

## Honorable Fran Pavley

### Former State Senator

Fran Pavley served 29 years in elected office. Born and raised in Los Angeles, Pavley was elected the first mayor of Agoura Hills in 1982, and served 14 years in the California Assembly and the State Senate. Former State Senator Pavley authored landmark climate policies (AB 1493, AB 32, SB 32, and others) that have created a market for innovation and investment in clean energy and vehicles, which have helped clean up our air, grow the economy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As chair of the Senate's Natural Resources and Water Committee, she was able to pass the state's first sustainable Groundwater Management Act, promote policies to protect our ocean and watersheds, and adopt measures to create more sustainable local water supplies. She is now working as the Environmental Policy Director for the USC Schwarzenegger Institute, and serves on several state and local boards and committees.



As an example, counties that have already gone through the process of applying for state and federal aid for wildfire debris removal have shared best practices and contacts with counties who have not gone through the process. What types of information would be needed? What data must be tracked? What on-the ground assessment tools are available? How to handle evacuations and return-to-home issues. It is these coordinated efforts that are necessary as we enter a new type of compounding disaster—that of devastating wildfires during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Thinking back to the start of your career, what was the driving force for you entering public service?**

Public service is about purpose, about improving the lives of those less fortunate around you and in your community. Growing up poor and touching multiple parts of our system of public services, with both good and not-so-good experiences, has long been a driver in my career. Ensuring that all families, all children, have opportunity to grow and thrive and find a rewarding future while being a transparent and effective steward of limited resources continues to drive me professionally, and personally.

### **How can local governments better work with the state to prepare for natural disasters?**

Information sharing early and often is key. Build relationships with local government and state counterparts pre-disaster to expedite response and improve decision making. When natural disasters strike, they completely take over every priority and nearly every waking hour. It can seem quite isolating going through a natural disaster and managing the day to day operations of a county, but local government colleagues and state counterparts can help manage an event and navigate the post-disaster recovery phases which are complex and cumbersome. Using statewide organizations such as CSAC to facilitate conversations is a critical tool to foster direct dialogue between locals and the county.

### **In your own words, what do you love about local government?**

Local government connects to people and communities like no other level of government. It reflects the foundation of our system of representative government in empowering ways for communities and showcases the importance and difficulty of democracy in action. It's beautifully and productively messy like my favorite dish—enchiladas!

### **What are you most proud of about counties' response to COVID?**

Counties have shown incredible leadership throughout the response to COVID-19. It looks different from county to county, but the focus on preserving public health and local economies amidst ever-changing rules and conditions while tackling profoundly difficult decisions has been remarkable throughout the state. It's a great testament to the commitment to public service and fuels our purpose.

*“Do what you can with what you’ve got where you are.”*

*-Squire Bill Widener, often attributed to Teddy Roosevelt*

### **Why is it important for CSAC to be an affiliate/parent agency of ILG?**

ILG is uniquely positioned to create a forum to support local government, both at the association level and on-the-ground in communities. ILG is an indispensable partner to CSAC's advocacy and education work and can facilitate difficult conversations between local government and the state. This is especially true around the complex issues that span cities, counties, and special districts.

### **What are your favorite aspects about your current job?**

It's the people! I feel so fortunate to work with remarkably talented and dedicated professionals within counties, on the CSAC team, among ILG and our local government partners, and in the Capitol advocacy community. It fuels me up and pushes our team to accomplish even more in supporting counties.