

Respondents to the survey were asked to list positives and negatives for each of the listed future options, and also given an opportunity to provide open comments.

Positives were defined as Issues that would drive my support toward this vision. Negatives were defined as Issues that would drive my support away from this vision.

“New City” Positives

- More police presence -- maybe
- Could avoid leaving our community as an insular strand squeezed among neighboring cities
- Everyone else incorporated or is annexed causing a sharp increase in taxes and reduction in county services
- It could lead to better neighborhood Community and Identity. But can this be forced?
- Better services, less waste
- none
- Some services may be more efficiently run because a city government will have only 3-4 services to focus on. No other positives I can think of.
- Improved services, less corruption, citizen leadership
- Have more say/voice in matters near our community and affecting our community. Better police services??
- none
- Better-run gov't oversight. More local control. Area improvements in run-down sections.
- Zoning input
- ?
- W/O numbers we could assume that the taxes we pay would just go towards our most important issues as it is more contained??
- If all of South DeKalb is incorporated, leaving unincorporated DeKalb to support the abandoned county with higher taxes.
- Greater voice in community affairs
- Improve school system
- Shedding institutional corruption of DeKalb County, more local control
- It's possible in the long run some services will improve
- Freedom from the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners; No change in school assignments
- Would provide an identity for this area. Better representation
- Law enforcement and schools
- Only if we can't remain unincorporated
- We'd be in more control of our services and schools (?)
- Better police presence. Local Control over issues
- I do not see ANY positives of a new city.
- Just don't know. So much info but don't know what is true.
- If DHHS would be in this boundary line.
- Smaller more responsive government
- Possible better services
- Same taxes. Eliminate Busing. Same Support Services
- Improved police presence. More responsive govt.
- None. Don't want it. Too much crime.

- More responsive to home-owners. Clearer sense of identity - neighborhood "flavor"
- More police! Local Control.
- Local govt control would possibly be better.
- better leadership (hopefully?)
- Elimination or reduction of corruption
- 1 large city is ideal Tucker-Lakeside-Briarcliff All together. NEED commercial. Residential is a burden! Economies of scale - simple math.
- Keep schools intact
- NONE
- not losing out on tax base & services if other areas DO incorporate.
- Inclusion of all the incorporated area mentioned in the survey - inclusion of Northlake - Embury Hills & Emory/Fernbank
- Possibly better schools
- Local control. Accountability
- Creation of parks/trails. Maintenance of streets (Lawrenceville Hwy) & vacant property
- We may have no choice given state legislature. Hope for improved input in new entity.
- None
- Higher taxes would be great if they benefited schools/education. Create charter clusters like City of Decatur
- I honestly cannot think of any. Smacks of "white flight" & people making a power grab.
- None
- NOT named LaVista Hills
- Guarantee of a better middle school.
- none
- Better road maintenance. More pedestrian and bicycle friendly infrastructure (trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, and car alternatives).
- More police presents. Better mgmt for smaller area. Better schools.
- None. There is no way to provide sufficient resources as a city w/in DeKalb Co.
- None
- May move into Lakeside. Very good school help increase property values.
- City would include all of DeKalb County
- Local representation. Fiscal accountability. Local police force. Clean up. Pave our streets. Parks.
- I believe a new city will be run more efficiently than the other options.
- ? No pros
- Better services; hopefully better communication to effect change
- none
- I would like to be part of a new city which would provide a better education & better value for tax dollars spent.
- Local Control, Similar taxes
- More local control. After 35 years in our house, am TOTALLY FED UP AND DISGUSTED in DeKalb County!
- Removed from CORRUPT commission control of schools improved property values.
- Better services. More responsive officials.
- More local control. Better police coverage

- Better police presence in area. Better community unity.
- Zoning. Police.
- D/K
- More control over local government and community.
- Less reliance on DeKalb government
- Representation, code enforcement, traffic coordination.
- Ability to have a meaningful voice & input into direction of community & budget expenditures.
- NONE! DO NOT WANT IT!
- More local governance over schools and services
- A Southern and western boundary that made sense. Also I wish I could trust the Lakeside folks but I don't.
- Keeping the Druid Hill cluster of schools together
- Unaware of any positives
- Police force with potentially, faster response times. Able to make community decisions on changes
- If Emory & Fernbank were included in the NEW CITY = more prestige, more money.
- Only if it was creating a new school district.
- Escape DeKalb politics
- none
- none
- Fewer admin. Personnel and more service personnel. Ongoing audit and accountability on all expenditures. No rise in property taxes.
- None. I want to remain unincorporated. Unless they change the law to allow new schools in new cities.
- Autonomy - more local control. Good school option.
- Better services
- More local control. Better opportunity for my voice to be heard.
- Ability to define how schools are run & form own governing body.
- Lower taxes. More control over schools. Better Transparency.
- Keep school cluster intact.
- DeKalb County would have less control over our lives & property
- police. Zoning control. Doing government business locally.
- None. Not Interested.
- I assume my children will be able to stay in their schools (magnet program)
- none
- If the new city included the entire DHHS cluster attendance area. Limited franchise fees - taxes.
- Given more time to make good choices based on information to be gained by not rushing.
- Closer to local leaders.
- lower taxes. Better services (trash & refuse, police, water, public health
- don't see positives
- (1) Better schools/system (2) Increase property value (3) Better govt/board
- More local control
- More/faster police support High quality schools. Improving roads.

- Only if absolutely necessary.
- None
- None
- More accessible government. Better police services due to smaller area. Road improvements more manageable.
- Smaller area, fewer people
- More autonomy; out from under many of DeKalb's problems;
- There are no positives for us. If this happens, we will consider moving.
- New blood. Politicians that live in my community & understand the problems with crime & hopefully have the power to deny certain business from opening in the community that draw criminal elements. I don't go to Publix or N. DeKalb Mall that I don't see police cars and that I don't see panhandlers approaching me in the parking lots.
- I thin we would be more in control of what decisions are made that affect us.
- It's not DeKalb Co which is corrupt.
- only if forced
- None
- more local control. Possible better police protection.
- none
- Able to watch out for our best interest.
- Improved services (police, fire, sanitation). Improved planning.
- Hopefully, government would eventually be better than DeKalb Co.
- None
- need more time to make informed decision.
- More concentrated services
- More local control.
- A fresh start. Better public services.
- Knowing we'd have more of a voice/effect on local issues/services
- Nothing could cause me to have any positive feelings towards a new city. And nothing could make me any more negative either.
- Identify for value (identity) i.e. Brookhaven. Lots of young couples moving into area.
- Control away from previously corrupt govt. Lack of trust.
- none
- more of my tax monies going toward this area
- smaller community identity likely equates to better connectedness as a community.

"New City" Negatives

- Higher taxes eventually. Another layer of government. We won't be able to afford what DeKalb police provide - helicopters, K9s, etc
- One additional level of government w/concomitant campaigns. My parents' house is in Brookhaven - Not pretty!
- One more layer of govt - no good reason. Current services are adequate. Upn incorporation taxes always go up. As soon as the new city commission does one stupid thing we have an expensive lawsuit.
- No actual "Town Center" type area. Higher taxes almost certain. Destruction of Community. Businesses see name change confusion and new taxes. Not needed. These cityhood initiatives are political. Avoids DeKalb pension costs. Should be balanced.
- increased taxes
- Concern about new taxes; degradation of services; change of school district
- other cities have had to re-invent government and taxes went up
- Higher taxes
- Another layer of government. Higher taxes. Privatization and higher costs. History indicates privatization of public services rarely is successful for the citizen.
- Higher Taxes
- Increased taxes. Adding another layer of government
- I don't want to live in a "new" name - I like "Decatur" and taxes will rise.
- We believe taxes will rise no matter what is said
- Expense, time needed to ramp up operations
- The real possibility of taxes rising.
- Question the motivations of this movement. This seems like a fake city with no downtown center. New high school under this plan is a complete unknown with potentially devastating effects on our property values.
- Higher taxes. Redundant services. No clear plan of potential improvements.
- Not sure how we feel for all the uncertainty this would create. A new city that requires payment

for new services that who knows how would run, it is nerve racking.

- Poor Schools
- We might lose some services. Disruption
- Lots of unknowns
- I would think that taxes would have to go up and/or service levels would decline w/o support from county.
- An Attempt to make this a stepping stone towards city schools. We don't need another duplicate system, we need better teaching & results. I don't want another layer of government. I want what we have to work.
- Higher taxes
- Higher taxes, inexperience, potential for unpreparedness in rush to incorporate
- Unlike tucker, no infrastructure in place. Very costly to establish starting from scratch
- Higher taxes and fees; If it caused or promoted changes in school assignments
- More taxes; Poor services
- Another layer of government
- Taxes will probably go up and services may not be as good. Uncertainty about school attendance zones.
- Tax Increase
- Unknown: taxes, services, fees
- Small leadership group w/vested interest in founding city who will benefit. My neighborhood not in central city core. May be stepchild on coverage.
- None
- (1) There is no need for it. (2) Taxes will increase. (3) It won't solve any school-related issues. (4) Neighborhood identity is at stake we don't think of ourselves as living in "Briarcliff" or "Lakeside" One is a street, and the other is a school -- neither is a community.
- Just don't know. So much info but don't know what is true.
- More bureaucracy. Attitude of some of the proponents - not a part of this community - hateful

- If DHHS goes to Atlanta, our children have no high school. Lakeside is already overcrowded. Taxes.
- Continued pilfering & corruption - just by new leaders.
- Possible higher taxes
- Busing to continue
- Overhead of duplicating a new municipal structure. Risk of failure.
- Higher taxes long-term; loss of economies of scale
- Another layer of govt, more taxes. Too much power in too few hands, PRIVATIZATION
- Affect schools. Higher taxes.
- Small Group led. Viability down the road. Behind Closed door meetings. Privatization of services. What will fees be? What will structure be? Brookhaven. Taxes for seniors? Unknown. Will it really be better?
- In my opinion, nothing seems to be broken, therefore there is no need to fix it.
- Taxes no school control (DCSS)
- Probably would be more taxes. Also, who would be the new "leaders"?
- New (little?) city might not have funds for adequate police etc.
- Does not make any sense to me
- The smaller, the worse off we will be - higher taxes are guaranteed regardless.
- Having to fund a new police force and other infrastructure
- higher eventual taxes and weakening of County
- Too much bureaucracy. Favor less government
- Too many unknowns, same problems we have now could develop in new city - along with nw problems.
- Taxes would increase
- Picking & choosing - splitting off areas to be excluded.

- Weak commercial tax base
- Inevitable tax increases
- The metro area does not need more governments; it's already too balkanized.
- ?
- "Balkanizing" GA is not the answer. Just a boon for lawyers etc. that contract city services. And added layers of bureaucracy.
- too many layers
- Not sure if new city = new school
- Increased bureaucracy & politics - inefficient. Let's try to make the existing infrastructure better!
- Increased taxes. New, unnecessary layer of govt =>zoning "undesirable" locations out (seems quite racist to me). Changes to school districting.
- I need more info/understanding. I do not understand how adding another layer to our government does not add another layer to taxes
- Addition layer of government. Higher taxes
- Higher taxes/unknown factors
- Named LaVista Hills. Leaving out Medlock. Current boundaries --> no parks. Unknown consequences. Current leadership doesn't know how to run a city.
- Taxes will by the very nature of gov't, increase.
- Higher taxes. Change of School districts.
- higher taxes, lessening of services, more government
- Extra layer of bureaucracy and taxes. City center no closer than Decatur and with the same traffic and parking problems.
- Probably an increase in taxes, over time to cover needs.
- Higher taxes. Higher fees. Lower services. Lower cooperation w/surrounding areas.
- Taxes - Another level of politicians
- May move in negative direction. Negative impact on serices.

- Concerned about schools - county services?
- DeKalb's corrupt government
- Another layer of gov't
- Why do we think svc/elected officials would improve - just another layer of gov't. Where would my kids go to school?!
- More taxes, more laws, rules & regulations for more fees & fines to support itself - less control - increase in all services provided etc.
- Raise in property taxes, which are already high.
- Higher taxes in the future with smaller less functional fire & police depts
- Might go from the frying pan into the fire. Might face higher taxes.
- Loss of capability/connection
- garbage pickup is the one good thing abt. DeKalb Co. Safe drinking water. Fire station #9 is excellent.
- Lose North Druid Hills High School
- Difficulty in getting a new school system for a new city
- Higher taxes.
- Leaders without vision or plans. Lack of community input. Partisan politics.
- Ability to provide comparable services? Higher taxes? Inexperienced governmental leadership.
- Additional layers of government
- Uncertainty of unknowns. Yet another layer of gov't.
- County services would probably be more costly (Police, sanitation)
- Higher taxes
- Without knowing more it's hard to decide. And it would seem that our taxes would have to increase.
- Higher taxes, however, comparatively, our taxes are very low, so that's not a huge deal.

- Possible change of services provided and quality of services.
- See example of problems Sandy Springs had: Residents suddenly had issues with police, fire, emt service, public works, eve sounds all sexy until you have to PAY FOR IT & DO THE WORK.
- Impact on unincorporated areas of county. Local services have to be better than current.
- Exclusion of a border that goes as far south as Decatur and west to Atlanta.
- More taxes
- Breaking up the Druid Hill cluster.
- Additional layer of gov't potential to further increase taxes. Damaging to county gov't. Unnecessary. Divisive.
- higher taxes
- If Emory & Fernbank were not part of a new city, there's not much else (exciting) around.
- The county services that would be "improved" are fine through the county. What good is cityhood?
- Adds another layer of bureaucracy
- Disruption
- Additional bureaucracy. Higher taxes.
- The name LaVista Hills! Increase in taxes, decrease in services.
- Business as usual, ie creating a new governing body similar to that which currently exists.
- (1) completely unnecessary, (2) probably racist/elitist, (3) would be more expensive and offer fewer services (4) it will disrupt my child's education.
- Higher taxes, no school accountability.
- Taxes. Decrease in services.
- I suspect that if we vote for a new city, our taxes will indeed rise.
- Lack of funds to provide svcs.
- The whole "let's hire new police, firefighters, contractors, etc." Privatizing is a direction I am not comfortable with.

- Too expensive. Too much unknown. Questions about how better City Services could be--
- higher taxes. Lower services.
- Isolation. Polarization.
- None that is apparent
- I moved here for a Decatur address
- New Bureaucracy. Higher taxes.
- If my children will NOT be able to stay in their school. Property value.
- Why? Create a new city? I see no benefits!
- Splitting up of the DHHS cluster as it currently is on the map. No limits to what a city can charge for franchise fee0taxes.
- Change is being pushed through. Seems to be a fad to form a new city.
- Uncertainty.
- higher taxes on property. Poor services. (trash, police, water, public health.
- services are more expensive
- (1) Property taxes go up substantially (2) Timing how long the process takes.
- Higher taxes. It doesn't solve the problems that are spurring cityhood. Like taxes.
- Higher taxes. Lack of quality schools/education.
- Being forced into city because of somebody's ambitions or complaints. Don't need another layer of govt & taxes.
- I'd rather be annexed by city of Decatur
- Total taxation amount would eventually be higher than status quo. New city police WILL set up speed traps as a revenue source
- Tax increases
- (1) Another level of government (2) unknown
- unknown outcomes; less services

- There are no real cities here -- no "downtown" areas. This area is clearly not equipped to become DeKalb's largest city.
- I think taxes would have to increase considerably in order to provide the same level of city services.
- Higher taxes
- (1) More politicians (2) More taxes (3) No structure (4) No means of providing services
- I'm afraid that taxes would go up and we may not have the amenities we now enjoy --police, fire & garbage pick-up.
- I do not know how much taxes will be raised but I assume that they will be.
- More taxation. Poorer service.
- Future higher taxes.
- unknown leaders
- Higher taxes
- Higher taxes. Fee add-ons.
- Services might be shaky at first.
- My concerns are higher taxes and school issues. What high school?
- need more time to make informed decision.
- Taxes will go up (always)
- Somewhat divisive towards the rest of DeKalb
- We do not want the county to be broken into smaller units. Taxes would be higher. Police less efficient.
- The need to establish the infrastructure, police, fire dept., city hall, etc. Fractured community.
- Crime is a major concern for us and if a smaller police force is a side effect, then we are opposed.
- Separate cities - police, etc - multiple providers - increase in taxes.
- Higher taxes.

- More taxes & the unknown of cityhood
- No longer DeKalb police dept. smaller forces serving us - more taxes eventually - no guarantee better government than we have now.
- This new city would result in new taxes. Creating a government would just entice different people to waste money. The police force would be inferior.
- higher taxes - I think my taxes are high enough
- likelihood of taxes going up. DeKalb County is still largely in the picture.
- need to create a new government. Then, run it. Need to be obligated to pay expenses, e.g. pensions of current employees who have provided services to us.

"Atlanta" Positives

- Only positive I can think of is that name is recognized by others in country
- Not much. Only If a significant portion of DeKalb was incorporated into Atlanta and we become an island.
- I think my neighborhood is Emory If Emory goes Atlanta, so should my area. Increasing Atlanta is better than creating more gov't entities in GA. ATL is recognizable city today.
- x
- potential for additional services; voice in area of town that affects us
- (1) the structure of city allows for neighborhood planning units (2) More elected offices for ???
- none
- Experienced government structure. Economy of scale. Everything within 285 is culturally Atlanta already. Better security in a larger entity.
- None
- Have more say/voice in matters near our community and affecting our community. Better police services??
- Keeping the Druid Hills cluster together. Being in a real city rather than a made--up city if I have to be in a city.
- None
- nothing positive
- Already established city. Services may improve with new tax-payers. Has the chance to be a more stable transition.
- Could tie us more closely to Emory/CDC
- more resources
- I think the Atlanta schools have a better reputation than DeKalb County.
- It is not LaVista Hills, it isn't perfect but we know this evil. I like their new school board more than our current one.

- ?
- NONE
- no positives - makes no sense
- If Pine Glen staying in the Druid Hills Cluster requires annexation into the City of Atlanta
- Have an Atlanta address
- Going concern with broad tax base
- None!
- None
- The school cluster would remain intact
- None
- Voting clout in the 5th District, if the lines change
- If we could keep our charter cluster together and have it pass.
- Nothing
- Possible better services
- Same taxes. Eliminate Busing. Same Support Services
- joining a bigger, functioning municipal group
- Name recognition. Part of major metro area.
- Same as above. Higher taxes
- Know what we're getting into.
- Cohesive School cluster, property values
- Consolidating with Atlanta to broaden its reach to the perimeter inside 285 belt
- No. Stupid. Worse than DeKalb.
- Druid Hills school cluster intact and approved.
- None

- not sure; I did not realize this was an option - need to study more
- none that I could see
- Likely to have better services
- (1) We would keep our schools. (2) Atlanta is already a city, and we would not need to start from scratch.
- not sure; I did not realize this was an option - need to study more
- This would have been the best option (one good city govt for region) But beauracracy, No.
- to go with DHHS
- I believe in a strong city: loss of middle levels of govt leading to more efficiency APS recovering with transparency from creating scandal.
- Only if all the DHHS feeder schools were included.
- none
- More pedestrian and bicycle friendly infrastructure. Increased access to public transit. Keep school cluster together. Reinforce ITP identity.
- No positives. Totally against.
- If my school assignment remained same & I could remain part of DeKalb Co. Schools.
- None
- Not sure there are any.
- Efficiency of providing services to a large area.
- get to keep DHHS cluster together
- unsure
- none
- Higher capability. City unity
- none
- Tighter enforcement of ordinances than DeKalb County govt.

- None
- City is already established with a decent track record for services and community input & schools
- Schools
- K/K
- None! After living there 6 yrs., I moved out.
- None
- If our schools could remain with the Druid Hills Cluster
- None I can think of.
- Have access to bigger and more established resources than anything a new city could come close to offering.
- Comparable level of taxes. Better public schools and not just more charter schools
- Keeping the Druid Hill cluster of schools together
- remain in Druid Hills High if Druid Hills annexed. Identity as "in town" or ITP
- None!
- Possibly better school system. Mayor Reed has done a good job.
- Escape DeKalb Politics
- None
- none
- None
- At least it would be better than feeling like I'm living in a town created by racists and elitists for no better reason than to insulate themselves from less fortunate fellow citizens.
- The only issue is DHHS going to Atlanta.
- None. Although if the school cluster stays intact maybe OK.
- Atlanta's services are superior to DeKalb

- Services already in place.
- A govt. already created. School control. Working knowledge of the govt.
- Keep school intact
- None
- None. Not Interested.
- I can't think of anything to support this choice. Property value?
- Only so our schools stay together
- Includes the entire DHHS cluster attendance area. A good school superintendent.
- Most certainty re: DH High School, better leadership currently.
- lower taxes. Better services.
- don't see positives
- Not educated enough to comment on.
- Already an established government.
- More/faster police support. High quality schools. Improving roads.
- Maintain school affiliations
- None
- Lack of transparency as in the money of Braves stadium
- Atlanta is a well-established & highly respected world renowned city. The city structure already exists.
- I cannot think of any positives
- None!
- None
- None
- none

- None seen
- I like being attached to areas immediately west, such as CDC/Emory area.
- Only positive would be if we kept in Druid Hills High attendance zone.
- need more time to make informed decision.
- Nothing positive
- Keep Druid Hills schools together
- If the County is broken up, we prefer annexation to Atlanta to forming a new city.
- Retention of Druid Hills school cluster.
- Druid Hills schools cluster remaining a possibility.
- In a perfect world, consolidation would reduce costs.
- None. Loss of DeKalb resources to Atlanta only weakens our community
- None
- I see NOTHING positive in joining with the city
- Being part of Fulton instead of DeKalb! (Although that may not be much more of a positive)
- ability to retain neighborhood school system.

"Atlanta" Negatives

- Higher taxes. Further from governing body, too many citizens for one city
- Distance to city government offices. The notoriety of their school system exceeds even that of our own. And in government, they seem to have written the playbook for corruption. In that DeKalb is the B-team to their varsity.
- City administration is dysfunctional. I would expect services to suffer.
- Not needed. My neighborhood has never been associated w/ATL. Avoids DeKalb pension costs. Should be balanced. Too much school disruption. Higher taxes almost certain.
- x
- known school district problems, known financial issues with city budget
- (1) taxes go up (2) APS is worse than DeKalb
- Higher taxes
- We inherit Atlanta's problems, which is OK I suppose, because a new city will eventually create its own problems anyway.
- Higher taxes. Corrupt government
- Increased taxes. Adding another layer of government
- Taxes
- We do not want to belong to the City of Atlanta!
- Higher taxes, inefficient government, school conflicts
- not sure - but it might be possible that taxes would go up.
- We would lose all our teachers -- Atlanta public schools would most likely put their own teachers at DHHS, so we may not keep the IB program.
- Bloated gov't. High taxes. Badly managed systems.
- Taxes may increase. Services may be lacking but DeKalb is not better. City taxes.
- Poor Schools
- Feasibility?
- I feel that this would now be such an extensive area that Decatur's needs would be lost.
- They have so many problems
- They have pension issues and I don't want to pay for their new sewer and water system.
- Higher taxes. Lack of community voice
- Higher taxes; trading corruption for corruption' school scandal?
- Would mean less control/input than we currently have
- Higher taxes and fees.
- City hall a long ways away.
- Has its own problems
- Same as above. Plus we lived in city of Atlanta -- taxes are higher and services are inferior to DeKalb County
- I do not want to be connected to Atlanta in any way!
- Unknown: Will cut millage rate? Will we be annexed into Fulton County?
- Prefer not to be part of large city due to high infrastructure revamp costs, water/sewer, etc.
- City of Atlanta Services are poor. Permitting issues. Political issues.
- Taxes will increase.
- Lived in Atlanta. Left for a reason.

- Becoming swallowed up in an already overloaded municipality.
- Taxes - they don't have the best record for schools either.
- APS Scandal & poor performing schools.
- Possible loss of Druid Hills H.S
- Busing to continue
- shared coss of atl not reflected locally
- Exposes area to scarcity of resources; i.e. taxes paid in wouldn't necessarily benefit area
- Scandals (more!) Budget issues
- more crime higher taxes. Less services.
- too huge already
- APS School Scandal. Police Presence? Increased taxes. Increased taxes for seniors.
- In my opinion, nothing seems to be broken, therefore there is no need to fix it.
- Poorly run just not as bad as DeKalb. Higher taxes
- Taxes
- more taxes in Atlanta
- Would "Atlanta" be spread too thin
- Would not make enough difference to want this option
- There is a reason Decatur doesn't want our neighborhood. Atlanta is stupid for considering it.
- The city of Atlanta govt is a corrupt mess
- Division of school cluster
- Less accountability
- Fulton has far too many problems
- Atlanta has as much/or more corruption in schools & city as DeKalb - taxes etc is a lot higher
- Transfer of schools & Fernbank to Atlanta
- Increased taxes
- Loss of historical identity. Being part of an unstable political giant
- taxes way too high. Too far from services.
- Atlanta politics is as corrupt as DeKalb's - seem worse with potholes, police dept.
- too big & too far
- Take away Druid Hills High School. Breaks up DHHS Feeder schools. Takes away richer taxes from DeKalb & forces taxes up for other areas
- Have lived in City of Atlanta & strongly prefer to remain in unincorporated DeKalb.
- Significant increase in taxes. Decrease in services (police)
- Beig governed by our "neighbors" is a silly idea. There are as many crooked people here as there are in other parts of the county. From what I understand, we lose Druid High - where does that leave us? I do not like the name LaVista Hills.
- Higher taxes. APS cheating scandal.
- Taxes. Services. Schools. Everything!
- We did not buy here to be in Atlanta
- Don't see how Atlanta - as in "City of" can even be an option.
- Higher taxes
- Who in their right mind would want to be in City of Atlanta - corrupt, inefficient, higher taxes
- Trading one set of corruption for another. Dragged into Atl Public Schools. Ambiguity of "Atlanta in DeKalb" for services.
- All issues.

- becoming part of ATL, paying city and county taxes, Atlanta public school system. Mayor Kasim Reed
- Higher taxes. Politicians, less law enforcement.
- Not at all impressed with leaders of Atlanta government.
- concerned about schools and county services
- We would be low priority. School system is a mess.
- Water supply rates for Atlanta
- Teachers?!
- More taxes, more laws, rules & regulations for more fees & fines to support itself - less control - increase in all services provided etc.
- unsure
- Less representation on school board, affiliation with all Atlanta has good and bad
- We'd be part of the failing Fulton County School system
- Loss of local control. Higher taxes.
- I do not want APS to take over the Druid Hills cluster schools it would get
- I have no interest in living in "City of Atlanta"
- higher taxes. Terrible services. Crappy school system.
- Taxes? Being part of Atl. School system
- Worse police than DeKalb County. Worse ??? Services than DeKalb County.
- None
- Common interest
- Potential splitting up of the Druid Hills School cluster.
- Ultimately higher taxes. Inefficiently run government. Poorer representation.
- Corrupt Atl. Govt & officials
- Taxes too high and increase every year. (I moved out of Atlanta after my home taxes kept increasing)
- Druid Hills cluster is destroyed. Diversity of schools negatively impacted.
- Don't know exactly how it would affect us but I'm not really impressed by City of Atl existing govt.
- Higher taxes, higher insurance rates. When I moved out of the city, these went down significantly. I run a business in the city and they are a nightmare to deal with.
- Increased Taxes, Our School system would suffer
- Loss of voice in direction of community. Our community does not fit in & match city of Atlanta identity.
- LOTS OF POLITICS! Good 'Ol Boy issues. Corruption in City Hall
- Government corruption
- Becoming part of another big group
- Breaking up the Druid Hill cluster.
- Higher taxes. City of Atlanta school reputation. Far flung from city center. Sprawling.
- Higher taxes. Worse schools. Corruption.
- Incompetent water dept. Not trustworthy depending on who is elected.
- Adds another layer of bureaucracy. I don't see how the city of Atlanta is in a better position to address the issues driving this discussion.
- Atlanta Politics
- Corrupt. Additional Bureaucracy. Higher taxes. Inherit ATL Bond Debt.

- Increase in taxes, decrease in services.
- Corrupt, bloated bureaucracy.
- (1) Things are fine the way they are (2) it wouldn't be a gain of any kind. (3) would add more bureaucracy and expense
- My daughter goes to Kittredge and we no longer would have access to the magnet programs. I think APS are no better than DeKalb.
- Taxes. Corruption. Lack of city responsiveness.
- APS is a concern
- Taxes and services cost is too high. Too much bureaucracy.
- Terrible school system. Corrupt services. Breakup of cluster.
- The entire school take over is a huge issue to me. I'd move away should APS takes over.
- Size of City & Resources. Scarcity - possible deeper layering of govt & slower response to citizens.
- higher taxes. Lower services.
- Moving into a dysfunctional (corrupt) system
- Higher taxes. Lousier schools.
- I think Atlanta is SO big, but then so is DeKalb Co.
- Higher taxes.
- I have 2 children in the DeKalb County magnet program. I want my children to stay where they are.
- higher taxes, more government
- Map for annexation of Fernbank ES, Briarvista ES,& DHHS. No exemption of school taxes for those over 70.
- Higher taxes in Atlanta. If I wanted to live in Atlanta - I would have bought a house there.
- "big city", accessibility to city leaders.
- higher property taxes. Poorer services.
- school problems
- (1) Believe property taxes would go up significantly with little or no improvement in schools & education.
- Our taxes would be higher to pay for all of Atlanta's problems. I don't want to be part of APS. I want my kids to have the options of DeKalb School of the Arts.
- Higher taxes. Lack of quality schools/education.
- Don't see any other advantage to being part of Atlanta.
- No freakin' way
- DeKalb County govt may be bad, but city of ATL is worse.
- Schools should be controlled locally not moved to ATL control
- Too large/less influence
- negative opinion of Atlanta's services
- Loss of DeKalb County's distinctive identity.
- I do not believe city services would be provided sufficiently, relative to my tax rate.
- See above. Rampant Fraud & abuse of power
- It's no good. I worked there. Taxes are too high.
- No new politicians
- More taxation. Poorer service.
- Govt too big.

- known leaders
- Taxes. Less of hands-on government
- Impact on schools. Dilution of resources.
- I suspect property taxes would be higher. Although things may be changing. Atlanta City gov. has problems.
- Taxes? Too big
- need more time to make informed decision.
- Everything
- Loss of identity for Decatur. Atlanta is too large to handle as is. Poor image of school system.
- We would have very little voice being so far away and face different issues; cheating scandal.
- Current City of ATL leaders not doing a very good job.
- Too large. No support for local police.
- Taxes. Big city government. Atl fire would be your fire service. Poor services provided.
- I think that Atlanta is a poorly operated city. They have a police depart. That is inferior to DeKalb.
- (1) crooked government (2) higher taxes including higher H2O bill. (3) I specifically bought this house outside of the city limits to avoid these problems.
- Being part of a large city so less community feel.

“Remain Unincorporated” Positives

- Taxes will be more manageable in the future if we stay unincorporated corruption in county is cleaned up
- I just don't have any complaints. Springbrook Park is a recent plus; local zoning & code decisions are reasonable; police service & responsiveness for me have been excellent. Police have the advantage of a department which unites a large geographic area with the ability to coordinate information on crimes and successfully apprehend perpetrators. That is harder when crimes cross lines of multiple police jurisdictions over a few miles. Criminals don't feel bound by cityhood boundaries. And the Dunwoody Keystone Cops approach to the Sniderman murder revealed the problems of leaving serious crimes to a small startup police force.
- While the Co. Commission is a mess, the county bureaucracy is relatively effective. No good reason to incorporate.
- We do not need further divisions of gov't in GA. We need LESS. Why is a different gov't a BETTER gov't? No reason to think true. Probably not true. Remain a community and deal with real issues. Lower taxes unless these political cityhood initiatives are stopped.
- Familiarity
- maintaining status quo; good services, library, etc.
- Services will be better as is. Taxes will be lower in FUTURE and NOW
- Economy of scale. Lower taxes. Turn our community energy toward fixing DeKalb and not running from it.
- Status Quo
- DeKalb is fine as long as we work to get rid of corruption
- We don't have enough information on the other two options to make an informed decision.
- Independence
- Taxes might stay at similar levels.
- We have been happy with our county and our schools. I love the diversity of our county and our schools.
- Taxes lowered. Improvement in services. DeKalb gov't reorganization and evaluation of depts.

- Quite satisfied with the way things are. Why change. 'Higher taxes'???
- Same as now which is working.
- Taxes remain the same
- Services are good now.
- Wait to see what happens in other areas first.
- Would this not mean to keep things as they are now, which in my opinion is just fine.
- We think we're fine as is.
- Change County infrastructure to make office holders & employees more accountable for their service. Strengthen ethics oversight, get DeKalb off most corrupt counties list. Charter Cluster approval.
- Continuation of status quo with adequate services and moderate taxes
- Know what we are dealing with' takes and services are good, relatively low
- taxes should remain constant; have not experienced negative responses for personal county needs. Lived in this area w/o major issues (32 years)
- If School assignments remain unchanged and other nearby areas form cities and cause higher taxes.
- Don't have to make any changes
- Service is pretty good. District atty tries to fight corruption.
- We know what we have. Maintain the status quo. We moved here for the schools--services are much better than City of Atlanta
- We receive good county services & tax is low compared to other parts of country
- So far!! Understand who is providing what
- I believe DeKalb Cty provides good services and value
- Neutral
- Taxes would remain relatively low.
- I like my community and my schools. Want my schools left alone. DHMS/DHHS.

- Having more time to consider possible options and to propose new ones.
- We know what to expect. Most of us moved here for a reason.
- "Known Evil"
- Keep Druid Hills H.S.
- Status Quo
- devil you know
- Not broken - don't fix it.
- Keep our schools where they are
- All svcs. Provided from one central entity, which leads to greater accountability
- Doing well now
- Blueprint for DeKalb. Diversity - racial & financial. Taxes for everyone - esp seniors. Can only go up.
- if it's not broken, don't fix it.
- Keep it working & make it better. Have a strong unincorporated DeKalb. It has been good so far.
- Better for taxes. Affordability improving county transparency and services
- This has been our preference - however cityhood seems inevitable so, as I said the bigger, the better, the more likely we will succeed.
- Keep DeKalb County Police & Fire as is
- I believe our county actually provides pretty good services.
- Work to improve county as a whole
- less change and uncertainty
- Commissioners interest in people. Appear before them to complain and can investigate, check on their work opinions. Like this system and services now available (police, etc.)
- For now, this is the only option that appeals to me
- Our taxes etc is so much less than some of other cities in DeKalb

- Most other areas remain unincorporated - re-organize DeKalb for improved services.
- Relatively low taxes
- not sure
- DeKalb needs our voice and we CAN make it better.
- Work on making DeKalb better
- contributes to the "greater good" for all DeKalb citizens - I am satisfied with current public services
- Continuation (improvement?!) of county services. Commitment of elected officials to blueprint/future of DeKalb.
- School system not necessarily better than DCSD
- No unknowns. I chose to live here as it is now - because of schools, DeKalb gov'n't
- Keeps us out of both a new city and Atlanta
- There's no need to change anything.
- Seems like the best option. We now have low taxes, good services & OK schools.
- If taxes would remain lower. If blueprint DeKalb reforms were implemented.
- No worry on changes, for now.
- Larger tax base, schools remain same, greater access to services,
- fix the PROBLEMS
- One layer of Government is enough.
- No change may be a good thing.
- If taxes stayed same
- Adequacy of county services
- Would we be an island?
- DeKalb unincorporated will always be large enough to support itself
- strong fire and police depts, established schools with good representation

- Low tax rate
- Status Quo (uninformed)
- We need to keep our schools intact!!!
- Good garbage. Very safe drinking water. Good fire dept (at least #9)
- Schools stay the same
- Known quantity
- happy with how things are now
- No changes
- Less bureaucracy
- Services already in place. Not getting hit w/city & county taxes.
- Ultimately lower taxes. Fewer layers of government. Receiving good services already.
- Not so terrible now (except see negatives)
- IF government for county becomes more responsible for tax & bond spending.
- Sometimes no change is good.
- As long as we are not left totally isolated I would prefer status quo.
- Low taxes. Also, the DeKalb Co. water/sewer dept. is awesome!
- Keep current identity. This is slightly negative also.
- We are doing fine just as we are. Leave well enough alone. Taxes are fine and the grass is not always greener.
- Lower taxes. County services are a known quantity
- I deliberately moved to unincorporated DeKalb. I chose to not live in a city. We should focus on reforming the county, not building new cities.
- Better police protection
- Keeping the Druid Hill cluster of schools together
- We are satisfied with current county services. This is the gov't we "know". Community

involvement can further improve operations. Reasonable tax rate.

- No tax changes
- My child could still attend The Globe Academy. Still have Decatur Address?
- I prefer to have no change. No faith in the organizers. I like my county services right now. I want to be in Decatur.
- No disruption
- There is nothing wrong now.
- I think the services we are provided are an adequate trade off for staying unincorporated.
- Only if the alternatives are worse.
- It's fine. I chose to live here under these terms! And I don't want things pointlessly interfered with. There is no advantage to becoming part of a tiny new "city" - it would not be a "city", except by some artificial designation.
- DeKalb Blueprint continues, new corporate structure other than a CEO. Better vision for the schools.
- Keep the school system as is. Improvement in governance.
- Stable taxes
- Lower tax base. Keep school cluster in tact. Svcs already functioning.
- Lower taxes. Work on bettering County Response to better govt.
- No changes
- System in place. Begin FIXING what's not working. Schools would remain as "neighborhood" schools.
- yes
- I like most things the way they are.
- I'm happy the way things are now.
- My children will be able to stay in their schools (magnet program.)
- keeps our schools together

- as both city options stand as they are currently I am opposed to cityhood. Remain Unincorporated!
- Don't wish to change from DeKalb.
- if it isn't broken, don't fix it. No city tax, things went fairly smoothly. No major issues to remain unincorporated.
- (1) Based off of property taxes and values it's a better option than going into Atlanta.
- Good taxes. Services are decent. It's why we moved here.
- Total cleanup & improvement in all areas, esp. schools, police, roads, etc. county officials.
- we could work within county.
- Things are fine as they are. Everyone calm down.
- All the bad press regarding corrupt county officials WILL result in county-level reform, thus no need for cityhood.
- (1) Known (2) Garbage/trash collection
- time to developed well-defined plans for a different future; known future
- If it ain't broke, don't fix it. We have been in this county for 24 yrs. All county services have been consistently good. We like the independence & freedom of being unincorporated.
- Working on issues we know are problems now, is better than creating new problems with annexation.
- status quo
- Fix DeKalb mess
- DeKalb County is a good county, and we enjoy good police protection, fire protection & garbage pick-up
- I know what I have here.
- Preference
- Status Quo. Know what to expect.
- Lower taxes. Less government

- We know things are changing for the better.
- County is doing well in providing services
- Status Quo. No change in taxes.
- Moratorium/Freeze on tax/fee increases
- I would like our school attendance lines to remain the same. I do not want Druid Hills high school annexed to Atlanta without taking our neighborhood.
- need more time to make informed decision.
- Good taxes. No major problems.
- We prefer the larger county unit.
- Improved schools and county services.
- figure out all answers to questions, what ifs, etc, then make an informed decision.
- Think forming new cities will have (unexpected?) negative consequences.
- Lower taxes. Services are adequate.
- Less govt/taxes. Our govt, and ourselves, should control our destiny by more competent leadership.
- Good services provided by county now - now officials in place with more transparent government.
- Remaining unincorporated will allow schools & services to remain the same ->schools, taxes, police
- I think we need to lobby DeKalb County for more accountability & transparency. The police department is good. We have a new Sheriff who is highly qualified. I am satisfied w/ the services the county provides. Our representative needs to keep us informed. I never hear from him/her.
- I am satisfied for the most part with the way things are.
- Lower taxes. Less layer of government.
- The status quo is favorable - why change?

“Remain Unincorporated” Negatives

- If we become an island and all areas around us are new cities or are part of Atlanta. If many other areas become new cities or annex into Atlanta, our county taxes could go up.
- Remaining one of the only parts of DeKalb that is not part of a city with possibly diminished services as a result.
- Everyone else incorporated or is annexed causing a sharp increase in taxes and reduction in county services
- Abandonment by political cityhood flight. Resource steaing by annexation and cityhood initatives precipitated by political cityhood initiatives.
- other areas being annexed leaves us vulnerable
- maintaining status quo
- We must work to improve our government
- None
- Whatever will be the impact of losing tax base to areas that become Atlanta or a new city.
- Police Response needs improvement
- Isolation if neighoring areas become cities, loss of schools and businesses
- No voice on matters very close to home. Possible later ??? That will be done by DeKalb County - which we may or may not like.
- I don't want to pay higher taxes because other areas get annexed. I don't want my property values to fall due to a less well respected school attendance zone.
- Higher taxes. Slower response of services.
- Lack of support in the future.
- fear of reduced services (police)
- Get left behind
- Right now, this definition of "unincorporated" is unclear.

- No changes = no growth and stagnation. No Charter Cluster
- Marginalization of county clout
- no opportunity for improvement; schools up in the air
- possible to be an isolated area that is poorly served
- Higher taxes resulting from loss of tax base from other areas incorporating or being annexed
- Stuck with poor govt.
- Corruption at top is embarrassment. Civil servants haven't been involved as far as we know.
- None
- Subjected to fees/taxes/schools. At mercy of Co. favoring the South DeKalb.
- Significant tax increase
- Neutral
- The school cluster may not remain intact if Druid Hills is annexed but we remain unincorporated.
- There need to be changes in DeKalb Co. But concerned about losing schools to City of Atlanta.
- If our high school goes to City of Atlanta, we'll be left with redistricting into overcrowded schools.
- Continued pilfering & corruption
- Continue to deal with DeKalb Co. government
- devil you know
- Cause a lot of conflictions & problems
- Corruption
- We have good neighborhood watches, don't want higher taxes.
- Corruption
- Taxes increasing if other properties annexing. Property values decrease. Remains status quo. School issues.
- would probably be ignored more than now - no way to "have our say"

- Makes much more sense than above 2 options. No real negatives.
- Lose our voice in changes around our area that may be ??? City of Atlanta or New City
- losing ou on tax base & services if other areas DO incorporate
- Most areas are becoming incorporated - No plans for DeKalb County improvements.
- not sure @DeKalb County's future
- If DeKalb fails to turn around governance - a "sinking ship"
- none
- If other areas become cities it will force more taxes on us. Very negative; school funding would still be poor.
- Loss of high school/redistricting. Chopping up the county leading to loss of tax base. Decrease/limited services (partic. Sanitation & police)
- Economies of scale
- Govn't leaders
- these changes amount to racial gerrymandering.
- Lower taxes.
- works fine as it is. Just rid county of corrupt officials
- Being left behind as other cities snatch up commercial tax base. No meaningful efforts at reform.
- Continue with the dishonesty in this county. No accountability continues.
- if DHHS gets annexed.
- None
- Still have same problems.
- Lack of vision of DeKalb School Board & apparent corruption of gov't
- DeKalb County is very poorly run.
- Where would my kids go to school

- difficult to make change; worry regarding county corruption
- Crappy schools
- No benefits
- DeKalb government has gone down hill since our family moved here in 1980! Corrupt with NO INTEREST in its citizens.
- under CORRUPT government.
- Poor services/responsiveness to local concerns. Corruption/incompetence in school system.
- No changes
- Lack of trust among county commissioners to do their jobs. Leadership unresponsive to individuals i.e water bills, lack of police presence, encourages less community unity.
- Zoning. Police. Government.
- A county government w/ a history of corruption and waste of taxpayer money.
- Corrupt county gov't and officials.
- County government has lost respect of citizens.
- DeKalb has been in a spiral for years with little positive change.
- Corruption, indifference, etc.
- Could get left behind of other surrounding community & be only unincorporated area.
- None! Love it as it is!
- Isolation as new cities incorporate around us
- nothing.
- Breaking up the Druid Hill cluster.
- Further corruption, though this is a possible negative of any option. City officials are not immune to corruption & mismanagement.
- schools aren't the best. Police are slow to respond. Difficult to make changes in community.
- School district is abysmal.

- DeKalb politics
- None.
- N/A
- The status quo.
- If DeKalb does not fight Druid Hills taking the high school to Atlanta.
- If other areas leave & we are left behind. DeKalb officials don't care about our area.
- I'm concerned about the continuous crime. I fear DeKalb is not protecting us properly.
- May be left out of process & budgeting if we don't move.
- Uncertainty of results of Cityhood in other areas - failure of County to right itself.
- Lose school cluster
- Same as "new city"
- we are stuck with the same disorganization
- higher level of uncertainty going forward. Little confidence in school board or city leadership.
- higher property taxes. Poorer services.
- Want integration? Honestly? Make property tax even, not according to safe prices.
- (1) Still have poor schools (2) Taxes could increase as other areas become incorporated.
- Potential to become marginalized if adjacent areas go to Atlanta, or a new city.
- Continued corruption. Poor quality of services & upkeep.
- Dividing school clusters.
- No negatives to status quo
- (1) Corruption that goes undetected (2) Low maintenance of roads & worn lane markers
- keep current problems; poor services
- None
- status quo

- I'm afraid things may change around us and we will be left out
- It's corrupt.
- None
- Not much attention given.
- None
- Continue to have resources diluted with poorer parts of DeKalb Co.
- I'm guessing DeKalb Co. would need to raise taxes if Lakeside/Briarcliff form.
- none
- need more time to make informed decision.
- Less concentrated services.
- Poor school system.
- "being left behind"
- If the Druid Hills school cluster happens - I'd rather keep it all together. If that means annexation, then so be it.
- Lack of trust w/elected officials
- worse services
- Identity as a community does not include a city level.

Open Comments

- We had a good thing by being part of unincorporated DeKalb County. Taxes were reasonable, services were good. I think we should work to clean up corruption and improve what we have. I don't think we should add another layer of government, whether it be as a new city or by being annexed into Atlanta. I am happy with many of the DeKalb County services. We have very good garbage pickup, recycling, yard waste pick up, etc.
- Thanks for requesting my thoughts. My negative feelings about cityhood, I will admit, have been further cemented by my parents' owning a house in the City of Brookhaven. It may be the nature of small cities to spawn small-time politicians who can create all manner of petty issues to squabble over. I definitely do not favor an additional layer of government, and that is largely what cityhood would mean. And we'd still have DeKalb County government too. P.S. I feel compelled to add that the cityhood movements - beginning with Sandy Springs and Dunwoody - were largely motivated by thinly disguised racism and social elitism. Look at the shakers and movers for any of these cityhood movements so far. how many minority representatives does one find? Do we want to be associated with such a movement? I do not.
- (1) When the cities in North Fulton incorporated, it was because the residents believed their taxes were disproportionately allocated to South Fulton. I haven't heard similar complaints around here. (2) Some of the new cities ??? Virtually all city operations except police. They are now finding it not so affordable. (3) DeKalb Co. government is relatively efficient - certainly more so than Atlanta. What do we gain by incorporating?
- ATL, Decatur, Tucker have city identities. Briarcliff, Lakeside, Briarcliff do NOT. What happens to a city that is just some neighborhoods? No town center? DeKalb pensions must be fairly addressed. Annexation of purely commercial properties must cease. A radius or percent residential should be required. or new cities should pay add'l fees to compensate. All of DeKalb should somehow be able to vote on New cities. There is real impact outside the maps. The old law is outdated in today's complex context. Manuel Maloof had it right 25 years ago: City of DeKalb (all of it). Disagreement should lead to arbitration before a political state appointed group is used. Politicians have an established record of destroying community for political gain.
- To date, none of the new cityhood initiatives have offered specific plans to address issues like policing and infrastructure. Without any idea of what the plans are, there is no way to determine the real consequences of cityhood.
- I and my husband are totally 100% opposed to any change from unincorporated DeKalb County. Want status quo please!
- We chose to move where we live for a number of reasons, primarily (1) proximity to downtown Atlanta; (2) a well run DeKalb County; (3) lower taxes. We would have purchased a home in the city of Decatur or Atlanta, but given the well run DeKalb County - at least 20 years ago, we made the best choice (we chose well). Since then the county has stumbled and is poorly run, at least by many indications. With that introduction, I would like a 5+ year moratorium on all DeKalb County cityhood/annexation discussion, and turn this energy toward restructuring DeKalb County so that it is better managed.
- We should unite in fixing the DeKalb govt and school board rather than tearing communities apart.
- Our neighborhood is a major part of what makes Druid Hills MS and HS so special. Together, we've improved the facilities and have momentum to continue a great thing. I would prefer to

revisit the Charter proposal and push the County school system to approve it. We should continue our work to get the corruption out of the County Government, too. Thanks for your work!

- We believe the average citizen is just now becoming aware of these proposals. More detailed information is needed on items such as increased taxes for police protection, road maintenance, garbage collection, etc.
- Comment on question 10: All of this is based on the assumption that something will take place in neighboring communities. I want ??? Be fine - I want in some ways - to remain unincorporated if the status quo remains in neighboring communities. So my real preference is remaining unincorporated - I've changed it based on the assumption that incorporation will take place in adjoining areas. Question 14: Until we know what some of the real consequences are for each option, it is hard to have a solid opinion or view. If DeKalb County plans to incorporate all unincorporated portions of the county, this needs to be added to the conversation so that residents understand that incorporation might be inevitable and so that we can start to look more realistically at what our future options are.
- I strongly support a one-year moratorium on new cities/annexations for the reason that I feel that this issue is being rushed and that a well-reasoned and informed decision needs to be made. We have six children attending DHMS and DHHS. The loss of the STT program at Fernbank and the International Baccalaureate at DHHS would be tragic for our children. If DeKalb County Schools could present the plan for our children's education, it would help us make a better decision. However, without the knowledge about schools, we have to choose to go with Druid Hills because it is the only known quantity. I own two properties in the Laurel Ridge attendance zone and have only recently recovered from the losses suffered under the financial crisis. I am so scared of having our property values devastated again by these changes.
- The number of depressed and run-down areas is rising as businesses and residents leave for better locations. These moves result from poorly run gov't and school systems and increasing taxes. Also robberies are on the rise, at least in this area. There are many empty businesses and houses which contribute to attracting robbers. Improvements must be made regardless of the option.
- I have lived on the corner of Wilson Woods and Shetland Dr for 53 years. 5 of our children went to Laurel Ridge School and Shamrock High School (which now does not exist.) Our oldest child went to Druid Hills High. I am perfectly satisfied with DeKalb County. We do not need to belong to Atlanta with higher taxes and more crime. Nor do we need to be a New City.
- We're older, no children in school, satisfied with present community conditions. Highly desirable to maintain affinity with Emory/CDC.
- Not sure really - there are too many unknowns - want to keep Decatur address despite not being in "City of". I do NOT want to be a part of Tucker.
- Annexation may benefit Atlanta and specific neighborhoods but will diminish DeKalb Cty w/o providing benefit to the greater area. Cityhood is the best trade off to offset a diminished DeKalb Cty. While not taking anything away from Atlanta.
- Not interested at all in joining City of Atlanta. There is a sense of urgency regarding the cityhoods right now and people are having to make a lot of reactionary decisions based on fear. My main concern is that we could potentially be trading the devil you know for the devil you don't know. DeKalb County was fabulous once. What is going to stop these cities from decline? Why can't we fix DeKalb County?
- Having worked in the City of Atlanta for almost 45 years, I interacted with city officials most of

that time. The problems DeKalb has experienced in recent years are nothing compared to issues in the city and their mgt.

- The only reason I would want to join a new city is that it seems much of the rest of the county is being incorporated. I don't want to be the last community in unincorporated DeKalb County.
- We definitely do not want to be part of City of Atlanta -- Definitely think cityhood will increase taxes. Thank you for doing this survey!
- I would prefer LaVista Hills over Atlanta.
- Could not answer ranking because of too many unknown factors. We appreciate the work being done to make sure the information is provided to us. The more we know the more we are able to move forward to a decision.
- Get it Done!!
- I'm strongly opposed to losing DHMS/DHHS to City of Atlanta!
- Has anyone considered a City of Druid Hills? I would feel at home there. I feel that the overriding issue is the fate of the Druid Hills cluster of schools. Families have moved into this area because they want their children to go to Druid Hills High. This attraction affects all property values, even of those homes that have no children in school. No part of the cluster should feel comfortable about splitting it up for the sake of one or two feeder schools. If DeKalb County wants to retain this attendance area, the School Board should be required to reconsider the cluster proposal. The other important issue relates to how hard it is to reach a consensus. This takes time and a willingness to listen to opposing views. Many of us have felt pushed, without any input, to join a new city without enough time to consider all the ramifications. Pushing for a decision without taking time to grow a consensus is at the root of many problems, including distrust of whatever governance is put into place hastily. Most importantly, the discussions must remain civil. Thank you for providing a means to be part of the discussion.
- Thank you for gauging the community members' pulse on this topic.
- Higher quality of Life with independence of schools and increased voice in governance.
- I would like to have the schools just the way they are. I don't want them to annex. Keep our schools where they are! Thank you.
- If Atlanta takes over Druid Hills High School, what happens to all the kids that would have gone to high school there? You'd be leaving them high & dry! All residents of DeKalb County should get a vote, because everyone's affected by the creation of a new city,, whether or not they actually live in it. If the county has to raise taxes to make up for the lost revenue, everyone's affected & should therefore have a voice. It seems so many people object to big government. Why do they want to add another layer of government when they'll still have to pay county taxes? Seems like too much power in too few hands.
- Cityhood claims movement is about "the people". Yet decisions are made by a small group of people behind closed doors - by elected officials we can't vote for. Tired of hearing this inevitable. Many don't want this or trust those pushing it on us. This is a local issue & should be decided locally. - Not by those we can't vote for. The energy put into cityhood should have put into making county better/less corrupt. If this happened, many would feel cityhood pushers were more genuine. Right now they seem power hungry. Schools are huge. Why is our school board rep not fighting for all children he represents? Why does Fernbank get High School when they have 2/5 of students for it? Losing Druid Hills High School would be a great loss to our community. What will DCSS do? Citizens need to learn more about Blueprint & work with elected officials to make necessary changes to improve DeKalb. We also need to support better candidates across the county.

- Great job with the civic assoc. Long overdue!!
- Would like more info -- I'm still confused about the advantages for joining a new city. Thanks for our hard work trying to get us more informed!
- I think it would be best to stick with Emory and whichever direction Emory goes in. Also with Farmer's Market and other businesses. Do not want to be left out in the cold-- with no business tax benefit. Why not remain unincorporated all round & make it work (remove the corrupt officials etc) Again. Do not want to be left isolated in pocket w/no business tax revenue, gov. services, etc (police etc) Stay unincorporated, clean up what's not working & be a better DeKalb.. This is all very fuzzy. Clearly no one wants to be left out in an isolated pocket of unincorporated DeKalb without effective Police service, etc and lose property value. We have excellent residential locations here and should be respected for maintaining our properties. it is essential that no one suffer being left out and lose community services & financial value.
- Druid Hills High School has not been our #1 choice for our children so if they choose to join Atlanta, it would not affect us. Our main concern is safeguarding the quality of life in our Laurel Ridge-Shamrock district in whatever manner possible be it improving the County we currently live in.
- On moratorium - Sandy Springs studied it for 15 years. This process is reactive, not strategic. It still does not fix problem. Dekalb form of gov needs to change or ALL of DeKalb needs to municipalize. I worked at the Atlanta Regional Commission of 11 yrs as Division Chief of Local Government. I was deeply engaged in the before and after of the creation of all North Fulton cities. I currently work in Gwinnett as Director of Econ. Development and have been engaged in Peachtree Corners. I would like to be part of this effort and offer resources and references as we move forward.
- We are VERY concerned at what seems a grab of the best schools, including our HS by wealthy, white Druid Hills residents. Frankly, it is infuriating and while we had opposed a new city we now feel strongly that active overtures need to be made to join the Atlanta annexation initiative.
- I have dealt with some of the new cities and have been impressed. We need overall regional planning for major issues such as traffic and water. I agree that some latitude should be given to local school clusters. The only exception to this has been the city of Decatur.
- If possible I would appreciate hearing an apples-to-apples comparison of the various alternatives. (I realize this would not be easy.)
- Will look forward to more information. Did the legislators tell us to do this? Why started?
- Thanks to all you busy neighbors who are making time to address these important issues. You are appreciated.
- I prefer to remain unincorporated!
- no comments
- Since cityhood seems to be inevitable, we would prefer to be part of a known long-established city than a new one. There are already too many county and municipal governments stirring the pot.
- Not sure. have not seen much positive from DeKalb Co. I work in Doraville/Chamblee area and see positives of presence of Chamblee police. Regardless of what happens, we will live in DeKalb County. DeKalb County Government MUST improve!
- We would like to see the "Blueprint for DeKalb" process bring about positive change for the whole county, rather than creating more small municipalities.
- Just want to work on getting DeKalb better

- I would like to be in the new city if funding for education was a priority. I don't think remaining unincorporated would solve education funding and if the county still won't let charter clusters form then the schools will remain underfunded.
- Thank you for taking the time and effort to facilitate this input!
- What's the big rush? I don't have enough info/understanding to intelligently respond. My responses are based on gut. I want to understand why something like Jacksonville FL/Duval County doesn't work: one level of government & one level of taxes & (by George!!) the right hand knows what the left hand is doing. (Caveat: I don't know/understand if Jax/Duval Co. works well but it makes sense to me!!)
- We strongly oppose annexation and cityhood. With either option, we would still be a part of DeKalb County. Annexation and cityhood would not fix the problems with DeKalb, and it could potentially create new problems. Working together to fix DeKalb is our best option.
- For question 12: or Permanently dismiss all movements towards cityhood & annexation. State legislators waste enough time without tossing this issue in. I would be part of a group that forms to oppose cityhood and annexations.
- There are absolutely zero parks & recreational facilities in the current boundaries. The boundaries are awkward, there is no city center. Areas outside of 285 (a physical boundary) should not be included in the boundaries. The name "LaVista Hills" sound like a retirement community. As millennials, we want to live in an area that is thriving, and has potential for growth. We like saying "I live in north Decatur." No one will know & recognize the "LaVista Hills" name. Why not just be "North Decatur"?
- Would choose being annexed to Decatur City of over Atlanta or New City.
- We should stay unincorporated.
- We worry the results of this survey may be misinterpreted. We answered the questions as best we could but can't say how we would ultimately vote. Our preferences will be strongly affected by what other cities and communities do or try to do. The survey starts with the assertion that there are only three realistic options and asks us what we think of only these three options. Other potential sentiments (for example, annexation into the city of Decatur; a one-year moratorium on incorporation; or choosing affiliation based on the ultimate affiliation of surrounding neighborhoods or commercial properties like N. DeKalb Mall) are not ranked, so a survey answer may imply falsely that one of the three options is a respondent's first choice. The truth is, we are incredibly ambivalent and conflicted about all these choices. One of the purposes of this survey is so that we can lobby state legislators to keep Decatur, Atlanta, or Emory University from behaving badly. For instance, if Decatur is going to poach the commercial properties around our neighborhood, they should be required to support the surrounding residents as well. If Atlanta is going to get prices resources from DeKalb School System, they should be required to compensate the school system in some way. Regardless of court precedents, the legislature has the power to change the rules as part of any annexation deals, so some form of compensation should be a condition of annexation if Druid Hills joins Atlanta.
- Support the moratorium IF agreement cannot be reached. The school situation is difficult for us as we did not have children but, we hear complaints from parents who have children in the local schools. Many are in private schools. DeKalb has been on the wrong road for a while now and something needs to be done.
- It is incredibly selfish & unjust to want to incorporate in an effort to take resources out of the larger DeKalb Co. area. As the snow storms of Jan/Feb of this year showed, those who were part of an incorporated city fared much worse than those who were part of DeKalb Co. To

think that taxes will not go up w/incorporation is ignorant. To think that schools will benefit from joining Atlanta Public Schools is ignorant. To think that by incorporating/annexing will "protect" us is selfish, unjust & ignorant. If we have to be annexed by anyone, it should be city of Decatur. That is where we live.

- Surely, none of you would consider merging with Atlanta - Just start reading the newspaper.
- Support one-year PLUS moratorium.
- This is very confusing and I seem to get different information from different sources. I would really like to see changes in the ethics of our Politicians and then I might be more inclined to join a particular group. Everything seems so self-serving. Where has integrity gone.
- Would choose to remain unincorporated only if schools including High School would remain. Making small school systems lessens resources to students in many ways (see New Orleans school reports). I am concerned about DHHS - the property belongs to Emory and so it seems that the school would have to go where Emory goes.
- The thought that taxes would not increase for a new city are unrealistic. The idea of multiple cities within DeKalb Co. appear to be to be racial. We should be doing more to promote a good school board and county gov't rather than breaking away into an enclave.
- DeKalb County politicians have squandered/wasted our tax dollars. 4 out of every 10 kids in DeKalb County public schools - fail to graduate from high school. Our streets are littered with pot holes. Our parks are neglected. Too much petty crime in our NHoods. Businesses are leaving the area @ alarming rate.
- No New Cities! Let's at least slow down and not rush into it. No new cities! No new cities! This process needs to slow down! We all need to be informed and to be able to weigh all options. This should not be strong-armed through the legislature by a few people! Why are we not talking about what happens AFTER the vote? What will schools look like? Who will be the teachers? Services?
- Druid Hills School cluster should be staying in part of DeKalb County unincorporated.
- We have too many county & local gov'ts that fail to deliver services. The answer is to improve existing infrastructures and participation therein: not create more duplication & miss on economies of scale. We already have roughly twice as many counties as FLA with half their population. So more smaller govts, & their admin costs, are not the answer.
- We fundamentally believe that the current atmosphere which exists in DeKalb County to establish new cities derives from mistrust and frustration with the school system. This movement, which also exists in neighboring counties, seeks to unify more exclusive type neighborhoods into city structures who will have greater control over their school systems. Unfortunately this mind set does not take into account the long term ramifications which will ultimately arise. It's easy to come out at this point and assure residents that taxes will not go up and police and fire services will not be affected, but in the end we believe that the taxes will have to go up and the police and fire services will be drastically impacted in a negative direction. Dividing DeKalb up into several smaller city units will end up weakening the county, including the services it provides, and will necessitate the creation of many smaller less functional school, fire and police entities. In the end, this results in more government and more funds needed to facilitate these new government agencies. Atlanta is a very unique city in the sense that outside its city limits lie many small city structures who long ago decided not to annex land. This created the large unincorporated areas such as exist in DeKalb County. Almost all other major cities throughout the country are not like this. When leaving one city, in a metropolitan area, you enter into another city. These suburban cities, which are well established, have enough citizens to support schools, fire and police services and parks. The

current ideas being discussed today in the Atlanta area are far too late in the coming and will ultimately be very costly for the tax payers. We also find it somewhat ironic that so many who support these types of ideas tend to those with conservative values which strongly advocate less government. Dividing DeKalb County up into several new small city units will create animosity, greatly impact property values in both directions, negatively impact fire and police services and will increase taxes for needed funds.

- DeKalb County should focus on getting county government on solid ground (ethics, schools, budget, county services). Don't know enough background as to why this issue is so important right now nor do I know what Gannon's Blueprint to Redefine DeKalb includes. A clearer understanding might change my opinion, but for no I approve remaining unincorporated.
- If we can form a city government which provides same or better services with no increases in tax - then I'm all for a new city, providing that we can gain control over the schools and increase rigor.
- I worry that the decision is being made out of fear and sense of need instead of from a position of knowledge.
- I do not want to have my property value decrease because of the annexation!!!
- Give the homeowners in the LaVista Hills area an opportunity to self-govern. We have been ignored and deceived by recent county leadership! (Jones & Ellis administrations in particular.)
- LRSCA should be working with the proponents of LaVista Hills or the city of Briarcliff. We endorse LaVista Hills or annexation into Decatur. Decatur needs the tax base & the school bldgs we can bring to it.
- Would prefer it [Druid Hills school cluster] broken up to joining City of Atlanta. We don't like the name "LaVista Hills". How can we get a better name? How about "North Decatur"? Also it seems like us bracketing off the issues of SCHOOLS & TAXES from the decision when these are probably the top two concerns for most people in the area.
- County government isn't going away - another layer of government. Just invitation to more problems. By all means stay out of Atlanta!
- Resubmit school cluster proposal or take it to state board of education. Find way for Emory to go into Atlanta so Druid Hills can stay in DeKalb either new city or remain unincorporated.
- Thank you to all the Laurel Ridge Shamrock Civic Assn Board members for your efforts and hard work. You are building a strong bond among the community!
- Do not rush to a decision just to decide. SLOW DOWN!!! THE PROCESS.
- The amount of information supplied here is actually not substantial enough to make any kind of truly informed decisions. Not sure what constitutes Clairmont Hts.
- I have lived in the City of Atlanta and for 6 years owned property in Atlanta in DeKalb County. Property taxes increased greatly over those 6 years and I moved to unincorporated DeKalb. My taxes decreased and services increased when I got out of Atlanta city limits. At that time schools in DeKalb were good and, after the APS scandal probably still are better than Atlanta's.
- My 2 biggest concerns are: (1) The school cluster - I teach at DHMS, so I have a vested interest here. (2) Taxes - I'm not convinced that lower taxes or no/low increases are truly viable.
- I do not understand what the implications of a one year moratorium would be. Why not direct our energies toward improving DeKalb County schools & services, instead of the proposed new cityhood.
- While my children will have graduated from Druid Hills HS by the time these initiatives are completed, I am concerned that property values and interest in this neighborhood will decline significantly if we lose the cluster of Druid Hills schools. Maybe the City of Atlanta should

include everything inside the perimeter, if they are trying to expand, not just "cherry pick" the cream of DeKalb County. Although I'm not a huge fan of City of Atlanta, maybe it wouldn't be the end of the world.

- WHY are the planners and decision makers of LRSCA hopping up and down to jump on board the cityhood annexation train so passionately and hurry up & make a decision?? Making a decision in a RUSH is the WORST think anyone can do. You are sending out these surveys and asking for them back in only days, etc. WHY? Stop buying into the fear mongering and just step back and chill out for a minute and realize that we have options. We do not HAVE to make a decision here. But hurrying up and making the WRONG decision just to say we've made one is a very bad idea.
- We're intrigued by cityhood, but there are many unanswered questions with regard to schools, police, etc. Needs to be a transparent and uncorrupt process. Thanks!
- For question 4:Oppose both! Neither is my choice. No preference implies that I don't care which one, which is untrue. So, I gave my answer. Also, why isn't joining Decatur a hypothetical choice? I'm disgusted that a seeming minority of Republicans on the north side of our area got this cityhood ball rolling. They've no real concern for the unincorporated area South of them. They just want population and commercial properties for their "city". I enjoy being unincorporated, which was my financial choice. Why is my choice now being ??? and in the name of "local control"? Also, the cityhood effort hasn't thought through how their efforts may wreck our schools, which are very good ones. Imagine if all this cityhood effort went into reforming DeKalb County.
- We purchased our home in Country Squire three years ago SPECIFICALLY because it was in unincorporated DeKalb and because it was zoned for Druid Hills High. We also own and have lived in City of Atlanta. The services we receive from DeKalb Co. are far superior. We find the cityhood/annexation issues to be divisive within the community, which is the exact opposite result it should have. A cluster of neighborhoods/subdivisions with no city center does not make a city. to date, we have heard no compelling reasons for cityhood. The only reason we would support C o A annexation is to keep our schools together.
- Biggest concerns are deterioration of our schools and much higher taxes. It remains unclear to me how becoming a new city or Atlanta will change funding to our schools. I think it would be very helpful for residents to have a clear breakdown of how schools, police, roads and taxes would be effected by becoming a new city or Atlanta. I need more information before I can make an educated decision.
- Do whatever Emory & Fernbank do. Go with the \$\$\$\$\$ check. My child attends the Globe Academy, which only serves those in unincorporated DeKalb County...
- The problems I have with the county -- corrupt govt officials and a failing school system will not be fixed by cityhood. I will ONLY favor cityhood if incorporating a new school system is made part of the deal Police and other services are fine the way they are.
- I think it's dangerous for our communities to leave decisions about our future in the hands of state legislatures. These decisions need to be addressed locally. I think we would be better served investing our energy in addressing the issues of concern and trying to reform things within the current system. Incorporation seems to be a band aid that may produce some benefits in the short-term, but will the benefits be sustainable long-term?
- We should clean up the government we have now instead of hiding it behind another layer of dysfunctional government. I also object to your use of the term "decision maker" in this question. WE THE PEOPLE should be the "decision makers"! Also, only providing 5 days to respond to this survey is insane if you want participation from more people.

- People have chosen to reside in unincorporated DeKalb for many reasons. There are no pressing issues, in my opinion, that require incorporating us into a city. A tremendous amount of money will be spent if this is pursued without an equal payout. The cost benefit is lacking.
- Like many people, I quite frankly don't understand nor concern myself with most of these issues. It would be nice if our governing officials would conduct themselves appropriately as civil servants to protect and serve the citizens of our community.
- It's a huge waste of energy and resources. Focus on solving the community's problems rather than bickering about 'city' hood.
- There are way too many unseen collateral consequences of annexation and incorporation of ALL parties. We need to be able to figure out what those are before it is too late. Thus, the moratorium. We bought our home because it was NOT in a city. I want it to remain that way. Let's fix DeKalb.
- I am extremely unhappy and disappointed with the Druid Hills Atlanta annexation discussion. This seems very self-serving by a few individuals. The City of Atlanta has never struck me as a good steward of public schools. I understand the frustration with DeKalb Co. and wish the county was more responsive to ALL its citizens. I am disappointed in the way this has come about. I appreciate the opportunity to be heard. I would like to stay unincorporated and for DeKalb County to be better stewards of us.
- Cityhood worries me. I feel much of the turn away from DeKalb county is due to the current corruption and mismanagement w/County & schools. I feel a "breather" should be put in place to let emotions cool and give the County & citizens a chance to fix the issues that have greatly exacerbated the emotions of DeKalb citizens. BUT if we'd have to go somewhere, I'd rather be brought into Atlanta than to attempt to create a new city. I believe strongly that our taxes would be exorbitant if we were to attempt cityhood on our own.
- Out of our diversity comes our strength. Do not dilute it. Thank you.
- For us, what is driving our preference is our schools. We feel it is crucial to keep our school cluster united and our "neighborhood" schools viable. Good education offering is the key to any successful community.
- New city would insure we would receive greater value for our tax dollars -we would not have the unprofessional leaders taking from our tax dollars & converting to their use--
- As I said, I want a Decatur mailing address.
- DeKalb County management is a mess. If a jury cannot reach a verdict because they feel sorry for the defendants twin sons and wife what chance do we have for improvement. To do any business in Atlanta would be an impossible task.
- Want a ten-year moratorium. I am not interested in becoming a new city nor being incorporated into ATL. Stay unincorporated DeKalb. Please leave us unincorporated. Brookhaven & Sandy Springs have had significant growing pains & corruption in BOTH already. No benefit to options provided. Who is behind pushing these changes and why are changes necessary? Why can't we stay as unincorporated DeKalb? Who is benefitting if we join ATL or form a new city?
- I feel very strongly against the annexation into the City of Atlanta. I have many concerns about the whole thing in general (property value, taxes, schools). With 2 kids in the magnet program, I would be VERY UPSET if they can no longer go to their current schools.
- I don't think this (Laurel Ridge Shamrock cannot consider annexation into Atlanta until neighboring Medlock and Clairmont Heights Communities have agreed to it) is correct. On question 12, Tired of the back & forth & continued discussions. Needs to be decided as is. Our focus immediately needs to be on stopping the annexation of DHHS, Fernbank ES & Briarvista

ES as suggested by Ken Wan at the UHUMC meeting. We all need to be emailing our legislators, DCS Board members, DCS superintendent to let them know it is our priority to keep the DH school cluster intact. That we will not & do not want City of Atlanta and TIA to annex our HS or 2-ES. Cityhood takes a back seat to this issue. We can push LaVista Hills to remove the LR community from its map when surveys are done.

- For Question 13: But not at the expense of all becoming part of Atlanta. This decision should be made after much much more information, discussion, and time. I'm concerned anytime people are pushing very strongly for their will. To be honest the annexation seems like a group of parents didn't get their way so they want to pack up their toys and leave. This decision affects future parents of DeKalb as well as with students in lower grades that would attend N. Druid Hills. And the new city plan seems like we are just jumping on the "new city" bandwagon. Look -everyone's doing it. It's too early to see what will happen in some of these other new cities. Why not wait and see if that was a good idea before jumping off the cliff. I also believe that working together to improve DeKalb instead of jumping ship is the answer. Besides Atlanta hasn't said all our wants will be granted either. The grass always seems greener doesn't it.
- Assuming (in #s 4&5) that school attendance zones would not change is problematic. As parents of young children, maintaining inclusion in the DH high school zone is paramount, since there is so much uncertainty remaining in a depleted DeKalb school system. For this reason, joining the Atlanta annexation should be strongly considered.
- We have severe mosquito infestation, public health hazard, needs to be addressed.
- Big corporations merge, why would we do the opposite?
- What drives us much like most residents in the area are the quality of education our community schools provide for our children as well as balancing our taxes. We don't believe becoming a part of Atlanta City Schools is a great option and don't want to be left behind as other areas become incorporated. We believe becoming our own city seems like the best option but would like more time to make sure we are making an informed decision.
- We lived in Gwinnett County. We researched and deliberately moved into this community and the Druid Hills cluster - because of the school sizes, the diversity, and the nature of the community. I love that my children have schools they can walk to, where teachers live in our same neighborhoods. It sickens me to think that this could be taken away from us. I know DeKalb county has its share of problems, but it is our home.
- I really appreciate all of the information we've been given about all of this. Don't think any of us have as much as we need to make the best decision right now, but we will as time goes on. Would prefer to see DeKalb as reputable as in many years ago. I'm all about less government control & more people driven but would like to think it can be much better. If not, then we can better make alternate decisions.
- Feel like we are being forced into decisions because of a small group. Feel like the community has not been given the chance to even understand the alternatives and consequences much less weigh them. Would welcome more time and more information.
- I agree with Sen. Parent - taxes overall WILL go up over time under any cityhood proposal or annexation into an existing city. Adding an additional layer of government (i.e. cityhood) will ALWAYS result in higher taxation over time - governments require tax revenue to exist. Any political promises of lower taxation under cityhood are pipe dreams and/or outright lies. I plan to use my votes to remain unincorporated.
- Our primary concerns are: Property values should not be affected by this process. The whole issue of schools is VERY confusing. If a new city is established, the schools in that district

should be under the jurisdiction of the new city. If for some reason, schools cannot be under the control of the new city, then they should remain under DeKalb Co. jurisdiction. We do not want Atlanta to control our school! or our property taxes and exemptions (i.e. homestead exemptions)

- I cannot believe that our taxes would not increase if another layer of government is added. It seems to take too long for our county leaders to notice unethical or downright dishonest handling of our tax money.
- The motivation for creating these new "cities" seems suspect. Is this people who couldn't get elected to office in DeKalb County carving out fiefdoms for themselves? Is it -- this is ugly, but it needs to be said -- white people who don't like being governed by black people? It's hard to find a logical reason for creating "cities" that have no city-like character and provide only a bare minimum of city-like services depending for everything else on -- who else? DeKalb County!
- Please leave things as they are.
- There are people in the community who seem determined to turn the community into a place like Virginia-Highlands. My community has always been conservative. There are factions who want to turn it more liberal, i.e. diversity, which has been the cause of increased crime in the area, and bringing in, for lack of a better word - low-class businesses. Many of us are appalled at the low-end stores & kiosks being allowed to operate at both N. DeKalb & Northlake Malls. These malls are becoming unsafe and many of us are shopping at Perimeter Mall where they have the good sense not to have such stores. I am for cityhood because I believe they share the same conservative values as I do. Just look at the increase in crime around the Northlake Mall, Lavista Rd corridor. And our so-called leaders in the community want to bring in more diversity?? Really?
- To Question 4: You cannot have a city without taxes fees and school assignment-- invalid assumption. I want no part of the City of Atlanta. My observation of living in unincorporated DeKalb since 1961--Less government is better - more gov't raises taxes and removes school choice. There is no advantage in becoming a city - why not fix the DeKalb County mess and enjoy less gov't cost and meddling (Remember Obama care) Let's not be a sucker.
- Thank you for taking the time and making the effort to put this survey together. Even though I am only renting at this time, I have been a home-owner and I have lived in DeKalb Co. for many years. I am only interested in what is good for the citizens and children of DeKalb County.
- We are anticipating that taxes will rise with the creation of another layer of government. How can they not? It is not like DeKalb Co. would go away. Probably our best option is to remain unincorporated, even though DeKalb Co. is corrupt.
- For question 12: Should or do you mean would/could & for how long?? Political aspirations of a FEW always screw up the lives of many others.
- I know the Atlanta City government and the services it provides. It is corrupt and extremely inefficient. Avoid annexation at all costs. And what would we gain with a new city? At least under the existing unincorporation we know what to expect. Thank you.
- The idea is new to us - We need much more information to make an educated judgment.
- I sent my daughter to private school because the public schools were so bad. Until we turn this around - it doesn't matter what happens w/annexation, new city, etc.
- Hard to make an informed decision now, with so much uncertain. I do have a fear of being "left behind" in a diminished DeKalb Co.
- The biggest concern for me & my family is the possible loss of our high school. This is more

important to me than remaining unincorporated, forming a new city or joining Atlanta.

- I would prefer to address the weaknesses of the current situation and not go to the effort and expense of forming a new city which would probably create similar problems and weaknesses. I see no advantage in forming more municipalities which create so much duplicity.
- Question 11: This is such a hypothetical question at this point. Question 12: Not enough research, preparation, etc. has been done to make such a quick & permanent decision. I appreciate this survey but wish more questions besides cityhood questions had been asked. I realize that its the current priority, but gathering feedback about other neighborhood concerns would be helpful - ie, crime, lack of sidewalks on LaVista, etc. If we became a new city, would we lose "Decatur" as our mailing address? and become "new city, GA"? I also think getting a PO Box for LRSCA is a good idea so a permanent address is established for all mail/dues in case officers move/change in coming years. Also, being able to sign up/pay dues online would be helpful.
- There is no tangible benefit to citizens with either cityhood or annexation. Indeed annexation would devastate DeKalb County. Attention should instead be on supporting the Blueprint for DeKalb.
- I don't care for the name LaVista Hills. It doesn't represent where I live. We need more control over local ordinances, for example we need better roads, enforcement of abandoned businesses/homes.
- It is a shame DeKalb breeds corruptness in its government & school systems. As long time residents we would like to see continued exploration with cityhood but with careful consideration & cooperation with all affected communities. We do not want our communities to be, our schools, our neighborhoods to be forked over to Atlanta. DeKalb deserves better, as do our children & their schools.
- New city would tear the heart out of DeKalb County. Services would suffer as seen in Fulton County. If you like corruption and big city politics that are worse than DeKalb - annex into the city of Atlanta. It will be worse. Let new DeKalb leaders show how they are moving forward - give DeKalb a chance.
- Thanks for the opportunity to complete this survey. I believe that the desire for a new city is a knee jerk reaction to the allegations regarding corruption. I also want to hear from the new superintendent of DeKalb County schools
- No opinion on 11 or 13. I do not know enough to judge (but did attend the meeting at the church 2 weeks ago - useful! Very nicely done survey. Thank you. Value of homes is an important issue for all of us.