

Promoting Good Government at the Local Level

## News from the Institute for Local Government

# January 2019

#### **ILG Welcomes New Executive Director**

ILG is excited to announce that Erica Manuel joined ILG as its Executive Director on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Manuel has over 15 years of experience as a leader in the public and non-profit sectors, including as manager of community, economic development and education at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), the 6th largest utility in the nation. In that role, she directed all community development, education, and public engagement activities for the electric utility serving Sacramento County. During her tenure at SMUD, Manuel leveraged her extensive background in strategic planning, corporate communications, and change management to design innovative programs to address the organization's strategic priorities, including sustainability, resiliency, workforce development and diversity & inclusion.



Erica shared "I am humbled by the opportunity to lead the Institute for Local Government during this exciting time of change for the organization. I share the Institute's dedication to supporting local leaders in fostering sustainable, vibrant and healthy communities and look forward to this exciting opportunity."

#### Don't Miss the Next TIERS Public Engagement Training

Shaping the Future Together: A Guide to Practical Public Engagement for Local Government



Not getting the results you want from your public engagement efforts? Enroll in ILG's TIERS Public Engagement Learning Lab and receive customized coaching and learn a step-by-step framework to successfully plan and implement your next public engagement effort. This comprehensive training and coaching program can apply to a variety of efforts ranging from housing and climate change to budgeting and public safety.

ILG will be holding the next TIERS Public Engagement Learning Lab inDanville on April 25-26.

For more information or to register contact Hanna Stelmakhovych at<u>publicengagement@ca-ilg.org</u> or call (916) 658-8221.

Find the complete framework and information about future training opportunities here.

#### **FPPC Releases New Fact Sheet on Travel**

Elected officials often have questions about whether or not they can accept travel arrangements. The FPPC Legal Division is updating the way it handles requests for advice on travel when it is for a public purpose and paid for by either a 501(c)(3) organization or a government entity. Often in the past, local officials would ask for advice in very generic terms, such as "Can I take this trip to China to tour manufacturing facilities and learn about the region?" This generated a high volume of requests based on very generic questions. The Legal Division noted that many requests came as a result of the trip's sponsors requiring an advice letter as a pre-condition to the official attending the trip, rather than as a result of an official having an issue that required analysis.

Now, the FPPC Legal Division will send out a letter responding to such generic requests with a link to a new fact sheet with information on what's allowable and what isn't for this type of travel. The FPPC will still offer to provide advice if, upon review of the fact sheet, the official can provide specific information regarding a specific issue.

Read the fact sheet here.



#### Upcoming Conference - Planning Commissioners Academy



Registration is open for the League's Planning Commissioners Academy - March 6-8 in Long Beach. Don't miss your chance to secure a spot for this premier training opportunity. <u>Online registration</u> <u>is now open!</u> Deadline to register and reserve your hotel is February 12.

For professionals of all career levels, this academy offers participants the opportunity to learn about the major planning and land use issues facing California cities. Concurrent sessions will be offered, featuring fundamental basics and nuts & bolts sessions, as well as emerging issues and innovative ideas for more seasoned professionals.

Your full conference registration will include admission for the following:

- 1. Two and a half days of important educational sessions, an AB 1234 Ethics Training, AB 1661 Sexual Harassment Prevention Training, and many networking opportunities.
- 2. Wednesday reception, Thursday breakfast and lunch, Friday breakfast; and
- 3. Electronic access to all program materials.

#### Transitioning to District-Based Elections while Maintaining Effective Council Governance

Many cities throughout California have faced legal challenges based on the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA), and are switching from at-large elections to district-based elections. In late 2017, the City of Concord received two letters from attorneys regarding the CVRA's provisions. The city council responded by voting in January 2018 to transition to district-based elections and approved a new districts map in March 2018. The city conducted its first district-based election in November 2018.

This article discusses Concord's process and some of the governance challenges California cities may face as they make the transition to district elections. <u>Read more</u>.

### **News from Our Partners**



#### Planning in the Coastal Zone

ILG Partner Best Best & Krieger is hosting a webinar on Feb. 21st to discuss the responsibilities of local governments under the California Coastal Act, including the preparation of a Local Coastal Program and amendments and development permits.



# Hot topics in Negotiations for 2019

Join ILG Parnter LCW for an informative webinar on February 6th. The webinar will cover Janus v. AFSCME, trends related to



#### **MMANC - Winter Forum**

Don't miss the annual MMANC Winter Forum on February 21st! Sessions include: "Project Management: From planning to execution, tips to consider for successful project delivery" and "Organization Alchemy: Turning good people into great teams."

Read more www.mmanc.org negotiating economic packages, recent developments at the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) and more.

Read more www.lcwlegal.com



#### **MMASC - Winter Forum**

This one-day conference held March 21st in Diamond Bar includes personal and professional development sessions on important topics facing the local government profession, opportunities to tap into the expertise of regional leaders and best practices.

Read more www.mmasc.org

Visit our Website

