

# • Let's talk FREEPORT

- What is Freeport?
- Why Freeport?
- Costs and Benefits.
- Your Vote

# ● What is FREEPORT?

- Freeport exempts inventory from ad valorem property tax
- Freeport matters to distribution or manufacturing industry – EXISTING OR NEW - that has to carry inventory
- Voters (City and County) must approve Freeport

# • Why FREEPORT?

- Freeport is a component in retaining jobs & attracting new investments
- 145 out of 159 counties (91%) offer Freeport
- Cochran/Bleckley industry & jobs are at a competitive disadvantage
- Less/no industry - taxes must go up, or services must be reduced



# ● Costs & Benefits

## Costs

- None -
- If we had manufacturing or distribution currently, we could lose some tax revenue on the front end
- When industry moves or closes, we lose much more in lost jobs, lost sales and property tax revenues, EX: Acuity Brands

## Benefits

- Local manufacturing or distribution industries will pay lower taxes
- Local businesses can stay in business
- Jobs will stay in our community
- We get competitive to gain NEW jobs – meaning more tax revenues

# • The Numbers Now

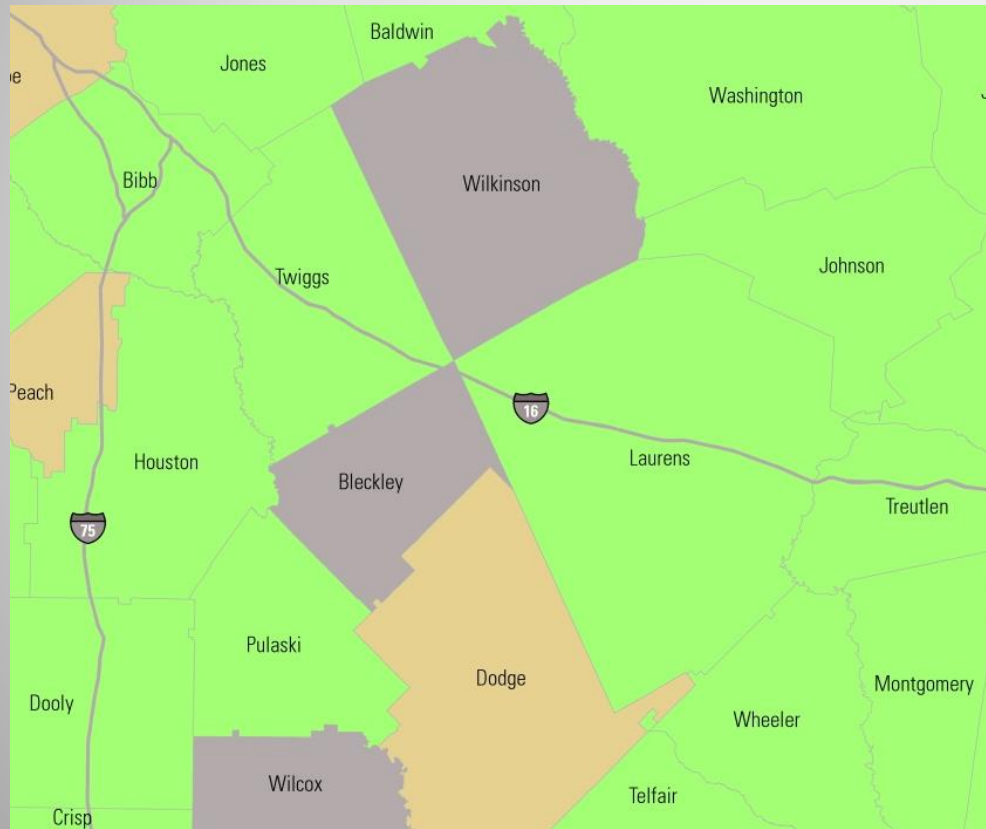
## Employed Residents of Bleckley County

<u>County Where Employed</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Bleckley	2,746	55
Houston	784	16
Dodge	438	9
Bibb	355	7
Pulaski	201	4
Laurens	148	3
Twiggs	113	2
Wilkinson	80	2

Let's keep our families in Cochran and Bleckley County by keeping and creating more jobs!

Around 45% of our workforce leaves our community each day. Creating jobs and opportunities here will result in more revenues for our schools, our programs, and our services.

# Let's Make OUR COMMUNITY COMPETITIVE!



- 91% of Georgia's counties have Freeport
- Most surrounding counties have full or partial Freeport
- Only 14 counties do not have any exemption for Freeport (gray color)
- Let's keep jobs and bring new jobs to our community!

# ● Your Vote

- To support the Freeport incentive, citizens will need to vote **YES** for all three ballot items
- There will be two separate votes on the Freeport incentive, one for the City and another for the County
- The ballots for City residents and County residents are identical with the exception of the designation of **City of Cochran** or **Bleckley County**

# ● **Your Vote – County**

- “Early Voting”
  - Conducted at the Courthouse
- Election day voting
  - Conducted at the Jaycee Barn (County polling site)



# ● Your Vote – City

- Since CITY residents are also county residents, they will need to vote at both polling places – City and County
- “Early Voting”
  - Complete the City & County ballots at the Courthouse
- Election day voting
  - Complete the City Ballot at the Recreation Department (City polling site) and County Ballot at the Jaycee Barn (County polling site)

# • **Your Vote – The Ballot**

- Item One

(X) YES ( ) NO

Shall the governing authority of (**City of Cochran or Bleckley County**) be authorized to exempt from ad valorem taxation inventory of goods in the process of manufacture or production which shall include all partly finished goods and raw materials held for direct use or consumption in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's manufacturing or production business in this state?

# • **Your Vote – The Ballot**

- Item Two

(X) YES ( ) NO

Shall the governing authority of (**City of Cochran or Bleckley County**) be authorized to exempt from ad valorem taxation inventory of finished goods manufactured or produced within this state in the ordinary course of the taxpayer's manufacturing or production business when held by the original manufacturer or producer of such finished goods?

# • **Your Vote – The Ballot**

- Item Three

(X) YES ( ) NO

Shall the governing authority of (**City of Cochran or Bleckley County**) be authorized to exempt from ad valorem taxation inventory of finished goods which, on January 1, are stored in a warehouse, dock, or wharf, whether public or private, and which are destined for shipment to a final destination outside this state and inventory or finished goods which are shipped into this state from outside this state and stored for transshipment to a final destination outside this state, including foreign merchandise in transit?

**FREEPORT  
EXEMPTION  
YES X 3**