



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As many of us in our communities throughout Los Angeles County try to analyze the results of last month's election cycle, one constant observation becomes evident. We are in a global downturn the likes of which most of us have never experienced, particularly as elected leaders in charge of navigating our fiscal responsibilities. No matter how successful the business decisions of the past, many of us will be faced with the challenge of trying to balance budgets that have slid downward as a result of lost revenues, forcing many of us to look at cutting essential services and even layoff staff.

If there is a common thread to all of this, now more than ever we cannot isolate ourselves from the opportunities we have to share services. Mutual aid agreements share the skills and manpower of many of our public safety agencies. Challenging times like these will require out-of-the-box solutions to lead us through this latest downward cycle. Joint use or site agreements that may not have been practical before may now be looked at as innovative and even necessary to backfill the voids left from our budgetary decisions.

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The League of California Cities has always been a powerful resource to help cities manage themselves effectively. Our own Los Angeles Division has a wealth of League Partners that want to help through the variety of services they offer. These business organizations truly see the value of networking with an organization like the League. I want to especially recognize them for their participation in and sponsorship of a portion of our meeting in April. We should take advantage of the expertise these organizations bring. They are a valuable tool that the League and particularly the Los Angeles County Division offers our cities as we look forward to the future. I look forward to seeing all of you at one of our upcoming meetings in Los Angeles.

Joe Garcia
Council Member, City of Monrovia
President, Los Angeles County Division
League of California Cities

OPPORTUNITIES... OPPORTUNITIES... OPPORTUNITIES

NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR LOS ANGELES COUNTY DIVISION LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

Elections for the 2009-2010 officers of the Los Angeles County Division will be taking place in June, when the membership will elect a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer to one-year terms and a State League Director for a two-year term of office.

These leadership positions are a great opportunity for elected officials to make a difference with the Los Angeles County Division and the League. If you are interested in serving, please send your letter of interest along with your resume no later than April 24th via mail, fax or email to:

Marsha McLean, Nominating Committee Chair
c/o Los Angeles County Division
League of California Cities
P.O. Box 2336
West Covina, CA 91793-2336
FAX: 213-559-8989
Email: bwong@cacities.org

The nominating committee will review all applications and make recommendations for a slate of officers at the general membership dinner on May 7th. The election will be held the following month at the Division's meeting on June 4, 2009. For more information or if you have any questions, please call Ben Wong, Los Angeles County Division Executive Director at (213) 300-8683.

LEAGUE POLICY COMMITTEE OPENING

Following the recent municipal elections in many of our cities, the Los Angeles County Division finds itself with a vacant seat on the League's Housing, Community & Economic Development Policy Committee. Our policy committees help to make League policy by reviewing legislation, suggesting broad new policy guidelines and studying key issues that impact cities.

The Housing, Community & Economic Development Policy Committee is specifically concerned with issues and legislation dealing with building regulations and code enforcement, community and economic development, urban renewal, housing, planning, zoning, incorporation, annexation and redevelopment. The time commitment involves three to four meetings during the year ending at the League's annual conference in the fall. Meeting locations rotate from north to south.

If you have an interest in adding your expertise, wisdom and opinions to the debate in this policy arena, now is the perfect opportunity. Just contact your League Regional Public Affairs Manager in your area or Division Executive Director Ben Wong. For more information, you may also go to the League website at <http://www.cacities.org/policycommittees>.

DO YOU WANT TO SERVE ON THE LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

The League is currently accepting nominations for five at-large positions for two-year terms on its statewide Board of Directors. The Board typically meets on a quarterly basis at locations throughout the state and nominees are expected to make a commitment to attend all meetings (travel expenses to attend League board meetings are reimbursed by the League).

If you want to submit your name, or another elected official's name, for nomination to the League Board, please go to <http://www.cacities.org/board> to download the form. Please provide the information requested and submit the form, along with a biography and letter requesting consideration, to our Sacramento headquarters before the end of business on **Friday, May 15, 2009**. Late submissions will NOT be accepted. Questions may be referred to Mimi Sharpe in our League headquarters via email, sharpem@cacities.org, or by phone at 916-658-8232.