

# Local Government 101

[www.ca-ilg.org/localgovt101](http://www.ca-ilg.org/localgovt101)

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*"Information is the currency of democracy."*

Thomas Jefferson

## What We Do and Why

For local democracy to thrive, its participants need to understand how decisions are made, by whom and within what policy frameworks. The Institute's Local Government 101 Program addresses this need by offering easy-to-understand materials on how local government works.

This new program eases the learning curve – for those who are elected or appointed to local office, those that report on local decisions, and those who wish to be engaged and informed participants in the decision-making process.

The Institute's materials are a cost-effective way for local agencies to share important information with their communities.

Materials offered include the following:

- The "Understanding the Basics" series, that includes *Understanding the Basics of Local Agency Decision-Making* and *Understanding the Basics of County and City Revenues*
- Land Use One-Pagers: A collection of plainly worded descriptions of common land use decisions that affect the physical environment in which people live
- School Curriculum Materials: A set of materials developed to educate kids about local government

Many materials are also available in both English and Spanish.

## Take Advantage of Institute Materials

The Institute welcomes the opportunity to have local agencies link to local government 101 materials from local agency websites. Some helpful links are:

- [www.ca-ilg.org/decisionmaking](http://www.ca-ilg.org/decisionmaking)
- [www.ca-ilg.org/revenueguide](http://www.ca-ilg.org/revenueguide)
- [www.ca-ilg.org/onepagere](http://www.ca-ilg.org/onepagere)

## Related Institute Programs

- Public Service Ethics
- Land Use and Environment
- Collaborative Governance Initiative (CGI)



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**Promoting Good Government at the Local Level**

# About the Institute for Local Government

## The Institute

- Promotes good government at the local level
- Supports well-informed, effective, inclusive and responsive leadership

## How We Make a Difference

As the nonprofit research affiliate of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties, the Institute provides information, skills and resources to the entire range of city and county officials. The Institute's vision is communities with high levels of trust and confidence in their leaders, where the issues of the day are addressed effectively and collaboratively.

## Key Program Areas

- Climate Change
- Civic Engagement (Collaborative Governance Initiative)
- Communities for Healthy Kids
- Intergovernmental Conflict Resolution
- Land Use and Environment
- Local Government 101
- Public Service Ethics

## What We Do

- Identify and analyze cutting-edge challenges and trends affecting local government
- Develop practical, easy-to-use tools for local officials, including tip sheets, local agency association magazine columns and technical guides
- Provide a wealth of materials online at [www.ca-ilg.org](http://www.ca-ilg.org)
- Offer training to local officials, including regionally and through local agency associations
- Provide services to individual agencies on a fee basis

## Budget

The Institute has an annual budget of \$1.8 million, leveraging local agency association resources at a one-to-three ratio (see pie chart for funding mix).

## Leadership

15-Member Board of Directors plus Liaisons with League and CSAC Board of Directors

## Over a Half Century of Service to Local Officials

Founded in 1955, the Institute has served local officials for more than 50 years.

