



golf industry show



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# **This Ain't No Filibuster: Government Affairs Issues Briefing**

**GCSAA Government Affairs Team  
Dr. Mike Thomas  
Rhett Evans**

**Tuesday, February 7, 2017**



**Bob Helland**  
**Director, Congressional and**  
**Federal Affairs**

**785-832-3659**

**[rhelland@gcsaa.org](mailto:rhelland@gcsaa.org)**











# The Legislative Agenda for 2017

## Key dates and prospective items on the legislative agenda in 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Beginning of 115 <sup>th</sup> Congress	DNC chair election	Debt limit expires	<u>Approps:</u> Deadline to pass a new CR	G7 meeting	SCOTUS term ends	G20 summit	Congress on summer recess		End of FY 2017	Election day	
Presidential inauguration			Trump's 100 <sup>th</sup> day in office								
ACA: End of open enroll. period											

### Possible actions, timing unknown

**Affordable Care Act:** President-elect Donald Trump and Congressional Republicans have promised to repeal and replace Obamacare

**Conflict in Iraq & Syria:** Bilateral talks between the U.S. and Russia broke down in early October 2016; unclear when or if they will restart

**Cybersecurity:** In the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, it is possible that encryption will receive renewed legislative attention

**Energy & Environment:** Negotiations for a comprehensive energy bill are expected to resume in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

**Financial Regulation:** House Finance Committee Chairman Hensarling has signaled that he will release an updated version of the CHOICE Act

**Immigration:** Trump and Congress may invoke a 2006 law authorizing funds for a border wall, pending the appropriations process

**Medicare:** Congressional Republicans, including Speaker Ryan, have expressed an interest in reforming Medicare and turning it into a "premium support" system

**Tax Reform:** The Trump administration is likely to prioritize tax reform; Congressional Republicans will address the issue in the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

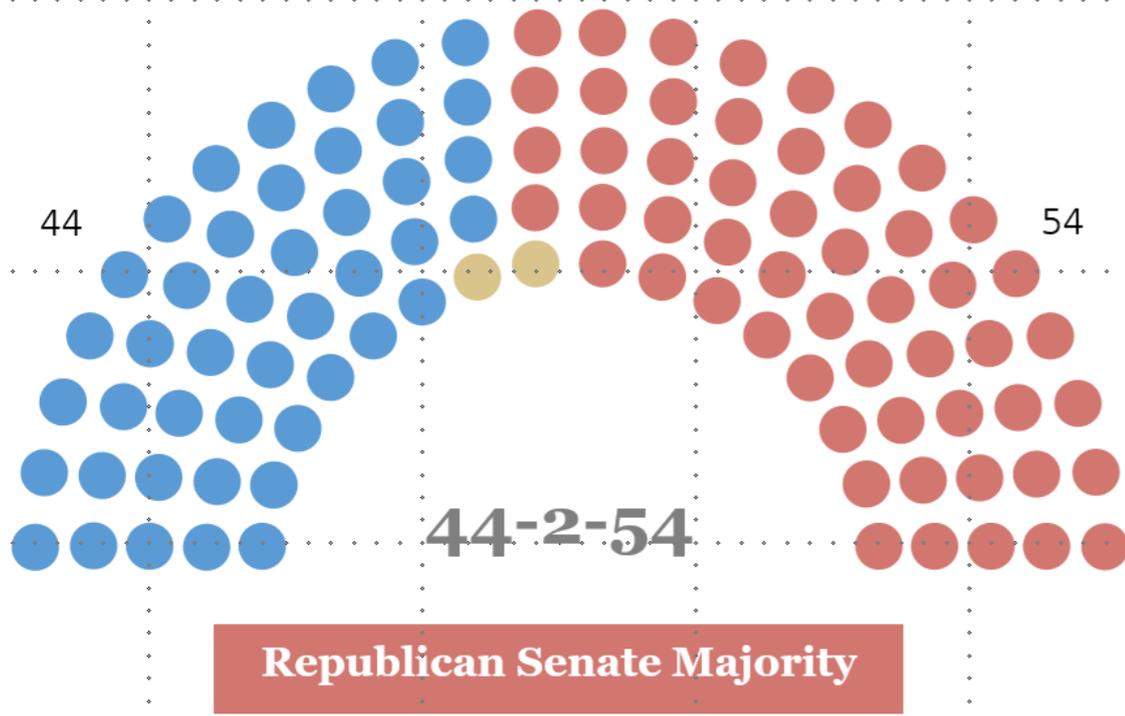
**Tech:** The Trump administration can undue significant technology regulations, such as net neutrality; however, such topics are subject to judicial challenges

# In 2016, the Republican Party lost one seat but maintained a 52-48 majority in the Senate

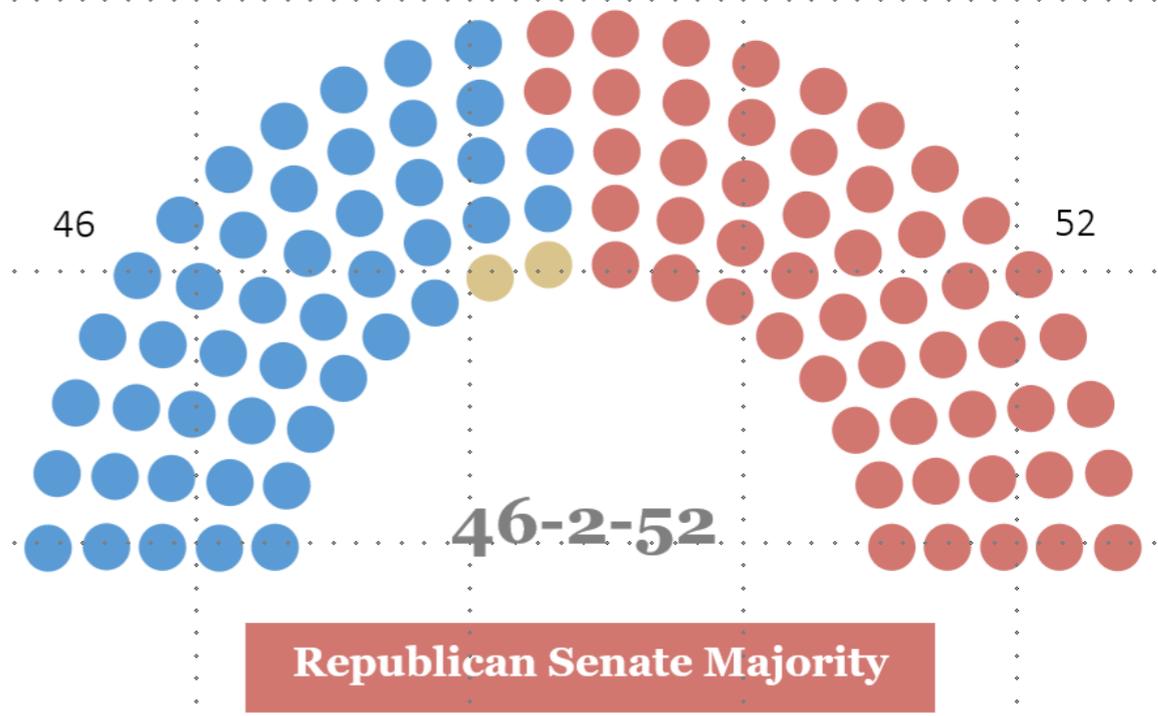
## Control of the 114<sup>th</sup> vs. 115<sup>th</sup> Senate

■ Democrats ■ Republicans ■ Independents

Control of the 114<sup>th</sup> Senate (2014-2016)



Control of the 115<sup>th</sup> Senate (2016-2018)



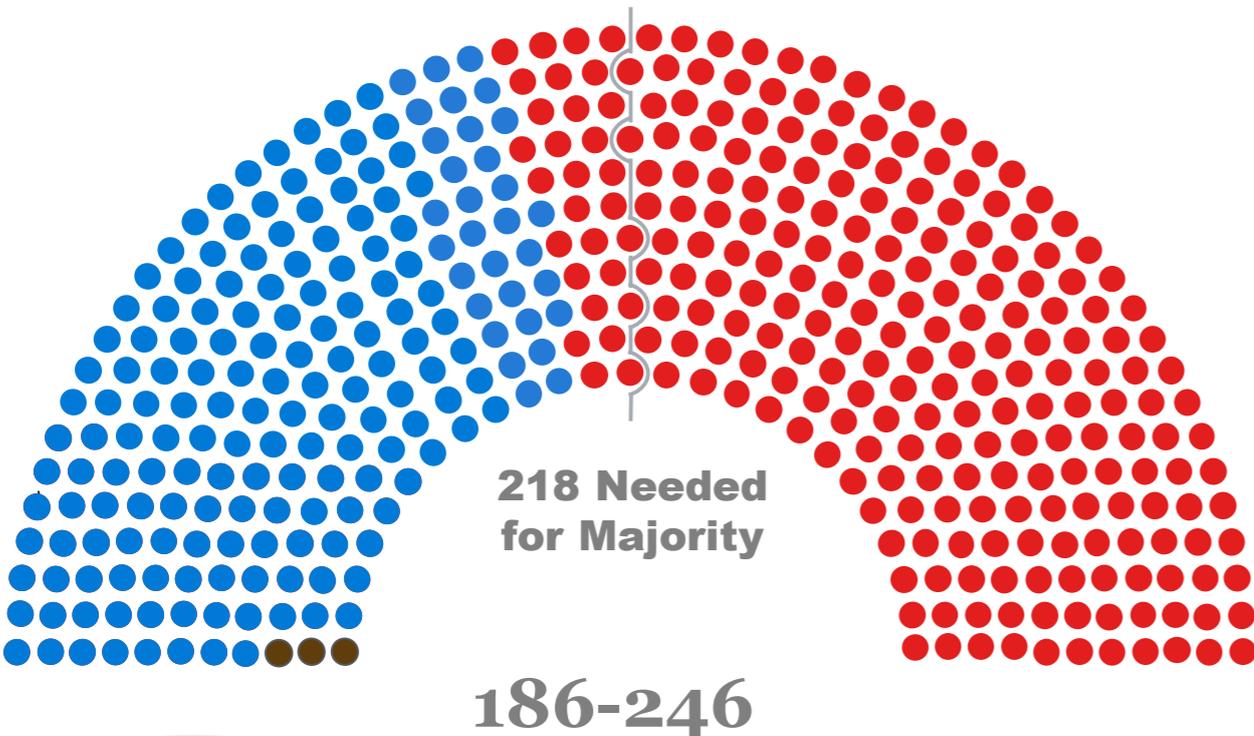
Source: National Journal research; 2016.

# Republicans retain control of House; limit Democratic gains in 2016 elections

## Control of the 114<sup>th</sup> vs. 115<sup>th</sup> House

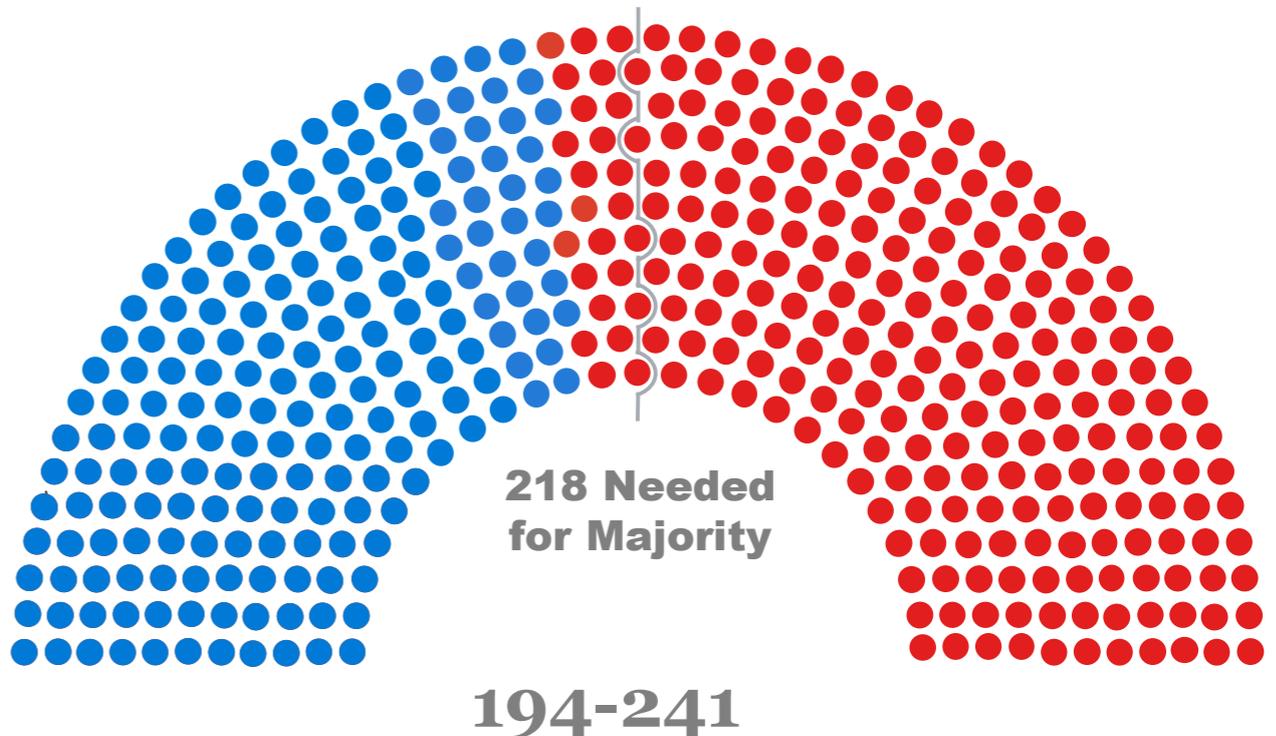
■ Democrats ■ Republicans ■ Independents □ Vacant

Control of the 114<sup>th</sup> House (2014-2016)



Republican House Majority

Control of the 115<sup>th</sup> House (2016-2018)



Republican House Majority



-TEAM-

- CC
- CM
- CM
- EO
- ML
- RH
- +1

**Political Action Committee**  
**FAQ**

GCSAA

00:17.17 / 09:36.09

540p

- CM
- CM
- EO
- ML
- RH
- +1

**CHAVA McKEEL**  
GCSAA Director of Gov. Affairs

00:13.22 / 09:36.09

540p













**Michael Lee**  
**Manager, Government Affairs**

**785-832-3612**

**[mlee@gcsaa.org](mailto:mlee@gcsaa.org)**



# Offense & Defense

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# Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-OK)

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# Government Affairs Team

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# What It's All About



Nick Janovich, Oglebay Resort & Conf. Center  
Wheeling, West Virginia

Scott Brickley, Bunker Hill Golf Course  
Medina, OH

*“...to meet with members of Congress [and their staff] to spread the word about all the good our industry does. From golf’s \$70 billion annual economic impact to the 2 million jobs it creates, we aren’t at a loss for talking points. We have a great story to tell.” – GCM, May 2016*



# Ambassador Experiences

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Chris Cook, Superintendent  
Bailey Ranch Golf Club  
Owasso, OK

# Ambassador Experiences

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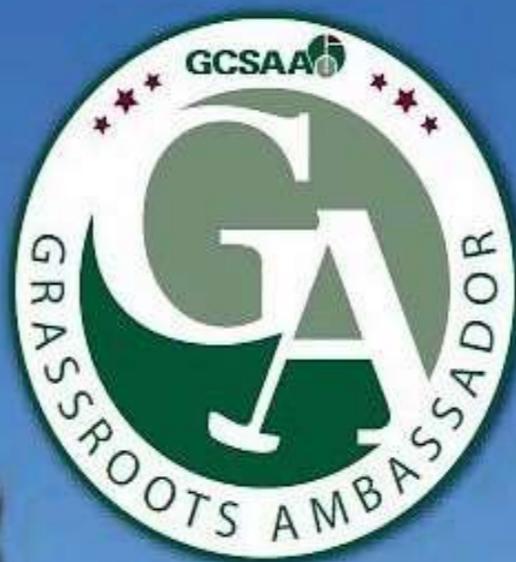


Dan Wegener, Superintendent  
Elmwood Golf Course  
Sioux Falls, SD



Dan Rootes  
 Dan Wegener  
 Dana Garble  
 Daniel Knight  
 Daniel Vandecorwing  
 Daniel Evers  
 Danden Micks  
 Damon Farrar  
 David Gresham  
 David Likie  
 David Bantzboom  
 David Mabea  
 David Downing, CGCS  
 David Robertson  
 David Camuth  
 David Smith  
 David Walter  
 David Brandenburg, CGCS  
 Don Neumann  
 Don Ferrel  
 Doug Brooks  
 Douglas Hoeh  
 Douglas Lowe, CGCS  
 Dwayne Dillinger, CGCS  
 Eddie Roach  
 Eric Dixon  
 Eric McCormick  
 Eric David  
 Eric Dusia, CGCS  
 Erin Stevens, CGCS, MG  
 Ethan Sharnet  
 Frank Tesosquod  
 Frank Dada  
 Fredrick Biggers, CGCS  
 Gabe Hughes  
 Galen Evans  
 Gary Ingram, CGCS  
 George Cutshaf  
 Gerald Flaherty, CGCS  
 Gino Marchetti  
 Glenn Matthews, CGCS  
 Glenn Miller, CGCS  
 Glenn Berelkar, CGCS  
 Grant Biewar  
 Greg Brunson  
 Greg Brandist  
 Gregory Phinegar  
 Gus Rodda  
 H. Wayne Coble  
 Harrison Boal  
 J. Ryan Bentley  
 Jacob Close  
 Jake Snyman  
 Jakob Solem  
 James Alwine  
 James Ferrin, CGCS  
 James Pedersen

Adam Bagwell, CGCS  
 Alfred Steppich  
 Alan Kusler  
 Allen Brown, CGCS  
 Amos Stephens  
 Andrew Nimmann  
 Andrew Jorgensen, CGCS  
 Andrew Cross  
 Andrew Brennan  
 Andrew Eick  
 Andy Klein, CGCS  
 Andy Neiswander  
 Anthony Dierkens, CGCS  
 Barry Bennett, CGCS  
 Bill Fox  
 Blake Halderman, CGCS  
 Brad Julliff  
 Brad Marcy  
 Brady Finton  
 Brandon Reese  
 Brandon Cobb  
 Brent LaBlanc  
 Brett Chapin  
 Brett Hilland, CGCS  
 Brian Boyer  
 Brian Sullivan, CGCS, MG  
 Brian Stehlar, CGCS  
 Brian Kofler  
 Bruce Frock  
 Bryce Gibson  
 Bryce Koch  
 Chad Robinson  
 Chad Weirich  
 Charles Kimmann  
 Chase Beer  
 Chris Stigelman, CGCS  
 Chris Greene  
 Chris Cook  
 Chris Gaughan  
 Chris Bruner  
 Christian Sain  
 Christopher Konow  
 Chuck Wolabom  
 Clayton DuBose, CGCS  
 Cole Clark  
 Craig Little  
 Dan Hawkins



## Become A Grassroots Ambassador Today

GCSAA is taking its government relations efforts to the next level! With the goal of matching a member of GCSAA with each Member of Congress by 2020, we are actively recruiting Ambassadors interested in building strong relationships with our nation's lawmakers. The program will establish a network of committed volunteers to serve as the "go-to" people for policymakers and their staff on golf course management issues. The most important thing you can do as a GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador is share your story, so sign up today!



Jamie Palotas  
 Jamie Borowski  
 Jason Muhl  
 Jason Busch  
 Jay Handolph, CGCS  
 Jay Neuminger  
 Jed Spencer, CGCS  
 Jeff Schmitt, CGCS  
 Jeff White, CGCS  
 Jeff Huber  
 Jeff Miller, CGCS  
 Jeffrey Haskins  
 Jeffrey Swaton, CGCS  
 Jeffrey Urquhan  
 Jeffrey Speman, CGCS  
 Jeffrey Austin  
 Jeffrey Jensen  
 Jeremy Adline  
 Jerome Blahnik  
 Jim Husting, CGCS  
 Jim Pavonetti, CGCS  
 Jim Hedrow  
 Joe Hubbard, CGCS  
 Joe Kirlin  
 Joe Duester  
 John Curran  
 John Wadlermeier  
 John Kotsaki, CGCS  
 John Gold  
 Jon Canavan  
 Jordan McCormick  
 Jorge Cloda, CGCS  
 Joseph Rodriguez  
 Josh Haplig  
 Josh Czarnacki  
 Josh Saunders  
 Justin Jeffery  
 Justin Ruiz, CGCS  
 Keith Ims  
 Kelly Barker, CGCS  
 Kenneth Lochridge  
 Kenneth Benoit, CGCS  
 Kenneth Brunemar, CGCS  
 Kenneth Gorzycki, CGCS  
 Kevin Brown, CGCS  
 Kevin Sunderman  
 Kevin Hicks

Kevin Gault  
 Kevin Koser, CGCS  
 Kirk Dolan  
 Koway Chapman  
 Kyle Brown  
 Kyle Merritt  
 Kyle Hegland  
 Kyle Marshall  
 Lana Ferguson  
 Leslie Carpenter  
 Lydell Mack  
 Marc Weston, CGCS  
 Marcus Hamees  
 Mark Kuhns, CGCS  
 Mark Miller  
 Matt Dulawicz  
 Matt Miler  
 Matt Wilson  
 Matt Shaffer  
 Matthew Ayer  
 Matthew Gourlay, CGCS  
 Matthew Hughes  
 Matthew Allen, CGCS  
 Matthew Capio, CGCS  
 Matthew Boyce  
 Melvin Waldron III, CGCS  
 Mitch Lowell  
 Michael Pooey  
 Michael Jones, CGCS  
 Michael Upchurch  
 Michael J. Rayman, CGCS  
 Mike Augustin  
 Mike Stevens  
 Mike Brown  
 Mike Palmer  
 Mike Swammer  
 Mike Barnett, CGCS  
 Mitch Savage  
 Nathan Sullivan  
 Neal Weldon  
 Nick Janovich  
 Patrick Reinhardt  
 Patrick O'Brien  
 Patrick Knolly  
 Patrick Christoffer  
 Patrick Reuteman  
 Patrick Rose  
 Paul McGinnis, CGCS  
 Paul Derry  
 Peter Goman  
 Peter Rappocido, CGCS  
 Peter Stephens, CGCS  
 Peter McDonough  
 Preston Stephenson  
 Rafael Martinez  
 Randal Weeks  
 Robert Brown  
 Robert Marshall

Robert Seane  
 Robert Steyer, CGCS  
 Robert Hilden, CGCS  
 Rodney Miller  
 Rodney Crow, CGCS  
 Rolando Molina  
 Ron Dethle, CGCS  
 Rory Van Pouda  
 Ross Luebcher  
 Russell Young, CGCS  
 Russell Dunge, CGCS  
 Russell Heller, CGCS  
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 Ryan Galles  
 Ryan Moore  
 Scott Bower  
 Scott Ramsey, CGCS  
 Scott Griffith  
 Scott Hines, CGCS  
 Scott Halteman  
 Scott Carpenter, CGCS  
 Scott Brickley  
 Scott Phelps, CGCS  
 Seth Swanson  
 Shawn Gill  
 Simon Parkin, CGCS  
 Stephen Ravenkamp, CGCS  
 Stephen Curry  
 Steven Showers  
 Steven Barber  
 Steven Neulap, CGCS  
 T.A. Barker  
 Terry Gill  
 Thad Thompson  
 Thomas Brodeur  
 Thomas Rhoades  
 Tim Busak  
 Tim Gravert  
 Timothy Connolly  
 Timothy Kolby  
 Timothy Durn  
 Toby Young  
 Todd Lupkes  
 Tony Bubenak, CGCS  
 Travis Moore  
 Tyson Jacobs  
 Victor Federico  
 William Kiefer  
 William Beck, CGCS  
 William Murray  
 William Keene  
 Zach Bauer  
 Zach Wike

GCSAA GRASSROOTS AMBASSADORS

GCSAA GRASSROOTS AMBASSADORS

# By the Numbers

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Total # of Ambassadors = 265

Goal for 2017 = 341 (80 or 20 per quarter)

## States Completely Full

Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Idaho, Montana, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming

Senator pairings = 67/100



id Phipps  
GCSAA



**GCSAA GRASSROOTS AMBASSADOR AGREEMENT**  
More information can be found in Government Affairs Online at [www.gcsaa.org](http://www.gcsaa.org)

This GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador Agreement is between Pat Christopher and GCSAA

Contact name: Pat Christopher

Email: pat.christopher@reelledges.com

Company: Reel Ledges

Facility address: 1851 E Center St. Heber City 84052 UT

Phone: 435-657-4061 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Ambassador class:  Spring  Summer  Fall  Winter As Available

I am a GCSAA professional member (class A, SM, or C) and I belong to a GCSAA-affiliated chapter.

I am located in the Congressional district with the Member of Congress I am paired with.

I will receive a Welcome Packet at the beginning of my term of service. This Welcome Packet will include a Grassroots Ambassador Engagement Calendar. I should regularly visit Government Affairs Online for monthly Ambassador education opportunities.

I agree to participate in GCSAA's Grassroots Ambassador program for a two-year term. I also agree to fulfill the duties of a GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador.

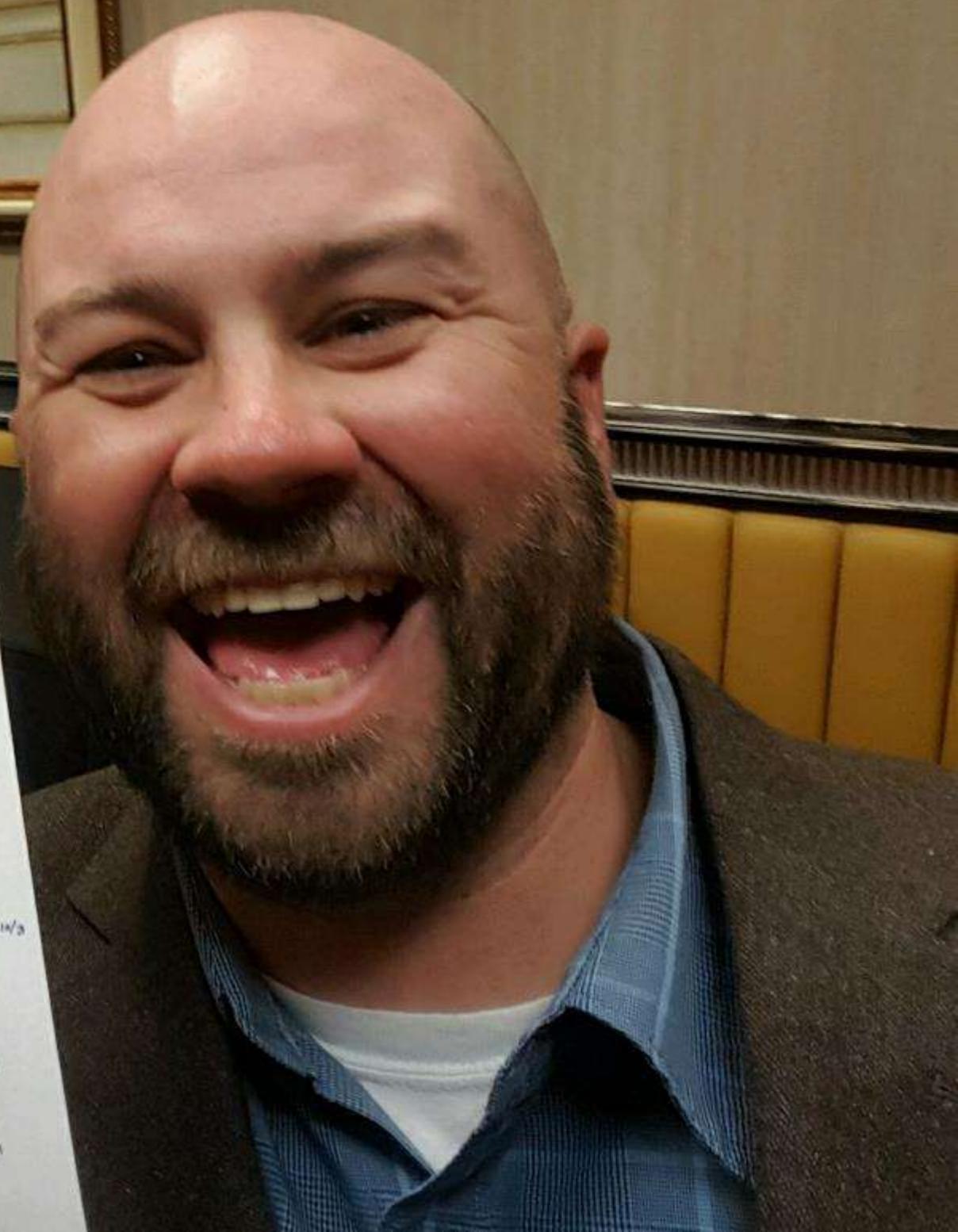
I agree to accept the GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador Responsibilities.

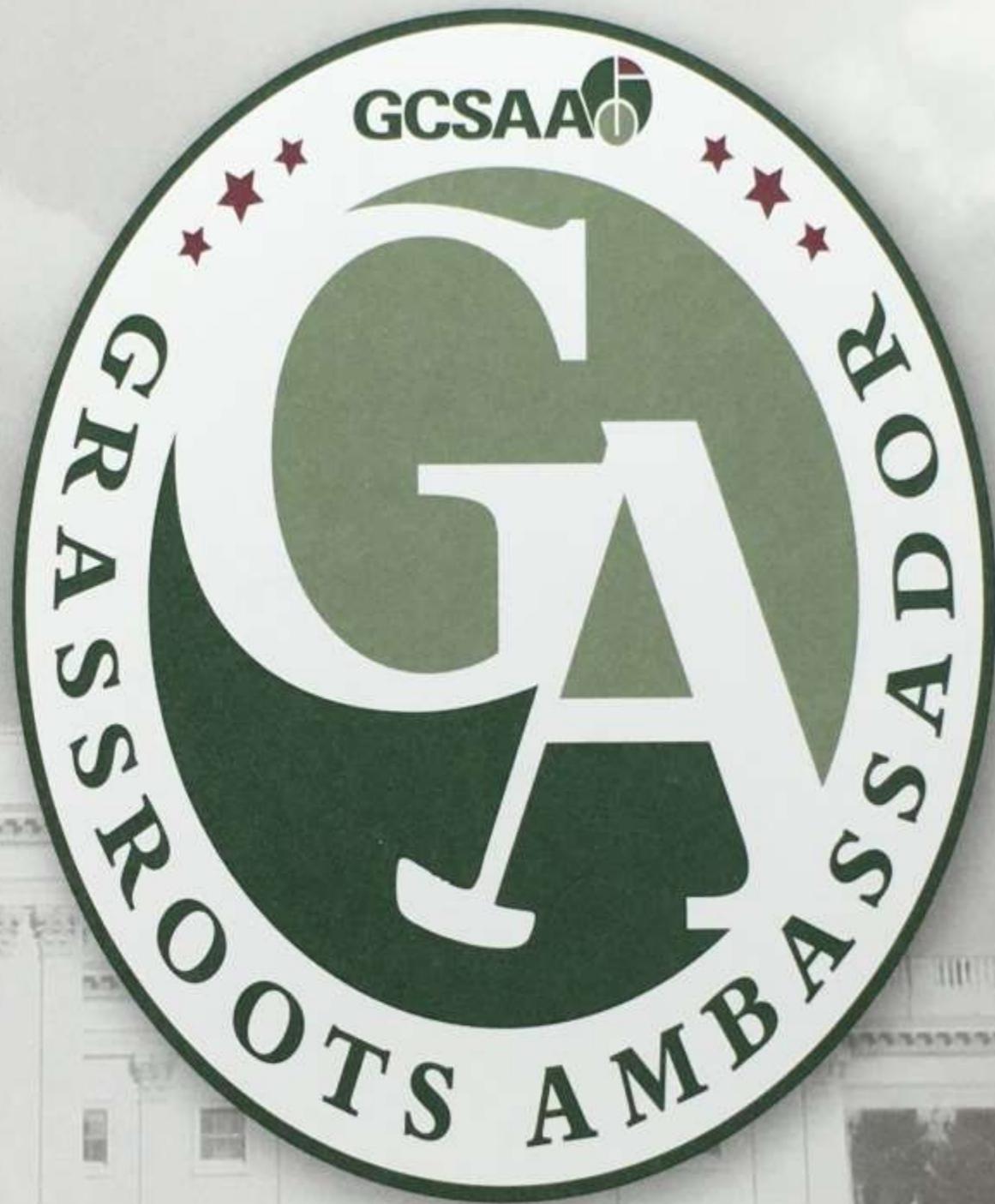
I agree to accept the GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador Recognition (awarding of service and other benefits).

I understand that the requirements of being a GCSAA Grassroots Ambassador can vary by chapter.

Pat Christopher  
Signature

12/1/14  
Date





**Chava McKeel**  
**Director, Government Affairs**

**785-832-3619**

**[cmckeel@gcsaa.org](mailto:cmckeel@gcsaa.org)**



The Future

NEXT EXIT





KEEP  
CALM

BE

PROACTIVE  
not REACTIVE

**Expect local  
action – we  
need your  
support!**



**DON'T GET  
STUNG**  
**VOTE  
FOR  
THE BEES**

**#SAVETHEBEES**  
**SAVE  
THE  
BEES**

AAZ.ORG Friends of the earth GREENPEACE PESTICIDE ACTION NETWORK UK RSPB Soil Association

**SAY NO  
TO NEONIC**

**#SAVETHEBEES**  
**SAVE  
THE  
BEES**

**LIKE FOOD  
LOVE BEES**  
**SAY NO  
TO NEONIC**

**MR PATERSON  
IF YOU  
FAIL  
TO ACT  
THE BEE  
WILL  
DIE**

**NEONIC**

**WE ARE  
ALL  
BEE**

**SAY NO  
TO NEONIC**

**OUR LIVES DEPEND ON THEIRS.**

**BEEKEEPERS!**

## 2016 GCSAA Priority Issues Agenda

For each priority issue, you'll find an informational overview, a GCSAA board-approved position statement, current GCSAA activity on the issue, information on official GCSAA position papers, and information on coalitions in which GCSAA participates.

GCSAA staff uses this agenda to take action on golf course management issues and is guided by the official GCSAA position statement for each issue.

[Americans with Disabilities Act](#)

[Fertilizers](#)

[Labor and Immigration](#)

[Pesticides](#)

[Value of Golf](#)

[Water Management](#)

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## How The Agenda is Developed

The GCSAA Board of Directors, Government Relations Committee members and staff receive ongoing feedback on golf course management issues through communication with members, affiliated chapters (boards, executives, government relations liaisons), regional turfgrass and green industry coalitions, allied associations, industry partners, university scientists, advocacy consultants, and government agencies. Input and feedback is also gathered from the GCSAA Member Needs Assessment, as well as issue-specific member surveys.

Based on this feedback, the GCSAA Government Relations Committee annually develops a recommended Priority Issues Agenda. While staff actively monitors and takes action on many issues impacting golf course management, the Priority Issues Agenda outlines the legislative and regulatory "priorities" for GCSAA — those that are likely to require the greatest amount of association resources and staff time.

The recommended agenda is submitted to the GCSAA Board of Directors for approval. Upon approval, the agenda is distributed to members through the GCSAA website and other association communication vehicles.

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[CLICK HERE](#) to print off a copy of the entire 2016 GCSAA Priority Issues Agenda.

**We want  
your  
proactive  
ideas!**

## GCSAA Investigating A Political Action Committee

GCSAA is exploring the launch of a Political Action Committee in the fall of 2017. During 2016, Government Affairs staff presented the concept of a GCSAA PAC to the Government Affairs Committee, GCSAA Board of Directors and Chapter Delegates and are now seeking feedback from the general membership on a GCSAA PAC.

Before April 15, 2017, please take a few minutes to:

- 1) Watch the GCSAA PAC videos;
- 2) Read the Political Action Committee FAQ brochure; and
- 3) Offer feedback on the 3 questions in our online Feedback Form.

### PAC 101 Video



**REPORT YOUR GCSAA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE FEEDBACK HERE**  
Please offer your feedback on the launch of a GCSAA Political Action Committee.

[Feedback](#)

### PAC FAQ BROCHURE

GCSAA has created a short Political Action Committee FAQ brochure. Please review it before offering your feedback using the feedback form at right.

[GCSAA PAC FAQ Brochure](#)

**We want  
your  
GCSAA  
PAC  
feedback!**

**2017 National  
Golf Day – we  
want your  
presence!**





# **WIN-WIN-WIN: The Importance of Cooperation**

**Fundamentals of Industry-Agency Cooperation to produce Best Management Practices for Environmental Quality, Golfer Satisfaction, and Financial Return.**

**Dr. Michael Thomas**

***26 years with Florida Department of Environmental Protection***



# Why Coordinate with Agencies?

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They know the laws, rules and limits, and may have the power to require, approve and deny, permits. BMPs may be an alternative. A permit allows limited pollution. BMPs reduce or prevent pollution.

Most agencies would much rather work with you to prevent problems than to regulate or do enforcement. It is a lot less work for everybody.

Being known as “good guys”. Having frequent contact with knowledgeable staff really helps when issues arise.

Agency staff are a credible reference source for local governments. Also, some agencies have funding to publish BMP educational materials.



# Clean Water Act of 1972

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Section 303D required states to set Water Quality Standards, identify impaired waters, and report to EPA.

It also required the setting of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLS) and development of Watershed Plans to restore the waters to their designated uses.

From the mid 1980s to the 2000s EPA was sued for not enforcing this on the various states. Federal courts issued consent orders against EPA and many states.



# Why BMPs

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During the watershed planning process, USEPA determined that Best Management Practices, or BMPs, were most cost-effective option to address most nonpoint sources of pollution, both agricultural and urban.

As states are completing TMDLs and developing watershed plans, industries that do not have BMPs already in place may find others prescribing BMPs or permits for them.



# BMPs are:

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*The best ideas of the best superintendents.*

Reflective of input from superintendents, design professionals, university faculty and agency staff

Practical

Economically feasible

Research based

Effective



# BMP Benefits

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*Reduced environmental impacts,*

*Efficient allocation of financial resources,*

*Reduced maintenance expenditures,*

*Improved worker safety,*

*Improved turf quality and golf outing experiences*

*Potential for reduced regulatory requirements*



# Nonpoint Source Management Programs

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Present in all states, Federally funded through CWA Section 319(h) USEPA Grants,

## Non-Regulatory,

State water quality agency or agriculture department, may provide 319h or other funds to publish manuals and for BMP demonstration sites.

Can act as liaison to other regulatory units and agencies.

<https://www.epa.gov/nps/state-contacts-nps-programs-your-area>



# What do agencies need?

---

**Open dialogue** – ideas and facts, not positions

**Progressive operators** with ideas to share

**Focus on principles.** Many high-end golf courses have excellent staff with ideas for solutions, or already use them, but at smaller operations not everybody can afford the best. How can we make it work for them?

**Admit problems,** we can't try to solve what we don't know about.

**Be open to research** on your property, agencies need good data to make good decisions - No Data requires bigger safety margins.



# BMP Approval

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Agency staff must be familiarized with golf course operations and turf management

Agencies may need to approve BMPs based on Best Professional Judgement

Be involved in earliest discussions about manual development

On-site visits and discussions with superintendents and university extension about practices and problems.

Participate in workshops and meetings.



# Steps in BMP Manual Development

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1. Identify Stakeholders
2. Identify Steering Committee and Workgroups
3. Create a strawman (very rough 1<sup>st</sup> cut, as a brainstorming aid)
4. Review, comment, revise, edit, - repeat cycle until satisfied
5. Field test draft BMPs to ensure feasibility



# Keys to Success

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**Focus on solutions, not blame**

**Operator Buy-in** is essential. No BMP can work if not implemented

**Define success** = more than 80% Implementation? (subject to state or local regulation)

**Best BMP ideas** come from industry

**Researchers and agency staff** can evaluate and refine ideas and provide data and assistance

**Recognize** that some BMPs may require significant capital planning or long term cultural changes to fully implement



# Thank You

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For more information, please attend the

**BMPs: Why Now**

presentation Wednesday at 11:00 am.

at the GIS Exhibit Floor Stage.



**Rhett Evans**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

**785-832-5193**

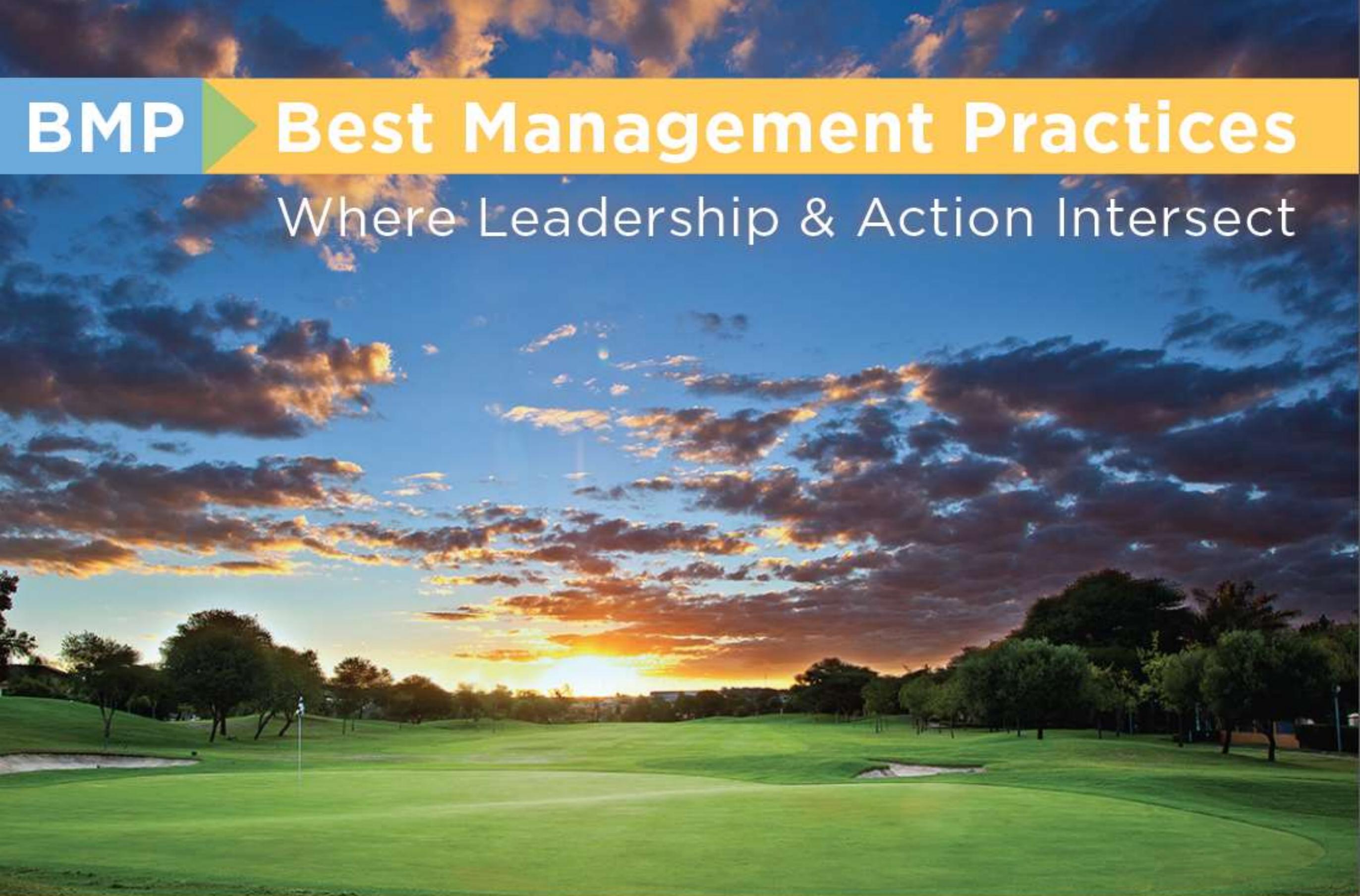
**revans@gcsaa.org**



**BMP**

# Best Management Practices

Where Leadership & Action Intersect



**BMP**

Planning Guide and Template

Planning, Design, and Const.  
Irrigation  
Surface Water Management  
Water Quality Monitoring  
Nutrient Management  
Cultural Practices

Integrated Pest Management  
Pesticide Management  
Pollinator Protection  
Maintenance Operations  
Landscape  
Energy



**BMP** Best Management Practices

Where Leadership & Action Intersect



Select a guide to create your guide from



GCSAA National Guide



California



Kansas



Kentucky



Maryland



South Carolina



South Dakota



Tennessee

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[Contact Us](#)





# **This Ain't No Filibuster: Government Affairs Issues Briefing**

## **Questions?**

**GCSAA Government Affairs Team  
Dr. Mike Thomas  
Rhett Evans**

