

## Capitol Connection E-Newsletter- June 2014

- **Get Ready for the Second Round of Summer Policy Committee Meetings**
- **2014 PILT Payments Announced**
- **DCA's Population Estimates May Impact 2015 County Official Salaries**
- **One Percent COLA for County Officials Not Effective Until January 1, 2015**
- **U.S. Senate Passes Highway Trust Fund Bill**
- **NACo Introduces New Web Page on "Waters of the U.S." Rule**
- **Lt. Governor Cagle Announces Study Committee Appointments**
- **New, Improved Version of the Ready Georgia Mobile App Now Available**

### Get Ready for the Second Round of Summer Policy Committee Meetings

As July nears, the ACCG policy staff will prepare to host the second round of policy committee meetings. The meetings will begin on Tuesday, July 29, 2014, and run through Wednesday, August 13, 2014. Attending county officials will discuss issues of significance in each policy area in order to derive items of consideration for the 2014-2015 ACCG County Platform. The County Platform is the document that helps guide the ACCG policy staff while the General Assembly is in session.

Click [here](#) for meeting details such as times, locations, and registration information.

ACCG Policy Coordinator Ines Owens is available to assist anyone with questions regarding the policy meetings. She can be contacted at [iowens@accg.org](mailto:iowens@accg.org) or (404) 522-5022.

### 2014 PILT Payments Announced

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell recently announced that approximately 1,900 local governments across the country will receive over \$435 million under the 2014 Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program. PILT payments are federal payments to local governments that help offset losses in property taxes due to non-taxable federal lands within the county's boundaries.

Click [here](#) to read the official 2014 PILT press release from the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Click [here](#) to view a breakdown of the 2014 PILT payments by state and county.

You may contact ACCG Associate Legislative Director Shaun Adams if you have any questions. He can be reached at (404) 522-5022 or [sadams@accg.org](mailto:sadams@accg.org).

### **DCA's Population Estimates May Impact 2015 County Official Salaries**

On May 28, 2014, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs released [new population figures](#) for Georgia counties. When calculating 2015 county official salaries, please use the higher of the [2010 population](#) or the [May 28, 2014, estimated population](#). ACCG is developing a 2015 salary guide to be released later this year. In the meantime, when calculating 2015 salaries for budget purposes, please use the ["Computing County Official Salaries for 2014"](#) and remember to include the one percent cost of living adjustment to be effective on January 1, 2015.

Please contact ACCG Associate General Counsel Kelly Pridgen if you have any questions. She can be contacted at [kpridgen@accg.org](mailto:kpridgen@accg.org) or (404) 522-5022.

### **One Percent COLA for Counties Officials Not Effective Until January 1, 2015**

The one percent cost of living adjustment (COLA) for county officials approved by the General Assembly does not go into effect until January 1, 2015. Some county officers have requested that the county provide the increase on July 1, 2014 (which is when the increase goes into effect for state officials). While county commissioners are authorized to give the county officials additional money in July, this will not count as the one percent COLA required to be given on January 1, 2015. If a one percent increase is given before January 1, 2015, it becomes a "local supplement", not the 2015 COLA. This local supplement would have to be paid to the county officers for the remainder of their term plus the county would be required to provide an additional one percent for the COLA on January 1, 2015.

### **U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee Passes Highway Trust Fund Bill**

On June 5, 2014, the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee passed the FY 2015 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Bill. This bill provides \$54.4 billion in discretionary budget authority for fiscal year 2015. It provides funding for programs that build the nation's transportation networks and build its communities. Included in this are highways, transit funding, and air transportation in addition to others.

Click [here](#) to view further details of the bill.

Please contact ACCG Associate Legislative Director Shaun Adams at [sadams@accg.org](mailto:sadams@accg.org) or (404) 522-5022 if you have any questions.

### **NACo Introduces New Web Page on “Water of the U.S.” Rule**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers jointly released a new proposed rule, Definition of Waters of the U.S. Under the Clean Water Act, in April that would amend the definition of “Waters of the U.S.” and expand the range of waters that fall under federal jurisdiction. Counties could feel a major impact as more waters become federally protected and subject to new rules or standards.

Please visit the [National Association of Counties’ website](#) to learn more on how this could impact your county.

### **Lt. Governor Cagle Announces Study Committee Appointments**

Lt. Governor Casey Cagle announced Senate study committee appointments on Thursday, June 19. Please access the link below to view the list appointments on issues of significance to counties.

[Lt. Gov. Cagle Senate Study Committee Appointments](#)

### **New, Improved Version of the Ready Georgia Mobile App Now Available**

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency recently released a new and improved version of its Ready Georgia mobile app. The updated version of the app includes information on shelters, alternative transportation routes, and other emergency-related information. The recent update is a result of recommendations made by Governor Deal’s task force that followed the ice and snow storms this past winter.

Click [here](#) for more information.

---

ACCG, 50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 1000, Atlanta, GA 30303

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy policy](#)