



## Capitol Connection E-Newsletter- October 2015

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### **2015 – 2016 Amended County Platform Now Available**

The ACCG membership voted to adopt the 2015 – 2016 Amended County Platform during the Legislative Leadership Conference on October 8, 2015. ACCG encourages county officials to take some time to review the policy agenda/priorities on pages 7 – 11 of the Platform.

The 2015 -2016 Amended County Platform can be accessed [here](#).

In many instances, language has been added or deleted from existing association policies to shorten the policy statement. Also, some language has been added to strengthen the association’s position and actions that have already been accomplished have been removed. Questions regarding any of the policies should be directed to the appropriate ACCG committee staff member by calling 404.522.5022.

### **2015 Fall District Meetings Less Than Two Weeks Away**

The 2015 Fall District Meetings will begin in less than two weeks. County officials are encouraged to register for the meeting(s) of their choice. Join other county officials and the ACCG policy team for discussions with area legislators on what to expect for the upcoming session of the Georgia General Assembly. The meetings will take place in each of ACCG’s 12 districts around the state. The first meetings are set for Monday, October 26 in Stewart County(morning) and Early County (evening). The complete meeting schedule as well as registration can be accessed [here](#).

All questions or concerns regarding District Meetings can be directed to ACCG Legislative Policy Coordinator Ines Owens at [iowens@accg.org](mailto:iowens@accg.org) or 404.522-5022.

### **Stay Informed and Engaged: Appoint or Confirm Your CLC!**

As we head into the 2016 Legislative Session, ACCG wants to update the list of county legislative coordinators (CLC). ACCG [CLC network](#) was designed to help improve

communication with counties while the General Assembly is in session and also throughout the year in assistance with legislative advocacy. The CLC serves two primary roles: help keep county commissioners and county management updated on legislation of importance to counties and provide county-specific information to ACCG, as requested, so that we can help legislators assess the impact of proposed legislation.

County chairs are asked to officially designate the CLC by passing a resolution at a commission meeting. ACCG is requesting your assistance in the following areas:

- 1) If your county legislative coordinator is the same person, please confirm that this is correct. Click [here](#) to view the current list of CLC's.
- 2) If your county legislative coordinator will be someone else or your county did not designate one last year and you would like to do so this year, ACCG recommends that the 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 address for your designee. Click [here](#) for a copy of the draft resolution.
- 3) Please confirm if the appointed CLC is willing to receive updates by text.

To update, confirm or appoint, please contact Ines Owens at [iowens@accg.org](mailto:iowens@accg.org).

### **House Study Committee on Annexation, Deannexation and Incorporation Concludes**

The House Study Committee on Annexation, Deannexation and Incorporation held its third and final meeting on Tuesday, October 6. ACCG testified at all three meetings by: outlining how current law operates; describing the challenges and impacts experienced by counties under current law; providing input on whether deannexation should be a private property right; and detailing the association's recommendations for changes in law.

Click [here](#) to see ACCG's written recommendations to the study committee.

Contact ACCG Associate Legislative Director Todd Edwards with any questions. He can be reached at 404.522.5022 or [tedwards@accg.org](mailto:tedwards@accg.org).

### **2015 Georgia Transportation Summit**

Meeting the transportation needs in Georgia is significant not only for our citizens but for the state's economic growth. The American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia (ACEC GA), in partnership with ACCG and the Georgia Economic Developers' Association, will host the 2015 Georgia Transportation Summit in Atlanta/Fulton County at the Georgia World Congress Center on Tuesday, November 10. The summit will focus on projects in Georgia – from roads and bridges to ports and airports. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear from panelists on economic development, logistics and transportation technology.

Early registration is available now through October 23.

Click [here](#) for more information.

### **U.S. Court of Appeals Stays “Waters of the U.S.” Rule**

On Friday, October 9, the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals temporarily blocked the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) “Water of the U.S.” rule, staying the federal government’s latest attempt to bring more waterways and wetlands under federal jurisdiction and permitting mandates. This is encouraging for counties and the 18 states, led by Georgia, that have challenged the EPA’s Clean Water Act regulation. The court noted that the state challenge had demonstrated “a substantial possibility of success” in winning the case. Both ACCG and the National Association of Counties have commented extensively on the proposed rule’s possible negative impacts on counties’ routine road, drainage and stormwater infrastructure maintenance.

ACCG President and Gwinnett County Chairman Charlotte Nash provided comment on this issue in a Gwinnett Daily Post article published on October 12 stating, “Delaying the rule taking effect until after the litigation is resolved eliminates considerable confusion and uncertainty for all of us — from state regulatory agencies to local governments to individual landowners,” said Chairman Nash. “Obviously, we are still concerned about the litigation itself and the decision of the court on it.”

For more information, click [here](#).

Please contact ACCG Associate Legislative Director Todd Edwards with any questions or concerns. He can be reached at 404.522.5022 or [tedwards@accg.org](mailto:tedwards@accg.org).

### **Sen. Ross Tolleson Announces Retirement**

On October 6, Sen. Ross Tolleson announced his retirement from the Georgia State Senate, effective November 1. He also announced that he has been diagnosed with early stages of Alzheimer’s disease. Since 2003, the citizens of District 20, which includes all of Bleckley, Laurens and Pulaski counties, have been represented by Sen. Tolleson with honor and distinction. He has been a longtime friend of ACCG, looking out for counties at the General Assembly and participating extensively with ACCG’s Natural Resources and the Environment Committee throughout his tenure. Sen. Tolleson is a true statesman and will be missed.

Click [here](#) to see official retirement announcement.