

Historic Courthouse, Board Chambers, 3rd Floor
225 North Broad St
Thomasville, GA 31792
December 23, 2025

The Thomas County Board of Commissioners met on the above date in a Commemorative Bicentennial Meeting at 11:00 a.m. at the Historic Courthouse, Commission Chambers, with the following board members present:

Mark NeSmith, District 4, Chairman	Donnie Baggett, Vice-Chair, District 5
Rev. Jeremy G. Rich, District 1	Moses Gross, District 2 Absent
Kenneth E. Hickey, District 3	Wiley Grady, District 6
Phillip V. Brown, District 7	Zippy Vonier, District 8

Staff Present: County Manager Mike Stephenson, County Attorney Bruce Warren, County Clerk Tracy Dukes, Finance Director Laura Nichols, Purchasing Agent/Deputy Clerk Nisha Thurman, Chief Appraiser Daniel Stokes, Public Works Director Jay Knight, Emergency Services Director Derrick Ogletree, Facilities Management Director Johnnie Clark.

Others Present: Representative Darlene Taylor, Paul Fryer Field Representative Sanford Bishop's Office, Ephraim Rotter Thomasville History Center

News/Media Present: Jill Holloway, Thomasville Times Enterprise, Chris Hurst WPAX Radio

Ransom Young reenacted the December 23, 1825, Act of the General Assembly establishing Thomas County.

Ransom Young introduced the current Thomas County Board of Commissioners.

Chairman NeSmith called the meeting to order at 11:08 a.m.

Kevin Lamb, Chaplain, delivered the invocation.

The Thomasville History Center presented a 30-minute video highlighting the history of Thomas County from 1825 to the present.

Representative Darlene Taylor presented the Board of Commissioners with a resolution celebrating the 200th anniversary of the founding of Thomas County.

Paul Fryer, representative for Congressman Sanford Bishop, presented a letter from Congressman Bishop to the Board of Commissioners commemorating 200 years of Thomas County.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2025, Board of Commissioners meeting. Commissioner Grady made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Vonier. The motion carried unanimously.

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Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to approve the December 23, 2025, agenda. Commissioner Rich made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to adopt a resolution formally designating December 23, 2025, as the official Bicentennial Celebration date of Thomas County, Georgia. Commissioner Baggett made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE BICENTENNIAL OF THOMAS COUNTY
IN HONOR OF 200 YEARS OF RICH HISTORY AND COMMUNITY**

WHEREAS, Thomas County Georgia was officially created by an act of the Georgia General Assembly on December 23, 1825, marking the establishment of local government and community in what would become a thriving region of southwest Georgia.

WHEREAS, Over the past two centuries, Thomas County has grown and flourished, becoming a beacon of community spirit, resilience, and progress, enriching the lives of its residents. Thomas County has contributed to the cultural, economic, and social fabric of the region and has been home to generations of families who have shaped its legacy.

WHEREAS, Thomas County has witnessed remarkable achievements and growth in agriculture, education, industry and the arts. The natural beauty, historical landmarks, and community events continue to attract visitors and foster a sense of pride among its residents.

WHEREAS, the county's bicentennial is an extraordinary milestone in its history and an appropriate occasion to reflect on the achievements of past generations and inspire future growth and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the Thomas County Board of Commissioners along with the Thomasville History Center hosted "An Act": A commemorative Reading of "An Act to Create Two New Counties" to honor this bicentennial milestone.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Thomas County Board of Commissioners hereby formally designates December 23, 2025, as the Bicentennial of Thomas County, Georgia, recognizing 200 years since its founding and encouraging all residents, businesses, and community partners to join in celebration and reflection on the County's rich history and promising future.

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2025, by the Thomas County Board of Commissioners

Thomas County Board of Commissioners

Mark NeSmith, District 4, Chairman

Donnie Baggett, District 5, Vice-Chairman

Jeremy Rich, District 1

Moses Gross, District 2

Kenneth E Hickey, District 3

Wiley E Grady, District 6

Phillip Brown, District 7

Zippy Vonier, District 8

Attest: _____
Tracy Dukes, County Clerk

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Chairman NeSmith called for a motion to ratify approval of a resolution requesting local legislation to authorize the imposition of technology fees by the Probate Court of Thomas County. Commissioner Hickey made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner Baggett. The motion carried unanimously.

ORIGINAL

**RESOLUTION TO REQUEST LOCAL LEGISLATION TO
PROVIDE FOR THE IMPOSITION OF TECHNOLOGY FEES
BY THE PROBATE COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, Thomas County, Georgia is governed by the Thomas County Board of Commissioners; and,

WHEREAS, The Thomas County Board of Commissioners and the Probate Judge of Thomas County, Georgia desire local legislation to authorize the assessment and collection of a technology fee by the Probate Court of Thomas County; to identify the authorized uses of such technology fee; to provide for the termination of such technology fee and dedication of residual funds to technology uses; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

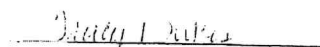
WHEREAS, The Thomas County Board of Commissioners approves the attached proposed bill through this Resolution to Request Local Legislation to Provide for the Imposition of Technology Fees by the Probate Court of Thomas County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Thomas County Board of Commissioners resolve to adopt this Resolution requesting local legislation as described above and attached hereto and requests that the entire local delegation of the Georgia General Assembly support the same.

THOMAS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

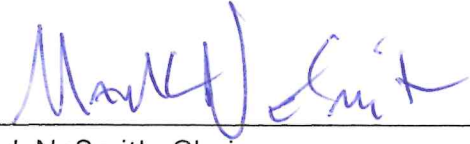

Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:


Tracy Dukes, County Clerk

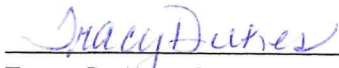
Commissioner Grady made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Rich. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:51 a.m.



Mark NeSmith, Chairman

ATTEST:



Tracy Dukes, County Clerk