

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Institute for Local Government Announces Four New Board Members and New Board Leadership for 2022

Sacramento, CA – The non-profit, non-partisan Institute for Local Government (ILG) today announced exciting changes to its 2022 board of directors.

Executive Leadership:

- Chair – **Teresa Acosta**, Councilmember, City of Carlsbad
- Vice Chair & Governance Chair – **Brett Channing**, Deputy City Manager, City of Lake Forest
- Secretary/Treasurer – **Lydia Romero**, City Manager, City of Lemon Grove
- Advancement Chair – **Nat Rojanasathira**, Assistant City Manager, City of Monterey
- Marketing Chair – **Virginia Bass**, Supervisor, Humboldt County

In addition to this new board leadership, ILG announced four new Directors representing a variety of backgrounds, regions and experience supporting local government.

New Board Members:

- **Don Bartz**, General Manager, Phelan Pinon Hills Community Services District
- **Ruben Duran**, Managing Partner, Best Best & Krieger LLP
- **Judith Mitchell**, Former Mayor and Councilmember, City of Rolling Hills Estates
- **Blanca Pacheco**, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Downey

These distinguished professionals join a large cohort of other ILG board members, including:

- **Michele Beal Bagneris**, City Attorney and Prosecutor, City of Pasadena
- **Carolyn Coleman**, Executive Director, League of California Cities
- **Monica Davis**, Community Services Manager, City of Hayward
- **Randi Johl**, Legislative Director and City Clerk, City of Temecula
- **James Keene**, Former City Manager, City of Palo Alto
- **Paolo Kespradit**, Management Specialist, City of West Hollywood
- **Dallin Kimble**, County Administrative Officer, County of Mariposa
- **Graham Knaus**, Executive Director, California State Association of Counties
- **Pat Martel**, Former City Manager, City of Daly City, Cal-ICMA Representative
- **Neil McCormick**, Chief Executive Officer, California Special Districts Association
- **Richard Montgomery**, Councilmember, City of Manhattan Beach
- **Sue Novasel**, Supervisor, El Dorado County
- **Hilary Straus**, General Manager, Citrus Heights Water District; and

- Board Members Emeritus: **Don Benninghoven**, Former Executive Director, Cities Counties Schools Association; and **Jerry Patterson**, Member, Board of Trustees, Coast Community College District and Former Mayor, City of Santa Ana

“For 67 years, ILG has been blessed with exceptional and committed board members. The 2022 ILG board of directors is no exception, but this cohort represents an exciting transition in leadership and a key part of our long-term strategy,” said Erica L. Manuel, ILG’s CEO & Executive Director. “Each of our Directors is a leader in their field who brings critical expertise in many areas of local governance. In addition to their professional acumen, we are equally proud to have an increasingly diverse board that reflects the geographic, cultural and jurisdictional diversity of the 2,500+ cities, counties and special districts in our state.”

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, California’s local governments faced a myriad of challenges, from housing and homelessness, to climate, to budget shortfalls and aging infrastructure. Local elected leaders and staff cannot effectively address these challenges without a strong foundation of good government – trust, accountability, equity, responsiveness and transparency. ILG’s robust education and training programs are specially designed to provide local agency leaders with the support and resources they need to navigate their complex and evolving leadership roles. ILG programs cover four main pillars of work:

- Leadership & Governance
- Public Engagement
- Sustainable & Resilient Communities
- Workforce & Civics Education

Within these pillars of work, ILG delivers education and training in the form of webinars, workshops, consulting services and written resources. ILG also has expertise in technical assistance, facilitation, capacity-building, hosting convenings and more.

ILG board members provide critical guidance to the organization about policy, strategy and goals.

“The ILG team looks forward to another busy year of providing California’s cities, counties and special districts with non-partisan, unbiased educational resources, tools and expertise to help agency staff and local government officials serve their residents and communities equitably and effectively.” Manuel said.

For more information about ILG’s board of directors, visit <https://www.ca-ilg.org/board-directors>.

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About Institute for Local Government

The Institute for Local Government is the non-profit training and education affiliate of the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties and the California Special Districts Association, which represent thousands of local agencies across the state. ILG helps local officials and staff navigate the constantly changing landscape of their jobs by offering training, technical assistance, written resources and facilitation services specifically designed for local agencies. Visit www.ca-ilg.org to find out more.