

**Local Government Advisory Committee**  
Public Meeting Agenda  
February 15, 2024 – All times in Eastern Standard Time

- 2:30pm**      **Call to Order**  
- *John Lucey, Deputy EPA Deputy Associate Administrator for Intergovernmental Relations*  
- *Tim Del Monico, EPAA Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations*
- Welcoming Remarks**  
- *Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, LGAC Chair*  
- *Janet McCabe, EPA Deputy Administrator*
- 2:45pm**      **New Member Introductions**
- 3:05pm**      **Lead and Copper Rule Improvements**  
- *Presentation of Recommendations, Gary Brown, Workgroup Co-Chair*  
- *Input from Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee, Mayor Katie Rosenberg, SCAS Co-Chair*  
- *Discussion, Gary Brown, Workgroup Co-Chair*
- 3:30pm**      **Environmental Justice and Cumulative Impacts**  
- *Overview, Robin Morris Collin, EPA Senior Advisor*  
- *Presentation of New Charge, EPA Region 5 Administrator Debra Shore and Charles Lee, Senior Advisor*  
- *Next Steps, Christian Menefee, Workgroup Chair*
- 4:15pm**      **Update on Reducing Plastic Pollution Workgroup**  
- *Councilmember Heather Kimball and Whit Remer, Workgroup Co-Chairs*
- 4:20pm**      **Update on Climate Communications Workgroup**  
- *Director Darcy Burke and Sarah Fox, Workgroup Chair and Vice-Chair*
- 4:25pm**      **Public Comment**  
- *Facilitated by Lucy Vinis, LGAC Vice-Chair*
- 4:30pm**      **Meeting Closed**  
- *Jack Bowles, EPA Director of State and Local Government Relations*

## **LGAC Recommendations – Lead and Copper Rule Improvements**

Rewriting the Lead and Copper Rule is a once in a lifetime opportunity to finally get the lead out of water across the country. As members who represent local governments, we are dedicated to protecting the safety, health, and well-being of our communities and are proud to help shape the LCRI policy with our recommendations to EPA.

### **10-Year Replacement Timelines**

LCAC previously recommended that EPA consider all reasonable requests for extending timelines related to replacing lead service lines. In this rulemaking EPA estimates that 96% to 99% of water systems can replace all service lines within 10 years, with only three or four systems needing more time. However, local governments are continuously confronted with unknowns and challenges relative to project delivery, including but not limited to costs, financing, and affordability concerns, staff capacity and workforce shortages, replacement program scope and sequencing, geography and climate considerations, length of construction season, access to private property, timely procurement and supply chain delays, and the need for robust and meaningful community engagement. **The LGAC reiterates its prior recommendation that EPA allow flexibility in the rule for local governments to make reasonable requests for extending the timeline to replace lead lines in their communities based upon their unique needs, opportunities, and challenges.** As part of the request, EPA should be responsive and helpful to these communities by standing up programs to assist communities that are struggling to replace lead lines.

### *Replacement Program Scope and Access to Private Property*

EPA required many municipal water systems to identify all lead service lines in their communities, so they know the scope of that project. However, private residences and commercial properties may have interior lead pipe connectors that attach the service line to the home or meter that have not been identified. The scope of replacing these interior lines and connectors, as well as the myriad of challenges and potential delays in doing so is still unknown. The rule states that there is no known safe level of lead exposure. **The LGAC recommends expanding the inventory reporting to include connectors.** The LGAC emphasizes that all lead must be removed when encountered, regardless of length of pipe. The definition of connector is sufficient, as long as it is clear anything over 2 feet is considered a service line.

Communities need support with successfully gaining access to private property and assuming liability for this work. First, in areas with rental property there is the burden of gaining approval from both the property owner and the resident. This requires significant staff outreach and trust building (more below). Second, is the challenge of funding the repair, especially if a landscaped yard must be torn up and repaired. Property owners need to be assured that their homes will be restored to as good if not better than they started. Depending on the home, restorations can cost as much as the service line replacement. There are also public relations concerns about leaving a lawn or sidewalk exposed during winter months because it cannot be restored until warmer weather arrives.

**Communities may also need technical assistance to develop the policy and legal framework to successfully deploy a lead service line replacement program that includes replacing connectors on private property.** From model ordinances to standard legal provisions, to typical access agreements,

many communities will need a suite of governing documents and best practices that are “tried and true” and have worked in other places. For example, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department is trying to pass local legislation to give the City control of the private side of the line for one year, so that they can get access to the line, replace it, and offer a one-year warranty before returning it to the property owner. Detroit is also working with the state to enact a law allowing control of private side for purposes of replacing lead lines. However, this is arguably one extreme response, and there are concerns these types of laws constitute an unconstitutional taking of property. Many other communities are taking the approach of creating ordinances that give property owners the opportunity to be part of a free lead service line replacement program. If they don’t accept, they would be required to replace the line at their own cost by a certain date or lose water service. Regardless of the approach, these types of action will require significant time to develop and implement.

#### *Geography and Climate*

Geography and climate are additional factors in determining timeline. In a place like Madison or Lincoln, you must dig significantly deeper to reach the frost line versus a place like Dallas. There are also different windows of opportunity to dig and repair sidewalk and landscaping depending on climate. The city of Madison underwent a full lead service line replacement project in 2000, which serves as a relevant case study. The city estimated as many as 11,000 lines existed and were required through a consent decree to replace both the public side and the private side of the lines within ten years. City officials were optimistic that they would meet the deadline, and even accomplished most of the work within six years, once the needed processes and contracts were in place. However, they chose to stretch the last ten percent of the work over the remaining four years because there were future public works projects planned in that location, and waiting until those projects began meant saving significant money and decreasing disruption to resident’s daily lives. While the project was overall a success, it’s worth noting that part of the success is because it was a major municipal priority, with all hands-on deck. In a city of 300,000 people, with 70,000 service connections, an average of three to five replacements were completed each day, and that was at maximum capacity. **The LGAC recommends that EPA allow – or encourage states to allow – flexibility in quotas from one year to the next if there is a plan in place and work is progressing.**

#### *Supply Chain and Labor*

Completing this work on a national scale will test the market. With any type of major capital improvement project, the supply chain and labor are drivers of timeline and cost. If the whole country is simultaneously buying pipe, soliciting a workforce, and seeking lab results, there will be shortages that delay timelines and introduce price volatility. While the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides a significant amount of funding, it will not be enough. Water rates will increase to cover the cost of lead line replacement. Having the flexibility to manage the costs over time will be helpful to stabilizing rates and affordability, especially for overburdened communities. Recent inflation has made nearly every U.S. household reevaluate their expenditures. Combine that with other proposed regulations like PFAS drinking water limits, and utility rates could quickly become untenable for many households and businesses. **The LGAC recommends that the U.S. government work to secure inventory and stabilize the cost of needed supplies whenever possible. Waiving the Buy America requirement will also help to alleviate this challenge.**

Contractors will also be in limited supply compared to demand. In Ann Arbor, the water utility has never received more than two bids in response to an RFP and at times there have been no responses. In Detroit, long term contracts were used to incentivize contractors to relocate staff and equipment to the area for guaranteed funding and stable work. The influx of federal infrastructure funding has allowed skilled contractors to pick their projects, and residential neighborhood work is challenging work. With an estimated six to nine months needed for each bid cycle, multiple years of dependable funding is helpful to attract contractors looking to invest in a community.

### **Community Engagement**

A critical part of this work is community engagement and risk communication. Most systems lack the bandwidth to do the type of public outreach and engagement that is required. The effort will necessitate intentional and meaningful communication that will resonate with residents and businesses. An approach may include townhalls, open houses, or a resource hub to share information about the program, the project schedule, the impacts to the community, and the cooperation needed by each resident or business. A variety of communication channels must be established through websites, social and traditional media, bill inserts, neighborhood and community publications, and door-to-door campaigns, all of which will require appropriate translation services and delivered in a culturally competent manner. EPA needs to provide dedicated funding and technical assistance to support this level of communication and allow communities to have a flexible timeline for meaningful public outreach.

For example, in Detroit, replacement is occurring on a block-by-block basis. As one block comes to the top of the queue, the utility is hydro-excavating to determine whether lead pipes are serving homes. Without proactive communication before, during, and after this lead determination, access to the home, digging up yards, and eliminating problem pipes would be impossible. Detroit states it costs \$43 per house for staffing, printing literature, hosting meetings and door-to-door outreach for its lead line replacement community outreach program. To attain its goal of 10,000 line replacements per year, Detroit must set aside almost half a million dollars just for outreach. Detroit credits its robust outreach program for the 100% cooperation in accessing the private service line.

While specific projects are communicated, communities will need time and support with the overall message that municipal drinking water is still safe to consume. Robust and meaningful communication is the foundation in which to build and maintain public trust. Without it, credibility will be lost. This can extend beyond municipal boundaries as well. The City of Newark owns the reservoir supplying its community and many surrounding communities. When they replaced their lines in 2020, the safety of the water was questioned, even though the reservoir was not contaminated with lead. Several communities ended contracts with the City and have not returned, resulting in significant lost revenue.

### **Deadlines and State Oversight**

EPA has asked about whether states should be required – as a condition of primacy – to set initial shortened deadlines where systems seemingly have the capacity. **The overall recommendation is to allow communities to establish their own timelines. With that said, LGAC members believed states could establish incentives for systems that do have capacity to meet a shorter timeline.**

Every local official is managing competing priorities and limited capacity. **The LGAC recommends that EPA not give states any role that allows them to prioritize those resources.** Looking at the cities of Newark and Yuma illustrate this need for community flexibility. When Newark replaced their lead service lines in 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, ambition was a big motivator. The public supported the City's streamlined work and their focus on protecting environmental justice communities, and that in turn motivated city departments to work harder. However, that was a collective decision made by the community. In Yuma, Arizona, water is a daily topic of discussion. The health of the water is extremely important to the community, but so is the availability of water. Right now, the community has prioritized the former via a system expansion. At the end of the day, there is a limit to capacity and financing, and Yuma would be unable to secure a bond for an additional water project if required under LCRI.

Lancaster, Pennsylvania offers another perspective. The community and its leaders are committed to eliminating lead, but their research shows that only one percent of service lines are lead. The number one way that children are exposed to lead in Lancaster is through paint. In the last year their health bureau received 91 cases of children with elevated blood lead levels (EBLL), 80 percent of which came from rental properties. The city is funding an aggressive campaign to eliminate the harmful contaminant and have been doing corrosion control for decades to mitigate any threat in drinking water. With more than 75 percent of the population considered an Environmental Justice community, affording another aggressive campaign under the LCRI will be a major challenge, and will not yield significant improvement in public health.

Generally, systems can remove lines at a faster pace when they are clustered in a neighborhood, but the work slows down when lines are scattered across the city. Thus, systems do not want the EPA/States to have the option of mandating shorter schedules if they see a system removing lines at a rapid pace. The ten-year timeline should apply regardless of the pace in the first few years.

### **Multiple Exceedances**

In response to EPA's questions about filters and repeated exceedances, **the LGAC is hesitant to support filters.** They note that once you once communities are provided filters, it will become a permanent responsibility resulting tin additional cost to the community. The better approach to growing public trust in water safety is to eliminate lead lines rather than putting the onus on residents to properly use and replace filters on a set schedule. Having filters available upon request is sufficient, but mandating delivery of filters to every home after an exceedance is administratively burdensome and costly, and homeowners may not use the filters.

In response to the question of whether states should be allowed to develop their own rule for multiple exceedances, states already have the right to enact laws that enhance federal regulations. Nonetheless, **LGAC recommends the LCRI specifically say that states may develop their own rule for multiple exceedances.**

In response to EPA's question about discontinuing notice and filter requirements early in certain circumstances (e.g. if the system implements optimized or re-optimized corrosion control, completes the LSLR, or has two subsequent periods below the actionable level), the LGAC unequivocally says yes.

Especially if a line is replaced, every requirement regarding lead should end.

### **Corrosion Control Treatment and Samples**

Regarding corrosion control treatments, LGAC members highlight the idea of “one water,” and that anything added for drinking water safety must be taken out in the wastewater treatment part of the cycle. However, **the LGAC agrees with EPA about corrosion control being a reasonable and cost-effective treatment protocol.** It will be an important tool long into the future, especially given the prevalence of lead in internal fixtures and faucets. The ultimate goal of water utilities is to protect public health and maintain their trust; if a lead action level is going to be hit, utilities need to be able to take action with additional corrosion control treatment. **LGAC supports EPA’s proposal that states may approve a CCT re-optimization treatment change for a system based on a previously conducted CCT study.** The previous study authorized a range of orthophosphate that may be added to the water supply; thus, in the event of an exceedance, there may be room within the range of the water utility’s current authorized treatment protocol to increase the orthophosphate level.

**The LGAC agrees with EPA that excessively stagnant samples should be withheld from being sent to the laboratory.** Detroit considers any sample as excessively stagnate if the water has been stagnant for over one week. Water utilities should strive to sample at addresses with regular consumption, which is representative of households having potential exposure to lead daily.

### **Small Communities**

The LGAC’s Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS), which includes elected and appointed officials from communities of mostly 10,000 residents or less, provided specific input on the rulemaking.

Regarding the proposed lowering of the definition of small systems from 10,000 to 3,300 residents, they raised concerns. First, communities of this size have limited revenue, with little differentiation in resources between the two proposed thresholds. If flexibilities were no longer waived for communities between 3,300 and 10,000 residents there would need to be a corresponding funding mechanism to support compliance. There would also need to be little to no match requirement for planning and implementation, from municipalities no longer considered “small” under the new regulation.

Beyond funding, technical assistance is an important factor for small communities. SCAS members highlighted that the expertise and worker retention of small water system operators has declined over the last ten years. The technical assistance offered is often via a website recording or dependent on completing a complex application. If the goal is to support compliance it must involve a person coming into a facility, or at the least, connecting via one-on-one videoconferencing.

A bigger concern with changing the threshold in the definition is the series of known and unknown impacts it would have on state regulations and guidelines. States often use EPA’s definition of small systems to determine different funding resources and requirements at large. Changing this for one specific rule could set a dangerous precedent. Furthermore, the change could impact regionalization efforts, where rural communities are working to combine operations to share resources and lower cost. The LGAC believes that EPA should incentivize this trend wherever possible. However, in some states there are population thresholds for this action, which are based on federal water regulations. SCAS

members from western Massachusetts noted that it's already difficult to connect communities with under 5,000 people to regionalization efforts, and this proposed change would exacerbate efforts even more.

In response to the question of who authors relevant guidance under the LCRI, **the SCAS overall supports the EPA taking on this responsibility, noting that EPA will be more likely to develop guidelines driven by science over personal interests.** However, if the responsibility is delegated to states they recommend that EPA provide templates and deadlines for completion, to ensure it happens. Related, members request that wherever possible, allowing communities to access funding and technical assistance directly from the source – rather than an intermediary government or organization – makes a notable difference in efficiency and efficacy for small communities.

DRAFT



## **U.S. EPA Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC)**

*February 2024*

### **Client Office**

EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR)

### **Context**

Executive Orders 13985 and 14091<sup>1</sup> call for comprehensive approaches to advancing equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and the inequitable distribution of pollution. Executive Order 14096<sup>2</sup> calls for a whole-of-government approach to ensure that all people are “fully protected from disproportionate and adverse human health and environmental effects (including risks) and hazards, including those related to climate change, the cumulative impacts of environmental and other burdens, and the legacy of racism or other structural or systemic barriers.”<sup>3</sup>

EPA's FY23 Equity Action Plan puts forth a strategy to reduce cumulative environmental and health impacts in communities with EJ concerns by, among other things, addressing fragmentation in government programs and building a toolkit of methods including assessment of disproportionate impacts, health disparities and social determinants of health. The EPA Office of Inspector General has recommended better coordination and collaboration to address cumulative impacts and their disproportionate health effects. As a result, EPA is seeking opportunities and approaches for stronger partnerships with communities and governmental partners to advance cumulative impacts practice in a manner that engenders collective engagement and co-learning.

EPA Region 5 has developed and is implementing a Community Action Roadmap to serve as a comprehensive cross-program community-based approach to address multiple, disproportionate, and cumulative impacts in overburdened communities. Region 5 has also adopted a set of Standard Operating Procedures to implement this approach. The Community Action Roadmap builds on EPA's EJ collaborative problem-solving model and draws heavily from Health Impacts Assessment phases and practice standards. OEJECR wishes to explore the potential for a national version of Region 5's Standard Operating Procedures.

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<sup>1</sup> EO 13985: Advancing Racial Equity and Support For Underserved Communities; EO 14091: Further Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities

<sup>2</sup> EO 14096: Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.





## Charge

Provide recommendations on how to improve and implement the Community Action Roadmap.

- (1) How can the Community Action Roadmap be a vehicle to advance EPA's overall strategy to assess and address the multiple and cumulative impacts which disproportionately affect historically marginalized communities?
- (2) How can EPA utilize the Community Action Roadmap to promote local government partnerships with their communities, other federal agencies, and state governments?
- (3) What input does LGAC have to refine Region 5's Community Action Roadmap Standard Operating Procedures?
- (4) How can local governments partner with EPA to advance implementation of the Community Action Roadmap in site-specific situations?
- (5) How can EPA promote national use of the Community Action Roadmap across its programs and regions?

## Details of LGAC EJ Workgroup Action

The Workgroup will be comprised of LGAC members, not to exceed a quorum, and will meet monthly via videoconference, starting in February.

The Workgroup will report out on its interim progress at a public meeting in May; a public meeting will be scheduled for the Workgroup to present its final recommendations once they are developed. The LGAC's Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee will also be given an opportunity to weigh in on the recommendations before they are finalized.

The content of Workgroup meetings will include dialogue with EPA staff and other experts. External guests may be consulted as desired by the Workgroup members.

## Outline/Scope of Workgroup Meetings:

- February: EPA Region 5 to present the SOP and provide detailed information on the Community Action Roadmap
- March: Invite examples that have used the Community Action Roadmap, and/or can inform further development and implementation of the approach.
- April: Hear from NEJAC Rep and their thoughts on the Community Action Roadmap and review draft recommendations.
- May: consolidate final comments and final draft recommendations. present final during in person meeting.

## Deliverables

The Workgroup will summarize its discussions on the above topics, highlighting any recommendations, in a written document. Additional deliverables may be developed as the workgroup progresses.

Initial Input on Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution  
EPA Local Government Advisory Committee  
February 2024

The members of the EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the challenge of reducing plastic pollution, which is a daily challenge for communities across the country. The LGAC will be digging into specific areas of this topic over the next several months. In the meantime, the LGAC has identified priorities for EPA action within the *Draft National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution*.

In looking at the various objectives and sub-objectives there was one clear priority for the LGAC: to reduce the production and consumption of single-use, unrecyclable, or frequently littered plastic products. While this seemingly mirrors EPA's top line of the draft strategy, it surprised LGAC leadership, who were expecting waste management objectives to be highlighted. However, the consensus is that local governments interested in addressing plastic pollution have already done what they can and reached a point of diminishing returns. What remains are big, systemic problems, which need the enforcement and convening power of the federal government to resolve.

This and other topics are further detailed below, organized under objectives A, B and C in the draft strategy. For the purpose of ranking actions, the LGAC also highlighted the following priorities:

- *Objective B2* – Develop or expand capacity to maximize the reuse of materials.
- *Objective C2* – Improve water management to increase trash and micro/ nanoplastic capture in waterways and stormwater/wastewater systems.
- *Objective C1* – Identify and implement policies, programs, technical assistance, and compliance assurance actions that effectively prevent trash/micro/nanoplastics from getting into waterways or remove such waste from waterways once it is there.
- *Objective B3* – Facilitate more effective composting and degradation of certified compostable products.

### **Objective A – Reducing Pollution During Plastic Production**

The Strategy identifies two subobjectives, and the LGAC unequivocally prioritizes the goal of reducing plastic production over reducing the pollution associated with that pollution. The LGAC sees a critical role for the federal government to hold producers responsible for the waste they generate. This could be accomplished in many ways, from enforcing an extended producer responsibility, to developing rules around manufacturing and waste. One of the most meaningful actions would be to support the use of reliable alternative products. More and more, consumers are understanding the benefits of reducing plastic use, but they don't have the data or tools they need to make informed choices, which ends in "wish cycling." EPA can step in with data about the full life cycle of products and the implications of consumer choices. As one LGAC member said, it's the obligation of government to make it easy for the public to do the right thing.

A related issue is the need for clear guidance and definitions, including how to define single-use plastic, which derailed legislation in New Mexico, and how to draft legislation that bans or limiting certain plastic

products. Guidance and support for municipalities to measure the plastic pollution generated – and eventually how much it is reduced – is also in great demand, particularly in smaller communities.

### **Objective B – Improving Post-use Materials Management**

Once plastic is in the waste stream, the LGAC identified several priorities to consider. First, EPA needs to support a reuse economy on all fronts. This starts with markets for recyclable materials, which are either nonexistent or cost-prohibitive for many communities and extends to the compost market.

Second, EPA should support a broad, strategic public education campaign to empower individuals. Every day there are superfluous plastic items pushed on individuals, and collective action can make a long-term impact. However, this campaign needs to lead with the fact that it's not up to individuals to solve the systemic problem. Rather, it's about offering tangible solutions that empower people to reduce their plastic consumption with minimal cost or burden. A critical component of this is to educate the public about the damage done by single use plastic and have a good alternative ready to be deployed.

A public campaign for composting is also needed. Again, there is a high level of “wish cycling” with compostable materials, given confusion on what can be composted based on the available facility. EPA can make an impact by developing assurances that composting is an effective and efficient process and helping everyone from the household level to the municipal level to develop composting practices.

Many LGAC members noted the role of sporting and event venues in reducing their community's overall waste stream. By focusing on high-volume generators, particularly in places where individuals are generating and disposing of some of the waste, there's a big opportunity to both implement waste reduction practices and improve public awareness. Friendly competitions between sports stadiums within collegiate conferences could resonate across the country.

### **Objective C – Prevent Trash and Micro/nanoplastics from Entering Waters and Remove Escaped Trash from the Environment**

The LGAC again emphasizes the need for clear data and actions for communities to take in accomplishing this objective. For elected and appointed local government officials, the idea of a clean up program immediately stems concerns about cost – for public works departments, drinking water utilities, and wastewater utilities. Local governments need incentives to switch to a compostable or recyclable waste stream. One suggestion is to support the local re-use of recyclable materials.

Producers need to be held responsible for creating the problem, rather than governments and individuals left with the waste and the bill. Technology like microplastic capture is a burgeoning market that should be explored as a public-private partnership, with commercial and residential applications.

### **Lowest Priorities**

While these are meaningful goals, understanding that resources are finite, the LGAC rated the following the lowest priorities:

- *Objective B4* – Increase solid waste collection and ensure that solid waste management does not adversely impact communities, including those overburdened by pollution.
- *Objective C3* – Increase and improve measurement of trash loadings into waterways to inform management interventions.
- *Objective B1* – Conduct a study of the effectiveness of existing public policies and incentives upon the reuse, collection, recycling, and conservation of materials.
- *Objective B6* – Explore possible ratification of the Basel Convention and encourage environmentally sound management of scrap and recyclable traded with other countries.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Member Biographies

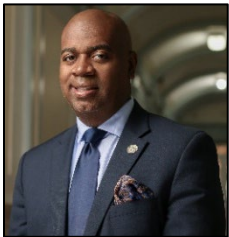
February 2024



**Leirion Gaylor Baird, Chair**

*Mayor, Lincoln, NE*

Leirion Gaylor Baird was elected Mayor of Lincoln, Nebraska in 2019, after serving two terms on the City Council. The mayor's vision of leading Lincoln toward a more successful, secure, and shared future drives her administration's agenda. Upon taking office, she launched the Resilient Lincoln initiative and commissioned the development of a Climate Action Plan – a first of its kind in the state of Nebraska. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees for the U.S. Conference of Mayors and as Chair of their Mayors and Metro Universities Task Force. Mayor Gaylor Baird has been Chair of the LGAC since 2021.



**Ras Baraka**

*Mayor, Newark, NJ*

Ras J. Baraka is currently serving his third term as Mayor of Newark, New Jersey. A Newark native, he has received accolades from grassroots organizations to the White House, for his ability to reduce crime to its lowest levels in five decades, address affordability while maintaining growth, lower unemployment, and nearly complete the replacement of all 23,000-plus lead service lines in the city. As the President and Chair of the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association, and through his involvement in the New Jersey DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Council, he is addressing climate change and environmental justice inequities.



**Sharon Broome**

*Mayor, Baton Rouge, LA*

Sharon Broome was sworn in as the Mayor-President of Baton Rouge in 2017, but has a long history of public service and leadership. She is the first female to hold her position and was also the first female to hold the leadership positions of Speaker Pro Tempore in the Louisiana State House and President Pro Tempore in the State Senate. Broome is focused on uniting her city around the common goals of equality in education, economic development, justice, housing, and other quality ways of life.



**Gary Brown, Water Workgroup Vice-Chair**

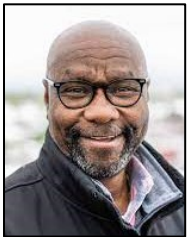
*Water and Sewerage Department Director, Detroit, MI*

Gary Brown is Director of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), which is the largest water and sewerage system in the United States. Service has been a constant in Brown's life, starting with the U.S. Marines, and including 26 years in the Detroit Police Department as a patrol officer, precinct commander and deputy chief. Since taking the helm of DWSD in 2016, Brown has transformed its operation by focusing on compassionate customer care and addressing the evolving needs of the community.



**Tricia Canonico**  
*Councilmember, Fort Collins, CO*

Tricia Canonico serves as Councilmember for Fort Collins, Colorado, where she acts as a representative on the Board of Directors of the Colorado Coalition on Climate Action as well as a member on the Policy and Legislative Committees. Throughout her career, she has demonstrated a commitment to community advocacy and engagement. In 2020, Tricia organized a campaign to support frontline healthcare workers in the initial months of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has also worked to ensure all voices in her community can be heard, even before holding elected office. In 2018, she worked to garner support for her local immigrant community through her work with the Family Center, where she also created fundraising plans for children's education.



**Wilmot Collins**  
*Mayor, Helena, MT*

As a refugee fleeing the First Liberian Civil War, Collins arrived in Helena in 1994 and began his life in America working at a home for abused children and as a school janitor. As spending two decades as a U.S. Navy reservist and working as a child protection specialist with the Montana Department of Health, Collins was elected the first Black mayor of any city in Montana since statehood. His platform included a commitment to increasing funding for firefighters, police officers, and other first responders and reducing teenage and veteran homelessness.



**Becky Corran**  
*Councilmember, Las Cruces, NM*

Becky Corran has served as a City Councilmember for Las Cruces, New Mexico since 2021. As part of that role, she chairs the Transportation, Sustainability, and Infrastructure Policy Review Committee, where she provides key perspectives from her twenty years of experience in public health and education. As a Councilor and community college professor, she works with diverse communities with a focus on access and equity.



**Jim Donchess**  
*Mayor, Nashua, NH*

Jim Donchess has served as Mayor of Nashua, New Hampshire since 2016. Since taking office, Mayor Donchess has focused on economic growth, affordable housing, building stronger, greener municipal infrastructure, and education. His accomplishments include adding 700 units of housing, expanding full-day kindergarten across all public schools, and launching Nashua Community Power. A longtime advocate for justice, Mayor Donchess draws on his many years of experience as an attorney representing plaintiffs in discrimination lawsuits to build a stronger community. Aside from his present mayoralty, Jim also served two terms as the 51st Mayor of Nashua.



**Allison Eckel**  
*Commissioner, Burlington County, NJ*

Allison Eckel is a dedicated community activist who currently sits on the Burlington County Board of Commissioners in New Jersey. She has committed herself to local involvement through her work with the Lenape Regional High School District Board of Education as well as being a Scoutmaster with the Boy Scouts of America's first all-girl troop in New Jersey. Allison is also an outspoken advocate on a host of environmental topics, including water quality and environmental justice land preservation.



**Miki Esposito**

*Associate Director of Public Works, Los Angeles County, CA*

Miki Esposito is responsible for leading the Los Angeles County public works department, which serves nearly 10 million people. Esposito began her career as an attorney for the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, specializing in Environmental and Natural Resources Law. She also worked in the Lincoln City Attorney's Office on civil litigation, contract negotiation and legislation, and as Senior Policy Advisor to the Mayor of Lincoln, where she supported a range of policy issues.



**Dawn Euer**

*State Senator, State of Rhode Island*

Dawn Euer represents Newport and surrounding areas. Euer has helped advocate for marriage equality, environmental issues, economic justice, women's rights and more. She was the lead sponsor of 2021's historic Act on Climate, which is the most comprehensive climate legislation in Rhode Island history. As the representative of a district on the front lines of climate change, she continues to advocate for substantial investments in renewable energy and resiliency. In 2022, Sen. Euer was named USA TODAY's Women of the Year honoree for Rhode Island. Euer has served on the boards of a range of organizations. She is currently studying marine affairs and is a practicing lawyer.



**Chandra Farley**

*Sustainability Director, Atlanta, GA*

With a passion for elevating the connection between environmental justice, strong communities, and our daily lives, Chandra's perspective on built and natural environments is informed by a career foundation in the design and construction industry. Her career includes working at Southface Energy Institute and Partnership for Southern Equity, focused on forming national partnerships and advancing community-centered strategies that advance energy equity, climate justice and utility accountability. She has served in leadership roles on a range of boards and committees. As Atlanta's Chief Sustainability Officer, she is charged with developing a comprehensive climate resilience strategy that will address energy insecurity, healthy housing, local food systems, waste diversion, building decarbonization, workforce training, and fleet electrification while advancing the City's goal to achieve 100% clean energy for 100% of Atlantans by 2035. Chandra is also developing the strategy to leverage the historic federal investment in clean energy in alignment with the Justice40 Initiative.



**Jessyn Farrell**

*Director of Sustainability, Seattle, WA*

Jessyn Farrell is a leader in building public consensus on difficult issues related to the environment, housing, transportation, and the economy. Farrel has more than 20 years of experience in the public, private, philanthropic and non-profit sectors, including serving as a member of the Washington House of Representatives from 2013 to 2017. In the legislature, she focused on transportation, education, and labor issues. Farrell is a longtime transit and environmental advocate, and emphasizes listening, creative-thinking and data-based decision-making to find solutions that meet community objectives.



**Sarah Fox**

*Climate Program Manager, State of Washington*

Sarah Fox is a Climate Program Manager for the Washington State Department of Commerce, where she guides local governments in planning for climate change impacts. She was also elected to Vancouver, Washington's City Council, where she is serving her second term. She has more than 18 years of experience in long-range and current planning, including advocating for urban development and affordable housing, land use, transportation, fossil fuel regulations, and climate action policies.



**Jacob Frey**

*Mayor, Minneapolis, MN*

Jacob Frey was elected Mayor in 2017 and has championed an agenda during his tenure centered on increasing access to affordable housing throughout the city, strengthening community-police relations, and fueling economic growth through inclusive policies. He has successfully secured record-setting investments for the city's affordable housing work, boosting efforts to expand and preserve affordable housing. Prior to his role as Mayor, he served on Minneapolis City Council Member from 2014 to 2018. As an employment and civil rights attorney, Frey became an active community organizer, including fighting for gay rights and supporting those experiencing homelessness.



**Evan Glass**

*Councilmember, Montgomery County, MD*

Evan Glass is an At-Large member of the Montgomery County Council, where he has served since 2018, where he is the first openly LGBTQ+ individual to serve on the Council. He also serves as Chair of the Transportation & Environment Committee and as a board member of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Glass is committed to addressing issues of housing affordability, transit equity, achieving Vision Zero, addressing the climate crisis through meaningful environmental legislation and clean energy initiatives, and ensuring that Montgomery County is economically competitive. Prior to serving in elective office, Glass spent 12 years as a CNN journalist, where he covered Congress, presidential campaigns, and national politics.



**Evan Hansen**

*House Delegate, Morgantown, WV*

Evan Hansen is serving his third term in the West Virginia House of Delegates, representing Monongalia County. Hansen owns an environmental and economic development consulting firm that strengthens economies, sustains healthy environments, and builds resilient communities. Before his election, Evan worked with legislators to respond to the Freedom Industries chemical leak, and provided testimony regarding attempts to increase the amount of cancer-causing chemicals in the state's rivers. Hansen's work has also included consulting on water and energy issues across Sub-Saharan Africa, and in China and Egypt.





**Deana Holiday Ingraham**

*Mayor, East Point, GA*

During her first term as mayor of East Point, Georgia, Deana Holiday Ingraham has championed implementation of livable wages for City employees, financial literacy for youth, developing public arts and agricultural master plans, and using Brownfields grant funding to develop unused land. Prior to her role as mayor, she had a successful legal career, including serving as a trial court law clerk, managing member of her own law firm, and an advocate for senior citizens. Ingraham serves on several organizations, including as a board member for the National League of Cities (NLC) and Georgia Municipal Association.



**Heather Kimball**

*County Commissioner, Hawai'i County, HI*

Heather Kimball is in her second term as Commissioner, representing the rural and economically disadvantaged district of Hawai'i County. During her tenure she has supported legislative projects on affordable housing, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and climate change targets. Outside of elected office Kimball manages a consulting firm focused on environmentally sensitive land management planning and creating public communication materials and policy support tools. She has technical expertise in the zero-waste movement, Extended Producer Responsibility, and has written for several relevant academic publications.



**Ruthzee Louijeune**

*Councilmember, Boston, MA*

Ruthzee Louijeune is serving her second term as City Councilor At-Large and was unanimously elected as Boston City Council President in January 2024. She is a grounded, thoughtful, and inclusive leader. The daughter of Haitian immigrants, born and raised in the city of Boston and its public schools, Ruthzee has the passion and conviction to meet the urgency of this difficult moment and lead us to a better Boston. As a lawyer and advocate, Ruthzee fights for working people— in particular Black and Latinx communities— on issues of housing and homeownership, education access, and civic participation. When the political process ignores the needs of her community, Ruthzee and her family have joined and led protests against unfair immigration practices and police brutality.



**Ann Mallek**

*Supervisor, Albemarle County, VA*

Ann Mallek was first elected to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors in November 2008. She has over 40 years of experience in public service, including Committees on tourism, agriculture, forestry and historic preservation. She is also an active member of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) Board of Directors and the National Association of Counties (NACo) Environment and Land Use Committee. In 13 of her 14 years on the Board of Supervisors, she has held 6 town halls annually to meet with constituents, going online with Covid.



**Christian Menefee**

*County Attorney, Harris County, TX*

Christian Menefee was reared in an environmental justice community, living near the largest petrochemical company in the world. In 2020 he was elected as Harris County Attorney, as the youngest person and first African American to hold the position. During his tenure he has engaged in legal action against the Texas highway agency

for infrastructure projects with detrimental impacts on underserved neighborhoods, as well as with Texas environmental regulators failing to follow permit laws, and a company responsible for creosote contamination in a predominantly Black neighborhood that resulted in cancer clusters.



**Douglas J. Nicholls**

*Mayor, Yuma, AZ*

Currently in his third term as Mayor, Nicholls believes that quality communities provide opportunities for success to all residents through jobs, superior education, and a robust quality of life. His vision to make higher education more accessible culminates in plans for the Yuma Multiversity Campus (YMC), a brownfields redevelopment project that will utilize the academic programs and specialties offered by state universities and local community colleges. Nicholls has also spearheaded efforts to enhance and grow the Yuma community, including founding [4FrontED](#), an economic development-focused governing board of mayors from binational locations near the U.S.-Mexico border.



**Ron Nirenberg**

*Mayor, San Antonio, TX*

Ron Nirenberg is currently serving his third term as the mayor of San Antonio, which has the 7th largest population in the United States and is one of the nation's fastest growing cities. Nirenberg is the first San Antonio Mayor of Asian Pacific Islander descent. Through his personal experiences, Nirenberg developed a core commitment to civic participation and the universal values of liberty, justice, and equal opportunity for every person. Under his leadership as mayor, the city has adopted an equity framework in budgeting to reduce poverty, improve public health, and overcome historical socioeconomic inequality.



**David Painter**

*County Commissioner, Clermont County*

David Painter is currently serving his second term on the Clermont County Board of Commissioners and is a strong advocate for market competition and government efficiency. Painter is committed to reducing the impacts resulting from the Ohio opiate crisis. He represents the people of Ohio on several regional and national organizations, including the National Association of County's (NACo) Energy, Environmental and Land Use Steering Committee and NACo Board of Directors.



**Shawyn Patterson-Howard**

*Mayor, Mount Vernon, NY*

Shawyn Patterson-Howard has served as Mayor of Mount Vernon since 2020, where she has been on the front lines of fighting for social justice in her city. She has maintained a strong focus on developing systemic solutions that help marginalized groups and creating partnerships that serve disenfranchised voices. During her time in office, Mayor Patterson-Howard has helped to secure funding for multiple infrastructure redevelopment projects, including funding to upgrade Mount Vernon's aging sewers and a cultural arts district. Mayor Patterson-Howard is also the first woman elected mayor in her city and is the first woman of color elected mayor in Westchester County. She has leveraged this position to strengthen relationships within her city and create new networks for community development.



**Mary Lou Pauly**  
*Mayor, Issaquah, WA*

Mary Lou Pauly has served as Mayor of Issaquah since 2017, following 19 years on the City's Development Commission and four years on City Council. During her time as a public servant, she has implemented a City Climate Action Plan, provided electrification incentives, and worked with regional partners to evaluate PFAS contamination and remediation. She is an active member on several national organizations, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Mayors Water Council, and the National League of Cities. Prior to elected office she worked in environmental consulting and civil engineering.



**Evan Pratt**  
*Water Resources Commissioner, Washtenaw County, MI*

Evan Pratt has served for 11 years as Water Resources Commissioner for Washtenaw County, Michigan. In this role, he oversees EPA-funded projects and collaborates with regional working groups to help improve the state's water standards. Prior to this, he worked for 24 years as a municipal consulting engineer, including as a Board member and Corporate Treasurer for a large consulting firm. Based on his extensive knowledge of water infrastructure and leadership in his field, Evan was appointed to the Governor's 21st Century Infrastructure Commission in 2016.



**Whitford E. Remer**  
*Sustainability and Resilience Officer, Tampa, FL*

As the first Sustainability and Resilience Officer for the City of Tampa, Whitford Remer is guided by three core principles: Go Green, Be Fair, and Keep Safe. Remer is responsible for developing the Resilient Tampa Roadmap and secured major financial commitment in his first few months on the job to develop the city's first Climate Action and Equity Plan to reach 100% renewable energy. His drive towards equity and inclusion comes from living in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.



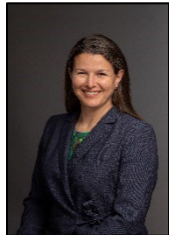
**Satya Rhodes-Conway, Air, Climate and Energy Workgroup Chair**  
*Mayor, Madison, WI*

Elected in 2019, Satya Rhodes-Conway is the second female and first out LGBTQ person to serve as mayor of Madison, Wisconsin. She has extensive experience in local policy and practice, having served three terms on the Madison Common Council, and worked with mayors and organizations across the country to implement innovative policy that promote environmental economic sustainability and build democratically accountable communities. As co-chair of the Climate Mayors, Rhodes-Conway recognizes the need for whole-of-government approach to climate change, including public budgets, capital investments, and a focus on equity.



**Katie Rosenberg**  
*Mayor, Wasau, WI*

Katie Rosenberg has served as Mayor of Wasau, Wisconsin since 2021. During her time in office, she has focused on supporting her community through affordable housing projects and addressing water quality concerns. Prior to her service as Mayor, she was elected to the Marathon County Board in 2016, representing District 1 on Wausau's Southeast Side. She served with various committees in this role, including Vice Chair of the Mount View Care Center Committee, and as a member of both the Health and Human Services Committee, the Diversity Affairs Commission, and the Transportation Coordinating Committee.



**Danene Sorace**  
*Mayor, Lancaster, PA*

Danene Sorace serves as the 43rd Mayor of Lancaster. Mayor Sorace brings her experience as a non-profit leader, environmental advocate, and City Councilor to the role of mayor. She has set forth a vision of building a stronger, more equitable Lancaster block by block underscored by four strategic priorities: strong neighborhoods, safe places, sustainable economy, and sound government. Mayor Sorace serves on the U.S. Conference of Mayors Water Council and is the former president of the Pennsylvania Municipal League. In her time as Mayor, Lancaster launched the Department of Neighborhood Engagement to elevate neighborhoods and empower residents, secured record grants to remediate lead and promote safe streets, and made historic investments in affordable housing. Mayor Sorace's first taste of local government was creating Lancaster's first green infrastructure plan.



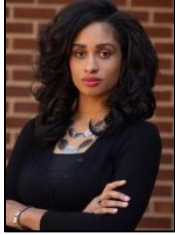
**Ashley Stolzmann**  
*Commissioner, Boulder County, CO*

Boulder County Commissioner Ashley Stolzmann is committed to serving the Boulder County community in a way that protects the environment and allows every person the opportunity to thrive. Stolzmann has served as an elected official since 2013, including chairing the regional Council of Governments, comprised of 58 different governmental agencies responsible for regional planning, transportation, and aging services for the broader region. Stolzmann believes that tackling climate action is the most important issue facing Boulder County and the world, and that the actions we take in the next decade will determine our path for the future. She led her community through both the COVID-19 pandemic and a devastating wildfire. Stolzmann also has a background in engineering and manufacturing.



**Lucy Vinis**  
*Mayor, Eugene, OR*

Lucy Vinis has served as Mayor of Eugene, Oregon for 5 years. She has worked across the government and non-profit sectors to address equity, land use, natural resources, agriculture, housing, and homelessness. She previously worked as a consultant in Washington, DC, and co-authored studies on sustainable farming, land use, and development impacts on ground and surface water in the Chesapeake Bay. Vinis is a member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and a Climate Mayor, bringing Eugene's leadership and experience into the national discussion about the role of cities in responding to climate change. Vinis is the Vice Chair of the LGAC.



**La'Meshia Whittington**

*State of Georgia*

Professor La'Meshia Whittington is a NC state appointed official, professor, the Principal and CEO of Whittington & Staley Consulting Group, LLC and the Founding President of Democracy Green, and environmental justice and pro-democracy reform nonprofit birthed in Hurricane Florence's floodwaters. She created the nation's first research on racial gerrymandering and pollution hotspots in marginalized communities and then again on the intersection of PFAS and environmental justice.



**Jeff Witte**

*Secretary of Agriculture*

Jeff Witte has served with New Mexico's Department of Agriculture since 1994, and as Secretary since 2011. He has been a member of both the LGAC and SCAS since 2015, including serving as Vice Chair from 2018 to 2020. During his tenure he created the New Mexico Agricultural Leadership Program, represented New Mexico ranchers and farmers on state legislation, and started the Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center at New Mexico State University, which brings together law enforcement and the agricultural industry to develop plans that will protect New Mexico agriculture as part of a homeland security strategy.