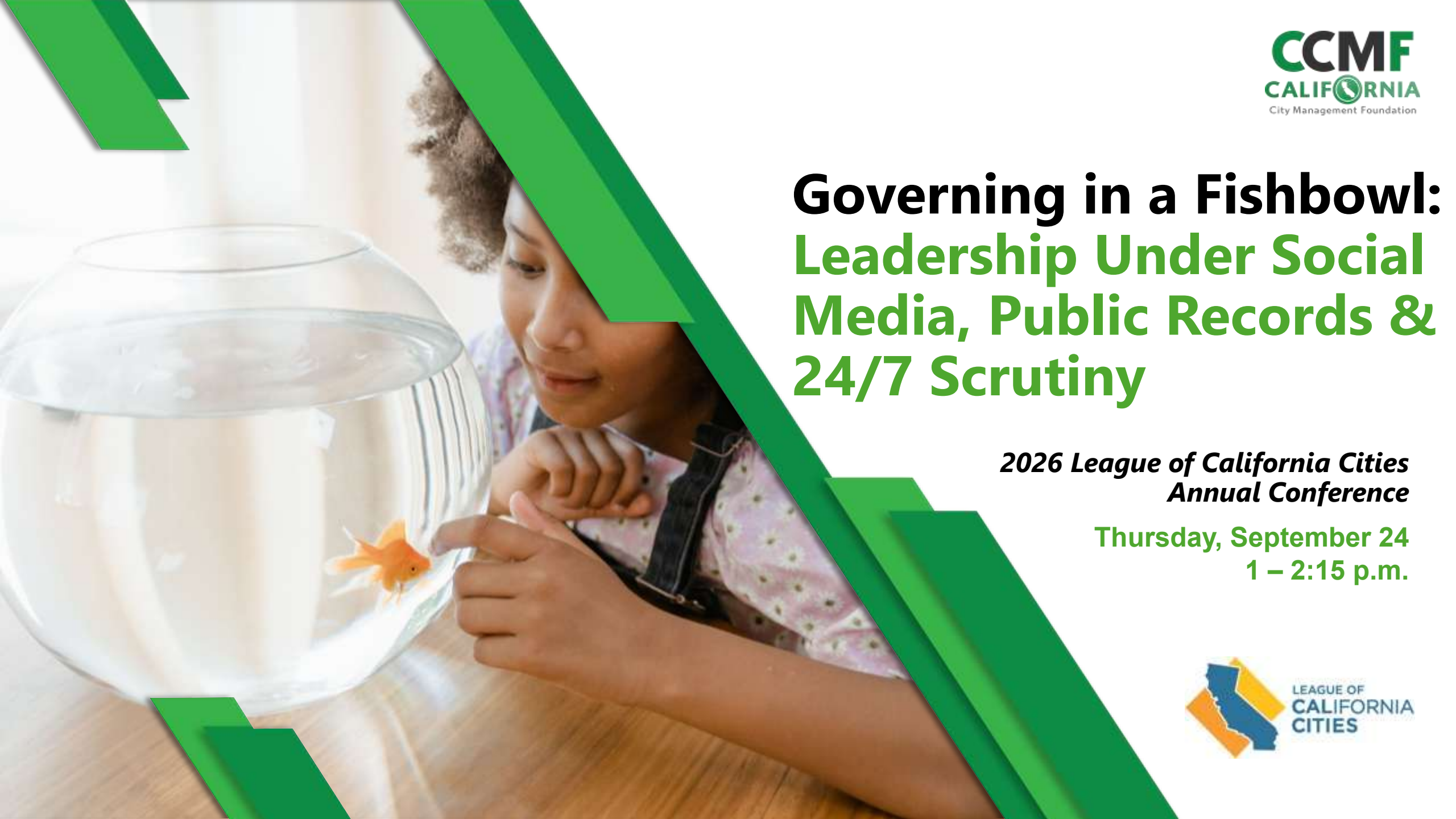




Governing in a Fishbowl: Leadership Under Social Media, Public Records & 24/7 Scrutiny

***2026 League of California Cities
Annual Conference***

**Thursday, September 24
1 – 2:15 p.m.**

Your Panel



MODERATOR

Janelle Cameron

City Manager
City of San Leandro



Dante Hall

City Manager
City of Monterey



Abel Avalos

City Manager
City of Artesia



Heather Sumagaysay

Deputy City Manager
City of Simi Valley

Key Takeaways

- **Lead with transparency before a crisis occurs.**

Proactive communication, clear decision-making and consistent public engagement help build trust before issues escalate online.

- **Not every comment requires a response, but every issue deserves a strategy.**

Leaders should evaluate when to engage, when to correct misinformation with facts and when avoiding unnecessary amplification is the better approach.

- **Prepare your organization for the age of AI and rapid misinformation.**

Establish communication protocols, verify information quickly and equip staff and elected officials with tools to identify and respond to emerging narratives.

- **Support your people so they can lead with confidence.**

Internal coaching, clear expectations and strong communication help staff and elected officials navigate public criticism without making reactive decisions.

- **Leadership in the public eye requires resilience, not perfection.**

Today's "fishbowl" environment is a permanent reality. Successful local government leaders focus on facts, consistency and long-term public trust rather than the pressure of the daily news cycle.

Q&A with Panelists



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