

Georgia Municipal Association

2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION | JUNE 23-27



Soaring
TO NEW HEIGHTS



JOIN THE CONVERSATION
#GACITIES





Soaring TO NEW HEIGHTS

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION 2023 ANNUAL CONVENTION • JUNE 23 - 27

GMA OFFICERS



PRESIDENT

Julie Smith

Mayor, Tifton



1st VICE PRESIDENT

Randall Walker

Mayor, Perry



2nd VICE PRESIDENT

Fred Perriman

Mayor, Madison



3rd VICE PRESIDENT

Bianca Motley Broom

Mayor, College Park



**IMMEDIATE PAST
PRESIDENT**

Vince Williams

Mayor, Union City



**GMA CEO &
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR**

Larry Hanson



Welcome to the Georgia Municipal Association's 90th Annual Convention, a grand celebration of our organization's rich history and the remarkable progress we have achieved together. I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings to all our members and guests as we gather again in beautiful Savannah. The Annual Convention has always been a time for unity, learning, growth, and fellowship, and this year, as we soar to new heights, that spirit will be magnified.

The theme of this year's convention, "**Soaring to New Heights,**" encapsulates the remarkable journey of Georgia's cities over the past 90 years and the endless possibilities that lie ahead. Let us embrace this theme as a powerful reminder that our potential knows no limits, and together, we can achieve significant feats that will shape the future of our communities.

Throughout the convention, you will witness our theme come alive in the inspiring keynote address, a general session with a dynamic speaker and timely content, as well as a great line-up of training classes, sessions, events, and networking opportunities. We want your voice to be heard during our policy committee meetings, as we work together to shape the policies that will profoundly impact our communities, regardless of size or location.

I also encourage you to explore the Municipal Marketplace, where you will discover an array of services and products designed to help your city thrive. We are grateful for all the partners, companies and sponsors that generously support Georgia's cities and the GMA Annual Convention. By engaging with them, you will discover resources that benefit your city.

The concurrent sessions have been thoughtfully curated to address the pressing issues our cities face each day. I urge you to attend the rapid-fire sessions, where you can gain a multitude of ideas and success stories from cities across the state.

But beyond the educational aspects, this convention is a platform for networking and fellowship, two powerful forces that can inspire and drive change. Here, you are among friends who share your passion and dedication. Here, the agenda is set to serve you, to help you become the leaders your residents need. Here, you can learn from experts and each other, fostering a culture of growth and collaboration.

GMA is committed to serving you and being a pillar of support throughout your development. This convention is designed to be an invaluable resource, and it is our goal to ensure that you leave with a renewed sense of purpose and the tools needed for success. If there is anything we can do to enhance your experience or address any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Once again, welcome to Savannah! I extend my deepest gratitude for your commitment to your growth and development and your service to your communities. Thank you for attending this historic 90th Annual Convention. Together, let us continue to soar to new heights, and remain Cities United.

Sincerely,



Larry H. Hanson
CEO and Executive Director

Powering Prosperity



At Georgia Power, our team is committed to the state we call home. In the last 10 years alone we've helped bring over 206,000 jobs to Georgia. We collaborate every day with local communities and statewide partners to support businesses locating, expanding, and innovating in Georgia. Together we are building a brighter future for our communities.

Discover how we're powering prosperity
in Georgia at [SelectGeorgia.com](https://www.SelectGeorgia.com)

GMA Welcome Center

If you did not print your name badge at the Westin, Hyatt or Marriott Riverfront on Thursday, the Welcome Center is where you will want to begin your Convention experience. Located on the main level of the Convention Center in the area known as the River Concourse (see floor plan on back page), the Welcome Center includes multiple badge printing stations for your convenience. In the event you need to make a change to your registration, purchase an additional ticket or the like, the Welcome Center is also the home of the registration desk where you will always find friendly GMA staff members ready to assist you and answer any questions you may have.

However, the Welcome Center is not all official business. It is also the place to be for some interactive fun. You will want to capture the memories of the 2023 Annual Convention with your friends and colleagues from across the state in the photo booth that is complete with a selfie stand and GMA backdrop. Also, be sure to take a few moments to add your contributions to the 90th Annual Convention jigsaw puzzle, which will be a point of pride for many years to come as the finished puzzle is displayed in the GMA headquarters. As if this were not enough reason to spend some time in the Welcome Center, note that the Clerks' silent auction and the Clerks' 50/50 raffle return to this year's Convention, and both can be found in the Welcome Center. Perhaps most important of all, the Welcome Center is your "go to" for meeting up with other Convention attendees, networking and getting reacquainted with old friends.

Registration Desk Schedule:

Friday, June 23: 7:00 am – 4:30 pm

Saturday, June 24: 7:00 am – 6:00 pm

Sunday, June 25: 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Monday, June 26: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

CONVENTION LOGISTICS

Municipal Marketplace (formerly known as the “Exhibit Hall”)

The Municipal Marketplace provides a great opportunity to learn more about a wide range of products and services available to your city. The Municipal Marketplace will be open during the following hours:

Saturday, June 24: 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Sunday, June 25: 10:30 am - 1:30 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.

Badges

Each person (including spouses, guests and children) who is officially registered will receive a badge that contains a QR code which provides access to all events, including those that were purchased individually and for the delegate gift. Badges must be worn at all events and are required for entry into the Municipal Marketplace.

Awards Luncheon Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony will be held on Monday as a luncheon and include the announcement of this year’s Municipal Government Hall of Fame inductees; the presentation of the Georgia Cities Foundation’s Renaissance and Starr awards; recognition of the Clerk of the Year, the newly and recertified Cities of Ethics, and the Cities of Civility; and the presentation of the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute certificates. A ticket for this event must be purchased in advance. If you have not purchased a ticket for this event, you may do so at the registration desk before 5:00 pm on Saturday, June 24, while supplies last.

Monday Evening Closing Event

This year’s closing event will provide an evening of food, fun and entertainment. The closing event will take place on Monday, June 26 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Savannah Convention Center. The night will include the popular “Taste of Savannah” dinner featuring local Savannah restaurants along with other fun activities to wind up the celebrations of GMA’s 90th anniversary.

CONVENTION LOGISTICS

Delegate Gift Pick Up in the Municipal Marketplace

Everyone registered for the full convention receives a delegate gift. To receive your gift, have your badge scanned at the delegate gift counter located in the Municipal Marketplace on Saturday or Sunday.

Ribbons

Ribbons for first-time attendees, Certified Cities of Ethics, Cities of Civility, training certificate recipients, and GMA boards and committees may be picked up at the registration desk.

Wireless Internet Service

Wireless Internet service is provided throughout the Savannah Convention Center. Log on to **Network GMA23**. The password is **gacities90**.

Stay Engaged During GMA's Annual Convention

Follow us: [@gacities](https://twitter.com/gacities)

Tweet with us: [#gacities](https://twitter.com/gacities)



Connecting Our Communities

At AT&T, we have invested in communities across Georgia for nearly **145 years** to bring connectivity, and the economic opportunity that comes with it, to more Georgians.

That's why, in Georgia, **we invested more than \$5.3 billion in our networks from 2020 to 2022** and deployed more than **6.4 million miles** of fiber-optic strand in communities across this great state.



© 2023 AT&T Intellectual Property. All rights reserved. AT&T, the Globe logo and other marks are trademarks and service marks of AT&T Intellectual Property and/or AT&T affiliated companies.

CONVENTION LOGISTICS

GMA Annual Convention Mobile App

GMA's Annual Convention mobile app is FREE and available in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store! Search "Georgia Municipal Association Events" and download the app for an up-to-the-minute schedule, session descriptions and listings of exhibitors and sponsors.

Gamification

Gamification returns to this year's Annual Convention to recognize attendees for engagement in the event and have some friendly competition along the way. By opting in to play "Game On GA Cities!", attendees have the opportunity to earn points for attending sessions, visiting exhibitors in the Municipal Marketplace, responding to survey questions and correctly answering trivia questions.

The top 10 individual point earners at any given time will be listed on the Game On leaderboard during the event. Following the conclusion of Convention, the top three individual point earners will be announced and will each receive a voucher for two nights lodging at a popular Georgia destination. In the event of a tie within the top three, a drawing will be conducted to determine the prize winners.

In addition, each time a player earns 500 points they will receive an entry on the prize wheel. A player may have multiple entries on the prize wheel. The prize wheel will be spun at the end of the Opening General Session, Annual Business Meeting and Installation of Officers and Board of Directors and the Monday Morning General Session. The wheel will land on one name at each of these sessions with gift cards awarded to those players.

Beyond individual play, this year there will also be a Game On leaderboard to recognize the cities that have accumulated the most combined points. The three cities with the most points within three different tier groups will be shown on the leaderboard during the Convention for city bragging rights. City points are calculated as the sum of the total points of the individuals playing as a representative of the city. The three tiers are based on ranges of the number of players from a city that have opted in to play the game.

Participation in Game On GA Cities! is completely voluntary. For full game instructions and details, as well as to opt in to play, follow the button in the Convention mobile app or scan one of the Game On QR codes placed around the Convention Center.

CONVENTION LOGISTICS

GMA Resource Areas

Are you interested in learning more about the various GMA services available to your city? The GMA Resource Area will be located in the Municipal Marketplace. We encourage you to drop by the GMA Booth, as you visit the Municipal Marketplace. Did you miss us in the Municipal Marketplace? On Monday, the GMA resource table will be located in the Rotunda of the Convention Center.

Dress

Dress for all events during the Convention is casual. Meeting rooms can be cool, so dress appropriately.

Exhibitor Door Prizes

Some exhibitors will be giving away door prizes. Instead of announcing the winners, exhibitors will place a form on the Message Board located in front of the Municipal Marketplace on the 100 aisle. It will be the responsibility of the exhibitors to post the winner's names and the responsibility of the attendees to check the Message Board. All winners will be posted on the Message Board by 1:00 pm on Sunday. Door prizes must be picked up prior to 1:30 pm on Sunday afternoon. Vendors will not be mailing door prizes. Remember to visit the Municipal Marketplace and thank our exhibitors for being with us as their exhibit fees help keep costs down for our attendees.

Healthy Lifestyle Exhibit

Local Government Risk Management Services (LGRMS) is hosting a Safety and Well-being exhibit during the Convention. Research-based resources will be available to help before, during, and after challenging situations. Whether the need is emotional support, compression only CPR, air quality testing, or stress management techniques, LGRMS is partnering with experts, including the University of Georgia Extension Service, the Georgia Department of Agriculture, and the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, to provide valuable information to support communities preparing and recovering from difficult situations. Come by the LGRMS Health & Safety Pavilion in the Municipal Marketplace to play safety & well-being bingo and to earn your free t-shirt, as well as learn more about important health and safety issues.

CONVENTION LOGISTICS

GMCA Silent Auction

The Georgia Municipal Clerks Association (GMCA) will be having a Silent Auction during the GMA Annual Convention beginning on Friday, June 23, and ending on Monday, June 26. The silent auction will be located in the Welcome Center near the registration desk in the Convention Center. Items include gift baskets, golf bag, golf outing, gift certificates and much, much more. Proceeds from the silent auction will be used to host the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC) Region III conference hosted by GMCA on February 28-March 3, 2024, in Columbus, Georgia. IIMC Region III consists of municipal and county clerks in Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina and Florida. IIMC provides instructional and educational opportunities for clerks across the Southeast, United States, and Internationally.

GMCA 50/50 Raffle

The Georgia Municipal Clerks Association will be having a 50/50 drawing during the Convention. The proceeds of the raffle will be used to offer training scholarships to city clerks to complete their 100 hours of education needed for the Georgia Municipal Clerks designation.

Hotels & Telephone Numbers

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| Aloft Savannah Downtown | 912-421-2003 |
| Courtyard by Marriott | 912-790-8287 |
| Doubletree by Hilton | 912-790-7000 |
| Embassy Suites..... | 912-330-8222 |
| Fairfield Inn & Suites | 912-236-1777 |
| Hampton Inn (Bay St.) | 912-231-9700 |
| Hampton Inn (Oglethorpe St.) | 912-721-1600 |
| Hilton Garden Inn | 912-721-5000 |
| Holiday Inn Express (Bay St.) | 912-231-9000 |
| Holiday Inn..... | 912-790-1000 |
| Homewood Suites..... | 912-355-0025 |
| Hotel Indigo | 912-236-4440 |
| Hyatt Regency..... | 912-238-1234 |
| JW Marriott | 912-373-9100 |
| Marriott Riverfront | 912-233-7722 |
| The Brice | 912-238-1200 |
| TRYP by Wyndham..... | 912-921-5300 |
| Westin Savannah Harbor | 912-201-2000 |

CONVENTION LOGISTICS

Transportation and Parking

We appreciate Visit Savannah and the Chatham Area Transit Authority for making transportation arrangements for GMA Convention attendees.

Transportation Schedule

Ground Transportation

| | Express Schedule | Standard Schedule |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Thursday, June 22 | | 2:30pm - 7:30pm |
| Friday, June 23 | | 6:00am - 8:00pm |
| Saturday, June 24 | 6:00am-7:00pm | --- |
| Sunday, June 25 | 6:00am-11:00am 3:00pm-7:00pm | 11:00am-3:00pm |
| Monday, June 26 | 7:00am-10:00am 3:30pm - 11pm | 10:00am- 3:30pm |
| Tuesday, June 27 | --- | 6:30am-12:30pm |

Red Route

DoubleTree by Hilton:
Shuttle stop Franklin Square

Fairfield Inn & Suites:
Shuttle stop in front of Ships of the Sea

Hilton Garden Inn: Shuttle stop Franklin Square

Holiday Inn: Shuttle Stop in front of Ships of the Sea Museum

Hotel Indigo: Shuttle stop Franklin Square

Purple Route

Savannah Marriott
Riverfront: Shuttle stop green bench on General McIntosh Blv.

Homewood Suites: Shuttle stop green bench on General McIntosh Blv.

Blue Route

The Kimpton Brice Hotel: Shuttle stop in front of hotel
JW Marriott: Shuttle stop on River Street in front of Chart House restaurant

Orange Route

Hyatt Regency: Shuttle stop in front of the Bohemian Hotel

Hampton Inn (Bay St)

Holiday Inn Express: Shuttle stop right side of Reynolds Square

The Kimpton Brice Hotel: Shuttle stop right side of Reynolds Square

Green Route

Embassy Suites: Shuttle stop on W. Oglethorpe on the side of Embassy Suites

Hampton Inn & Suites: Shuttle stop on W. Oglethorpe on the side of Embassy Suites

Aloft: Shuttle stop on W. Oglethorpe on the side of Embassy Suites

Courtyard: Shuttle stop in front of hotel

TRYP by Wyndham: Shuttle stop in front of hotel

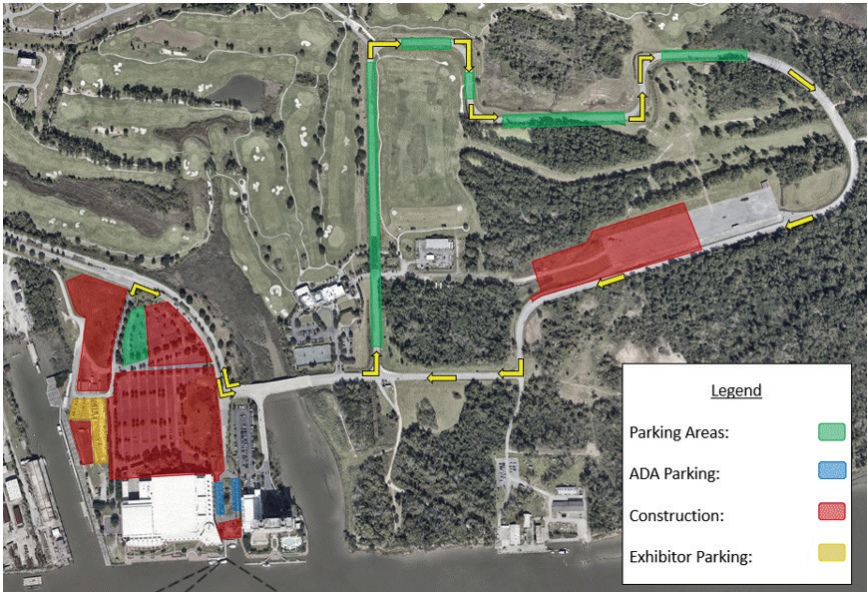
Ferry Schedule

| | 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 ONLY City Hall to SCC ONLY |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|
| Thursday, June 22 | 2:00pm-7:00pm | 7:00am-2:00pm | 7:00pm-Midnight |
| Friday, June 23 | 6:00am-8:00pm | - | 8:00pm-Midnight |
| Saturday, June 24 | 6:30am-7:00pm | - | 8:00pm-Midnight |
| Sunday, June 25 | 6:30am-7:30pm | - | 7:30pm-Midnight |
| Monday, June 26 | 7:00am-10:30pm | - | 10:30pm-Midnight |
| Tuesday, June 27 | 7:00am-12:30pm | 12:30pm-6:40pm | - |

CONVENTION LOGISTICS

Parking

The Savannah Convention Center parking lot is currently under construction. There are approximately 180 spaces available for attendees at the back of the parking lot. Parking is free to GMA guests and due to construction, the Savannah Convention Center will have a golf cart shuttle running guests from the parking lot to the front of the building. Limited ADA parking will be available in Bryan Square. A police officer will be at the base of Bryan Square to only allow trolleys and attendees with handicap stickers in the square. No attendee parking will be allowed in the square.



8:15 am – 3:15 pm

Municipal Training Institute *(lunch is included)*

Class descriptions can be found in the Convention mobile app, training brochure or on the GMA website.

(6-hour training classes include a continental breakfast and lunch)

- ◆ **Building a Hometown Connection: GMA Lobbying 101**
Room 205
- ◆ **Current Issues Class: Workforce Development**
Room 204
- ◆ **Downtown Development Authority Basic Training**
Room 203 (ends at 4:15 pm)
- ◆ **Economic Development***
Westin: Harbor Ballroom A
- ◆ **Environmental Sustainability**
Room 101
- ◆ **Ethics***
Room 102
- ◆ **Housing Solutions for Cities – Part Mobile Workshop**
Room 106
- ◆ **Human Resources***
Room 202
- ◆ **Making Citizen Engagement Work in our Communities***
Room 103
- ◆ **Making Cultural Diversity Work***
Room 104
- ◆ **Money, Money, Money ... Money! Funding City Projects and Programs Through Grants and Loans**
Westin: Grand Ballroom B
- ◆ **Regional Approaches to Cooperation**
Room 105
- ◆ **Steering Through the Storm: Guiding Your Community Through A Disaster***
Westin: Grand Ballroom A

FRIDAY • JUNE 23

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Municipal Training Institute *(lunch is not included)*

Class descriptions can be found in the Convention mobile app, training brochure or on the GMA website.

- ◆ **Mobile Workshop – Port of Savannah**
Tondees
- ◆ **Open Meetings***
Room 200
- ◆ **Practices for Successful Meetings***
Room 201
- ◆ **Public Policy Development and Implementation***
Westin: Harbor Ballroom B

** This class is on the "required" list for the Municipal Training Institute certificate program.*

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

RMEBS Board of Trustees Meeting

Westin: Grand Ballroom EF

The joint meetings of the Boards and regular business meetings of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS), the Workers Compensation Self-Insurance Fund (WCSIF), Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (GIRMA) and Defined Contribution/Deferred Compensation programs will be conducted. The session will conclude with the Georgia Municipal Captive Insurance Company Annual Shareholders meeting.

4:15 pm – 5:00 pm

Mentor/Mentee Meet and Greet

Tondees

Newly elected officials will have the chance to participate in a meet-and-greet event specifically focused on the GMA Mentoring Program. This event aims to provide support, guidance, and networking opportunities for mentees, allowing them to connect with experienced elected officials. If you are a newly elected official attending the Convention, this is a valuable opportunity to learn about the benefits of the mentor program. If you are a current mentee, this is a great time to have a meeting with your mentor during Convention. We hope to see you there!

FRIDAY • JUNE 23

Staff Contacts:

Sherri Bailey, *Member Services Consultant*

Emily Davenport, *Member Services Consultant*

4:15 pm – 5:45 pm

Board of Directors Meeting

Chatham Ballroom A

Presiding: Mayor Julie Smith, *Tifton – GMA President*





8:15 am – 11:15 am

Municipal Training Institute

Class descriptions can be found in the Convention mobile app, training brochure or on the GMA website.

Note that the Employee Benefits 101 (Retirement), Municipal Electric Systems 101, Municipal Gas Systems 101 and Risk and Insurance 101 classes will take place at the Hyatt Regency hotel located on the opposite side of the river from the Convention Center.

- ◆ **Beyond the Beltway: Influencing Federal Policy through Grassroots Engagement**
Room 101
- ◆ **Capital Improvement Program**
Room 203-205
- ◆ **Effective Practices for Municipal Operations 101**
Room 200-202
- ◆ **Employee Benefits 101 (Retirement)**
Hyatt: Verelst Room (opposite side of the river from the Convention Center)
- ◆ **Excellence in Customer Service**
Room 102
- ◆ **Let's Get Social**
Room 103
- ◆ **Local Government Debt Methods 101**
Room 104
- ◆ **Municipal Annexation: Growing Pains and Growth spurts**
Oglethorpe Auditorium
- ◆ **Municipal Courts Post-Ferguson II: Promoting Justice, Protecting City Assets**
Westin: Grand Ballroom D
- ◆ **Municipal Electric Systems 101**
Hyatt: Percival Room (opposite side of the river from the Convention Center)

SATURDAY • JUNE 24

◆ **Municipal Gas Systems 101**

Hyatt: Vernon Room (opposite side of the river from the Convention Center)

◆ **Municipal Taxation 102 – The Basics Continued**

Westin: Riverscape

◆ **New and Emerging Technology for Cities**

Westin: Grand Ballroom A

◆ **Public Works Services***

Westin: Grand Ballroom B

◆ **Risk and Insurance 101**

Hyatt: Sloane Room (opposite side of the river from the Convention Center)

◆ **Roles and Responsibilities of Council and Staff***

Westin: Harbor Ballroom A

◆ **Strengthening the Well-being of Children & Youth Room 105**

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

Westin: Harbor Ballroom B

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

Room 106

* *This class is on the "required" list for the Municipal Training Institute certificate program.*

Policy Committee Meetings

The purpose of policy committee meetings is to discuss legislative and policy issues of interest to cities. The membership will use the meetings to review and adopt the proposed 2024 policy recommendations suggested by city officials during the GMA spring district meetings and endorsed by the Legislative Policy Council.

11:45 am – 1:00 pm *(boxed lunch will be provided)*

Environment and Natural Resources Policy Committee Meeting

Room 200-202

As the impacts of climate change become increasingly severe, the role of stormwater systems in managing extreme weather events and protecting water quality has become more important than ever. Properly designed and maintained

SATURDAY • JUNE 24

municipal stormwater systems can mitigate the impacts of severe weather events but building and maintaining these systems can be a challenge. This panel discussion will explore the relationship between changing climates, infrastructure development, and preparation measures, and offer insights into how municipalities can best prepare for and adapt to the challenges of managing stormwater and severe weather events in a changing climate. Attendees will also consider proposed changes to the 2024 legislative policies.

Chair: Van R. Johnson, II, *Mayor, Savannah*

Presenters:

- **Representative Steven Sainz**
- **Senator Josh McLaurin**
- **John Eunice**, *Deputy Director, Georgia EPD*
- **Courtney Reich**, *Coastal Director, Georgia Conservancy*

Staff Contact: Noah Roenitz, *Governmental Relations Associate*

*Special thanks to **GMA Natural Gas Purchasing** for their support of this event.*

Public Safety Policy Committee Meeting

Room 203-205

Cutting-edge technology has transformed how cities imagine and advance public safety. Speed cameras, license plate readers, and city-wide digital networks have freed public safety resources to better locate, assess and address crime and disturbances. Hear how city officials leverage this technology in ethical and responsible ways to advance public safety in their communities. Also, hear from legislators as they provide a general overview of public safety from the legislative session. Attendees will also consider proposed changes to the 2024 legislative policies.

Chair: Kelly Girtz, *Mayor, Athens-Clarke County*

Presenters:

- **Representative Clint Crowe**
- **Senator Sonya Halpern**
- **John Ernst**, *Mayor, Brookhaven*
- **Lester Miller**, *Mayor, Macon-Bibb County*

SATURDAY • JUNE 24

Staff Contact: DeMetris Causer, *Governmental Relations Associate*

*Special thanks to the **GMA Workers Compensation Insurance Program** for their support of this event.*

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Municipal Government Policy Committee

Room 203-205

City officials run on a non-partisan basis in off-year election cycles, and city governments bear the costs of their elections. In recent years, there has been discussion about ways to reduce the costs of city elections, with such ideas as shorter early-voting windows and alternatives to runoff requirements, including so-called “instant runoff” or “ranked choice” voting methods. Presenters will discuss the status of various election laws and reforms at the General Assembly as well as potential reforms to reduce the costs of city elections. Attendees will also consider proposed changes to the 2024 legislative policies.

Chair: Anthony Ford, *Mayor, Stockbridge*

Presenters:

- **Representative Rob Leverett**
- **Representative Shea Roberts**
- **Senator Max Burns**

Staff Contact: Jim Thornton, *Director, Governmental Relations*

*Special thanks to the **GMA Property & Liability Insurance Program** for their support of this event.*

Revenue and Finance

Room 200-202

While taxation is generally considered solely a revenue generating policy, it also represents a vital tool for governments to incentivize economic development. The waiver of various tax liabilities by the state and local governments encourages specific behavior for the development and location of industry. In recent years there has been increased effort by the General Assembly to review the numerous tax incentives already in law or proposed to

SATURDAY • JUNE 24

measure their effectiveness. Legislators and industry experts will share insights on tax incentives and efforts focused on their review as well as a preview of upcoming revenue and finance issues. Attendees will also consider proposed changes to the 2024 legislative policies.

Chair: Betty Cason, *Mayor, Carrollton*

Presenters:

- **Representative Shaw Blackmon**
- **Senator Shelly Echols**
- **Senator Frank Ginn**
- **Grant Cagle**, *President and CEO, Georgia Economic Developers Association*

Staff Contacts:

Ryan Bowersox, *Assistant General Counsel*

Leona Rittenhouse, *Governmental Relations Associate*

*Special thanks to **GMA's Equipment and Real Estate Financing Programs** for their support of this event.*

2:45 pm – 4:00 pm

Transportation Policy Committee Meeting

Room 200-202

For Georgia, electric vehicle mobility is not the way of the future—it is the choice of today. Join the Transportation Policy Committee for a discussion of how Georgia will leverage its multi-modal transportation infrastructure towards economic development, community investment, and global competition in electric vehicle mobility. Also, as Georgia moves forward, hear how leaders factor safety into the state's plan for growth and the importance of strong state and local partnerships. Attendees will also consider proposed changes to the 2024 legislative policies.

Chair: Michael Chidester, *Mayor, Byron*

Presenters:

- **Senator Steve Gooch**
- **Senator Derek Mallow**
- **Joshua Waller**, *Director of Policy and Government Affairs, Georgia DOT*
- **Lon Harden**, *Effingham County Industrial Development Authority*

SATURDAY • JUNE 24

Staff Contact: DeMetris Causer, *Governmental Relations Associate*

*Special thanks to **GMA Telecommunications and Right of Way Management Services Program** for their support of this event.*

Community Development Policy Committee Meeting

Room 203-205

Ensuring access to healthcare for all communities and populations in Georgia is crucial for fostering continued growth and safeguarding public health and well-being. We invite you to join us at this policy committee meeting, where members of the General Assembly and state officials will shed light on the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead as we strive to bridge the healthcare access gap in our state. Discussions will encompass a range of important topics, including strategies to enhance access in both urban and rural areas, the state's initiatives in addressing mental healthcare, and innovative funding mechanisms. Attendees will also consider proposed changes to the 2024 legislative policies.

Chair: Regina M. McDuffie, *City Manager, Brunswick*

Presenters:

- **Representative John LaHood** (*invited*)
- **Representative Doug Stoner**
- **Senator Ben Watson**
- **Dr. Dean Burke**, *Chief Medical Officer, Georgia Department of Community Health*

Staff Contacts:

Noah Roenitz, *Governmental Relations Associate*

Jim Thornton, *Director, Governmental Relations*

*Special thanks to **GMA Life and Health Insurance Program** for their support of this event.*

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Grand Opening and Reception in the Municipal Marketplace

*Special thanks to **Charles Abbott Associates, Inc.** for their support of this event.*



SUNDAY • JUNE 25

7:30 am – 8:00 am

Worship Service

Room 105-106

8:00 am – 8:45 am

Annual Meeting of the RMEBS Membership

Westin: Grand Ballroom EF

This meeting is held for the purposes of providing an update of the activities of the Georgia Municipal Employees Benefit System (GMEBS), the Workers Compensation Self-Insurance Fund (WCSIF), Georgia Interlocal Risk Management Agency (GIRMA) and Defined Contribution/Deferred Compensation programs, delivering a financial update on the respective funds, and voting on matters that may require a vote of the respective memberships. No votes of the membership are scheduled to occur at this meeting. If your city participates in one or more of the Association's retirement and insurance programs, you are invited to attend.

8:00 am – 8:45 am

Mayor's Reading Club Forum

Room 200-202

This session is designed for mayors who are currently participating in the Mayor's Reading Club program offered through Georgia City Solutions, a GMA non-profit. The Mayor's Reading Club program aims to promote a love of reading among young readers and serves as a powerful tool for improving literacy in cities across Georgia. During this session, attendees will have the opportunity to share success stories, examine measurable outcomes, and discuss strategies for establishing partnerships with local schools, public libraries, the business community, non-profit organizations and dedicated volunteers. Additionally, participants will explore options for replicating success stories and implementing interactive companion activities throughout the state.

Staff Contact: Kay Love, *Managing Director, Georgia City Solutions*

9:00 am – 10:30 am

Opening General Session

Chatham Ballroom

Presiding: Julie Smith, Mayor, Tifton – GMA President

Parade of Flags

National Anthem

Roger Moss, Jr., President, Board of Education, Savannah Chatham County Public School System

Invocation

Vince Williams, Mayor, Union City – GMA Immediate Past President

Welcome to Savannah

Van R. Johnson, II, Mayor, Savannah

Special Recognitions and Presentation of the GMA Lifetime Achievement Award

Larry Hanson, CEO and Executive Director, GMA

Remarks

The Honorable Brian P. Kemp

Governor of Georgia

(via recorded video)

Keynote Speaker

General (Ret.) Mark A. Welsh III

Dean, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University

General Welsh became the 20th Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force in August 2012, serving as the senior uniformed Air Force officer responsible for the organization, training and equipping of 664,000 active-duty Guard, Reserve and civilian forces serving in the United States and overseas. After retiring from the Air Force, he became Dean of the Bush School of Government and Public Service in August 2016.



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

SUNDAY • JUNE 25

10:30 am – 1:30 pm

Municipal Marketplace Open

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

*Special thanks to **Consolidated Pipe and Supply** for their support of this event.*

10:45 am – 12:00 pm

Municipal Training Board Meeting

Room 101

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

Chair: Tiffany Zeigler, *Mayor Pro Tem, Pembroke*

Staff Contact: Aileen Harris, *Training Manager*

11:00 am – 12:00 pm

Legislative Policy Council Meeting

Room 203-205

The Legislative Policy Council will review the recommendations from the six standing policy committees and vote to move the proposed legislative policies for 2024 to the full membership for final approval. Additionally, attendees will hear from Senate Majority Leader Steve Gooch about the state's top priorities.

Presiding: Fred Perriman, *Mayor, Madison – GMA Second Vice President*

Staff Contact: Jim Thornton, *Director, Governmental Relations*

11:00 am – 3:00 pm

City Attorneys' Session and Lunch

Westin: Grand Ballroom AB

The City Attorneys' Seminar is the Association's annual CLE for city attorneys and is the annual business meeting for the City Attorneys' Section of GMA. During the luncheon, topics will cover Municipal Finance and Special District Financing, Medical Cannabis in Georgia, and Legislative and Judicial Updates. These topics will assist Georgia's city attorneys in obtaining 3 hours of Continuing Legal Education with the State Bar of Georgia. There will also be a city attorney roundtable to discuss any other pressing issues.

Presiding: Brooke Newby, *City Attorney, Perry*

Presenters:

- **Douglass Selby**, *Partner, Hunton Andrews Kurth*
- **Shaney Lokken**, *Counsel, Hunton Andrews Kurth*
- **Jansen Head**, *General Counsel, Georgia Access to Medical Cannabis Commission*
- **Rusi Patel**, *General Counsel, GMA*
- **Ryan Bowersox**, *Assistant General Counsel, GMA*

Staff Contact: Rusi Patel, *General Counsel*

*Special thanks to **Alston & Bird, Elarbee Thompson, Freeman Mathis & Gary, LLP.** and **Gallagher Bassett** for their support of this event.*

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

GMA City Managers Luncheon

Room 200-202

Georgia House Bill 1385 requires all local governments that annex or deannex property after July 1, 2022 to submit a digital Geographic Information Services (GIS) file of the parcels to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) and the Office of Legislative and Congressional Reapportionment. Communities that do not have GIS capabilities can request assistance from their Regional Commission. To standardize the GIS assistance process for local governments in response to the new annexation reporting requirements under House Bill (HB) 1385, the Georgia Association of Regional Commissions (GARC)

SUNDAY • JUNE 25

has developed the GARC Annexation Hub. During the managers lunch meeting, Wincy Poon of the Coastal Georgia Regional Commission will present an overview of the Annexation Hub.

Guest Speaker: Wincy Poon, *GIS Manager for Coastal Georgia Regional Commission*

Staff Contacts:

Pete Pyrzewski, *Member Services Consultant*

Erica Grier, *GCCMA Business Manager*

*Special thanks to **Crews and Associates, Davenport & Company, MEAG Power, New South Construction Company and Schneider Electric** for their support of this event.*

1:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Federal Policy Council Meeting

Room 203-205

The Federal Policy Council (FPC) is GMA's federal legislative advocacy group. The primary purpose of the FPC is to maintain communications with the Georgia congressional delegation in support of GMA's federal municipal policies. At this meeting, FPC members will hear from a panel of speakers about federal priorities that are of importance to Georgia's cities, including federal funds for infrastructure through the CHIPS and Science Act, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act; rail safety, affordable housing, broadband, and workforce development.

Chair: Bianca Motley Broom, *Mayor, College Park – GMA Third Vice President*

Presenters:

- **U.S. Congressman Drew Ferguson**, *Georgia's 3rd Congressional District (invited)*
- **Rey Benitez**, *Chief of Staff, Senator Jon Ossoff (invited)*
- **Bee Nguyen**, *State Director, Senator Raphael Warnock*

Staff Contact: Becky Taylor, *Director, Federal Relations & Research*

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Rapid Fire Sessions: Showcase of Successful Initiatives

Interested in learning about successful programs and projects that have been initiated in other cities across the state? If so, plan to attend one of the Rapid Fire sessions. Each session will provide attendees with an opportunity to hear fast-paced presentations, followed by a brief question and answer period.

Small City Rapid Fire

Room 102-104

Moderator: Liz Ordiales, *Mayor, Hiawassee*

Staff Contact: Sherri Bailey, *Member Services Consultant*

Adel (5,200 population):

Dana David, *Main Street Manager*

The city of Adel actively participated in the Georgia Economic Placemaking Collaborative and undertook three significant projects as part of the program. These projects included the Cook County Library Park, Pocket Park at Adel News, and The Depot area. Currently, the collaborative is in the final stages of completing the library park, a joint effort between Cook County and the city of Adel. The project involved clearing a wooded lot, removing debris and dead trees, constructing a paved walking path, and adding amenities such as picnic tables, park benches, flowerpots, and a community garden area. Additionally, the collaborative engaged the Boy Scouts to contribute by making birdhouses to be hung in the park. A post and rail fence with openings on each side will provide convenient access to enclose the park.

Hahira (3,406 population):

Jennifer Price, *Main Street Director*

In an effort to generate passive revenue, the city of Hahira Main Street Program established a retail space within a local downtown business. The area offers a wide range of Hahira and honeybee-themed merchandise, such as apparel, housewares, books, and home accent items. The Main Street Program is responsible for inventory management and promotion through social media. This initiative relieved the City Clerk of the previous responsibility of selling merchandise from City Hall. It resulted in a 6% increase in revenue within just one year, accounting for 22% of the program's total revenue in 2022.

Hiawassee (990 population):

Liz Ordiales, *Mayor*

Hiawassee has implemented initiatives to boost travel, tourism, and the second-home market. Recognizing the slow winter months, the city capitalized on its position as the first refueling point for thru-hikers on the Appalachian Trail. A comprehensive marketing plan was devised, including banners, signage, stickers throughout the city, and a transit bus schedule to pick up hikers at trailheads. "Mayor Mondays" were introduced, where the mayor grilled food for hikers, increasing business for hotels, restaurants, outfitter stores, and more. The initiative has successfully attracted 1,507 hikers from various countries, providing both immediate economic benefits and the potential for long-term tourism growth in the area.

Homerville (2,317 population):

Laura Nipper, *Main Street Manager*

Homerville's downtown received significant support from a local foundation determined to revitalize the town. Homerville partnered with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG) at UGA to develop a comprehensive plan, following input from various communities. The foundation required public participation to instill a sense of ownership and pride. Utilizing online surveys, focus groups, and public meetings, CVIOG gathered data from residents and incorporated it into renderings of the downtown area. The resulting Renaissance Strategic Vision and Plan (RSVP) generated excitement among locals and visitors, with several projects already completed. Homerville's RSVP was finalized and presented to the community in January 2023.

Lyons (4,211 population):

Jason Hall, *City Manager*

The city of Lyons recognized the importance of communication and transparency in building trust and promoting public participation. They introduced a new app that utilizes social media and the city's website to facilitate communication with citizens. The textmygov message platform enables the city administration to share timely information regarding road closures, water service interruptions, and more. Additionally, the city revamped its website and social media policies, offering citizens access to meeting details, agendas,

budget information, and an online water usage portal. These improvements have provided the community with convenient access to valuable information.

Madison (4,894 population):

Fred Perriman, *Mayor*

The city of Madison has launched a youth initiative to engage children and youth in learning about local government. Through the Georgia City Solutions' Mayor's Reading Club Program, the city aims to improve literacy skills and promote early reading. The program involves reading clubs and lays the groundwork for a broader literacy improvement strategy. The city also organized its first State of the City address in 2023, inviting various youth programs to participate and emphasizing the importance of youth engagement in local government. The city believes that by involving youth in these activities, they are nurturing future leaders and fostering civic responsibility.

Toccoa (9,248 population):

David Austin, *Mayor*

The Lake Toccoa Recreational Park project was a successful multi-year initiative transforming the city of Toccoa's reservoir area. It included renovations to the public golf course and event center and adding a pavilion, boathouse, and walking trail. The golf course received upgrades to the greens, irrigation system, cart paths, and improvements to the pro shop and restaurant. The event center was entirely renovated using energy-efficient materials, and a new pavilion, boathouse, and public restroom were constructed. A fully accessible walking trail was created around the lake, featuring exhibit signage, resting bench swings, and wheelchair-accessible tables. The project significantly improved the city's residents' recreational facilities and quality of life.

Large City Rapid Fire

Room 105-106

Moderator: Marcia Hampton, *City Manager, Douglasville*

Staff Contact: Michael McPherson, *Member Services Consultant*

Braselton (14,383 population):

Kurt Ward, *Mayor*

The Town Council of Braselton made a resolution to support the economic development initiative called Braselton Tech. Recognizing that technology-based businesses often seek tech ecosystems rather than specific geographic boundaries, the Braselton community has established various elements that promote technology development, such as medical and automotive innovation centers and workforce pipelines. Braselton Tech aims to accelerate start-ups, provide resources for businesses, and foster a synergistic tech ecosystem. More information can be found at BraseltonTech.com.

Cairo (10,015 population):

Julian Brown, *City Manager*

The former depot in Cairo, which had been converted into a police department, became vacant when the city constructed a new police station. The city sought proposals for a business plan to occupy the space, and the city council selected a local family's pizza restaurant as the best fit. Despite budget constraints, the city utilized its public works department for the renovation, and the move of the pizza restaurant increased foot traffic in downtown Cairo. The restaurant's success also prompted another local business to expand and purchase a downtown business, benefiting the local theater, the oldest in Georgia.

Canton (37,094 population):

Billy Peppers, *City Manager*

The Ward Check-In Strategy implemented by Canton Mayor Bill Grant and City Manager Billy Peppers aims to address the challenges of prepping for city council meetings. By conducting virtual Ward Check-ins before each meeting, officials can review the agenda, listen to concerns, ask questions, and provide an overview of requested actions. These virtual calls promote more transparent communication,

SUNDAY • JUNE 25

better preparation, and more efficient meetings, preventing tense moments and ensuring staff have the necessary information to address important questions. The strategy has positively impacted elected officials and staff, facilitating impactful discussions and smoother meeting processes.

Dunwoody (50,901 population):

Lynn Deutsch, *Mayor*

Dunwoody has implemented two related programs - Storefront Art and Green Light Art - to address the challenges of engaging with youth and promoting public art. Storefront Art involves Dunwoody High School students creating canvases displayed in the windows of local businesses, allowing them to express their voices and enhance the business district. Green Light Art takes this initiative further by using student canvases to create artistic wraps for traffic signal boxes, bringing student expression to various intersections and adding beauty to these spaces. Both programs aim to foster youth engagement and enhance the visual appeal of Dunwoody.

Douglasville (35,561 population):

Jason Post, *Community Relations Manager*

Emily Hardaway, *Community Outreach Coordinator*

Freddy, *Exuberant Puppet*

The city of Douglasville was awarded the Visionary City Award for its innovative approach to education. Instead of a radical transformation, they focused on teaching children about their local government through a six-episode video series called Douglasville Jr. The series, incorporated into the 2nd-grade curriculum, features diverse students and follows a puppet character who learns about the workings of local government. The city collaborated with the school system to ensure the content aligned with the curriculum. The series has gained popularity among children, parents, extended families, and the general public. The city plans to produce a second season, expanding the scope to include additional government departments and procedures. They also intend to collaborate with local middle and high school music programs for original music in future episodes.

East Point (38,141 population):

Deron King, *City Manager*

The city of East Point is dedicated to improving the well-being and stability of its community through various initiatives. Recognizing the pressing issues of affordable housing, transportation, and access to quality jobs, city leaders have joined the National League of Cities "Cities of Opportunity program" to seek solutions. East Point is also in its fifth year of the city's "The Healthy Point" initiative. This city-run 90-day program emphasizes the importance of an active and healthy lifestyle. The initiative aims to encourage healthy choices among residents and foster a more connected and engaged community. The city also began implementing a City Agricultural Plan in 2021 to create a roadmap for the community to achieve its vision of creating a vibrant and sustainable community food system. East Point is committed to building a healthier future for its residents through these ongoing efforts.

Perry (22,029 population):

Tabitha Clark, *Senior Communications Manager*

The city of Perry recognizes the importance of citizen engagement and communication. To overcome the challenge of meeting diverse communication needs, the city's Communications Office has implemented innovative strategies that cater to different preferences. These strategies encompass digital and non-digital methods to reach and communicate with the community effectively. The Communications team is committed to discussing budget-friendly strategies that make communication easy and efficient for the city and its residents.

3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Voting Credential Pickup

International Gallery (Outside Chatham Ballroom)

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Annual Business Meeting & Installation of Officers and Board of Directors

Chatham Ballroom

Presiding: Julie Smith, Mayor, Tifton – GMA President

State of GMA

Larry Hanson, CEO & Executive Director, GMA

Report from the Legislative Policy Council and Adoption of the 2024 Legislative Policies

Fred Perriman, Mayor, Madison – GMA Second Vice President

Proposed Amendments to the GMA Bylaws

Rusi Patel, General Counsel, GMA

Nominating Committee Report and Election of 2023-2024 Officers and Board of Directors

John Reid, Mayor, Eatonton – GMA Past President

Installation of GMA Board and Officers

Rusi Patel, General Counsel, GMA

Brooke Newby, City Attorney, Perry

Special thanks to **Coleman Talley Strategies**, **Gas Authority**, **IntraFi**, **Trane**, and **Turnipseed Engineers** for their support of Convention beverage breaks.

8:30 am – 9:45 am

General Session

Chatham Ballroom

Presiding: Julie Smith, Mayor, Tifton – GMA President

Updates and Recognitions from Georgia City Solutions

Kirby Thompson, Chair, Georgia City Solutions Board of Directors

Panel Discussion: “Addressing Georgia’s Housing Needs”

Moderator: Jim Thornton, Director, Governmental Relations, GMA

Presenters:

- **Christopher Nunn**, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Community Affairs
- **Seth Millican**, Executive Director, Georgia Transportation Alliance (*invited*)
- **Bianca Motley Broom**, Mayor, College Park – GMA Third Vice President
- **Lester Miller**, Mayor, Macon-Bibb County

Speaker:

Joan Higginbotham

former NASA astronaut

Joan Higginbotham is a retired NASA astronaut and trailblazing electrical engineer who flew aboard Space Shuttle Discovery in 2006 to become the third African American woman to fly into space. She actively participated in 53 space shuttle launches during her 20-year career. In April 2022, she launched her own aerospace consulting firm, Joan Higginbotham Ad Astra LLC.



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

10:00 am – 11:00 am

Concurrent Sessions

A Better Process for LOST and SDS

Room 102-104

Cities and counties are required by state law to negotiate service delivery strategies and, if applicable, the distribution of local option sales tax revenue. Those negotiations are among the most difficult and contentious experiences for local elected officials. City and county officials have expressed frustration about the process and the results. Lately, state legislators have shown an interest in finding improvements to both these areas of local contention. GMA staff have been working with ACCG staff on ideas that could potentially improve the process. In this session, GMA staff will lead a focused discussion about specific ways that have been suggested for improving negotiations and for providing a dispute resolution process. Come prepared to discuss and offer ideas for improvement.

Presenters:

- **Larry Hanson**, *CEO and Executive Director, GMA*
- **Jim Thornton**, *Director, Governmental Relations, GMA*
- **Ryan Bowersox**, *Assistant General Counsel, GMA*

Staff Contact: **Jim Thornton**, *Director, Governmental Relations*

Emergency(!) Medical Response Times

Room 105-106

While the EMS industry's standard response time is nine minutes, in some cities across Georgia, the wait time can be twice as high. This issue creates a ripple effect for first responders and residents, and there are several underlying causes for delayed EMS response times. Hear from panelists about the underlying causes for longer EMS response times and what solutions can be crafted to address the issue.

Facilitator & Staff Contact: **DeMetris Causer**, *Governmental Relations Associate*

Presenters:

- **Eric Wilson**, *Mayor, Forsyth*
- **Chad Black**, *Georgia EMS Association*
- **Vera Morrison**, *Deputy Fire Chief, Decatur*

**Workforce Housing – Housing Leadership:
An Evolving Reality**

Room 200-202

Housing is definitely not a one-size-fits-all problem – and simplistic solutions will fail. Today, the housing challenge demands a multi-faceted approach from local leadership. Market demands have shifted beyond the comfort zone of the majority of ever-voiceful and voting single-family homeowners. Cities must be able to adeptly articulate housing goals, correctly gauge local housing tolerance, and strategically adjust to accommodate growth.

Facilitators & Staff Contacts:

Noah Roenitz, *Governmental Relations Associate*

Cindy Eidson, *Director, Community and Economic Development*

Presenters:

- **Monica Callahan**, *Planning and Development Director, Madison*
- **Matt Forshee**, *Community Development Manager, Georgia Power*
- **Philip Gilman**, *Georgia Department of Community Affairs*

DEI Strategies for a City Culture of Belonging

Room 203-205

Learn about GMA's new Certified City of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, & Belonging (Certified City of DEIB) program, a city certification created to help city leaders identify and eliminate the obstacles that stand in the way of creating sustainable and inclusive communities. This session will provide an overview of the Certified City of DEIB program, and attendees will hear from city managers and elected official panels on their DEI initiatives that are helping cultivate change to foster inclusive, equitable, and thriving communities on their journey to becoming a Certified City of DEIB.

Facilitator & Staff Contact: Alexandra Campos Castillo,
Program Manager, Georgia City Solutions

City Manager Presenters:

- **Billy Peppers**, *City Manager, Canton*
- **Jessica O'Connor**, *City Manager, Griffin*

MONDAY • JUNE 26

Elected Official Presenters:

- **Ceretta Smith**, *Councilmember, Grovetown*
- **Lester Cromer**, *Councilmember, Tifton*
- **Anthony Ford**, *Mayor, Stockbridge*
- **Randall Walker**, *Mayor, Perry*

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Addressing Dangerous Dwellings

Room 102-104

Dilapidated and neglected housing places a strain on municipal community development and public safety. The dangers associated range from fire and crime to mold, rodents, and collapsing rooftops. In 2022, the Atlanta-Journal Constitution developed a local story with statewide impact—Dangerous Dwellings—which launched a new effort to address and ameliorate unsafe housing conditions. Join this panel as they discuss solutions to derelict and neglected housing.

Facilitator & Staff Contact: **Noah Roenitz**, *Governmental Relations Associate*

Presenters:

- **Senator Jason Esteves**
- **Willoughby Mariano**, *Atlanta-Journal Constitution*
- **Whitney Shephard**, *President, Georgia Planning Association*

Why Civility Matters!

Room 105-106

What role does civility play in our organizations? Being polite is merely the first step toward civility. It is about learning to listen to and respect other people's points of view and belief, even if you disagree with them, and modeling that behavior for others. The challenging work of civility is maintaining a presence with individuals with profound and emotional differences. The session aims to educate cities about the Embrace Civility program and

MONDAY • JUNE 26

address any questions or concerns cities may have about becoming a City of Civility.

Facilitator & Staff Contact: Freddie Broome, *Director, Equity and Inclusion, GMA and Georgia City Solutions*

Presenters:

- **Julie Smith**, *Mayor, Tifton – GMA President*
- **Bianca Motley Broom**, *Mayor, College Park – GMA Third Vice President*
- **Brian K. Mock**, *Mayor, Chamblee*
- **Fred Perriman**, *Mayor, Madison – GMA Second Vice President*
- **Andrea Gibby**, *Mayor, Young Harris*

Destination Downtown

Room 200-202

Downtowns must be vibrant gathering places to attract visitors and customers. To create a unique sense of place that brings energy and life to the area, it requires bringing different facets of economic development and community life together. In this session, downtown development professionals will share expertise about how to create a downtown destination through the integration of the arts, engaging event programming, historic theaters, and entertainment districts.

Facilitator: Sadie Krawczyk, *Managing Director, Georgia Forward and Placemaking, GMA*

Presenters:

- **Qaijuan Willis**, *Main Street Director, City of Americus - Americus' creative events*
- **Aundi Lesley**, *Director, City of Rome's Downtown Development Authority - Entertainment districts*
- **Tina Lilly**, *Executive Director, Georgia Council for the Arts - arts, murals, and other creative placemaking*
- **Leigh Burns**, *Director, Fox Theatre Institute - successful theatres and programming*

Staff Contacts:

Cindy Eidson, *Director, Community and Economic Development*

Sadie Krawczyk, *Managing Director, Georgia Forward and Placemaking*

MONDAY • JUNE 26

Nurturing Georgia's Future City Leaders

Room 203-205

Cultivating healthy, vibrant cities requires ongoing engagement with residents, civic and business leaders, and, often overlooked, the city's youth. With their fresh ideas and unique perspectives, young individuals play a vital role in addressing community challenges. To enhance effective engagement with youth, many cities have established youth councils. These councils aim to educate young people about the responsibilities and functions of cities, provide leadership training, peer-to-peer learning, and foster youth-led projects. In this session, participants will explore diverse approaches taken by different cities in establishing youth councils and learn about the wide range of activities these councils undertake.

Moderator: Hector Gutierrez, *Councilmember, Forest Park, and Member, GMA Children and Youth Advisory Council*

Presenters:

- **Kelvin Owens**, *Mayor, Camilla*
- **Janie Reid**, *Councilmember, Eatonton*
- **Adam Speas**, *Creative Director, LaGrange*

Staff Contact: Brian Wallace, *Director, Strategic Initiatives, GMA and Georgia City Solutions*

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Awards Luncheon (*ticket purchase required*)

Chatham Ballroom

Presiding: Julie Smith, *Mayor, Tifton – GMA President*

Invocation

Tim Houston, *Alderman, Acworth*

Clerk of the Year Award Presentation

Regina Russell, *City Clerk, Acworth – President, Georgia Municipal Clerks Association*

Recognition of Cities of Civility

Randall Walker, *Mayor, Perry – GMA First Vice President*

Recognition of Certified Cities of Ethics

Bianca Motley Broom, *Mayor, College Park – GMA Third Vice President*

MONDAY • JUNE 26

Presentation of the Georgia Cities Foundation's Renaissance Award and Starr Award

Pam Sessions, *President, Georgia Cities Foundation*

Municipal Government Hall of Fame Presentation

Shelly Berryhill, *Commissioner, Hawkinsville; Chair, GMA Awards Committee*

Presentation of Training Certificates

Tiffany Zeigler, *Mayor Pro Tem, Pembroke; Chair, Municipal Training Board*

Rob Gordon, *Director, Carl Vinson Institute of Government*

Aileen Harris, *Training Manager, GMA*

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Concurrent Sessions

Let's Talk Municipal Workforce Development

Room 105-106

City leaders are facing a critical juncture in cultivating their future workforce. The residents of a city expect its government services to be efficiently and effectively managed by qualified and responsive individuals. However, several challenges have emerged, including a growing number of retirements among the Baby Boomer generation, a shortage of qualified candidates for certain positions, increased competition from the private sector and other government entities, the rise of hybrid work arrangements, and varying work expectations among younger workers. Consequently, cities are encountering difficulties in attracting and retaining talented individuals. In this session, participants will learn from the experience of one city that has implemented initiatives and strategies to address its workforce development challenges. In addition, two cities currently involved in a Georgia City Solutions municipal workforce pilot program will share how they are developing municipal workforce needs assessments and recruitment strategies for hard-to-fill positions within their respective cities.

Moderator: Shelly Berryhill, *Commissioner, Hawkinsville; Chair, GMA Municipal Workforce Development Advisory Council*

MONDAY • JUNE 26

Presenters:

- **Teaa Allston-Bing**, *HR Director, Douglasville*
- **Regina McDuffie**, *City Manager, Brunswick*
- **Charlie Davis**, *City Manager, Douglas*

Staff Contact: **Brian Wallace**, *Director, Strategic Initiatives, GMA and Georgia City Solutions*

Getting Your City “Grant Ready”

Room 102-104

This session will provide Georgia cities with expert tips and advice to become more “grant ready”. The unprecedented wave of federal funding over the last few years has brought more opportunities than ever to advance critical infrastructure and other community projects. State and federal agencies announce new competitive grant programs almost weekly, with millions and billions of dollars on the table. Yet, Georgia cities face a perennial challenge: a lack of time, resources and expertise to pursue grant funding that often comes with an intensive application process and, should a city receive the award, extensive post-award management. These challenges are prohibitive for many cities, which ultimately means less resources for their communities.

Moderator: **Matt Donaldson**, *Mayor, Twin City*

Presenters:

- **Sonja Fillingame**, *City Manager, Union City*
- **Laura Mathis**, *Executive Director, Middle Georgia Regional Commission*
- **Becky Taylor**, *Director, Federal Relations and Research, GMA*
- **Claire Chan**, *Senior Research Analyst, GMA*

Staff Contact: **Becky Taylor**, *Director, Federal Relations and Research*

Addressing Homelessness in Georgia

Room 203-205

People experience homelessness in all settings—whether rural, urban, or suburban. The root causes are complex, interconnected and often systemic, with several contributing

MONDAY • JUNE 26

factors, including housing affordability, income stagnation, racial disparities, mental health and substance abuse, and domestic violence. Because the character of homelessness varies by region and locality, there is no single solution to the issue. Join the members of this panel as they discuss prescribing solutions to address homelessness in their cities and around the state.

Moderator & Staff Contact: DeMetris Causer, *Governmental Relations Associate*

Presenters:

- **Cosby Johnson**, *Mayor, Brunswick*
- **Stephanie Kaple**, *Savannah Homelessness Authority*
- **Max Ruppensburg**, *Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities*

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Closing Event

Exhibit Hall

This year's closing event will provide an evening of food, fun and entertainment. The night will include the popular "Taste of Savannah" dinner featuring local Savannah restaurants along with other fun activities and entertainment for all ages.

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

8:15 am – 11:15 am

Municipal Training Institute *(lunch is not included)*

Class descriptions can be found in the Convention mobile app, training brochure or on the GMA website.

(3-hour training classes include a continental breakfast)

- ◆ **Building Bridges Between Cities and Colleges**
Room 101
- ◆ **Changing Demographics and Best Practices**
Room 102
- ◆ **Current Issues Class: Municipal Law Update 2023**
Room 103-104
- ◆ **Current Issues Class: Understanding, Funding and Fighting the New Face of Homelessness in Georgia**
Room 203
- ◆ **Entrepreneur Friendly Cities**
Room 205
- ◆ **Funding and Programming Transportation Projects In Your Community**
Rooms 202
- ◆ **Human Trafficking: Georgia's Role and Response**
Room 201
- ◆ **Information Privacy and Security Breaches: Prevention and Response***
Room 200
- ◆ **Municipal Water and Wastewater Systems***
Room 204
- ◆ **Recreation and Parks – Building Communities**
Room 105-106

** This class is on the "required" list for the Municipal Training Institute certificate program.*

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION

CONFERENCE AND TRAINING SCHEDULE

FRIDAY • JUNE 23

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Clerks' Training Courses

- ◆ **Community and Media Relations 101 (Required)**
Westin: Grand Ballroom D
- ◆ **Minutes – Resolutions - Ordinances (CE Credit)**
Westin: Grand Ballroom C
- ◆ **Municipal Court Clerk Admin 101 (CE Credit)**
Westin: Riverscape

SATURDAY • JUNE 24

8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Clerks' Training Courses

- ◆ **Elections Training (CE Credit)**
Westin: Grand Ballroom C

8:30 am – 11:30 am

Clerks' Training Course

- ◆ **Records Management 102 (Techniques)**
(Required)
Westin: Grand Ballroom EF

12:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Clerks' Training Course

- ◆ **Record Management 103 (Technology)**
(Required)
Westin: Grand Ballroom EF

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

**Grand Opening and Reception in the Municipal
Marketplace**

SUNDAY • JUNE 25

7:30 am – 8:00 am

Worship Service

Room 105-106

9:00 am – 10:30 am

GMA General Session

Chatham Ballroom

12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Clerks' Business Meeting and Lunch

Westin: Grand Ballroom C

**Presiding: Regina Russell, City Clerk,
Acworth – GMCA President**

*Special thanks to **Georgia Rural Water
Association** for their support of this event.*



MONDAY • JUNE 26

8:30 am – 11:30 am

Clerks' Training Courses

- ◆ **Grants 101 (CE Credit)**
Westin: Grand Ballroom D
- ◆ **Legal and Legislative Updates (CE Credit)**
Westin: Grand Ballroom EF
- ◆ **Succession Planning (CE Credit)**
Westin: Riverscape

10:00 am – 11:00 am

GMA Concurrent Sessions

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

GMA Concurrent Sessions

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Awards Luncheon Ceremony (ticket purchase required)

Chatham Ballroom

Clerk of the Year will be announced

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

GMA Concurrent Sessions

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Closing Event (included with full GMCA conference rate)

Exhibit Hall

**HAROLD F. HOLTZ MUNICIPAL
TRAINING INSTITUTE CERTIFICATE
RECIPIENTS**

*Congratulations to the following city officials who
have shown dedication to continuing education and
lifelong learning.*

Certificate of Dedication (276 Hours)

Phil Boyum, *Statesboro*

James A. Gorley, *Eatonton*

John Maye, *Wadley*

John Reid, *Eatonton*

Certificate of Distinction (204 Hours)

Matt Donaldson, *Twin City*

Kentaiwon Durham, *Douglas*

Nathan Gaskin, *LaGrange*

Jon Howard, *Albany*

Bennie Jones, *Dublin*

Judy Powell, *Leesburg*

Mark C. Reed, *Cornelia*

Vesta Shephard, *Cordele*

Certificate of Excellence (120 Hours)

Carla Gowen, *Fort Valley*

Christina Hobbs, *Union City*

Lisa James, *St. Marys*

Artie Jones, Jr., *St. Marys*

Kelvin Owens, *Camilla*

Corey Reeves, *South Fulton*

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

Certificate of Achievement (72 Hours)

Pearlie Axson, *Riceboro*
Shari Barr, *Statesboro*
Louise Brown, *Riceboro*
Shawnette Bryant, *Stone Mountain*
Carla Coley, *Cochran*
Andrew Gibbs, *Valdosta*
Carmalitha Gumbs, *South Fulton*
John Howard, *Monroe*
Jimmy Johnson, *Fitzgerald*
Jennifer Sara Kolbie, *Dublin*
Tom Lambert, *Dunwoody*
Derek Mack, *Warner Robins*
Nancy Noblet, *Hiawassee*
Joshua W. Powell, *Dublin*
Kurtis Purtee, *Savannah*
Wesley Rainey, *Cordele*
Tim Richardson, *Acworth*
Tommy Roberts, *Fitzgerald*
Vanessa W. Thomas, *McDonough*
Kim Tice, *Garden City*
James Wascher, *Commerce*

Certificate of Recognition (42 Hours)

Catherine Ammons, *Valdosta*
Robert Bird, *Centerville*
Yolande Yvette Boone, *Lenox*
Earl Brown, *Fitzgerald*
Louise Brown, *Riceboro*
John Burgess, *Ashburn*
Terry Burton, *Elberton*
Pete Charpentier, *Suwanee*
Bill Claxton, *Barnesville*
Wayne Clay, *McRae-Helena*
Leslie Clemons, *Fitzgerald*
Walter Lanier Dupree, III, *Sylvester*

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

Johnny W. Eubanks, *Commerce*

Manfred Graeder, *Duluth*

Tammy Grimes, *Stonecrest*

Richard Hardy, *Valdosta*

Robert Horton, Jr., *St. Marys*

Isaac Jackson, Jr., *Sylvester*

Brandon Johnson, *Hartwell*

Albert King, *Vienna*

Darryl Langford, *Fayetteville*

Bernetta Lanier, *Savannah*

Jeffery Lundy, *Fort Valley*

Scott James Matheson, *Valdosta*

Kendrick McBride, *Wadley*

Loyd Mobley, *Vidalia*

Lawanna Owens-Twaites, *Union City*

Tonya D. Parrish, *Flowery Branch*

Angela Redding, *Cordele*

Tim Richardson, *Acworth*

Jacey Sebastian, *South Fulton*

Giovanni Shumake, *Millen*

Henry Strickland, *Waycross*

Betsy Wagenhauser, *Madison*

Linda Wilder-Bryan, *Savannah*

Natasha Williams, *South Fulton*

Vincent J. Williams, *Locust Grove*

Travis Wimbush, *Blakely*

Kathy A. Young, *Fitzgerald*

Samantha Young, *Woodbine*

GMA 2022-2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President - Julie Smith, *Mayor, Tifton*

1st Vice President - Randall Walker, *Mayor, Perry*

2nd Vice President - Fred Perriman, *Mayor, Madison*

3rd Vice President - Bianca Motley Broom, *Mayor, College Park*

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

Active Past Presidents

Immediate Past President - Vince Williams, Mayor, Union City

Past President - Linda Blechinger, Mayor, Auburn

Past President - Keith Brady, Mayor, Newnan

Past President - Bill McIntosh, Mayor, Moultrie

Past President - John Reid, Mayor, Eatonton

Directors At Large

Shelly Berryhill, Commissioner, Hawkinsville

Ollie Clemons, Mayor, Austell

Andre Dickens, Mayor, Atlanta

Andrea Gibby, Mayor, Young Harris

Skip Henderson, Mayor, Columbus

Lisa Clarke Hill, Councilmember, Moultrie

Deana Holiday Ingraham, Mayor, East Point

Jason Holt, Mayor, Fitzgerald

Isaiah Hugley, City Manager, Columbus

Michael-Angelo James, Mayor, Waycross

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor, Statesboro

Lester Miller, Mayor, Macon-Bibb County

Liz Ordiales, Mayor, Hiawassee

Rusty Paul, Mayor, Sandy Springs

District Officers

District One

President - Tyree Goodlett, Councilmember, Dalton

1st Vice President - Kelly Bomar, Councilmember, Ringgold

District Two

President - Tray Hicks, Councilmember, Hartwell

1st Vice President - Robert (Buddy) Moore, Councilmember, Blairsville

District Three

President North - Steven Miller, Mayor, Holly Springs

President Northeast - Marc Cohen, Councilmember, Sugar Hill

President East - Stephe Koontz, Councilmember, Doraville

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

President West - Sam Davis, *Councilmember, Douglasville*

President South - Anthony Ford, *Mayor, Stockbridge*

President Southwest - Brett Reichert, *Councilmember, Hapeville*

President Central - Keisha Sean Waites, *Councilmember, Atlanta*

District Four

President - Betty Cason, *Mayor, Carrollton*

1st President - William Pearman, *Mayor, Senoia*

District Five

President - John Howard, *Mayor, Monroe*

1st Vice President - David Keener, *Mayor, Social Circle*

District Six

President - Eric Wilson, *Mayor, Forsyth*

1st Vice President - Clifford Holmes, *Mayor Pro Tem, Warner Robins*

District Seven

President - Alana Burke, *Councilmember, Lincolnton*

1st Vice President - Jordan Johnson, *Commissioner, Augusta*

District Eight

President - William B. Whitley, *Mayor, Butler*

1st Vice President - Jesse Simmons, *Councilmember, Fort Gaines*

District Nine

President - Shirlene Armstrong, *Commissioner, Jesup*

1st Vice President - Timothy Varnadore, *Mayor, Baxley*

District Ten

President - Travis Wimbush, *Mayor, Blakely*

1st Vice President - Jay Flowers, *Mayor, Thomasville*

District Eleven

President - Tommy Roberts, *Councilmember, Fitzgerald*

1st Vice President - Carla Gibson-Wright, *Councilmember, Alapaha*

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

District Twelve

President - Allen Brown, Mayor, Hinesville

1st Vice President - Russ Deen, Mayor, Guyton

Section Presidents

Attorneys Section President - Brooke Newby, City Attorney, Perry

City Managers Section President - Chris Hobby, City Manager, Bainbridge

City Clerks Section President - Regina Russell, City Clerk, Acworth

Policy Committee Chairs

Community Development Chair - Regina McDuffie, City Manager, Brunswick

Environment & Natural Resources Chair - Van R. Johnson, II, Mayor, Savannah

Municipal Government Chair - Anthony Ford, Mayor, Stockbridge

Public Safety Chair - Kelly Girtz, Mayor, Athens-Clarke County

Revenue & Finance Chair - Betty Cason, Mayor, Carrollton

Transportation Chair - Michael Chidester, Mayor, Byron

GMEBS Board Chair

Rebecca Tydings, City Attorney, Centerville

Municipal Training Board Chair

Tiffany Zeigler, Mayor Pro Tem, Pembroke

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION
GEORGIA MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
BENEFIT SYSTEM (GMEBS),
GMA WORKERS' COMPENSATION
SELF-INSURANCE FUND (WCSIF), and
THE GEORGIA INTERLOCAL RISK
MANAGEMENT AGENCY (GIRMA)
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rebecca L. Tydings, *City Attorney, Centerville (Chair)*
Marcia Hampton, *City Manager, Douglasville (Vice Chair)*
Shelly Berryhill, *Commissioner, Hawkinsville*
Linda Blechinger, *Mayor, Auburn*
Chris Hobby, *City Manager, Bainbridge*
Meg Kelsey, *City Manager, LaGrange*
Jessica O'Connor, *City Manager, Griffin*
James F. Palmer, *Mayor, Calhoun*
WD "Danny" Palmer, *Councilmember, Camilla*
John Reid, *Mayor, Eatonton*
JoAnne Taylor, *Mayor, Dahlonega*
Albert "Al" Thurman, *Mayor, Powder Springs*
Kenneth L. Usry, *Mayor, Thomson*
Dr. Clemontine Washington, *Mayor Pro Tem, Midway*
Vince Williams, *Mayor, Union City*

**GMA CEO and Executive Director Larry Hanson serves as
Secretary/Treasurer of the Board.**

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS 2022-2023

The Lifetime Service Award recognizes elected 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 this criteria and being nominated by their city will receive the award.

Jerry Elkins, *former mayor and councilmember, Locust Grove, former city manager, Helen (46 years)*

Bobby F. Wilson, *former city councilmember, Leesburg (48 years)*

James Colson, *former city commissioner, Hawkinsville (41 years)*

Dr. Esco Hall, Jr., *former city councilmember, Baxley (36 years)*

Joyce Hardy, *former city clerk and city administrator, Montezuma (47 years)*

Dennis Still, *former city attorney, Dacula (40 years)*

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

GMA PAST PRESIDENTS

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

* served partial terms

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION
GMA'S CHARTER MEMBER CITIES

Ailey
Albany
Americus
Arlington
Atlanta
Augusta
Austell
Bainbridge
Broxton
Carrollton
Cartersville
Cedartown
College Park
Columbus
Cordele
Crawford
Dahlonega
Dawson
Donalsonville
Douglas
East Point
Edison
Ellaville
Fitzgerald
Fort Gaines
Gainesville
Greensboro
LaGrange

Lakeland
McDonough
McRae
Macon
Manchester
Meigs
Metter
Midville
Milledgeville
Oglethorpe
Pembroke
Perry
Pooler
Richland
Rome
Roswell
Sandersville
Savannah
Soperton
Statesboro
Sylvester
Thomaston
Thomasville
Thunderbolt
Valdosta
Waverly Hall
Winder
Wrightsville

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

2023-2024 TRAINING DATES

Small Cities Conference and Pre-Event Training

Oconee Fall Line Technical College, Dublin

August 16-19, 2023

Downtown Development Authority Training

Canton

August 21, 2023

**Robert E. Knox, Jr. Municipal Leadership
Institute**

Jekyll Island Convention Center, Jekyll Island

September 26-29, 2023

Fall Training Event

Jekyll Island Convention Center, Jekyll Island

September 28-29, 2023

Newly Elected Officials Institute

UGA Center for Continuing Education

February 28-March 1, 2024

Newly Elected Officials Institute

UGA Tifton Campus Conference Center, Tifton

March 20-22, 2024

2024 Spring Training Event

Brasstown Resort, Young Harris

April 11-12, 2024

GEORGIA MUNICIPAL ASSOCIATION

**2024 Robert E. Knox, Jr. Municipal Leadership
Institute**

UGA Center for Continuing Education, Athens
May 14-17, 2024

2024 Fall Training Event
Sea Palms Resort, St. Simons Island
September 26-27, 2024

SAVE THE DATE

2024 Cities United Summit
Atlanta, Georgia
January 26-29, 2024

2024 GMA Annual Convention
Savannah, Georgia
June 21-25, 2024

2023

MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE



Soaring
TO NEW HEIGHTS

Please refer to the [GMA Mobile App](#) for additional company and contact information for all GMA Exhibitors

Join the conversation



2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

506 ABM Building Solutions, LLC

www.abm.com

306 Accelecom GA, LLC

www.accelecom.net

620 ADG - American Data Group, Inc.

adginc.net

615 AE Engineering, Inc.

www.aeengineeringinc.com

625 American Engineers, Inc.

<https://www.aei.cc/>

331 American Heart Association

www.heart.org

**709 American Public Works Association -
Georgia Chapter**

<http://georgia.apwa.net/>

713 American Tank Maintenance, LLC

www.americantankmaintenance.com

903 Apptegy

<https://www.apptegy.com/municipal-websites/>

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

738 AsystYOU Technology

<https://asystyoutech.com>

702 Atlas Technical Consultants

www.oneatlas.com

806 AVR, Inc.

<https://www.avrub.com>

401 Bates, Carter & Co., LLP

batescarter.com

808 Belgard

belgard.com

724 BM&K Construction & Engineering

www.bmandk.com

908 Brannen Motors

<https://www.brannenmotors.com/>

603 BS&A Software

bsasoftware.com

629 BuyBoard Cooperative

<https://www.buyboard.com/national.aspx>

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

**324 Carl Vinson Institute of Government/
326 UGA (CVIIOG)**
<https://cviog.uga.edu/>

715 Carter & Sloope, Inc
<http://www.cartersloope.com/>

**621 Charles Abbott Associates, Inc. (CAA)
720 www.caa.inc**

633 Christmas Decor by Grant Decor Services
www.GrantDecor.com

801 ClearWater Solutions, LLC
www.clearwatersol.com

**839 Comprehensive Program Services, Inc.
(CPS)**
<https://cps-atlanta.com/>

600 Consolidated Pipe & Supply
www.consolidatedpipe.com

813 Council for Quality Growth
www.councilforqualitygrowth.org

403 CPL Architecture Engineering Planning
<https://www.facebook.com/CPLteam>

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

500 Crews & Associates, Inc.

www.crewsfs.com

508 CROFT & Associates

www.croftae.com

728 Croy Engineering

croyengineering.com/

406 CTI, Engineers

www.ctiengr.com

**227 Department of Administrative Services
(DOAS): State Purchasing Department**

<https://doas.ga.gov/state-purchasing;>
<https://doas.ga.gov/>

327 Diversified Technology Corp.

diversifiedtechnology.com

325 Diversified Technology Corp.

diversifiedtechnology.com

334 EDGE Business Systems

www.edgeatl.com

800 Edmunds GovTech

<https://www.edmundsgovtech.com/>

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

532 Electric Cities of Georgia

www.ecoga.org

807 EMC Engineering Services, Inc.

<https://www.emc-eng.com/>

737 Engineering Management, Inc.

www.eminc.biz

912 EOM

www.eomworx.com

700 ESG Operations, Inc.

www.esginc.net

904 Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund

<https://www.everytown.org/>

536 EXP US Services

www.exp.com

809 Falcon Design Consultants

fdc-llc.com

10 Fireline, Inc.

<https://firelineinc.com/>

103 Foresite Group, LLC

www.foresitegroup.net

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

318 Future Infrastructure A Primoris Company
www.prim.com

424 Georgia 811
www.georgia811.com

906 Georgia Airports Association (GAA)
www.georgiaairports.org

437 Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police
<https://gachiefs.com/>

430 Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs
www.gafc.org

432 Georgia Association of Regional Commissions
www.garc.ga.gov

643 Georgia City-County Management Association
<https://www.gccma.com//>

426 Georgia Community Action Association
Www.GeorgiaCAA.org

627 Georgia Correctional Industries
www.gci-ga.com

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

- 415 Georgia Department of Community Affairs**
www.dca.ga.gov
-
- 618 Georgia Department of Transportation-LTAP**
<http://www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Local/LTAP>
-
- 313 Georgia Downtown Association**
<https://www.georgiadowntownassociation.org/home>
-
- 408 Georgia Environmental Finance Authority**
<https://gefa.georgia.gov>
-
- 330 Georgia Forestry Commission**
www.gatrees.org
-
- 539 Georgia Head Start Association**
www.georgiaheadstart.org
-
- 333 Georgia Initiative for Community Housing**
<https://www.fcs.uga.edu/fhce/gich>
-
- 418 Georgia Public Library Service**
georgialibraries.org
-

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

- 332 Georgia Recreation and Park Association**
www.grpa.org
-
- 733 Georgia Safe Sidewalks**
www.gasafesidewalks.com
-
- 429 Georgia State Firefighters Association**
www.gsffa.org
-
- 619 Georgia Transmission Corporation**
www.gatransmission.com
-
- 507 GFL Environmental**
<https://gflenv.com/>
-
- 708 GMA Gas Section**
www.gmagassection.org
-
- 100 GMC (Goodwyn Mills Cawood)**
<https://www.gmcnetwork.com/>
-
- 814 GOGov**
<https://www.gogovapps.com/>
-
- 712 GovDeals, Inc.**
www.govdeals.com
-
- 924 Granicus**
<https://granicus.com/>
-

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

836 GrantMatch Inc.

<https://grantmatch.com/en-us/>

4B Grasshopper Company

<https://www.grasshoppermower.com/>

812 gWorks

www.gWorks.com

613 H2O Innovation

<https://www.h2oinnovation.com/>

735 Harris Local Government

<https://www.harrislocalgov.com/products/smartfusion/>

834 HdL Companies

<https://www.hdlcompanies.com/>

414 Hecht Burdeshaw Architects, Inc.

www.hechtburdeshaw.com

413 Hill Foley Rossi & Associates

hillfoleyrossi.com

512 Hogan Construction Group, LLC

www.hoganconstructiongroup.com

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

341 Holiday Designs

www.HolidayDesigns.com

503 Hussey Gay Bell

www.husseygaybell.com

818 Illuminating Design Inc.

www.illuminating-design.com

637 Ingram & Associates Consulting Engineers, LLC

www.ingrameng.com

609 InterDev

www.interdev.com

105 IPG Architects & Planners

<https://www.ipgarchitects.com/>

400 Jacobs

www.jacobs.com

320 Jarrard & Davis, LLP

<https://www.jarrard-davis.com/>

407 Jenoptik

www.jenoptik.us

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

905 JMA Architecture, Inc.

www.jmaarch.net

607 Johnson Controls

<https://www.johnsoncontrols.com/services-and-support/optimization-and-retrofit-solutions/performance-infrastructure>

821 Johnson, Mirmiran & Thompson Inc. (JMT)

jmt.com

612 Keck & Wood, Inc.

<https://www.keckwood.com/>

545 Kompan Playgrounds

www.kompan.us

302 KorKat

www.korkat.com

501 Lead Edge Design Group, Inc

LeadEdgeDesign.com

212 LGRMS

www.LGRMS.com

439 LifeLink® of Georgia

<https://lifelinkfoundation.org/>

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

544 Local Impact Analytics

localimpactanalytics.com

826 Mauldin & Jenkins

mjcpa.com

608 McKinstry

<https://www.mckinstry.com/>

845 MowerMax

www.mowermax.com

421 MSI Benefits Group, Inc.

<https://msibg.com/>

642 Municipal Gas Authority of Georgia

www.gasauthority.com

528 New Line Skateparks FL Inc

www.newlineskateparks.com

824 New South Construction

<http://www.newsouthconstruction.com/>

819 NLC Service Line Warranty Program

<https://watersolutions.homeserve.com/nlc-service-line-warranty-program-overview/>

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

521 NOVA Engineering & Environmental

www.usanova.com

**319 Office of Insurance & Safety Fire
Commissioner**

<https://oci.georgia.gov/>

803 OpenCounter

<https://opencounter.com/>

315 OpenGov

<https://opengov.com/>

726 Optech Family of Companies

www.optechfoc.com

**434 Parker Young Construction | A RESCON
436 Company**

<https://www.parkeryoung.com/>

502 Parrish Construction Group

<https://parrishconstruction.com/>

847 Partnership for Inclusive Innovation

<https://pingeorgia.org/>

815 Partnership for Southern Equity

<https://psequity.org/>

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

412 Performance Contracting, Inc

<https://www.performancecontracting.com/branch/knoxville-industrial/>

707 PlaySouth Playground Creators

www.PlaySouth.net

530 Playworld Preferred Inc.

www.playworldpreferred.com

841 Playworx Playsets - Little Tikes Commercial

www.playworx.com

509 Pond & Company

<https://www.pondco.com/>

701 Precision Planning, Inc.

www.ppi.us

431 Public Golf Advisory Board

736 Public Trust Advisors, LLC

<https://publictrustadvisors.com/>

718 Radarsign, LLC

www.radarsign.com

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

108 Reeves Young

www.reevesyoung.com

518 Republic Services

www.Republic Services.com

601 Rindt

www.rindt.com

936 RoadBotics by Michelin

<https://www.roadbotics.com/>

719 Roberts Civil Engineering, LLC

www.robertscivilengineering.com

631 Rosales Financial Group (RFG)

<https://www.rosalesfinancialgroup.com/about-us>

5 Rush Truck Center of GA

<https://www.rushtruckcenters.com/>

900 Rushton, LLC

www.rushtonandcompany.com

515 Ryland Environmental, Inc.

614 www.rylandenvironmental.us

308 Scena

433 <https://www.scenaind.com/>

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

229 Schaffer mfg

<https://schaffermfg.com/>

309 Schnabel Engineering, LLC

<https://www.schnabel-eng.com/>

706 Schneider Electric

www.se-enable.com

849 Secretary of State

www.sos.ga.gov

731 Sizemore Group, LLC

www.sizemoregroup.com

921 Solectrac

<https://solectrac.com/>

**300 Southeast Cement Promotion
Association**

www.secement.org

914 Southern Software, Inc.

www.southernsoftware.com

901 Southern Tire Mart, LLC

<https://www.stmtires.com/>

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

714 Springbrook Software

<https://springbrooksoftware.com>

419 Springfield Armory

www.springfield-armory.com

730 Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.

www.stantec.com

606 Still Waters Engineering

<http://stillwaterseng.com/>

832 The Brick Industry Association

<http://www.gobrick.com>

538 The Collaborative Firm, LLC

www.tcfatl.com

639 The Shpigler Group

www.shpigler.com

732 T-Mobile

www.t-mobile.com

922 Trane

www.trane.com

902 TSW

www.tsw-design.com

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

638 TTL, Inc.

www.ttlusa.com

4A Universal Concepts

www.christmasdecorandmore.com

830 US Conference of Mayors

www.usmayors.org

427 USDA Rural Development

<https://www.rd.usda.gov/ga>

6 Vacutek

534 www.vacutek.com

526

602 VC3

<https://www.vc3.com/>

425 Vortex Aquatic Structures International

www.vortex-intl.com

541 W&A Engineering

www.waengineering.com

725 Waste Pro of Georgia Inc

www.wasteprousa.com

2023 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

106 Wastebuilt Environmental Solutions

www.wastequip.com

519 Willmer Engineering

willmerengineering.com

307 Winter Construction Company

www.winter-construction.com

514 WM

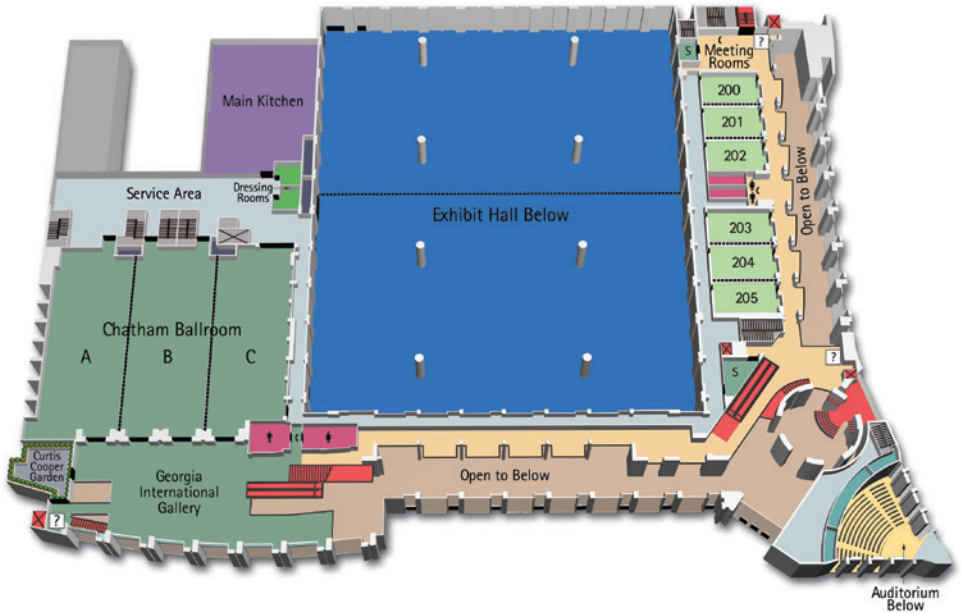
www.wm.com

102 Yancey Bros, Inc.

<https://www.yanceybros.com/>

SAVANNAH CONVENTION CENTER

UPPER LEVEL



LOWER LEVEL



— PRESENTING SPONSOR —



Georgia
Power

— DIAMOND SPONSOR —



AT&T

— PLATINUM SPONSOR —

THE
Coca-Cola
COMPANY

— GOLD SPONSOR —



Consolidated
PIPE & SUPPLY COMPANY, INC.

— SILVER SPONSORS —

ALSTON & BIRD

 Crews & Associates
Investment Bankers



Charles Abbott Associates, Inc.

DAVENPORT 
PUBLIC FINANCE



ELARBEE THOMPSON



Freeman
Mathis & Gary LLP



GALLAGHER
BASSETT
GUIDE. GUARD. GO BEYOND.



NEW SOUTH
CONSTRUCTION

Life Is On

Schneider
Electric

— BRONZE SPONSORS —

Coleman | Talley
STRATEGIES



IntraFi.



Gas Authority



TRANE

TURNIPSEED
ENGINEERS