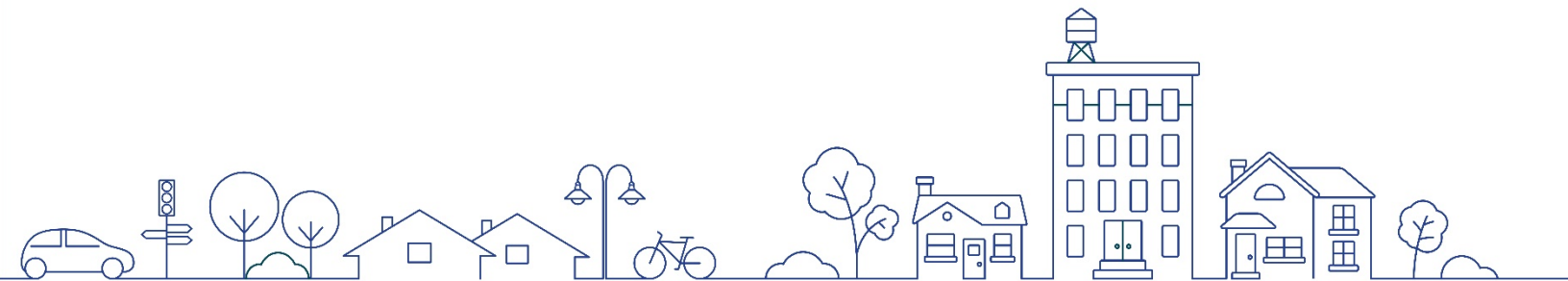


Oregon Municipal Handbook

CHAPTER 32: LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATIONS



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Chapter 32: Local Government Associations

Introduction

At their core, cities are autonomous governments with the utmost local control. However, cities and other local governments can greatly benefit from membership in cooperatives and associations available to local governments and their officials. This chapter will provide local government officials with a list of various state, national, and international local government associations that may be of benefit to themselves and their cities.

Local and State Associations

Local and state membership associations typically provide education, advocacy and networking among targeted groups of officials.

League of Oregon Cities – www.orcities.org

The League of Oregon Cities supports city leaders and state legislators in building a strong Oregon by connecting all Oregon cities, sharing vital information and advocating on their behalf. As the go-to place for and about cities, the LOC provides various resources, education and advocacy for cities. The LOC, which maintains full-time staff in Salem, is supported primarily by dues paid by member cities.

Oregon Mayors Association – www.oregonmayors.org

Established in 1972, the Oregon Mayors Association is a voluntary association of Oregon mayors. Its constitution and by-laws specify several purposes for the organization: to increase the knowledge and ability of persons serving as mayor; to promote the exchange of information and ideas among mayors; to provide opportunities for meeting and discussion of the special functions of the office of mayor; to provide collective efforts for influencing state programs and legislation; and to further the programs and objectives of the League of Oregon Cities.

Oregon City/County Management Association – www.occma.org

The Oregon City/County Management Association (OCCMA), established in 1958, is a voluntary association of persons who hold the position of administrator, manager or assistant administrator or manager of a city or county in Oregon. Its constitution and by-laws specify three purposes for the association: to support professional management in local government by increasing the knowledge and ability of administrators and managers; by promoting the exchange of information between members; and by offering personal support to members. The OCCMA is also dedicated to sustaining the functions and aims of the International City/County Management Association.

Oregon City Attorneys Association

The Oregon City Attorneys Association, established in 1984, is a voluntary association of appointed city attorneys of any city that is a member of LOC, or any other attorney employed by a city or by a law firm that represents cities. The association serves as an advisory body of the LOC on programs that relate to matters of interest to city attorneys.

Oregon City Planning Directors Association - www.ocpda.org

The Oregon City Planning Directors Association, established in the mid-1970s, is an association of persons who hold the office of chief planning administrator. The organization's by-laws specify three purposes: 1) to serve as an advisory body of the LOC on programs that relate to planning and community development; 2) to assist and support the LOC in representing planning community development interests to local, state and federal agencies and the Legislature; and 3) to provide a forum for city planning directors to share information and community problems and solutions.

Oregon Association of Municipal Recorders - www.oamr.org

The Oregon Association of Municipal Recorders (OAMR), established in 1983, is a voluntary association of recorders or deputy or assistant recorders of any Oregon city, county, regional government, district or other municipality. The OAMR is closely affiliated with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks (IIMC). The purpose of the association is: "To provide educational experiences of the highest quality for the recorder, and to promote professionalism."

Oregon Economic Development Association - <https://oeda.biz>

The Oregon Economic Development Association (OEDA) is Oregon's economic development community. OEDA represent stakeholders from 150+ cities, counties, regional EDOs, ports, utilities, DMOs, chambers, SBDCs, and partners in finance, entrepreneurship & workforce. It works on the front lines of Oregon's economy- creating jobs, retaining and attracting businesses across key sectors, and building dynamic regional economies. The OEDA connects its network through economic development training, conferencing, essential resources, and powerful advocacy in Salem as the only voice dedicated to advancing economic development policy in Oregon.

Oregon Government Finance Officers Association - <https://ogfoa.org>

The Oregon Government Finance Officers Association, established in 1957, is a voluntary association of persons (appointed or elected) who have responsibility for governmental finance or accounting in a city, county, special district, port, community college or state agency. School districts and private sector finance professionals are eligible for associate membership.

Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police – www.policechief.org

Established in 1953, the Oregon Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) is a voluntary association of persons employed within the state as chiefs of police. Its mission statement identifies the OACP as "dedicated to helping communities achieve the highest level of physical safety and an accompanying sense of well-being through progressive police leadership." The organization implements this mission through executive training, community safety education, applied research, scholarships and by monitoring legislation.

Oregon Fire Chiefs Association - <https://ofca.org>

The Oregon Fire Chiefs Association (OFCA) proudly serves Oregon's fire service. A membership organization, the OFCA strives to provide leadership and valued services to support fire chiefs and administrative officers throughout the state through information dissemination, professional development, advocacy and networking.

Oregon Municipal Judges Association – www.omjaonline.com

The Oregon Municipal Judges Association (OMJA) participates in arranging continuing educational training sessions for municipal judges. It maintains a listserv system for judges to gain access to other municipal court judges and justices of the peace, whose two associations trade off on annual conferences in Oregon.

Oregon Code Enforcement Association - www.oregoncode.org

The Oregon Code Enforcement Association (OCEA) is a professional organization for code enforcement officers in cities and counties across the state of Oregon. Members are from government agencies that provide codes for health, safety, and welfare of its citizens and guests. The OCEA provides professional support, training and networking for code enforcement officers and hosts two conferences each year with job-related training and professional development and encourage networking among officers from across jurisdictions.

Oregon Building Officials Association – www.oregonbuildingofficials.com

With more than 1,100 individual member representatives throughout the state of Oregon, the Oregon Building Officials Association (OBOA) provides valuable industry information and high-quality education to building officials and department staff teams. The OBOA is also looked to by contractors, building designers, architects, and engineers as a strong partner and provider of excellent programs and services.

Councils of Government

Councils of government are voluntary associations of local governments (including a variety of special districts) designed to provide a broad range of services to their members. The services provided within each council of government region are generally authorized by a board of directors consisting of elected officials representing the regional membership, and are coordinated by paid staff supervised by an executive director, who is accountable to the board of directors. Councils of government generally promote interaction and dialog among local units of government, and enhance a collective awareness regarding relevant regional issues by using seminars, workshops and other mechanisms for encouraging regional discussion. The following are the councils of governments in Oregon:

- Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments – www.ocwcog.org
Serving local governments and agencies in Linn, Benton, and Lincoln counties.

- Mid-Willamette Valley Council of Governments – www.mwvcog.org
Serving local governments and agencies in Marion, Polk, and Yamhill counties.
- Rogue Valley Council of Governments – www.rvcog.org
Serving local governments and agencies in Jackson and Josephine counties.
- Lane Council of Governments – www.lcog.org
Serving local governments and agencies in Lane County.
- Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council – www.coic2.org
Serving local governments and agencies in Crook, Deschutes, and Jefferson counties.

National and International Associations

Similar to their local and state cousins, national and international associations provide similar networking opportunities and advocacy services to its members.

National League of Cities – www.nlc.org

The National League of Cities (NLC) is an organization comprised of city, town and village leaders that are focused on improving the quality of life for their current and future constituents. With more than 90 years of dedication to the strength, health and advancement of local governments, the NLC has gained the trust and support of more than 2,000 cities across the nation. The NLC’s mission is to strengthen local leadership, influence federal policy and drive innovative solutions.

United States Conference of Mayors – www.usmayors.org

The United States Conference of Mayors is the official non-partisan organization of cities with a population of 30,000 or more. Each city is represented in the conference by its chief elected official, the mayor. Conference members speak with a united voice on organizational policies and goals. Mayors contribute to the development of national urban policy by serving on one or more of the conference’s standing committees. The primary roles of the conference are advocacy, best practices, business connections, promotion, and networking.

International City/County Management Association – www.icma.org

The International City/County Management Association’s (ICCMA) vision is to be the leading association of local government professionals dedicated to creating and supporting thriving communities throughout the world. The ICCMA does this by working with its more than 11,000 members to identify and speed the adoption of leading local government practices in order to improve the lives of residents. The ICCMA offers membership, professional development programs, research, publications, data and information, technical assistance, and training to thousands of city, town, and county chief administrative officers, their staff, and other organizations throughout the world.

Government Finance Officers Association – www.gfoa.org

The Government Finance Officers Association members form a diverse group of individuals, from entry-level employees to senior managers who work for a broad range of governments, including cities, towns, and other municipalities of all sizes; county governments; school districts and special districts; public employee retirement systems; states and provinces; schools of administration and public affairs; libraries; federal agencies; and accounting firms, law firms, investment banks, and consulting institutions. The GFOA provides timely information, practical educational opportunities, high-quality professional publications, and the latest information on best practices relating to government financial management.

International Municipal Lawyers Association – www.imla.org

The International Municipal Lawyers Association (IMLA) is a non-profit, professional organization that has been an advocate and resource for local government attorneys since 1935. IMLA services as an international clearinghouse of legal information and cooperation on municipal legal matters. IMLA collects from and disseminates information to its membership across the United States and Canada and help governmental officials prepare for litigation and develop new local laws.

Affinity Groups and Associations

Like their industry-specific cousins addressed above, there are various local government groups that serve their membership based on identification with a certain affinity group. These groups may be wholly independent or be in partnership with one of the above associations.

Oregon Local Government People of Color Caucus

The Oregon Local Government People of Color Caucus works to promote positive and effective relationships among city officials of color, their communities, political leaders, the LOC and its affiliate entities, build and increase capacity of city officials of color and supports pipeline for people of color to engage in and serve in local government. The Oregon Local Government People of Color Caucus serves as a resource to the LOC in the formulation of its policy agenda and prepares and advances city officials of color to serve in positions of leadership within the LOC and its affiliate organizations.

Local Government Hispanic Network – www.lghn.org

The purpose of the Local Government Hispanic Network (LGHN) is to encourage professional excellence among Hispanic/Latino local government administrators, to improve the management of local government, to provide unique resources to Hispanic local government executives and public managers, and to advance the goals of professional, effective and ethical local government administrations. The LGHN works with other organizations such as the ICMA which shares common goals.

National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials - <https://www.nlc.org/initiative/national-black-caucus-of-local-elected-officials-nbc-leo>

The National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials (NBC-LEO) is a group within the NLC that represents the interests of African American municipal officials and provides a forum to share ideas and develop leadership experience. Established in 1970, NBC-LEO is a space for members to express themselves, share best practices and ensure that NLC's policies and programs benefit their community. The NBC-LEO serves as a vehicle for members to discuss problems and explore solutions, debate policy issues, and contribute to the success of American cities and towns. The group meets three times a year in person and hosts a variety of webinars and programs throughout the year.

Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials – <https://www.nlc.org/initiative/asian-pacific-american-municipal-officials-apamo>

Established within the NLC in 1985, Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials (APAMO) is a caucus within the NLC that provides municipal officials who identify and ally with the Asian Pacific American to connect with their colleagues in a forum to share ideas and develop leadership experience. The group typically meets in person at the NLC Congressional City Conference and City Summit. Additionally, APAMO hosts a variety of webinars and programs throughout the year.

Hispanic Elected Local Officials – <https://www.nlc.org/initiative/hispanic-elected-local-officials-helo>

The Hispanic Elected Local Officials (HELO) Constituency Group is a caucus within the NLC that represents the interests of Hispanic and Latino local elected officials. The HELO is a space for members to make meaningful connections with fellow Hispanic and Latino local officials, share best practices and advocate for policies that benefit their community. The HELO provides guidance to the NLC Board of Directors and Federal Advocacy Committees and influences NLC platforms. In recent years, the HELO has promoted the education of Hispanic youth, immigration reform, bilingual education, voting rights and minority business enterprise programs.

LGBTQ+LO – <https://www.nlc.org/initiative/lesbian-gay-bisexual-transgender-local-officials-lgbtlo>

The LGBTQ+LO is a caucus within the NLC that provides municipal officials who identify and ally with the LGBTQ+LO community to connect with their colleagues in a forum to share ideas and development leadership experience. The LGBTQ+LO group encourages the active involvement and participation of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer municipal officials and provides a forum to network and share best practices.

Women in Municipal Government – <https://www.nlc.org/initiative/women-in-municipal-government-wimg>

Women in Municipal Government (WIMG) is a caucus within the NLC that serves as a forum for communication and networking among women in local elected officials and their colleagues. The group works to raise awareness about issues of concern to women and encourages women to seek public office in their communities. WIMG has successfully forged a prominent role for women in the development of the NLC's National Municipal Policy and its agenda for the nation's cities and towns. WIMG serves as a vehicle for members to discuss problems and solutions, debate policy issues, and contribute to the success of American cities and towns.

Young Municipal Leaders – <https://www.nlc.org/initiative/young-municipal-leaders-yml>

The Young Municipal Leaders (YML) group is dedicated to helping municipal leaders and staff tackle the leadership challenges of today and tomorrow. The YML is an initiative within the NLC and is open to elected officials and city staff 18-40 years old. The YML creates a forum to share best practices and bring together city leaders past and present to bridge the cultural and generational gap in municipalities.