

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL  
ASSOCIATION  
2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION  
JUNE 26-30



*Join the Conversation*  
**#GACITIES**

# Powering a stronger community.

**Community is at the heart of what makes Georgia such a desirable place to live, learn, and do business.**

We believe in strengthening our community, which is why the company, our employees, and our retirees have supported various local organizations over the past decade with both our time and resources.



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# GMA OFFICERS



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MAYOR, COLLEGE PARK



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MAYOR, MADISON



GMA CEO AND  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
LARRY HANSON



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# WELCOME TO THE 2026 GMA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Welcome to Savannah and the Georgia Municipal Association's  
2026 Annual Convention.

Each year, this gathering brings together municipal leaders from across Georgia to learn, share ideas, and strengthen the relationships that help our cities succeed. We are delighted that you are here as we celebrate this year's theme, **Georgia Cities Shine Bright**.

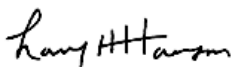
The theme reflects what we see every day in communities across our state: dedicated local leaders working to solve challenges, create opportunities, and improve the quality of life for residents. Your commitment to public service helps make Georgia's cities vibrant places to live, work, and thrive.

This convention comes at a meaningful time. As our nation approaches its 250th anniversary, we have an opportunity to reflect on the important role cities have played throughout American history and the bright future they continue to build for generations to come.

Throughout the convention, you'll find opportunities to learn, connect, and be inspired. From engaging sessions and policy discussions to networking events and the Municipal Marketplace, every aspect of this convention is designed to help you bring new ideas and practical solutions back to your community. We are also honored to welcome Colonel DeDe Halfhill, USAF (Ret.), whose leadership insights will certainly be inspiring.

Most importantly, I encourage you to take advantage of the fellowship and connections that make this event so special. The conversations you have this week often become the partnerships and friendships that strengthen Georgia's cities for years to come.

Thank you for your leadership and service. I hope you enjoy a productive and memorable week in Savannah.



Larry H. Hanson  
CEO and Executive Director  
Georgia Municipal Association

# CONVENTION INFORMATION

This booklet contains the general schedule and locations for all convention activities, as well as the Municipal Marketplace and sponsor directory. For detailed information on session content and speakers, please refer to the GACities App.



## GACITIES APP

The GACities App is FREE and available in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. Scan the appropriate QR code to download the app for the up-to-the-minute schedule, session descriptions, listings of exhibitors and sponsors, and all pertinent information while in Savannah.



APPLE APP STORE



GOOGLE PLAY STORE

## WIRELESS INTERNET SERVICE

Wireless Internet service is provided throughout the Savannah Convention Center.

Log on to: GMA\_Convention

The password is **2026ShineBright**

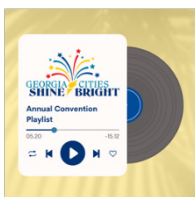
## ENGAGE DURING GMA'S ANNUAL CONVENTION

Be part of the conversation during GMA's Annual Convention! Follow us @gacities and share your experience using #gacities.

## GEORGIA CITIES SHINE BRIGHT PLAYLIST

(Spotify account required)

Enjoy the sounds of the 2026 Annual Convention.



## MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

The Municipal Marketplace provides a great opportunity to learn about a wide range of products and services available to your city.

The Municipal Marketplace will be open during the following hours:

Saturday, June 27: 3:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Sunday, June 28: 10:30 am – 2:00 pm

Please be respectful of our exhibitors, as they are here to do business. All children must be accompanied by an adult while in the Municipal Marketplace. Everyone, including children, must have a name badge to enter the Municipal Marketplace.

## EXHIBITOR DOOR PRIZES

Exhibitors offering door prizes will post winners on the Message Board at the 100 aisle in front of the Municipal Marketplace by 1:00 pm Sunday. Please check the board and claim your prize at the exhibitor's booth before 2:00 pm Sunday.

Exhibitor support helps make the convention affordable for attendees, so take a moment to visit their booths while you're in the Marketplace.

## BADGES

Each person (including spouses, guests and children) who is registered will receive a badge with a QR code. The code provides access to all events, including individually purchased sessions, and is used to claim the delegate gift.

Badges must be worn at all events and are required for entry into the Municipal Marketplace.



## 50/50 RAFFLE

The Georgia Municipal Clerks Association will hold a 50/50 raffle during the convention, with the winning ticket drawn at the Awards Luncheon on Monday, June 29. Proceeds from the raffle support training scholarships for city clerks pursuing the Georgia Certified Clerk designation, which requires 100 hours of education.

## SILENT AUCTION

The Georgia Municipal Clerks Association will host a Silent Auction from Friday, June 26, through Monday, June 29, in the GMA Welcome Center in the River Concourse at the Savannah Convention Center. Proceeds from the auction will help fund the association's hosting of the 2029 IIMC Region 3 Conference.



## DELEGATE GIFT PICK UP IN THE MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

Everyone registered for the full convention receives a delegate gift.

To claim yours, have your badge scanned at the delegate gift counter located in the Municipal Marketplace on Saturday or Sunday during Marketplace hours.

## LOST AND FOUND

For help locating a lost item or turning one in, visit the GMA registration desk in the River Concourse. Items will be held there until the convention concludes. Unclaimed items will be turned over to Savannah Convention Center Security.

## RECYCLE

Please recycle your badges and lanyards in the designated bins located throughout the convention center.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR BEVERAGE STATION SPONSORS



# SHUTTLES AND FERRY INFORMATION

Visit Savannah has made special transportation arrangements for GMA Convention attendees.

## SHUTTLE SCHEDULE

	EXPRESS SCHEDULE	STANDARD SCHEDULE
Friday, June 26	6am – 4:30pm	4:30pm – 6:30pm
Saturday, June 27	6am – 7pm	–
Sunday, June 28	6am – 6pm	–
Monday, June 29	7:30am – 4:30pm 6pm – 11pm	4:30pm – 6:30pm
Tuesday, June 30	7am – 12pm	–

## FERRY SCHEDULE

	EXPRESS SCHEDULE (2 ferries, 2 routes) City Hall to SCC   Waving Girl to SCC	STANDARD SCHEDULE 1 ferry, 1 route to all three stops	LIMITED SERVICE City Hall to SCC ONLY last ferry will leave from City Hall dock *Please arrive 15 minutes prior to departure time
Friday, June 26	6:30am – 9am 11:30am – 1pm 3pm – 6:30pm	9am – 11:30am 1pm – 3pm	6:40pm – Midnight
Saturday, June 27	6:30am – 9am 11:30am – 1pm 3pm – 6:30pm	9am – 11:30am 1pm – 3pm 6:30pm – 7pm	7:10pm – Midnight
Sunday, June 28	6:30am – 9:30am 3pm – 5:30pm	9:30am – 3pm 5:30pm – 6:30pm	6:40pm – Midnight
Monday, June 29	7:00am – 10:30am 3:30pm – 6:30pm	10:30am – 3:30pm 6:30pm – 10:30pm	10:30pm – Midnight
Tuesday, June 30	6:30am – 8:30am	Standard Schedule	–

The Ferry may sometimes be delayed briefly by visibility or large vessel traffic in the area.

Please allow 45 minutes to travel from Historic Savannah to the Savannah Convention Center when riding the water ferry.

Water ferry will depart the dock at time posted.

Service interruptions may occur. We recommend planning your trip accordingly to ensure a timely arrival.



## RED ROUTE

DoubleTree by Hilton / Hilton Garden Inn/  
Alida Hotel / Hyatt Andaz:

**Shuttle stop:** Left side of Montgomery St. before  
entering Franklin Square | **Water Ferry stop:** City Hall

**Embassy Suites:**

**Shuttle stop:** In front of hotel | **Water Ferry stop:** City Hall



## PURPLE ROUTE

Tempo / Holiday Inn Express /  
Hampton Inn Historic District:

**Shuttle stop:** Aberson St. Same side as Hampton Inn |  
**Water Ferry stop:** City Hall

The Kimpton Brice Hotel / Staybridge:

**Shuttle stop:** E Broad St. across from the Pirates House |  
**Water Ferry stop:** City Hall



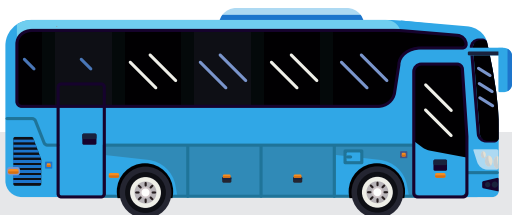
## GREEN ROUTE

Hyatt Regency / JW Marriott:

**Shuttle stop:** River Street in front of the Visitor Center  
under Hyatt | **Water Ferry stop:** City Hall

Savannah Marriott / Homewood Suites:

**Shuttle stop:** Across from the Waving Girl Statue on  
River Street | **Water Ferry stop:** Waving Girl





# FRIDAY, JUNE 26

**7:00 am – 4:30 pm**

**Registration and Welcome Centers**  
River Concourse and North Pre-Function

**7:15 am – 8:00 am**

**Breakfast for Training Institute/Clerks Training  
Participants**  
River Concourse and East Lobby

**8:15 am – 3:15 pm**

## **Municipal Training Institute**

The Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute is offered through a partnership between GMA and the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. Class descriptions can be found in the GACities App, the training institute brochure, or the GMA website.

*(Six-hour training classes include breakfast and lunch)*

*Special thanks to Charles Abbott Associates, Inc., and  
GFL Environmental for their support of the lunch.*

## **Addressing Homelessness (new)**

Room 100

## **Advancing Georgia's Response to Human Trafficking (new)**

Room 101

## **Community and Media Relations\***

Room 102

## **Data Literacy and Storytelling for Cities**

Room 103

## **Downtown Development Authority Basic Training (ends at 4:15 pm)**

Room 104

## **Economic Development\***

Room 105

## **Ethics\***

Room 107

## **Evolving With Technology: Key Insights**

Room 108

**Fire and Emergency Medical Services**

Room 109

**Human Resources\***

Room 110

**Law Enforcement Services: Trends and Best Practices**

Room 111

**Managing Growth: Economic and Natural Resource Issues**

Room 200

**Navigating the Future: Thinking, Planning and Acting Strategically**

Room 201

**Planning and Zoning\***

Room 202

**Regional Approaches to Cooperation**

Room 206

**Water Management – An Introduction for Local Governments**

Room 207

**12:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Municipal Training Institute (lunch is not included for three-hour classes)**

**Mobile Workshop – Port of Savannah**

Room 106

**Municipal Courts Post-Ferguson I: Promoting Justice, Protecting City Assets\***

Room 208

**Public Policy Development and Implementation\***

Room 209

**Succession Planning: Preparing for Tomorrow's Workforce Today**

Room 210

*\* Classes marked with an asterisk are on the "required" list for the Municipal Training Institute certificate program.*

**12:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**RMEBS Board of Trustees Lunch and Meeting**

Room 112-113

Presiding: Shelly Berryhill, Commissioner, Hawkinsville –  
Chair

**3:45 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Mentor/Mentee Meet and Greet and Orientation**

**Tondee's**

Newly elected officials are invited to a meet-and-greet introducing GMA's Mentoring Program. Current mentees are encouraged to attend with their mentor.

*Special thanks to Verizon for their support of this event.*

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Governor's Ballroom A**

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



# SATURDAY, JUNE 27



7:00 am – 6:00 pm

**Registration and Welcome Centers**  
River Concourse and North Pre-Function

7:00 am – 8:00 am

**Breakfast for Training Institute/Clerks Training Participants**  
River Concourse, East Lobby and outside Westin Grand Ballrooms

8:15 am – 11:15 am

**Municipal Training Institute**

**Beyond the Beltway: Influencing Federal Policy Through Grassroots Engagement**  
Room 100

**Building Bridges Between Cities and Colleges**  
Room 101

**Capital Improvement Program**  
Room 102

**Current Issues Class: Municipal Law Update 2026**  
Westin Grand EF

**Effective Practices for Municipal Operations 101**  
Room 103

**Employee Benefits 101 (Retirement)**  
Room 104

**Excellence in Customer Service**  
Room 105

**Funding and Programming Transportation Projects in Your Community**  
Room 106

**How to Attract and Retain Young Professionals in Your Town**  
Room 107

**Information Privacy and Security Breaches: Prevention and Response\***  
Westin Grand Ballroom B

**Let's Get Social (Social Media Basics for Today)**

Room 108

**Living Beyond Expectations: The Opportunities and Challenges of the Growing Senior Population**

Room 109

**Local Government Debt Methods 101**

Room 110

**Municipal Annexation: Growing Pains and Growth spurts**

Room 111

**Municipal Taxation 102 – The Basics Continued**

Room 200

**Open Records\***

Westin Grand Ballroom A

**Practices for Successful Meetings\***

Room 202

**Public Policy Development and Implementation**

Room 206

**Public Works Services\***

Room 207

**Recreation and Parks – Building Communities**

Room 208

**Risk and Insurance 101**

Room 209

**Roles and Responsibilities of Council and Staff\***

Room 112

**Strengthening the Well-Being of Children & Youth**

Room 113

**Trends in Urban Design for Local Leaders**

Room 201

*\* Classes marked with an asterisk are on the "required" list for the Municipal Training Institute certificate program.*

## **Policy Meetings**

These sessions provide an opportunity for city officials to discuss legislative and policy issues affecting cities and to review and adopt the proposed 2027 policy recommendations.

**11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

### **Community Development Policy Meeting**

**Chatham Ballroom B**

This session will explore legislative policy issues affecting community growth, vitality, and quality of life in Georgia's cities. Convention attendees with an interest in community development are encouraged to join the discussion and share perspectives from their own cities.

Presiding: Carlos Duffey, Mayor, Jackson

*Sponsored by GMA's Life & Health Insurance Fund programs through the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS)*

### **Municipal Government Policy Meeting**

**Chatham Ballroom A**

This session will address issues involving local governance, home rule, regional coordination, and municipal operations. Attendees from every city and background are invited and encouraged to participate in the dialogue.

Presiding: Cleatus Phillips, City Manager, Newnan

*Sponsored by GMA's Property & Liability Insurance program*

### **Revenue & Finance Policy Meeting**

**Chatham Ballroom C**

This session will consider matters related to municipal finance, taxation, revenue resources, mandates, and long-term fiscal stability for cities. All attendees with an interest in the financial future of Georgia's communities are welcome and encouraged to join the discussion.

Presiding: Kurt Ward, Mayor, Braselton

*Sponsored by GMA's Equipment and Real Estate Financing Services*

**12:30 pm – 1:15 pm**

**Lunch (Policy Meetings)**

**1:15 pm – 2:45 pm**

**Environment & Natural Resources Policy Meeting**

**Chatham Ballroom B**

This session will focus on the environmental and infrastructure challenges facing cities, which often include water, wastewater, solid waste, and natural resource management. All convention participants are welcome to attend and contribute to the conversation on these important municipal responsibilities.

Presiding: Michael-Angelo James, Mayor, Waycross

*Sponsored by GMA's Natural Gas Purchasing program*

**Public Safety Policy Meeting**

**Chatham Ballroom A**

This session will discuss the wide range of public safety issues impacting Georgia communities, including law enforcement, emergency management, and disaster response. Convention attendees interested in strengthening community safety are encouraged to take part in the meeting.

Presiding: Rochelle Robinson, Mayor, Douglasville

*Sponsored by GMA's Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance program (GMA WCSIF)*

**Transportation Policy Meeting**

**Chatham Ballroom C**

This session will examine transportation and infrastructure issues affecting cities, which may include roads, bridges, transit, airports, and long-range planning. Convention participants are invited to attend, engage in the conversation, and help shape policy priorities for Georgia's transportation future.

Presiding: Rusty Paul, Mayor, Sandy Springs

*Sponsored by GMA's Telecommunications and Right of Way Management program*

**3:00 pm – 5:30 pm**

**Municipal Marketplace and Reception**

Exhibit Hall

*Special thanks to Trane for their support of the reception.*

**4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Legislative Policy Council Meeting**

Governor's Ballroom A

The Legislative Policy Council will review and discuss the current legislative policies, as discussed during the various policy meetings, and the LPC will vote to move the proposed legislative policies for 2027 to the full membership for final approval.

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

**5:30 pm – 6:30 pm**

**Young Professionals Reception**

Governor's Pre-Function

# SUNDAY, JUNE 28

7:00 am – 5:00 pm

**Registration and Welcome Centers**

River Concourse and North Pre-Function

7:00 am – 8:45 am

**RMEBS Membership Meeting**

Room 107-108

Presiding: Shelly Berryhill, Commissioner, Hawkinsville – Chair

8:00 am – 8:30 am

**Worship Service**

Room 112-113

8:30 am – 9:00 am

**Breakfast**

Governor's Pre-Function

8:30 am – 1:00 pm

**City Attorneys Session and Brunch (ticket purchase required)**

Westin Grand Ballroom AB

Special thanks to Alston & Bird, Fisher Phillips, Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP, Hunton Andrews Kurth, LLP, and Pope Flynn for their support of this session.

9:00 am – 10:45 am

**Opening General Session**

Governor's Ballroom



The Opening General Session will begin with GMA's traditional Parade of Flags, followed by recognition of the recipients of the Visionary City Awards and the State Government Service Award. The session will also feature keynote speaker DeDe Halfhill, a retired U.S. Air Force Colonel who led teams through some of the military's most challenging operational environments, including deployments to Iraq and service as an advisor to senior national defense leaders.

Drawing from those experiences, she will share insights on leading through change, building resilient teams, and navigating the growing challenges facing today's workplace and public sector leaders.

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

*Special thanks to AT&T, Georgia Power, Polimorphic, and The Coca-Cola Company for their support of this session.*

**10:30 am – 2:00 pm**

**Municipal Marketplace**

Exhibit Hall

Lunch will take place in the Municipal Marketplace from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.

*Special thanks to Consolidated Pipe & Supply for their support of this lunch.*

**12:30 pm – 2:00 pm**

**City Managers Session and Lunch (ticket purchase required)**

Chatham Ballroom B

*Special thanks to Carter & Sloope, Davenport Public Finance, MEAG Power, New South Construction Company, Ralin, and Spectrum for their support of this session.*

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

**Federal Policy Council Meeting**

Governor's Ballroom A

FPC members will discuss GMA's key federal priorities, including the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, surface transportation reauthorization and FEMA reform, and hear from key policymakers. This meeting is open to all interested city officials.

Presiding: Garnett Johnson, Mayor, Augusta – GMA Third Vice President

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

**Municipal Training Board Meeting**

Room 112

Presiding: Linda J. Davis, Councilmember, Fairburn – Chair

**2:15 pm – 3:15 pm**

**Rapid Fire Sessions: Showcase of Successful Initiatives**

Want to learn about successful programs and projects from cities across the state? Plan to attend one of the Rapid Fire sessions, which feature fast-paced presentations followed by a brief Q&A.

**Small City Rapid Fire**

**Room 102-104**

Presiding: Jason Weaver, Mayor, Screven

**City of Barnesville**

**Revitalizing a Neighborhood Park**

See how Barnesville transformed Myles Wimberly Park from an unsafe, underused space into a vibrant community gathering place through new amenities, expanded recreational features, and public art.

**City of Chattahoochee Hills**

**Growing While Preserving Greenspace**

Learn how Chattahoochee Hills has balanced growth and conservation by requiring 70 percent of the city to remain permanent greenspace and by using innovative planning tools and intentional development strategies to protect its rural character.

**City of Claxton**

**Reviving a Landmark, Strengthening a Community**

Discover how community collaboration helped save the historic Claxton School from demolition and transform it into a vibrant community hub through creative partnerships, innovative funding, and historic revitalization efforts.

**City of Hartwell**

**Launching Young Entrepreneurs**

Learn how Hartwell is investing in the next generation of entrepreneurs through partnerships with schools, civic leaders, and local organizations, helping young entrepreneurs launch downtown businesses and strengthen the local economy.

**City of Jesup**

**Revitalizing Downtowns Through Vision and Investment**

Discover how Jesup used leadership, strategic investment, and historic preservation to spark downtown revitalization through projects like the Jesup Drive-In and Strand Theatre restorations.

## **City of Leesburg**

### **Commuting to Community**

Discover how Leesburg is turning workday commuters into engaged community members through events, partnerships, and downtown initiatives that encourage residents and visitors to stay, gather, and support local businesses.

## **City of Sandersville**

### **Building Community Through Parks & Recreation**

Discover how Sandersville strengthened quality of life and community engagement by developing two new parks, one featuring a walking trail and pickleball court, that have become centers for recreation, wellness, and economic growth.

## **Large City Rapid Fire**

**Room 109-111**

Presiding: Maggie Dimov, City Manager, Stone Mountain

## **City of Albany**

### **Building Opportunity Through Recreation**

Learn how Driskell Park is transforming Southwest Albany through recreation, STEM programming, mentorship, and community partnerships that are creating new pathways for youth and families to succeed.

## **City of Griffin**

### **Community Policing in Action**

Discover how Griffin's Sgt. Todd Thomas Community Center and Precinct is strengthening neighborhoods by bringing youth, families, and law enforcement together under one roof to foster mentorship and build stronger community connections.

## **City of Rome**

### **Reimagining a Neighborhood Park**

See how Rome transformed Banty Jones Park into a safer, more accessible community space through resident engagement, strategic partnerships, and new amenities that created a welcoming neighborhood gathering place.

## **City of Suwanee**

### **Connecting Community Through Placemaking**

Learn how Suwanee's Town Center on Main project united historic Old Town with Town Center through transportation improvements, new greenspace, and walkable gathering areas that strengthen community connection and support economic vitality.

## **City of Valdosta**

### **Responding Beyond Emergency Calls**

Discover how Valdosta's HEART program is helping residents facing homelessness, hunger, and mental health challenges through partnerships that connect residents with resources and have reduced unnecessary emergency calls while building community trust.

## **City of Woodstock**

### **Data-Driven Decision Making with GIS**

Learn how Woodstock is using GIS technology to improve city operations, support strategic planning, and strengthen decision making by leveraging data from fire coverage analysis to economic impact mapping, to increase efficiency and better serve the community.

**3:00 pm – 3:30 pm**

### **Voting Credential Pickup**

Governor's Pre-Function

**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

### **Business Meeting and Installation of Officers and Board of Directors**

Governor's Ballroom

The Annual Business Meeting will include recognition of Cities of Ethics and Civility, Excellence in Policing, Mayor's Reading Club participants, 2026 Young Gamechangers, and the Georgia Economic Placemaking Collaborative Graduating Cities. The session will also feature the adoption of the 2027 Legislative Policies and the installation of GMA's 2026–2027 officers and board members, followed by remarks from incoming GMA President Andrea Gibby.

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

**3:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

**GeorgiaForward Puppet Show**

Room 211-212

Step into the world of Georgia Caroline’s Civic Adventures, an engaging and interactive puppet show that combines storytelling, literacy and local government in a fun experience for children and families. Join Georgia Caroline, Froggy, Pig, and a special guest mayor as they explore City Hall, meet community helpers, and discover how local government works—all while encouraging a love of reading through the GeorgiaForward Mayor’s Reading Club.

Free and open to children and family members of convention attendees.



# MONDAY, JUNE 29

**7:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**Registration and Welcome Centers**  
River Concourse and North Pre-Function

**7:45 am – 8:15 am**

**Continental Breakfast**  
Governor's Pre-Function

**8:15 am – 9:45 am**

**General Session – Candidate Forum**  
Governor's Ballroom

Candidates for Governor and Lieutenant Governor are invited to discuss their candidacy and answer questions about issues affecting Georgia cities.

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

*Special thanks to AT&T and Georgia Power for their support of this session.*

**10:00 am – 11:00 am**

**Concurrent Sessions:**

**City Charters Demystified: Navigating Updates and Working with Legislators**

Room 109-111

This session covers how to locate and interpret your city's charter, navigate the amendment process, and work effectively with state legislators on local legislation.

Presiding: Michael-Angelo James, Mayor, Waycross

**Rethinking Economic Development: Growing Your Own Economy from the Ground Up**

Room 112-113

This session makes the case for "economic gardening" — nurturing local businesses and commercial districts to generate steady job growth rather than chasing outside industry recruitment.

Presiding: Kelly Girtz, Mayor, Athens-Clarke County

## **Data Centers and Local Decision-Making: Balancing Growth and Community Impact**

### **Room 102-104**

City leaders, elected officials, and utility experts share first-hand experiences on the opportunities and challenges of data center construction, including infrastructure demands, utility needs, and economic impact.

Presiding: Michael Owens, Mayor, Mableton

## **Water/Sewer Infrastructure – Planning for the Future**

### **Room 107-108**

This session covers practical strategies for managing aging water and sewer systems, including asset management, financial planning, and regulatory compliance.

Presiding: Karen Williams, Mayor, Pooler

**11:15 am – 12:15 pm**

### **Concurrent Sessions:**

## **Building the Next Generation: Proven Strategies for Youth Engagement and Early Literacy Initiatives**

### **Room 112-113**

This session features Georgia city leaders sharing firsthand experiences launching youth councils and early literacy initiatives that have made a measurable difference.

Presiding: Vince Williams, Mayor, Union City

## **Communicating What Matters: How Cities Can Better Engage Residents and State Leaders on Costs, Growth, and Change**

### **Room 109-111**

Drawing on feedback from GMA's statewide listening sessions, this session highlights practical strategies city leaders are using to engage residents and state leaders, build trust, and explain difficult decisions before frustration turns into backlash.

Presiding: Freddie Broome, Director of Member Services, GMA

## **Paying Rent for Your Home? Property Tax Legislation Updates, Trends, and Application**

**Room 102-104**

This session covers three years of property tax legislation — including HB 581, HB 92, and SB 33 — and walks city officials through practical considerations around the statewide floating homestead exemption, FLOST, and LHOST.

Presiding: Ryan Bowersox, Associate General Counsel, GMA

## **Placemaking for Strong Communities: A Housing Perspective**

**Room 107-108**

This session features local leaders and practitioners discussing real-world projects where placemaking principles have strengthened neighborhoods and supported housing and revitalization efforts.

Presiding: Dr. Donya Sartor, Mayor, Jonesboro

**12:30 pm – 2:15 pm**

### **Awards Luncheon**

**Governor's Ballroom**

Awards and recognitions will include:

- Clerk of the Year Award
- Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute Certificates and 400 Club
- Georgia Cities Foundation's Renaissance Award and Starr Award
- Municipal Government Hall of Fame

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

*Special thanks to Georgia Power, Polimorphic, and The Coca-Cola Company for their support of this session.*

**2:30 pm – 3:45 pm**

### **District Connections**

**2:30 pm – 2:45 pm: Networking and Refreshments**

**2:45 pm – 3:45 pm: Information Session**

Each meeting will provide municipal leaders with an opportunity to engage in meaningful conversations about emerging issues impacting cities across Georgia, including the growing role of artificial intelligence in local government. Through featured presentations and

member-driven discussions, participants will explore AI policies, procedures, workforce impacts, practical applications, successes, challenges, and lessons learned from cities already navigating this rapidly evolving topic. These collaborative conversations are designed to help city officials share ideas, learn from one another, and better prepare their communities for the future of municipal governance.

(Please refer to the district number on your name badge or the GMA district map in the Welcome Centers.)

**Districts 1, 2, 5, 7**

Room 109-111

**District 3**

Room 107-108

**Districts 4, 6, 8, 9**

Room 105-106

**Districts 10, 11, 12**

Room 102-104

*Special thanks to Ameresco for their support of these meetings.*

**4:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Metro Regional Water Policy Roundtable: From Pressure to Partnership**

Room 105-106

The Middle Chattahoochee Regional Water and Sewer Authority, consisting of the cities of Union City, Palmetto, and Fairburn, will host an informational meeting with interested city officials in the metro Atlanta area for a discussion of topics such as water challenges, water availability, aging water infrastructure, and future needs in the area of water and wastewater. The meeting is intended to identify interested parties in coordinating a future roundtable and coordinated approach to address issues of a regional nature.

**6:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

**Closing Event**

Governor's Ballroom

*Special thanks to AT&T, Georgia Power, Polimorphic, and The Coca-Cola Company for their support of the Closing Event.*



# TUESDAY, JUNE 30

**7:30 am – 8:00 am**

**Breakfast for Training Institute Participants**  
Rotunda and East Lobby

**8:15 am – 11:15 am**

**Municipal Training Institute**

**Changing Demographics and Best Practices**  
Room 100

**Current Issues Class: Municipal Law Update 2026**  
Room 101

**Effective Practices for Municipal Operations**  
Room 103

**Entrepreneur Friendly Cities**  
Room 104

**Living Beyond Expectations: The Opportunities and  
Challenges of the Growing Senior Population**  
Room 107

**Local Government Debt Methods 101**  
Room 106

**Municipal Taxation 101 – The Basics\***  
Room 102

**Municipal Water and Wastewater Systems\***  
Room 105

**Open Meetings\***  
Room 108

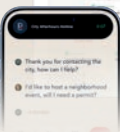
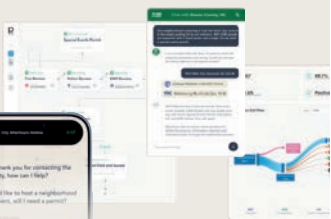
**Public Works Services\***  
Room 109

*\* Classes marked with an asterisk are on the “required” list  
for the Municipal Training Institute certificate program.*

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**FRIDAY, JUNE 26**

**8:15 am – 3:15 pm**

Clerks Training  
Athenian Dialogue  
Room 204

**Budgeting and Financial Management**  
Room 205

**8:15 am – 11:15 am**

Clerks Training  
Records Management 102  
Room 203

**11:30 am – 1:00 pm**

Lunch (trainings)  
Chatham Ballroom BC

**12:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

Clerks Training  
Onboarding Committee and Board Members  
Room 203



**SATURDAY, JUNE 27**

**8:15 am – 3:15 pm**

**Clerks Training**

**Continuous Improvement**

**Room 204**

**Records Management 101**

**Room 203**

**8:15 am – 11:15 am**

**Clerks Training**

**ADA Regulations and Steps for Meeting Website**

**Compliance**

**Room 205**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 28**

**7:15 am – 8:45 am**

**Clerks Business Meeting and Breakfast**

**Room 211-212**

**Presiding: Sharon Nelson, City Clerk – President,  
Georgia Municipal Clerks Association**

**MONDAY, JUNE 29**

**12:30 pm – 2:15 pm**

**Awards Luncheon (ticket purchase required)**

**Governor's Ballroom**



# 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

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

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James Eubanks, Mayor, Pelham  
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Lester Miller, Mayor, Macon-Bibb County  
Michael Owens, Mayor, Mableton  
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President, East - Tom Lambert, Councilmember, Dunwoody

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President, Southwest - Dr. Catherine Foster-Rowell, Councilmember, South Fulton

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### **Eighth District**

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### **Tenth District**

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First Vice President - Louise White, Councilmember, Hahira

### **Twelfth District**

President - Paulette Chavers, Councilmember, Statesboro

First Vice President - Cosby Johnson, Mayor, Brunswick

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Shelly Berryhill, Commissioner, Hawkinsville

### **SECTION PRESIDENTS**

City Attorneys Section - Frank Hartley, City Attorney, Sugar Hill,  
Lawrenceville and Grayson

City Managers Section - Sammy Rich, City Manager, Rome

City Clerks Section - Sharon Nelson, City Clerk, Calhoun

### **GMA 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

# GMEBS 2025-2026 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS), GMA Workers' Compensation Self-Insurance Fund (WCSIF) and the Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (GIRMA) Board of Trustees

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Shelly Berryhill, Commissioner, Hawkinsville

## **Vice Chair**

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Daniel Graves, Mayor, Elberton

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Jessica O'Connor, City Manager, Griffin

WD "Danny" Palmer, Councilmember, Camilla

John Reid, Mayor, Eatonton

Sammy Rich, City Manager, Rome

Julie Smith, Mayor, Tifton

Albert "Al" Thurman, Mayor, Powder Springs

Rebecca L. Tydings, City Attorney, Centerville



# LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS 2025-2026

The GMA Lifetime Service Award was created by the Board of Directors in 2014 to recognize elected city officials, city managers, city clerks and city attorneys who, upon leaving office or retiring, had completed 35 or more years of service. Any individual meeting these criteria and being nominated by their city will receive the award.

## 2025-2026

A.R. (Rick) Roberts, III, former Mayor, Ball Ground, (38 years)

Billy Chandler, former Municipal Court Judge, Commerce (35 years)

Brenda James, former City Clerk, Fairburn (35 years)

Glenda Enloe, former City Clerk, Dillard (45 years)

Gloria Spratlin, former Clerk of Commission,  
Athens-Clarke County Unified Government (51 years)

Jimmy Skipper, former City Attorney,  
Americus, Ellaville, Leslie, Plains (40 years)

Kenneth K. Howard, former City Manager, Hinesville (39 years)

Lou Stewart, former Assistant City Clerk, Holly Springs (40 years)

Mary Ann Moseley, former City Clerk, Warrenton, (35 years)

Sonny Morris, former Councilmember, Winder (40 years)



# GMA PAST PRESIDENTS




Fred Perriman, Madison	2024	Gil Harbin, Valdosta	1977
Randall Walker, Perry	2023	Gerald H. Thompson, Fitzgerald	1976
Julie Smith, Tifton	2022	John P. Rousakis, Savannah	1975
Jim Thornton, LaGrange	2021	John C. Barrow, West Point	1974
Vince Williams, Union City	2020	Henry S. Bishop, Alma*	1973
Phil Best, Dublin	2019	J.R. Allen, Columbus*	1972
Linda Blechinger, Auburn	2018	E. Gregory Griggs, Atlanta	1971
Dorothy Hubbard, Albany	2017	Jack A. Leroy, Ailey	1970
Mike Bodker, Johns Creek	2016	L. Howard Atherton, Marietta	1969
Boyd Austin, Dallas	2015	Richard B. Ray, Perry	1968
Keith Brady, Newnan	2014	Jack Hamilton, Decatur	1967
Beth English, Vienna	2013	John L. Cromartie, Gainesville	1966
John Reid, Eatonton	2012	Malcolm MacLean, Savannah*	1966
Billy Trapnell, Metter	2011	J. Steve Knight, Columbus*	1965
Ken Steele, Fayetteville	2010	John Yarbrough, Rome	1964
Bill Floyd, Decatur	2009	Randolph Medlock, Stone Mountain	1963
Kenneth Smith, Kingsland	2008	Roswell Hair, Buena Vista	1962
Jay Powell, Camilla*	2007	W.B. Withers, Moultrie	1961
Shirley Franklin, Atlanta	2006	Carl E. Pruett, Griffin	1960
Tom Ratcliffe, Hinesville	2005	Charles A. Cowan, Cartersville	1959
Cecil Pruett, Canton	2004	B.F. Merritt, Jr., Macon	1958
Susan Holmes, Monticello	2003	W.L. Mingleddorf, Jr., Savannah	1957
Floyd Adams, Savannah	2002	A.C. Felton, III, Montezuma	1956
Roger Boatright, Alma	2001	Frank Tigner, LaGrange	1955
Andrew Harris, Decatur	2000	Sam J. Welsch, Marietta	1954
Evelyn Turner Pugh, Columbus	1999	Edward A. Dutton, Savannah Beach	1953
Bob Sosebee, Commerce	1998	John W. Robinson, Winder	1952
Willie Davis, Vienna	1997	Lewis B. Wilson, Macon	1951
Keith Dixon, Kingsland	1996	Jack R. Wells, Athens	1950
John Meadows, Calhoun	1995	William Butt, Blue Ridge	1949
Bill McIntosh, Moultrie	1994	John G. Kennedy, Savannah	1948
Myrtle Davis, Atlanta	1993	E.L. Almand, Jr., Monroe	1947
Ed Cannington, Lumpkin	1992	W.C. Henson, Cartersville	1946
Tracy Stallings, Carrollton	1991	C.Q. Wright, Albany	1945
James Neal, Toccoa	1990	R.S. O'Neal, LaGrange	1944
Lace Futch, Willacoochee	1989	William B. Hartsfield, Atlanta	1943
Frank Sherrill, Social Circle	1988	Hugh Thurston, Thomaston	1942
Ira Jackson, Atlanta	1987	Charles L. Bowden, Macon	1941
Bill Reynolds, Bainbridge	1986	George S. Carpenter, Milledgeville	1940
Lauren Coile, Athens	1985	Thomas Gamble, Savannah	1939
George Israel, Macon	1984	R.E. Allen, Augusta	1938
Bob Knox, Jr., Thomson	1983	T.R. Luck, Carrollton	1937
Lillian Webb, Norcross	1982	James A. Fort, Americus	1936
Tom Faircloth, Thomasville	1981	J.D. Ashley, Valdosta	1935
Hobby Stripling, Vienna	1980	James A. Key, Atlanta	1934
David Barrow, Bowdon	1979	<i>*served partial terms</i>	
Lewis A. Newman, Augusta	1978		



**Save The Date**  
**2027 Annual Convention**  
**Savannah Convention**  
**Center**  
**June 25-29**



**Save The Date**  
**2027 Cities United Summit**  
**Omni Hotel - Atlanta**  
**January 22-25**



# 2026 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

*Please refer to the GMA mobile app for  
additional company and contact information  
for all GMA Exhibitors*

*Join the Conversation*  
**#GACITIES**

## A

- 811 ABM
- 318 Accelecom GA, LLC
- 612 Achievelt
- 529 ACNS
- 823 AdComp Systems
- 1022 Allan Vigil Ford & Lincoln
- 907 American Flood Coalition
- 436 American Heart Association
- 405 American Tank Maintenance, LLC
- 428 Amwaste LLC
- 1013 Ancalle Engineers
- 1305 Andrews Technology HMS, Inc.
- 934 Anthem
- 1029 APWA - Georgia Chapter
- 1330 Association of Georgia General Aviation Airports - AGGAA
- 440 AsystYOU Technology
- 417 Atlantic Waste Services
- 1214 Atlantic&Southern.com
- 500 Atlas Technical Consultants

## B

- 501 Barnsley Construction Group
- 1017 BIS Consultants
- 1200 Bliss Products and Services, Inc.
- 523 Blueline Solutions
- 705 BM&K, an LJA company
- 925 Brick Industry Association
- 703 BS&A Software
- 1304 Bureau Veritas North America, Inc.

## C

- 1128 Carolina Environmental Systems, Inc.
- 813 Carter & Sloope, Inc

604	Charles Abbott Associates, Inc. (CAA)
606	Charles Abbott Associates, Inc. (CAA)
334	Christmas Decor by Great Estates Landscaping
430	City Detect
300	CivicPlus
1014	CKH GROUP
800	ClearWater Solutions, LLC
223	Colliers Engineering & Design
1307	Comprehensive Program Services
600	Consolidated Pipe and Supply
413	Council for Quality Growth
504	CPL Architecture Engineering Planning
607	CROFT & Associates
817	Croy Engineering
605	CTI, Engineers

## D

1111	Decisions Consulting
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## E

407	Edmunds GovTech
519	Electric Cities of Georgia
235	Element Fleet Management
910	Engineering Management Inc
1004	EOM
1006	EOM
906	ESG/Inframark Company
434	EXP US Services Inc.
804	Express Disposal
1010	Falcon Design Consultants, LLC

## F

740	FIRELINE, INC
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## G

1316	Galloway & Company, LLC
710	Gas Authority
837	GDOT (Division of Intermodal)
1011	GDOT-LTAP
310	Georgia 811
916	Georgia Airports Association (GAA)
736	Georgia Association of Land Bank Authorities
429	Georgia Association of Regional Commissions
328	Georgia Association of Zoning Administrators (GAZA)
1114	Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs
431	Georgia City-County Management Association
1204	Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
322	Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS)
506	Georgia Dept of Community Affairs
724	Georgia Downtown Association
900	Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
1229	Georgia Family Connection
411	Georgia Fund 1 Prime
830	Georgia Head Start Association
418	Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH)
1007	Georgia Public Library Service
541	Georgia Recreation and Park Association
917	Georgia Safe Sidewalks
1236	Georgia State Ethics Commission
1116	Georgia State Firefighters Association
424	Georgia Transmission
340	Georgia Tree Council
406	GFL Environmental
711	GMA Gas Section
616	GMA's Risk Control Services
807	GMC (Goodwyn Mills Cawood)
543	Good Healthcare Matters, LLC/Project Blue
716	Govdeals

404	GovWell
106	Granicus
636	Grasshopper Company
735	Grasshopper Company
829	Great Southern Recreation
831	Great Southern Recreation
1301	Gresham Smith
1121	Guidehouse

## H

918	H2O Innovation
1035	Halff
931	Hansen Technologies
205	Hardy Automotive Fleet Group
822	Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute - Municipal Training Board
601	HdL Companies
1322	Hercules Outdoor Amenities
1101	Hogan Construction Group, LLC
1019	Holbrook Asphalt
217	Holiday Designs
1105	Holt Consulting Company, LLC

## I

828	i3 Verticals
929	i3 Verticals
1227	ICC Innovation
535	InfraHub
342	Infrastructure Systems Management, LLC
525	Ingram & Associates Consulting Engineers, LLC
1334	InterDev
202	IPG, Inc: Architects & Planners

## J

699	Jacobs
237	James Bates Brannan Groover LLP

- 1100 JMA Architecture, Inc.
- 312 Johnson, Laschober & Associates, PC
- 1328 Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson Inc. (JMT)
- 1222 Just Appraised

## K

- 715 Keck & Wood
- 1126 Kevin Price Construction
- 425 Knine All Systems
- 410 Kompan
- 1000 KorKat

## L

- 505 Lead Edge Design Group, Inc
- 1037 LeafFilter Gutter Protection
- 824 LifeLink® Foundation, Inc.
- 1104 Looks Great Services of MS, Inc.
- 226 Luke's Custom Sleighs and Millwork LLC

## M

- 330 Made to be Remade Georgia/Keep Georgia Beautiful
- 942 Mason Tractor Co.
- 422 Mauldin & Jenkins
- 1300 McCarthy Building Companies
- 419 McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture
- 1205 MEJA Construction
- 1031 Mighty 8th Media
- 336 MowerMax

## N

- 712 Natural Gas Association of Georgia
- 922 New Line Skateparks FL Inc
- 1210 New South Construction Company
- 104 North Star Place Branding + Marketing
- 912 NOVA Engineering and Environmental

## O

- 1217 Oncourse Home Solutions
- 1122 Optech Family of Companies
- 423 Osprey Management
- 1400 Owner Rep Consulting

## P

- 734 Parker Young Restoration
- 835 Parker Young Restoration
- 1001 Parrish Construction Group
- 923 Partake
- 1207 Partnership for Southern Equity
- 513 Penco Restoration
- 700 PlaySouth Playground Creators
- 801 PlaySouth Playground Creators
- 722 Playworx
- 901 Precision Planning, Inc.

## R

- 400 Radarsign LLC
- 201 RaLin
- 924 RCS Productions
- 905 Reeves Young
- 919 Republic Services
- 443 Ricoh USA, Inc.
- 401 RINDT, Inc.
- 805 Rushton, LLC
- 610 Ryland Environmental, Inc.
- 709 Ryland Environmental, Inc.
- 704 SAFEbuilt

## S

- 435 Samsara
- 1226 Sansom Equipment Company
- 229 Schnabel Engineering
- 806 Service Line Program by HomeServe

306	SinglePoint Services
531	SitelogIQ
718	Sizemore Group
437	Smith Douglas Homes
537	Sourcewell
304	Southeast Cement Promotion Association
1040	Southeast Elite Entertainment
936	Southern Software, Inc.
1321	Southern Tire Mart
818	Spicer Group
511	Springbrook Software
324	Stelson Signal
904	Still Waters Engineering
416	STV Inc
1311	SUPCASE
1318	Swift Recreation, LLC

## T

207	TAC Auction
1424	Ten-8 Industrial
816	TextByChoice
316	The Avanti Company
1215	The Collaborative Firm, LLC
1106	The SOS Agency
517	The WASS Company, LLC
819	TinyMobileRobots
540	Tractor & Equipment Company
507	Trane
1306	Trimax Mowing Systems
825	TSW
1107	Turner & Townsend Heery

## U

928	UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government
930	UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government

- 1023 United Consulting
- 1034 Universal Concepts
- 728 USG Water Solutions
- 730 USG Water Solutions

## V

- 516 VC3
- 617 VC3
- 1140 Vermeer Southeast Sales & Service, Inc.
- 412 Vortex Aquatic Structures International

## W

- 1223 Waste Management
- 1310 Waste Pro of Georgia Inc
- 1312 Waste Pro of Georgia Inc
- 1324 Wastequip
- 706 Wendel Companies
- 1005 Wilson Company Construction LLC
- 1206 Winter Construction
- 204 Wintergreen Corporation
- 1201 WithersRavenel
- 441 Woodard & Curran
- 225 WorkSource Georgia
- 231 WSB

## Y

- 1026 Yancey Bros. Co.
- 1025 Yoder & Frey Heavy Equipment Auctioneers LLC



# FLOOR PLANS



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