

Advocacy. Service. Innovation.

GMA exists to serve our 538 cities and protecting Home Rule is one of the bedrock principles we support and defend. For the past five months, we have been battling a deadly public health crisis. Nowhere is that felt more than in our cities, where you serve and interact with dedicated frontline workers—doctors, nurses, public safety and public health professionals—and all those who live and work in your communities. As you know, protecting these critical public servants and the public they serve, including the medically fragile and vulnerable, is central not only to their health, but to the health of our cities and our state's economy.

GMA fully understands this as well, which is why our legal brief filed on July 21 guards your right to establish policies for your buildings and your employees and customers, and to protect Home Rule, a right we believe is grounded in Georgia law and one afforded to every city. While we accept this decision is not popular with everyone, we take comfort in knowing that over 90 percent of city officials who voluntarily contacted GMA in response to the filing expressed strong support for this decision.

As of today, approximately 100 of Georgia's cities made the decision to require those entering their city halls and public buildings to wear a face covering. You took these measures to defend the health of your valued staff and team members, who are instrumental in keeping essential services operating for your citizens—those who are trusting and relying on you now more than ever.

As GMA stands up for your right to make decisions for your city, please remember that the freedom to serve and protect is at the very core of why cities exist and why you serve in office. It is and has always been our hope to work cooperatively with Governor Kemp and his team as together we serve Georgians during this most challenging time.

[Read GMA's full legal brief](#). A link to this video statement can also be found [here on the GMA website](#). If you have questions or comments regarding the legal brief and GMA's advocacy efforts, please email gacities@gacities.com.