



LEAGUE OF
CALIFORNIA
CITIES

MAYORS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS ACADEMY

January 21-23, 2026
Hyatt Regency Sacramento

Navigating change, powering progress.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

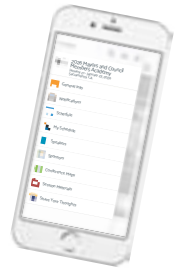


NETWORK
CalCities

PASSWORD
Locc2026

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 2026 Mayors and Council Members Academy. 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/MCMAmaterials or within the app.

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!

Scan the QR code to send us your feedback on the academy by February 6.



SAVE THE DATES:

2026 CITY LEADERS SUMMIT

APRIL 22-24 | SAFE CREDIT UNION CONVENTION CENTER,
SACRAMENTO

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

8:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Registration Open Regency Foyer
9:00 - 11:00 a.m. <i>Sign-in begins at 8:30 a.m.</i>	Harassment Prevention Training for Supervisors and Officials <i>(AB 1661)</i> Regency ABC <i>Sign-in will begin 30 minutes prior to the session and you must be present for the full two hours to receive the certification of attendance. Entry will be prohibited once the session begins.</i> This informational and interactive workplace harassment prevention training will focus on current and emerging issues and teach officials and supervisors how to identify, prevent, and properly respond to workplace harassment, discrimination, retaliation, and abusive conduct in order to avoid personal and agency liability in compliance with AB 1825, AB 2053, AB 1661 and SB 396. <i>The Institute for Local Government is a State Bar of California minimum continuing legal education (MCLE) approved provider and certifies this activity meets the standards for MCLE credit by the State Bar of California in the total amount of 2 hours (general credits). Provider #13881.</i> Speaker: Cecilia Martin, Partner, Best Best & Krieger
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Opening General Session: Your Cal Cities and How to Use It Regency ABC As a city official, you are the League of California Cities. Meet the Cal Cities leadership team and learn about the organization's mission and structure, the advocacy and educational tools Cal Cities provides, and how you can get the most out of your membership. Opening Remarks: Kuldip Thusu, President and Department Director, Mayors and Council Members Department and Council Member, Dinuba Moderator: Jennifer Whiting, Deputy Executive Director, League of California Cities Speakers: Carolyn Coleman, Executive Director and CEO, League of California Cities Gabe Quinto, President, League of California Cities and Mayor, El Cerrito
12:30 - 1:30 p.m.	Networking Luncheon with your Division Regency DEF Take this opportunity to sit with members of your regional division and meet your Cal Cities regional public affairs manager .
1:45 - 3:15 p.m.	Effective Advocacy and Key City Issues Regency ABC Meet the League of California Cities' legislative team and learn about the 2026 Cal Cities Advocacy Priorities, legislative calendar, and trending issues in the Legislature. The Cal Cities team will also share ideas for establishing practical skills to develop persuasive arguments and testimony that will serve your city's interests. Moderator: Jason Rhine, Senior Director of Legislative Affairs, League of California Cities Speakers: Kristine Guerrero, Senior Director of Public 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
3:15 - 3:45 p.m.	Dessert Break Regency Foyer

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21

3:45 - 5:15 p.m.

Your Legal Powers and Obligations; Open Government and Conflicts of Interest Regency ABC

You were elected to make things happen in your city. Learn the breadth and limitations of your powers as a city official. Then, acquire a basic understanding of the legal authorities and restrictions under which cities and city officials operate, with a focus on open government laws, such as the Brown Act and the Public Records Act, and laws pertaining to conflicts of interest.

Moderator: Rudy Mendoza, Second Vice President, Mayors and Council Members Department and Mayor, Woodlake

Speakers: Emilio Camacho, Senior Deputy City Attorney, Sacramento
Eric Danly, City Attorney, Petaluma

5:15 - 6:30 p.m.

Legislative Reception

Cafeteria 15L, 1116 15th Street Planned with 

Take this opportunity to network with your peers from throughout the state after a full day of educational sessions. Assembly Members and Senators from throughout the state are invited to attend.

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 Kennedy,
Mayor Pro Tem, Rancho Cucamonga*

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Registration Open Regency Foyer
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.	Networking Breakfast Regency ABC
9:00 - 10:15 a.m.	Policy Role in Land Use Planning Regency ABC Land use planning is one of the most important parts of a city official's responsibilities due to the long-term impacts it can have on a community's environment, economic vitality, and the physical health of its residents. Learn about tools and processes in land use planning, such as the general plan, zoning, and the California Environmental Quality Act, as well as the role of regional agencies and the state. This knowledge will help you foster a solid working relationship with your city's planning commission and planning staff. Moderator: Debbie S. Baker, Immediate Past President, Mayors and Council Members Department and Mayor Pro Tem, La Palma Speakers: Eric Nelson, Chairman, Planning Commission, Dana Point Mark Teague, Principal Advisor, Land Use and Environmental Strategies, PlaceWorks
10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Developing an Effective City Council and City Manager Team: The Key to Good Governance and City Success Regency ABC Successful communities require highly effective governance and management, key to which is a positive city council/city manager working relationship guided by good, open communication. This session will help you to better appreciate the roles that the city council governing body, individual council members, and the city manager fulfill in a successful working relationship based on effective communication and sound governance practices. Moderator: Patricia Martel, West Coast Regional Director, ICMA Speakers: Ellen Kamei, Mayor, Mountain View Kimbra McCarthy, City Manager, Mountain View
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Networking Lunch Regency ABC
1:15 - 2:45 p.m.	Social Media / Digital Communications and Civic Engagement Regency ABC With constant advancements in social media over the last several years, it can be hard to keep up with the "do's and don'ts" of every platform. Moreover, as misinformation increases, elected officials need to be quick on their feet and have the necessary skills to proactively manage public perceptions about local governmental affairs. Discover what cities should be doing to communicate with their constituents in the 21st century, and the rules that elected officials must follow. Speakers: Gena Burns, Partner, Burke, Williams & Sorensen, LLP Brandon Castillo, Partner, Bicker, Castillo, Fairbanks & Spitz
2:45 - 3:15 p.m.	Dessert Break Regency Foyer

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

3:15 - 4:45 p.m.

Financial Responsibilities, City Revenues Workshop *(Part 1)*

Regency ABC

Learn about your responsibilities as an elected official when exercising fiduciary accountability and transparency in open government. In this enlightening conversation, discuss the local government financial cycle, elected official financial oversight duties, and state and local funding relationships, and the four stages of fiscal meltdown. Plus, learn how to be a better leader by discovering how to avoid micromanagement and manage complacency. The importance of structurally balanced budget tips for setting city council goals and the need for financial policies will be stressed during this session.

Speakers: Michael Coleman, Fiscal Policy Advisor, CaliforniaCityFinance.com

Ben Triffo, Legislative Advocate, League of California Cities

Christina Turner, City Manager, Morgan Hill

2025 - 2026 Mayors and Council Members Department Officers

*President, Kuldip Thusu,
Council Member, Dinuba*

*First Vice President, Jorgel Chavez,
Council Member, Bell Gardens*

*Second Vice President, Rudy Mendoza,
Mayor, Woodlake*

*Department Director, Kuldip Thusu,
Council Member, Dinuba*

*Immediate Past President, Debbie S. Baker,
Mayor Pro Tem, La Palma*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23

7:15 - 11:00 a.m.	Registration Open Regency Foyer
7:15 - 8:15 a.m.	Networking Breakfast Regency ABC
8:15 - 9:45 a.m.	Financial Responsibilities, City Revenues Workshop (Part 2) Regency ABC Learn about your responsibilities as an elected official when exercising fiduciary accountability and transparency in open government. In this enlightening conversation, discuss the local government financial cycle, elected official financial oversight duties, and state and local funding relationships, and the four stages of fiscal meltdown. Plus, learn how to be a better leader by discovering how to avoid micromanagement and manage complacency. The importance of structurally balanced budget tips for setting city council goals and the need for financial policies will be stressed during this session. Closing Remarks: Debbie S. Baker, Immediate Past President, Mayors and Council Members Department and Mayor Pro Tem, La Palma Speakers: Michael Coleman, Fiscal Policy Advisor, CaliforniaCityFinance.com Ben Triffo, Legislative Advocate, League of California Cities Christina Turner, City Manager, Morgan Hill
10:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. <i>Sign-in begins at 9:45 a.m.</i>	Understanding Public Service Ethics Laws and Principles (AB 1234) Regency ABC Sign-in will begin 30 minutes prior to the session and you must be present for the full two hours to receive the certification of attendance. Entry will be prohibited once the session begins. State law requires elected and appointed officials to receive two hours of training in specified ethics laws and principles every two years. Newly elected and appointed officials must receive this training within one year of becoming a public servant. Join our experts as they help navigate the ethics laws and principles. The Institute for Local Government is a State Bar of California minimum continuing legal education (MCLE) approved provider and certifies this activity meets the standards for MCLE credit by the State Bar of California in the total amount of 2 hours (general credits). Provider #13881. Speaker: David Lim, Shareholder, Richards Watson & Gershon



LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

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