

We are EXCITED to announce the ...

## 2025 ACCG ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

*Georgia counties are 159 STRONG – Spirited. Triumphant. Resilient. Optimistic. Noteworthy. Game changing – and the strength of the Peach State is dependent on their vitality. Our counties, their leaders, and the various facets of their individual communities are what make Georgia a top state to live, work, and play.*

*We invite you to join hundreds of elected and appointed county officials from across Georgia at the **2025 ACCG Annual Conference in Savannah/Chatham County, April 24-27**. Together, we'll celebrate all the ways we are 159 STRONG through camaraderie and engaging and empowering educational content. This year's conference will again feature LLA classes on the first and third days, along with numerous opportunities to connect with leading experts for information that can help address the critical challenges counties face.*

**WE ARE EXCITED TO HOST YOUR COUNTY IN SAVANNAH!**

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### Conference Highlights



#### Friday, April 25 - 9:00 a.m.

Rodney Bullard will provide the keynote address at this year's conference. A Georgia native, Rodney is the CEO of The Same House, a public benefit corporation dedicated to furthering economic mobility by bridging social division.

Having served in the U.S. Air Force, NASA, and the Department of Justice, he has an in-depth understanding of how to leverage his skillset to drive meaningful change. Join Rodney during the opening general session for a message on how to leverage your position as a county leader to continue to make Georgia #159strong.

#### Saturday, April 26 - 6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Join fellow county officials on the riverfront for an unforgettable Mardi Gras celebration! Enjoy fresh oysters and live music. Indulge in a delicious Mardi Gras-themed dinner buffet, and don't forget to wear your dancing shoes! We'll dance the night away to live tunes along the scenic Savannah River, making it a night to remember!



**HOT TOPIC Sessions and Conference Highlights**

- Disaster Preparedness and Recovery General Session
- Legislative Update by the Governmental Affairs Team
- Installation of the 2025-26 ACCG Board of Managers.
- Offsite Outing: Savannah’s first food truck container park – Starland Yard Food Truck Park!
- End the conference on a high note w/ an Inspirational Brunch on the Terrace Rooftop at the Convention Center!

**A TENTATIVE AGENDA for the conference is on Pages 9-10!**

**Conference Registration**

**Annual Conference registration will open Thursday, February 13th at 9:00 a.m.**

As a result of ACCG’s migration to the new Engagifii database and event registration system, we are able to offer more registration flexibility and a greater variety of conference registration options. County clerks and/or “Registrars” for ACCG events will need to log into Engagifii to register for the annual conference.

BUNDLE	REGISTRATION TYPE	REGISTRATION FEE	DESCRIPTION
<b>ATTENDEE REGISTRATION BUNDLES</b> <i>(must choose ONE (1) for each Attendee)</i>			
1	FULL ATTENDEE with 2 classes	<b>\$975</b>	This package covers admission to all conference general sessions and breakout sessions; section meetings for clerks and managers/administrators; the County Buyers Mart Exhibit Hall; all banquet and entertainment events; and <b>two (2)</b> Lifelong Learning Academy (LLA) and/or County Clerks GCEI classes, one each on Thursday <b>and</b> Saturday.
2	FULL ATTENDEE with 1 class	<b>\$775</b>	Same benefits as BUNDLE #1, except only includes <b>one (1)</b> Lifelong Learning Academy (LLA) or County Clerks GCEI class on either Thursday <b>or</b> Saturday.
3	FULL ATTENDEE no classes	<b>\$665</b>	Same benefits as BUNDLE #1, except that attendees choosing this option will not be allowed to register for any Lifelong Learning Academy (LLA) or County Clerks GCEI classes.
4	FULL ATTENDEE: NON-COUNTY Government	<b>\$700</b>	This package is for individuals <b>NOT</b> affiliated with a county government, but who work for state government, quasi-governmental, or non-profit organizations related to government, and includes all conference events except LLA and GCEI educational classes. <b>*Please note: This registration option is NOT available for county officials.</b>

5	ATTENDEE - Friday ONLY	<b>\$325</b>	This package covers <b>FRIDAY ONLY</b> admission to all conference general sessions (including Keynote Speaker), breakout sessions, meals, breaks, Managers/Administrators Section Breakfast/Meeting, and the County Buyers Mart Exhibit Hall only on <b><u>Friday, April 25.</u></b>
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BUNDLE	REGISTRATION TYPE	REGISTRATION FEE	DESCRIPTION
6	ATTENDEE - COUNTY ATTORNEYS Section Lunch + Seminar	\$125	This package is only for attorneys who work with county government. The fee covers lunch, all course materials, and any fees charged by the Georgia Bar for granting CLE credits.
7	ATTENDEE – Friday <u>OR</u> Saturday Luncheon TICKET ONLY	\$55	This <b>TICKET-ONLY</b> option is only available to 2 groups of people: (1) County representatives receiving County Excellence Awards on Friday [beyond the 4 complimentary tickets that accompany each award]; or (2) Guests of members of the ACCG Board of Managers who are attending <b>ONLY</b> the Saturday Board Installation luncheon. <b>*If an individual is already registered as a FULL ATTENDEE or a FULL GUEST, there is no need to purchase this option - it is already included in FULL ATTENDEE registration packages (#1-#3) and the FULL GUEST registration ADD-ON.</b>
<b>GUEST REGISTRATION 'ADD-ON' BUNDLES (optional for each registered attendee)</b>			
ADD-ON (A)	GUEST - FULL REGISTRATION Package	\$375	This option is <b>NOT</b> available for purchase on its own. This is 1 of only 2 options for adding a Guest registration package to an ATTENDEE registration package. This FULL GUEST Registration includes all sessions, all banquet and entertainment events, including the Saturday Night MARDI GRAS, and admission to the County Buyers Mart Exhibit Hall.
ADD-ON (B)	GUEST - SATURDAY MARDI GRAS TICKET ONLY	\$160	This option is <b>NOT</b> available for purchase on its own. This is 1 of only 2 options for adding a Guest registration package to an ATTENDEE registration package. This SATURDAY MARDI GRAS TICKET ONLY is valid for admission to the Saturday Night MARDI GRAS. This option does <b>NOT</b> allow for admission to the County Buyers Mart Exhibit Hall.

## Hotel Information

**Registration for the 2025 Annual Conference will open THURSDAY, February 13th at 9:00 a.m.**

**Important Note:** County Clerks and/or “Registrars” do not need to wait for an email announcement, registration will automatically open at 9:00 a.m. in Engagifii.

**The deadline for hotel reservations is Wednesday, April 2, 2025.**

Housing reservations will be made through the Passkey reservation system as hosted by Visit Savannah! The system allows you to receive confirmation of hotel reservations almost immediately. Once you have registered through ACCG for the conference, you will receive a confirmation of registration that will include instructions for making hotel reservations.

**\*NEW RESERVATION POLICY for 2025 – Until March 3, 2025, at several of the historically more popular hotels in our ACCG block (those indicated with ‘ \* ‘, **below**), attendees will be prohibited from making reservations of fewer than three (3) nights. Only reservations for three (3) or four (4) consecutive nights will be permitted to be booked. After March 3, all remaining rooms and combinations of room nights at all hotels will become available for reservations of any duration.**

ACCG has negotiated discounted nightly room rates at eight (8) Savannah hotels for this conference, as below:

- AC Hotel Savannah Historic District/Riverfront - \$314 **NEW for 2025!**
- Doubletree Hotel Savannah Historic District - \$293
- Hilton Garden Inn Savannah Historic District - \$293
- Homewood Suites Riverfront Historic District - \$304
- Hotel Indigo Savannah Historic District - \$259
- **Hyatt Regency Savannah\*** - \$277
- **Marriott Savannah Riverfront\*** - \$284
- **The Westin Savannah Harbor\*** - \$300

Please check the **Visit Savannah!** website for information on the conference hotels – [www.visitsavannah.com](http://www.visitsavannah.com). Click on Accommodations, then on Browse by Location and click on Historic District. The site also has maps of Savannah and information on dining and tours.

## ACCG Lifelong Learning Academy (LLA) Class Options

ACCG, in partnership with the UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG), is pleased to offer the following Lifelong Learning Academy (LLA) classes:

### LLA Classes available on Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>:

- CORE: PROPERTY APPRAISAL & TAXATION *(Day 1 of 2)*
- CORE: COUNTY GOVERNMENT FINANCE
- CORE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- CORE: HUMAN RESOURCES
- Specialty: Getting Your Message Out [CE]
- Specialty: County Insurance and Risk Management [COM]
- Specialty: Understanding the Benefits of Land Use & Planning [ECD]
- Specialty: Constitutional Officers [IR]
- Specialty: The Art of Negotiation [IR]
- Specialty: Leadership in Local Government [LD]
- Specialty: Leadership Team Building: Creating “We’s” from “I’s” [LD]
- Specialty: Courts & the Justice System [PS]
- Specialty: Addressing Complex Community Issues [QL/SI]
- Specialty: Transportation Funding: Options & Strategies [RF]

### LLA Classes available on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>:

- CORE: PROPERTY APPRAISAL & TAXATION *(Day 2 of 2)*
- CORE: COUNTY GOVERNMENT LAW
- CORE: ETHICS
- CORE: PUBLIC SAFETY AND PUBLIC HEALTH
- Specialty: Strategic Planning [CE]
- Specialty: Management and Human Resources Responsibilities [COM]
- Specialty: Workforce Development [ECD]
- Specialty: Understanding Local Economic Development Assets [ECD]
- Specialty: Regional Cooperation [IR]
- Specialty: Voice of Leadership [LD]
- Specialty: Mental Health & the Criminal Justice System: Costs / Implications [PS]
- Specialty: Building Sustainable Communities [QL/SI]
- Specialty: The County Audit Process [RF]
- Specialty: Developing Financial Policies [RF]

## Georgia Certification for County Clerks

Classes that are part of the Georgia Certification Program for County Clerks will be offered during the 2025 ACCG Annual Conference. Clerks who are registering for the conference can choose one 6-hour class on Thursday or Saturday, or a 6-hour class on both days. **Registration for 1 or 2 classes will work the same way as the registration options for other county officials who choose to take 1 or 2 LLA classes.**

**Thursday, April 24** 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (includes lunch)

**Clerks: Council / Commission and Staff Relations** – 6 Hours (part of the ELECTIVE curriculum)

**Saturday, April 26** 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Clerks: Government 102** – 6 Hours (part of the REQUIRED curriculum)

Note: Also includes the Board Installation/Awards Luncheon

## Section Meetings \*

- The Section Meeting for **County Managers/Administrators** is scheduled for 7:30 – 8:30 a.m. on Friday, April 25. (includes a breakfast buffet).
- The Section Meeting for **County Clerks** is scheduled for 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Friday, April 25. Lunch will be available after the meeting in the Buyer's Mart.

\* The registration cost for these meetings is included with ALL full-time conference registration packages AND with the Friday ONLY registration package.

## County Attorneys' Section Seminar

The County Attorneys' Lunch & Section Seminar is set for Friday, April 25, in the Convention Center. Lunch will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the seminar to follow until 4:30 p.m.

**A separate registration fee of \$125.00 is required for the Lunch/Seminar.**

## Refund Policy

### ACCG Refund Policy

The conference cancellation deadline is **Wednesday, April 2, 2025\***. Cancellations received in writing by this date will be entitled to a full refund, minus a \$50 administrative fee. Cancellations received in writing **April 3 – April 11** will be entitled to a 50% refund of fees paid. There will be no refunds offered for cancellations received after **April 11, 2025**, unless the participant is able to substantiate a sound reason for the late notification, such as an emergency beyond the participant's control, in which case ACCG must be notified of the emergency within 7 days of the last day of the conference.

## 2025 Conference Highlights

### **Not If, But When: Disaster Preparedness and Recovery General Session**

**Friday, April 25**

**2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

When it comes to natural disasters, county officials must think when, not if, an event will happen in their community. Don't miss this important general session that will feature reflections on Hurricane Helene which struck Georgia in September 2024, causing widespread damage across 41 counties and prompting a Major Disaster Declaration. Helene was one of the most devastating hurricanes to hit the mainland United States in decades, not only severely impacting countless Georgians but also the state's major industries like agriculture and forestry, resulting in over \$5 billion in economic losses. As state, local, and community officials continue to work toward recovery, it's crucial to reflect on the lessons learned.

### **Conference Outing at Starland Yard Food Truck Park**

**Friday, April 25**

**5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.**

Join us as we explore Starland Yard, Chatham County's first award-winning food truck container park. The project stands as a testament to economic development, turning a vacant lot into a vibrant community hub. Located in the historic Starland District, Starland Yard features more than 20 upcycled shipping containers and includes rotating food trucks, a Neapolitan pizzeria, and more. Additional information is forthcoming.

### **Inspirational Brunch on the Terrace Rooftop**

**Sunday, April 27**

**9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

Attendees are invited to conclude the conference at the Inspirational Brunch on the brand-new rooftop terrace at the Savannah Convention Center, offering stunning views of Chatham County. The first 50 attendees will receive a special conference memento.

## Pre-Conference Mail-out of Registration Materials

Prior to the 2025 Annual Conference, ACCG will mail/ship a box to each county that has registered conference participants. The box will contain the conference gift, as well as several other items (final conference agenda, transportation schedule, etc.) that will need to be distributed in the home county to each registered participant before those individuals come to the conference.

These boxes are tentatively scheduled to be mailed/shipped the week of April 7, 2025, so county offices should be looking for the box to arrive the week of April 14. Please be sure to contact your registered attendees as soon as you receive your box, so they can visit the county office to pick up their conference materials. ACCG will email county clerks once the materials have been shipped.

**Name tags, lanyards and conference programs will need to be picked up onsite at the ACCG Annual Conference Registration Desk at the Savannah Convention Center.**



## (TENTATIVE) CONFERENCE AGENDA

### Thursday, April 24

7:00 a.m.

**ACCG Registration & Check-In**

7:15 – 8:15 a.m.

**Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

**Lifelong Learning Academy (LLA) Classes  
and Clerks GCEI Class**

9:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Exhibitor Registration**

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**Lifelong Learning Academy Awards  
Luncheon**

- Leadership Development Advocate of the Year / LLA Awards / County Excellence Awards

3:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

**Buyer's Mart & GACAA Farmhouse  
Welcome Reception**

4:00 p.m.

**Board of Managers Meeting**

6:00 p.m.

**Board of Managers Reception & Dinner**

6:00 p.m.

**Dinner & Evening on Your Own**

### Friday, April 25

7:00 a.m.

**Conference Registration/Information**

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

**County Managers/Administrators  
Breakfast & Section Meeting**

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

**Breakfast for All Other Attendees**

### Friday, April 25 – cont'd.

9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

**Conference Welcome/Opening Session &  
Keynote Speaker**

9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

**ACCG Board of Managers Spouse Brunch**

10:20 – 11:00 a.m.

**ACCG Business Meeting (all attendees)  
Update from Matt Chase, NACo CEO/  
Executive Director**

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Legislative Update**

11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

**Lunch for Exhibitors**

11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**County Clerks Section Meeting**

11:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

**County Attorneys Lunch & Section Seminar**

11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

**Photographs for LLA Certificate Recipients**

11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**County Buyers Mart / GACAA Farmhouse &  
Lunch**

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Disaster Preparedness and Recovery  
General Session**

4:15 p.m.

**ACCG-IRMA Board Meeting**

5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

**Conference Outing: Starland Yard Food  
Truck Park / Evening on Your Own**

**TENTATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA –  
cont'd.**

**Saturday, April 26**

7:00 a.m.

**Registration/Information**

7:15 – 8:15 a.m.

**Breakfast**

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Lifelong Learning Academy (LLA) Classes  
and  
Clerks GCEI Class**

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

**ACCG Board Installation Luncheon**

- Emory Greene and Jerry Griffin Awards
- County Clerk of the Year
- Youth Leadership Award
- Cornerstone Award

1:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Photographs for Award Recipients**

6:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

**Saturday Night Mardi Gras Event**

**Sunday, April 27**

9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

**Inspirational Brunch on the Terrace  
Rooftop**

11:00 a.m.

**Conference Adjourns!**