



# **Laurel Ridge Shamrock Civic Association**

Survey Results

In mid-November 2014, surveys were distributed by volunteers to the 805 households that make up the Laurel Ridge Shamrock Civic Association. Five options were offered to return surveys, including electronically, in person, or by mail. If respondents wanted someone to pick up their surveys, that service was provided. Of that 805 surveys distributed, 217 were returned, or 27%.

The survey was conducted in response to legislators' urging our neighborhood to let our opinions be known on the subject of future governance. Many proposals have been reported or rumored that could affect everything from our taxes to our schools to our property values. In order to know how to move forward, the legislators desired our input.

At the time of the survey, there were three feasible options:

- 1) Be a part of a proposed new city that includes much of the unincorporated areas lying between Atlanta, Decatur, Brookhaven, Chamblee, Doraville and Tucker. This new city would assume responsibility for police, planning, parks, and roads. At the time of the survey, this area did not have a name. It has now become known as LaVista Hills.
- 2) Be annexed into the City of Atlanta, which could happen only if our adjoining neighborhoods of Clairmont Hills and Medlock annexed also, in order to avoid unincorporated "islands."
- 3) Remain unincorporated.

Clearly, these options conflict with one another, especially in view of other efforts to acquire valuable DeKalb County real estate, such as Brookhaven's vying for property along N. Druid Hills Rd.

While municipalization was the initial goal of those seeking to divide north DeKalb County, the issue became much more complicated with possible annexation of Druid Hills into Atlanta, and with it the loss of Fernbank and Briar Vista elementary schools, along with Druid Hills High School and other DeKalb school assets such as Fernbank Science Center and Adams Stadium. Major commercial areas would be lost also, such as Toco Hills and Target.

Those responding to the survey did the best they could with the available information, which they knew might change at any time. What emerged from the surveys was a very strong (71%) preference to remain unincorporated. The other, even stronger preference (83%) was to slow it all down with a one-year moratorium on any decisions regarding cityhood or annexation. A strong majority (64%) feel strongly that the Druid Hills school cluster (consisting of Fernbank, Laurel Ridge, Briar Vista, McLendon and Avondale elementary schools, Druid Hills Middle and Druid Hills High) should remain united.

Following are raw data derived from the LRSCA survey. There was overwhelming response to open comments sections, too many to record here. The comments are comprehensive and shed further light on how residents feel about the many ramifications of changing our municipal governance.

Please access the entire survey results at our web site <http://laurelridgeshamrock.weebly.com/>

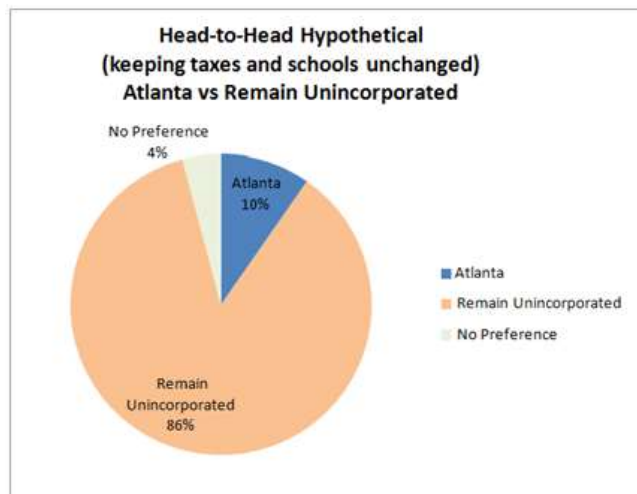
**Question:** Assuming (for now) that taxes/fees and school assignments would not change, circle which of these two hypothetical futures you would prefer (or "No preference" between these two).

- New City
- Atlanta
- No Preference



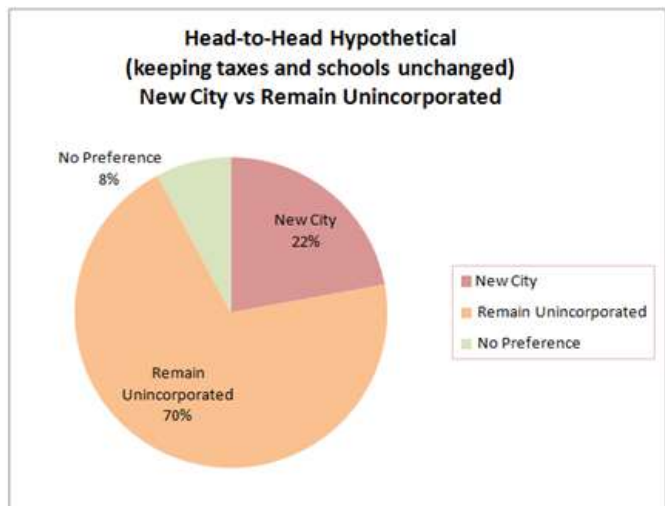
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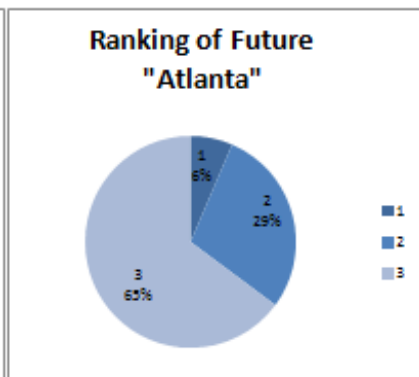
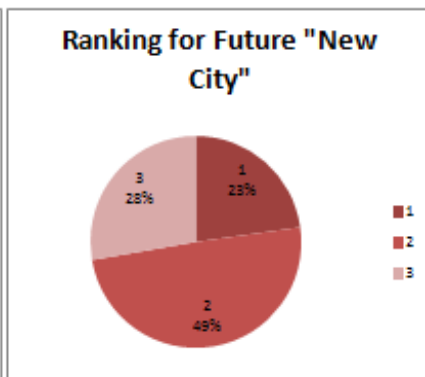
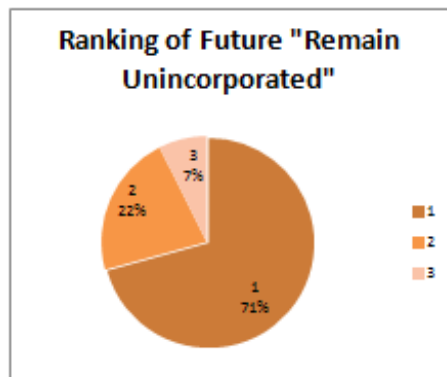
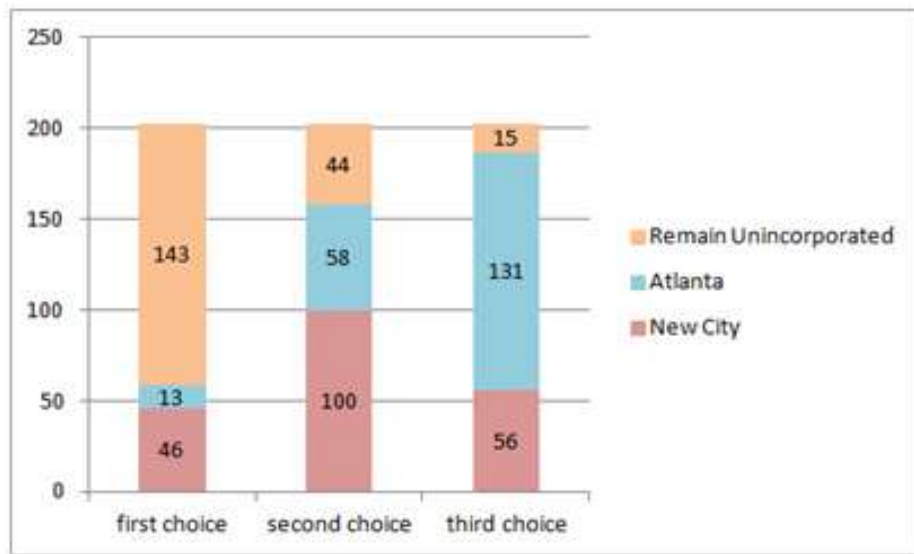


**Question:**

Now, please gather your opinions into a single forced ranking (1 = favorite, 2 = middle, 3 = worst)

	Rank (1=favorite, 2=middle, 3=worst)		
	1	2	3
<b>Remain Unincorporated</b>	<b>143</b>	44	15
<b>New City</b>	46	<b>100</b>	56
<b>Atlanta</b>	13	58	<b>131</b>
<i>Totals</i>	202	202	202

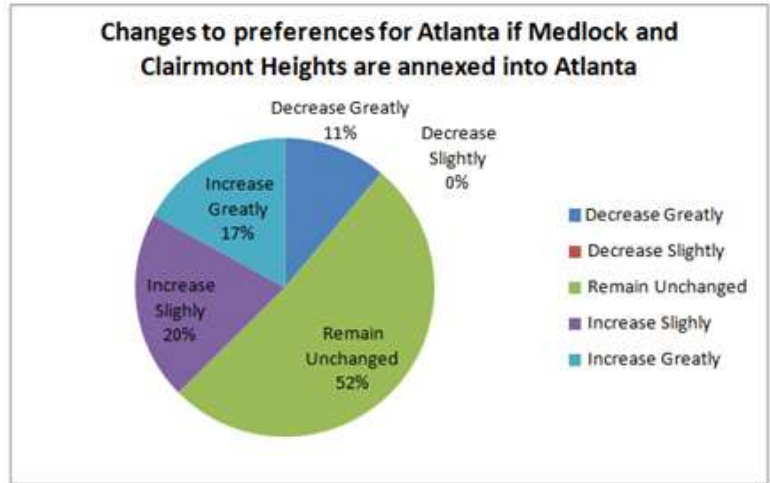
Or...



**Question:**

If Medlock and Clairmont Heights are annexed into the **City of Atlanta**, my own preference for becoming part of the City of Atlanta would...

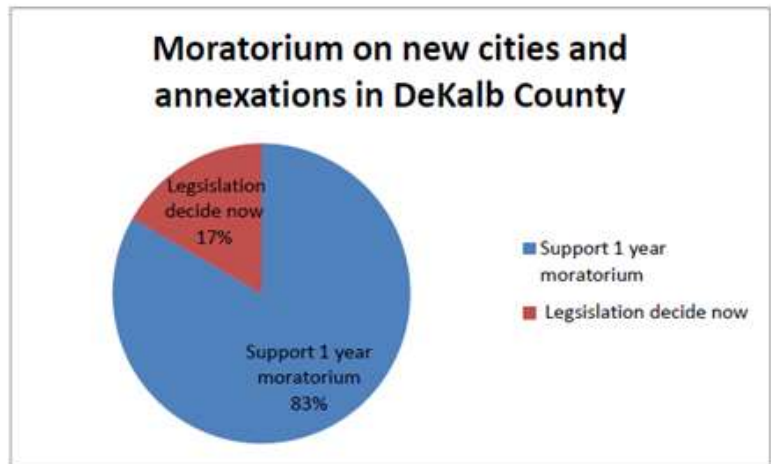
- Decrease greatly
- Decrease slightly
- Remain unchanged
- Increase slightly
- Increase greatly



**Question:**

Would you support a one year moratorium on all new cities and annexations in DeKalb County?

- Support one-year moratorium
- Legislation should decide now



**Question:**

How strongly do you feel that the Druid Hills school cluster (Druid Hills High, Druid Hills Middle, Laurel Ridge, McLendon, Avondale Elementary, Fernbank and Briar Vista) should remain united?

- Very strongly
- Somewhat strongly
- Don't care either way

