

STOP Unelected and Unaccountable Government

Regionalism as implemented in Georgia is an unelected and unaccountable form of government that dilutes the power people have over government decision-making. The U.S. Constitution guarantees each state a republican form of government, which means sovereignty rests with the people, and representatives are “chosen by the people.” The people are the final check and balance on the government.

Regional governance lacks these checks and balances because regional commissions are in essence appointed by an operation of law. For example, 15 of the 38 members of the Atlanta Regional Commission are appointed citizen members who have absolutely no accountability to voters. Also, most of the elected officials on regional entities have no accountability to your county or city. You can't control the actions of regional governments, because you can't control most of the regional board members. Many of the appointed members have their own agendas.

The rise of regionalism, like what we get from the Transportation Investment Act (TIA), comprises another layer of government between the local city-county and state government. This new layer of bureaucracy diminishes the local control and authority of city and county governments for self-government through “home rule” as provided for in the Georgia Constitution.

The Transportation Leadership Coalition supports regional communication and cooperation. However, flexible solutions need to be developed to allow cities counties to work together to solve problems of mutual interest. We can all benefit from regional discussions on the issues that affect us the most. What we do not need is a State imposed layer of regional government bureaucracy.

Regional governance and taxation in Georgia means more bureaucracy, more taxes and less accountability. The majority of metro Atlantans and voters across the state said they don't like regional power grabs or mandated regionalism. Regional taxation and governance needs to be repealed.

www.RepealRegionalism.com is an education campaign of the Transportation Leadership Coalition, LLC, which opposed the T-SPLOST.