



# Involvement in Local and State Politics: The Key to Transparency and Accountability



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Let's face it: Our state is in dire straits when it comes to money. Leaders in Sacramento approved a budget that forces municipalities and counties — like our own Los Angeles — to make deep cuts, seemingly across the board. For now, it appears our hands are tied — less money from the state means less money for education and health care, affecting jobs, crime and poverty.

I recently learned about California Forward, a nonprofit, non-partisan organization that pushes for state and local governments to work better together. It's tackling financial and structural reforms to increase transparency and accountability at all levels of government to hopefully improve results for Californians and Angelenos. How? By getting citizens like you and me involved in the process.

Under our current system, counties and cities don't have any say as to how money from the state is allocated or spent. Local governments need more control over how to use these resources. In turn, they need to be transparent about how they spend your tax dollars and held accountable for every dollar spent.

If we don't make these drastic structural changes, our cities and counties will continue to fall apart at the seams, making it harder for us to improve our members' working conditions, benefits and compensation and the overall success of public safety.

We care about this stuff. That's why we are involved not only on the local level but on the state level, monitoring council motions and Sacramento bills, and creating bills necessary to protect police officers, public safety in general and our community.

The success of our local leaders and local economy has a direct effect on public safety. The more vibrant Los Angeles is, the fewer problems we have.

Get involved and help look for answers for all of us; when the stock market crashes like it has recently, one needs to peel back the onion and determine why. The Internet is a vast resource. Look at organizations such as California Forward (nonprofit, non-partisan) and others to stay informed and potentially get involved. With your help as a citizen and community member, government can be better and we can achieve fiscal stability, which in turn will help police agencies and all of public safety. If government is a success, that would give us the ability to put more officers on the streets; buy new, more efficient high-tech equipment to help us do our jobs; fight crime more effectively; and enhance the stability of our families.

Most importantly, financial stability will aid our economy. Providing jobs would be the best crime reducer ever. Get involved, and keep public safety first.

Like California Forward, what we do as police officers is nonprofit work — the more efficiency we build into the system, the more productive we can be.

The LAPPL is very involved in local, state and federal politics. And because of our involvement, we will continue to push all levels of government to be successful to ensure that the policies that are created help and not hurt our economic recovery. We have been thinking outside the box and utilizing our resources statewide and nationwide to create change.

We all have a stake in having our city, our state and our country be successful. Let's do something about it. Contact me at [peterrepovich@lappl.org](mailto:peterrepovich@lappl.org) or (213) 792-1086 if you have any questions. ❖