

ACCG Policy Council's Proposed 2026 Policy Priorities

Economic Development and Transportation Committee

1. Long-Term Transportation Funding Mechanisms

Transportation costs for local governments have increased greatly in recent years, as has the demand for transportation projects. While ACCG is grateful to the General Assembly for LMIG funds and for the additional LRA (Local Road Assistance) dollars, the Association recognizes the additional need and is supportive of adding other, long-term sources for transportation funding.

2. Electric Franchise Fees

Counties are unable to charge electric franchise fees, unlike municipalities. This is true even in instances where the customer is located in the unincorporated area of the county. With several large load customers coming online, ACCG asks for the General Assembly to improve parity by allowing the county to receive a portion of this franchise fee for users in the unincorporated area.

General County Government Committee

3. Waiver of Sovereign Immunity

County Governments make many decisions that have an impact on a wide array of citizens and entities. Sovereign immunity protects the public purse (taxpayer dollars) against an onslaught of litigation that may come from impacted parties. In recent years, the General Assembly has introduced numerous bills inviting litigation for policy actions at the local level, that the legislature does not agree with, seeking to waive a counties' sovereign immunity as a deterrent from taking such actions. Such legislation would invite plaintiffs' attorneys to file lawsuits against counties claiming the waiver of immunity applies, even where the lawsuit claims have no relationship to the local policy decisions that the General Assembly is trying to deter. ACCG opposes legislative attempts to waive county sovereign immunity.

4. Special Election Cost Reimbursement

Under current law, counties must bear the cost of special elections. As a result, affected counties must allocate funds away from essential, state-required public services to pay for these elections over which they have no control. ACCG supports legislation requiring the state to reimburse counties for all expenses incurred in the preparation for and conduct of special elections to fill a vacancy in any statewide office, the Georgia General Assembly, the offices of U.S. Senator or Representative, or to approve a statewide referendum.

In continued efforts to lower the cost burden of elections on counties, ACCG also supports amending the election Code to allow a plurality (or 45%) of the vote to win primary and general elections. Since 1964, Georgia has required candidates to earn a majority of votes in their party's primary to win elected office. Georgia is one of only a handful of states still maintaining such a rule.

Health and Human Services Committee

5. Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

The EMS community provides the first hands-on response to Georgians in need, whether provided by a fire or EMS department, a hospital-based service, or private providers who are the EMS zone holder. In some locations a hospital-based service or private provider may provide EMS service under contract with the EMS zone holder. Counties must invest in this service and its personnel in order to provide the highest quality of care. ACCG urges the General Assembly to:

- Support legislation that mandates insurance companies pay for current “out of network” ambulance services

6. Increase Medicaid Reimbursement Codes for EMS by 10%

This adjustment will help offset the growing costs of providing emergency medical services, particularly in rural and underserved areas where resources are limited. By increasing reimbursement, EMS providers will be better equipped to sustain operations, retain qualified personnel, and ensure timely, high-quality care for patients in critical situations.

Public Safety and the Courts Committee

7. Restrictions on the Use of Speed Detection Cameras in School Zones

ACCG opposes any legislation that seeks to eliminate the ability for local governments to use speed detection cameras and/or speed detection technology in school zones. ACCG also opposes any legislation that seeks to restrict/eliminate the use of speed detection cameras or technology by penalizing local governments through the removal of state funding for any local government violation of state laws regarding the use of speed detection cameras or technology (i.e. inaccurate speeding ticket, unlawful additional fees, etc.) Lastly, ACCG opposes any legislation that appropriates revenue directly to schools, school systems, or school boards of a respective county or municipality.

8. Implementation of Next Generation 911 System

A well-functioning 911 system is a critical piece of helping to ensure the public safety of all of Georgia's citizens. According to Georgia Emergency Communication Authority, 911 was originally developed to enable voice calls from traditional landline telephone networks, which were tied to specific address points. They believe that since more than 85% of all 911 calls originate from wireless devices, there is a need to update the 911 network to an IP-based network. The system change is referred to as Next Generation 911. ACCG supports the following:

- ACCG supports the Governor and General Assembly appropriating additional funds to build the infrastructure for a statewide Next-Generation 911 system following the passage of House Bill 423 during the 2025 Session.

- ACCG supports increasing the 911 fee on phone bills to support counties upgrading their infrastructure to be able to utilize the Next-Gen system to enhance lifesaving services to those citizens using the 911 system.
- ACCG will continue to collaborate and support Georgia Emergency Communications Authority's initiatives and appropriations for the implementation of Next Generation 9-1-1

9. Tax Exemptions for Fire Services

- ACCG supports a sales tax exemption for equipment and supplies purchased and utilized by local volunteer fire departments as well as nonprofit organizations and foundations that provide fire services
- ACCG supports a title ad valorem tax exemption for vehicles purchased and utilized by local volunteer fire departments as well as nonprofit organizations and foundations that provide fire services
- ACCG encourages the General Assembly to authorize alternative revenue to the property tax to fund fire services such as fire assessments based upon square footage and type of dwelling

Revenue and Finance Committee

10. Estimated Rollback Rate

The estimated rollback rate was created under HB 581 (2024) and revised under HB 92 (2025). 2025 was the first year of its implementation, and confusion remains.

- **Mixed Notices** – Some jurisdictions provided an estimated rollback rate while others did not. This has resulted in three different forms being created by the Department of Revenue: one with only estimated rollback rates, one with no estimated rollback rates, and one with some of each. ACCG supports improving clarification on the annual notice of assessment (NOA).
- **M&O Only** – The estimated rollback rate applies to the maintenance and operations (M&O) millage levy only, and not to special service district or other levy types. The result is that other levy types are either not represented, or are underrepresented on the NOA. ACCG supports additional clarification to reduce this confusion.

11. Annual Audit Compliance

Local governments are required to complete and submit an annual audit to the Department of Audits and Accounts to maintain qualified local government status and eligibility to receive state grants. Dozens of counties have been out of compliance in recent years, largely due to factors outside of the county's control. Examples include noncompliance from constitutional officers, auditor backlog, and auditor turnover. ACCG asks the General Assembly to allow counties an extension on maintaining their qualified local government status if the delay is due to a constitutional officer.