



MURRAY COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

P.O. Box 1129/121 N. 4th Ave. Chatsworth, Georgia 30705

706.517.1400 Ext. 1277

nbishop@murraycountyga.gov

Minutes

Murray County Commissioner's Meeting August 13, 2025

The Sole Commissioner of Murray County, Noah Bishop, called the meeting to order at 8:02 A.M., August 13, 2025, in the Hearing Room of the Murray County Annex. In attendance were Noah Bishop, Sole Commissioner, Tommy Parker, County Manager, Billy Cantrell, City of Eton Mayor, K.W. Gong, City of Chatsworth Mayor, Steven Johnson, M.C. Chief Appraiser, Brandon Dills, M.C. Deputy Chief Appraiser, Carl Campbell, Zach Hall, Kyle Presley with The Chatsworth Times, Michelle Koneman, Daniel Gibson, Chris Hardin, John Reed, Neal Keener, and Tina Davis, County Clerk.

Following the Call to Order, Commissioner Noah Bishop **approved** the agenda as written for August 13, 2025.

New business was next on the agenda. Under new business the Commissioner announced the purpose of today's meeting is to publicly discuss Georgia H.B. 581 and the proposed allocation of 2026-2030 Floating Local Option Sales Tax (FLOST) funds with The City of Chatsworth's Mayor, K.W. Gong, and The City of Eton's Mayor, Billy Cantrell. Commissioner Bishop made the point that although H.B. 581 passed for Georgia in November 2024, implementation of the Floating Local Option Sales Tax (FLOST) is contingent upon voter approval in the General Election on November 4, 2025.

- A. FLOST (Floating Local Option Sales Tax) Discussion: County Manager, Tommy Parker, went over a FLOST Referendum and Distribution Proposal using Point of Service & Collection Data from the 1% Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) Collection(s) from the 12-month (January-December) 2024 history and January through June of 2025 collection history.

*FLOST funds, if approved by the voters in November, will be used solely for County & City property tax relief. **DOES NOT** affect school property tax amount.*

Following the County Managers presentation the members of the public asked many questions and expressed their concerns. Commissioner Bishop, Tommy Parker and the County Clerk, Tina Davis answered their questions and acknowledged their concerns. The following are explanations to many of the questions & concerns:

Georgia House Bill 581 (Floating Homestead Exemption) *Passed by voters-November 2024.*

Sets a "**floating homestead exemption**" that caps how much your property's taxable value can grow each year-limited to the rate of **inflation (CPI)**-instead of rising with market values.

**** HB 581 does not replace** any existing homestead exemptions-it's **in addition**, and you get whichever exemption saves you more.**

Why It Matters:

- It helps property owners by slowing how much their property tax bill can grow each year.
- It gives local governments tools (like the FLOST sales tax) to roll back property taxes to benefit taxpayers-*but requires public involvement and voter approval.*
- It balances relief for taxpayers with overall funding needs of local services.

****County and City property tax relief-DOES NOT affect school property tax amount****



FLOST: Floating Local Option Sales Tax *(If voters approve in November 4, 2025)*

What it is: A 1% **local sales tax** (1 penny for every dollar spent) offered as an optional tool to help taxpayers **offset County & City property taxes**.

1. The **County and both Cities** enter into an **intergovernmental agreement (IGA)** setting tax rate, duration (max 5 years), and distribution.
2. Then, if approved by voters in November 2025, the FLOST is enacted and will begin collecting January 2026.
3. Will be collected the full year of 2026, and taxpayers will see the benefit on their 2027 tax bill.
4. Each year's collections will roll back the following year's property taxes.

i.e.: 2026 collections will roll back 2027 property taxes.

****FLOST collection years are 2026 through 2030. Tax bill adjustments 2027 through 2031.****

Sales tax in Murray would become 9% (9 cents on every dollar spent) instead of 8%

How it works:

- **Usage:** Funds **will be used only for property tax relief**. Tax bills will clearly show how much your property tax is reduced due to FLOST.
- **Roll-back rate adjustment:** Revenues from FLOST lower or "roll-back" the millage rate (a threshold beyond which raising property taxes triggers a required notice), offering more tax stability.
- **Renewal:** FLOST lasts up to 5 years; renewing it requires another voter approval.

Breaking it Down : What Homeowners Should Know:

- **Your property's taxable value now grows more predictably:**
Only by inflation, not market swings.
- **There's a new tool (FLOST):**
To shift some of the tax burden from property owners to consumers: it requires local agreement and voter approval.
****You pay any extra penny in sales tax, but every dollar collected goes toward lowering your property tax****
- **More transparency:**
You'll see the roll-back rate on your assessment notice.
- **Your final taxes still depend on the millage rate:**
The County & both Cities will adjust or "roll back" the millage rate to reflect every penny collected through FLOST and your property's assessed value is controlled.

****County and City property tax relief-DOES NOT affect school property tax amount****

Note: Implementation of the Floating Local Option Sales Tax (FLOST) is contingent upon voter approval in the General Election on November 4, 2025

The Sole Commissioner of Murray County, Noah Bishop, adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:11 A.M.

All Supporting Documents are in Minutes Book #13.

Noah Bishop, Sole Commissioner

Tina Davis, County Clerk

Date Approved