W. Brant Aden

CITIZEN DISTRICT 10 (Portions of DeKalb/Gwinnett)

W. Brant Aden, PE, LEED GA is a Founding Partner and Chief Executive Officer of Foresite Group, Inc., a firm focused on civil engineering, landscape architecture, structural engineering, telecommunications, transportation and other consulting services. Since 2003, Brant has provided development support services to public and private clients throughout the Southeast, with an emphasis on Land Development, Parks & Greenspace, and Transportation projects. He maintains 12 Professional Engineering (P.E.) licenses across the U.S. and is a LEED Green Associate through the U.S. Green Building Council.

In his role as CEO, Brant is involved in all aspects of management for Foresite Group. He serves as a communicator, decision maker, leader, manager and executor to the firm while specifically focusing on sales, marketing, human resources and organization structure.

Through his constructive leadership and tenacious approach to business strategy, Brant has helped Foresite Group grow by over 65% in the past two years. This growth includes two new office branch locations, an increase in Practice Areas, an increase in number of staff, and a national CE News Best Firm to Work Award in 2012 and past placements on the Zweig-White Hot Firms List.

Brant has over 15 years of experience in project management and civil engineering design. He is a native Floridian, and graduated from the University of Florida with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and then moved on to earn a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Georgia. He is a current member of the award-winning Leadership Gwinnett program, where he coordinates with other community leaders and professionals to drive positive change for Gwinnett County. Brant has participated with the Redevelopment Task Force for Gwinnett County, the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce, the City of Norcross Imagination Committee, and is a former Board Member of the City of Norcross Downtown Development Authority. He is also an active member of the Council for Quality Growth, International Council for Shopping Centers, and Institute of Transportation Engineers. In 2009, Brant received the Gwinnett County Pinnacle Small Business Owner Award for his local involvement. Brant has maintained tremendous commitment in the communities where he lives and works.

Mr. Aden joined the Board of the Atlanta Regional Commission in September 2013.

Chairman L. Buzz Ahrens

CHEROKEE COUNTY

L.B. Ahrens, Jr. was elected and began his term on the Cherokee County Board of Commissioners January 1, 2007. Chairman Ahrens sits on several community boards/organizations in the county, as well as metro Atlanta including: Cherokee County Water & Sewer Authority (Vice Chair), Cherokee County Board of Health, Metro Atlanta Arts and Culture Coalition, Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG).

Prior to his election, Mr. Ahrens was an executive with an extensive background in the global marketplace providing management leadership, brand-building, and strategic direction within the consumer products industry. This included start-ups and large operating companies. During his 30-year career, he and his family lived in Brazil, Hong Kong, and Europe for 15 years. Mr. Ahrens worked for such well-known organizations as:

- Senior Vice President International and corporate officer reporting to the Chairman and CEO of Rubbermaid, Inc., Wooster, Ohio. Global Volume base grew 70%. Mr. Ahrens retired in April 1999 following the merger with Newell Company. Well-known brands include: Rubbermaid, Little Tikes, Graco, and Century.

Chairman Ahrens attended Yale University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1965, is a graduate of the Thunderbird Graduate School of International Management, and The George Washington University in Washington, DC, earning his Masters of Business Administration in International Business.

Chairman Ahrens also served as an officer in the United States Navy, and was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal.

He has been married to Joan for 45 years. They have four children and four grandchildren.

The Chairman lives on a small horse farm and is active in tennis, horseback riding, and golf. He played lacrosse for 37 years and rugby for 15 years, including as a member of the Brazilian National team.

He has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2007.

W. Kerry Armstrong

CITIZEN DISTRICT 9 (Portion of Gwinnett)

As a Senior Vice President with Pope & Land Enterprise, Kerry is involved in the development, marketing, leasing, and management of commercial real estate. His current primary focus is 3630 Peachtree, a new 435,000-square foot, mixed-use tower in Buckhead. He joined the Company in 2012. Previously he was a Senior Vice President with Duke Realty Corporation.

Kerry holds a bachelor's degree from Purdue University.

Kerry is a member of several key organizations in the commercial real estate industry, including the National Association of Industrial and Office Properties (NAIOP), the Atlanta Commercial Board of Realtors, CoreNet, and the Urban Land Institute.

Kerry also is actively involved in numerous civic, educational, and charitable organizations. He has been on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2008, serving on its Environment and Land Use and Executive Committees. He is Co-Chair of the Atlanta Regional Workforce Board. He is the Chairman of the North Fulton Community Improvement District, serves as Director and Past Chair of the Council for Quality Growth. He is a Director and Past Chair of the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce and is a Director for the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce. Kerry also serves on the board of the Gwinnett Medical Center Foundation, and is a Trustee of the Georgia Gwinnett College Foundation.

Julie Keeton Arnold

CITIZEN DISTRICT 12 (Portions of DeKalb/Gwinnett)

Julie is presently the President of Keeton-Arnold Communications, a position she has held since 2005. Previously she served as Vice President of Technology Park/Atlanta, Inc from 1983 to 2004. There she was responsible for general corporate relationship building and internal and external corporate communications at both Technology Park/Atlanta and Johns Creek. Combined these included 351 companies, 2500 acres of development and nearly 9.2 million square feet of building space. Prior to her work in the Atlanta area she was an Elementary teacher in Peoria, Illinois and Jackson, Mississippi.

Julie has an extensive history of civic and community service. She currently serves on the Board of the Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Atlanta and the Community Foundation of Northeast Georgia. Julie has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission Board since 1997. She currently chairs the Communications and Public Involvement Committee.

Julie was previously involved in supporting a number of other organizations including service on the Georgia State Board of Education, the United Way of Metro Atlanta Board, the Georgia Coalition for Science, Technology and Mathematics Education, the Nicholas House, the United Way of Gwinnett, the Girls Club of Gwinnett, ProActive DeKalb and the Dunwoody Methodist Church Administrative Board. Julie is a graduate of Leadership Atlanta, the Regional Leadership Institute and Leadership Gwinnett.

Julie received a BS Degree from Bradley University.
Kip Berry

CITIZEN DISTRICT 5 (Portions of Cobb/Douglas/Fulton/Atlanta)

Kip Berry has been a partner in Benchmark Homes, Inc and a broker with Benchmark Realty since 1972. The Benchmark team of developers, builders and sales representatives is made up of hands-on professionals who work closely with customers to integrate and simplify the home buying process and to deliver a product and lifestyle that lead to strong customer satisfaction. Benchmark Homes serves Carroll, Douglas, Cobb and South Fulton counties. Prior to that he was a 1st Lieutenant in the US Army- Artillery.

A resident of Douglas County since 1972, Kip is involved in many civic and professionals organizations including the local and national homebuilders associations, the local and national board of realtors. He has previously served on the Douglas County Boys and Girls Club Board of Directors, Douglas County Habitat for Humanity, Douglas County United Way Board of Directors, he is the Past Chairman of the Douglas County Chamber (2003). Kip is a graduate of Leadership Douglas and the Regional Leadership Institute. He is currently on the Northwest Habitat for Humanity Board of Directors, the Douglasville Development Authority, the Douglasville Historical Preservation Commission and has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2002.

Kip is a member of First United Methodist Church of Douglasville where he has served as Trustee Chairman and President of his Sunday School Class. He has been married to Nancy Berry for 40 years and has one son Will Berry who is 24. Kip graduated from Villa Rica High School and received a BBA in Finance from the University of Georgia.

Mayor J. Clark Boddie

CITY OF PALMETTO/SOUTH FULTON COUNTY

J. Clark Boddie was first elected Mayor of Palmetto, Georgia in 1986, a position he held for 21 years. Mayor Boddie was the former Chief of Police in Palmetto from 1977 till 1985.

Boddie retired as Chief Deputy Marshal in 2007 from Fulton County, Georgia, with 34 years in law enforcement. After four years of retirement, Boddie ran for and was elected Mayor of Palmetto for an eighth term, taking office January 3, 2012.

Mayor Boddie is an active member of the Georgia Municipal Association, serving as a past District President and also past Chairman of the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. Mayor Boddie also served as Chairman of the Georgia Municipal Association’s Mayor’s Motorcade to the Georgia Regional Hospital for 15 years and considered it the highlight of the Christmas Holiday as donations of money and gifts were delivered to the hospital each year in December.

Mayor Boddie served as a member of the Atlanta Regional Commission for 16 years, first being elected by fellow South Fulton Mayors in 1990. During that time Mayor Boddie served two terms as Vice-Chairman of the ARC Board, also Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee, and Chairman of Workforce Development and Aging Services. Mayor Boddie also enjoyed many years of participating in the Annual Mayor’s Walk sponsored by ARC. Mayor Boddie returned to the Atlanta Regional Commission in 2012.

Mayor Boddie served on the Governor’s “911 Advisory Board”, first appointed by Governor Zell Miller and then by Governor Roy Barnes. Mayor Boddie now serves on the Area 7 “All Hazard Advisory Council” dealing with regional response and recovery strategies, facilitating mutual aid and advising the state on potential projects for grant funding. Mayor Boddie serves as a board member on the Fulton County Public Safety Training Academy and also is past Chairman of the South Fulton Municipal Regional Jail Authority.

Mayor Boddie is a past President of the South Fulton Municipal Association and South Fulton Senior Services. Mayor Boddie is one of seven members that represent the South Fulton Municipal Regional Water and Sewer Authority established by legislation in 2000. He serves as Vice-Chairman. Mayor Boddie also serves on the Executive Committee of the Metro Atlanta Mayors Association.

Mayor Boddie has received numerous awards including the Community Service Award by the Fulton County Office of Aging, the Community Leadership Award by the Georgia Municipal Association and the Liberty Bell Award from the South Fulton Bar
Mayor Mike Bodker

CITY OF JOHNS CREEK/NORTH FULTON COUNTY

Johns Creek Mayor Mike Bodker was elected Mayor in 2008, but his service to the North Fulton community began when he and his wife Aileen moved to the area in 1998 and became involved in community affairs, first as President of his Homeowners Association, The Communities of Wellington, and later as a Board Member of the Johns Creek Community Association (JCCA).

He served as Treasurer, Co-Zoning Chair and Government Liaison for the JCCA. In 2005, he was nominated by Fulton County Commissioner Lynne Riley to serve on the County’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Better Governance. In 2006 he was formally recognized by the JCCA as Citizen of the Year for his dedication to public service.

Through his work with the JCCA, he was appointed Chair of the Northeast Fulton Study Committee (NEFSCO), working closely with State Representative and Speaker Pro Tempore Mark Burkhalter for the passage of HB 1321, which called for a voter referendum on the formation of City of Johns Creek. Following its successful passage, Bodker and his fellow NEFSCO board members formed the Committee for Johns Creek (CJC).

As Chairman of the Committee for Johns Creek, Bodker spearheaded the committee’s efforts to educate citizens on the advantages of cityhood and on July 18, 2006, voters responded with the overwhelming passage of the referendum calling for the incorporation of the City of Johns Creek. In the spring of 2008, the Atlanta Journal Constitution named Mayor Bodker one of its annual “Heroes of Open Government,” one of eight recipients overall and one of only two elected officials to be honored. Mayor Bodker is an active member of the Republican Party and serves on the board of the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce. He is also a founding board member of the Johns Creek Foundation.

He was instrumental in founding the North Fulton Municipal Association (NFMA) in 2007. The Association, formed by the Mayors of Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Roswell and Sandy Springs, elected Mayor Bodker as its first Chairman in June 2006. In 2008-09, the Metro Atlanta Mayors Association selected Mayor Bodker as its chairman and he was selected to serve a second term for 2009-10.

The Mayor also serves as on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Municipal Association and as GMA’s Chairman of the Revenue and Finance Policy Committee. He is an active member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and serves on its International Affairs and Metro Economies committees.

Mayor Bodker graduated from Lakeside High School. He earned a BBA in Accounting from the University of Georgia. He is currently a partner in Johns Creek-based nexDimension Technology Solutions.

Mayor Bodker and his wife Aileen enjoy the company of their two children, Jake and Keri, who attend public schools in Johns Creek.

Mayor Bodker has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2009.
Chairman Steve Brown

FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Steve Brown was elected to the Board of Commissioners in 2010 and is serving his first four-year term, which began on January 1, 2011 and will expire on December 31, 2014. He was elected from what is known as Post 4, even though County Commissioners in Fayette County are elected “at-large” by voters from throughout the entire County.

Mr. Brown is an Atlanta native. He holds a degree in journalism management from the Grady College of Journalism at the University of Georgia, and currently works as a freelance writer, in addition to his duties on the Board of Commissioners. After college, he managed several general and specialty dental facilities within a large corporate practice, mainly assigned to trouble shooting and establishing sound business systems within each unit to enhance profitability.

In 1997, Mr. Brown and his wife moved to Peachtree City where he soon became active in local politics and was appointed to the City’s first Ethics Board in 2001. He later held the elected office of Mayor of Peachtree City from 2002 to 2006. In 2005, under his leadership, CNN and Money Magazine recognized Peachtree City as one of the “Top Ten Best Places to Live” in the United States.

In an effort to promote state legislation to aid and protect Georgia’s cities and their citizens, he co-founded the Metropolitan Atlanta Mayors Association, a collaborative alliance comprised of the 67 cities in the greater Metro Atlanta area. He has also served as the Association’s Chairman. He has held numerous posts with Georgia Municipal Association and served on the Policy Cabinet of the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority.

Mr. Brown serves in several organizations, including Chairman of the Georgia Emergency Management Agency Citizen Corps Advisory Council, Secretary of the Fayette County Local Emergency Planning Committee, member of the Metro Atlanta United Way’s Disaster Preparedness and Recovery Advisory Committee, and President of the non-profit Peachtree City Dog Park Association. He also assists with several local charities through the community and his church. He has a special interest in Fayette’s public school system, serving as President of the School Council for J.C. Booth Middle School in 2009-2010 and PTO President for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Mr. Brown’s bold stands on regional government planning and transportation issues led to his recognition as one of “Georgia’s 40 Rising Stars Under Age 40” in business, government, education, academia, medicine, arts, nonprofit sectors and the judiciary, as selected by Georgia Trend Magazine. In 2005, Brown was given the “Local Champion” award from the Georgia Alliance for the Prevention of Tobacco for his leadership in creating the state’s smoke-free facilities model use to create the state statute. He was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Atlanta Chapter of the American Red Cross and is the recipient of the Alpha Kappa Alpha 2004 Political Action Award in recognition of his service to the minority community while Mayor.

Mr. Brown has been a featured speaker at conferences across the Southeastern United States on the subjects of transportation planning, land use planning, retail trends, stormwater planning and homeland security.
Dennis W. Burnette

CITIZEN DISTRICT 15 (Portions of Cherokee/Cobb)

Dennis Burnette is President and Chief Executive Officer of Cherokee Banking Company and Cherokee Bank. He is responsible for overall executive and strategic management of the holding company and the bank. He co-organized both in 1998 and has served in his current positions since their inception. He also is a member of both the holding company’s and the bank’s Board of Directors.

Prior to organizing Cherokee Bank, Mr. Burnette served for two years with Sanford Rose Associates, a bank consulting firm, as Managing Partner of the Atlanta office. Before that, he served for 20 years as president of Pickens County (Ga.) Bank, which he organized in 1976.

He also had a four-year tenure as a Senior Vice President with First National Bank of DeKalb County. And he began his career in 1967 in the management training program and as a banking officer with C&S National Bank.

Mr. Burnette has served in a number of banking industry leadership positions during his 40+ year career. He is past Chairman of the Board of the Georgia Bankers Association, was the American Bankers Association State Chairman for Georgia, and is a past Trustee of the Graduate School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University, where he was recognized during his service as a Most Outstanding Trustee of the school.

His local and regional board memberships include: the United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta; the Cherokee County Historical Society; the Canton Rotary Charitable Fund, Inc.; and the Canton Development Authority.

Dennis has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2008.

Mr. Burnette earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of West Georgia. He completed graduate studies at the Graduate School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University.

Mayor R. Eric Clarkson

CITY OF CHAMBLEE, DEKALB COUNTY

Mayor Clarkson has always had a passion for public service. He has lived in the Chamblee area for over 15 years; serving three years on the volunteer Architectural Review Board and 4 years on the City Council before being elected Mayor. He has served on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Municipal Association as the President in the District 3 East Region as well as serving on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Planning Association. In 2004 Mr. Clarkson was named to Georgia Trend Magazine’s 40 under 40.

Graduating from Missouri State University in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing Research and a minor in Decision Analysis, Mayor Clarkson has over 20 years of marketing, sales and business management experience. He is a Georgia licensed real estate broker and the President of Neighbors Realty, a full service residential and mixed-use real estate brokerage firm.

Mayor Clarkson is married to wife Lynn Clarkson. They have three children; Jenah, Alex Rae, and Elijah.
Mayor Billy Copeland

CITY OF MCDONOUGH/HENRY COUNTY

Billy is a fifth generation Copeland in the City of McDonough, born in the same house as his father. He and his wife, Gloria, have a son, Bill, and a daughter, Allison, and five grandchildren. After graduating from McDonough High School, Billy received an LLB Degree from Atlanta Law School. He also graduated from Greenleaf Business College and attended night school at Georgia State University.

Billy was employed with Norfolk Southern Railway for 35 years. He was responsible for the handling of all property tax matters in six of the southeastern states.

Billy has served the City of McDonough for over 30 years as Mayor and as a City Councilmember. In this capacity, he also serves on the Board of Directors of the Henry County Chamber of Commerce, on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Municipal Association, as Vice Chairperson of the Metro-Atlanta Mayor’s Association, and as President of the South Region of the Georgia Municipal Association’s Third District. In his personal life, Billy is a deacon in McDonough First Baptist Church and an active member of the McDonough Lions Club. He and his wife, Gloria, are also a volunteer with Meals on Wheels.

Tread Davis

GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE

Tread Davis was a senior partner and is now senior counsel with the law firm of McKenna, Long & Aldridge. His practice includes advising independent directors of public companies, private business owners, non-profit corporations, and First Amendment advice and litigation. Tread has served in various private and public capacities including as a line officer in the U.S. Navy, as President Carter’s general counsel for reorganization and regulatory reform, as chairman of the board of Research Atlanta, of the Westminster Schools, of the Metropolitan Atlanta Crime Commission, President of the Rotary Club of Atlanta, and Senior Warden of his church.

He chaired the last comprehensive federal study of its law enforcement and investigative agencies, and was an adjunct professor at Georgia, Georgia State, and Emory Law Schools. He is a life member of the American Law Institute and of the American Bar Foundation, and serves or served as a trustee or board member of the National Institute of Justice, The Georgia First Amendment Foundation, Virginia Seminary, the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce, the Atlanta Charter Commission, and on several business boards of directors. He is an arbitrator on the national roster of the American Arbitration Association.

Tread has been the DCA representative on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 1999.

Tread is a native of Atlanta who started his education in the Atlanta Public Schools and holds degrees from Princeton University, George Washington Law School, and Harvard Law School. Tread is married to Winifred and they have three sons and six grandchildren. He enjoys hiking, mountain climbing, running, basketball, tennis, and, generally, any excuse to be outside.
Mayor Eric Dial

CITY OF TYRONE/FAYETTE COUNTY

Eric Dial is President of Dial Strategic Consulting, a non-profit consulting and government affairs firm located in Tyrone. With his non-profit clients, Eric works in the areas of development and organizational management. In his governmental affairs work, he has played a key role in various successful legislative efforts including civil justice reform and property rights. Prior to forming Dial Strategic Consulting, Eric worked in the office of U.S. Rep. Mac Collins (R-GA), where he spent over 3 years in the Washington, D.C. and Georgia offices.

Eric is a 1999 graduate of the Senator Paul Coverdell Leadership Institute. In 2007, he was elected to the Tyrone Town Council and in 2011 he was elected Mayor. He serves on several boards in his community including the Board of Elders at his church, the Operation Mobilization SportsLink Advisory Council, and the School Councils for both Tyrone Elementary and Flat Rock Middle. He received a B.A. in Political Science from Georgia State University. Eric has lived in Fayette County for 25 years including 11 in Tyrone. Eric and his wife, Cheryl, live in Tyrone with their three sons, Connor, Lawson, and Langdon.

Chairman John H. Eaves, PhD.

FULTON COUNTY

John Eaves was first elected to the Fulton County Commission in 2007. He serves as chair of the seven member commission, charged with governing the largest county in Georgia. As Chairman, Eaves has championed and provided leadership in many critical areas including: his leadership of the Budget Commission which has held the line on property taxes, created a more efficient operation through the elimination of waste and at the same time maintained jobs. He has consistently supported additional funding for MARTA and provided leadership to the “One Fulton” Initiative.

Prior to becoming Chairman, Eaves served as Senior Program Officer of the Southern Education Foundation. For seven years Eaves led the Atlanta Regional Office of the Peace Corps. His commitment to the community is evidenced by his extensive history of volunteer work. He has been a program coordinator and big brother for Volunteers for Youth, volunteered in local political campaigns and served as a coach tutor and counselor for Upward Bound at Clark Atlanta University.

Professionally, John Eaves is an Assistant Professor of Education and Director of the Higher Education Program at Argosy University. Chairman Eaves graduated from Morehouse College with a major in Mathematics. He has a master’s degree in Religion from Yale University and a doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of South Carolina.

A devoted father of three children, Chairman Eaves is married to Cheryl Regina Eaves.

Chairman Eaves has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2007.

Vacant

CITIZEN DISTRICT 1 (PORTIONS OF DEKALB/HENRY)
Rob Garcia

CITIZEN DISTRICT 13 (Portion of Cobb)

Mr. Garcia has twenty-six years of commercial banking experience with a concentration in commercial real estate and commercial and industrial lending. In 2010, he was charged with leading a team of Commercial Real Estate bankers in growing and managing the division’s extensive commercial real estate portfolio. Previously, he served as Regional Community Executive with responsibility for growing deposits and loans in the Cobb and Buckhead region and overseeing the operations of the six branches. He joined BNG in 2006 as a result of the merger with Riverside Bank where he served as Executive Vice President and Senior Lending Officer. In January of 2011, Mr. Garcia accepted the position of President and Chief Operating Officer of Bank of North Georgia, a division of Synovus Bank.

Rob is a graduate of Auburn University and is very active in the local community. He is recently completed serving a second consecutive term as Chairman of the Cobb Chamber of Commerce. He is also a Board Member of the Atlanta Regional Commission, Cobb County Board of Elections, and Council for Quality Growth.

Mayor Donnie Henriques

CITY OF WOODSTOCK/CHEROKEE COUNTY

Donnie Henriques was born in New Orleans, LA, moved to Georgia in 1990 and Woodstock in 1993. Mr. Henriques was the first to serve as a City Council Member for Ward 6 upon its creation in 1999. He served as City Council Member from January 2000 through December 2003. Mayor Henriques was elected in 2005 to serve as Mayor. He was recently re-elected to serve a 2nd term through December 31, 2013. His first love is the senior citizen community. He’s been a vital part of the growth of the William G. Long Senior Center by offering his time, compassion and expertise. Mr. Henriques earned a BS Degree in HRT/Business Management; LSU New Orleans in 1979, and is a Vietnam Veteran, US Air Force, 1970-1974.

He and his wife, Dr. Jan Henriques have three children, Derek, Jeremy and Madeline. Donnie and Jan own and operate the Progressive Audiology Center, located on Towne Lake Parkway.

Michael Houchard

CITIZEN DISTRICT 6 (Portions of DeKalb/Gwinnett/Rockdale)

Mr. Houchard has resided in Conyers with his wife, Merry Carol, for 41 years. He received a BSBA Degree from University of Florida and MBA Degree from the University of Utah. Mike is a veteran from the Korean Conflict having served in the U.S. Navy. During his professional career, Mike spent seven years with AT&T as an Associate Director in a model labor management program with its two unions, CWA and IBEW. He later retired after 31 years with the U.S. Department of Labor, the last ten years as Regional Director.

Mr. Houchard has been and continues to be very active in this community volunteering his time and talents in a variety of ways. Over an extended period of time Mike has served on many county planning committees demonstrating his strong leadership abilities and vision under three different administrations.

Mike has been recognized as a valuable member of this community as the 1999 recipient of the Chamber of Commerce Volunteer Committee Chairperson of the Year and received the John P. Culpepper, Jr. Award. In early 2011, Mr. Houchard was awarded the 2010 Charlie P. Cole Citizen of the Year Award in Rockdale County for his contributions in volunteering his time, skills, talents, and vision to help move this community forward in a positive way.
Mayor Bucky Johnson  
CITY OF NORCROSS/GWINNETT COUNTY  
Bucky Johnson was elected the Mayor of Norcross in 2008 and re-elected in 2010. He is an Atlanta native and currently serves on the Gwinnett Tech Foundation Board, the Partnership Gwinnett Implementation Committee, the Gwinnett Artworks Board and is Co-Chair of the Isanbul Center Advisory Board. He is a graduate of the 2009 Class of Leadership Gwinnett and the 2009 Regional Leadership Institute. He serves as the President of the Gwinnett Municipal Association which represents 14 cities in the county. Bucky is a member of the Peachtree Corners Rotary.

He and his wife Janet founded and have owned Musical Endeavors, Inc. since 1983. Their company produces the Southern Star Music Festival each spring. In addition, they both are on the Music Ministry Team at Oak Grove United Methodist Church.

Prior to taking office in Norcross he was the Chair of the Music Department and Director of Bands at Georgia Tech, retiring in 2001. In addition, he was the Director of the Olympic Band from 1992-1996.

Mayor Johnson has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2010.

Chairman Tim Lee  
COBB COUNTY  
Tim Lee was elected Chairman of the Board of Commissioners in July 2010. He was first elected to office in November 2002 serving the residents of northeast Cobb as District three Commissioner until April 2010.

Lee was selected in May 2009 as one of 25 commissioners from across the nation to participate in the County Leadership Institute Program offered by the National Association of Counties and the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service in New York. He has completed advanced training offered by the University of Georgia and the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia. In order to obtain his Advance Certification, Lee completed courses ranging from financial management and government ethics to effective policy making. He also graduated from the Atlanta Regional Commission’s Regional Leadership Institute in 2004.

Chairman Lee is a graduate of the Chamber of Commerce’s 2004 Leadership Cobb Class and Honorary Commanders program. He serves on the board of the North Georgia State Fair and serves the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia as its appointment to the Advisory Board of the North Central Georgia Law Enforcement Academy. He has served on the board of MUST Ministries. He is past chairman and current board member of the Cobb Symphony Orchestra.

Prior to serving on the Board of Commissioners, Lee was vice president of the Northeast Cobb Homeowners Group and led the organization in 2000. He also served as a director of the East Cobb Civic Association, a board member of the Cobb Civic Coalition and was past president of his neighborhood homeowner’s association for 10 years. In 2002, Lee was appointed as the District 13 citizen member to the board of the Atlanta Regional Commission and served on the Environmental and Land Use Committee.

Lee has worked in advertising and marketing for more than 30 years and owns a marketing consulting firm, Summit View Marketing, Inc. He is a member of the Marietta Kiwanis Club and Marietta First United Methodist Church. Lee and his wife, Annette, have been married for 21 years with three children and five grandchildren.

Chairman Lee has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2010.
Tad Leithead (ARC Chairman)

CITIZEN DISTRICT 11 (Portions of Atlanta/Cobb/DeKalb/Fulton)

Prior to Mr. Leithead forming his own governmental relations and consulting firm, he was responsible for leading Cousins Properties development efforts as they relate to entitlement issues throughout the region, and served as liaison with the various governmental entities and community-based organizations. He has 26 years of experience in the Atlanta commercial real estate market and has leased some five million square feet of office space.

As a founding partner with Childress Klein Properties, Mr. Leithead was instrumental in the operation of the Atlanta Galleria, one of Atlanta’s premier mixed-use developments, and a key participant in the development of Cobb Galleria Centre – a 300,000 square-foot county owned convention center.

In 1998, he formed Urban One Associates, a development and transportation consulting firm, working with Midtown Alliance, Perimeter Center, Gwinnett County and others in the formation of several new Community Improvement Districts. He was a principal in the development of Ridenour, a 90-acre “Smart Growth” community in northwest Cobb County – which received the Atlanta Regional Commission’s “Development of Excellence” award in 1999.

Mr. Leithead was elected in December 2009 as Chairman of the Atlanta Regional Commission, a 39-member commission that steers the planning and development for the 10-county Atlanta region. He has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2000, and was Chair of its Transportation & Air Quality Committee from 2007-2009.

Mr. Leithead also serves as Chairman of the Cumberland Community Improvement District, a self-taxing group of commercial property owners that is directly responsible for almost $3 billion of transportation improvements in Cobb County. In 1994, he served as Chairman of the Cobb County Chamber of Commerce and also received the Lockheed Corporation Management Association’s “Manager of the Year” award. Additionally, he serves on the Boards of Directors of the Bank of North Georgia, the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Fulton County Perimeter Community Improvement District and the North Fulton Community Improvement District. He is past Chairman of the Board of The Walker School.

Mr. Leithead is a resident of Cobb County and graduated with a B.A. from Washington and Lee University.

Liane Levetan

CITIZEN DISTRICT 7 (Portions of DeKalb)

As the highest elected official of Georgia’s second largest county, Liane Levetan was responsible for the operation of a government that served over 600,000 citizens and managed a multi-million dollar budget. She was the 1st Woman “Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County,” receiving more than 67 percent of the vote for her first term of office (1993-1996) and 70 percent her second term (1997-2000). Prior to serving as CEO she was the first woman to serve on the DeKalb County commission, where she served for ten years. Ms. Levetan also served in the Georgia Senate.

A founder of the Georgia Forum – International Women’s Forum, she serves as a member and past treasurer of the IWF Leadership Foundation. Other current leadership roles include: Co-Founder of the DeKalb County Police Alliance, Co-Chair Senior Connections Capital Campaign and Founder of the organization’s Legacy Campaign. Ms. Levetan is a licensed real estate broker and is a consultant for several corporations. Her administration was distinguished by innovative approaches to employee training and performance measures to improve the county’s service orientation toward its residents and an emphasis on improving technology.

Through her leadership, an extraordinarily successful culture of collaboration between the public and private sectors has won national acclaim for DeKalb, including the prestigious All-American City Award in 1998. The award is given annually by the National Civic League to 10 outstanding local governments across the United States that demonstrates a high degree of collaborative community building. Her leadership was instrumental in the landmark passage in March 1997 of DeKalb County’s innovation Homestead Option Sales Tax, which created a permanent source of revenue for infrastructure improvement and the reduction of property taxes.

In 1975, Mrs. Levetan became the 1st Woman elect to the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners, where she represented District 2 for 10 years and spearheaded the drive for tax breaks for DeKalb property owners who added onto and enhanced existing residential and commercial property. A pioneer teacher in the field of special education, Mrs. Levetan also initiated a successful bond referendum to fund the DeKalb County Mental Retardation Services Center. In addition, Mrs. Levetan also served as the Georgia Senator for District 40. Since leaving office, Mrs. Levetan has been involved in numerous community projects. She has also been active in civic and cultural affairs and her public service career has been characterized by a dedication to neighborhoods,
issues of children and elderly citizens, and initiating savings for taxpayers. Mrs. Levetan has also utilized her more than three decades of business experience as a licensed real estate broker and public affairs consultant to various corporations.

The Senior Citizens’ Program Office was created in 1998 in response to an assessment of services and facilities for DeKalb seniors commissioned by the chief executive officer. The assessment serves as a focal point for planning future services and facilities to benefit the elderly population. In addition, a senior citizens program director was hired to work with Senior Citizens Advisory Committee to ensure improved coordination of elder care and the development of a local plan to meet the increasing demand for elderly services, housing and health care.

Mrs. Levetan is a past director of the National Civic League and currently serves on its National Council of Advisors. She was active in the National Association of Counties (NACo), where she played a leadership role on the Unfunded Mandate Task Force and served as vice president of NACo’s Taxation and Finance Committee.

Mrs. Levetan has served on many boards that include BB&T local board and is currently a member of the International Women’s Forum Foundation Board; Georgia Perimeter College Foundation Board; and DeKalb Police Alliance. Georgia Trend magazine has recognized her many times as one of Georgia’s 100 Most Influential People and in 1993 she was the recipient of the International Forum’s “Women That Make A Difference” Award.

Mrs. Levetan chaired the Elected Officials Policy Council for the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA), appointed by Governor Roy Barnes. Mrs. Levetan was appointed by the governor and served on the Workforce Investment Board, which assisted in the development of the state workforce investment plan and carried out other functions of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

Mrs. Levetan and her husband, Phil, have two daughters, noted endocrinologist—Dr. Claresa Levetan and Penny D. Reiff, and four grandchildren.

Mayor Mark Mathews
CITY OF KENNESAW/COBB COUNTY

In 1996, he was elected to the Kennesaw City Council and served on the Council for 12 years. In 2008, he was sworn in as Mayor of Kennesaw, with a term of office ending in December of 2011.

He began his community involvement in 1987 when he became the president of the Kennesaw Springs Homeowners Association, where he served until 1996. Concurrently, in 1993, he served on the initial boards of the Kennesaw Downtown Development Authority as well as the Kennesaw Development Authority.

Mark actively pursues continuing education in municipal management and leadership as well as additional community service. He earned a Certificate of Excellence from the Harold F. Holtz Municipal Training Institute and completed training through the Atlanta Regional Commission’s Regional Leadership Institute. He is involved with the Kennesaw Business Association and Cobb Chamber of Commerce Chairman’s Club and Honorary Commanders Class of 2009. He serves on the Kennesaw State University Citizen Advisory Board.

In addition to his civic responsibilities, Mark is an experienced businessman. From 1989-2000, he was the Vice President of Mathews Carpet Company, Inc., a long time family-owned flooring business located in Marietta. In 2001, he became President of Mathews Abbey Flooring after purchasing the business from his father, a position he held until March of 2009. He is currently employed as the Manager of Government Relations for MetroAtlanta Ambulance Service in Marietta, where his responsibilities include building relationships with elected and non-elected officials while keeping officials informed on EMS related issues.

Mark Mathews grew up in the Kennesaw, Georgia community. He attended Due West Elementary, Awtrey Middle, and North Cobb High Schools.

Mark and Betsy, his wife of 24 years, have a son, Nick, and a daughter, Emily. He is an active member of Kennesaw United Methodist Church and resides in Kennesaw’s Legacy Park subdivision. He is a member of Pinetree Country Club where he enjoys socializing and the occasional round of golf.

Mayor Mathews has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2009.
Interim CEO Lee N. May

DEKALB COUNTY

Lee May was appointed Interim Chief Executive Officer of DeKalb County by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal on July 17, 2013. Prior to this appointment, Mr. May represented District 5 on the DeKalb Board of Commissioners and served as Presiding Officer of the Board of Commissioners.

May is the youngest person in the history of DeKalb County Government to be elected to serve on the Board of Commissioners. DeKalb County voters elected him to the Board of Commissioners in July 2006 and recently re-elected him in July 2012 to serve a second term as Commissioner for District 5. May campaigned on a platform to address the concerns of the people, and he stands on a promise to make a positive impact in his community.

Most recently, he served as the Presiding Officer of the Board of Commissioners, Chairman of the Budget & Finance Committee, and a member on the Public Safety and General Safety Committee. He also served on various national and local county organizations and is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Lee May, the son of a pastor, is a graduate from Emory University’s Candler School of Theology holding a Masters of Divinity Degree, and of the historic Clark Atlanta University. He is married to his college sweetheart Robin and is a proud father of two beautiful daughters: Ryann Kimberly and Reagan Leanne.

As both an elected official and a member of the clergy, the Honorable Lee May has superbly built a bridge between faith and politics in his latest work, “My God, My Politics: A Discussion on Faith and Politics.” May uses his personal experiences in both worlds to bring clarity for the layperson, telling them that their faith, in fact, can and should inform their politics. May tells us that, “People of faith have every right to inject their faith into the political discourse of this nation.”

Mayor Randal S. Mills

CITY OF CONYERS/ROCKDALE COUNTY

Randy S. Mills was elected Mayor of Conyers in 1997 and took office in January 1998. Prior to being elected, he served as a City Council Member for seven years - from 1990-1997. He is the president and owner of Sigman-Mills Furniture in Conyers and has been an active member of the community since moving to Conyers in 1976.

Mayor Mills is a member and Past President of the Georgia Municipal Association - District 4. He is a member of the Conyers Rotary Club having served on the Board of Directors. He is also a member and serves on the Board of Governors of the Conyers-Rockdale Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Mills currently serves as Chairman of the Conyers-Rockdale Economic Development Council. In 2002 he served as Leadership Chair of the American Cancer Society-Relay for Life. Mayor Mills is a member of the Rockdale County Historical Society and a member of the Downtown Residents Association.

He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Erskine College in 1976 with a major in history and political science and a minor in business. He also received a Juris Doctorate Degree in 1980 from Woodrow Wilson Law School. He is married to the former Carol Sigman and they have two children, Steven and Caroline.

Mayor Mills has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 1998.
Chairman Charlotte J. Nash
GWINNETT COUNTY

Charlotte J. Nash was elected Chairman of the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners in a special election on March 15, 2011. She most recently served as president of a consulting firm specializing in governmental and public financial strategy and management. Prior to starting her small business, Charlotte worked for Gwinnett County Government for 27 years. She served as the County Administrator for nine years and previously held the positions of Director of Financial Services, Budget Director, and Grants Manager. Charlotte managed 24 annual budgets and implemented capital budgeting and long-term financial planning processes during her career with Gwinnett County.

Charlotte has also been active in numerous civic, business, and service organizations in the community. She has served on the Gwinnett Recreation Authority and the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority/Governor’s Development Council. She currently serves as a member of the Atlanta Regional Commission Board and the Transportation Investment Act Atlanta Regional Roundtable. The Atlanta Business Chronicle named Charlotte one of the 100 Most Influential Atlantans in 2011.

Charlotte is a Gwinnett County native who has lived her entire life in the Dacula/Harbins community. She graduated with honors from both Dacula High School and the University of Georgia, where she received a bachelor’s degree in accounting. Charlotte and her husband, Michael, have been married for 38 years and have two grown children and two granddaughters.

Chairman Richard A. Oden
ROCKDALE COUNTY

Rockdale County voters elected Richard A. Oden to serve as Chairman of the Board of Commissioners for his first four-year term beginning in January 2009.

As Chairman, Oden presides over commission meetings, is the chief executive officer of the county government and generally supervises, directs and controls all the administration matters of the county.

Chairman Oden is a successful businessman with more than 30 years of corporate management experience and 15 years of small business ownership. Through it all, he has served his community as an advocate for the people and a church leader.

In May of 2010, he was appointed Chairman of the Economic Development and Transportation Policy Committee of the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG), which represents all 159 counties in Georgia. He is also a member of the Gwinnett Rockdale Newton (GRN) Community Service Board and the Georgia Veterans Memorial Park Foundation.

Richard A. Oden was appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue in February 2010 to the Public Defender Supervisory Panel for the Rockdale Judicial Circuit. This panel helps ensure that Georgia meets the charges of providing constitutionally required legal defense and also to maintain efficient and effective public defender offices.

During his many years working for an Anheuser-Busch subsidiary, Oden learned the value of putting people first. His work experience included sales, customer service and senior management. As a team builder, he rose through the ranks and was recognized as one of the top executives in his division. He then went on to become the CEO and founder of Alexander At’Ta Associates. As a consultant, Richard Oden was sought after by large and medium sized companies for his expertise in improving corporate processes, increasing productivity, and analyzing financial data.

With a heart that is never far from community service, Chairman Oden started The Alexander At’Ta Fund. The non-profit organization’s goal is to encourage young people to get involved in community and entrepreneurship. In 2007, Oden effectively combined his business skills and commitment to youth as Executive Director of the Rockdale County Juvenile Court, Evening Reporting Center. He also founded the United Rockdale Summit, an interfaith network of community leaders, which developed a mentorship program for the Rockdale County School System.

A graduate of Kent State University in Ohio, Richard A. Oden earned Bachelor of Science in Industrial Relations. He credits much of his success to Josett, his wife of 27 years, and their five children.

Chairman Oden has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2009.
Mayor Willie Oswalt
CITY OF LAKE CITY/CLAYTON COUNTY

Mayor Oswalt was originally elected to the Lake City City Council in 1972. In 1976 he was elected Mayor, a position he has held ever since. Mayor Oswalt has a long record of public service including membership and leadership positions in: the Georgia Education Association, Clayton County Education Association, Georgia Industrial Arts Association, Georgia Athletic Coaches Association, Georgia Municipal Association, Georgia Municipal Association, Clayton County Municipal Association, Chamber of Commerce and Clayton Meals on Wheels.

Mayor Oswalt has been a high school teacher and coach since 1965. In the classroom he taught industrial arts and on the field he coached both football and track. He served for four years as the athletic director for Morrow Senior High. He was elected Coach of the Year twelve times.

Mayor Oswalt received both his bachelor’s and master’s degree from Mississippi State University where several of his track records still stand. He also completed graduate study as a six-year specialist at Atlanta University.

Mayor Oswalt has been married to LaWanda Vaughn for 44 years. They have two children and seven grandchildren.

Mayor Oswalt has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2006.

Mayor Harvey Persons
CITY OF DOUGLASVILLE/DOUGLAS COUNTY

Mayor Harvey Persons grew up in Waycross, GA where he attended Waycross High School and graduated in 1966. As a young man he was very involved with athletics as well as the Boy Scouts. His educational background includes studies at North Georgia Military College, DeKalb Junior College and Georgia State University where he majored in Business. He served in the Military and received his honorable discharge as Specialist E-5 with the US Army in 1970.

Mayor Persons is a retired businessman with over 35 years of experience. During his business career, he received many Business and Sales Achievement awards. He served on the Douglasville City Council for almost 7 years beginning in 1989 and held positions as Mayor Pro Tem, Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, a member of the Finance Committee and the Chairman of the Personnel Committee. Additionally, he chaired the City’s Planning & Zoning Board for 5 years. He was on the Douglas County Planning and Zoning Board for seven years-4 years as Vice-Chairman; before becoming Mayor of the City of Douglasville in January of 2012. He is currently on the board of the Douglasville Water & Sewer Authority (WSA), the Cobb & Douglas Board of Health (CDPH) and the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) where he serves on the Transportation Committee.

His dedication to service to his community extends to his role as Sunday School Teacher at Central Baptist Church. He has also served on various community boards including Habitat for Humanity, Council for Battered Women and worked as a mentor through the Douglas County Mentor Program and was one of the original founding board members of the Douglas County Community Character Coalition where he served as Vice-Chairman for 10 years.

He and his wife of 34 years, Sherrie Persons, have called Douglasville/ Douglas County home since 1978. They have 3 adult children and 8 grandchildren.
Dan Post, Jr.

CITIZEN DISTRICT 14 (Portion of Cobb)

Dan Post is founder and principal of Post and Associates a firm providing certified public accountant services to clients throughout Georgia. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Georgia Society of Public Accountants. Dan serves on the Cobb Chamber of Commerce and the Paulding Chamber of Commerce. He was previously on the Airport Area Chamber of Commerce, the Economic Development Corporation of Fulton County. Dan currently serves on the Cobb County Board of Assessors and is Chair of the Cobb County Department of Family and Children Services Board has been a member of the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2002.

Dan graduated from Woodward Academy and received a BBA in Accountancy from the University of Georgia.

Mayor Kasim Reed

CITY OF ATLANTA

Mayor Kasim Reed was inaugurated as the City of Atlanta’s 59th Mayor on January 4, 2010. Since taking office, Mayor Reed has worked to improve public safety, create new opportunities for the City’s youth, restore fiscal stability to the City and provide faster and more efficient customer service to residents.

Prior to his election, Mayor Reed established a track record of leadership during his 11 years as a member of the Georgia General Assembly. He was first elected in 1998 as a State Representative and served two terms. From 2002-2009, he served in the Georgia State Senate, where he was Vice Chairman of the Senate Democratic Caucus.

As an undergraduate member of Howard University’s Board of Trustees, he created a fundraising program that has contributed more than $10 million to the school’s endowment since its inception. Mayor Reed was appointed as Howard University’s youngest General Trustee in June 2002 and remains a member of the Board of Trustees.

Mayor Reed is Chair of the Transportation and Communications Committee of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and Chair of the Regional Transit Committee of the Atlanta Regional Commission. He is a member of the Leadership Georgia Class of 2000 and Leadership Atlanta Class of 1998, and was named to the Aspen Institute-Rodel Fellowship Class of 2007. Mayor Reed is also a former Board Member of both the National Black Arts Festival and Metropolitan Atlanta Arts Fund.

His civic leadership and service have been nationally recognized in publications such as The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, The Washington Post, The New York Times, Ebony and Black Enterprise.

Mayor Reed grew up in the Cascade community of Atlanta, where he attended Utoy Springs Elementary School and Westwood High School (now Westlake High School). He is a graduate of Howard University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees. Mayor Reed also is a former partner of Holland and Knight LLP, an international law firm with offices in Atlanta.

Mayor Reed has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2010.
Robert “Bob” Reeves

CITIZEN DISTRICT 3 (Portions of Fayette/Fulton)

Mr. Reeves was born in Oak Park, Illinois, and has lived all over the United States. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from the University of Tennessee and the University of Tennessee Law School. Mr. Reeves Career Work includes: Professional Bowler; Chapman & Latham CPAs, audit department, Knoxville, Tennessee; Radio Disc Jockey, Knoxville, Tennessee; Scuba Diver Instructor, IDC Staff Instructor, Peachtree City, Georgia; developed and owned Aqua Ventures Dive Center, Conyers, Georgia. Mr. Reeves has managed and owned hotels and restaurants in Hawaii, Tennessee and Georgia. In addition, he developed and owned the Huddle House in Peachtree City, Georgia. And is a partner in Accounting Resources, Fayetteville, Georgia. Mr. Reeves served in the Air Force during Vietnam War. He is married to Alice Parrott.

Chairman Tommy N. Smith

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Henry County Commission Chairman Tommy Smith may be just beginning his first term, in January 2013, as the head of the Board of Commissioners, but he is not new to local government. He served two terms as a Councilman and 24 years as Mayor for the City of Hampton, and worked for Henry County as an Executive Assistant to the Board of Commissioners from 2003-2008. He served in the United States Air Force and is retired from the FAA as an air traffic controller.

Chairman Smith is a lifelong resident of Henry County and graduate of Henry County High School. He and his wife, Gayle, have been married 46 years and have raised four children in Hampton, Georgia. The Smiths are members of Mount Carmel United Methodist Church.

Brigadier General Robert L. Stephens, Jr. (US Army Retired)

CITIZEN DISTRICT 2 (Portions of Clayton/Fulton)

BG (RET) Steve Stephens, Jr. was born in Welch, WV. Upon graduation from high school, he matriculated to West Virginia State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Education in 1962. Through ROTC he was commissioned a Regular Army Second Lieutenant and assigned to the 101st Airborne Division.

General Stephens served in the Army for more than 30 years in positions from an Infantry Rifle Platoon Leader to an Assistant Division Commander for Operations of an Infantry Division. During his military career he was a Special Forces “A Team” Leader, a Company Commander in Vietnam, an Infantry Battalion Commander and he command a forward deployed Separate Airborne Infantry Brigade. He also had tours in the pentagon on the Army General Staff and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Stephens led the first Joint Task Force to find and destroy drug laboratories in South America. He also commanded the Joint United States Military Advisory Group in Bangkok, Thailand. His last military assignment was Director of the Joint Armed Forces Inaugural Committee directing all of the ceremonial and inaugural activities of the first inauguration of President Bill Clinton. General Stephens retired from the Army in June 1993. He was appointed immediately to the position of Director of Personnel for the State of West Virginia. In 1997 he was appointed to the position of Deputy Commissioner of the Georgia Merit System of Personnel Management.

He currently serves as the Vice President for External Relations and Executive Assistant to the President at Clayton State University. He holds a Master of Science degree in Education from Alfred University. General Stephens has attended numerous
military schools including The National War College, The Army Command and General Staff College and The Defense Language Institute. His post-graduate studies include Harvard University’s Senior Managers in Government Course, Duke University’s Strategic Leadership Course, and he is a graduate of the prestigious Center for Creative Leadership (CCL) in Colorado Springs, CO. He recently authored his military autobiography, When In Charge, Take Charge.

General Stephens’ personal accomplishments include: Who’s Who in America; Who’s Who in American Universities and Colleges; and he is a Fellow in the Council of State Governments’ Toll Fellowship Program. In 1998 he served as President of the National Association of State Personnel Executives. He has been designated a Kentucky Colonel, an Arkansas Traveler, and recognized twice as a Distinguished West Virginian. In 1996, he was selected him to serve on a United States Congressional Commission for Veteran’s Transition Programs. He is a member and Past Chairman of the Board of Directors of the West Virginia State University Foundation, a member of the Board of Trustees, at Alfred University, and an ex officio member of the Board of Trustees for the Clayton State University Foundation. Stephens is also a former member of the National Council of State Governments (CSG) Board of Directors.

Anita Wallace Thomas

CITIZEN DISTRICT 4 (Portions of Atlanta/Fulton)

Anita Wallace Thomas is a partner of Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP in Atlanta where she practices in litigation involving general commercial litigation, franchise litigation, drug and medical device litigation, product liability, employment litigation and toxic tort. Ms. Thomas has a vast amount of experience in all aspects of product liability litigation. Ms. Thomas has served as trial counsel and MDL counsel in pharmaceutical and toxic tort cases across the country.

She also has successfully defended clients against charges of employment discrimination, harassment and wrongful discharge, and represents employers in all aspects of hiring, employing and firing employees. A member of the State Bar of Georgia and its Women and Minorities in the Profession Committee, Ms. Thomas is admitted to practice before the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. In addition to arguing cases before the Georgia Court of Appeals, Ms. Thomas has served as lead counsel in more than 50 jury trials held in the superior and state courts of Georgia, and has tried employment cases in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia.

Ms. Thomas is a member of the American Bar Association (Labor and Employment Section), the Atlanta Bar Association, and the Gate City Bar Association. Ms. Thomas is a member of the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and its executive board, having served as association president in 2000. She also serves on the board of the National Association of Women Lawyers (2007-09). Additionally, Ms. Thomas is a member of the National Bar Association and the Board of Trustees of the Leadership Institute for Women of Color in Law and Business. Ms. Thomas also served as the chair of the Judicial Nominating Committee of the Atlanta Bar Association. She was named a General Litigation Super Lawyer, as published in Georgia Super Lawyers magazine (2007-08). In 2009, Ms. Thomas was selected to serve as the chair of the Firm’s Diversity Committee. In 2010, Ms. Thomas was appointed to the Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia. Ms. Thomas was also accepted into the Leadership Atlanta, 2011 Class.

Active in civic affairs, Ms. Thomas is a member of the board of directors of the Southwest Atlanta YMCA and the Board of Trustees of the Atlanta Youth Academy, and is one of the founders of a non profit organization, Granting Atlanta's Wishes. Additionally, she serves on the Advisory Board of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. Prior to joining Nelson Mullins, Ms. Thomas was affiliated with another leading Atlanta firm. From 1990-95, Ms. Thomas served as an Assistant District Attorney, prosecuting felonies for the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office.

As a result of her commitment to the legal profession as well as civic affairs, Ms. Thomas has received numerous awards, including: The Bensonetta Tipton Lane Award for Commitment to the Family, the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys’ “Spirit of GABWA Award,” the National Bar Association’s President’s Award, the Seaborn Lee Elementary School “Living Legend Award,” the 2010 Outstanding Woman in the Profession Achievement Award from the Atlanta Bar Association Women in the Profession Section; and the State Bar of Georgia’s, “Thomas R. Burnside Jr. Excellence in Bar Leadership Award.”

Chairman Jeffrey E. Turner

Clayton County Board of Commissioners

Jeffrey E. Turner, the son of Eddie and Classie Turner, was born in December 1963 and moved to Clayton County with his family in 1978. He attended Morrow High School, graduated in 1982, and went on to attend the State College of West Georgia (now West Georgia University) where he earned his Bachelors of Science degree in Criminal Justice in 1986. Jeff Turner earned his Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Georgia Law Enforcement Command College at Columbus State University.

Chairman Turner began his career with Clayton County as a patrolman in April 1987 with the Clayton County Police Department. As a new hire, he was one of only four African-American officers on the police force. Following 20 years of loyal service to Clayton County, Jeffrey E. Turner was appointed as the first African-American Chief of the Clayton County Police Department on March 20, 2007. As Chief of Police, Jeff Turner implemented Community Policing policies and activated programs such as Neighborhood Watch, SMASH, and other initiatives. Jeff Turner’s dedication to the citizens and businesses of Clayton County is the reason he devotes such a substantial amount of his time and efforts to enable cooperation and interaction between the community at large and County law enforcement to effect a better quality of life for our citizens and businesses. During Chairman Turner’s tenure as Clayton County Chief of Police, he initiated and gained National Accreditation for the Clayton County Police Department. Chairman Turner is a graduate of the 217th Session of the F.B.I. National Academy.

Chairman Turner is married with four children and attends Greater Works Missionary Baptist Church in Jonesboro. Inaugurated as Chairman of the Clayton County Board of Commissioners on December 22, 2012, Jeffrey E. Turner serves, with distinction, as Clayton County’s Chief Elected Official.

Judy Waters

CITIZEN DISTRICT 8 (Portion of Gwinnett)

Judy joined the Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia (CFNEG) in August of 2004 as the executive director. Judy is well known and active throughout the community. She served as Councilwoman on the Snellville City Council and as District 3 Commissioner for the Gwinnett county Board of Commissioners.

She presently serves on the Gwinnett Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Gwinnett Children’s Shelter Board of Directors, the Foster Children Foundation Board of Directors, the 1818 Club Board of Directors, the Georgia Gwinnett College Board of Trustees and the Civic League of Metro Atlanta Board of Directors. She is Chairman of the Gwinnett Development Authority and serves on the Gwinnett Medical Center Foundation Board of Directors. Judy is currently the Chairman of the Gwinnett County Development Authority.

Judy has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2001.

She is a graduate of Leadership Gwinnett, Senior Leadership Gwinnett, and the Regional Leadership Institute. Prior to joining the CFNEG, Judy was Vice President of Business Development for Hayes, James and Associates Inc.

An Atlanta native, Judy graduated from Avondale High School and later attended Florida State University and Georgia Southern College.

She and her husband Mark live in Lawrenceville. They have two grown children and in her free time, she enjoys traveling, gardening, and spending time with her grandchildren, Bailey, Michael and McKenzie Ann.
Councilman H. Lamar Willis

CITY OF ATLANTA

Atlanta City Councilman H. Lamar Willis is the Managing Partner of the Willis Law Group, LLC where he represents businesses and individuals. Since his election to the Atlanta City Council in 2001 to serve as the Post 3 At-Large Councilmember, H. Lamar is currently the youngest member of the legislative body of the City of Atlanta government. Willis is currently serving his second term on council, having been re-elected without opposition in 2005.

During his brief time on Council, he has served as Chair of the Council’s Transportation Committee, which has oversight over Hartsfield Jackson Atlanta International Airport, city transportation initiatives and MARTA related issues. In addition, H. Lamar has served as Chair of the Public Safety Committee, which has oversight for the majority of the City of Atlanta’s General Fund. As Chair of the Public Safety, he championed efforts to assist the Police, Fire, and Corrections Departments in securing legislation that would both strengthen their departments and ensure they had the tools needed to further improve public safety efforts in the City of Atlanta.

Councilman Willis currently serves on the Community Development and Human Resources Committee, the Public Safety Committee, and the Transportation Committee. Councilman Willis has developed forward thinking legislative initiatives to increase the quality of life for all Atlantans.

H. Lamar is further involved in the Atlanta community through his participation with the Emory University Board of Visitors, Wesley Community Center Board of Directors, Breakthrough Atlanta Board of Directors, Techbridge Board of Directors, Southwest YMCA Board of Directors, Staff Parish Relations Committee - Cascade United Methodist Church.

Some of his recent honors include: one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians by Georgia Trend Magazine, 2006, 2004 Class of Leadership Atlanta, 2004 Marshall Memorial Fellow (traveled to Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic and France) and delegate to South America (Argentina and Uruguay) with the American Council of Young Political Leaders.

H. Lamar and his wife of 14 years, Dr. Kamili Willis, are the proud parents of ten-year-old daughter, Kayla, and five-year old son, Henry. H. Lamar and his family have been active members of Cascade United Methodist Church for nearly thirty years. Councilman Willis has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2010.

Chairman Tom Worthan

DOUGLAS COUNTY

Chairman Worthan took office in January 2005. He serves as the chief elected officer of the county, is a full time office holder and with the Board of Commissioners, sets policies, procedures and budgets for the county.

Tom was educated in the Douglas County School System and attended Georgia State University. He worked in the paper and plastic industry for 36 years, 34 of those with Fulton Paper Company as a field sales representative specializing in commercial and industrial accounts. He served 8 years in the Army National Guard out of the Douglasville Armory; he was Honorably Discharged in 1970.

The family has owned and operated Atlanta West Hair Company located on East Church Street in historic downtown Douglasville for 20 years. It is the only facility in Douglas County with a private consultation room for hair replacement, a service for patients undergoing chemotherapy.

He has worked over 20 years with the youth of Douglas County. His dedication and commitment to youth sports has always been an important and viable part of his life, having coached baseball, football, softball and basketball. He held numerous office in the Lithia Springs Girls Club and was Athletic Director of the Lithia Springs Recreation Club.

Tom is a charter member of the Republican National Committee, a lifetime member of the Georgia Association of County Commissioners and a member of the National Rifle Association. He is a Mason, a member of Battle Hill Lodge #523 and a Shriner. The Worthans are members of Lithia Springs First Baptist Church.

He serves on a variety of community organizations including as Chairman of the Douglas County Board of Health, Douglas County Community Services Board, Regional Commission on Homelessness, United Way of Douglas County Board of Directors, Georgia County Commissioners Indigent Defense Council and the Douglas County Chamber of Commerce Chairman’s Club.

Chairman Worthan has served on the Atlanta Regional Commission since 2005.