**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BIG THINKERS**

**National Convening: Mid-Career Local Government Practitioners to**

**Develop Actionable Strategies for the Future**

**April 8, 2022 -** A coalition of local government professionals and affiliated associations announced today a national convening of mid-career local government practitioners to develop and implement actionable strategies to ensure the continued success of local governance.

“Local Government 2030 – Lessons for the Future: A Convening of Practitioners” will take place November 4-6, 2022 on the campus of the University of Nebraska, Omaha. The convening will bring together 50 practitioners under the age of 40 from cities, counties and regional councils around the United States. These delegates will be selected through an application process beginning in early May.

The November convening will be the beginning of a year-long process to develop and implement new initiatives focused on issues facing the future of local government. The delegates will work with their professional peers throughout 2023 to further refine the identified initiatives. A second, larger convening will be held in Fall, 2023 presented by the delegates to local government association leaders to launch the initiatives.

The delegates will be selected from the following local government disciplines with no fewer than two or greater than five delegates from each:

\* General Administration (Managers, Attorneys, and Clerks)

\* Finance

\* Public Works, Water, Wastewater and Transportation

\* Administrative Services (Human Resources, Information Technology, Communications, Equity and Sustainable)

\* Community Services (Parks and Recreation, Library and Arts)

\* Public Safety, Housing and Human Services (Police, Fire and Health and Human Services)

\* Planning and Economic Development

The convening is in response to the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) [Grand Challenges initiative](https://napawash.org/grand-challenges/the-12-grand-challenges). These challenges:

* Are large in scope, intergovernmental, and multi-disciplinary
* Require significant innovation and long-term commitment
* Seek to achieve worthwhile, ambitious goals that we know will be difficult to successfully address for a variety of reasons, including their complexity and interconnectedness
* Require paradigm shifts in thinking and/or significant change in government functioning
* Have significant individual, governmental and societal impacts

The convening is modeled after the Minnowbrook conferences, which started in 1968 and continued in 1988 and 2018 to reimagine the field of public administration.

Delegates will be responsible for:

* Working with sub-groups before the convening to develop papers on issues facing local government
* Participate in two pre-convening virtual workshops before the November event
* Actively participate in the convening in Omaha to develop actionable strategies for the future
* Advocate and further develop the initiatives identified at the convening throughout 2023 and organize a second meeting to launch these initiatives at the end of 2023

Delegates will be awarded a $500 stipend to assist with travel and accommodation costs at the convening. Convening sponsors include:

**Platinum Sponsors**

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School of Public Administration, University of Nebraska Omaha

**Gold Sponsors**

American Public Works Association

Alliance for Innovation / Strategic Government Resources

ZenCity

**Organizational Sponsors**

National Academy of Public Administration

National League of Cities

National Association of Counties

International City/County Management Association

National Association of County Administrators

Engaging Local Government Leaders

Government Finance Officers Association of US and Canada

International Institute of Municipal Clerks

International Municipal Lawyers Association

City-County Communications and Marketing Association

National Forum for Black Public Administrators

CivicPRIDE

International Network of Asian Public Administrators

Local Government Hispanic Network

Illinois Association of Municipal Management Assistants

Municipal Management Assistants of Southern California

Municipal Management Assistants of Northern California

Urban Management Assistants of North Texas

Urban Management Assistants of Southeast Texas

Urban Management Assistants of Central Texas

The convening is being organized by the Local Government Big Thinkers, a grassroots group of local government professionals and academics founded in 2020 to identify and implement initiatives addressing the NAPA Grand Challenges.

**CONTACT**

Wally Bobkiewicz

City Administrator

City of Issaquah, WA

425-837-3020

wallyb@issaquahwa.gov