



An exclusive preview from the Georgia Municipal Association

January 9, 2014

Transportation Funding

- Legislative Study Committee working on a “Plan B” found that a minimum of \$1.0 to \$1.5 billion in “new annual transportation infrastructure investment” is needed.
- The Study Committee listed twelve “Funding Options” to accomplish this task of raising revenue.

Transportation Funding

- GMA Executive Director Lamar Norton served on the Study Committee, and reported to GMA Membership that he “could not sign the report for one simple reason: it includes language that suggests taking or restricting revenues that fund local priorities.”

Transportation Funding

- “Look to long term solutions to wean the state and local governments from use of sales taxes on gasoline for non-transportation purposes, while also taking into account local governments’ present long-term bond obligations and their need for tax revenue to meet their own local transportation needs.”
- A copy of the Final Report - [http://www.house.ga.gov/Documents/CommitteeDocuments/2014/Critical Trans Infra Funding/Transportation Study Committee Final Report 2014.pdf](http://www.house.ga.gov/Documents/CommitteeDocuments/2014/Critical%20Trans%20Infra%20Funding/Transportation%20Study%20Committee%20Final%20Report%202014.pdf)

Transportation Funding

- http://www.gmanet.com/Assets/PDF/MFT_local_collections_2013-2014.pdf
- A county-by-county breakdown of total amount of local sales tax collections assessed on motor fuel from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. (Typical local sales tax rates are 3% in each county.)

Ethics Fines

“E-filing system incorrectly flags individuals as late or non filers due to duplicate IDs, incomplete entries and outdated requirements.”

- State Auditor’s report, October 2014



Ethics Fines

“There should be administrative amnesty for local officials who were forced to use a flawed system”

- GMA Executive Director Lamar Norton



Deed Filing

- Current state law requires that a deed be filed within 90 days of a foreclosure.
- GMA is working with the General Assembly on legislation that will impose penalties on banks or investors that do not follow the law.

Municipal Tort Claims Act

- Cities and counties have different levels of sovereign immunity.
- When cities and counties participate in joint projects or jointly provide services, if something goes wrong, counties can walk away and cities are left with all of the liability
- A Tort Claims Act would provide cities with more certainty and cap liability.

Increasing Truck Weight

- Last year there was legislation to allow heavier trucks on roads maintained by local governments.
- Heavier trucks cause more damage to infrastructure and property and represents a financial and public safety issue.
- GMA would like local law enforcement officers to have the ability to perform roadside safety inspections on trucks.

Police Body Cameras

- GMA is supportive of municipal officers wearing cameras, but GMA is opposed to any unfunded mandates requiring the purchase of such equipment.

F.A.C.T. Act

(Full Accountability in Collection of Taxes Act)

- Sales tax data is more important now than ever before in order for a city to be competitive and plan for the future.
- Representative Paul Battles and GMA are holding a series of meetings with DOR and the business community to come up with an improved model of data sharing.

Municipal Court Judges

The Municipal Court Judges Council and the Judicial Council of Georgia will be supporting legislation that would:

- Make municipal courts “courts of record” and give them the power to grant new trials;
- Mandate that municipal courts have prosecuting attorneys; and
- Provide municipal court judges with a property interest in employment and only allow for them to be fired with cause.



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<http://www.gmanet.com/FindLegislator.aspx>

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Federal Issues

STORIES

2015 GMA Calls for Ethics Commission to Provide

15 Trending Issues in Legislative Session Could

2014 Transportation Funding Study Committee

CITIES IN THE NEWS

01.08.2015 | Pooler votes to send letter to state legislators opposing CAT expansion *Savannah Morning News*

01.08.2015 | Hahira to hold second reading of water/sewer rate ordinance *Valdosta Daily Times*

01.08.2015 | City approves final site plan for new Kroger *Effingham Herald*

GMA SERVICES

Insurance & Retirement Services

- Retirement
- Life & Health
- Workers' Compensation
- Property & Liability
- Loss Control
- Health & Wellness

14 Ways to Save Money & Improve Operations

- Equipment & Real Estate Financing
- Revenue Enhancement & Recovery Services
- Tools to Improve Operational Efficiency

POLICY CENTER

Weapons in Georgia's Cities: 2014 Update

House Bill 60, a comprehensive firearms and weapons bill, passed both chambers of the Georgia Legislature on March 20, 2014 and has been signed by Gov. Deal. Its provisions affecting Georgia's cities become effective July 1, 2014.

Other Advocacy Links

- 2014 Legislative Session
- 2015 Legislative Policies
- Hometown Connection
- Find Your Legislator

TRAINING

GMA, in partnership with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia, offers more than forty training courses for

SLIDESHOWS

2014 Annual Convention | June 23, 2014

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2015 Mayors' Day Conference

Join city officials from across the state in January for GMA's 2015 Mayors' Day Conference.

Viewpoints Grants/Awards GMA on Twitter

Be Sure to Connect with State and Federal Leaders in 2015

Lamar Norton
GMA Executive Director
January 8, 2015

With the beginning of the new year, it is time for the legislative machine to begin cranking up once again. We have a new General Assembly session that begins the second week of January and with it comes a need for ethics reform, funding for transportation, a good look at declining revenues for cities, counties and school systems and a litany of other issues that will rise to the surface over the next 40 legislative days.

2015 Mayors' Day Conference


Join city officials from across the state in January for GMA's 2015 Mayors' Day Conference.



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Begin typing the city name in the text box, select or click on the city, then click Go.




Moultrie



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CONTACT ABOUT GMA

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Management Company www.esginc.net



Effective Advocacy 101 - *Stay Informed*

Read GMA's Session Notes and Legislative Alerts –
Published each Tuesday & Friday during session

From: Brian Wallace
Sent: Friday, February 28, 2014 2:51 PM
To: District Representative
Subject: FW: GMA Legislative Alert

GMA Legislative Alert

No. 7 | February 28, 2014

Monday is Crossover Day

Monday, March 3, is "Crossover Day," the last day a bill can pass over from one chamber to the other. GMA encourages city officials to review the list of bills below and contact their House and Senate members about any legislation that is of concern.

Action Needed on Sovereign Immunity and Fractional SPLOST

HB 1010, Sovereign Immunity, by Barry Fleming (R-Harlem) is scheduled to be heard on the House floor on Monday, March 3. This bill would give cities the same level of sovereign immunity as counties and the state.

As cities and counties partner on delivering services and on brick and mortar projects in an effort to enhance efficiency, it is becoming common that they operate joint facilities and work through joint authorities to serve shared constituents. There is increased concern that city taxpayers are being held responsible for any liability for negligence, regardless of blame, in joint service agreements and projects, while counties are granted sovereign immunity. This bill ensures that city taxpayers are not shouldering the burden of lawsuits.

Please contact your House member and ask that they **support** this bill. *GMA supports this legislation.*

From: Brian Wallace
Sent: Tuesday, March 11, 2014 9:46 AM
To: District Representative
Subject: GMA Session Notes

GMA Session Notes

March 11, 2014

Today is Day 36 of the 2014 Legislative Session. Four legislative days remain. The last day of the session, Day 40, is scheduled for Thursday, March 20.

Under the Gold Dome

GMA needs city officials to contact their Senators on three bills this morning.

Municipal home-rule will be at stake in the [Senate Judiciary Non-Civil Committee](#) today, Tuesday, March 11, at 1:00 pm, when **HB 875, Allowing Firearms in Government Buildings & Increased Lawsuits**, by Rep. Rick Jasperse (R-Jasper), is heard. The ability of cities to determine whether firearms should or should not be allowed in city buildings is in jeopardy. **GMA encourages city officials to contact their Senate member(s) and let them know that your city opposes the following two provisions in the bill:**

1. HB 875 would allow a person to successfully bring a lawsuit against a city, an



Effective Advocacy 101

1. Know who your legislator is
2. Stay informed
 - Legislative Alerts
 - Session Notes
3. Keep in touch – not just when you need something!

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Questions?

**MAYORS'
DAY
2015**

**Monday,
January 26**

Hilton Atlanta Hotel
7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Least expensive parking at
227 Courtland Street Garage
(corner of Courtland and Harris)

RSVP by January 14
at 678-686-6206; or email
kwilliams@gmanet.com

You Are Invited...

The Georgia Municipal Association cordially invites members of the Georgia State Senate and the Georgia House of Representatives to attend:

The Capitol Connection: Legislative Networking Breakfast

as GMA expresses appreciation to the Georgia General Assembly for their public service and partnership with city governments.



Deal



Cagle



Ralston

The Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the House will share their perspectives on policy issues facing cities in 2015.