



# NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION®

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## **Forum on Challenges Facing Local Governments**

### **Also Focuses on Promising Innovations and Best Practices**

*“Governing Across the Divide” Event Held by National Academy of Public Administration, The University of Texas at Austin’s LBJ School of Public Affairs, and Texas State University’s Hobby Center for Public Service*

AUSTIN, TX – A forum held today by the National Academy of Public Administration, The University of Texas at Austin’s LBJ School of Public Affairs and Texas State University’s William P. Hobby Center for Public Service examined the changing role of local governments in the U.S. intergovernmental system, with a focus on the most promising innovations in local government service delivery.

“As challenges to city and local government continue to grow, today’s forum was a fascinating look at some of the more promising innovations in local government service delivery,” said Terry Gerton, President and CEO of the National Academy of Public Administration. “These innovative policy solutions are excellent examples of best practices for local leaders across the nation.”

The forum in Austin is the second of four regional *Governing Across the Divide* forums initiated by the Academy in order to bring together government officials, academics and thought leaders from across the public, private and nonprofit sectors to examine the governance challenges facing leaders at all levels of government. The *Governing Across the Divide* series seeks to propose a national agenda for improving the government’s effectiveness in delivering services to its citizens.

At today’s forum, **Julian Castro**, former Mayor of San Antonio and former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, delivered keynote remarks. **Dustin Haisler**, CIO of eRepublic and Publisher of *Governing* and *Government Technology* magazines, spoke on disruptive innovations and local government strategies for embracing these innovations.

A panel on *Major Problems & Innovative Policy Solutions Instituted by Local Government: Focus on Housing, Income Inequality, Public Safety, Financial Stability* included **Sheryl Sculley**, City Manager, City of San Antonio; **Troy Gay**, Assistant Chief of Police, City of Austin; **Christy McFarland**, Research Director, National League of

Cities; and **Randall Reid**, Southeast Regional Director, International City/County Management Association.

A panel on *Innovative Policy Solutions Instituted by Local Government: Focus on State-Local Relations, Economic Development, Immigration* included **Larry Gonzales**, Member, Texas State House of Representatives; **Brenda Eivens**, City Manager, City of City Park; **Jeff Travillion**, Commissioner, Travis County, TX Precinct 1; and **Alex Briseno**, former City Manager, City of San Antonio.

A panel on *How Technology is Reshaping and Changing our Public-Sector Organizations: Focus on Innovation at the State and Local Government Level* included **Dustin Haisler**, CIO of eRepublic and Publisher of *Governing* and *Government Technology* magazines; **Will Hampton**, Director of Communications, City of Round Rock; **Sherri Greenberg**, Clinical Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin; and **Alan Bojorquez**, Attorney at Law and Principal, The Bojorquez Law Firm.

The first *Governing Across the Divide* forum took place on August 29<sup>th</sup> at the University of Southern California and focused on environmental and health care policies. Additional *Governing Across the Divide* forums will take place at Syracuse University on October 4<sup>th</sup> and at George Mason University on October 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **About the National Academy of Public Administration**

Chartered by Congress to provide non-partisan expert advice, the Academy is an independent, non-profit, and non-partisan organization established in 1967 to assist government leaders in building more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent organizations. Learn more at [www.napawash.org](http://www.napawash.org)

#### **About the LBJ School of Public Affairs**

The LBJ School, one of the nation's top public affairs schools, makes a difference, not only within the walls of academia, but also in the public and social dialogue of the world. Contributing viable solutions to society is the LBJ School's legacy and its benchmark. Its effectiveness in channeling the purpose and passion of students into professional careers is evident in the success of more than 4,000 graduates who are the living legacy of President Johnson's bold and fearless action. For more, visit [lbj.utexas.edu](http://lbj.utexas.edu).

#### **About the William P. Hobby Center for Public Service**

Texas State University's William P. Hobby Center for Public Service offers the nationally accredited Certified Public Manager® (CPM) Program throughout the State of Texas. The Center is named for the Honorable William P. Hobby, Texas' longest serving Lt. Governor and is responsible for educating public and nonprofit managers in the ethical values and technical competencies associated with outstanding public service. Since its inception in 1998, the Center has had 1700+ graduates complete the program. For additional information go to [www.txstate.edu/cpm](http://www.txstate.edu/cpm)

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