



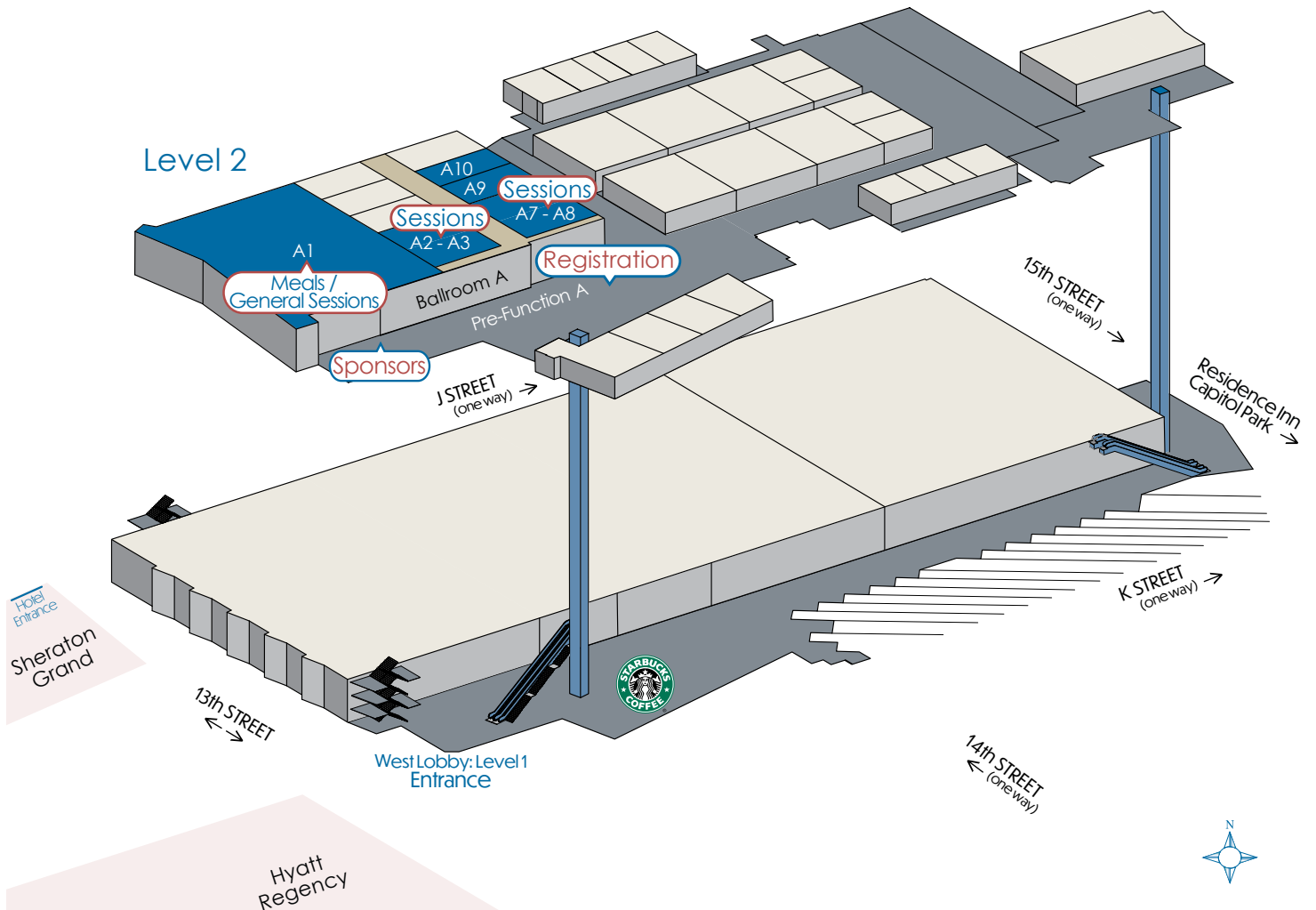
LEAGUE OF
**CALIFORNIA
CITIES**

CITY LEADERS SUMMIT

April 22-24, 2026
SAFE Credit Union
Convention Center

Navigating change, powering progress.

FLOOR PLAN



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



CONFERENCE INFORMATION

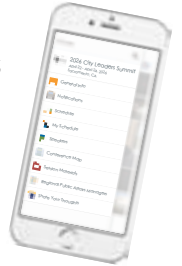


NETWORK
City Leaders Summit

PASSWORD
Calcities

DOWNLOAD THE APP!

The Cal Cities mobile app provides a personalized conference experience with access to the full program, key updates, advocacy activities, 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 2026 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/CLSmaterials or within the app under the "session materials" tab.

VISIT OUR SPONSORS!

Sponsors will be in Pre-function A on Thursday. 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 only registered attendees are allowed admission to all sessions, meals, receptions, and the Gubernatorial Forum. 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 scanning this QR code before May 8.



SAVE THE DATES:

2026 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPO
SEPTEMBER 23-25 | ANAHEIM CONVENTION CENTER

**2027 MAYORS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
ACADEMY**
JANUARY 20-22 | SAFE CREDIT UNION CONVENTION
CENTER, SACRAMENTO

2027 CITY LEADERS SUMMIT
APRIL 21-23 | SAFE CREDIT UNION CONVENTION CENTER,
SACRAMENTO

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

9:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. | **Registration Open**
Ballroom A Pre-Function

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. **Opening General Session**
Ballroom A1

Opening Remarks: Gabe Quinto, President, League of California Cities and Mayor, El Cerrito
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 during meetings with legislative officers later in the day, and hear from an assembly member on tips and strategies for effective lobbying at the Capitol.

Moderator and Speaker: Jason Rhine, Senior Director of Legislative Affairs, League of California Cities
League of California Cities Legislative Advocates:

Damon Conklin, Transportation, Communications, and Public Works

Caroline Grinder, Community Services

Brady Guertin, Housing, Community, and Economic Development

Johnnie Piña, Governance, Transparency, and Labor Relations

Melissa Sparks-Kranz, Environmental Quality

Ben Triffo, Revenue and Taxation

Jolena Voorhis, Public Safety

Fireside Chat

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

Speaker: Assembly Majority Leader Cecilia Aguiar-Curry

APRIL 19-25, 2026

California
CITIES WEEK



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, share messages, and share on social: #CACitiesWeek.



Calcities.org/CitiesWeek2026

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Lunch on Your Own

12:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Lobbying at the Capitol

1:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Events at the Convention Center

Focus Lounge

Room A9

Need a moment to recharge or focus? Step into this inviting workspace—perfect for catching up on emails, or powering through your to-do list in a calm, productive setting.

Roundtables

Room A2-A3

Join us for in-person roundtables where you can connect face-to-face with peers, exchange ideas and resources, and share successes and challenges in a supportive, collaborative setting. The afternoon will feature three 45-minute roundtable segments, each with two discussion areas: a policy topic and a networking topic.

1:30 - 2:15 p.m. Roundtable Session

- ◆ Building Relationships for an Effective City Council
- ◆ Economic Development and Local Business Vitality

2:30 - 3:15 p.m. Roundtable Session

- ◆ Highlighting City Successes and Communicating Wins to the Public
- ◆ Preparing for Disasters and Emergency Response

3:30 - 4:15 p.m. Roundtable Session

- ◆ Maintaining Personal Well-Being and Mental Health in Public Leadership
- ◆ Addressing Homelessness and Housing Affordability

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

State Agency Office Hours

Room A10

Connect with representatives from state agencies to learn about resources available to support your community, including funding opportunities and technical assistance. Agency experts will be available to answer questions and provide guidance on everything from planning and permitting to funding. These informal meetings are open to all attendees—no appointment needed.

*Participating agencies to include: California Department of Insurance | California Energy Commission | California Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development | California Public Utilities Commission | California Department of Transportation. **Subject to change. See conference app for more details.*

5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Legislative Reception *sponsored by*  CAL CITIES PARTNER

The Mix, 1525 L Street

Please join us for an evening reception sponsored by Cal Cities Partners. Enjoy appetizers and beverages while networking with legislators and city colleagues.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

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>	How Local Governments Can Partner with Youth for Lasting Change Room A2-A3 Across California, local leaders are seeking bold, proven ways to strengthen their communities and build a lasting legacy. Through the United4Youth Initiative of United Way Santa Cruz County, cities like Capitola, Santa Cruz, and Scotts Valley are embedding youth leadership into the heart of local governance. Attendees will explore how to establish and implement programs and strategies such as a Children and Youth Bill of Rights, Student and Youth Liaison roles, and Youth Participatory Action Research to inform local priorities. Speakers will also discuss ways to secure sustainable funding for these programs through dedicated city funds. Participants will leave inspired, equipped with ready-to-use tools, and confident in adapting these strategies locally. Speakers: Yvette Brooks, CEO, United Way Santa Cruz County Pamela Velazquez Janusz, Director of Community Impact, United Way Santa Cruz County
8:30 - 9:45 a.m. <i>Concurrent Session</i>	Securing our Future Water Supply Room A7-A8 California's changing climate continues to influence water supply availability statewide, with deep swings between extreme flooding and drought. Safe drinking water and a reliable water supply are critical to sustaining vibrant and thriving cities in both urban and rural areas. This panel of esteemed experts and decision-makers will share their perspectives on how to address regional water supply challenges, while charting a vision for a secure future for California's water supply. Moderator: Rudy Mendoza, Second Vice President, Mayors and Council Members Department and Mayor, Woodlake Speakers: Jerry Brown, Executive Director, Sites Project Authority Melissa Hurtado, State Senator, California State Senate Jennifer Pierre, General Manager, State Water Contractors
10:00 - 11:15 a.m. <i>Concurrent Session</i>	Rumor Has It: Tackling Misinformation Room A2-A3 Misinformation can spread rapidly, shaping public perception and eroding trust, particularly during crises. To ensure your city's message remains clear and credible, effective community and media relations are essential. This panel brings together experienced city leaders to share their strategies for identifying, addressing, and preventing misinformation both on a day-to-day basis and during emergencies. Attendees will gain practical insights into navigating public concerns, engaging stakeholders, and maintaining credibility and empathy to preserve trust in an ever-evolving information climate. Through real-world case studies, panelists will explore proactive communication tactics and the critical role of transparency in strengthening long-term community trust during emergencies and beyond. Participants will learn actionable leadership strategies to protect their city's reputation and reinforce public confidence. Moderator: Alexis Gillam, Director, Tripepi Smith & Associates Speakers: Alma Hernandez, Mayor, Suisun City David Oro, Council Member, American Canyon

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

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

What California Cities Are Doing to Support Homeless Veterans Room A7-A8

California has the highest number of homeless veterans in the nation. Learn how cities are responding through local programs and state initiatives like Proposition 1, which funds veteran housing and expands mental and behavioral health support. Panelists will share real city examples and resources to help communities better serve and house their veterans.

Moderator: Michael Cao, Council Member, Arcadia

Speakers: Tramecia Garner, Executive Director, Swords to Plowshares

Jesus Gomez, City Manager, Norwalk

Jordan Marks, Assessor/Recorder/County Clerk, County of San Diego

Jennifer Perez, Mayor, Norwalk

11:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.

2026 Cities Gubernatorial Candidate Forum Ballroom A1

This special election-year conversation with candidates for Governor provides city officials a unique opportunity to hear directly about issues most important to cities, including housing and homelessness, public safety, climate and energy, affordability, as well as leadership, values, and the person behind each candidate.

Introductory Remarks: Gabe Quinto, President, League of California Cities and Mayor, El Cerrito

Forum Moderator: Scott Shafer, Senior Politics and Government Editor, KQED and Co-host of the award-winning podcast Political Breakdown

Closing Remarks: Carolyn Coleman, Executive Director and CEO, League of California Cities

12:45 - 1:45 p.m.

Networking Lunch Ballroom A1

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

The California State Budget, Federal Uncertainty, and What it Means for Local Leaders Room A2-A3

This session will explore key elements of the California state budget, growing uncertainty at the federal level, and how both can affect cities. The speaker will discuss revenue trends and potential risks on the horizon, offering insights to help city leaders anticipate challenges, plan strategically, and advocate effectively in an evolving fiscal landscape.

Moderator: Debbie S. Baker, Immediate Past President, Mayors and Council Members Department and Mayor Pro Tem, La Palma

Speaker: Irena Asmundson, Founder and CEO, Practical Idealism Economics

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

Building Family-Friendly Cities: Child Care as Critical Infrastructure Room A7-A8 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, Council Member, West Hollywood

Pamela Campos, Council Member, San Jose

Esmeralda Martin-Singh, ECE Deputy Director, Policy & Advisory, Low Income Investment Fund

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

3:15 - 3:45 p.m.

Sponsor Break Ballroom A Pre-Function

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

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

Local Government and Immigration Enforcement: Policy, Practice, and Community Impact Room A2-A3

This panel will explore the evolving landscape of immigration enforcement and the challenges and opportunities it presents for local governments. Local leaders will discuss policy approaches, communication strategies, and partnerships that protect residents' rights while supporting safe and welcoming communities.

Moderator: Ana Maria Quintana, Council Member, Bell

Speakers: Grissel Chavez, Assistant City Manager, Paramount

Shiu-Ming Cheer, Deputy Director of Immigrant & Racial Justice, California Immigrant Policy Center

Larry Gonzalez, Chief of Police, Riverside

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

The New Grants and Economic Development Playbook Room A7-A8

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: Dale Sumersille, Senior Associate, California Consulting

Speakers: Michael L. Antwine II, City Manager, Bell

Larry Kosmont, Chairman & CEO, Kosmont Companies

Patrick Martinez, City Manager, Needles

League of California Cities Executive Committee

President, Gabe Quinto, Mayor, El Cerrito

First Vice President, Teresa Acosta, Council Member, Carlsbad

Second Vice President, David Cohen, Council Member, San Jose

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

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 24

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.

AI Applications in Local Government: Empowering Public Safety, Transportation, Urban Planning and Citizen Services
Ballroom A1

Tools such as Copilot and ChatGPT are often used to increase efficiency and get answers to difficult questions. This session will take a broader look at emerging AI applications cities are utilizing to improve services such as public safety, transportation, urban planning, and citizen services. Attendees will deepen their understanding of today's cutting-edge AI applications and discover what is on the horizon for their city in the not-so-distant future.

Moderator: Kuldip Thusu, President, Mayors and Council Members Department and Council Member, Dinuba

Speakers: James Breuckman, City Manager, Pleasant Ridge, MI
Jason Peters, AI and Data Solutions Lead, VC3

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

Closing General Session
Ballroom A1



13 Ways to Kill Your Community

Based on Doug Griffiths' bestselling book, *13 Ways to Kill Your Community*, this engaging and thought-provoking keynote will challenge you to take a fresh look at your community. Blending humor and wisdom, Griffiths will explore the common pitfalls that hold cities back, and how to move beyond them. You will leave this session with a stronger sense of ownership and responsibility for your community's success, a clear understanding of the key challenges your community faces and why, and practical tools to start driving meaningful progress.

Closing Remarks: Debbie S. Baker, Immediate Past President, Mayors and Council Members Department and Mayor Pro Tem, La Palma

Keynote Speaker: Doug Griffiths, President & CEO, 13 Ways Inc.

2025 - 2026 Mayors and Council Members Department Officers

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