



Agenda

October Budget Forum

Thursday, October 21, 2021

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Registration Opens

8:00 AM

Completing the State Required Auditor General Budget Forms and the Inconsistencies in Cities/Towns

9 - 9:50 AM (1 CPE)

Speakers: *Pat Walker, Principal Owner, Pat Walker Consulting LLC*

Megan Suzanne Smith, CPA, Accountability Services Manager, Arizona Auditor General

As required by Arizona State statute, cities and towns must prepare annual budgets on forms the Arizona Auditor General developed. This session will discuss the Arizona Auditor General's role in developing the forms and instructions. However, how cities and towns complete these forms varies depending on whether they are under the state expenditure limitation, or a voter approved alternative expenditure limitation such as the permanent base adjustment or home rule and the various inconsistencies in cities' and towns' budgeting process.

AZ League's Budget and Finance Manual – Legal and Practical Guidance

10 - 10:50 AM (1 CPE)

Speakers: *Lee Grafstrom, Tax Analyst, League of Arizona Cities and Towns*

Pat Walker, Principal Owner, Pat Walker Consulting LLC

This session will include a walk-through of the Arizona League's Budget and Finance Manual from the legal requirements per State Statutes, to the practical use by financial professionals. The session will include a discussion of the differences between the required budget deadlines but the importance of what other steps must be completed in the budget process to meet the legal deadlines. There will also be discussions of the "gray areas" of the statute and the interpretation that Cities and Towns have used.

Capital Pipeline, A New Tool to Understand and Utilize Capital Projects for Arizona's Cities and Towns

11 AM – 11:50 AM (1 CPE)

Speakers: *Stephanie Nelson, Founder & CEO, Capital Pipeline*

René Guillen, Deputy Director, League of Arizona Cities and Towns

Capital budgets are a blueprint for the future of a community. With the availability of Federal infrastructure funding, the future can come even sooner for those "shovel ready" projects. The League's new data partner, Capital Pipeline, will provide insight into just how Arizona cities and towns are preparing for the future and introduce a new and unique research tool for municipal leaders, contractors, and other capital improvement stakeholders to better prepare for the opportunities ahead.



Lunch

12 - 12:50 PM

Budgeting Software

1 – 2:00 PM (1 CPE)

Speakers: *Macy Walker, Financial Budget Analyst, City of El Mirage*
Andrew Donohue, Account Executive, ClearGov

This session will include an overview of the ClearGov budgeting software program along with how this type of software can be implemented to enhance your budgeting process. Discussion will include lessons learned from the City of El Mirage's recent implementation, improvements to the budgeting process, as well as how this information can be incorporated in your budget book.

Unlocking the Power of Collaboration for a Stronger and More Effective Budget Process

2 - 3:00 PM (1 CPE)

Speakers: *Grace Yoon, Budget Manager, Long Beach*
Geraldine Alejo, Revenue Management Officer, Long Beach

Creating and implementing a budget is no easy task, and it takes teamwork. Find out what works in the City of Long Beach and how the Budget Office prioritizes partnerships and credits citywide collaboration as key to success. During this session, Grace Yoon, Budget Manager, and Geraldine Alejo, Revenue Management Officer, will discuss how strategic collaboration can be put into practice to strengthen the budget development process and align it with citywide strategies, particularly when facing unexpected challenges, difficult fiscal situations, and strain on capacity.

Training Concludes

3:00 PM