

2026 FALL EDUCATIONAL SUMMIT



WELCOME



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.**

EXECUTIVE BOARD

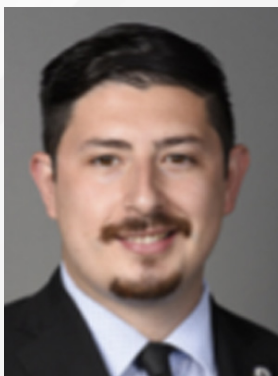
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Ed Reece
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Brenda Olmos
Immediate
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Bellflower

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Horacio Ortiz – Director at Large
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Michelle Velasquez-Bean – Director
at Large
La Mirada

Marcel Rodarte – Executive Director

AGENDA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 28

REGISTRATION OPENS 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM

The Shelter Club

WELCOME RECEPTION 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM

The Shelter Club

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

REGISTRATION OPENS 7:30 AM

Grand Coastal Foyer

BREAKFAST 7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

Grand Coastal Foyer

FALL EDUCATIONAL SUMMIT WELCOME 8:00 AM – 8:15 AM

Grand Coastal Ballroom

**SESSION 1: CARE IN THE CHAOS: THE SAFETY NET CITIES
COUNT ON..... 8:15 AM – 9:15 AM**

Grand Coastal Ballroom

BREAK 9:15 AM – 9:25 AM

**SESSION 2: FROM CRISIS TO COORDINATION: A MULTI-CITY
MODEL FOR PUBLIC SAFETY AND HUMAN SERVICES..... 9:25 AM – 10:25 AM**

Grand Coastal Ballroom

BREAK 10:25 AM – 10:35 AM

**SESSION 3: REFORMED AND RESHAPED: THE ROSE INSTITUTE
READS THE ROOM ON MEASURE G..... 10:35 AM – 11:35 AM**

Grand Coastal Ballroom

BREAK 11:35 AM – 11:45 AM

**SESSION 4 (LUNCH): BARGAINING OVER THE TABLE:
BINDING ARBITRATION AND A BITE TO EAT..... 11:45 AM – 1:00 PM**

Grand Coastal Ballroom

BREAK 1:00 PM – 1:10 PM

**SESSION 5: THE BALLOT BREAKDOWN: A GUIDED TOUR OF
NOVEMBER’S MEASURES 1:10 PM – 2:10 PM**

Grand Coastal Ballroom

AGENDA

BREAK 2:10 PM – 2:20 PM

**SESSION 6: LEADING WELL: MENTAL HEALTH IN PUBLIC
OFFICE 2:20 PM – 3:20 PM**
Grand Coastal Ballroom

FALL SUMMIT DINNER RECEPTION 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
Coastal Terrace

**FALL SUMMIT DINNER: SAFETY, SERVICE, AND SUPPER:
A KEYNOTE WITH SHERIFF ROBERT LUNA 7:00 PM – 8:30 PM**
Coastal Terrace

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

FALL SUMMIT GETAWAY BREAKFAST 8:30 AM – 10:30 AM
Grand Coastal Foyer & Terrace

SPEAKERS



Dr. John Erickson - Welcome Reception

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 Reception

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.



Esther C. Sanchez - Welcome Reception

Mayor Esther Sanchez was first elected to the Oceanside City Council on November 7, 2000, her initial run for local office. She was elected Councilmember in District 1 in November 2018, the City's first District Election. She was elected Mayor in November 2020, and re-elected Mayor in November 2024. Mayor Sanchez was born and raised in Oceanside, part of a four-generation Oceanside family. She attended Laurel Elementary, Jefferson Junior High and Oceanside High, graduating in 1974. She received a scholarship to Brown University, where she received her B.A. degree in Urban Studies. Esther then attended University of California, Hastings College of Law and received her Juris Doctorate, passing the California Bar on her first try. She has worked as an attorney for over 30 years, in both the public and private sector. Esther retired from the Public Defender's Office summer of 2008, after 20 years, and started her law office/business in Oceanside. Mayor Sanchez has a lifelong commitment to public service and to law enforcement. She is a member of the Vista Community Clinic Auxiliary, Oceanside Museum of Art, Friends of the Library, and Oceanside Noon Optimist.



Lizette Escobedo - Session 1

Lizette Escobedo is a passionate advocate for civic engagement and social justice, with over two decades of experience leading impactful initiatives to empower Latino communities. Currently serving as Vice President of Government Relations and Civic Engagement at AltaMed Health Services, Lizette has spearheaded successful campaigns to increase voter participation and access to healthcare. She played a key role in the *¡Andale! ¿Que Esperas?!* COVID-19 vaccine outreach program, resulting in over 130,000 vaccinations, and led the My Vote. My Health. campaign, reaching over half a million Latino voters.



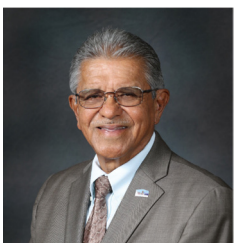
Dr. Adrienne Martinez - Session 1

Adrienne Martinez-Hollingsworth, PhD, RN, PHN, WAN, is Director of Research & Evaluation at the AltaMed Institute for Health Equity and Assistant Project Scientist in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Health Services Research at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. She is a nationally recognized nurse scientist and conceptual theorist whose work bridges health services research, implementation science, disaster preparedness, and workforce well-being, using art-based and technology-driven solutions. Her research focuses on designing practical, community-centered strategies that strengthen care delivery for underserved populations by integrating evidence, systems thinking, and frontline perspectives to improve health outcomes, organizational resilience, and health equity.



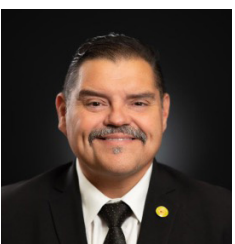
Diana Pineda Ramirez - Session 2

Diana embarked on her journey with the Red Cross in 2019, driven by her dedication to making a difference. Beginning as a Volunteer Representative, she swiftly demonstrated her unwavering dedication, earning a well-deserved promotion to the role of SoCal BVWE Supervisor. In this capacity, Diana took charge of the entire Southern California Blood Donor Ambassador program, overseeing a dedicated team that spans Los Angeles County, San Diego, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Orange County. Her profound insights into community outreach and engagement translated into the implementation of innovative strategies and initiatives to boost volunteer engagement and retention. Her outstanding contributions go beyond her immediate responsibilities, as she actively participates in the VIDA Resource Group, was a key contributor in the inaugural Emerging LEADers 2022 cohort and spearheaded the BVWE professional advancement series.



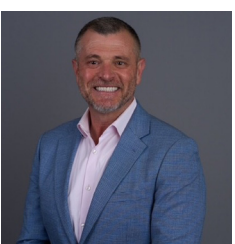
H. Manuel Ortiz - Session 2

Mayor H. Manuel Ortiz was elected to the Irwindale City Council in 2005 and has been re-elected four times since. His fellow Council Members also chose him to serve as Mayor in 2006, 2009, 2020, and 2022. His leadership is guided by fiscal responsibility, strong public safety, expanded opportunities for youth and seniors, and thoughtful housing solutions – all while protecting the small-town character that makes Irwindale special. He also serves on the Board of Directors for the Sanitation Districts and as a Delegate to the Gold Line Phase II Construction Authority.



Robert Gonzales - Session 2

Robert Gonzales is a life-long resident of Azusa, California, born and raised in the city, and has dedicated over 17 years to serving as an elected representative on the Azusa City Council. He was first elected to the City Council in 2007. He was elected as Mayor in 2020, where he served for several terms until 2024 when the City went to District Elections. He helped guide the transition to the rotating Mayoral system in 2025. Councilmember Gonzales currently serves as a Council member for District 5 in the City of Azusa. He serves as Vice Chair of the San Gabriel Valley Water Quality Authority, where he was first elected in 2022 and re-elected in 2026. He also serves as a representative on various regional boards including the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and Vector Control Board.



Sergio Gonzalez - Session 2

Sergio Gonzalez has over 23 years of experience in the public and non-profit sector. He has served in the role of City Manager for over 14 years, including for the cities of South Pasadena, Hermosa Beach, and Azusa. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Political Science and a Master of Science in Public Administration (MPA) from California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA). He serves as an Advisory Board Member on the school's MPA program and is a Board of Trustee on the Cal State LA Foundation. He is also an Adjunct Instructor at the University of Southern California, teaching leadership at the graduate level of the Sol Price School of Public Policy.

SPEAKERS



Vinh Truong - Session 2

Vinh Truong has served on the Duarte City Council since 2020, previously serving on the Economic Development Commission from 2018 to 2020. Mr. Truong became a member of the North San Gabriel River Working Group (NSGRWG) in 2024. Since joining, he has played an active role in leveraging resources for the NSGRWG's long-term success, advocating on behalf of the Working Group to state and federal legislators, and furthering the Working Group's positive momentum by expanding it into a Joint Powers Authority. Mr. Truong is passionate about serving his community. His vision for a sustainable, prosperous Duarte has led him to serve on the Duarte Economic Development Commission, the Santa Anita Family YMCA, and participate in the Duarte Financial Advisory Taskforce.



Kenneth P. Miller - Session 3

Kenneth P. Miller is the Don H. and Edessa Rose Professor of State and Local Government at Claremont McKenna College, where he also serves as Director of the Rose Institute of State and Local Government. Miller's scholarship focuses on state politics, constitutional law, and political polarization. His most recent book, *Texas vs. California: A History of Their Struggle for the Future of America* (Oxford 2020), examines how the nation's two most populous and powerful states became "rivals" and established competing policy models. His earlier work includes extensive research on direct democracy (initiative, referendum, and recall). His *Direct Democracy and the Courts* (Cambridge 2009) is considered the leading authority on the relationship between the initiative process and judicial review. He also has published numerous articles and book chapters on topics including state constitutionalism, state supreme courts, state-level political geography, voting rights, redistricting, and political polarization. He co-edited *The New Political Geography of California* (Berkeley Public Policy Press 2008) and *Parchment Barriers: Polarization and the Limits of Constitutional Order* (Kansas 2018). Miller received a B.A. in government from Pomona College, a J.D. from Harvard Law School, and a Ph.D. in political science from the University of California at Berkeley. Prior to pursuing a career in academia, he worked as an attorney with Morrison & Foerster in Los Angeles and Sacramento, specializing in litigation, administrative law, and political law.



Bipasa Nadon - Session 3

Bipasa Nadon has been the Assistant Director for Research and Publications at the Rose Institute of State and Local Government since 2011. She directs a number of student research projects, with a special focus on California's Inland Empire, and oversees much of the institute's consulting work. In her previous life, Nadon practiced corporate law at Hale and Dorr, LLP in Boston, specializing in technology licensing. Prior to that, she was an assistant to Mayor Richard M. Daley in Chicago, where she developed policy in the areas of housing, aviation planning, personnel, and legislative affairs. Nadon also has international experience. She was the director of local government programs for the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs in Ukraine and served as an international observer for Ukraine's first parliamentary elections. Early in her career, Nadon was an assistant survey director at the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago. Nadon received a B.A. in mathematics and a J.D. from the University of Chicago.



Jarrett Catlin - Session 3

Jarrett Catlin is a Research Affiliate at the Rose Institute of State and Local Government. He is the Founder and Principal of Catlin Strategies, specializing in state-level AI policy. He is the State AI Policy Advisor for TechNet: The Voice of American Innovation, America's leading tech trade association representing over 100 of the world's most innovative companies. From 2022 to 2025, he served as Vice President of Tusk Strategies, where he designed and ran high-stakes advocacy campaigns for companies and top startups. Catlin also taught a course on AI policy at Pepperdine University's School of Public Policy and will teach a similar course at Claremont McKenna College. He has a B.A. in political Science from Westmont College and a Ph.D. from the Pardee Rand Graduate School.



Derek Hsieh - Session 4

Derek Hsieh serves in several elected positions and on committees. These include serving as the Chairperson for the Coalition of County Unions (AFL-CIO) representing approximately 15 independent unions and their 35,000 members in common labor agreements with the County of Los Angeles. He is also active as Executive Board Vice President and member of the budget and finance committee with the Los Angeles Federation of Labor, which represents 880,000 members. Derek recently completed service on the Los Angeles Quality and Productivity Committee and has experience with Los Angeles County bodies regulating employee medical benefits, pretax savings and other benefits. Derek also serves as the Executive Director of the Association of Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs (ALADS). ALADS represents more than 8,000 sworn Deputy Sheriffs and District Attorney Investigators.



Jennifer Perez - Session 5

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.



Jorge Morales - Session 5

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.



Dr. Michele Nealon - Session 6

Dr. Michele Nealon, president of The Chicago School for over 15 years, is a licensed clinical psychologist with experience in a variety of settings with diverse groups of people, including inpatient, outpatient, community mental health, and forensic settings. Under her strategic leadership, The Chicago School has become a leading nonprofit university dedicated to preparing tomorrow's integrated health professionals. A recognized thought leader and advocate for accessible higher education, Dr. Nealon actively contributes to national conversations on education, mental health, and nonprofit leadership through her involvement with the American Council on Education (ACE), the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities (NAICU), the Association of Independent California Colleges and Universities (AICCU), and the Forbes Council, among other organizations.

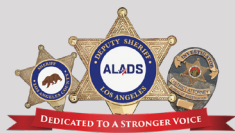


Robert Luna - Dinner Keynote

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.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BRONZE

Metropolitan Water District
Athens Services
Go Store It
ISN Global Enterprises, Inc
MNS Engineers

Nationwide Environmental Services
Republic Services
4Leaf, Inc
NLC Service Line Warranty Program by HomeServe
PBF Energy

IBE Digital
Securitas Security Services

COPPER

Commercial Bank of California
Onetara
Independent Cities Finance Authority
Hospital Association of So. California
Avant-Garde
Outfront Media
California Municipal Finance Authority
Burrtec Waste Industries
West Coast Arborists
West Basin Municipal Water District
789, Inc.

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Compton Creek Mosquito Abatement District
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SAVE THE DATE!

2027 SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE TOUR

January 11–13, 2027

Sheraton Grand Sacramento

