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accg.org

**IMMEDIATE ATTENTION REQUIRED**

**To:** The Honorable Russell Sheppard, Probate Judge  
**From:** Mrs. Ashley Abercrombie, CPCU, Director of Property & Casualty Programs, ACCG  
Mr. Matt Autry, ARM-E, CIC, CSR, Underwriting and Member Services Manager, ACCG  
**CC:** Ms. Ann Moffat, Office Assistant, Washington County  
**Member:** Washington County  
**Date:** June 18, 2025  
**Re:** Confirmation of Statutory Bond Coverage through ACCG-IRMA  
Effective: 7/1/2025 to 7/1/2026

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The ACCG-IRMA provides blanket bond coverage for its member counties' public officials and employees who are required by state law, local ordinance, or resolution to be bonded up to the amount required. This coverage, as authorized by O.C.G.A. Section 45-4-11, is included in the ACCG-IRMA Coverage Agreement to eliminate the heavy administration and cost of placing individual bonds with the commercial insurance market. Note that we also provide up to \$50,000 per occurrence for those county employees who are not required by law to be bonded. (Higher limits are available upon request and for an additional premium.)

The above code section was amended in 2003 to provide clearer procedures relative to blanket bonds. It states that a blanket bond shall be signed by the Judge of the probate court and shall be filed and recorded in the office of the probate court. The amendment to O.C.G.A. § 45-4-11 takes precedence over O.C.G.A. § 15-9-8, meaning that the blanket bond only needs approval by the probate judge.

Blanket bond coverage provided by an interlocal risk management agency such as ACCG-IRMA may be in the form of a copy of an original coverage agreement. To streamline the process, we created a one-page Confirmation of Bond Coverage document for each member county. Please sign and date the Confirmation of Bond Coverage document, attach your seal, and put that on file in your office as evidence of your approval. **Please return a copy of the signed and dated Confirmation of Bond Coverage document to us via email to [accginsurance@accg.org](mailto:accginsurance@accg.org).**

For your information, the complete ACCG-IRMA Coverage Agreement will be emailed to our county contact upon receipt of membership documents and contributions, which is usually by the end of July.

Should you have any questions about the coverage or process, or you need a Certificate evidencing coverage for a contractual reason, please call ACCG, at (800) 858-2224. We are glad to provide this service to the ACCG-IRMA membership.



Issued by: ACCG-Interlocal Risk Management Agency (ACCG-IRMA)  
 Coverage Period: 7/1/2025 to 7/1/2026  
 Agreement No.: 6485  
 Named Member: Washington County

This certifies that the bonds required by state law or local ordinance are met in accordance with the Official Code of Georgia Annotated Section 45-4-11, subject to the ACCG-IRMA Coverage Agreement referenced above, its terms, conditions and exclusions. This is an excerpt from the ACCG-IRMA Coverage Agreement regarding bond coverage:

**SECTION VI - CRIME, I. COVERAGE AGREEMENT, D. STATUTORY BONDS**

IRMA agrees, subject to the limitations, terms and conditions set forth herein, to provide bond coverage for Employees and public officials of the Named Member who are required by local ordinance or resolution to be separately bonded. Under such bond coverage, IRMA will indemnify the Named Member for loss through the failure of any Employee or public official of the Named Member, acting alone or in collusion with others, to faithfully perform his or her duties as prescribed by law. For those Employees and public officials that are required by local ordinance or resolution to be bonded, the bond amount will not be more than the amount required by applicable local ordinance or resolution.

IRMA also agrees, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein, to provide bond coverage for the public officials and Employees of the Named Member who are required by state law to be separately bonded, including:

- |                                  |  |                                    |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Child Support Receiver           | County Administrator for Probate Court       | Jailer                             |
| Child Support Receiver Employees | County Law Library Board Secretary-Treasurer | Magistrate                         |
| Clerk of State Court             | County Library Board                         | Probate Court Judge                |
| Clerk of Superior Court          | County Surveyor                              | Sheriff                            |
| Clerk of Magistrate Court        | County Treasurer                             | Tag Agent                          |
| Constable                        | Deputy Clerk of Superior Court               | Tax Collector and Tax Commissioner |
| Coroner                          | Deputy Coroner                               | Tax Receiver                       |
| County Police Officer            | Deputy Sheriff                               | Warden                             |

The bonds of these public officers required by law to give bond, unless otherwise provided, shall be made payable to the Governor and his successor in office. If such bonded individual will faithfully discharge the duties required of him or her by virtue of his or her said office during the time he or she continues therein, or discharges any of the duties thereof, upon the terms required by law, then the above obligation shall be void; otherwise, to remain in full force and effect. This coverage shall also pay for all penalties and forfeitures this individual may incur under law and for all losses, damages, or expenses the state may sustain by reason of their conduct. The bond amount will not be more than the amount required by applicable state law.

IRMA also agrees, subject to the terms and conditions set forth herein, to indemnify any of the Named Member's public officials who are required by law to give individual bonds for the faithful performance of their service against loss through the failure of any Employee under the supervision of that official to faithfully perform his or her duties as prescribed by law, when such failure has as its direct and immediate result a loss of covered property. IRMA's payment will not be more than the amount required by applicable state law.

For public officials who have definite terms of office, this coverage shall continue until their current term has expired and also cover any discharge of duties extending past the term of office.

*[Handwritten Signature]*

Signature of Authorized Representative for ACCG-IRMA

Attested and approved by me this 18<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2025.

*[Handwritten Signature: Russell A. Sheppard]*  
 Probate Judge, Russell Sheppard

MEL DANIEL, JR.  
Chairman

BOBBY JACKSON  
District 2

EST. 1784  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY**  
\* G E O R G I A \*

119 Jones Street, PO Box 271 Sandersville, GA 31082  
Phone: 478-552-2325 Fax: 478-552-7424  
Email: boc@washingtoncountyga.gov

JAMES HITCHCOCK, JR.  
District 3

FRANK SIMMONS, JR.  
District 4

MICHAEL BRILLHART  
Administrator

September 2, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

Washington County received \$887,229.25 in revenue from the Insurance Premium Tax during the month of October 2024.

Washington County will use these funds in the unincorporated areas of the County solely for the purposes as outlined in O.C.G.A. § 33-8-8.3 in an amount corresponding to, or greater than, the revenues received.

Sincerely,



Michael Brillhart  
County Administrator