

**PRESS RELEASE**  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**HOUSE BILL 581 FLOATING HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION ACT**  
**December 17, 2025**

At the November 7, 2024 election, the voters approved a constitutional amendment to enact House Bill (HB) 581, the Floating Homestead Exemption Act. This act restricts the amount of property tax a governmental entity can collect on homestead properties, particularly in the year of a reassessment of property. It does not affect the standard homestead exemption already in place. HB581 allows governmental entities to opt out of this restriction. The Washington County Board of Education adopted a resolution at their February 6, 2025 meeting to opt out of this restriction.

Legislation passed and enacted in 2025 requires that governmental entities desiring to maintain this status opt out each year. The Washington County Board of Education intends to opt out of this restriction for the 2025 tax year.

The Board of Education has endeavored to keep property taxes as low as possible and considers this to be one of their fundamental responsibilities. Opting out of this state-imposed requirement allows the Board to maintain local control of their taxing authority and best serve the interests of our taxpayers. The Board will continue to carefully deliberate regarding the millage they assess and will maintain their commitment to taxpayers to only assess the millage required to continue our charge to educate our community's students.

The Board will hold three public hearings on this matter. Public notice for each hearing will be provided on the Board's website and in the county's legal organ, The Sandersville Georgian. The hearings are scheduled for January 8, 2026 at 6:30 PM, January 15, 2026 at 10:00 AM, and January 22, 2026 at 4:00 PM. All hearings will be held in the Washington County Board of Education Board Room at 501 Industrial Drive, Sandersville, Georgia. We encourage all interested parties to attend the hearings and express their concerns.