

**HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSION**  
**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**SUBJECT:** Amendment to Resolution 2023-12-001 Setting 2024 Qualifying Fees

**DATE:** December 21, 2023

( ) **RECOMMENDATION**  
( ) **POLICY DISCUSSION**  
( ) **STATUS REPORT**  
(x) **OTHER**

**BUDGET INFORMATION:** N/A  
ANNUAL-  
CAPITAL-

**COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON:** January 16, 2023

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**PURPOSE:** To request an amendment to resolution 2023-12-001 setting the 2024 qualifying fees for candidates seeking election to certain county offices as required by O.C.G.A 21-2-131 (a) 1 A.

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**BACKGROUND / HISTORY:** As defined in OCGA 21-2-131 (a) 1 A, the governing authority shall fix and publish a qualifying fee for each county office to be filled in the upcoming primary election. The Board of Commissioners voted at their meeting on December 18, 2023 to approve resolution 2023-12-001 setting the 2024 qualifying fees. The Commission had questioned the salaries that were used to calculate the fees, and upon review by staff, it was determined that corrections needed to be made. These corrections resulted in a change in the qualifying fees which will require an amendment to resolution 2023-12-001.

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**FACTS AND ISSUES:**

- a. The Board of Commissioners are required to set and publish the qualifying fees for each county office to be filled in the upcoming primaries or elections by February 1<sup>st</sup> of the year in which they are held.
- b. Fees are set in accordance with the formula prescribed by O.C.G.A 21-2-131 (a) 1B as shown on attachment. The salaries used are from the year preceding the election year (2023).
- c. Resolution 2023-12-001 setting the 2024 Qualifying Fees was approved at the December 18, 2023 Board of Commissioners based on staff recommendation.
- d. Staff discovered errors in the salaries used for the computation of the qualifying fees and an amendment to resolution 2023-12-001 is needed to correct the fees prior to advertising.

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**OPTIONS:**

- 1) Approve amendments to resolution 2023-12-001 setting the 2024 qualifying fees.
- 2) Deny amendments to resolution 2023-12-001 setting the 2024 qualifying fees.
- 3) Commission defined alternative

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**RECOMMENDED SAMPLE MOTION:** “ I motion to approve the amendments to resolution 2023-12-01 setting the 2024 qualifying fees for the offices listed.”

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**DEPARTMENT: Human Resources**

Prepared by: Ann Cain

Director: Ann Cain

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**ADMINISTRATIVE**

**COMMENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **County Manager:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2023-12-001 SETTING THE 2024 QUALIFYING FEES FOR CANDIDATES SEEKING ELECTION TO CERTAIN OFFICES**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the terms of O.C.G.A 21-2-131 the governing authority of Habersham County is required to set the qualifying fees for candidates seeking election to certain offices; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following qualifying fees are established for the offices set forth below:

<b>District Attorney</b>	<b>Set by the Secretary of State</b>
<b>Superior Court Judge</b>	<b>Set by the Secretary of State</b>
<b>State Court Judge</b>	<b>\$ 3,210.97</b>
<b>Probate Judge</b>	<b>\$ 2,016.11</b>
<b>Clerk of Court</b>	<b>\$ 2,016.11</b>
<b>Sheriff</b>	<b>\$ 2,512.52</b>
<b>Tax Commissioner</b>	<b>\$ 2,016.11</b>
<b>Coroner</b>	<b>\$ 750.00</b>
<b>Chief Magistrate Judge</b>	<b>\$ 2,056.43</b>
<b>Solicitor</b>	<b>\$ 3,197.35</b>
<b>County Commission District 1</b>	<b>\$ 288.00</b>
<b>County Commission District 4</b>	<b>\$ 288.00</b>
<b>County Commission District 5</b>	<b>\$ 288.00</b>
<b>Board of Education Dist. 1</b>	<b>\$ 153.00</b>
<b>Board of Education Dist. 2</b>	<b>\$ 153.00</b>

The above Resolution was adopted by the Habersham County Board of Commissioners on this 16<sup>th</sup> day of January 2024.

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Commission Chairman Ty Akins

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
County Clerk Brandalin Carnes

# 2024 ELECTION RACE TEMPLATE

OFFICE NAME	CALCULATION	CORRELATING SALARY	3% FEE
District Attorney-Mountain Judicial Circuit	N/A	N/A	Set by SOS
Superior Court Judge	N/A	N/A	Set by SOS
State Court Judge	Based on Total GROSS salary	\$107,032.20	\$3,210.97
Probate Judge	Based on COAG Population Minimum Base Salary	\$67,203.60	\$2,016.11
Clerk of Court	Based on COAG Population Minimum Base Salary	\$67,203.60	\$2,016.11
Sheriff	Based on COAG Population Minimum Base Salary	\$83,750.51	\$2,512.52
Tax Commissioner	Based on COAG Population Minimum Base Salary	\$67,203.60	\$2,016.11
Coroner	Based on Total GROSS salary	\$25,000.00	\$750.00
Magistrate Judge	Based on COAG Population Minimum Base Salary	\$68,547.73	\$2,056.43
Solicitor	Based on Total GROSS salary	\$106,578.48	\$3,197.35
County Comm - District 1	Based on Local Legislation	\$9,600.00	\$288.00
County Comm - District 4	Based on Local Legislation	\$9,600.00	\$288.00
County Comm - District 5	Based on Local Legislation	\$9,600.00	\$288.00
BOE - District 1	Based on Total GROSS salary	\$5,100.00	\$ 153.00
BOE - District 2	Based on Total GROSS salary	\$5,100.00	\$153.00

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

### **Qualifying Fees for County Offices**

In compliance with O.C.G.A. Section 21-2-131(a), the Habersham County Board of Commissioners fixed the following qualifying fees for the respective public offices shown below at their regularly scheduled meeting held December 18, 2023:

<b>District Attorney</b>	<b>Set by the Secretary of State</b>
<b>Superior Court Judge</b>	<b>Set by the Secretary of State</b>
<b>State Court Judge</b>	<b>\$ 3,210.97</b>
<b>Probate Judge</b>	<b>\$ 2,016.11</b>
<b>Clerk of Court</b>	<b>\$ 2,016.11</b>
<b>Sheriff</b>	<b>\$ 2,512.52</b>
<b>Tax Commissioner</b>	<b>\$ 2,016.11</b>
<b>Coroner</b>	<b>\$ 750.00</b>
<b>Chief Magistrate Judge</b>	<b>\$ 2,056.43</b>
<b>Solicitor</b>	<b>\$ 3,197.35</b>
<b>County Commission District 1</b>	<b>\$ 288.00</b>
<b>County Commission District 4</b>	<b>\$ 288.00</b>
<b>County Commission District 5</b>	<b>\$ 288.00</b>
<b>Board of Education Dist. 1</b>	<b>\$ 153.00</b>
<b>Board of Education Dist. 2</b>	<b>\$ 153.00</b>

### **Qualifying Dates**

Qualifying for the May 21, 2024 General Primary shall commence from 9:00 a.m.- 5:00 p.m. Monday, March 4, 2024 through Thursday, March 7, 2024 and will end at 12:00 noon on Friday, March 8, 2024. These dates are calculated in compliance with O.C.G.A. § 21-2-153(c).

## MAGISTRATES MINIMUM SALARY FOR 2023

Minimum salaries for elected and appointed magistrate judges are calculated according to the procedure summarized below. State law changes effective January 1, 2022, re-set base salaries for magistrates, including all COLAs awarded prior to July 1, 2022;<sup>55</sup> as a result, only the 2023 COLA is applicable. To compute state minimum salaries for magistrates, follow these steps:

**Step 1: Establish the Base Salary.** Start with the annual base salary for the magistrate shown in the "Schedule of Base Salaries" using the county's population reported in the Census estimate in APPENDIX D.<sup>56</sup> However, if the county's population decreased since the 2020 Census (APPENDIX E), 2010 Census (APPENDIX F), or 2000 Census (APPENDIX G), bringing the magistrate into a population bracket with a lower base salary, then the magistrate is entitled to receive the base salary of the previous census in the higher population bracket so long as he or she is in office.<sup>57</sup>

Population	Base Salary
0 – 5,999	\$36,288.19
6,000 – 11,889	\$49,833.79
11,890 – 19,999	\$56,451.65
20,000 – 28,999	\$59,934.60
29,000 – 38,999	\$64,512.39
39,000 – 49,999	\$68,547.73
50,000 – 74,999	\$76,834.09
75,000 – 99,999	\$82,472.75
100,000 – 149,999	\$88,109.64
150,000 – 199,999	\$94,082.74
200,000 – 249,999	\$102,736.58
250,000 – 299,999	\$111,523.74
300,000 – 300,000	\$123,100.07

## PROBATE JUDGES MINIMUM SALARY FOR 2023

Minimum salaries for probate judges are calculated according to the procedure summarized below. To compute state minimum probate judges' salaries, follow these steps:

**Step 1: Establish the Base Salary.** Start with the annual base salary for the probate judge shown in the "Schedule of Base Salaries" below, using the county's population reported in the Census estimate in APPENDIX D.<sup>70</sup> However, if the population has decreased since the 2020 Census (APPENDIX E), 2010 Census (see APPENDIX F) or the 2000 Census (see APPENDIX G) bringing the probate judge into a population bracket with a lower base salary, then the probate judge is entitled to receive the base salary of the previous census in the higher population bracket so long as that probate judge is in office.<sup>71</sup>

### Schedule of Base Salaries

Population	Base Salary
0 – 5,999	\$35,576.65
6,000 – 11,889	\$48,856.63
11,890 – 19,999	\$55,344.71
20,000 – 28,999	\$59,296.04
29,000 – 38,999	\$63,247.38
39,000 – 49,999	\$67,203.60
50,000 – 74,999	\$75,327.48
75,000 – 99,999	\$80,855.58
100,000 – 149,999	\$86,381.94
150,000 – 199,999	\$92,237.91
200,000 – 249,999	\$100,722.08
250,000 – 299,999	\$109,336.93
300,000 – 399,999	\$120,695.99
400,000 – 499,999	\$125,596.32

## SHERIFFS MINIMUM SALARY FOR 2023

Minimum salaries for sheriffs are calculated according to the procedure summarized below. To compute state minimum sheriffs' salaries, follow these steps:

**Step 1: Establish the Base Salary.** Start with the annual base salary for the sheriff shown in the "Schedule of Base Salaries" using the county's population reported in the Census estimate in APPENDIX D.<sup>86</sup> However, if the population has decreased since the 2020 Census (APPENDIX E), 2010 Census (see APPENDIX F) or the 2000 Census (see APPENDIX G) bringing the sheriff into a population bracket with a lower base salary, then the sheriff is entitled to receive the base salary of the previous census in the higher population bracket so long as that sheriff is in office.<sup>87</sup>

### Schedule of Base Salaries

Population	Base Salary
0 – 5,999	\$50,132.72
6,000 – 11,889	\$55,952.37
11,890 – 19,999	\$64,255.19
20,000 – 28,999	\$70,753.11
29,000 – 38,999	\$77,294.36
39,000 – 49,999	\$83,750.51
50,000 – 74,999	\$90,246.74
75,000 – 99,999	\$93,314.37
100,000 – 149,999	\$96,381.99
150,000 – 199,999	\$99,812.27
200,000 – 249,999	\$103,266.39
250,000 – 299,999	\$113,005.67
300,000 – 399,999	\$126,199.09
400,000 – 499,999	\$131,099.43
500,000 or more	\$126,011.72



## SUPERIOR COURT CLERKS MINIMUM SALARY FOR 2023

Minimum salaries for clerks of superior court are calculated according to the procedure summarized below. To compute state minimum salaries for clerks of superior court, follow these steps:

**Step 1: Establish the Base Salary.** Start with the annual base salary for the clerk of superior court shown in the "Schedule of Base Salaries" using the county's population from the Census estimates in APPENDIX D.<sup>96</sup> However, if the population has decreased since the 2020 Census (see APPENDIX E), 2010 Census (see APPENDIX F) or the 2000 Census (see APPENDIX G) bringing the superior court clerk into a population bracket with a lower base salary, then the superior court clerk is entitled to receive the base salary of the previous census in the higher population bracket so long as that superior court clerk is in office.<sup>97</sup>

### Schedule of Base Salaries

Population	Base Salary
0 – 5,999	\$35,576.65
6,000 – 11,889	\$48,856.63
11,890 – 19,999	\$55,344.71
20,000 – 28,999	\$59,296.04
29,000 – 38,999	\$63,247.38
39,000 – 49,999	\$67,203.60
50,000 – 74,999	\$75,327.48
75,000 – 99,999	\$80,855.58
100,000 – 149,999	\$86,381.94
150,000 – 199,999	\$92,237.91
200,000 – 249,999	\$100,722.08
250,000 – 299,999	\$109,336.93
300,000 – 399,999	\$120,695.99
400,000 – 499,999	\$125,596.32
500,000 or more	\$130,496.72

## TAX COMMISSIONERS MINIMUM SALARY FOR 2023

Minimum salaries for tax commissioners are calculated according to the procedure summarized below. To compute state minimum tax commissioners' salaries, follow these steps:

**Step 1: Establish the Base Salary.** Start with the annual base salary for the tax commissioner shown in the "Schedule of Base Salaries" using the population for the county from the Census estimates in APPENDIX D.<sup>13</sup> However, if the population has decreased since the 2020 Census (APPENDIX E), 2010 Census (see APPENDIX F), or the 2000 Census (see APPENDIX G) bringing the tax commissioner into a population bracket with a lower base salary, then the tax commissioner is entitled to receive the base salary of the previous census in the higher population bracket so long as that tax commissioner is in office.<sup>14</sup>

### Schedule of Base Salaries

Population	Base Salary
0 – 5,999	\$35,576.65
6,000 – 11,889	\$48,856.63
11,890 – 19,999	\$55,344.71
20,000 – 28,999	\$59,296.04
29,000 – 38,999	\$63,247.38
39,000 – 49,999	\$67,203.60
50,000 – 74,999	\$75,327.48
75,000 – 99,999	\$80,855.58
100,000 – 149,999	\$86,381.94
150,000 – 199,999	\$92,237.91
200,000 – 249,999	\$100,722.08
250,000 – 299,999	\$109,336.93
300,000 – 399,999	\$120,695.99
400,000 – 499,999	\$125,596.32

## Section 7. - Compensation of members.



The Chairman of the Board of Commissioners shall be compensated in the amount of \$900.00 per month, and the other members shall be compensated in the amount of \$800.00 per month. Each member, including the chairman, shall also receive a monthly compensation supplement in the amount of \$100.00 upon completion of the voluntary course of training resulting in designation as a certified county commissioner. Members of the commission will receive compensation increases when classified service employees receive an increase.

*Handwritten in blue ink:*  
\$800 x 12 =  
\$9600

(1963 Ga. Laws, page 2619; 1969 Ga. Laws, page 2069; 1969 Ga. Laws, page 2079; 1974 Ga. Laws, page 3320; 1986 Ga. Laws, page 5554; [Res. of 2-6-2006](#) )