



## Capitol Connection E-Newsletter- December 2013

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### **Be Sure to Register for the 2014 ACCG Capitol Connection Conference**

Now is the time to register for the 2014 ACCG Capitol Connection Conference. As the first major event of ACCG's centennial year and the new legislative season, this conference is something you do not want to miss. County officials will have the opportunity to speak with their state counterparts about their shared constituents' concerns. The ACCG policy staff will provide a legislative update and many courses in the ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy will be offered. The **January 6<sup>th</sup> housing registration deadline** is quickly approaching, so be sure to contact your county clerk to register today!

Click [here](#) for a conference agenda and more event details.

Contact ACCG Leadership Development Director Carol Baker if you have any questions. She can be reached at (404) 522-5022 or [cbaker@accg.org](mailto:cbaker@accg.org).

### **Immigration Report Due by December 31**

The Department of Audits and Accounts' (DOAA) new immigration reporting system is now open and available through their [website](#). All reports must be submitted by **December 31, 2013**, and will only be accepted through the online reporting system. Failure to submit the report may result in penalties, which could include loss of qualified local government status. DOAA has provided a [Quick Reference Sheet](#) and list of [Frequently Asked Questions](#) regarding the report and detailed instructions on [how to submit the report](#) and [how to log in to the reporting system](#). All technical questions about how to use the system should be directed to DOAA at [ImmHelp@audits.ga.gov](mailto:ImmHelp@audits.ga.gov). If you have specific questions as to whether a particular contract, benefit, or license should be reported, please consult your county attorney.

### **Time to Set Qualifying Fees for 2014 Elections**

The county governing authority is required to set and publish the qualifying fees for county offices by **February 1, 2014**. The county offices include commissioners, sheriffs, tax commissioners, superior court clerks, magistrates, probate judges, state court judges, solicitor general, coroners and surveyors. Commissioners should adopt a resolution setting the qualifying fee for each office.

Click [here](#) for an explanation of how to calculate the qualifying fees.

For more information, please contact the Elections Division of the Georgia Secretary of State's Office at (404) 656-2871.

**Reminder: 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, 2013**. 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](mailto:cmueller@accg.org) if you have any questions.

**No 2014 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) for County Elected Officials**

Due to the continuing budget difficulties at the state level, the General Assembly did not approve any cost of living adjustments (COLA) for 2014. However, the Georgia Department of Community Affairs has issued a new population estimate for Georgia counties. If your county's population has increased since the 2010 census, your county official salaries may need to be adjusted. For more information, please review ACCG's [2014 County Official Salary Guide](#).

**Reminder: Campaign and Finance Disclosure Reports Due January 31**

As the new year approaches, do not forget that the filing process for campaign and finance disclosure reports has changed. The legislation regarding the new filing process becomes effective January 1, 2014. If you were unable to participate in the recent ethics training hosted by ACCG Associate Legislative Director Shaun Adams, you may access the training resources by visiting [www.accg.org/ethics](http://www.accg.org/ethics).

All reports must be filed no later than **January 31, 2014**. If you have any questions after reviewing the provided information on the new filing process, please contact Shaun Adams at [ethics@accg.org](mailto:ethics@accg.org).