

# ***Glynn County Partners Shared Vision***

*Working together to make Brunswick and the Golden Isles an exceptional place to live, work, and visit by strengthening our communities and by enhancing the quality of life.*

***It is our goal to ensure Brunswick and Glynn County remain a:***

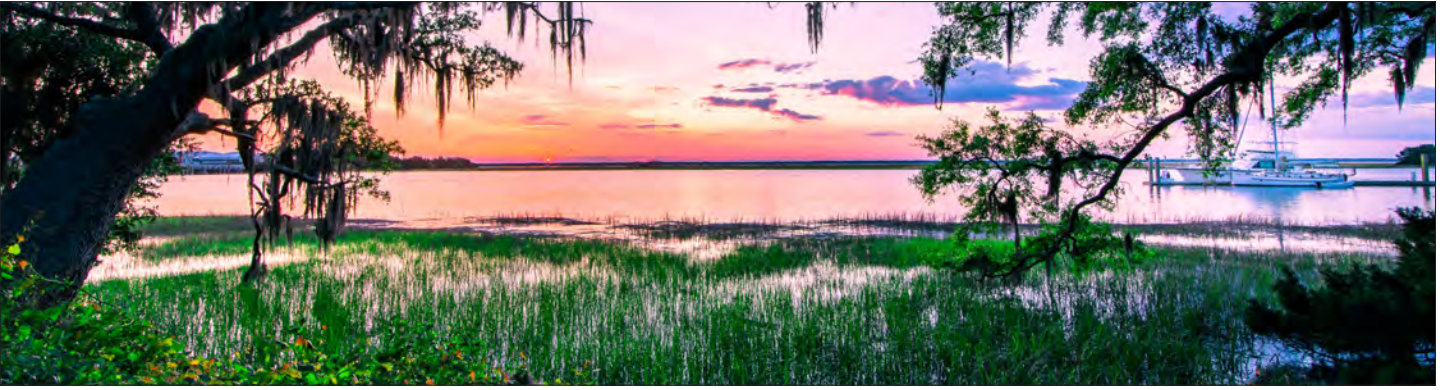
**Safe Community**

**Prosperous Community**

**Community Committed to Managed Growth**

**Desired Location to Live and Visit**





## ***A Safe Community:***

1. Support Glynn County's request for a regional Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in the case of a catastrophic event. We are seeking state support for an EOC that can be used by multiple entities throughout the coastal region should they need to evacuate their EOC because of a catastrophic event.
2. Support legislation that will extend the definition of an LSV (Low Speed Vehicle) to include gas powered vehicles and to create a process so that vehicles that have been altered to reach speeds up to 25 miles per hour are eligible for a vehicle tag from the state and can be operated on public roads with speed limits up to 35 miles per hour.
3. Support funding for the implementation of traffic calming processes to make the Bay Street corridor pedestrian friendly. By installing traffic calming devices to include a pedestrian bridge, citizens and visitors will be provided a safe mode for pedestrian travel.
4. Support for EPA/EPD initiatives and Brownfield clean-up projects. Resources will provide remedies for the redevelopment of impacted real estate. Funding will also provide the necessary resources to ensure public safety and future economic development in these affected areas.
5. Support state bond investment in bridges and maintain or increase earmarked funding for local bridges. County officials rely on asset management data provided by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) to prioritize the use of limited infrastructure funding for repairing and replacing these structures. When possible, Glynn County encourages GDOT to use objective methods to assess bridge infrastructure conditions to ensure clarity and certainty of information and the most efficient use of funding.
6. Support funding for mental health crisis in Georgia.

## ***A Prosperous Community:***

1. Continue to support funding for transportation projects in Glynn County in order to enhance economic development opportunities and evacuation routes.
2. Create a robust dedicated funding source for Georgia Airports capital improvement projects that will create opportunities for enhanced statewide community growth and attract private business growth.
3. Amend the Tax Payer Bill of Rights to allow for plain language. State-required advertising language has created confusion amongst the public when taxing authorities are setting the millage rate.
4. Support the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education; in particular, efforts at increasing access to, and equity in, early childhood education.
5. Support legislation that broadens opportunity for oyster farming on the Georgia coast.
6. Protect Georgia's Lodging Tax from redirection. Some communities have tried to stretch the definition of acceptable uses for lodging taxes and some have advocated for legislation to allow for its use for a wide variety of city services that have little or nothing to do with tourism.

7. Support establishing new school-start date and school-end date policies. In 2018, Golden Isles Convention and Visitors Bureau served as a member of the Senate Study Committee on Evaluating the School Year Calendar of Georgia Public Schools (Committee) and recommends that Georgia shift the start of the school year calendar to September and encourage local school systems to avoid extending the school year into June because:
  - The shortened summer break developed in recent years impacts students’ experiential learning opportunities and exposure to extracurricular community programming.
  - An extended summer would directly impact our business economy, but more importantly, allow for the vocational growth of our students and workforce in one of Georgia’s leading industries. Our state’s tourism-based economic development engine is not only a leading industry, but also a top five employer in Georgia.
  - Early August school start dates and end-of-school-year exams in June reduce the time high school students have for meaningful work and intern opportunities or to pursue extracurricular academic studies and activities over the summer– not to mention reduces the days to earn income for college savings or contributing to their families. Participating in summer jobs also shows higher education admissions professionals a level of dedication, maturity, and time management skills. These opportunities increase non-cognitive skills such as responsibility, positive work habits, motivation, self-confidence, and interpersonal interaction that are critical to the workforce of tomorrow.
8. Support funding to create affordable housing and workforce housing initiatives for public service employees, like police officers and educators, especially in downtown Brunswick. The development of affordable and safe workforce housing will increase the number of residents living in unoccupied areas which will spark revitalization and beautification initiatives in the city of Brunswick.
9. Support expansion of the Port of Brunswick to stimulate growth of downtown Brunswick and Glynn County.

## ***A Community Committed to Planned and Managed Growth:***

1. Support Glynn County’s Shoreline Protection implementation efforts. Through the Coastal Incentive Grant offered by the Department of Natural Resources, Glynn County (including the City of Brunswick and Jekyll Island) will create a plan to protect our beaches and shoreline from the effects of natural disasters and sea level rise. We are seeking state support to implement protection measures that are advised by the plan.
2. Oppose legislation that limits the decision-making authority of local governments to place fees on property tax bills. When service fees are not included on property tax bills, local government experience has shown significantly lower collection rates for those services. Currently, Glynn County collects a solid waste fee on property tax bills. The City of Brunswick collects a solid waste fee and a storm water utility fee.
3. Expansion of Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LITHC) program to include infill housing. Individuals who qualify for this existing state credit for qualified rental properties would also be able to apply for this credit for infill housing in the city of Brunswick.
4. Expansion of Georgia Dream Homeownership Program. The availability of this homeownership program and broadening of program qualifications in Glynn County would provide more opportunities for individuals and/or families to achieve homeownership. Additional funding for down-payment assistance and identifying the targeted census tract of 31520 for the homeownership program for non-first-time homebuyers would be beneficial for Brunswick residents.

***More >***

## ***A Desired Location to Live and Visit:***

1. Oppose legislation that would prevent or hinder local governments from adopting reasonable ordinances regulating the operation of short-term rentals within their jurisdictions.
2. Support funding for Jekyll Island Authority capital improvements. These include the Jekyll Island campground expansion, public safety complex, and Summer Waves water park.
3. Support the 2014 Jekyll Island Master Plan as the guide for land use on Jekyll Island. Two Master Plan Amendments are required to convert land for the Campground and Public Safety Complex. The total proposed area as reclassified is 15 acres, which would bring the maximum developable acres to 1675.
4. Support the current Certificate of Need (CON) Program.
5. Support efforts to ensure that affordable health insurance coverage is available to our citizens.
6. Support funding to create programs to address systemic poverty and homelessness.
7. Support broadening of the State Historic Preservation Tax Incentives to foster the adaptive re-use of the interior of historic structures for modern uses.
8. Support funding initiatives to combat chronic blight in Brunswick.

For more information on these initiatives, contact the proper agencies below:



**Ralph Staffins**

President/CEO

Brunswick-Golden Isles  
Chamber of Commerce

912-265-0620



**Ryan Moore**

President

Brunswick and Glynn  
County Development Authority

912-265-0620



**Scott McQuade**

CEO

Golden Isles Convention  
and Visitors Bureau

912-638-9014