



# CITIES UNITED SUMMIT

JANUARY 26-29, 2024



## GMA Officers

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President  
Mayor Randall Walker  
Perry



1st Vice President  
Mayor Fred Perriman  
Madison



2nd Vice President  
Mayor Bianca Motley Broom  
College Park



3rd Vice President  
Mayor Andrea Gibby  
Young Harris



Immediate Past President  
Mayor Julie Smith  
Tifton



GMA CEO &  
Executive Director  
Larry Hanson



# General Information



## **Registration & Welcome Center Hours**

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**Thursday, January 25**

5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

**Friday, January 26**

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Saturday, January 27**

7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, January 28**

7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**Monday, January 29**

6:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

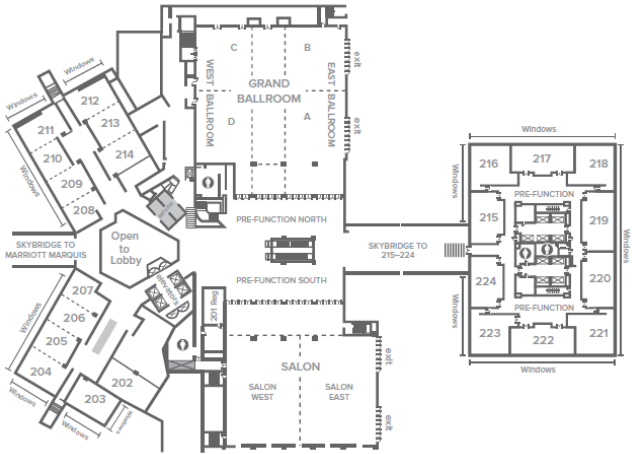
# Hotel Floor Plan



## GALLERIA



## SECOND FLOOR



## THIRD FLOOR



# Schedule of Events



## THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

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5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

### **Registration**

Second Floor

## FRIDAY, JANUARY 26

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8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### **Registration/Welcome Center**

Second Floor

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

### **Training Breakfast for 6-Hour Classes and 3-Hour Morning Classes**

Second Floor

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### **Municipal Training Institute**

Training class descriptions can be found on the Cities United Summit Mobile App, GMA website and the 2024 training brochure.

- **Data Literacy and Storytelling for Cities**  
Room 210/211
- **Ethics\***  
Room 303
- **Money, Money, Money ... Money! Funding City Projects Through Grants and Loans**  
Room 304
- **Municipal Finance I\***  
Room 305
- **Navigating the Future: Thinking, Planning and Acting Strategically**  
Room 212/213

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## **Municipal Training Institute**

Training class descriptions can be found on the Cities United Summit Mobile App, GMA website and the 2024 training brochure.

- **Beyond the Beltway: Influencing Federal Policy Through Grassroots Engagement**  
Room 301
- **Capital Improvement Program**  
Room 206/207
- **Excellence in Customer Service**  
Room 208/209
- **Municipal Taxation 101 – The Basics\***  
Room 204/205
- **Open Meetings\***  
Room 302

12:00 p.m. (staggered)

## **Training Luncheon**

Grand Ballroom

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

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

## **Municipal Training Institute**

Training class descriptions can be found on the Cities United Summit Mobile App, GMA website and the 2024 training brochure.

- **Effective Practices for Municipal Operations**  
Room 206/207
- **Information Privacy and Security Breaches: Prevention and Response\***  
Room 302
- **Let's Get Social**  
Room 301
- **Municipal Annexation**  
Room 204/205
- **Public Policy Development and Implementation\***  
Room 208/209

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

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.

## **Municipal Training Board Meeting**

Room 214





## SATURDAY, JANUARY 27

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7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### **Registration/Welcome Center**

Second Floor

8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m.

### **Training Breakfast for 6-hour classes**

Second Floor

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### **Municipal Training Institute**

Training class descriptions can be found on the Cities United Summit Mobile App, GMA website, and the 2024 training brochure.

- **Building a Hometown Connection: GMA Lobbying 101**  
Room 206
- **Conflict Resolution\***  
Room 204/205
- **Current Issues Class: Workforce Development**  
Room 311/312
- **Downtown Development Authority Basic Training (ends at 5:00 p.m.)**  
Room 303
- **Economic Development\***  
Room 210/211
- **Fire and Emergency Medical Services**  
Room 203
- **How Shall We Live? Practical Ethics for Public Life\*+**  
Room 309/310
- **Human Resources\***  
Room 304
- **Law Enforcement Services: Trends and Best Practices**  
Room 313/314

- **Making Citizen Engagement Work in Our Communities\***  
Room 208/209
- **Municipal Finance II\***  
Room 305
- **Municipal Long-Term Budgeting**  
Room 301
- **Planning and Zoning\***  
Room 212/213
- **Steering Through the Storm: Guiding Your Community Through a Disaster\***  
Room 302
- **Clerks Course - Athenian Dialogue: Loving the Person You Are Today: This is Me\*\***  
Galleria 1

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

*Class with an \*\* is a Clerks Course and not a part of the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Certificate Program.*

*Class with a + is part of the Advanced Leadership Track and is needed to complete the Certificate of Dedication.*

**12:00 p.m. (staggered)**

### **Training Luncheon**

Grand Ballroom

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

**4:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.**

### **GMA Board of Directors Meeting**

Salon West



## SUNDAY, JANUARY 28

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7:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

### **Registration/Welcome Center**

Second Floor

7:30 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.

### **Worship Service**

Room 204-207

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

### **Federal Policy Council Meeting**

Salon West

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

### **Orientation for First-Time Attendees**

Salon East

*Special thanks to our Silver Level Sponsors Consolidated Pipe, The Gas Authority, Georgia Environmental Finance Authority, Georgia Restaurant Association, GFL Environmental, MEAG Power, Path Inc. and Turnipseed Engineers, Inc. for sponsoring this event.*

9:15 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

### **Policy Committee Meetings**

The purpose of these policy committee meetings is to discuss legislative issues of interest to cities being debated during the 2024 legislative session. The membership will use the meetings to review legislative priorities as they impact policy items adopted by city officials during the GMA Annual Convention. In addition, the committee members will hear from local and state elected and appointed officials regarding their thoughts on the 2024 legislative session.

### **Transportation**

Room 204-207

Georgia serves as the logistics and transportation hub of the Southeast. With continued growth and investment forecasted for years to come, now more than ever, we need the General Assembly to provide for revenues and mechanisms by which municipalities in Georgia will be able to facilitate the development, maintenance, and

improvement of transportation infrastructures. Come to this policy committee meeting to hear from a panel of state policymakers on the latest developments in our state's transportation ecosystem, and what to expect during the 2024 legislative session.

**Chair**

Michael Chidester, Mayor, Byron

*Speakers will include members of the General Assembly and state agency officials.*

**Staff Contact**

Noah Roenitz, Governmental Relations Associate

**Revenue & Finance**

208-211

Cities across Georgia understand that their ability to provide vital services to residents and keep city operations flowing often relies on a variety of balanced revenue sources. Governor Brian Kemp recently announced his support for cutting income taxes to a flat rate of 5.39%. If this were to pass, the state would likely need to rely even more heavily on other streams of revenue, indicating potential changes to the diverse landscape of state and local taxation. In this policy committee meeting, speakers will discuss the relationship between sales and income taxes and what they see on the horizon for tax legislation during the 2024 legislative session.

**Chair**

Skip Henderson, Mayor, Columbus

*Speakers will include members of the General Assembly and members of academia familiar with these issues.*

**Staff Contact**

Leona Rittenhouse, Governmental Relations Associate

10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

**Policy Committee Meetings**

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officials during the GMA Annual Convention. In addition, the committee members will hear from local and state elected and appointed officials regarding their thoughts on the 2024 legislative session.

## **Environment and Natural Resources**

Room 204-207

Environmental programs may be developed at the federal and state levels, but it's often up to municipal governments to finance, implement, and regulate them. Given Georgia's growth trajectory and diverse environmental landscape, prioritizing the municipal perspective in state-level policies is critical to fostering sustainable development and bolstering resilience. In this policy committee meeting, speakers will explore forward-thinking solutions that empower local leaders to address the unique challenges that lie ahead.

### **Chair**

Janie Reid, Councilmember, Eatonton

*Speakers will include members of the General Assembly, state agency officials, and local officials familiar with these issues.*

### **Staff Contact**

Kendall Daniels, Governmental Outreach Specialist

## **Municipal Government**

Room 208-211

Georgia city officials know that municipal government is the closest and most responsive to the people in their community. GMA supports policies that allow city officials to respond to their residents and effectively manage their community. In this policy committee meeting, speakers will address the importance of maintaining local decision-making authority and allowing local communities to govern themselves. Topics of discussion during the meeting are likely to include how existing cities can retain local control within their jurisdiction and how new cities can offer residents more responsive local governance.

**Chair**

Anthony Ford, Mayor, Stockbridge

*Speakers will include members of the General Assembly, state agency officials, and local officials familiar with these issues.*

**Staff Contact**

Jim Thornton, Director, Governmental Relations

**12:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.**

**Awards Luncheon**

Grand Ballroom

**Presiding**

Randall Walker, Mayor, Perry – GMA President

**Pledge of Allegiance****National Anthem****Invocation**

Mark Fitzpatrick, Councilmember, Commerce

**Lunch****Remarks**

- Larry Hanson, CEO and Executive Director, GMA
- Fred Perriman, Mayor, Madison – GMA First Vice President; Chair, Legislative Policy Council

**Recognition of Georgia Economic Placemaking Collaborative Graduating Cities**

Sadie Krawczyk, Managing Director of GeorgiaForward & Placemaking, GMA

**Recognition of Cities and Organizations of Civility**

Andrea Gibby, Mayor, Young Harris – GMA Third Vice President

**Visionary City Awards Presentation**

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

**Recognition of Certified Cities and Organizations of Ethics**

Bianca Motley Broom, Mayor, College Park – GMA Second Vice President



## **Municipal Training Institute Certificate Presentation**

- James Eubanks, Mayor, Pelham – Chair, Municipal Training Board
- Rob Gordon, Director, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia
- Aileen Harris, Deputy Director of Training, GMA

2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## **Policy Committee Meetings**

The purpose of these policy committee meetings is to discuss legislative issues of interest to cities being debated during the 2024 legislative session. The membership will use the meetings to review legislative priorities as they impact policy items adopted by city officials during the GMA Annual Convention. In addition, the committee members will hear from local and state elected and appointed officials regarding their thoughts on the 2024 legislative session.

## **Community Development**

Room 204-207

Georgia continues to be a global leader in recruiting major economic development projects. With thousands of jobs being added to our state, the task of planning for this growth is charged to local officials. As the housing market remains uncertain nationwide, the supply and affordability of housing in our state remain an object of concern. As a result, Georgia policymakers, city officials, and key stakeholders have coalesced to find solutions. Join this policy committee meeting to hear from a panel of Georgia legislators and key political staffers who will illustrate the narratives that exist in the housing realm, available solutions, and the politics of housing the Georgia General Assembly and Congress will be debating in 2024.

### **Chair**

Regina McDuffie, City Manager, Brunswick

Speakers will include members of the General Assembly and congressional staffers.

### **Staff Contact**

Noah Roenitz, Governmental Relations Associate

## **Public Safety**

Room 208-211

In an era marked by diverse and growing challenges, the need to address public safety has never been more pressing. From traditional concerns such as crime and emergency response to emerging threats like cybercrime and public health crises, the landscape of public safety is constantly evolving. In this policy committee meeting, speakers will aim to shed light on these challenges, explore innovative approaches, and emphasize the collaborative efforts necessary to create safer, more resilient communities.

### **Chair**

Eric Wilson, Mayor, Forsyth

Speakers will include members of the General Assembly, state agency officials, and local officials familiar with these issues.

### **Staff Contact**

DJ Waller, Governmental Relations Associate

**4:15 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

## **Legislative Policy Council Meeting**

Salon West

The Legislative Policy Council is responsible for guiding policy decisions during the legislative session based on GMA's 2024 legislative priorities. Following the meetings of the six policy committees, the Council will review the discussions and learn about opportunities for engagement between city officials and legislators during the 2024 General Assembly session.

**4:15 p.m. – 5:15 p.m.**

## **Information Session: Funding Opportunities for Infrastructure, Housing and Economic Development**

Room 309/310

Attendees will hear two brief presentations about funding opportunities through the OneGeorgia Authority and the Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA). Time will be allotted for Q&A following each presentation.





### **Moderator**

John Reid, Mayor, Eatonton – GMA Past President

The OneGeorgia Authority, housed in the Georgia Department of Community Affairs, is a financial partner and catalyst for Georgia’s rural communities. OneGeorgia helps rural economies grow and thrive by providing financial assistance for infrastructure development, land acquisition, entrepreneurial support and more. This year, Governor Kemp and the Legislature created the new Rural Workforce Housing Initiative to catalyze the development of affordable workforce housing and improve existing housing stock in rural Georgia. Attendees will hear what can be done with this funding and about the communities that were successful in the first two rounds of funding.

### **Speaker**

Gina Webb, OneGeorgia Director, Georgia Department of Community Affairs

The Georgia Environmental Finance Authority (GEFA) has provided \$5.5 billion in low-interest loans to cities, counties, and infrastructure authorities for improvements to water, wastewater, and solid waste systems. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is increasing funding for GEFA’s traditional water and energy programs and providing new funding opportunities, such as lead service line inventory and replacement. Attendees will learn how to obtain financing through GEFA for water and energy projects.

### **Speaker**

David Gipson, Director of Water Resources, Georgia Environmental Finance Authority

### **Staff Contact**

Amanda McManus, Administrative Coordinator

**5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.**

### **Networking Reception**

Salon East

*Special thanks to our Bronze Level Sponsors Atlas, ESG Operations, Goodwyn Mills Cawood and Schneider Electric for sponsoring this event.*

# MONDAY, JANUARY 29

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6:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

## **Registration/Welcome Center**

Second Floor

7:00 a.m. – 7:45 a.m.

## **Legislative Networking and Buffet Breakfast**

Grand Ballroom

7:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

## **Capitol Connection Breakfast Program**

Grand Ballroom

### **Opening Remarks**

Randall Walker, Mayor, Perry – GMA President

### **Invocation**

Isaiah Hugley, City Manager, Columbus

### **Recognitions and Introduction**

Larry Hanson, CEO and Executive Director, GMA

### **Welcome**

Andre Dickens, Mayor, Atlanta

### **Remarks**

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

### **Introduction of GMA's Governmental Relations Team and Preview of Cities United Day at the Capitol**

- Jim Thornton, Director, Governmental Relations, GMA

*Special thanks to our Platinum Level Sponsor, AT&T, and to our Gold Level Sponsors – Aetna; The Coca-Cola Company; Georgia Power; Elarbee, Thompson, Sapp & Wilson, LLP; and Parker Young Construction – for sponsoring this event.*



**9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

## **Cities United Day at the Capitol**

With the Georgia General Assembly underway, it is vitally important that legislators see that municipal officials are speaking with one voice through the Georgia Municipal Association. After the Capitol Connection breakfast, city officials are asked to visit with their senators and representatives at the State Capitol. An announcement will be made at the close of the breakfast indicating where inside the Capitol city officials will be asked to assemble for a photo, and guidance on contacting legislators will be provided. GMA staff will be on-hand to assist in directing city officials through Capitol Hill.

*Buses will be available to shuttle city officials between the Hilton and Capitol between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.*



# FAQs and Attendee Information



## First Time Attendee

- Q.** This will be my first time attending the Cities United Summit. What should I do to get the most out of the event?
- A.** You are encouraged to attend the Orientation for First-Time Attendees on Sunday, January 28th at 8:00 a.m. At this event, attendees will receive an overview of the Cities United Summit and be paired up with experienced city officials who will offer suggestions on how to make the most of programming and networking opportunities.

## QR Code on Badge

- Q.** What is the QR code used for on my badge?
- A.** For more information regarding the QR code, and what it is used for, please see Event Security and Privacy Policy information on the GMA website.
- Q.** Is my contact information on the QR code on my badge?
- A.** Yes, by scanning your QR code or the QR code of another attendee you will be able to download contact details to your phone, which include the primary registrant's name, title, organization, email address and phone number. Please see more information about QR codes on the GMA website.

## **Transportation**

Buses will be available on Monday morning, January 29, to shuttle city officials between the Atlanta Hilton and State Capitol for Cities United Day between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

## **Parking at the Hilton Atlanta**

Covered, self-parking, based on first come, first serve, is available at the hotel for \$35.00 per day. Valet parking is also available for \$55.00 per day. Both options have in/out privileges.

## **GMA Cities United Summit Mobile App**

GMA's 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, push notification reminders and listings of sponsors.

## **Lost and Found**

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



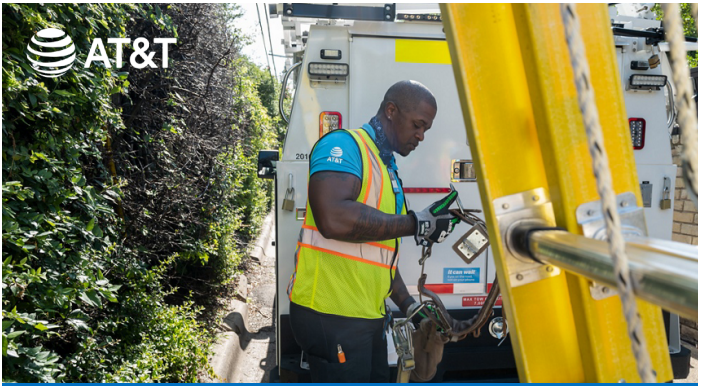
# Save the Date

2024 Annual Convention



# June 21-25





## Connecting Our Communities

At AT&T, we believe connecting changes everything – from offering equity of opportunity to transmitting a life-saving call.

We are proud to be connected to the Georgia Municipal Association and the local leaders who work every day to drive economic growth and enhance the quality of life across our great state.

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## Save The Date!

GMA's Small Cities Conference allows city officials and staff to meet, network, and discuss issues or solutions most relevant to small cities.

Expanding upon last year's theme, the conference will be filled with informative sessions and ample opportunities to connect with agencies that provide essential resources to help streamline city operations.

**Pre-Conference Training:**  
**Carrollton**  
**May 1, 2024**

**Small Cities Conference:**  
**Carrollton**  
**May 2-3, 2024**



# Your Visit to the Capitol



## TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE ADVOCACY

### **Be concise.**

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

### **Be specific.**

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

### **Don't expect your legislator to be an expert on every bill.**

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

### **Stay in touch.**

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

### **Don't burn your bridges.**

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

### **Communicate**

feedback or insights gleaned from legislators back to GMA lobbyists.



## MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES:

### Things to Discuss with Your Legislators

**Housing** - Share your city's needs for additional housing for your residents. Remind your legislators that you and your fellow city officials are well aware of the needs of your community, the goals of your residents, and the developments that fit best in your specific city. Ask legislators to support legislation that lets city officials make the best decisions for the future housing needs of their community.

**Sales Tax** - Explain to your legislators the importance of local sales taxes to support operations (LOST) and capital projects (SPLOST). Share examples of how the costs of services you provide are becoming even more expensive and that sales tax revenue helps lower the property tax burden.

**Service Delivery Strategy (SDS)** - Remind the legislators that you and your fellow city and county officials can and should come together to determine the best way to deliver services in your community. Remind them that the goal of SDS is to make sure that those who receive government services are the ones paying for those services.

**Workforce Development** - Share with your legislators the difficulty that cities are having in hiring and retaining talented workers. Ask the state to work through the education and labor policies to create a pipeline of workers in public safety, public works, and other municipal job areas.

**Public Safety** - Remind legislators that most public safety is handled by local officers and ask them to always give cities more tools and resources to help keep people safe.

# FAQs and Additional Resources



## **Who are my legislators?**

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

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

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

## **Where can I find my legislator at the Capitol?**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **When in doubt, ask a GMA staff member!**

Our GR team members will be around the Capitol and can assist you.

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### **Scan Here**

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





# GMA Governmental Relations Team



*Pictured front, L to R, DJ Waller, Governmental Relations Associate; Leona Rittenhouse, Governmental Relations Associate; Kendall Daniels, Governmental Outreach Specialist; Back L to R, Ryan Bowersox, Assistant General Counsel; Jim Thornton, Director, Governmental Relations; Noah Roenitz, Governmental Relations Associate*

# GMA Awards Luncheon Recognitions



## **Visionary City Award**

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



## **City and Organization of Civility**

The City of Civility designation is awarded to cities that adopt a resolution pledging to practice and promote civility within the governing body as a means of conducting legislative duties and responsibilities. This pledge strives to show courtesy by treating all colleagues, staff and members of the public in a professional and respectful manner whether in-person, online or in written communication, especially when we disagree. Qualified organizations are eligible to

receive an Organization of Civility designation. The submission will be forwarded to Georgia City Solutions for review and approval. Designees must recertify every four years after designation by adopting a current resolution. Recipients are recognized twice a year - at the annual Cities United Summit and GMA's annual convention.



### **City and Organization of Ethics**

The City and Organization of Ethics program is an attempt to raise awareness about ethics issues at the local level and provide a local forum for the airing and resolution of legitimate concerns. To earn a "GMA Certified City of Ethics" designation for the first time, a city must adopt a Resolution establishing the Five Ethics Principles for the conduct of your city's officials. The submission will be forwarded to the GMA Ethics Certification Committee for review and approval. The city must recertify every four years after designation by adopting a current resolution. Counties and qualified organizations are also eligible to receive an ethics designation. New and recertified designees are recognized twice a year - at the annual Cities United Summit and GMA's annual convention.

# GMA Awards Luncheon Recognitions



## Georgia Economic Placemaking Collaborative

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



Carl Vinson  
Institute of Government  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

## Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute Certificates

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



# Training Institute Certificate Recipients



## **Certificate of Dedication (276 Hours)**

Joseph Goldstein, Marietta

Jonathan Sumner, Hahira

Allison Wilkerson, Grayson

## **Certificate of Distinction (204 Hours)**

Ray Denmon, Calhoun

Joseph Goldstein, Marietta

Jacqueline Hill, Warwick

Tim Houston, Acworth

Stephe Koontz, Doraville

Richard Lassiter, Garden City

Natalyn Morris, Garden City

Mary Parham-Copelan, Milledgeville

Randy Quick, Rome

Diana Reid, Hinesville

Chris Stacy, Riceboro

James Whitmore, Fairburn

## **Certificate of Excellence (120 Hours)**

Amy Barrett, Hiawassee

Rebecca Benton, Pooler

Kenneth Carson, Adairsville

Antonio Carter, Nashville

Donald Cook, Jackson

Myoshia Crawford, Monroe

Booker Gainor, Cairo

Joseph Goldstein, Marietta

Hector Gutierrez, Forest Park

Ora Hall, Baxley

Jonathan James, Tallapoosa

Tom Lambert, Dunwoody

Priscilla Murphy, Jefferson  
Mark Musselwhite, Demorest  
Montgomery Parks, Tybee Island  
Carrie Peters-Reid, Madison  
Karl Riles, Hinesville  
JoAnne Taylor, Dahlonega  
Lanny Thomas, Trion  
Sylvia Washington, Bainbridge

### **Certificate of Achievement (72 Hours)**

Bonny Askew, Rome  
Charlie Bibb, Warner Robins  
Jesse Blackwell, Rincon  
John Burgess, Ashburn  
Michael Cason, Dallas  
Jazzmin Cobble, Stonecrest  
Charlie Davis, Douglas  
Tom Dickson, Varnell  
Bo Dorough, Albany  
David Edwards, Flemington  
Melanie Elder, Austell  
Brandon Garrett, Augusta  
Tammy Grimes, Stonecrest  
Eric Howard, Valdosta  
Victoria Jones, Lawrenceville  
Bridgette Kelly, Walthourville  
Gabrielle Nelson, Port Wentworth  
Joy Peterson, Perry  
Sonny Proctor, Jasper  
Angela Redding, Cordele  
Debbie Ruiz, Garden City  
Gregg Stokes, Harlem  
Jason Watts, Jenkinsburg  
Greg Whitlock, Duluth  
Samantha Young, Woodbine

### **Certificate of Recognition (42 Hours)**

Melissa Bayardelle, Hiram  
Nathan Boyd, Social Circle  
Richard Bracknell, Temple



Jacqueline Bridges, Carrollton  
Rufus Bright, Port Wentworth  
Earnest Carter, Sylvester  
Steven Carter, Albany  
Cooper Cochran, Dallas  
Tony Cornett, Lula  
Larry Curtis, Warner Robins  
Charika Davis, Covington  
Margaret Davis, Blakely  
Carlos Duffey, Jackson  
Philip Eidson, Tallapoosa  
Franklin Etheridge, Porterdale  
Gerald Evans, Doraville  
Jennifer Evans, Vidalia  
Katrena Felder, Waycross  
Tara Graves, Stonecrest  
Sylvia Green, Nelson  
Junior Hardy, Maysville  
Scott Harper, Maysville  
Jake Haynes, Ringgold  
Debbie Hill, Jeffersonville  
Larry Ivey, Davisboro  
Alan Jones, Fayetteville  
Melody Kelley, Sandy Springs  
Catherine Lautenbacher, Dunwoody  
Allison Martin, Dahlonega  
Matthew Momtahan, Villa Rica  
Mark Moore, Walnut Grove  
Kenneth Morgan, Covington  
Harry Moyer, Calhoun  
Mattie Neloms, Quitman  
Nick Overstreet  
Isaac Owens, Cordele  
LaRhonda Patrick, Warner Robins  
Rob Price, Dunwoody  
Linda Pritchett, South Fulton  
Robyn Pynenburg, Warm Springs  
Sylvia Redic, Jackson  
Shameka Reynolds, Lithonia  
Jermaine Rockwell, Ashburn

Andre Rollins, Commerce  
Micheal Rosatti, Hahira  
Gary Sanders, Eatonton  
Sharon Shropshire, East Point  
Pamela Shuman, Jesup  
Lula Smart, Quitman  
Lee Stevenson, Screven  
David Still, Lawrenceville  
Michael Taylor, Hogansville  
Grant Triplett, Springfield  
Josh Turner, Cleveland  
Alecia Washington, Stonecrest  
Louise White, Hahira  
Jessica Wilbanks, Palmetto

### **Congratulations to the graduates of the 2023 Robert E. Knox, Jr. Municipal Leadership Institute**

Offered annually through the training institute, the Knox Municipal Leadership Institute is an intensive multi-day program that focuses on helping city officials sharpen their leadership skills.

Melissa R. Bayardelle, Hiram  
Rebecca Benton, Pooler  
Charlie Bibb, Warner Robins  
Carrie L. Bootcheck, Conyers  
Kenneth Carson, Adairsville  
Antonio Carter, Sr., Nashville  
Wayne Clay, McRae-Helena  
Sharon Collins, Georgia Municipal Association  
Donald Cook, Jackson  
Myoshia Crawford, Monroe  
David B. Edwards, Flemington  
Joseph Goldstein, Marietta  
Jenelle Gordon, Flemington  
Hector Gutierrez, Forest Park  
Paul Hawkins, Flemington  
Jonathan M. James, Tallapoosa  
Victoria Jones, Lawrenceville



Kameron Kelley, Conyers  
Bridgette Kelly, Walthourville  
Jennifer Sara Kolbie, Dublin  
Bobby Lester, Jonesboro  
Venus Mack, Statesboro  
Maurice McDowell, Augusta  
Catherine S. McKnight, Augusta  
Harry Ed Moyer, Calhoun  
Gabrielle Nelson, Port Wentworth  
Liz Ordiales, Hiawassee  
Lawanna Owens-Twaites, Union City  
Montgomery Parks, Tybee Island  
Carrie Peters-Reid, Madison  
Karl Riles, Hinesville  
Isabel Rogers, Conyers  
JoAnne Taylor, Dahlonega  
Lanny Thomas, Trion  
Vanessa Thomas, McDonough  
Michelle Warner, Georgia Municipal Association  
Sylvia Washington, Bainbridge

# GMA 2023-2024 Board of Directors



## **Officers**

President - Randall Walker, Mayor, Perry

First Vice President - Fred Perriman, Mayor, Madison

Second Vice President - Bianca Motley Broom,  
Mayor, College Park

Third Vice President - Andrea Gibby, Mayor,  
Young Harris

Immediate Past President - Julie Smith, Mayor, Tifton

## **Active Past Presidents**

Vince Williams, Mayor, Union City

Keith Brady, Mayor, Newnan

Bill McIntosh, Mayor, Moultrie

John Reid, Mayor, Eatonton

## **Directors at Large**

Shelly Berryhill, Commissioner, Hawkinsville

Michael Caldwell, Mayor, Woodstock

Betty Cason, Mayor, Carrollton

Ollie Clemons, Mayor, Austell

Kelly Girtz, Mayor, Athens-Clarke County

Deana Holiday Ingraham, Mayor, East Point

Jason Holt, Mayor, Fitzgerald

Isaiah Hugley, City Manager, Columbus

Michael-Angelo James, Mayor, Waycross

Garnett Johnson, Mayor, Augusta

Van Johnson, Mayor, Savannah

Jonathan McCollar, Mayor, Statesboro

Lester Miller, Mayor, Macon-Bibb County

Rusty Paul, Mayor, Sandy Springs

## **District Officers**

### **First District**

President - Kelly Bomar, Councilmember, Ringgold  
First Vice President - Randy Quick, Commissioner, Rome

### **Second District**

President - Robert (Buddy) Moore,  
Councilmember, Blairsville  
First Vice President - JoAnne Taylor, Mayor, Dahlonega

### **Third District**

President, North District - Colin Ake,  
Councilmember, Woodstock  
President, Northeast District - Victoria Jones,  
Councilmember, Lawrenceville  
President, East District - Stephe Koontz,  
Councilmember, Doraville  
President, West District - Sam Davis,  
Councilmember, Douglasville  
President, South District - Edward Johnson, Mayor,  
Fayetteville  
President, Southwest District - Brett Reichert,  
Councilmember, Hapeville  
President, Central District - Keisha Sean Waites,  
Councilmember, Atlanta

### **Fourth District**

President - William Pearman, Mayor, Senoia  
First Vice President - Barbie Crockett, Mayor,  
Centralhatchee

**Fifth District**

President - David Keener, Mayor, Social Circle  
First Vice President - Eric Joyce,  
Councilmember, Madison

**Sixth District**

President - Clifford Holmes, Mayor Pro Tem,  
Warner Robins  
First Vice President - Janie Reid, Councilmember,  
Eatonton

**Seventh District**

President - Jordan Johnson, Commissioner, Augusta  
First Vice President - Danny Brown, Councilmember,  
Sandersville

**Eighth District**

President - Jesse Simmons, Councilmember, Fort Gaines  
First Vice President - James Carter, Mayor, Woodland

**Ninth District**

President - Timothy Varnadore, Mayor, Baxley  
First Vice President - Lee Stevenson, Mayor Pro Tem,  
Screven

**Tenth District**

President - Kelvin Owens, Mayor, Camilla  
First Vice President - Chad Warbington, Commissioner,  
Albany

**Eleventh District**

President - Tommy Roberts, Councilmember, Fitzgerald  
First Vice President - Sandra Tooley, Councilmember,  
Valdosta

**Twelfth District**

President - Lisa James, Councilmember, St. Marys  
First Vice President - Paulette Chavers, Councilmember,  
Statesboro





### **GMEBS/WCSIF/GIRMA Board Chair**

Marcia Hampton, City Manager, Douglasville

### **Section Presidents**

City Attorneys - L'Erin Barnes Wiggins, City Attorney, Hampton, Lovejoy and Riverdale

City Managers - Chris Hobby, City Manager, Bainbridge

City Clerks - Regina Russell, City Clerk, Acworth

### **Policy Committee Chairs**

Community Development - Regina McDuffie, City Manager, Brunswick

Environment & Natural Resources - Janie Reid, Councilmember, Eatonton

Municipal Government - Anthony Ford, Mayor, Stockbridge

Public Safety - Eric Wilson, Mayor, Forsyth

Revenue & Finance - Skip Henderson, Mayor, Columbus

Transportation - Michael Chidester, Mayor, Byron

### **Municipal Training Board Chair**

James Eubanks, Mayor, Pelham

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



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