



AUGUSTA, GEORGIA GENERAL COUNSEL

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THE POSITION IN BRIEF

Augusta, GA seeks an experienced municipal attorney to serve as General Counsel for the consolidated Augusta-Richmond County government. As the chief legal officer, the General Counsel leads the Augusta Law Department and is responsible for all legal affairs. The position is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners.

THE COMMUNITY

Best known as the home of the Augusta National Golf Club and the Masters Tournament, Augusta is the third largest municipality in Georgia with a population of 200,884. It is the principal city of the Augusta-Richmond County metropolitan statistical area (MSA), which encompasses seven counties and has a gross population of nearly 630,000. Augusta sits on the Georgia/South Carolina border and is bounded by the Savannah River. The city is two hours east of Atlanta on Interstate 20 and is served by Augusta Regional Airport (AGS).

Fort Eisenhower (formerly Fort Gordon), the National Security Agency (NSA Augusta), and the Savannah River Site collectively employ more than 30,000 individuals in the region and contribute to the city's status as a hub for cybersecurity. The specially zoned Medical District includes the Augusta University Health System, Piedmont Augusta, and Charlie Norwood VA Medical Center among others, attracts thousands of medical and biotechnology professionals and makes a significant economic contribution to the region.

Multiple higher education institutions also call the city home, including Augusta University, Augusta Technical College, and the historically Black (HBCU) Paine College. The city boasts ten historic districts, including the Downtown Historic District. Residents and visitors can also enjoy outdoor recreation at Augusta Riverwalk, Phinizy Swamp Nature Park, Augusta Canal Historic Trail, and numerous parks and trails in the area.



DEMOGRAPHICS & RELATED DATA (SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU)

Median Age 34.6 years

Median Household Income \$50,492

Median Home Value \$141,900

Race/Ethnicity Black only, 56.4%; White only, 33.9% Two or more races, 5.8%; Hispanic/Latino ethnicity, 5.3%; Asian only, 1.8 %

Educational Attainment

High school diploma or higher, 87.7%

Bachelor's degree or higher, 23.8%

Average Travel Time to Work 21.2 minutes

THE CITY-COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Augusta operates under the commission-manager form of government. Of ten total Commissioners, eight are elected by single-member districts and two are elected by super districts that each represent half of the county. The Mayor is elected at-large, and Mayor and Commission races are non-partisan. The General Counsel is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Commission.

The consolidated city-county was formed in 1996 following a vote by residents of the city of Augusta and portions of unincorporated Richmond County. The towns of Blythe and Hephzibah declined to consolidate, choosing to maintain independent city governments with select services provided by Augusta-Richmond County.

Augusta-Richmond County has an approved FY2024 total budget of \$1.156 billion and 2,800 full-time equivalent (FTE) positions across all funds. The Augusta Law Department has a budget of \$2.15 million and 11 FTEs, including seven attorneys. The department is responsible for all legal affairs for the consolidated city-county government, including providing legal counsel to more than 20 different departments under the purview of the County Administrator and various elected and appointed officials.



MISSION

To provide to all its citizens cost-effective, high-quality government services and an environment which enhances the economic well-being and quality of life in the Augusta Metropolitan Area.

COMMISSION VISION

- Develop a team-centered approach to problem-solving emphasizing effective communications with citizens and among elected officials, as well as establishing continuity of purpose and action for the commission
- Establish a focus that is city-wide, focusing on the “whole” of Augusta being more than the sum of its individual parts, neighborhoods, or districts
- Create an environment of respect and trust between commissioners, staff, and the citizens
- Seek ways to reach out and spread the word regarding the “good news” about Augusta

OPERATIONS VISION

- Create a culture of Performance Management that focuses on assessment and improvement, driven by standards and accountability, and using technology as a critical and essential tool to enhance processes
- Develop a strategic plan featuring goals that are designed to drive Augusta forward by making the most of business assets, historical heritage, natural resources and local commitment and talent
- Build budgets that seek new sources of revenue while rewarding excellence and creativity, encouraging fiscal responsibility, and seeking new sources of revenue to mitigate budget challenges in difficult times
- Establish a citywide culture of customer service at all levels of local government, so that every employee and official considers customer service to be their highest responsibility

COMMUNITY VISION

- Seek means for Augusta to be nationally recognized as a global destination of excellence and known as the premier and most talked-about mid-sized city in the country
- Build our community and tax base by emphasizing economic development and livable, sustainable communities that can grow while protecting our valuable natural resources
- Focus on “One Augusta” that celebrates our geographic, socio-economic, and racial diversity as strengths, using them as leverage to build partnerships that will make Augusta a place for people of all backgrounds to live, work, play, and prosper





KEY DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Directing the day-to-day activities of the Law Department
- Providing daily legal advice and legal representation to Mayor and Board of Commissioners, County Administrator, and other county officials, boards, and authorities
- Attending meetings of the Board of Commissioners and other boards, authorities, and commissions to provide legal advice
- Representing officers and employees of Augusta-Richmond County in their official capacities in court and administrative proceedings
- Managing the Law Department budget and legal expenses for outside counsel, as necessary

IDEAL CANDIDATE

The successful candidate will demonstrate a strong grasp of municipal government, including an understanding of and respect for their role and the roles of the Board of Commissioners and County Administrator as outlined in the county charter. They should be confident, assertive, and judicious and able to earn credibility with elected officials, employees, and the public. Additionally, they will demonstrate good judgment, critical thinking, and a focus on maintaining a modern, responsive law department.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Juris Doctorate or Doctor of Laws degree from an accredited institution of higher learning
- Seven (7) years of legal experience, at least four (4) years of which was in local government
- Active member of State Bar of Georgia, Georgia Court of Appeals, and Georgia Supreme Court, or able to be licensed to practice law in the State of Georgia
- Substantial litigation experience and demonstrated expertise in municipal law
- Budget management and supervisory experience

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

Salary is negotiable and will be dependent upon qualifications. Augusta-Richmond County offers a comprehensive benefits package, including medical, dental, and vision coverage, flexible spending account, an employee wellness center, and other offerings. Augusta participates in the Georgia Municipal Employee Benefits System 401(a) Defined Benefit pension plan and offers a voluntary 457(b) and Roth Deferred Compensation program.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply at www.GovHRjobs.com with a cover letter, resume, and contact information for five professional references by October 13, 2024. Confidential inquiries may be directed to Dele Lowman, MGT Senior Consultant, at (847) 380-3240 x141.

