



## Commission Receives Financial Report; Approves Proclamation and Board Reappointment

Posted on January 12, 2026 by Carey Fauscett-Anderson

TRENTON, Ga. (January 12, 2026) — The Dade County Commission reviewed the county's latest financial report and approved multiple resolutions and a proclamation during its January 2026 meeting, addressing fiscal performance, elections, historic preservation, indigent defense services, and short-term financial planning.



County Chief Financial Officer Rebecca Jones presented the county financial report, including account balances as of Dec. 31, 2025, and budget variance reporting through Nov. 30, 2025.

Jones reported year-to-date revenues totaling \$9,089,064, compared with a year-to-date budget of \$9,083,324, resulting in collections exceeding budget by \$5,740 at the time of the report.

Year-to-date expenses were reported at \$7,052,952, compared with a year-to-date budget of \$7,061,207, leaving expenses \$8,255 under budget.

Jones also reviewed Local Option Sales Tax and Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax trends, including SPLOST detail for fiscal year 2026. She reported that the year-to-date percentage of tax collections as of Nov. 30, 2025, was 73.02%.

Following the presentation, the commission approved the financial report by unanimous recorded vote, with Commissioner Bill Pullen voting yes, Commissioner Bob Woods concurring, and Chairman Don Townsend voting yes.

Commissioners approved a proclamation recognizing January as National Human Trafficking Prevention Month in Dade County. The proclamation aligns with national and state observances and calls on individuals, schools, organizations, and communities to increase awareness, learn the signs of human trafficking, support survivors, and work collectively to prevent exploitation in all its forms.



The commission approved Resolution R-06-26, reappointing Dorayne Stephens to the Dade County Alcohol Beverage Control Board. Stephens will serve a four-year term beginning Jan. 1, 2026, and expiring Dec. 31, 2029. Members of the board are appointed by the commission under county ordinance and serve at the pleasure of the governing authority.



Commissioners also adopted Resolution R-02-26, setting qualifying fees for the 2026 General Primary and General Election. Under the resolution, qualifying fees were established at \$120 for county commissioner candidates and \$18 for school board candidates, in accordance with state law.

The commission approved Resolution R-01-26, supporting Dade County's application for a 2026 Historic Preservation Fund Certified Local Government Survey and Planning Grant through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs. The grant application would fund Phase Three of the Dade County Historic Resources Survey, focusing on the Rising Fawn area and surrounding unincorporated portions of southern and western Dade County. The total estimated project cost is \$34,000, with the county committing the required local match contingent upon award of the grant.



Commissioners also adopted Resolution R-03-26, authorizing the county to obtain a tax anticipation loan in the form of a line of credit not to exceed \$1.5 million. The loan is intended to address temporary cash flow needs that occur early in the fiscal year, before the bulk of property tax revenues are collected.

Under the resolution, the line of credit allows the county to meet routine operational expenses and maintain positive cash balances in the general fund during periods when revenues lag behind expenditures. The loan will be repaid from anticipated tax revenues on or before Dec. 31, 2026. The chairperson/county executive and chief financial officer were authorized to execute related documents and manage draws and payments as needed.

In addition, the commission approved Resolution R-05-26, authorizing an indigent defense services agreement between the Lookout Mountain Judicial Circuit Public Defender's Office and the governing authorities of Catoosa, Chattooga, Dade, and Walker counties. The agreement provides for the continued delivery of indigent defense services in accordance with state law and authorizes the county executive and designees to execute documents required to carry out the agreement.