



GMA Officers



President
Bianca Motley Broom
Mayor, College Park



First Vice President
Andrea Gibby
Mayor, Young Harris



Second Vice President
Jimmy Burnette
Mayor, Suwanee



Third Vice President
Garnett Johnson
Mayor, Augusta



Immediate Past President
Fred Perriman
Mayor, Madison



GMA CEO and
Executive Director
Larry Hanson



General Information



Registration & Welcome Center Hours

Thursday, January 22

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Friday, January 23

7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday, January 24

7:00 am – 4:00 pm

Sunday, January 25

7:00 am – 5:00 pm

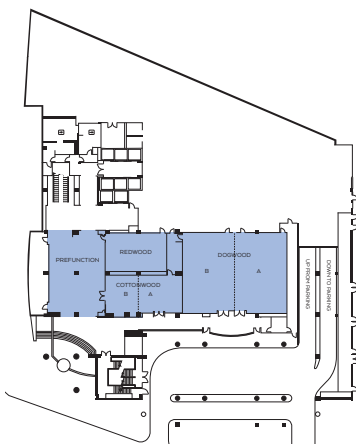
Monday, January 26

6:30 am – 9:30 am

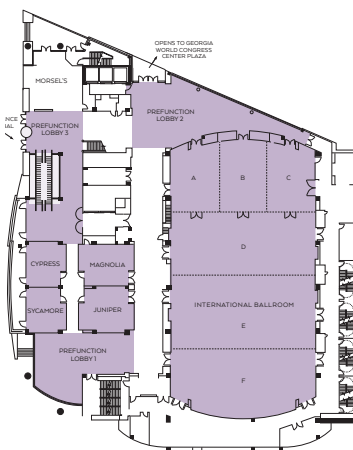
Hotel Floor Plan



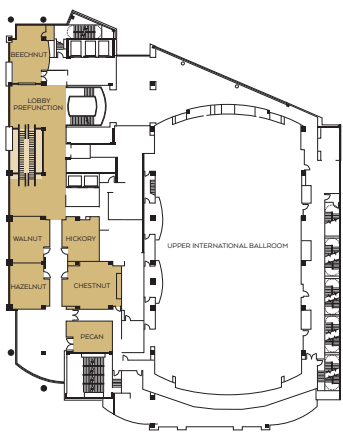
NORTH TOWER | M1



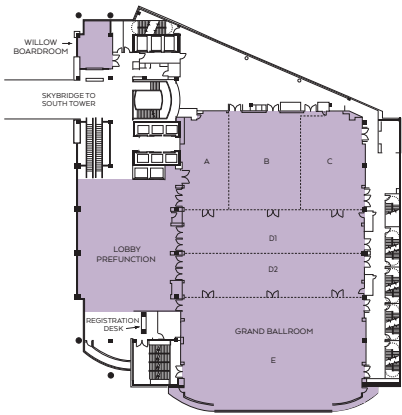
NORTH TOWER | M2



NORTH TOWER | M3



NORTH TOWER | M4



Schedule of Events



THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Badge Printing

M4, North Tower

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2026

7:00 am - 5:00 pm

Registration/Welcome Center

M4, North Tower

7:30 am - 8:15 am

Training Breakfast for 6-hour classes & 3-hour morning classes

M4, North Tower

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute

Training class descriptions can be found on the GACities app, GMA website and the 2026 training brochure.

- **Addressing Homelessness (New)**
Dogwood B, M1, North Tower
- **Current Issues: Health in All Policies - Impactful Local Decision-Making to Ensure Healthier Communities**
International Ballroom B, M2, North Tower
- **Downtown Development Authority Basic Training (ends at 4:30 PM)**
International E, M2, North Tower
- **How Shall We Live? Practical Ethics for Public Life*+**
Magnolia, M2, North Tower
- **Municipal Finance I***
International D, M2, North Tower

8:30 am - 11:30 am

Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute

Training class descriptions can be found on the GACities app, GMA website and the 2026 training brochure.

- **Let's Get Social (Social Media Basics for Today)**
Redwood, M1, North Tower
- **Open Records***
Cottonwood, M1, North Tower
- **Public Policy Development and Implementation***
Juniper, M2, North Tower
- **Recreation and Parks - Building Communities**
International Ballroom A, M2, North Tower
- **Succession Planning: Preparing for Tomorrow's Workforce Today**
Dogwood A, M1, North Tower

8:30 am - 11:30 am

CLERKS CLASS: Onboarding Committee and Board Members (CEU Credit)**

International C, M2, North Tower

11:00 am (staggered – until 1:00 pm)

Training Luncheon

(This luncheon is only for officials registered for a training class on Friday – 3-hour and 6-hour classes. Assigned times will be announced in each 6-hour class.)

Grand Ballroom, M4, North Tower

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute

Training class descriptions can be found on the GACities app, GMA website and the 2026 training brochure.

- **Economics of Education**
Redwood, M1, North Tower

- **Municipal Annexation: Growing Pains and Growth Spurts**

Cottonwood, M1, North Tower

- **Practices for Successful Meetings***

International Ballroom A, M1, North Tower

- **Public Works Services***

Dogwood A, M1, North Tower

- **Trends in Urban Design for Local Leaders**

Juniper, M2, North Tower

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

CLERKS CLASS: ADA Regulations and Steps for Meeting Website Compliance (CEU Credit)**

International C, M2, North Tower

** Required for the Municipal Training Institute Certificate Program.*

*** Clerks Courses; not part of the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Certificate Program*

+ Part of the Training Institute's Advanced Leadership Track and required to earn the Certificate of Dedication.

4:15 pm - 5:45 pm

Municipal Training Board Meeting

Oak, M3, North Tower

Chair: Linda J. Davis, Councilmember, Fairburn

The Municipal Training Board will discuss matters related to the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute and receive updates from GMA and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government.

Staff Contact: Aileen Harris, Deputy Director, Training



4:15 pm - 5:15 pm

Federal Policy Council Meeting

International Ballroom F, M2, North Tower

Chair: Jimmy Burnette, Mayor, Suwanee – GMA Second Vice President

The Federal Policy Council, which oversees GMA's federal advocacy strategies and priorities, will receive a current federal affairs update from GMA staff and will be briefed by members or staff from Georgia's congressional delegation regarding ongoing budget reconciliation matters affecting Georgia's cities.

Speakers will include GMA staff and federal partners.

(See the GACities app for more information on specific speakers.)

Staff Contact: Molly McLoughlin, Manager, Federal Relations

4:15 pm - 5:15 pm

Orientation for First-Time Attendees

International Ballroom D, M2, North Tower

Special thanks to Consolidated Pipe, Gas Authority, Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, MEAG Power, PATH Company and Ruffneck for sponsoring this event.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24, 2026

7:00 am - 4:00 pm

Registration/Welcome Center

M4, North Tower

7:30 am - 8:15 am

Training Breakfast for 6-hour classes

M4, North Tower

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute

Training class descriptions can be found on the GACities app, GMA website, and the 2026 training brochure.

- **Building a Hometown Connection: GMA Lobbying 101**
Sycamore, M3, North Tower
- **Building Community Capacity Through Tourism**
Magnolia, M2, North Tower
- **Conflict Resolution***
International Ballroom D, M2, North Tower
- **Creating a Downtown Renaissance: Advanced DDA Training**
Hickory, M3, North Tower
- **Current Issues: Workforce Development**
Walnut, M3, North Tower
- **Economic Development***
Dogwood A, M1, North Tower
- **Evolving with Technology: Key Insights (New)**
International Ballroom B, M2, North Tower
- **Harmony in Leadership: Nurturing Kindness, Civility, and Transformational Influence***
Dogwood B, M1, North Tower
- **Making Citizen Engagement Work in Our Communities***
International Ballroom E, M2, North Tower



- **Money, Money, Money... Money! Funding City Projects and Programs Through Grants and Loans**
Juniper, M2, North Tower
- **Municipal Long-Term Budgeting**
International Ballroom A, M2, North Tower
- **Planning and Zoning***
Redwood, M1, North Tower
- **Revitalizing Neighborhoods – Tools for Local Officials**
Cottonwood, M1, North Tower
- **Service Delivery Strategy - Efficiency & Tax Equity for Local Governments**
Oak, M3, North Tower

8:30 am – 3:30 pm

CLERKS CLASS: Athenian Dialogue: Be Mentally Strong During Tough Times: A Motivational Guide on How to Reduce Stress, Gain Self-Confidence and Thrive Written by: Michael Drew (CEU Credit)**

International Ballroom C, M2, North Tower

** Required for the Municipal Training Institute Certificate Program.*

*** Clerks Courses; not part of the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Certificate Program*

11:00 am (staggered – until 1:00 pm)

Training Luncheon

(This luncheon is limited to officials registered for a Saturday training class. Assigned times will be announced in each class.)

Grand Ballroom, M4, North Tower

3:45 pm - 5:30 pm

GMA Board of Directors Meeting

International Ballroom F, M2, North Tower

Presiding: Bianca Motley Broom, Mayor,
College Park – GMA President

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026

7:00 am - 5:00 pm

Registration/Welcome Center

M4, North Tower

7:30 am - 8:00 am

Worship Service

Juniper, M2, North Tower

8:15 am - 8:45 am

Legislative Policy Council Meeting

International Ballroom F, M2, North Tower

Chair: Andrea Gibby, Mayor, Young Harris - GMA First Vice President

The Legislative Policy Council, which manages GMA's policy and advocacy at the state level, will convene to preview the day's Policy Meetings and receive a legislative update from GMA staff. Speakers will be GMA staff providing an overview of GMA's state-level advocacy strategies for the 2026 legislative session.

Staff Contact: Noah Roenitz, Manager, State Relations

Policy Meetings

The purpose of policy meetings, to be held at 9:00 am, 10:15 am and 2:00 pm, is to discuss legislative issues of interest to cities being considered during the 2026 legislative session. Attendees will hear from state officials and review legislative priorities as they impact policy items that may affect cities.

All registrants are invited to attend these Policy Meetings.

9:00 am - 10:00 am

Community Development Policy Meeting

International Ballroom D, M2, North Tower

Chair: Carlos Duffey, Mayor, Jackson

As Georgia continues to experience population growth, the General Assembly is focused on housing policy, including supply, affordability, and regulation. This policy meeting will examine key legislative proposals shaping housing development, infrastructure funding,



and land use policy, and how those changes may affect cities' ability to plan, finance, and deliver essential services. City officials will gain insight into the policies under consideration at the Capitol and the potential implications for growth management and housing affordability.

Speakers will include members of the Georgia General Assembly and state leadership.

(See the GACities app for more information on specific speakers.)

Staff Contact: Noah Roenitz, Manager, State Relations

Municipal Government Policy Meeting

International Ballroom E, M2, North Tower

Chair: Cleatus Phillips, City Manager, Newnan

Cities across Georgia are navigating an evolving landscape of local authority, state oversight, and municipal decision-making across many issues. As growth pressures and policy complexity increase, cities are balancing the need for flexibility with shifting state expectations and new legislative proposals. This session will examine how local authority supports effective governance, how statewide legislation affects municipal operations, and where stronger state–local collaboration is possible.

Speakers will include members of the Georgia General Assembly and state leadership.

(See the GACities app for more information on specific speakers.)

Staff Contact: DJ Waller, Senior Governmental Relations Associate

All registrants are invited to attend these Policy Meetings.

10:15 am - 11:15 am

Environment and Natural Resources Policy Meeting

International Ballroom D, M2, North Tower

Chair: Michael-Angelo James, Mayor, Waycross

Water remains one of the most pressing issues under the Gold Dome as Georgia continues to experience rapid industrial and population growth.

Increased development has intensified demand on the state's water resources and raised new questions for policymakers. This session will explore the current state of water policy in Georgia, emerging trends shaping future supply and demand, and the implications of recent federal water rulings for cities.

Speakers will include members of the Georgia General Assembly and congressional staff.

(See the GACities app for more information on specific speakers.)

Staff Contact: Katrina Cochran, Governmental Outreach Specialist

Revenue & Finance Policy Meeting

International Ballroom E, M2, North Tower

Chair: Kurt Ward, Mayor, Braselton

Property taxes are a central—and often contentious—feature of Georgia's fiscal landscape. As lawmakers weigh affordability concerns against the need to fund essential services, a range of proposed changes to property tax law have emerged that could significantly alter current systems. This session will examine legislative proposals under consideration and their potential to reshape the state-local fiscal relationship and municipal revenues.

Speakers will include members of the Georgia General Assembly.

(See the GACities app for more information on specific speakers.)

Staff Contact: Leona Rittenhouse, Governmental Relations Associate

11:30 am - 1:30 pm

Awards Luncheon

Grand Ballroom, M4, North Tower



Presiding

- Bianca Motley Broom, Mayor,
College Park – GMA President

Pledge of Allegiance

National Anthem

- Kelli Ramsey

Invocation

- Jason Holt, Mayor, Fitzgerald

Lunch

Recognition of Hometown Connection Cities

- Andrea Gibby, Mayor, Young Harris – GMA First Vice President; Chair, Legislative Policy Council

Georgia Economic Placemaking Collaborative Recognitions

- Pam Sessions, President, Georgia Cities Foundation

Announcement of 2026 Young Gamechangers

- Sadie Krawczyk, Managing Director, GeorgiaForward

Excellence in Policing Recognition

- Larry Hanson, CEO and Executive Director, GMA

Recognition of Cities of Ethics and Civility

- Jimmy Burnette, Mayor, Suwanee – GMA Second Vice President

Municipal Training Institute Certificate Presentation

- Linda J. Davis, Councilmember, Fairburn – Chair, Municipal Training Board
- Rob Gordon, Director, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia
- Aileen Harris, Deputy Director, Training, GMA
- Hardin Watkins, Public Service Assistant, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia

Visionary City Awards Presentation

- Larry Hanson, CEO and Executive Director, GMA
- Ben Young, Editor in Chief and Publisher, Georgia Trend

2026 Georgia Cities Week Preview

- Garnett Johnson, Mayor, Augusta – GMA Third Vice President

Special thanks to Aetna, Consolidated Pipe, Fisher Phillips, Gas Authority, Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, Georgia Power, MEAG Power, PATH Company, Polimorphic, PTMA Financial Solutions, Ruffneck and The Coca-Cola Company for sponsoring this event.

All registrants are invited to attend these Policy Meetings.

2:00 pm - 3:00 pm

Public Safety Policy Meeting

International Ballroom E, M2, North Tower

Chair: Rochelle Robinson, Mayor, Douglasville

Next Generation 911 (NG911) is transforming emergency response by modernizing how cities connect residents to lifesaving services and addressing the limitations of legacy systems. The transition requires significant investment, planning, and coordination across city, county, and state partners. This session will highlight Georgia's progress toward NG911 implementation, remaining challenges, and what the transition means for cities moving forward.

Speakers will include members of the Georgia General Assembly and state agency leadership.

(See the GACities app for more information on specific speakers.)

Staff Contact: DJ Waller, Senior Governmental Relations Associate

All registrants are invited to attend these Policy Meetings.

Transportation Policy Meeting

International Ballroom D, M2, North Tower

Chair: Rusty Paul, Mayor, Sandy Springs

Transportation funding remains a longstanding issue in



Georgia as population growth, freight movement, and aging infrastructure continue to strain existing revenue sources. This session will focus on legislative proposals shaping how transportation projects are funded and prioritized, including motor fuel taxes, local option sales taxes, and state allocations. City officials will gain insight into how state-level decisions could affect local transportation planning, project delivery, and long-term mobility.

Speakers will include members of the Georgia General Assembly and state agency leadership.

(See the GACities app for more information on specific speakers.)

Staff Contact: Noah Roenitz, Manager, State Relations

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Governor and Lt. Governor Candidate Forum

Grand Ballroom, M4, North Tower

Georgia's leading candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor will share their visions for the state's future. City officials will have the opportunity to hear directly from the candidates on how their policy priorities affect municipalities, including infrastructure, economic development, public safety, and state-local relations.

Confirmed candidates will be listed in the GACities app.

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm

Networking Reception

Grand Ballroom, M4, North Tower

Special thanks to Aetna, Ameresco, Atlas, Consolidated Pipe, ESG Operations, Fisher Phillips, Gas Authority, Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, Georgia Power, Goodwyn Mills Cawood, MEAG Power, PATH Company, Polimorphic, PTMA Financial Solutions, Ruffneck, Schneider Electric, The Coca-Cola Company, Thomas & Hutton and Turnipseed Engineers, Inc. for sponsoring this event.

MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 2026

6:30 am - 9:30 am

Registration/Welcome Center

M4, North Tower

7:00 am - 9:00 am

Legislative Networking and Capitol Connection Breakfast Program

Grand Ballroom, M4, North Tower

7:45 am

Opening Remarks

- Bianca Motley Broom, Mayor, College Park – GMA President

Invocation

- Michael-Angelo James, Mayor, Waycross

Recognitions and Introduction

- Larry Hanson, CEO and Executive Director, GMA

Welcome

- Andre Dickens, Mayor, Atlanta

Remarks

- Honorable Brian Kemp, Governor (by video)
- Honorable Burt Jones, Lieutenant Governor
- Honorable Jon Burns, Speaker of the House

Georgia Reads Update

- Malcolm Mitchell, Executive Director, Share the Magic Foundation and Georgia Reads Coach

Presentation of State Government Service Award

- Larry Hanson, CEO and Executive Director, GMA

Introduction of GMA's Advocacy Team and Preview of Cities United Day at the Capitol

- Jim Thornton, Deputy Executive Director, GMA

Specials thanks to Aetna, Fisher Phillips, Georgia Power, Polimorphic, PTMA Financial Solutions and The Coca-Cola Company for sponsoring this event.



9:30 am – 12:00 pm

Cities United Day at the Capitol

With the Georgia General Assembly underway, it is important for legislators to see that city officials are speaking with one voice through the Georgia Municipal Association. Following the Capitol Connection Breakfast, city officials are encouraged to visit with their senators and representatives at the State Capitol. An announcement at the close of the breakfast will direct city officials to assemble inside the Capitol for a group photo at 10:30 am on the North Steps. Guidance on contacting legislators will also be provided, and GMA staff will be on hand to help direct city officials throughout the Capitol.

Buses will be available to shuttle city officials between the Omni Atlanta and the State Capitol, beginning at the conclusion of the breakfast program until 1:00 pm.



FAQs and Attendee Information



First Time Attendee

Q. This will be my first time attending the Cities United Summit. What should I do to get the most out of the event?

A. You are encouraged to attend the Orientation for First-Time Attendees on Friday, January 23 at 4:15 pm. At this event, attendees will receive an overview of the Cities United Summit and be paired up with experienced city officials who will offer suggestions on how to make the most of programming and networking opportunities, as well as share information about GMA programs and resources and how to engage in Association activities.

QR Code on Badge

Q. What is the QR code used for on my badge?

A. The QR code on your badge is used for internal scanning to record attendance at Municipal Training Institute classes and Cities United Summit sessions.

Transportation

Buses will be available to shuttle city officials between the Omni Atlanta and the State Capitol for Cities United Day at the Capitol, beginning at the conclusion of the breakfast program until 1:00 pm.

Parking at the Omni Atlanta Hotel at Centennial Park

Parking is valet-only in the North and South Towers for \$42.00 per day. The discounted rate is only applicable to those staying at the Omni.

GACities App

GMA's app is FREE and available in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. Search "GACities" and download the app for an up-to-the-minute schedule, session descriptions, push notification reminders, listings of sponsors and more.

Lost and Found

Items can be turned in to the GMA registration desk. Please check the desk if you need assistance.



SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 26-30

SAVANNAH

2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION





PTMA

FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS

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Helping Communities Thrive.

**WE DESIGN AND DELIVER FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS
THAT HELP COMMUNITIES ACROSS GEORGIA
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- ▶ INVESTMENT ADVISORY SOLUTIONS
- ▶ BOND PROCEEDS MANAGEMENT
- ▶ CASHFLOW ANALYSIS
- ▶ MUNICIPAL ADVISORY SERVICES



Jorge Jonas

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(404) 905-5456

For important disclosure information, visit www.ptma.com/disclosures.

Save The Date!

**MAY 13-15, 2026
IN GAINESVILLE, GA**



**Small Cities
CONFERENCE**
BUILDING STRONGER COMMUNITIES



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Your Visit to the Capitol



TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

Be concise. Remember, legislators are inundated with phone calls and emails from constituents and lobbyists. Your message, whether communicated orally or in writing, should be brief and to the point.

Be specific. If talking about legislation, provide the bill number, author of the bill, and a summary of what the bill is about when you contact your legislator. In addition, let them know how the legislation will impact your city. If there is no legislation yet, be specific about the issue and how it affects your city.

Don't expect your legislator to be an expert on every bill. Each session, more than 1,000 bills and resolutions are introduced. If your legislator is not familiar with the bill you are referring to, don't be surprised or offended. It may be the first time they've heard about it.

Stay in touch. Exchange contact information and talk about how your legislator would like to hear from you during the session. Reach out periodically to thank them for their service and follow up on any specific bills or issues.

Don't burn your bridges. It's natural to be disappointed if your legislator doesn't vote the way you ask them to, but don't let one vote destroy your relationship. Remember, you're going to need their support on many other issues.

Communicate feedback or insights gleaned from legislators back to GMA lobbyists.

MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES:

Things to Discuss with Your Legislators

Municipal Revenues

Share with legislators that property taxes remain a core revenue source for cities, supporting essential services such as police, fire, infrastructure maintenance, and basic operations. Emphasize that proposals to freeze property assessments would significantly erode local tax digests over time, limiting cities' ability to provide services and respond to growth. Reinforce that local referendums on homestead property tax relief should remain a local option, allowing voters and city officials to determine what best fits their community. Remind legislators of the critical role local sales taxes, such as LOST, SPLOST, TSPLOST, and FLOST, play in funding both daily operations and major capital projects. Emphasize that additional hurdles or delays in renewing local taxes can disrupt long-planned infrastructure investments and increase costs. Share examples of rising service and construction costs and note that sales tax revenue helps offset property tax burdens for residents.

Housing

Share your city's need for additional housing options across price points and housing types. Reinforce that city officials are closest to their communities and best positioned to balance growth, infrastructure capacity, neighborhood character, and resident priorities. Ask legislators to support policies that preserve local decision making so cities can plan for and meet their future housing needs responsibly.

Low-Interest Financing

Emphasize the importance of access to lower interest financing tools that help cities deliver essential infrastructure. Note how stable financing options allow cities to plan long-term, manage debt responsibly, and stretch limited local dollars further.

Investment Pools

Highlight the value of local government investment pools as a safe and efficient way for cities to manage public funds and earn modest returns. Stress the importance of preserving flexibility for cities to participate in these pools without unnecessary restrictions, ensuring responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars and stable cash management practices.

Workforce Development

Share with legislators the growing challenges cities face in recruiting and retaining skilled workers, particularly in public safety, public works, utilities, and technical fields. Emphasize that a strong municipal workforce is essential to service delivery, public safety, and economic competitiveness statewide.

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FAQs and Additional Resources



Who are my legislators?

You can find all the legislators representing your city by using GMA's Find Your Legislator tool.

Where can I find more information about a specific piece of legislation?

Visit GMA's Legislative Tracking page to find out more about all the bills we're following and how they could potentially impact cities.

Where can I find my legislator at the Capitol?

Your legislators maintain busy schedules throughout a typical day during the legislative session, so effectively gaining facetime with them can often depend on the time of day:

- When the House and Senate are meeting, you can attempt to catch your legislators in the halls outside the chambers or request that they come out of the chamber to meet by electronically contacting them or sending a message using a page.
- When the House and Senate are not meeting, try stopping by their legislative office. The legislature's website will provide their office number either in the Capitol or CLOB (Coverdell Legislative Office Building across Capitol Sq. SW).

How do I get to the Capitol from the hotel and what do I need to bring with me?

Buses will be available on Monday to shuttle city officials between the Omni Atlanta and the State Capitol, between 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. The entrance to the building is off of Capitol Square SW on the south end of the Capitol to the left of the stairs. You'll need to enter through a security screening and will need a photo ID.

Is there a place to get water, coffee, or a bite to eat?

There is a snack bar located on the ground floor of the Capitol near the security entrance which has several vending options.

There are two cafeterias on Capitol Hill and the surrounding areas:

- Café 244: Located on the 1st floor of the 244 Washington Street building.
- Capitol Commons: Located in the Floyd Building across from the State Capitol.

**When in doubt, ask a GMA staff member!
Our GR team members will be around the
Capitol and can assist you.**

Scan Here

For these and additional resources,
scan this QR Code with your mobile device.



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GMA Governmental Relations Team



Pictured front, L to R, Noah Roenitz, Manager, State Relations; Leona Rittenhouse, Governmental Relations Associate; DJ Waller, Senior Governmental Relations Associate; Katrina Cochran, Governmental Outreach Specialist; Molly McLoughlin, Manager, Federal Relations; Jules Banks, Communications Associate

Back, L to R, Larry Hanson, CEO & Executive Director; Jim Thornton, Deputy Executive Director; Ryan Bowersox, Associate General Counsel; Rusi Patel, General Counsel; Callie Hood, Research Associate

GMA Awards Luncheon Recognitions



Visionary City Award

The Visionary City Award is a joint award offered by Georgia Municipal Association and Georgia Trend Magazine. The award is annually bestowed to nine cities—three from each population size group: under 4,999, 5,000-24,999 and over 25,000. This award honors cities that have created positive community change through effective civic engagement and collaboration. This award is presented at the annual Cities United Summit.



City and Organization of Civility

The City of Civility designation recognizes cities that commit to fostering civility in governance by promoting professionalism and respect in all interactions, whether in person, online, or in written communication. Qualified organizations are eligible to receive an Organization of Civility designation. New and recertified designees are recognized twice a year - at the annual Cities United Summit and GMA's Annual Convention.



City and Organization of Ethics

The City of Ethics program promotes ethical governance by raising awareness of ethics at the local level and encouraging proactive measures to address concerns. Cities that demonstrate their commitment to ethical principles can earn the “GMA Certified City of Ethics” designation. Counties and qualified organizations are also eligible to receive an ethics designation. New and recertified designees are recognized twice a year - at the annual Cities United Summit and GMA’s Annual Convention.



Georgia Economic Placemaking Collaborative

The Georgia Economic Placemaking Collaborative is a two-year place-based economic development program that provides participating communities with education, facilitation, technical assistance, networking, peer learning, and incentives to help identify their community assets and develop a locally based placemaking strategy.

GMA Awards Luncheon Recognitions



Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute Certificates

Operated through a partnership between GMA and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government, the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute is a continuing education program designed to help city officials enhance their knowledge and skills in municipal-related matters. The Municipal Training Institute is pleased to recognize those individuals who have recently earned one or more of the training institute's five certificates, along with the newest members of the 400 Club.



Excellence In Policing Certification

Georgia cities of all sizes can reduce law enforcement liability through the Excellence In Policing Program. The program walks agencies through the process of strengthening departmental policies and practices. It demonstrates a commitment to the highest professional standards, offers peace of mind for city leaders and prioritizes equity and inclusion. The Excellence In Policing Certification is a cooperative effort between the Georgia Municipal Association and Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP). This certification is a stepping-stone for cities seeking Georgia Law Enforcement Certification.

GMA 2025-2026 Board of Directors



Officers

- President – Bianca Motley Broom, Mayor, College Park
- First Vice President – Andrea Gibby, Mayor, Young Harris
- Second Vice President – Jimmy Burnette, Mayor, Suwanee
- Third Vice President – Garnett Johnson, Mayor, Augusta
- Immediate Past President – Fred Perriman, Mayor, Madison

Active Past Presidents

- Randall Walker, Mayor, Perry
- Julie Smith, Mayor, Tifton
- Vince Williams, Mayor, Union City
- John Reid, Mayor, Eatonton
- Bill McIntosh, Mayor, Moultrie

Directors at Large

- Michael Chidester, Mayor, Byron
- Andre Dickens, Mayor, Atlanta
- James Eubanks, Mayor, Pelham
- Skip Henderson, Mayor, Columbus
- Jason Holt, Mayor, Fitzgerald
- Van Johnson, Mayor, Savannah
- Scott James Matheson, Mayor, Valdosta
- Lester Miller, Mayor, Macon-Bibb County
- Michael Owens, Mayor, Mableton
- LaRhonda Patrick, Mayor, Warner Robins

Note: four vacant at-large seats will be filled at the January 24 Board of Directors meeting.

District Officers

First District

- President – Matt Santini, Mayor, Cartersville
- First Vice President – Marty Robinson, Councilmember, Rockmart

Second District

- President – Matt Fields, Councilmember, Royston
- First Vice President – Mark Reed, Commissioner, Cornelia

Third District

- President, North District – Bill Grant, Mayor, Canton
- President, Northeast District – Allison Wilkerson, Mayor, Grayson
- President, East District – Tom Lambert, Councilmember, Dunwoody
- President, West District – Doris Dawkins, Councilmember, Powder Springs
- President, South District – Ann Tarpley, Mayor, Hampton
- President, Southwest District – Dr. Catherine Foster-Rowell, Councilmember, South Fulton
- President, Central District – Byron Amos, Councilmember, Atlanta

Fourth District

- President – Mike Johnson, Mayor, Temple
- First Vice President – Steve Fry, Mayor, Williamson

Fifth District

- President – Kurt Ward, Mayor, Braselton
- First Vice President – Amanda Willis, Councilmember, Carlton

Sixth District

- President – Edward Armijo, Councilmember, Centerville
- First Vice President – Denese Shinholster, Councilmember, Milledgeville



Seventh District

- President – Catherine Rice, Commissioner, Augusta
- First Vice President – Allen Haywood, Mayor, Sparta

Eighth District

- President – Vesta Shepard, Commissioner, Cordele
- First Vice President – Kevin Brown, Mayor, Buena Vista

Ninth District

- President – Rashida Taylor, Mayor, Metter
- First Vice President – Bennie Jones, Councilmember, Dublin

Tenth District

- President – Chad Warbington, Commissioner, Albany
- First Vice President – Cody Shiver, Councilmember, Pelham

Eleventh District

- President – Keith Brooks, Mayor, Blackshear
- First Vice President – Louise White, Councilmember, Hahira

Twelfth District

- President – Paulette Chavers, Councilmember, Statesboro
- First Vice President – Cosby Johnson, Mayor, Brunswick

GMEBS/WCSIF/GIRMA Board Chair

- Shelly Berryhill, Commissioner, Hawkinsville

Section Presidents

- City Attorneys – Frank Hartley, City Attorney, Sugar Hill, Lawrenceville and Grayson
- City Managers – Sammy Rich, City Manager, Rome
- City Clerks – Vernice Thompson, City Clerk, Hazlehurst

Policy Committee Chairs

- Community Development – Carlos Duffey, Mayor, Jackson
- Environment & Natural Resources – Michael-Angelo James, Mayor, Waycross
- Municipal Government – Cleatus Phillips, City Manager, Newnan
- Public Safety – Rochelle Robinson, Mayor, Douglasville
- Revenue & Finance – Kurt Ward, Mayor, Braselton
- Transportation – Rusty Paul, Mayor, Sandy Springs

Municipal Training Board Chair

- Linda J. Davis, Councilmember, Fairburn

Please refer to the GACities app to see membership listings for the Legislative Policy Council, the Federal Policy Council, the four advisory councils, the Municipal Training Board, and the Risk Management & Employee Benefits System Board of Trustees.

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