

# Georgia Municipal Association

2024 ANNUAL CONVENTION | JUNE 21-25



IMAGINE  
*the* POSSIBLE



*Join the Conversation*  
**#GACITIES**



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# GMA OFFICERS



## **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



## Welcome to the Georgia Municipal Association's Annual

**Convention!** It is with great pleasure that I extend greetings to all our members and guests as we gather once again in the historic city of Savannah. Our Annual Convention is a time for unity, learning, growth, and fellowship, and this year promises to be especially inspiring as we come together under the theme "**Imagine the Possible.**"

As we imagine what's possible for our cities, we also envision a future filled with endless opportunities and innovative solutions for Georgia. This theme reminds us that with creativity, collaboration, and dedication, there are no limits to what we can achieve for our communities.

We are excited to welcome keynote speaker, Ben Nemtin, who I am sure will challenge us to think beyond the ordinary. We also look forward to hearing inspiring messages from Rodney Bullard, CEO of The Same House, and Malcolm Mitchell, Executive Director of the Share the Magic Foundation and former University of Georgia and New England Patriots wide receiver. Following Malcolm's message at the Monday Morning General Session, we look forward to announcing with our state partners an exciting new statewide literacy initiative.

In addition to the general sessions, the convention will offer a diverse line-up of a record fifty municipal training institute classes, breakout sessions, district meetings, and networking opportunities that will provide valuable insights and practical tools to help your city thrive. The concurrent session topics were carefully chosen in response to member feedback, and they address some of the most pressing issues facing our cities today. Don't miss the rapid fire sessions, where you can gain a wealth of ideas from cities that have implemented new and innovative initiatives to improve operational efficiency and enhance their community's quality of life.


You are also encouraged to actively participate in our policy committee meetings, where your voice and ideas are crucial in shaping the Association's legislative policies for the 2025 legislative session. The Municipal Marketplace is another highlight, showcasing an array of services that are designed to support the growth and success of our cities. We are deeply grateful to our partners, companies, and sponsors who generously support Georgia's cities and the GMA Annual Convention. Engaging with them will reveal valuable resources for your city.

Beyond the educational components, this gathering provides a unique platform for networking and fellowship. I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities to make new friends and strengthen bonds with those who share a passion for public service.

In short, we hope you find the convention to be informative, inspiring and enjoyable and that you leave with a renewed sense of purpose. 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 year's convention. Together, let us imagine the possible and create a future where our cities can flourish.

Sincerely,



Larry H. Hanson  
CEO and Executive Director



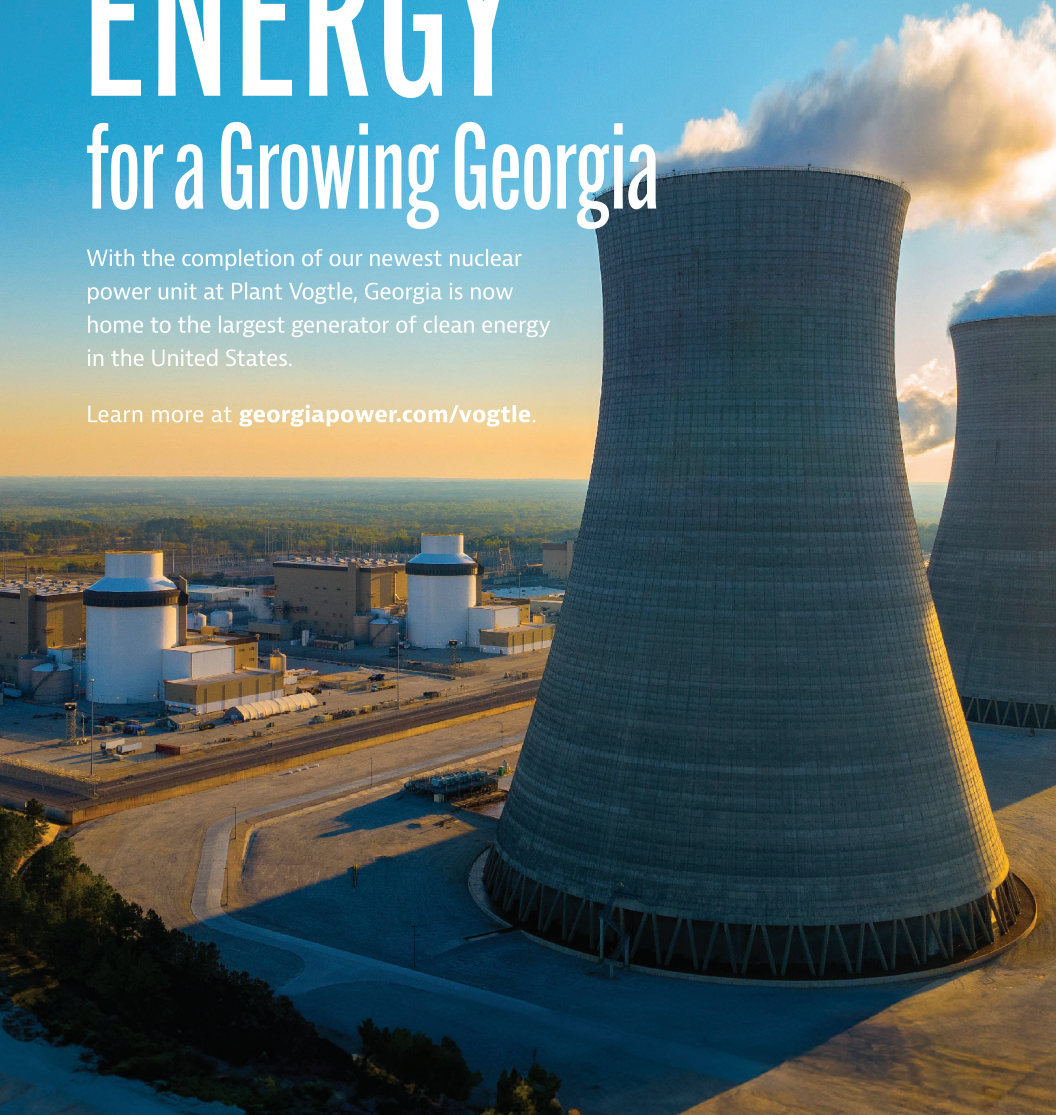
# CLEAN ENERGY

## for a Growing Georgia



With the completion of our newest nuclear power unit at Plant Vogtle, Georgia is now home to the largest generator of clean energy in the United States.

Learn more at [georgiapower.com/vogtle](http://georgiapower.com/vogtle).





# CONVENTION INFORMATION

## **GMA Welcome Center**

The Welcome Center, located in the River Concourse, Savannah Convention Center, is the place for registration, information and interactive fun.

You will want to capture the memories of the 2024 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.

The Georgia Municipal Clerks Association's 50/50 raffle returns to this year's convention and can be found in the Welcome Center.

The Welcome Center is your "go to" for meeting up with other convention attendees, networking and getting reacquainted with old friends.

## **Information/Registration Desk Schedule:**

**Friday, June 21: 7:00 am – 4:30 pm**

**Saturday, June 22: 7:00 am – 6:00 pm**

**Sunday, June 23: 7:00 am – 5:00 pm**

**Monday, June 24: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm**

## **Municipal Marketplace**

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

The Municipal Marketplace will be open during the following hours:

**Saturday, June 22: 4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**Sunday, June 23: 10:30 am – 2:00 pm**

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

## **Badges**

Each person (including spouses, guests and children) who is officially registered will receive a badge that contains a QR code for 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.



## CONVENTION INFORMATION

### Awards Luncheon Ceremony

The Awards Ceremony will be held on Monday as a luncheon. Awards and recognitions will include:

- Municipal Government Hall of Fame
- Georgia Cities Foundation's Legacy Partner Award, Renaissance Award and Starr Award
- Clerk of the Year Award
- Cities and Organizations of Civility
- New and Recertified Cities of Ethics
- 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, stop by the registration desk before 5:00 pm on Saturday, June 22, 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 24 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 and other fun activities to wind down the 2024 Convention.

### 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 are available in the Welcome Center for:

- |                                       |                                      |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Board of Directors                    | Federal Policy Council               |
| Business Alliance Program             | First Time Attendee                  |
| Certificate of Recognition            | GCS Ambassador                       |
| Certificate of Achievement            | Legislative Policy Council           |
| Certificate of Excellence             | Member Services Advisory Council     |
| Certificate of Distinction            | Municipal Training Board             |
| Certificate of Dedication             | Municipal Workforce Advisory Council |
| Children and Youth Advisory Council   | Policy Committee Chair               |
| City of Civility                      | RMEBS Trustee                        |
| City of Ethics                        | Sponsor                              |
| Equity and Inclusion Advisory Council |                                      |



## CONVENTION INFORMATION

### **Wireless Internet Service**

Wireless Internet service is provided throughout the Savannah Convention Center.

Log on to **Network GMA24**

The password is **GACities!**

### **Engage During GMA's Annual Convention**

Follow us: @gacities

Tweet with us: #gacities

### **GMA Mobile App**

GMA's new mobile app is FREE and available in the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store. Search Georgia Municipal Association and download the app for the up-to-the-minute schedule, session descriptions and listings of exhibitors and sponsors and all pertinent information while in Savannah.

### **Scavenger Hunt**

Join us for an exciting Scavenger Hunt at this year's convention. This engaging activity is designed to enhance your conference experience by encouraging networking in a fun and interactive way. Participants will interact with other attendees (preferably someone they don't already know) to complete the Scavenger Card, which is available in the Welcome Center.

Meet a new friend! The Scavenger Card is a great way to break the ice by asking questions. The questions will be varied. Once you ask the question and get the answer, have your "new friend" sign your card. Stop by the "Selfie Station" and take a photo with your new GMA friend. No duplicate signatures are accepted.

Complete the challenge and have an opportunity to win a gift card. Drop your Scavenger Card in the box located at the bottom of the steps up to the ballroom. You must be present at the Monday Morning General Session to win.

### **GMA Resource Areas**

The GMA Resource Area will be in the Municipal Marketplace in the GMA Booth on Saturday and Sunday. On Monday, the GMA Resource Table will be in the rotunda of the Savannah 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





## CONVENTION INFORMATION

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 2:00 pm on Sunday. Exhibitors 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 attendees.

### GMCA 50/50 Raffle

The Georgia Municipal Clerks Association will be having a 50/50 raffle and drawing during the convention.

The proceeds of the raffle will be used to offer training scholarships to city clerks and funding for the 2029 IIMC Region 3 conference hosted by GMCA.

### Shuttles and Ferry Information

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

#### Ground Transportation

	Express Schedule	Standard Schedule
<b>Thursday, June 20</b>		2:30pm – 7:30pm
<b>Friday, June 21</b>	6:00am-7:00pm	-
<b>Saturday, June 22</b>	6:00am-7:00pm	-
<b>Sunday, June 23</b>	6:00am-11:00am 2:00pm-6:00pm	11:00am-3:00pm
<b>Monday, June 24</b>	7:00am-10:00pm	-
<b>Tuesday, June 25</b>	-	6:30am-12:30pm

#### Red Route

##### DoubleTree by Hilton / Hilton Garden Inn:

Shuttle stop left side of Montgomery St. before entering Franklin Square  
Water Ferry stop City Hall

##### Holiday Inn Historic District:

Shuttle stop in front of Ships of the Sea Museum on MLK BLVD

Water Ferry stop City Hall

##### JW Marriott:

Shuttle stop on River Street in front of Chart House restaurant

Water Ferry stop City Hall

#### Purple Route

##### Savannah Marriott Riverfront / Homewood Suites:

Shuttle stop green bench on General McIntosh Blvd.

Water Ferry stop City Hall

##### The Kimpton Brice Hotel:

Shuttle stop in front of hotel  
Water Ferry stop Waiving Girl

##### Thompson Hotel:

Shuttle stop in front of hotel  
Water Ferry stop Waiving Girl

#### Orange Route

##### Hyatt Regency:

Shuttle stop in front of the Bohemian Hotel

Water Ferry stop City Hall

##### Hampton Inn (Bay St) / Holiday Inn Express:

Shuttle stop on Abercorn St. before you enter Reynolds Square

Water Ferry stop City Hall

##### Embassy Suite / Hampton Inn & Suite:

Shuttle stop on W. Oglethorpe in front of Embassy Suites

Water Ferry stop City Hall



## CONVENTION INFORMATION

### Ferry Schedule

	<b>Express Schedule</b> (2 ferries, 2 routes) City Hall to SCC   Waving Girl to SCC	<b>Standard Schedule</b> 1 ferry, 1 route to all three stops	<b>Limited Service ONLY</b> City Hall to SCC ONLY
<b>Thursday, June 20</b>	2:00pm-7:00pm	7:00am-2:00pm	7:00pm-Midnight
<b>Friday, June 21</b>	6:00am-8:00pm	-	8:00pm-Midnight
<b>Saturday, June 22</b>	6:30am-7:00pm	-	8:00pm-Midnight
<b>Sunday, June 23</b>	6:30am-7:30pm	-	7:30pm-Midnight
<b>Monday, June 24</b>	7:00am-10:30pm	-	10:30pm-Midnight
<b>Tuesday, June 25</b>	7:00am-12:30pm	12:30pm-6:40pm	-

### Hotels & Telephone Numbers

Courtyard by Marriott	912-790-8287
Doubletree by Hilton	912-790-7000
Embassy Suites	912-330-8222
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 Historic District	912-790-1000
Homewood Suites by Hilton	912-355-0025
Hyatt Regency	912-238-1234
JW Marriott	912-373-9100
Marriott Riverfront	912-233-7722
Staybridge	912-721-9000
The Brice	912-238-1200
The Thompson	912-790-1234
Westin Savannah Harbor	912-201-2000



## CONVENTION INFORMATION

### Lost and Found

For help locating or turning in a lost item during the convention, take the item to the GMA registration desk. The item will be held until the conclusion of the convention, at which time items will be given to the Savannah Convention Center Security.

### Recycle

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

### Thanks to our Beverage Station sponsors





# FRIDAY, JUNE 21

**7:00 am – 4:30 pm**

**Registration and Welcome Center**

River Concourse

**7:15 am – 8:00 am**

**Continental Breakfast for Training Institute Participants**

**8:15 am – 3:15 pm**

**Municipal Training Institute**

*Class descriptions can be found in the GMA mobile app, training institute brochure or on the GMA website.  
(6-hour training classes include a continental breakfast and lunch)*

**Building Community Capacity Through Tourism**

*Room 100*

**Conflict Resolution\***

*Room 101*

**Current Issues Class: Health In All Policies – Impactful Local Decision-Making to Ensure Healthier Communities**

*Room 102*

**Data Literacy and Storytelling for Cities**

*Room 103*

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

*Room 104*

**Environmental Sustainability**

*Room 105*

**Making Cultural Diversity Work\***

*Room 200*

**Planning and Zoning\***

*Room 201*

**Public Problems, Democratic Solutions – The Governing Role of Mayors and Councilmembers\*+**

*Westin: Grand Ballroom A*



**FRIDAY, JUNE 21**

**Regional Approaches to Cooperation**

*Room 202*

**Service Delivery Strategy – Efficiency & Tax Equity for Local Governments**

*Room 203*

**Revitalizing Neighborhoods – Tools for Local Officials**

*Room 204*

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

*Room 205*

**12:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Municipal Training Institute** (lunch is not included)

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

**Mobile Workshop: Port of Savannah**

*Tondees*

**Public Works Services\***

*Westin: Harbor Ballroom A*

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

*Westin: Harbor Ballroom B*

**Information Privacy and Security Breaches: Prevention and Response\***

*Westin: Grand Ballroom B*

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

*Class with a + is part of the Advanced Leadership Track and is needed to earn the Municipal Training Institute’s Certificate of Dedication.*

**1:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**RMEBS Board of Trustees Meeting**

*Westin: Grand Ballroom DE*

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.



**FRIDAY, JUNE 21**

**3:45 pm – 5:00 pm**

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

*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!

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

**Staff Contacts:**

**Sherri Bailey**, Member Services Consultant

**Emily Davenport**, Member Services Consultant

**3:45 pm – 5:15 pm**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

*Chatham Ballroom A*

**Presiding: Randall Walker**, Mayor, Perry – GMA President





# SATURDAY, JUNE 22

**7:00 am – 6:00 pm**

**Registration and Welcome Center**

*River Concourse*

**7:00 am – 8:00 am**

**Continental Breakfast for Training Institute Participants**

**8:15 am – 11:15 am**

**Municipal Training Institute**

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

**Note: Classes at the Marriott Riverfront:**

- Beyond the Beltway: Influencing Federal Policy Through Grassroots Engagement
- Effective Practices for Municipal Operations
- Employee Benefits 101 (Retirement)
- Entrepreneur Friendly Cities
- Municipal Annexation: Growing Pains and Growth Spurts
- Municipal Water and Wastewater Systems\*
- Open Records\*
- Public Policy Development and Implementation\*
- Risk and Insurance 101

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

*Marriott Riverfront: Mercer*

**Building Bridges Between Cities and Colleges**

*Room 100*

**Changing Demographics and Best Practices**

*Room 101*

**Current Issues Class: Understanding, Funding and Fighting the New Face of Homelessness in Georgia**

*Room 102*

**Economics of Education**

*Westin: Riverscape*

**Effective Practices for Municipal Operations**

*Marriott Riverfront: Savannah B*



## SATURDAY, JUNE 22

### **Employee Benefits 101 (Retirement)**

*Marriott Riverfront: Academy*

### **Entrepreneur Friendly Cities**

*Marriott Riverfront: Savannah C*

### **Excellence in Customer Service**

*Room 104*

### **Funding and Programming Transportation Projects in Your Community**

*Room 105*

### **Human Trafficking: Georgia's Role and Response**

*Room 103*

### **Local Government Debt Methods 101**

*Westin: Harbor Ballroom A*

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

*Marriott Riverfront: Pulaski*

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

*Room 200-202*

### **Municipal Taxation 101\***

*Room 203-205*

### **Municipal Water and Wastewater Systems\***

*Marriott Riverfront: Oglethorpe AB*

### **Open Records\***

*Marriott Riverfront: Savannah E*

### **Practices for Successful Meetings\***

*Westin: Grand Ballroom A*

### **Public Policy Development and Implementation\***

*Marriott Riverfront: Savannah D*

### **Recreation and Parks - Building Communities**

*Westin: Grand Ballroom B*

### **Risk and Insurance 101**

*Marriott Riverfront: Plaza*



SATURDAY, JUNE 22

**Strengthening the Well-being of Children and Youth**

*Westin: Harbor Ballroom B*

**Trends in Urban Design for Local Leaders**

*Westin: Grand Ballroom F*

*Classes with an \* are 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 2025 policy recommendations suggested by city officials during the GMA spring district meetings and endorsed by the Legislative Policy Council.

*Presenters for each of the policy committee meetings will be listed in the GMA mobile app.*

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

**Municipal Government Policy Committee Meeting**

*Room 200-202*

Cities and counties are charged with providing services to their residents and seek to do so in the most efficient way possible, while both avoiding duplication of services and ensuring that residents are not being unfairly taxed. Service delivery strategy agreements are designed to accomplish these goals, but often lead to disputes between negotiating parties. The General Assembly recently revised the process for negotiations and dispute resolution in House Bill 1407 during the 2024 legislative session, which will become effective January 1, 2026. Speakers in this session will discuss the implications of this new legislation. Attendees will also consider proposed changes to the 2025 legislative policies.

**Chair:** **Anthony Ford**, Mayor, Stockbridge

**Presenters:** Speakers will include members of the General Assembly as well as state and local officials familiar with these issues.

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

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

**Transportation Policy Committee Meeting**

*Room 203-205*

Transportation planning is a critical component in accommodating growth and ensuring the smooth functioning of communities. As population centers expand and economic activity flourishes, strategic transportation infrastructure becomes increasingly indispensable. Effective



## SATURDAY, JUNE 22

planning entails foresight, anticipating future needs, and implementing solutions that promote accessibility, efficiency, and sustainability. However, such endeavors often require substantial financial resources and expertise beyond the capacity of local governments alone. State support is paramount in alleviating the burden on local jurisdictions, providing the necessary funding, technical assistance, and coordination to implement comprehensive transportation plans. Join this panel discussion to hear about the unprecedented levels of investment the state has made in its transportation system, as well as how local governments can work to navigate the complexities of transportation planning with agility and foresight - ensuring that their communities are well-equipped to accommodate growth while maintaining the quality of life for residents. Attendees will also consider proposed changes to the 2025 legislative policies.

**Chair:** Michael Chidester, Mayor, Byron

**Presenters:** Speakers will include members of the General Assembly as well as state and local officials familiar with these issues.

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

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

**1:15 pm – 2:30 pm**

### **Public Safety Policy Committee Meeting**

*Room 200-202*

Creating Safer Cities: Challenges, Innovations, and Collaborations

This meeting will focus on a myriad of strategies and solutions aimed at creating safer cities. In our in-depth panel discussion on creating safer cities, we will navigate through a rich tapestry of insights and perspectives aimed at fortifying safer cities. From the intricate interplay of technology and policy to the grassroots efforts of community engagement, our conversation will highlight the diverse array of strategies available to cities. Attendees will also consider proposed changes to the 2025 legislative policies.

**Chair:** Eric Wilson, Mayor, Forsyth

**Presenters:** Speakers will include members of the General Assembly as well as state and local officials familiar with these issues.

**Staff Contact:** DJ Waller, Governmental Relations Associate

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



## SATURDAY, JUNE 22

### **Environment & Natural Resources Policy Committee Meeting**

*Room 203-205*

Just as many Georgia cities have initiated their lead Service Line Inventories (SLIs) in alignment with EPA's 2021 Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), and are now gearing towards service line replacement, EPA has introduced the inaugural National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for specific per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), commonly referred to as 'forever chemicals.' The emergence of high compliance costs for cities further compounds the already daunting financial burden associated with improving water and sewer infrastructure. Despite these financial implications, ensuring the provision of safe, clean drinking water to residents is of paramount importance to local governments. From the legal implications of PFAS regulations to the dangerous precedent for preemption set by recent legislation, join us for an exploration of critical issues shaping the future of municipal water systems and infrastructure. Attendees will also consider proposed changes to the 2025 legislative policies.

**Chair:** **Janie Reid**, Councilmember, Eatonton

**Presenters:** Speakers will include members of the General Assembly as well as state and local officials familiar with these issues.

**Staff Contact:** **Kendall Daniels**, Governmental Outreach Specialist

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

**2:45 pm – 4:00 pm**

### **Community Development Policy Committee Meeting**

*Room 200-202*

Across Georgia's bustling urban centers to her serene rural landscapes, the issue of housing access is one of the constants municipal leaders can point to regardless of their location. Issues of heirs' property, blight remediation, adequate state funding, and the intricate political landscape are all issues that demand our collective attention and action. With your expertise and leadership, alongside insights from our esteemed panel of state leaders, we aim to forge a path toward inclusive and sustainable development that uplifts every corner of our great state. Let us embark on this collaborative endeavor with determination and vision, ensuring that Georgia remains a beacon of progress and prosperity for all its residents. Our speakers will illustrate the narratives that exist in the housing realm, available solutions, and the politics of housing the General Assembly debates. Attendees will also consider proposed changes to the 2025 legislative policies.

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



## SATURDAY, JUNE 22

**Presenters:** Speakers will include members of the General Assembly as well as state and local officials familiar with these issues.

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

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

### Revenue & Finance Policy Committee Meeting

Room 203-205

Looking Ahead to 2025: Sales and Property Tax Changes on the Horizon

In 2024, the Georgia General Assembly passed historic changes to the collection of property taxes not seen since the 1970's. Following these historic changes, cities will need to reevaluate their streams of revenue. As cities look to diversify these revenue streams, sales taxes will be at the forefront of the conversation. In this policy committee meeting, speakers will discuss the 2024 property tax and sales tax changes and their upcoming implementation and look ahead to what the 2025 legislative session could have in store for additional changes to these important areas of law. Attendees will also consider proposed changes to the 2025 legislative policies.

**Chair:** Skip Henderson, Mayor, Columbus

**Presenters:** Speakers will include members of the General Assembly as well as state and local officials familiar with these issues.

**Staff Contact:** Leona Rittenhouse, Governmental Relations Associate

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

**3:55 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Municipal Marketplace Opening Ceremony**

**4:00 pm – 6:00 pm**

**Municipal Marketplace Opening and Reception**

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





# SUNDAY, JUNE 23

**7:00 am – 5:00 pm**

**Registration and Welcome Center**

*River Concourse*

**7:30 am – 8:00 am**

**Worship Service**

*Room 104-105*

**8:00 am – 8:45 am**

**Annual Meeting of the RMEBS Membership**

*Westin: Grand Ballroom DE*

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. The membership is expected to vote on Board positions that are up for election at this meeting. If your city participates in one or more of these retirement and insurance programs, you are invited to attend.

**8:30 am – 9:00 am**

**Continental Breakfast**

*River Concourse*

**8:30 am – 9:00 am**

**City Attorneys Session Registration**

*Westin: Grand Ballroom AB*

**9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

**City Attorneys Session and Brunch**

*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 brunch, topics will cover PFAS Litigation, Anti-Semitic Ordinances, Deannexation, 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.



## SUNDAY, JUNE 23

**Presiding:** L'Erin Barnes Wiggins, City Attorney, Cities of Hampton, Lovejoy and Riverdale

### Presenters:

- **Jim DeMay**, Partner, Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman
- **John Gallagher**, Senior Counsel, Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman
- **Andrew Lemmon**, Of Counsel, Milberg Coleman Bryson Phillips Grossman
- **Robert Sills**, Director of State and Local Government Affairs, Anti-Defamation League
- **Rusi Patel**, General Counsel, GMA
- **Alison Earles**, Senior Associate General Counsel, GMA
- **Ryan Bowersox**, Assistant General Counsel, GMA

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

**9:00 am – 10:30 am**

### Opening General Session

*Chatham Ballroom*

**Presiding:** Randall Walker, Mayor, Perry – GMA President

### Parade of Flags

#### National Anthem

**Dr. LaShun Burr Danley**, Councilmember, Douglasville

#### Invocation

**Randy Quick**, Commissioner, Rome

#### Welcome to Savannah

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

#### Special Recognitions

**Larry Hanson**, CEO and Executive Director, GMA

#### Remarks

**Kim Greene**, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Georgia Power



#### Keynote Speaker

**Ben Nemtin**

“Make the Impossible Possible”

Over a decade ago, Ben Nemtin and his three best friends created a list of their 100 wildest dreams and began checking them off one by one. For every dream they accomplished, they helped a stranger accomplish



## SUNDAY, JUNE 23

a dream too. Since then, they've crossed off "Write a #1 New York Times Bestseller," "Make a TV show (on MTV)," "Be interviewed by Oprah," helped reunite a father and son after 17 years and surprised a young girl with a much-needed bionic arm.

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

**10:30 am – 2:00 pm**

### **Municipal Marketplace**

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

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

**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 2025 to the full membership for final approval. There will also be discussion about the likely priorities of the state legislature as 2025 begins a new biennial.

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

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

**12:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

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

**Room 200-202**

**Navigating the Storm: Challenges in Georgia's Insurance Market**

Join us for a panel discussion on the current state of the insurance market, where cities and counties in Georgia are facing unprecedented challenges. Dive into the factors driving this crisis, including a surge in claims, economic and social inflation, severe weather events, and a deteriorating tort environment. Hear insights from experts and get the latest updates from the Georgia City-County Management Association. This session also offers the opportunity to network with peers and share strategies for navigating these turbulent times.

**Staff Contact: Erica Grier**, Senior Meetings and Events Manager and GCCMA Business Manager

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



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**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 FPC is composed of about 40 city officials from around the state who remain actively engaged in legislative and regulatory activity at the federal level. FPC members build and maintain relationships with their members of Congress, and work with GMA to advocate for federal policies that support Georgia cities. At this meeting, FPC members will hear from members of Congress about GMA's key federal priorities, including ongoing work to reauthorize the Farm Bill, broadband deployment, initiatives to support skilled workforce development, increased access to federal grants and more. This meeting is open to all interested city officials.

**Presiding: Andrea Gibby**, Mayor, Young Harris – GMA Third Vice President

#### **Speakers:**

Members and/or staff of Georgia's congressional delegation in the US Senate and US House of Representatives. Please check the app for the confirmed speakers.

**Staff Contact: Claire Chan**, Manager, Research and Policy Analysis

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

### **Municipal Training Board Meeting**

*Pulaski*

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

**Chair: James Eubanks**, Mayor, Pelham

**Staff Contact: Aileen Harris**, Deputy Director of Training

**2:15 pm – 3:15 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.



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### Small City Rapid Fire

Room 100-102

**Moderator:** Jason Hall, City Manager, Lyons

**Staff Contact:** Artiffany Stanley, Member Services Consultant

#### City of Byron (6,219 population):

##### Employee Morale and Work-Life Balance

**Michael Chidester**, Mayor

**Tiffany Sandefur**, City Manager

How do you increase employee morale and create an employee work-life balance without increasing payroll or reducing resident or city services? You'll hear how the city of Byron successfully implemented a four-day workweek without losing a single employee or having a single open position for over a full year now. You'll also hear how employees have felt about the change and what it's done for their life.

#### City of Camilla (5,152 population):

##### Camilla Youth Initiative

**Kelvin Owens**, Mayor

Through the Camillia Youth Initiative, Camilla is investing in the leadership development of the city's youth. Learn about this ambitious city initiative, which is designed to engage, empower, and uplift the youth through employment, legislative participation, and introduction to city operations.

#### City of Nashville (4,843 population):

##### Transferring City Spaces: Grants for Green Initiatives and Community Connections

**Hayden Hancock**, City Manager

Discover how the city of Nashville leveraged various grants to breathe life into green spaces, develop a vibrant splash park, and establish interconnected walking trails linking their downtown core to essential community hubs like the Farmers Market and Train Area.

#### City of Oglethorpe (964 population):

##### Georgia Cities Week Celebration on Steroids

**Jimmy Daniels, Jr.**, Mayor

**Jill Harrison**, Councilmember

The city of Oglethorpe teamed up with neighboring communities to coordinate a Georgia Cities Week program. Learn about this collaborative effort celebrating the region's municipalities which led to a week-long series of events with each city hosting a unique activity to showcase its distinct character and contributions, proving that they could be better together.



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### **City of Ringgold (3,467 population):**

#### **The Living Legends of Ringgold**

**Rhonda Swaney**, Councilmember

Ringgold began a youth leadership program two years ago with the goal of introducing young people to the structure of local government and how decisions are made, as well as to engage in making decisions for the future. The group implemented “The Living Legends of Ringgold” and had no idea how one program would change relationships and bridge generational gaps. Hear about this program, whose goal is to tell stories from different neighborhoods and eras, including difficult stories that no one has been given a platform to tell.

### **City of Springfield (2,942 population):**

#### **Transforming a Small Downtown into a Vibrant Hub**

**Erin Phillips**, Director of Planning & Development

Springfield’s very small downtown has seen a transformation in recent years and is now a hub of activity and positive business growth. Hear about how the city laid the groundwork for this positive change with streetscape improvements, activation of the DDA, hiring of new staff, and maintaining an open-minded approach to downtown investment opportunities and community engagement.

### **Large City Rapid Fire**

*Room 104-105*

**Moderator: Tom Lambert**, Councilmember, Dunwoody

**Staff Contact: Sherri Bailey**, Member Services Consultant

### **City of Chamblee (29,531 population):**

#### **Nonprofit Partnership Program**

**Brittney Lindsay**, Community Engagement Director

**Joshua Duarte**, Cultural Affairs Program Coordinator

A Visionary City award-winning program, Chamblee’s “Nonprofit Partnership Program” emphasizes the power of collaboration between local government and nonprofits. The program hosts roundtable discussions and lunch and learns and provides access to a city-funded grant and other tools for success. Hear about their proactive approach to supporting local organizations, enhancing their ability to serve the community’s diverse needs.





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### **City of Duluth (31,873 population):**

#### **Activating the Clock by Owning the Kid Zone with Strategic Placement**

**Chris McGahee**, Director of Economic Development and Marketing

What happens if you invest in the smallest of us with play next to the seat of power, your city hall in the center of downtown? What happens is you create sounds of joy and bring lots of parents to share your space and create a storm of discussion. Introducing you to the Giggle Bark Tree! Learn how Duluth built a playground in the shadow of City Hall.

### **City of Lawrenceville (30,619 population):**

#### **Lawrenceville's ReCAST Program**

**Chuck Warbington**, PE, City Manager

The city of Lawrenceville was one of nine cities in the U.S. that received a five-year, \$5 million federal grant from the Resiliency in Communities After Stress and Trauma (ReCAST) program administered by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration (SAMHSA). Learn about this program, which assists high risk youth and families, promotes well-being and resilience in communities, and provides linkages to trauma-informed behavioral health.

### **City of Savannah (148,566 population):**

#### **A Mobility Supercharger: Tide to Town!**

**Nick Palumbo**, Alderman

Hear about Tide to Town, Savannah's multi-use trail that will connect 70 neighborhoods, 24 schools, three universities, and two hospitals together in their community. To fund the project, Savannah secured \$8 million in infrastructure funding and raised the city's hotel / motel tax rate. Efforts like these can save lives, improve health, and reconnect our communities.

### **City of Statesboro (35,234 population):**

#### **Village Builders**

**Dr. LaSara Mitchell**, Youth Programs Coordinator

Although Statesboro is known as a hotbed for opportunity and education, certain areas are nonetheless considered resource deserts. Statesboro's leaders took action by establishing The Village Builders Initiative. Learn about this program which identified five hot zones known as "villages" that experience the greatest deficit of essential resources and partnered with community stakeholders to provide resources that were needed.

### **City of Warner Robins (83,783 population):**

#### **Moments with the Mayor**

**LaRhonda Patrick**, Mayor

Mayor Patrick recently launched "Moments with the Mayor". Learn about this initiative,



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which aims to provide an accessible platform for residents to voice their concerns, share ideas, and engage directly with the Mayor on matters of importance to the community. By opening up direct lines of communication, Mayor Patrick aims to foster a stronger sense of community and collaboration in addressing local issues.

**3:15 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Voting Credential Pickup**

*International Gallery (Outside Chatham Ballroom)*

**3:30 pm – 5:00 pm**

**Annual Business Meeting & Installation of Officers & Board of Directors**

*Chatham Ballroom*

**Presiding: Randall Walker**, Mayor, Perry – GMA President



**Speaker**

**Rodney Bullard**, CEO, The Same House

The Same House is a community-driven movement that works to bring all people together to help bridge divides, practice compassion and collectively address communities' greatest challenges and needs, particularly around economic opportunity and social connection. Prior to joining the organization in January 2023, Bullard served as the executive director of the Chick-fil-A Foundation.

**Report from the Legislative Policy Council and Adoption of the 2025 Legislative Policies**

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

**Proposed Amendment to the GMA Bylaws**

**Rusi Patel**, General Counsel, GMA

**Nominating Committee Report and Election of 2024-2025 Officers and Board of Directors**

**Vince Williams**, Mayor, Union City

**Installation of GMA Board and Officers**

**Rusi Patel**, General Counsel, GMA

**Jay Crowley**, City Attorney, Madison



# MONDAY, JUNE 24

**8:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**Registration and Welcome Center**

*River Concourse*

**7:30 am – 8:30 am**

**Continental Breakfast and Meet & Greet with Malcolm Mitchell**

*Outside the Chatham Ballroom*

**8:30 am – 9:45 am**

**General Session**

*Chatham Ballroom*

**Presiding: Randall Walker**, Mayor, Perry – GMA President

**Panel Discussion: State Investments in Georgia's Cities**

**Moderator: Jim Thornton**, Director, Governmental Relations, GMA

**Panelists:**

- **Brad Faxon**, Deputy Commissioner, Georgia Department of Transportation
- **Hunter Hill**, Executive Director, Georgia Environmental Finance Authority
- **Christopher Nunn**, Commissioner, Georgia Department of Community Affairs

**Georgia City Solutions Updates**

**Kay Love**, Managing Director, Georgia City Solutions

**Speaker**



**Malcolm Mitchell**

Malcolm Mitchell is a Super Bowl champion, author, speaker and the creator of a youth literacy initiative called “Read with Malcolm”. He is also the executive director of the Share the Magic Foundation, an organization he founded to transform lives through literacy. Through his efforts, he is inspiring change and igniting passion among children across Georgia and throughout the country.

**Special Announcement of New Statewide Literacy Initiative**

- Honorable **Jon Burns**, Speaker of the House, and **Mrs. Burns** (invited)
- Senator **Billy Hickman**
- **Scott Johnson**, Chairman, Georgia Council on Literacy
- **Larry Hanson**, CEO and Executive Director, GMA

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



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10:00 am – 11:00 am

**Concurrent Sessions**

**Building Safer Communities: Strategies for Effective Violence Prevention**

*Room 200-202*

People want to live in safe communities. And a key component to thriving, prosperous cities is effective violence prevention. This session will explore how cities can approach reducing crime rates while effectively engaging with the community. Drawing on successful case studies and expert insights, participants will gain valuable knowledge on effective violence prevention strategies and learn how to implement them within their own communities.

**Moderator:** *Lisa Clarke Hill*, Councilmember, Moultrie

**Presenters:**

- **Lester Miller**, Mayor, Macon-Bibb County
- **Gary Sparks**, Police Chief, Douglasville
- **Mark Scott**, Police Chief, Americus

**Staff Contacts:**

**DJ Waller**, Governmental Relations Associate

**Brian Wallace**, Director of Content Strategy and Engagement

**Community Building Partnerships: Harnessing the Power of Public Libraries**

*Room 203-204*

Join State Librarian, *Julie Walker*, for an insightful panel discussion that explores the transformative potential of partnerships between public libraries and community leaders. Public libraries are so much more than books. They serve as dynamic hubs for learning, innovation, and community engagement. From literacy programs and job training initiatives to cultural events and digital access initiatives, public libraries are at the forefront of community building efforts. In this session, we will delve into how cities can leverage the unique resources and expertise of public libraries to support literacy improvement, education, workforce development, and community engagement in their community.

**Moderator:** *Julie Walker*, Vice Chancellor for Libraries and Archives and State Librarian, Georgia Public Library Service

**Presenters:**

- **Nate Rall**, Vice Chancellor for Planning and Programs, Georgia Public Library Service
- **Stacy Brown**, Executive Director, Azalea Regional Library System
- **Fred Perriman**, Mayor, Madison- GMA First Vice President



## MONDAY, JUNE 24

- **Skip Baliles**, Mayor, Loganville
- **Branden Whitfield**, Councilmember, Loganville

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

### **New Legislation Impacting Service Delivery and Local Revenues**

#### *Room 100-102*

During the 2024 session, the General Assembly passed two bills that will significantly affect the way cities negotiate service delivery agreements and the revenue sources cities utilize. House Bill 1407 changes the process by which cities and their respective counties negotiate service delivery strategies and provides new and modified dispute resolution mechanisms. House Bill 581, subject to a companion statewide referendum in November, will create a statewide floating homestead exemption that caps the rate the assessed value of homesteaded properties can grow annually, but also allows most cities and their respective counties to ask their voters for an additional local option sales tax to fund general operations and to reduce property tax rates. Together, these two bills will affect almost all Georgia cities, and this session will provide important details on how these bills will be implemented.

**Moderator:** **Larry Hanson**, CEO and Executive Director, GMA

#### **Presenters:**

- **Jim Thornton**, Director, Governmental Relations, GMA
- **Ryan Bowersox**, Assistant General Counsel, GMA

**Staff Contact:** **Leona Rittenhouse**, Governmental Relations Associate

### **Transforming Downtowns for Economic Growth**

#### *Room 104-105*

Join us to explore downtown success stories from cities across North, Middle, and South Georgia. Discover how communities have progressed from conceptual design to actionable projects, focusing on leveraging unique local assets, cultivating partnerships, and harnessing the transformative influence of the arts in downtown revitalization endeavors. This discussion will showcase diverse project examples tailored to cities of varying sizes, highlight motivational tools for securing support from local leaders, underscore the crucial role of partnerships in project success, and explore innovative financial incentives driving funding solutions.

**Moderator:** **Marcia Hampton**, City Manager, Douglasville

#### **Presenters:**

- **Billy Peppers**, City Manager, Canton
- **Laura Nipper**, Main Street Manager, Homerville



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- **Taylor Smith**, Economic Development Director / Main Street, Thomaston
- **Alicia Hartley**, Downtown Manager, Perry

**Staff Contact:** **Cindy Eidson**, Director, Community & Economic Development

**11:15 am – 12:15 pm**

### Concurrent Sessions

#### Addressing Real Estate Challenges and Housing Affordability via a Collaborative Approach

*Room 200-202*

Defining the problem is the first step in solving one. State and nationwide, we've heard about the housing crisis, as well as housing accessibility and affordability issues, but understanding how these present in your community and what solutions are viable is paramount. Join the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and key city officials in this session on developing collaborative approaches to solve housing issues locally. This session is two-part: the first being on technical assistance panels, how they work, and how ULI uses them, and the second being on insights garnered from recent housing studies, which detail the implications for housing challenges as well as solutions.

**Presiding:** **Regina McDuffie**, City Manager, Brunswick

**Moderator:** **Daphne Bond-Godfrey**, Executive Director, Urban Land Institute Atlanta

#### Presenters:

- **Beth Brown**, Executive Director, Gainesville Housing Authority
- **Geoff Koski**, President, KB Advisory Group
- **Robert Pittman**, Community and Economic Development Consultant and author of *Rebooting Local Economies: How to Build Prosperous Communities*
- **Jay Silverman**, National Director of Architecture, Dwell Design Studio

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

#### Citizen Engagement Strategies for Vibrant Cities

*Room 203-204*

Effective citizen engagement is essential for building strong, inclusive, and responsive local governments that truly represent the interests and values of the communities they serve. During this session participants will hear directly from the thriving cities of Thomasville and Canton on the citizen engagement strategies they have successfully implemented. From informal gatherings like "Coffee & Conversations" to citizen engagement surveys to citizen involvement in the development of strategic plans, this session will offer practical insights on building vibrant, citizen-government connections.

**Moderator:** **Katrena Felder**, Commissioner, Waycross



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### **Presenters:**

- **Chris White**, Interim City Manager, Thomasville
- **Sheryl Sealy**, Assistant City Manager, Thomasville
- **Billy Peppers**, City Manager, Canton

**Staff Contact:** **Emily Davenport**, Member Services Consultant

### **Cutting Through the AI Hype: How Cities Can Leverage AI for Real Impact**

#### *Room 104-105*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has become a buzzword, but its practical applications for cities are often less understood. This session aims to demystify that notion and will delve into the question of how cities can utilize AI for increased efficiency and effectiveness. It will begin with a concise AI 101 overview, shedding light on emerging AI tools poised to reshape city operations significantly. Next, attendees will gain valuable insights from two city managers who will share their experiences in implementing AI projects. From navigating challenges to establishing policies and procedures, discover firsthand the realities of integrating AI into city operations.

**Moderator:** **Aaron Higgins**, Mayor Pro Tem, Pooler

### **Presenters:**

- **Michelle Owens**, City Manager, Tybee Island
- **Eden Freeman**, City Manager, Sandy Springs
- **Al Yelverton**, Strategic Advisor, VC3

**Staff Contact:** **Brian Wallace**, Director of Content Strategy and Engagement

### **New Legislation Impacting Service Delivery and Local Revenues**

#### *Room 100-102*

During the 2024 session, the General Assembly passed two bills that will significantly affect the way cities negotiate service delivery agreements and the revenue sources cities utilize. House Bill 1407 changes the process by which cities and their respective counties negotiate service delivery strategies and provides new and modified dispute resolution mechanisms. House Bill 581, subject to a companion statewide referendum in November, will create a statewide floating homestead exemption that caps the rate the assessed value of homesteaded properties can grow annually, but also allows most cities and their respective counties to ask their voters for an additional local option sales tax to fund general operations and to reduce property tax rates. Together, these two bills will affect almost all Georgia cities, and this session will provide important details on how these bills will be implemented.

**Moderator:** **Larry Hanson**, CEO and Executive Director, GMA



**MONDAY, JUNE 24**

**Presenters:**

- **Jim Thornton**, Director, Governmental Relations, GMA
- **Ryan Bowersox**, Assistant General Counsel, GMA

**Staff Contact:** Leona Rittenhouse, Governmental Relations Associate

**12:30 pm – 2:15 pm**

**Awards Luncheon** (*ticket purchase required*)

*Chatham Ballroom*

**Presiding:** **Randall Walker**, Mayor, Perry – GMA President

**Invocation**

**Michael-Angelo James**, Mayor, Waycross

**Clerk of the Year Award Presentation**

**Deborah Walker-Reed**, City Clerk, St. Marys – President, Georgia Municipal Clerks Association

**Recognition of Cities and Organizations of Civility**

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

**Recognition of Certified Cities of Ethics**

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

**Presentation of the Georgia Cities Foundation's Legacy Partner, Renaissance and Starr Awards**

**Pam Sessions**, President, Georgia Cities Foundation

**Municipal Government Hall of Fame Presentation**

**Eric Wilson**, Mayor, Forsyth – Chair, GMA Awards Committee

**Presentation of Municipal Training Institute Certificates**

**James Eubanks**, Mayor, Pelham – Chair, Municipal Training Board

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

**Aileen Harris**, Deputy Director of Training, GMA

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

**2:30 pm – 3:45 pm**

**District Meetings**

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

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

Each session will equip participants with knowledge and practical strategies to combat blight,





## MONDAY, JUNE 24

address substandard housing and promote the redevelopment of affected areas using a variety of tools and mechanisms, including ordinances, code enforcement, land bank authorities and other partnerships. A panel of regional district experts will share their experiences and lessons learned and provide strategies and resources for cities to consider in their revitalization initiatives.

*(If you are not sure which meeting to attend, please see the district number that appears on your name badge. In addition, a GMA district map is in the Welcome Center.)*

### **Districts 1 & 2**

*Room 104-105*

**Staff Contact: Pete Pyrzenski**, Member Services Consultant

### **District 3**

*Room 200-202*

**Staff Contact: Michael McPherson**, Member Services Consultant

### **Districts 4 & 8**

*Room 205*

**Staff Contact: Terrell Jacobs**, Member Services Consultant

### **Districts 5 & 7**

*Room 103*

**Staff Contact: Sherri Bailey**, Member Services Consultant

### **Districts 6 & 9**

*Room 100-102*

**Staff Contact: Artiffany Stanley**, Member Services Consultant

### **Districts 10, 11 & 12**

*Room 203-204*

**Staff Contacts:**

**Pam Helton**, Director, Member Services

**Emily Davenport**, Member Services Consultant

**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 and other fun activities to wind down the 2024 Convention.

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



# TUESDAY, JUNE 25

**7:15 am – 8:00 am**

**Continental Breakfast for Training Institute Participants**

**8:15 am – 11:15 am**

**Municipal Training Institute**

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

**Capital Improvement Program**

*Room 100*

**Current Issues Class: Municipal Law Update 2024**

*Room 101*

**Let's Get Social**

*Room 102*

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

*Room 103*

**Municipal Taxation 102 –The Basics Continued**

*Room 104*

**Open Meetings\***

*Room 105*

**Public Works Services\***

*Room 200*

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

*Room 201*

**Strengthening the Well-being of Children and Youth**

*Room 202*

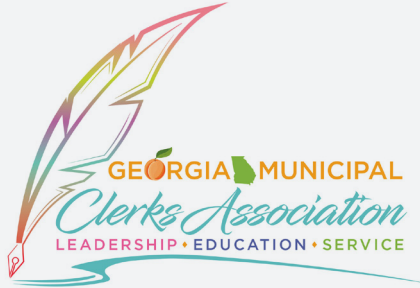
**Succession Planning: Planning for Tomorrow's Workforce Today**

*Room 203*

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



# GEORGIA MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE AND TRAINING SCHEDULE



## FRIDAY, JUNE 21

### Clerks' Training Courses

8:15 am – 3:15 pm

Professional Skills Development 102 – Ethics (required)

*Westin: Grand Ballroom F*

8:15 am – 11:15 am

Intergovernmental Agreements (elective)

*Westin: Riverscape*

12:15 pm – 3:15 pm

Legislative Update (CE Credit)

*Westin: Riverscape*

## SATURDAY, JUNE 22

### Clerks' Training Courses

8:15 am – 3:15 pm

Conflict Management (Masters Class)

*Westin: Grand Ballroom C*

8:15 am – 11:15 am

First Amendment Auditor Training (CE Credit)

*Westin: Grand Ballroom DE*

12:15 pm – 3:15 pm

Rules and Decorum/Council Meeting Procedures (CE Credit)

*Westin: Grand Ballroom DE*

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Municipal Marketplace Opening and Reception



# GEORGIA MUNICIPAL CLERKS ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE AND TRAINING SCHEDULE

## SUNDAY, JUNE 23

7:30 am – 8:00 am

**Worship Service**

*Room 104-105*

9:00 am – 10:30 am

**GMA Opening General Session**

*Chatham Ballroom*

10:30 am – 2:00 pm

**Municipal Marketplace open with Live in the Hall**

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

3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

**Clerks' Business Meeting**

*Westin: Grand Ballroom AB*

**Presiding: Deborah Walker-Reed**, City Clerk, St. Marys – President, Georgia Municipal Clerks Association

## MONDAY, JUNE 24

8:30 am – 9:45 am

**GMA General Session**

*Chatham Ballroom*

10:00 am – 11:00 am

**GMA Concurrent Sessions**

11:15 am – 12:15 pm

**GMA Concurrent Sessions**

12:30 pm – 2:15 pm

**Awards Luncheon** *(ticket purchase required)*

*Chatham Ballroom*

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm

**District Meetings**

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

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

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

**Closing Event**

*Exhibit Hall*



# GMA 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Officers

**President - Randall Walker**, Mayor, Perry

**1st Vice President - Fred Perriman**, Mayor, Madison

**2nd Vice President - Bianca Motley Broom**, Mayor, College Park

**3rd Vice President - Andrea Gibby**, Mayor, Young Harris

**Immediate Past President - Julie Smith**, Mayor, Tifton

## Active Past Presidents

**Past President - Vince Williams**, Mayor, Union City

**Past President - Keith Brady**, Mayor, Newnan

**Past President - John Reid**, Mayor, Eatonton

**Past President - Bill McIntosh**, Mayor, Moultrie

## 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:

### District One

**President - Kelly Bomar**, Councilmember, Ringgold

**1st Vice President - Randy Quick**, Commissioner, Rome

### District Two

**President - Robert (Buddy) Moore**, Councilmember, Blairsville

**1st Vice President - JoAnne Taylor**, Mayor, Dahlonega



## GMA 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### District Three

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

### District Four

**President - William Pearman**, Mayor, Senoia  
**1st Vice President - Joe Walter**, Mayor, Zebulon

### District Five

**President - David Keener**, Mayor, Social Circle  
**1st Vice President - Eric Joyce**, Councilmember, Madison

### District Six

**President - Clifford Holmes**, Mayor Pro Tem, Warner Robins  
**1st Vice President - Janie Reid**, Councilmember, Eatonton

### District Seven

**President - Jordan Johnson**, Commissioner, Augusta  
**1st Vice President - Danny Brown**, Councilmember, Sandersville

### District Eight

**President - Jesse Simmons**, Councilmember, Fort Gaines  
**1st Vice President - James Carter**, Mayor, Woodland

### District Nine

**President - Timothy Varnadore**, Mayor, Baxley  
**1st Vice President - Lee Stevenson**, Mayor Pro Tem, Screven

### District Ten

**President - Kelvin Owens**, Mayor, Camilla  
**1st Vice President - Chad Warbington**, Commissioner, Albany

### District Eleven

**President - Tommy Roberts**, Councilmember, Fitzgerald  
**1st Vice President - Sandra Tooley**, Councilmember, Valdosta



## GMA 2023-2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### District Twelve

**President - Lisa James**, Councilmember, St. Marys

**1st Vice President - Paulette Chavers**, Councilmember, Statesboro

### Sections Presidents

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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 criterion and being nominated by their city will receive the award.

- Yvonne Staten**, former City Clerk, Alma (40 years)
- Judy B. Cook**, former Mayor and City Clerk, Pembroke (49 years)
- Eley Loftin**, former Mayor and Councilmember, Centralhatchee (46 years)
- Walt Wiggins**, former Councilmember, Centralhatchee (38 years)
- Steve Horton**, former Mayor and City Manager, Covington (45 years)
- Don Thomas Floyd**, former Councilmember & Fire Chief, Covington (44 years)
- James (Butch) Sanders, Jr.**, former City Manager, Snellville (40 years)
- J. Clark Boddie**, former Mayor, Palmetto (40 years)
- George Wangemann**, former Mayor and Councilmember, Gainesville (36 years)
- Tony Lucas**, former City Manager, Conyers (40 years)
- William (Bill) Osborne**, former City Manager, Temple & Douglasville (45 years)
- Kenneth L. Usry**, former Mayor and Councilmember, Thomson (45 years)
- Willie Henry Watts**, former Councilmember, Sandersville (38 years)
- Dr. James E. Bagwell**, former Councilmember, Plains (40 years)
- L.E. "Boze" Godwin, III**, former Mayor, Plains, (40 years)



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<b>William B. Hartsfield</b> , Atlanta	1943	<b>Henry S. Bishop</b> , Alma*	1973	<b>Cecil Pruett</b> , Canton	2004
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<b>John G. Kennedy</b> , Savannah	1948	<b>Lewis A. Newman</b> , Augusta	1978	<b>Bill Floyd</b> , Decatur	2009
<b>William Butt</b> , Blue Ridge	1949	<b>David Barrow</b> , Bowdon	1979	<b>Ken Steele</b> , Fayetteville	2010
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<b>Carl E. Pruett</b> , Griffin	1960	<b>James Neal</b> , Toccoa	1990	<b>Jim Thornton</b> , LaGrange	2021
<b>W.B. Withers</b> , Moultrie	1961	<b>Tracy Stallings</b> , Carrollton	1991	<b>Julie Smith</b> , Tifton	2022
<b>Roswell Hair</b> , Buena Vista	1962	<b>Ed Cannington</b> , Lumpkin	1992	<b>Randall Walker</b> , Perry	2023
<b>Randolph Medlock</b> , Stone Mountain	1963	<b>Myrtle Davis</b> , Atlanta	1993		
<b>John Yarbrough</b> , Rome	1964	<b>Bill McIntosh</b> , Moultrie	1994		

\*served partial terms



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

Rush Truck Center of GA  
Booth # 5  
<https://www.rushtruckcenters.com/>

Rushton, LLC  
Booth # 900  
[www.rushtonandcompany.com](http://www.rushtonandcompany.com)

Ryland Environmental, Inc.  
Booth # 515  
[www.rylandenvironmental.us](http://www.rylandenvironmental.us)

### S

SAFEbuilt  
Booth # 530  
<https://safebuilt.com/>

SAM, LLC  
Booth # 842  
[www.sam.biz](http://www.sam.biz)

Schnabel Engineering, LLC  
Booth # 309  
<https://www.schnabel-eng.com/>



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SEAS Community Partners, Inc.  
Booth # 312  
<https://seaspartners.com>

Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger  
Booth # 831  
[www.sos.ga.gov](http://www.sos.ga.gov)

Sizemore Group, LLC  
Booth # 646  
[www.sizemoregroup.com](http://www.sizemoregroup.com)

Smith Douglas Homes  
Booth # 832  
[www.smithdouglas.com](http://www.smithdouglas.com)

Softdocs  
Booth # 334  
[www.softdocs.com](http://www.softdocs.com)

Southeast Cement Promotion Association  
Booth # 300  
[www.secement.org](http://www.secement.org)

Southern Software, Inc.  
Booth # 914  
[www.southernsoftware.com](http://www.southernsoftware.com)

Southern Tire Mart, LLC  
Booth # 407  
[stmtires.com](http://stmtires.com)

Springbrook Software  
Booth # 714  
<https://springbrooksoftware.com>

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc.  
Booth # 627  
[www.stantec.com](http://www.stantec.com)

Still Waters Engineering  
Booth # 606  
<http://stillwaterseng.com/>

Synagro Technologies, Inc.  
Booth # 519  
[www.Synagro.com](http://www.Synagro.com)

### T

Temple, Inc.  
Booth # 443  
[www.temple-inc.com](http://www.temple-inc.com)

The Beatty Team  
Booth # 543  
[www.mbeattyteam.com/](http://www.mbeattyteam.com/)

The Brick Industry Association  
Booth # 429  
<http://www.gobrick.com>

The Collaborative Firm, LLC  
Booth # 629  
[www.tcfatl.com](http://www.tcfatl.com)

The EMS SuperStore  
Booth # 547  
<https://theemssuperstore.com/>

Trane  
Booth # 922  
[www.trane.com](http://www.trane.com)

TSW  
Booth # 401  
[www.tsw-design.com](http://www.tsw-design.com)

TTL, Inc.  
Booth # 539  
[www.ttlusa.com](http://www.ttlusa.com)

### U

UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government  
Booth # 419  
<https://cviog.uga.edu/>



## 2024 MUNICIPAL MARKETPLACE

United Concordia Dental  
Booth # 544  
[www.unitedconcordia.com](http://www.unitedconcordia.com)

UNIVERSAL CONCEPTS  
Booth # 4A  
[www.christmasdecorandmore.com](http://www.christmasdecorandmore.com)

USA Shade  
Booth # 315  
[www.usa-shade.com](http://www.usa-shade.com)

USDA Rural Development  
Booth # 648  
<https://www.rd.usda.gov/ga>

USDA, NRCS  
Booth # 520  
[www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov)

USG Water Solutions  
Booth # 844  
[usgwater.com](http://usgwater.com)

### V

VC3  
Booth # 836  
<https://www.vc3.com/>

Vortex Aquatic Structures International  
Booth # 425  
[www.vortex-intl.com](http://www.vortex-intl.com)

### W

W&A Engineering  
Booth # 813  
[www.waengineering.com](http://www.waengineering.com)

Wade Ford  
Booth # 907  
[wadeford.com](http://wadeford.com)

Waste Pro  
Booth # 731  
[www.wasteprousa.com](http://www.wasteprousa.com)

Winter Construction  
Booth # 514  
[www.winter-construction.com](http://www.winter-construction.com)

Wintergreen Corporation  
Booth # 200  
<https://wintergreencorp.com/>

WM  
Booth # 426  
[www.wm.com](http://www.wm.com)

WSB  
Booth # 615  
[www.wsbeng.com](http://www.wsbeng.com)

### Y

Yancey Bros. Co.  
Booth # 102  
<https://www.yanceybros.com/>

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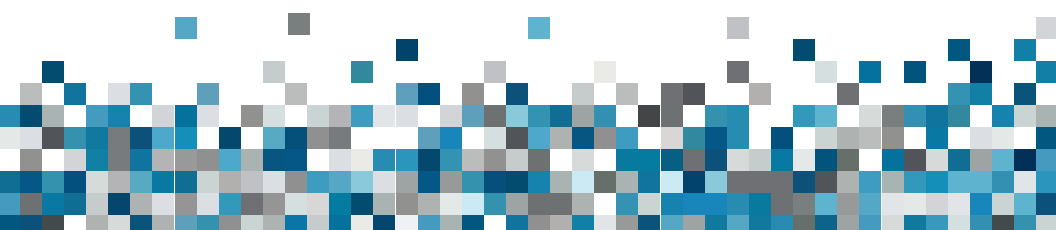
## 2024 GEORGIA BROADBAND SUMMIT

**OPEN TO CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIALS, INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS AND OTHER COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS.**

**DATE & TIME:** Tuesday, July 16, 2024, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Warner Robins Parks & Recreation Center located at 900 N Houston Road, Warner Robins, GA, 31903

**REGISTER AND FIND MORE INFORMATION AT:**  
<https://gacities.com/GMA-Broadband>



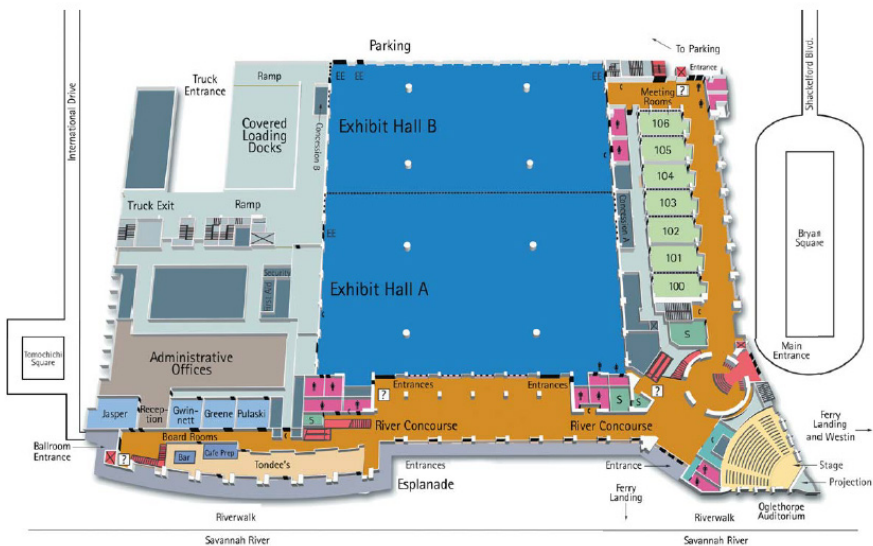


# SAVANNAH CONVENTION CENTER

## UPPER LEVEL



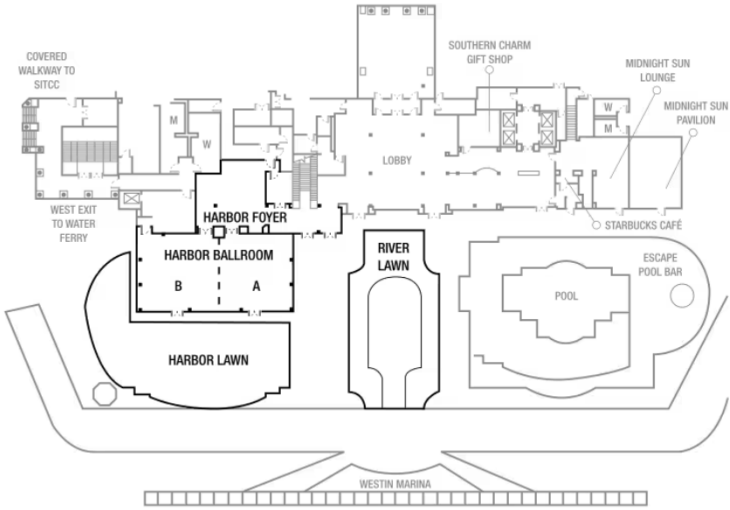
## LOWER LEVEL



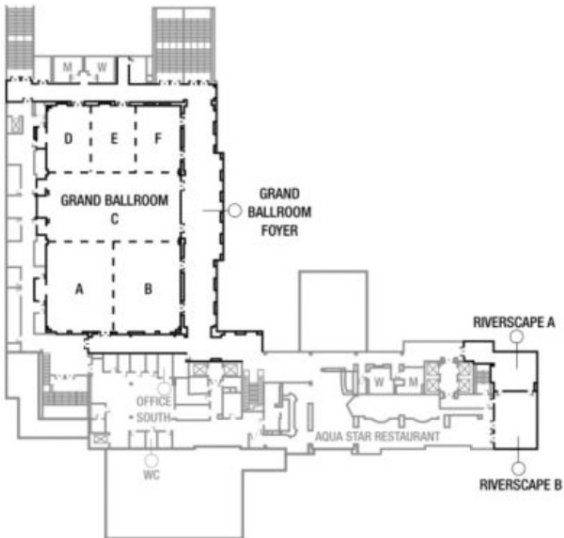




## FIRST FLOOR



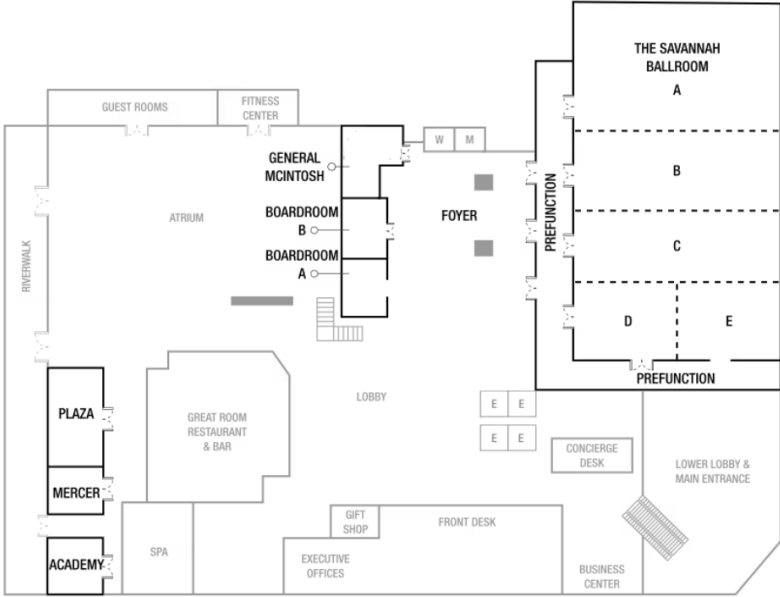
## SECOND FLOOR



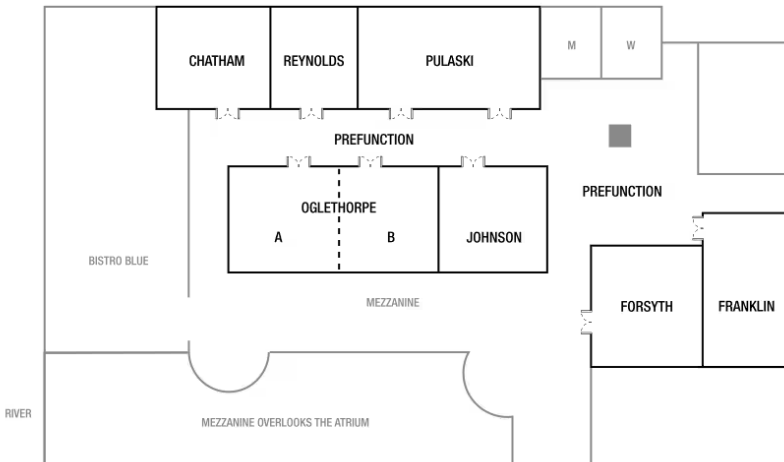


# MARRIOTT

## LOBBY LEVEL



## SECOND FLOOR





# NOTES



## NOTES



## NOTES

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