



LEAGUE OF  
CALIFORNIA  
CITIES

**125** / YEARS  
1898-2023

# City Clerks New Law and Elections **SEMINAR**

Dec. 13-15, 2023  
San Diego, CA





# WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13

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

Registration Open  
Foyer

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

Premium Sponsor Tables Open  
Marbella-Marseilles

10:00 a.m. - noon

Opening Keynote: The Challenger Mindset: Personal Resilience and Mental Strength  
Capri-St. Tropez



Motivational speaker Michael Wigge will share his excellent adventure-challenge background to inspire clerks and staff to embrace a mindset of leaving one's comfort zone to grow personally and professionally. The fear of the unfamiliar can make us shy away from achieving our goals. Wigge's motivational talk based on his book, "How to Travel the World for Free," will inspire you to navigate obstacles with strength and resilience.

**Opening Remarks:** Jessica Blair, President, City Clerks Department, Communications Director / City Clerk, Half Moon Bay

**Speaker:** Michael Wigge, Adventurer, Coach and Keynote Speaker

noon - 1:30 p.m.

Networking Lunch  
Garden by the Bay

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.

What's New with the Brown Act?  
Capri-St. Tropez

This session will include a review of Brown Act fundamentals, including public notice and meeting administration. Receive an update on recent legislation related to virtual meetings and public participation along with potential Brown Act changes and trends for the future.

**Moderator:** Leilani I. Brown, Second Vice President, City Clerks Department, City Clerk, Newport Beach

**Speakers:** Eric Danly, City Attorney, Petaluma

Tracy M. Noonan, City Attorney, Thousand Oaks

3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Exclusive Premium Sponsor Break  
Marbella-Marseilles

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

When Decorum and Civility Do Not Work, Then What?  
Capri-St. Tropez

In defining roles, values, and expectations, the elected body and city manager help set the tone and tenor for effective and respectful city operations. If an elected official attempts to violate those expectations (i.e., interfering in elections, personnel decisions, etc.), there may be consequences and impacts for the whole organization. In this session we will review the legal and policy process for such a situation, related sensitivities, and discuss opportunities for solutions.

**Moderator:** Johnnie Piña, Legislative Representative, League of California Cities

**Speaker:** Shelline Bennett, Managing Partner Fresno/Sacramento, Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Joint Networking Reception with Fire Chiefs  
Foyer

Make new friends and catch up with old ones while enjoying delicious appetizers and tasty beverages during the evening networking reception. This joint reception is open to attendees from the Fire Chiefs Leadership Seminar and City Clerks New Law and Elections Seminar. It's the perfect opportunity to form support networks inside and outside your profession.

# THURSDAY, DEC. 14

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

Registration Open  
Foyer

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Networking Breakfast  
Capri-St. Tropez

9:00 a.m. - noon

New Law and Election Update  
Capri-St. Tropez



It's that time of year again. In this session, we will share highlights from the previous legislative session and discuss new bills related to open meetings, records, and more. We will also work to identify legislative solutions to future challenges in the profession, especially as it relates to elections. Prior to the session, join us for a fireside chat with Shirley N. Weber, Ph.D., California Secretary of State.

**Moderator:** *Randi Johl, Department Director, City Clerks Department, Legislative Director / City Clerk, Temecula*

**Speakers:** *Michael S. Cohen, Associate, Renne Public Law Group  
Dane Hutchings, Managing Director, Renne Public Policy Group  
Johnnie Piña, Legislative Representative, League of California Cities*

noon - 1:30 p.m.

Networking Luncheon  
Garden by the Bay

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.  
*Concurrent Session*

Core Responsibilities of a Filing Officer  
Capri-St. Tropez

In this session, the FPPC will review the role of the local filing officer under the Political Reform Act, the core responsibilities related to statements of economic interest and campaign disclosure filings, and potential solutions when challenges arise regarding the same.

**Speaker:** *Chloe Hackert, Education & External Affairs Unit Manager, FPPC*

1:30 - 3:00 p.m.  
*Concurrent Session*

Political Reform Act - Beyond the Basics  
Sorrento-San Marino

Learn about conflicts of interest in the decision-making process and how to identify potential challenges and solutions before they arise on the dais. The speaker will also discuss how the Political Reform Act applies to elections beyond filings.

**Moderator:** *Leilani I. Brown, Second Vice President, City Clerks Department, City Clerk, Newport Beach*  
**Speaker:** *Sukhdip Brar, Assistant Chief Counsel, FPPC*

3:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Break

## MMC/CMC Credit

3.38 MMC Advanced Education/Professional and Social Contribution Points and CMC Education/Experience points will be available with completed learning assessment. All sessions are eligible for both MMC and CMC points unless otherwise noted.

At the beginning of each session, please scan your badge at one of the available kiosks.

## THURSDAY, DEC. 14

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

### Elections 101: Congratulations! You're the Elections Official. Now What?

Capri-St. Tropez *This session is only eligible for CMC points.*

Get ready to dive into the dynamic world of local elections! Learn the basic components of conducting a local election for measures and election of members to your legislative body. Panelists will discuss requirements of the California Elections Code, preparing resources for prospective candidates, communicating with the public, and tips for managing the complex and numerous deadlines pertaining to running a municipal election.

**Moderator:** Ashton R. Arocho, First Vice President, City Clerks Department, City Clerk, Westminster

**Speakers:** David Carnahan, City Clerk, Sunnyvale

Holly M. Charléty, City Clerk, El Cerrito

Michael MacDonald, City Clerk, Ventura

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.  
Concurrent Session

### Elections: Beyond the Basics

Sorrento-San Marino

Are you ready to take your expertise in election administration to the next level? This session is tailored to experienced city clerks, election officials, and professionals involved in election administration. Join us to learn about political ramifications and pitfalls you might experience during an election and what precautions you can take to prevent them. This session is especially ideal for those looking to enhance their expertise and stay ahead in the field of election management.

**Moderator:** Jessica Blair, President, City Clerks Department, Communications Director / City Clerk, Half Moon Bay

**Speakers:** Candice Alvarez, City Clerk, Lake Elsinore

Lisa Pope, City Clerk, Vernon

Genoveva Rocha, City Clerk, San Bernardino

## 2023 - 2024 City Clerks Department Officers

*President, Jessica Blair  
Communications Director/City Clerk, Half Moon Bay*

*First Vice President, Ashton R. Arocho  
City Clerk, Westminster*

*Second Vice President, Leilani I. Brown  
City Clerk, Newport Beach*

*Department Director, Randi Johl  
City Clerk/Legislative Director, Temecula*

*Past President, Marc A. Donohue  
City Clerk/Communications Director, Eastvale*

# FRIDAY, DEC. 15

8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Registration Open  
Foyer

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Networking Breakfast  
Capri-St. Tropez

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Navigating the Transition: Empowering New Council and Board Members for Effective Governance  
Capri-St. Tropez

New council and board members face a steep learning curve when stepping into their newly elected or appointed roles. Often, the skills and experience they bring are vastly different than the knowledge they will need to navigate unique government processes, communicate with fellow officials under new constraints, and interact with the clerk's office. Hear about best practices, gain knowledge from real-world experiences, and understand the value of being involved in the onboarding process.

**Moderator:** Marc A. Donohue, Past President, City Clerks Department, City Clerk/Communications Director, Eastvale

**Speakers:** Kerry Bigelow, City Clerk, Chula Vista  
Diana Fuentes, City Clerk, San Diego

Tony R. Russell, Director, Board Services/Authority Clerk, San Diego County Regional Airport Authority

10:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Break

10:30 a.m. - noon

New Laws for District Elections: Santa Monica and FAIR MAPS Act Changes  
Capri-St. Tropez

Santa Monica's California Voting Rights Act (CVRA) lawsuit reached the State Supreme Court, potentially impacting the 190 California cities who made the move to by-district elections in 2002, and for those facing future CVRA challenges. In parallel, an expanded FAIR MAPS Act is expected to pass in Sacramento. The expansion will broaden its scope, outreach, and reporting, tighten its criteria, and expand legal liability for redistricting cities. Legal, demographic, and outreach experts will share the details of what all of this means legally, politically, demographically, and financially for California cities.

**Closing Remarks:** Ashton R. Arocho, First Vice President, City Clerks Department, City Clerk, Westminster  
**Moderator:** Randi Johl, Department Director, City Clerks Department, Legislative Director / City Clerk, Temecula

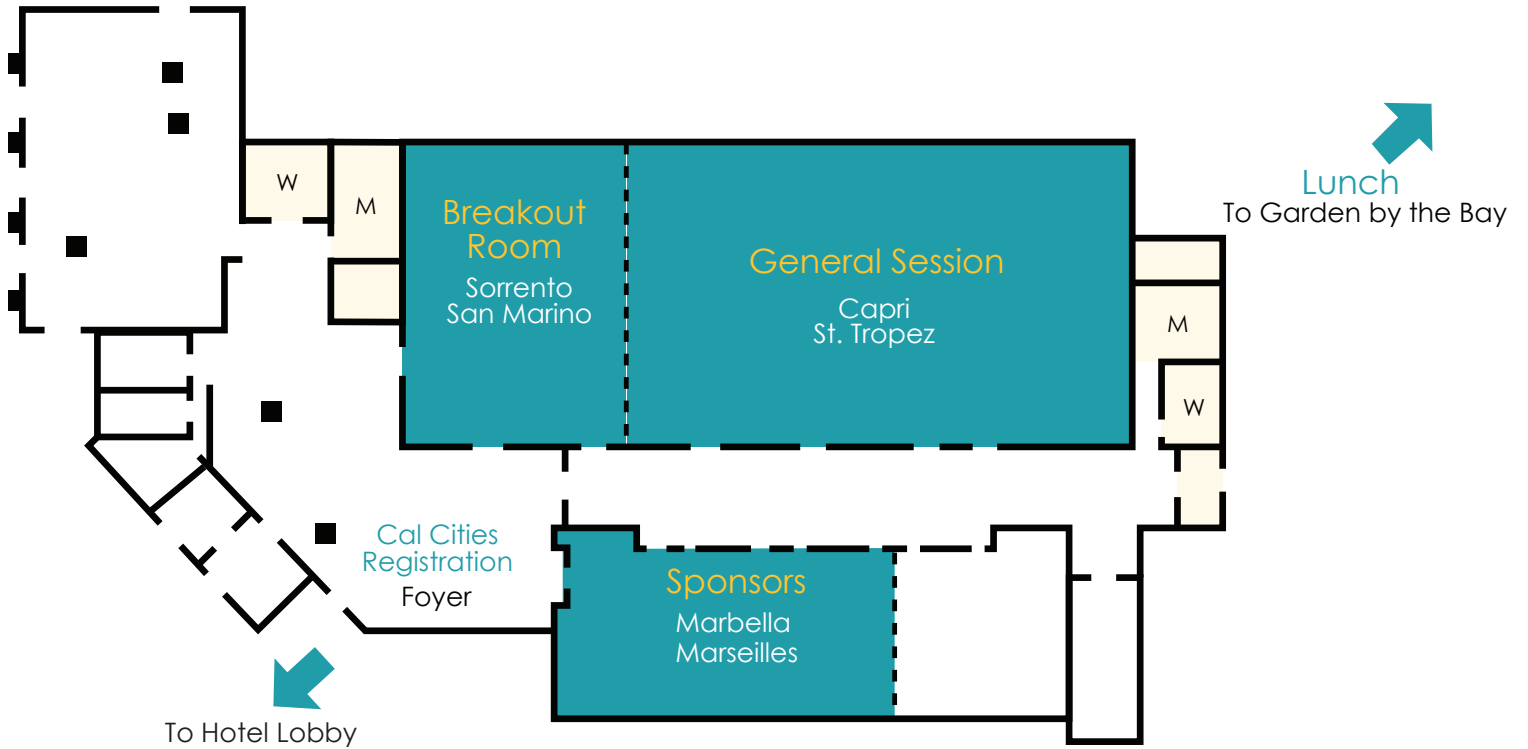
**Speakers:** Douglas Mark Johnson, President, National Demographics Corporation  
Marguerite Mary Leoni, Partner, Nielsen, Merksamer, Parrinello, Gross & Leoni  
Jennifer Nentwig, Principal, Tripepi Smith

SHARE YOUR  
THOUGHTS!

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



# FLOOR PLAN



## Save The Dates:

2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO  
OCT. 16-18 | LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER

2024 CITY CLERKS NEW LAW AND ELECTIONS  
SEMINAR  
DEC. 11-13 | THE MERITAGE, NAPA



Strengthening California Cities  
through **Advocacy** and **Education**