



**Summer Policy Committee Meetings Continue on July 25 – Register Today!**

July 25:

10 AM – 12 PM – Health & Human Services Committee Meeting

12 PM – 1 PM - Lunch

1 PM – 4 PM – Public Safety & the Courts Committee Meeting

Department of Corrections State Offices South at Tift Campus - Monroe County

Forsyth, GA 30129

ACCG summer policy committees provide an opportunity for county officials to hear from state officials and discuss upcoming legislative issues. The Health & Human Services Committee will welcome the Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald, Commissioner of the new Department of Public Health. In addition, Dr. Pat O'Neal with the Department of Public Health will discuss disaster recovery, with a special focus on what happens following natural disasters such as this spring's tornadoes. To register, please contact your county clerk or click [here](#).

The Public Safety & the Courts Committee will have a briefing on the Special Council on Criminal Justice Reform from Department of Corrections Commissioner Brian Owens and the Pew Foundation, which is spearheading the state's efforts for this initiative. To register, please contact your county clerk or click [here](#).

**August 12: ACCG Revenue & Finance Committee Meeting to Focus on Property Tax Assessment Caps**

August 12:

10 AM – 12:30 PM – Revenue & Finance Committee Meeting

12:30 PM - 1:30 PM - Lunch

Eatonton Plaza Arts Center - Putnam County

305 N. Madison Avenue

Eatonton, GA 31024

The Revenue and Finance Committee will hold a joint meeting with the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) to discuss pending legislation at the General Assembly to cap property tax assessment inflation (HR 10 / HB 31). The committee will review various forms of caps that have been implemented in other states and the various forms of caps that have been proposed for Georgia. The goal for the committee is to prepare a position report outlining the positive and negative aspects of the various forms of assessment caps and recommend a policy position. To register, please contact your county clerk or click [here](#).

### **Information from Other Committee Meetings Available Online!**

On Wednesday, July 13, the ACCG Economic Development and Transportation Committee and Natural Resources and Environment Committee held a joint meeting in Butts County. Over 45 county commissioners and staff attended to hear presentations on business recruitment initiatives of the State Department of Economic Development, the impacts of Georgia's ports on the state's economy, the future of Georgia's environmental trust funds, the Governor's Water Supply Program, and a review of regional water plans under the State Water Plan, among others. To review the agenda, meeting materials and other action items, please click [here](#).

### **County Officials Participate in Conference Call with Senator Johnny Isakson**

Georgia county officials had the opportunity to participate in a conference call with Senator Johnny Isakson facilitated by ACCG on July 12. Senator Isakson opened the call with a brief overview of the contentious federal debt ceiling negotiations that are underway in Washington, D.C. He also indicated his support for the Main Street Fairness Act, which would ensure state sales tax collection on Internet sales based on the residency of the purchaser. He said that this legislation is not likely to pass as a stand-alone bill but may be included in a larger tax reform proposal. Senator Isakson then opened the call to questions and provided county officials with information on a wide range of topics including federal transportation funding, rescinding a federal tax on contracts, the Secure Rural Schools Program, as well as specific local concerns. Watch for additional opportunities to participate in future calls with Senator Isakson.

### **ACCG Resources Available to Help Counties Implement 2011 Legislation**

State lawmakers passed many bills during the 2011 legislative session that require action on behalf of county elected officials or may impact local communities. ACCG has developed a [legislative action item checklist for counties](#) as well as detailed overviews and model ordinances for several specific issues. To review all of the legislative resources

developed for counties, click [here](#).

### **Sign Up Now for New ACCG Federal Policy Committee**

ACCG is launching a new Federal Policy Committee to strengthen the forum for discussing federal policy issues, increase interaction between Georgia counties and Congress and the Executive Branch and provide a higher level of service to ACCG's membership at the federal level. County officials that are interested in serving on this committee should complete an [information form](#) and return it to Matthew Hicks at [mhicks@accg.org](mailto:mhicks@accg.org) by July 31.

### **GEMA Hosting Elected Officials Forum to Explain New FCC Mandate on Radio Systems**

The Georgia Emergency Management Agency (GEMA) is hosting an **Elected Official Communications Forum** to explain and provide an opportunity to discuss an upcoming Federal Communications Commission (FCC) mandate that affects over 90% of radio systems in Georgia. This mandate requires all VHF and UHF radio system users to reprogram, reconfigure or in some instances replace existing equipment to make it more efficient to today's technology standards. This forum is provided at no cost and is scheduled for August 1 from 11 a.m. -2 p.m. at the **Georgia Tech Global Learning Center at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center**. Registration is required. For more information, click [here](#).

### **Reach from Georgia County Internship Program Grant Announced**

The Georgia County Internship Program (GCIP) \$250,000 grant from the Georgia Department of Labor concluded on June 30, 2011. Over the course of the grant, 188 internship positions were filled by 163 interns in 49 counties. Although the current grant period is over, ACCG is seeking new grant funds to help attract college students to internship opportunities in county government. The GCIP is currently seeking county applications for fall semester. If your county is interested in hosting an intern in a paid or unpaid capacity, please contact Kanika Greenlee at [kgreenlee@accg.org](mailto:kgreenlee@accg.org) or at 404-522-5022.

### **County Officials Encouraged to attend Georgia Competitiveness Initiative Regional Meetings**

Governor Nathan Deal has launched the Georgia Competitiveness Initiative to bring the business community, government leaders and other stakeholders together to develop a vision for economic development for the State of Georgia. Regional meetings have been scheduled throughout the state to discuss to highlight the results of a recent stakeholder survey and to provide opportunities for facilitated discussion and feedback. This information will be crucial to the development of the final report. Counties are encouraged to send at least one person to the regional meeting. For more information and the meeting

schedule, click [here](#).

### **2011 Georgia Highway Safety Conference**

The Governor's Office of Highway Safety will host the 2011 Georgia Highway Safety Conference on August 1 – 3 at the Savannah Hyatt Regency. This conference is designed for state and local law enforcement, state and local emergency service providers, individuals involved in injury prevention programs and others. More information on the conference is available at: [www.gahighwaysafety.org/2011conference](http://www.gahighwaysafety.org/2011conference).