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## **FGFOA President 2021-2022 Shannon Ramsey-Chessman**

Greetings FGFOA members! I want to take a moment to thank you again for the opportunity to serve as your president. It is truly an honor to represent you. I look forward to seeing many of you in person soon.

Each year, the Board of Directors and committee chairs engage in a 2-day strategic planning session. Our goal is to ensure that the FGFOA excels at providing information; as well as education, networking, and leadership opportunities for our members, as we serve as **your** professional resource.

Some of the primary goals from this year's strategic planning session include:

- Expanding options for CGFO testing;
- Increasing the number of finance professional education presenters;
- Continuing virtual training options;
- Increasing the credibility of FGFOA as a legislative resource; and
- Expanding membership opportunities

A copy of the 2021 strategic planning goals document can be found by [clicking here](#).

While the Board and committee chairs set goals each year, we cannot be successful in accomplishing those goals without you. So, I want to present you with the same

challenge I did in my swearing in speech – “lean in” to FGFOA. Join a committee, go to conference, be a presenter, be an emerging leader, get your CGFO certification, be a mentor, make the most of every opportunity FGFOA has to offer!

I promise you that your Board, committee chairs and I will be ALL IN for you.

Here’s to a great year!

## 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner



**Kimball Adams**  
**Director of Finance, City of Largo**

Mr. Adams has been a member of FGFOA for 34 years. He has been active on several committees including the: Legislative, Conference Host, Conference Program, Nominating, and Webinar committees. He has been a member of the FGFOA Board of Directors as well.

He was instrumental in forming the Gulf Coast Chapter of the FGFOA and served as its first president. He is competent and well versed in governmental accounting and investment as well as being a leader in his department and mentor to many. He is well known as a “servant leader” working for the citizens of the City of Largo as their Finance Director for over 30 years. He is also a thoughtful and caring person in his daily life; a person that can be emulated.

**Congratulations on earning the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award!!**

## 2021 CGFO of the Year



**Sarah Simpson**  
**Controller, Miami Shores Village**

The FGFOA Certified Government Finance Officers Program, CGFO, is the largest state certification program in the nation. The CGFO designation was awarded to 17 members this year, which brings the total number of CGFOs to 603. This designation recognizes the unique skills and knowledge required for professionals in government financial management.

The CGFO designation is a common requirement for government finance positions in Florida, a testament to its value.

The Board of Directors approved a recognition program for the new CGFO that had the highest score on the Exam.

**Congratulations Sarah!**

## 2021-2022 FGFOA Annual Dues Renewal



### 2021-2022 FGFOA Annual Dues Renewal

An email with the link for the 2021-2022 FGFOA Annual Membership Dues renewals went out on July 1, 2021. If you've not already renewed, please [click here](#) to log into your account and to pay your dues.

Our Fiscal year runs July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022.

## Committee Chair Report



### Committee Chair Year In Review

Each of the Committee Chairs gave a "Year In Review" report at the last FGFOA Board of Directors meeting held on Friday, June 17, 2021.

[Click here](#) to see some of the Committee highlights and achievements from this year.

## Industry News & Updates



## Chief Deputy Clerk Sworn in as President of FGFOA

Boca Raton, FL – Shannon Ramsey-Chessman, the Chief Deputy Clerk for the Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller's office, will serve for the next year in a new role: President of the state's leading association for government finance professionals.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

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# Leesburg-News.com

REAL NEWS, RIGHT NOW

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## City of Leesburg Honored for Budgeting Excellence for 23rd Consecutive Year

The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) has presented its Distinguished Budget Presentation Award to the City of Leesburg for the 2020-21 Annual Budget. This is the 23rd consecutive year the city has earned the award. This significant achievement marks the dedication of the city commission and staff to meeting the highest principles of governmental budgeting.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.



## The School District of Lee County

PERSONAL • PASSIONATE • PROGRESSIVE

## School District Of Lee County Earns Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting

The School District of Lee County has been awarded the Government Finance Officers Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for its Comprehensive Financial Audit Report for the year ending June 30, 2020. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental

accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

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### **Why Managing Billions in Federal Aid for Small Towns Will be a Huge Lift**

The shot clock to distribute more than \$19 billion in American Rescue Plan Act funding to small towns and counties has started and states and municipal organizations are working to ensure these localities gets their share and understand the rules for spending the funds.

But not every town wants the money.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

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### **‘Trying to strangle local governments’: What happens when states and their cities become adversaries?**

Last September, presenting his proposed 2021 municipal budget, Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett laid out a somber picture of his city’s finances. Even before COVID-19 hit, Barrett said, “our budget challenges reached a crescendo.” Just weeks earlier, the city sustained a debt-rating downgrade, in part because it was spending down reserves. “We’ve [spent those reserves] to maintain our vital services without any growing revenue,” Barrett continued. “This, of course, is a direct result of our relationship with the state of Wisconsin and legislature in particular.”

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

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### **How Will Property Taxes Fare in a Surging Housing Market?**

Public policy and government finance people tend to love or hate the property tax. Supporters, most of them local government officials and notably budget officers, favor its consistency over economic cycles;

it's the most reliable and least volatile of all the major revenue sources that states and localities deploy. But political progressives and purist public-finance economists dislike its regressivity; [lower-income residents bear a disproportionate share](#) of the total levies derived from taxes on housing. Elderly homeowners living on fixed incomes also dislike the property tax, unless it's been capped along the lines of California's Proposition 13.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.



### How to Fix Skyrocketing Overtime

In San Jose, California, overtime costs in the police department increased 300% over the last decade, from \$10.7 million in fiscal 2011 to \$47 million in fiscal 2020, according to a March 2021 audit. Part of that multiyear increase was related to staff reductions that occurred following the Great Recession, but the audit also found that the city needed to exert more control over discretionary overtime – situations in which employees earned time-and-a-half pay for work that might normally have been accomplished in regular work hours.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.



### Do State and Local Governments Need to Worry About Inflation?

Wall Street is abuzz about inflation. Recent Consumer Price Index data showing a 4.2 percent rise from a year ago spooked investors briefly as costs spiked for food, energy, used cars and commodities ranging from microprocessors to lumber. But one or two hot readouts alone do not signal persistent inflation — or at least that is what White House and Federal Reserve officials are preaching. Should state and local leaders brace for something worse?

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

**THE BOND BUYER**

**Expansion of municipal bonds key to Senate bipartisan infrastructure plan**

A broad expansion of the use of tax-exempt municipal bonds is a key financing tool that a bipartisan group of 21 senators has included in the newest infrastructure proposal circulating in Washington.

The number of Republican senators supporting the proposal increased to 11 Wednesday from the original 10 earlier this week, assuring enough votes in the Senate to break a filibuster if it is endorsed by all 50 Democrats.

[Click here](#) to read the full article.

## Upcoming Events: Save the Dates!



### Training and Events

#### **Upcoming Webinars**

07/22/21 Wage & Hour Law Updates

08/26/21 Environmental Social & Governance (ESG) Investing

09/16/21 Banking Fraud Protection/Cyber Security

[Click here](#) for a full listing of webinar dates and titles.

#### **CGFO Review and Testing Dates**

[Click here](#) or more information on the CGFO program.