

2010 Newly Elected Commissioners Conference

# Finance - So Many Rules

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## **Cycle – Which Comes First?**



- Purchasing
- Budgeting
- Accounting
- Treasury Management
- Revenue Administration
- Auditing

Leadership starts here

# Auditing

### External Auditors

- Determine how selected
- Evaluate credentials, service and pricing
  - RFP if needed is at <u>www.audits.ga.gov/NALGAD/resource.html</u>
  - CPA License verification at <u>https://secure.sos.state.ga.us/myverification/</u>
- Meet state law requirements to reach Department of Audits and Accounts OCGA 36-81-7
  - Due 180 days from end of fiscal year
  - www.audits.ga.gov



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# Auditing

#### Understand Terminology

- CPA \_\_\_\_\_
- AICPA \_\_\_\_\_
- DOA -
- GASB -
- GGAAP -
- GAGAS \_
- FUND and FUND BALANCE

- Take Finance II ACCG/CVIOG Class

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# **How Much is Enough?**

- Maintain at least one month of expenditures (1/12) in fund balance per fund
- Maintain more if capital project reserves are not sufficient
- Maintain more if heavily dependent on revenue stream with a one-time revenue cycle



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# Budgeting

### **Define Operating & Capital**

- Operating is 12 month cycle for recurring
- Capital is project length cycle for expensive longer lasting items
  - SPLOST is ONE funding source for capital

### Review OCGA 36-81-3







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# Budgeting

#### **Phases of Budget Cycle Development**

- Budget Discussions and Issues
  - Revenue Estimates
  - Budgetary Assumptions
  - Compensation and Benefits
- Departmental Budget Requests
- Management Review/Recommendation
- Governing Authority Review/Decisions
- Budget Adoption
  - Ordinance or Resolution
  - State Law Must for Governmental/Tax Supported Funds
  - Recommended Highly for Proprietary Funds/Utilities

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# Policy

### Locate and Review Policy

- State Law
- Codes and Ordinances
- Budget Documents
- Administrative Handbooks
- Memos and Emails
- Human Resource Policy and Procedure Manuals

I skate to where the puck is going to be.

Leadership starts here

## **Financial Legacy**

#### **Make Your Choice Early**

- Better Off
  - Cash in bank/adequate reserves
  - Improved capital infrastructure
  - Responsible debt
  - Sustainable revenues
  - Realistic commitments
  - Multi-year forecasting/planning
- Worse Off
  - Operational borrowing
  - Irresponsible capital debt
  - Deteriorating infrastructure
  - Reactionary spending



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