

Why Chamblee?

1. ***Opportunity for better services for Police, Parks, Roads and Zoning and Code Enforcement.*** For the past decade Dekalb County has struggled in providing a consistent level of delivery for the services that Chamblee will take over. Some examples:
 - a. ***Police*** – Chamblee has 10 officers per shift and 68 total sworn officer. Compare this to Dekalb who has just 2-5 officers per zone. Chamblee has a response time of under 5 minutes for an emergency call.
 - b. ***Roads*** - Chamblee uses a third party to assess the quality of every road in the city and assigns a grade to each and then works to fix the worst roads first. Politics is taken out of how roads are chosen for maintenance.
 - c. ***Parks*** – Chamblee views Parks as key gathering areas for socializing, recreation and sporting events for their residents. They have spent significant funds to clean-up, maintain and enhance the parks they acquire from Dekalb County.
 - d. ***Zoning and Code Enforcement*** – Chamblee conducts a Character Study of each area that allows residents to provide input into a Character Definition that defines what they want their neighborhood to look like. Developers use this to determine what type of development will be acceptable for the neighborhood, which help avoid the fights that now exist for rezoning requests. Chamblee dedicates Code Enforcement officers to specific areas so that they are more knowledgeable and responsive to issues. There are four code enforcement officers per 7.8 square miles.
2. ***Taxes*** –
 - a. No Double Taxation - State law requires that the tax funds collected for the services noted above be directed to the entity that provides the service
 - b. A *Special Tax District* will be created to directly fund improvements, like stormwater, roads and sidewalks in the annexed area. Chamblee will actually repair systems and have a maintenance program.
 - c. Preserves the existing senior exemption as well as homestead, veteran and disabled persons exemptions and provide enhanced senior/disabled exemptions on the city portion of taxes. Seniors (Over 65) and Disabled Veterans are 100% exempt from city taxes.
3. ***Responsiveness and Accountability*** – Chamblee’s population is less than 35,000 vs over 760,000 for Dekalb County. With fewer than 7,000 residents per city council representative, residents have more input and access to hold their representative accountable for tax rates and services provided. The city budget is available online for all residents to track and understand how their taxes are being spent. City meetings are live streamed and stored on the city website. The Chamblee Newsletter is online and published six times per year and mailed to residents. Chamblee 101 is an eight-week program designed to educate residents and business owners on how the city government works, who's responsible for what, and what steps residents can take to make a difference. It includes discussions and interactive activities. Sessions are yearly and begin in early April.
4. ***No impact to schools, water/sewer and other services provided by Dekalb County***