



*Schedule subject to change.
Speaker names will be added as they are confirmed.*

Wednesday, April 17

8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Registration Open

10:00-10:45 a.m.
Member Rally and Press Conference

11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Opening General Session
Day one of the conference focuses on legislative advocacy. Join Cal Cities leadership and lobbyists for an update on high priority legislation that you will want to advocate on when you meet with legislative officers later in the day.

12:15-2:00 p.m.
Lunch on Your Own/Meetings with Legislators

2:00-5:00 p.m.
Educational Sessions (*session information coming soon*)

5:00-7:00 p.m.
Legislative Reception sponsored by Cal Cities Partners
In partnership with the California State Association of Counties, please join us for an evening reception. Relax and enjoy some light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments while networking with your city and county colleagues.

Thursday, April 18

7:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Registration Open

7:00-8:15 a.m.
Networking Breakfast

8:30-10:00 a.m.

Opening Keynote: Adjust Your Attitude - Resolve Communication Complications

Communication skills are our most important yet least trained professional skill. Artificial intelligence, social media, and automated technologies may never replace the interpersonal components of leadership, influence, and engagement. Unfortunately, today, we are experiencing fewer positive experiences when we engage with people who have personalities colder than a laptop cover left outside in the winter. The art of communication mastery must be reshaped and revisited. Don't assume there is one communication style that fits all. To be successful, we must stop treating others how we want to be treated. We must learn how to treat others the way they want to be treated. "Adjust Your Attitude" will give you the fuel and tools to impact how interpersonal communication skills positively influence relationships and results.

Opening Remarks: Melissa Hunt, President, Mayors and Council Members Department and Vice Mayor, Anderson

National League of Cities Federal Update: Irma Esparza Diggs, Senior Executive and Director, Federal Advocacy, National League of Cities

Keynote Speaker: Vincent Phipps, CEO/Owner, Communication VIP Training and Coaching

10:15-11:30 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

AB 764 Changed the Rules (Again): Prepare Now for Districting and Redistricting

2023's AB 764 expanded the state FAIR MAPS Act, making the time-consuming and often difficult process of districting even more complex. The new law imposes significant outreach requirements, new reporting requirements, restrictive mapping criteria, new definitions of "communities of interest," and a major increase in legal liability. Join experts from National Demographics Corporation, Nielsen Merksamer and Tripepi Smith as they share their experiences helping cities through the districting and redistricting process while navigating complicated state requirements. Attendees will also learn more about the legal, demographic and outreach nuances of AB 764, and how early preparation will be vital for a successful districting process, whether in response to California Voting Rights Act demands or the upcoming 2031 redistricting process.

Moderator: Ryder Todd Smith, President, Tripepi Smith

Speakers: Douglas Mark Johnson, President, National Demographics Corporation (NDC)

Christopher E. Skinnell, Partner, Nielsen Merksamer Parrinello Gross & Leoni, LLP

An Irregular Meeting of the City Council of Dysfunction Junction: The Do's and Don'ts of Conducting a Public Meeting

Enjoy a popular depiction of a city council meeting gone awry and learn from its mistakes.

Facilitators: Christi Hogin, Of Counsel, Best Best & Krieger, LLP
Michael Jenkins, Of Counsel, Best Best & Krieger, LLP

11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Networking Lunch

12:45- 2:00 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions

A Collaborative Framework to Addressing Homelessness: Solano County and its Seven Cities, United Through a Regional Homelessness Policy Board

In an unprecedented move, Solano County and its constituent cities have forged a unified front, establishing a regional policy board that includes county supervisors and city elected officials, with the support of technical staff, dedicated to combating homelessness through collective action. This collaborative effort aims to consolidate resources, expertise, and strategies to implement a comprehensive regional homelessness strategic plan. Through this unified voice, Solano County seeks to garner the resources necessary to address the multifaceted issues contributing to homelessness. Panelists will share insights into the development of the regional policy board, the formulation of a comprehensive homelessness strategic plan, advocacy efforts for increased funding, the establishment of a homeless navigation center, and the utilization of advanced software for data tracking. Discover how this collaborative approach can provide a blueprint for other regions grappling with similar challenges.

Moderator: Alma Hernandez, Mayor, Suisun City

Speakers: Mitch Mashburn, Solano County Supervisor, Solano County
Rozzana Verder-Aliga, Council Member, City of Vallejo, CAP Solano JPA Board

A Look into the Future with HF&H Consultants

For over 30 years, HF&H has helped more than 400 local governments have successful solid waste, water, and wastewater programs. To continue this practice, HF&H tracks key legislative developments, industry changes, and anticipated horizon issues. Some of the most pressing questions facing the solid waste and recycling industry and cities today include: What are the downstream impacts of SB 54 (extended producer responsibility) on franchises and what relief might ratepayers see? What will the transition to zero emissions fleets look like and what strategy should local agencies use for implementation? How will clean tech and AI impact the solid waste and recycling system? How do we create sustainable government funding in the face of pending litigation surrounding Prop 218 and 26? This session will answer these questions and focus on the impact to local solid waste systems from the continued march of court decisions and ballot measures that are tightening up Propositions 218 and 26.

Speaker and Moderator: Rob Hilton, President, HF&H Consultants

Speakers: Felisia Castañeda, Project Manager, HF&H Consultants
Philip Mainolfi, Sr. Project Manager, HF&H Consultants

2:15-3:30 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions

How Cities Can Fight Crime with Civil Litigation

This session will explain how cities can leverage Neighborhood Law Programs to recruit cost-effective legal professionals adept in civil litigation. These attorneys can effectively employ strategies such as receivership, drug abatement, and red light abatement to mitigate crime and bolster city revenue.

Moderator and Speaker: Ryan Griffith, Attorney and Receiver, Bay Area Receivership Group

Speaker: John A. Russo, President and Founder, Synchronicity Associates

Speed Sessions

Moderator: Debbie S. Baker, First Vice President, Mayors and Council Members Department and Council Member, City of La Palma

Creating Social Connection (2:15-2:35 p.m.)

This session aims to convene mayors and council members across California to discuss ways to foster social connection and address social isolation and loneliness in our communities. Hear from the City of Irvine on how it has been combatting the issue with its youth and seniors.

Speaker: Farrah N. Khan, Mayor, City of Irvine

Small Town, Big Aspirations: Leveraging Interagency Collaborations to Address Complex Infrastructure Challenges (2:40-3:00 p.m.)

Navigating the world of local government can seem daunting, especially when it comes to transportation planning. While many communities have the funds to fill a pothole, small communities often lack the staff or resources to tackle increasingly expensive public infrastructure maintenance and repair on their own. Based on a recent case study in the Town of Fairfax, this session designed for newly elected officials unpacks the critical role interagency collaborations can have in surmounting seemingly intractable infrastructure challenges.

Speaker: Chance Cutrano, Council Member, Town of Fairfax

Attaining Equity Through Inclusive Engagement (3:05-3:25 p.m.)

This session will cover ways city leaders can support inclusive engagement efforts. The speaker will discuss current best practices and ways leaders can support staff and provide an opportunity for leaders to ask pressing questions about how to promote DEI in engagement efforts and think through challenges.

Speaker: Ruben Abrica, Council Member, City of East Palo Alto

3:45-5:00 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

California - Leading the Way on Generative AI in Local Government

This session aims to explore the rapidly evolving landscape of generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) and its implications for subnational governments, including

cities, states, and provinces. Drawing from the 'Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's California Working Guide on Subnational Practices in AI Policy,' the session will delve into the challenges and opportunities presented by GenAI and Large Language Models in policymaking. It will explicate how California cities collaborate with international local governments, facilitated by Carnegie. Participants will discover how cities are actively using AI and will have the opportunity to learn, contribute to, and engage in the development of an international working guide for the local government use of artificial intelligence.
Moderator: David Graham, Chief Innovation Officer, City of Carlsbad
Speaker: Ian Klaus, Founding Director, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

The Vital Importance of Compliance in the Cannabis Industry

Regulatory compliance is a vital component of virtually every aspect of the cannabis industry. Enforcing cannabis regulation is not just important for the safety and security of the community, it also helps protect the nascent cannabis industry. Under California's local-control system, cannabis operators are required to obtain and maintain licenses at two separate levels –state and local – each with their own set of regulations. Creating regulations and enforcing them requires specialized training and dedicated staff. Understanding the nuances of compliance with applicable cannabis regulation is a vital component in creating code compliance for the cannabis industry.

Moderator: Zachary Scalzo, Of Counsel, Best Best & Krieger

Speakers: Veronica E. Goedhart, Director, City of Palm Springs

Denise Marie Hansen, Partner & Director of Municipal Code Enforcement, Best Best & Krieger LLP

Mitchell Nabhan, Code Supervisor, City of Palm Springs

Friday, April 19

7:30-11:00 a.m.

Registration Open

7:45-8:45 a.m.

Networking Breakfast

9:00-10:15 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Community Engagement as a DEI Strategy

Learn how Livermore has leveraged a rich history of community engagement and coordination between agencies (specifically, the city, school district, and parks and recreation district) to reach those in the community who have traditionally been harder to engage. To advance diversity, equity and inclusion

objectives, rethink your city's engagement strategies by meeting people at a time and place most comfortable to them and promoting healthy dialogue. Learn how to best deploy tools including online education, community academies, youth and senior outreach, translation, subject specific town hall meetings, bilingual publications and videos, as well as social media posts to highlight community partnerships, local businesses, projects, and employees.

Moderator: Stephanie Egidio, Assistant to the City Manager, Livermore

Speakers: Mat Fuzie, General Manager, Livermore Area Recreation and Park District

Marianna Marysheva, City Manager, Livermore

Chris Van Schaack, Superintendent, Livermore Valley Joint Unified School District

Interim Housing Solutions

The impacts of living in unsheltered conditions are devastating to individuals and families. Interim housing is a critical tool that gives unhoused people shelter and stability while waiting for the permanent housing supply to catch up with the need. This session will focus on new, urgently needed non-congregant interim housing solutions. Come learn about options that can be fast and cost-effective in helping address your city's immediate needs to bring people indoors and save lives.

Moderator and Speaker: Stuart Kasdin, Council Member, City of Goleta

Speakers: Lucille Boss, Encampment Response Coordinator, County of Santa Barbara

Elizabeth Funk, Founder and CEO, DignityMoves

10:30 a.m. - Noon

Closing General Session: Mastering Your Memory

The human brain possesses an incredible amount of power to store and recall information. Unfortunately, most people are never taught how to fully access this ability. In this fun and highly engaging keynote, attendees will learn unique and exciting methods to increase their memory skills to extraordinary levels. Most importantly, this session will teach you how to use these concepts in daily life. Instantly recalling people's names, giving presentations without notes, increased focus, and improved mental organization are just a few of the practical benefits attendees will take away from this session.

Closing Remarks: Debbie S. Baker, First Vice President, Mayors and Council Members Department and Council Member, City of La Palma

Keynote Speaker: Tyler Enslin, Professional Speaker, Business Owner, Tyler Enslin International