

Chatham County Board of Commissioners

Chester A. Ellis
Chairman

Anthony Wayne Noha
1st District Commissioner

Malinda Scott Hodge
2nd District Commissioner

Bobby Lockett
3rd District Commissioner

Patrick K. Farrell
4th District Commissioner

Tanya Milton
5th District Commissioner

Aaron “Adot” Whitely
6th District Commissioner

Dean Kicklighter
7th District Commissioner

Marsha Buford
8th District Commissioner



Chatham County 2026 Federal Policy Statements

Point of Contact

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Infrastructure Funding:

Given the sustained economic growth in our community, continued support for funding major infrastructure projects is essential to maintaining momentum and ensuring long-term prosperity. Strategic investment in transportation, utilities, and public facilities not only supports current demand but also positions our region for future expansion. By prioritizing infrastructure development, we enhance quality of life, attract new businesses, create jobs, and strengthen the foundation for continued economic resilience. Chatham County strongly encourages policymakers to maintain and expand funding commitments for these critical initiatives.

As Congress works toward reauthorization of transportation programs for the nation, Chatham County asks that \$50 million be included to upgrade the interchange and make critical operational and safety improvements to Airways Avenue and adjacent roadways. Airways Avenue to the east of I-95 is the one of only two roads to access the Savannah Hilton Head International Airport and numerous industries and businesses. To the west of I-95, the road is named Pooler Parkway and connects a busy shopping and residential area to the interstate. Traffic congestion in the region is a worsening problem that causes travelers to miss their flights, slows emergency response vehicles, stacks traffic back onto Interstate 95 and increases the costs of doing business in the region. This project will upgrade the interchange, make the necessary safety and operational improvements for improved traffic flow, and accommodate future growth in the region.

Federal Inmate Exclusion Policy:

Chatham County supports efforts of the National Association for County Organizations and the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia to request federal benefits such as Medicaid, Veterans Affairs, and the Children's Health Insurance Program remain active for eligible detainees in

the local jails pre-adjudication. Those accused should not lose their benefits until the judicial process is complete. The current, outdated, policy creates a financial burden for counties and adds to the behavioral health and mental health crisis.

Federal Institutions for Mental Disease:

Chatham County requests your support for the bipartisan Michelle Alyssa Go Act, H.R. 5462. This important bill brings needed reform to the Institutions for Mental Disease ruling that limits Medicaid reimbursement to psychiatric or residential treatment facilities with no more than 16 beds. Expanding this limit or allowing short-term stays would increase care options and reduce the administrative burden on local governments, mental health providers, and the broader community.

Affordable/Workforce Housing:

Chatham County urges the Georgia delegation to provide dedicated federal funding to enhance the capacity of counties and local government in address the ever-growing housing issues. Predictable federal housing support should include encouraging public-private partnerships with flexibility to address local and federal housing goals of homeownership. Such funds should not be limited to HUD defined entitlement communities.

