



LEAGUE OF
CALIFORNIA
CITIES

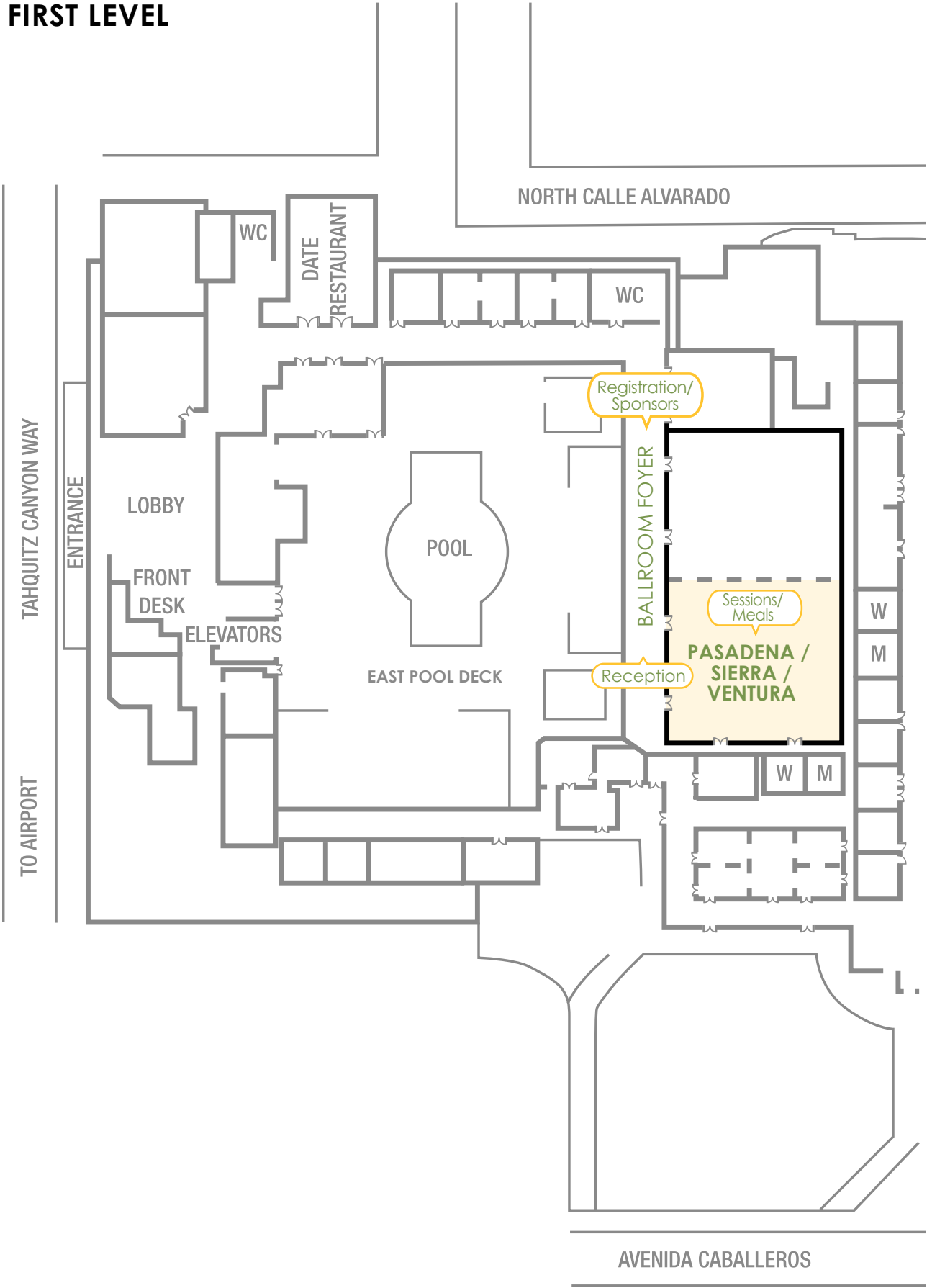
MUNICIPAL FINANCE INSTITUTE

The Renaissance
Palm Springs Hotel
December 10 - 11, 2025

Navigating change, powering progress.

FLOOR PLAN

FIRST LEVEL



CONFERENCE INFORMATION



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Cal Cities

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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 Municipal Finance Institute. Don't forget to allow push notifications to receive up-to-date conference information and opt in for additional networking opportunities.



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/MFImaterials or within the app.

VISIT OUR SPONSORS!

Sponsors will be set up in the Ballroom Foyer Wednesday and 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 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.

FINANCE DIRECTORS WITH A CPA CAN EARN CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

Finance professionals licensed as California Certified Public Accountants (CPAs) through the California Board of Accountancy are eligible to earn Continuing Professional Education (CPE) credits during the institute. To earn CPE credit, be sure to scan your badge before each session.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS!

Scan the QR code to send us your feedback on the institute by December 22.



SAVE THE DATES:

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

2026 MUNICIPAL FINANCE INSTITUTE
DECEMBER 10-11 | MONTEREY PLAZA HOTEL

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Registration Open Ballroom Foyer
8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Premium Sponsor Tables Open Ballroom Foyer
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Networking Breakfast Pasadena/Sierra/Ventura
9:00 - 10:15 a.m.	2025 Playbook for Developments in Municipal Finance Law and Policy Pasadena/Sierra/Ventura Stay up to date on the latest major developments for California city revenues. Learn about new laws, legal developments, risks and opportunities, and federal actions that will impact your agency's finances. Host City Remarks: Kristopher Mooney, Director of Finance and Treasurer, Palm Springs Opening Remarks: Lisa Soghor, President, Fiscal Officers Department and Chief Financial Officer, Culver City Speakers: Michael Colantuono, Shareholder, Colantuono, Highsmith & Whatley, PC Caroline Grinder, Legislative Advocate, League of California Cities Ben Triffo, Legislative Advocate, League of California Cities
10:15 - 10:45 a.m.	Elite Sponsor Break Ballroom Foyer
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Incident Response and Crisis Management for Fiscal Officers Pasadena/Sierra/Ventura Do you know what to do if your city experiences a cybersecurity incident? Join this dynamic session to learn how to develop and test a municipal cyber incident response plan before you need one. Hear from expert panelists on lessons learned from real-world breaches and learn how to coordinate with state and federal agencies during cyber incidents. Leave this session with the confidence to respond to real incidents with speed and efficiency. Moderator: Scott Pettingell, Finance Director, Roseville Speakers: Mohammad Ahmed, CEO/President, Infinity Technologies Jessica Alcaraz, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, Pico Rivera Angelina Graves, Assistant City Manager, Pico Rivera Travis Nichols, Cyber Advisory Team Lead, CalOES - CalCSIC
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Networking Lunch Pasadena/Sierra/Ventura
1:15 - 2:15 p.m.	CalPERS Asset Liability Management and Experience Study Pasadena/Sierra/Ventura The California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) continues to shape the financial landscape for California cities, not only through its Asset Liability Management process, but also through its response to finance policies. CalPERS leadership will go beyond the basics to outline the market and policy forces informing the strategic decisions to move to a Total Portfolio Approach, as well as providing an update on the 2025 CalPERS experience study and a review of actuarial assumptions. With experienced city financial officers in mind, this discussion will provide the insights you need to position your city as a proactive partner with CalPERS. Moderator: Brian Mohan, First Vice President, Fiscal Officers Department and City Manager, Moreno Valley Facilitator: Johnnie Piña, Legislative Advocate, League of California Cities Speakers: Fritzie Archuleta, Deputy Chief Actuary, CalPERS Michele Nix, Chief Financial Officer, CalPERS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10

2:30 - 3:45 p.m.

Embracing AI: Technology to Help You Leave the Office on Time Pasadena/Sierra/Ventura

Roughly 29% of public agencies use AI, but how do you know if you're using it to its full potential? In this session, we will explore AI and immediate ways you can implement it to support accounting and finance tasks. Leave understanding how AI can help you allocate more time towards strategic planning, spot the difference between AI models, and new ideas about how you should use AI now to save you time.

Moderator: Daniel Choe, Past President, Fiscal Officers Department and Deputy Director of Administrative Services, Rocklin

Speakers: Bryant Baek, CEO & Co-Founder, Bettercast AI
Steve Hargis, CIO, Moreno Valley
J.R. Wright, Chief Information Officer, Culver City

4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Reactive to Resilient: A New Playbook for Municipal Finance Leaders Pasadena/Sierra/Ventura

As a finance professional, you are constantly asked to predict the future. But what happens when the future refuses to cooperate? Volatile revenues, unfunded mandates, and shifting economic conditions can derail even the most carefully crafted budget to a crumbling heap. This session will explore the cognitive biases and ingrained habits that cause leaders to cling to outdated financial models or reject innovative ideas, and will outline the 3C Framework (Catch On, Consider Data, and Create Solutions), to counter those tendencies. Leave with practical tools to make decisions under pressure, to find novel solutions to ongoing challenges, protect your team from burnout, and cultivate a culture of "creative resilience" that will allow your city to not just survive, but thrive in any circumstance.

Introductory Remarks: Lisa Soghor, President, Fiscal Officers Department and Chief Financial Officer, Culver City

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Caroline Brookfield, Veterinarian and Author

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Joint Networking Reception with Fire Chiefs Ballroom Foyer

Mingle with colleagues and sponsors while enjoying delicious appetizers and tasty no-host beverages during the evening networking reception. This joint reception is open to attendees from the Fire Chiefs Leadership Seminar and the Municipal Finance Institute. It's the perfect opportunity to form support networks in and outside your profession.

2025 – 2026 Fiscal Officers Department

President, Lisa Soghor, Chief Financial Officer, Culver City

First Vice President, Brian Mohan, City Manager, Moreno Valley

Department Director, Roberta Raper, Director of Finance, West Sacramento

Past President, Daniel Choe, Deputy Director of Administrative Services, Rocklin

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

8:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Registration Open Ballroom Foyer
8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Premium Sponsor Tables Open Ballroom Foyer
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast Pasadena/Sierra/Ventura
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.	Listserv Live Roundtables Pasadena/Sierra/Ventura New this year, join our interactive breakfast "Listserv Live". Ask questions, hear how your peers deal with issues you are facing, and meet colleagues face-to-face. Find all the support you can get on the Fiscal Officers Listserv, with the added bonus of putting faces to email addresses. Introductory Remarks: Robert Shull, Senior Director, Public Trust Advisors Moderator: Brian Mohan, First Vice President, Fiscal Officers Department and City Manager, Moreno Valley
9:30 - 10:45 a.m.	Grow Your Budget with Economic Development Finance Tools Pasadena/Sierra/Ventura With budgets regularly being tightened, economic development financing can help by strategically financing projects that will grow the tax base. There are many economic development tools that communities can leverage to balance the needs of their residents, businesses, and municipalities. This session will discuss tax increment financing, bond programs, and district formation, as well as other tools that can help your city thrive and grow its resource pool. Speakers will give attendees examples of how to partner with private resources and layer these programs to successfully finance their community's future. Moderator: Lisa Soghor, President, Fiscal Officers Department and Chief Financial Officer, Culver City Speakers: PJ Gagajena, City Manager, Moorpark Gurbax Sahota, President & CEO, California Association for Local Economic Development Scott Wagner, Deputy Director of Finance, Santa Rosa Leni Zarate, Vice President, DTA
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	How To Improve Your City's Credit Rating Pasadena/Sierra/Ventura As public agencies look to banks or capital markets to borrow funds, the credit of their agency dictates the interest rate. Establishing a strong credit profile takes years of careful planning, adopting sound financial policies, and preparing for the day when project financing becomes necessary. Join our expert panel as they discuss ways to get ahead of the curve and set your city up for success. Moderator: Brian Mohan, First Vice President, Fiscal Officers Department and City Manager, Moreno Valley Speakers: Ryan Cornell, Administrative Services Director, Paso Robles Craig Hill, Managing Principal, NHA Advisors, LLC

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

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