



LEDGER

YOUR SOURCE FOR MUNICIPAL FINANCE NEWS, UPDATES, EVENTS AND MORE

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

Chief Deputy Clerk
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller,
Palm Beach County

A Note From Our President



Shannon Ramsey-Chessman

Greetings FGFOA members. I hope you and your families are doing well.

One of the privileges of serving on your Board of Directors is the opportunity to participate in the planning of new and enhanced programs. Several years ago, an initiative to highlight FGFOA members culminated in the Finance Professionals Week recognition program. While your dedication and commitment to the community extends year around, the public recognition of the important role finance professionals play in ensuring government is efficient, accountable, and transparent is rewarding and well deserved.

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Committee Chair Reports



CGFO Certification Committee

Jeremy Baker
Committee Chair
Grant & Capital Analyst
Palm Beach County Palm Tran

The CGFO Certification Committee has been very busy reviewing and approving applications for the CGFO program and planning for the upcoming testing season. The Spring exam date is set for April 29th. Testing site locations are listed on the CGFO page of our website. [CLICK HERE](#) for all updates for this program.

Conference Host Committee

Sharon Almeida, CGFO
Committee Chair
Assistant Controller
Village of Wellington



The Conference Host Committee is excitedly finalizing details for the hospitality suite and the Tuesday Night Event which will be held at this year's FGFOA Annual Conference being held at the Rosen Shingle Creek. They are completing the special guests for the Opening General session including the Color Guard, National Anthem and the invocation. [CLICK HERE](#) for all updates on this event!



Conference Program Committee

Nicole Jovanovski, CPA
Committee Chair
Director of Finance
Sarasota County

Since the last meeting, the Conference Program Committee has been hard at work finalizing the 2022 FGFOA Annual Conference program session topics. We have been able to make great progress in confirming speakers. [CLICK HERE](#) to see the Annual Conference page which will post updates as they become available.

Education and Webinar Committee

Rebecca Schnirman
Director of Financial & Support Services
Palm Beach County



The Education and Webinar Committee sets for the schedule and chooses speakers for our monthly webinar series. Each webinar begins at 2:40 on a Thursday afternoon and allows you, as an FGFOA member, to earn free CPE credits. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the upcoming schedule.



Legislative Committee

Stephen Timberlake
Committee Chair
Special Projects Manager
Boca Raton

The Legislative session is done for 2022. FGFOA is providing a session at the Annual Conference which will address many of the hot items from session this year. In addition, we will offer a free Webinar, where you can earn CPE credit, and get an overview on Thursday, April 21, 2022.

Member and Leadership Development Committee

Lorrie A. Arevalo, MBA/PA, MSA, CGFO
Committee Chair
Fiscal Analyst
Hillsborough County



The Member & Leadership Development Committee revamped the Mentor program to provide more structure to the program, while also facilitating a place for the mentor and mentee to meet and share information. This year the committee added 5 topics for discussion with 3 remaining since the last Executive Board Meeting. The connections and conversations have been

enlightening and a learning experience for Mentors and Mentees. Any Executive Board Members that would like a copy of presentations or handouts are welcome to request copies. The most recent topic and the remaining topics are presented below:

March 18, 2022

Diversity & Inclusion in the Workplace what can I do better?
Dennise Suarez, CFO Eleventh Judicial Circuit

May 20, 2022

Difficult Conversations/Facing Adversities
Melissa Burns, Director of Finance, City of Atlantic Beach

June 17, 2022

What makes a great Leader? Do I have what it takes?
Nicole Gasparri, Director Strategic Management & Professional Development



2022 School of Governmental Finance Committee

Nicole Gasparri

Committee Chair
Director of Strategic Management and Professional Development
Clerk of the Circuit Court & Comptroller, Palm Beach County

The 2022 School of Governmental Finance Committee has met and is continuing to choose topics and speakers. We are planning events for the Hospitality Suite, an Emerging Leaders event and an exhibit hall. We are also looking for more members to serve!! [CLICK HERE](#) to apply to serve on this committee and any other that is interesting to you.

Technical Resources Committee

Ryan Bernal, CPA, CIA, CGFO

Committee Chair
Division Manager/Controller
Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office



The Technical Resources Committee continues to monitor for hot topics that affect our members. [CLICK HERE](#) to view the e-bulletins page of the website which houses past e-bulletins that have been posted for your use.

In the News!



St. Cloud's Finance Department Honored

The City of St. Cloud has received a pair of finance awards in April from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA).

First, it was announced this week it's the recipient of the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award. The announcement comes just weeks after GFOA announced St. Cloud had received its Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting.

[CLICK HERE
to read the full article](#)

County Budget Office Earns National Recognition

Lake County recently received the Government Finance Officers Association's Distinguished Budget Presentation award for its Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

The certificate of recognition was given to county's Office of Management and Budget, as the department was primarily responsible for achieving the award.

[CLICK HERE to read the full article](#)



What You Need to Know about Treasury's Compliance Guidance

Experts from Hagerty Consulting provide insights on implementing ARPA-funded programs consistent with the compliance and reporting requirements.

On February 28, the Department of Treasury released updated guidance and a new manual for local governments on their compliance and reporting responsibilities for the use of the American Rescue Plan Act's Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (FRF).

[CLICK HERE
to read the full article](#)

The Public-Sector Bargaining Table's New Inflation-Driven Landscape

Government workers are going to press for wage increases that — at a minimum — catch them up to rising prices. Budgeters and labor negotiators need to be careful not to lock in terms that put them in a fiscal squeeze in the future.



[CLICK HERE to read the full article](#)



[CLICK HERE to read the full article](#)

Five Innovative Budgeting Practices to Strengthen Your Community

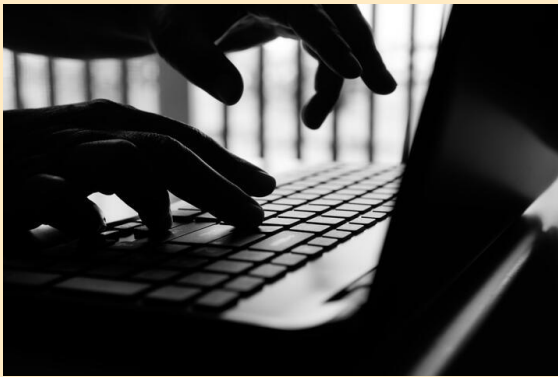
The past two years have garnered more challenges than many local government leaders have experienced in their entire careers. However, with such hardship comes the unique opportunity for innovation, growth, and serious breakthroughs in all areas of local government. One such area that needs some extra attention, now more than ever, is budgeting. Communities around the world are facing unprecedented economic challenges, making the need to rethink budgeting processes much more prevalent. Municipalities all over the world are taking an innovative approach to curating budgeting strategies that fit their communities, and we have gathered five standout practices that add an innovative touch to the budgeting process.

Rethinking Budgeting: Are We Ready for a New Approach?

Local governments have developed their budgets in essentially the same way for decades. The essence of the traditional approach is, first, that the budget is incremental. This means that last year's budget becomes next year's budget with changes at the margin. Second, the budget is built around line items—categories of spending like personnel, commodities, and contractual services, which are then grouped into departments and funds. This approach has been criticized for almost as long as it has been in use in local governments.



[CLICK HERE to read the full article](#)



[CLICK HERE
to read the full article](#)

Fraud and Embezzlement in Local Government

Theft of cash. Theft of fuel. Ransomware attacks. Successful spear phishing schemes. Electronic vendor payment fraud. Expense reimbursement schemes. Purchasing and fraudulent return schemes. Theft of inventory. These are each common in local government in recent years, and the problem seems to be getting worse. Many of the recent local government fraud and embezzlement cases are for tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, or even millions of dollars.

Making Smart Investments in Smart City Projects

The promise of futuristic smart cities that harness technology to improve infrastructure, efficiency, and overall quality of life for residents has consistently fallen short. While we're still a long way from Jetson-style towns, city planners do have access to technology that can significantly move the needle when it comes to building a truly smart city. So why do smart city projects that show so much initial promise keep falling flat? We've seen big promises fail to deliver, like the Sidewalk Labs Quayside project or Sidewalk Labs' spin-off company Replica's work in Oregon, both of which were ultimately scrapped.



[CLICK HERE
to read the full article](#)



[CLICK HERE
to read the full article](#)

Valuable Infrastructure Funding Sources and Strategies

When it comes to overdue infrastructure upgrades needed across the country and how to pay for them, most eyes have been on Washington, D.C., throughout 2021. And for good reason: There are big, unusual funding streams for city leaders to potentially leverage: 1) The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which will fund roads, bridges and other kinds of projects, and 2) The American Rescue Plan Act, which allows aid to cities to be allocated for water, sewer, and broadband projects.

Upcoming Events: Save the Date!



Training and Events

2022 FGFOA Annual Conference

June 25-29, 2022

At the Rosen Shingle Creek Hotel, Orlando

[Click here](#) for more information

Upcoming Webinars

[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.

Florida Government Finance Officers Association | fgfoa.org

