

Who We Are	The Center for Governmental Technology (CGT) was created in 1973 as a unit within the Enterprise and Community Resource Development program area of the Mississippi State University Extension Service. For over a quarter-century, the CGT has been a leader in providing educational programs, specialized publications, and technical assistance to local government officials in Mississippi.
What We Do	Through our programs, publications, and technical assistance, we aid local government officials, local units of government, and associations of local government officials in their efforts to improve governance at the grassroots and delivery of services to the citizens of Mississippi. We do not take an advocacy role in the business, legislative, or political affairs of the local governments or local government associations with which we work.

Local Government Education

Every four years, some 3,000 local elected officials are given responsibility by the electorate for the formulation, adoption, and implementation of public policy in Mississippi's 82 counties and 297 municipalities. Typically, from one-third to one-half of these officials will be newly-elected, having never held public office. In addition, some 2,000 major appointed county and municipal officials assist these elected officials in governing and providing services.

These local government officials need orientation with respect to their duties and responsibilities when they are new to office. They also need continuing education throughout their term of office to help them stay current in the face of constant change. Local government law and practice change with each session of the Legislature.

The better educated a local official, the better job he or she will do in meeting the needs of the citizens. Through a variety of workshops, seminars, and training programs ranging in length from two hours to two weeks, we help fulfill the educational needs of these officials. We serve as the "educational arm" of the following associations of local government officials and special-purpose state agencies, working with them to plan and implement a variety of educational programs and publications:

- ▶ Building Officials Association of Mississippi (BOAM)
- ▶ Mississippi Assessors and Collectors Association (MACA)
- ▶ Mississippi Association of County Administrators/Comptrollers (MACAC)
- ▶ Mississippi Association of County Board Attorneys (MACBA)
- ▶ Mississippi Association of County Engineers (MACE)
- ▶ Mississippi Association of Governmental Purchasing/Property Agents (MAGPPA)
- ▶ Mississippi Association of Supervisors (MAS)
- ▶ Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
- ▶ Mississippi Chancery Clerks Association
- ▶ Mississippi Chapter of the International Association of Assessing Officers
- ▶ Mississippi Municipal League (MML)
- ▶ Mississippi State Tax Commission
- ▶ Municipal Clerks and Tax Collectors Association of Mississippi (MCCA)

In designing and implementing educational programs for local officials, we collaborate with individuals, organizations, and firms in the private sector and with most of the state-wide elected officials and agencies within the three branches of state government. In particular, on the state level, we coordinate major educational efforts with the Office of the State Auditor, the Office of the Attorney General, the Office of the Secretary of State, and the Mississippi State Tax Commission.

Certification Programs

In cooperation with the Office of the State Auditor, we oversee legislatively-mandated certification programs for county purchase clerks, receiving clerks, and inventory control clerks and manage the professional education programs for county supervisors and county administrators required by the County Government Reorganization Act of 1988. With the Mississippi State Tax Commission, we provide legislatively-mandated certification training for tax assessors and appraisers. Our three-year Certification Program for Municipal Clerks and Tax Collectors and the Mississippi Education and Certification Program for assessors and appraisers are nationally recognized. We assist the Office of the Secretary of State in coordinating a training program for municipal election officials. Starting this year, in cooperation with the Mississippi Association of Governmental Purchasing/Property Agents, we will manage a new certification program for state and local government purchasing and property professionals.

Leadership Development

We work in the area of leadership development providing leadership training programs for citizens and government officials. Hundreds of individuals have received intensive training in principles of leadership, communications, community development, and government.

Programs for Youth

In cooperation with the 4-H Youth Development program area of the Extension Service, the Office of the Lieutenant Governor and the Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives, we coordinate an annual Legislative Page Program for youth participating in Mississippi 4-H clubs. We also support the Mississippi Association of Supervisors's county government education program for elementary schools.

Technical Assistance

We provide technical assistance, on a "time-available" basis, to counties and municipalities in such areas as general management, financial administration, personnel administration, leadership development, economic development, community facilities and services, and solid waste management. In addition, technical assistance in the areas of information technology and web site development and maintenance is provided to local units of government and associations of local government officials.

Recent Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Conducted 46 specialized educational programs for county and municipal officials, varying from two-hour workshops to two-week schools, in 86 separate locations. Combined attendance was 7,218. ▶ Conducted special orientation programs for newly-elected county supervisors, county board attorneys, chancery clerks and tax assessors and collectors where <i>County Government in Mississippi</i> was distributed. ▶ Provided 68 county board attorneys with up to 16 hours of approved continuing legal education (CLE) credit for attendance at two seminars conducted with the Mississippi Association of County Board Attorneys. Also conducted a special CLE seminar on "Sexual Harassment in the Workplace" for county board attorneys. ▶ Conducted, in cooperation with the Mississippi State Tax Commission, 5 workshops on the production and application of soil maps for county tax assessment and mapping personnel, 3 homestead exemption workshops, 4 personal property workshops, and 3 workshops for tax collectors. ▶ Conducted 4 in-service training programs for county Extension Service personnel who will be participating in Extension's Census 2000 Project related to improving the accuracy of Mississippi's census count. ▶ Awarded the Certified Municipal Clerk designation to 12 municipal clerks and deputy clerks who completed the three-year, examination-based certification program, bringing the total number of certified municipal clerks and deputy clerks in the state to 389. ▶ Awarded certification to 61 county and state assessment and appraisal personnel who successfully completed the legislatively-mandated, two-week long certification school. Awarded recertification to 372 previously-certified individuals who successfully completed the annual recertification course. Certification and annual recertification entitles these 433 assessors and appraisers to over \$810,000 in annual salary supplements of up to \$3,500 each depending on their individual level of professional achievement. ▶ Awarded professional certification to 240 county purchase clerks, receiving clerks and inventory control clerks who successfully completed the legislatively-mandated certification program. ▶ Responded to 21 requests from counties and municipalities for technical assistance in a variety of areas related to local government management, law, and practice. ▶ Distributed copies of CGT publications to some 2,100 local officials and interested citizens.
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Major Publications

- ▶ *Municipal Government in Mississippi*, 2nd Edition, Revised and Expanded (2001)
- ▶ *County Government in Mississippi*, 2nd Edition, Revised and Expanded (2000)
- ▶ *A Handbook for County Board Attorneys*, by Benjamin E. Griffith (2000)
- ▶ *Mississippi Association of County Board Attorneys Membership Manual and Directory* (2000)
- ▶ *County Election Officials' Handbook* (1999; with the Office of the Secretary of State)
- ▶ *Municipal Election Officials' Handbook* (1996, 1997, 1998; with the Office of the Secretary of State)
- ▶ *Mississippi Appraisal Manual* (1998; with the Mississippi State Tax Commission)

Center Faculty & Staff

P. C. (Mac) McLaurin, Jr.
Leader & Local Government Specialist
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Primary areas of responsibility include leading the Center; planning and delivering educational programs for local government officials (mainly county supervisors and board attorneys and municipal mayors, aldermen, and city councils); providing technical assistance to local governments in the areas of management, services, and facilities; writing local government education materials and planning and delivering governmental affairs leadership training.

Ronald D. Walker
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Primary areas of responsibility include planning and delivering educational programs for local government officials (mainly county chancery clerks, administrators, comptrollers, and engineers; county/municipal building officials and municipal clerks and collectors) and coordinating tourism, rural water systems, and rural development assistance programs.

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Primary areas of responsibility include planning and delivering educational programs for local government officials (mainly county tax assessors and collectors, supervisors and board attorneys and municipal election officials); writing and publishing local government education materials; coordinating the Center's computer applications, services, and affiliated web sites and providing technical assistance to local governments in computer applications and services.

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Primary areas of responsibility include planning and delivering educational programs for local government officials (mainly county supervisors, board attorneys, and tax assessors and collectors, and municipal officials) and writing local government education materials.

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Assists in planning and delivering educational programs for local government officials, conducting research on local government issues, and writing local government education materials.

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CENTER FOR GOVERNMENTAL TECHNOLOGY



Assisting Mississippi Local Governments Since 1973

