

Chairman John Eaves, Ph.D.

District One

As Chairman of the Fulton County Commission, John H. Eaves, Ph.D., chairs a commission comprised of seven members who govern the county. Fulton County is comprised of 14 municipalities and is the most populated county in Georgia, serving as home to an estimated population of 1.1 million residents. The 2011 operating budget is \$909,001,455 million.

Since assuming the Chairmanship in 2007, Eaves has championed and provided leadership in many critical areas. Chief among those is his leadership of the Budget Commission in the development and passage of four budgets that held the line on property taxes, created a more efficient operation through the elimination of waste and at the same time maintained jobs. All four budgets have included a surplus.

Chairman Eaves has also provided:

- Leadership in the creation of three joint committees comprised of Fulton County and DeKalb County Commission members in the areas of Transportation, Housing and Healthcare to address mutual concerns affecting both counties.
- Leadership in changing the governance structure of Grady Hospital into a non-profit corporation and seeking alternative funding sources to support Grady Memorial Hospital in becoming self sustaining while ensuring quality service for the patients.
- Support of MARTA in securing additional funding to maintain operation and the level of service for riders.
- Support of a regional transportation plan that includes equitable financial participation of all governments involved.
- Leadership in the creation of the "One Fulton" initiative, which opposed legislation considered by the Georgia General Assembly to split Fulton County in half.
- Support of the utilization of existing funding to renovate facilities and improve resources within the Atlanta-Fulton County Library System.
- Leadership in the creation of the Mayoral Council providing a forum for the leaders of the respective municipalities to discuss issues, programs and concerns impacting their constituents.
- Leadership in creating a study committee to explore the feasibility of purchasing the Atlanta City Jail providing overcrowding relief at the Fulton County Jail and fulfilling mandates of the existing consent decree(s).
- Leadership in creating the Re-Entry Task Force comprised of all the heads of the Fulton County criminal justice agencies, a number of justice representatives from across the state, along with leaders in education, housing and employment for the purpose of formulating programs to reclaim young lives, reduce costs, and relieve overcrowding in the county jail in the future.

Chairman Eaves has also sought to combine his appreciation for cross cultural experiences and his extensive knowledge of educational leadership to support the youth of Fulton County. In 2007, he led the expansion of the Fulton County Youth Commission to include an international component to prepare young leaders for participation in a global economy through a student exchange program. Some 55 youths participating in the Fulton County Global Youth Leadership program have travelled to South Africa, Germany, Turkey, and Brazil.

Other initiatives of the Chairman include the clean-up by staff of Fulton Industrial Boulevard creating a safer environment for businesses and workers in the area; and the START Program, an initiative in partnership with the Atlanta Public School System and the Fulton County School System to encourage academic achievement and high school graduation.

Background

John Eaves, chairman of the Fulton County Commission, began his second, four-year term in office January 2011 after being re-elected on November 2, 2010 with 60% of the votes cast. As head of the largest county in the State of Georgia, Chairman Eaves presides over a seven-member governing commission representing 14 municipalities with and a diverse population of 1.1 million residents, including the City of Atlanta. Fulton County serves as the most populous county in the state, and has the second largest operating budget and the largest geographic area among Georgia's 159 counties.

Since assuming the Chairmanship in 2007, Chairman Eaves has championed and provided leadership in many critical areas. Chief among those is the Budget Commission in the development and passage of budgets that held the line on property taxes, created a more efficient operation while maintaining jobs. Fulton County closed out its 2010 fiscal year with more than \$156 million in reserves.

Additionally, Chairman Eaves has provided leadership in the creation of three joint committees comprised of Fulton County and DeKalb County Commission members in the areas of transportation, housing and healthcare to address concerns affecting both counties; he supported the governance structure change of Grady Hospital into a non-profit corporation to help the institution become self sustaining while ensuring quality service for the patients; and created the Re-Entry Task Force comprised of all the heads of the Fulton County criminal justice agencies, a number of justice

representatives from across the state, along with leaders in education, housing and employment to formulate programs to reclaim young lives, reduce costs, and relieve overcrowding in the county jail in the future. Chairman Eaves is the founder of the Fulton County Global Youth Leadership program which prepares young leaders for participation in a global economy through international student exchange. Since its founding in 2008, participant numbers have more than tripled and students have visited South Africa, Germany and Turkey.

Chairman Eaves received a B.A. in mathematics from Morehouse College in 1984. In 1987, he earned a master's degree from Yale University in religion and obtained a doctorate in educational administration in 1999 from the University of South Carolina. Chairman Eaves received the American Marshall (Plan) Memorial Fellowship – German Marshall Fund in 2001, and was awarded participation in the Fulbright International Educators Administrators program in 2003. He was awarded a Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant in 2004. Chairman Eaves also has served as chairman of the Atlanta Sister Cities Commission, member of the City of Atlanta's Advisory Committee on International Relations, and as Visiting Professor for the National Urban League Black Executive Exchange Program.

Currently, Chairman Eaves is an Executive Consultant with TalentQuest, an Atlanta based talent management consultant firm, where he specializes in management training and leadership coaching.

Chairman Eaves is married to Cheryl Regina Eaves, and they are the devoted parents of three children, Isaac, Keturah, and Kyle.

Awards

Top Volunteer - Atlanta Public School System
Volunteer of the Year - Atlanta University Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa
National School Volunteer Program Spokesperson designee
Outstanding Young Man of America
American Marshall Memorial Fellowship Recipient – German Marshall Fund'
Fulbright International Educators Administrators German Seminar Program
Fulbright Senior Specialist Grant Recipient

Publications

Author - "Speakers of the House: Morehouse Men Reflect on their Journey to Manhood" – Publisher- Publishing Associates (2006).

Author - "The Morehouse Mystique: Lessons on how to develop Black Boys," - Publisher- African American Images Publishing Company (2009).