

House Resolution 1199

By: Representatives Thomas of the 21st, Ballinger of the 23rd, and Carson of the 46th

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the salience of the divergence of the current understanding between Cherokee
2 County and the Cities of Woodstock, Canton, Holly Springs, Ball Ground, and Waleska as
3 to annexation, growth, boundary agreements, and joint land use plans; and for other
4 purposes.

5 WHEREAS, Cherokee County and Cherokee County's cities are among the fastest growing
6 areas in the State of Georgia; and

7 WHEREAS, population growth and development are expected to continue in Cherokee
8 County for the foreseeable future; and

9 WHEREAS, it is vitally important to protect the quality of life of all citizens of Cherokee
10 County by ensuring that growth and development are subject to intentional partnership and
11 planning between the county and its cities; and

12 WHEREAS, the lack of sufficient communication and partnership between local
13 governments in Cherokee County has resulted in heavily contested annexation processes
14 which have led to litigation, high taxpayer costs, and local property owners being adversely

15 impacted by the decisions of the governing bodies of local governments for which they have
16 no voice in electing; and

17 WHEREAS, the Woodstock City Council, in a split 4-2 decision, decided to override a
18 unanimous recommendation for denial from its Planning and Zoning Commission, ignored
19 the requests for denial by the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners, and made a
20 decision that was in clear opposition to the will and concerns of the local residents by
21 approving a 2019 annexation on Arnold Mill Road; and

22 WHEREAS, this approval resulted in a major dispute litigation and conflict between county
23 officials and city officials which has brought further attention to this critical issue and has
24 risen to the attention of the General Assembly; and

25 WHEREAS, the costs of these contested annexations and land uses are entirely avoidable
26 with sufficient planning and should be unacceptable to all residents and taxpayers; and

27 WHEREAS, the General Assembly is committed to the principles of constitutional home rule
28 and local control in order to best serve the residents of the State of Georgia; and

29 WHEREAS, the General Assembly reminds all local governments that it charters cities and
30 maintains the right to intervene on behalf of Georgians in cases wherein local governments
31 fail to best represent and act on behalf of the interests of all residents and stakeholders.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
33 the members of this body recognize the salience of the divergence of the current
34 understanding between Cherokee County and each of the cities located in Cherokee County
35 and the propriety of such local governments attempting to establish jointly agreed upon

36 annexation growth boundaries and joint land use plans in order to maintain trust with their
37 constituents and avoid future, unnecessary conflict.

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body remind these local governing
39 authorities of their responsibility to serve all citizens in Cherokee County.

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
41 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
42 public.