



Capitol Connection E-Newsletter- November 2013

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Register Now for the 2014 ACCG Capitol Connection Conference

The 2014 Capitol Connection Conference is scheduled for February 3-4 at the Atlanta Marriott-Marquis in downtown Fulton County. This conference connects county officials with state leaders as they discuss what is in store for the upcoming legislative session. This year's distinguished guests include Gov. Nathan Deal, Lt. Gov. Casey Cagle, and House Speaker David Ralston in addition to other members of the General Assembly. The conference will also provide commissioners the opportunity to complete training courses in the ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy as well as attend continuing education sessions.

Click [here](#) for a tentative conference agenda and registration details.

Please contact ACCG Leadership Development Director Carol Baker if you have any questions regarding the conference. She can be reached at (404) 522-5022 or cbaker@accg.org.

The 2014 General Assembly is Two Months Away- Designate Your County Legislative Coordinator

As the 2014 legislative session quickly approaches, ACCG wants to update its list of county legislative coordinators (CLC). The CLC network was established to help improve communication with the General Assembly while in session. CLC's are responsible for keeping their county commissioners and county management updated on legislation of importance to counties and providing county-specific information to ACCG, as requested, to help legislators assess the impact of proposed legislation. County chairmen are asked to officially designate a CLC by adopting a resolution at a commission meeting. **A list of the 2013 CLC's can be viewed**

[here](#). If your county is listed, please confirm or appoint a CLC. ACCG asks that each county designate a CLC by adopting a [resolution](#). We also ask that your county confirm it is willing to receive updates by text.

ACCG will need a copy of each county's resolution once it is adopted. In addition, please be sure to provide the name, title, office and cell phone numbers, and email address of your designee. Please fax the resolution to 404-589-7843.

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

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

New Information on Immigration Report Format Available on DOAA Website

In preparation for the new immigration report due on December 31st, 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 and detailed instructions on [how to submit the report](#) and [how to login to the reporting system](#). While the new online reporting system will not be available until December 1st, 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.

Please contact ACCG Policy and Research Development Director Michele NeSmith should you have any questions. She can be reached at (404) 522-5022 or mnesmith@accg.org.

Publish Your Annual SPLOST Report Before December 31

State law (48-8-122) requires each county and city to publish an annual special purpose local options sales tax (SPLOST) report in their local newspaper and on their website before December 31. Please remember that, in addition to the current SPLOST funds, the reporting requirements apply to all previous SPLOST projects where the county has not spent all the collected proceeds. Counties are not responsible for reporting on any city projects.

Click [here](#) to get a copy of the ACCG model report. The model report may also be found in the back of the ACCG SPLOST Guidebook.

Please contact ACCG Legislative Director Clint Mueller at (404) 522-5022 or cmueller@accg.org if you have any questions.

Have You Checked Your TAVT Distribution Formula?

ACCG has encountered several errors with the distributions of the title ad valorem tax (TAVT) revenues. Some of the errors include incorrectly calculating the county administrative fees and commissions retained from the TAVT revenues sent to the state, school system and cities, allocating county administrative fees in the distributions to other local governments, allocating TAVT revenue to an authority, incorrectly incorporating or failing to update LOST and SPLOST allocations in the TAVT formula and sending additional TAVT revenues to the state based upon ad valorem true-up. Counties should have their finance staff review the TAVT allocation formula with the tax commissioner.

Click [here](#) for an overview of the proper way to charge administrative fees and commissions to compensate the county for collecting TAVT revenues.

If you have any questions about your TAVT allocation formula, please call ACCG Legislative Director Clint Mueller at (404) 522-5022 or email him at cmueller@accg.org.

Tips to Help Your County Prepare for the 2014 Legislative Session

The fall months are the ideal time for your county to lay the groundwork for effectively communicating with your legislative delegation on issues of importance for next year's legislative session. This is particularly true this year as legislators are planning for a much abbreviated session due to election date changes and their need to qualify and raise campaign contributions earlier in the year. Legislation will move very quickly, and the time for input on important county issues is now. To be most successful in this advocacy process, please use the next few months to:

Begin formulating your county's legislative agenda.

This is the time to begin developing your county's 2014 legislative agenda to include your priorities for legislation that you would like to have passed, defeated or amended in the upcoming session. Along with briefly summarizing each issue and the county's position, the agenda should clearly spell out what is being asked and how it will impact the county and your shared constituents. Adopt this agenda, via a county resolution, and share it with your legislators.

Plan an Annual Pre-Session Meeting with your Legislative Delegation:

Schedule a meeting between your county commissioners and legislative delegation. Discuss the county's legislative agenda for the upcoming session and ask legislators to share what they feel are likely to be the biggest issues addressed during the session. In turn, share with them how those issues may impact the county. Also, please discuss your county's positions on ACCG's top legislative priorities for the 2014 General Assembly:

[Tax Reform Clean Up](#)

[Telecommunications Infrastructure](#)

[Funding for Juvenile Courts](#)

Again, as this year's legislative session will be abbreviated and bills will move very quickly, it is important to communicate with your Representatives and Senators now. They will be incredibly busy once session starts and counties will greatly benefit from laying out and explaining their legislative issues beforehand.