



LAGRANGE
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Media Release

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LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton Inducted as GMA President

LaGrange, Ga. August 12, 2021 – LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton took the oath of office as the Georgia Municipal Association (GMA) President Sunday, August 8th. The ceremony took place during the GMA’s annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia.



LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton takes the oath of office (also pictured LaGrange City Attorney Jeff Todd)

Thornton was elected to the LaGrange City Council in 2009, and after serving one full term on the council, was elected Mayor in 2013. Within GMA, he has served on the Board of Directors and has previously chaired the Legislative Policy Council, the Federal Policy Council, the Member Services Advisory Council, and the Municipal Government Policy Committee. Thornton was appointed as a co-chair of the recently established GMA Equity and Inclusion Commission.

LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton is the third LaGrange mayor to serve as President of GMA. LaGrange Mayor R. S. O'Neal was elected President of GMA in 1944 and LaGrange Mayor Frank Tigner was elected President of GMA in 1955. Numerous LaGrange mayors and city council members have served on the Board of GMA and on its various committees throughout the history of the organization.

“I am honored to serve as President of GMA. The cities of Georgia are stronger because of the advocacy and services provided by GMA and all our residents benefit from that,” said Mayor Thornton. “I look forward to the year ahead and the many ways GMA will continue to serve and equip our cities for growth and improvement.”



Pictured from left to right: Corinne Thornton, LaGrange Mayor Jim Thornton, Governor Brian Kemp, Marty Kemp, Amy Porter Kemp

GMA was founded in 1933 by Georgia cities in response to a legislative attempt by the Georgia General Assembly to curtail local autonomy. Dozens of cities met in Macon that year and organized the Georgia Municipal Association under the leadership of its first President, Atlanta Mayor James L. Key. There were 56 “charter members” of GMA in 1933. Today all 537 Georgia cities are members. The City of LaGrange was one of the original charter members.

About GMA: *Based in Atlanta, GMA is a voluntary, non-profit organization that provides legislative advocacy, educational, employee benefit and technical assistance services to its 537 member cities.*

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