

2026 ACCG Legislative Service Awards

May 19, 2026

Representative Chas Cannon

Rep. Chas Cannon demonstrated his commitment to Georgia counties throughout the 2026 legislative session by championing key ACCG priorities while remaining responsive to county concerns. He sponsored HB 244, extending county audit deadlines, and HB 964, providing tax exemptions for volunteer fire departments—both ACCG 2026 Legislative Priorities. Rep. Cannon also worked collaboratively with ACCG to address concerns with HB 1176, which would have reduced county sales tax revenues from natural gas sales to electrical utilities. Additionally, he shared county concerns about HB 868 and played an important role in amending SB 295 to remove broad sovereign-immunity waiver provisions that would have significantly affected local governments. His willingness to engage on complex permitting legislation and seek practical solutions with county administration in mind reflects his thoughtful leadership in impactful legislation.

Senator Larry Walker, President Pro Tem

President Pro Tempore Larry Walker demonstrated exceptional leadership during the 2026 session by working closely with ACCG and county officials to better understand the local implications of major tax policy changes. His leadership in advancing SB 33, as amended, helped ensure a more workable statewide approach to property tax reform while balancing taxpayer relief with local government sustainability. He also carried HB 1344, allowing new insurance premium tax reporting requirements to be met using existing county reports. Throughout the session, President Pro Tem Walker and his office remained engaged with ACCG staff on a variety of issues affecting counties, consistently demonstrating a collaborative approach to policymaking.

Representative Bruce Williamson

Rep. Bruce Williamson led one of ACCG's top legislative priorities in 2026 by championing long-needed reforms to the Notice of Assessment and property tax administration process. As sponsor of HB 275 and the House carrier of SB 566, Rep. Williamson helped modernize the property tax notice and tax bill format, making them clearer and more understandable for Georgia taxpayers. His leadership on this complex policy issue reflects a strong commitment to improved transparency for both taxpayers and local governments.

Representative Mitchell Scoggins

Rep. Mitchell Scoggins has been a tireless advocate at the Capitol for addressing the inequity in Georgia's franchise fee structure. As the sponsor of HB 1384, he took direct action to remedy the disparity counties have long faced with cities, which can collect the fee. He also persistently educated fellow House members on this inequity. His commitment to leveling the playing field for counties across the state has made him an invaluable partner.

Senator Kim Jackson

Sen. Kim Jackson consistently demonstrated her commitment to Georgia's counties through her thoughtful engagement on consequential legislation and her openness to local government perspectives. In her role on the Senate Ethics Committee, Sen. Jackson played an important role in election policy deliberations, including SB 568 and HB 960, both of which carried significant implications for county election costs and administration. Throughout the legislative process, she consistently worked to better understand how proposed policies would impact local governments and the communities they serve. Her collaborative approach and steadfast commitment to effective public service make her a valued advocate for Georgia's counties.

Representative David Wilkerson

Rep. David Wilkerson served as a trusted partner to Georgia counties during the 2026 legislative session, particularly on matters of fiscal policy and property tax reform. As the lead evaluator for the House Democratic Caucus on HB 1116, the House's major property tax reform legislation, Representative Wilkerson thoughtfully considered ACCG's input. He actively shared those concerns with caucus members and raised them during both committee deliberations and House floor debate. A longtime collaborator with ACCG on complex fiscal issues, Rep. Wilkerson continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to sound public policy.

Senator Shawn Still

Sen. Shawn Still provided instrumental leadership on one of ACCG's top legislative priorities during the 2026 session by sponsoring SB 462. This legislation addressed a longstanding challenge for county EMS providers by requiring insurance companies to reimburse out-of-network ambulance services, helping protect counties from absorbing uncompensated emergency response costs. Sen. Still worked closely with county officials throughout the legislative process, even inviting M.L. 'Bud' Owens, Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committee of ACCG's Policy Council, to speak in support of the bill alongside him. His collaborative leadership helped move the measure successfully through the General Assembly, culminating in its signing into law.

Representative Lynn Smith

Rep. Lynn Smith's three decades of service in the Georgia House have left a lasting mark on environmental policy and local government in Georgia. As Chair of the House Natural Resources Committee since 2004, she has played a critical role in shaping major environmental initiatives, including the State Water Plan, the Water Stewardship Act, and other impactful policies affecting counties statewide. During the 2026 legislative session, she sponsored HR 1008, a significant update to the State Water Plan supported by ACCG and was pivotal in amending SB 447 to address county concerns regarding land disturbance permitting preemption. Rep. Smith's steady leadership, policy expertise, and longstanding partnership with Georgia counties will be deeply missed as she concludes her distinguished legislative career.

Senator Chuck Hufstetler

As Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, Sen. Chuck Hufstetler demonstrated exceptional leadership during the 2026 legislative session, focusing on key issues for Georgia counties and

taxpayers: property tax administration and reform. ACCG particularly appreciates his efforts in sponsoring Senate Bill 566, an ACCG Policy Priority, that enhances the clarity and usability of the Notice of Assessment. His advocacy in passing this bill helps modernize the property tax notice process, making essential information clearer and more accessible for taxpayers, while also streamlining operations for county governments. His leadership shows a strong dedication to creating effective tax policy and practical solutions that bolster local government efficiency.