

Peggy McQuaid
CA Cities City Leaders Summit
April 23 – 25, 2025
Sacramento CA

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

Wednesday focused on advocacy with state legislators

- Sharing 3 budget priorities

 - Ongoing funding to prevent and reduce homelessness

 - Implementation of the voter-approved Prop 6

 - Protecting voter-approved funding obligations in Prop. 4 – the Climate Bond

- Highlighting the need for partnerships between the state and cities

 - Supporting our unhoused residents

 - Increasing the supply of housing

 - Fortifying our infrastructure

 - Strengthening climate change resilience

East Bay Division members met with a staff member from Buffy Wicks' office

Legislative Sessions

California State Budget: Potential Outcomes of Federal Budget Cuts [Cal Cities City Leaders Summit Federal Threats & State Budget Impact SG 4.23.25](#)

- Federal funding is essential to public services in CA

 - Normally 1/3 of the state budget comes from federal funds

 - 2/3 of that goes to MediCal

- Other federal funds support

 - Childcare and development

 - Families and people with disabilities

 - Housing and homelessness assistance

 - K-12 and higher education

 - Services provided by cities, counties, and special districts

- The federal budget will probably not be passed until after the state budget must be finalized in June, forcing difficult choices later in the summer and fall.

Wildfires and Disasters

- Suggestions were provided on home hardening, updating all important documents, and videoing everything in your home. In the past 10 years, over 70,000 homes have been destroyed or damaged.

Thursday, April 24, 2024

Bridging Prosperity: Leveraging the Synergy Between Housing, Commerce, and Public Spaces to Create Thriving Communities [bridging-prosperity---leveraging-the-synergy-between-housing-commerce-and-public-spaces-to-create-thriving-communities-v2.pdf](#)

- Three very different developers shared their successes and failures in building housing, including affordable housing and integrating these projects into the community.

Highlights

- Must have a vision before beginning
- Partnerships are critical for funding and advocacy
- Request an RFQ not an RFP and select based on values

Partners in Local Governance: Strength, Continuity, and Leadership in Modern Local Government [partners-in-local-governance---strength-continuity-leadership-in-modern-local-government.pdf](#)

There must be a strong partnership between elected officials and professional staff. This session gave examples of how they work together and sometimes don't. Collaboration and respect are critical to success. There isn't always agreement, but it is important to be present and do the necessary work.

General Session

Building Communities of Trust: How Cities Can Bridget the Trust Divide, Tristen Cleveland
It has been shown that social isolation kills. It is important to create social spaces in designing buildings as well as cities

What Happens When Reporters Leave Your Town- And What To Do About It [what-happens-when-reporters-leave-your-town--and-what-to-do-about-it.pdf](#)

This discussion focused on how some cities are finding new ways to communicate essential information to residents as well as other efforts to build more local reporting capacity. Most of the information was about social media and the role the city plays in getting the story out correctly.

California's Economic Outlook: Navigating the Future with Data-Driven Insights [PowerPoint Presentation](#)

These uncertain times are paralyzing business.
Spending has been down over the past 3 years with people spending more on nontaxable items
Depotiation leads to higher prices, higher unemployment.
One solution – guest worker program, especially in the tech sector
Chaos in government does not provide for economic growth
CA has talent here due to education to keep and grow business

Friday, April 25, 2025

Earning Public Trust: Practical Strategies for Transparent and Effective Leadership [earning-public-trust---practical-strategies-for-transparent-and-effective-leadership-v2.pdf](#)

This session highlighted the experiences of elected leaders and city staff who have successfully navigated challenges in their cities.

What does trust look like?

- Transparency
- What decisions are being made and why

- Listen and be responsive
- Admit mistakes and plan to fix
- Actionable results
- Ask for help
- Honesty
- Realistic expectations
- Bring the “road show” to public spaces
- Respond to social media

Closing General Session

What Makes Each Generation Want to Vote - Lee Silber

Characteristics of various generations and how they think about candidates and issues.

This was a high energy and interactive session – a great way to end the conference