



### Capitol Connection E-Newsletter- September 2013

- **2013 Legislative Leadership Conference is Two Weeks Away!**
- **Register Now for Fall District Meetings**
- **ACCG to Host Local Sales Tax Revenue Forum for Legislators and County Officials on Oct. 17**
- **Ethics Webinar Training for Elected Officials Set for November 13**
- **Start Preparing for the 2014 Legislative Session**
- **EMAC Overview for City and County Officials**
- **Ordering Information: Courthouse Canvas Artwork/Centennial Hall of Courthouses**

#### **2013 Legislative Leadership Conference is Two Weeks Away!**

The 2013 Legislative Leadership Conference is two weeks away! This conference presents an opportunity for county officials to vote on the final 2013-2014 County Platform, the document that guides the ACCG policy staff during the legislative session. Contact your county clerk to register if you have yet to do so! Click [here](#) to view the conference agenda.

In addition, each county must appoint a voting delegate to vote on the County Platform during the business session scheduled for Monday, September 30 at 3:30 p.m. Please complete and return the [voting delegate form](#) no later than Thursday, 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).

#### **Register Now for Fall District Meetings**

Fall District Meetings are scheduled for the weeks of October 21st and October 28th. The district meetings help the ACCG policy staff outline county legislative priorities for the upcoming session. 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.

Click here to view a [comprehensive list](#) of the upcoming district meetings.

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

### **ACCG to Host Local Sales Tax Revenue Forum for Legislators and County Officials on Oct. 17**

ACCG will sponsor a Local Sales Tax Policy Forum on October 17 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at its GEBCorp Retirement Services office in Cobb County for legislators and county officials to discuss proposed legislation to give counties more flexibility in how they spend their local sales tax revenues.

#### Topics to be discussed include:

- Converting a Local Option Sales Tax (LOST) to a Homestead Option Sales Tax (HOST)
- Pending legislation to eliminate LOST renegotiations and provide a statutory formula for splitting LOST between counties and cities
- Pending legislation to allow a portion of SPLOST to be used for maintenance activities
- Pending legislation to authorize a fractional SPLOST
- Proposed legislation to grant two or more counties the ability to levy a local sales tax for transportation
- Proposed legislation to give counties more information from the Department of Revenue about their local sales tax collections.

Several key legislators are expected to attend this meeting. This forum provides an outstanding opportunity to learn more about legislation under consideration and hear the perspectives of legislators involved in supporting these bills.

If you would like to participate in this policy forum, please register with Ines Kovacevic at [ikovacevic@accg.org](mailto:ikovacevic@accg.org) before **Wednesday, October 9**. Space is limited so please RSVP as soon as possible. Once all of the spots are filled, registration will be closed.

### **Ethics Webinar Training for Elected Officials Set for November 13**

ACCG is hosting an ethics webinar for elected officials on November 13, 2013, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. This session will provide training to teach elected officials everything they need to know about the new ethics legislation that becomes effective January 1, 2014. ACCG Associate Legislative Director Shaun Adams and Georgia Government Transparency and Campaign Finance Commission Executive Secretary Holly LaBerge will instruct attendees on how to properly file campaign and finance disclosure reports as well as answer any questions about the impact this legislation will have on their county.

The webinar will be available on the ACCG website shortly after it concludes. Continue to monitor [www.accg.org](http://www.accg.org) for further details. Please contact ACCG Policy Coordinator Ines Kovacevic at [ikovacevic@accg.org](mailto:ikovacevic@accg.org) or (404) 522-5022 if you have any questions.

### **Start Preparing 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 for next year's legislative session. To be most successful in this advocacy process, please use the next few months to:

#### *Continue forming constructive relationships with your legislators.*

County Commissioners are the most effective advocates for Georgia counties. Because commissioners are fellow elected officials, accountable to the same constituents, legislators are usually more likely to listen to them. Talk to your legislators regularly and obtain their cell phone numbers, personal email addresses and other contact information whereby you can contact them to share your expertise on the numerous bills that they will consider which impact Georgia counties;

#### *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 legislative session. Along with briefly summarizing each issue and the county's position, the agenda should clearly spell out what is being asked for 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:*

Lastly, start researching dates and times to schedule a meeting between your county commissioners and legislative delegation. This can be a breakfast, lunch or other forum, but will constitute an open meeting should a quorum of the board of commissioners attend. 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.

### **EMAC Overview for City and County Officials**

The National Emergency Management Association, in conjunction with the National League of Cities and the International City/County Management Association, will present the *EMAC Overview for City and County Officials* webinar on Thursday, October 17, from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. This webinar is being hosted for local officials who want to learn more information about

interstate mutual aid through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). Presenters will discuss what EMAC is and what officials need to know, the importance of their relationship to the state EMA and how resources are adjudicated as well as their potential as a resource provider to other states in a disaster. Joyce Flinn, current EMAC Executive Task Force Chair and Readiness/Response Bureau Chief at the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Division will serve as the keynote speaker.

A presentation package will be available for state EMAC Coordinators and other EMA officials after the webinar concludes. The package materials can be used when presenting the information to local officials as a follow-up to the national webinar.

Those interested in attending this webinar can register [here](#).

### System Requirements

PC Users: Windows® 8, 7, Vista, XP or 2003 Server

Mac Users: Mac OS® X 10.6 or newer

Mobile Attendees: iPhone®, iPad®, Android™ phone or Android tablet

### **Ordering Information: Courthouse Canvas Artwork/Centennial Hall of Courthouses**

As a part of the ACCG Centennial Celebration, the association is establishing a one-of-a-kind photography collection of Georgia's county courthouses as captured by photographer Greg Newington. A compilation of Newington's work will be showcased in a photography book scheduled for release next fall. ACCG has recognized other ways to showcase the photos. When enlarged and placed on canvases, they resemble paintings and can serve as an impressive centerpiece in a county courthouse or administrative building. The photographs can be viewed [here](#) by clicking on "Galleries" then "Georgia Courthouses".

ACCG is creating a Centennial Hall of Courthouses for the 2014 Annual Conference and Centennial Celebration. The cost to counties that wish to purchase a courthouse canvas is \$1,500. Counties that order their canvases before October 15, 2013, are eligible for a \$100 discount from ACCG. Orders must be received by December 31, 2013, in order to be included in the Hall of Courthouses at the ACCG Annual Conference and Centennial Celebration. ACCG will deliver the canvases to your county following the conference.

County clerks can place an order for the courthouse canvas artwork by visiting this [link](#).

Please contact ACCG Director of Communications Beth Brown if you have additional questions. She can be reached via email at [bbrown@accg.org](mailto:bbrown@accg.org) or by telephone at (404) 522-5022.

