

2023

# ALABAMA COUNTY PLATFORM

Allowing All **67 Counties** to Speak with  
**ONE Voice** on Policy Issues in 2023

*ACCA Legislative Committee Approval | Oct. 27, 2022*

*ACCA Board of Directors Approval | Nov. 15, 2022*

*ACCA Membership Approval | Dec. 8, 2022*

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# ALABAMA COUNTY FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES

The 11 Foundation Principles of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama (“Association”) were established by the Association’s membership to promote the core values and positions of Alabama’s 67 county governments. These foundation principles form the cornerstone from which all county policy positions, legislative priorities and general legislative advocacy are derived in order to promote the improvement of the State of Alabama and its instrumentalities.

## **Alabama Governmental Structure**

**Foundation Principle:** *The relationship between Alabama counties and the Alabama Legislature is established in constitutional and statutory law. The preservation of a constitutional relationship between the State of Alabama and its counties as well as a workable and productive statutory allocation of responsibilities between the state and the counties is essential to the delivery of services. Therefore, Alabama counties encourage the Alabama Legislature to fully fund state agencies and opposes the shifting of costs and administrative responsibility of state functions to the local level through the state budget process.*

## **Mandated and Unfunded Legislation**

**Foundation Principle:** *Without the authority to levy taxes or even collect fees for services, Alabama counties constantly struggle to provide an adequate level of services to ensure health, safety and prosperity of local citizens. Alabama’s constitution provides protection from the enactment of mandated and unfunded responsibilities onto county government to ensure the financial integrity of the commission. The Association strongly supports the intent of Alabama’s constitutional language prohibiting the enactment of unfunded mandates and opposes the establishment of such mandates through federal or state administrative actions.*

## **Revenue Protection**

**Foundation Principle:** *Counties are partners with the State of Alabama in the collection of revenue and the delivery of services funded by the collection of such revenue. Many taxes collected by the counties as well as the state are earmarked for distribution between the two levels of government to ensure the provision of services. Likewise, the Legislature considers the abatement or exemption of many taxes levied by or on behalf of the county commission. County services cannot be funded during either the short- or long-term if the necessary revenue is interrupted. The Association opposes mandated abatement or exemption of the local proceeds of any taxes as well as the alteration of the allocation formula used to distribute tax proceeds between the state and its counties.*

# ALABAMA COUNTY FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES

## County Operations and Budget Authority

**Foundation Principle:** *The county governing body serves as both the legislative and administrative branch of government at the local level – carrying out both budgetary duties as well as providing administrative leadership for many functions. The budgetary, personnel and administrative functions carried out by the county commission are essential to the financial and operational health of county government in Alabama. The Association opposes any efforts that will obstruct the county commission’s ability to effectively govern and to maintain the administrative and financial well-being of the services delivered by the county commission.*

## County Expenditures for Compensation and Benefits

**Foundation Principle:** *The county commission is charged with making budgeting decisions within the revenue available to provide the most effective and efficient services to the citizens in each of the 67 counties. Legislatively- mandated adjustments in salaries and benefits pose a threat to the delivery of such services. For this reason, the Association opposes any legislation which mandates any expenditure of county revenues for the payment of compensation, salary supplements, expense allowances, or benefits for current or former government officials or employees.*

## Economic Development and the Alabama Trust Fund

**Foundation Principle:** *Alabama counties play an ever-growing and vital role in the state’s economic development efforts; providing services, financial support and community leadership necessary to attract and retain important employers. Counties must be able to access the revenue necessary to carry out this function and must be included in any reforms and initiatives that alter Alabama’s law regarding economic incentives and requirements. Revenue from the Alabama Trust Fund is essential to meeting these goals and must be protected from unnecessary raids and expenditures. The Association will actively oppose any removal of revenue from the Alabama Trust Fund and seeks to be a partner in those economic development efforts that emphasize a partnership between the state and its counties.*

## Election Administration

**Foundation Principle:** *Alabama’s election laws must maintain an unquestioned level of integrity and objectivity while avoiding the wasteful spending of limited local and state resources. Likewise, the reporting and disclosure requirements placed on candidates serve only to bolster such efforts to garner public confidence in the election process. The Association supports efforts to eliminate many of the unenforceable and overbroad provisions of Alabama’s election law while not generating additional unnecessary costs or burdens at the local level.*

# ALABAMA COUNTY FOUNDATION PRINCIPLES

## Alabama's Prisons and County Jails

**Foundation Principle:** *Alabama's prison system faces a crisis not unlike the crisis duplicated on a daily basis in each of the 67 county jails. The watchful eye of the federal courts, the never-ending expense of providing jail services, the growing costs of health care and the training and compensation for officers presents a challenge well beyond the reach of a county commission devoid of revenue-generating powers. On the other hand, an efficient local law enforcement agency and jail is necessary to maintain order and to ensure the safety of all Alabamians. The Association is gravely concerned that all reform efforts, statutory changes or administrative rules be considered only in light of direct, indirect and unintended consequences generated at the county level.*

## Justice and Public Safety

**Foundation Principle:** *The State of Alabama is responsible for administration of state courts and public safety agencies and for providing public health and mental health services for the citizens of this state. The Association believes the Alabama Legislature should adequately fund each state agency responsible for delivery of these critical government services and opposes any legislative or administrative efforts that mandate counties to assume any responsibility for these state functions or that force county government to assume state functions due to the state's failure to adequately meet its financial or administrative responsibilities. Additionally, since local government plays an important role in providing emergency services at the local level, the Association urges the Legislature to ensure there is adequate funding for local programs and that state and local agencies work in partnership for the safety and well-being of all citizens of this state.*

## Environment, Land Use and Public Works

**Foundation Principle:** *County government's role in the effective administration and enforcement of Alabama's law affecting environmental issues, land use, and public works administration is often confusing. Counties lack land-use authority, but are required to grant initial approval for landfills. Counties seek to enhance the delivery of services by improving their public facilities and programs, but often are impeded by federal and state regulations, inspections, and prohibitions that do not serve the public's best interests. The exercise of extra-jurisdictional powers by municipalities further clouds the role of county government. The Association seeks legislative and administrative solutions to these conflicts and encourages all related agencies to interact with counties to ensure the proper delivery of services and the enforcement of requirements and regulations.*

## Rural Transportation

**Foundation Principle:** *The county commission is responsible for proper construction, maintenance, and repair of all roads and bridges in the county road system. The Association believes it is essential that the county commission have adequate federal, state, and/or local funding to meet the many needs of its rural transportation system. Additionally, the Association believes that, in order to keep roads and bridges properly maintained for the safety and well-being of the traveling public, the county commission must have broad regulatory authority related to the use of county-maintained roads and bridges, including the ability to collect reimbursement from persons or entities causing damage to those roads and bridges.*

# ALABAMA COUNTY QUADRENNIAL GOALS

With the start of each quadrennium, the Association membership and its affiliate organizations come together to analyze the global state of county governments in Alabama. The results of this collaborative effort are compiled into the Quadrennial Goals set out below. Throughout the four years of the quadrennium, the membership will prioritize and advocate for legislation to achieve each of these goals. As the quadrennium progresses, the membership may elect to add, amend or update these goals to ensure they adequately reflect the needs and condition of Alabama's 67 county governments.

## **Alabama Governmental Structure**

*To improve the performance of county government through the modernization of operations to efficiently and effectively deliver vital public services.*

*To shift the statutorily-required publication of legal notices from a "newspaper" to publication on a website maintained by the state or by each individual county.*

*To provide a constitutional amendment to authorize open debate of local legislation.*

*To require any state agency directives or rules impacting the taxes owed by citizens or corporations and provided to counties to adhere to the Administrative Procedure Act.*

*To protect county governments from being held financially, legally or in any other capacity responsible for the procedural actions or misactions of a governmental body with the authority to enact local-level laws.*

## **Mandated and Unfunded Legislation**

*To amend the unfunded mandate constitutional amendment to provide that the exemption for defining crimes apply only to provisions of the law defining or amending a crime.*

## **Revenue Protection**

*To modernize the business licensing process provided it does not result in a loss of state or local revenue or repeal existing local business licensing laws.*

*To provide for the State of Alabama to use American Rescue Plan Act funds for the benefit of county governments following the State's abrupt redirection of \$26 million previously allocated to counties by the State with funds provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act of 2020.*

# ALABAMA COUNTY QUADRENNIAL GOALS

## **Revenue Protection (Continued)**

*To establish workable solutions between local officials and the Alabama Department of Revenue to ensure the application of efficient and effective tax administration processes and procedures at the local level.*

*To revise the definition of tangible personal property to ensure that goods delivered digitally are subject to sales or use tax collections.*

*To identify a method to accurately collect local ad valorem taxes for short-term housing rentals.*

*To require the use of the tax lien auction process in lieu of selling property for unpaid ad valorem taxes.*

## **County Operations and Budget Authority**

*To provide that the county commission sets the hours of operation of county offices.*

*To require municipalities to provide animal control services within its jurisdictional limits or contribute a pro rata share of services provided by the county.*

*To clarify that the County Commission is not liable for the improper expenditures of funds authorized by law to be expended at the “sole discretion” of a particular elected official.*

*To make revisions to Alabama’s existing public purchasing processes to enhance their efficiencies and effectiveness for use at the county level.*

## **County Expenditures for Compensation and Benefits**

*To repeal the so-called revolving door provision of the Alabama Ethics law for public employees who become employed by other public employers.*

## **Economic Development and the Alabama Trust Fund**

*To shift 20 percent of the corpus and future oil lease and royalty payments of the Alabama Trust Fund into the County and Municipal Government Trust Fund which would thereafter operate as a separately-maintained Trust Fund for counties and municipalities.*

*To support the expansion of high-speed internet services to the underserved unincorporated areas of counties, whether through partnership with the State of Alabama, tax incentives and abatements, or local programs.*

# ALABAMA COUNTY QUADRENNIAL GOALS

## **Election Administration**

*To eliminate the requirement that the county commission set and fund school tax elections for municipal school systems.*

*To amend Alabama law reforming the current Board of Registrars system to ensure appointments fairly reflect the demographic makeup of each county, as well as to provide increased accountability, local notification and communication, state and local oversight, and minimum qualifications for appointments.*

*To remove the authority for the Secretary of State to decertify poll books being used by county election officials, if such equipment was approved at the time of purchase.*

*To authorize counties to satisfy election-related publication requirements by posting information on a public website and making copies available at the courthouse.*

*To include all expenditures for electronic poll books and training for absentee election managers in the items eligible for reimbursement by the State of Alabama.*

*To support the passage of legislation providing a state-funded increase in wages to poll workers.*

## **Alabama's Prisons and County Jails**

*To amend Alabama law to limit the medical service costs for an individual in county custody at an amount not exceeding Alabama's Medicaid rates and fees.*

## **Justice and Public Safety**

*To amend current Alabama law to create a more equitable financial allocation between local and state governments for the housing, medical care, and transportation of juveniles participating in the juvenile justice system.*

*To clarify that juveniles held in regional detention facilities awaiting court ordered transfers to local or state diversion or treatment programs are the legal and financial responsibility of the State.*

*To properly fund the Alabama Disaster Recovery Program to provide direct financial assistance to counties and municipalities following certain disasters and assistance for certain pre-disaster event protective measures.*

*To ensure counties receive adequate state supplement funding, including periodic cost-of-living adjustments, for employing a certified EMA director.*

*To promote statewide efforts to provide access to effective mental health services at the local level.*



# ALABAMA COUNTY QUADRENNIAL GOALS

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## **Justice and Public Safety (Continued)**

*To secure adequate funding to ensure that ambulance services are available throughout the county.*

*To ensure full reimbursement to counties of lost pistol permit revenue following the passage of the permitless carry law.*

## **Environment, Land Use and Public Works**

*To remove any liability from the county commission in the event that the public utility-locating process for a county construction project is not fully and sensibly completed within a reasonable amount of time.*

## **Rural Transportation**

*To prohibit municipalities from establishing or setting speed limits on roads that are maintained by the county.*

*To amend Alabama's severance tax law to ensure that counties receive proceeds sufficient to ensure proper maintenance and repair of roads and bridges utilized for the transportation of materials severed within the county.*

# ALABAMA COUNTY PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

The Public Policy Positions of the Association of County Commissions of Alabama, established by the membership, direct the Association in advocacy efforts in supporting or opposing any policy decisions affecting Alabama's county governments. These Policy Positions, derived from the 11 Foundation Principles, address numerous issues from the relationship between state and local governments to the day-to-day operations of the county commissions.

## **Alabama Governmental Structure**

*Belief that the existing Public Records Law adequately protects a citizen's right to access of public documents and any reforms should come only after comprehensive input from county government to specifically address key areas of concern — such as reasonable response deadlines for records requests; handling and accounting of electronic requests; accurate accounting of staff time, creation and duplication fees to be charged to a requester; enforcement on the state level; and omission of an ombudsman component.*

*Opposition to removing or impeding local control of the county department of human resources.*

*Support for continued application of current constitutional and statutory provisions providing that elected officials can be removed from office only through the process of impeachment.*

*Support for Alabama's current structure for enacting or amending state general or local laws and belief that no provision allowing for citizen referendum should be enacted.*

*Belief that individual property rights must be balanced with adequate means to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all citizens.*

*Belief that any additional restrictions on the use of constitutional and statutory procedures for condemnation of private property for necessary governmental purposes will serve to harm the collective well-being of all citizens.*

*Opposition to restricting or limiting a county commission's authority to make independent decisions related to county property and rights-of-way.*

*Opposition to shifting the control of county property to the oversight of a legislatively-established committee or state agency.*

*Support for the direct designation to county general fund budgets a substantial portion of the proceeds of any state lottery, gaming or sports betting system.*

# ALABAMA COUNTY PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

## **Alabama Governmental Structure (Continued)**

*Support for appointed county government representation on any commission established to regulate a lottery, gaming or sports betting in Alabama.*

*Belief that the State of Alabama should assume the responsibility of enforcing any statewide building code in areas with no existing enforcement while preserving the ability for a county to take responsibility of enforcement at its discretion.*

## **Mandated and Unfunded Legislation**

*Opposition to federal and state efforts to require county government to assume any financial or programmatic responsibilities that are currently financed and/or administered at the federal or state level.*

*Opposition to any mandated and unfunded requirement that counties assume new programs established by the federal or state government.*

*Opposition to any federal or state legislative, administrative, or regulatory directives requiring county government to assume inspection, public safety, permitting responsibilities or other duties currently performed by the state or federal agency.*

*Opposition to any legislative or regulatory directives requiring counties to provide housing, supplies, equipment or other expenses for a county coroner or other county officers.*

*Opposition to state agencies administratively eliminating state services within a county for budgetary or other reasons without legislative approval.*

## **Revenue Protection**

*Opposition to the State of Alabama settling tax litigation cases without the consent of counties when doing so creates long-lasting and negative impacts on a county's ability to efficiently and effectively provide services to local taxpayers.*

*Opposition to altering the current interest rate on tax sale proceeds unless such change will not result in a decrease in purchaser participation in tax sales or reduction in tax sale proceeds paid to counties.*

*Support for apportioning the full ad valorem tax collection costs among all entities entitled to a portion of the proceeds of the tax.*

*Opposition to authorizing a local legislative delegation or legislatively-created committees to direct how local revenues should be distributed or to redirect funds allocated to local governments.*

# ALABAMA COUNTY PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

## Revenue Protection (Continued)

*Support for the principles of the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement provided there is no future effort to repeal or restrict counties' authority to collect, audit and/or enforce local taxes.*

*Support for removing any defects in state tax laws resulting in a discriminatory tax structure provided that the removal eliminates discrimination without creating new or expanding exemptions or tax credits.*

*Support for creating a fair and equitable ad valorem tax system provided it does not eliminate annual reappraisal, reduce tax revenues or increase current exemptions.*

*Support for amending the Taxpayer Bill of Rights to provide that following an audit that uncovers that taxes were wrongly paid to another entity, the auditing entity may take action against the other entity if the wrongly-paid tax is not refunded within six months.*

*Belief that local governments should incur no costs for use of the ONE SPOT sales tax remittance system.*

*Opposition to any proposed amendments to the Alabama Simplified Sellers Use Tax Act, whether by local or statewide legislation, that would alter the program's existing distribution formula or the revenue allocated to county governments under general law.*

*Opposition to the Alabama Legislature granting exemptions from taxes that fund county government operations and services without the consent of the county commission.*

*Belief that county governments should be exempt from payment of utility taxes.*

*Support for a targeted refundable income tax credit for lower income Alabamians that would approximate the amount of sales tax paid for groceries annually, as an alternative to the removal of sales tax on groceries.*

*Belief that the fees imposed on delinquent business licenses should be set to an amount that is sufficient to offset the costs associated with business license enforcement.*

# ALABAMA COUNTY PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

## **County Operations and Budget Authority**

*Support for the protection of counties, officials, employees, or agents against liability for official actions provided there is no change in the statutory damage cap for awards against counties.*

*Opposition to any efforts to require counties to pay the attorney fees of those filing actions against county governments, its officials, or employees.*

*Support for the county commission role in adopting and enforcing the county budget and opposition to any efforts to weaken or direct the county commission's exercise of this legislative authority.*

*Opposition to any legislation requiring the county commission to vote or take action on a particular measure or issue.*

*Support for limiting use of out-of-state cooperative programs for purchases available on the Alabama County Joint Bid list.*

*Opposition to restricting a county employee's ability to voluntarily notify its employer of updates involving his or her health and to placing any liability on the employer as a result of receiving such information.*

## **County Expenditures for Compensation and Benefits**

*Support for the Omnibus Pay Act in its current form and opposition to any requirement to provide or increase compensation, benefits, or county-paid salary supplements for state or local officials.*

*Opposition to mandated and unfunded requirements to provide or increase compensation or benefits for any county-paid personnel or volunteers.*

*Opposition to shifting responsibility for the payment of the employee-share of retirement contributions for probate judges to the counties.*

*Support for the elimination of all supernumerary programs and opposition to any mandated and unfunded increases in payments made under existing programs.*

*Support for authorizing cost of living increases for state and local retirees provided such legislation only applies to retirees in a particular county if approved by the county commission.*

*Belief that any retirement program changes should not apply to local participants without approval of the county commission.*

*Support for authorizing counties to establish civil service systems provided that the creation of such systems do not provide for collective bargaining.*

# ALABAMA COUNTY PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

## **County Expenditures for Compensation and Benefits (Continued)**

*Belief that workers' compensation benefits should be uniform for all workers, and special benefits should not be established for segments of the county workforce; and as an alternative, that short-term mental health benefits should be made available to first responders under specific circumstances.*

*Support for modifications to the retiree earnings cap for public retirees returning to work with a participating Employees' Retirement System entity.*

## **Economic Development and the Alabama Trust Fund**

*Opposition to the withdrawal or diversion of money currently earmarked for Alabama Trust Fund.*

*Opposition to any economic development legislation or programs that mandate the expenditure of county revenues or abatement of county taxes without the consent of the county commission.*

*Opposition to changes in existing law that would alter or amend current restrictions on a county commission's ability to grant a thing of value to an individual or corporation.*

*Support efforts of the Alabama Legislature to evaluate existing incentive programs to ensure they are cost effective and beneficial to local economies.*

*Support for incentives and reforms that will enhance the delivery of healthcare services to underserved communities.*

*Support efforts of the Alabama Legislature to evaluate existing incentive programs to ensure they are cost effective and beneficial to local economies.*

*Support for incentives and reforms that will enhance the delivery of healthcare services to underserved communities.*

## **Election Administration**

*Encourage the Alabama Legislature to reject changes to any election laws without the Legislature closely reviewing, considering and debating the financial and administrative impact on county government.*

*Opposition to closed primary and runoff elections in the state of Alabama.*

*Opposition to any changes in Alabama law that require the county officials and individuals involved in county-operated and -funded elections to deny registered voters their constitutional right to vote on Election Day.*

*Opposition to eliminating a runoff election except in the most extreme circumstances where the outcome of the primary is inevitable.*

# ALABAMA COUNTY PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

## **Election Administration (Continued)**

*Support for any legislative or administrative efforts aimed at eliminating waste and reducing state and county election expenses provided such efforts maintain the integrity of the election process.*

*Opposition to any legislation requiring county governments or county personnel to provide services or assume responsibility for any portion of municipal elections.*

*Support for legislative changes that will increase voter participation while ensuring fair and honest elections.*

*Encourage the State of Alabama to provide funding for the replacement of handicap-accessible voting equipment in use at the county level.*

*Belief that if the State of Alabama establishes an early voting process, all costs should be paid by the State of Alabama. Belief that individuals designated by the State of Alabama to administer a county's voter registration process should both possess the professional qualifications necessary to fulfill the duties of their position and be representative of the demographic diversity of the county's residents.*

*Belief that Alabama law should clearly provide that the county commission is not responsible for the conduct of the Board of Registrars.*

## **Alabama's Prisons and County Jails**

*Opposition to requiring mandatory training for sheriffs, sheriffs' deputies, or other county employees without county commission approval.*

*Opposition to any prison reform implementation activities that significantly increase costs of or create unsafe conditions in the county jail.*

*Opposition to any sentencing reform legislation or State-level decisions resulting in the diversion of inmates, probationers or parolees into Alabama's county jails without full reimbursement of all costs resulting from such diversion.*

*Support for the Alabama Legislature to fully fund the reforms of 2015 by providing counties with the necessary revenue to address the unfunded mandates resulting from the 2015 Alabama Prison Reform Act.*

*Opposition to pleading down individuals charged with a Class D Felony to a misdemeanor status for the purposes of those convicted persons serving time in county jails rather than a state prison.*

*Support for providing that non-indigents serving sentences in the county jail be required to pay a portion of the cost of incarceration, including medical expenses.*

# ALABAMA COUNTY PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

## **Alabama's Prisons and County Jails (Continued)**

*Opposition to any requirement that county government pay for the use of state inmate labor.*

*Opposition to imposing mandated and unfunded jail standards or other procedures.*

*Opposition to legislative or administrative efforts to put reserve deputies in regular law enforcement positions.*

*Opposition to amending Alabama's work release law to allow wages paid to the county to be expended for purposes other than the costs of the individual inmate's incarceration.*

*Support for comprehensive legislation to clarify and/or implement procedures for county inmates working outside of the jail through either work release or other programs.*

## **Justice and Public Safety**

*Opposition to any juvenile justice reform efforts that would result in increased cost or administrative responsibility on a county without the county commissions consent.*

*Support for legislative or administrative procedures to reduce or eliminate county costs for transportation of individuals with mental health issues.*

*Opposition to prohibiting state law enforcement officers from conducting investigations or providing other services on county roads.*

*Support for protecting the county commission against the payment of any costs or penalties issued as a result of any local elected official's defying a validly-issued court order.*

*Opposition to repealing the courthouse annex exemption from those locations where individuals are authorized to carry a firearm.*

*Belief that the statewide 911 Board should conduct only those activities delegated by the Legislature.*

*Belief that 911 services are best provided through locally operated and administered boards without statewide coordination and encouraging the statewide 911 Board to seek meaningful input from existing 911 district boards and personnel in developing any proposed reforms or initiatives.*

*Support for restoring state EMA revenues in the state general fund budget to ensure both state and county EMA programs receive proper funding.*



# ALABAMA COUNTY PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

## **Justice and Public Safety (Continued)**

*Support for the State of Alabama's continued complete funding of an Emergency Notification System for use by every Alabama local government to warn and update citizens during times of crisis and disaster.*

*Support ensuring the State has sufficient resources to assist county governments with the protection of the public's health and safety in the event of an environmental emergency.*

*Support for legislative and administrative efforts to implement state-funded video conferencing for certain court appearances and to expand the use of video court proceedings in the state.*

*Support for the Sheriff serving as the Guardian of Last Resort unless a viable alternative mechanism is enacted.*

*Support for legislation imposing an express duty to require service providers to collect and remit the monthly statewide 911 fee from all of their applicable customers, and further authorize the statewide 911 Board to take audit and collection actions, as necessary, to enforce such collections.*

*Support for reviewing the distribution formula for the monthly statewide 911 fees to ensure the equitable distribution of funds for 911 operations in Alabama.*

*Support for a more streamlined county-to-county mutual aid process that is developed by counties, for counties.*

*Support for improving and expanding spay-neuter services throughout the state, provided there is no requirement that counties fund such services.*

*Support for authorizing Emergency Management Agency vehicles to utilize emergency lights and sirens in accordance with emergency vehicle standards.*

## **Environment, Land Use and Public Works**

*Support for limiting the exercise of municipal powers or taxation outside the jurisdiction's corporate limits.*

*Opposition to municipalities using local law for the annexation of property noncontiguous with the municipality, except for purposes involving significant economic development initiatives.*

*Belief that any alterations to existing subdivision regulations should come only after comprehensive input from county government.*

*Support for amending the family exception to subdivision regulation to better protect health and safety.*

# ALABAMA COUNTY PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

## **Environment, Land Use, and Public Works (Continued)**

*Opposition to any statutory or administrative increase in fees charged by a state agency if such increases will be paid by county government or county-established agencies.*

*Support for sufficient funding and administrative expertise for flood plain management and geospatial services at the state level to ensure more effective implementation by all counties.*

*Opposition to municipalities using unconventional annexation procedures to avoid the legal responsibility to maintain public roads included in newly-annexed areas.*

*Support for increasing the minimum cost of a construction project amount which requires the county to employ the services of a licensed general contractor or architect.*

*Opposition to allowing a project manager to approve construction contract changes without approval of the governing body and/or compliance with the public works law.*

*Support for requiring the Forever Wild Board to make annual payments from its Stewardship Account in an amount equal to the ad valorem taxes lost by the purchase of lands previously held by private ownership.*

*Support for amendments to the existing Alabama Memorial Preservation Act to allow county government to directly control the circumstances under which historical monuments may be removed from county property.*

*Opposition to counties assuming responsibility for any legal, financial or operational liabilities resulting from an entity's public utility-locating error or failure.*

*Opposition to any changes in Alabama law that would shift existing civil liabilities for contractors to local governments.*

*Support for efforts to provide funding to counties to expand access to clean water and wastewater services.*

# ALABAMA COUNTY PUBLIC POLICY POSITIONS

## Rural Transportation

*Support for allowing the county commission to call a local referendum to impose a renewable temporary local gasoline and motor fuel tax to fund specified local road and bridge projects.*

*Opposition to any measures, including budget appropriations, which would divert taxes currently earmarked for roads and bridges to other state functions.*

*Opposition to altering the allocation formula for any gasoline and diesel fuel tax levy proceeds, if such changes would disproportionately benefit funding for municipal projects at the expense of funding for county roads and bridges.*

*Opposition to weakening Alabama's law related to weight or axle-spacing restrictions on state and county roads or to add new exemptions to such laws.*

*Support for providing that fines collected from persons convicted of driving overweight vehicles on county roads and bridges be adjusted to today's dollars and be distributed to the county's road and bridge fund.*

*Support for authorizing the Alabama Department of Revenue to audit the weight of log trucks being unloaded at Alabama mills and to fine the mill for the loads exceeding Alabama's weight restrictions.*

*Opposition to establishing a commission to administer the Alabama Department of Transportation.*

*Opposition to any changes to current law setting speed limits on unposted county roads.*

*Support for amending the Alabama Public Works Law to exempt the awarding of annual in-place contracts for the paving and resurfacing of county roads.*