



## Rockdale County Citizen's Government Academy August 13 – October 20, 2020

The Rockdale County Citizen's Government Academy is a ten-week program designed to offer residents the opportunity to learn about their local government through first-hand exposure to the wide range of government functions, services, activities, challenges and how they can become more involved.

Participants will learn about the relationships between the residents, the Chairman and Commissioners, Elected Officials and governmental departments. They will also learn the process for deciding why and how government projects are implemented, how services are provided, the ways government projects support Chairman and Commission goals and objectives as well as the Rockdale County strategic commitment, the budgeting process, roles and functions of public safety, environmental stewardship measures and additional responsibilities and functions of the Rockdale County government.

Each class will be conducted by department representatives and will provide both an informational and interactive learning approach.

# Citizen's Government Academy

Join the Chairman, Commissioners, Elected Officials, Department Heads and staff for a learning and networking opportunity. Rockdale County Government is offering its very first inaugural government academy. This is a weekly class designed for Rockdale residents to learn about their local government through first-hand exposure to the wide range of government functions, services, activities, and issues.

The Citizen's Government Academy will take place each Thursday evening from 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. and will last 10 weeks.

## Goal:

The Citizen's Government Academy seeks to provide participants with an in-depth overview of local government services, functions, and activities centered around the Chairman and Commissioners five focus areas of commitment to the residents of Rockdale County:

- **Infrastructure and Transportation**
- **Economic Development**
- **Quality of Life**
- **Education**
- **Social Investment**

## Learning Outcomes:

- The relationships between residents, the Chairman & Commissioners, Elected Officials and governmental departments
- The process for deciding why and how government projects are implemented and services are provided
- The ways government projects support Chairman and Commission goals and objectives as well as the Rockdale County strategic commitments
- The budgeting process
- Roles and functions of public safety
- Environmental stewardship measures
- Additional responsibilities and functions of Rockdale County Government

## Program Details:

The academy is limited to 30 participants. The Citizen's Government Academy is open to Rockdale County residents over the age of 18 years old. Applicants that are not serving on a County committee or authority will be given first consideration. Deadline to apply to the Citizen's Government Academy is July 1, 2020 or until all available spaces are filled. Applicants must commit to attending all sessions - more than one absence will require missed sessions to be made up during the next scheduled academy to graduate. Applicants must also attend one Board of Commissioners Public Meeting of their choice as a requirement to graduate.

**Meeting Day & Time:** Thursday nights, August 13<sup>th</sup> to October 20<sup>th</sup>, for ten weeks from 6:00-8:30 pm at various locations throughout Rockdale County. October 1<sup>st</sup> will be a break week due to Rockdale County Public Schools Fall Break. The Class will Graduate on October 20<sup>th</sup> at the evening Board of Commissioners Meeting.

## Citizen Engagement Overview

**Hosts: Jennifer Rutledge, Legislative Affairs Director/County Clerk, and Sue Sanders, Recreation & Maintenance Director**

- Meet the Chairman and Elected Officials
- Program Overview
- Purpose of Citizen's Government Academy
- History of Rockdale County
- Role of Elected Officials and Department Heads
- Form of Government
- Organizational Overview
- Ways to get involved in Boards & Committees

## Financial Health & Economic Development

**Hosts: Roselyn Miller, Chief Financial Officer, Will Barkley, Chief Appraiser, and Andrew Hammer, Recreation & Maintenance Deputy Director**

- Overview of Assessment Process/Revenue Base
- Overview of Budget Process
- Overview of SPLOST Program

## Watershed & Infrastructure

### **Part 1**

**Host: Rockdale Water Resources Director**

- Overview of Rockdale Water Resources
- Current Projects
- Tour of Water Treatment Plant

### **Part 2**

**Hosts: Ann Wead Kimbrough, Stormwater Director, and John Moretto, Transportation Director**

- Overview and Current Projects of Stormwater
- Stormwater data and funding
- Stormwater outreach
- Overview and Current Projects of Transportation

## Economic Development

**Hosts: Will Barkley, Economic Development Task Force Leader, and KC Krzic, Planning & Development Director**

- Overview of Economic Development
- New Business & Building Permits
- Code Compliance

## Quality of Life

### **Part 1**

**Hosts: Toni Holmes, Talent Management Director, and Jason Redmond, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director**

- Talent Management Overview
- Current employment opportunities
- Overview of Parks & Recreation
- Service Offerings
- Tour and History of Costley Mill

### **Part 2**

**Host: Jorge Diez, Public Relations Director**

**and Susan Morgan, Senior Services  
Division Manager**

- Keep Conyers Rockdale  
Beautiful
- Public  
Outreach/Communications
- Overview of Senior Center
- Service Offerings
- Tour of Senior Center

**Public Safety**

**Host: Dan Morgan, Fire Chief, and  
Ciji Baker, Animal Control Division  
Manager**

- Overview of Animal Control
- Overview of Fire Department
- Training Exercise
- Overview of EMA

**Court System**

**Host: James Cabe, Clerk of Courts**

- History of the Courthouse
- Overview of Court System
- Judges Panel

**Graduation Event**

**Tuesday, October 20, 2020  
Lorraine Elementary School  
3343 East Fairview Road,  
Stockbridge, GA 30281  
7 PM – Graduation at Evening Board  
of Commissioners Meeting**



Conyers, GA 30012

**Why are you interested in participating in the Citizen's Government Academy?**

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**What do you hope to gain or learn from participating in Citizen's Government Academy?**

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**Are you currently involved with any community or volunteer organizations? If so, please list.**

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**Are you currently serving on a County Board, Commission or Committee? If so, please list.**

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**How much experience or knowledge do you have of County Government operations?**

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I, the undersigned applicant, certify that the foregoing information is true and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Rockdale County Citizen's Government Academy**  
**RELEASE FROM LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, being 18 years of age or older, in consideration of my participation in the Rockdale County Citizen's Government Academy: conducted by the Rockdale County Board of Commissioners and my being allowed to accompany members of Rockdale County Government in its buildings and properties during the various activities with, Rockdale County Citizen's Government Academy do hereby agree as follows:

a) That I release, Rockdale County, its departments, and its agents and employees from any liability to myself and my heirs as a result of any damage to my property, injury to myself, or loss of my life sustained as a result of my participation or my accompanying said persons or properties on the above activities.

b) That I agree to hold, Rockdale County, its departments, and its agents and employees harmless for any loss sustained by them as a result of any injury or damage caused by myself and I agree to indemnify Rockdale County, and its agents or employees for any loss occurred thereby.

c) That I grant permission to Rockdale County, its departments, and its agents and employees to use my image, photograph or video in official Rockdale County publications, communications, and presentations, including, but not limited to, inclusion on the Rockdale County website and social media. I also understand that once my image is posted online, any computer user can download or capture the images.

Signed on the \_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2020 \_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

