



Athens-Clarke County

By the Numbers



Incorporated Areas

- Athens-Clarke County
- City of Winterville
- City of Bogart (partial)

Geography

- Approximately 122 square miles
- Smallest area of Georgia's 159 counties
- Approximately 65 miles NE of Atlanta
- Over 425 miles of streams and rivers

History

- University of Georgia (UGA) chartered in 1785
- Clarke County created from Jackson County in 1801 as the 25th county created in Georgia and named for Revolutionary War Gen. Elijah Clarke
- Town of Athens chartered in 1806 and named for Greek city of learning
- Clarke County and City of Athens unified on January 14, 1991, becoming the 2nd consolidated government in Georgia and 28th in the nation
- 38 nationally registered sites and 15 nationally designated districts on the National Register of Historic Places and 10 local historic districts and 41 individual local historic landmarks

Demographics (2008 Census estimate, else noted)

- Population: 114,737 (includes students)
- UGA enrollment: 33,826 (Fall 2009)
- 18th most populous of Georgia's 159 counties
- 18.3% population increase (April 2000-July 2008)
- Median age: 26.6 years old
- Racial makeup:
 - White – 69.7%
 - Black – 25.3%
 - Asian – 3.4%
 - Other – 1.5%
 - Hispanic or Latino – 9.2% (not identified as a separate race in Census data)
- Gender: Male – 48.8% Female – 51.2%
- High school graduates (ages 25+): 81% (2000)
- Bachelor's degree (ages 25+): 39.8% (2000)
- Poverty (all ages – 2007 Census ACS):
 - 28.6% (individuals)
- Median household income: \$36,158 (2007)
- Unemployment: 7% (GA Department of Labor – Dec. 2009 preliminary figure)

ACC Unified Government

- Mission statement: "Athens-Clarke County, an open and responsive government, facilitating a positive environment for individuals to obtain a high quality of life and local organizations to achieve success by providing innovative, high quality services and responsible stewardship of the community's resources, to benefit current and future generations." (*Adopted November 4, 1997*)
- **Legislative:** Elected Mayor and 10 elected Commissioners from 8 geographical districts and 2 super-districts that cover districts 1-4 and 5-8, giving each citizen 3 directly-elected local representatives.
- **Executive:** Day to day operations are overseen by a Manager appointed by the Mayor and Commission
- **Judicial:** Athens-Clarke County houses Magistrate, Juvenile, Municipal, Probate, State, and Superior Courts. The Superior Court covers the Western Judicial Circuit, which also includes Oconee County. Superior Court also has a Felony Drug Court and a Treatment and Accountability Court (Mental Health Court), and State Court has a DUI/Drug Court.
- ACC departments/offices: 38
- Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) is the operating period from July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010
- General Fund Expenditures (FY10): \$106.9 million
 - Public Safety – 33%
 - Judicial – 21%
 - Public Works – 13%
 - General Government – 17%
 - Leisure Services – 7%
 - Capital – 2%
 - Independent Agencies – 4%
 - Transfers Out & Debt Service – 3%
- General Fund Revenues (FY10): \$106.9 million
 - Property Taxes – 45%
 - Sales Tax – 19%
 - Other Taxes – 19%
 - Other Revenues (fees, user charges, fines) – 12%
 - Use of Fund Balance (for capital) – 3%
- Millage rates (property tax rates): 13.20 (2010 ACC Government – a decrease of 2.80 since 1993); 20.00 (Clarke County School District); 0.25 (State)

- On average, each ACC resident will pay \$509 for General Fund local government services in FY10
- Per capita expenditures (FY10)
 - \$311 – Public Safety
 - \$198 – Judicial Services
 - \$156 – General Government
 - \$122 – Public Works
 - \$ 69 – Leisure Services
 - \$ 42 – Independent Agencies
 - \$ 21 – Capital Projects
 - \$ 26 – Transfers to Other Funds & Debt Services
 - \$945 – Total
- Total FY10 Budget (all funds): \$174.8 million
- ACC government positions: 1,542 (FY10)
- ACC employees per 1000 residents: 13.8 (FY10)
- Main Web site: www.athensclarkecounty.com
- Television: ACTV Cable Channel 7

Departments (FY10 estimates unless noted)

- Athens Transit System The Bus riders: 1.74 million
- Fire safety rating – ISO: 2/9 (less than 0.7% of U.S. communities have Class 2 rating)
- Building permits issued: 1,400
- Total construction inspections performed: 19,000
- Real estate parcels appraised: 42,600
- Televised Mayor & Commission meetings: 46 hours & 4 minutes (2009 – not counting breaks)
- Leisure Services facilities visitors: 1.21 million
- Business certificates issued: 5,500
- Active registered voters: 57,388 (Jan. 1, 2010)
- Alcohol licenses issued: 330
- Calls received by 911: 140,137
- Potable water produced: 5.3 billion gallons
- Recyclable materials received: 15,360 tons
- Roadway ACC maintains: 1,250 lane-miles (2009)

Education

- The Clarke County School District is separate from the Unified Government
- 9 elected to the Board of Education
- Public schools: 14 Pre-K sites, 14 elementary, 4 middle, 4 high
- Private schools: 6 secondary & elementary
- Higher education: The University of Georgia, Athens Technical College, U.S. Navy Supply Corps School (leaving by 2011), Piedmont College

Employment

- Largest employers (2008): University of Georgia, Athens Regional Medical Center, Pilgrims Pride - GoldKist, Clarke County School District, ACC Unified Government, St. Mary's Health Care System, Wal-Mart Associates Inc., Meril Limited, and Carrier Corporation.
- Named an Entrepreneur-Friendly Community by the GA Dept. of Economic Development (2007)
- Named #1 Small Market Best City for Relocating Families by *Worldwide ERC* with *Primacy Relocation* and *Sperling's BestPlaces* (2005 & 2006).

Other Figures

- Sales tax: 7% total
 - 4% – State of Georgia
 - 1% – SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax)
 - 1% – LOST (Local Option Sales Tax) – ACC General Fund credit on property taxes
 - 1% – ELOST (Educational Local Option Sales Tax)
- Homeownership rate: 40.2%
- Owner-occupied homes value (median): \$158,300
- Property taxes for \$150,000 home in 2008 (estimated – other exemptions may be possible):

	<i>With homestead exemption</i>	<i>No exemptions</i>
ACC –	\$ 950.00	\$1,140.00
School –	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00
State –	\$ 14.50	\$ 15.00
<u>LOST credit -</u>	<u>\$ -290.00</u>	<u>\$ -348.00</u>
Total -	\$1,674.50	\$2,007.00

Accolades

- One of 2009's Dozen Distinctive Destinations (National Trust for Historic Preservation)
- One of the "50 Best Places to Live" (*Men's Journal*, 2003 & 2005)
- "#1 College Music Scene that Rocks" (*Rolling Stone*, February 2003)
- America's Best College Towns (MSN Travel, 2009)

Miscellaneous

- Sister cities: Cortona, Italy (1978), Kamianets-Podilsky, Ukraine (2003)
- Official tree: Gingko (1964)
- Official flower: Iris (1964)

Information from the *Georgia County Guide*, GA Department of Community Affairs, U.S. Census Bureau, GA Department of Labor, and ACC Unified Government Departments. Updated Jan. 2010.

For more information, contact the Athens-Clarke County Public Information Office in City Hall, 301 College Avenue, Suite 102, Athens, GA 30601 • 706-613-3795 • info@athensclarkecounty.com