

Capitol Connection E-Newsletter- November 2014

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Get Ready for the ACCG District Days at the Capitol

In 2015, ACCG will introduce the ACCG District Days at the Capitol for county officials. The district days will take place in lieu of the Capitol Connection Conference which was held every winter in Atlanta/Fulton County at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis. The District Days will allow county officials the opportunity to meet with their respective legislative delegations at the state capitol, attend important committee meetings, get briefed on key issues by the ACCG policy staff, and become involved in the legislative process.

Please contact your county clerk to register. Registration is \$50 for each individual planning to attend. Click [here](#) for further information such as dates and a tentative agenda.

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

CLC Network Update

The start of the 2015 legislative session is quickly approaching. ACCG is updating the county legislative coordinator (CLC) network to help improve communication with county officials while the General Assembly is in session. Each county is asked to designate a county legislative coordinator to: 1) help keep county commissioners and county management updated on legislation of importance to counties and 2) provide county-specific information to ACCG, as requested, to help legislators assess the impact of proposed legislation. County chairs were asked to officially designate the county legislative coordinator by passing a resolution at a commission meeting.

As we head into the 2015 legislative session, ACCG wants to update the list of county legislative coordinators by doing the following:

1. **If your county legislative coordinator is the same person designated for 2014**, please confirm and send their current contact information.
2. **If your county legislative coordinator has changed or your county did not designate a legislative coordinator in 2014 and you would like to do so for 2015**, ACCG recommends that a [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 addresses of your county's designee. **Please fax the resolution to (404) 589-7843.**

Please [click](#) here to review the list of counties that need to confirm (from 2014 for 2015) or appoint their CLC. To update, confirm, or appoint a CLC, please contact ACCG Legislative Policy Coordinator Ines Owens at iowens@accg.org.

2014 Immigration Reports Due in One Month

Counties must submit the annual immigration report to the Department of Audits and Accounts (DOAA) on December 31, 2014. This year's report will cover the reporting period of December 1, 2013- November 30, 2014. No changes were made to the reporting system or county requirements during the 2014 legislative session. Please be sure to prepare to submit your county's report in order to meet the specified deadline. You may contact the DOAA at immhelp@audits.ga.gov or visit their website at www.audits.ga.gov/ if you have any questions about filing the report.

NACo Urges Withdrawal and Clarification of "Waters of the U.S." Proposal

After voicing serious concerns and pushing for clarity on the federal proposal to redefine "Waters of the U.S.", the National Association of Counties (NACo) called for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to withdraw their proposal until further analysis has been completed.

Introduced in April 2014 by the EPA and the Corp of Engineers, the "Waters of the U.S." rule change would amend the definition of "waters of the U.S." and expand the range of waters that fall under any federal jurisdiction. Such a change is significant to counties as they could feel a major impact as more waters become federally protected and subject to new rules or standards.

For more information and to read the official press release, click [here](#).

Please contact ACCG Associate Legislative Director Todd Edwards if you have any questions. He can be reached at (404) 522- 5022 or tedwards@accg.org.

2015 Computing County Officials Salary Guide Now Available

The ACCG [Computing County Official Salaries for 2015](#) guide is now available. This guide is designed to help county staff and county attorneys to interpret the various state mandated rules for calculating salaries and supplements for officials such as county commissioners, coroners, magistrates, probate judges, sheriffs, superior court clerks, tax commissioners, bailiffs, members of the board of tax assessors, members of the board of tax equalization, district attorneys, jurors, juvenile court judges, state court judges, solicitor generals, superior court judges, and voter registrars.

ORHP Funding Opportunity: Rural Health Network Planning Program

The Office of Rural Health Planning (OHRP) is pleased to announce the release of the Rural Health Network Planning Program (Network Planning). The Rural Health Network Planning Program is a one year community-driven program targeted to assist in the planning and development of an integrated health care network. Health care networks can be an effective strategy to address a broad range of challenges unique to rural communities by bringing together rural providers and other community organizations. For grantees, this funding provides an opportunity to implement new and innovative approaches to adapting to a changing health care environment that may serve as a model to other rural communities to better align and coordinate local health care services. Network planning activities that model evidence-based frameworks or models that work are encouraged. Previously funded projects include topics such as workforce, behavioral health, telehealth, care coordination, health information technology, and outreach and enrollment.

Click [here](#) for more information.

The deadline to apply for the grant is January 9, 2015. Please contact Amber Berrian if you have any questions. She may be reached at aberrian@hrsa.gov or (301) 443-0845.

NACo Issues Update on PILT Program: Action Needed

Now that elections are over, members of the U.S. Congress have returned to work and counties are calling on them to immediately address the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program funding issue.

The PILT program is critical for counties with non-taxable federal lands within their boundaries as PILT payments are federal payments issued to local governments that help off-set the losses in property taxes due to those non-taxable lands.

Click [here](#) to view the official action Alert from the National Association of Counties (NACo).

Click [here](#) to read the official press release on PILT from NACo.

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

Lynne Riley Appointed to State Revenue Commissioner

Governor Deal recently announced the appointment of state Rep. Lynne Riley (R-50) as the next commissioner of the Georgia Department of Revenue. Rep. Riley, a former Fulton County commissioner and ACCG Board member, will succeed Doug MacGinnitie as commissioner.

The Governor cites Rep. Riley's decades of experience as a professional accountant and her expertise on tax policy as the main factors that made her the top candidate for the position. During her time with the Georgia House of Representatives, Riley served on the Ways and Means, Natural Resources and the Environment, Retirement, and MARTA Oversight committees. She is also a member of the American Legislative Exchange Council's Tax and Fiscal Policy Task Force. Riley's appointment is effective January 11, 2015.

Please click [here](#) to read the official news release from the Office of Governor Nathan Deal.