

# GMA 2010 Mayors Day Conference

## Agenda

January 23 – 25, 2010

Atlanta Hilton, Atlanta

## General Information

### Meal Tickets

Tickets are required for the following events:

Pre-Conference Summit

Municipal Training Luncheon

Sunday Luncheon

Monday Breakfast

Tickets for guests may be purchased at the registration desk.

### Registration Desk Hours

The GMA Registration Desk is located on the second floor and will be open during the following hours:

Saturday, January 23            7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 24            8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Monday, January 25           7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

## Schedule of Events

### Saturday, January 23

**7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Registration**

*Second Floor*

**8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**Municipal Training Courses**

**Building Hometown Connections: Lobbying 101**

*Room 202*

This course provides an overview of the state legislative process and helps city officials understand how they can be effective advocates of issues important to their community and cities throughout the state. Participants receive ideas for establishing productive year-round relationships with members of the General Assembly as well as practical lobbying tips they can use during the legislative session. The course also includes a hands-on exercise using real-life legislative scenarios.

**Clerks' Certification Course: Government Law (elective)**

The course will examine key legal issues elected officials should know.

There will be discussion regarding the legal framework between elected officials and staff. It will provide clerks with information regarding their liability as public officials. Key court decisions will be reviewed, and ways to minimize liability will be discussed.

*Room 201*

**Downtown Development Authorities: (8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.)**

*Salon B/C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

This course is primarily directed at those who serve on Downtown Development Authorities but is open to all elected officials. Topics include management of downtown as a valuable resource; the role of the authority and of board members and staff; DDA laws; and the day-to-day operations of an authority.

**Excellence in Utilities**

*Room 304/305*

This course provides a general overview of the operation of municipal utilities such as gas, electric, water/sewer/stormwater and cable. Topics include principles for effective utility management, a model for utility planning, tips for managing an enterprise fund, meeting regulatory requirements, hiring and retaining competent employees, setting and maintaining competitive rates, creating fiscal responsibility, and building customer service. Participants will also explore the latest issues facing municipal utilities and enterprise funds.

**Housing Solutions for Cities: A Key Element to the Economic Development Strategy**

*Room 301*

This course provides officials with information about housing needs and issues, as well as programs and resources available to assist communities. Participants learn how their respective communities compare with the state as it relates to housing, family size, and income data, as well as how other cities have used available financing to leverage their housing efforts. Afternoon roundtable discussions provide answers to questions and a toolbox of ideas and resources, including names and phone numbers of persons who can help solve housing problems.

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

*Room 212*

This course shows city leaders how they can exert meaningful control over how their community grows. Topics include economic and ecological considerations, protecting water quality, regulatory initiatives and regionalization. Promoting infill development and redevelopment, preserving land and capturing private investment are also covered.

**Municipal Finance I**

*Room 204/205*

This course is intended to serve as a basic primer on municipal finance issues that all mayors and councilmembers should understand. Included in this general overview is a discussion of the budget process, the revenue sources available to cities, purchasing policies and financing capital improvements.

## **Municipal Law**

*Room 302/303*

This course reviews the sources and limitations of authority granted to municipal governments by the federal and state constitutions, as well as statutes enacted by the U.S. Congress and Georgia General Assembly. The role and function of the municipal charter is also discussed. Other key topics covered during this course include municipal contracts, annexation and the personal liability of public officials.

## **Open Meetings/Open Records**

*Room 210/211*

This course familiarizes municipal elected officials with Georgia's open meetings and open records laws and the potential consequences for failing to adhere to them. Hypothetical scenarios are used to give participants a better understanding of their responsibilities and obligations for complying with these statutes.

## **Revitalizing Neighborhoods: Tools for Local Officials**

*Room 206/207*

This course provides an overview of the tools and resources available to cities interested in effectively responding to neighborhood problems such as dilapidated and unsafe structures, unsightly property, junk automobiles, weeds, trash and other nuisances. Topics include Georgia's Urban Redevelopment law, code enforcement and land bank authorities.

## **Risk Management and Insurance**

*Room 309/310*

Is your city at risk? This course focuses on the importance of loss control and safety training as a way of reducing insurance claims, and also provides a general introduction of risk management and insurance. Alternative ways to cover municipal risks are also discussed.

## **Taxation 101-The Basics**

*Room 213/214*

This course provides municipal elected officials with a broad understanding of the fundamentals of local government taxation relating to the property tax, hotel-motel tax and sales and use tax. Participants will gain an understanding of tax language and appropriate usage of revenues and will leave better prepared to communicate tax issues to constituents and make prudent decisions related to expenditures.

**12:00 p.m.**

### **Training Luncheon**

*Salon West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

**3:45 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.**

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

*Salon West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

Presiding: Bill Floyd, Mayor, Decatur-GMA President

## Sunday, January 24

**8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

**Registration**

*Second Floor*

**9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.**

**Concurrent Sessions**

**Orientation for First Time Attendees**

*Room 207*

All first time attendees and newly elected officials are invited to attend this session to learn more about what you should get out of the Mayors' Day Conference, what programs and services GMA offers and how to become more involved in GMA.

**Health Care Reform - What Has Congress Done and What Does it Mean?**

*Room 204/205*

Congress spent most of 2009 developing comprehensive health care reform legislation that was vigorously debated right down to year-end. By late January it should be clear whether historic changes have been enacted into law. If that's what has happened, this session will examine just what's in the new law and what it will mean for individuals, state and local government employers, health care providers and insurers. If Congress and the President have not acted, a forecast of the likelihood of health reform will also be discussed.

**Moderator:**

**Mickey Thompson**, Mayor, Douglasville-Chair, GMEBS/WCSIF/GIRMA Board of Trustees

**Presenter:**

**Mike Langan**, Principal, Towers Watson

**Staff Contact:**

**Cal Wray**, Director, Risk Management and Employee Benefit Services

**Cities and Downtowns – Building Blocks to Recovery!**

*Room 210/211*

The historic economic downturn of the last 18 to 24 months has shaken the very foundation of our state and certainly has affected what many feel is the heart and soul of every community around the state – their downtowns. This session will feature three well-known experts in the field of economic and downtown redevelopment who will help frame a dialogue about the future of downtowns across the state. Each participant will have the opportunity to participate in an interactive survey through real-time voting technology as well as through a facilitated discussion of the answers of the group. The data gathered from this session will be used to guide a six-month long UGA study commissioned by GMA and the Georgia Cities Foundation to address future state level policy decisions regarding downtowns as building blocks to economic recovery.

**Moderator:**

**Wright Bagby**, Mayor, Rome

**Facilitator:**

**Dr. Joe Whorton**, Senior Fellow and Director of the Fanning Institute, the University of Georgia

**Presenters:**

**Craig Lesser**, Manager, Pendleton Consulting Group

**Emory Morsberger**, CEO, Morsberger Group

**Mike Starr**, Retired-Executive Vice President, Wachovia Bank and President, Georgia Cities Foundation

**Staff Contact:**

**Becky Taylor**, Research & Federal Relations Manager

**The Downturn in the Economy and the Prospects for Your Hometown**

*Room 212/213*

Georgia is nearly two years into one of the deepest and most systemic recessions in our history, shaking the very foundation of state government and forcing cutbacks, project delays and in some cases tax increases at the local level. In this session, participants will hear from city officials in two cities facing vastly different economic situations. One city is facing unprecedented growth pressures resulting from the location of a major new manufacturing facility while another city is coping with substantial job loss from a traditionally strong manufacturing sector. These officials will discuss how their cities have managed these issues and the impact on their budgets and service levels. Providing a candid and entertaining statewide economic perspective will be Jeffrey Dorfman, a professor of economics at the University of Georgia.

**Moderator:**

**Bucky Johnson**, Mayor, Norcross

**Presenters:**

**Charlie Bethel**, Councilmember, Dalton

**Ed Moon**, City Manager, West Point

**Jeffrey H. Dorfman**, Professor of Applied Economics, University of Georgia

**Staff Contact:**

**Paul Radford**, Deputy Director

**10:45 a.m. -12:15 p.m.**

**Policy Committee Meetings**

The purpose of these committee meetings is to discuss legislative issues of interest to cities being debated during the 2010 legislative session. The membership will use the meetings to review policy items adopted by city officials during the GMA Annual Convention and to make any

changes deemed necessary. In addition, the committee members will hear from local and state elected and appointed officials regarding their thoughts on the 2010 legislative session.

### **Community Development**

*Salon C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

**Chair: Edna Jackson**, Mayor Pro Tem, Savannah

Community housing is an important issue that cities in Georgia must be prepared to address. Dr. Tom Rodgers from the University of Georgia will introduce you to the “Georgia Initiative for Community Housing,” a program that helps selected cities develop and implement a “living” community housing plan. In addition, given the use of impact fees by cities across the state to finance the cost of new development, committee members will hear from Bill Ross, an impact fee expert, on how cities can effectively involve the development community to help craft their impact fee program. Deron Hicks from the Home Builders Association of Georgia will provide suggestions for partnering with your local developers and homebuilders. Committee members will also be briefed on the Community Development policies for the 2010 legislative session and any pending bills before the legislature that affect the existing policies.

#### **Presenters:**

**Dr. Tom Rodgers**, Associate Director, Housing and Demographics Research Center, University of Georgia

**Bill Ross**, Vice President, Bill Ross and Associates

**Deron Hicks**, General Counsel, Home Builders Association of Georgia

#### **Staff Contact:**

**Marcia Rubensohn**, Legislative and Regulatory Counsel

### **Municipal Government**

*Salon B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

**Chair: Keith Brady**, Mayor, Newnan

As we enter the 2010 Legislative session, the state faces its worst budget crisis in memory which will require difficult decisions regarding state service delivery and constitutional priorities. The impact of these decisions will be felt by individuals and local city governments all across the state. Despite the urgent need to deal with this budget crisis, some legislators are attempting to restrict local government Home Rule authority which will certainly affect your ability to govern and provide critical services to municipal residents. During this meeting, committee members will hear from members of the General Assembly regarding key issues of interest to cities that will likely be deliberated during the legislative session, including the service delivery strategy law, annexation, and deannexation. Panelists will also discuss how statutory limits on municipal authority to raise revenues affect the ability of city officials to provide crucial services demanded by city residents.

#### **Presenters:**

**Senator Lee Hawkins**, Chair, Senate State and Local Government Operations Committee

**Representative Mark Hamilton**, Member, House Governmental Affairs Committee  
(additional speaker, name to be added)  
**Tom Hall**, City Manager, LaGrange

**Staff Contact:**

**Lamar Norton**, Director, Governmental Relations

**Transportation**

*Salon A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

**Chair: Boyd Austin**, Mayor, Dallas

For three years, state lawmakers have tried and failed to pass legislation to address critical transportation funding needs. Funding for transportation will once again be a top priority during the upcoming legislative session. GMA Transportation Policy Committee members will discuss issues related to transportation funding and their impact on municipal transportation infrastructure needs. Featured speakers include the Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, Senator Jeff Mullis, along with Representative Jay Roberts, Chair of the House Transportation Committee, who will discuss ongoing legislative efforts to come to an agreement on transportation funding solution that will provide lasting funding relief to cities around the state. GDOT Commissioner Vance Smith and GDOT Planning Director Todd Long will also be on hand to discuss changes made to the Department's governance during the 2009 session and the impact of those changes on Georgia's cities. Finally, Butch McDuffie, President of the Georgia Transit Association, will discuss statewide transit issues with a focus on the impact of budget cuts to rural transit systems.

**Presenters:**

**Senator Jeff Mullis**, Chair, Senate Transportation Committee

**Vance Smith**, Commissioner, Department of Transportation

**Todd Long**, Planning Director, Department of Transportation

**Butch McDuffie**, President, Georgia Transit Association

**Staff Contact:**

**Becky Taylor**, Research & Federal Relations Manager

**12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Awards Luncheon**

*Ballroom West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

**Presiding**

**Bill Floyd**, Mayor, Decatur-GMA President

**National Anthem**

**Major Carlos Morgan**, Program Specialist, Atlanta Veterans Affairs

**Invocation**

**Charles Barineau**, Mayor Pro Tem, Donalsonville; Pastor, New Hope Church

**Lunch**

**Executive Director's Remarks**

**Jim Higdon**, Executive Director

**Preview of February 2010 Issue of *Georgia Trend***

**Neely Young**, Editor in Chief and Publisher, *Georgia Trend*

**Certified Cities of Ethics Presentation**

**Billy Trapnell**, Mayor, Metter – GMA Second Vice President

**Training Certificate Presentation**

**Dr. Steve Wrigley**, Director, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia

**Laura Meadows**, Associate Director, Governmental Education, Training and Development, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia

*Special thanks to The Coca Cola Company and Georgia Power Company for their sponsorship of the Mayors' Day Conference*

**2:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Policy Committee Meetings**

**Environment and Natural Resources**

*Salon A, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

**Chair: Deke Copenhaver**, Mayor, Augusta

Water wars, stormwater management costs, and regulatory challenges are making headlines and impacting municipal budgets. What are the issues, and how will the General Assembly tackle the tough ones, are questions that the Environment and Natural Resources Committee will consider. This meeting is also a good opportunity to review legislative developments related to GMA's policy positions and review pending environmental legislation and budget recommendations. In addition, the newly appointed Environmental Protection Division Director Allen Barnes will talk about his vision for how EPD will operate under his command, update the members on the status of work of the regional water planning councils, and discuss the recommendations for the metro-Atlanta region's water supply options based on the federal court ruling restricting the use of Lake Lanier for drinking water.

**Presenter:**

**Allen Barnes**, Director, Georgia Environmental Protection Division

**Staff Contact:**

**Tom Gehl**, Deputy Director, Governmental Relations

**Public Safety**

*Salon B, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

**Chair: Willie Burns**, Mayor, Washington

The 2010 Georgia General Assembly is now in session. Will city police still be able to patrol Interstates when it is over? Will city fire departments have to pay the state a fee in order to use flashing lights when responding to fires? Will cities still be able to regulate the discharge of firearms within the city limits or prohibit concealed weapons from being brought into city council meetings or municipal court? The Public Safety Committee will examine these issues and more pending in the 2010 legislative session as well as hear from representatives of the law enforcement and fire rescue disciplines.

**Presenters:**

**Frank Rotondo**, Executive Director, Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police

**Randy Windham**, Executive Director, Georgia Association of Fire Chiefs

**Staff Contact:**

**Ted Baggett**, Deputy General Counsel

**Revenue and Finance**

*Salon C, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

**Chair: Mike Bodker**, Mayor, Johns Creek

The Revenue and Finance Committee will discuss issues affecting city revenue, particularly the Sales Tax Collection Pilot Project and proposed property tax assessment legislation. Representatives from the Department of Revenue, the City of Gainesville as well as state legislators will discuss the initial findings of the project and the next steps as we work to improve the collection and remittance of sales taxes. Also, state legislators will discuss proposed changes to the property tax assessment process.

**Presenters:**

**Senator Chip Rogers**, Senate Majority Leader and Chair, Senate Property Tax Assessment Study Committee

**Representative Larry O'Neal**, Chair, House Ways and Means Committee

**Kip Padgett**, City Manager, Gainesville

**Timothy Mitchell**, Manager, Tax Law and Policy, Department of Revenue

**Staff Contact:**

**Mark Baggett**, Governmental Relations Associate

**4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**Legislative Policy Council Meeting**

*Room 301-304*

The Legislative Policy Council will meet immediately following the conclusion of GMA's six standing policy committee meetings. The Council will hear a report from the policy committee chairs and consider any adjustments needed to GMA's 2010 Legislative Policies and legislative strategy.

**Chair:**

**Ken Steele**, Mayor, Fayetteville-GMA First Vice President

**Staff Contact:**

**Kelly Shields**, Legal and Legislative Policy Coordinator

**Monday, January 25**

**7:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Registration**

*Second Floor*

**7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.**

**Legislative Issues Breakfast**

*Ballroom West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

**Presiding**

**Bill Floyd**, Mayor, Decatur-GMA President

**Invocation**

**Johnny Crist**, Councilmember, Lilburn; Pastor, Atlanta Vineyard Church

**Breakfast**

**Welcome**

**Kasim Reed**, Mayor, Atlanta (Invited)

**Introduction of Speakers**

**Ken Steele**, Mayor, Fayetteville – GMA First Vice President

**Perspectives on the 2010 Legislative Session**

**Casey Cagle**, Lieutenant Governor

**David Ralston**, Speaker of the House

**Update on Federal Issues**

**Don Borut**, Executive Director, National League of Cities

*Special thanks to AT&T for its sponsorship of the Mayors' Day Conference*

**10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

**District Caucuses**

Each caucus will have a unique program tailored to the needs of their district. Some districts will combine for a joint caucus. These meetings will also include a GMA update covering topics

such as recently completed district meetings, successful Hometown Connections, the Mayors' Motorcade, the 2010 Legislative Session, Georgia Cities Week and *If I Were Mayor* contest. Come prepared to participate and discuss activities and issues that concern your city!

### **Districts One and Two**

#### *Room 301*

Sales tax collections, water planning and city-county service consolidation will be the key topics of discussion at this combined caucus. City Manager Kip Padgett of Gainesville will provide an update on the Department of Revenue's pilot project with Gainesville and Hall County and several other jurisdictions to compare state sales tax and local occupation tax data sets; Rick Brownslow of CH2M Hill, who serves as water planning consultant with EPD will provide a status report on water planning in basins covering north Georgia; and officials from Rome and Dalton will discuss their respective cities' experiences with city-county service consolidation.

#### **Presenters:**

**Kip Padgett**, City Manager, Gainesville  
**Rick Brownslow**, CH2M Hill and EPD Consultant  
**Wright Bagby**, Mayor, Rome  
**Charlie Bethel**, Councilmember, Dalton

#### **Staff Contacts:**

**Lou Comer**, Director, Local Government Services (District 1)  
**Bill Thornton**, Deputy Director (District 2)

### **District Three**

#### *Room 304*

This GMA district is defined by the ten-county metro Atlanta region. The concentration of population, development and economic activity makes it the focal point of significant policy discussions including transportation, water, governance and, of course, the evolving role of cities in the region. In January, Tad Leithead, former Senior Vice President with Cousins Properties, was elected chairman of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) and is the first citizen board member (non-elected official) to serve as chair in the organization's 63-year history. He will offer his perspective on key issues as he begins his new role at ARC. Members will also hear updates on other activities in the metro region.

**Presenter:** Tad Leithead, Chairman, Atlanta Regional Commission (invited)

#### **Staff Contacts:**

**Paul Radford**, Deputy Director  
**Al Outland**, Director, Communications

### **Districts Four, Six and Eight**

#### *Room 305*

This joint meeting of Districts 4, 6 and 8 will look at three economic development projects, one from each district. Fort Valley Mayor John Stumbo will discuss the city's EPA Superfund Redevelopment project that received an "Excellence in Site Reuse" award from the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency. Vienna Mayor Emerson Lundy will talk about the city's sewer infrastructure improvement project that will result in 600 jobs being retained at the Tyson Poultry Plant, the city's largest employer. And West Point Mayor Drew Ferguson will look at the opportunities and challenges the city, region and state face in leveraging the impact of the new Kia plant.

**Presenters:**

**John Stumbo**, Mayor, Fort Valley

**Emerson Lundy**, Mayor, Vienna

**Drew Ferguson**, Mayor, West Point

**Staff Contacts:**

**Brian Wallace**, Online Communications Manager (District 4)

**Perry Hiott**, Director, Research & Redevelopment Services (District 6)

**Alan Dickerson**, Community Development Manager (District 8)

**Districts Five and Seven**

*Room 203*

Last summer, a federal judge ordered metropolitan Atlanta local governments to stop taking water from Lake Lanier within three years, unless local officials can get Congressional approval for the existing water withdrawals. One controversial option under discussion has been interbasin transfers. However, in making its final recommendations in December, the Governor's Water Contingency Task Force rejected the idea of interbasin transfers as an alternative water source for metropolitan Atlanta. City officials will hear more about this issue from two experts who will discuss how interbasin transfers (IBTs) may or may not factor into any solution for the metropolitan Atlanta area's water supply needs.

**Presenters:**

**Jill Johnson**, Program Director, Georgia Conservation Voters

**Bob Scanlon**, Director of Water Resources & Public Works Bureau, City of Savannah

**Staff Contacts:**

**Becky Taylor**, Research & Federal Relations Manager (District 5)

**Korey Dickens**, Research Associate (District 7)

**Districts Nine and Eleven**

*Room 204*

Transportation is a driving force in economic development in rural Georgia. Improvements to our major highways and access points are vital to our regions' economic future. This joint session will encourage an open discussion led by Mayor Gene Tomberlin of Abbeville and Mayor Jackie Wilson of Douglas. Discussion will focus on the impact of highway development and project designs to assist in the growth of our hometowns. Also, are you taking care of your groundwater? Ed Urheim from the Georgia Rural Water Association will give us facts on how to be more accountable and reduce usage and consumption from our groundwater source. He will also discuss the new groundwater rule rules and how they affect your city.

**Presenters:**

**Gene Tomberlin**, Mayor, Abbeville

**Jackie Wilson**, Mayor, Douglas

**Ed Urheim**, Georgia Rural Water Association

**Staff Contacts:**

Yalonde Tanner, Advertising and Exhibit Manager (District 9)

Kelly Shields, Legal and Legislative Policy Coordinator (District 11)

**District Ten**

*Room 211*

Economic problems have plagued the globe, and Georgia has also faced a host of challenges in this dour fiscal climate. But what strategies can Southwest Georgia employ to boost economic development and spring into recovery? Heidi Green, the deputy commissioner for global commerce at the Georgia Department of Economic Development (GDEcD), the state's lead governmental organization for promoting, marketing and supporting economic growth, will lead a discussion of how the state and city leaders can partner to improve the economic prospects in 2010.

**Presenter:**

**Heidi Green**, Deputy Commissioner for Global Commerce, Georgia Department of Economic Development

**Staff Contacts:**

**Tom Gehl**, Deputy Director, Governmental Relations

**Amy Henderson**, Public Information Manager

**District Twelve**

*Room 208/209*

Budgets are tight and resources are limited. Cities must be diligent in keeping their existing revenue sources intact, finding new sources of revenue and taking advantage of all money saving resources they can find. Are you getting your fair share during your LOST negotiations? Are you looking for new economic development ideas to jump start your economy? Would you like to build a new park, at no cost to your city, or offer a discount prescription drug program to your citizens or help them make their homes more energy efficient? Join us as we discuss LOST, PACE, KaBOOM and other programs.

**Presenters:**

**Don Borut**, Executive Director, National League of Cities

**Paul Wolff**, Councilmember, Tybee Island

**Brian Johnson**, City Manager, Garden City

**Tony Thomas**, Chairman of Council, Savannah

**Staff Contact:**

**Janice Eidson**, Director, Conferences and Training

**11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**Defined Contribution/Deferred Compensation Board of Trustees Meeting and Lunch**

*Room 206/207*

**Presiding:** Beth English, Councilmember, Vienna

**11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

*Crystal Ballroom*

**DCA Main Street/Better Hometown Awards Luncheon (by invitation only)**

**1:45 p.m. -5:00 p.m.**

**Gubernatorial Candidates Debates**

**Building a Strong State – Local Partnership**

*Ballroom West, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

The restoration of a strong and trusting state-local partnership is an underlying theme for city officials interested in the outcome of the 2010 gubernatorial election. These gubernatorial debates provide a unique opportunity for city officials to connect with the candidates for the highest state elected office as they focus on issues important to cities. Five Democratic candidates and six Republican candidates have been invited to participate in two separate debates moderated by Matt Towery of Insider Advantage. Come early to get your seat and participate in these important and enlightening debates.

**Presiding:** Bill Floyd, Mayor, Decatur-GMA President

**Moderator:** Matt Towery, Chairman and CEO, InsiderAdvantage

**Panelists:** Charles Richardson, Editorial Page Editor, Macon Telegraph

Susan Hoffman, Host of Georgia Weekly, Georgia Public Broadcasting

Tom Crawford, Editor, *Capitolimpact.com*

**5:00 p.m.**

**Door Prize Drawing**

Tickets must be placed in the drum outside the Ballroom at 1:45 p.m. and winners must be present to claim their prize. Items include a two-night stay at the Westin Savannah Harbor and a handcrafted Higdon Pen (see [www.higdonpens.com](http://www.higdonpens.com) for a description.)