

**Press Release**

**City of Auburn**

**HB 581 Opt Out**

**January 1, 2025**

The City Council City of Auburn intends to hold public hearings to consider opting out of the statewide adjusted base year ad valorem homestead exemption for the City of Auburn, Georgia. All concerned citizens are invited to the public hearing on this matter to be held at City Hall, 1 Auburn Way, Auburn, Georgia 30011 on January 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Times and places of additional public hearings on this matter are at City Hall, 1 Auburn Way, Auburn, Georgia 30011 on January 23, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. and on February 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. Public comment is invited and encouraged.

The Statewide Floating Homestead Exemption outlined in HB 581 and codified in O.C.G.A. Sec. 48-5-44.2 is considered an adjusted base-year homestead exemption, because it allows the homestead's base-year value to increase annually up to the inflation rate determined by the State Revenue Commissioner.

The Legislation allows local governments to remove themselves from the statewide exemption before March 1, 2025. Every local government is affected by the exemption differently based on its tax digest mixture (commercial, industrial, office, residential, vacant, etc.) and the average longevity of homestead properties. The City of Auburn anticipates being particularly impacted because of the high percentage of stable residential properties in its tax digest. Opting out provides the City needed flexibility to meet demands, provide services, and balance its budget with stability. This summary is provided to satisfy the requirements of HB 581 (O.C.G.A. Sec. 48-5-44.2(i)).