

ACCG 2025 Legislative Service Award Recipients

May 19, 2025

Representative Victor Anderson

Rep. Anderson continued to show his support of Georgia counties and his commitment to strengthening the partnership between state and local governments. This year, Anderson sponsored HB 155, which made significant revisions to the state's annexation arbitration process. He also sponsored HB 137, increasing the public works bidding threshold from \$100,000 to \$250,000, and supported HB 244, improving local government audit compliance. All three were ACCG 2025 legislative agenda items. Lastly, as the new Chair of the House Governmental Affairs Committee, he provided steady and skillful leadership on complex election legislation and sponsored HR 885, creating the House Study Committee on Election Procedures.

Representative Clint Crowe

Rep. Crowe, Chair of the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, consistently demonstrated what it means to be a leader who seeks to understand the unique needs of Georgia's counties, seeking ACCG and county officials' input often through the legislative process. He Chaired the 2024 House Study Committee on Disaster Mitigation and Resiliency following the devastation from Hurricane Helene, which called for the funding and implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1. He then took a leading role in establishing a consensus and securing the passage of HB 423, beginning the process of establishing Next Generation 9-1-1 in Georgia. This was an ACCG 2025 Legislative Priority. Chairman Crowe listens with intention, engages with respect, and works with integrity.

Representative Joseph Gullett

Rep. Gullett has worked closely with ACCG over the years to ensure that county voices are not just heard, but respected and reflected in state policy. He has consistently opposed state preemptions on local land use and zoning authority and sought the input of county election officials on numerous bills impacting election costs and administration. This year, Gullett sponsored HB 140, the "End Local Taxation by Citation Act", and made several revisions to the bill once ACCG expressed concerns. He was also instrumental in expressing the association's concerns on bills impacting counties' ability to fund the court and criminal justice systems. Gullett is not only a respected legislator at the Capitol, but a true advocate for local government.

Representative John LaHood

At ACCG and GMA's request, Rep. LaHood sponsored HB 513. This legislation makes additional revisions to the service delivery strategies act, adding to the list of unincorporated revenue sources that can be used to fund unincorporated services. As chair of the House Appropriations Transportation Subcommittee, he also played a key role in securing an additional \$265 million for the Local Road Assistance Program and \$46 million for the Georgia Transportation Infrastructure Bank in the AFY 2025 budget. Both appropriations will greatly assist county governments in building and maintaining local roads and bridges, particularly with increased truck weight limits. A true county

friend, LaHood is a man of wisdom, honesty, and integrity in shaping sound public policy for the citizens of Georgia.

Representative Sam Park

House Minority Whip Sam Park has long worked with ACCG on issues significantly impacting county governments. In recent years, he shared the association's concerns with legislation preempting local government land use and zoning regulations, while still championing measures to expand housing accessibility and affordability in Georgia. In 2025, he took the lead in opposing legislation that set a dangerous new precedent on county and city service delivery negotiations and the waiver of county sovereign immunity. He was also of great assistance in moving ACCG's Legislative Agenda items through the House. Park takes the time to understand complex bills and their implications on county government and is to be commended for continually reaching out to ACCG during the legislative process.

Representative Jason Ridley

Rep. Ridley sponsored HB 551, aimed at preventing TAVT (title ad valorem tax) abuse through misuse of temporary operating permits (TOPs) and dealer plates. This was one of ACCG's 2025 Legislative Agenda items. Ridley shepherded this legislation through the House and Senate by making fair compromises while sticking to his principles.

Senator Randy Robertson

Senate Majority Whip Randy Robertson sponsored SB 298, a long-standing ACCG policy position. This bill allows counties to automatically appeal to the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court when a superior court denies the government's request to dismiss a lawsuit on immunity grounds, saving taxpayers' time and money in the legal process. He also worked closely with ACCG on school zone safety camera, mandated coroner pay increase, and Next Generation 9-1-1 implementation legislation.

Representative Will Wade

Representative Will Wade sponsored HB 423, an ACCG 2025 Legislative Priority. This law begins the process of modernizing Georgia's 9-1-1 system by implementing Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) services. It revises definitions and updates the responsibilities of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority to oversee and enforce standards for a statewide NG9-1-1 network. It also requires all new 9-1-1 systems conform to wireless enhanced 9-1-1 or NG9-1-1 standards, ensuring interoperability, security, and efficiency.