



LEAGUE OF  
CALIFORNIA  
CITIES

# ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO

LONG BEACH, CA  
OCTOBER 8 - 10, 2025

Navigating change, powering progress.

# WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Registration Open**  
Promenade Lobby

8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

**Voting Delegates Desk Open**  
Promenade Lobby

Are you the voting delegate or alternate for your city? Do you have questions about Resolutions? This is the place to be! Pick up your voting card and get your questions answered before the General Assembly.

8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**City Clerks Department Meeting and Workshop - Artificial Intelligence in Action: Practical Applications for the Municipal Clerk's Office**

Seaview Ballroom, Hyatt Regency

*Pre-registration required. Department meeting 8:00 - 8:30 a.m. followed by a four-hour workshop. Accredited for one CMC/MMC Advanced Education Point.*

This workshop introduces municipal clerks to the fundamentals of artificial intelligence and how this evolving technology can be used. Participants will gain a clear understanding of what AI is — and what it is not — through plain language explanations and real-world examples. Speakers will discuss incorporating AI into municipal clerk operations and the ethical considerations and limitations of AI in a government setting. This hands-on, interactive session will equip participants with practical strategies for responsibly integrating AI into daily workflows — without needing a technical background. Whether you're skeptical or curious, this workshop will demystify AI and help you determine if, how, and when to use it in the clerk's office.

**Moderator and Speaker:** Marc Donohue, Government Services Director/City Clerk, Eastvale

**Speakers:** Whitney Floratos, Attorney, Richards Watson Gershon 

Randi Johl, Legislative Director / City Clerk, Temecula

Julia Powles, Professor, University of California Los Angeles

Joaquin Vazquez, Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP 

## Program Icons



Cal Cities Partner - Premier Level



Institute for Local Government



MCLE Credits Offered

# WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

## Governing Amid Rising Incivility Room 103 AB

*Pre-registration required.*

City councils, staff, and communities are finding too much of their attention diverted to disruptions, discord, and even intimidation. These disruptions can come from the outside or from members of the governing body itself. Getting important goals accomplished requires alignment on the council, good teamwork with staff, and civility in the public square. This workshop will focus on how elected officials, with the support of their executive staff, can govern with the rise of incivility. Even if things are going well and you aren't experiencing threats or disruptions, your city still needs to prepare to lead if circumstances change. This interactive training workshop will be practical, engaging, and a problem-solving learning opportunity for mayors, city councils, city managers, and city attorneys. Participants will hear from elected leaders, former city managers, a city attorney, and skilled facilitators who work with city councils throughout the state and country.

**Speakers:** Michele Bagneris, City Attorney/City Prosecutor, Pasadena

Rod Gould, Chair, HdL Companies

Nancy Hetrick, Vice President, Raftelis

Steve Jones, Former Mayor, Garden Grove

Jan Perkins, Former City Manager/Vice President, Raftelis

9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

*Sign-in begins at  
9:00 a.m.*

## Understanding Public Service Ethics Laws and Principles (AB 1234)

Room 102

*Sign-in will begin 30 minutes prior to the session and you must be present for the full two hours to receive the certification of attendance. Entry will be prohibited once the session begins.*

State law requires local officials to receive two hours of training in specified ethics laws and principles at least once every two years. Newly elected and appointed local officials must receive their training within one year of becoming a public servant.

*The League of California Cities (Provider No. 1985) is a State Bar of California approved Multiple Activity Provider for California Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) and certifies this activity meets the standard for MCLE credit by the State Bar of California in the total amount of 2 participatory hours.*

**Speaker:** Aleks Giragosian, Senior Counsel, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC

# WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

10:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
*Department Meeting*

**City Managers Department Meeting**  
Room 104 A

11:00 - 11:30 a.m.  
*Department Meeting*

**Public Works Department Meeting**  
Room 204

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
*Caucus Meeting*

**African American Caucus Business Meeting**  
Room 203

11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
*Caucus Meeting*

**Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Caucus Business Meeting**  
Room 202

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
*Division Event*

**Inland Empire and Desert Mountain Division Lunch**  
Regency A, Hyatt Regency  
*Space is limited; please RSVP to your Regional Public Affairs Manager, Laura Varela, lvarela@calcities.org. Additional fees may apply.*

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
*Division Event*

**Los Angeles County Division Lunch**  
Regency DEF, Hyatt Regency  
*Space is limited; please RSVP to your Regional Public Affairs Manager, Jennifer Quan, jquan@calcities.org. Additional fees may apply.*

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
*Division Event*

**Redwood Empire Division Luncheon and Officer Installation**  
Ruth's Chris Steak House, 180 E Ocean Blvd, Suite 160  
*Space is limited; please RSVP to your Regional Public Affairs Manager, Sara Sanders, sanders@calcities.org. Additional fees may apply.*

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
*Division Event*

**Riverside County Division Luncheon**  
Kalaveras, 91 S Pine Avenue  
*Space is limited; please RSVP to your Regional Public Affairs Manager, Jesse Ramirez, jramirez@calcities.org. Additional fees may apply.*

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
*Division Event*

**Sacramento Valley Division Luncheon**  
Beacon A, Hyatt Regency  
*Space is limited; please RSVP to your Regional Public Affairs Manager, Charles Anderson, canderson@calcities.org. Additional fees may apply.*

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
*Division Event*

**South San Joaquin Valley Division Lunch Meeting**  
Regency BC, Hyatt Regency  
*Space is limited; please RSVP to your Regional Public Affairs Manager, Rajveer Rakkar, rrakkar@calcities.org. Additional fees may apply.*

11:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.  
*Department Meeting*

**Fiscal Officers Department Meeting**  
Room 204

# WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

12:30 - 1:00 p.m.

## First-Time Attendee Orientation Room 102

Join Cal Cities leadership and staff as you begin your first Annual Conference experience. Hear about Cal Cities and how to get the most out of your conference experience.

1:15 - 3:00 p.m.

## Opening General Session Expo Hall C

**Presiding:** *Lynne B. Kennedy, President, League of California Cities and Mayor Pro Tem, Rancho Cucamonga*

**Featuring:** Aftershock, Mascot, The Rancho Cucamonga Quakes

**Honor Guard:** Long Beach Fire Department Honor Guard

**National Anthem Singers:** Rachel Krohn and Kyle Reynolds

**Navigating Change and Powering Progress:** Carolyn Coleman, Executive Director and CEO, League of California Cities

**Award Recognitions**

**Nominating Committee Report:** Randi Johl, Nominating Committee Chair and Legislative Director/City Clerk, Temecula

**Past Presidents' Lifetime Achievement Award:** Daniel Parra, Immediate Past President, League of California Cities and Council Member, Fowler

**Host City Remarks:** Rex Richardson, Mayor, Long Beach

**Keynote Address: The Future is NOW: Technology and Trends That Will Revolutionize**

In this high-energy session, technology futurist Crystal Washington will show you exciting, practical ways that technology will rock your world over the next ten years. Best of all, she'll deliver her discussion in PLAIN English. You will leave this session able to identify buzz-worthy human behavior that impacts how organizations innovate, along with five technologies that could interrupt or revolutionize your work and new tactics to help you stay ahead of the trends.

**Speaker:** *Crystal Washington, Certified Futurist and Technology Strategist*



# WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

3:00 - 5:30 p.m.

## Expo Hall Grand Opening

Expo Hall A/B

Celebrate the official opening of the Cal Cities Expo - an afternoon of fresh ideas, and a first look at the innovations helping cities thrive! Enjoy refreshments, light bites, and engaging conversations as you network with professionals and get your first look at more than 200 companies that offer products and services to cities. Make sure to visit your favorite Cal Cities representatives in the Cal Cities Pavilion! The Expo offers a dynamic setting for city leaders, planners, and innovators to connect, share ideas, and explore the solutions shaping tomorrow's cities.

4:00 - 4:30 p.m.

*Department Meeting*

## Personnel and Employee Relations Department Meeting

Room 202

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

## Policy Committee Member Meet and Greet

Room 101 B

Are you a current member of or interested in joining a Cal Cities Policy Committee? Come meet our lobbyists and committee leadership and get all your questions answered!

4:00 - 5:15 p.m.

*Concurrent Session*

## Beyond Boundaries: How Garden Grove, Fountain Valley, and Westminster are Leading Innovation in Homeless Resources

Room 102

Cities in Orange County are collaborating to address homelessness through the Central Cities Navigation Center. City leaders will discuss the challenges faced, successes achieved, and lessons learned in regional coordination, funding strategies, and service delivery. The discussion will highlight key milestones, including interagency cooperation with the county, community engagement, and the broader impact of delivering homeless resources effectively.

**Moderator:** *Stephanie Klopfenstein, Mayor, Garden Grove*

**Speakers:** *Christine Cordon, City Manager, Westminster*

*Maggie Le, City Manager, Fountain Valley*

*Ursula Luna-Reynosa, Assistant City Manager, Garden Grove*

# WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

4:00 - 5:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## The Rising Tide of Plastics Litigation Room 103 AB

Plastic pollution imposes significant financial burdens on waste management systems and threatens public health and environmental quality. This session will provide an in-depth look at the wave of plastics litigation that seek to hold companies accountable for waste management costs and for misleading the public by promoting recycling as the primary solution to plastic pollution. Attendees will gain a clear understanding of the legal strategies being used, the potential for financial recovery, lessons learned from previous cases, and how their city can respond to constituents' concerns about plastic pollution. Rather than advocating for a specific course of action, this discussion will provide an objective overview of the opportunities and challenges cities may face in pursuing legal remedies.

**Moderator:** *Allan Kanner, Founding Member, Kanner & Whiteley, LLC*

**Speakers:** *Patrick Boyle, Corporate Accountability Attorney (Petrochemicals), CIEL*

*David Ivy-Taylor, Attorney, Kanner & Whiteley, LLC*

*Megan Stedtfeld, Counsel, Singleton Schreiber *

4:00 - 5:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Reducing the Cost and Burden of General Plan Updates Room 104 A

Facing an onslaught of new state laws and changing economic conditions, cities with older general plans may feel compelled to launch into a comprehensive update effort, only to find the cost and staff resources overwhelming. The reality is that most cities' plans can and should be updated in a manner that focuses on making the general plan an effective tool for decision making, attracting investment, and streamlining development. Through an interactive discussion with the audience, a panel of city staff and general plan consultants will work through common challenges and strategies that can be adapted by cities of all sizes and geographies.

**Moderator:** *Colin Drukker, Principal, PlaceWorks*

**Speakers:** *Omar Dadabhoy, Deputy City Manager/Community Development Director, Fountain Valley*

*Jennifer Nakamura, Planning Director, Rancho Cucamonga*

*Mark Teague, Principal Advisor, Land Use & Environmental Services, PlaceWorks*

# WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

4:00 - 5:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Preparing Local Leaders for Immigration Policy Changes

Room 203 *Planned with the Cal Cities API Caucus.*

This session will equip local leaders with the tools and knowledge needed to support immigrant communities in response to the evolving immigration policies of the current federal administration. As national policy shifts continue to generate uncertainty and fear among immigrant families, local governments are uniquely positioned to lead with clarity, compassion, and purpose – playing a vital role in keeping residents informed, protected, and connected to essential resources. This session will provide a high-level overview of current and anticipated immigration policy changes, along with practical strategies to strengthen community education, respond to local impacts through coordinated, rights-based approaches, and build trust through culturally competent and inclusive engagement.

**Moderator:** Helen Tran, Mayor, San Bernardino

**Speakers:** Ash Alvandi, Vice President of Orange County, Asian Americans Advancing Justice

Kathy Khommarath, Institutional Giving Manager; Immigration Attorney, Asian Americans Advancing Justice

4:00 - 5:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Trial by Fire: Communicating Effectively During Disasters

Grand Ballroom A *As featured in <sup>WESTERN</sup>City*

The fires in LA County were devastating, but the response of local officials was key in helping residents get to safety and helping them get the resources and information they needed to start the long road to recovery. Drawing from the experiences of city leaders and public information officers in disaster-impacted communities, explore the most effective crisis communications practices for supporting communities during and after a disaster. We will also examine strategies for combating misinformation and delivering timely updates to residents. This session is presented by *Western City* magazine and the California Association of Public Information Officers.

**Moderator:** Christine Brainerd, California Association of Public Information Officials, Communications Director, Folsom

**Speakers:** Chelsea Byers, Mayor, West Hollywood

Lori Fowler, Senior Public Information Officer, Southern Region, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES)

Nick Schuler, Deputy Director of Communications, CAL FIRE  
Tamara Vides, City Manager, Watsonville

# WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8

4:00 - 5:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session



## Addressing the Erosion of Trust in Local Government

Grand Ballroom B

Public trust in government is essential for effective local governance, operations, and thriving communities. While the COVID-19 pandemic tested trust in government, recent shifts in federal policies have accelerated the erosion of public trust to unprecedented levels. What can local leaders do to remedy this situation? Join us for an insightful session where we explore the pillars of trust-building between cities and residents. Hear about leadership practices and actionable strategies that any local leader can apply to help restore trust in government and strengthen support for local policies and programs.

**Speaker:** *Erica Manuel, CEO and Executive Director, Institute for Local Government*

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.  
Concurrent Session



## Legal Issues Session *(Course ID A20251 - 1.5 hours*

*Participatory MCLE)*

Room 104 BC

**Moderator:** *Prasanna Rasiah, City Attorney, San Mateo*

**Welcoming Remarks** *(4:00 - 4:10 p.m.)*

**Speaker:** *Dawn McIntosh, City Attorney, Long Beach*

**General Municipal Litigation Update** *(4:10 - 4:45 p.m.)*

Hear the latest on litigation in federal and state courts, as it pertains to California cities. This session provides an update on litigation from the last six months.

**Speaker:** *Meghan Wharton, Senior Counsel, Colantuono Highsmith & Whatley*

**Dangerous Condition: Avoiding and Defending Public Property Liability Claims** *(4:45 - 5:30 p.m.)*

Learn about the strategies and best practices to protect against dangerous condition of public property claims. Our panel will discuss legal strategies to defeat these lawsuits, including preparation of Motions for Summary Judgment, effective review and use of medical records, and propounding of targeted discovery.

**Speakers:** *Brian Hamblet, Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP*   
*Robert Theiring, Senior Associate, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP* 

5:15 - 7:30 p.m.

## Host City Reception

Terrace Plaza

The City of Long Beach invites you to celebrate the first day of the Annual Conference and Expo! Join us on the Terrace Plaza for food, beverages, and an opportunity to network with your colleagues!

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Registration Open**  
Promenade Lobby

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**Voting Delegates Desk Open**  
Promenade Lobby

Are you the voting delegate or alternate for your city? Do you have questions about Resolutions? This is the place to be! Pick up your voting card and get your questions answered before the General Assembly.

8:00 a.m.

**Grab and Go Breakfast**  
Promenade Lobby

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.  
*Concurrent Session*

**Why Every Municipality Needs a Technology Plan — Yes, Even the Small Ones!**  
Room 102

In today's fast-moving digital world, every city needs a plan to stay ahead and serve its residents effectively. For smaller cities with tight budgets and limited tech expertise, that might seem overwhelming. The good news? A well-crafted technology plan makes it achievable — and it's easier than you think. Join our expert panel as they discuss how strategic technology planning can enhance public services, strengthen cybersecurity, and improve efficiency. This isn't about chasing the latest gadgets — it's about practical, scalable solutions that make city operations more effective and sustainable. Whether you're just getting started or looking to refine your approach, this session will provide the roadmap you need to future-proof your community.

**Speakers:** *Rita Gass, Chief Technology and Innovation Officer, Rancho Cordova*  
*Siri Pulipati, Mayor, Rancho Cordova*  
*Micah Runner, City Manager, Rancho Cordova*

## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

Send us your feedback on the conference by scanning this QR code.



# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Advancing Municipal Climate Action Through Partnership

Room 104 A

As political uncertainty clouds America's energy transition, local strides toward decarbonization, equity, and resilience are more critical than ever. This session will bring an intergenerational perspective to the challenges and opportunities of municipal climate action. Combining decades of leadership experience and fresh insights, public sector sustainability specialists will explore how public-private partnerships can streamline electrification projects to build a clean and diversified energy mix that saves taxpayers millions and keeps dollars in the local economy. Get an in-depth look at the city of Fresno and Ventura's citywide electrification initiatives, including EV infrastructure upgrades in disadvantaged areas and one of the largest multi-campus public sector solar and storage portfolios in California.

**Moderator:** Sam Zantzing, Sr. Director, ForeFront Power

**Speakers:** Logan Babcock, Environmental Services Specialist, Ventura

Ann Kloose, Sustainability Division Manager, Public Works Sustainability Division, Fresno

Michael Rochman, Managing Director, SPURR

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.  
Concurrent Session

## The New Grants and Economic Development Playbook

Room 203

Investing in your community's future means taking a strategic and proactive approach to securing public funding. This panel will explore effective strategies for pursuing grants and collaborative financing options, especially for cities working to rebuild their economies. The panel will discuss the Building a Better America initiative, as well as how special financing districts can support capital improvements, climate action, housing, and ongoing maintenance. Learn how combining tax increment financing with grants can help revitalize your community and drive sustainable growth.

**Moderator:** Steve Samuelian, CEO, California Consulting, Inc.

**Speakers:** Larry Kosmont, Chairman & CEO, Kosmont Companies

Dr. Robert Lennox, Assistant City Manager, Carson

Chris Zapata, City Manager, Sausalito

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.  
Concurrent Session

## How Cities Can Lead in Protecting and Uplifting Trans Communities

Room 204 *Planned with the Cal Cities LGBTQ Caucus.*

Cities can play an essential role in affirming and protecting transgender communities through inclusive, equity-driven leadership. As transgender communities face escalating challenges nationwide — including hostile political rhetoric, legislative attacks, and social stigma — cities can set the standard for leadership grounded in integrity, empathy, and effective action. This session will explore how cities can design and strengthen policies, programs, and services that meaningfully support transgender residents. It will also examine strategies for proactively promoting equity, addressing discrimination, and fostering environments that reflect the full diversity of their communities.

**Moderator:** Henry Lo, Council Member, Monterey Park

**Speakers:** Erin Arendse, Program Director, Equality California Institute

Chelsea Byers, Mayor, West Hollywood

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.  
Concurrent Session

## How Cities Are Centralizing Communication to Boost Community Engagement

Grand Ballroom A

Every city wants residents to show up. But with dozens of calendars, scattered event promotion, and siloed communications, cities often overwhelm their residents or leave them out altogether. Discover how Beaumont tackled these problems head-on by replacing fragmented calendars with a centralized event hub — improving engagement, saving staff time, and even enabling cross-city coordination with the neighboring city of Banning. Whether you're wrestling with silos between departments, struggling to get residents to show up, or rethinking your city's engagement tools, you'll walk away with tested strategies and replicable practices to help your city communicate more clearly, work more collaboratively, and engage more residents.

**Moderator:** Noa Zeldin, Co-founder and CSO, With

**Speakers:** Charles Duggan, City Manager, Redlands  
Angel Galache, Deputy City Manager, Moreno Valley  
Jennifer Schoeneck, Director of Economic Development, Escondido

Julie Van Hook, Public Information Officer, Beaumont

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Using Development Agreements to Build Community Benefit Projects

Grand Ballroom B

Learn how development agreements can be a powerful tool to secure community benefit projects from developers. This session will explore strategies for negotiating and structuring agreements that ensure developers contribute to local needs, such as affordable housing, public infrastructure, and other community enhancements, while advancing their development goals.

**Moderator:** Sean Kelleher, Assistant City Manager (Development), Moreno Valley

**Speakers:** Angelica Frausto-Lupo, Community Development Director, Moreno Valley

Brian Mohan, City Manager, Moreno Valley

Steven Quintanilla, City Attorney, Moreno Valley and Law Offices of Quintanilla & Associates

8:30 - 9:45 a.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Legal Issues Session *(Course ID A20252 - 1.25 hours)*

Participatory MCLE)

Room 104 BC

**Moderator:** Prasanna Rasiah, City Attorney, San Mateo

### Land Use and CEQA Litigation Update *(8:30 - 9:10 a.m.)*

This session will provide an update on litigation related to land use, and the California Environmental Quality Act from the last six months.

**Speakers:** Christie Crowl, Senior Partner, Jarvis Fay LLP  
Rick Jarvis, Partner, Jarvis Fay LLP

### Meeting Housing Needs while Balancing CEQA and Fire Prevention Efforts *(9:10 - 9:45 a.m.)*

California needs more housing, but not every location is suitable for development with wildfires on the rise. This session explores the legal policy challenges of balancing housing mandates with wildfire risk, including recent legislation, court decisions, and CEQA guidance.

**Speakers:** Rubin Cruse, Jr., Partner, Renne Public Law Group  
Kathryn Oehlschlager, Partner, Stoel Rives LLP

## Program Icons

 Cal Cities Partner - Premier Level

 Institute for Local Government

 MCLE Credits Offered

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

## Visit the Expo Hall

Expo Hall A/B

Explore all the Expo Floor has to offer! Connect with the people and ideas transforming how we live, move, and thrive in today's cities. Visit California CLASS (booth 943) and VC3 (booth 940), both sponsored by Cal Cities, to learn how they can strengthen your city's financial resources. Stop by the Cal Cities Pavilion to discover ways to get more involved with your Department, Division, or Caucus, and meet colleagues in the ConnectLounge, sponsored by California CLASS. The Expo Floor is your hub for solutions, partnerships, and fresh ideas.

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

## General Session

Expo Hall C

**Presiding:** *Gabe Quinto, First Vice President, League of California Cities and Mayor Pro Tem, El Cerrito*

### Featuring the Los Osos High School Drumline\*

**National League of Cities Remarks:** Steve Patterson, President, National League of Cities and Mayor, Athens, Ohio

**2025 Advocacy in Action:** Carolyn Coleman, Executive Director and CEO, League of California Cities

### Award Recognitions

**Outgoing President's Remarks:** Lynne B. Kennedy, President, League of California Cities and Mayor Pro Tem, Rancho Cucamonga

### Keynote Address: The Creator Mindset – How to Be More Creative at Work

According to a recent study by the World Economic Forum, the most in-demand skill at work today is creativity and innovation. Yet there are so few places where people can learn creativity and innovation that they can immediately use at work. In a groundbreaking keynote, Nir shows that creativity and innovation are traits we are born with, but we lose somewhere along the way. Nir will help the audience rediscover their creativity. Even those who don't consider themselves creative will discover practical, repeatable techniques to think more creatively at work. This session isn't about art, painting, or dance. It's about everyday workplace creativity — problem-solving, idea generation, and innovation you can apply in any role. Use the Creator Mindset to view the world as it can be, not as it is.

**Speaker:** *Nir Bashan, Founder and CEO, The Creator Mindset*



\*Principal, Eric Cypher | Under the Direction of Steve Krumbine | Drumline Instructor, Adam Sanchez | Ishan Abeyratne | Eshma Castellanos | Logan Cox | Shiv Desai | Isabella Gerardo | Nolen Gamboa | Jeremy Han | Brennan Harris | David Kahng | Orchid Neil | Jennifer Pinzon | Luke Reyes | Jacob Rivera | Jacob Robledo | Noah Rodriguez | James Smith | Chloe Soliz

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

- 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Attendee Lunch**  
Expo Hall A/B
- 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Monterey Bay Division Luncheon**  
*Division Event*  
The Auld Dubliner, 71 S Pine Avenue  
*Space is limited; please RSVP to your Regional Public Affairs Manager, Deanna Sessums, dsessums@calcities.org. Additional fees may apply.*
- 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **East Bay Division Luncheon**  
*Division Event*  
Beacon B, Hyatt Regency  
*Space is limited; please RSVP to your Regional Public Affairs Manager, Samantha Brightman (Caygill), sbrightman@calcities.org. Additional fees may apply.*
- 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **North Bay Division Luncheon**  
*Division Event*  
Beacon A, Hyatt Regency  
*Space is limited; please RSVP to your Regional Public Affairs Manager, Nancy Hall Bennett, nbennett@calcities.org. Additional fees may apply.*
- 11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. **Peninsula Division Installation and Recognition Luncheon**  
*Division Event*  
Regency BC, Hyatt Regency  
*Space is limited; please RSVP to your Regional Public Affairs Manager, Montana Cruz, mcruz@calcities.org. Additional fees may apply.*
- 11:45 a.m. - 12:05 p.m. **Proactive Wildfire Preparedness Programs for Municipalities**  
*Speed Session*  
Expo Hall A/B, Speaker Theater  
Protecting communities from wildfires is one of the hottest topics for municipal leaders today — from wildfires that threaten hundreds of acres to balancing limited resources. In this interactive session, a fire marshal/fire prevention chief will provide attendees with best practices and lessons learned for implementing wildfire preparedness programs, community-friendly safety inspections, as well as effective partnerships with the private/non-government sectors.  
**Speaker:** *Vince Anderson, Fire Marshal, MPA, Redlands*

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

12:15 - 12:35 p.m.  
*Speed Session*

## Transforming Santa Ana's Public Library into a Community Hub

Expo Hall A/B, Speaker Theater

Over the past five years, the Santa Ana Public Library has implemented a variety of initiatives to enhance services and community engagement. This session will provide a brief overview of how these improvements were championed and how the city leveraged funding sources such as the Cannabis Public Benefit Fund and a local sales tax measure to launch new programs and services in the community. This presentation will also offer quick insights into how attendees can transform an underutilized and outdated city service into a modern and culturally relevant platform for building community.

**Speaker:** *Brian Sternberg, Library Services Director, Santa Ana*

12:45 - 1:05 p.m.  
*Speed Session*

## The Benefits of Public-Private Infrastructure Partnerships

Expo Hall A/B, Speaker Theater

Like many municipalities in California, Daly City has experienced its share of fiscal challenges. The 2008 Great Recession forced the city to defer maintenance and freeze the development of many capital projects. As Daly City explored public-private partnerships, new opportunities emerged — allowing the city to take on projects that would have been difficult to complete on its own. These partnerships save tax dollars while making infrastructure enhancements that improve public access, increase community programming, and raise revenues. Learn about Daly City's latest partnership that will result in a new state-of-the-art athletic field and enhance the quality of life for the community.

**Speaker:** *Juslyn Manalo, Council Member, Daly City*

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
*Caucus Meeting*

## Asian Pacific Islander Caucus Business Meeting

Room 202

## SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

Send us your feedback on the conference by scanning this QR code.



# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

1:00 - 2:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## A Collaborative Discussion on Building Youth-Centered Cities

Room 102

How can cities meaningfully invest in young people — not just through programs, but through policy, funding, and civic inclusion? In this interactive session, participants will explore local strategies for advancing youth well-being, rights, and leadership. Using the city of Santa Cruz as a launch point, examine real-world efforts like a voter-approved Children's Fund, the Children & Youth Bill of Rights, and the Youth Liaison role that prioritize equity, elevate youth leadership, and provide a roadmap for systemic change. Attendees will reflect on their own community efforts and leave with ideas and tools to adapt in their own contexts.

**Facilitators:** *Scarlett Folger, Youth Liaison, Santa Cruz*  
*Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson, Vice Mayor, Santa Cruz*

1:00 - 2:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Navigating Wireless Facility Permitting and Avoiding Common Pitfalls

Room 103 AB

Learn about the latest issues and trends with wireless installations, including Federal Communications Commission actions, the impacts of recent litigation, California's new batch broadband permit processing law, and the status of 5G network rollout. This session will detail best practices to avoid common pitfalls when applying your wireless ordinances. Presenters will also provide insights into the new administration's priorities, updated composition of the FCC, and what that may mean for pending regulatory issues. Attendees will obtain important, nuanced understandings of current wireless regulations and leave the session with new confidence when tackling even the most convoluted wireless applications and related issues.

**Moderator and Speaker:** *Gerard Lavery Lederer, Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP *

**Speaker:** *Bennett Givens, Of Counsel, Best Best & Krieger LLP *

1:00 - 2:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Small Cities: Building Connections and Sharing Solutions

Room 104 A

Small cities face unique opportunities and challenges. With leaner staff and limited resources, leaders must be flexible, innovative, and collaborative in their approach to governing. This session will bring together leaders from cities under 30,000 in population to discuss how they can support one another, share best practices, and highlight both the challenges and advantages of serving in smaller cities. Participants will leave with new ideas and connections to strengthen small cities.

**Speaker:** *Shelley Hasselbrink, Mayor, Los Alamitos*

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

1:00 - 2:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Tell It to Me One More Time: Sharing the Story of Your City's Financial Situation

Room 203

Many cities today are facing financial challenges. There's a lot to think about when bringing elected officials, community members, influential organizations, city employees, and labor groups up to speed or into the conversation. This discussion involves practical tips for building credibility, developing needed technical information, and helpful dos and don'ts for communicating your city's financial situation.

**Moderator:** Ken Nordhoff, Principal, HDL Companies

**Speakers:** Gerry Beaudin, City Manager, Pleasanton  
Peggy Flynn, City Manager, Petaluma  
Lydia Romero, City Manager, Lemon Grove

1:00 - 2:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## The Power of Public Transportation in Shaping Communities

Room 204 *Planned with the Cal Cities African American Caucus.*

Public transportation is more than moving people from point A to point B—it's a driver of economic development, a tool for building and connecting housing, and a pathway to reversing historic patterns of displacement. At the same time, major capital projects are complex and long-term, with far-reaching impacts on communities and regional economies. This session will explore how cities can harness the benefits of public transportation to deliver high-quality, equitable, and environmentally sustainable systems that serve everyone. Discussion will highlight the economic benefits to both workers and businesses, strategies for leveraging affordable housing dollars, reducing the overall cost of living, and building housing alongside transit investments. Panelists will also reflect on the history of infrastructure-related displacement and how cities can reverse these trends, manage congestion, and align transit expansion with climate and environmental goals.

**Speaker:** Lori Wilson, Assembly Member, California State Assembly

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

1:00 - 2:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Lessons from Malibu in Disaster Management, Mutual Aid, and Resiliency

Grand Ballroom A

Hear firsthand about the intense challenges faced by Malibu during the back-to-back, unprecedented Franklin and Palisades wildfires and how Long Beach supported Malibu and enhanced emergency response capacity for the region. Attendees will gain practical insights and lessons learned that can enhance their disaster response and capacity-building, ensuring their community is better prepared and municipal operations are more resilient. This session is crucial for city leaders in areas recently added to Cal Fire's wildfire hazard severity map.

**Moderator:** Sam Hall, Public Partnership Leader, Schneider Electric

**Speakers:** Alexis Brown-Gillam, Director, Tripepi Smith & Associates  
Meredith Reynolds, Deputy City Manager, Long Beach  
Joseph Toney, City Manager in Transition / Former Acting City Manager, Malibu

1:00 - 2:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## How to Pass a Local Sales Tax Measure in Today's Political Environment

Grand Ballroom B

We're pulling back the curtain on how two mid-sized cities turned a potential political liability into a voter mandate, successfully passing sales tax measures that restored their financial stability. From effectively engaging community stakeholders to building coalitions and mobilizing support, panelists will share key lessons and hard truths. Attendees will walk away with a practical playbook covering every stage of a local ballot measure — along with key steps to help the city deliver on its promises and operate at a higher level after a measure passes.

**Moderator:** Kristina Ray, Director of LEAN Government, San Marcos

**Speakers:** Michelle Bender, City Manager, San Marcos  
Jared Boigon, Partner, TeamCivX  
Joe Lopez, City Manager, Modesto

1:00 - 2:15 p.m.  
Issues Group Meeting

## Rural City Information Exchange Meeting

Seaview BC, Hyatt Regency

1:00 - 2:30 p.m.

## Resolutions Committee

Regency DEF, Hyatt Regency

The Resolutions Committee will hear, debate, and consider all resolutions. It will also provide an opportunity for attendees who are not voting delegates to comment on proposed resolutions. General resolutions approved by either a policy committee or the Resolutions Committee are next considered by the General Assembly. General resolutions not approved or referred for further study by both a policy committee and the Resolutions Committee, do not go to the General Assembly. All petitioned resolutions are considered by the General Assembly, unless they are disqualified.

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

1:15 - 1:35 p.m.  
Speed Session

## Maximizing Resources and Making Crime-Solving More Efficient with Data Intelligence Tools

Expo Hall A/B, Speaker Theater

The growth of technology in law enforcement is transforming how police agencies serve their communities and improve the quality of life. As agencies have increased access to sensors and data collection technologies, they face another challenge: the need to understand and use that data in an efficient, cost-effective way. This is especially important for jurisdictions with staffing challenges or fewer resources. This session will walk through new tools and strategies to help agencies utilize data intelligently, take advantage of artificial intelligence in a responsible manner, and create force multipliers for their emergency services departments.

**Speaker:** Mike Moulton, Consultant, Flock Safety

1:00 - 1:45 p.m.  
Department Meeting

## City Attorneys Department Business Meeting

Room 104 BC

*Members of the City Attorneys Department will be asked to scan in at 1:00 p.m. for the Department Business Meeting. This is to track attendance for voting on bylaws amendments and will be in addition to your MCLE scans.*

1:45 - 2:05 p.m.  
Speed Session

## Mastering Facilities Management in a Changing World

Expo Hall A/B, Speaker Theater

This session will explore the trends, challenges, and solutions to the persistent problem of deferred maintenance. Attendees will hear a description of technologies and tools readily available to help organizations assess current conditions and strategize around solutions and implementation. It will also cover funding opportunities and financial tools to support projects beyond traditional capital expenditures. This session is geared toward elected officials and city staff as both policymakers and those who oversee project development and implementation.

**Speaker:** David Torres, Sustainability Professional, Siemens

## Program Icons



Cal Cities Partner - Premier Level



Institute for Local Government



MCLE Credits Offered

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

1:45 - 5:30 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Legal Issues Session *(Course ID A20253 - 3.25 hours Participatory MCLE)*

Room 104 BC

**Moderator:** *Roxanne Diaz, City Attorney, Maywood and South Pasadena*

### **Affordable Housing: What City Attorneys (and Cities) Need to Know** *(1:45-2:30 p.m.)*

California housing laws have shifted over recent years to focus on increasing housing, especially affordable housing. But how is it going for our cities? And what challenges are affordable housing developers facing? Hear from our expert panel of attorneys as they discuss the perspectives of cities and housing developers in advancing affordable housing projects.

**Speakers:** *Andrew Shen, Partner, Renne Public Law Group  
Gabrielle Janssens, Partner, Goldfarb & Lipman LLP  
Matthew Summers, City Attorney, Barstow, Colantuono,  
Highsmith & Whitley, PC*

**Moderator:** *J. Christine Dietrick, City Attorney, San Luis Obispo*

### **California Voting Rights Act: Conversations Around Achieving Election Equity** *(2:45-3:45 p.m.)*

The California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) continues to evolve, particularly following the California Supreme Court's decision in *Pico Neighborhood Assoc. v. City of Santa Monica*. This session will examine key legal questions surrounding standards of proof in CVRA litigation, the status of active cases, and the implications for cities navigating at-large and district-based election systems. Panelists will also discuss recent developments, including the 2024 FAIR MAPS Act, and explore what options remain for cities evaluating their obligations under the law. Attendees will gain insights into the legal landscape and strategies for addressing election-related challenges.

**Speakers:** *Sheri Damon, City Attorney, Seaside  
Douglas Johnson, President, National Demographics Corporation  
Christopher Skinnell, Partner, Nielsen Merksamer, LLP  
Ryder Smith, President, Tripepi Smith*

**Moderator:** *Michael Lawson, City Attorney, Hayward*

### **Labor and Employment Litigation Update** *(4:00-4:40 p.m.)*

This session will provide an update on labor and employment litigation from the last six months, as it pertains to California cities.

**Speakers:** *Geoffrey Sheldon, Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore  
Elizabeth Tom Arce, Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore*

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

## Policy Shifts and Legal Battles: The Trump Administration's Impact on Local Government *(4:40-5:30 p.m.)*

As the Trump administration reshapes federal funding, DEI, immigration, environmental regulations, and more, cities face extensive legal and financial uncertainty. Examining the far-reaching implications of recent executive orders and tracking the lawsuits that could define these policies moving forward, our expert panel will draw from frontline experience advising cities on these evolving challenges. Hear key insights into how public agencies can navigate intensified federal scrutiny and shifting legal landscapes.

**Speakers:** *Jena Acos, Shareholder, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck*

*Justin Bogda, Natural Resources Associate, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP*

*Paige Samblanet, Attorney, Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck*

2:15 p.m.

## Dessert Break

Expo Hall AB

2:30 - 3:15 p.m.

*Department Meeting*

## Mayors and Council Members Department Meeting

Grand Ballroom B

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

*Caucus Meeting*

## Latino Caucus Business Meeting

Room 202

2:30 - 3:45 p.m.

*Concurrent Session*

## Economic Mobility and You

Room 102

For millions of California families, economic mobility and opportunity is a hot-button issue. In the face of a landscape of economic uncertainty, local leaders continue to serve as the key catalysts to shape the economic future of their residents. During this session, the National League of Cities will provide training on economic mobility resources that can directly impact your community — including policies, programs, and procedures — along with city-specific examples and case studies. Attendees will work with each other to better understand the common themes, challenges, and resources within their communities and California at large.

**Facilitator:** *Diana Goldsmith, Senior Specialist, Economic Opportunity & Financial Empowerment, National League of Cities*

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

2:30 - 3:45 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Coordinating Emergency Response: Who Does What and How to Prepare Room 103 AB

Extreme weather and natural disasters are part of life in California, but these events are increasing in frequency and severity, impacting utility services and making communities more vulnerable than ever. What are the risk factors? How do local, state, and federal governments leverage their capabilities to enhance resiliency, partner with the private sector (including utilities), and communicate effectively with the public? Join us for an open discussion about our responsibilities to address resiliency challenges — funding, regulations, expertise, and redundancies — to provide a safer future for all.

**Moderator:** John Bwarie, Deputy Director, Dr. Lucy Jones  
Center for Science and Society

**Speakers:** Donna Boston, Principal Manager, Southern California Edison 

Mackenzie Douglass, Emergency Services Manager, Police Department, Ventura

Floyd Velasquez, EMS Administrator, Morongo Band of Mission Indians

2:30 - 3:45 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Building Climate Resilience: Innovating for the Future in a Changing Funding Landscape Room 104 A

With the evolving funding landscape at the state and federal levels, cities are being asked to do more with less. This session will explore Proposition 4 climate funding and how cities across California are implementing innovative climate resilience projects despite a decrease in federal funding and support. Attendees will walk away with actionable strategies and inspiration for applying proven solutions in their cities.

**Moderator:** Nikita Sinha, Program Manager, Institute for Local Government

**Speakers:** Michael Luellen, Mayor, Calipatria

Traci Park, Council Member, 11th District, Los Angeles

Gabe Quinto, First Vice President, League of California Cities and Mayor Pro Tem, El Cerrito

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

2:30 - 3:45 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Reframing Career Challenges as Leadership Milestones

Room 203

Navigating a career in local government often means facing unexpected challenges. But these challenges can also serve as pivotal leadership milestones. This session features city managers who bounced back from tough moments, transforming professional obstacles into powerful lessons in leadership. Attendees will gain practical strategies for building resilience, leveraging challenges as learning opportunities, and harnessing a mindset that turns setbacks into comebacks. Whether you're just starting your career or are a veteran leader, this conversation will empower you to view challenges as a springboard for success.

**Moderator:** *Karen Pinkos, City Manager, El Cerrito*

**Speakers:** *Alexa Davis, Assistant City Manager, Rolling Hills Estates*

*Patrick Martinez, City Manager, Needles*

*Bret Prebula, City Manager, Suisun City*

2:30 - 3:45 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Building Family-Friendly Cities: Child Care as Critical Infrastructure

Room 204 *Planned with the Cal Cities Women's Caucus.*

Some major cities in California have experienced population declines, with families citing high costs, lack of child care, and limited family-friendly infrastructure as the key reasons for leaving. Investing in child care and family-centered policies is no longer optional — it's essential to a city's economic stability. This panel discussion will highlight innovative local efforts, barriers, best practices, and actionable steps for leaders seeking to make their cities more livable for working class families. Participants will leave with a toolkit of strategies to advocate for and implement child care solutions in their communities.

**Moderator:** *Cassandra Chase, Mayor, Lakewood*

**Speakers:** *Chelsea Byers, Mayor, West Hollywood*

*Pamela Campos, Council Member, District 2, San Jose*

*Angelica Ramos-Allen, President, National Women's Political Caucus of California*

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

2:30 - 3:45 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Effective Parking Management and the Future of Urban Parking

Grand Ballroom A

Parking complaints often feel like a never-ending source of frustration. In this interactive discussion, hear from the Seal Beach Police Department about how the city transformed its parking program from the ground up to optimize customer convenience and administrative processes. A nationally recognized parking consultant will share challenges and lessons on parking availability, community resistance, accessibility, and equity. This session will also include a step-by-step guide for cities to assess their current parking situation, identify areas for improvement, and implement changes while actively engaging stakeholders throughout the process. Walk away with insights on the future of urban parking and how to prepare your city for evolving mobility priorities and impacts.

**Speakers:** Julie Dixon, President, Dixon Resources Unlimited  
Nick Nicholas, Captain, Police Department, Seal Beach

3:00 - 4:30 p.m.  
Issues Group Meeting

## Coastal Cities Annual Business Meeting

Seaview BC, Hyatt Regency

4:00 - 4:45 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Elevating Mental Fitness in the Workplace

Room 103 AB

Mental fitness encompasses a blend of activities, habits, and attitudes. Just like we all are mindful of our heart health, dental health, and overall health, mental fitness is about preventive and proactive habits. By implementing prevention and early intervention strategies, employers can cultivate a healthier and more supportive work environment that boosts productivity, increases engagement, and enhances employee retention. In this session, learn how to incorporate mental well-being into your employee wellness strategy and how the Cities for Workforce Health program can help your city create a culture of health in the workplace.

**Speakers:** Mariah Caracoza, Senior Health and Wellness Manager, Keenan  
Jennifer Castillo, Workforce Health Consultant, Kaiser Permanente

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Caucus Meeting

## Women's Caucus Business Meeting

Room 202

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

4:00 - 5:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Disaster Recovery Checklist and Best Practices for Municipalities

Room 102

Could your city recover its data after a ransomware attack? What if a tornado or flood struck? While having data backups is essential, disaster recovery goes far beyond simply storing files. It's not enough to have a backup — you need a plan to make that data usable again. How will you put the pieces back together? How will you restore systems and resume operations after a cyberattack or natural disaster? In this session, hear fictional but realistic scenarios based on 29 years of municipal-focused experience. You'll also receive a nine-point disaster recovery checklist to help evaluate and strengthen your city's readiness.

**Facilitator:** *Corey Kaufman, Director of Client Strategy & Solutions, VC3*

4:00 - 5:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Proposition 36 Implementation: Navigating Local Challenges

Room 104 A

Last November, voters overwhelmingly approved Proposition 36, the Homelessness, Drug Addiction, and Theft Reduction Act. A panel of experts will discuss Prop. 36 implementation, along with the challenges and opportunities it represents for cities.

**Moderator:** *Jolena Voorhis, Legislative Advocate, League of California Cities*

**Speakers:** *Larry Gonzalez, Chief of Police, Riverside  
Jonathan Raven, Assistant CEO, CDAA  
Robert Rodriguez, Chief of Police, Santa Ana*

4:00 - 5:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## From Council Chambers to Capitol Floors: Cultivating Leadership for Higher Office

Room 204 *Planned with the Cal Cities Latino Caucus.*

With California's shifting demographics and the increasing influence of Latino voices in policymaking, it is critical to foster pathways of leadership development that empower the next generation of Latino leaders. Attendees will hear firsthand experiences, key lessons, and practical strategies from elected officials who have moved from city government to county boards and beyond. This engaging conversation will explore the importance of mentorship, coalition-building, campaign readiness, and overcoming systemic barriers. City leaders will walk away with tangible tools and inspiration to envision their own journeys to higher leadership or to support emerging leaders in their communities.

**Moderator:** *Teresa Acosta, Second Vice President, League of California Cities and Council Member, Carlsbad*

**Speakers:** *Anna Caballero, Senator, District 14, California State Senate  
Luis Chavez, Supervisor, Fresno County*

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

4:00 - 5:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Are Council Meetings Getting Harder? Here's How to Make Them Smoother

Grand Ballroom A

City council meetings are more challenging than they used to be. So, how does a city council stay focused on governing, priorities, and maintaining civility? It doesn't happen by accident. Effective meetings require preparation, thoughtful deliberation, and a commitment to process. Serving as a productive council member is a skill — one that can be learned. Join us to hear practical tips and proven strategies for running smoother, more successful council meetings.

After all, chaos is optional!

**Moderator:** *Jan Perkins, Former City Manager/Vice President, Raffels*

**Speakers:** *Jason Behrmann, City Manager, Elk Grove*  
*Caren Ray Russom, Mayor, Arroyo Grande*  
*Bobbie Singh-Allen, Mayor, Elk Grove*

4:00 - 5:15 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

## 2025 Playbook for Developments in Municipal Finance Law and Policy

Grand Ballroom B

Learn about new laws, legal developments, risks and opportunities, and federal actions that will affect your city's finances.

**Moderator and Speaker:** *Ben Triffo, Legislative Advocate, League of California Cities*

**Speakers:** *Michael Colantuono, Shareholder, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC*  
*Caroline Grinder, Legislative Advocate, League of California Cities*

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.  
Member Group

## Veterans and Military City Officials Meeting

Room 101 B

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Division Event

## Central Valley Division Reception

Beacon A, Hyatt Regency

*Space is limited; please RSVP to your Regional Public Affairs Manager, Marla Livengood, [mlivengood@calcities.org](mailto:mlivengood@calcities.org).*

*Additional fees may apply.*

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
Caucus Event

## Women's Caucus Reception

Beacon Rotunda, Hyatt Regency

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
Division Event

## Orange County Division Reception

Beacon B, Hyatt Regency

*Space is limited; please RSVP to your Regional Public Affairs Manager, Connor Medina, [cmedina@calcities.org](mailto:cmedina@calcities.org). Additional fees may apply.*

# THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

5:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
*Division Event*

**San Diego and Imperial Counties Division Reception**  
Seaview A, Hyatt Regency  
*Space is limited; please RSVP to your Regional Public Affairs Manager, Catherine Hill, chill@calcities.org. Additional fees may apply.*

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.  
*Division Event*

**Channel Counties Division Reception**  
Secret Island Tiki Restaurant and Lounge, 209 Pine Avenue  
*Space is limited; please RSVP to your Regional Public Affairs Manager, David Mullinax, dmullinax@calcities.org. Additional fees may apply.*

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.  
*Caucus Event*

**Latino Caucus 2025 Annual Awards Gala Reception**  
Museum of Latin American Art, 628 Alamos Avenue

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.  
*Caucus Event*

**Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Caucus Reception**  
RISU, 207 E Seaside Way, Suite A

9:00 - 11:00 p.m.  
*Caucus Event*

**Asian Pacific Islander Caucus Reception**  
Regency A, Hyatt Regency

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# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

8:00 - 11:30 a.m.

**Registration Open**  
Promenade Lobby

8:00 a.m.

**Grab and Go Breakfast**  
Promenade Lobby

8:15 - 10:45 a.m.

 **Legal Issues Session** *(Course ID A20254 - 2.25 hours Participatory MCLE, including .75 hours Technology in the Practice of Law)*  
Room 104 BC  
**Moderator:** Roxanne Diaz, City Attorney, Maywood and South Pasadena

**Municipal Tort and Civil Rights Litigation Update**  
*(8:15 - 8:55 a.m.)*

Hear the latest updates on municipal tort and civil rights litigation from the last six months as it pertains to California cities.

**Speaker:** Andrea Velasquez, Supervising Deputy City Attorney, Sacramento

**AI's Seat at the Table: The Role of AI in Labor Relations**  
*(8:55 - 9:45 a.m.)*

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can help streamline city officials' preparation for labor negotiations, facilitate responses to union information requests, and improve operational efficiency. However, it also raises complex legal and labor relations questions. Hear from our panel of experts on ways AI can create both opportunities and challenges in labor relations at your city.

**Speakers:** Gabriella Kamran, Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore  
Alexander Volberding, Partner, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

**Moderator:** J. Christine Dietrick, City Attorney, San Luis Obispo

**Public Records Act: Compliance and Tips for Navigating Difficult Requests** *(10:00 - 10:45 a.m.)*

Sometimes, even a routine request can turn into a major headache. Examine real-world cases where agencies faced legal challenges due to mishandled California Public Records Act requests, and learn practical tactics to stay compliant, avoid costly missteps, and protect your agency. Panelists will also share strategies for managing difficult requests, and minimizing risk.

**Speaker:** Darren Ziegler, Director of PRA Services & E-Discovery Counsel, Best Best & Krieger LLP 

## Program Icons

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 Institute for Local Government

 MCLE Credits Offered

# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

8:30 - 10:30 a.m.  
Sign-in begins at  
8:00 a.m.

## General Assembly Grand Ballroom AB

During the General Assembly, voting delegates will debate and consider resolutions forwarded by the Resolutions Committee. Since no general resolutions were submitted this year, the Assembly will meet only if a petitioned resolution is submitted. Updates will be provided via the conference app.

Are you a voting delegate or alternate? If you have not already checked in to receive your voting card, you may do so in this room beginning at 8:00 a.m.

8:45 - 10:45 a.m.  
Sign-in begins at  
8:15 a.m.

## Harassment Prevention Training for Supervisors and Officials (AB 1661)

Room 102

*Sign-in will begin 30 minutes prior to the session and you must be present for the full two hours to receive the certification of attendance. Entry will be prohibited once the session begins.*

This informational and interactive workplace harassment prevention training will teach participants how to identify, prevent, and properly respond to workplace harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and abusive conduct in compliance with AB 1825/2053/1661 and SB 396.

*The League of California Cities (Provider No. 1985) is a State Bar of California approved Multiple Activity Provider for California Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) and certifies this activity meets the standard for MCLE credit by the State Bar of California in the total amount of 2 participatory hours.*

**Speakers:** Jennifer Puza, Associate, Hanson Bridgett LLP  
Sonia Salinas, Partner, Hanson Bridgett LLP

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# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

9:30 - 10:45 a.m.  
Concurrent Session

## How Redlands Reduced Homelessness Through Strategy and Collaboration

Room 103 AB

Redlands has taken a proactive and strategic approach to addressing homelessness that responds to both immediate and long-term needs. This session will explore how city leadership worked collaboratively to develop policies, secure funding, and implement targeted initiatives that resulted in the largest Point-in-Time Count reduction in the Inland Empire region. Attendees will gain an understanding of the real-world complexities of delivering homeless services and insights for building a sustainable, comprehensive homelessness strategy in their own communities. The session will include an opportunity for knowledge-sharing.

**Moderator:** David Rabindranath, Homeless Solutions Manager, Redlands

**Speakers:** Christopher Boatman, Assistant City Manager, Redlands

Denise Davis, Council Member, Redlands

Charles Duggan, City Manager, Redlands

9:30 - 10:45 a.m.  
Concurrent Session

## Strengthening Local Governance Through Trust, Fundamentals, and Effective Partnerships

Room 104 A

Amid increasing public skepticism and the growing influence of social media-driven narratives, the fundamentals of local governance and service delivery must remain at the forefront. This session will focus on how local government leaders can reinforce public confidence by emphasizing the essential, albeit unglamorous, work of governance, fostering an understanding of its complexity, and ensuring that elected officials and staff work together to advance thoughtful, balanced decision-making over singular agendas. Drawing on lessons from seasoned leaders, this session will also examine what is at stake when this partnership falters — losing public trust, creating instability, and undermining the very foundations of good governance.

**Moderator:** Peter Pirnejad, City Manager, Los Altos Hills

**Speakers:** Debbie S. Baker, Council Member, La Palma

Thaddeus McCormack, City Manager, Lakewood

Maria Ristow, Council Member, Los Gatos

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

9:30 - 10:45 a.m.  
Concurrent Session

### ADUs, Group Homes, and Short-Term Rentals: Local Regulation and Enforcement

Room 203

Get an in-depth view of how cities can regulate and enforce issues concerning accessory dwelling units, group homes, sober living facilities, and short-term rentals. Through expert insight and case studies, attendees will gain a comprehensive understanding of the limits of local enforcement under state and federal law, effective tools for compliance, and best practices for a public agency's regulations.

**Moderator and Speaker:** *Matthew Silver, Founding Partner, Civica Law Group APC*

**Speakers:** *Adam Atamian, Community Development Director, San Clemente*

*Larry Breceda, Director of Public Safety, Duarte*

9:30 - 10:45 a.m.  
Concurrent Session

### PBx: Lessons in Branding for Local Jurisdictions

Room 204

Planning and Building Express (PBx) is a branding effort made to change the narrative about doing business in Santa Ana. Through the initiative, the city committed to a new set of ideals for streamlining application reviews, better use of staff resources, and above all, reintroducing empathy into the city's permit review process. These feats have been highlighted in *Western City* magazine and academic publications, such as Harvard's inaugural *The State of Housing Design 2023*. Learn how outward expressions of an organization's values and commitment to quality are a way to inspire change from within.

**Moderator:** *Ali Pezeshkpour, Executive Director of Planning and Building, Santa Ana*

**Speakers:** *Jason Kwak, Building Safety Manager, Santa Ana*  
*Ricardo Soto, Acting Planning Manager, Santa Ana*  
*Minh Thai, Assistant City Manager, Santa Ana*

10:00 - 10:45 a.m.  
Department Meeting

### Fire Chiefs Department Meeting

Room 202

# FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

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11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

## Closing General Session

Expo Hall C

**Presiding:** *Teresa Acosta, Second Vice President, League of California Cities and Council Member, Carlsbad*

Award Recognitions

Leadership Transition

Swearing in of the Cal Cities Board of Directors

**Incoming President's Remarks:** *Gabe Quinto, 2025-26 President, League of California Cities and Mayor Pro Tem, El Cerrito*

## Keynote Address: Finding Your Stick-To-Itiveness with Erin Brockovich

Erin Brockovich has achieved much to be admired. But it didn't happen overnight. In this presentation, hear about Brockovich's tools for change, including how to plan, implement, and prepare for obstacles and setbacks. For Brockovich, change starts with an honest self-reflection about who you are, your strengths, and what pushes you forward. She relies on community connections, stick-to-itiveness, and a sense of purpose to create change. What will you rely on?

**Speaker:** *Erin Brockovich, Iconic Environmental Activist and Consumer Advocate*



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