White House rescissions package was during Trump's first administration in 2018, when their efforts were derailed in the Senate by a surprise "no" vote from then-Sen. Richard M. Burr. The North Carolina Republican was displeased at the time with proposed cuts to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

This time, a small minority of Republican lawmakers — Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania and Michael R. Turner of Ohio — joined with all Democrats in the House to vote against the spending clawbacks, but GOP leaders managed to cobble together enough votes to bring the measure across the legislative finish line.

Congress cleared the package the day of the 45-day statutory deadline set out by the 1974 impoundment control law.

Still, the process in the House was not seamless. Floor action on the measure faced an hourslong delay Thursday as Republicans on the Rules Committee grappled with pressure from Democrats on a measure to provide for the release of Justice Department files on convicted sex-offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Democrats on the Rules panel have taken to forcing votes during recent markups in an effort to compel the release of information related to Epstein. Republicans sought to tamp down the issue by backing a resolution calling on the Justice Department to release the files. Shortly before GOP leaders secured the necessary support to move the resolution to the floor, Trump in a Truth Social post announced he would direct Attorney General Pamela Bondi to release relevant grand jury testimony.

Opponents of the rescissions package, including Democrats as well as a few moderate Republicans like Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, have lambasted the White House for not providing details on which specific foreign aid programs will lose funding from the spending clawbacks.

Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP/Getty Images/TNS
U.S. President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Bahraini Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad al-Khalifa in the Oval Office of the White House on July 16.

Trump diagnosed with vein condition

By Dave Goldiner
New York Daily News

President Donald Trump was diagnosed with a treatable medical condition known as chronic venous insufficiency after undergoing an unscheduled examination prompted by swelling in his ankles, the White House said Thursday.

Trump, 79, was deemed in "excellent health" and there was no sign of more serious health problems like heart failure or blood clots, said White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt.

CVI is a condition caused when veins in the legs become damaged and struggle to return blood back to the heart, causing fluid to pool in lower extremities, especially ankles.

It is fairly common among older people, especially those who are overweight like Trump.

The condition is not serious in itself but can be a warning sign of more serious heart conditions, which may be why Trump's doctors ordered more tests.

The tests showed no evidence of more serious conditions like deep vein thrombosis or arterial disease. An echocardiogram showed normal cardiac structure and function, Leavitt said, adding that all results from testing were "within normal limits."

"The president remains in excellent health," Leavitt said.

Doctors also examined bruising on the back of Trump's hands, which they attributed to regular aspirin usage that may have been worsened by frequent hand shaking.

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

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Times and places of additional public hearings on this increase are at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, August 4, 2025 at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 7.75 mills for M&O and 1.50 mills for Bond, an increase of 0.147 mills for M&O and 0.025 mills for Bond. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.603 mills for M&O and 1.475 mills for Bond. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of $375,000 is approximately $22 increase for M&O and $4 increase for Bond and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of $675,000 is approximately $40 increase for M&O and $7 increase for Bond.

NOTICE

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Kennesaw does hereby announce that the tax millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 will be set at a meeting of the Mayor and Council held in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA on August 4, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32, the City of Kennesaw does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2025 TAX DIGEST AND FIVE YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Real & Personal	1,626,627,090	1,740,178,425	2,018,309,824	2,293,915,007	2,497,672,724	2,666,756,393
Motor Vehicle	10,584,720	8,208,810	7,068,760	6,794,230	5,839,070	5,170,940
Mobile Homes	1,667,223	1,592,910	1,620,674	1,613,365	1,566,354	1,575,073
Timber - 100%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heavy Duty Equipment	30,741	7,873	87,115	36,503	32,339	34,181
Gross Tax Digest	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373	2,302,359,105	2,505,110,487	2,673,536,587
Less M&O Exemptions	334,808,625	321,498,717	466,305,125	537,172,801	609,207,363	618,024,011
Net M&O Digest	1,304,101,149	1,428,489,301	1,560,781,248	1,765,186,304	1,895,903,124	2,055,512,576
Gross M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75	7.75
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00
Net M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75	7.75	7.75
Net M&O Taxes Levied	10,432,809	11,427,914	12,486,250	13,680,194	14,693,249	15,930,222
Gross Tax Digest	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373	2,302,359,105	2,505,110,487	2,673,536,587
Less Bond Exemptions	229,834,718	192,887,844	251,473,580	265,480,930	289,439,587	300,736,582
Net Bond Digest	1,409,075,056	1,557,100,174	1,775,612,793	2,036,878,175	2,215,670,900	2,372,800,005
Gross Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Net Bond Taxes Levied	2,113,613	2,335,650	2,663,419	3,055,317	3,323,506	3,559,200
Net M&O Taxes $ Increase	610,502	995,105	1,058,336	1,193,944	1,013,055	1,236,973
Net M&O Taxes % Increase	6.2%	9.5%	9.3%	9.6%	7.4%	8.4%
Net Bond Taxes $ Increase	137,796	222,037	327,769	391,898	268,189	235,694
Net Bond Taxes % Increase	7.0%	10.5%	14.0%	14.7%	8.8%	7.1%

All concerned citizens are invited to public hearings held at the Kennesaw City Hall Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw GA on the dates and times below:
Monday, July 28, 2025 6:00 PM (Special Called Meeting)
Monday, August 4, 2025 10:30 AM (Special Called Meeting) and 6:30 PM (Final Adoption)

'Kimmel is next': Trump gloats after cancellation of Colbert's 'Late Show'

By Lauren Harvey
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — President Donald Trump is celebrating the cancellation of Stephen Colbert's "The Late Show" on CBS — and calling for even more late-night hosts to be axed.

"I absolutely love that Colbert got fired. His talent was even less than his ratings," Trump wrote Friday morning on Truth Social. "I hear Jimmy Kimmel is next. Has even less talent than Colbert!"

He added that Greg Gutfeld, who has a late-night show and co-hosts "The Five" on Fox News, "is better than all of them combined, including the Moron on NBC who ruined the once great Tonight Show," referring to Jimmy Fallon.

Although "Late Night" is the top-rated late-night broadcast show, "Gutfeld!" draws a bigger audience.

Colbert, 61, has hosted the show for a decade and shared the news of its cancellation Thursday night, noting that he was made aware of the decision only the night before. "The Late Show" will end in May.

"It's not just the end of our show, but it's the end of 'The Late Show' on CBS," Colbert said. "I'm not being replaced. This is all just going away."

CBS said the decision was "purely financial." The cancellation comes after Colbert criticized the network's parent company, Paramount Global, for settling a lawsuit filed by Trump last year over the editing of a "60 Minutes" interview with Kamala Harris. Colbert called the $16-million settlement a "big fat bribe" Monday night, noting that Paramount is awaiting federal approval for its $8-billion merger with Skydance Media.

Both branches of the Writers Guild called on New York Atty. Gen. Letitia James to investigate Paramount.

Three weeks later, Trump administration gives Georgia its afterschool money

By Ty Tagami
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Federal dollars that Georgia has been counting on to cover afterschool program costs have been disbursed.

The administration of President Donald Trump was expected to release funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program July 1 but withheld it until this week.

State School Superintendent Richard Woods had been calling on the federal government to release the money since early July.

"I deeply believe in fiscal responsibility, which means evaluating the use of funds and seeking out efficiencies, but also means being responsible — releasing funds already approved by Congress and signed by President Trump," Woods said July 7. He repeated that message last Friday upon hearing reports that the money would be released Monday.

Monday came and went, but the Georgia Department of Education said it had not yet received the money.

Finally on Wednesday, the agency confirmed receipt of its $40.6 million share.

Nationally, the program serves about 1.4 million youths through state education grants that are in turn paid for with about $1.4 billion from the federal government, according to the Afterschool Alliance.

It is the largest single funding source for a program that provides afterschool learning for more than 27,000 youths in at least 230 Georgia communities, according to the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network. The organization attributed the administration's decision to release the funds to a collective effort by parents, program leaders, youth advocates, "community champions" and bipartisan efforts by lawmakers.

"Working parents in particular are breathing an enormous sigh of relief," the group added.

Last Friday, while still awaiting the funds, Woods underscored how important that money is.

"With a new school year about to begin," he said, "it's critical that all approved funds are made available to ensure students start strong and educators have the support they need."

Staff - File

In this October 2024 photo, Donald Trump speaks to supporters at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.

Staff - File

Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John King speaks at Cobb County Republican Women's Club luncheon in May 2023.

New Georgia Senate panel to take up abolishing state income tax

By Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

Staff - File

State Sen. Blake Tillery, R-Vidalia, addresses the crowd at the Cobb GOP's July Fourth 2025 BBQ in Kennesaw.

ATLANTA — The state Senate is about to begin laying the groundwork for making Georgia the 10th state with no income tax.

Sen. Blake Tillery, R-Vidalia, who chairs the budget-writing Senate Appropriations Committee, announced plans Thursday for a series of hearings a newly created committee will hold later this summer and fall to pave the way for him to introduce legislation during the 2026 General Assembly session to eliminate Georgia's income tax.

"This is about competitiveness, economic freedom, and letting hardworking Georgians keep their money in their pockets," Tillery said during a news conference inside the state Capitol.

Tillery will chair the new Senate Committee on Eliminating Georgia's Income Tax, which will include eight Republican senators and three Democrats. The panel is being formed by Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, the Senate's presiding officer, who has pledged to make getting rid of the state income tax a key platform plank as he seeks the GOP nomination for governor next year.

Georgia Republicans have long made reducing the tax a major priority but have stopped short of abolishing it altogether. This year, the legislature's Republican majorities passed a bill backed by GOP Gov. Brian Kemp that cut the income tax rate from 5.39% to 5.19% retroactive to the beginning of the current tax year.

Various proposals to repeal the tax that have sounded good on the campaign trail have prompted concerns over how to replace the lost tax revenue. States that don't have an income tax have tended to offset that revenue with higher sales taxes.

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"We've got plenty of ideas to choose from," he said.

The committee will have until Dec. 15 to report its findings and recommendations to the full Senate.

GOP contender suspends U.S. Senate rate

By Ty Tagami
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"Right now it's clear there's little path forward to the nomination," King said on social media site X Thursday.

The retired major general in the U.S. Army National Guard and former police chief was the first GOP official elected statewide to join the race. Elected Georgia's insurance and safety fire commissioner three years ago, King announced in May that he would challenge U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter of St. Simons in the Senate GOP primary.

Carter had jumped into the race days after Gov. Brian Kemp announced he would not be running against Ossoff, opening the Republican primary.

The names of other potential GOP candidates have been tossed around, but so far no one else has stepped up to challenge Carter.

King was already behind on campaign fundraising. He and Carter reported gathering a similar amount from donors in their April through June federal filings, but Carter loaned his own campaign another couple million dollars, putting him well ahead of King.

Neither could match Ossoff's fundraising prowess. The Democrat collected more than $10 million during that same period, ending the second quarter with over $15 million.

More Republicans could jump in, including college and pro football coach Derek Dooley. The son of legendary Bulldogs coach Vince Dooley is rumored to be favored by Kemp.

King, meanwhile, will run for re-election to his state post.

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Superior
PLUMBING

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
NOTICE TO KENNESAW TAXPAYERS
CITY NOT INCREASING TAX RATES

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Staff - File

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SIMPLY Superior PLUMBING

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City of Kennesaw, GA

Item Report

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM: Jennifer Gordy, Finance Director

DATE: July 28, 2025

TITLE: **First Public Hearing: Bond Millage Rate**
Consideration to approve a Resolution adopting the Bond Millage Rate.

Summary:
The City of Kennesaw is proposing a millage rate of 1.5 for the Bond, which is the same as last year. The Bond millage rate is levied to fund the debt service on the $15 million Recreation and Traffic Safety Bonds that were approved by the voters on September 21, 2004. The dates of the public hearings and the Current 2025 Tax Digest and 5-Year History of Levy were properly advertised in the Marietta Daily Journal on July 19, 2025, whereas the other advertisements were published on both July 19 and 26, 2025, in accordance with O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32. The second and third public hearings will take place on August 4, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., respectively.

Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:
1. RES 2025- Bond Millage Rate Adoption
2. 2. Advertisement of current & 5 year history and adoption date-Kennesaw Tax Year 2025 FY 26 no rollback
3. 3. Notice of Property Tax Increase Ad Tax Year 2025 FY26 UPDATED 7.1.25
4. 4. Additional Ad 2025
5. 5. Press Release Notice of Property Tax IncreaseTY 2025 FY26
6. 2025-07-19 Propert Tax Ad - Five Year Digest & Notice of Tax Increase
7. 2025-07-19 Property Tax Ad - City Not Increasing Tax Rates
8. 2025-07-19 Property Tax Ad - Notice of Tax Increase
9. 2025-07-26 Property Tax Ad - City Not Increasing Taxes
10. 2025-07-26 Property Tax Ad - Notice of Tax Increase

CITY OF KENNESAW
GEORGIA

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-

RESOLUTION OF THE KENNESAW CITY COUNCIL TO ESTABLISH THE BOND MILLAGE RATE FOR THE CITY OF KENNESAW FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF KENNESAW, COBB COUNTY, GEORGIA, AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, the City of Kennesaw, Georgia desires to establish its ad valorem tax millage rate for the fiscal year 2025-2026; and

WHEREAS, the governing authority has advertised its intent to establish said millage rate by placing an advertisement conforming to O.C.G.A. §48-5-32(c) in a newspaper of general circulation of Cobb County serving the residents of the City of Kennesaw, said advertisement appearing two (2) weeks prior to the hearing at which said millage rate is to be considered; and

WHEREAS, the public hearings required by O.C.G.A. §48-5-32(c) were duly held on July 28, 2025, and August 4, 2025, prior to the adoption of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Bond millage rate has been calculated by the governing authority to be 1.5 mills and the final millage rate for Maintenance & Operation (M&O) will be adopted by separate resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Kennesaw City Council does hereby establish the bond millage rate for the City of Kennesaw, Georgia, ad valorem property tax, for the 2025-2026 fiscal year at 1.5 mills.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Kennesaw City Council on this __ day of August 2025.

ATTEST: CITY OF KENNESAW

__________________________ __________________________

Lea Alvarez, City Clerk Derek Easterling, Mayor

NOTICE

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Kennesaw does hereby announce that the tax millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 will be set at a meeting of the Mayor and Council held in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA on August 4, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32, the City of Kennesaw does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2025 TAX DIGEST AND FIVE YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Real & Personal	1,626,627,090	1,740,178,425	2,018,309,824	2,293,915,007	2,497,672,724	2,666,756,393
Motor Vehicle	10,584,720	8,208,810	7,068,760	6,794,230	5,839,070	5,170,940
Mobile Homes	1,667,223	1,592,910	1,620,674	1,613,365	1,566,354	1,575,073
Timber - 100%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heavy Duty Equipment	30,741	7,873	87,115	36,503	32,339	34,181
Gross Tax Digest	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373	2,302,359,105	2,505,110,487	2,673,536,587
Less M&O Exemptions	334,808,625	321,498,717	466,305,125	537,172,801	609,207,363	618,024,011
Net M&O Digest	1,304,101,149	1,428,489,301	1,560,781,248	1,765,186,304	1,895,903,124	2,055,512,576
Gross M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75	7.75
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00
Net M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75	7.75	7.75
Net M&O Taxes Levied	10,432,809	11,427,914	12,486,250	13,680,194	14,693,249	15,930,222
Gross Tax Digest	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373	2,302,359,105	2,505,110,487	2,673,536,587
Less Bond Exemptions	229,834,718	192,887,844	251,473,580	265,480,930	289,439,587	300,736,582
Net Bond Digest	1,409,075,056	1,557,100,174	1,775,612,793	2,036,878,175	2,215,670,900	2,372,800,005
Gross Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Net Bond Taxes Levied	2,113,613	2,335,650	2,663,419	3,055,317	3,323,506	3,559,200
Net M&O Taxes $ Increase	610,502	995,105	1,058,336	1,193,944	1,013,055	1,236,973
Net M&O Taxes % Increase	6.2%	9.5%	9.3%	9.6%	7.4%	8.4%
Net Bond Taxes $ Increase	137,796	222,037	327,769	391,898	268,189	235,694
Net Bond Taxes % Increase	7.0%	10.5%	14.0%	14.7%	8.8%	7.1%

All concerned citizens are invited to public hearings held at the Kennesaw City Hall Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw GA on the dates and times below:
Monday, July 28, 2025 6:00 PM (Special Called Meeting)
Monday, August 4, 2025 10:30 AM (Special Called Meeting) and 6:30 PM (Final Adoption)

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 1.93 percent for M&O and 1.69 percent for Bond.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this tax increase to be held at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, July 28, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

Times and places of additional public hearings on this increase are at Kennesaw City Hall Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on Monday, August 4, 2025 at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 7.75 mills for M&O and 1.50 mills for Bond, an increase of 0.147 mills for M&O and 0.025 mills for Bond. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.603 mills for M&O and 1.475 mills for Bond. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of $375,000 is approximately $22 increase for M&O and $4 increase for Bond and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of $675,000 is approximately $40 increase for M&O and $7 increase for Bond.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
NOTICE TO KENNESAW TAXPAYERS
CITY NOT INCREASING TAX RATES

According to Georgia law, all taxing agencies must advertise a tax increase and hold three public hearings to claim taxes on reassessed properties even if the millage rate remains unchanged as is the case in Kennesaw. The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate equal to last year's millage of 9.25 mills.

PRESS RELEASE ANNOUNCING PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The City of Kennesaw today announces its intention to increase the 2025 property taxes it will levy this year by 1.93 percent for M&O and 1.69 percent for Bond over the rollback millage rate.

Each year, the board of tax assessors is required to review the assessed value for property tax purposes of taxable property in the county. When the trend of prices on properties that have recently sold in the county indicate there has been an increase in the fair market value of any specific property, the board tax assessors is required by law to re-determine the value of such property and adjust the assessment. This is called a reassessment.

When the total digest of taxable property is prepared, Georgia law requires that a rollback millage rate must be computed that will produce the same total revenue on the current year's digest that last year's millage rate would have produced had no reassessments occurred.

The budget tentatively adopted by the City of Kennesaw Council requires a millage rate higher than the rollback millage rate; therefore, before the City of Kennesaw Council may finalize the tentative budget and set a final millage rate, Georgia law requires three public hearings to be held to allow the public an opportunity to express their opinions on the increase.

All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearings on this tax increase to be held at the City of Kennesaw Council Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, Georgia on July 28, 2025 at 6:00 PM and August 4, 2025 at 10:30 AM and 6:30 PM.

House sends $9B rescissions package to president's desk

By Rachel Oswald
CQ-Roll Call

Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP/Getty Images/TNS

Director of the US Office of Management and Budget Russell Vought speaks to reporters outside the West Wing of the White House on July 17.

WASHINGTON — The House early Friday narrowly cleared a package to cancel $9 billion in federal spending, the first time in decades lawmakers have agreed to a White House request to claw back funding previously approved by Congress.

The action marks a significant victory for the Trump administration and paves the way for future spending cancellations to be sent to Congress.

The vote, 216-213, would effectively cancel $7.9 billion in foreign aid funding and $1.1 billion in taxpayer support for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which provides grants to NPR and PBS. The package was a high priority for the Trump administration and would effectively codify cuts made by the Department of Government Efficiency, known as DOGE.

Lawmakers voted to adopt a rule that "deemed" the Senate-amended bill as having cleared the House, bypassing any need for further recorded votes. That maneuver sent the rescissions bill to President Donald Trump's desk, where he is expected to sign it quickly.

In the past, leaders of both parties have used the strategy as a way to avoid direct votes on politically contentious issues, such as raising the debt limit.

The last time Congress tried to pass a White House rescissions package was during Trump's first administration in 2018, when their efforts were derailed in the Senate by a surprise "no" vote from then-Sen. Richard M. Burr. The North Carolina Republican was displeased at the time with proposed cuts to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

This time, a small minority of Republican lawmakers — Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania and Michael R. Turner of Ohio — joined with all Democrats in the House to vote against the spending clawbacks, but GOP leaders managed to cobble together enough votes to bring the measure across the legislative finish line.

Congress cleared the package the day of the 45-day statutory deadline set out by the 1974 impoundment control law.

Still, the process in the House was not seamless. Floor action on the measure faced an hourslong delay Thursday as Republicans on the Rules Committee grappled with pressure from Democrats on a measure to provide for the release of Justice Department files on convicted sex-offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Democrats on the Rules panel have taken to forcing votes during recent markups in an effort to compel the release of information related to Epstein. Republicans sought to tamp down the issue by backing a resolution calling on the Justice Department to release the files. Shortly before GOP leaders secured the necessary support to move the resolution to the floor, Trump in a Truth Social post announced he would direct Attorney General Pamela Bondi to release relevant grand jury testimony.

Opponents of the rescissions package, including Democrats as well as a few moderate Republicans like Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, have lambasted the White House for not providing details on which specific foreign aid programs will lose funding from the spending clawbacks.

Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP/Getty Images/TNS

U.S. President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Bahraini Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad al-Khalifa in the Oval Office of the White House on July 16.

Trump diagnosed with vein condition

By Dave Goldiner
New York Daily News

President Donald Trump was diagnosed with a treatable medical condition known as chronic venous insufficiency after undergoing an unscheduled examination prompted by swelling in his ankles, the White House said Thursday.

Trump, 79, was deemed in "excellent health" and there was no sign of more serious health problems like heart failure or blood clots, said White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt.

CVI is a condition caused when veins in the legs become damaged and struggle to return blood back to the heart, causing fluid to pool in lower extremities, especially ankles.

It is fairly common among older people, especially those who are overweight like Trump.

The condition is not serious in itself but can be a warning sign of more serious heart conditions, which may be why Trump's doctors ordered more tests.

The tests showed no evidence of more serious conditions like deep vein thrombosis or arterial disease. An echocardiogram showed normal cardiac structure and function, Leavitt said, adding that all results from testing were "within normal limits."

"The president remains in excellent health," Leavitt said.

Doctors also examined bruising on the back of Trump's hands, which they attributed to regular aspirin usage that may have been worsened by frequent hand shaking.

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'Kimmel is next': Trump gloats after cancellation of Colbert's 'Late Show'

By Lauren Harvey
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — President Donald Trump is celebrating the cancellation of Stephen Colbert's "The Late Show" on CBS — and calling for even more late-night hosts to be axed.

"I absolutely love that Colbert got fired. His talent was even less than his ratings," Trump wrote Friday morning on Truth Social. "I hear Jimmy Kimmel is next. Has even less talent than Colbert!"

He added that Greg Gutfeld, who has a late-night show and co-hosts "The Five" on Fox News, "is better than all of them combined, including the Moron on NBC who ruined the once great Tonight Show," referring to Jimmy Fallon.

Although "Late Night" is the top-rated late-night broadcast show, "Gutfeld!" draws a bigger audience.

Colbert, 61, has hosted the show for a decade and shared the news of its cancellation Thursday night, noting that he was made aware of the decision only the night before. "The Late Show" will end in May.

"It's not just the end of our show, but it's the end of 'The Late Show' on CBS," Colbert said. "I'm not being replaced. This is all just going away."

CBS said the decision was "purely financial." The cancellation comes after Colbert criticized the network's parent company, Paramount Global, for settling a lawsuit filed by Trump last year over the editing of a "60 Minutes" interview with Kamala Harris. Colbert called the $16-million settlement a "big fat bribe" Monday night, noting that Paramount is awaiting federal approval for its $8-billion merger with Skydance Media.

Both branches of the Writers Guild called on New York Atty. Gen. Letitia James to investigate Paramount.


Dave Killen/oregonlive.com/TNS
An aerial view of an Amazon data center near Boardman, Oregon.

State pausing reviews of data center plans

By Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — An Atlanta-based environmental advocate is criticizing the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' (DCA) decision to pause state reviews of new data center proposals.

While the decision will not stop local governments from approving data center projects, it will rob local water planners of the state's valuable input, Chris Manganiello, water policy director for the nonprofit group Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, said Thursday.

"Rather than the state helping regions think through this stuff, it's going to leave planners flying blind," he said. "We'll end up with a patchwork of moratoria and ordinances at the local level addressing data center development."

Manganiello's comments came during the kickoff meeting of a Georgia House subcommittee examining the potential impacts of the growing number of data centers springing up across the state on water use. A second subcommittee is looking at how data centers are likely to affect consumption of electricity.

Data centers have exploded so quickly that elected officials in DeKalb, Coweta, Douglas, and Bartow counties have imposed moratoria on new projects. The Atlanta City Council voted last month to prohibit data centers from setting up in some neighborhoods and require developers to seek a special-use permit for construction.

Danny Johnson, director of the Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District, told water subcommittee members more than 50 data centers are operating currently in Georgia while more than 40 more have been proposed.

Data centers use huge quantities of water, with a typical data center consuming the same amount of water per day as the cities of Marietta or Valdosta, he said.

However, data center developers have proven willing to install water-saving strategies including "closed-loop cooling" to reduce their water consumption, even though such technology is expensive.

Fossil fuels will remain part of Ga. Power energy-supply mix

By Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Georgia energy regulators Tuesday unanimously approved Georgia Power's plan to keep burning coal and gas to generate electricity, a move critics warned will increase rates to meet the unsubstantiated needs of data centers.

The state Public Service Commission (PSC) signed off on the Atlanta-based utility's 2025 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP), outlining the mix of energy sources the company intends to rely on for power generation during the coming years. Although Tuesday's vote took place with virtually no discussion, it followed months of hearings on the plan, which Georgia Power submitted in January.

The IRP authorizes Georgia Power to produce at least 6,000 additional megawatts of generating capacity through 2031 and up to 8,500 megawatts if the utility demonstrates a need for it. To help meet that demand, the company plans to continue operating coal-burning plants at Plant Bowen near Cartersville and Plant Scherer near Macon and boost natural gas production at Plant McIntosh near Savannah.

The plan also commits Georgia Power to increasing its use of renewable energy through new utility-scale and rooftop solar projects as well as battery storage.

"As our state continues to grow and thrive, the approval of this comprehensive plan helps to ensure we have the resources and programs we need to reliably and economically meet the future energy needs of our customers," Kim Greene, chairman, president and CEO of Georgia Power, said after Tuesday's 5-0 vote.

"I'm grateful to everyone who helped develop this plan and participated in the process over the last six months, and to the Georgia PSC for its careful consideration and approval of a strategy that will help us deliver the energy Georgians need and deserve."

The company had planned to close all of its coal plants but decided the two Georgia plants and an additional coal plant in Alabama are still needed to help meet an unprecedented increase in generating capacity required to serve the rapid growth of power-hungry data centers springing up across Georgia.

"As data center construction continues in Georgia, this IRP puts us in a safe and secure spot to meet that energy demand," commission Chairman Jason Shaw said. "This long-term plan continues to strike a balance between reliability and affordability."

The PSC passed a rule in January aimed at making sure data centers and other "large-load" customers pick up the costs of the additional capacity they need rather than pass on those expenses to residential and small-business ratepayers. But legislation that would have given that mandate the authority of state law failed to gain traction in the General Assembly this year.

Two weeks ago, the commission approved Georgia Power's plan to freeze base rates for the next three years. However, the company still will be allowed to recover from customers its storm damage costs from Hurricane Helene as soon as next year.

Environmental groups that have opposed the IRP said Tuesday's vote will drive up electric rates while continued use of fossil fuels will harm both the environment and human health.

"The commissioners' reckless vote today means devastating costs and impacts are coming for the people of Georgia," said Neil Sardana, senior policy manager for the nonprofit Georgia Conservation Voters. "In 10 years, bills really could double if we continue down this path."

Opponents also argued the plan is based on unreliable projections of the need for a huge increase in generating capacity. They cited language in an agreement Georgia Power and the PSC's Public Interest Advocacy Staff reached last week endorsing the IRP that acknowledged the projections used to justify the utility's continued need for fossil fuels are uncertain.

Environmental advocates also charged Georgia Power with violating the terms of a previous agreement by abandoning a pledge to expand "demand-side management" programs through energy conservation initiatives.

"I am shocked that Georgia Power did not honor its commitment and heartbroken the commission did not step up and defend billpayers in this moment," said Jennifer Whitfield, a senor attorney in the Southern Environmental Law Center's Atlanta office. "The commission had an opportunity to give this plan a silver lining but instead left meaningful relief for Georgians on the table."

Meet the Commission


Jason Shaw, Chairman · Tim Echols, Vice Chairman · Fitz Johnson · Lauren McDonald · Tricia Pridemore

SIMPLY
Superior PLUMBING

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOTICE TO KENNESAW TAXPAYERS CITY NOT INCREASING TAX RATES

According to Georgia law, all taxing agencies must advertise a tax increase and hold three public hearings to claim taxes on reassessed properties even if the millage rate remains unchanged as is the case in Kennesaw. The City of Kennesaw has tentatively adopted a millage rate equal to last year's millage of 9.25 mills.

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BEST OF COBB 2025

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4434 Oglethorpe Loop
$2,690,000
Exceptional estate is the prestigious Governors Towne Club.Contact Shannon VanHorn at 404-915-0857..


515 St Barbaras Lane
$1,650,000
Beautifully designed home and grounds, tucked away in premier Marietta location. Contact Johnny Walker at 404-993-9750.


278 N Marietta Pkwy
$1,150,000
Stately brick office building in central Marietta location w/ versatile floor plan. Contact Johnny at 404-993-9750.

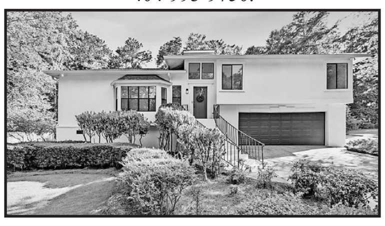

415 S Woodland Dr.
$1,049,999
Charming brick ranch in Whitlock Heights with large guest house & pool, adjacent to golf course. Contact Johnny at 404-993-9750.


4547 Meadow Green Ln
$785,000
Elegant home with luxurious amenities in Acworth's Great Oaks Estates. Contact Paige Walden at 770-841-0866.

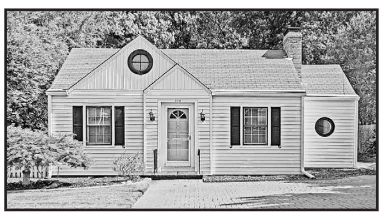

946 Cornwall Ct
$695,000
Large home with versatile floorplan in Marietta City's Charlton Forge swim/tennis neighborhood. Contact Meg Burton at 678-749-3126.


1241 Hightower Crossing
$659,900
Updated townhome with chef's kitchen in Marietta Walk neighborhood. Contact Shannon VanHorn at 404-915-0857.


605 Stone Field Run
$599,900
Meticulously maintained townhome in quaint Marietta Walk community. Contact Shannon VanHorn at 404-915-0857.


2010 Barnes Mill Rd
$550,000
Stunning contemporary home in highly desirable East Cobb community. Contact Keli Sanderson at 770-653-8362.


102-A S Cay Dr
$343,000
Brand new home on nearly an acre with seasonal lake views in Milledgeville. Contact Andrew Hairetis at 678-301-0065.


226 Polk St
$499,999
Adorable 1940's "Bell Bomber" bungalow, just half a mile from the Marietta Square. Contact Johnny Walker at 404-993-9750.

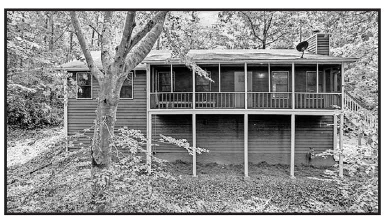

216 Laurelcrest Ln
$415,000
Beautiful home in Dallas with low interest, assumable loan! Contact Shannon VanHorn at 404-915-0857.


2362 St Davids Sq
$715,000
Luxurious, end unit townhome in The Overlook at Marietta CC's Winterfield Ct. Contact Shannon VanHorn at 404-915-0857.


388 Talcott Cir
$610,000
Mid-century brick ranch with a basement, on half an acre, just blocks from the Marietta Square. Contact Elizabeth Denney at 770-262-2893.


9470 Hillside Dr
$574,500
Spacious home in Roswell's coveted Martin's Landing neighborhood. Contact Kelly Sanderson at 770-653-8362.


3425-7 Villa Rica Hwy
$525,000
Investor property with commercial potential. Contact Liz Helenek at 404-805-5729.


5239 Ferry Creek Ln
$385,000
Charming 3-bedroom retreat with a basement on 1.5 wooded acres with a creek. Contact Angie Pfeuffer at 770-597-5740.


206 Five Iron Ct
$435,000
Great home with a flexible layout in North Cobb's Blue Springs swim/tennis neighborhood. Contact Katie Berry at 404-422-4810.


633 Tom Read Dr
$239,000
Fantastic find in City of Marietta - completely remodeled 2 bed/1bath home! Contact Brian McNair at 678-462-9932.

854 Parkway Dr
$325,000
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House sends $9B rescissions package to president's desk

By Rachel Oswald
CQ-Roll Call

Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP/Getty Images/TNS
Director of the US Office of Management and Budget Russell Vought speaks to reporters outside the West Wing of the White House on July 17.

WASHINGTON — The House early Friday narrowly cleared a package to cancel $9 billion in federal spending, the first time in decades lawmakers have agreed to a White House request to claw back funding previously approved by Congress.

The action marks a significant victory for the Trump administration and paves the way for future spending cancellations to be sent to Congress.

The vote, 216-213, would effectively cancel $7.9 billion in foreign aid funding and $1.1 billion in taxpayer support for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which provides grants to NPR and PBS. The package was a high priority for the Trump administration and would effectively codify cuts made by the Department of Government Efficiency, known as DOGE.

Lawmakers voted to adopt a rule that "deemed" the Senate-amended bill as having cleared the House, bypassing any need for further recorded votes. That maneuver sent the rescissions bill to President Donald Trump's desk, where he is expected to sign it quickly.

In the past, leaders of both parties have used the strategy as a way to avoid direct votes on politically contentious issues, such as raising the debt limit.

The last time Congress tried to pass a White House rescissions package was during Trump's first administration in 2018, when their efforts were derailed in the Senate by a surprise "no" vote from then-Sen. Richard M. Burr. The North Carolina Republican was displeased at the time with proposed cuts to the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

This time, a small minority of Republican lawmakers — Brian Fitzpatrick of Pennsylvania and Michael R. Turner of Ohio — joined with all Democrats in the House to vote against the spending clawbacks, but GOP leaders managed to cobble together enough votes to bring the measure across the legislative finish line.

Congress cleared the package the day of the 45-day statutory deadline set out by the 1974 impoundment control law.

Still, the process in the House was not seamless. Floor action on the measure faced an hourslong delay Thursday as Republicans on the Rules Committee grappled with pressure from Democrats on a measure to provide for the release of Justice Department files on convicted sex-offender Jeffrey Epstein.

Democrats on the Rules panel have taken to forcing votes during recent markups in an effort to compel the release of information related to Epstein. Republicans sought to tamp down the issue by backing a resolution calling on the Justice Department to release the files. Shortly before GOP leaders secured the necessary support to move the resolution to the floor, Trump in a Truth Social post announced he would direct Attorney General Pamela Bondi to release relevant grand jury testimony.

Opponents of the rescissions package, including Democrats as well as a few moderate Republicans like Sens. Susan Collins of Maine and Lisa Murkowski of Alaska, have lambasted the White House for not providing details on which specific foreign aid programs will lose funding from the spending clawbacks.

Andrew Caballero-Reynolds/AFP/Getty Images/TNS
U.S. President Donald Trump speaks during a meeting with Bahraini Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad al-Khalifa in the Oval Office of the White House on July 16.

Trump diagnosed with vein condition

By Dave Goldiner
New York Daily News

President Donald Trump was diagnosed with a treatable medical condition known as chronic venous insufficiency after undergoing an unscheduled examination prompted by swelling in his ankles, the White House said Thursday.

Trump, 79, was deemed in "excellent health" and there was no sign of more serious health problems like heart failure or blood clots, said White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt.

CVI is a condition caused when veins in the legs become damaged and struggle to return blood back to the heart, causing fluid to pool in lower extremities, especially ankles.

It is fairly common among older people, especially those who are overweight like Trump.

The condition is not serious in itself but can be a warning sign of more serious heart conditions, which may be why Trump's doctors ordered more tests.

The tests showed no evidence of more serious conditions like deep vein thrombosis or arterial disease. An echocardiogram showed normal cardiac structure and function, Leavitt said, adding that all results from testing were "within normal limits."

"The president remains in excellent health," Leavitt said.

Doctors also examined bruising on the back of Trump's hands, which they attributed to regular aspirin usage that may have been worsened by frequent hand shaking.

'Kimmel is next': Trump gloats after cancellation of Colbert's 'Late Show'

By Lauren Harvey
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — President Donald Trump is celebrating the cancellation of Stephen Colbert's "The Late Show" on CBS — and calling for even more late-night hosts to be axed.

"I absolutely love that Colbert got fired. His talent was even less than his ratings," Trump wrote Friday morning on Truth Social. "I hear Jimmy Kimmel is next. Has even less talent than Colbert!"

He added that Greg Gutfeld, who has a late-night show and co-hosts "The Five" on Fox News, "is better than all of them combined, including the Moron on NBC who ruined the once great Tonight Show," referring to Jimmy Fallon.

Although "Late Night" is the top-rated late-night broadcast show, "Gutfeld!" draws a bigger audience.

Colbert, 61, has hosted the show for a decade and shared the news of its cancellation Thursday night, noting that he was made aware of the decision only the night before. "The Late Show" will end in May.

"It's not just the end of our show, but it's the end of 'The Late Show' on CBS," Colbert said. "I'm not being replaced. This is all just going away."

CBS said the decision was "purely financial." The cancellation comes after Colbert criticized the network's parent company, Paramount Global, for settling a lawsuit filed by Trump last year over the editing of a "60 Minutes" interview with Kamala Harris. Colbert called the $16-million settlement a "big fat bribe" Monday night, noting that Paramount is awaiting federal approval for its $8-billion merger with Skydance Media.

Both branches of the Writers Guild called on New York Atty. Gen. Letitia James to investigate Paramount.

NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

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This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 7.75 mills for M&O and 1.50 mills for Bond, an increase of 0.147 mills for M&O and 0.025 mills for Bond. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 7.603 mills for M&O and 1.475 mills for Bond. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of $375,000 is approximately $22 increase for M&O and $4 increase for Bond and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of $675,000 is approximately $40 increase for M&O and $7 increase for Bond.

NOTICE

The Mayor and City Council of the City of Kennesaw does hereby announce that the tax millage rate for Fiscal Year 2026 will be set at a meeting of the Mayor and Council held in the Council Chambers of City Hall at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw, GA on August 4, 2025 at 6:30 PM. Pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. Section 48-5-32, the City of Kennesaw does hereby publish the following presentation of the current year's tax digest and levy, along with the history of the tax digest and levy for the past five years.

CURRENT 2025 TAX DIGEST AND FIVE YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Real & Personal	1,626,627,090	1,740,178,425	2,018,309,824	2,293,915,007	2,497,672,724	2,666,756,393
Motor Vehicle	10,584,720	8,208,810	7,068,760	6,794,230	5,839,070	5,170,940
Mobile Homes	1,667,223	1,592,910	1,620,674	1,613,365	1,566,354	1,575,073
Timber - 100%	0	0	0	0	0	0
Heavy Duty Equipment	30,741	7,873	87,115	36,503	32,339	34,181
Gross Tax Digest	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373	2,302,359,105	2,505,110,487	2,673,536,587
Less M&O Exemptions	334,808,625	321,498,717	466,305,125	537,172,801	609,207,363	618,024,011
Net M&O Digest	1,304,101,149	1,428,489,301	1,560,781,248	1,765,186,304	1,895,903,124	2,055,512,576
Gross M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75	7.75
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.25	0.00	0.00
Net M&O Millage Rate	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.75	7.75	7.75
Net M&O Taxes Levied	10,432,809	11,427,914	12,486,250	13,680,194	14,693,249	15,930,222
Gross Tax Digest	1,638,909,774	1,749,988,018	2,027,086,373	2,302,359,105	2,505,110,487	2,673,536,587
Less Bond Exemptions	229,834,718	192,887,844	251,473,580	265,480,930	289,439,587	300,736,582
Net Bond Digest	1,409,075,056	1,557,100,174	1,775,612,793	2,036,878,175	2,215,670,900	2,372,800,005
Gross Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Less Millage Rate Rollbacks	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Net Bond Millage Rate	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50
Net Bond Taxes Levied	2,113,613	2,335,650	2,663,419	3,055,317	3,323,506	3,559,200
Net M&O Taxes $ Increase	610,502	995,105	1,058,336	1,193,944	1,013,055	1,236,973
Net M&O Taxes % Increase	6.2%	9.5%	9.3%	9.6%	7.4%	8.4%
Net Bond Taxes $ Increase	137,796	222,037	327,769	391,898	268,189	235,694
Net Bond Taxes % Increase	7.0%	10.5%	14.0%	14.7%	8.8%	7.1%

All concerned citizens are invited to public hearings held at the Kennesaw City Hall Chambers located at 2529 J.O. Stephenson Avenue, Kennesaw GA on the dates and times below:
Monday, July 28, 2025 6:00 PM (Special Called Meeting)
Monday, August 4, 2025 10:30 AM (Special Called Meeting) and 6:30 PM (Final Adoption)

Three weeks later, Trump administration gives Georgia its afterschool money

By Ty Tagami
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Federal dollars that Georgia has been counting on to cover afterschool program costs have been disbursed.

The administration of President Donald Trump was expected to release funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program July 1 but withheld it until this week.

State School Superintendent Richard Woods had been calling on the federal government to release the money since early July.

"I deeply believe in fiscal responsibility, which means evaluating the use of funds and seeking out efficiencies, but also means being responsible — releasing funds already approved by Congress and signed by President Trump," Woods said July 7. He repeated that message last Friday upon hearing reports that the money would be released Monday.

Monday came and went, but the Georgia Department of Education said it had not yet received the money.

Finally on Wednesday, the agency confirmed receipt of its $40.6 million share.

Nationally, the program serves about 1.4 million youths through state education grants that are in turn paid for with about $1.4 billion from the federal government, according to the Afterschool Alliance.

It is the largest single funding source for a program that provides afterschool learning for more than 27,000 youths in at least 230 Georgia communities, according to the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network. The organization attributed the administration's decision to release the funds to a collective effort by parents, program leaders, youth advocates, "community champions" and bipartisan efforts by lawmakers.

"Working parents in particular are breathing an enormous sigh of relief," the group added.

Last Friday, while still awaiting the funds, Woods underscored how important that money is.

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Staff - File

In this October 2024 photo, Donald Trump speaks to supporters at the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre.

Staff - File

Georgia Insurance and Safety Fire Commissioner John King speaks at Cobb County Republican Women's Club luncheon in May 2023.

GOP contender suspends U.S. Senate rate

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John King, one of the two Republicans who declared his candidacy to unseat Democratic incumbent John Ossoff next year, has suspended his campaign.

"Right now it's clear there's little path forward to the nomination," King said on social media site X Thursday.

The retired major general in the U.S. Army National Guard and former police chief was the first GOP official elected statewide to join the race. Elected Georgia's insurance and safety fire commissioner three years ago, King announced in May that he would challenge U.S. Rep. Buddy Carter of St. Simons in the Senate GOP primary.

Carter had jumped into the race days after Gov. Brian Kemp announced he would not be running against Ossoff, opening the Republican primary.

The names of other potential GOP candidates have been tossed around, but so far no one else has stepped up to challenge Carter.

King was already behind on campaign fundraising. He and Carter reported gathering a similar amount from donors in their April through June federal filings, but Carter loaned his own campaign another couple million dollars, putting him well ahead of King.

Neither could match Ossoff's fundraising prowess. The Democrat collected more than $10 million during that same period, ending the second quarter with over $15 million.

More Republicans could jump in, including college and pro football coach Derek Dooley. The son of legendary Bulldogs coach Vince Dooley is rumored to be favored by Kemp.

King, meanwhile, will run for re-election to his state post.

New Georgia Senate panel to take up abolishing state income tax

By Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

Staff - File

State Sen. Blake Tillery, R-Vidalia, addresses the crowd at the Cobb GOP's July Fourth 2025 BBQ in Kennesaw.

ATLANTA — The state Senate is about to begin laying the groundwork for making Georgia the 10th state with no income tax.

Sen. Blake Tillery, R-Vidalia, who chairs the budget-writing Senate Appropriations Committee, announced plans Thursday for a series of hearings a newly created committee will hold later this summer and fall to pave the way for him to introduce legislation during the 2026 General Assembly session to eliminate Georgia's income tax.

"This is about competitiveness, economic freedom, and letting hardworking Georgians keep their money in their pockets," Tillery said during a news conference inside the state Capitol.

Tillery will chair the new Senate Committee on Eliminating Georgia's Income Tax, which will include eight Republican senators and three Democrats. The panel is being formed by Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, the Senate's presiding officer, who has pledged to make getting rid of the state income tax a major platform plank as he seeks the GOP nomination for governor next year.

Georgia Republicans have long made reducing the tax a major priority but have stopped short of abolishing it altogether. This year, the legislature's Republican majorities passed a bill backed by GOP Gov. Brian Kemp that cut the income tax rate from 5.39% to 5.19% retroactive to the beginning of the current tax year.

Various proposals to repeal the tax that have sounded good on the campaign trail have prompted concerns over how to replace the lost tax revenue. States that don't have an income tax have tended to offset that revenue with higher sales taxes.

Tillery said the nine states currently doing without an income tax have not suffered the financial catastrophe detractors have predicted. While the list mostly includes Republican-led states like Texas, Tennessee, and Florida, the Democratic-controlled states of New Hampshire and Washington also have done away with their state income taxes.

Tillery said he's not entering the committee process with preconceived ideas of how to replace the revenue Georgia would lose by abolishing the state income tax. He said he wants to hear from Jones, fellow committee members, and from representatives of the nine states without an income tax.

"We've got plenty of ideas to choose from," he said.

The committee will have until Dec. 15 to report its findings and recommendations to the full Senate.

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IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION NOTICE TO KENNESAW TAXPAYERS CITY NOT INCREASING TAX RATES

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Item Report

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM:

DATE: July 28, 2025

TITLE: Reports, Discussions, and Updates

Summary:

Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:
None

Item Report

TO: The Honorable Mayor and City Council

FROM:

DATE: July 28, 2025

TITLE: Mayor and Council (re)appointments to Boards and Commissions. This item is for (re)appointments made by the Mayor to any Board, Committee, Authority, or Commission requiring an appointment to fill any vacancies, resignations, and to create or dissolve boards and commissions, as deemed necessary.

Summary:

Recommendation:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:
None