



LOCAL FOCUS

The Magazine of the League of Oregon Cities

July 2018

93RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE EUGENE

Photo by Maciek Lulko

Property Tax Exemptions | Vote for Legislative Priorities



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For more information contact Bill LaMarche, CIS member relations manager, at blamarche@cisoregon.org.



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18 Eugene Hosting 93rd Annual LOC Conference

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Leadership

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1201 Court St. NE, #200
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MAGAZINE STAFF

Editor

Kevin Toon, ktoon@orcities.org

Designer

Julie Oke, jmoke@orcities.org

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Reinventing Tradition: The 2018 LOC Conference

93 years.

For nearly a century now, the League has endeavored to put its best foot forward and produce an annual conference that appeals to the demographic that encompasses the diversity of the state's 241 cities. Through the years, this event has grown in size, scope and complexity, and through the decades it has eventually found a comfortable format that has become the standard and familiar offering attended by hundreds each September.

This year, however, as we are doing with so many of our programs, and indeed our broader scope of work at the LOC, we are looking at this event through an entirely new lens. We're shaking it up, and we're doing it with focus and purpose. Through a series of focus groups and other sources of feedback, we are evolving in response to changing demographics and demands. We are changing because the problems facing our members are changing, and we need to be responsive. It is our goal to provide attendees of the 2018 LOC Conference three days packed with relevant information, purpose, takeaways and implementable ideas. We are designing this year's program to be much more than what most of you have come to expect by giving you new reasons to join us in the beautiful city of Eugene this September:

Every Day has a Theme, and Every Theme is Compelling and Relevant

There will be a natural flow to this year's conference, organized into defined tracks meant to span the gamut of interests and differences faced by our small, medium and large cities. Attendees will be able to attend workshops, breakouts and presentations that are applicable to their unique issues and needs.

Beginning Thursday, in addition to the traditional mayors, managers and councilors workshops, we are developing two key seminars that will span the entire day. The first will focus on Oregon's overarching and ever-worsening housing crisis. This is an issue that affects all our cities in one way or another, and we are endeavoring to bring together the top minds in the state with insights from a variety of sectors to address this critical issue.

The second seminar will be devoted to urban renewal solutions. There is no more powerful arrow in the quiver of city financial growth and stability than a well-developed plan for growth and redevelopment. In fact, our Friday keynote speaker will focus on non-traditional ways of creating change in communities...to the benefit of city coffers.



Mike Cully
Executive Director

Friday will also continue our theme of providing attendees with strong, relevant and usable content through a series of fundamentals tracks, which have been developed in response to your consistent requests. Sessions are being put together now on topics ranging from public records law to public meetings law, and from ethics to budgeting.

On Saturday, we will close the conference with a hard-hitting and important homelessness symposium. This is an issue that permeates all cities in the state and does not discriminate based on size of municipality. We are all familiar with the problem, but we intend to offer potential solutions, and we're doing that by bringing together top minds and proven programs in our state that are yielding tangible results in addressing this issue.

In the end, we plan to deliver three impactful days packed with pertinent information and essential takeaways.

(continued on page 12)

Cities Asked to Vote for 2019 Legislative Priorities

For the past three months, eight policy committees have been working to identify and propose specific actions as part of the League's effort to develop a proactive legislative agenda for the 2019 session. The committees have identified legislative objectives, which have been included in a packet of materials sent electronically and via regular mail to every city in the state. These packets include descriptions of legislative proposals and background information containing links to additional documents pertinent to each issue. They span a variety of topics and differ in the potential resources required to seek their achievement.

Each city is being asked to review the recommendations of the policy committees and provide input to the LOC Board of

Directors as it prepares to adopt the League's 2019 legislative agenda. After your city council has had the opportunity to review the proposals and discuss them with your staff, please return the ballot indicating the top four issues that your city council would like to see the League focus on during the 2019 session. In addition, a second message was sent to cities seeking input for the board on bottom four issues, or those that are the lowest priority. The deadline for both responses is **August 3**. The LOC Board will finalize the League priorities for the 2019 session during the first few weeks of August.

The board's decision will be announced in the Friday LOC *Bulletin* and the priorities described in greater detail in the September edition of *Local Focus*.



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Applications Sought for LOC Board of Directors

Continuing the quality programs provided by the League depends on the involvement of city leaders. One avenue for involvement is service on the LOC Board of Directors.

During this year's annual conference, League members will elect four directors at large and a treasurer to the LOC Board for 2019. The treasurer position leads to the office of LOC President. According to the League's bylaws, the treasurer position and three of the director positions shall be filled by an elected city official. One of the four director positions shall be filled by a city management employee, for which the LOC Nominating Committee will consider the recommendation of the Oregon City/County Management Association. For the first year of the three-year term, this city management position will be "director-elect" (non-voting).

The League's five-member Nominating Committee recommends candidates for open positions. During the annual business meeting on September 29 the entire membership will receive the recommendations of the Nominating Committee and make the final decision.

How to Apply

City officials interested in running for the LOC Board are asked to complete the application form on the League's website (on the Board of Directors page, under "About Us"), or send a note or email message to LOC Operations Director Megan George (mgeorge@orcities.org) to receive a hard copy application. Completed forms are due to the League office by **Friday, August 17**. Applicants will make a presentation to the Nominating Committee during the annual conference on Thursday, September 27.

Serving on the LOC Board is both an honor and a responsibility. The board has the final say on League policies, both in terms of legislative issues and in programs and services. Your involvement will help the League reflect the values you and your citizens have in making cities a better place to live.

If you have any questions about the responsibilities of board service, please contact any current member of the board (see page 4).

LOC Board Meets in North Bend

The League of Oregon Cities' Board of Directors met in President Timm Slater's home town of North Bend on June 15. During this meeting, the board:

- Adopted the FY 2018-2019 budget;
- Decided to oppose IP 37;
- Directed League staff to prepare a paid family leave policy for the board's discussion at their September 26 board meeting;
- Scheduled a strategic planning meeting to occur on December 6 in Salem;
- Approved updates to the LOC Board Expense Policy; and
- Established a legal advice pilot program in Small Cities regions 11 and 12, which encompasses 48 cities.

The next LOC Board meeting will be September 26, 2018 in Eugene.



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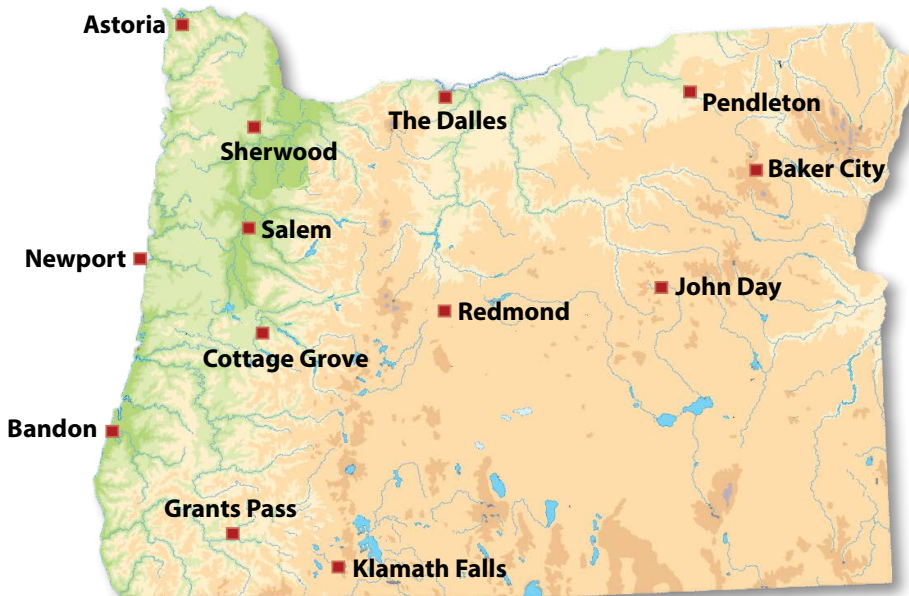
Attendance Strong for Regional Meetings

Thirteen LOC Regional Meetings were held around the state this spring to provide:

- A complete wrap-up of the 2018 legislative session;
- A forum for roundtable discussion of issues facing cities in each region;
- A preview of new League services; and
- An opportunity for new LOC Executive Director Mike Cully to meet members.

The meetings drew more than 184 attendees, representing 85-plus cities. Host cities included Astoria, Newport, Salem, The Dalles, Redmond, Cottage Grove, Klamath Falls, Grants Pass, Bandon, John Day, Pendleton, Baker City and Sherwood.

The League would like to thank this year's host cities for their preparation and assistance, which helped deliver a worthy message to all members. An additional "thank you" goes to those who attended—it is your participation in the League that makes our collective voice stronger.



Regional Meetings By the Numbers

13 cities visited	14 days traveling
185 meeting attendees	85+ cities represented

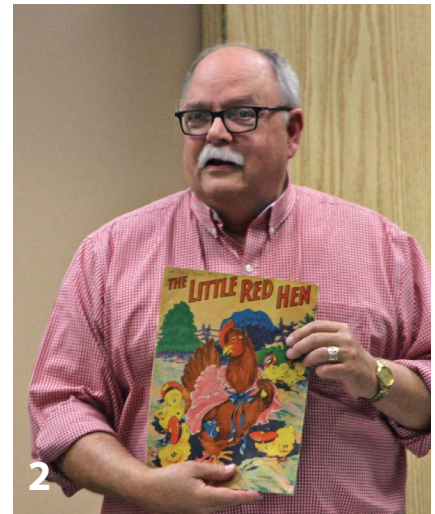
OMA Board Seeks 2019 Applicants



The Oregon Mayors Association is accepting applications from active OMA members for its 2019 Board of Directors. The OMA Nominating Committee will prepare a slate of officers including the president, president-elect and six directors to the OMA Board for review and consent prior to

the association's Annual Membership Meeting September 27, during the League of Oregon Cities Annual Conference in Eugene.

Mayors interested in serving on the OMA Board of Directors for a three-year term beginning January 2019 are encouraged to submit an application, available at www.oregonmayors.org. Applications are due no later than **August 3, 2018**. Any questions may be directed to Megan George at mgeorge@orcities.org or (503) 588-6550.



1. LOC Executive Director Mike Cully shares new initiatives and hears feedback from attendees in Baker City.
2. In Salem, North Bend Councilor and LOC President Timm Slater shares the story of the Little Red Hen and how it relates to public service.
3. Keizer Mayor and Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Government Vice Chair Cathy Clark emphasized the value of partnering with COGs at the Salem Regional Meeting.
4. CIS General Counsel Kirk Mylander discusses CIS resources with attendees in Pendleton.
5. LOC Executive Director Mike Cully is excited to be at Newport City Hall!!
6. In a TV interview, host Mayor George Endicott explains the value of area cities attending the meeting in Redmond.
7. The Centennial Covered Bridge in Cottage Grove was one of many scenic stops League staff enjoyed while travelling around the state for Regional Meetings.

League's Small Cities Program Expanding

The League's Small Cities Network was created to provide members from small cities the opportunity to meet with each other to engage on issues, share insights and challenges, and ultimately create lasting relationships. These meetings have always been open to elected and appointed officials, although representatives from state agencies, regional governments and other partners often choose to attend. Historically, a small city has been defined as a city with a population of 5,000 or less.

After hearing from members that travel distances often precluded them from participating, and defining a small city as less than 5,000 population often left out neighbors who could benefit from the program and provide relevant and valuable insight to the meetings, the League has decided to expand the Small Cities Network.

What this means?

1. The number of regions has increased from eight to 12. Historically, the League has used eight separate regions to break up the state. Leveraging the existing regions, the League has redrawn the boundaries to include four additional regions. Our hope is that this will cut down on commuting distance for cities in specific areas, allowing for greater participation. Of course, while we draw regions to help facilitate networks, cities are allowed to attend any meeting they choose. The meeting calendar will continue to be posted on the League's website.
2. The definition of a "small city" has expanded to include cities with populations of 7,500 or less. This boundary serves as a general guideline, however cities with populations greater than 7,500 are more than welcome to participate as well. Our hope is that by expanding this definition, more cities feel empowered to participate.

Please visit the League's website for up-to-date information on when and where meetings are scheduled.

Questions? Contact John Schmidt at (503) 588-6550 or jschmidt@orcities.org

NEW SMALL CITIES NETWORK REGIONS

Region 1

Astoria, Bay City, Cannon Beach, Clatskanie, Columbia City, Garibaldi, Gearhart, Manzanita, Nehalem, Prescott, Rainier, Rockaway Beach, Scappoose, Seaside, Tillamook, Vernonia, Warrenton and Wheeler

Region 2

Banks, Barlow, Durham, Estacada, Gaston, Johnson City, King City, Maywood Park, North Plains, Rivergrove and Wood Village

Region 3

Amity, Aumsville, Aurora, Carlton, Dayton, Detroit, Donald, Dundee, Falls City, Gates, Gervais, Hubbard, Idanha, Jefferson, Lafayette, Lyons, Mill City, Mt. Angel, Scotts Mills, Sheridan, St. Paul, Sublimity, Turner, Willamina and Yamhill

Region 4

Adair Village, Brownsville, Coburg, Drain, Creswell, Gates, Halsey, Harrisburg, Idanha, Junction City, Lowell, Lyons, Monroe, Mill City, Millersburg, Oakridge, Philomath, Scio, Sodaville, Tangent, Veneta, Waterloo and Westfir

Region 5

Depoe Bay, Dunes City, Lincoln City, Newport, Siletz, Toledo, Yachats and Waldport

Region 6

Bandon, Brookings, Coquille, Gold Beach, Lakeside, Myrtle Point, North Bend, Port Orford, Powers and Reedsport

Region 7

Butte Falls, Canyonville, Cave Junction, Drain, Elkton, Glendale, Gold Hill, Jacksonville, Myrtle Creek, Oakland, Phoenix, Riddle, Rogue River, Shady Cove, Talent, Winston and Yoncalla

Region 8

Antelope, Arlington, Cascade Locks, Condon, Dufur, Grass Valley, Lonerock, Maupin, Moro, Mosier, Rufus, Shaniko and Wasco

Region 9

Culver, Fossil, La Pine, Madras, Metolius, Mitchell, Sisters and Spray

Region 10

Bonanza, Chiloquin, Malin, Merrill, Lakeview and Paisley

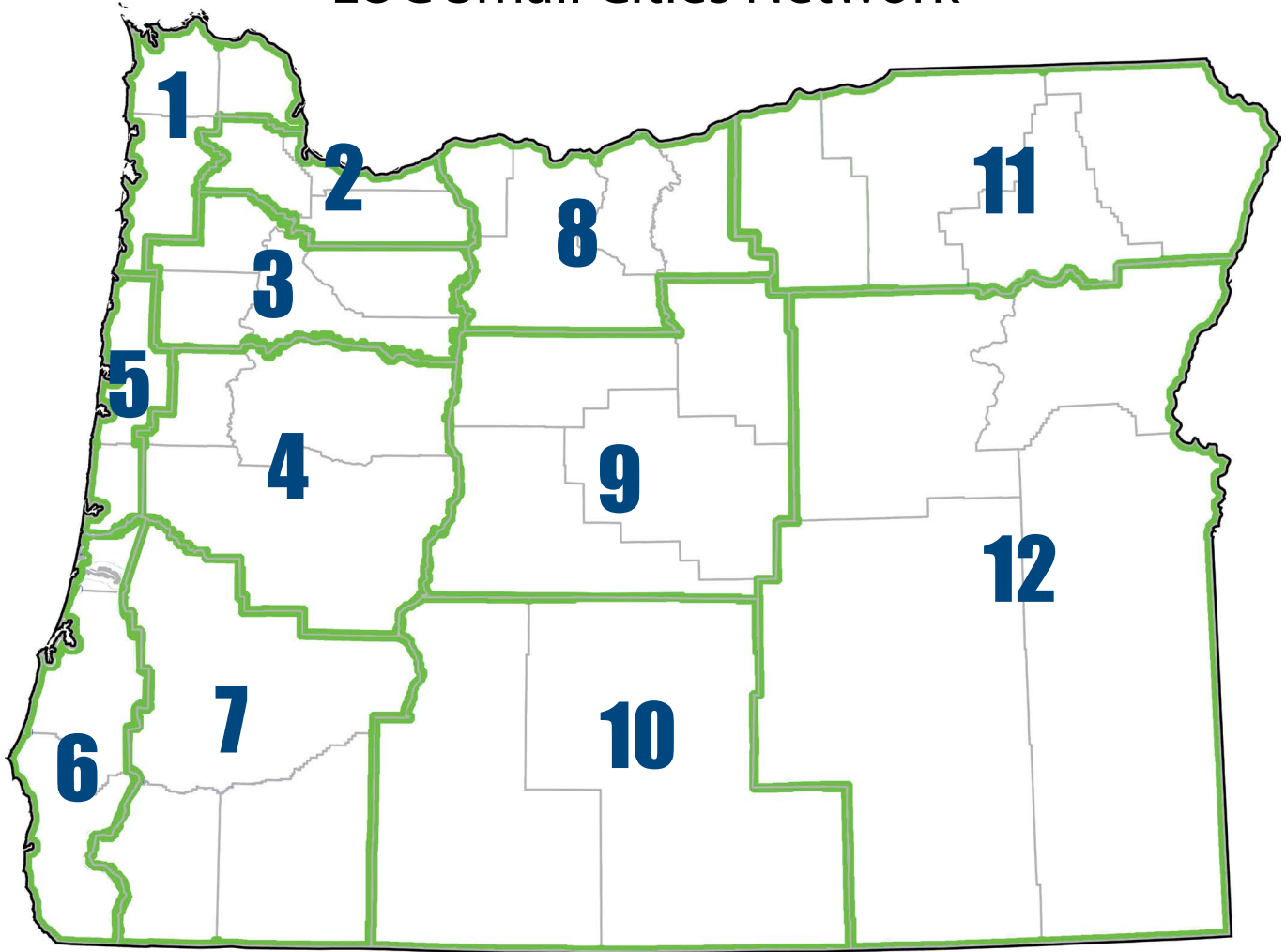
Region 11

Adams, Athena, Boardman, Cove, Echo, Elgin, Enterprise, Helix, Heppner, Imbler, Lone, Irrigon, Island City, Joseph, Lexington, Lostine, Milton-Freewater, North Powder, Pilot Rock, Stanfield, Summerville, Ukiah, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa and Weston

Region 12

Adrian, Burns, Canyon City, Dayville, Granite, Greenhorn, Haines, Halfway, Hines, Huntington, John Day, Jordan Valley, Long Creek, Monument, Mt. Vernon, Nyssa, Prairie City, Richland, Sumpter, Seneca, Unity and Vale

LOC Small Cities Network



Third Quarter Small Cities Meetings

Mark your calendar to attend an upcoming meeting in your region. As location details are confirmed, they will be updated on the Small Cities webpage on the League website, www.orcities.org.

Northern Coast (Region 1)

Cannon Beach – August 3

Portland Metro (Region 2)

TBD – September 20

Northern Willamette Valley (Region 3)

St. Paul – August 9

Southern Willamette Valley (Region 4)

Tangent – August 10

Central Coast (Region 5)

Waldport – August 15

Southern Coast (Region 6)

Brookings – August 16

Southern Valley (Region 7)

Glendale – September 13

Columbia Gorge (Region 8)

Condon – September 20

Central Oregon (Region 9)

TBD – September 21

South Central Oregon (Region 10)

TBD – September 14

Northeastern Oregon (Region 11)

Athena – July 18

Eastern Oregon (Region 12)

Nyssa – July 19

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE, CONTINUED

1. It's Not All Work and No Play

Value comes not only in the form of well planned workshops, trainings and presentations, but also through experiences.

City leaders from our host city of Eugene and nearby Springfield are planning a number of off-site tours for attendees meant to enhance the conference experience by bringing several of our topics to life.

Evening receptions both on and off-site will further personalize the 2018 LOC Conference experience, and insightful keynote speakers have been purposely engaged to further expand and add another dimension to the guest experience.

We are striving to create a healthy balance of education, information exchange and socialization opportunities to give those attending a well-rounded experience.

2. We are Using Technology Like Never Before

But we're also balancing our approach. Specifically, we recognize the diversity in our membership as it relates to use of technology. So, we are working to offer the best of both the analog and digital world.

This year we are stepping up our game though and taking a strong step into the digital realm, starting with our newly-developed, conference-specific mobile app. From your smartphone you will have the conference at your fingertips. The app will be loaded with: agendas and planning tools; attendee contact information; white papers from presenters; interactive engagement tools and much, much more. For those not comfortable with this technology, we will also provide our traditional printed program book in limited quantities. And by the way, don't forget to follow us on Facebook and Twitter during the conference, and look for #ORCities2018.

Key partner alignments with the Technology Association of Oregon (TAO) and the innovative and progressive group Engaging Local Government Leaders (ELGL) bring an entirely new dimension to our efforts this year by helping us reach the up-and-coming demographic of municipal leaders looking to create change. The results of these partnerships will be evident throughout the event.

3. We Are Ready for You

Our goal is to make this year's conference a turnkey experience, from beginning to end. We are committed to being responsive to your needs and providing you a valuable experience that will stimulate and engage...and make you more effective when it's all said and done. We welcome your questions, suggestions, thoughts and comments, and as always, we are here to serve.

On behalf of the League staff and its 16-member board of directors, I look forward to seeing you in late September. ■

Free Training for Municipal Officials

Municipal Operations in Oregon – Understanding the Fundamentals

July 17, Grant County Airport, John Day

9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (*lunch not provided*)

Speaker: Patty Mulvihill, LOC General Counsel

This free workshop provides a comprehensive overview of the legal rights, hurdles and challenges facing public officials in Oregon, including: authorities and restrictions under a city charter; requirements of Oregon's public meetings law, with an emphasis on executive sessions; Oregon's public records laws; basic concepts surrounding Oregon's land use system; and Oregon's budget law. The afternoon session is devoted to understanding Oregon's ethics law, including: prohibited use of office; conflicts of interest; gifts; nepotism; outside employment; subsequent employment; and Statements of Economic Interest.

How to Register

Workshop registrations utilize the League's new online registration system. Registrants will need to log in with the email that the League has on file as their primary address. Anyone who needs to verify their email address, reset a password or has additional questions is encouraged to call the League office at (503)588-6550. For more information and to register go to www.orcities.org/training.

Contact: Lisa Trevino, Project Coordinator – ltrevino@orcities.org

New Local Focus Publishing Schedule

With the LOC Board's approval of the League's budget for the 2019 fiscal year, the publishing schedule for *Local Focus* will be changing. The magazine will now be published on a quarterly basis, and the next two editions will be in September and November. The tentative schedule for 2019 and beyond is to publish in February, May, August and November.



CITY HALL SELFIE

#CityHallSelfie

ELGL

#CityHallSelfie Day

August 15, 2018

It's the best day of the year! **#CityHallSelfie Day** is your chance to showcase your local gov love. Participation is easy:

1. Take a picture of yourself in front of your local government building on August 15.
2. Share it on social media with the hashtag **#CityHallSelfie**.

We'll have recognition, trophies and prizes for the people and organizations that show the most pride and creativity on the big day. **#CityHallSelfie Day** is an international phenomenon - let's show the world that Oregon local governments have the most energy and excitement about their service to Oregonians.

It doesn't matter if you work for a town, county, special district - just hop in front of your building, snap a picture, and use the hashtag to share it with the world. **#CityHallSelfie Day** is all about local government pride and service.

Learn more online at <http://elgl.org/city-hall-selfie>.

ASK LOC

Q: What ethical considerations must be kept in mind while attending the League's annual conference?

A: Travel presents the opportunity for loyalty awards and other travel-related perks. As a public official from the League's membership travelling to Eugene to attend the 93rd LOC Annual Conference in September, there may be situations that arise which require you, as a public official, to think about possible violations of Oregon's government ethics laws.

What does the ethics law prohibit?

As a public official, you may not use or attempt to use your position to obtain a financial benefit or avoid a financial detriment, if the opportunity for the financial benefit or avoidance of detriment would not otherwise be available, but for your position as a public official. ORS 244.040(1). You are considered a public official if you are an elected official, appointed official, employee, or agent of a public body, regardless if you are paid for your service. ORS 244.020(15). This prohibition applies to any financial benefit that would also benefit any of your relatives (as defined in ORS 244.020(16)), members of your household, or any business with which you, your relatives, or household members are associated. ORS 244.020(3).

Are there any exceptions?

Public officials may receive certain gifts and the benefits allowed as part of their official compensation package. ORS 244.020(7), ORS 244.025, ORS 244.040(2). When Oregon's government ethics law refers to the word "gift," it has the meaning defined in ORS 244.020(7)(a). A "gift" is defined as something of economic value that is offered to a public official or candidate or to relatives or members of the household of a public official or candidate without cost, at a discount or as a forgiven debt and the same offer is not made or available to the general public who are not public officials or candidates. Gifts include free items, discounts and prizes.

In addition, ORS 244.020(7)(b) identifies specific gifts that are exempt from gift restrictions if the offers are made or accepted in the specific circumstances and conditions described.

What are some examples of when these situations may occur while attending the annual conference?

The following examples assume that the source of the gift has a legislative or administrative interest in your decisions or votes. In addition, the examples assume that the gift is not available to the general public under the same terms because while the League's annual conference is open to members of the public, members of the public rarely attend.

During check-in at the hotel, you are offered a nice gift basket, compliments of the hotel.

Because you are traveling in your official capacity as a public official, your receipt of the gift basket would be a "gift." If the value of the gift basket does not exceed \$50, you may personally accept it.

During a stop at the tradeshow, you receive various goodie bags from the participating vendors.

As long as the aggregate value of the item(s) received from each vendor does not exceed \$50 during the year from that vendor, the item(s) may be personally accepted.

One of the tradeshow vendors is hosting a raffle drawing for a \$100 gift certificate at a local restaurant. You enter the raffle and win.

The gift certificate, if accepted, would exceed the \$50 yearly limit and would not qualify under the gift exception to the prohibited use of office provision.

During check-out, the hotel offers a coupon for two nights free that may be used for any future stay.

Because the source of the two-night stay has offered this for you personally, and that source has a legislative or administrative interest in any vote or decision you make while acting in your official capacity as a public official, and because the value of this stay exceeds \$50, you would be prohibited from accepting this offer.

You are a member of the hotel's loyalty rewards program and have earned two nights free stay.

If your city has adopted an official compensative package that includes a provision allowing you to use "loyalty program" benefits for personal use, this personal financial benefit may be accepted.

What to Do If You are Offered a Gift

Step 1 - Determine if one of the gift exceptions identified in ORS 244.020(7)(b) would apply. If one of the gift exceptions do not apply, go to step 2.

Step 2 - Determine the source of the offer of a gift. This is the person or entity that ultimately paid for the gift's expense.

Step 3 - Determine if the source has legislative or administrative interest in the decisions or votes you make as a public official.

Step 4 - If the source has a legislative or administrative interest in your decisions or votes, determine the aggregate value of the gift.

Step 5 - If the value exceeds \$50, or if it will exceed \$50 for the aggregate value of gifts received from the same source during this year, politely decline.

Additional guidance is available from the Oregon Government Ethics Commission:

www.oregon.gov/ogec

Phone: (503) 378-5105

Email: ogec.mail@oregon.gov



The advertisement features a city skyline at night as a background. In the foreground, three people (two men and one woman) are smiling and wearing NLC lanyards. The woman in the center is pointing upwards. To the right, a large yellow and orange graphic displays '25% OFF' and 'EXPIRES JULY 15'. Below this, the text 'BETTER LEADERS. BETTER CITIES. BETTER NATION. YOU HAVE THE POWER.' is written in white and orange. At the bottom, a white box contains the text 'REGISTER NOW AT CITYSUMMIT.NLC.ORG/SML'.

NLC | **CITY SUMMIT**
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**BETTER LEADERS.
BETTER CITIES.
BETTER NATION.**

YOU HAVE THE POWER.

REGISTER NOW AT
CITYSUMMIT.NLC.ORG/SML

City Deadline Calendar

Dates Cities Need to Know

JULY

July 15

Budget: File Tax Certification with County Assessor or Budget Documents with Department of Revenue

Cities that certify an *ad valorem* property tax must file with the county assessor two copies of the following documents: (1) each ordinance or resolution to adopt the budget, make appropriations, and itemize, categorize and certify the taxes; (2) the notice of levy and the categorization certification form; (3) a statement confirming the *ad valorem* property taxes approved by the budget committee; and (4) successful ballot measure for any new tax imposed for the first time. If a city does not impose a tax on property, it must file a copy of the resolutions or ordinances adopting the budget and making appropriations with the Department of Revenue.

Note: Although the budget process may begin sooner or later than noted, the documents referenced above must be filed with the county assessor or the Department of Revenue by July 15. This July 15 deadline may be extended to September 15 for *ad valorem* property taxes imposed by the city pursuant to an ordinance or resolution adopted on or after July 1 to pay the estimated debt service on general obligation bonds approved by voters at the prior May election. (ORS 294.458; ORS 310.060; Or Laws 2017, ch 26, section 2)

July 19

September Election: File Statements of Offices, Candidates and Measures with County Elections Filing Officer

Last day for city elections officer to file with the county clerk a statement of the city offices to be filled, information concerning all candidates and measures to be voted on. (ORS 254.095)

July 31

State Shared Revenues

Cities may receive state shared revenues only by adopting an ordinance or resolution electing to receive them. That ordinance or resolution must be adopted by July 31. In addition, by July 31, cities must submit to the Department of Administrative Services a copy of the ordinance or resolution expressing the city's election to receive state shared revenues. Cities must also certify to the Department of Administrative Services the city's compliance with other provisions of ORS 221.770 by July 31. (ORS 221.770) ■

AUGUST

August 15

Land Use: Submit Report to Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)

Cities with comprehensive plans or functional plans for lands within the urban growth boundary of a city that is located outside of a metropolitan service district and has a population of 25,000 or more must submit annual reports to DLCD regarding all applications for residential permits and residential zone changes.

Note: The statute does not provide a specific date upon which to submit the report. (ORS 197.178)

PERS Reports

Cities must remit a regular report to the PERS Board no later than three business days after the end of the city's pay cycle. (ORS 238.705; OAR 459-070-100)



Transportation and Growth Management Program

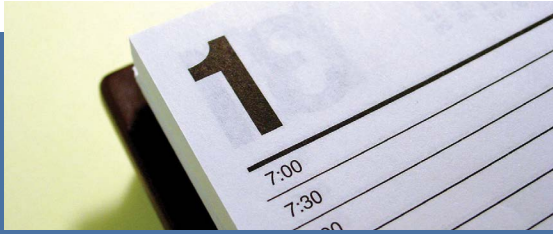


Land Use and Transportation Planning Grants and Assistance

Planning Grants – Publications
Workshops – Development Code Assistance
Transportation Plan Assessment – Design Expertise

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Upcoming EVENTS

OCCMA (City Managers) Summer Conference

July 10-13 – Bend

OMA (Mayors) Summer Conference

July 26-28 – Florence

OAMR Annual Conference

September 19-21 – Portland

ICMA Annual Conference

September 23-26 – Baltimore, Md.

LOC Board Meeting

September 26 – Eugene

OMA (Mayors) Board Meeting

September 26 – Eugene

LOC Annual Conference

September 27-29 – Eugene

OCAA (Attorneys) Government Law Review

September 28 – Eugene

OGFOA Conference

October 15-17 – Salem

NLC City Summit

November 7-10 – Los Angeles, Calif.

OCCMA (City Managers) Board Retreat

November 8-9 – Silverton

LOC Board Retreat

December 7 – Salem

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93RD ANNUAL

Approximately 700 attendees—including mayors, city councilors, city managers, city recorders and city department directors—will represent the state’s 241 incorporated cities at the League’s 93rd Annual Conference, September 27-29 at the Hilton Eugene. It’s the largest municipal gathering each year in Oregon, and the one event city officials in Oregon cannot afford to miss!

City officials are busy people and have to choose carefully where to invest their time and energy. The League Conference is an investment that helps city officials make a difference by allowing them to secure resources for their communities, and learn something to help their city function more efficiently. It’s an investment in their community’s future.

The following pages offer a comprehensive look at this year’s conference, including keynote speaker, area tours, scholarships, the full three-day program and how to register.



Photo by Maciek Lulko

CONFERENCE

September 27-29, 2018

Hilton Eugene





Eugene Mayor Lucy Vinis

Welcome!

On behalf of the Eugene community, it is an honor and great pleasure to be the host city for the League of Oregon Cities' 93rd Annual Conference.

Each year, the League brings together city officials from around the state to learn from, work with, and support each other. Big and small, east and west, we all strive to help local government better serve the people of Oregon. Together, we face new and ongoing challenges, learn from one another, and come away with innovative ideas and renewed enthusiasm for the important work that will move us forward.

Whether you are new to our area or have visited us before, I hope you will take the opportunity to explore and enjoy our region's local amenities. Here are a couple ideas to get your started!

- Eugene is known for its amazing access to the outdoors. We have 45 miles of off-street bike paths and now a new bike share program, PeaceHealth Rides, with a network of bike share stations where you can easily pick up and drop off publicly available bicycles to explore the city—don't forget your helmet! Eugene is also home to more than 4,700 acres of parkland that can provide a great nature break during your stay.
- Our community has a passion for the arts. The 20x21EUG Mural Project is an initiative of the City of Eugene Cultural Service's Public Art Program to create 20 or more world-class outdoor murals in Eugene between now and the 2021 IAAF World Championships. Check out some of the amazing murals that have already added color to our city center or stop by the Hult Center for the Performing Arts to see what is playing while you are here.
- Award-winning wineries and breweries, top-notch eateries and a twice-weekly downtown farmers' market provide an opportunity to truly experience the bounty of the beautiful Willamette Valley. Grab a passport and hit the Eugene Ale Trail, play Pinot Bingo during your visit, or support local farmers at any of these restaurants.

Eugene truly offers something for everyone. Our community is proud of its reputation for friendliness and warm hospitality, and we are eager to make you feel at home. We welcome the opportunity to share the efforts and achievements of our community at the 2018 League of Oregon Cities conference.

My best wishes for a successful and productive conference.

Lucy Vinis
Mayor, Eugene



Keynote Speaker: **Jason Roberts**

Arts Activist & Co-Creator of The Better Block Project

Do you have a dream for your community? Maybe it's bike lanes, or a better transit system, or more outdoor cafes. Arts activist Jason Roberts had a similar vision—and he took it upon himself to make it happen. Enter the Better Block Project, a community-driven temporary takeover of blighted blocks. This one-time phenomenon in Southern

Dallas has since grown into an international movement, and Roberts is at the forefront of it all.

In 2006, Roberts formed the non-profit organization, Oak Cliff Transit Authority, to revive the Dallas streetcar system, and later spearheaded the city's effort in garnering a \$23 million TIGER stimulus grant from the FTA to help reintroduce a modern streetcar system to Dallas. In 2010, he organized a series of "Better Block" projects, taking depressed blocks with vacant properties in Southern Dallas and converting them into temporary walkable districts with pop-up businesses, bike lanes, cafe seating and landscaping.



Managers Workshop:

Thursday, 9:00 a.m.



David Rabiner

Developing Your Personal Leadership and Developing Leaders in Your Organization

"Leadership" has evolved and continues to change at a rapid pace. Experienced managers can tell you that if you're leading your organization today the way you did 10-15 years ago, there are some things you may be doing wrong. Developing your own leadership is only part of the problem. Today's municipalities face the equally daunting challenge of developing leadership in others. This isn't just "succession planning." It's

about developing and expanding the leadership in today's peak performers so they have the potential to lead and the incentive to stay with the organization.

Mayors Workshop:

Thursday, 9:45 a.m.

Topics from the Ground

Join mayors from around the state to learn about and discuss priorities leading up to the 2019 legislative session. Members of the League's legislative team will review critical developments from the 2018 session and the interim, as well as the 2019 priorities voted on by cities across the state. In addition, there will be time for the annual mayor's roundtable discussion facilitated by Tigard Mayor and OMA President John Cook.

Councilors Workshop:

Thursday, 9:00 a.m.



Patrick Ibarra

"We've Always Done It This Way" is Over: Transforming from Status Quo to Status Go

During these times of unprecedented and disruptive change, leaders of municipal governments must improve their ability to manage a perplexing paradox: How to stay focused on today's business while building tomorrow's. Leaders must be vigilant and disrupt the fossilized mental model of "we've always done it that way"

and replace it with a forward-looking approach to continuous improvement. In this session, seven actions are shared that organizational leaders can implement to translate the headwinds of change into a tail wind and create the recipe required for future success.



Photo Courtesy Travel Lane County

Conference Program

Thursday, September 27

7:30 a.m.	Registration and Trade Show Opens
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Mayors Business Meeting & Workshop
8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Managers Workshop & Business Meeting
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Councilors Workshop
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Planning Commissioner Training
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Urban Renewal Seminar
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Housing Seminar
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Box lunches available for Mayors, Managers, Councilors Workshops & City Tour participants

1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.	City Tours
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eugene – University of Oregon Autzen Stadium Tour • Springfield – Redevelopment of Glenwood • Eugene – 20x21 Murals • Eugene – Rest Stops/Opportunity Village 	

1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Tentative Sessions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Fundamentals: Ethics Awareness – Understanding Your Legal Obligations • Fostering an Inclusive and Diverse Community • Are You Still Doing Annual Reviews of Your City Manager? And What to Do Instead • Census 2020 • Leadership: Creating Cultural Shifts 	

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Planning Directors Board Meeting
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Urban Renewal & Housing All-Day Seminars

Two special day-long seminars will be presented on Thursday – one on urban renewal and one on housing. Each seminar will include 4-5 sessions. During a lunch session, the two seminars will join together to network and discuss how urban renewal can be used to finance housing projects and further leverage development.

Urban Renewal Seminar: The day-long urban renewal seminar will provide a general session, advanced topic sessions and a tour on this important economic development tool. Best practices, success stories and new innovations in urban renewal practices will be shared by the experts to provide attendees with guidance and ideas to take back to their communities.

Housing Seminar: The day-long housing seminar will provide information on tools that have worked in communities, provide guidance on options that can be taken back for a local discussion, and provide attendees with an opportunity to connect with others who have a shared interest in addressing the shortages in housing development. Pulling from research, workshops and other sources, sessions will provide a combination of technical advice and policy options for communities.

City staff are particularly encouraged to register and attend one of these day-long seminars that are geared at bringing policy leaders, elected officials, city staff and industry together to address hot issues.

The cost of each seminar is \$150 for Thursday only, or \$75 if attending the rest of the conference.

Register by August 7 and Save!

2:45 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Tentative Sessions

- City Fundamentals: Public Meetings & Public Records – Duties Imposed Upon Public Officials
- Creating a Culture of Safety for Our Schools
- Trash Talk – Communicating the New Reality of Recycling
- Using a Community Building Approach to Engage with Your Constituents
- Innovations: Workplaces of the Future
- PERS 101

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Welcome Reception with Trade Show

4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

LOC Board Nominating Committee Meeting

Friday, September 28

7:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Breakfast with Trade Show

8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.

Small, Medium and Large Cities Networking

8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

U.S. Congressional Offices

9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Opening Ceremonies & Keynote Speaker Jason Roberts

10:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m.

Visit with State Agency Directors

10:45 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

Tentative Sessions

- City Fundamentals: Municipal Budgeting – The Legal Requirements & Practical Applications
- Property Tax 101
- Transportation Technology: Emerging Technologies and the Impacts of Shared Mobility
- What the Heck is a “Smart City?” – How Cities are Exploring a Connected City Future
- Social Media 101
- Forecasting: Balanced Budget in 2018, in the Red in 2025

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Lunch with Trade Show & Legislative Update

1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

City Tours

- Springfield – Economic Development Through Public Art
- Eugene – PeaceHealth Rides Bike Tour
- Riverfront Development/2021 IAFF World Championships
- Eugene – Community Justice Tour

2:15 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Tentative Sessions

- City Fundamentals – Effective and Dynamic City Councils – Relationships Matter
- Economic Development
- Social Media in the Workplace
- The Economics of Development Form: Value Mapping Across Oregon
- Transportation Technology: Cities that think ahead stay ahead - Impacts of emerging technologies on cities
- Protecting Your Community’s Drinking Water

4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tentative Sessions

- Tax Reform and Cost Containment
- Managing Disaster at the Local Level
- Harassment Claims are Here and Coming: Are you Prepared?
- Event Planning – Tools for making sustainable events a lasting feature in your community
- Water Infrastructure

5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

CIS Reception and Safety Awards

6:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Awards Dinner

Saturday, September 29

7:30 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Breakfast, Annual Membership Meeting & City Awards

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Homelessness Symposium Quick Fire Sessions

12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Homelessness Symposium Round Table Lunch with City Leaders



Fundamentals of Municipal Government Track Announced

The League is excited to announce that this year's annual conference will feature a "Fundamentals of Municipal Government" track. Four 90-minute classes, two on Thursday and two on Friday, will provide city officials the opportunity to learn, or refresh their memories, about key functions related to city operations in Oregon. Each class is essential for anyone new to local government, whether as an elected official or as a city employee. More experienced city officials will also benefit, learning the most up-to-date information on relevant law and being advised of any recent court decisions or agency opinions.

Here is the schedule for the entire track:

Thursday

Ethics Awareness – Understanding Your Legal Obligations

This session will ensure that Oregon elected and appointed officials are fully informed of their accountability to the public under Oregon's ethics law.

Public Meetings & Public Records – Duties Imposed Upon Public Officials

This session will help city officials understand their legal obligations regarding public meetings and public records.

Friday

Municipal Budgeting – The Legal Requirements & Practical Applications

The session will help prepare attendees for the 2019 budget season by reviewing the Oregon Local Budget Law, while providing practical advice on how to prepare, present and adopt a balanced budget.

Effective and Dynamic City Councils – Relationships Matter

Elected officials will learn how city council relationships, and the public meetings where these relationships are on display, can be managed effectively and respectfully.

Homelessness Symposium

Stay through Saturday for the League's first-ever symposium on homelessness. The National League of Cities recently released its report examining the top issues addressed by mayors in their annual "state of the city" speeches. No surprises, homelessness emerged as a leading topic—especially for western states like Oregon. The survey quoted Portland Mayor Ted Wheeler, who said: "Homelessness represents nothing short of a humanitarian crisis. It is unacceptable to me, and I hope to you."

Homelessness permeates cities of all sizes across Oregon in many ways. Many communities—like Lebanon—have started a community dialogue. Other cities—like Eugene and Cottage Grove—are looking at alternative methods of housing these individuals. Even more—like the cities in the Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments region—are looking at partnerships to achieve better impact. Some cities—like Tigard—are leveraging city departments in untraditional ways to provide services.

Join your peers in a half-day discussion that features quick-fire sessions on different topics impacting homelessness followed by a large group discussion.

New This Year: Technology Room

Back by popular demand are opportunities to learn more about LOC-Data, the League's open-data portal, and online tools for legislative bill tracking—only now, these will be located in a dedicated "technology room." Come visit the tech room for these old favorites, as well as short interactive sessions on interpreting data, creating and using social media, financial forecasting, and more. These interactive sessions will allow conference attendees to try out ideas in live time in our mobile computer lab.



Welcome Reception & Trade Show

Join us for this kick-off event and enjoy an evening of networking and hors d'oeuvres at the 2018 Trade Show. Discover innovative products and services for local governments, engage with old friends and learn how vendors can help make your city a great place to live and work.

Banning the M-Word

By Kirsten Wyatt, ELGL Executive Director

Classifying and categorizing objects is a deeply ingrained aspect of human nature. Most often, this is a good thing. Without this ability, we'd get overwhelmed in every new situation. But, this fundamental skill can also be damaging, especially when it comes to categorizing people.

Anyone reading this article has likely been wrongly categorized at some point in their lives. Maybe you've been lumped into a generational stereotype ("Baby Boomers can't use technology") or a role stereotype ("Librarians say 'shhhh' all the time").

Perhaps because categorization is a human trait, ELGL has seen a spate of local government conference presentations on "generational differences." These presentations, more often than not, end up insulting everyone in the room, because the stereotypes either explicitly offend generations ("Baby Boomers ruined the environment") or apply random generalizations to a generational swath ("Millennials love avocados").

After seeing so much commentary on what generations were doing wrong (and right), and watching ELGL members of all ages recoil as their deep public service ethos was called into question during these presentations, we decided that ELGL would stop participating in presentations that focused on generational differences, and we'd also stop using the word "Millennial" and replace it with #MWord.

Instead, ELGL refocuses discussions and presentations on generational differences to explore local government workforce development opportunities. Workplace dynamics are changing—there's no denying that fact. But it is more interesting and accurate to attribute those changes to the myriad factors that make local government today different than local government 25 years ago: technology, data, diversity, equity, inclusion, mobility and yes, employee ages and demographics.

With this in mind, ELGL is pleased to offer two sessions and a career event at the LOC Conference in Eugene:

• Leadership: Creating Cultural Shifts

September 27 from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

This panel will explore the ways that Oregon local governments are making fundamental cultural changes to empower employees and drive innovation.

• Innovation: Workplaces of the Future

September 27 from 2:45 to 4:15 p.m.

We'll bring together employees from a wide variety of Oregon local government agencies to share their expectations for what local government work looks like tomorrow—and 20 years from now.

• #ELGLInspire event at the University of Oregon campus

September 28 from noon to 4:00 p.m.

This program introduces the variety of career paths offered in local government. This program is sponsored by LOC, OCCMA, SDAO and GFOA. Seventy undergraduate students will learn from practitioners about their jobs, and how to find local government jobs after graduation.





Photo by PeaceHealth

City Tours

City tours take place on Thursday and Friday afternoons of the conference from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. A box lunch is included. Register early to reserve your spot as capacity is limited.

Eugene – Riverfront Development & 2021 Track & Field World Championships

Eugene's Downtown Riverfront could undergo a major transformation, fulfilling a long-held goal of turning a vacant, inaccessible and empty riverfront lot into a vibrant, active and accessible neighborhood and destination. The city's urban renewal agency now owns 16 acres of riverfront property that can become Eugene's riverfront neighborhood—directly connecting the downtown and U of O campus areas to the river and creating more access points for the community to enjoy. The city is moving ahead with a number of initiatives to begin this transformation.

Eugene – 20x21 Murals

The 20x21EUG Mural Project is an initiative of the City of Eugene Cultural Service's Public Art Program to create 20 or more world-class outdoor murals in Eugene between now and the 2021 IAAF World Championships. The project is led by a highly engaged, collaborative committee, representing multiple sectors, including communications, law, architecture, small business, nonprofit and the arts. The project aims to bring color and life to Eugene's urban landscape to foster pride and contribute to a sense of identity. As the project grows, it will seek artist exchanges between Eugene artists and international cities. In 2021, the project will be the focus of an exhibition at the University of Oregon's Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art and Eugene will host the world in the largest sporting event of the year.

Eugene – Rest Stops/Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE)

Responding to the growing need for safe places to sleep for those experiencing homelessness, the Eugene City Council approved a rest stop pilot program in 2013. Rest stops allow up to 20 people to sleep overnight in tents or Conestoga huts on individually approved sites. Currently, four rest stops are operated in Eugene by the non-profits Community Supported Shelters and Nightingale Health Sanctuary. The city council also took action to locate a pilot project for low-cost micro-housing on city-owned property in December 2012. The tiny home community, known as Opportunity Village Eugene, consists of small bungalows, Conestoga huts, community spaces and shared infrastructure such as a common bath, laundry facilities, kitchen space and heated yurt with computer access and a library. The site has capacity to serve up to 45 people at any one time.

Eugene – Autzen Stadium: A Game Day City and University Partnership

Go behind the scenes and on the field at Autzen Stadium, which holds more people at one time than the populations of all but the 10 largest cities in Oregon. In addition to viewing the Heisman Trophy and standing on the field, you'll hear from event and emergency management staff about how the city and the University of Oregon work together to operate a safe and enjoyable spectator experience.

Eugene – Community Justice Tour

The Eugene Community Court aims to reduce misdemeanor activity in the downtown core to improve public safety and quality of life for all. The process promotes responsibility through a combination of supervised community service and direct connections to social service providers. Tour participants will visit the Community Court during a court session, meet a social services provider supporting the court, and visit with a judge about the city's Mental Health Court. Attendees will also have a chance to visit with the Eugene Police Department's Community Outreach Response Team (C.O.R.T.), which helps downtown police officers proactively connect chronically homeless people with services.

Eugene – PeaceHealth Rides: Infrastructure Bike Tour

Eugene's new bike share system offers a healthy, convenient and fun way to explore the community. This tour will use the bikes from the program to visit several city transportation and land use projects, including the EWEB Riverfront redevelopment, the separated bikeways on 13th Avenue and High Street, and other recent infrastructure changes/improvements. This tour will be about two miles long, so attendees are encouraged to wear appropriate clothing and shoes. Space will be limited.

Springfield – Redevelopment of Glenwood

The Glenwood area of Springfield includes a voter-approved urban renewal district, riverfront development and the redevelopment of a multi-way boulevard using local and federal funding. The tour starts at one of the two new hotels in Glenwood and includes an overview of the entire redevelopment area, the river access, an innovative bus rapid transit district line, along with a detailed look at the Franklin Blvd. redesign.

Springfield – Economic Development Through Public Art

The city's public art program, supported by the city council and funded through a combination of transient lodging taxes, donations and grants, has played a vital role in Springfield's revitalization. This tour will include visits and the stories behind some of Springfield's iconic public art, including: The Official Simpson's Mural, Springfield's Ken Kesey Mural, the Oregon Women Veterans Sculpture (one of the only public art pieces in the country dedicated to women who served in combat) and the Springfield Flame which, at more than 65 feet tall, is currently the tallest public art piece in Oregon.



Conference Lodging

The **Hilton Eugene & Conference Center** is the host site for this year's conference, with secured overflow rooms also available at the **Valley River Inn**.

To keep the reservation process as equitable as possible, the procedures used in 2017 will be followed again this year. Once LOC member cities have registered for the event, they will receive an email confirmation which will contain a unique hotel code and instructions for how to reserve a room. **Please note, attendees will only be able to use this code for the registration(s) associated with that code. A conference attendee will not be able to reserve a hotel room without first registering for the event.

For more information hotel room bookings, contact Lisa Trevino: (503) 588-6550 or ltrevino@orcities.org.

Parking

Complimentary parking is available at the Hilton Eugene throughout the conference. Once the lot is full, an attendant will be on-site during peak times issuing a parking pass and providing directions to additional free parking in the nearby city garage at the Hult Center. If the attendant is unavailable, the parking pass and info will be available at the front desk of the hotel, which is accessible through the 6th Ave. entrance.

Anyone parking at the Hult Center will need to use the second level or higher and display the required parking pass. Citations will be issued to cars parked on the first level or without this parking pass displayed.



Conference App

This year, all conference program information will be available on a new enhanced mobile app that will include all session and speaker information, sponsors, exhibitors, interactive maps, links to handouts, and more. Attendees will be able to save their own schedule, interact in real time with speakers, and post to social media all through the app. Download information will be available at www.orcities.org/conference in August.

2018 LOC Awards Program

Deadline Approaches for Nominations

The deadline for cities to submit nominations for one or more of the following awards, sponsored by the LOC and presented during its annual conference, is **July 18**. Nomination forms are available online at www.orcities.org/awards.

Exceptional Service Awards:

James C. Richards Memorial Award recognizes an elected official who has shown exceptional leadership and contributions to his/her city, regional government, the League, and state and federal government.

Herman Kehrli Award is granted to a person who is currently or formerly appointed or employed by a city whose exceptional contributions to city government in Oregon have provided lasting benefits to the community.

Mark O. Hatfield Statesmanship Award is presented to an individual (from the public or private sector) who has demonstrated statesmanship and exemplary service which has positively affected Oregonians.

Civic Education Award recognizes educators who have promoted local government education in Oregon schools and who are committed to nurturing civic responsibility in our youth.

Submission Deadline: Wednesday, July 18

City Awards:

Award for Excellence is given to cities for their innovative approaches to city operations and provision of services to their citizens. Special consideration is given to programs that reduce the cost of government, improve the quality of life, and/or increase the quality of municipal services.

Helen and Alan Berg Good Governance Award honors city programs that specifically encourage “reconnecting” citizens to their community. Judges consider whether the program successfully engages citizens in the local government process, enhances the citizens’ awareness of the decision-making process at the local level, and/or fosters local leadership through hands-on education, planning efforts or volunteerism.

Submission Deadline: Wednesday, July 18

www.orcities.org/awards



citycounty insurance services
www.cisoregon.org

CIS Safety Awards Program

CIS (Citycounty Insurance Services) and the League will again team up to sponsor the annual Employee Safety Awards Program for cities. This program was initiated in 1974 to stimulate interest and participation in loss prevention programs by providing recognition to cities with low accident frequency rates. Safety Awards are awarded in categories according to the number of regular employees and full-time equivalent volunteer hours, for the period from July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018.

Additional information is available at www.cisoregon.org/awards. Cities that are members of CIS Workers’ Compensation program will be automatically entered for a chance to win an award.

Submission Timeline: July 1 – August 10

Contact: John Zakariassen, CIS Senior Risk Management Consultant – jzakariassen@cisoregon.org or (503) 763-3852.





Register Online Starting July 2

www.orcities.org/conference

LOC Conference registration will be available online starting July 2 at www.orcities.org/conference. Other online resources will include session descriptions and speakers, tour details and scholarship information.

Scholarships Available

The League of Oregon Cities Foundation is offering scholarship funds to help city officials attend the 2018 LOC Conference. Up to 10 full conference scholarships are available to cover registration fees. It's a simple process to apply—for details, visit www.orcities.org/conference.

Pricing

Registration fees include admission to all conference sessions, except Thursday morning workshops and Thursday housing and urban renewal seminars, and all meals except the Friday Awards Dinner. Tours require an additional fee. Conference registration closes on September 10. After September 10, registration must be done on-site and will cost an additional \$50.

REGISTRATION

\$325 Member Attendee *(before August 7)*

\$350 Member Attendee *(after August 7)*

\$300 First-Time Member Attendee *(before August 7)*

\$325 First-Time Member Attendee *(after August 7)*

\$400 Non-Member Attendee – Government
(before August 7)

\$450 Non-Member Attendee – Government
(after August 7)

\$700 Non-Member Attendee – Corporate
(before August 7)

\$800 Non-Member Attendee – Corporate
(after August 7)

\$150 Guest *(not required for tour- or awards dinner-only attendance)*

ADDITIONAL FEES

\$75 Mayors Workshop & box lunch

\$85 Managers Workshop & box lunch

\$75 Councilors Workshop & box lunch

\$150 Housing Seminar with lunch

\$150 Urban Renewal Seminar with lunch

\$75 Housing Seminar – add-on

\$75 Urban Renewal Seminar – add-on

\$50 Friday Awards Dinner

CITY TOURS

\$50 Thursday and Friday tours

Conference registration closes on September 10. After September 10, registration must be done on-site and will cost an additional \$50.

Note: The 2018 OCAA Fall CLE will be held off-site jointly with the Oregon State Bar (OSB). Registration will be separate and will be sent via email to OCAA and OSB members in early August. More information will be available on the OSB website.

Property Tax Exemptions Cost Local Governments Significant Revenue – Reform Is Needed

By Wendy Johnson, LOC Intergovernmental Relations Associate

The League has long been a leader in both pointing out the problems with Oregon's property tax system and seeking reform of the system. Property taxes fund one-third of the state's K-12 school budget and generally one-half or more of city budgets. This critical revenue source simply can't be ignored—it must be fair and sustainable for Oregon's local governments and schools to succeed. Most of the property tax system's problems are wrapped up in the Oregon Constitution, as the provisions related to property taxes are products of Measure 5 (1990) and Measure 50 (1997). To address these constitutional problems, the League has been actively advocating for a legislative referral to the voters.

Similarly, the League has also provided ongoing advocacy for another fix to the system: property tax exemptions. The League has long been an opponent of the many property tax exemptions littered throughout Oregon's statutes, as they preempt local governments from assessing property taxes. The League has been vigilant in this area because cost increases are outpacing revenues for cities, which still must provide services to exempt property. For some cities, significant portions of their property base are exempt from taxes, and that puts strains on budgets and increased burdens on the non-exempt property.

Local Control Needed

This year the League's Finance and Tax Policy Committee met from March through May and property tax exemptions were discussed at length. League board member and Pendleton City Councilor Paul Chalmers is also a member of the committee and captures the issue well here:

"I have had a difficult time understanding the appropriateness of the state offering property tax exemptions after the passage of Measure 5 and Measure 50. The capacity and practice of the Legislature to grant property tax exemptions on a statewide basis does not always bode well for the financial well-being of individual cities or counties. When the state property tax system was on a voter-approved levy based system and local jurisdictions have a voice in their future, then a state-directed exemption overlay made some sense. There was an opportunity for voters to change the local financial impact with their vote. In today's world of property tax issues, that opportunity is unattainable because you can't vote yourself out of it."

Ultimately, the policy guidance provided by the committee was two-fold:

Visit us at www.nwcodepros.com or call us at 800-358-8034



NORTHWEST CODE PROFESSIONALS

Jack Applegate, CBO, CHI

jack@nwcodepros.com

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“Cities are the hub of economic development, providing water and sewer facilities, a good transportation network, as well as dependable police and fire protection that enable businesses and citizens to thrive. To ensure that Oregon’s cities are desirable places to live and to work, local governments must have the financial resources to provide sustainable, quality public services, and each city must find a mix of revenues that support these services.”

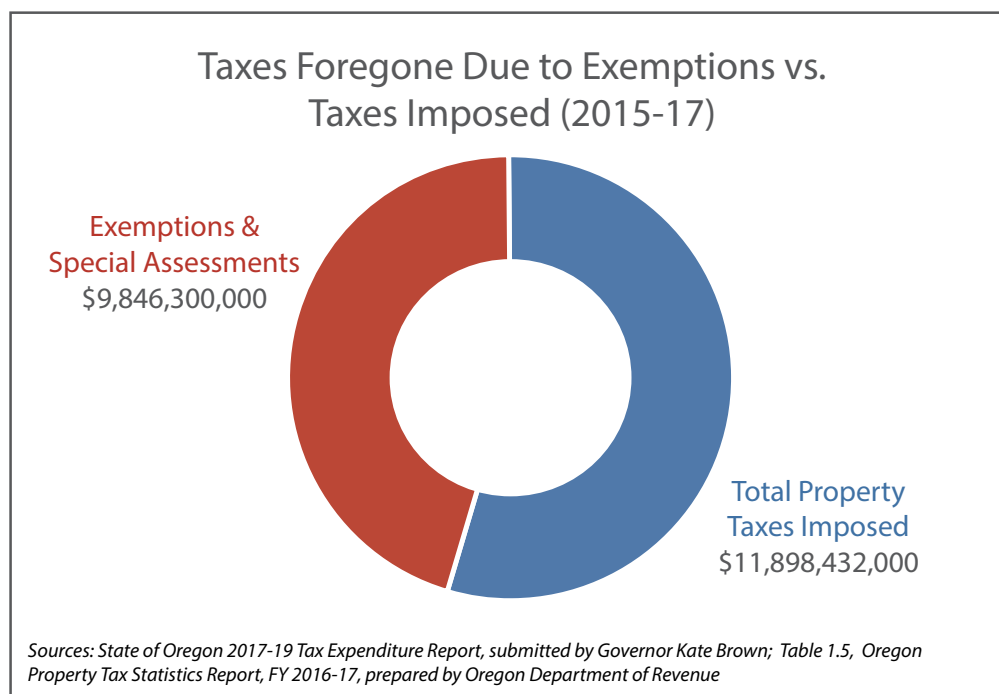
– LOC Municipal Policy
(principles adopted by membership October 2008)

- 1) Granting an exemption should largely be a local choice, and not a state mandate; and
- 2) Exemptions already on the books in state statute need to be cut back, and each needs to be evaluated with a return on investment focus to determine whether they should be kept, revised or repealed.

In short, the League will continue to advocate for more local control over their tax revenues and this includes the area of property tax exemptions. Many of them make good policy sense in some communities but not all. “Local control, I believe, is the key element missing to allow folks to determine what is or isn’t their priorities,” said Paul Chalmers.

How Many Property Tax Exemptions? And How Much Lost Revenue?

There are some 137 tax expenditures related to local property taxes riddled through the Oregon statutes according to the state’s 2017-19 Tax Expenditure Report submitted by Governor Kate Brown. These include full exemptions (97), partial exemptions (26) and special assessments (13). The revenue loss attributed to these exemptions is staggering—estimated at \$9.8 billion for 2015-17. These estimates are conservative because most exempt property hasn’t been reassessed in years, as there is no real demand to do so. For context, taxes imposed for 2015-17 biennium were estimated at \$11.89 billion. These eye-opening statistics reveal that Oregon exempts almost as much as we tax.



What Kind of Exemptions are There?

The Oregon Department of Revenue assigns all property tax exemptions to three categories: public exemptions, social welfare exemptions and business/housing/misc. exemptions. The public exemption category is the largest: the exemption for state, city, county, school district and special district property translates to more than \$2.9 billion in lost revenue and the exemption for federally-owned property results in more than \$1.94 billion of lost revenue per biennium.

The next largest exemption category is for business/housing/miscellaneous exemptions. During the 2011-13 biennium, this category surpassed the social welfare category and is continuing to grow. Business/housing/miscellaneous grew 16 percent from 2016-17 to 2017-18, while the other exemption categories have been flatter in their growth. The business category exempts more than \$52 billion of property (RMV). Inventory

(continued on page 32)

PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS

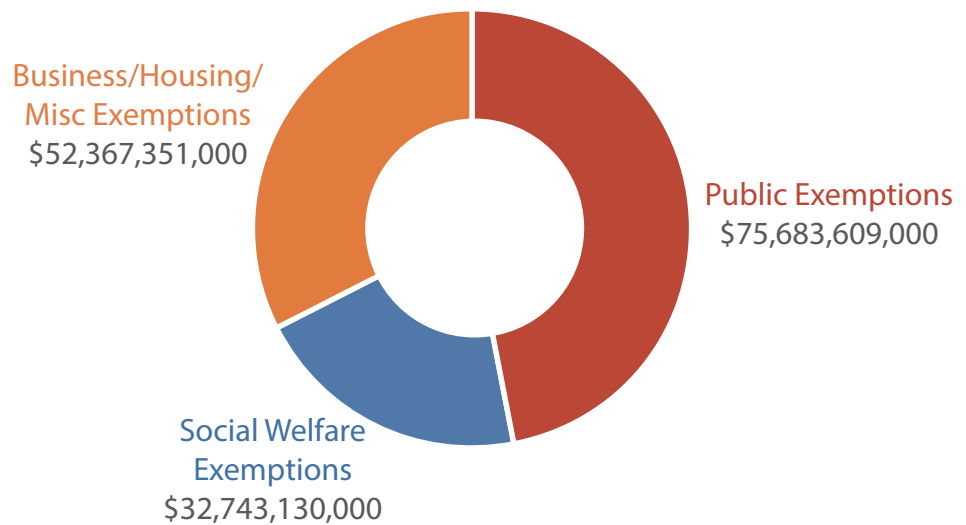
(\$766 million in lost revenue) and motor vehicles and trailers (\$988 million) are the largest exemptions in the category. The state's Strategic Investment Program (SIP) (\$447.9 million) and the enterprise zone exemptions (\$144.2 million) are two other key exemptions in the category. While local governments desire economic development, the growth in this category generally shows an ever-increasing reliance on local governments to provide tax incentives to business rather than the state. The state, which depends primarily on income tax revenues, has cut income tax credits and other incentives for economic development in recent years.

The social welfare category is the smallest category, but it still exempts more than \$32.7 billion of property. The charitable, literary, benevolent and scientific organizations (nonprofits) exemption costs more than \$190.7 million in lost revenue for the 2017-19 biennium. Hospital and clinics make up a large share of the value in this exemption. Property of religious organizations is the second largest in this category, translating to a revenue loss of more than \$123.9 million per biennium.

The Need to Repeal the Gigabit Exemption

One property tax exemption that has gotten a lot of recent press and League attention has been the new gigabit exemption that is poised to provide large exemptions to centrally-assessed

Property Tax Exemptions by Category with Real Market Values



Source: Table 1.7, Oregon Property Tax Statistics, FY 2017-18, prepared by Oregon Department of Revenue

telecommunications companies if they provide gigabit speed broadband services. This exemption was created by legislation during the 2015 session, and the League's lobby team advocated for its repeal in the 2017 and 2018 sessions. The League is seeking the repeal because the exemption is not functioning as intended and was set to cause a revenue loss of more than \$17 million annually without a reasonable return on investment to local governments.

The gigabit exemption was intended for utilization by high proportion intangible companies like Google Fiber. However, soon after passage, Google Fiber decided not to locate in Oregon and Comcast and other companies sought to utilize the exemp-

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“Tax exemptions — to the extent that the Legislature considers property tax exemptions, clear criteria defining the policy goal of the exemption and the rules for granting the exemption should be developed, and such exemptions should be granted only at the option of local governments. If exemptions are granted by the Legislature and are not at the option of local governments, the state should fund the costs of the exemption.”

– LOC Municipal Policy
(principles adopted by membership October 2008)

tion in ways that did not have a reasonable return on investment to local governments and schools. A repeal bill passed the House in March 2018 but ran out of time in the Senate in the last days of the session. Without repeal, the exemption will grow exponentially as more companies qualify and provide the gigabit service, which is now becoming more common place as technology evolves.

Comcast would have been the recipient of more than \$15 million annually from this exemption, but last month the company settled *Comcast Corporation v. Department of Revenue*, a case that has been pending in the Oregon Tax Court. In the settlement, Comcast agreed to withdraw its gigabit exemption application for years 2016-2018 and not seek the exemption going forward. This development will help ease the path to full repeal of the exemption in the 2019 legislative session as Comcast was the main opponent to repeal. The League has already reached out to legislators to introduce repeal legislation.

This was an important tax win for the League and local governments. The League has been working on central assessment property tax issues in both the courts and the Legislature for years. We are pleased with the settlement amount and the resolution of the gigabit exemption issue. The settlement provides tax certainty going forward and represents a reasonable compromise. Without a settlement, the complex legal case could have gone on for several more years.

LOC Advocacy Provides Value

The League's advocacy work will benefit some cities immediately due to the settlement but the legislative work will assist the revenue streams and tax fairness for years to come in all parts of the state.



“LOC's leadership efforts to build a strong team and articulate a fair outcome, was instrumental in the settlement between Comcast and the state of Oregon that will provide critical funding to local governments in Oregon,” said Eugene City Manager Jon Ruiz.

“It's in our DNA to fight for the interests of our municipalities and we are striving every day to bring real value to our members,” said LOC Executive Director Mike Cully. “The League's


work on the complex gigabit exemption broke new ground and gained praise from our executive branch and legislative branch partners as well. The gigabit exemption is just one example of our team bringing essential leadership, but I assure you, we are focused and will keep such advocacy work going full steam. Property tax exemptions that are not local options are an invasion on home rule—pure and simple.” ■

For more information on the Comcast settlement details, please view the League press release at www.orcities.org; click on News Releases under About Us.


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With Summer's Arrival, Employee's Off-Duty Conduct Can Raise Questions

By Katie Kammer, CIS Pre-Loss Attorney

Summer is here! It's time for barbecues with family and friends (and maybe some co-workers). It's time to "cut a rug" late into the night during wedding season (next to some co-workers). It's time to pack up the tents and head into the wilderness with some longtime friends (some of whom also happen to be co-workers).

This time of year, the circumstances are ripe for employees to engage with their co-workers in a personal, as opposed to professional, setting. Most of these interactions are normal and positive for helping develop a happy and healthy workforce, and employers don't need to do anything in response. But there are also those times when an employee's off duty conduct does not meet the employer's expectations or violates an employer's policy. The CIS Pre-Loss team has advice for employers considering disciplinary action relating to an employee's off-the-clock conduct.

Don't Get Involved Unless the Conduct had a Tangible or Quantifiable Impact on the Workplace

In most cases, employers should only get involved if the off-duty conduct has caused a disruption at work. For instance, what if two city employees were at a barbecue, and after too many alcoholic beverages, one employee made an unwanted amorous pass at the other. If the pass is rejected and that's the end of it, the employer should not be getting involved. But what if the scorned employee is so embarrassed that he starts bullying his co-worker the next week? Or what if the employee who made the pass was a supervisor, and the subordinate employee comes to the human resources department and complains that she feels uncomfortable working with her supervisor now that his affections were revealed? When the off-duty conduct interferes with or has a negative impact on the work environment (e.g. an unlawful "hostile work environment"), the employer may need to get involved even though the event that triggered the problem happened off the clock.

Be Wary of Acting Simply Because the Off-Duty Conduct "Discredits" the City

The employee's off-duty conduct may fall below the standards established for city employees, and it may even be embarrassing to the city to be associated with that conduct. But unless the employee is holding him or herself out as a city employee at the time of the problematic conduct, the fact that the public may know that he or she is a city employee is not typically

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Photo by Pixabay

enough to warrant discipline. (There may be some exceptions for certain types of city employees, like law enforcement or high-level managers.) Again, evaluate whether the conduct has a tangible impact on the city's operations before moving forward with discipline. If the employee's conduct discredits the city to the point that it objectively damages relationships with members of the public or partner organizations, the city is on stronger ground to regulate off-duty conduct.

Don't Act on Rumor Alone

As with all personnel matters, don't act imprudently before getting all the facts. It may be very tempting to try to quash rumors about an event that happened over the weekend before it spreads through the city's workforce and gets even worse. But rumors can be inaccurate, or at least not the whole story. Take time to meet with the subject of the rumor and find out what really happened before evaluating how to resolve the situation.

Follow the City's Policy Regarding Testing for Drug or Alcohol Impairment

Let's say the city manager learns that an employee got high on marijuana during the weekend, and then did something to violate a city policy. When Monday rolls around, and the manager learns about the situation, can the employee be tested for drugs or alcohol? The answer is "maybe." Many cities have drug and alcohol testing policies that allow the city to test an employee when management has a "reasonable suspicion" that the employee is impaired by drugs or alcohol at work. Cities that don't have such a policy cannot legally test without giving employees advance notice of the circumstances in which a test may be possible. Cities that do have a policy must make sure to follow it to prevent legal liability. Managers and supervisors who have reasonable suspicion of impairment should document the symptoms that give cause them to suspect impairment and notify the human resources team to evaluate whether testing is appropriate. If there are sufficient grounds to test, make sure that an outside third-party is conducting the test. Even though city police may be equipped to assess impairment, it is better to have a neutral,

unbiased party conducting the test. And finally, don't compel the employee to take a breathalyzer. Under Oregon law, it is illegal for an employer to require an employee to submit to a breathalyzer.

Here's to hoping that the summer flies by without any off-duty incidents arising. But if they do, CIS members should give Pre-Loss a call. The CIS legal team is ready to help members resolve any issue that comes up. CIS members can watch for a future Kammersation on this topic. The popular podcast can be found at www.cisoregon.org/podcast. ■

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HERMISTON New Festival Street Dedication

More than a decade's worth of community collaboration and city planning came to fruition July 14 with Hermiston's dedication of its new downtown festival street. The dedication was held as part of the city's annual Funfest celebration, which includes vendors and family activities.

"Downtown revitalization has been on the city's mind for a long time," said City Planner Clinton Spencer. The initiative gained momentum when a group of local merchants formed a work group and generated the core of the city's urban renewal plan, with the goal of getting people out of their cars and walking to visit shops, restaurants and other businesses.

"We wanted a public space where people can gather, and where the street can be open to traffic but also can be closed off during special events," Spencer said. "It's something we can close down and set up really easily for street parties."

Located along NE Second Street near city hall, the street has been redesigned without curbs so the street and sidewalks are a uniform height and pose no trip hazards. Decorative concrete replaced the asphalt, and it features landscaping, streetlights and seat walls as well as street trees with electrical outlets so vendors have power during special events.

The street was closed to traffic during construction but opened up again before the dedication ceremony. While some people were not thrilled with traffic being redirected, most understood that the long-term benefits will outweigh the short-term inconvenience, Spencer said.



"The feedback has been really positive. It's something that has had a lot of community support, and it's a real asset that we're putting in to create interest in the downtown," he noted.

In describing the project's timeline, Spencer explained that the work group determined the festival street's location with a Portland planning consultant. The site was chosen because, with city hall on one side and a municipal parking lot on the other, no businesses will be adversely impacted when the street is closed for parties.

In 2013, Hermiston established an urban renewal agency to direct revenue from increasing property values into projects that will revitalize its downtown. And now, five years later, the community is celebrating a keystone of those revitalization efforts.

"Things don't happen fast in government but it definitely has had a lot of momentum behind it," Spencer said.

Submitted by: City of Hermiston

Have City News to Share?

Email us your copy (500 words max.) detailing your city's notable achievement (i.e., a project, initiative, award or individual honor), preferably with an image.

Contact: Kevin Toon, ktoon@orcities.org

LA PINE

Small City Pilot Program Marks Successful Partnership

Community members from the southern Deschutes County city of La Pine (population 1,817) joined students and faculty on the University of Oregon (UO) campus in mid-June to celebrate the culmination of the Sustainable City Year Program (SCYP) Small City Pilot.

Over the past two academic terms, students in the colleges of design, business and journalism contributed more than 17,000 hours toward projects in La Pine through their coursework. Student work allows for innovative thinking that is applied to the real issues identified by the partner. This happens by matching existing UO courses with the partner-identified projects. The SCYP model gives partners access to fresh thinking and a chance to try out new solutions that might not otherwise be possible due to budget and time constraints.

The Sustainable City Year Program began in 2008 and has served communities including Albany, Gresham, Medford, Redmond, Salem and Springfield. The small city pilot, which was made possible through a generous grant from The Ford Family Foundation as well as funding from the city of La Pine, marked the first time the SCYP approach has been adapted to a small community.

“Partnering with a small city for the first time in SCYP’s history provided fantastic opportunities for students and the La Pine community,” says SCYP Manager Megan Banks. “We had high hopes for the pilot, and the outcomes are even better than we expected. The success of this partnership opens up so many possibilities for students and faculty to contribute to communities of all sizes around Oregon, and we are eager to see how La Pine builds on the outcomes of this partnership in the years ahead.”

As reports from the spring term are finalized, student work will be reviewed and incorporated into La Pine’s ongoing plans. La Pine and SCYP staff will develop strategies over the summer to identify the next steps to move student proposals forward.

“We are looking forward to finding ways to implement student recommendations for increasing bike connectivity throughout our community and including passive solar strategies in the design of the new community transit center,” says La Pine City Manager Cory Misley. “The caliber of student work has been incredible, and we are eager to keep the momentum going as we incorporate their proposals into making La Pine an even greater place to live, work and play.”

The SCYP model was developed by the University of Oregon in 2009 and is now being adopted and adapted by



A recent celebration of the culmination of the Sustainable City Year Program Small City Pilot included Cory Misley (right), La Pine city manager, and Andrew DeVigal, professor for the Engaged Journalism course that worked with La Pine during the winter term. Photo courtesy of the SCYP.

30 universities throughout the U.S. As of May 2017, the model is also going global, and is expected to expand to more than 20 countries spanning the African, European, Asian and South American continents. Together, these programs form the Educational Partnerships for Innovation in Communities Network (EPIC-N). This groundbreaking network will continue to enhance the innovative “Oregon Model” and help communities across the world address sustainability practices while educating and training the next generation.

Submitted by: City of La Pine ■

City Events

July

- 1-4 **La Pine** – Frontier Days 4th of July Celebration (www.lapinefrontierdays.org)
- 3 **Waldport** – Fireworks Celebration (www.waldport.org)
- 3-4 **Astoria** – 4th of July Activities (www.oregon.com)
- 3-4 **Haines** – Stampede & Rodeo (www.hainesstampede.com)
- 3-4 **Stanfield** – 4th of July Celebration (www.cityofstanfield.com)
- 3-7 **St. Paul** – St. Paul Rodeo (www.stpaulrodeo.com)
- 4 **Estacada** – 4th of July Parade and Timber Festival (www.estacadatimberfestival.com)
- 4 **Florence** – Independence Day Celebration (www.florencechamber.com)
- 4 **Malin** – Car Show and Parade (www.cityofmalin.org)
- 4 **Monument** – 4th of July Jubilee (www.gcoregonlive.com)
- 4 **Rockaway Beach** – 4th of July Celebration and Parade (www.rockawaybeachor.us)
- 4 **Yachats** – La De Da Parade, Festivities and Fireworks (www.yachats.org)
- 4-8 **Portland** – Waterfront Blues Festival (www.waterfrontbluesfest.com)
- 4-14 **Klamath Falls** – Freedom Celebration (www.klamathfc.org)
- 11 **Ontario** – Summer Farm Festival (541-889-2174)
- 12-14 **Nyssa** – Thunderegg Festival (541-372-3091)
- 13-14 **Sutherlin** – Sutherlin Stampede Rodeo Weekend (www.visitsutherlin.com)
- 14 **Burns** – Bike and Brew (www.harneycounty.com)
- 14 **Donald** – Hazelnut Festival (www.donaldhazelnutfestival.com)
- 19-22 **Cottage Grove** – Bohemia Mining Days Festival (www.bohemiaminingdays.org)
- 20 **Wood Village** – Annual City Nite Out (www.westcolumbiagorgechamber.com)
- 20-22 **North Bend** – July Jubilee (www.oregonsadventurecost.com)
- 20-22 **Sherwood** – Robin Hood Festival (www.robinhoodfestival.org)
- 20-22 **Wallowa** – 27th Annual Tamkaliks Celebration & Pow Wow (www.wallowanezperce.org)

Send your city event to
Julie Oke at jmoke@orcities.org



Fiesta Mexicana in Woodburn

- 21 **Troutdale** – 46th Annual Summerfest (www.westcolumbiagorgechamber.com)
- 21-28 **Coos Bay** – 40th Oregon Coast Music Festival (www.oregoncoastmusic.org)
- 24-28 **Grants Pass** – Back to the 50s (www.travelgrantspass.com)
- 26-29 **Myrtle Creek** – Summer Festival (541-863-3171)
- 27-28 **Estacada** – Summer Celebration (www.estacadasc.org)
- 27-29 **Dallas** – Summerfest (www.exploredallasoregon.org)
- 27-29 **Garibaldi** – Garibaldi Days (www.visitgaribaldi.com)
- 27-29 **Lowell** – Blackberry Jam Festival (www.blackberryjamfestival.com)
- 27-29 **Paisley** – Mosquito Festival (www.cityofpaisley.net)
- 28 **North Powder** – Huckleberry Festival (www.visitunioncounty.org)

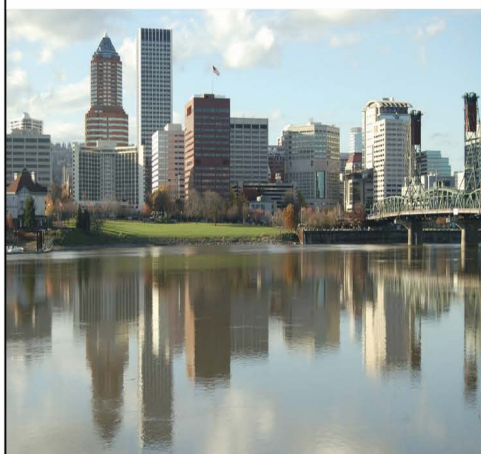
August

- 3-5 **Silverton** – Homer Davenport Community Festival (www.homerdavenport.com)
- 3-5 **Woodburn** – Fiesta Mexicana (www.woodburn-or.gov)
- 4 **Coquille** – Fire Dept. Annual Steak Feed and Car Show (541-396-2115)
- 4 **Scappoose** – 8th Annual Wings & Wheels (www.sccchamber.org/wwscope)
- 7 **Coquille** – National Night Out (541-396-2115)
- 7-12 **Astoria** – Regatta Festival (www.astoriaregatta.com)
- 9-12 **Junction City** – Scandinavian Festival (www.scandinavianfestival.com)
- 9-12 **Seaside** – World's Largest Beach Volleyball Tournament (www.seasidebeachvolleyball.com)
- 11 **Haines** – Haines Stampede Demolition Derby (www.hainesstampede.com)
- 11-12 **Dufur** – Vintage Dufur Days (www.dufurhistoricalsociety.org)
- 15-16 **Canby** – El Grito Festa (www.elgritooregon.com)

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| 17-19 | Cascade Locks – Pacific Crest Trail Days
(www.pctdays.com) | 7-9 | Sublimity – Sublimity Harvest Festival
(www.sublimityharvestfest.com) |
| 18 | Coquille – Citywide Garage Sale (541-396-2115) | 8 | Carlton – Carlton Crush Harvest Festival
(www.carltoncrush.com) |
| 18 | Culver – Crawdad Festival (www.cityofculver.net) | 8-9 | North Bend – Mill-Luck Salmon Celebration
(www.oregonsadventurecoast.com) |
| 18 | Forest Grove – 10th Annual Forest Grove Uncorked
(www.fguncorked.com) | 12-16 | Joseph – Wallowa Valley Festival of the Arts
(www.wallowavalleyarts.org) |
| 18 | Huntington – Pioneer Days (www.visithuntingtonor.org) | 15 | Forest Grove – Sidewalk Chalk Art Festival
(www.valleyart.org) |
| 24-26 | Albany – Northwest Art & Air Festival
(www.nwartandair.org) | 15-16 | Coos Bay – Bay Area Fun Festival
(www.bayareafunfestival.com) |
| 25 | Seaside – Hood to Coast Relay
(www.hoodtocoastrelay.com) | 15-16 | Woodburn – Community Celebration
(www.woodburn-or.gov) |
| 25-26 | Coos Bay – Blackberry Arts Festival
(www.oregonsadventurecoast.com) | 16-17 | Independence – Hop & Heritage Festival
(www.hopfestival.org) |
| | | 22-23 | Corvallis – Fall Festival (www.corvallisfallfestival.org) |
| | | 22-23 | Troutdale – Fall Festival of the Arts
(www.fallfestivalofthearts.com) |
| | | 27-30 | Joseph – Oregon's Alpenfest
(www.oregonalpenfest.com) |
| | | 29 | Garibaldi – Tillamook Coast Food Festival
(www.tillamookcoast.com) |

September

- | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1-3 | Reedsport – 25th Annual Step Salmon Derby
(www.reedsportcc.org) |
| 6-9 | Seaside – Wheels and Waves Car Show
(www.seasidedowntown.com) |
| 7-9 | Bandon – Cranberry Festival (www.bandon.com) |
| 7-9 | Enterprise – 37th Annual Hells Canyon Mule Days
(www.hellscanyonmuledays.com) |



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