

As early voting gets underway this Tuesday, October 15th, it is essential to know about three resolutions on the ballot.

House resolutions 1022, 598, and 808...all sound great but will hurt communities in various ways.

1. House Bill 1022 effectively makes a statewide exemption that puts home values across all counties equal, taking the power away from the local municipality to determine home values and the mileage rate. This means that areas like Alpharetta (where the author of this new Bill lives) will see their taxes go down while ours will go up!! VOTE NO ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 1022!
2. House Resolution 598- If passed, this Bill will fold the Georgia Tax Court under the jurisdiction of the Superior Court. Here's the kicker... this new court would no longer be elected by the people. Still, instead, the governor would appoint the Chief Justice over the court, who would then have the power to appoint the remaining members, taking away any power we have with our votes. Again, here's the kicker... unlike currently under the separate Georgia Tax Court, where if you want to appeal your taxes, you can represent yourself in court without fees, under this new Bill, you can no longer represent yourself. You must obtain an attorney and be responsible for all legal fees and court costs. VOTE NO ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 598!
3. House Resolution 808- At first glance, raising the exemption from \$6,500 to \$20,000 seems excellent, but it doesn't just refer to property taxes. It says all tangible "PERSONAL" property. Once again, this will benefit those in wealthier counties by allowing tax right-offs that most folks in our community cannot take advantage of at all. Here's the kicker on this bill ... the tax revenue lost could reach \$250 million a year, which will negatively affect funding for our area schools. It could also mean counties must initiate a local option sales tax to compensate for the lost revenue. VOTE NO ON HOUSE RESOLUTION 808!

(Excerpts from a post received 10/15/24)