



SEP 28 - OCT 2

VIRTUAL

# Agenda

## Talk with Your Colleagues from Around the State!

Join one of the roundtables to learn, share, and chat with people you probably haven't seen face-to-face in a while. While we can't replicate an in-person conference, these roundtables are your opportunity to have a casual conversation about the issues affecting you right now.

Sign up to attend one and submit a question or topic you'd like to talk about. We'll pick three to highlight for every session. Each roundtable will have a moderator who reads the question and offers some insight. Then we'll go into virtual breakout rooms so you can have a small group discussion. Make sure to turn on your video! Groups will be asked to share their conclusions or insights with the full audience before we hear the next question and the process repeats.

These engaging, fast-paced, and interactive sessions will be a highlight of the Virtual Town Fair.

## Monday

### 9:00 Clerk Roundtable

*Moderator: TBD*

### 10:30 Improve Your Computer Security – These Model Policies Can Help!

Implementing computer security policies will help protect your municipality from costly cyber-attacks. Experts at Champlain College's Leahy Center for Digital Forensics and Cybersecurity developed templates for five foundational policies for VLCT members. The templates are designed to meet the needs of small municipalities. Learn how to protect your computer infrastructure today!

*Speaker: Alexander Caron, Professional Services Director, Leahy Center for Digital Forensics & Cybersecurity, Champlain College*

### 1:00 Modernize Your Land Records

Tanya Marshall, State Archivist and Chief Records Officer, will explain the legislative intent of Vermont's Coronavirus Municipal Records Digitization Grants, national standards and best practices for recording and providing access to land records, and how municipalities can make further investments to modernize their land records.

*Speaker: Tanya Marshall, State Archivist and Chief Records Officer, State of Vermont*

### 2:30 Vermont Women Leading Government (VT WLG) Annual Meeting

This meeting is for all members of the group as well as anybody who wants to learn more about the group. The agenda will include a review of the year's work, plans for the year ahead, and election of officers to the steering committee.

**4:00 VT WLG Virtual Happy Hour**

Bring your favorite beverage and join women from around the state to network. We will break out into “rooms” to chat about various topics facing us today.

## Tuesday

**9:00 Selectboard Roundtable**

*Moderator: TBD*

**10:30 Responding to COVID-19 – Lessons Learned and Best Practices Going Forward**

Emily Harris MPA, Engagement Section Chief for Vermont Emergency Management, will discuss lessons learned as we grapple with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. What are best practices going forward? What have we learned about best ways to communicate with constituents and how to keep Vermonters safe? What does preparing for the next crisis entail?

*Speaker: Emily Harris MPA, Engagement Section Chief, Vermont Emergency Management*

**1:00 What “Defund the Police” Means for Municipalities**

The 'Defund' movement may provide law enforcement agencies and municipalities with a chance to make productive changes in mission and practice. Several issues will be discussed including community flashpoints, civilian grievances, the internal numbers game, external investigations, considerations for small police departments, and the future of U.S. policing.

*Speaker: Lou Reiter, Co-Director, Legal & Liability Risk Management Institute*

**2:30 Finance Roundtable**

*Moderator: Abby Sherman, President, VT GFOA*

## Wednesday

**Keynote Address – Stronger Together: Building Local Resilience in Turbulent Times**

Vince Williams, Mayor of Union City, GA and NLC Second Vice President, will speak about ways that local leaders can rise to challenges and help their communities become stronger and more resilient. Mayor Williams will also offer his valuable perspective, as a local official and a black man, on the current social unrest.

**About Vince Williams**

Mayor Williams began his tenure as mayor in 2013 after having been on the City Council since 2007. His first priority as a Councilmember was to create a strong economic base for Union City by attracting, professional and commercial business that would transform the city into a full-scale, financially sound livable community. As mayor, he focuses on

- Development and Redevelopment of Union City’s Central Business District
- Job Creation, Workforce Development, and Education
- Transportation Opportunities for Residents
- Strong Neighborhood Public Safety Initiatives
- Governmental Transparency
- Economic Sustainability
- Ending Homelessness and Hunger

Mayor Williams is a graduate of Lemoyne-Owen College in Memphis, Tennessee where he earned a B.A. in Political Science. He has over 25 years in Corporate America that includes a strong work ethic and positive attitude. He currently serves as President of the Georgia Municipal Association and as Second Vice President of the National League of Cities.

## **VLCT, VERB, and PACIF Annual Meetings**

All annual meetings will take place consecutively in *one virtual session* on Wednesday, September 30. There will be no in-person meeting. We encourage you to attend! **VLCT, VERB, and PACIF members need to designate a voting delegate for each meeting ahead of time.** Sign up to be a voting delegate for one or more of the meetings at [vlct.org/vote](http://vlct.org/vote).

**Note: VLCT's 2021-22 Legislative Policy will be discussed and amended on Wednesday, September 23.**

## **Thursday**

### **9:00 Human Resources Roundtable**

*Moderators: Jessica Hill and Jill Muhr, VLCT*

### **10:30 Adapting to Change: How to Support Your Workforce and Navigate Through Challenging Times**

Workplaces and individuals are facing a constant state of change and disruption. Learn how to help your workforce adapt to these changes and navigate the stress and anxiety that is inherent in any transitional process. This workshop will explore management tools that begin with acknowledging and normalizing employee experiences, celebrating successes, and building skills that address the emotional support needs of the workforce.

*Speaker: Taryn Austin, Director of Clinical Operations, InvestEAP*

### **1:00 Economic Recovery and Stability During COVID-19**

Local economies and the vibrant downtowns and village centers that define our communities are suddenly in economic crisis. Even with economic recovery grants and federal assistance, it is going to be tough to retain our singular businesses or to restructure for recovery.

What are strategies for supporting economic recovery? How do we help businesses when the weather requires them to move indoors? Are there best practices that will keep people safe and small businesses viable as we move through the COVID-19 pandemic?

*Speakers: Joan Goldstein, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Economic Development; Josh Hanford, Commissioner, Vermont Department of Housing and Community Development; Austin Davis, Government Affairs Manager, Lake Champlain Chamber of Commerce*

### **2:30 Managers and Administrators Roundtable**

*Moderator: Jessie Baker, Town Manager, Winooski; President, VTCMA*

## **Friday**

### **9:00 Lister Roundtable**

*Moderator: TBD*

**10:30 Just or Bust: How Racial Equity is Critical to the Future of Vermont Towns**

Xusana Davis, Vermont's Executive Director for Racial Equity, will discuss how to work with the State on equity and how to practice it in the context of municipal governance. "Just or Bust: How Racial Equity is Critical to the Future of Vermont Towns" will also feature historical context, demographic statistics, and related economic data.

*Speaker: Xusana Davis, Executive Director for Racial Equity, State of Vermont*

**1:00 Online Tools to Improve Tax Assessment and Collection**

This session will feature two innovative projects – the integrated property tax management system and the statewide parcel mapping project – which will improve municipal property tax assessment and collection as well as other functionality relied on by the town and the public. Speakers will conduct live demonstrations and describe how the systems will improve municipal functions.

*Speakers: Pat Santoso, Principal, Axiomatic LLC; Tim Terway, GIS Professional, Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI). Moderator: Jill Remick*

**2:30 Keeping Your Community Informed and Engaged During Crisis**

When your community experiences crisis, the first thing they want is information. How do you become a trusted source of information and what channels do you use—the media, social media, Front Porch Forum, public meetings? How do you engage your residents during the crisis? It can quickly feel overwhelming. When you are a small shop, you need simple and effective tools. In this workshop, learn about which channels you should use, how to determine what to share, and the importance of timing. Walk away with a simple planning tool to help you organize and get information out quickly and accurately.

*Speaker: Coralee Holm, Director of Community Engagement & Innovation, City of South Burlington*