Perry

Where Georgia comes together.

Legislative Platform 2027

The City of Perry's Legislative Platform serves as a reference guide for State-level legislative positions and objectives that are potentially of consequence to the City. This document should help to inform Mayor and Council and staff locally while providing general input on matters related to local government at the State and with our local delegation. Generally, these items will support and coincide with the Georgia Municipal Association's (GMA) position on pertinent items.

The State of Georgia is a Home Rule State and should remain as such. The City of Perry favors the preservation and protection of the City's powers, duties, and prerogatives to develop and implement local legislation and policies concerning local affairs. Conversely, the City will stand against any policies or legislation at the State level that preempts local authority and promotes the usurpation of control that is rightly with local citizens and authorities to govern their communities as they best see fit.

Local Government Revenues and Property Taxes

Local communities and leaders should always be able to create, implement, adjust, control etc. any and all necessary revenue streams to provide for their respective communities. In particular, property taxes, long the stalwart and most stable source of funding for local government services, are the sole domain of local authorities, primarily cities and counties, here in Georgia and must remain as such. Further, creative, equitable solutions to growing funding challenges at the local level, such as service fees or assessments, should be expressly allowed through State law.

State/GEMA Emergency Response Equity

The State of Georgia needs to provide equitable levels of support and response to communities throughout the State when needed for emergency responses. Resources geared towards emergency preparation and response should not disproportionately benefit the metro Atlanta area.

Expansion of Sovereign Immunity

In the increasingly egregious litigious environment local governments must operate, cities should be afforded the same level of sovereign immunity as counties. Cities and counties cannot continue to absorb the legal costs and resource costs associated with nuisance or abusive litigation.

Development and Permitting

Local governments should have total control over what is developed in their respective communities, how it is developed, and the process that must be followed in order to provide for development.

Open Records Relief

All cities and counties understand the need for transparency in local government and are constantly working to ensure that open records requests are handled in a timely manner and in accordance with the law. However, given the overt commercialization ("commercial farming of local governments") of open records in the State of Georgia, and the rapid rise of artificial intelligence, local jurisdictions are spending an inordinate amount of time and public resources on constant and voluminous open records requests.