



Name Your Networks (aka “Community Rolodex”)

www.ca-ilg.org/NameYourNetworks

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Many public officials have a wide variety of relationships in their communities, often related to specific projects and initiatives. Examples include with students and schools, groups serving specific populations, and more. Yet these groups and networks may not be top of mind when announcing public meetings.

You can use the following list to identify different partners, network contacts and “key connectors” in your city or county. The next time you want to reach out beyond the small slice of the public that most frequently attends your council meetings, think about these categories:

Relatively Close-In to City/County Decision-Making and Operations

- City/County Boards and Commissions
- School Boards and other Special Districts
- County/City-sponsored Citizen Academies
- Local multi-sector leadership groups
- Advocates and service providers on the issue under review

Networks Where Community Members Affiliate by Interest

- K-12 Education/PTA’s/School support organizations
- Youth – groups not tied to schools
- Faith-based communities
 - Interfaith councils
- Business
 - Chambers
 - Small business associations, incubators
 - United Way
- Community Health and Wellness

- Life-Long Learners
 - Library Friends
 - Local lecture series
 - Adult education programs
 - Bookstore communities
- Safety
 - CERT
 - Neighborhood Watch
- Early Childhood
 - First 5 Commission
 - Childcare Councils
- Environment
 - Natural Resources
 - Outdoor Recreation
- Arts
 - Music
 - Visual
 - Movement
 - Cross-cultural
- Seniors
- Fitness/Sports
- Social Equity/Social Justice
- Cultural Groups/Ethnic heritage

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About the Institute for Local Government

This resource is a service of the Institute for Local Government (ILG) whose mission is to promote good government at the local level with practical, impartial, and easy-to-use resources for California communities.

ILG is the nonprofit 501(c)(3) research and education affiliate of the League of California Cities and the California State Association of Counties. For more information and to access the Institute's resources on public engagement, visit www.ca-ilg.org/engagement. If you would like to access this resource directly, go to www.ca-ilg.org/NameYourNetwork.

The Institute welcomes feedback on this resource:

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