

Mr. Eaton from Hall Co. & the finance officer from Douglasville touched some of my issues.

→ Co-operation between Cities/Counties and the DOR to collect sales taxes that are currently going uncollected. We need a two-way street where Counties/Cities inform DOR of entities that hold business licenses in their areas, and in turn, the Revenue Dept. notifies counties and cities of businesses that are currently paying sales taxes.

Health Dept. demand for services have risen dramatically in these economic times while state funding to health departments is cut year after year.

For the Dept. of Health we encourage the Legislature to raise the tobacco tax. I believe that Georgia has the 2nd lowest tax on cigarettes in the country. Drastically raise the tobacco tax to raise revenue for the state. Put more importantly from a health dept. point of view, the increased cost of tobacco, including smokeless, might cut down on tobacco usage, especially on new, younger users. This is a win-win situation.

Margaret Ballard  
City of Amelia, Mayor  
Helen Dow B. Board of Health  
SMA Board of Directors / Legislative Policy  
Committee