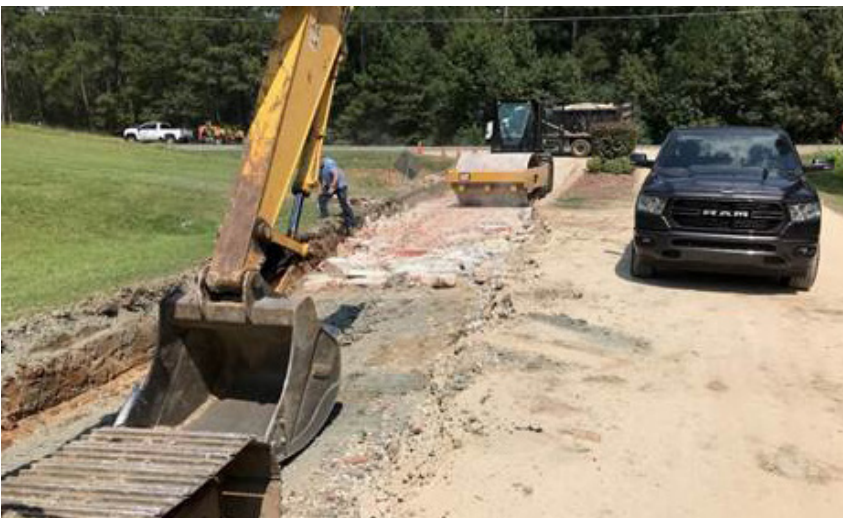


Baldwin County Georgia



**ELECTION FOR
RE-AUTHORIZATION OF SPLOST
TO BE HELD THIS MONTH**



GET ALL THE DETAILS ON PAGE 2 >>

Baldwin County Government

1601 N. Columbia St.
Suite 230
Milledgeville, GA 31061

Phone

478-445-4791

Hours

8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
M-F except holidays



[facebook.com/
baldwincountyboc](https://facebook.com/baldwincountyboc)

SPLOST Enhances Baldwin County



On March 21, 2023 Baldwin County will hold an election to re-authorize the existing one cent sales tax. Baldwin County is proud that our property tax millage rate is in the bottom 25% in the State of Georgia. That is largely in part because of the existing SPLOST. This sales tax referendum excludes gas, prescription medication, and non-prepared foods or groceries. The County anticipates receiving approximately \$40,500,000 and the City of Milledgeville expects to receive approximately \$14,500,000 based on the intergovernmental agreement signed by both parties.

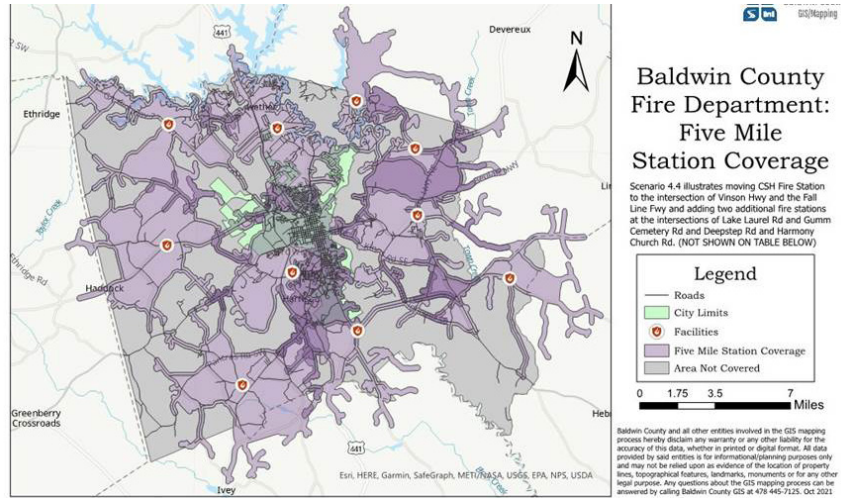
For the last 33 years SPLOST has been the funding source for capital projects for both the city and county in Baldwin County. Depending on property taxes for capital projects is unfair to our citizens. The unpopularity of property taxes and the simplicity and perceived fairness of sales taxes have made The Baldwin County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) a popular method for financing needed capital projects. Additionally, visitors to our county account for 40% of the revenue the SPLOST generates!

Baldwin County Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax will support county-wide improvements that promote a high quality of life for all residents.



LOBBY WITH NATIVE AMERICAN
ARTIFACTS COLLECTION





Proposed New Fire Stations with SPLOST Funding				
Scenarios	Area of BC Not Covered	Gain/Lose Coverage	Residential Homes Covered	Homes Gain/Lose
County Stations	119.27 sq/mi	na	11,553 homes	na
Scenario 4.0	116.53 sq/mi	+2.74 sq/mi of coverage	11,652 homes	+99 homes
Scenario 4.1	118.89 sq/mi	+0.38 sq/mi of coverage	11,616 homes	+63 homes
Scenario 4.2	113.70 sq/mi	+5.57 sq/mi of coverage	11,724 homes	+171 homes
Scenario 4.3	116.32 sq/mi	+2.95 sq/mi of coverage	11,672 homes	+119 homes
Scenario 4.4	107.26 sq/mi	+12.01 sq/mi of coverage	12,005 homes	+452 homes

The table below shows the county's approximate expenditures. The one cent sales tax is "change" we can all appreciate.

County Projects (approximate):

Public Works Infrastructure & Equipment	\$14,738,910
Public Safety	\$13,487,132
Economic Development	\$7,000,000
Recreation	\$3,893,531
Public Buildings & Equipment	\$1,380,427
Total	\$40,500,000

EARLY VOTING DATES: Monday, February 27th - Saturday, March 4th
Monday, March 6th - Saturday, March 11th
Monday, March 13th - Friday, March 17th

EARLY VOTING TIMES: Monday - Friday 8:30am - 5:00pm
Saturday - 9:00am - 4:00pm

EARLY VOTING LOCATION: Baldwin County Government Center (Left side building entrance ONLY)

ABSENTEE VOTING: Last day to MAIL OUT Absentee Ballots - Friday, March 10th | Last day to RETURN Absentee Ballots - Tuesday, March 21st @ 7:00pm

ELECTION DAY: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 | 7:00am - 7:00pm at ASSIGNED PRECINCTS ONLY | NO VOTING AT GOVERNMENT CENTER

DROP BOX LOCATION: Office Lobby of Voter Registration Office | February 27th - March 17th between 8:30am - 5:00pm

Revitalization Continues at Central State Hospital



The Central State Hospital Local Redevelopment Authority recently completed its tenth year of operation. The Authority was created by an act of the Georgia General Assembly to facilitate the repurposing of the 2200 acres and over 200 buildings that had formerly been used for the operation of the Central State Hospital.

In its heyday, Central State Hospital (CSH) was like a small city with over 12,000 clients and thousands of employees. In addition to the expected hospital and treatment centers, it included homes and apartments for both clients and staff, a network of roads, distribution systems for utilities, huge warehouse and kitchen facilities, and all of the maintenance and support apparatus to keep this large complex functioning well. Beginning in the 1960s, decentralization of mental health services coupled with new treatment methods began to reduce the patient population. Today, there are less than 200 forensic mental health clients served at CSH. While many state agencies including the Department of Behavioral Health and Development Disabilities, the Department of Corrections, the Board of Pardons and Parole, the Georgia State Patrol, and the Department of Veterans Services all still have operations on the campus, many of the buildings are no longer needed and have been declared surplus by the State of Georgia.

Over the last ten years, with help from the Baldwin County Commission and the City of Milledgeville, \$175 million has been invested on the CSH campus and over 700 jobs have been created. Some of these have come from the construction or expansion of facilities operated by our state agency partners, such as the recently completed Treatment Mall behind the Cook Building, the Traumatic Brain Injury and PTSD facility at the Georgia War Veterans Home, and the new Headquarters for State Patrol Post 33 on Carl Vinson Road.

Private investors are also taking an interest in the development of the campus. One of the pioneers was Correct Life, LLC with the construction of their \$20 million “state of the art” 280 bed geriatric facility, Bostick Nursing Center, which has 225 employees. That purchase moved a state-owned property into private ownership and back onto the local tax digest. The success of Bostick Nursing home paved the way for over 25 other private businesses to invest on the campus. In 2019, the Parham Kitchen Facility underwent a \$10 million renovation which now houses a frozen food processing facility. Peach State Kitchen, LLC is currently producing around 30,000 meals per day with 70 employees and has plans for further expansion.

Georgia’s Old Capitol Heritage Center purchased the old CSH Depot and is currently renovating that space for museum displays and community activities. They also have their offices and offer programming in a renovated house adjacent to the Depot.

Georgia Military College acquired the CSH Auditorium and several other properties on and behind Broad Street to meet the needs of their rapidly expanding student population. The CSHLRA operates the former Chapel of All Faiths on Swint Avenue as the Grove Events Center. This facility, which contains both a chapel with a capacity of 300 and a reception hall, is available to the public to rent for weddings, funerals, receptions, reunions, etc. In 2022, the 157-acre tract across Vinson Highway from the main CSH campus was sold to a private middle Georgia developer. This property contained 52 structures that had previously been used for staff housing. The developer has been re-roofing and renovating these homes to put them back in service as single-family residences.

These are just an overview of some of the activities that have taken place on the former campus of Central State Hospital. The Authority has been successful in its role as a catalyst for jobs and investment on the campus, but there is still much work to do. Each project started creates additional energy and excitement about this section of the community.

Job Creation and Expansion Underway In Baldwin County

The Development Authority has assisted multiple companies who have relocated to Baldwin County over the past few years, leading to the creation of hundreds of jobs throughout the county. Companies new to Baldwin County, including Fireline Inc. and Fouts Brothers/Smyrna Truck, have brought hundreds of jobs and more than \$10 million in investment since 2020.

In addition to attracting new industry, the Authority is assisting seven local industries that are in the midst of expansions. One of those expansions, ongoing since last year, added 200 jobs to the local industrial landscape alone.

The Authority has also assisted higher education with debt refinancing, interfaced with job training programs for new hires and provided material support on grant applications for other business ventures. All of these efforts continue to strengthen the strong and diversified industrial base in Baldwin County.

By helping to address the most urgent need in regards to economic development, the Authority has spearheaded a team represented by Central Georgia Technical College, Georgia Military College, the Georgia Department of Economic Development, the Baldwin High School College and Career Academy as well as the Authority itself. This team is charged with workforce development advancement. It meets with company leaders to help streamline and shape curriculum to provide a feeder program of future employees who can train and obtain skills needed to accelerate their entrance into the workforce based on company needs.

The Development Authority is led by Chair Sharon Seymour, Vice Chair Derek Williams, Secretary Mac Patel, Treasurer Greg Tyson, Dr. Noris Price, Tyrone Evans and Edward Walker along with ex-officio member and City of Milledgeville Liaison Walter Reynolds and Baldwin County Liaison and Commission Vice Chair Johnny Westmoreland.

The Authority meets at 8:30 a.m. on the fourth Monday of each month at The Economic Development Center located at 105 E. Hancock St. The meetings are open and the public is invited to attend.

Jesse Law Featured in Milledgeville Scene Magazine's "20 Under 40" Issue



Baldwin County Firefighter Jesse Law was recently highlighted in Milledgeville Scene Magazine's "20 Under 40" Issue.

Jesse spent ten years pursuing a career in banking, but he recently followed a life-long dream and changed career paths, joining the Baldwin County Fire Department.

In addition to his work with the fire department, Law is also active in the Milledgeville community and is a recent graduate of Leadership Baldwin. He's also a husband and father to a 3-year-old son. Please click [this link](#) to read more.

Celebrating David McRee's Retirement

The Baldwin County Board of Commissioners recently celebrated the retirement of County Attorney David McRee. He served Baldwin County as County Attorney from June 1, 2010 – December 31, 2012.

In appreciation for his years of dedicated public service, the Board of Commissioners recently presented him with a special plaque.



New Burn Building Nears Completion



The Baldwin County Fire Department began the process of constructing a burn facility year and a half ago. They have been diligent to make it as cost efficient as possible. Baldwin County has purchased the connex boxes as well as most of the steel needed, Fowler Flemister gave them a deal on the concrete pad, and the Rotary Club donated \$1,000 to go towards construction.

Fouts Brothers generously provided all of the welding and fabrication to the fire department at no cost. These services are estimated at over \$10,000. They have also provided steel to reinforce the flooring system.

Firefighters have assisted Captain Bradley Towe with this project as well. They have given of their time and energy by assisting the welders, building the concrete forms, smoothing out the concrete pad, and building the sprinkler system. Firefighter Jeff Allbright has been a big help in coordinating many of the donations. The project is quickly nearing completion thanks to so much community assistance.

The Fire Department hopes to have the building up and running in early March. The last burn facility lasted over 25 years and had almost 1,700 burns in it. This facility has been reinforced and they are hoping for it to 25 years or more. This burn building has been built to NFPA standard, and hopefully when complete, can be utilized as a regional burn facility. By doing so it will allow the Fire Department to do a lot more in-house courses, instead of traveling to Forsyth.