

Intergovernmental Conflict Resolution

www.ca-ilg.org/conflictresolution

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"Litigation should always be a last resort attempt to settle differences between parties. Local government jurisdictions have the most to lose in litigation and the most to gain by selecting a workable alternative to expensive court action"

Greg Cox
Institute Board Member; San Diego County Supervisor; former Mayor, Chula Vista, California

Related Institute Programs

- Public Service Ethics
- Collaborative Governance Initiative

What We Do and Why

The complex challenges faced daily by local officials can sometimes lead to disputes and disagreements among public officials about what course of action best serves the public's interests. Sometimes, these disagreements lead to lawsuits, which can be expensive and divisive.

Other dispute resolution techniques exist. The Institute's Intergovernmental Conflict Resolution program offers resources to help local officials determine whether alternative dispute resolution makes sense in any given situation.

Specifically, the Institute's efforts include the following:

Research

- Research to address the cause of resistance to mediation
- Best practice models for intergovernmental dispute resolution across the nation
- Case studies on use of alternative dispute resolution for local agency disputes

Multi-Year Education Effort

- Awareness campaign to promote mediation as a positive alternative to litigation
- ILG web page listing resources for dispute resolution, including public presentations and published materials

Mediator Training

- Special training programs on unique aspects of local public sector disputes

Conflict Resolution Professionals (Under Exploration)

- Qualifications and experiences of professionals with knowledge of unique aspects of resolving local government conflicts
- Feedback from agency clients



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
- 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.

