



LEAGUE OF
**CALIFORNIA
CITIES**

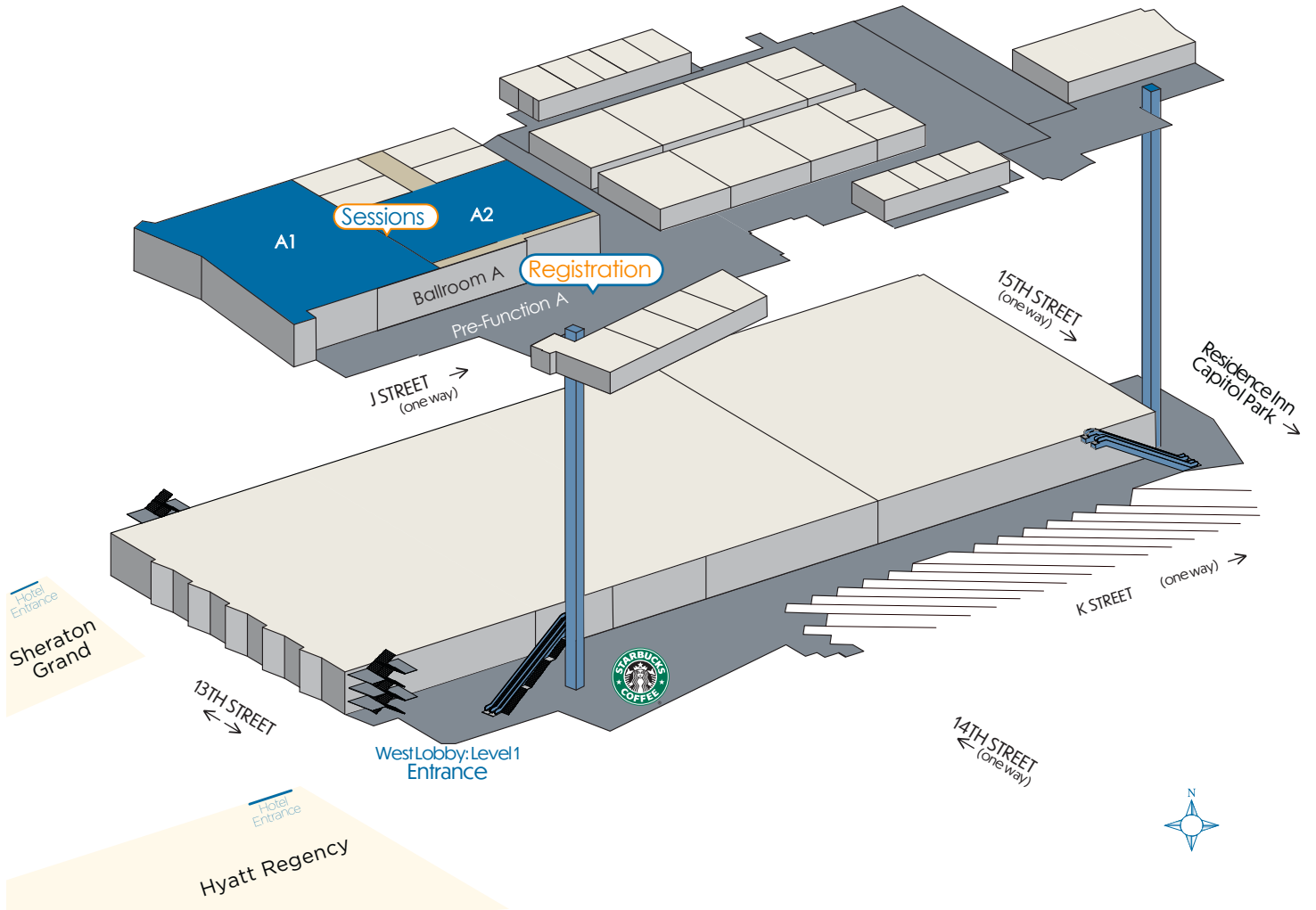
CITY LEADERS SUMMIT

SAFE CREDIT UNION CONVENTION CENTER

April 23-25, 2025



FLOOR PLAN



Take advantage of Visit Sacramento's Badge Pass program to receive discounts at local restaurants and attractions.



CONFERENCE INFORMATION



NETWORK
City Leaders

PASSWORD
Calcities25

DOWNLOAD THE APP!

The Cal Cities mobile app provides a personalized conference experience with access to the full program, key updates, a customized schedule, and more. Download through your device's app store by searching "League of California Cities" or "Cal Cities." Once downloaded, select "Find Guides" and search for 2025 City Leaders Summit. Don't forget to allow push notifications to receive up-to-date conference information.



PRESENTATIONS AND MATERIALS

Looking for presentation slides and session materials? All materials submitted are posted as they are received and can be found online at www.calcities.org/CLS or within the app under the "session materials" tab.

VISIT OUR SPONSORS!

Sponsors will be set up in Prefunction A on Thursday only. Make sure to schedule time to say hello and learn what all of our sponsors have to offer.



WEAR YOUR BADGE!

Please remember to wear your attendee badge at all times as this is your admission ticket to all sessions, meals, and receptions. If you lose or damage yours, please visit the registration desk for a new one.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

Send us your feedback on the summit by May 9 by scanning this QR code.



SAVE THE DATES:

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO
OCTOBER 8-10 | LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER

**2026 MAYORS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
ACADEMY**
JANUARY 21-23 | SACRAMENTO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Registration Open Ballroom A Pre-Function
10:00 - 11:15 a.m.	Opening General Session Ballroom A1 Opening Remarks: Lynne B. Kennedy, President, League of California Cities and Mayor Pro Tem, Rancho Cucamonga Carolyn Coleman, Executive Director and CEO, League of California Cities 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. Moderator: Jason Rhine, Senior Director of Legislative Affairs, League of California Cities Speakers: League of California Cities Advocacy Team
11:30 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Member Rally and Press Conference Capitol Park near L Street, between 13th and 14th Streets Join Cal Cities leadership and other city officials for a rally and press conference urging the Governor and Legislature to support Cal Cities' three budget priorities: ongoing funding to prevent and reduce homelessness, implementation of the voter-approved Prop 36, and protecting voter-approved funding obligations in Prop. 4, the Climate Bond. Together, we will make a unified call for the state to listen to voters, fund what matters, and protect our cities!
12:15 - 2:00 p.m.	Lunch on Your Own For your convenience, lunch will be available for purchase at a food truck in the SAFE Credit Union Convention Center Plaza.



The California Legislature is celebrating cities and honoring YOU – city leaders and staff – who work tirelessly to bring essential services to residents.

Join us at the City Leaders Summit outside of Ballroom A for more!

- Get your Cities Week button, take photos, and share on social: #CACitiesWeek.



Calcities.org/CACitiesWeek2025

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23

12:15 - 5:00 p.m.

Lobbying at the Capitol

2:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Legislative Sessions Ballroom A1

Proposition 36 Implementation: Where Are We Now? (2:00 - 2:45 p.m.)

Last November, California's voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 36 with a 70% approval rating — making it clear they want action to address growing rates of retail theft and substance use disorder. However, in January, the state's proposed budget notably did not make any major investments toward funding the implementation of Proposition 36, leaving many wondering how implementation can be achieved. This panel will focus on what is needed to implement Proposition 36, how the measure has impacted various aspects of our criminal justice system so far, and how our cities can get involved.

Homeless Encampments: State and Local Strategies (2:45 - 3:30 p.m.)

Cities across California are grappling with the growing challenge of homeless encampments, working to balance the needs of unhoused residents, public safety concerns, and legal requirements. As policies continue to evolve, local governments are developing innovative approaches to address this complex issue while facing resource constraints, community expectations, and shifting legal frameworks. This panel will explore how cities are responding, highlight best practices, and examine the path forward as state and local policies continue to shape the landscape of homelessness response efforts.

California State Budget: Potential Outcomes of Federal Budget Cuts (3:45 - 4:15 p.m.)

Under normal circumstances, this year's budget should be significantly easier for the Governor and Legislature to tackle. However, the new federal administration has signaled that federal funding directed at California may be paused or withheld all together unless policy changes are made to reflect the views of the federal administration. California currently receives around \$150 billion in federal funding, mainly to support health and human services programs. Additionally, California needs FEMA funding to support communities and individuals in the aftermath of the devastating fires in the Los Angeles area. This panel will take a deep dive into how dependent the state's budget is on federal funding and explore possible outcomes if federal dollars are withheld.

Wildfires and Disasters: The Path to Preparedness and the Road to Recovery (4:15 - 5:00 p.m.)

Three-quarters of California cities are now in fire hazard severity zones. Many city officials and leaders are asking: How can our city prepare for the next catastrophic wildfire? From cities tucked in mountainous terrain to the urban interface, communities are concerned about the increased pace and scale of wildfires. But fires are not the only disasters plaguing cities — floods, drought, sea level rise, earthquakes, and extreme heat are all too familiar in California. This panel will equip cities with practical tips on how to plan ahead, prepare for disasters, and navigate the road to recovery.

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Legislative Reception *sponsored by* CAL CITIES PARTNER Cafeteria 15L, 1116 15th Street

In partnership with the California State Association of Counties, please join us for an evening reception. Enjoy some light hors d'oeuvres and refreshments while networking with your city and county colleagues.

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Registration Open Ballroom A Pre-Function
7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Elite Sponsor Tables Open Ballroom A Pre-Function
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.	Networking Breakfast Ballroom A1
8:30 - 9:45 a.m. <i>Concurrent Session</i>	Aligning Goal Setting and the Performance Evaluation Process: Best Practices to Retain Top Executive Talent Ballroom A1 This session will dive into innovative, practical strategies for setting clear goals and conducting effective performance evaluations for appointed officials like city managers, city attorneys, and city clerks. Elected city leaders will discover streamlined techniques for facilitating alignment between council priorities and managerial execution, leading to a more cohesive leadership team and improved retention. Learn best practices to simplify and enhance the performance review process including the contract negotiation component, resulting in a supportive environment where roles are clear, goals are aligned, and every appointed executive in your organization is positioned for success. Moderator: Jacob Green, President and CEO, Jacob Green & Associates Speakers: Sonia Carvalho, City Attorney, Cities of Pomona and Santa Ana Greg Devereaux, Managing Partner, Worthington
8:30 - 9:45 a.m. <i>Concurrent Session</i>	Bridging Prosperity: Leveraging the Synergy Between Housing, Commerce, and Public Spaces to Create Thriving Communities Ballroom A2 By strategically investing in affordable housing and integrating it with other essential community elements, jurisdictions can spark significant economic and community reinvestment, leading to sustainable and inclusive growth for all residents. Using an integrated development approach, explore the nexus of affordable housing, economic development, equity and community revitalization through strategic investments to drive economic growth and community betterment. Moderator: Tara Matthews, Vice President / Principal, RSG, Inc. Speakers: Dena Fuentes, Director, RSG, Inc. Rebecca Louie, President and CEO, Wakeland Housing and Development Corporation Rochelle Mills, President and CEO, Innovative Housing Opportunities

League of California Cities Executive Committee

President, Lynne B. Kennedy, Mayor Pro Tem, Rancho Cucamonga

First Vice President, Gabe Quinto, Mayor Pro Tem, El Cerrito

Second Vice President, Teresa Acosta, Council Member, Carlsbad

Immediate Past President, Daniel Parra, Council Member, Fowler

Executive Director and CEO, Carolyn Coleman, League of California Cities

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

10:00 - 11:15 a.m.
Concurrent Session

Partners in Local Governance: Strength, Continuity, and Leadership in Modern Local Government Ballroom A1

Successful local governance relies on a strong partnership between elected officials and professional staff. This session brings together seasoned leaders from both sides of the dais to share their experiences, challenges, and lessons learned in fostering effective collaboration. Through real-world stories and candid discussions, this session will explore the dynamics of governance, communication, and decision-making, offering strategies to strengthen relationships, build effective council-city manager partnerships and improve outcomes for communities.

Moderator: *The Honorable Joe Simitian, Former State Senator, State Assemblymember, County Supervisor, Mayor and Council Member, School Board President and Trustee*

Speakers: *Mary Bier, Council Member, Pacifica*

Dr. Peter Pirnejad, ICMA-CM, City Manager, Los Altos Hills, Cal-ICMA President 2025/26

Kevin Woodhouse, City Manager, Pacifica

10:00 - 11:15 a.m.
Concurrent Session

Speed Sessions Ballroom A2

Moderator: *Jorgel Chavez, Second Vice President, Mayors and Council Members Department and Mayor, Bell Gardens*

When Public Comment Crosses the Line (10:00 - 10:20 a.m.)

Cities of all sizes have recently experienced a surge in public comment that is excessively vulgar and fiery, and at times even beyond what may be protected by the Brown Act and First Amendment. Elected officials surely anticipate criticism and sharp commentary, but what about when the remarks serve to make meeting attendees and those on the dais fear for their personal safety? Cities often find their hands tied when mitigating public comment that would be prohibited in most other public forums, such as state and federal legislatures and courts. Generally, applicable rules of decorum are often not enough to regulate or discourage the conduct in more extreme instances. When public comment moves from critical to frightening, what can cities do? This panel presentation will discuss the possibility of a workplace violence restraining order against meeting attendees whose conduct injects fear into public meetings.

Speaker: *John Funk, City Attorney, Downey*

Unofficial Guide to Surviving and Thriving in Elected Office (10:25 - 10:45 a.m.)

Discover the tips, tricks, and truths no one tells you before you're sworn in. This session will share hard-earned wisdom, from building coalitions to managing crises, to growing thick layers of skin in order to do the right thing. Learn to lead effectively while keeping your ego in check, your sanity intact, and your relationships intentional.

Speaker: *Scott Alvord, CEO, Advanced Development Concepts, LLC*

Today's Roadmap to Economic Development: Climate Action, Zoning, and Housing (10:50 - 11:10 a.m.)

Economic development has transitioned from redevelopment to sustainability; from retail to residential; from shopping trips to retail apps, all with a focus on green infrastructure, resiliency, and density. In a post-COVID digital world consumers want a 15-minute community with restaurants, jobs, and great schools. The private sector is investing in green energy projects, with federal and state funding available to support these efforts. Meanwhile, the state is encouraging cities to increase density, as housing represents the highest land value. This session will show city leaders how to implement effective economic development by taking advantage of zoning and financing tools to attract and induce private investment the community wants.

Speaker: *Larry Kosmont, Chair & CEO, Kosmont Companies*

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. | **Networking Lunch**
Ballroom A Pre-Function

12:15 - 1:45 p.m. | **General Session**
Ballroom A1

Opening Remarks: Debbie Baker, President, Mayors and Council Members Department and Council Member, La Palma



Building Communities of Trust: How Cities Can Bridge the Trust Divide

Nothing is more essential to human happiness—or the success of our societies—than trust in one another. Yet, trust has been eroding. Too many people feel disconnected from their neighbors, suspicious of strangers, and excluded from the social fabric of their communities. The good news? Our cities have the power to help bridge the trust divide. In this visual journey, Tristan Cleveland shares fascinating and often funny social experiments to demonstrate that we can redesign our communities to draw people together in ways that nurture the bonds that keep us all healthy, happy, and strong. By understanding the effect that design has on our emotions and decisions, we can all help shape this empowering new vision of city life.

Keynote Speaker: Tristan Cleveland, Urban Planner & Research Specialist, Happy Cities

2:00 - 3:15 p.m.
Concurrent Session

What Happens When Reporters Leave Your Town - And What To Do About It

Ballroom A1

WESTERN
City

California has lost one-third of its newspapers since 2005, turning many cities into news “mirages.” This panel will explore the impact of the shifting media environment on public safety and city governments, including the decline in reliable media coverage and reduced reporting on city council meetings. Drawing from the experience of city officials and reporters, along with the support of the California Association of Public Information Officers and an in-depth [feature article](#) in Western City magazine, this panel will explore how some cities are finding new ways to communicate essential information to residents and other efforts to build more local reporting capacity.

Moderator: Brian Hendershot, Managing Editor, Western City Magazine, League of California Cities

Speakers: Soheila Bana, Council Member, Richmond

Patricia Lock Dawson, Mayor, Riverside

Christa Scharfenberg, Project Director, UC Berkeley Journalism - CA Local News Fellowship

Amy Williams, Assistant to the City Manager/Chief of Staff, Sacramento

2:00 - 3:15 p.m.
Concurrent Session

Addressing Climate and Environmental Inequities in Black Communities

Ballroom A2 | *Planned with the Cal Cities African American Caucus*

Black communities face disproportionate climate risks, from health disparities like asthma to economic instability due to environmental hazards. Despite state mandates such as SB 272 requiring climate adaptation planning, funding gaps and equity considerations remain unaddressed, leaving these neighborhoods vulnerable. This panel will explore how local governments can drive meaningful change by prioritizing climate resilience funding, green job creation, housing equity, and community-led solutions. Join us for a critical discussion on advancing environmental justice and ensuring Black communities have a voice in climate policy and adaptation efforts.

Moderator: Princess Washington, Council Member, Suisun City

Speakers: Troy Finley, President, National Action Network Bay Area

Kerby Lynch, Director of Research, Ceres Policy Research

Zoe Siegel, Senior Director of Climate Resilience, Greenbelt Alliance

3:15 - 3:45 p.m.

Dessert Break
Ballroom A Pre-Function

THURSDAY, APRIL 24

3:45 - 5:00 p.m.
Concurrent Session

Gangs Out of Downey: A Crime Prevention Model

Ballroom A1

Opening Remarks: Blanca Pacheco, Assemblymember, 64th District, California State Legislature

This session will highlight the impactful gang prevention efforts led by Gangs Out of Downey (GOOD), in collaboration with community partners, including the City of Downey. It will showcase how these partnerships create efficient, community-driven strategies to support the safety and well-being of Downey's youth and their families. GOOD and its partners leverage their expertise and resources to provide intervention, prevention, and diversion services, aligning with National Gang Center best practices that emphasize engaging community groups, after-school activities, and family support programs. Key initiatives like Kids & Cops Day and the School Resource Officer (SRO) program will be explored, demonstrating how these programs foster trust and positive relationships between youth and law enforcement. The City of Downey's financial support, including Community Development Block Grant funds and contributions to GOOD's programs and events, highlights a shared commitment to providing pathways for opportunity and well-being for young residents. Through these collaborative efforts, GOOD has been instrumental in maintaining Downey as a gang-free city, raising awareness about gang-related dangers, and empowering local youth to pursue positive futures.

Moderator: Roger Bradley, City Manager, Downey

Speakers: Darrell Jackson, Founder, 10-20 Club Inc.

Scott Loughner, Chief of Police, Downey

Hector Sosa, Mayor, Downey

3:45 - 5:00 p.m.
Concurrent Session

California's Economic Outlook: Navigating the Future with Data-Driven Insights

Ballroom A2

Join UCLA Anderson Forecast and Avenu Insights & Analytics for an in-depth analysis of California's economic landscape and emerging trends that impact cities and their leaders. For over six decades, UCLA Anderson Forecast has delivered highly respected economic forecasts, while Avenu has guided California's local governments with insights on regional and local trends for over 40 years. This session provides a comprehensive view of both the state and local economic forecasts, equipping leaders with actionable insights to support resilient, prosperous communities.

Moderator: Reva Feldman, Retired City Manager, Malibu

Speakers: Thomas Adams, Director of Sales and Use Tax Audit, Avenu Insights & Analytics

Jerry Nickelsburg, Professor, UCLA

2024 – 2025 Mayors and Council Members Department Officers

President, Debbie Baker, Council Member, La Palma

First Vice President, Kuldip Thusu, Council Member, Dinuba

Second Vice President, Jorgel Chavez, Mayor, Bell Gardens

Department Director, Jan Arbuckle, Council Member, Grass Valley

Immediate Past President, Susannah Meyer, Mayor, Brentwood

FRIDAY, APRIL 25

8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Registration Open
Ballroom A Pre-Function

8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Networking Breakfast
Ballroom A1

9:00 - 10:15 a.m.
Concurrent Session

Navigating PFAS Litigation: Securing Municipal Remediation Funds
Ballroom A1

This session will provide an in-depth look at the legal strategies and current overview of PFAS litigation, focusing on how municipal lawyers can protect clients and secure funds for PFAS remediation. As environmental concerns and regulations intensify, city leaders must understand statute of limitations issues, emerging regulations, and the current status of nationwide PFAS litigation, including the importance of timely action. Discover critical insights into the current settlements, future settlements, multi-district litigation (MDL) status, significant deadlines, and the role of municipal attorneys in protecting public health by securing financial resources for their communities.

Moderator: Jan Arbuckle, Department Director, Mayors and Council Members Department and Council Member, Grass Valley

Speaker: Michael Stag, Managing Partner, Stag Liuzza

9:00 - 10:15 a.m.
Concurrent Session

Earning Public Trust: Practical Strategies for Transparent and Effective Leadership
Ballroom A2

Trust is the cornerstone of good governance and effective collaboration with our communities, and elected leaders play a pivotal role in fostering trust with our cities. Clear, transparent messaging, publicly addressing resident concerns and openly acknowledging mistakes are keen aspects of trust building exercises. In this session, the panel will explore proven strategies for building trust with residents. From transparency in decision-making to council processes and decorum standards, attendees will learn practical approaches that forge collaboration and not division in the city-resident relationship. This session will highlight experiences of elected leaders and public servants who have successfully navigated challenges that either threatened or rebuilt trust in their cities.

Moderator: Ryder Smith, President, Tripepi Smith

Speakers: Michael La Vorne Antwine II, City Manager, Bell
Dante Hall, City Manager, Hercules
Brenda Olmos, Council Member, Paramount

10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Closing General Session
Ballroom A1

Closing Remarks: Debbie Baker, President, Mayors and Council Members Department and Council Member, La Palma



What Makes Each Generation Want to Vote

Age matters . . . but maybe not in the way you are thinking. What motivates Gen-X to go to the ballot box or keeps them on the sidelines is different than what moves Gen-Z one way or the other. This session will look at what makes each generation unique, what motivates them to vote, and how to create personalized messages to better connect with each age group. In addition to exploring the differences between Boomers and Millennials or Generation-X and Generation-Z, we'll look at some of the things all age groups have in common. This high-energy, interactive, and inspiring session will make you think, laugh, and learn.

Keynote Speaker: Lee Silber, Lead Trainer, Creative-Lee Speaking

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LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

1400 K Street, Suite 400, Sacramento, CA 95814
www.calcities.org