



## Athens- Clarke County Citizens Government Academy

~ March 27-May 22, 2019 ~

The Athens-Clarke County Citizens Government Academy is a nine week program designed to offer residents the opportunity to learn how their local government works and how they can become more involved.

Participants will learn about the relationships between the citizens, Mayor & Commission, and local government departments. They will also learn how and why projects are implemented and the manner in which services are provided, as well as how they coincide with the Mayor and Commissions Goals, Objectives, and strategic commitments.

Participants will receive an overview of the budget process, public safety departments, environmental stewardship, and many other responsibilities and functions of the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government. Each class will be conducted by department representatives and will provide both an informational and interactive learning approach.

# Citizens Government Academy

Join the Mayor, Manager, and staff for a learning and networking opportunity. The Athens-Clarke County Unified Government (ACCGOV) is offering a weekly class for residents to learn about local government through first-hand exposure to the wide range of government functions, services, activities, and issues. The Citizens Government Academy will take place each Wednesday evening from March 27, 2019 through May 22, 2019 from 5:30-8:00 p.m.

**Graduation date to be determined.**

## **Goal:**

Give citizens an opportunity to learn how to access their government, familiarize citizens with government services, functions and activities of Athens-Clarke County. Additionally, the Citizens Government Academy will help residents gain a better understanding about how to become involved in local government and enhance their ability to communicate effectively with local government officials.

The program is structured around ACCGOV's six strategic commitments:

- **Informed and Engaged Community**
- **Accountable and Responsive Government**
- **Economic Prosperity**
- **Healthy, Livable and Sustainable Athens-Clarke County**
- **Transportation, Mobility, and Connectivity**
- **Safe and Prepared Community**

## **Benefits:**

- Provide an opportunity for residents to learn about the Athens-Clarke County government through first-hand experience and gain exposure to the wide range of government functions, services, activities, and issues.
- Create informed residents who may wish to become involved in community activities, and volunteer for Commission-appointed boards, boards, commissions, and task forces.
- Obtain feedback from citizens regarding governmental programs and services.

## **Academy Size:**

The academy is limited to 25 students. The Citizens Government Academy is open to Athens-Clarke County residents over the age of 18 yearsold.

**Meeting Day & Time:** Wednesday nights, March 27 to May 22, for nine weeks from 5:30-8:00 p.m. at various locations throughout Athens-Clarke County.

## **Informed and Engaged Community**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019**

**Athens-Clarke County Government History  
& Organization  
Commission Chamber, City Hall- 301 College  
Avenue, Athens, GA 30601**

- Meet the Mayor and Elected Officials
- Meet the Manager of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County
- Purpose of Citizens Government Academy
- Brief History of Athens-Clarke County & Unification
- Role of the Mayor & Commission
- Role of the Manager
- Form of Government
- Organizational Overview

## **Accountable and Responsive Govt.**

**Wednesday, April 3, 2019**

**Show Me The Money: Finance Department  
Satula Avenue Building Training Room  
375 Satula Avenue, Athens, GA 30601**

- Overview of the Budget Process
- Overview of the ACCGOV Operating and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budgets
- Revenue Base

## **Economic Prosperity**

**Wednesday, April 10, 2019**

**More Than Just Jobs: Economic  
Development  
Chamber of Commerce Board Room  
246 W. Hancock, Athens, GA 30601**

- Overview of Economic Development
- Economic Development Exercise
- Business Retention/Expansion

## **Healthy, Livable, and Sustainable Athens-Clarke County**

**Wednesday, April 17, 2019**

**We Make Trash & Recycling Fun: Solid  
Waste  
Solid Waste Department  
725 Hancock Industrial Way, Athens, GA  
30605**

- Introduction to Solid Waste Operations
- Understanding the Landfill
- Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful
- Tour of Materials Recovery Facility

**Wednesday, April 24, 2019**

**A Playful City: Leisure Services  
Memorial Park  
293 Gran Ellen Drive, Athens, GA 30606**

- Overview of Leisure Services
- Service Offerings
- History and Importance of Bear Hollow Zoo
- Intro to Athens Creative Theater

**Wednesday, May 1, 2019**

**Water Is Life: Public Utilities  
Middle Oconee Water Reclamation Facility  
400 Will Hunter Road, Athens, GA 30606**

- The Business of Municipal Water Works
- Tour Water Reclamation Facility

## **Transportation Mobility and Connectivity**

**Wednesday, May 8, 2019**

**Follow the Yellow Brick Road:**

**Transportation and Public Works**

**Planning Auditorium**

**120 W. Dougherty Street, Athens, GA 30601**

- Roadways, Bikeways, and Walkways
- Traffic Control and Guidance Systems
- Public Stormwater Collection and Conveyance Systems

## **Safe and Prepared Community**

**Wednesday, May 15, 2019**

**More Than Handcuffs: Police**

**Police Department Headquarters**

**3035 Lexington Road, Athens, GA 30605**

- Overview of Police Department
- Community Oriented Policing
- Police Simulation

**Wednesday, May 22, 2019**

**It's Hot In Here: Fire & Emergency Services**

**Fire Department Training Center**

**155 Paradise Blvd, Athens, GA 30607**

- Introduction to the Fire Department
- Training Exercise and Demonstration
- Overview of the Emergency Management Office

**Citizens' Government Academy Application**  
**Deadline: Friday, March 8, 2019**  
**or once 25 participants have been selected**  
**Application also available online at [accgov.com/cga](http://accgov.com/cga)**

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Over the age of 18
- Reside within Athens-Clarke County.

**For more information, call 706-613-3020. If you do not receive a confirmation email after submitting your application, please call or email Jestin Johnson at [jestin.johnson@accgov.com](mailto:jestin.johnson@accgov.com).**

**General Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
                    (Last)                                    (First)                                    (Middle Initial)

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address (If Applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Optional Information**

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact Information**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return application to:**

**Mailed:**  
**P.O. Box 1868**  
**301 College Avenue, Athens, GA 30603**

**Email: [jestin.johnson@accgov.com](mailto:jestin.johnson@accgov.com)**

**Hand Delivered:**  
**City Hall, 301 College Avenue, Suite 301, Athens, GA**

**Why are you interested in participating in the Citizens Government Academy?**

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**What do you hope to gain or learn from participating in Citizens Government Academy?**

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**Are you currently involved with any community or volunteer organizations? If so, please list.**

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I, the undersigned applicant, certify that the foregoing information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Athens-Clarke County 101: Citizens Government Academy**  
**RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being 18 years of age or older, in consideration of my participation in Athens-Clarke County 101: Citizens' Government Academy conducted by the Athens-Clarke County Unified Government (ACCGOV) and my being allowed to accompany members of ACCGOV in its buildings and properties during the various activities with Athens-Clarke County 101, do hereby agree as follows:

a) That I release ACCGOV, its departments, and its agents and employees from any liability to myself and my heirs as a result of any damage to my property, injury to myself, or loss of my life sustained as a result of my participation or my accompanying said persons or properties on the above activities.

b) That I agree to hold ACCGOV, its departments, and its agents and employees harmless for any loss sustained by them as a result of any injury or damage caused by myself and I agree to indemnify ACCGOV, and its agents or employees for any loss occurred thereby.

c) That I grant permission to ACCGOV, its departments, and its agents and employees to use my image, photograph or video in official ACCGOV publications, communications, and presentations, including, but not limited to, inclusion on the ACCGOV website and social media. I also understand that once my image is posted online, any computer user can download or capture the images.

Signed on the \_\_\_ day of \_ \_\_\_\_\_ 2019\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_