

FISCAL FORUM



Florida Government
Finance Officers Association

A Message From Your FGFOA President

I want to say thank you to the School of Government Finance Committee and the Host Committee for making this year's fall conference a tremendous success, it was AWESOME!

As we head into the holiday season it can be a stressful time; balancing the personal and professional commitments can tend to seem overwhelming and even impossible. That is indeed one way to look at it, but instead, I invite you to be present, and purposeful to enjoy every moment. Spend a few minutes at the beginning of your day to mentally set up your day and your attitude! Refuse to be a reaction, running from one thing to the other seeking perfection. As people of responsibility and integrity, we may take on too much and then go crazy to get it done.

This is your reminder that you will get it all done, you don't have to stress, and what matters most is spending time with the people who matter to you.

Happy Thanksgiving!

With Gratitude,
Nicole

Spotlight on Leadership



Nicole Jovanovski
FGFOA Board Director

With over twenty-two years of experience in governmental accounting and financial management, **Nicole Jovanovski** has built a career grounded in integrity, service, and professional growth. She began her journey in 2003 as a Financial Accounting Analyst at the Office of the Honorable Karen E. Rushing, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller, and now serves as **Director of Finance**, where she leads financial operations and board services. Known for her commitment to excellence and her passion for helping others succeed, Nicole continues to inspire through her leadership and mentorship.

[Learn More About Nicole](#)

Reflecting on her FGFOA journey, Nicole shares:

“Joining the FGFOA has been one of the best opportunities in my career. What started as a way to stay informed and grow professionally quickly became a deeper journey of connection, mentorship, and shared purpose. The relationships and experiences I’ve gained through FGFOA have been truly invaluable.”

Member Spotlight Nominations

Do you know someone who goes above and beyond? A mentor, colleague, or chapter leader who deserves to be recognized? **Nominate them for the FGFOA Member Spotlight!** It only takes a few minutes, and your nomination could help highlight the inspiring work of a fellow member.

[Submit Nomination](#)

Thanks for Making School of Governmental Finance Unforgettable!!

To all our attendees, thank you for being part of this incredible experience. Your enthusiasm, engagement, and commitment is what makes this conference so special. The SOGF brought together professionals from across the state for a week of engaging sessions, insightful discussions, and meaningful networking. Attendees explored key topics in governmental finance, shared best practices and built lasting connections. The hospitality suite added a festive touch, offering a relaxed space for fun activities and camaraderie after hours.

Coming Soon: Special E-Bulletin

Stay tuned for a special e-bulletin featuring a video recap and photo gallery from the conference. Relive the moments, share the memories, and celebrate the success of this unforgettable event!!!

Mentoring Program

The 2025–2026 FGFOA Mentoring Program is underway with **21 Mentors and Mentees** this fall and **5 more pairs** joining in January!

Kickoff Session: FGFOA President **Nicole Gaspari** led *“All Things Mentoring,”* exploring Emotional Intelligence, Values, and setting the stage for growth and accountability.

First Meetup: Held **October 15th**, featuring **Darrel Thomas** on growing through mentoring and FGFOA engagement, followed by breakout discussions.

Get Involved: Interested in giving back or growing your leadership skills? Apply to

be a **Mentor** for the January start and help guide the next generation of government finance professionals!

[Apply to Become a Mentor](#)

[Apply to Become a Mentee](#)

Committee Corner

Conference Committee Update:

Each year, the FGFOA Annual Conference offers a variety of educational tracks designed to help finance professionals build knowledge, sharpen skills, and explore emerging issues in their field. Each track focuses on a specific area of government finance, ensuring there's something for everyone — from newcomers to seasoned professionals. To help you get familiar with what's coming beginning in December, the Conference Committee will highlight one track each month leading up to the Annual Conference.

National Anthem Auditions Open!

Call for Singers

The Florida Government Finance Officers Association (FGFOA) is seeking a member to perform the **National Anthem** during the Opening General Session of the **2026 Annual Conference**, taking place **June 13–17, 2026**, at the **Loews Sapphire Falls Resort at Universal Orlando**.

This performance is a special opportunity to represent the Association and set an inspiring tone as we open our signature annual event.

Submission Deadline: Friday, January 16, 2026

Interested members are invited to [submit a brief vocal audition video \(no more than 60 seconds\) here](#)

We look forward to showcasing the talent and professionalism of our FGFOA membership at this year's conference.

Virtual Learning Opportunities

Upcoming Webinars

November 20, 2025

Webinar: *Pension and OPEB Refresher*

Time: 2:00–3:40 p.m. Eastern

CPE Credit: 1.5 hours (Technical/Business)

FREE registration for current FGFOA members!

December 18, 2025

Webinar: *Artificial Intelligence in Government Finance Update*

Time: 2:00–3:40 p.m. Eastern

CPE Credit: 1.5 hours (Technical/Business)

FREE registration for current FGFOA members!

Visit the [FGFOA Webinar page](#) and click “**Register Now**” or log in to your member portal and go to the “**Events**” tab.

Don't miss these valuable learning opportunities!

[Webinar Registration](#)

Looking for Additional Ethics CPE Opportunities?

The Florida Institute of CPAs (FICPA) is offering “FICPA Ethics: Protecting the Integrity of the Florida CPAs,” created with the DBPR and approved by the Florida Board of Accountancy. Sessions are available online, in-person, and on-site (live or virtually).

Upcoming Dates:

Nov. 6 | Online | 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Nov. 17 | Miami Beach (In Person) | 12:30–5 p.m.
Nov. 19 | Online | 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Dec. 4 | Online | 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m.
Dec. 18 | Online | 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m.

[Learn More and Register](#)

FGFOA 2026 Leadership Program

Applications for **FGFOA Leadership 2026** are now open. This immersive, five-day program is designed to elevate your leadership skills, expand your professional network, and prepare you to lead in Florida's government finance community.

Program Dates: April 13–17, 2026

Location: Embassy Suites by Hilton Orlando

Member Cost: \$1,495 (subsidized from \$3,000)

Application Deadline: January 9, 2026

[FGFOA Leadership Program](#)



**WATCH
KRISTEN THOMPSON'S
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
TESTIMONIAL**

[Submit Your Leadership Application Here](#)

Events and Deadlines

The next **FGFOA Beginner Boot Camp** will be held at:
Drury Plaza Hotel Orlando – Lake Buena Vista
Monday, January 12 & Tuesday, January 13, 2026
Registration closes Friday, November 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

For More Information about FGFOA Beginner Boot Camp and How to Register
[CLICK HERE](#)

Government Finance Professional Week

Mark your calendars!
Government Finance Professionals Week will be celebrated March 16–20, 2026!

This weeklong event recognizes the hard work, dedication, and leadership of government finance professionals and the vital services they provide to our communities.

FGFOA has released a **2026 Toolkit** with resources to make it easy to participate, including:

- A sample proclamation
- A sample media release
- Social media content and engagement tips
- Fun games and team activities

Let's take this opportunity to honor the people behind the numbers who keep our communities moving forward!

[Explore the Toolkit and Resources Here](#)

Finance in a Flash!

Resource Spotlight: Property Tax Information Made Simple

Looking for clear, accessible information on property taxes and how they impact your community? The **Florida League of Cities (FLC)** has developed the **Florida Formula Toolkit**, an online resource designed to help local officials and finance professionals understand the components of municipal revenue, including property taxes.

The toolkit provides easy-to-follow explanations, data visuals, and downloadable resources that outline how property taxes are calculated and used to fund essential city services.

[FLC Florida Formula Toolkit](#)

Local Chapter News

FGFOA's local chapters are the heartbeat of our organization, offering members valuable opportunities to connect, learn, and grow within their own communities. These events range from professional development sessions and technical trainings to networking socials and community outreach initiatives.



Attending your local chapter events is a great way to stay engaged, expand your professional network, and share ideas with peers who understand the challenges and opportunities of government finance. Be sure to check your **Local Chapter Calendar** for upcoming local chapter events and opportunities to engage with your peers.

Volusia/Flagler Chapter

The Volusia/Flagler Chapter welcomed John McKinney, Chair of the FGFOA Certification Committee, as their guest speaker on Friday, October 17. John provided an informative presentation on the Certified Government Finance Officer (CGFO) certification process, including an overview of the five exam sections, timelines for submitting applications, review courses, and testing procedures.

In addition, John shared information about the many leadership and professional development opportunities available through FGFOA, such as the Mentoring Program, webinars, Boot Camps, the Annual Conference, and the School of Government Finance.

The meeting was well-attended by representatives from cities across Volusia, Flagler, and Lake Counties, and provided an excellent opportunity for local finance professionals to connect and learn more about the resources available through FGFOA.

GFOA State Representative Program

The GFOA State Representative Program plays a key role in promoting recognition of excellence in financial reporting throughout Florida. These dedicated volunteers may be called upon to present GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting (ACFR), Popular Annual Financial Reporting (PAFR), and Distinguished Budget Presentation Awards before local Commissions, Councils, or Boards.

The primary goal of this program is to establish a geographically diverse network of representatives to ensure timely award presentations and strengthen community engagement. Each local chapter of the FGFOA is encouraged to appoint one or more GFOA Representatives to support this important initiative and help build a robust presence throughout the state.

Have an upcoming award presentation?

Please refer to the list of available GFOA State Representatives on the FGFOA website and feel free to reach out to a representative in your area to coordinate presentation logistics:

[GFOA State Representatives](#)

If you have any questions, please contact [Karen Pastula](#) for additional information.

Together, we can continue to celebrate the achievements of Florida's government finance professionals

Stay Connected with FGFOA!

Follow the Florida Government Finance Officers Association on social media to get the latest updates, event announcements, and news that matters to government finance professionals.

Stay informed. Stay engaged. Be part of the FGFOA community.



[FGFOA Fiscal Forum Page](#)

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