



October Capitol Connection E-News

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Final Amended County Platform and Priorities Approved at Legislative Leadership Conference

ACCG would like to thank everyone who attended the 2011 Legislative Leadership Conference. Over 300 participants representing more than 110 counties were present this year. During the Business Session, the membership voted on the final Amended County Platform and legislative priorities. For the final Amended County Platform and priorities, click [here](#). Presentations and other information provided during the conference's Standard of Excellence sessions are available [here](#).

ACCG Fall District Meetings Begin October 24

ACCG Fall District Meetings will focus on a preview of the 2012 legislative session and legislative priorities. These meetings will provide an opportunity for county officials to discuss legislation expected to come before the General Assembly and to provide feedback to ACCG on how these bills may impact your county. Morning District Meetings will be followed by lunch. Evening District Meetings will begin with dinner. County commissioners and county staff who want to register to attend an ACCG District Meeting should contact their county clerk. To view the 2011 District Training meeting schedule, click [here](#). To view an ACCG District map, click [here](#).

Attorney General's Office Provides Clarification on Secure and Verifiable Documents

On October 12, 2011, the Attorney General's Office issued a response to Representative Matt Ramsey's letter on whether secure and verifiable documents could be submitted to counties and cities electronically. Since the ACCG / GMA Joint Illegal Immigration Training Session on September 19, there has been much controversy as to whether it is permissible to accept such documents in this format or if applicants are required to provide these documents in person. The letter provides that because the language in the statute on this issue is ambiguous and that since this issue has not been challenged to the contrary that electronic submission of secure and verifiable documents is allowed for the time being and counties and cities that accept such documents will not be penalized. ACCG and GMA will be seeking to make changes to the statute next session so that it is clear that electronic submission of

documents is allowed. Please share this information to anyone in your county office who may be responsible for immigration compliance, especially anyone who deals with purchasing or the issuance of licenses or occupation tax certificates for the county.

To see the letter from the Attorney General's Office to Representative Matt Ramsey, click [here](#).

Two More Illegal Immigration Training Sessions Scheduled

ACCG and the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) will hold two additional joint training sessions on Georgia's Illegal Immigration Reform and Enforcement Act (House Bill 87) on Wednesday, Oct. 26 (Emanuel County) and Thursday, Nov. 10 (Henry County) for counties and cities. These sessions will provide an overview of mandated local government immigration verification requirements. While E-Verify and SAVE compliance has been required of Georgia's counties and cities for three year, the passage of HB 87 during the 2011 legislative session imposes various new reporting mandates and penalties noncompliance, ranging from loss of qualified local government status, fines and possible jail time and removal from office for elected and appointed official. Space is filling up quickly! For more information on the upcoming sessions or to register, click [here](#).

ACCG Schedules Four LOST Training Session

The Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) law requires counties and "qualified cities" receiving general purpose LOST revenue to renegotiate distribution agreements within two years of each decennial census. As such, "qualified cities" and counties must begin renegotiation of their distribution agreements on or before July 1, 2012. ACCG will host four LOST training sessions across the state which will cover history and purpose of LOST, techniques for effectively negotiating, requirements of the LOST law for renegotiation, how to measure the eight criteria required for consideration and formulas and methodology for creating the allocation. For dates and registration information, click [here](#).

Remember to Submit Budgets and Financial Reports

Legislation passed by the General Assembly in 2010, requires all counties with budgets exceeding \$1 million to provide detailed financial information to the Carl Vinson Institute of Government. The Vinson Institute has developed a website giving local governments the ability to post financial documents, such as adopted budgets and audited financial reports. To date, only 46 cities, 26 counties and 116 school districts that have posted their FY2012 budget documents. Documents uploaded to the site must be in a PDF format. Once uploaded to the site and reviewed by the site administrator, the documents will be available to anyone with an Internet connection. Instructions on how to use the website are available [here](#).

Georgia Transportation Summit Scheduled for Nov. 9

The Georgia Engineering Alliance will hold the 2011 Georgia Transportation Summit on November 9 at the Georgia World Congress Center. The summit will include discussions on the Federal Surface Transportation Reauthorization as well as the Transportation Reinvestment Act of 2010. Concurrent sessions also are scheduled on a number of other transportation related topics. For the full agenda, click [here](#). To register, click [here](#).

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