

CERTIFIED FINANCE OFFICER NEWSLETTER

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Put Your Certification to Work

Katie Armstrong,
Division of Local Government Audit

September 1st brought significant change to local governments in Tennessee. Nearly half of Tennessee's counties welcomed a new County Mayor. In addition, new commissioners, highway officials, schools board members, and other county and municipal officials are beginning their terms and learning the responsibilities that come with public service. For these new officials, the first few months in office will involve a tremendous amount of learning. They will encounter new responsibilities, new processes, new people, and, in many cases, an introduction to government finance. This is your time to step up and put your certification to work.

At the Comptroller's office, our mission statement is "Make Government Work Better." While this is the official mission statement of the Comptroller's office, it is really a motto that should be embraced by all of us with a chosen career in public service. Right now, one of the best ways you can make government work better is by helping your newly elected officials succeed.



Cordell Hull Building
425 Rep. John Lewis Way N.
Nashville, Tennessee 37243
Phone: 615-401-7841
Fax: 615-741-6216

- Introduce yourself to new officials, explain your role, and let them know about your certified finance officer certification. Make sure they understand that you are a resource for them as they navigate the financial responsibilities that come with their new position.

- Educate them on government finances. Concepts and processes that have become routine to you may be completely unfamiliar to a newly elected official. Take the initiative to teach them. Walk them through your budget, explain where the money comes from and where it goes. Help them understand the different funds and their purposes. Talk about fund balance, purchasing, debt, and internal controls. Don't assume they already know these things and don't wait for them to ask.
- Be a help, not a hinderance. New officials will bring new ideas and priorities. Sometimes those ideas will fit easily within existing processes and sometimes they won't. When challenges arise, resist becoming the person who simply says, "No, we can't do that." Instead, explain why a requirement exists and help identify lawful, accountable, and fiscally responsible options for accomplishing the official's objective. There is an important difference between saying, "You can't do that," and saying, "Here are the requirements we have to follow, so let's talk about how we can accomplish what you're trying to do." That approach makes you a partner rather than an obstacle.

As newly elected officials across the state get to work, you have an opportunity to put your certification to work. With every budget explained, every audit finding prevented, every internal control implemented, you are taking the knowledge learned in the classroom and using it to improve your local government. You worked hard to earn your certification. Now put it to work and help make government work better.



SUCCESSFUL CONNECTIONS

A state & local government partnership program

OPEN TO ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS
COUNTIES, CITIES, UTILITY DISTRICTS & AUTHORITIES



Save the Date!

Friday, October 23, 2026

11:30a.m. - 1:00p.m. Central

Topic: Education Finance: What's Happening with our Schools?





CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



THE NEWEST COHORT OF CERTIFIED COUNTY FINANCE OFFICERS & CERTIFIED MUNICIPAL FINANCE OFFICERS

WERE RECENTLY CELEBRATED FOR
THEIR ACHIEVEMENT ON
AUGUST 13, 2026

*Please take a moment to recognize the graduates listed
on the following pages.*





CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES



DAVID ABDOU
LATOYA M. ALBRIGHT
BRANDON ALLEY
GABRIELLE ALVARADO
JULIE ANGLEA
TIANA AUSTIN
CHERI BACKHURST
TIMOTHY BAILEY
JASON BALLINGER
AMY BALLON
TRACEY L. BARNETT
SARAH BEETS BARNETTE
AMELIA BAXTER
MISTY BELL
KELLY BELLAMY
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MADELYNN BILYEU
TAFTE BISHOP
ELIZABETH BLACK
GERALDINE BLACK
TAMMY BLAKELY
CONNIE BLEVINS
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BRIAN BROWN
CHENOA S. BROWN
CHRISTIANE BROWN
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MARIA L. BROWN
CHELCI T. BRYSON
IZABELA BUDZYNSKI
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HOLLY COX
LARRY COX
BRADLEY CRAFTON
KERRY CRANDALL
DAVE CRAVEN
NICOLE CRAWLEY
JONATHAN CRAYCRAFT
CAMILE CRUTCHER
TABITHA FOSTER CRUZ
CRYSTAL CUMMINGS
DEVON CURTIS
KRISTIAN DAILEY
CHRISTY Y. DASHER
JESSICA DAVIS
KAREN DAVIS
SHELBY DAVIS
KOLO LYNN DAVIS III
JASON DEAL

STEPHANIE DEAN
CARMENDIE DiFRANCO
STEPHANIE DONITHAN-MARROW
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JANE DOZIER
STEPHANIE DYER
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THERESE SHERLAINE EMMONS
MISTY FALLS
DONIKA L. FARMER
EMILY FARROW
LESLIE FIELDS
JAMES BRANDON FILLERS
CRYSTAL ELIZABETH FLATFORD
REBEKAH FLOWERS
FRANCES M. FONTENOT
MARILYN CUFF FOWLER
CHRIS FRANKLIN
AMANDA RENEE FRAZIER
CATHERINE FRENCH
MARY BETH FRESHOUR
STARLA FRIEDMANN
JEREMY R. FRYE
JUSTIN M. GARCIA
ABIGAIL GARL
SHANNON GARTUNG
MELONY GEE
ANNABELLA A. GELMETTI
JANICE GENTRY
ANNETTE M. GERRETSE
GINA M. GIBBS
ANDREW GILES
MEGAN GILLIAM
CHARLES GLASSFORD
SHELBY ANNETTE GLOVER
MARIAN NICOLE GOINS
JESSICA GONZALEZ
MARIEL LÓPEZ-GONZÁLEZ



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LISA GRAY
KRISTON GREENE
LATISHA DELAINE GREENWOOD
ROXANNE O'HAIR
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CYNTHIA PORTER-HAMILTON
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Americans with Disabilities Act Title II

Web & Mobile Application Accessibility Rule

What? In April 2024, the Department of Justice published a rule updating its regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act. The rule sets technical requirements for state and local governments to follow to make sure that their websites and mobile apps are accessible to people with disabilities.

Why? State and local governments provide many of their services, programs, and activities through websites and mobile apps. When these websites and mobile apps are not accessible, they can create barriers for people with disabilities.

- For example, individuals who are blind may use a screen reader to deliver visual information on a website or mobile app as speech. A state or local government might post an image on its website that provides information to the public. If the website does not include text describing the image (sometimes called “alternative text” or “alt text”), individuals who are blind and who use screen readers may have no way of knowing what is in the image because a screen reader cannot “read” an image.

Guidance & Resources

For a beginner-level introduction to a topic, view [Topics](#)

For information about the legal requirements, visit [Law, Regulations & Standards](#)

Purpose of this fact sheet: This fact sheet gives a summary of the rule. The summary is designed to provide introductory information about the rule’s requirements, particularly for people who may not have a legal background. For more information, please read the full rule and the IFR. The official version of the rule and the official version of the IFR are published in the Federal Register.

When? On April 20, 2026, the Federal Register published the Department’s Interim Final Rule (IFR) extending the compliance date for State and local government entities with a total population of 50,000 or more to April 26, 2027. The compliance date for public entities with a total population of less than 50,000, or any special district government, is extended to April 26, 2028.

Visit [ADA.gov](https://www.ada.gov) for more information on Title II

THE COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE IS OFFERING FREE CPE

16 hours • 3 Locations Available • CMFO & CCFO Training Only



JACKSON, TN
OCTOBER 22-23, 2026
(WAITING LIST ONLY)

NASHVILLE, TN
OCTOBER 28-29, 2026
(IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE)

KNOXVILLE, TN
NOVEMBER 18-19, 2026
(IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL OPTIONS AVAILABLE)



PREVIOUS TOPICS INCLUDED: *GASB UPDATE, CYBERSECURITY, TAX RELIEF, FRAUD, LEADERSHIP, LEGISLATIVE UPDATES, AND MORE!*

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



Have a question?
Not sure who to contact?

Certified County Finance Officer (tn.gov)
Certified Municipal Finance Officer (tn.gov)



Reminder:
CPE hours must be
earned by December 31st

Connect with your
area consultant

ctas.tennessee.edu
mtas.tennessee.edu



Upcoming Training Opportunities

CPE Provider Training Classes and Conferences

(The following list is not a preapproval or endorsement of the provider organizations. For any questions regarding online CPE courses, please refer to the CMFO Policies and Procedures Manual.)

ACFE (Association of Certified Fraud Examiners)
<http://www.acfe.com/>

TGA (Tennessee Gas Association)
<http://www.tngas.org/>

ACPEN (Accounting CPE Network)
<https://www.acpen.com/>

TCMA (Tennessee City Management Association)
<http://www.tncma.org/>

AGA (Association of Government Accountants)
(CGFM)
<http://www.agacgfm.org/>

TGFOA (Tennessee Government Finance Officers Association)
<https://tgfoa.org/>

AICPA (American Institute of Certified Public Accountants)
<https://www.aicpa-cima.com/cpe-learning>

TSCPA (Tennessee Society of Certified Public Accountants)
<http://www.tscpa.com>

Checkpoint Learning CPESay
<https://checkpointlearning.com/CPESolutions/CPE-for-CPAs>

TVPPA (Tennessee Valley Public Power Association, Inc.)
<http://www.tvppa.com>

CTAS
<https://www.ctas.tennessee.edu/training>

Tyler Technologies
<http://www.tylertech.com/>

GFOA (Government Finance Officers Association)
http://www.gfoa.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=28&Itemid=49

Western CPE
<http://www.westerncpe.com/>

MTAS
<https://www.mtas.tennessee.edu/training>

NASACT (National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, & Treasurers)
<http://nasact.org/>

