



# 2026 STATE OF THE COUNTY



**THURSDAY, MAY 7TH  
LUNCH & PROGRAM**

**ASSEMBLY STUDIOS ATLANTA**

2582 ASSEMBLY BLVD. DORAVILLE, GA 30360



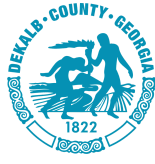
SCAN QR CODE FOR  
2025 YEAR IN REVIEW



**Lorraine Cochran-Johnson  
DeKalb County CEO**



# 2026 STATE OF THE COUNTY



## PROGRAM

### WELCOME

Frankie Atwater, Sr.  
President & CEO  
DeKalb Chamber of Commerce

Michael Paris  
President & CEO  
Council for Quality Growth

### ASSEMBLY STUDIOS WELCOME

Hilton Howell III  
Senior Business Director  
Gray Media

### WELCOME REMARKS, DEKALB COUNTY

Chakira Johnson  
Presiding Officer & District 4 Commissioner  
DeKalb County Board of Commissioners

### WELCOME REMARKS, CITY OF DORAVILLE

Joseph Geierman  
Mayor  
City of Doraville

### PRESENTATION OF COLORS

DeKalb Honor Guard

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

Ms. LaShanda Brown  
Vocalist

### INVOCATION

Rev. Dr. William E. Flippin, Sr.  
Visionary Pastor  
The Greater Piney Grove Baptist Church

## **PRESENTING SPONSOR REMARKS**

**Terreta Rodgers**  
Head of Community Affairs  
Amazon

**James Tsismanakis**  
Executive Director & CEO  
Discover DeKalb

**Jevon Gibson**  
CEO  
The Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority

## **RESOURCE SPONSOR REMARKS**

**Danny Johnson**  
Managing Director of Natural Resources  
Metropolitan North Georgia  
Water Planning District

## **RECOGNITION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

**Martha Revelo**  
Chief of Intergovernmental Affairs  
DeKalb County

## **INTRODUCTION OF THE CEO**

**Dionna Smith**  
Chief Communications Officer  
DeKalb County

## **STATE OF THE COUNTY ADDRESS**

**Lorraine Cochran-Johnson**  
Chief Executive Officer  
DeKalb County

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**Frankie Atwater, Sr.**  
President & CEO  
DeKalb Chamber of Commerce

**Michael Paris**  
President & CEO  
Council for Quality Growth

# DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



**ROBERT PATRICK**  
COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 1



**MICHELLE LONG-SPEARS**  
COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 2



**NICOLE MASSIAH**  
COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 3



**CHAKIRA JOHNSON**  
COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 4



**MEREDA DAVIS JOHNSON**  
COMMISSIONER  
DISTRICT 5



**EDWARD "TED" TERRY**  
COMMISSIONER  
SUPER DISTRICT 6



**DR. LADENA BOLTON**  
COMMISSIONER  
SUPER DISTRICT 7

DEKALB COUNTY  
**EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATION**



LORRAINE COCHRAN-JOHNSON  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



LEAH DAVIS  
CHIEF OF STAFF



ZACHARY WILLIAMS  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER



JACOB VALLO  
CHIEF DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICER



DIONNA SMITH  
CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS  
OFFICER



MARTHA REVELO  
CHIEF OF INTERGOVERNMENTAL  
AFFAIRS



ALAN FERGUSON, SR., PH.D.  
CHIEF HOUSING OFFICER



# arts dekalb

DeKalb Council for the Arts

## MISSION

The DeKalb Council for the Arts mission is to build thriving communities through the arts by implementing and managing arts programs, providing support and resources to artists and organizations, advocating for arts education and funding, and promoting cultural vitality.

SCAN QR CODE TO VISIT  
ARTSDEKALB.COM

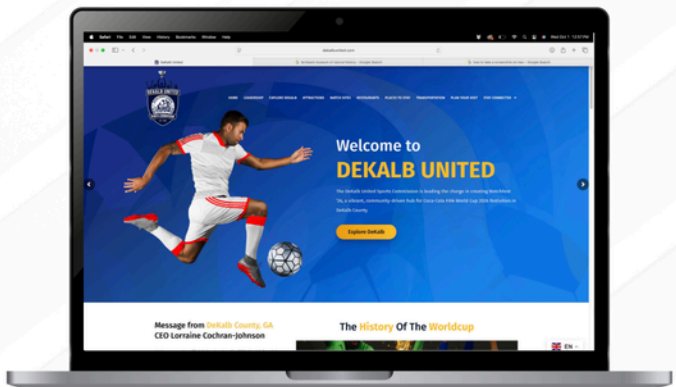


## DEKALB UNITED SPORTS COMMISSION

A website supporting DeKalb Sports has been created with an emphasis on sporting events in DeKalb County and throughout Metro Atlanta. The website is designed to promote sports, sporting events, restaurants, attractions, and WatchFest sites. The website will continually be updated to showcase major events, to encourage economic development and tourism across DeKalb County.



SCAN QR CODE TO VISIT  
DEKALBUNITED.COM





# DEKALB IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

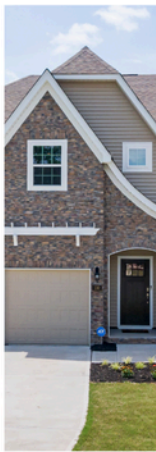


DRIVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. CREATING OPPORTUNITY. DELIVERING RESULTS.



## IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE DEKALB COUNTY

PROUDLY REIMAGINING & REDEFINING WHO WE ARE



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | SENIOR SERVICES | QUALITY OF LIFE | THRIVING COMMUNITIES | INFRASTRUCTURE

DeKalb County's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was \$59.34 billion in 2024, according to Federal Reserve Economic Data. We are the third largest economic hub within metro Atlanta, and we are proud to hold a significant share of Georgia's economy.

Join us as we grow smart communities that define our future.

CEO Lorraine Cochran-Johnson



Jacob Vallo  
Chief Development Officer  
Lorraine Cochran-Johnson  
Chief Executive Officer

SCAN OR CODE TO LEARN MORE  
ABOUT OUR VISION AND  
JOIN OUR EFFORTS





**SPONSORS**

**Presented by:**



**PLATINUM SPONSORS**



**GOLD SPONSORS**



**SILVER SPONSORS**

Arcadis | AtkinsRéalis | CERM | Chamblee Doraville CID | City of Brookhaven  
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Emory Healthcare | Empire Homes | Goode Van Slyke Architecture  
Kaiser Permanente | Kimley-Horn | MARTA | Metro South CID  
Oasis Consulting Services | Publix | R.B. Communication, Inc. | R2T Inc.  
United Consulting | Verizon

**BRONZE SPONSORS**

Accura Engineering & Consulting Services | AT&T | Blue Cypress Consulting  
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Gregory B. Levett & Sons Funeral Homes | Hello Heart  
Housing Development Corporation | Intellectual Concepts, LLC  
RK Reeves & Associates



## *Roll Camera on the Future*

Every great production needs a great location.  
Every great county needs a great vision.  
Today, both share the same address.

Assembly Atlanta and Assembly Studios are honored to once again host the State of DeKalb County Address – and to welcome Madame CEO Lorraine Cochran-Johnson back to our stages, where Doraville, DeKalb, and the future of storytelling all come together.

Our thanks to the Council for Quality Growth, the DeKalb Chamber, and DeKalb County for bringing this moment to life.  
Proud to call DeKalb County home.  
Proud to be part of the story.

*Learn more at*  
[AssemblyAtlanta.com](http://AssemblyAtlanta.com)

*Assembly*  
STUDIOS





# Working hand-in-hand with local partners to **build strength in our community.**

At Amazon, we look to leverage our scale for good to help strengthen local communities. That means combining our strengths with those of community partners, working together to find creative solutions that have a lasting impact. Thank you to **DeKalb County and the Council for Quality Growth** for your impact in the community.

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To learn more, visit [aboutamazon.com](https://aboutamazon.com)





# The Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority

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## Where Systems Align and Change Begins.

For 85 years, The Fulton-DeKalb Hospital Authority (FDHA) has been a trusted steward of public health, ensuring access to quality prevention and healthcare services for residents of Fulton and DeKalb counties.

Grounded in accountability and health equity, the FDHA strengthens organizational capacity, engages stakeholders, advances innovative approaches to care, and manages public assets responsibly to meet current and future community health needs.

### Serving Fulton and DeKalb Counties for 85 Years



# THREE STORIES. ONE DEKALB.

## — OUR 3 SHORT FILMS —

Explore the people, places, and experiences that make DeKalb more than a destination—it's something bigger.



### BEYOND UNSTOPPABLE THE REFUGEE SOCCER COMMUNITY IN DEKALB COUNTY

A story of welcome, belonging, and the power of community.



### STILL BEATING THE EVAN HOLYFIELD STORY

A champion's journey of faith, perseverance, and purpose.



### BUFORD HIGHWAY: HAVE YOU EATEN?

A delicious look at the food, culture, and people that make our corridor iconic.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FILMS VISIT  
[DISCOVERDEKALB.COM](http://DISCOVERDEKALB.COM)

REAL STORIES.  
REAL DEKALB.



People. Process. Results.

# ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS THAT MOVE COMMUNITIES FORWARD

## ABOUT US

BenchMark Management is an Atlanta-based engineering and construction management firm delivering innovative and efficient solutions for municipal infrastructure projects. Our team specializes in water and wastewater treatment, transmission and distribution systems, and collection and pump station design. We are committed to precision, sustainability, and client-focused solutions that address complex engineering challenges.



## OUR ENGINEERING SERVICES

- Sewer Collection and Conveyance
- Water Distribution and Transmission Main Design
- Storm-water Conveyance System Design
- Environmental Permitting
- Hydrology Study and Hydraulic Modeling
- Site and Civil Design

## CONTACT US

- (404) 581-9656
- [twinfrey@bmmllc.com](mailto:twinfrey@bmmllc.com)
- [www.bmmllc.com](http://www.bmmllc.com)



# DECIDE DEKALB SMALL BUSINESS LOAN & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Decide DeKalb Small Business Revolving Loan Fund and Technical Assistance Program is here to help local entrepreneurs thrive. This initiative provides affordable capital and hands-on support to businesses across DeKalb County.

### BUSINESSES WILL HAVE ACCESS TO:

- Training programs
- Business coaching
- Wrap-around support

### LOAN TERMS:

- \$50K-\$150K
- 5-7 year terms
- Maximum 5% interest rate

From navigating financing to strengthening operations, we're committed to helping DeKalb businesses grow and succeed.

For more information, visit [DecideDeKalb.com](http://DecideDeKalb.com)





**GAS SOUTH**

## Fueling Good in DeKalb County

As Georgia's highest-rated natural gas provider, Gas South is proud to help support your community, including platinum-level sponsorship of State of DeKalb.

Learn more about what it means to *Be A Fuel For Good*®:  
[GasSouth.com/Giving-Back](https://GasSouth.com/Giving-Back)



**SAK**®

*Pipeline Infrastructure. Solved.®*

## PIPELINE RENEWAL THAT DELIVERS

At **SAK**, we're strengthening DeKalb County's underground infrastructure to support a region that keeps growing.

From aging storm and wastewater pipelines to critical rehabilitation needs, we deliver safe, reliable solutions that reduce disruption and help communities stay ahead of what's next.

**Pipeline Infrastructure. Solved.**

[sakcon.com](https://sakcon.com)

**Platinum Sponsor**



**DIRECT RESIDENTIAL  
COMMUNITIES**

**State of the County Partners**





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VISIT THE ALL-NEW  
[DEKALBCOUNTYGA.GOV](http://DEKALBCOUNTYGA.GOV)