

Capitol Connection E-Newsletter- August 2014

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Register for the 2014 Legislative Leadership Conference

The 2014 Legislative Leadership Conference will take place on October 8-10, 2014, at the Classic Center in Athens-Clarke County, Ga. This year's conference will present an opportunity for county officials to meet the candidates in some of the state's most high-profiled races- the 2014 gubernatorial and U.S. Senate races. Please be sure to register as you will have the opportunity to obtain training credits in the ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy and vote on ACCG's 2015-2016 County Platform, legislative agenda, and priorities.

Policy Staff to Deliver Legislative Update at 2014 Legislative Leadership Conference

The ACCG policy staff will help prepare commissioners for the upcoming legislative session during the 2014 Legislative Leadership Conference. The policy staff will provide an update on proposed changes on Thursday, October 9 at 8:30 a.m. County officials will receive a report on the individual policy platforms from each policy committee in order to vote on the 2015-2016 ACCG County Platform during the business session.

Don't Forget to Appoint Your County's Voting Delegate

The 2014 Legislative Leadership Conference presents an opportunity for counties to approve the final County Platform. Counties must appoint a voting delegate to vote during the business session on Thursday, October 9 at 4:45 p.m. at the Classic Center in Athens-Clarke County. Please complete and return the [voting delegate form](#) **no later than Friday, September 26**. 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.

Click [here](#) to register and for more conference details.

EPD Proposes Significant Revisions to Georgia's Drought Management Rule

The Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) is proposing several major revisions to Georgia's Drought Management Rule. While the proposed rule has not gone out under an official notice yet, EPD has provided a draft and it will have a significant negative impact on local government water systems. ACCG will be back in contact with Georgia counties once EPD issues the official public notice of the proposed rule change.

Please click [here](#) to view the joint comments submitted by ACCG, the Georgia Municipal Association, and the Association of Water Professionals on the current draft.

Click [here](#) to view the current draft of EPD's proposed rule change.

Please contact ACCG Associate Legislative Director Todd Edwards at (404) 522-5022 or tedwards@accg.org if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Save the Date for Fall District Meetings

Each fall, ACCG brings together county commissioners, county staff, and legislators, and other invited guests for the primary purpose of preparing for the upcoming legislative session by outlining county legislative priorities. This year, the Fall District Meetings are scheduled for November 6-24, 2014. Please visit www.accg.org for meeting details.

Contact ACCG Legislative Policy Coordinator Ines Owens at iowens@accg.org or (404) 522-5022 if you have any questions.

ACCG Policy Council Considers 2015-2016 Draft County Platform

The ACCG Policy Council recently considered the 2015-2016 ACCG Draft County Platform. The County Platform will guide the ACCG policy staff during the upcoming legislative session. After the Policy Council approves the draft platform, it will be presented to the full ACCG membership electronically prior to the 2014 Legislative Leadership Conference. During the business session at the 2014 Legislative Leadership Conference, ACCG First Vice President and Gwinnett County Chairman Charlotte Nash will present the draft platform to the entire membership. The membership will vote on each policy committee report.

Click [here](#) to view the latest version of the 2015-2016 ACCG Draft County Platform.

Please contact ACCG Legislative Policy Coordinator Ines Owens at iowens@accg.org or (404) 522-5022 if you have any questions.

ACCG Provides Updated Grants and Revenue Reference Guides

ACCG has recently updated the Catalog of State Financial Assistance Programs and the County Revenue Reference Guide. County officials may now view these guides to learn more about the

various grant assistance programs and revenue streams available to counties. Access the links below to view the updated guides (**Please note:** the County Revenue Reference Guide provided below is a draft version).

[Catalog of State Financial Assistance Programs](#)

[Draft Revenue Reference Guide](#)

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

Georgia Attorney General Answers Questions Regarding the Omnibus Gun Bill of 2014 (HB 60)

Attorney General Sam Olens offered to answer questions posed by county attorneys following enactment of HB 60, the omnibus gun bill from the 2014 legislative session, which substantially rewrote current gun carry law. A consolidated list of questions was submitted to the AG addressing gun carry limitations in publicly owned facilities leased to private parties, gun carry by county employees on duty, defining terms left undefined in state law, home rule powers relative to state gun carry law, procedures for screening access, access to restricted areas of county facilities generally, effect of the new law on polling place carry restrictions, and related matters. The AG's letter has been provided to all county attorneys in the state for their review and consideration.

Questions regarding implementation of HB 60 in each county should be directed to the county attorney.

Joint Study Committee on Critical Transportation Infrastructure Funding Holding Meetings Around the State

The Joint Study Committee on Critical Transportation Infrastructure Funding was appointed to review the transportation infrastructure funding options to help meet Georgia's growing needs. The committee will continue to meet through the fall. ACCG encourages county officials to attend a meeting within proximity to their county.

Tentative meeting dates can be found [here](#).

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.

Boards of Equalization Training Now Offered Online

Training for members of county boards of equalization are now being offered online. The University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government and the Georgia Department of Revenue developed an online, self-study course titled *Board of Equalization Update 2014* for members and alternate members of county boards of equalizations pursuant to O.C.G.A.

Section 48-5-311. The Board of Equalization Update 2014 online course fulfills the 8-hour annual continuing education requirement for members who serve on boards of equalization.

Click [here](#) for further information on the course and to register.