

**Civility.  
Respect.  
Solutions.™**



Municipal Association  
of South Carolina

Be as eager  
to listen as to  
speak.

Concentrate on  
what you have  
in common, not  
what separates  
you.

Act as you  
would expect  
someone to act  
in your home.

Make your case  
on merits, not  
on what people  
want to hear.

Your time is  
valuable. So is  
everyone else's.  
Respect it.

Ask questions  
to learn. Answer  
questions with  
respect.

Concentrate  
on facts, not  
theories.

Ask "what will  
persuade people  
in this room?" not  
"what will make a  
great social post?"

Make your point  
about the issue,  
not the person.

# Hometown Legislative Action Day

Tuesday, January 20, 2026  
Columbia Metropolitan  
Convention Center

## Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government

Wednesday, January 21, 2026  
Columbia Metropolitan  
Convention Center

### Registration Information

Register yourself and others from your organization at [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc) (keyword: HLAD).  
Note the new event location at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.

#### Hometown Legislative Action Day | Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

The \$180 registration fee includes lunch, the reception and all meeting materials. Lunch is a ticketed event. A guest lunch ticket is available for Hometown Legislative Action Day only. Coworkers, city staff and city officials are not considered guests and must register at the full registration fee. The preregistration deadline is January 8. On-site registration will be available for anyone who misses the preregistration deadline.

#### Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government | Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

The \$125 fee for Session A, Session B, the Advanced Institute and Advanced Continuing Education includes registration, educational materials and lunch for the registrant only.

See the MEO Institute brochure for more information on this training. Preregistration is required. The deadline is January 8.

### Website

Visit [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc) (keyword: HLAD) to register online and for more information about Hometown Legislative Action Day, the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government and Advanced Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government.

### Mobile App

Download the Municipal Association of SC app to find the schedule and other attendees and to receive meeting updates. Download the app from either the App Store or Google Play (Search term: Municipal Association of SC).

### Hotel Information

#### Reservation deadline: December 20

The Municipal Association has reserved a block of rooms at the Hilton Columbia Center, 924 Senate St. When making reservations, indicate that you will be attending the Municipal Association's conference to ensure you receive the conference rate (\$204 plus tax). To make reservations, call 1.803.744.7800 (use group code C-92J) or visit [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc) and select the link for the 2026 Hometown Legislative Action Day. Registrants will be directed to the hotel's reservation system to make reservations online. Make reservations by December 20 to guarantee the conference rate.

Additionally, a room block is available at the Hampton Inn Downtown Historic District located at 822 Gervais St. When making reservations, indicate that you will be attending the Municipal Association's conference to ensure you receive the conference rate (\$184 plus tax). To make reservations, call 1.803.231.2000 (use group code C-924) or visit [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc) and select the link for the 2026 Hometown Legislative Action Day. Registrants will be directed to the hotel's reservation system to make reservations online. Make reservations by December 20 to guarantee the conference rate.

### Parking Information

Guests of the Hilton and Hampton Inn have onsite parking for a fee. Both hotels are within a one block walking distance to the Convention Center. The Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center has a large parking lot adjacent to the building with free parking. If the parking lot is at capacity, a city garage is located across the street on Lincoln and Pendleton streets.

### Before the meeting ...

- Be sure to get directions to the new event location at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center.
- Visit [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc) to familiarize yourself with municipal legislative issues.
- Invite your legislators to the legislative reception on Tuesday, January 20, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center from 5:30 – 7 p.m.
- Plan to take your legislators to dinner following the reception. For information about local restaurants, visit [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc) (keyword: HLAD).



# Hometown Legislative Action Day Agenda

Tuesday, January 20 | Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Registration
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Opening General Session
10:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 – 11:00 a.m.	General Session
	<b>Agreeing to Disagree</b> Dave Wilson, chief strategist for McAlister Communications, and Antjuan Seawright, founder and CEO of Blueprint Strategy, LLC, are back to talk about how to disagree about politics and agree to be friends. Join these two veteran political strategists for a conversation about upcoming elections and how to be civil even through disagreement.
11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	General Session
	<b>Legislative Report</b>
12:30 – 1:45 p.m.	Lunch
	<b>Graduation: Municipal Elected Officials Institute and Advanced Institute*</b>
1:45 – 3:00 p.m.	State House Visits
2:00 – 2:45 p.m.	General Session
	<b>Navigating the Federal Earmark Process</b> In 2021, Congress reinstituted Congressionally Directed Spending, often referred to as Community Project Funding or earmarks, in federal appropriation bills. These dollars are available to municipalities. Participants will gain an understanding of the appropriations process and timing, and gain tips for a successful application. Following the session, Congressional staffers will be available to provide technical input to individual cities and towns regarding their applications.
2:45 – 3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00 – 4:00 p.m.	General Session
	<b>Working With the SCDOT</b> SC Transportation Secretary Justin Powell shares his perspective on the SC Department of Transportation with local leaders and how cities and towns can work together to strengthen the state’s infrastructure.
4:00 – 4:15 p.m.	Break
4:15 – 5:15 p.m.	Concurrent Sessions
	<b>Hot Topics</b> This fast-paced session will provide quick updates and guidance on a variety of issues important to cities and towns.
	<b>Mayors’ Forum</b> All mayors are invited to participate in the Mayors’ Forum, sponsored by the Association of SC Mayors.
5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Taste of South Carolina – Legislative Reception
7:00 p.m.	Dinner on your own with your legislators

\* Officials who have completed all requirements for the MEO Institute or the Advanced MEO Institute and those who are scheduled to complete the requirements on Wednesday will be recognized.

# Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government

## Session A or Session B

Wednesday, January 21 | Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center | 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

The Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government is a training program that provides municipal elected officials with a basic understanding of key areas of municipal government.

To graduate from the MEO Institute, officials must complete Session A, Session B and five online courses available anytime at [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc) (keyword: MEO). These five courses are also held once a year at the five designated councils of governments’ locations. See the MEO Institute brochure for more details.

Before registering, refer to your MEO Institute transcript to determine which session to take. Sessions A and B cannot be taken on the same day. Session A must be taken before enrolling in Session B. Transcripts are available to officials by logging on to [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc) (keyword: MEO) with your personal identification number and password. Municipal clerks have online access to transcripts for all elected officials from their municipality.

On January 21, check in at the Municipal Association’s registration desk at the Convention Center beginning at 8 a.m. to pick up meeting materials. Sessions A and B begin promptly at 9 a.m. Officials must attend the entire day of training (9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.) to receive credit. Sign-in sheets are kept throughout the day. A continental breakfast and lunch are provided for registrants only. Guests are not permitted to attend the sessions or lunch.

## Advanced Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government

Wednesday, January 21 | Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The advanced program provides elected officials who are graduates of the Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government an option for continuing education. Graduates can choose to attend one of two courses offered annually on the day after Hometown Legislative Action Day and one of two courses offered each fall. To graduate from the Advanced MEO Institute, officials must complete at least four courses. For more information, visit [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc) (keyword: Advanced MEO).

Advanced courses will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. Attendance for the entire day of training is required to receive credit. Sign-in sheets are kept throughout the day. A continental breakfast and lunch are provided for registrants only. Guests are not permitted to attend the sessions or lunch.

### Advanced Courses (Choose one)

- Municipal Utility Policy and Administration
- Public Safety Policy and Administration

## Advanced Continuing Education

Wednesday, January 21 | Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The Advanced Continuing Education track provides the Municipal Association’s top level of graduates with a pathway to stay current on the latest issues in local government. This session focuses on current topics and will be available exclusively to Advanced MEO Institute graduates.

The Advanced Continuing Education session is from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A continental breakfast and lunch are provided for registrants only. Guests are not permitted to attend the sessions or lunch.

### ACE Session Topics

- 9 a.m. – noon Municipal Elected Officials and the Media
- 1 – 4 p.m. Tech Talk With VC3

# Registration

Registration deadline is Thursday, January 8.

No refunds will be made after this date.

Online: Use a Visa or MasterCard to register online at [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc) (keyword: HLAD).

Mail: Complete and return this form (postmarked by January 8) with a check made payable to the Municipal Association of South Carolina. Mail to:

Municipal Association of SC  
PO Box 12220  
Columbia, SC 29211-2220

Direct all registration questions to Christine Sumter at 803.933.1208 or [csumter@masc.sc](mailto:csumter@masc.sc).

## Tuesday, January 20

Hometown Legislative Action Day

- ☐ Registration Fee: \$180  
*(includes lunch)*
- ☐ Guest Lunch Fee: \$40

## Wednesday, January 21

Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government *(for elected officials only)*

Log on to [www.masc.sc](http://www.masc.sc) (keyword: MEO) to access your transcript.

Choose only one

Session A and B cannot be taken on the same day.

- ☐ MEO Session A
- ☐ MEO Session B

Registration Fee: \$125

Advanced Municipal Elected Officials Institute of Government *(for MEO Institute graduates only)*

Choose only one

- ☐ Municipal Utility Policy and Administration
- ☐ Public Safety Policy and Administration

Registration Fee: \$125

ACE: Advanced Continuing Education *(for Advanced MEO Institute graduates only)*

- ☐ Registration Fee: \$125
- Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Name Badge Information

First Name (example: Bill)

Full Name (example: William Smith) ☐ Mr. ☐ Ms. ☐ Dr.

Job Title ☐ New

Local Government/Company

## Guest Information

Guest’s First/Last Name

City/State

## Registrant’s Contact Information

Birth Month/Day Last Four Digits of SSN

*This combination of numbers is used as the official’s personal identification number to access online services, simplify event registration and ensure proper recording of participation in Association training programs.*

Preferred Mailing Address ☐ New  
(Type: ☐ Municipal ☐ Business ☐ Home)

City/State ZIP

Preferred Phone ☐ New  
(Type: ☐ Municipal ☐ Business ☐ Mobile ☐ Home)

Email Address ☐ New

## Person Completing Form

Full Name

Preferred Phone (Type: ☐ Municipal ☐ Business ☐ Mobile ☐ Home)