

## GFOAz October Budget Forum Speakers



### Geraldine Alejo

Geraldine Alejo is currently the Revenue Management Officer for the City of Long Beach whose main responsibilities include monitoring and forecasting key Citywide revenues including sales, property, and transient occupancy taxes. Additionally, along with the rest of the Budget Office Leadership Team, Geraldine oversees citywide review of budget amendments and the fiscal impact of city council letters. Geraldine started with the City of Long Beach in 2008 as a graduate intern. During her time with the City, in addition to the Budget Office, she has also worked in the Development Services and Public Works Departments. Geraldine received her Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Southern California (USC), and is also a graduate of USC Sol Price School of Public Policy where she earned her Master's Degree in Public Policy. When not working alongside Grace and the rest of the Budget Office team, Geraldine enjoys trying new restaurants and spending time with her husband, two sons, and her fur baby named Bishop.

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### **Andrew Donohue**

Andrew began his career in Financial Software at Oracle. He now works for ClearGov helping to empower municipalities with modern financial software in both Transparency and Budget Development. He's passionate about technology, conversational in Mandarin, and an amateur baker!

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### **Lee Grafstrom**

Lee Grafstrom is the Tax Policy Analyst for the League of Arizona Cities and Towns. In this role, he assists the cities and towns with all tax matters, including representing them before the Municipal Tax Code Commission regarding changes to the Model City Tax Code. Lee provides advice and assistance on city ordinance and resolution preparation for tax and licensing issues and acts as a liaison to the Arizona Department of Revenue. Lee is a member of the City Tax Administrators Council and chairs the MCTC Review Committee, working on efforts to simplify and modernize the Model City Tax Code. During the legislative session, Lee defends the financial and administrative interests of all cities and towns through analysis of bills and amendments, preparing position papers and determining the potential impact of tax law changes for cities and towns. Prior to joining the League, Lee was the Tax Audit Supervisor for the City of Chandler for 14 years and began his career in state and local tax in 1991 as a sales tax auditor for the California Board of Equalization in its Chicago office. Lee is an Air Force veteran who holds a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from the University of Illinois at Chicago and a Master of Public Administration degree from Arizona State University.

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### **René Guillen**



René Guillen started with House research staff in 2005 before joining the League in 2010, where he became the Legislative Director. In 2015 he became the Local Government and Transportation Policy Advisor for Governor Doug Ducey. In 2017, he joined the Town of Gilbert as the Director of Government Relations, and in 2020, he left to rejoin the League as a Deputy Director.



### **Stephanie Nelson**

Founder & CEO Capital Pipeline Stephanie Nelson is the creator of Capital Pipeline and serves as its CEO. She leads the research and development, technology, data integration, operations, marketing, and communications for Capital Pipeline. Before founding Capital Pipeline in 2019, Stephanie led the creation of new markets for large multinational general contractors since 2001. She was responsible for research and development, establishing the team, setting strategy, getting board support including resources, targeting first clients, winning first projects, and helping establish leadership and operations. Working with talented firms and teams, she led the development of over \$4 Billion in new market revenue. This experience, and the research required to succeed, was the foundation for Capital Pipeline. She understands the value of data in the competitive construction industry. Previous to working in the Architecture, Engineering, & Contracting industry, Stephanie was a political consultant and fundraiser for three former Mayors of the City of Phoenix, Governor Napolitano of Arizona, several

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	<p>city and state representatives, and six major initiative and referendum campaigns. Stephanie earned her Master's in American Politics and Public Law at Arizona State University. She is also the proud mom of two teenaged boys.</p>
	<p><b>Megan Suzanne Smith</b></p> <p>Megan Smith, CPA, is a Manager in the Accountability Services Division at the Arizona Auditor General. She is responsible for managing the Office's related activities with the <i>Uniform Expenditure Reporting System</i>, including reviewing annual expenditure limitation reports and alternative expenditure limitation election proposals. In addition to the UERS, Megan provides accounting and compliance assistance to cities, towns, counties, community college districts, school districts and charter schools.</p>
	<p><b>Macy Walker</b></p> <p>Macy is the Fiscal Services Administrator at the City of El Mirage. She has been with the City for two years and implemented the ClearGov budget software.</p>

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**Pat Walker**

With more than 40 years of experience in local government and municipal finance, Pat Walker has provided a broad array of management and financial planning services. Ms. Walker was with the City of Chandler, Arizona, for 23 years and served as the City's Management Services Director and Chief Financial Officer. At the City, she was responsible for all financial management including budgeting, auditing, and strategic financial forecasting as well as numerous other divisions such as sales tax, utility billing, human resources, purchasing and information technology. In 2007, she became a municipal management and financial consultant to cities, towns and utilities across the Country. In 2012, she formed Pat Walker Consulting LLC to continue her consulting in municipal management and financial services to small and large communities for cities and towns throughout Arizona by providing services for budget development and forecasting, strategic financial planning, audit preparation as well as all areas of financial management.

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### **Grace Yoon**

Grace Yoon is currently the Budget Manager for the City of Long Beach where she works with a team to assemble and develop the City's \$3 billion budget with 23 departments and across 36 different fund groups (made up of 126 funds). The Budget Office works closely with the City Manager's Office in developing and implementing strategic plans regarding the City's budget. In addition, Budget Office staff develops short and long-term financial forecasting and planning; monitors current year revenues, expenditures, and status of budgetary fund available; and provides overall guidance and analysis on citywide budget development and management process to all departments and levels of the organization. Grace has been with the City of Long Beach since 2007 and Budget Manager since 2018.

Grace is a graduate of the NYU Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service, where she earned her Master's Degree in Public Administration with a specialization in international development. Prior to her graduate studies, Grace spent a year teaching English in South Korea through the Fulbright Scholarship Program. She received her Bachelor's degree in Human Development from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Grace now resides with her husband and two daughters, in Torrance, CA. She enjoys trying new things and will be attempting to run her first marathon Fall of 2021.