



# INSTITUTE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

*Promoting Good Government at the Local Level*

## News from the Institute for Local Government

### September 2020

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#### A Message From ILG's Executive Director

Greetings from ILG!

Last week we welcomed the first day of Fall. The days are gradually getting shorter, but the list of topics we could cover in this newsletter continues to grow.

The role of local government is ever-evolving and the value of the critical services local agencies provide has never been more apparent than now. Our state continues to battle against the wildfires ravaging so many communities, threatening the health, safety, and wellbeing of thousands. We recognize and honor the resolve of our state, local, and community partners to rise to this incredible challenge.

In this issue, we outline additional disaster preparedness tips from our partner, Listos California, as well as some other updates on programs impacting air quality. We also spotlight an air quality tracking tool from ILG's partner, the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District, which serves the Central Valley.

September also marks the beginning of Hispanic Heritage Month. Our board member spotlight highlights Nicholas S. Gonzalez, a first generation American who identifies as Latinx and shares his perspective on career development and finding inspiration in local government.

Last but not least, it's conference season! Don't miss upcoming registration deadlines for three major conferences hosted by our affiliates, the League of California Cities, CSDA, and CSAC. Plus, our annual Beacon Awards ceremony has gone virtual and we will be celebrating the accomplishments of 36 cities on October 8 at a free online event featuring Senator Fran Pavley (ret.) We hope you'll register for these conferences and look for ILG's sessions and activities on the respective schedules.

With gratitude from everyone at ILG,

Erica L. Manuel  
CEO & Executive Director



#### Board Member Spotlight

Nicholas S. Gonzalez, ILG Board Member

*Immediate Past President*

*Municipal Management Association of Southern California*

#### What does it mean to you being Latinx in your role in local government?

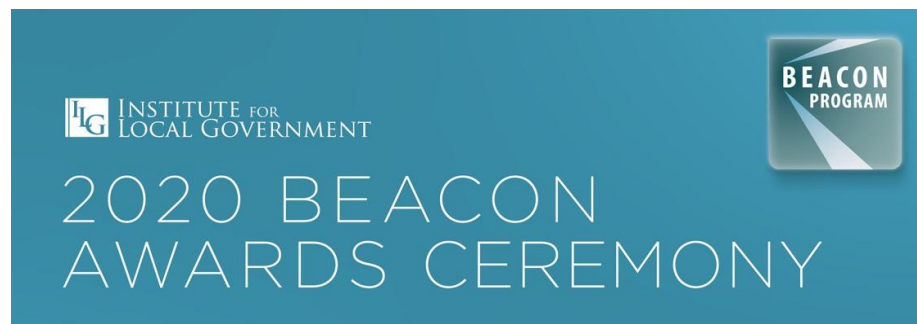
As a person of color and first-generation, I feel that it is my duty to show others that they can accomplish their dreams and have a successful life. As a child, I did not know of any positive role models who looked

like me. My parents and siblings did their best to motivate and encourage me to be the best person I can be. As I started college and began working, I began interacting with many individuals, some people of color, who saw something in me and helped guide and push me in the right direction. I have been blessed with so many great mentors throughout my career and I hope to pay that forward by mentoring others. There are many individuals in the community whom I serve that do not have role models, so it is important to me to be a visible presence for them and connect with others.

**What advice do you have for the next generation currently working in public service or looking to serve?**

My advice to those who would like to work in public service is to get involved in professional development organizations. The more time you devote to your development, the more you will learn and grow. Organizations like MMASC offer a network of individuals with whom you can not only engage in local government conversation with, but also establish life-long friendships with peers and mentors. Mentors who you can seek advice from will help prepare you for your next interview and so much more. I have been very fortunate to have a tribe of friends and mentors that have helped guide me to where I am today. If not for my involvement in professional development organizations, I would not have a broad perspective of local government and or its services and vast opportunities. Networking with peers helps you stay on top of the latest innovative ways local governments are engaging with their communities in our ever-changing world.

[Read More](#)



**Join Us! Celebrate the Milestone Achievements of the  
2020 Beacon Award Winners  
Thursday, October 8  
5:00 pm**

You're invited to a virtual awards ceremony celebrating our 2020 Beacon Program award winners. ILG is excited to celebrate this achievement with a special virtual ceremony that coincides with the League of California Cities' Annual Conference.

**You won't want to miss our Featured Speaker:  
Senator Fran Pavley (ret.)  
Environmental Policy Director for the USC Schwarzenegger Institute**



[RSVP Today!](#)

## SJVAPCD's Real-Time Air Monitoring Tool Keeps Residents Informed and Engaged

The [San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's](#) Real-Time Air Advisory Network (RAAN) is a free, state of the art system specifically designed to inform Central Valley residents about local air quality. It offers online, 24/7 access to the most up-to-date hourly air quality information for Central Valley neighborhoods; automated email or text notification whenever air quality is poor; and specific health guidelines for outdoor exercise based on five different air quality levels.



[Learn More](#)

## A STEP Up For a Southeast Bakersfield Community



Air quality and transportation are closely linked. But transportation is about more than just getting people from point A to point B. For many, having access to quality transportation services could mean the difference between getting a good paying job, having access to healthcare, or being able to spend precious time with family and friends.

For residents living in one Southeast Bakersfield community, known as the MLKcommUNity, this is a reality. Years of disinvestment have resulted in significant mobility obstacles. Inconsistent and inequitable implementation of plans and processes have lead to a dearth of adequate, accessible,

clean, and reliable transportation services for residents throughout the community. Learn how Bakersfield's partnership with ILG and a collaborative grant proposal with local agency and community organizations could help change things for the better in this bustling Central Valley city.

[Read More](#)

## ILG Joins Local Government Associations in Support of Listos California's Five Steps to Disaster Preparedness

Team ILG joined our affiliates, the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties, and California Special Districts Association in adopting [Listos California's](#) five steps for disaster preparedness during National Disaster Preparedness Month.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and recent years of increased wildfire and other major disasters across the state, our collective of statewide associations, representing a wide range of local government leaders who are charged with providing their communities with timely and accurate information about their local preparedness and response efforts, agree that it's urgent for our state and all of our communities to welcome a new culture of preparedness. To advance this urgent priority, ILG has adopted Listos California's accessible and free five steps to prepare for disaster:

1. Get alerts to know what to do.
2. Make a plan to protect your people by creating an emergency contact list and an evacuation plan.



3. Pack a go bag with things you need.
4. Build a stay box to stay safe at home for when you can't leave.
5. Help friends and neighbors get ready.

Together, we are working to ensure new levels of resiliency across the state as we create new opportunities to connect more people to the steps that will keep individuals, families, and communities safe.

Listos is a project of the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES).

[Learn More](#)

## UPCOMING WEBINARS - FREE

The banner features a central image of two hands shaking. Text on the banner includes: 'FREE WEBINAR' in large white letters; 'Tailored for Local Gov't Leaders' in smaller white text; 'Hosted By ILG' and 'In Partnership With RPLG' with logos; 'REGISTER TODAY!' in a red banner in the top right; 'FISCAL MATTERS & LABOR NEGOTIATIONS AMIDST COVID' in large white letters; 'Practical Solutions for Local Agencies Navigating COVID' in smaller white text; 'THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM' in white text at the bottom left; and a circular portrait of Jon Holtzman with the text 'Featuring Jon Holtzman Founding Partner, RPLG' and 'WWW.CA-ILG.ORG' in a blue box at the bottom right.

### **Fiscal Matters & Labor Negotiations Amidst COVID-19: Practical Solutions For Public Agencies Navigating COVID-19**

Thursday, October 1, 2020  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Cities, counties and special districts are facing numerous challenges in 2020. From protecting the public's health and safety to providing consistent essential and administrative services, local government leaders have many decisions to make during these difficult days. In this webinar, experts in public finance, fiscal preparedness, and labor negotiations will explore the financial challenges California local governments face and share practical solutions and steps public agencies can take to mitigate problems and create practical solutions during COVID-19.

#### Speakers:



- Jon Holtzman, Founding Partner at Renne Public Law Group
- Kurt Wilson, Consultant and Former City Manager
- Russ Branson, Founder of Russ Branson Consulting
- Randi Kay Stephens, Manager, Institute for Local Government (Moderator)

[Register Here](#)

This webinar is hosted by ILG in partnership with Renne Public Law Group.

**RPLG** Renne Public Law Group®

**FREE WEBINAR**  
For Clerk & Candidates

Hosted By  In Partnership With 

**CAMPAIGNING DURING COVID**  
*Practical Solutions for Fielding an Election  
& Running a Campaign During COVID*

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2**  
**10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

[WWW.CA-ILG.ORG](http://WWW.CA-ILG.ORG)

**REGISTER TODAY!**

## **Campaigning During COVID: Practical Solutions for Fielding an Election & Running a Campaign During COVID-19**

Friday, October 2, 2020

10:30 am - 12:00 pm

Effective elections and transfers of power in decision-making are key to maintaining public trust in local government. During this webinar, local government elections officials and experts from the Fair Political Practices Commission will share best practices from the field about elections and campaigning during COVID-19. Elected officials, clerks, and local agency staff from cities, counties, and special districts are encouraged to participate and share their questions and ideas for creating the new normal in the 2020 elections.

### Speakers:

- Shannon Bushey, Registrar of Voters, Santa Clara County
- Alana S. Jeydel, PhD, Manager, Education Program, Fair Political Practices Commission
- Nora Pimentel, Assistant City Clerk, City of Santa Clara
- Randi Kay Stephens, Manager, Institute for Local Government (Moderator)

[Register Here](#)

This webinar is hosted by ILG in partnership with the California Fair Political Practices Commission.



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**ILG AFFILIATE NEWS**



Register now!

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE  
INTERACTIVE • EXPERIENTIAL • COLLABORATIVE

OCTOBER 7-9, 2020

[www.cacities.org/events](http://www.cacities.org/events)



## League's 2020 Annual Conference & Expo October 7-9



### JUST ANNOUNCED! Featuring Keynote Speaker Soledad O'Brien

Join the League of California Cities and fellow city officials from throughout the state. Learn, collaborate and celebrate virtually with unparalleled educational and networking forums, including dynamic panel discussions, keynotes, breakout sessions, opportunities to connect directly with your peers and an interactive Expo! Early registration deadline is this Friday, October 2.

[Register Here](#)

### ILG Sessions at the League Conference

The Institute for Local Government will be presenting at the upcoming League of California Cities' Annual Conference on a variety of topics including organics recycling, public sector apprenticeships, ethics, harassment prevention and virtual engagement. Register for the Conference and see our techniques in action.

#### **Local Government Apprenticeship & Workforce Strategies: A Latino Caucus Perspective**

Apprenticeships are one solution that can meet your agency's talent development needs for new and incumbent employees. Through partnerships with community colleges across California, cities can strengthen and sustain a skilled workforce that meets evolving community needs. In this workshop, you will discover how an apprenticeship can impact the economic and social aspects of your organization and how to make them work in your city. **The session will be held Wednesday, October 7 from 2:30pm - 3:45pm.**

#### **What to Do When In-Person Engagement Isn't Possible**

The COVID-19 pandemic has created a "new reality" in many sectors, including public participation. In this session, city leaders will learn how to leverage virtual platforms to engage residents around budgeting, land use planning and transparency without meeting face-to-face. Many of these tools and techniques, while essential in this time of physical distancing, also have the potential to attract new, hard-to-reach segments of the community, and will be useful beyond this current crisis. **The session will be held Thursday, October 8 from 10:45am - 12:00pm.**

#### **Scrap Your Fears About Food Waste Regulations: Preparing for SB 1383**

The plates of city staff are full! From managing pandemic response efforts to rolling out electric vehicle infrastructure, there is no shortage of topics to tackle. Ironically, there is one topic that often slips right off the plate -- food waste! New requirements around organic waste recycling will soon be a reality and cities are scrambling to position themselves to meet the aggressive targets. In this session you will learn how SB 1383 regulations will impact your city services and delivery, and hear promising practices from

colleagues about developing and implementing local programs to reach the statewide organic waste reduction targets. **The session will be held Thursday, October 8 from 12:45pm - 2:00pm.**

### **State Mandated Ethics Training**

The ILG team will also help local officials ensure they are in compliance with state-mandated ethics requirements. Please join us for both sessions to make sure your certifications are current:

#### **Public Service Ethics Laws and Principles: AB 1234 Training**

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 a panel of experts as they help local officials navigate the ethics laws and principles. **The session will be held Thursday, October 8 from 3:00pm - 5:00pm.**

#### **Harassment Prevention Training for Supervisors and Officials: AB 1661 Training**

This informational and interactive workplace harassment prevention training will focus on current and emerging issues resulting from the #MeToo movement, 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 1825/2053/1661 and SB 396. **The session will be held Friday, October 9 from 8:30am - 10:30am.**

[View Schedule](#)



## **California Special Districts Association 2020 VIRTUAL Board Secretary/Clerk Conference October 26-28**

Whether you are a new or an experienced board secretary/clerk, continuing education is essential to staying current on the many aspects of your job. In an effort to expand educational opportunities for this important position in special districts and to provide an opportunity to recognize individuals who invest the time in becoming trained in the various components of the job, CSDA created the Board Secretary/Clerk Certificate Program. The Certificate has become the gold standard for special district board secretaries and clerks throughout California. You're invited to participate as a first-time attendee to earn your certificate and come back year after year to advance your knowledge of special districts through new and exciting breakout sessions tailored for your role in special district management.

[Register Here](#)

## **Special Districts Made Easy Educational Brochure, Video Promotes Understanding of Special Districts**

CSDA has released two tools that help raise awareness and understanding of special districts. The tools include a free downloadable 16-page educational brochure about special districts and a three-minute video entitled "Special Districts 101".

[Learn More](#)



## 2020 CSAC Virtual Annual Meeting November 12-19

The first virtual CSAC Annual Meeting will be an opportunity to discuss emerging issues, reflect on the challenges of the last six months, and learn from other county leaders about what is working well at the local level. CSAC will welcome new supervisors to the ranks, meet as policy committees and caucuses, and elect the leadership for the next year.

The ILG team will be hosting ethics trainings during the event to ensure local government officials are in compliance with state-mandated ethics requirements.

[Learn More & Register Here](#)

### News from our Partners



#### 3rd Annual California Clean Air Day October 7, 2020

California Clean Air Day is built on the idea that shared experiences unite people to action to improve our community health. By joining together for a unified day of action we can create new habits to clear the air for all members of California's diverse communities. [Take the Clean Air Pledge](#)



#### 2021 Legislative Update for Public Safety October 22, 2020

This one hour webinar will cover new legislation driven largely by calls for social justice as well as recent court decisions that will most significantly impact public safety departments in a variety of areas of the law. [Register here.](#)



#### Thinking Like a Lawyer: A Framework to Critical Thinking



Office of Governor  
**GAVIN NEWSOM**

#### Governor Newsom launches Nation's First Statewide Climate Corps

On CA Climate Action Day, Governor Gavin Newsom announced the launch of CA



October 29, 2020

Local government professionals are faced with unique situations that require creative solutions. Join Best Best & Krieger attorneys Albert Maldonado and Henry Castillo at the MMASC Annual Virtual Conference as they discuss identifying potential liability and share effective ways to work with general counsel. [Register here.](#)

Climate Action Corps, the country's first volunteer-led statewide initiative of its kind with the mission of mobilizing and empowering Californians to take meaningful action to protect their homes, health, and communities against the harshest impacts of climate change. [Learn more.](#)



### Article: Career Compass No. 82: Avoid Layoffs by Using a Menu of Strategies

The International City/County Management Association provides recommendations and strategies for cities to reduce their budgets in response to COVID-19. To redesign services, local government leaders need to cross boundaries and engage stakeholders inside and outside the organization. [Read more.](#)



### Fall 2020 Virtual Certificate Program in Advanced Public Engagement for Local Government

The Davenport Institute's virtual Certificate Program in Advanced Public Engagement for Local Government is a 5-week online training for mid-career professionals in local government. It is a one of a kind program designed to give local government leaders the tools they need to engage the full diversity of their community in decisions that impact people where they live and work. There are two cohorts this fall starting in the first week of October. [Apply here.](#)



### Job Opening Executive Director Davenport Institute for Public Engagement and Civic Leadership at Pepperdine School of Public Policy

ILG's Partner the Davenport Institute is seeking a new executive director to lead their Malibu-based Institute focused on public engagement and civic leadership. [Learn more about the position here.](#)

### Help ILG Continue to Support Local Government

Help ILG continue to support California's cities, counties, and special districts by [considering a donation today.](#) Your tax-deductible contribution to the Institute for Local Government is an investment in helping educate, train and promote good governance to our local public agencies. Every dollar you give will make a difference in your community.

[DONATE TODAY](#)

[ca-ilg.org](http://ca-ilg.org)



