



Capitol Connection E-Newsletter- May 2013

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Final ACCG Legislative Update Released

Each week during the legislative session, ACCG produces a Legislative Update to highlight the legislation ACCG monitors on behalf of Georgia's counties. A final Legislative Update is produced after the General Assembly adjourns for the year and serves as a final guide to legislation during the 2013 session. It highlights the bills that were passed, signed or vetoed by the Governor and provides summaries and effective dates for each bill and resolution. Click [here](#) to view the final Legislative Update.

ACCG Grassroots System: Working from the Ground Up

One of ACCG's greatest strengths in working on behalf of Georgia's counties at the State Capitol is the network of county officials across the state that work to establish relationships with their local legislative delegation and are willing to make their voices heard when critical issues arise.

In order to increase the effectiveness of this grassroots network, ACCG is working to establish a system that will allow the policy team to quickly contact county officials when specific legislators need to be reached. In addition to your local delegation, you may have relationships with legislators outside of your immediate area from academic or business connections.

Sharing the information on how you know Georgia's legislators is easy. You can access the grassroots system through a new option on the horizontal menu of the ACCG Dashboard.

1. Log into the ACCG Dashboard: www.accgdashboard.com
2. Click on: Grassroots
3. Click on: Update Your Grassroots Relationships
 - a. Select categories from each box that will guide you to the appropriate legislator and the type of relationship that you have with the person.
 - b. You may access relationships you record under the "My Info" page of the Dashboard. You will not be able to see relationships recorded by other county officials.

For those who have never logged into the ACCG Dashboard, please forward an email to ACCG Policy Coordinator Ines Kovacevic at ikovacevic@accg.org requesting to have your log-in credentials emailed to you. For further assistance, please contact Ines at (404)522-5022, extension 160.

Governor's Commission on 9-1-1 Gets Underway

Last year by executive order, Governor Deal created the Governor's Commission on 9-1-1 System Modernization and Balanced Funding Model. The commission is tasked with studying Georgia's 9-1-1 System and its funding mechanisms in order to develop recommendations for the Governor by fall of 2013. It is currently considering a variety of issues such as the best and most predictable way to collect 9-1-1 fees on all devices that can be used to contact emergency dispatchers; who should be allowed to collect fees; what state agency should enforce the payment of 9-1-1 by providers; planning for 9-1-1 broadband; incentives for regional 9-1-1 centers; auditing of the fees; and standards, training and certification of 9-1-1.

Commission members have held three meetings and have appointed two subcommittees to conduct in-depth research on 9-1-1 funding models and standards.

For more information on this topic, please contact ACCG Associate Legislative Director Debra Nesbit at (404) 522-5022, extension 132 or dnesbit@accg.org.

Get Involved in the 2013 ACCG Summer Policy Committee Meetings

Legislative advocacy and public policy development are some of the primary services that ACCG provides to Georgia's counties. Now that the legislative session is over, the ACCG policy staff will continue with its advocacy and policy development efforts by hosting policy committee meetings to help prepare for the 2014 session of the Georgia General Assembly. Policy committees develop positions on key issues, which become part of the County Platform that guides the advocacy efforts on behalf of counties during the upcoming session. All interested individuals are encouraged to attend. If you are interested in joining an ACCG policy committee but have not officially signed up, please contact ACCG Policy Coordinator Ines Kovacevic at ikovacevic@accg.org or (404) 522-5022, extension 160. Please click [here](#) to view a schedule of the summer policy committee meetings.

ACCG has created a policy committee issues survey to solicit policy issue recommendations from members. You may complete the survey to provide your recommendations for the ACCG Policy Committees to consider over the summer. Click [here](#) to obtain the survey.

Review DOR Proposed Rule Changes to Forest Land Protection Act and CUVA Program

The Department of Revenue has issued proposed rule changes to the Forestland Protection ACT (FLPA) and the Conservation Use Valuation Assessment Program (CUVA). Any comments or recommendations on the proposed rule change should be sent to regcomments@dor.ga.gov and cmueller@accg.org. Please make sure your chief assessor has reviewed the proposed rule changes.

Mark Your Calendar for the June ACCG Regional Meetings

The 2013 ACCG Regional Meetings will be held June 17-21 at the following locations:

Monday June 17 Madison County 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (lunch included)
[6.17.13 Regional Meeting - Madison County](#)

Monday, June 17 Cherokee County 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. (dinner included)
[6.17.13 Regional Meeting - Cherokee County](#)

Tuesday, June 18 Thomas County 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (lunch included)
[6.18.13 Regional Meeting - Thomas County](#)

Wednesday, June 19 Houston County 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (breakfast included)
[6.19.13 Regional Meeting - Houston County](#)

Wednesday, June 19 Meriwether County 3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (dinner included)
[6.19.13 Regional Meeting - Meriwether County](#)

Thursday, June 20 Washington County 12:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. (lunch included)
[6.20.13 Regional Meeting - Washington County](#)

Friday, June 21 Liberty County 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. (breakfast included)
[6.21.13 Regional Meeting - Liberty County](#)

The meetings will highlight some of ACCG's membership services and solicit feedback on the type of membership partnerships attendees would like to see ACCG pursue to result in revenue generating or cost saving measures for counties. ACCG staff will also provide commissioners and county staff with a 2013 Legislative Update, including action items that counties will need to take as a result of newly enacted legislation.

Attendees will be awarded three credit hours in the ACCG Continuing Education program for attending a regional meeting.

ACCG Webinar on Energy Excise Tax Implementation Set for June 11

Does your county have questions about the energy excise tax? Whether you are in the post-implementation phase or still considering levying the excise tax on energy used in manufacturing, join ACCG Associate Legislative Director Shaun Adams for a discussion-based webinar that will feature instructions on how to implement the tax; how to identify energy providers; answers to questions about the process i.e., pre- and post-implementation; and an explanation of how HB 250 will impact your county with regard to the energy excise tax.

The webinar is designed to provide you with an opportunity to ask pressing questions you may have regarding the excise tax along with minimal instruction about the changes made in HB 250 that are effective July 1, 2013.

To attend the webinar, please join the meeting on Tuesday, June 11, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. by visiting <https://www3.gotomeeting.com/join/576947894> and completing the following steps:

1. Dial +1 (213) 289-0016
2. Enter the Access Code: 576-947-894
3. Enter the Audio PIN: Shown after joining the meeting
4. Enter the Meeting ID: 576-947-894

**Use your microphone and speakers (VoIP) - a headset is recommended. Or, call in using your telephone. Please RSVP via email to ACCG Policy Coordinator Ines Kovacevic at ikovacevic@accg.org no later than June 6, 2013, if plan to attend the webinar. Be sure to include "Energy Excise Tax Webinar Confirmation" in the subject line.

Contact ACCG Associate Legislative Director Shaun Adams if you have any questions. He can be reached at (404) 522-5022, extension 133 or sadams@accg.org.

Policy Subcommittees to Meet in June

Two ACCG policy subcommittee meetings are scheduled for June. Dates and locations for each meeting are as followed:

Ad Valorem Tax Subcommittee – Wednesday, June 12, 2013 at 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Agricultural Technology Conference Center

Fort Valley State University

46 Camp John Hope Road

Fort Valley, GA 31030

Sales Tax Subcommittee – Monday, June 24, 2013 at 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Georgia Department of Revenue

4125 Welcome All Road

Atlanta, GA 30349

If you have policy issue recommendations for Subcommittee members, please complete the [policy issues survey](#) and submit it to ACCG Policy Coordinator Ines Kovacevic via fax/email at (404) 589-7843/ikovacevic@accg.org or mail to 50 Hurt Plaza, Suite 1000, Atlanta, GA 30303.