

2026 ANNUAL MUNICIPAL SEMINAR

WELCOME

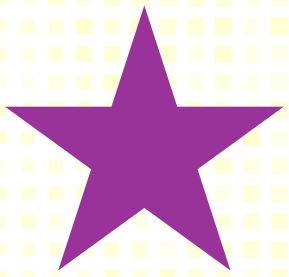
THE POWER OF US:
LEADING WITH PURPOSE,
BUILDING WITH PRIDE



Presenting
Sponsor

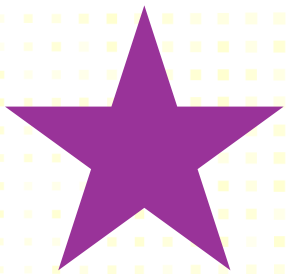
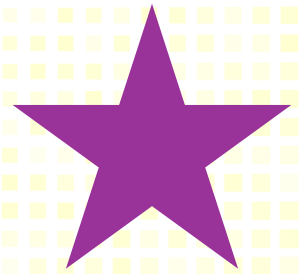


CODE OF CONDUCT



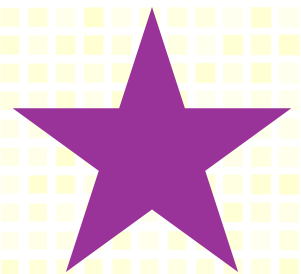
**RESPECT THE VARIOUS
POLITICAL VIEWS AND OPINIONS
OF EVERYONE IN ATTENDANCE.**

**REFRAIN FROM ENGAGING
IN ACTIVITIES OR ACTIONS
THAT WOULD REFLECT
POORLY ON CCCA.**



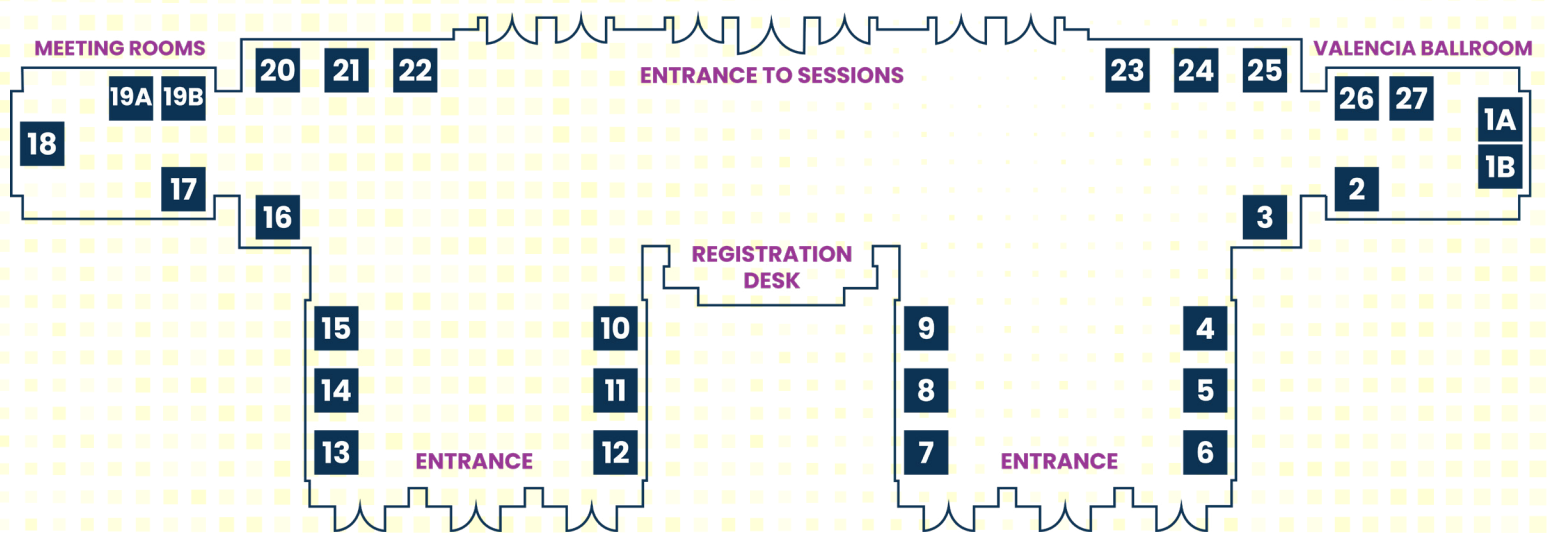
**TREAT EACH OTHER
WITH DIGNITY AND
RESPECT AT ALL TIMES.**

**AVOID DISRUPTING SPEAKERS
OR PRESENTERS DURING
SESSIONS AND MEETINGS.**



We thank you in advance for your cooperation in ensuring the success of our conferences, meetings, and other events, making it enjoyable for all in attendance.

EXHIBITOR BOOTH MAP



TABLES:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1A L.A. County Public Works | 15 IBE Digital |
| 1B Commercial Bank of California/
Meruelo Enterprises Inc. | 16 Transtech Engineers |
| 2 Crown Castle | 17 CRCDD |
| 3 TNT Fireworks | 18 ALADS |
| 4 Homeserve USA | 19A RMI International |
| 5 Kosmont Companies | 19B Dapeer Rosenblit & Litvak, LLP |
| 6 789, Inc. | 20 Nationwide Environmental |
| 7 Learn 4 Life | 21 Water Replenishment District |
| 8 ISN Global | 22 SoCalGas |
| 9 Athens Services | 23 Tripepi Smith |
| 10 NIC Partners Inc | 24 Southern California Edison |
| 11 Willdan | 25 California JPIA |
| 12 West Coast Arborist Inc | 26 The KYA Group |
| 13 Los Angeles County Fire
Department | 27 California Department of Food
and Agriculture |
| 14 MNS Engineers | |

EXECUTIVE BOARD

OFFICERS



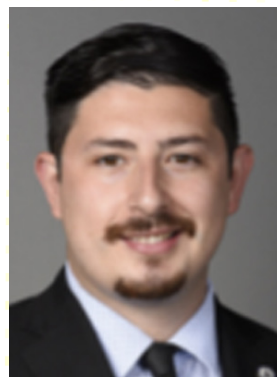
Brenda Olmos
President



John Erickson
Vice President



Chris Barajas
Secretary



Sal Melendez
Treasurer



Jennifer Perez
Immediate
Past President

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Jeff Wood – Ambassador
Committee
Lakewood

Ed Reece – Legislative Co-Chair/
Director-at-Large
Claremont

Mark Waronek – Associate
Members Committee
Lomita

Victor Sanchez – Membership
Committee
Bellflower

Cedric Hicks – Budget & Audit
Committee
Carson

James Bozajian – Resolutions
Committee
Calabasas

Margaret Finaly – Bylaws
Committee
Duarte

Oralia Rebollo – Selection
Committee
Commerce

John Moreno – City Managers/
Administrators Committee
Paramount

Yesenia De La Rosa – Special Events
Committee
Avalon

Victoria Garcia – Legal & Contracts
Committee
San Fernando

Marcel Rodarte – Executive Director

Gustavo Camacho – Legislative
Committee
Pico Rivera

AGENDA

THURSDAY, MAY 14

2026 CCCA ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT 7:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Indian Wells Golf Resort

SHOTGUN START 8:00 AM

Indian Wells Golf Resort

TOURNAMENT RECEPTION AND RAFFLE 1:00 PM

Indian Wells Golf Resort

REGISTRATION OPEN 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Crystal Ballroom Foyer

WELCOME RECEPTION 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Cascade Landing

FRIDAY, MAY 15

WELCOME CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST 7:00 AM – 8:30 AM

Crystal Ballroom Foyer

NEW MEMBER WELCOME BREAKFAST 7:00 AM – 8:15 AM

Cava Restaurant

SEMINAR WELCOME/BUSINESS SESSION 8:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Crystal Ballroom

**SESSION 1: MONTEBELLO'S MOMENTUM:
MAPPING A MODERN ECONOMIC PLAN** 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Crystal Ballroom

BREAK 10:00 AM – 10:10 AM

**SESSION 2:
HOW WE HOUSE THE HOMELESS IN WEHO** 10:10 AM – 11:10 AM

Crystal Ballroom

BREAK 11:10 AM – 11:20 AM

**SESSION 3: WELL, WELL, WELL,
WHY WATER EDUCATION WORKS** 11:20 AM – 12:20 PM

Crystal Ballroom

BREAK 12:20 PM – 12:30 PM

**SESSION 4 (LUNCH SESSION): LEADERSHIP IN LOCKSTEP:
LINKING LOCAL AND COUNTY PRIORITIES** 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Crystal Ballroom

PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION 2:00 PM – 3:15 PM

Crystal Foyer

AB 1661 – SEXUAL HARRASMENT TRAINING 2:15 PM – 4:15 PM

Valencia I-IV

AGENDA

SATURDAY, MAY 16

BREAKFAST BUFFET..... 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

SESSION 5: MODERNIZE AND MULTIPLY: USING GOOGLE AI TO BOOST CITY CAPACITY 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Crystal Ballroom

BREAK 10:00 AM – 10:10 AM

SESSION 6: LEADING TOGETHER: LINKING CITIES, DISTRICTS, AND LACOE 10:10 AM – 11:10 AM

Crystal Ballroom

BREAK 11:10 AM – 11:20 AM

SESSION 7: COMMAND AND COORDINATION: COUNCIL ROLES IN CRISES 11:20 AM – 12:20 PM

Crystal Ballroom

BREAK 12:20 PM – 12:30 PM

SESSION 8: (LUNCH SESSION): PREVENTION AND PROTECTION: A PUBLIC SAFETY CONVERSATION..... 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Crystal Ballroom

AB 1234: ETHICS TRAINING..... 2:15 PM – 4:15 PM

Valencia I-IV

INSTALLATION DINNER RECEPTION 6:00 PM – 6:30 PM

Crystal Foyer

INSTALLATION DINNER 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM

Crystal Ballroom

FIREWORKS RECEPTION 8:15 PM – 9:00 PM

Rose Lawn

SPECIAL ENTERTAINMENT: DJ FRANKY D. FRESH ON THE WHEELS OF STEEL..... 9:00 PM – 11:30 PM

Stir Lounge

SUNDAY, MAY 17

JOHN'S SUNNY SUNDAY SOIRÉE BRUNCH..... 8:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Mountain View Room

SPEAKERS



Brenda Olmos - Welcome & Session 3

Born and raised in Paramount, Brenda Olmos was appointed to the City Council in July 2019 to fill an unscheduled vacancy and was subsequently elected to serve on the City Council in March 2020. She is currently serving her term as Mayor from 2026-2027 and has served one other term as Mayor. Olmos sat on the City's Public Safety Commission for 14 years and has been involved in the community in a variety of ways: Boardmember for Paramount Girls Softball and Paramount Junior Pirates Football; Past President of Paramount Pathways Hospice; member of the Paramount Rotary Club; President of the Paramount Chamber of Commerce; Chair of the Paramount Heritage Parade Committee; founder of the "Healthy Paramount" initiative; and member of the American Red Cross Community Advisory Committee - Long Beach Chapter. Olmos serves as the City's representative to the League of California Cities, the South Coast AQMD Governing Board, and the California Contract Cities Association (CCCA), and is the latter organization's President. She is a member of the City's Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee, a Commissioner for the Los Angeles County Commission on Local Government Services, a voting delegate for the California Democratic Party, and a member of the Governing Board for Coast Hospital.



Marcel Rodarte - Welcome

Marcel became the third Executive Director of the California Contract Cities Association on July 1, 2016. The California Contract Cities Association is the second largest local government association in California and serves 84 member cities and nearly 8 million residents in Los Angeles County and beyond. Previously, he served as Mayor and City Councilmember for the City of Norwalk from 2011 to 2016 when he voluntarily resigned to accept his current position. Marcel retired from the Air Force in 2011 after serving for 21 years. He previously worked for the U.S. federal government with the Air Force, Department of Defense, and Department of Homeland Security. He holds associate Degrees in Logistics and Electronics, a bachelor's degree in Business Management, and a master's degree in Leadership from the University of Southern California.



Toper Taylor - Welcome

Dr. Toper Taylor is a successful entrepreneur, strategist, curiosist, Emmy award winning producer, Doctor of Policy, Planning and Development, expert of intention and subtle energetic sciences, and a recently elected city councilman. In his landmark dissertation, the Human Performance Intention Experiment, Dr. Taylor showed that sending positive intentions using a quantum field framework improved athletic performance for an NCAA Division I swim team. There may be other exciting applications of intention, such as business innovation and health improvement. Dr. Taylor is an expert in media, entertainment, and consumer products. He is a pioneer of family and kids educational entertainment, having produced over 15,000 episodes of television and won awards for his work with authors Marc Brown, Maurice Sendak, Tim Burton, and William Joyce. The three companies Taylor ran, Nelvana Ltd., Cookie Jar Entertainment, and Network of One (renamed Spotter), have all exceeded \$1 billion in valuation at one point in their life cycle. He is an expert in strategy, operational execution, innovation, scaling businesses, and raising capital.



Arturo Sneider - Session 1

Sneider is a founding partner and CEO of Primestor Development, where he oversees the overall growth and corporate strategies and management as well as corporate capital structuring. Primestor's focus, commitment and passion lies in the overall transformation and economic vitality of diverse and underinvested communities through the vehicle of Real Estate. Currently, Primestor is working on redevelopment projects in excess of \$2B of new space and managing over 2.7 million square feet, with a portfolio valued at over \$1B. Over his 34-year career, Sneider has been dedicated to empowering marginalized urban communities across the U.S. His work is deeply rooted in philanthropy and humanitarian efforts, focusing on sustainable and equitable development. He led the master planning efforts of Jordan Downs with a zero-displacement strategy and enhanced infrastructure in Watts by connecting the street grid. He also sat at the founding table for Pacoima Beautiful, a key advocate for environmental justice, advancing sustainable development in the Northeast San Fernando Valley.



Jorge Morales - Session 1

In addition to serving as a Founding Partner of Morales + Morales, Jorge Morales brings nearly 20 years of government affairs industry experience - including eight (8) years as Mayor and Council Member for the City of South Gate. His public sector career includes legislative work for California Assembly Majority Leader Marco Antonio Firebaugh and Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina. He also served as Chief of Staff to Los Angeles Unified School District Board Member Yolie Flores. Jorge joined the private sector in 2013 as Vice President of Business Development for the Meruelo Group, a Downey-based, minority owned and operated holding company. The Meruelo Group's portfolio includes the Arizona Coyotes, the Sahara Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas, NV, the Grand Sierra Resort and Casino in Reno, NV, and leading Los Angeles radio stations Power 106, KDAY, KLOS and Cali 93.9 FM. Previously, Jorge was a Senior Strategist at Ek, Sunkin & Bai, a full-service public affairs, strategic communication, and government advocacy firm. Most recently, Jorge was a Senior Vice President with Mercury Public Affairs, a global public and government affairs strategy firm.



Joseph Palombi - Session 1

Mr. Joseph Palombi is a native of Los Angeles who grew up in the Pico-Union District near downtown L.A. He has more than 25 years of experience coordinating land use development projects and real estate matters in southern California. As the current Director of Planning and Community Development for the City of Montebello he oversees the following divisions: 1) Building and Safety; 2) Code/Parking Enforcement; 3) Economic Development; 4) Housing; and 5) Planning. Mr. Palombi began his career as a member of the Environment, Land and Resources Department for Latham & Watkins LLP. During his time with Latham & Watkins, he worked on several major development projects including the Los Angeles Sports and Entertainment District Specific Plan (Staples Center/L.A. Live project), Dodger Stadium, the NBC Universal Evolution Plan, and the Loyola Marymount Master Plan. Mr. Palombi's most rewarding experience and reason for his passion in urban planning comes from working on the former Staples Center project where he helped deliver positive development enhancements to the neighborhood he was raised in.



Raul Alvarez - Session 1

Mr. Raul Alvarez joined the City of Montebello in 2023 as City Manager. As a product of the City of Montebello, he attended Montebello Intermediate and is a graduate of Montebello High School. Mr. Alvarez has a degree in Political Science from UCLA and a Master's in Public Administration from California State University, Long Beach. Additionally, he has an Executive Education Certificate in Social Innovation from the Sol Price Center of Social Innovation at the University of Southern California. Professionally, Mr. Alvarez brings more than 18 years of experience in state and local government. He previously served as Assistant City Manager for the cities of Huntington Park and Lynwood. Prior to these positions, Mr. Alvarez was District Director and Senior Advisor to California State Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon. Mr. Alvarez began his career working for Los Angeles, County Supervisor Gloria Molina as a Deputy in the San Gabriel Valley.



Scarlet Peralta - Session 1

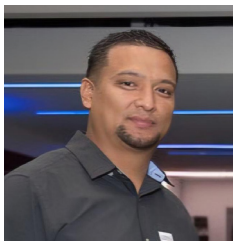
Councilmember Scarlet Peralta serves as City Councilmember for District 2 in Montebello, where she has championed workforce policy, open space preservation, housing access, community infrastructure investment, and economic development. She previously served as the youngest Mayor in Montebello's history. Professionally, Councilmember Peralta serves as Director of Industry Cluster Development at the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC), where she leads industry cluster activation, cross-sector governance, and regional partnership strategy across a broad network of public, private, and nonprofit partners.

SPEAKERS



Amy Perkins - Session 2

Amy Perkins, MSW, is the Senior Housing and Homelessness Deputy for LA County Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, supporting the Supervisor's policies to address the region's homelessness crisis and create more affordable housing. Amy joined the Supervisor's office after directing the Los Angeles continuum's Housing Central Command (HCC), a robust cross-agency collaboration committed to streamlining the rehousing process and maximizing utilization of the Permanent Supportive Housing inventory and federal and local grants. Before her work on HCC, Amy worked as the Director of Interim Housing Strategies for the Office of Mayor Garcetti, as the Associate Director of the Access & Engagement Department at LAHSA, and as Director of Strategic Partnerships and Housing Programs in the San Fernando Valley at LA Family Housing. With a background in both domestic violence services and the adoption and foster care systems, Amy understands how the intersection of trauma, environment, and oppression can impact the lives of marginalized communities.



Giovanni Godoy - Session 2

Giovanni Godoy is a Director of Unarmed Crisis Response for Sycamores, bringing over 15 years of experience supporting at-risk youth and families across a range of community-based and school-based programs. His background includes work in Therapeutic Behavioral Services, Full-Service Partnership, Wraparound, Community-Based Services, School-Based Services, Short-Term Residential programs, homeless services, and unarmed crisis response. Over the course of his career, Giovanni has served in several leadership and direct-service roles, including Community Wellness Specialist and Site Administrator. He also played a key role in building and launching crisis response programs for Sycamores, including the West Hollywood Care Team. His work emphasizes collaboration, equity, and trust-building with communities, partners, and local systems—advancing crisis care that is responsive, trauma-informed, and centered on human connection.



Jackie Rocco - Session 2

Jackie Rocco is the City of West Hollywood's City Manager. As City Manager, she is the Chief Administrative Officer of the City and has direct responsibility for the City's departments, divisions, and daily operations. As City Manager, Jackie implements the vision, broad policy goals, and ongoing strategic programs of the City Council and ensures that City operations remain true to, and consistent with, the mission and Core Values of the City of West Hollywood. This is accomplished by providing leadership, executive direction, and oversight of all City operations and services; establishing performance management goals and standards for all City departments; ensuring that City government responds to the needs of the community in a timely and effective manner; and empowering City management and staff to work collaboratively and creatively in addressing the issues and concerns of West Hollywood's constituents. Jackie has been with the City of West Hollywood for approximately 18 years and is an accomplished professional with more than 27 years of executive and management experience in both the private and public sectors.



John M. Erickson - Session 2

Councilmember John M. Erickson was elected to the West Hollywood City Council on November 3, 2020, with the commitment to uphold the city's founding vision for a forward-thinking, diverse, and tolerant community. Councilmember Erickson first planted roots in West Hollywood in 2010 when he was selected to intern for the West Hollywood City Council. The internship set him on a path that connected his work for social and economic justice with his passion for public service. He went on to become Council Deputy to former Mayor Abbe Land and then served as a staff member at West Hollywood City Hall working to advance policies, initiate programs, and increase awareness around LGBTQ+ rights, women's rights, the environment, and civic engagement. After leaving West Hollywood City Hall, Councilmember Erickson served as a Legislative Representative at LAX (Los Angeles International Airport) and he was Vice President of Public Affairs, Communications, and Marketing at Planned Parenthood Los Angeles. He is currently Chief of Staff of Alliance for a Better Community.



Laura Duncan - Session 2

Executive Director Dr. Laura Duncan joined Ascencia, a comprehensive homeless services agency in 2014 as the Director of Programs, and promoted to Executive Director in 2018 where she has grown and expanded the agency by over 100%. Her background includes clinical services; residential treatment; non-public education; adjunct faculty membership; approved dissertation panelist and reader for two universities; vocational rehabilitation; workforce investment; community care youth, dependent adult, and elderly licensed facilities administration; veteran services; and homeless services. Under her leadership, programs and operating budgets grew substantially while third party accreditations with the Board of Education, the Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF), and State Community Care Licensing received the best possible outcomes. Dr. Duncan earned her Ph.D. in Psychology from Alliant University and her B.A. in Psychology and M.S. in Counseling degrees from California State University, Fullerton.



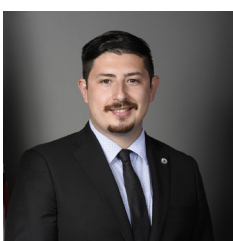
Gustavo Camacho - Session 3

Gustavo Camacho is honored to represent the City of Pico Rivera. Prior to being elected in 2009, Mr. Camacho served as a city planning commissioner. During his time on council, Mr. Camacho served as the city's Mayor in 2013, 2018 and 2020. He was reelected in 2022 and now serving as Mayor in 2026. Through Mayor Camacho's leadership, the city has seen economic growth, new investments in major public works projects, and elevated the city's financial and government stability. As a member of the City Council, he continues to prioritize Economic Development, Public Safety, Water Quality, Road Improvements, New Parks, and Housing, issues that are important and vital for residents and the business community. Mr. Camacho believes in improving local commerce by assisting small business owners and consistently advocating for new resources and investments. And always putting the community first, planning community fundraisers and activities to support families.



Maria Elena Solorio - Session 3

Councilmember Maria Elena Solorio, known affectionately as Mary, is serving her first term on the San Fernando City Council (November 2022 – November 2026), first elected November 2022. Mary served as Vice Mayor from December 2024 to December 2025. Mary is a dedicated first-generation Mexican American who proudly calls the San Fernando Valley her home and is deeply committed to uplifting her community and advocating for its diverse residents. In addition to her civic duties, Mary brings a wealth of expertise in behavioral and mental health as a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst. With a rich background in Behavioral and Mental Health, Mary has honed her skills through various roles including Clinical Supervisor/Director and Case Manager. Her hands-on experience has equipped her with a profound understanding of the intricacies of human behavior and the importance of mental health support services.



Sal Melendez - Session 3

Councilmember Melendez has been a dedicated Montebello resident for over 30 years. He earned his B.A. in Political Science with an emphasis in International Relations from California State University, Los Angeles, and his Juris Doctor (J.D.) from the University of La Verne College of Law. Currently, Councilmember Melendez serves as the President and CEO of a substance abuse clinic and provides strategic planning and consulting to healthcare agencies. In these roles, he advocates for access to quality and affordable healthcare, particularly for underserved communities in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. With extensive experience in both elected and appointed offices, Councilmember Melendez has a diverse background that includes advocacy, legislation, campaign management, fundraising, and event coordination. His expertise spans healthcare, workforce development, housing, land use, public transportation, municipal law, and infrastructure. He has led environmental initiatives and overseen significant capital improvement projects, fostering strong relationships throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

SPEAKERS



Jacqueline Wade - AB 1661

Best Best & Krieger LLP Of Counsel Jacqueline Wade works alongside her employer clients in their daily operations providing guidance on complex labor and employment legal issues, such as employee terminations and discipline, discrimination and harassment claims, wage and hour claims, family and medical leave, and foundational company policies and procedures. Jacqueline has successfully secured dispositive motions resulting in the early resolution of claims against her clients and has obtained workplace violence prevention restraining orders on behalf of employers. She also conducts sexual harassment prevention trainings for supervisors, boards of directors, and employees.



Chelsea Lee Byers - Session 4

Councilmember Chelsea Lee Byers was elected to the West Hollywood City Council on November 8, 2022. Her priorities on the City Council include addressing livability and affordability challenges, social service delivery, climate-change mitigation strategies, creating more affordable housing and resources for renters, enhancing the streetscape for improved pedestrian and cycling experiences while reducing vehicle-dependency, and community-building and policy implementation to ensure the City of West Hollywood is an inclusive community for all. Byers serves as Chair for the Westside Cities Council of Governments. She is appointed as the alternate for the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors, Lindsey P. Horvath, on the Los Angeles County Affordable Housing Solutions Agency (LACAHS). In addition, Byers serves as Vice Chair on the League of California Cities Transportation, Communications, and Public Works Committee and as the Vice Chair on the National League of Cities Federal Transportation, Infrastructure, and Services (TIS) Federal Advocacy Committee. She is also the President of the LGBTQ+ Caucus for League of California Cities.



Janice Hahn - Session 4

Supervisor Janice Hahn is a leader who has spent her career making government work better for people. As Los Angeles County Supervisor representing the two million people of the Fourth District, Janice Hahn has been a champion for workers, clean air and water, safer communities, and fulfilling the County's promise to be a safety net for people who reach the end of their ropes. Before joining the Board of Supervisors, she served in Congress and on the L.A. City Council—always focused on delivering results for her constituents. She's worked to make Metro safer, expand access to mental healthcare, get guns off our streets, invest in our parks and libraries, and help guide our region through some of its toughest challenges.



Karen Spiegel - Session 4

Karen Spiegel was elected to represent the Second Supervisorial District on November 6, 2018 and was sworn into office on January 8, 2019. The Second District includes the unincorporated communities of Coronita, El Cerrito, Home Gardens and Highgrove, and the cities of Corona, Eastvale, Jurupa Valley, Norco, and the western half of the City of Riverside. Karen Spiegel began her political career as the elected City Treasurer for the City of Corona in 1996. After six years as Treasurer, she embraced the City Council elections in 2002 and served the City of Corona as Council Member for 16 years, serving as Mayor four terms. Her actions speak volumes and her unique passion for service truly sets her apart. She encourages community participation with City and County government and has introduced many new programs. Karen has been credited for her leadership in regional transportation issues, collaboration and regional partnerships.



Lindsey P. Horvath - Session 4

Los Angeles County Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath represents the Third District, stretching from the Ventura County line to West Hollywood and encompassing most of the San Fernando Valley. She is the first millennial and only renter currently serving on the Board, and in 2024 she served as the Board's youngest-ever Chair. For 2025, she is focused on leading the nation's fastest disaster response following the devastating Palisades Fire and overhauling the homeless services system. Since coming to the Board, she has led the County's homelessness emergency response, helping drive the first decrease in homelessness in nearly a decade. She has taken bold action on the climate by launching the Blue-Ribbon Commission on Climate Action & Fire-Safe Recovery and advanced the LA County Water Plan. She has also worked to protect reproductive freedom through the Abortion Safe Haven Program and centering the LGBTQ+ and marginalized communities in the work of the County. A reformer at her core, she championed Measure G to transform how LA County governs—expanding representation, strengthening ethics, and creating an elected County Executive. She previously served as Councilmember and the longest consecutively serving Mayor of West Hollywood.



Anthony Portantino - Session 5

Anthony is currently the California Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs for Google. He is the former State Senator of our own San Gabriel Valley centered 25th State Senate District. Anthony is no stranger to the Contract Cities family as he served several years as our Legislative Chair, leading our delegation to Sacramento. Senator Portantino served in the State Assembly and on the La Canada Flintridge City Council. During his time in office, he was known for his work promoting public education and behavioral health issues.



Kevin Sanchez Morales - Session 5

With over a decade of experience navigating the complexities of the political landscape, Kevin serves as a Senior Analyst at Google, where he also spearheads the company's local government affairs initiatives in southern California. His career is rooted in public service; he previously held key roles supporting Councilmembers in Los Angeles and members of the California State Assembly. Kevin is deeply committed to exploring the intersection of public policy and technology. He is a passionate advocate for leveraging governing bodies to drive equitable societal progression, ensuring that innovation and inclusivity go hand in hand.



Sarrah Jasmin - Session 5

Sarrah Jasmin leads marketing at Jigsaw, an incubator within Google, focused on deploying technologies to give people greater agency. The focus of the last two years has been civic voice; allowing residents and communities to voice their opinions, and be heard by local leaders, with a product called Sensemaking, previously deployed in Kentucky and Oklahoma. Prior to Google, Sarrah led climate and cities marketing at Bloomberg climate incubator.

SPEAKERS



Debra Duardo - Session 6

An unrelenting advocate for students and families, Dr. Debra Duardo serves as the Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools. She leads the nation's largest regional education agency, which oversees 80 K-12 school districts that serve 1.3 million students across the country's most populous and diverse county. Since her appointment by the L.A. County Board of Supervisors in 2016, Dr. Duardo has focused on ensuring educational equity and access for all students; supporting at-risk students and their families to break down barriers; and providing the leadership and support superintendents and administrators need to help our school communities learn, grow and thrive.



Patrick Gittisriboongul - Session 6

As a first-generation Asian American and the son of Thai immigrants, I know firsthand the power of public education to transform lives. That belief has guided me through 24 years in public education, including the past four years as Lynwood's Assistant Superintendent of Technology and Innovation. In every role, I've been grounded in one core belief: students come first. As Superintendent, my mission is to ensure every student in Lynwood receives a high-quality, inclusive education that prepares them not only for graduation, but for a future filled with opportunity, purpose, and lifelong success.



Suja Lowenthal - Session 6

Dr. Suja Lowenthal currently serves as City Manager for the City of Lynwood, bringing more than three decades of experience in municipal leadership, public policy, community engagement, and regional governance. Appointed in January 2026, Dr. Lowenthal is recognized for her collaborative leadership style, operational expertise, and commitment to responsive local government. Prior to joining Lynwood, Dr. Lowenthal served as City Manager for Hermosa Beach, where she led major infrastructure initiatives, maintained balanced budgets, strengthened organizational recruitment and retention efforts, and guided the city through significant operational and community-focused projects. Her public service career includes elected and appointed leadership roles throughout Southern California. Dr. Lowenthal served ten years on the Long Beach City Council, including service as Vice Mayor, and previously served five years on the Long Beach Unified School District Board of Education. She also served eight years on the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Board of Directors, helping shape regional water policy and sustainability initiatives.



Jeff Wood - Session 7

Vice Mayor Jeff Wood was first elected to the Lakewood City Council in March 2011. He ran unopposed for a second term in March 2015, was re-elected to a third term in March 2020 and a fourth term in March 2024 by the voters of the new District 3 of the city. He has served as mayor twice, in 2015-2016 and 2021-2022. From 1999 to 2011, Jeff was a member of the Lakewood Recreation and Community Services Commission, serving three terms as commission chair. Professionally, Jeff has extensive career experience in risk management, business continuity, occupational safety and health, and emergency management. Jeff currently works in higher education as a university risk manager.



Jennifer Vaughn - Session 7

Jennifer brings over 20 years of experience in the public sector working for local government and public utilities. Jennifer quickly ingrained herself in the Texas community by serving as Adjunct Faculty at Tarrant County College where she teaches Public Speaking. She also Chairs the Communication Committee for her local PTA, and joined the Board for Keller Education Foundation. Prior to joining Tripepi Smith, Jennifer spent 18 years with Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) in a variety of roles. As Public Affairs Manager, she was responsible for representing the company to many Orange County cities by maintaining government and community relations. She served on several Chamber of Commerce boards and as President for the Coastline Community College Foundation. She played an advisory role on the Asian Business Association of Orange County and the Groundwater Replenishment Program. Jennifer also managed a staff promoting energy efficiency solutions to local governments in her role as Public Sector Programs and Partnerships Supervisor before promoting to Public Policy Manager where she provided policy direction and strategy.



Joshua Yordt - Session 7

Joshua Yordt is the Public Safety Director for the city of Lakewood. Over the course of his 25 plus years of public safety experience, he has also worked for the city of Norwalk and California State University Police Department at Cal Poly Pomona. He is experienced in administering a variety of public safety programs and services, managing contract policing, emergency management planning and operations, and building strong relationships with community through engagement and collaboration.



Thaddeus McCormack - Session 7

Thaddeus McCormack began his service as Lakewood's city manager on September 5, 2017. McCormack is a veteran of city government, having risen through the ranks over 19 years at the City of Santa Fe Springs, from an intern to a management analyst, assistant city manager and, from 2011 to 2017, as city manager. He has played a leadership role in the Gateway region, serving as the chair of the City Managers Committee of the California Joint Powers Insurance Authority, and as the treasurer of the Gateway Cities Council of Governments and the chair of its City Managers Steering Committee. He is also a member of the Leagues of California Cities City Manager Executive Committee and has served on various issue-related committees for the League and the California Contract Cities Association.



Anthony C. Marrone - Session 8

The County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors appointed Anthony C. Marrone to serve as the tenth Fire Chief of the County of Los Angeles Fire Department, effective Tuesday, February 28, 2023. After serving as the Interim Fire Chief for more than 11 months, Chief Marrone steps into the permanent role. With more than 37 years of experience, his well-established career combines broad experience in both emergency and business operations with an extensive list of accomplishments and assignments, including supervising and managing the Leadership and Professional Standards Bureau, Special Services Bureau, Emergency Medical Services Bureau, East Regional Operations Bureau, and Central Regional Operations Bureau, in addition to managing special projects and Business Operations. Chief Marrone has also directly managed routine and complex wildland fires and other significant all-risk incidents.

SPEAKERS



Jennifer Perez - Session 8

Vice Mayor Jennifer Perez has spent her entire life in Norwalk, serving the community that has helped to shape her values and ideals. She attended St. John of God Elementary, St. Paul High School and graduated from Cerritos College. Vice Mayor Perez was elected in March 2017. She served as Mayor from March 2018 to March 2019 and again from March 2020 to December 2021. Jennifer and her husband Michael raised their two children in the City and have been active members of various community organizations. The entire Perez family attends St. Linus Catholic Church and are also actively involved with their parish community.



Kathryn Barger - Session 8

Supervisor Kathryn Barger proudly serves the residents of the 5th District – Los Angeles County's largest – spanning over 2,785 square miles, which includes 20 cities and 83 unincorporated communities in the Antelope, San Gabriel, San Fernando, Crescenta, and Santa Clarita Valleys. Kathryn was born and raised in the 5th District and comes from a family with deep roots in public service. She is married to a retired sheriff's deputy and lives in the San Gabriel Valley. Dedicated to providing effective, responsive representation to the residents of Los Angeles County, Kathryn began her career in public service as a college intern in the office of former Supervisor Antonovich and rose to become his chief deputy in 2001, where she served until her election to the Board of Supervisors in 2016. She both served as Chair of the Board and was reelected for her second term in 2020. Building upon her work from her time as chief policy advisor on health, mental health, social services, and children's issues, Kathryn continues to advocate for services and programs to improve the quality of life for foster children, seniors, veterans, those with disabilities, and those with mental illness. Kathryn is committed to keeping our neighborhoods and communities safe, working with federal leaders, law enforcement officials, and judicial officers to implement vital public safety initiatives.



Robert G. Luna - Session 8

Robert G. Luna was elected as the 34th Los Angeles County Sheriff on November 8, 2022. Sheriff Luna commands the largest Sheriff's Department in the United States, with nearly 18,000 budgeted sworn and professional staff. In 2021, Sheriff Luna completed his service as Long Beach Chief of Police, capping a 36-year career at the Long Beach Police Department, the county's second largest police department. Growing up in unincorporated East Los Angeles, Sheriff Luna's neighborhood was patrolled by the Sheriff's Department. He saw examples of both good and bad policing, which inspired him to become a peace officer and shaped his philosophy on relationship-based policing, specifically in communities of color. Sheriff Luna started as a Long Beach Police Department reserve officer in 1985 and was promoted within every rank of the Police Department. He was appointed Chief of Police in 2014. During his time as Chief of Police, he served on the Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA) executive board and Homeland Security Committee, and on the Police Executive Leadership Institute (PELI) mentorship program. He also received various awards from organizations in Long Beach for his civic leadership and community engagement.



Lauren Langer - AB 1234

Best Best & Krieger LLP Partner Lauren Langer's practice consists of advising city clients on land use, zoning, environmental and housing laws (including Density Bonus Law, the Housing Accountability Act, the Housing Crisis Act (SB 330) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)). She also drafts legislation and contracts and advises on all other legal issues associated with Municipal Law practice, such as the Brown Act and California Public Records Act. Lauren serves as City Attorney for the cities of West Hollywood and Hidden Hills, as legal counsel for the Westside Cities Council of Governments and the Harbor Community Benefit Foundation, and as special land use counsel for many of the firm's clients.



Trevor Rusin - AB 1234

Best Best & Krieger LLP Partner Trevor Rusin's practice emphasizes all aspects of governmental law, including the Coastal Act, Brown Act, Public Records Act, environmental law, planning and zoning law and code enforcement issues. He brings a strong background in environmental, criminal and civil litigation. Trevor serves as the city attorney for the City of Lomita and Palos Verdes Estates and the interim city attorney in Malibu and represents a number of other cities in litigation and advisory matters. He also serves as general counsel for the Los Angeles West Vector Control District.



Jeff Prang - Installation Banquet

Los Angeles County Assessor Jeff Prang was elected in 2014 as the 27th Assessor for the County of Los Angeles and re-elected in 2018 and 2022. Raised in Warren, Michigan, Assessor Prang is a graduate of James Madison College at Michigan State University. After graduation, Mr. Prang relocated to California where he served nearly 18 years as a councilmember for the City of West Hollywood, including four terms as Mayor among many other positions in the public sector. Upon taking office in 2014 as the Los Angeles County Assessor, Mr. Prang implemented sweeping reforms to ensure that the strictest ethical guidelines rooted in fairness, accuracy and integrity would be adhered to in his office. The Los Angeles County Assessor's Office is the largest office of its kind in the nation with 1,400 employees and provides the foundation for a property tax system that generates \$24 billion annually.



Pickle - Installation Banquet

Pickle is a live-singing, drag queen host, entertainer, and storyteller. A Los Angeles native, she attended Hamilton High School Academy of Music before receiving her BA in Liberal Arts from Sarah Lawrence College. Pickle has focused on blending education initiatives into her drag work and runs the LA chapter of Drag Story Hour. She has partnered with many organizations, including the Academy Museum, the Aquarium of the Pacific, the City of West Hollywood, the Independent Shakespeare Company, LA County Library, LA Public Library, LACMA, the Music Center, Tinder, and many more, to present unique and dynamic drag programming. Pickle is dedicated to expanding drag as a medium both for herself and for the community as a whole. She has appeared on television on NBC's *The Weakest Link*, the Discovery Channel's *Dodgeball Thunderdome*, and Tyler Perry's *Sistas*. She is the first Drag Laureate of the City of West Hollywood.

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