



Carl Vinson Institute of Government  
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

**2018 NEWLY ELECTED COMMISSIONERS CONFERENCE**  
**DECEMBER 4-7**  
**UGA HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTER – ATHENS-CLARKE COUNTY, GEORGIA**

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH**

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

**Registration**

Hill Atrium

10:15 a.m.

**Welcome – Purpose, Goals and Overview of Conference**

Mahler Hall

10:45 a.m.

**Ice Breaker Session**

Mahler Hall

12:00 p.m.

**Lunch**

Magnolia Ballroom

**What I Know Now That I Wish I Knew Then!**

*In a town hall setting, commissioners elected in 2016 offer their motivations for running for commissioner, their expectations coming into office, how those expectations changed, the lessons learned, and their best advice as you are about to take office*

1:30 p.m.

**Visions, Values, Conflicts and Choices**

Mahler Hall

*How traditional beliefs impact choices and can lead to conflict, consensus and achievement*

3:30 p.m.

**Break**

Pecan Tree Galleria

3:45 p.m.

**Life in a Fish Bowl**

Mahler Hall

*A discussion by a panel of experienced commissioners on developing your philosophy about government, building alliances, and working with your county team*

4:45 p.m.

### **The County Commissioners Handbook**

Mahler Hall

5:15 p.m.

### **Networking Reception**

Hill Atrium

6:00 p.m.

### **Dinner**

Magnolia Ballroom

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## **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5<sup>TH</sup>**

7:00 a.m.-7:45 a.m.

### **Breakfast**

Magnolia Ballroom

8:00 a.m.

### **County Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships: An Introduction to County Government**

*The history and evolution of counties; an overview of the legal, constitutional, and statutory framework of counties; the forms of county governments, roles and functions of commissioners, county governance roles and structure, the policy-making responsibility*

9:30 am

### **Break**

Kellogg Concourse, 2nd Floor

9:45 a.m.

### **County Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships: Core County Functions and Services**

*An examination of the core county functions and services; what must counties do and what is discretionary; county structure and management*

12:00 p.m.

### **Lunch**

Magnolia Ballroom

### **Your Legal and Ethical Role as a Community Leader**

The Honorable Chris Carr, Attorney General, State of Georgia

1:30 p.m.

### **County Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships: County Government Law 101**

Mahler Hall

*A discussion of your legal responsibilities as a commissioner and other aspects of the law that impact you including public liability, open meetings and open records, and campaign finance reporting – all within the framework of approaching your role through an ethical lens*

3:00 p.m.

**Break**

Hill Atrium

5:30 p.m.

**Meet ACCG, Georgia's County Association**

Pecan Tree Galleria

*Join the ACCG staff for this reception and learn about the services and programs the association provides to you, their members! Get information on policy and advocacy efforts and how you can be involved, on member services programs, and on additional educational opportunities*

6:30 p.m.

**Dinner**

Magnolia Ballroom

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**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**

7:00-7:45 a.m.

**Breakfast**

Magnolia Ballroom

8:15 a.m.

**Group Photo**

Pecan Tree Galleria

8:45 a.m.

**County Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships: Budgeting/Revenue and Taxation**

Mahler Hall/Masters Hall

*An outline of the roles commissioners play in developing and managing the county budget, their sources of revenue and responsibilities for taxation*

10:15 a.m.

**Break**

Hill Atrium

12:15 p.m.

**Lunch**

Magnolia Ballroom

1:15 p.m.

**County Roles, Responsibilities and Relationships: County Operations and Management**

*A primer on the elements of county management and operations you need to know on Day 1!*

3:00 p.m.

**Break**

Kellogg Concourse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

3:15 p.m.

### **Breakout Sessions on Operations and Management Topics Continue**

6:00 p.m.

### **Resource Reception**

Pecan Tree Galleria

*Meet state agencies and business community partners; enjoy refreshments and the opportunity to meet these representatives and learn how they can assist your county*

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## **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**

7:00 a.m.-7:45 a.m.

### **Breakfast**

Magnolia Ballroom

8:00 a.m.

### **Group Photo**

Pecan Tree Gallery

8:30 a.m.

### **Q & A**

Mahler Hall

9:00 a.m.

### **My First Commission Meeting: A Simulation**

Mahler Hall

*Veteran commissioners conduct a mock commission meeting and continue later in the morning with a mock executive session and mock public hearing*

10:15 a.m.

### **Break**

Hill Atrium

10:30 a.m.

### **My First Executive Session: A Simulation**

### **My First Public Hearing: A Simulation**

Mahler Hall

11:15 a.m.

### **Wrap-Up Instructions and Closing Comments**

Mahler Hall