

NOTICE

Mandatory Training for Newly-Elected County Commissioners

Georgia state law requires newly-elected county commissioners to attend 18 hours of training prior to assuming office in January. The objective of the training is to instruct newly elected members of county governing authorities, *including consolidated governments*, in the powers, duties and responsibilities of their positions of public trust.

The vehicle for this training is the Newly Elected Commissioners Conference administered by the Georgia County Leadership Academy. It is sponsored during election years by the Carl Vinson Institute of Government of The University of Georgia and the Association County Commissioners of Georgia.

State law under O.C.G.A. § 36-20-4 requires that all persons elected as members of a county governing authority for the first time must enroll in, attend, and satisfactorily complete a course of training and education on matters pertaining to the administration and operations of county governments. The course of training includes orientation in local government finance and budgeting; methods of taxation; planning; public works and utilities; parks and recreation; environmental management; public safety, health, and welfare; personnel management; responsiveness to the community; intergovernmental relations; the ethics, duties, and responsibilities of members of a county governing authority; and other related matters.

Expenses incurred by a newly elected member of a county governing authority including the reasonable costs of housing, travel, and meals are paid from county funds by the county whose newly elected member or members attend the course of training.

For individuals elected as county commissioner in 2018, the Newly Elected Commissioners Conference will be held **December 4-7, 2018**, at the UGA Hotel and Conference Center on the campus of the University of Georgia in Athens. Successful candidates for election will be contacted by the clerks of their county regarding housing details and related matters.

In sum, any candidate elected to the office as the member of a county governing authority, including any consolidated government, is required by state law to attend the training program. Please note the above dates on your calendar for future reference.