



Capitol Connection E-Newsletter-October 2013

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ACCG Ethics Webinar for Elected Officials – November 13

Unsure of the process for filing your campaign and finance disclosure reports starting in 2014? Looking for answers to your questions on ethics reform and how it will impact you and your county? Then mark your calendar for **Wednesday, November 13 from 10 a.m. -12 p.m.** for training on everything you need to know to file the right reports at the right time with the right people. ACCG Associate Legislative Director Shaun Adams and Executive Secretary of the Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission Holly LaBerge will instruct you on the new process for filing your campaign and finance disclosure statements so that you are prepared when the law becomes effective on January 1, 2014. For those who cannot attend live, the webinar will be made available on the ACCG website within a few hours of its conclusion.

Reserve your webinar seat now at <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/336493278>.

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

ACCG Immigration Webinar on Reporting Requirements and New Reporting System – November 18

On November 18, ACCG will host a webinar on the new immigration reporting requirements and reporting system from 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. ACCG will provide an overview of the reporting requirements and the Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) will explain on how to use the new system and how to submit the report. The new immigration reporting system

will be available through the DOAA website starting on December 1. The deadline to file the report will be December 31. It is very important that county staff understand how to use the new system as the DOAA will only accept reports through their online system (no hard copy or emailed reports will be accepted). Ensure your county is ready to use the new system by [registering](#) for the immigration webinar today!

New Information on Immigration Report Format Available on the DOAA Website

In preparation for the new immigration report due on December 31, the Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) has posted new reporting requirements and resources on its [website](#). DOAA has also provided a [Quick Reference Sheet](#) and a list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) regarding the report. While the new online reporting system will not be available until December 1, it is very important that your county is aware of the information required and the format in which the information will be accepted prior to the deadline to better prepare for report submission.

9-1-1 Prepaid Wireless Distribution

House Bill 256, legislation passed during the 2011 session, set forth a new system for the collection of 911 fees on prepaid cell phones and cards. Prior to this legislation, the fees were remitted to the Department of Community Affairs and the funds were supposed to be used for grants throughout the state to improve the 911 system. Those funds were never allocated for that purpose, but were put in the state general fund and used for other purposes. Effective January 1, 2012, the fees are collected at the point of sale and remitted to the Department of Revenue, in the same way sales tax is remitted. In October 2012, your county received a disbursement for six months collections (January 1, 2012 – June 30, 2012). These disbursements are based on the population of individual PSAP's.

DOR has released a breakdown of the more than \$18.4 million in 9-1-1 fees that were collected and disbursed for FY 2013. Click [here](#) for a breakdown for this first full year of collections.

Please contact ACCG Associate Legislative Director Debra Nesbit at (404) 522-5022 or dnesbit@accg.org if you have any questions.

Learn How the New Title Ad Valorem Tax is Impacting Local Revenues for Your County

Summaries of the June, July, and August 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 the lost ad valorem tax and the estimated amount of sales tax no longer collected on vehicles. The last column in each summary shows the remaining positive or negative balance. A [five month comparison](#)

derived from each monthly summary of the net revenue gain or loss for all local governments within your county (county, city and school) from April –August is also available.

The information provided is an estimate of the impact of the TAVT on your county. It is not an exact number and it is not specific to just county revenue in that it also contains the impact to city and school revenue. To learn more about the methodology behind these calculations, click [here](#). Follow the links below to access the June-August summaries.

[June](#) [July](#) [August](#)

ACCG Legislative Priority Briefs Now Available

ACCG has provided briefs of the association's top three legislative priorities for the 2014 session. The top three legislative priorities in which the association will focus include juvenile justice funding; tax reform clean-up; and telecommunications infrastructure: siting and funding. Each brief provides a detailed summary of the issue, its background, the actions needed on behalf of the General Assembly to ease any unforeseen burdens on Georgia's counties, and the ACCG staff contact information should you have any questions regarding that particular issue. A copy of each brief may be obtained by accessing the appropriate link(s) below:

[Juvenile Justice Funding](#)

[Tax Reform Clean-Up](#)

[Telecommunications Infrastructure: Siting and Funding](#)

Designate Your County Legislative Coordinator

As we head into the 2014 legislative session, ACCG wants to update the list of county legislative coordinators (CLC). ACCG established the CLC network in 2010 to help improve communications with members while the General Assembly is in session. The CLC will serve two primary roles: help keep county commissioners and county management updated on legislation of importance to counties and provide county-specific information to ACCG, as requested, to help legislators assess the impact of proposed legislation. County chairmen are asked to officially designate the CLC by passing a resolution at a commission meeting. A list of the 2013 CLC's can be viewed [here](#). ACCG is requesting your assistance in the following areas:

- 1) **If your county legislative coordinator is the same person**, please confirm that this is correct.
- 2) **If your county legislative coordinator will be someone else or your county did not designate one last year and you would like to do so this year**, ACCG recommends that

the resolution be brought before the commission for consideration. Once the resolution passes, ACCG will need a copy of it for our files as well as the name, title, office and cell phone numbers and email address for your designee. Please fax the resolution to 404-589-7843.

3) ***Please confirm if you are willing to receive updates by text.***

Click [here](#) for a copy of the draft resolution.

Click [here](#) for more details on the responsibilities of a CLC.

To update, confirm or appoint, please contact Ines Owens at iowens@accg.org or 404-522-5022.

IMLA to Host Conference for Lawyers and Code Enforcement Officials

The [International Municipal Lawyers Association](#) (IMLA) is holding a conference for lawyers and code enforcement officials in Savannah, Georgia on January 17-19, 2014. The training is designed for county attorneys, prosecutors, building officials and ordinance enforcement officials. In addition to the [educational program](#), this event allows attendees to share some of the most difficult code enforcement issues they face and develop solutions in a collegial forum.

Super Saver Discount for registration for the [Code Enforcement Conference](#) will take place until **November 15, 2013!** Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Chuck Thompson at cthompson@imla.org. IMLA has secured a block of rooms at the [Hilton Savannah Desoto Hotel](#). Print out a [registration form](#) and send it in today!