

FISCAL FORUM



Florida Government
Finance Officers Association



EDUCATE
SHARE KNOWLEDGE.
BUILD FOUNDATION.



ELEVATE
INSPIRE GROWTH.
ENCOURAGE POTENTIAL.



EMPOWER
SUPPORT LEADERS.
STRENGTHEN OUR FUTURE.

A Message From FGFOA President Kelly Strickland



With the start of the new fiscal year, FGFOA members are juggling numerous responsibilities. They're wrapping up last year's financials, getting ready for audits, and swiftly moving into the demands of a fresh budget cycle. This period is marked by a flurry of activity, requiring careful planning and adaptability as everyone manages these overlapping tasks. On top of that, we are all working through the implementation of new reporting requirements established during the most recent legislative session. These changes remind us how quickly our environment evolves and how essential it is to stay connected and informed.

We also await the results of **Amendment 3 - the Homestead Tax Exemptions, Property Assessments, and Spending Restrictions Amendment**, on November 3rd, an outcome that will have a significant impact on local governments across Florida. I know the uncertainty can be challenging, but I want to offer encouragement and reassurance: **we are all in this together.**

FGFOA provides resources designed specifically to support you through times like these. The **List Serve** is an excellent tool for asking questions, sharing experiences, and learning how your peers are approaching similar challenges. Please don't hesitate to lean on one another—our collective knowledge is one of our strongest assets.

I also encourage you to reach out to the FGFOA Board and Committee members. We are here to support you, and we welcome your involvement. Whether you participate in a committee, contribute ideas, or simply connect with fellow members, your engagement strengthens our entire organization.

And of course, we look forward to seeing many of you at the **2026 FGFOA School of Governmental Finance**, held October 25–30 at the Sheraton Sand Key Resort in beautiful Clearwater Beach. If you've never attended before, I assure you it is a valuable opportunity to deepen your understanding of governmental accounting, gain insight into emerging issues in our profession, and build lasting professional relationships. Whether you're new to governmental finance or a seasoned leader, the School offers high-quality education, professional development, and networking that will benefit you throughout your career.

Your unwavering dedication to public service, steadfast commitment to excellence, and ongoing involvement with FGFOA are truly appreciated. As we move forward together, we will tackle challenges head-on and further reinforce the financial stability of Florida's governments. Let's continue to Educate, Elevate, and Empower—driving progress and making a meaningful impact for our communities.



Please join us in welcoming our newest FGFOA members!! We are excited to have you as part of a statewide network of government finance professionals dedicated to excellence, innovation, and public service.

New Member Tip: The best way to get the most from your FGFOA membership is to get involved. Join a local chapter & attend a meeting, volunteer for a committee, participate in educational programs, and connect with fellow members across the state. The relationships and experience you gain through FGFOA can be invaluable throughout your career.

Welcome to the FGFOA Family!!

James Booth City Manager Keystone Heights	Simone Touton Accounting Specialist Hollywood	Penny Norman Accounting/Payroll Clerk Panama City
Elke Giraldo Finance Specialist Lehigh Acres Fire Control & Rescue District	Doreen Linderman Senior Accountant Lee County Clerk of Court & Comptroller	Irene Sorto Supervisor Hillsborough County Clerk of Circuit Court
Autumn Weatherholt Instructional Designer Palm Beach County	Lashanna Young Senior Assistant Internal Auditor Ocala	Julie Probus Comptroller Belleview
Jephthe Noel Senior Accountant Gainesville	Jacqueline Hernandez Accountant II Gainesville	Dennis Lin Banker Associate JPMorgan Chase Bank
Ricabuena Gagne Accountant II Gainesville	Beth Stark Program & Fiscal Manager Fort Myers	Taressa Straughter Account Clerk Laudredale Lakes
Richard Lawson Fiscal Associate Santa Rosa County Sheriff's Office	Kayla Morrison Accountant I Gainesville	Jessica Marshall Finance Support Specialist Lee County Clerk of Court
Kerri Stoner-Ford SVP Relationship Manager, Government Banking U.S. Bank NA	Cassandra Hartman Business and Finance Section Manager Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners	Iwona Smith Accountant Manatee County Tax Collector
Karen Keen Finance Specialist Frostproof	Kristin Harvey Accounts Payable Specialist CRA, City of Titusville	Michelle Snyder Associate Member
Bryan Corcoran Management Analyst Bal Harbour		

Spotlight on Leadership



With more than 30 years of experience in municipal government finance, **John McKinney** serves as Finance Director for the City of Deltona and has been an active FGFOA member since 2004. Throughout his involvement, he has served on numerous committees, the Board of Directors, and as FGFOA President during 2022–2023. He is also a founding member of the Volusia/Flagler Chapter.

John credits FGFOA with playing a transformative role in his career by providing mentorship, professional development, leadership opportunities, and lifelong friendships. His journey was shaped by colleagues and mentors who encouraged him to become involved, serve on committees, and pursue leadership opportunities within the Association.

A passionate advocate for committee and local chapter involvement, John believes FGFOA's greatest strength is its members' commitment to **"Service Above Self."** He encourages emerging professionals to get involved, seek mentors, volunteer, and

embrace new opportunities, noting that a simple nudge can often lead to a rewarding and impactful career in government finance.

Reflecting on more than two decades of service, John remains grateful for the mentors, colleagues, family, and coworkers who supported his FGFOA journey and is committed to helping develop the next generation of government finance leaders.

[Click Here to Learn More About John](#)



Events & Deadlines



The Countdown to SOGF Is On...
Don't Miss the FGFOA Hospitality Suite!

With the School of Governmental Finance (SOGF) just around the corner, now is the perfect time to start planning your conference experience. Be sure to make the FGFOA Hospitality Suite part of your evening schedule!

Join fellow members each night to network with colleagues, reconnect with friends, and enjoy a variety of fun activities in a relaxed setting. The Hospitality Suite is a great way to unwind after a day of sessions while building meaningful connections with government finance professionals from across Florida.

We're excited to share this year's Hospitality Suite events and look forward to seeing you there!



Reminder:
Local Government Financial Reporting Deadline Approaching

Sections 129.03 and 166.241, F.S., require counties and municipalities to annually submit certain budget and economic information to the Office of Economic and Demographic Research (EDR). The 2026 reporting deadline is approaching. **If your city or county has not already submitted its report, be sure to do so by October 15th.**

The report requires information related to government spending, debt, employee salaries and benefits, and affordable housing expenditures. EDR provides the required forms, instructions, and additional information for completing the report. **[Click here for more information on the 2026 reporting material.](#)**

For information on other mandatory reporting requirements and upcoming deadlines, visit the **[FLC Reporting Requirements webpage.](#)**



FGFOA Leadership 2027 Registration Coming Soon!!

As part of our ongoing commitment to developing and strengthening Florida's finance professionals, the Florida Government Finance Officers Association (FGFOA) is excited to announce that registration for FGFOA Leadership 2027 will be opening soon. This premier program is one of several leadership-focused initiatives offered by FGFOA, along with leadership development sessions at the Annual Conference and the Dynamic Leadership Reception.

FGFOA Leadership 2027 is designed to focus on you, your team, your organization, and your role within the broader governmental environment. Participants will experience a rewarding and transformative week dedicated to developing the skills and perspectives needed to lead successfully in public finance.

The 20 individuals selected for the **FGFOA Leadership 2027** class will have the opportunity to make a lasting impact on their organizations, the FGFOA, and the future of financial leadership throughout Florida.

Applications open November 9, 2026, and must be submitted by January 29, 2027. Mark your calendars and watch for registration details coming soon.

[CLICK HERE for more Information](#)



GASB Wants Your Voice: Big Changes to GAAP May Be Coming

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) released a **Discussion Memorandum** this year that could reshape how governmental GAAP is organized and communicated. They asked practitioners to weigh in before anything moves forward. Think of this as GASB's "we're thinking about a makeover, tell us what you'd change" moment.

The FGFOA Technical and Legislative Resources Committee (TLRC) answered the call and submitted answers to the questions in the Discussion Memorandum. The TLRC's responses reflect strong support for simplification where it enhances consistency and reduces errors, paired with caution toward reorganizing the Codification in ways that might create unnecessary disruption. By sharing these insights, the TLRC aims to help GASB shape a practical path forward that strengthens guidance without complicating it for preparers and auditors alike.

FGFOA responses along with other stakeholders' can be found on the GAAP Structure project page [**GAAP Structure Project Comment Letters**](#)

Virtual Training Opportunities

Upcoming FGFOA Webinars – Mark Your Calendar!

Stay current and connected with FGFOA's lineup of professional development webinars! Each session is designed to provide practical insights, timely updates, and tools you can apply directly in your daily work. Whether you're looking to strengthen your technical knowledge or expand your leadership skills, there's a webinar for you.

- October 15, 2026 – Cyber Risks 2026/PCI Readiness and Compliance (TB)
- November 19, 2026 – Review of GASB 87/96/101/103/104 and Current GASB Project Agenda (AA)
- December 17, 2026 – Mitigating Audit Findings in Grants (AA)

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!

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).

[Learn more and register](#)

Spotlight on Membership

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.

[CLICK HERE to Nominate a Member](#)

Local Chapter News

Treasure Coast Chapter CGFO Study Group Launches

The Treasure Coast Chapter is excited to announce the official launch of its **CGFO Study Group**, with nine dedicated members already participating. Demonstrating great enthusiasm and commitment, the group held its first meeting just one week after forming and has already begun building a strong collaborative learning environment.

Members interested in joining the study group are encouraged to connect with one of the co-leads, **Myra Ugarte** (mugarte@cityofpsl.com) of the City of Port St. Lucie or **Joseph Sabater** (Joseph.Sabater@StLucieCo.gov) of the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners. New participants are welcome as the group works together to support professional development and CGFO certification success.

Join the South Florida Chapter for Beginner Boot Camp!

Gain the knowledge, confidence, and practical skills needed to succeed in government finance. Registration is limited.



Florida Government
Finance Officers Association
South Florida Chapter

Learn • Build • Grow

BEGINNER BOOT CAMP

*Gain the knowledge and confidence to succeed
in government finance.*



THURSDAY & FRIDAY
OCTOBER 8–9, 2026
8:00 AM – 5:00 PM



HALLANDALE BEACH
FLORIDA



\$450
PER PERSON



16 HOURS
ACCOUNTING &
AUDITING CPE



LEARN THE “WHY”
BEHIND MANY OF THE
GASB REQUIREMENTS.



LEARN FROM AN
EXPERIENCED INSTRUCTOR



INTENSIVE,
HANDS-ON TRAINING

*This program is exclusive to FGFOA or SFGFOA members.
Membership applications are available at FGFOA.org.*

CLICK HERE
FOR MORE INFORMATION
AND REGISTRATION



*Invest
in Your
Future!*

*Registration is limited to the first 30 applicants
and closes on September 27, 2026.*

SOUTH FLORIDA CHAPTER | FLORIDA GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

Advancing Excellence in Government Finance

Be sure to complete your registration by Tuesday, October 6, at 4:00 p.m. Registration will close at that time, and no additional registrations can be accepted after the deadline.

[CLICK HERE to Register](#)

Get Involved with Your Local FGFOA Chapter

FGFOA's local chapters are the foundation of our association, bringing government finance professionals together to connect, learn, and grow at the local level. Chapter events offer a variety of opportunities, including professional development programs, technical training sessions, networking events, and community engagement activities.

Joining and participating in your local chapter is one of the best ways to expand your professional network, exchange ideas, stay informed on industry trends, and build meaningful relationships with peers who share similar challenges and goals. Whether you are a new member or a seasoned professional, your local chapter provides valuable opportunities to engage, contribute, and enhance your FGFOA experience.

Get connected today by joining your local chapter and checking the [Local Chapter Calendar](#) for upcoming events and opportunities to engage with fellow members.



Stay Connected with FGFOA!

View all current and past **E-Bulletins** and editions of the **Fiscal Forum Newsletter** on the FGFOA website:

www.fgfoa.org/e-bulletins

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



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