



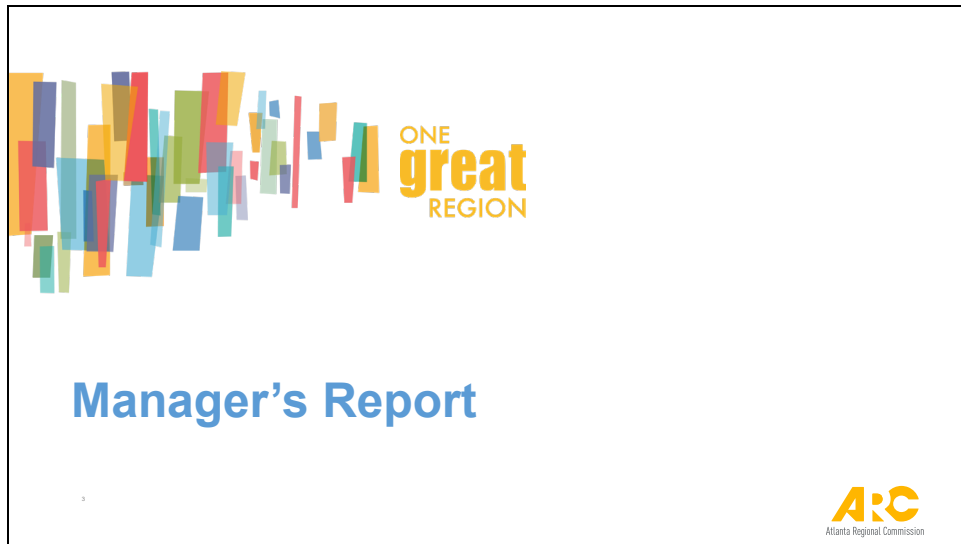
Advisory Committee on Aging
Tuesday, May 12, 2026
1:00pm – 2:30pm
Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Govind Hariharan, *Chair*
La Wanda Folami *Vice-chair*
Jay Francis Springs
Will Johnston
Jessica Klausner
Gordon Rogers

Barbara Guillory
Siddiqa Gibson
Deke Cateau
Gloria Stills
Xavier Kim
Robert Alexander

- I. Welcome and Call to Order
 - a. Govind Hariharan, Chair
- II. Public comment
 - a. LaWanda Folami, Vice-Chair
 - b. Three Speakers
 - i. Senator Kendra Wicks seeks feedback to increase advocacy for aging persons and caregivers
 - ii. Former Representative Stovall seeks ongoing solutions for seniors applying for energy assistance, particularly in Fulton County, but statewide issues persist with application process. Recommends LIHEAP task force.
 - iii. Jared Saffron, founder of non-profit (Silver Buddies Program) connecting local school students with seniors to address isolation and loneliness.



III. Manager's Update

- a. Becky Kurtz, Senior Managing Director, ARC





Atlanta Regional Commission

Georgia General Assembly

SFY 2027 Funding:

- Funding for Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS)
 - House and Senate: \$1.3 Million
- Funding for Behavioral Health Coaches in Affordable Housing
 - House and Senate: \$0
- Alzheimer's Caregiver Support: \$2 Million
- Georgia Memory Net: \$3.3 Million

Much more from John Bayalis . . .



ARC 5

Ways to Get Involved:

May 14: Engage with CO-AGE for Atlanta Region (virtual @ 1:00pm)



Be the voice. Host the change. Engage with CO-AGE 2026.

July 27: CO-AGE Issues Selection Meeting, Lake Lanier Islands

- ACA members are CO-AGE members and can VOTE!

By May 29: Lois Ricci Scholarship to Georgia Gerontology Society conference (July 27-30)
www.georgiagerontologysociety.org/scholarships/



ARC 6

Ways to Get Involved: Community Conversations

- Organized by State Division of Aging Services and UGA Carl Vinson Institute
- Purpose: State Plan on Aging public input
- Statewide sessions
- Survey and registration for sessions at:
 - <https://aging.georgia.gov/get-involved/state-plan>
- Our region in-person sessions:
 - Lawrenceville (with Korean translation): May 8
 - Atlanta: June 23



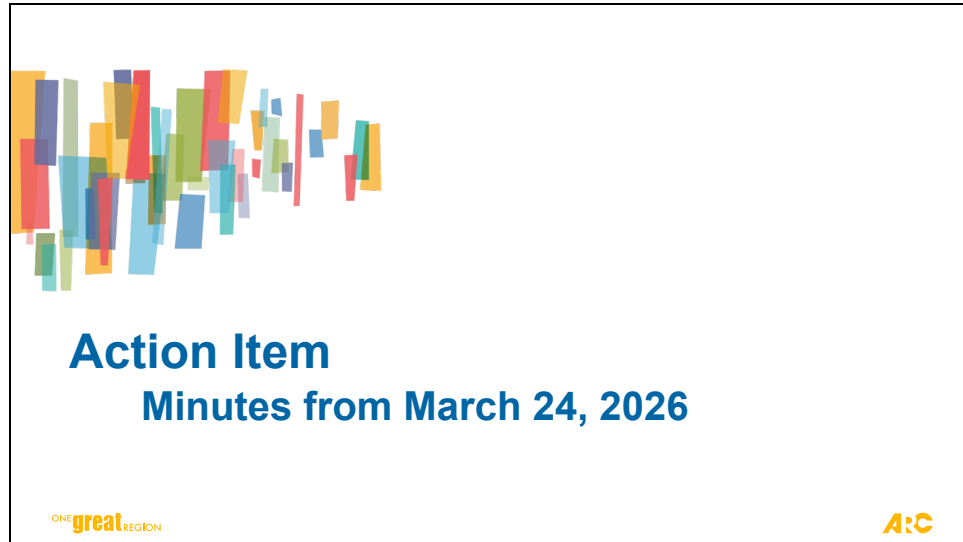
Federal Updates – On Congress “To Do” List

- FFY 27 President’s Recommended Budget (April 3) highlights:
 - Older Americans Act (OAA) flat funding for all ARC fund sources
 - Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) flat funding
 - AmeriCorps Seniors \$0
 - Not an ARC line item but impacts people we serve:
 - OAA Title V (older workers) \$0
 - LIHEAP (utility assistance) \$0
- Next steps for FFY 27:
 - House and Senate pass appropriations bills by Sept 30 OR
 - Continuing Resolution OR
 - Government shutdown
- OAA Reauthorization – expired September 2024 – NO CHANGE
 - S. 2120 expected to pass Senate
 - Still waiting to see if House supports this version



i. Questions

- Clarification of LIHEAP
- Discussion of the nuances of re-authorization. Authorization can be higher than appropriation.



IV. Minutes approved: Govind Hariharan



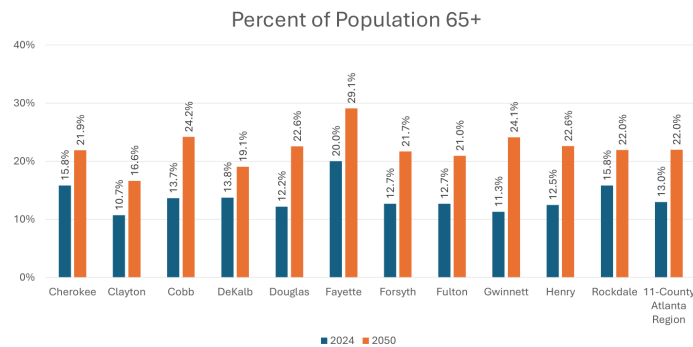
V. Presentations

- a. Legislative Update by John Bayalis
 - i. Governor's veto option remains until midnight tonight
 - ii. Highlighted bills include SB428, SB439, SB500, HB1192, HB297, HB328, HB463, and SB33

- iii. Budget details discussed
 - iv. Shared three study committees
 - v. Questions about specific bills and how to engage meaningfully with legislative process answered
- b. Live Beyond Expectations Exercise led by Becky Kurtz



Our Region is Aging: 65+ population growth by 2050



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2014 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, Table S0103
ARC Series 17 Population Forecast, Adopted February 2024

The Scale of the Change

A demographic shift without precedent — arriving now

61M

Americans age 65+
today (18% of U.S.)

4×

Growth in centenarians
by 2054

2×

Atlanta's 65+ population
by 2050

2030

Every Baby Boomer
will be 65+

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR OUR REGION

- Every local government faces a fundamentally older constituency within a decade.
- Services, infrastructure, and budgets are already misaligned.
- The 2030s will stress-test every social safety net simultaneously — planning starts now.

Source: Pew Research Center, U.S. Census Bureau, ARC Regional Data | Atlanta Regional Commission

ONE great REGION

Atlanta Regional Commission - Fostering Lifelong Communities - 2026 Board Retreat

ARC 2026

What our region's older adults tell us

KEY INSIGHT: Older adults are highly place-attached — but their stability masks significant vulnerability. The goal is not just to keep them here, but to ensure they can thrive here.

65.8%

want to STAY in their
current neighborhood

- 15 pts above the regional
average (all ages)

Only 25%

want to leave Atlanta region

- lowest share of any age group

57%

can handle a \$400 emergency
in cash

- But only 23% feel financially
better off than a year ago

20.8%

frequently lack transportation

- yet most prefer road improvements over expanded
transit

42%

expect conditions in Atlanta to worsen

- yet they remain the MOST optimistic age group

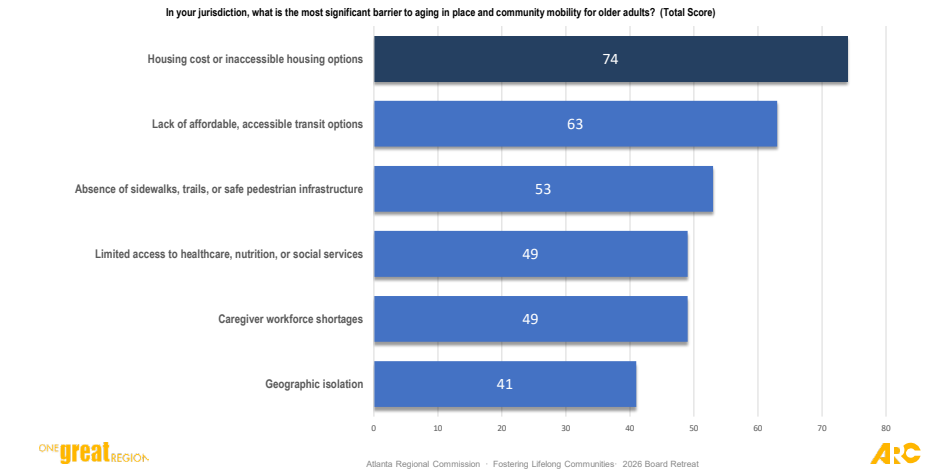
Source: Metro Atlanta Speaks 2025, A.L. Burruss Institute, KSU / Atlanta Regional Commission; 658 adults age 65+, 11-county ARC service area

ONE great REGION

Atlanta Regional Commission - Fostering Lifelong Communities - 2026 Board Retreat

ARC

What the ARC Board tells us



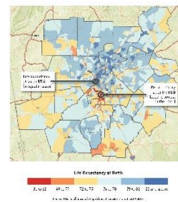
Live Beyond Expectations

2020-2025

- Average life expectancy varies significantly based on where you live
 - Focus on place-based neighborhood-level engagement and solutions
- [2020-2025 Plan and Video](#)
[2020-2025 Wrap-up Report](#)

2026-2031

- Will be informed by today's discussion
- For ARC Board consideration later in 2026



Futures Thinking Exercise: Imagine the Year is 2050

The Scenario

- Look back on the challenges of a neighborhood in the 2020's
- Imagine the community in 2050: what challenges have been resolved?
- How did those challenges get resolved?
- What was the role of ARC in resolving the challenges?

The Process

- A different neighborhood profile assigned to each table
 - Developed from LBE community engagement
- ARC staff at each table to assist and record full discussion
- Report out briefly on one example of a solution

VI. Announcements – Becky Kurtz

a. Meghan Murphy Shared Caregiver Conference June 6



Announcements

Engage with CO-AGE Virtual Session – May 14, from 1:00 to 2:30

State Plan on Aging Hearing: June 23, Hunter Hills First Baptist Church, Atlanta

2026 Scholarship Opportunity from Georgia Gerontology Society – application deadline is May 29.

CO-AGE and Georgia Gerontology Society: July 27-30, Lake Lanier Islands, Buford

Next ACA Meeting: Tuesday, August 25, 2026





VII. Adjourn – Chair Govind Hariharan