

## Notice to Candidates Qualifying for County Commissioner Positions (including Consolidated Government) in the 2020 Election Cycle

### **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 educate newly elected members of county governing authorities, *including consolidated governments*, about the powers, duties and responsibilities of their positions of public trust.

This training is provided through the Newly Elected Commissioners Conference administered by the Georgia County Leadership Academy. It is offered by the University of Georgia Carl Vinson Institute of Government and the Association County Commissioners of Georgia following the November general election.

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.

The Newly Elected Commissioners Conference for individuals elected as county commissioner in 2020 and in special elections that occurred in 2019 and 2020 will be held:

**December 1-4, 2020  
Athens, Georgia**

Successful candidates for election will be contacted by the clerks of their county regarding the conference location, housing details and related matters. Please reserve these dates on your calendar for future reference.

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 required training.

**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 this training.**