

SAVANNAH



# 2025 Legislative Agenda

November 7, 2024



# Annual State Legislative Cycle

<b>January - March</b>	Georgia Legislative Session
<b>April – June</b>	Session Analysis, Bill Review, Governor Consideration, Committee Assignments
<b>July – September</b>	Study Committee Meetings and Bill Implementations
<b>October</b>	Legislative Agenda Process Begins
<b>November</b>	Review and Adoption of Legislative Agenda
<b>December</b>	Advocacy and Awareness of next year's agenda



# Agenda Development Schedule

Legislative Climate and Association's Priorities



Internal Staff Input



City Council Input and Feedback



City Council Prioritization



City Council Review and Adoption



# Major Legislative Accomplishments

- Home Rule Protection
- Hotel Motel Tax
- City Council Term Limits
- Savannah Development and Renewal Authority
- Public Private Lease Agreement Extension
- Private Waste Disposal Fees
- Historic Tax Credits
- Community Improvement District
- Short-Term Vacation Rentals



# Legislative Agenda for Consideration

## Specific Legislative Priorities

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1. Allow municipalities to charge the capital cost associated with providing expanded water and sewer services
2. Enable Savannah to establish an Urban Residential Finance Authority to issue 'Housing Opportunity Bonds'
3. Allow municipalities to exempt development impact fees (DIF) for workforce and affordable housing
4. Support Tort Reform to prevent frivolous lawsuits and lower the unlimited legal exposure of Georgia's municipal taxpayers

## Under Consideration and Review

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1. Improve contempt of court fee process
2. Support the increase of Recorder Court's technology fee
3. Support a Constitutional Amendment to allow for the exemption or freezing of property taxes for Low Income Housing Tax Credits (LIHTC) or supported rent and income restricted housing
4. Allow local governments the ability to sell unclaimed confiscated weapons at auction or have them destroyed



# Policy Positions

- Support Georgia's as a Home Rule State which allows local individuals to self-govern and determine which solutions best match the communities in which they live
- Support public infrastructure projects that improve the equitable growth and resiliency of our region
- Support solutions that will improve the lives of those experiencing homelessness and align with the Savannah Chatham County Interagency Council on Homelessness' 5-year strategic plan
- Support expansion of Georgia's Low-Income Tax Credit Program
- Support Home Rule regulation of short-term vacation rentals, local design standards and zoning control
- Support Sustainability initiatives and policies that align with Savannah's 100% Clean Energy Resolution
- Support tools that help protect low-income residents from drastic increases in property taxes and rental rates.



# Next Steps

1. Incorporate City Council Feedback and Input
2. City Council Prioritization
3. City Council Consideration and Adoption

## Questions and Discussion

