



### Capitol Connection E-Newsletter- August 2013

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#### **Please Review the 2013-2014 Amended County Platform**

ACCG is providing county officials with a draft of the amended 2013-2014 County Platform. We ask that you review the [draft Platform](#) prior to the Policy Council meeting on August 28<sup>th</sup> to recommend any changes. In each committee report, proposed new language is underlined and deleted language is marked by a strike-through. In many instances, language has been added or deleted from existing association policies to strengthen the association's position, or remove actions which have already been accomplished. Questions regarding any of the policies should be directed to the appropriate ACCG committee staff member by calling (404) 522-5022.

ACCG respectfully requests that county clerks and administrators provide their respective county commissioners with copies of the amended County Platform prior to the Policy Council meeting on August 28<sup>th</sup>.

You may submit your recommended changes by completing this [form](#) and sending it to ACCG Policy Coordinator Ines Kovacevic at [ikovacevic@accg.org](mailto:ikovacevic@accg.org). All recommendations must be submitted to her no later than Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

#### **Mark Your Calendars for the 2013 Legislative Leadership Conference**

The 2013 Legislative Leadership Conference is quickly approaching! This year's conference is scheduled for Sept. 29-Oct. 1, and will take place in downtown Athens-Clarke County, Ga., at the Classic Center. County officials will have the opportunity to vote on the final 2013-2014 County Platform, the document that guides the ACCG policy staff during the legislative session and to complete selected courses in the ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy. Click [here](#) to view the conference agenda and to obtain registration details.

## **Appoint Your County Voting Delegate**

The 2013 Legislative Leadership Conference presents an opportunity for counties to approve the final County Platform. Counties must appoint a voting delegate to vote during the business session scheduled for Monday, Sept. 30 at 3:30 p.m. at the Classic Center in Athens-Clarke County. Please complete and return the [voting delegate form](#) no later than Monday, Sept. 19. All completed forms may be submitted by fax to (404) 525-2477 to the attention of Rhonda Ligons or scanned in an email to [rligons@accg.org](mailto:rligons@accg.org).

## **Registration Now Available for Fall District Meetings**

Each fall, ACCG hosts District Meetings throughout the state to bring together county commissioners, county staff, legislators and other invited guests for the primary purpose of preparing for the upcoming legislative session by outlining county legislative priorities. This year, ACCG District Meetings are scheduled for the weeks of October 21 and October 28.

Please contact your county clerk and ask them to follow the [link](#) to register you for the meeting of your choice. Your participation and input in outlining county legislative priorities is very important and your consideration is greatly appreciated. Click [here](#) to view the ACCG District map. A [comprehensive list](#) of the upcoming meetings is also available.

Since legislative issues will be discussed at the district meetings, it is important that we encourage our state representatives and senators to join us. Please extend a personal invitation to your legislators asking them to attend a meeting.

Contact ACCG Policy Coordinator Ines Kovacevic if you have any questions about registering for a meeting. She can be reached at [ikovacevic@accg.org](mailto:ikovacevic@accg.org) or (404) 522-5022.

## **Georgia Department of Natural Resources Amends Regulations for Inert Landfills**

During Feb. 2013, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) adopted rule changes for inert landfills. The permit-by-rule process was replaced with a requirement that owners obtain a full solid waste handling permit to operate. Subsequent to DNR's action, the General Assembly passed House Bill 320 during the 2013 session which stipulated that inert landfills which, as of January 1, 2014, are in compliance with the previous permit-by-rule requirements (as certified by a professional engineer) may continue to operate under those old requirements.

DNR has sent a notice and compliance documents to all inert landfill owners. If this impacts your county, please make sure you complete and submit the [compliance document](#). Please contact ACCG Associate Legislative Director Todd Edwards if you have any questions. He can be reached at (404) 522-5022 or at [tedwards@accg.org](mailto:tedwards@accg.org).

## **How Is the New Title Ad Valorem Tax Impacting Local Revenues?**

Summaries of the April and May title ad valorem tax (TAVT) revenues collected for all local governments within your county (county, city and school) are now available for review. Also included in each

summary is the amount of TAVT needed to replace lost ad valorem tax and the amount of sales tax no longer collected on vehicles. The last column in each summary shows the remaining positive or negative balance. If your county has \$0 listed in that column, it is because the TAVT collected equaled the “ad valorem true-up” (which means it is not known how much more TAVT is needed to fully pay for lost ad valorem taxes for that month). Also noted in each summary are the few counties with missing data. So far, approximately three-fourths of the counties have improved under the new TAVT system while one-fourth has not.

Click [here](#) to view the April TAVT revenues collected for all local governments.

Click [here](#) to view the May TAVT revenues collected for all local governments.

If you have questions regarding the information presented in the TAVT summaries, please contact ACCG Legislative Director Clint Mueller at (404) 522-5022 or [cmueller@accg.org](mailto:cmueller@accg.org).

### **Ethics Webinar Training for Elected Officials is Scheduled for November 13<sup>th</sup>**

Mark your calendars for Nov. 13 from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. for a webinar focusing on the new ethics legislation effective January 1, 2014. ACCG Associate Legislative Director Shaun Adams, along with Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission Executive Secretary Holly LaBerge, will host a webinar to provide instruction on the new requirements under the ethics reform passed during the previous session. This webinar will provide information on how to properly file campaign and finance disclosure reports as well as answer any questions about the impact this legislation will have on your county.

For individuals who are unable to attend live, the webinar will be available on the ACCG website shortly after its conclusion. Continue to monitor [www.accg.org](http://www.accg.org) for further details. Please contact ACCG Associate Legislative Director Shaun Adams at (404) 522-5022 or [sadams@accg.org](mailto:sadams@accg.org) if you have any questions. You may also contact ACCG Policy Coordinator Ines Kovacevic at (404) 522-5022 or [ikovacevic@accg.org](mailto:ikovacevic@accg.org).

### **Amazon to Collect State and Local Sales Tax in Georgia Sept.1**

According to an AJC news article released on Aug. 9, Amazon will begin collecting state and local sales tax from online sales in Georgia. This will be effective Sept. 1, 2013. Click [here](#) to read the news article.

### **New Georgia Land Bank Resource Manual Available on ACCG Website**

The Comprehensive Georgia Land Bank Resource Manual is now available on the ACCG website. This publication guides stakeholders through the process of creating new, and working with existing, land bank authorities. Click [here](#) to view the manual.