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# It Takes a Village



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## **Why I support a city of South Fulton?**

As a student who graduated from both Sandtown Middle School and Westlake's Magnet Program, the possibility of annexation into the city of Atlanta leaves me greatly disappointed. It is because of the things I learned here as a student as well as the people I was able to network with that I consider myself a success. If the annexation were to take place, this may not be case for younger students planning to follow suite. I personally do not deem an annexation necessary solely because I have absolute faith in my city and county. South Fulton County has proven through the expansion of Camp Creek Marketplace, the development of the Wolf Creek Amphitheater & Library, as well as revenue earned from Fulton Industrial that we are more than capable of supporting our own businesses and allocating the necessary land and funding for expansion. South Fulton also is one of few counties that constantly reminds me of how important community involvement is in the development and upbringing of our students and community as a whole. When I use to hear people say, "It takes a village to raise a child", I never appreciated its meaning. However, after observing the citizens of South Fulton come together and support each other's shared interests for the sake of our youth and community's future, I am confident that we have the right individuals in position to ensure that we as a county are prosperous.

Approval of the annexation would more than likely be a total waste of taxpayer's investment into the newly built establishments like Westlake High School which raises the question to what other possibilities are available for our county. An ideal solution to this issue would simply be for South Fulton to become a city of its own. This ensures tax paying citizens that they're money isn't potentially being squandered by power hungry

individuals that are just after our land. It would provide security to South Fulton residents knowing that using the "city's" budget to expand profitable businesses would lead to great development such as creating a local police and fire department, creating more jobs for citizens, as well as a populous city generating its own revenue. While cityhood is not a cheap venture, I think developments could easily be made if more efforts were focused on the city agenda instead of solely concentrating on the annexation. Many residents of Fulton County are concerned that proposing to become a city would mean drastic increases to taxes, however consider the education of the students who would be forced to bus out to other overcrowded Fulton county and Atlanta Public Schools. Are you prepared to allow the students to pay the price for selfishness and greed? At the end of the day, our youth are the future therefor, all efforts made should first consider whether or not risking those students' education is worth the outcome. Supporting the "city of South Fulton" is the first step to ensuring that the village raising our children is one that is independent, self-reliant, and most importantly undivided.