

Pierce County Board of Commissioners
Public Hearing Minutes
Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 5:45 PM

Commissioners in Attendance

Neal Bennett, Chairman
Harold Rozier, District 1
Mike Streat, District 2
Randy Dixon, District 3
David Lowman, District 4

Staff in Attendance

Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager
Mamie Jackson, Accounts Payable Clerk

1. Call to Order - Chairman Bennett called the public meeting to order at 5:45 PM.
 2. Elizabeth Backe, with the Southern Georgia Regional Commission, gave an overview of the Pierce County and Cities of Blackshear, Offerman, and Patterson Comprehensive Plan.
- Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting at 5:49 PM.

Pierce County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting Agenda
Tuesday, January 4, 2022, 6:00 PM

Commissioners in Attendance

Neal Bennett, Chairman
Harold Rozier, District 1
Mike Streat, District 2
Randy Dixon, District 3
David Lowman, District 4

Staff in Attendance

Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager
Mamie Jackson, Accounts Payable Clerk

1. Call to Order - Chairman Bennett called the public meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance – Commissioner David Lowman gave an invocation and Commissioner Mike Streat led the pledge of allegiance.
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Public Hearing and Regular Meeting Minutes, December 7, 2021
Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 7, 2021, regular meeting as presented. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion, and all voted aye. Motion was approved
 - b. Called Meeting Minutes, December 14, 2021
Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2021 called meeting as presented. Commissioner Mike Streat seconded the motion, and all voted aye. Motion was approved

5. Recognition of 10U and 12U football teams for winning the Georgia Recreation and Park Association State Championship. – Chairman Bennett read the proclamations declaring it Pierce County Football Championship Day in honor of the 10U and 12U Pierce County football teams winning the State Championships. The 10U football team, 12U football team and their coaches were in attendance along with Recreation Department Director Will Watson. The Commission and County Manager took photos with the teams and coaches to commemorate the day. Chairman Bennett and County Manager, Jason Rubenbauer offered words of appreciation to both teams.

Proclamation

Pierce County Parks & Recreation Department

10U All Star Football 2021 State Champion Celebration Day

WHEREAS, the 2021 Pierce County Parks and Recreation Department’s 10U All-Star Football team demonstrated great athleticism and determination in competing in the Georgia Recreation and Park Association (“GRPA”) All Star football program and as a result achieved tremendous success; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership and guidance of Head Coach Travis Grant and Assistant Coaches Travis Good and Michael Thornton, this team won it’s very first GRPA, Class C, State Football Championship on December 4, 2021 with a 16 to 7 victory over the Cochran/Bleckley Recreation Department 10U All Star team; and

WHEREAS, the Pierce County Board of commissioners wishes to congratulate the players, coaches and parents for their hard work, preparation and dedication in winning the “GRPA” State Championship; and

WHEREAS, the team has brought great honor and pride, not only to themselves but also to the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Department and the entire Pierce County community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Pierce County Board of commissioners that it hereby recognizes the 2021 Pierce County Parks and Recreation Department’s 10U All Star Football team for demonstrating tremendous athletic talent and the coaches for dedicating their time, energy, expertise and enthusiasm to lead this team to the “GRPA” Class C State Football Championship and proclaims today, January 4, 2022, as Pierce County Football Championship Celebration Day in Pierce County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I set my hand this 4th day of January, 2022.

Neal Bennett, Chairman

Pierce County Board of Commissioners

Proclamation

Pierce County Parks & Recreation Department 12U All Star Football 2021 State Champion Celebration Day

WHEREAS, the 2021 Pierce County Parks and Recreation Department's 12U All-Star Football team demonstrated great athleticism and determination in competing in the Georgia Recreation and Park Association ("GRPA") All Star football program and as a result achieved tremendous success; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership and guidance of Head Coach Greg Douberly and Assistant Coaches Brad Arington, Keith Tyre, Damon Moody and Darryl Hunter, this team won it's very first GRPA Class C State Football Championship on December 5, 2021 with a 38 to 6 victory over the Jeff Davis Recreation Department's 12U All Star team; and

WHEREAS, the Pierce County Board of commissioners wishes to congratulate the players, coaches and parents for their hard work, preparation and dedication in winning the "GRPA" State Championship; and

WHEREAS, the team has brought great honor and pride, not only to themselves but also to the Pierce County Parks and Recreation Department and the entire Pierce County community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, by the Pierce County Board of commissioners that it hereby recognizes the 2021 Pierce County Parks and Recreation Department's 12U All Star Football team for demonstrating tremendous athletic talent and the coaches for dedicating their time, energy, expertise and enthusiasm to lead this team to the "GRPA" Class C State Football Championship and proclaims today, January 4, 2022, as Pierce County Football Championship Celebration Day in Pierce County.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I set my hand this 4th day of January, 2022.

Neal Bennett, Chairman

Pierce County Board of Commissioners

Financial Report & County Manager Report

January 4, 2022

- **Financial Report as of 11/30/2021**

Revenues and expenses are in line. Working on closing out the fiscal year and will provide a final report of 2021 revenues and expenses as soon as available.

We remain in a very good position with expenses through November sitting below budget. Anticipate that we will end under budget overall for the year.

- **County Manager's Report**

- a. Departmental updates:*

- i. Roads & Bridges*

1. Hired Bruce Carter as the new Roads & Bridges Superintendent. Bruce has extensive experience in both construction and maintenance and holds certifications from the Army Corps of Engineers pertaining to designing and constructing proper drainage. He joined Pierce County on Monday, January 3, 2022.

- ii. EMS*

1. Hired Blake James as the new Pierce County EMS Director. Blake has been instrumental in building and expanding MedTrusts client network which has seen growth even during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic where many other agencies saw significant declines. Since the announcement, our applications for EMT's and Paramedics have doubled. Blake started working with our team on January 3, 2022.

- iii. General Information*

1. Working closely with our new leadership to ensure they are fully supported during their transition to make certain our departments are continuing to improve while remaining fiscally responsible for the coming year.
2. Working on an intensive capital improvement program which will outline our capital needs not only now, but for the next 10-20 years and beyond, so we can more effectively budget for the needs of the county.
3. 911 Call Report by Agency Comparison 2017--2021

Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager, stated that he is working on closing out the budget for the 2021 fiscal year. The County is currently below budget for 2021 and is anticipated to stay below budget once fiscal year close-out is complete. Bruce Carter, the new Road Superintendent and Blake James, the new EMS Director both started January 3, 2021. The County has started to accept EMT and paramedic applications since the announcement was made that Grady EMS will no longer be responsible for EMS services for the County. Jason also mentioned that the Capital Improvement Program over the span of 10-20 years will more effectively plan for the needs of the County.

6. Discussion and Request to Approve Resolution 2022.01.04.01 Redistricting Plan for Pierce County, Georgia submission to General Assembly for the 2022 Legislative Session.

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF PIERCE

RESOLUTION 2022.01.04.01

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF PIERCE COUNTY, GEORGIA, APPROVING A REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR THE PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS, REQUESTING THAT ITS LOCAL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION HAVE SUCH REDISTRICTING PLAN INTRODUCED AS LOCAL LEGISLATION AT THE 2022 REGULAR SESSION OF THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the 2020 Decennial Census has been completed and the results thereof have been submitted to the Board of Commissioners of Pierce County, Georgia;

WHEREAS, such 2020 Census reflects that the population of Pierce County increased by 958 to 19,716;

WHEREAS, the County Commission Districts for elected members of the Pierce County Board of Commissioners must be redrawn in order to comply with federal and state guidelines, including the principle of "one person, one vote; and

WHEREAS, Pierce County requested and obtained assistance preparing such redistricting plan from the Southern Georgia Regional Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners desires to submit a proposed redistricting plan to its local legislative delegation to the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office of the General Assembly so that such redistricting plan can be technically reviewed; and

WHEREAS, if the submitted redistricting plan is found to be compliant, the Board of Commissioners desires the compliant plan to be submitted to the General Assembly so that such redistricting plan can be approved by the General Assembly at its 2022 regular session and then signed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, after considering the principle of "one person, one vote", and other relevant matters, the Pierce County Board of Commissioners has determined the most appropriate redistricting plan for the Pierce County Commissioners and citizens of Pierce County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners, acting in its capacity as the governing authority of Pierce County, as follows:

- (1) The Board of Commissioners hereby approved the redistricting plan attached as Exhibit "A".
- (2) The Board of Commissioners hereby request that its local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly sponsor, via written or electronic letter, the redistricting plan for submittal to the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office of the General Assembly so the plan may be technically reviewed as required by O.C.G.A. 5 28-1-14.1(3)(A).
- (3) Upon the return of a fully compliant plan from the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office of the General Assembly, the Board of Commissioners hereby requests that its local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly draft and introduce during the 2022 regular session of the Georgia General Assembly such redistricting plan for passage by the Georgia General Assembly and signing by the Governor.
- (4) This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.


SO ADOPTED, this 4th day of January, 2022.

PIERCE COUNTY, GEORGIA

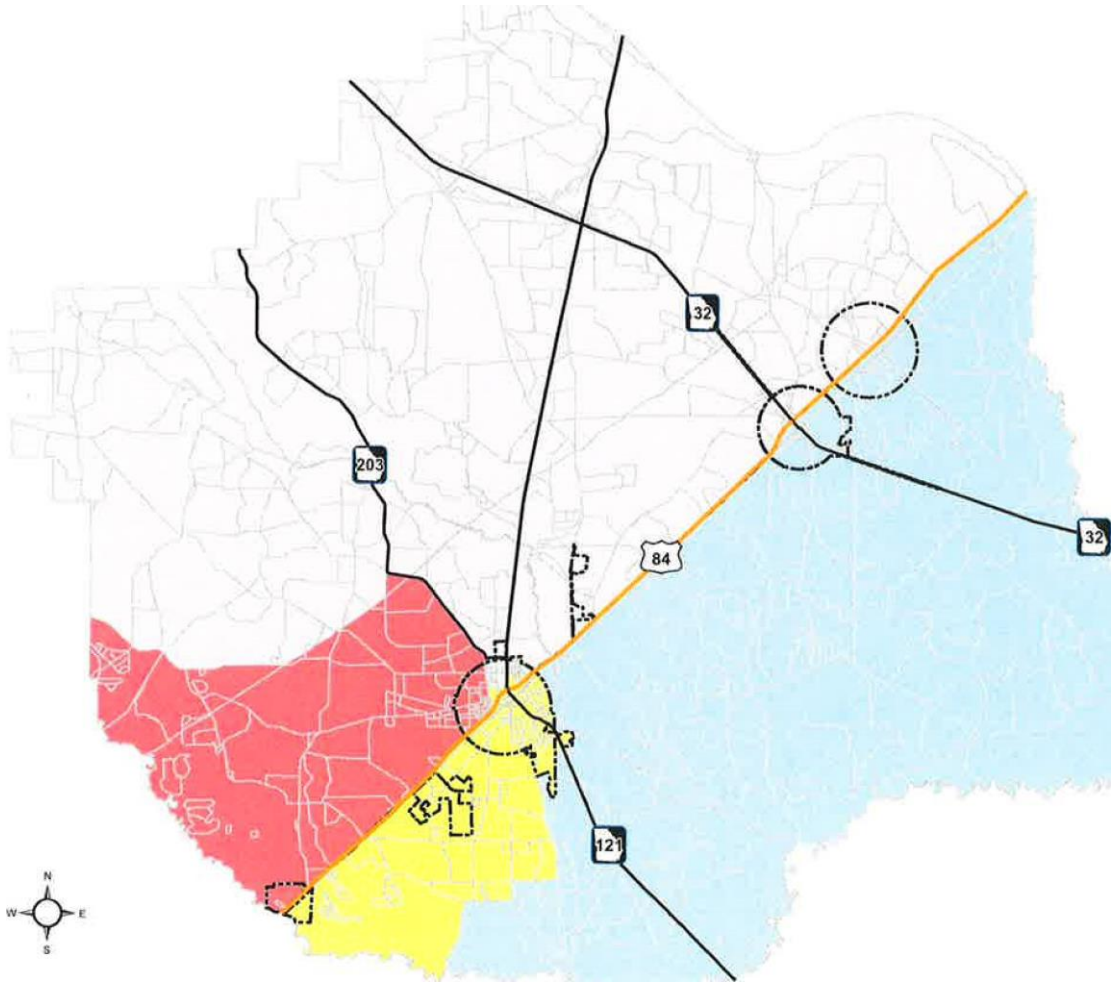
By:



Neal Bennett, Chairman
Board of Commissioners


st: _____
Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager/Clerk

Pierce County Commissioner Districts Proposed Plan



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2020 Census Blocks

D1
D2
District

Dist Id	Distri ct	Total pop	Totalpop Dev	Totalpop Dvp	White	White P	Black	Black P
1	D1							
2	D2							
3	D3							
4	D4							

17.13
5.4

49961.36		3783	75.72	856		67
4906-0.47		4266	86.95	265		-23
	-0.55	4475	91.29	139		-27
4912-0.34		4130	84.08	343	6.98	-17

STATE OF GEORGIA

COUNTY OF PIERCE

RESOLUTION 2022.01.04

A RESOLUTION BY THE PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION ON BEHALF OF THE PIERCE COUNTY, GEORGIA SCHOOL DISTRICT APPROVING A REDISTRICTING PLAN FOR THE PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS, AND REQUESTING THAT ITS LOCAL LEGISLATIVE DELEGATION HAVE SUCH REDISTRICTING PLAN INTRODUCED AS LOCAL LEGISLATION AT THE 2022 REGULAR SESSION OF THE GEORGIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

WHEREAS, the 2020 Decennial Census has been completed and the results thereof have been submitted to the Members of the Piece County, Georgia, Board of Education.

WHEREAS, such 2020 Census reflects that the population of Pierce County increased by 958 to 19,716.

WHEREAS, the Board of Education Districts for elected members of the Pierce County Board of Education must be redrawn in order to comply with federal and state guidelines including the principle of "one person, one vote", and

WHEREAS, the Pierce County Board of Education requested and obtained assistance preparing such redistricting plan from Southern Georgia Regional Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education desires to submit a proposed redistricting plan to its local legislative delegation to the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office of the General Assembly so that such redistricting plan can be technically reviewed; and

WHEREAS, if the submitted redistricting plan is found to be compliant, the Board of Education desires the compliant plan to be submitted to the General Assembly so that such redistricting plan can be approved by the General Assembly at its 2022 regular session and then signed by the Governor; and

WHEREAS, after considering the principle of "one person, one vote", and other relevant matters, the Pierce County Board of Education has determined the most appropriate redistricting plan for the Pierce County Board of Education and citizens of Pierce County;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education, acting in its capacity as the governing authority of the Pierce County School District, as follows:

- (1) The Board of Education hereby approved the redistricting plan attached as Exhibit
- (2) The Board of Education hereby request that its local legislative delegation to the Georgia Assembly sponsor, via written or electronic letter, the redistricting plan for submittal to the legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office of the General Assembly so the plan may be technically reviewed as required by O.C.G.A.28-1-14.1(3)(A).
- (3) Upon the return of a fully compliant plan from the Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment Office of the General Assembly, the Board of Education hereby requests that its local legislative delegation to the Georgia General Assembly draft and introduce during the 2022 regular session at the Georgia Assembly such redistricting plan for passage by the Georgia Assembly and signing by the Governor.
- (4) This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

SO ADOPTED this 4th day of January, 2022.

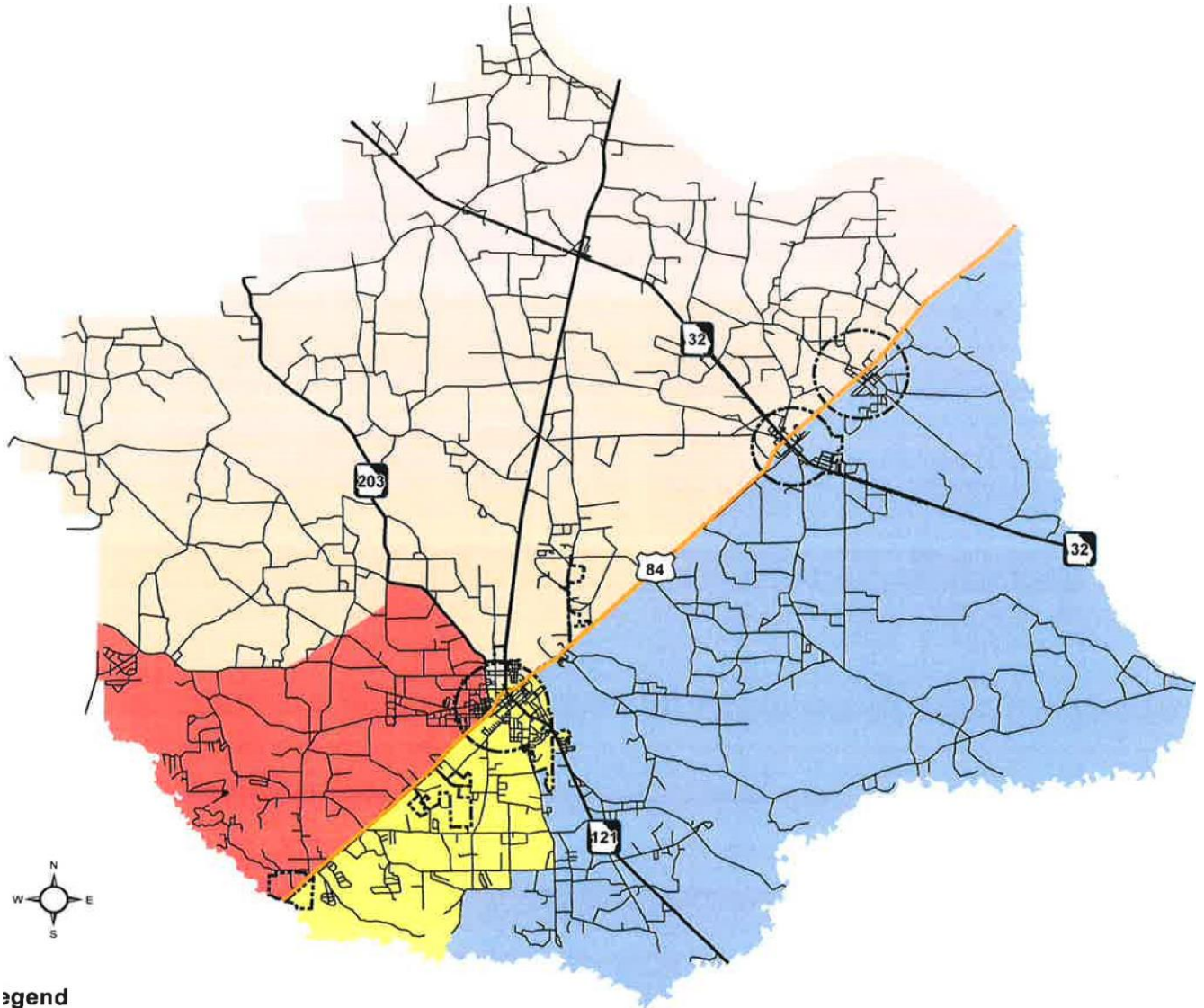
PIERCE COUNTY BOARD OF
EDUCATION
By: Duward W. Boatright, Sr.
Chairman, Pierce County Board
Of Education

Attest: Dara Bennett, Superintendent and
Secretary to the Pierce County Board of Education



Pierce County Board of Education Districts
Proposed Plan

EXHIBIT "A" L



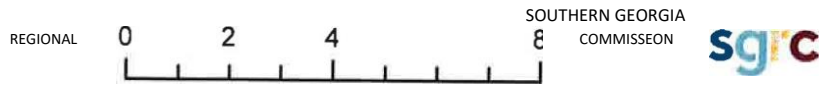
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Dist_Id	District	Totalpop	Totalpop_Dev	Total pop_Dvp	White	White P			
1	D1	4906		-23	1.36	3783	75.72	856	17.13
2	D2	54			-0.47	4266	86.95	265	
3	D3				-0.55	4475	91.29	139	2.84
4	D4	4912		-17	-0.34	4130	84.08	343	6.98



The Commissioners attended a meeting with the Pierce County Board of Education on January 4, 2022, the resolution will now go to the legislative council to review.

Commissioner Harold Rozier made a motion to approve Resolution 2022.01.04.01 Redistricting Plan for Pierce County, Georgia submission to General Assembly for the 2022 Legislative Session. Commissioners Randy Dixon seconded the motion, and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

7. Discussion and Request to Approve Resolution 2022.01.04.02 Qualifying Fees for Pierce County Offices for 2022 Elections.

RESOLUTION 2022.01.04.02

RESOLUTION TO FIX AND PUBLISH QUALIFICATION FEES
FOR COUNTY OFFICES FOR THE 2022 ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, pursuant to O.C.G.A.5 21-2-131(a)(1)(A) the governing authority of any county, no later than February 1st of any year in which a general primary, non-partisan election, or general election is to be held, shall fix and publish a qualifying fee for each county office to be filled in the upcoming primary election; and

WHEREAS, O.C.G.A. 5 21-2-131(a)(1)(b) sets forth the formula for the governing authority to calculate the qualification fees for county offices.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Pierce County Board of Commissioners does hereby set the qualification fees for county offices and school districts for 2022 as follows:

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>QUALIFYING FEE (3%)</u>
Commissioner District 2 187.56	\$
Commissioner District 4 187.56	\$
Chairman of Board of Commissioners 540.00	\$
Board of Education District 2 126.00	\$
Board of Education District 4 126.00	\$
Chairman Board of Education 180.00	\$
State Court Judge 1,202.52	\$
Solicitor General	\$ 1,114.53

BE IT FURTHERMORE RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall become effective as of the date of its adoption.

SO RESOLVED, this the 4th day of January, 2022

Pierce County, Georgia
Board of Commissioners



Neal Bennett, Chairman

Attest:



County Clerk



Chairman Bennett reviewed the proposed qualifying fees.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made a motion to approve Resolution 2022.01.04.02 Qualifying Fees for Pierce County Offices for 2022 Elections. Commissioners David Lowman seconded the motion, and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

- 8. Discussion and Request to Approve an agreement between Pierce County and Excellence Exceeded for a salary study of all positions for Pierce County in the amount of \$20,000 to be paid from the General Fund Contingency. Jason Rubenbauer, County Manager gave an overview of the agreement proposed by Excellence Exceeded. Commissioner Rozier posed the question, once this analysis is completed, how will the County stay current moving forward. Jason stated that the County will determine the percentage that should be applied annually based on inflation and cost of living to stay current.

Commissioner David Lowman made the motion to approve the agreement between Pierce County and Excellence Exceed for a salary study of all positions for Pierce County. Commissioner Harold Rozier seconded the motion, and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

- 9. Discussion and Request to Amend the Position Control Count for 2022 adding EMS positions. There will be a total of 26 positions added.

Commissioner Randy Dixon made the motion to amend the Position Control County for 2022 adding positions. Commissioner Mike Street seconded the motion, and all voted aye. Motion was approved.

- 10. Adjourn-Chairman Bennett adjourned the meeting at 5:49 PM.

Neal Bennett

Harold Rozier

Mike Streat

Randy Dixon

David Lowman