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COUNTY COMMISSION

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**DAVID
MONEY**

2019-2020 ACCA President





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in this **issue**

VOLUME 63, NUMBER 4



County government makes progress only when each and every one of us give our best to each other and this Association, says 2019-2020 President David Money. (Photo: Jay Hare)

from the cover...

Ivey's Outstanding Contribution to County Government	13
ACCA Honors Shelby County's Dudchock	16
New Web Resources	18
Dale County Honored for Improving EMS.....	21
Liability Fund Gives Safety Awards	24

news you can use...

Rebuild Alabama: Big Impact in 2020.....	11
In Profile: Vice President Dean Calvert.....	31
Getting Ready for Goat Hill.....	33

point of view...

President's Perspective	4
<i>We are all called to service</i>	
The County Line	6
<i>New challenges are always looming for counties</i>	

in every issue...

Family Album	34
Voices from the County Family	37

who we are...

2019-2020 ACCA Board of Directors	42
ACCA Staff.....	42

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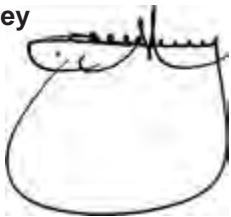
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President's PERSPECTIVE



Hon. David Money
President



**We are all
called to service**

**Always give the best
of yourself, and thank
people who help you
along the way**

*Editor's Note:
This is an excerpt of
the prepared text of
David Money's
inaugural address.*

I remember my momma telling the Trailways bus driver, “Now you keep an eye on my boy, and make sure you don’t let him off this bus until his grandma is there to meet him in Cordele, Georgia.” I was 5 years old and about to make a three-hour bus trip by myself. Such was the rural South in 1953 — not many of us would put our 5 year-old on a bus alone in today’s world.

What I remember most about those visits was the sound of train whistles all through the night. My 5 year-old mind wondering: “Who’s on that train? Where are they going? Where’ve they been? What have they seen?” That began my fascination with trains.

I was born poor, but everyone on that Henry County dirt road was poor. We didn’t miss what we’d never had. Didn’t miss indoor plumbing — we were fine with the outhouse and the proverbial Sears and Roebuck catalog. I had no problem with inside sponge baths in cold weather in a wash tub in front of a wood-burning stove. But I did have a problem with my mother bathing me in the late afternoon summer sun by stringing a water hose over the limb of the Chinaberry tree in the side yard ... in view of the entire world. Daddy always said a pair of pliers was cheaper than any dentist, and Christmas to us meant some fruit and peppermints, maybe a flannel shirt — and, in a really good year, a hand-me-down bicycle.

When I was in the second grade, Daddy lost his job and moved us to Port St. Joe. He and Mother both worked in a box plant — living from week to week, from paycheck to paycheck. What they got on Friday was generally gone by Wednesday. Most weekends meant bonfires on St. Joe Beach, two or three couples with their children. My job as an

8 year-old — and the oldest child there — was to hang near the adults and take ‘em a beer from the ice chest when they wanted one. This was well before pop tops, so I’d open it with a can opener (also known as a church key) and take it back to ‘em. I would drink the foam from the top of the beer can on that very slow walk back to where they sat on the shore of St. Joe Beach. This went on weekend after weekend, party after party. Their marriage soon became very shaky.

As school broke for Christmas during the fourth grade, I got home to find that Daddy had packed our clothes and loaded them in the car. He was taking me and my 7-year-old sister back to Alabama; our 4-year-old sister was staying with Mother. They were getting something they called a divorce. As he drove back to Abbeville, I saw my daddy cry for the first time in my life. This was his second marriage to fail. Daddy married five times; my mother was married twice. From those seven marriages came many children scattered over Alabama, Florida and Georgia. I’ve often said that I have more steps than the Lincoln Memorial.

After moving back to Henry County, Daddy worked at a truck stop. It was where Great Southern Wood is located today. The three of us lived in a run-down mobile home behind that truck stop. With no curfew and very few rules, I’d walk around in the late-night shadows, looking for a half-empty beer can or a not-fully-smoked cigarette. And there were always domino games lasting well into the night. Daddy would often leave and tell me to take over his hand, leaving a 10 year-old boy to play dominoes against grown men for \$5 a game. They were often

drunk, and I usually won. This went on for a year.

Then I met Jeannie. She was also in the fourth grade and lived just up the road. She was sweet; she was smart; and she was pretty. I think she kinda liked me, and I was dang sure sweet on her. We'd sit by a little stream near the truck stop and listen to the Everly Brothers and Sam Cooke and Elvis on the truck stop juke box. She was an encourager, always telling me I could do better. She cared.

In May of 1960, Jeannie and her mother asked me to go to something they called a revival, one of those week-long, Monday-to-Friday things. The last night was a Friday, the 13th, and I can remember being embarrassed, hoping no one had noticed that I'd worn the same pair of dirty jeans all week. During the closing hymn, I felt something stirring in me that I'd never felt before, something telling me to move, to step forward. But I had the pew in front of me in a "white knuckle" death grip, and I refused to let it go. The hymn ended, and the benediction was given. Everyone began to leave. I stood there alone — crying. I felt a hand on my shoulder. It was a man I didn't know, and I'm sure he didn't know me. I learned later that his name was Mr. Calvin. He asked me what was wrong.

When I told him what I was feeling, he said: "Wait right here. Everything will be OK." He returned in a few minutes with the minister, the song leader and maybe 20 people who were still outside First Baptist Church of Abbeville. Another verse was sung; I turned loose of that pew and grabbed on to something life-changing. Mr. Calvin may not know what his encouragement meant to me almost 60 years ago, but I'll never forget. The next week, my sister and I were taken to live with our other grandparents in Shorterville. There,

As a relative newcomer to county government, I see our state association for what it really is: the most influential force for public policy change in the State of Alabama.

we were introduced to structure, to discipline, to the responsibility of daily chores and homework and going to church on a regular basis.

After high school, I hadn't planned to go to college, but my Uncle Lindy had other ideas. He said, "You're going to college, and you're gonna play baseball while you're there, and that's the end of this conversation!" He paid my first year's tuition, and a man named Johnny Oppert contacted me about playing on the first-ever Wallace College baseball team in 1967. Baseball got me to college; Coach Oppert kept me there. He took me under his wing. He knew the road I'd traveled, and he made sure I didn't stray again. He taught me the important things in life, like trying to make good decisions but taking full responsibility for the bad ones. He taught me that doing the right thing should always be the top priority.

Coach Oppert was a great coach and teacher, but he was much more than that. He was a mentor and a friend; he became the father figure I needed. After my two years at Wallace, I had planned to hang it up and get a job, but Coach Oppert would have no part of that. He insisted I transfer and get my degree. I had no money, so I borrowed enough to transfer to The University of Alabama. For the next few years, I'd go to school two quarters, then work two quarters. It took four more

years to graduate and then the next five to fully repay the loan.

At Alabama, I had several classes with a married student named Tony. I was pretty bad to cut class. This was back when professors still called roll, and Tony would answer for me when I wasn't there. He had asked me several times to go out with his wife's best friend. I told him I was not into blind dates. After

I'd turned him down every time, he told me that if I didn't go out with her, he'd never answer for me again. I had three questions: Is she pretty? What's her name? When do I need to be there? Her name was Karen; she was pretty; and a year later, we were married. That was 47 years ago. Karen was the rock during the early years of our marriage, making sure our family was in church every Sunday. We had four children under age 10; she had a full-time job and got very little help from me. In 1999 (our 27th year of marriage) on a Walk to Emmaus weekend, I finally "manned up" and tried to become the spiritual leader that God calls husbands and fathers to be.

Being around Coach Oppert had convinced me that coaching was what I wanted to do in life. In the summer of '72, just a few weeks before Karen and I were to be married, I had just one coaching offer. It was in a little Conecuh County town named Repton. I wasn't interested in coaching that far from home.

Two uncles had just bought the Ford dealership in Abbeville; they offered me a job washing cars for \$100 a week. My first day there was May 15, 1972 — the same day that Gov. George Wallace was shot campaigning for president in Laurel, Maryland. The second year there, I was offered a job as a salesman and management trainee. Over the next five years, I borrowed the money

continued on page 8



Sonny Brasfield
Executive Director

Sonny Brasfield

New challenges are always looming for counties

**If leaders lack vision,
communities can only
fall further behind**

A couple of weeks ago, a group of commissioners from Alabama attended a day-long briefing at the White House that included conversations with senior officials on transportation, emergency management, education, community revitalization, the war on drugs and other important issues.

The event itself was both educational and beneficial and provided the officials with a unique perspective on many of the important issues facing counties. But it also provided insight into just how important it is to think outside the borders of your county.

Officials from Georgia and Florida were also part of the event, so we had the opportunity to renew old friendships and exchange ideas with those from our region. And it again reminded me that the problems looming in Alabama are very similar to the problems counties are facing in our neighboring states.

At this year's Annual Convention, we tried to celebrate the passage of the Rebuild Alabama Act, to provide counties with the tools they need to be both efficient and effective and — just as importantly — to deliver the message that we now need to “refocus” our collective energy and influence on the other challenges ahead. And the challenges are certainly growing by the day.

The only real constant principle in county government is the reassurance that there is always a new issue — a new challenge — waiting in the driveway while we're inside our house trying to solve the problem that is confronting us at the moment. Hiding inside the

house only means that those other opportunities eventually pass us by or, unfortunately, become so significant that we have little hope of finding a productive solution.

This Association has worked hard to spread the message that the responsibility of all in county government — both elected officials and employees — is to be fully involved in the problems of today, as well as expand their perspective to see those matters on the horizon that will soon confront us. We're working constantly to develop a sense of vision and responsibility that can keep us in a position to be an agent for positive change.

I am constantly amazed at the commitment of those who actually “get it” — the officials and employees who are always engaged, who are always present, and who are always willing to extend themselves both personally and politically. They take on this leadership role on behalf of their individual counties as well as their colleagues in other counties. And, often times, they are working to help colleagues who may actually be sitting at home, paralyzed by the fear of criticism.

Sure, there are those experts on social media and at the local coffee shop who are sharply critical of participation. They simply don't understand. They've never assumed the role of leadership, and I guess they don't want anyone else to be a real leader either.

If the leaders at the local level are doing nothing more than marking time — trying only to prepare for the next election, trying only to process payroll, trying only to patch the newest pothole,

trying only to answer the next 9-1-1 call — then how does the community do anything other than fall further behind? If those in county government do not provide the vision for the community, then how does the community have any vision at all?

For a long, long time this Association has provided county officials and employees with enormous opportunities for engagement on behalf of their communities. The circle of those who have been willing to invest and participate has always been (and perhaps always will be) smaller than I would like. Counties could be so much more and could do so much more for the people they serve, if only more employees and officials were willing to invest more of themselves.

The coming year will certainly be a challenge — and the year



The National Association of Counties expressed gratitude to the Yellowhammer state for a strong showing in the nation’s capitol on October 17, tweeting “Thank you #county leaders from Alabama, Florida and Georgia for participating in NACo’s federal policy briefing prior to meetings at the White House. #CountiesMatter”

after that and the year after that. The world is rapidly changing, and county government must change with it if we are to move forward.

We can’t allow the success of the past few years to lull us into

believing that improvement and reform just fall from the sky. Those who stay home may think that’s how it happens, but those who are working to be a part of the solution know success isn’t free or easy. ■

2019 TENURE IN OFFICE AWARDS

32 YEARS

- Hon. Mark Culver
HOUSTON
- Hon. Fred Armstead
MARENGO
- Hon. Paul Manning
ST. CLAIR

28 YEARS

- Hon. David Stokes
ESCAMBIA
- Hon. Lathonia Wright
RANDOLPH

24 YEARS

- Hon. Frank Straughn
BARBOUR
- Hon. J.D. Hess
CALHOUN
- Hon. Robert “Mike” Berry
MACON
- Hon. Bobby Burluson
MARION
- Hon. Jimmy Roberts
ST. CLAIR
- Hon. J. Allen Bailey Jr.
WASHINGTON
- Hon. Roger Hayes
WINSTON

20 YEARS

- Hon. David Eastridge
CHAMBERS
- Hon. Todd Adams
COOSA
- Hon. Robert Harris
LOWNDES

16 YEARS

- Hon. Pat Ivey
BARBOUR
- Hon. Frank Hickman
BUTLER
- Hon. Charlie Sankey Jr.
CRENSHAW
- Hon. Johnny Lawrence
LEE
- Hon. Thomas “Brett” Harrison
PERRY
- Hon. Timothy Sanderson
PERRY
- Hon. Jeff Brown
ST. CLAIR
- Hon. Ricky Powell
WILCOX



continued from page 5

to buy the dealership. Karen and I invested the first 40 years of our married life into that dealership. Seven years ago, we sold it to my first cousin.

I remember coming home that final Friday at the dealership, hugging Karen and saying, “We’ve worked hard and been through some tough times, but we’ve persevered, raised and educated four children, and now it’s time to kick back and enjoy our grandchildren.” Her response: “We have worked hard, and I’m very happy for you.” But that was followed by, “Now go find a job.”

God sometimes has an incredible sense of humor. The very next week I got a call from a man representing a group of citizens who wanted to meet with me about the possibility of running for probate judge. A summer of contemplation transitioned into an autumn of prayer and decision, and at a Thanksgiving family gathering, the decision to run was finalized. Fourteen months later, I was sworn in as Henry County’s first Republican probate judge in more than 150 years.

You may be wondering: what purpose is served by sharing these events in my life? What does any of this have to do with county government? To me — everything! We’re all called to service. We should be about helping those around us, just as we’ve all been helped at various times in our lives. We should strive each day to try to make things better than we find them.

In 53 of Alabama’s 67 counties, the positions of probate judge and county commission chairman are held by two different people. Henry County is one of only 14 counties where the probate judge also serves as the chairman of the county commission — two jobs for the price of one. I think maybe I’m in a bit of a unique position. As the



2018-2019 ACCA President Tony Cherry of Choctaw County (left) passes the gavel to his successor, 2019-2020 President David Money of Henry County. As immediate past president, Cherry is chairing the ACCA Legislative Committee this year.

first probate judge to serve as your president since our friend, Hardy McCollum, more than 25 years ago, it presents a real opportunity to establish better working relationships with the Probate Judges Association on matters of mutual interest, to build relationships that will benefit us in Montgomery and, ultimately, in our local courthouses.

Six years ago, folks like Judge McCollum, Mark Culver, Roger Hayes, Ricky Harcrow, Marcus Campbell, Rhondel Rhone, Ray Long and others extended the hand of welcome to this 64-year-old rookie county official. They pledged to help me have a better understanding of the workings of county government.

Henry County in the past has not traditionally been very involved in our state association. That’s changed over the past several years. As a county, we now clearly understand the many advantages in being active participants in ACCA. I’d like to recognize several members of our Henry County family in attendance tonight...

I continue to encourage our Henry County family to be actively involved in ACCA. As a relative newcomer to county government, I see our state association for what it really is: the most influential force for public policy change in the State of Alabama. It’s led by Sonny Brasfield, who I’ve often referred to as the “Nick Saban of County Government.” We had a “come to Jesus” meeting with Sonny earlier today. He asked us how we thought we had gotten to this point, to this level of respect and effectiveness. He reminded us that it had been through hard work, a common vision, unselfishness, strong leadership, helping each other — and being UNIFIED. 67 Counties, One Voice! Are we willing to sacrifice what we want for “our county” in exchange for what is best for the 67? Or will we be content to just sit on the front porch and watch the bus roll by? Tonight, let’s all pledge to be on the bus as we travel down this road to achievement. Let’s get off the porch and on to the bus. Not the “Gus Bus” — this bus will be called the “Us Bus!”



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Sonny has recruited an amazing staff of talented and dedicated men and women who help provide every resource we need to better serve our counties. Sonny, you can't imagine how much I'm looking forward to working with you these next 12 months.

There's yet another way to meet the challenges that face each of us. To those of you in your first term as commissioners, I ask that you commit to joining our leadership program called PLAN 2022 during your second term. I'm currently a member of PLAN 2020, and we've already discovered opportunities to address those challenges by learning from each other.

We all understand that the issues we face are many and varied. I ask tonight that we focus especially on these four:

- First, it's absolutely vital that we implement the Rebuild Alabama program in a professional and transparent manner;
- Secondly, that we address inmate reform so that we can change legislation that is costing us millions of dollars — dollars that are rightfully the expenses of state government;
- Third, that we take advantage of the opportunity presented by the recent changes in the state retirement system; good employees are the key to good government;
- And, finally, that we continue the fight to prevent unfunded mandates.

We in Henry County, like most other small, rural counties, often struggle to move forward on our own. Many of you are fortunate to come from counties with resources that we can only dream of having. Our hopes of moving our county forward rest, in large measure, on the ability to forge regional alliances. Because of something known as regionalism (or neighbors helping neighbors), Henry County is part

of a team of counties in the Wiregrass region that work together with no regard to imaginary boundary lines. We feel that our individual successes lead to the growth of the entire region. This is the type of team thinking I will be promoting as your president.

For the past 24 months, we've joined our neighbors in Houston County: Chairman Mark Culver and the Houston County Commission; Mayor Mark Saliba and the City of Dothan and Matt Parker, president of the Dothan Area Chamber of Commerce, as well as our partners on the state and federal level to announce the creation of over 100 new jobs in Henry County. Gov. Ivey will be in Abbeville next Tuesday to help us celebrate the grand opening of Abbeville Fiber, an automated sawmill being built by a good friend and strong Henry County supporter...

I close by circling back to the subject of trains. We all ride this train together. And while it may be an allegorical journey, we find in it a ton of truth. At birth, we board this train and are met by our parents. We're hopeful that they'll travel by our side for most of this journey, and maybe they will. But we must realize at some point that they may step down at one of the many stations along the way, leaving us to travel alone. As time passes, others will board. Some will be rather significant — our close friends, our siblings, our children, even the love of our life.

Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will



Only one other elected official from Henry County has ever served as ACCA president — Probate Judge Bill Woodham in 1974.

go unnoticed in a way that we never even realize they've left their seat. The ride will often be filled with joy and, at other times, sorrow. There'll be laughter; there'll be tears — many hellos and farewells.

Success on this train consists of having good relationships with all passengers. It requires that we give the best of ourselves, that we recognize those who have made our journey more enjoyable and take the time to say "thank you" to folks like Jeannie and her mom and Mr. Calvin Saunders, folks like Coach Oppert and Uncle Lindy and the girl you met on that blind date who never left your side and to so many in this room tonight.

Because the mystery is this: we never know at which point the "Master Conductor" may determine that this is the station where we're to step off the train. So, we must love, serve, forgive and offer the best of who we are. I thank God for our journey to this point, and I'm looking forward to joining each of you for the next 12 months as we travel together down this road called county government.

Thank you very much for this honor. ■

Rebuild Alabama: Big Impact in 2020

Counties to Improve Safety of 1,013 Road Miles, 20 Bridges with Rebuild Alabama Funds in 2020

It would take you about 15 hours behind the wheel and more than 1,000 miles to drive from Montgomery to New York City, but that's how many miles of road Alabama's county governments plan to improve next year with the proceeds of the new gasoline and diesel fuel taxes being paid by motorists.

Looking closely at the 2019-2020 work plans adopted statewide, counties are scheduled to improve 1,013 miles of crumbling county roads and to perform long-overdue maintenance on 20 failing county bridges. Based on these figures, the Rebuild Alabama Act is set to increase county road and bridge work by nearly 140% and 60%, respectively, in the next 12 months.

"Clearly, the Rebuild Alabama Act is making an immediate impact on Alabama's transportation system," said Sonny Brasfield, Executive Director of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama, which has collected and analyzed the county plans. "County engineers and elected officials have been busy laying the ground work, and now, it's almost time for the public to see the evidence in their local communities."

Brasfield explained that the first proceeds of phase one of the implementation of gasoline and diesel fuel tax increases will be distributed to counties in late December. He

predicted the bids for the first projects will be received in December and work will begin in most counties in the spring.

"The replacement of asphalt is weather-dependent, so we don't expect work to begin on the first day that funds are received, but counties will be ready as soon as things warm up next spring," Brasfield said.

He pointed out that some construction activity, such as right-of-way improvement and bridge construction, may begin before the resurfacing of county roads.

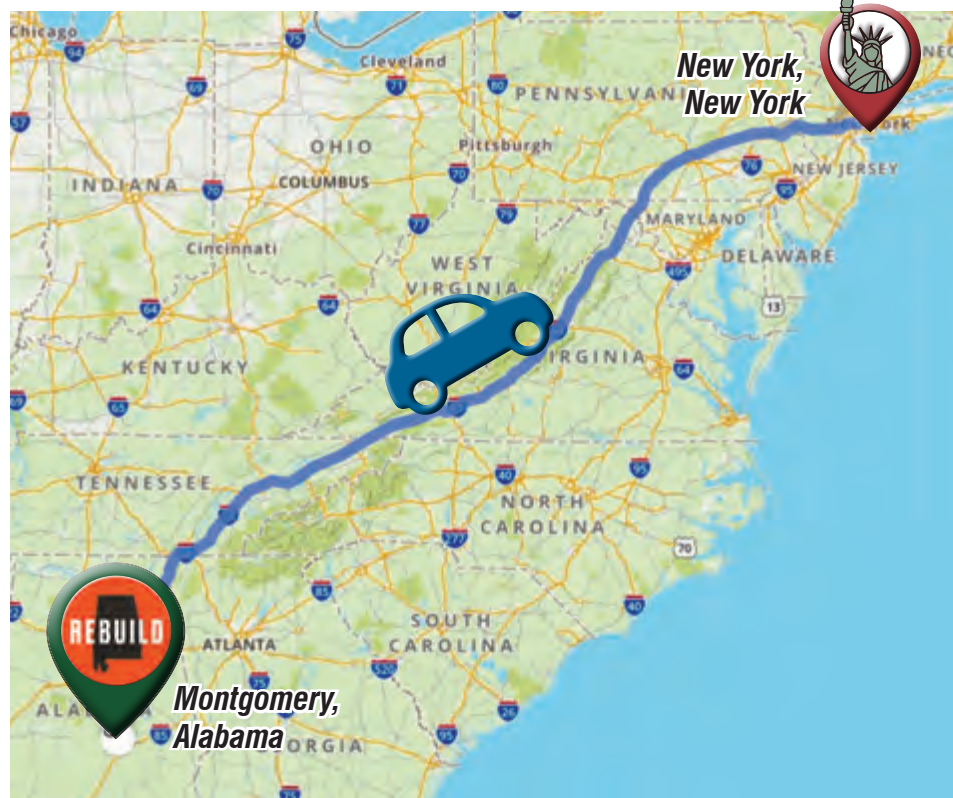
Brasfield said the Montgomery-to-

New York City improvement schedule is "not a one-time construction but should be the new standard in Alabama county government."

Calling Rebuild Alabama funding a "game-changer" for county infrastructure, Brasfield said he expects 2020-2021 plans to replicate this year's impressive schedule.

Copies of all 67 county plans, as well as bid announcements later in the year, can be found on the ACCA's website, www.alabamacounties.org.

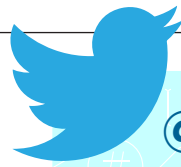
Established with strict requirements for transparency with and accountability of fuel tax dollars,



the Rebuild Alabama Act will provide county road maintenance budgets their first increase in nearly 30 years and help point counties back in the right direction toward a recommended 15-year road resurfacing cycle and 50-year bridge replacement cycle.

According to an ACCA infrastructure report released earlier this year — prior to anticipated Rebuild Alabama funds — county governments had reached a 114-year road resurfacing cycle and only had the funding to resurface 738 county road miles in 2020. Additionally, counties have 3,915 bridges over the age of 50 and in need of replacement and, in 2020, were going to be able to replace less than 34.

County governments are responsible for maintaining 62% (60,487) of Alabama's centerline road miles and more than 54% (8,661) of our state's bridges. ■



@AlabamaCounties

It takes 15+ hours behind the wheel & 1,000+ miles to drive from Montgomery to New York City. In 2020, that's how many miles of road Ala. county governments plan to improve with the proceeds of the new fuel taxes being paid by motorists. #alpolitics

October 8, 2019

IMPACT OF ALABAMA COUNTIES' REBUILD ALABAMA 2020 FUNDS

ROAD MILES IMPROVED 1,013

20 BRIDGES IMPROVED

Randolph County Jail



Unmatched Governmental

Experience In:

- Jails
- 911 / EMA
- Administrative
- Public Safety
- Interiors
- DOT

Geneva County Jail



Ivey's Outstanding Contribution to County Government



In accordance with tradition, ACCA presented a plaque to Gov. Kay Ivey in recognition of her outstanding contribution to county government. In addition, because passage of the Rebuild Alabama Act required an extraordinary team effort, she also received a special baseball jersey bearing number 19 to represent the year the law was enacted. (Photo: Governor's Office)

ACCA bestowed its highest honor on Gov. Kay Ivey this year, recognizing her dedication to boost investment in Alabama's county roads and bridges.

The governor accepted the Outstanding Contribution to County Government Award at ACCA's 2019 Annual Convention in August, and she received a standing ovation from the County Family.

In 2019, Ivey was out front, rallying support for a gas tax increase and calling the Alabama Legislature into special session to focus on the issue. In March, she

signed the Rebuild Alabama Act into law.

But to appreciate the magnitude of Ivey's contribution, it is necessary to look back to 2017, said ACCA Executive Director Sonny Brasfield.

That was an eventful time for Ivey, who began the year as Alabama's lieutenant governor. That spring, then-Gov. Robert Bentley was removed from office and Ivey stepped up to become Alabama's chief executive. At the same time, ACCA was advocating for a gas tax increase, a forerunner of the Rebuild Alabama Act.



"Our original bill was slated to be on the floor of the House of Representatives three weeks and a day after Kay Ivey was sworn in as Alabama's governor," Brasfield said. "She was at the Statehouse, with her staff, advocating for the bill as soon as she came into office."

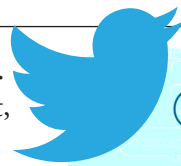
Ivey demonstrated genuine courage, he said. "She didn't take any polls. She didn't try to find out what

the politically positive position was. She has been with us from the start, and that's what real leadership is."

The award for Outstanding Contribution to County Government is given each year to someone who has not only made significant contributions of time, talent and energy to better county government in Alabama but also gone beyond the call of duty to make a difference for all 67 counties. Honorees traditionally receive a plaque.

Considering the historic significance of the Rebuild Alabama Act and the massive team effort involved, ACCA presented the governor with an additional token of appreciation — a framed baseball jersey. "Even in major league baseball, the manager wears a jersey," Brasfield said, "and the manager of our team in 2019 wears the number 19."

Before the award presentation,



@GovernorKayIvey

I'm honored to attend @AlabamaCounties' annual convention this afternoon. The Association of County Commissions has been front & center on the most critical issues of our state throughout 2019. Your work is critical to the people of our state, & I thank you for what you do!

August 21, 2019



Ivey addressed the convention and commended county leaders. "The Association of County Commissions is at the forefront — front and center — of the most important and critical issues that affect our great state," she said. "I thank you for what you do and the way you do it."

Rebuild Alabama garnered bipartisan support in the

Legislature, a point that Ivey highlighted. "We have shown the nation and the state what can be accomplished for the common good when we put our partisan differences aside and work for the betterment of our people now and for generations to come," she said. ■

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ACCA honors Shelby County's Dudchock

During his three decades of service, Alex Dudchock has helped Shelby County move from the brink of bankruptcy to pioneer innovative programs, all while coping with a nonstop population boom.

"The scope and impact of his accomplishments are impossible to measure," said Jay Thompson, chair of the ACCA Awards Committee, before presenting Dudchock with the Outstanding Contribution to County Government award at ACCA's 2019 Annual Convention. "He has displayed steadfast leadership through seasons of tremendous growth and tough fiscal liabilities for more than 30 years in county government."

Each year, the Association bestows the Outstanding Contribution to County Government Award as a way of honoring individuals who have exceeded expectations to the significant benefit of all 67 counties. More than merely doing their jobs well, recipients have made a lasting and transformative impact on county government.

Dudchock began his career at Shelby County in 1988 as personnel director, and he has shouldered the responsibilities of county manager since 1993.

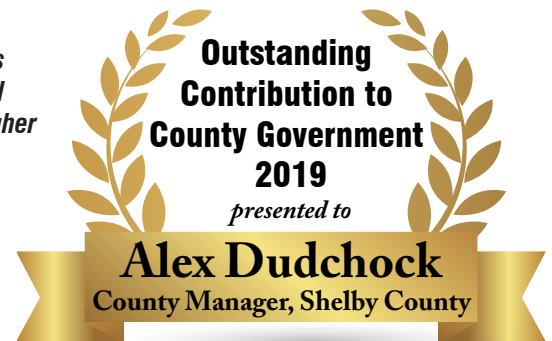
During the awards ceremony, Thompson listed a few of Dudchock's accomplishments:



ACCA President David Money joined a happy delegation from Shelby County to congratulate Alex Dudchock for his recognition. Pictured, from left to right: Hub Harvey, Chad Scroggins, Money, Kim Reynolds, Dudchock, Cheryl Naugher and Randy Cole.

- Wrote the civil service act passed by the Alabama Legislature;
- Led five major public water system projects;
- Assisted with more than 300 new public facility investments or upgrades and 11 major highway, bridge and intersection improvements;
- Successfully advocated to reform state budget procedures so that dollars generated by the state parks stay in the park system;
- Served as a founding board member for Shelby County Community Corrections.

About 30 years ago, Shelby County was in a tenuous financial position with bankruptcy on the horizon. Dudchock was a key



player in the campaign to establish a temporary penny sales tax to stabilize finances. When the debt was repaid in less than 10 years, there was pressure to continue the sales tax, but Dudchock insisted that stopping the tax was necessary to build and maintain public trust.

Over the years, he has also established a track record of working collaboratively with municipalities, state agencies and local leaders. Dudchock's community involvement is also exemplary, perhaps best demonstrated by his role in creating a special day to honor senior citizens that has been observed for more than 15 years. ■

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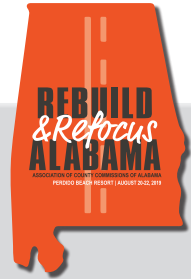


New Web Resources

ACCA's 91st Annual Convention



www.alabamacounties.org/convention2019/ — Access speaker presentations and handouts from the ACCA 91st Convention.



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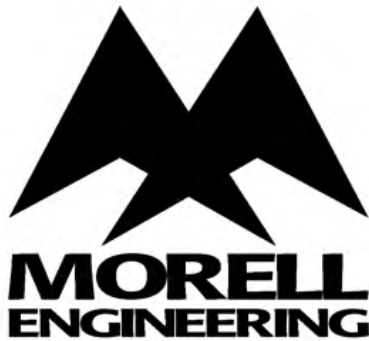
www.countyrisk.org/safety — Members of the ACCA Self-Insurance Programs will want to check out the CRS site's newly expanded safety section with bulletins on distracted driving and other hot topics.



Rebuild Alabama Act



www.alabamacounties.org/rebuildal/ — Find important info for citizens, counties and vendors — including County Transportation Plans, bid announcements for Rebuild Alabama projects, signage and sample documents, guidance from the Examiners of Public Accounts and grant guidelines.



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GOAT HILL CHAMPS



Counties stayed actively involved in the legislative process after passage of the Rebuild Alabama Act, rising to the challenge of the County Day Battle contest and turning out in droves for County Days.

Chambers County bested far larger counties to win out in the County Day Battle. Fourteen representatives turned out for County Day, many of who were present at the 2019 ACCA Annual Convention to accept the awards.

Largest County Day Showing

April 17 | 43 Participants

Representing Blount, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Colbert, DeKalb, Etowah, Lawrence, Marshall, St. Clair and Shelby

Largest Showing Overall & Largest Showing by a Medium County

Chambers County | 14 Participants

Commissioners Charlie Williams, Douglas Jones, James Williams, Sam Bradford, David Eastridge and Debra Riley; County Manager/Administrator Regina Chambers; Engineer Josh Harvill; Assistant County Engineer Daniel Lundy; 9-1-1 Director Jessica Yeager; Sheriff Sid Lockhart; Revenue Commissioner Beth Abney and Probate Judge Paul Story

Largest Showing by a Small County

Henry County | 6 Participants

Probate Judge/Chairman David Money; Commissioners John Ralph Saunders, Wally Howerton, Dick Grimsley and Gregory Reynolds and Assistant County Engineer Chad Granberry

Largest Showing by a Large County

Morgan County | 6 Participants

Chairman Ray Long; Commissioners Randy Vest, Jeff Clark and Don Stisher; Chief Administrative Officer Julie Reeves and Deputy Administrator Jessica Smith

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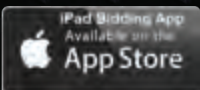


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Dale County Honored for Improving EMS

The Dale County Commission took home the 2019 Excellence in County Government Award for creating a grant program — funded by a new \$5 tag fee — to support emergency medical services throughout the county.

“The people of Dale County were in tremendous support of a new fee,” said ACCA Awards Committee Chair Jay Thompson during the ACCA Annual Convention. “The tag fee went into effect in the spring of this year, and in May, it had already provided more than \$55,000 to Dale County EMS.”

The commission-administered grant program addresses a common problem for rural areas: long response times for ambulances and medical first responders, especially in areas served by volunteer organizations. Smaller municipalities were unable to help support EMS financially, and volunteers were forced to spend a disproportionate amount of time on fundraising activities.

Commission Chairman Mark Blankenship chose to take on this problem for his Passion Project as part of the ACCA PLAN 2018 leadership program, and he and



the commission worked together to develop a solution that would help subsidize emergency medical services provided by both paid and volunteer organizations. Rep. Steve Clouse introduced local

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legislation proposing the tag fee, which is strictly earmarked for EMS, and setting out the distribution formula. The question went to voters in a county-wide referendum, and they supported it in 19 of 20 precincts.

The fee is expected to generate \$280,000 a year. Blankenship said developing the distribution formula was the project's most difficult phase. That formula was critical for community support, and the end result is able to support a range of EMS providers, from a full-fledged ambulance service to the smallest volunteer fire department. ■



ACCA President David Money (holding plaque) congratulates members of the Dale County Commission for winning the Excellence in County Government Award. Pictured, from left to right: Commissioners Charles "Chic" Gary and Frankie Wilson, Money, Chairman Mark Blankenship, Commissioners Chris Carroll and Steve McKinnon.

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Liability Fund gives Safety Awards

The safety awards presented by the Liability Self-Insurance Fund Inc. are always a highlight of the annual membership meeting of ACCA's Self-Insurance Programs.

"It is a real pleasure to recognize these counties for the results of their safety efforts," said Henry van Arcken, ACCA Director of Insurance Services. "Every member of the Fund owes them a debt of gratitude, because when risks are shared, savings are also shared."

In each category, first-place winners received an engraved trophy and \$1,500. Second- and third-place winners received \$1,000.

Eligibility was limited to counties in the Fund that participated in the Safety Incentive Discount Program and applied for consideration. Applications included specific actions

taken in the previous year to improve safety and reduce losses.

The winners were eligible counties with the lowest average loss ratios for the previous three years.

The winning counties all indicated a commitment to doing safety basics well — safety meetings, vehicle inspections and training relevant to specific employees (e.g., Prison Rape Elimination Act education for jail staff and pipeline safety for the highway department). They seek to cooperate with the risk management team from County Risk Services Inc., and they are constantly improving county facilities — adding an attic barrier to prevent movement beyond secure areas of the jail, upgrading doors with panic bar exits instead of regular keyed locks and installing ADA-compliant walkways,

just to name a few.

Cybersecurity is a growing area of emphasis, evidenced by improved systems for backing up data, enhanced security for computer servers, upgraded security software and newly established, ongoing training for county employees. There are times when outsourcing is the best way to go — like Pickens County, which recently contracted with a private company to handle garbage collection in the county.

County leaders know they must stay alert to spot the next initiative that can make a difference systemically. In Elmore County, the Highway Department spent the past year completing the state's first local road safety plan, which is designed to reduce fatalities on county roads and create a model for other counties. ■



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ACCA Director of Insurance Services Henry van Arcken (left), awards Coosa County, represented by (left to right) Bertha Kelly-McElrath, Bridget Graham and Todd Adams.

1st - Coosa
2nd - Henry
3rd - Choctaw

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ACCA Director of Insurance Services Henry van Arcken (left), awards Pickens County, represented by (left to right) Cheryl Bowles, Lakitha Bell and Yolanda Cockrell.

- 1st - Pickens**
- 2nd - Conecuh**
- 3rd - Randolph**

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ACCA Director of Insurance Services Henry van Arcken (left), awards Elmore County, represented by (left to right) Richie Beyer, Troy Stubbs, Bart Mercer, Kenny Holt, Courtney Clements and Mike Knighten.

- 1st - Elmore**
- 2nd - St. Clair**
- 3rd - Marshall**

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Education Program Schedules for 2020

All courses offered at the Marriott Prattville Conference Center.

Attn: Commission Members

Alabama Local Government Training Institute

- **February 13-14** | Elective: Roles and Responsibilities of the Chair of the County Commission
- **March 19-20** | Elective: Legislative and Governmental Relations
- **June 24-25** | Elective: 50th Annual Alabama County Government Institute: Building Cleaner Communities through Waste Management, Remediation and Recycling

Attn: County Staff Members

County Government Education Institute

- **January 29-30** | CROAA: Enforcement of Licenses & Taxes
- **January 29-30** | Disaster Relief 101
- **April 8-9** | Personnel Administration
- **June 10-11** | CROAA: Safety for the County Revenue Officer
- **June 10-11** | Finance & Revenue
- **September 30-October 1** | Ethics
- **October 28-29** | Overview of County Government
- **October 28-29** | General Accounting

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Ramona Ponder | Calhoun
Lee Moons | Mobile
Tymika Bosby | Wilcox

■ **Certificate in County Engineering Administration**

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Marty Lentz, CEA | Coffee
Jeremy Robison, CEA | Colbert
Veronica Golatte, CEA | Macon
Kenny Wilbanks, CEA | Cherokee

■ **Certified County Revenue Officer**

Susie Washburn, CCRO | St. Clair
Rachel Bowling, CCRO | St. Clair
Becky Rogers, CCRO | Tuscaloosa

■ **Basic Level Certificate**

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IN PROFILE

Vice President Dean Calvert

Commissioner Dean Calvert got into public service at the encouragement of a former high school teacher, and although he had not followed politics closely prior to his election, he seems to have found something he loves.

“It gets in your blood as far as helping people and getting things done,” he said. “You see projects get started, and you know you want to see them through.”

Calvert, a 52-year-old, three-term commissioner from Blount County, has just been elected Vice President of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama. According to the traditional officer rotation, he will be sworn in as ACCA president in August 2021.

According to the most recent edition of Comparative Data on Alabama Counties, 17 of the state’s 67 counties use a district system, in which commissioners supervise roads and bridges in their respective districts.

Calvert speaks with pride of his district’s 208 road miles, recent improvements and projects underway. He said it makes his days different from those of his colleagues who don’t manage their own road crew and equipment. He might start his workday inspecting progress on construction of a bridge, then participate in a ribbon cutting and later make sure a downed stop sign is replaced right away. “We’re actually on call 24-7,” he said.

Probably the largest single initiative of his commission career has been the establishment of a 1-cent sales tax to benefit roads and other needs in the county. It was his “Passion Project” during his time in PLAN 2016, the Association’s leadership program for second-term commissioners, and the referendum passed in 2016.

“It was not the work of any single person; it was a countywide coalition,” Calvert said. “That’s why I say with the Association’s pledge to speak with One Voice, we can move mountains.”

Proceeds from that sales tax are paying a bond issue for county roads and bridges.



Get to Know...

Hon. Dean Calvert,
ACCA Vice President
Blount County’s District 3
Commissioner since 2010

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

- Licensed homebuilder with 28 years of experience in the family glass business

EDUCATION

- Level II Certificate, Alabama Local Government Training Institute

FAMILY

- Fifth of nine children born to Bobby and Sue Horsley Calvert
- Married to his high school sweetheart, Sheila, for 33 years
- Three adult children and three grandchildren


PERSONAL INTERESTS

- Hunting for deer and turkey, fishing

ACCA ENGAGEMENT

- Member, Board of Trustees, ACCA Liability Self-Insurance Fund Inc.
- Member, PLAN 2016, the inaugural class of the Association’s leadership program

 [Dean Calvert](#)

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 dcalvert@blountcountyal.gov

He said the county advanced revenue by borrowing about \$11 million, which should be repaid in about 8 years. Then, Calvert said, the commission can look at the next step to continue its pledge to be good stewards.

The words “67 Counties, One Voice” became the Association’s rallying cry early in Calvert’s commission service, and they sum up the things he appreciates about ACCA — providing custom-tailored education programs for county leaders, alerting him to big issues on the state and federal levels, and influencing legislative decisions that affect county operations. “I’ve just been impressed with that and always have been,” he said. “The training helped make me the commissioner I am today.”

Going forward, the issues he is watching most closely are unfunded mandates, inmate reform and successful implementation of Rebuild Alabama, which “is critical to be able to prove to legislators that counties can and will work to implement this program and anything else that comes our way.”

Calvert has a “can-do” attitude about needs in his county, and he promised to do the same for all 67 counties. County leaders across the state put him into this leadership post, he said. “They believe in what I can do, and I’m going to do everything I can to prove them right.” ■

2016 Sales Tax Referendum in Blount County

ACCA Vice President Dean Calvert is understandably proud of the 1-cent sales tax that Blount County voters approved in 2016.



Known as the “Moving Blount County Forward Initiative,” it won 57% of the vote *on the same ballot with the presidential election*. The sales tax proceeds benefit county and municipal infrastructure, public schools and public safety. Advocates conducted 30 town hall meetings around the county plus a virtual town hall two days before the election.



As pictured, Probate Judge and Commission Chair Chris Green conducted the 30-minute Facebook Live session from his home with Calvert and the county school superintendent. It was viewed 7,000+ times and received 100+ shares.

Much like Rebuild Alabama, road projects funded by the new revenue were recognized with signs as part of the “One Cent Working for You” campaign.

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Getting Ready for Goat Hill

This has been a year for the history books as far as county advocates and the Alabama Legislature are concerned. The Rebuild Alabama Act became law in March, putting the first new, recurring investment into county roads and bridges in decades. And that was just the beginning, since the Legislature went on to pass six other ACCA priority bills.

"The County Family has definitely been on the road to achievement, and to continue along that same road, we must continue doing all the little things that make it possible for us to speak effectively with One Voice," said Sonny Brasfield, ACCA Executive Director.

With that in mind, county leaders have been working for months to prepare for 2020.

A major step forward occurred at the local level over the summer, as each county designated its representative on the 2019-2020 ACCA Legislative Committee, chaired by Immediate Past President Tony Cherry.



HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

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During pre-session preparations, the 67 committee members play a critical role in the process by which input from hundreds of county leaders around the state develops into a unified voice. Comments are collected from meetings with other county elected officials, the ACCA Minority Issues Steering Committee and affiliate group legislative committees for administrators, engineers, emergency managers, 9-1-1 leaders and revenue officers.

In a two-day workshop, the Legislative Committee considers input that has been received and conducts

a thorough review of the Alabama County Platform, recommending revisions and flagging priorities for the Board of Directors. All of this activity is building toward the ACCA Legislative Conference in early December, when the full Association membership will vote on the 2020 Alabama County Platform.

The Association will conduct District Meetings around the state in January. In 2020, the Regular Session will begin on Tuesday, February 4, and must end no later than midnight on Monday, May 18. ■

Timeline: ACCA Legislative Preparations

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2019

- *Affiliate Group Legislative Committee Meetings*
- *Minority Issues Steering Committee Legislative Meeting*
- *ACCA Legislative Committee Pre-Session Workshop*

NOVEMBER 2019

- *ACCA Board of Directors Meeting*

DECEMBER 2019

- *ACCA Board of Directors Meeting*
- *ACCA Legislative Conference*

JANUARY 2020

- *ACCA District Meetings*



FAMILY ALBUM



Photos from Alabama Counties



Rebuilding Alabama at the local level
Counties are delivering on the transparency and accountability provisions of the Rebuild Alabama Act, making sure citizens are well informed about how their tax dollars are working for them. On the top left, Sen. Clyde Chambliss, one of the Act's sponsors, was present the night Elmore County Commissioners adopted their first Rebuild Alabama County Transportation Plan. Below, Commissioner Weston Spivey has been continually spreading the word about Geneva County's 31 miles of resurfacing in 2020 — all thanks to Rebuild Alabama.



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Connecting with ASA
ACCA Executive Director Sonny Brasfield caught up with Montgomery County Sheriff Derrick Cunningham in August at the Town of Pike Road's National Night Out event. "Looking forward to a great year with Sheriff Cunningham as president of the Alabama Sheriffs Association," Brasfield tweeted.



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Discussing legislative issues

Members of the Legislative Committee of the Association of County Administrators of Alabama covered a lot of ground in their policy discussions last month. They issued recommendations related to employee benefits, inmate reform, online sales tax, open records, election administration and ethics. Recommendations from all five ACCA affiliate groups were forwarded to the Association’s Legislative Committee for consideration.

Announcing big economic development news
 Gov. Kay Ivey helped Sumter County celebrate in early October, tweeting “What an exciting day for West Alabama — Enviva has chosen to invest \$175 million to construct a wood pellet production plant in Sumter County, creating 85 new jobs! Thank you @EnvivaBiomass for choosing to be #MadeinAL!”



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Never leave your devices unattended. If you need to leave your computer, phone or tablet for any length of time — no matter how short — lock it up so no one can use it while you’re gone. If you keep sensitive information on a flash drive or external hard drive, make sure to lock it up as well.

Practice Safe Clicking

Always be careful when clicking on attachments or links in email. If it’s unexpected or suspicious for any reason, don’t click on it. Double check the URL of the website that the link takes you to: bad actors will often take advantage of spelling mistakes to direct you to a harmful domain.

Source: Cybint Cyber Solutions, February 2018

Staying on top of what's next in 9-1-1
It was standing room only at the 29th Annual Gulf Coast 9-1-1 Conference this fall, hosted by the Alabama chapter of the National Emergency Number Association. Hundreds of professionals from across the Southeast gathered to share lessons learned, find out what's on the horizon for 9-1-1 and explore new products and services.



Enhancing the CROAA Education Program

The Board of Directors of the County Revenue Officers Association of Alabama (CROAA) met at the ACCA headquarters last month to review their education program, and the board elected to make the requirements more appealing to those interested in becoming CROAA-certified. Changes will become effective Jan. 1.



Bridging gaps in rural healthcare

The shortage of physicians in rural areas of Alabama was a top concern when the ACCA Minority Issues Steering Committee met last month. In 2020, the Committee plans to continue its efforts with other organizations and stakeholders to expand rural healthcare access in our state.



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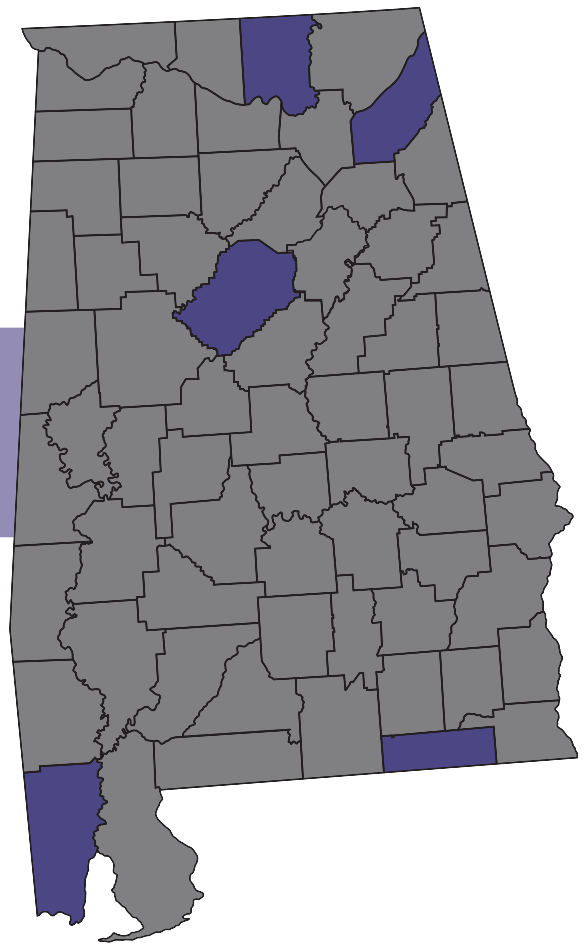
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Please send your photos to ACCA for the Family Album! County Commission magazine wants to publish a selection of member photos in every issue to showcase the many ways county government touches the lives of Alabamians and to recognize the dedicated men and women who make counties work. Please send photos (large file sizes preferred) to Abby Fitzpatrick, Director of Communication & Engagement, afitzpatrick@alabamacounties.org.

Voices from the County Family



The passage of the Rebuild Alabama Act shows what can be achieved when an affiliate group is strategic and organized. What do you intend to do to bring your group together for the 2020 Legislative Session?



Matt Sharp

*DeKalb County
President,
Association of County
Administrators of
Alabama*

A The Association of County Administrators of Alabama is probably the most diverse affiliate group. Our members come from a wide variety of backgrounds. Some of

us start out as clerks in an office of the courthouse and move our way up over many years; others come from business backgrounds that are far removed from local government. And there are some of us — like myself — who come from the ranks of the Examiners of Public Accounts. We are about 60% female and 40% male. Racially, our rates match up pretty close to the state population. The counties in Alabama are all different, and the duties that each of us have vary significantly, but the one thing we have in common is that we are each members of the County Family, and we rely on one another for advice.

Almost 40% of our Administrators have less than 5 years on the job, so the challenges and opportunities we have as an affiliate group are great. I plan on engaging the ACCA as we near the 2020 Legislative Session with the goals of the ACCA, particularly those that have an impact on county administrators. Also, I hope to demonstrate how important the ACCA and ACAA are to them and their counties. If I can be of any help to administrators throughout the state, email is the best way to reach me (msharp@dekalbcountyal.us).



Justin Barfield

*Geneva County
President, Association
of County Engineers
of Alabama*

A The passage of the Rebuild Alabama Act was a monumental and historic accomplishment for Alabama counties, and it would have been impossible without a combined effort from so many — the ACCA, ACEA and other affiliate groups. With that being said, 2019 is slowly fading in the rearview mirror, and engineers know that we have a duty to implement Rebuild Alabama successfully. A bipartisan group of 111 legislators voted to increase transportation funding, and going forward, the County Family's credibility at the Statehouse will rise or fall

depending on how we deliver. Knowing the committed and dedicated county engineers around the state, I am certain that we can succeed.

Our group's plans for the 2020 Legislative Session are already underway. Our Legislative Committee has met and noted important issues and bills that could be beneficial or detrimental to county government and engineers. We will continue to converse, all the while communicating with ACCA staff. As president, I will be a conduit for important information to our membership, and I encourage members to contact me if I can be of service (justinbarfield@genevacounty.org). We look forward to a positive and beneficial 2020 Legislative Session.



Jim Coker

*Jefferson County
President, Alabama
Association
of Emergency
Managers*

A The Legislative Committee of the Alabama Association of Emergency Managers met with the ACCA policy team in Montgomery on Sept. 27. This successful meeting was the first step in preparing for the coming legislative session and illustrated the close working relationship between the two groups. Issues of interest to the AAEM and ACCA were discussed at length; these will be shared with the AAEM membership in order to keep them well-informed throughout the months ahead. Each county in Alabama has an EMA director; an interesting fact is that we have several new faces due to retirements. The AAEM is working to help educate the new directors on a wide variety of topics, including pending legislation. In addition, the AAEM has added a Higher Education Caucus (composed of members from universities, colleges and community colleges across the state) and a Healthcare Coalition Caucus, and AAEM will be adding an additional caucus to represent our many volunteers. Each of these groups has legislative interest; the close relationship between the ACCA and AAEM will help keep everyone up to date as the session approaches. If I can assist emergency managers in any way, please don't hesitate to message me at cokerj@jccal.org.



Charlie McNichol

*Mobile County
President, Alabama
Association of
9-1-1 Districts*

delivering great 9-1-1 service throughout the state. We stand ready to mobilize our efforts to work with ACCA if legislation is introduced that is not favorable to delivering that same level of service. Please feel free to reach out to me (cmcnichol@mccd911.com) or your local director with any questions about what is going on in 9-1-1.



Terisa Lang

*Madison County
President, County
Revenue Officers
Association of
Alabama*

always have 100% agreement on an issue, we need to listen to the various opinions and ideas. To speak with One Voice, we must value the opinions of all our members so that we can find the best path forward. Our Legislative Committee meeting with ACCA staff back in September was a good example of that. Finding common ground will allow us to present a united front as we move into the coming legislative session, and I encourage CROAA members to contact me (tlang@madisoncountyal.gov) if I can ever be of assistance.

A While we will not be asking legislators to introduce any bills on our behalf in 2020, the 9-1-1 districts are united in recommending a couple of items for the 2020 Alabama County Platform. In recent years, our group has enjoyed working together for the common goal of

A One of my top priorities this year is emphasizing common ground among CROAA members. In any group of people, you always have different personality types, which will result in looking at any issue from different viewpoints. This diversity of viewpoints is what gives CROAA strength. So, although we may not

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REBUILD ALABAMA ACT FINANCING FACTS FOR COUNTIES AND CITIES

Summary of the Rebuild Alabama Act

Revenue Measures

- **Fuel Tax Increase** – The state gasoline and diesel tax will be increased by 6 cents per gallon on September 1, 2019, 2 cents per gallon on October 1, 2020, and 2 cents per gallon on October 1, 2021.
 - \$32.3 million – Estimated revenue collected by each 1-cent in the fuel tax
 - \$323 million – Estimated total revenue collected once the fuel tax is fully implemented
 - Revenues are to be distributed as follows:
 - First \$980,000 collected each month (\$11.76 million annually) shall be distributed to the Alabama Highway Finance Corporation for the payment of the principal of and interest on bonds to be issued by it to finance improvements to the ship channel providing access to the facilities of the Alabama State Docks. This diversion is not perpetual and will end once the bonds are paid off.
 - Then, remaining funds shall be distributed as follows:
 - 66.67% to ALDOT, 25% to the Counties, and 8.33% to the Municipalities.
- **Electric and Hybrid Vehicle Fees** – Electric vehicles (EVs) will now pay an annual registration fee. Battery electric vehicles (BEVs) will pay \$200, and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs) will pay \$100.
 - Revenue collected for EVs will be distributed as follows:
 - 25% will be dedicated to support an EV infrastructure grant program that will provide funding to pay for a portion of the costs of developing EV charging station infrastructure.
 - 75% of the total revenue from the new BEV and PHEV fees will be distributed as follows:
 - 66.67% to ALDOT, 25% to the Counties, and 8.33% to the Municipalities.

Local Government Fuel Tax Revenue Distribution

- **County Fuel Tax Revenue Distribution** – County governments will receive 25% of the total fuel tax revenues from the new 10-cent per gallon fuel tax, after costs of collection and distributions to the Alabama Highway Finance Corporation to finance State Docks improvements. This allocation will be distributed to the counties as follows:
 - 45% of the amount shall be allocated equally among the 67 counties of the state.
 - 55% of the amount shall be allocated among the 67 counties of the state on the basis of the ratio of the population of the state according to population projections from the U.S. Census Bureau Population and Housing Estimates Program and will be updated every five years.
- **Municipality Fuel Tax Revenue Distribution** – Municipal governments will receive 8.33% of the total fuel tax revenues from the new 10-cent per gallon fuel tax, after costs of collection and distributions to the Alabama Highway Finance Corporation to finance State Docks improvements. This allocation will be distributed to the municipalities as follows:
 - 25% of the amount shall be allocated equally among all municipalities in the state.
 - 75% of the amount shall be allocated among the municipalities of the state on the basis of the ratio of the population of each municipality to the total population of all municipalities of the state according to population projections from the U.S. Census Bureau Population and Housing Estimates Program and will be updated every five years.

Local Government Funding: Uses, Restrictions, Financing and Other Funding Opportunities

Funding Uses Allowed

- The revenue allocated to counties and municipalities from the Rebuild Alabama Act must be deposited into a separate fund maintained by the county or municipality and expended only for the following:
 - The maintenance, improvement, replacement, and construction of roads and bridges maintained by the county or municipality.
 - As matching funds for federal road or bridge projects.
 - The payment of any debt associated with a road or bridge project.
 - For a joint road or bridge project with one or more adjoining counties or one or more municipalities pursuant to any agreement executed under the authority of state law.
 - For a joint road or bridge project with one or more counties and municipalities pursuant to any agreement executed under the authority of state law.
 - Any Class 1 through 4 municipality that currently provides or operates public transportation services may utilize an amount not to exceed 10% of the net tax proceeds received annually to match any available federal or state transportation funding available for public transportation infrastructure improvements.

Funding Restrictions

- The revenue allocated to counties and municipalities from the Rebuild Alabama Act shall NOT be used for the following purposes:
 - Salaries, benefits, or any other form of compensation for county, municipal, or contract employees or for county or municipal officials except as included as project costs.
 - The purchase, lease, or maintenance of equipment, other than equipment purchased and permanently installed as a part of a road or bridge project.
 - The maintenance or construction of public buildings/structures not integral to the road/bridge system.

Financing

- A county government may pledge up to 50% of its total revenue received from the Rebuild Alabama Act as security for the issuance or refinancing of any loan or debt obligation used for transportation infrastructure improvement, preservation and maintenance.
- A municipal government may pledge 100% of its total revenue received from the Rebuild Alabama Act as security for the issuance or refinancing of any loan or debt obligation used for transportation infrastructure improvement, preservation and maintenance.

Additional Funding Opportunities

- County and State Funding Exchange
 - Beginning on October 1, 2019, ALDOT will allocate \$400,000 of its state portion of tax revenues to each county in the state in exchange for the annual federal allocation of \$533,000 which was being distributed to each county. Counties will be able to utilize the state funding more freely than the federal allocation.
 - The \$400,000 annual allocation to each county shall be utilized first as matching funds for any balance in the county's federal allocation not authorized by Sept. 30, 2019. Once this is accomplished, all remaining and future allocations shall be expended for road and bridge projects on county roads classified as minor collectors or higher and/or for bridge structures on the National Bridge Inspection inventory.
- ATRIP-II Program
 - Through the Rebuild Alabama Act, this program will require ALDOT to set aside from \$30 to \$50 million annually of the state revenue portion to fund projects of local interest on the state-maintained highway system, which may also include local roads and bridges essential to the overall project.
 - This program will be directed by an 8-member ATRIP-II Committee which will be authorized to develop and adopt the procedures which will determine how the funds will be used and the projects selected.
- ALDOT Annual Grant Program
 - ALDOT will create an annual grant program of not less than \$10 million for which county governments and city governments can apply and is charged with creating a process for cities and counties to submit applications.
 - Cities and counties will also be able to leverage local proceeds to partner with the State on larger projects for which the respective city or county might not have adequate funding.
 - First round of grant applications is due by Nov. 30, 2019, and grants will be awarded by Jan. 15, 2020.

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