

AGENDA
WALKER COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
WALKER COUNTY CIVIC CENTER
10052 HWY 27
ROCK SPRING, GEORGIA 30739

The following constitutes the agenda for a public hearing before the Board of Commissioners of Walker County, Georgia to be held on August 25, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

2022 MILLAGE RATE PUBLIC HEARING

- **Invocation & Pledges given by Chairman Whitfield**
- **Chairman Whitfield will Call to Order the Public Hearing**
- **Clerk establishes a Quorum is present**
- **Public Hearing**
Adoption of a Millage Rate to be set at 7.200 mills in the Unincorporated Areas and 10.293 in the Incorporated Areas
- **Commissioner Comments**
- **Close Public Hearing**
- **Adjourn**



Walker County Governmental Authority
101 South Duke Street, P.O. Box 445
LaFayette, GA 30728
706-638-1437

Minutes of the Public Hearing
August 25, 2022
8:00 AM

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Shannon Whitfield called to order the Public Hearing of the Board of Commissioners held at the Walker County Civic Center, 10052 US-27, Rock Spring, Georgia at 8:00 AM on August 25, 2022.

II. Attendees:

The following were present: Chairman Whitfield, Commissioner Robert Blakemore, Commissioner Mark Askew, Commissioner Brian Hart, Commissioner Robert Stultz, Legal and Policy Director David Gottlieb, Public Relations Director Joe Legge, and County Clerk Rebecca Wooden. Other guests signed in at the meeting. Please see the attached sign in sheet.

III. Public Hearing:

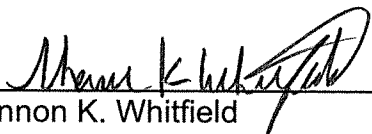
- I. Chairman Whitfield gave an overview of the unincorporated and incorporated proposed millage rate for Walker County. He explained how increased property values are factored into the millage rate. He said the proposed millage rate was a partial rollback and explained there would still be new revenue coming into the county. He pointed out various specifics in the five year history of the tax digest. He said 88% of the budget increase is driven by personnel costs. He said the Board would vote on this proposal on September 1, 2022. Frank Donato asked for clarification on the difference in rates in the incorporated and unincorporated areas. He said he lived in the City of Fort Oglethorpe as incorporated and asked how he was classified in Walker County. Chairman Whitfield explained the difference in the rates is due to the insurance tax rebates the cities receive.

IV. Commissioner Comments:

- I. Commissioner Askew said Chairman Whitfield did a great job on the proposal and the explanation presented. He clarified the public hearings are a discussion on the proposed rate and the actual vote by the Board to set the millage rate would be on September 1, 2022. Chairman Whitfield said with the new enabling act, which established the Board of Commissioners, one of his duties as the Chairman is to create a proposed budget and millage rate. Once the Board is presented with the millage rate and budget, then they vote to adopt. He said the next public hearing on the millage rate would be August 25, 2022 at 6:30 PM. The third and final public hearing will be on September 1, 2022 at 6:30 PM, followed by the regular meeting with the adoption of a millage rate at 7:00 PM.

Adjournment:

Commissioner Hart made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Commissioner Blakemore seconded the motion, motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 AM.



Shannon K. Whitfield
Chairman/CEO
Walker County Georgia

09-22-2022

Date

Public Hearing

Walker County Civic Center

August 25, 2022

8:00 AM

<u>Roll Call</u>	<u>Present/Absent</u>
Commissioner Blakemore	Present
Commissioner Askew	Present
Chairman Whitfield	Present
Commissioner Hart	Present
Commissioner Stultz	Present

SIGN IN SHEET
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS PUBLIC HEARING
August 25, 2022 at 8:00 a.m.

Name

Address

FRANK DONATO	375 BATTLE BLUFF DR. ROSSVILLE 30070
Lee Rimas	6053 N MARBLEFORD RD CHICKAMAUGA
Terry Gilreath	
Ronnie White	562 Woodland Rd FLINTSTONE, GA 30725
Kathy Bates	Chick. GA

PT-32.1 - Computation of MILLAGE RATE ROLLBACK AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES - 2022				
COUNTY: WALKER		TAXING JURISDICTION: COUNTY-UNINCORPORATED		
ENTER VALUES AND MILLAGE RATES FOR THE APPLICABLE TAX YEARS IN YELLOW HIGHLIGHTED BOXES BELOW				
DESCRIPTION	2021 DIGEST	REASSESSMENT OF EXISTING REAL PROP	OTHER CHANGES TO TAXABLE DIGEST	2022 DIGEST
REAL	1,141,463,986	242,772,840	73,149,706	1,457,386,532
PERSONAL	87,877,713		(28,823,435)	59,054,278
MOTOR VEHICLES	19,535,570		(1,901,140)	17,634,430
MOBILE HOMES	15,058,127		2,078,124	17,136,251
TIMBER -100%	370,864		164,675	535,539
HEAVY DUTY EQUIP			0	
GROSS DIGEST	1,264,306,260	242,772,840	44,667,930	1,551,747,030
EXEMPTIONS	209,589,626		49,130,772	258,720,398
NET DIGEST	1,054,716,634	242,772,840	(4,462,842)	1,293,026,632
	(PYD)	(RVA)	(NAG)	(CYD)
2021 MILLAGE RATE: 8.313		2022 MILLAGE RATE: 7.200		
CALCULATION OF ROLLBACK RATE				
DESCRIPTION	ABBREVIATION	AMOUNT	FORMULA	
2021 Net Digest	PYD	1,054,716,634		
Net Value Added-Reassessment of Existing Real Property	RVA	242,772,840		
Other Net Changes to Taxable Digest	NAG	(4,462,842)		
2022 Net Digest	CYD	1,293,026,632	(PYD+RVA+NAG)	
2021 Millage Rate	PYM	8.313	PYM	
Millage Equivalent of Reassessed Value Added	ME	1.561	(RVA/CYD) * PYM	
Rollback Millage Rate for 2022	RR - ROLLBACK RATE	6.752	PYM - ME	
CALCULATION OF PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES				
If the 2022 Proposed Millage Rate for this Taxing Jurisdiction exceeds Rollback Millage Rate computed above, this section will automatically calculate the amount of increase in property taxes that is part of the notice required in O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1(c) (2)		Rollback Millage Rate	6.752	
		2022 Millage Rate	7.200	
		Percentage Tax Increase	6.64%	
CERTIFICATIONS				
I hereby certify that the amount indicated above is an accurate accounting of the total net assessed value added by the reassessment of existing real property for the tax year for which this rollback millage rate is being computed.				
		<u>Buddy Chapman</u>	<u>8/2/2022</u>	
		Chairman, Board of Tax Assessors	Date	
I hereby certify that the values shown above are an accurate representation of the digest values and exemption amounts for the applicable tax years.				
		<u>Carolyn W Walker</u>	<u>8/2/2022</u>	
		Tax Collector or Tax Commissioner	Date	
I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct computation of the rollback millage rate in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1 for the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2022 and that the final millage rate set by the authority of this taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2022 is _____				
CHECK THE APPROPRIATE PARAGRAPH BELOW THAT APPLIES TO THIS TAXING JURISDICTION				
☐	If the final millage rate set by the authority of the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2022 exceeds the rollback rate, I certify that the required advertisements, notices, and public hearings have been conducted in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 48-5-32 and 48-5-32.1 as evidenced by the attached copies of the published "five year history and current digest" advertisement and the "Notice of Intent to Increase Taxes" showing the times and places when and where the required public hearings were held, and a copy of the press release provided to the local media.			
☐	If the final millage rate set by the authority of the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2022 does not exceed the rollback rate, I certify that the required "five year history and current digest" advertisement has been published in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 as evidenced by the attached copy of such advertised report.			
_____		_____	_____	
Responsible Party		Title	Date	

PT-32.1 - Computation of MILLAGE RATE ROLLBACK AND PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES - 2022

COUNTY:WALKER

TAXING JURISDICTION:COUNTY-INCORPORATED

ENTER VALUES AND MILLAGE RATES FOR THE APPLICABLE TAX YEARS IN YELLOW HIGHLIGHTED BOXES BELOW

DESCRIPTION	2021 DIGEST	REASSESSMENT OF EXISTING REAL PROP	OTHER CHANGES TO TAXABLE DIGEST	2022 DIGEST
REAL	369,506,249	91,478,903	11,609,235	472,594,387
PERSONAL	134,131,117		2,269,305	136,400,422
MOTOR VEHICLES	2,996,550		(315,070)	2,681,480
MOBILE HOMES	197,195		(4,939)	192,256
TIMBER -100%			0	
HEAVY DUTY EQUIP			0	
GROSS DIGEST	506,831,111	91,478,903	13,558,531	611,868,545
EXEMPTIONS	60,511,875		20,923,038	81,434,913
NET DIGEST	446,319,236	91,478,903	(7,364,507)	530,433,632
	(PYD)	(RVA)	(NAG)	(CYD)
2021 MILLAGE RATE:	11.963		2022 MILLAGE RATE:	10.293

CALCULATION OF ROLLBACK RATE

DESCRIPTION	ABBREVIATION	AMOUNT	FORMULA
2021 Net Digest	PYD	446,319,236	
Net Value Added-Reassessment of Existing Real Property	RVA	91,478,903	
Other Net Changes to Taxable Digest	NAG	(7,364,507)	
2022 Net Digest	CYD	530,433,632	(PYD+RVA+NAG)
2021 Millage Rate	PYM	11.963	PYM
Millage Equivalent of Reassessed Value Added	ME	2.063	(RVA/CYD) * PYM
Rollback Millage Rate for 2022	RR - ROLLBACK RATE	9.900	PYM - ME

CALCULATION OF PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN PROPERTY TAXES

If the 2022 Proposed Millage Rate for this Taxing Jurisdiction exceeds Rollback Millage Rate computed above, this section will automatically calculate the amount of increase in property taxes that is part of the notice required in O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1(c) (2)	Rollback Millage Rate	9.900
	2022 Millage Rate	10.293
	Percentage Tax Increase	3.97%

CERTIFICATIONS

I hereby certify that the amount indicated above is an accurate accounting of the total net assessed value added by the reassessment of existing real property for the tax year for which this rollback millage rate is being computed.

Bucky Chapman

Chairman, Board of Tax Assessors

8/2/2022

Date

I hereby certify that the values shown above are an accurate representation of the digest values and exemption amounts for the applicable tax years.

Carolyn Walker

Tax Collector or Tax Commissioner

8/2/2022

Date

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct computation of the rollback millage rate in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32.1 for the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2022 and that the final millage rate set by the authority of this taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2022 is _____

CHECK THE APPROPRIATE PARAGRAPH BELOW THAT APPLIES TO THIS TAXING JURISDICTION

If the final millage rate set by the authority of the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2022 exceeds the rollback rate, I certify that the required advertisements, notices, and public hearings have been conducted in accordance with O.C.G.A. §§ 48-5-32 and 48-5-32.1 as evidenced by the attached copies of the published "five year history and current digest" advertisement and the "Notice of Intent to Increase Taxes" showing the times and places when and where the required public hearings were held, and a copy of the press release provided to the local media.

If the final millage rate set by the authority of the taxing jurisdiction for tax year 2022 does not exceed the rollback rate, I certify that the required "five year history and current digest" advertisement has been published in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 as evidenced by the attached copy of such advertised report.

Responsible Party

Title

Date

Kemp's plan will issue \$2B in property, income tax rebates

By Rebecca Grapevine
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Gov. Brian Kemp announced Thursday, Aug. 11, he plans to issue around \$2 billion in income and property tax rebates to Georgians next year — if he wins re-election in November. Record economic growth in Georgia has given the state a budget surplus and some of that money should be returned to people's pockets, Kemp said.

Kemp's proposed \$1 billion tax rebate would provide \$250 income

tax rebates to single filers, \$375 rebates to single filers who are heads of household and \$500 rebates to married couples filing jointly next year, Kemp said.

The income tax rebate would be similar to the extra income tax rebates most Georgia taxpayers received this summer, Kemp noted.

Kemp proposed an additional \$1 billion in property tax rebates. This would mean Georgia homeowners would get an estimated \$500 rebate to offset higher property tax bills.

"This Georgia Homeowner

Rebate will save an average homeowner between 15 and 25% on their local property tax bill next year," Kemp said.

"For young Georgians just getting settled into their first home or parents sending their kids off to college, unforeseen jumps in property values and local tax bills only add to the uncertain times we are in," Kemp said. "This will put real money back in the pockets of hardworking Georgians."



Brian Kemp

Kemp took credit for Georgia's budget surplus, pointing to his administration's economic development successes, especially in rural parts of the state.

His administration has brought in a total of \$21.2 billion in investments to the Peach State over the last year, Kemp said earlier this week.

A spokesperson for Democrat Stacey Abrams — who is running against Kemp for the governorship — criticized Kemp's proposals.

"Stacey Abrams has proposed giving tax relief to middle-class families and working Georgians," said Alex Floyd on behalf of the Abrams campaign.

"Kemp's plan would give tax handouts to millionaires while he still refuses to expand Medicaid and lower healthcare costs for Georgians," Floyd said. "Georgians need relief today."

This story is available through a news partnership with Capitol Beat News Service, a project of the Georgia Press Educational Foundation.

Dr. Gabrielle Ferran joins Pray Chiropractic office in Ringgold

From Press Release

Dr. Gabriella Ferran has joined the full-time chiropractic staff at Pray Chiropractic's Ringgold office.

Ferran earned both her bachelor's degree in exercise science and her Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Life University in Marietta,

Ga. Born in Puerto Rico, Ferran is fluent in both English and Spanish.

Ferran's desire to become a chiropractor began when she first received chiropractic care as a teen when sidelined with volleyball injuries. The effects of



Gabriella Ferran

that care were profound, as not only was her pain reduced but her athletic performance was enhanced, which enabled her to go on to play college volleyball at Life University. Ferran's personal experience made her realize that she

wanted to dedicate her career to improving other's quality of life through chiropractic.

She is now a full-time chiropractor at Pray Chiropractic's Ringgold office, continuing the tradition that has made Pray Chiropractic the region's leader in chiropractic care

for almost three decades. At Pray Chiropractic, Ferran treats entire families and serves patients of all ages, with an emphasis on patients with sports injuries, auto accident injuries and disc conditions.

Ferran has two doodles named Benji and Pablo. When not treating patients,

she enjoys walking with her dogs, trying new restaurants, working out and spending time with friends and family. Ferran is currently accepting new patients and appointments can be made by calling 706-935-7729 or via Pray Chiropractic's website at www.praychiro.com.

Almost one-fifth of Ga. women of reproductive age lack insurance

By Rebecca Grapevine
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — A new report from the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families has found that about 20% of Georgia women of childbearing age are uninsured.

The rate of uninsured women between 18 and 44 years old is one of the highest in the country, putting Georgia in 46th place on a national ranking, the report said.

Almost half of women of childbearing age who identify as Latina are uninsured, the report found. That's nearly double the national average.

The report comes as Georgia policy makers work to address improve maternal and infant health.

In 2020, there were 24.5 maternal deaths in Georgia per 100,000 live births, slightly above the national rate. Maternal mortality rates are particularly high among Black women, who face a rate of 41 deaths per 100,000 live births, the report said.

Some women and infants can get insurance through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), so the report also looked at how well those programs provide infant and maternal care.

The information reflects the latest federal data, which is from 2019, before the pandemic.

Just above three-quarters of women on Medicaid or CHIP are receiving timely prenatal care, putting Georgia in 30th place.

About two-thirds of new mothers are getting adequate postpartum care.

About 12.1% of new births covered by the programs are low birthweight (under 2,500 grams), putting Georgia 48th in the state rankings.

And just over two-thirds of Georgia children on Medicaid and CHIP are getting all of their recommended check-ups during the first 15 months of life, the report said, putting Georgia in 21st place.

"This report not only paints a bleak picture of existing health coverage gaps for all women of reproductive age in Georgia, but also shows how the state's poor performance on maternal and infant health issues could lead to widening disparities in

health," said Joan Alker, executive director of the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families.

"The state's decision not to expand Medicaid continues to put the health of its mothers at risk and undermines the opportunity for Georgia's children to get a healthy start in life."

Gov. Brian Kemp and other Georgia Republican leaders have remained staunchly opposed to Medicaid expansion in the state, citing its costs. Georgia is now one of 12 states that have not expanded Medicaid.

"Traditional Medicaid expansion would cause approximately 200,000 people to lose the ability to purchase health insurance for free," Kemp

spokeswoman Katie Byrd said.

The federal government recently denied Kemp's plan to set up a private health insurance marketplace in Georgia. The governor's plan would have allowed 50,000 uninsured Georgians to purchase private insurance, Byrd said.

Kemp has taken other steps to improve women's health in the state, Byrd said.

The governor supported bills to expand postpartum Medicaid coverage from six months to one year following birth and create supportive housing

for pregnant women and new mothers. He also added funding to the state's budget to support mothers with cardiovascular conditions, Byrd said.

The state Medicaid agency recently announced it will provide additional funding to safety-net hospitals Grady Memorial and Augusta University Medical Center to improve health outcomes, Byrd said.

This story is available through a news partnership with Capitol Beat News Service, a project of the Georgia Press Educational Foundation.

Abortion-rights lawyers ask state judge to temporarily block Georgia's abortion law

By Rebecca Grapevine
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Lawyers for abortion-rights groups asked a state judge Monday, Aug. 8, to temporarily block Georgia's new abortion law.

The law — which bans abortion after a fetal heartbeat can be detected — took effect in July. Initially approved by the General Assembly in 2019, it had been under legal challenge in federal courts. Last month, the 11th Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the Georgia law and put it into effect immediately.

Lawyers for abortion-rights groups including Planned Parenthood South-east and SisterSong then

took their fight to state court, contending that the abortion ban violates the Georgia Constitution's right to privacy.

On Monday, Aug. 8, the plaintiff lawyers asked Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney to block the law by issuing a temporary restraining order or preliminary injunction.

They argued the law was void from the moment it passed the General Assembly three years ago because it violated then-settled U.S. Supreme Court precedent about the right to an abortion.

The state — represented by Solicitor General Stephen Petrany — countered that Georgia law does not require a judge to temporarily

block a law before he or she has issued a decision on the case.

Although the 2019 law did not necessarily fit the Supreme Court's abortion precedents at the time, the Georgia abortion law represented legislators' — and through them, Georgians' — will, Petrany said. Therefore, it was valid from the start.

McBurney indicated he would issue a ruling on the request for an injunction soon.

In a brief press conference after the hearing, abortion-rights advocates said Georgians have been directly harmed by the new abortion ban.

"The Georgia Constitution says there is a right to privacy and that right to

privacy extends to a person's body and a person's health," said Susan Lambiase, a lawyer for Planned Parenthood Federation of America.

"[People] either have to forcibly remain pregnant, or they have to figure out a way ... to go to some state that provides more access [to abortion]."

This story is available through a news partnership with Capitol Beat News Service, a project of the Georgia Press Educational Foundation.

Absolute AUCTION

8-20-22

Saturday, 10 AM

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NOTICE OF PROPERTY TAX INCREASE

The Governing Authority of Walker County, Georgia has tentatively adopted a millage rate which will require an increase in property taxes by 6.64% in the unincorporated area and 3.97% in the incorporated areas.

All concerned citizens are invited to public hearings on this tax increase to be held at the Walker County Civic Center, 10052 Hwy 27, Rock Spring, GA on August 25, 2022 at 8:00 a.m. and at Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main St., LaFayette, GA on August 25, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Time and places of additional public hearings on this tax increase are at Walker County Courthouse Annex III, 201 S Main St., LaFayette, GA on September 1, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

This tentative increase will result in a millage rate of 7.200 mills in the unincorporated area and 10.293 in the incorporated areas, an increase of 0.448 mills in the unincorporated area and 0.393 mills in the incorporated areas. Without this tentative tax increase, the millage rate will be no more than 6.752 mills in the unincorporated area and 9.900 in the incorporated areas. The proposed tax increase for a home with a fair market value of \$225,000 is approximately \$34.92 in the unincorporated area and \$34.58 in the incorporated area and the proposed tax increase for non-homestead property with a fair market value of \$175,000 is approximately \$31.36 in the unincorporated area and \$27.51 in the incorporated areas.

Broadband to get a \$240M boost

By Rebecca Grapevine
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA — Gov. Brian Kemp announced Friday, Aug. 12, he is investing \$240 million in federal COVID relief funds in expanding Georgia's high-speed internet infrastructure.

"Whether you own a small business in rural Georgia, run a farm that utilizes precision agriculture technology, or have children that need to do their homework, the expansion of high-speed internet impacts all Georgians," Kemp said.

"Regardless of location, access to broadband service is essential for all communities in the Peach State to thrive. I remain committed to helping improve the lives of

our citizens by closing the digital divide in our state."

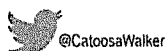
Many areas of the state still lack broadband access, according to a map published by the state government.

The Kemp administration will have invested over \$1 billion in expanding broadband access by the end of the year, the governor's statement said.

The funds will be administered through a competitive grant program. Further details about applying for the new grants will be released soon.

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Find the latest breaking local and state news at **catoosawalkernews.com**.



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COLUMNIST ■ STEVEN ROBERTS

In a word: extreme

“My opponent,” fulminated the candidate, “and those who endorse him continue to focus on the extreme and unconstitutional notion that we can overturn the 2020 election.”

No, that was not said by a Democrat, but by Robin Vos, the Republican speaker of the Wisconsin legislature, who was facing, and defeating, a primary challenger endorsed by Donald Trump. Still, Vos did use the word that has become the keynote, the clarion call of the Democrats’ fall campaign: extreme.

Leftists of the Bernie Sanders stripe fantasize that this is a liberal country; it’s not, but it is not a hard-right nation, either. Our center of political gravity is close, well, to the center, perhaps tilting slightly to the right. So when Republicans pick candidates who espouse views outside the mainstream, they set themselves up for defeat.

The political world has been focusing on Kansas, where voters



Roberts

crushed an attempt to roll back constitutional protections for abortion rights. But that result comes in a context of outlandish lies about the 2020 election and the lingering stench of Trump’s crazed and chaotic presidency. It’s taken together that these elements give Democrats an opening to label Republicans as dangerously unsafe and unstable.

“The only thing that might save Democrats is Republicans, and they’re trying their damndest to do it,” David Axelrod, Barack Obama’s chief political adviser, told The New York Times.

The Democrats remain in deep trouble. In the latest ABC poll, 69% of voters said the economy is getting worse, and a paltry 29% think President Biden is handling inflation well. No wonder his personal approval rating is stuck below 40%.

But as Axelrod points out, Republicans keep giving the Democrats an opportunity to mitigate

the effects of Biden’s unpopularity. By relitigating the 2020 election and restricting abortion rights, they shift attention away from the economy and toward issues where they are out of step with public opinion.

The campaign in Kansas is a prime example of this misguided strategy. Trump carried the state by almost 15 points, yet the referendum lost 59% to 41%. Nate Cohn of the Times estimates that nationwide, 65% of voters would reject a similar proposition. That squares with a CNN poll that reports that 63% of voters oppose the Supreme Court’s decision canceling a constitutional right to abortion.

Opponents include 7 of 10 independents and 55% of moderate Republicans — and the key word here is “moderate.” MAGA nation remains strongly behind Trump and his acolytes, but it was pragmatic voters, especially well-educated women living in the suburbs, who roared their disapproval of the Kansas initiative.

The court decision triggered an upsurge in voter registration; an estimated 70% of the newly energized voters were women, and their

impact was clearly felt in places like Leavenworth County, a suburban area outside of Kansas City with an Army post and federal penitentiary. The county supported Trump by more than 20 points in 2020, but voters there rebuffed the amendment by 59.3% to 40.7%.

It wasn’t just the suburbs, however. Pro-abortion rights forces cleverly adopted the language of traditional conservatives, stressing individual rights and running ads urging voters to “say no to more government control.” That worked in places like Lyon County, a rural area that hasn’t backed a Democrat for president in half a century but voted almost 2 to 1 to retain abortion rights in the constitution.

As Kansans were expressing their mainstream impulses, Republican primary voters in Arizona doubled down on their self-destructive tendencies, nominating hard-core election deniers and anti-abortion militants for four statewide offices, including governor and senator.

Democrats still seem doomed to lose the House, but the Senate is another matter. Republican-controlled state legislatures over many years

have produced maps that protect many GOP House seats, but since Senate races are statewide, they cannot be gerrymandered, and the playing field is more level.

Arizona is only one of several states — add Pennsylvania, Georgia, Ohio, North Carolina and Nevada — where Republicans have nominated weak Senate candidates who can be branded as in over their heads or outside the lines. That’s why the website FiveThirtyEight now makes Democrats a slight favorite to control the Senate, and that would be a critical outcome.

Sure, Biden’s legislative agenda would be stalled by a Republican-controlled House, but the most lasting legacy of any president is often judicial appointments. As long as Democrats retain the Senate, Biden could use his next two years to stack the federal bench with progressive appointments. If that happens, extreme Republicans will bear much of the blame.

Steven Roberts teaches politics and journalism at George Washington University. His new book is “Cokie: A Life Well Lived.” He can be contacted by email at stevecookie@gmail.com.

LOCAL COLUMNIST ■ JOE PHILLIPS

Searching for the right William Malone

People drop “off the grid,” just vanish.

There are a few in my family. Some were not that far off the grid, really.

The first was my father’s distant relative, Parker Merimouth Bomar, who was last found in Douglas County, Georgia, in 1900 and a member of the wide Bomar tribe.

His great-grandfather, Armstead Bomar, moved from South Carolina to what was Campbell County, Georgia, as soon as land was available.

Parker, one of nine kids, was the son of Elisha Pinkney “Pink” Bomar and was sort of his own relative by marrying a cousin. There were a number of “Pinks” in the family, including Parker’s own first-born child.

Before there were census records as handy as your computer, my mother did as much of a search as was possible in those days and couldn’t come up with anything useful. She gave up.

At the time my family lived in Mt. Vernon, Georgia, and when Parker M. Bomar’s family history finally fell into my lap, his descendants were living 5 miles away in Glenwood and had been there for several generations.

They were related to every established family in Wheeler County.

That son, Elisha Pickney Bomar, became a physician and was gunned down on the street of Lyons in 1918. The father and two sons who did the deed in front of witnesses bounced around the system but eventually walked.

I’d love to read the transcript of that trial in its various forms but doubt it still exists.

The Bomars and the Malones were connected to the same people but were not related. That’s a shame because the second individual on the list was William L. Malone and his sister Missouri Malone.

William, born in 1848, and Missouri, born in 1851, were the children of John W. and Caroline Little Malone of Paulding County. John did have a taste for good (and bad) whiskey, according to those who cleaned up after

him following his death.

John and Caroline married in 1848 and that is about the last we see of them; however, in Caroline’s father’s will, written May 29, 1855, he mentions that his daughter,

Caroline, was dead and the grandchildren living.

William and Missouri lived with their maternal aunt and her husband, Ephraim Pray, who at that time was William’s legal guardian and

continued as such as late as 1869.

Pray was a civil engineer and it is unlikely that the Malone children escaped without a deep home-schooled education.

William is not mentioned in Pray’s will published in 1893.

The world was littered with males named William Malone born in Georgia in 1849, but none of them are ripe.

One with nearly the right taste lived in Camp County, Texas. William appears in the 1880 census with his sister living in the house but her

name was given as “Sarah.” So, what’s up with William Malone?

Joe Phillips writes his “Dear me” columns for several small newspapers. He has many connections to Walker County, including his grandfather, former superintendent



Phillips

Carolina to what was Campbell County, Georgia, as soon as land was available.

Parker, one of nine kids, was the son of Elisha Pinkney “Pink” Bomar and was sort of his own relative by marrying a cousin. There were a number of “Pinks” in the family, including Parker’s own first-born child.

Before there were census records as handy as your computer, my mother did as much of a search as was possible in those days and couldn’t come up with anything useful. She gave up.

At the time my family lived in Mt. Vernon, Georgia, and when Parker M. Bomar’s family history finally fell into my lap, his descendants were living 5 miles away in Glenwood and had been there for several generations.

They were related to every established family in Wheeler County.

That son, Elisha Pickney Bomar, became a physician and was gunned down on the street of Lyons in 1918. The father and two sons who did the deed in front of witnesses bounced around the system but eventually walked.

I’d love to read the transcript of that trial in its various forms but doubt it still exists.

The Bomars and the Malones were connected to the same people but were not related. That’s a shame because the second individual on the list was William L. Malone and his sister Missouri Malone.

William, born in 1848, and Missouri, born in 1851, were the children of John W. and Caroline Little Malone of Paulding County. John did have a taste for good (and bad) whiskey, according to those who cleaned up after



William Malone

Contributed

Walker County Board Of Education

CURRENT 2022 TAX DIGEST AND FIVE YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

The Walker County Board of Education does hereby announce that the M & O millage rate for 2022 will be set at a meeting to be held at the Walker County Department of Education located at 201 South Duke Street, LaFayette, Georgia, on Thursday, August 25, 2022 at 6:30 o'clock in the evening and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. 48-5-32, 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.

School Digest & Levy	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Real & Personal	1,337,055,890	1,374,854,478	1,389,705,762	1,426,182,726	1,608,470,949	1,973,220,953
Motor Vehicles	47,429,760	37,438,560	32,010,370	13,625,160	21,743,600	19,585,190
Mobile Homes	12,846,256	12,311,377	13,013,949	14,716,418	15,196,920	17,278,669
Timber	812,422	770,345	473,367	515,491	370,864	535,539
Gross Digest	1,398,144,328	1,425,374,760	1,435,203,448	1,455,039,795	1,645,782,333	2,010,620,351
Less M & O Exemptions	259,013,150	271,133,346	278,206,215	274,662,915	296,797,268	341,595,086
Net M & O Digest	1,139,131,178	1,154,241,414	1,156,997,233	1,180,376,880	1,348,985,065	1,669,025,265
Net M & O Millage	16.622	16.619	17.404	17.404	17.404	16.404
Net Taxes Levied	18,934,638	19,182,338	20,136,380	20,543,279	23,477,736	27,378,690
Net Taxes & Increase	-297,920	247,700	954,042	406,899	2,934,457	3,900,954
Net Taxes % Increase	-1.55%	1.31%	4.97%	2.02%	14.28%	16.62%

NOTICE

The Walker County Board of Commissioners does hereby announce that the millage rate will be set at a meeting to be held at Courthouse Annex III at 201 S Main Street in LaFayette on September 1, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. and pursuant to the requirements of O.C.G.A. § 48-5-32 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 2022 PROPERTY TAX DIGEST AND 5 YEAR HISTORY OF LEVY

U N I N C O R P O R A T E D A R E A	UNINCORPORATED		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	V A L U E	Real & Personal	1,018,332,049	1,040,384,492	1,052,243,528	1,072,396,512	1,229,566,542	1,516,440,810
		Motor Vehicles	41,373,460	32,972,930	28,334,940	12,239,790	19,535,570	17,634,430
		Mobile Homes	12,771,772	12,240,064	12,940,052	14,624,676	15,058,127	17,136,251
		Timber - 100%	812,422	762,345	464,867	492,716	370,864	535,539
		Heavy Duty Equipment						
		Gross Digest	1,073,289,703	1,086,359,831	1,093,983,387	1,099,753,694	1,264,531,103	1,551,747,030
		Less Exemptions	182,611,665	190,860,792	196,992,831	189,663,179	210,971,496	258,720,398
	NET DIGEST VALUE		890,678,038	895,499,039	896,990,556	910,090,515	1,053,559,607	1,293,026,632
	R A T E	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	15.6960	15.9660	16.0960	16.1570	14.9700	12.9730
		Less Rollbacks (Local Option Sales Tax & Insurance Premium)	5.8580	6.1280	6.2740	6.8700	6.6570	5.7730
		NET M&O MILLAGE RATE		9.8380	9.8380	9.8220	9.2870	8.3130
	TAX	NET M&O TAXES LEVIED		\$8,762,491	\$8,809,920	\$8,810,241	\$8,452,011	\$8,758,241
I N C O R P O R A T E D A R E A	INCORPORATED		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	V A L U E	Real & Personal	435,073,779	449,670,774	462,480,369	478,967,634	503,680,706	608,994,809
		Motor Vehicles	8,035,180	5,953,080	4,823,570	1,875,810	2,996,550	2,681,480
		Mobile Homes	105,018	107,903	122,189	142,385	197,195	192,256
		Timber - 100%		8,000	8,500	22,775		
		Heavy Duty Equipment						
		Gross Digest	443,213,977	455,739,757	467,434,628	481,008,604	506,874,451	611,868,545
		Less Exemptions	46,827,089	53,234,941	60,339,478	54,992,743	61,032,030	81,434,913
	NET DIGEST VALUE		396,386,888	402,504,816	407,095,150	426,015,861	445,842,421	530,433,632
	R A T E	Gross Maintenance & Operation Millage	15.6960	15.9660	16.0960	16.1570	14.9700	12.9730
		Less Rollback (Local Option Sales Tax)	2.5670	2.6360	2.8030	2.8620	3.0070	2.6800
		NET M&O MILLAGE RATE		13.1290	13.3300	13.2930	13.2750	11.9630
	TAX	NET M&O TAXES LEVIED		\$5,204,163	\$5,365,389	\$5,411,516	\$5,655,361	\$5,333,613
TOTAL COUNTY	TOTAL COUNTY		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
	TOTAL DIGEST VALUE		1,287,064,926	1,298,003,855	1,304,085,706	1,336,106,376	1,499,402,028	1,823,460,264
	TOTAL M&O TAXES LEVIED		\$13,966,654	\$14,175,309	\$14,221,757	\$14,107,371	\$14,091,854	\$14,769,545
	Net Tax \$ Increase			\$208,655	\$46,448	(\$114,386)	(\$15,517)	\$677,691
	Net Tax % Increase			1.49%	0.33%	-0.80%	-0.11%	4.81%