



Government Finance Officers Association

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

Dear GFOA Member:

Today, you will be asked to vote on a slate of candidates for GFOA's Executive Board. In accordance with the GFOA bylaws:

"The election of the president-elect and the Executive Board members shall be at the annual business meeting of the Association. The nominating committee shall present at the annual business meeting a slate of candidates for the offices of the president-elect and vacant at-large positions on the Executive Board. Additional nominations for at-large positions may be made, with the consent of the nominee, from the floor and voting shall be according to procedures established under section 4.2 of these [GFOA] bylaws. The person receiving the largest number of votes cast for each office or position to be filled shall be declared elected. In case of a tie vote, the office or position will be determined by lot."

The nine-member GFOA Nominating Committee has thoughtfully put forth the following candidates for the 2022-2023 president-elect and five vacant members-at-large positions. The members-at-large will serve on the Executive Board for three years. Inside are brief biographies of each candidate.

President-elect:

Laura Allen, CPFO, Town Manager, Town of Berwyn Heights, Berwyn Heights, Maryland

Members-at-Large:

Sonia Andrews, CPA, Treasurer/CFO, City of Scottsdale, Scottsdale, Arizona

Jennifer L. Brown, CGFO, Director of Finance, City of Sugar Land, Sugar Land, Texas

Jason Greene, CGFO, CFE Assistant Town Manager/CFO, Town of Surfside, Surfside, Florida

Grace Martinez, CPA, Acting Chief Financial Officer, San Mateo County Transit District, San Carlos, California

Kendel Taylor, Director, Department of Finance, City of Alexandria, Alexandria, Virginia

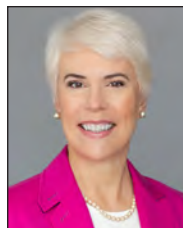
Thank you for continuing to support your association through the election process.

Respectfully,

2022 GFOA Nominating Committee

FOR PRESIDENT-ELECT 2022-2023

**Laura Allen, CPFO, Town Manager,
Town of Berwyn Heights, Berwyn Heights, Maryland**



GFOA Activities

- GFOA Member for seventeen years
- Member of GFOA's Executive Board since 2019; serves on Hero Award Committee and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee
- Current ex officio member of GFOA's Committee on Economic Development and Capital Planning (served for six years; vice-chair in 2016)
- Ex officio member of GFOA's Committee on Governmental Debt Management (2019-2020)
- Served as a GFOA moderator and conference and training presenter since 2015
- Participant in GFOA's OpenMind Program (2021)
- Facilitated partnership between GFOA members and AGU's Thriving Earth Exchange (2021)
- Participant in GFOA's Financial Foundations pilot program; presented on Town of Berlin, Maryland's participation in the project at the Leading Resilient Communities Conference in Charleston, South Carolina (2018); presented on the topic for GFOA during the American Society for Public Administration Conference in Washington, DC (2019)
- Current mentor for GFOA's Women's Public Finance Network
- Member of GFOA's Open Data Task Force; GFOA Representative on GASB Small Government Discussion Committee (2019)
- Co-author of the article "What Governments Look for in a CFO" in GFOA's *Government Finance Review* (2016)
- Served as a reviewer for GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award Program since 2009

Contributions to the Profession/Jurisdiction

- Initiated the Town's first budget-focused community engagement process to guide development of the FY 2022 Budget and Council priorities
- Council adoption of robust community engagement process to guide the American Rescue Plan Act spending plan
- Redesigned Purchasing and Investment Policies to reflect best practices
- Council adoption of the Town's first Capital Improvement Plan Policy
- Obtained over \$250,000 in grants from county, state, and regional agencies
- Redesigned business tax billing process to provide internal controls
- Streamlined accounts payable process and consolidated administrative positions generating \$50,000 in salary and benefit savings
- Along with the Mayor worked with AGU's Thriving Earth Exchange on a project to protect tree canopies
- Presented "Understanding Public Finance" session at the 2017 National League of Cities Conference in Washington, DC
- Member of organizations including ICMA (past chair of Sustainable Communities Committee; past chair of Legacy Fund; mentor in Emerging Leaders Program; member of 2018 Annual Conference Host Committee, 100th Anniversary Committee, Government Affairs and Policy Committee, and Conference Evaluation Committee), Maryland GFOA (member since 2013), Maryland City/County Management Association (president 2021-2022; representative on ICMA Coaching Program Advisory Board; member since 2013)
- Co-author of the following articles: "Using Science to Make An Impact," *Public Management* magazine (2017); "Think You Can't Measure Resident Engagement? Think Again!" *Public Management* magazine (2012); and "Measuring Community Engagement," ICMA InFocus Report (2011)
- Credentialed Manager, ICMA

Goals for GFOA

Change is truly the only constant. Recognizing this and adopting a growth mindset helps manage the stress that comes with change. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated how innovative a government can be when faced with challenges. GFOA members can excel if supported with resources to adapt to change. We should continue to recognize transformation is essential to GFOA's continued success and prepare our members accordingly.

Education

University of Nevada, Reno, Master of Public Administration
University of Nevada, Reno, Bachelor of Arts

Position 1:

**Sonia Andrews, CPA, Treasurer/CFO,
City of Scottsdale, Scottsdale, Arizona**

**GFOA Activities**

- GFOA Member for twenty-one years
- Served on GFOA's Committee on Economic Development and Capital Planning (2015-2021)
- Served on GFOA's Committee on Treasury and Investment Management (2009-2015)
- Current mentor in GFOA's Women's Public Finance Network Mentorship Program
- Advocated on behalf of GFOA members on the importance of restoring advanced refundings by participating on meetings and calls with congressional staff and GFOA Federal Liaison Center staff (2019 and 2021)
- Attended GFOA's Advanced Government Finance Institute (2017)
- GFOA training presenter on *Developing the Right Investment Policy* (2015)
- Contributed financial policies to the GFOA Financial Policy Challenge (2015)
- Co-authored an article on developing an investment policy for *Government Finance Review* (2015)

Contributions to the Profession/Jurisdiction

- Direct and oversee all finance and treasury functions including the City's \$2.1 billion annual operating and capital budgets. Improved the budget process and enhanced elected officials' understanding of the City's budget
- Revamped and updated financial policies to improve the City's fiscal resiliency and sound financial management practices
- Streamlined various processes and implemented changes to modernize the Finance department
- Current member of Government Finance Officers Association of Arizona; served on board of directors (2015-2017)
- Current member of the Sunrise Rotary Club in Scottsdale, Arizona
- Volunteer, Arizona Border Collie Rescue (2015-present)
- Served as treasurer for the Mt. Bachelor Rotary Club in Bend, Oregon (2007-2014)
- Past member of the Oregon Municipal Finance Officers Association (2000-2014)
- Past treasurer of the Bend Area Habitat for Humanity (2004-2005)
- CPA, Arizona (active), Oregon (inactive)

Goals for GFOA

Deliver value to members by providing resources and opportunities for government finance professionals and be "the place" where learning, knowledge, and professional development can be achieved. Also, to establish the standards and recognition for excellence in government finance.

Education

Oregon State University, MBA and post Baccalaureate Certificate in Accounting
Mills College, Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics

Position 2:

**Jennifer L. Brown, CGFO, Director of Finance,
City of Sugar Land, Sugar Land, Texas**

**GFOA Activities**

- GFOA Member for twenty years
- Served on GFOA Executive Board Nominating Committee (2019-2021)
- Participated on GFOA's Ethics Task Force (2018-2019)
- Served on GFOA's Committee on Governmental Debt Management (2013-2018)
- Attended GFOA's Advanced Government Finance Institute (2015)
- Author of the article, "The Finance Officer's Role in a Bond Election," in *Government Finance Review* (2017)
- Past GFOA Annual Conference moderator/presenter on *Debt 101* (2017); *Muni Bonds Best Practices* (2016); and *Bond Referendum Strategy* (2015)

Contributions to the Profession/Jurisdiction

- Currently responsible for Accounting, Municipal Court, Purchasing, and Treasury; responsible for Budget and CIP (2014-2021)
- Develop and update financial policies; serve as a liaison to City Management and City Council and make recommendations on financial decisions
- Manage debt program; serve as investment program manager; assist with economic development corporations, tax increment reinvestment zones, and public-private partnerships
- Key team member in annexation of nine municipal utility districts (2017)
- Coordinated and managed financing for construction of Smart Financial Centre at Sugar Land, adjacent plaza, parking, and marquee sign
- Participate in legislative updates and testified on behalf of the City in Austin several times
- Implemented GO Bond packages (2013 and 2019 elections)
- Steering committee member for successful citywide ERP procurement and implementation
- Panelist at SEC Disclosure Conference (2020)
- Presenter at Houston Investors Conference (2017 and 2018)
- Panelist at Municipal Bond Summit (2017)
- Presenter at Texas Municipal League Tax and Budget Workshop (2014 and 2015)
- Presenter at GFOA of Texas conferences (2019)

Goals for GFOA

Local finance professionals should reflect the communities they serve and GFOA should encourage interest in the profession in underserved communities. Additionally, GFOA should attract students to local government finance as a career option, which can also turn into success in other areas of government management.

Education

Texas A&M University, Master of Science — Agricultural Economics

Texas A&M University, Bachelor of Science — Agribusiness

Position 3:

**Jason Greene, CGFO, CFE Assistant Town Manager/CFO,
Town of Surfside, Surfside, Florida**

**GFOA Activities**

- GFOA Member for fifteen years
- Served on GFOA's Committee on Capital Planning and Economic Development since 2014; served as vice-chair since 2021
- GFOA training presenter on *Risk Management* (2021 and 2022); *Preparing and Implementing a Capital Improvement Plan* (2020 and 2021)
- Past GFOA Annual Conference presenter on *Capital Asset Management* (2016)
- Attended GFOA's Advanced Government Finance Institute (2013)
- Serves as a reviewer for GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the past ten years

Contributions to the Profession/Jurisdiction

- Helped to lead the recovery and ongoing investigative efforts for the Town of Surfside after the June 24, 2021, Champlain Tower South building collapse. From managing the same day transition of the small town's community center from evacuation site to family reunification center to family notification center and then overseeing the efforts to investigate the cause
- Brought the bank reconciliation process from nine months behind to less than one month within first year working at Town of Surfside
- Appointed to the Miami Beach General Obligation Bond (GO Bond) Oversight Committee; currently serve as vice-chair; the committee has oversight of an ~\$500M GO bond program
- Served as an appointee to the Miami-Dade Transportation Aesthetic Review Committee (TARC-TPO); served as both vice-chair and chair (2003-2015)
- Served as the education chair of the Miami-Dade chapter of the Florida Engineering Society; oversaw student chapters at FIU and UM
- Serves as member of condominium board (+\$3M annual budget) for more than six years
- Member of the following organizations: Florida GFOA, ICMA, and the Florida City and County Management Association
- Certifications include Certified Government Finance Officer with the Florida Government Finance Officers Association (FGFOA); Certified Fraud Examiner with the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE); Certified Public Funds Investment Manager with the Association of Public Treasurers (APT); and Certified Internal Controls Auditor with the Institute for Internal Controls

Goals for GFOA

Legislative advocacy is extremely important and should be a top priority. Additionally, I believe GFOA should provide real-world examples in plain language about how to manage and implement government financial issues. This can be accomplished through best practices with direct goals and guidance and informative trainings with experienced trainers in-person and virtually.

Education

University of Miami, Master of Business Administration

University of Miami, Master of Science — Civil Engineering

University of Miami, Bachelor of Science — Environmental Toxicology with a minor in Political Science

Position 4:

**Grace Martinez, CPA, Acting Chief Financial Officer,
San Mateo County Transit District, San Carlos, California**



GFOA Activities

- GFOA Member for eight years
- Serves on GFOA's Committee on Accounting, Auditing, and Financial Reporting since 2017
- Serves on GFOA's GAAFR Review Committee since 2021
- Served on GFOA's Nominating Committee (2018-2021)
- Past GFOA Annual Conference presenter on *Capital Assets* (2019)

Contributions to the Profession/Jurisdiction

- Developed models to address financial issues in her organization
- Developed strategies to address unfunded pension liabilities
- Developed and implemented entity-wide risk assessments in her organization
- Member of CalCPA, AICPA, and Toastmasters International
- Attendee of continuing education courses in taxation, GASB updates, auditing and financial reporting, and professional ethics and conduct

Goals for GFOA

GFOA should continue to develop and assist in providing consistency in standards, guidelines, and procedures in governmental financial management by **educating, informing, and connecting** its members:

GFOA has been providing **education** on updates and implementations of government regulations affecting financial management of governments. Through the Blue Book, GFOA has provided valuable information in government accounting especially to government employees new to government accounting.

GFOA should continue to **inform** its members on latest developments and issues affecting its members. For example, "Week in Washington" held by GFOA's Federal Liaison Center staff is invaluable especially during the pandemic with so much uncertainty to how federal funds should be treated.

GFOA can leverage its effectiveness by **connecting** its members throughout the United States and internationally with other professional organizations and state/provincial associations. In doing so, GFOA will be able to keep abreast of developments and issues affecting its members.

Education

Golden Gate University, Master of Accountancy Program

Ateneo de Manila University, Master of Business Administration

University of the Philippines, Bachelor of Science in Business Administration —
Accounting major

Position 5:
Kendel Taylor, Director, Department of Finance,
City of Alexandria, Alexandria, Virginia



GFOA Activities

- GFOA Member for fifteen years
- Second term serving on GFOA's Committee on Governmental Debt Management
- Past Annual Conference presenter (2019) and Mini Muni facilitator (2021) on Advanced Refunding, ESG, and ARPA
- Represented GFOA in meetings with the SEC, congressional staff, and FIMSAC on the benefit to localities of advanced refunding and the challenges related to accelerating financial reporting (2020)
- Serves as a reviewer for GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for twenty years

Contributions to the Profession/Jurisdiction

- Directs the management and reporting of the City's \$1.0 billion of governmental funds
- Oversees the management, disclosure, and repayment of more than \$700 million of outstanding general obligation debt
- Plans, develops, and administers accounting, auditing, revenue administration, treasury management, pension, property assessment and tax administration, risk and safety and purchasing processing activities for the City
- Proposed and developed a project for FEMA consideration that combined the need for vaccine points of dispensation support with the need to help the community economically. Through collaboration with the Health department, the Workforce Development Center, and the City's Human Resources department, secured \$1.9 million to hire 112 temporary full-time positions to support the vaccination effort
- Serves on the boards of several organizations including Alexandria's Other Post-Employment Benefits Board of Trustees, Alexandria Transit Company, Alexandria Small Business Development Center (staff designee), and Virginia Investment Pool Board (served two terms ending in 2021)
- Served as chair of multi-agency Community Policy Management Team in the oversight of funding and delivery of services to at-risk children, youth, and families

Goals for GFOA

The primary objective of GFOA should be to foster an environment that promotes learning and continuous improvement for its members and stakeholder groups to support excellence in state and local government financial management.

Education

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Master of Public Administration
Albright College, Bachelor of Arts Science in Business Administration and Spanish

2021-2022 GFOA EXECUTIVE BOARD

President

Michael A. Bryant

Mecklenburg County, Charlotte, North Carolina

President-Elect

Terri Velasquez, CPFO

City of Aurora, Aurora, Colorado

Past President

Marion M. Gee

Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District,
St. Louis, Missouri

Laura Allen, CPFO

Town of Berwyn Heights, Berwyn Heights,
Maryland

Lunda Asmani, CPFO

Norwalk Public Schools, Norwalk,
Connecticut

Laurie Brewer

City of Georgetown, Georgetown, Texas

Chris Daniel

City of Albuquerque, Albuquerque,
New Mexico

Bruce H. Fisher

Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board,
Halifax, Nova Scotia

Tanya Garost

District of Lake Country, Lake Country,
British Columbia

Anne P. Harty, CGFO

City of Rock Hill, Rock Hill, South Carolina

Dan Hugel

State of Indiana, Indianapolis, Indiana

Rafiu Ighile

Howard County, Ellicott City, Maryland

Sue Iverson

City of Red Wing, Red Wing, Minnesota

William Jones, CPFO

City of Mequon, Mequon, Wisconsin

Brandon Kauffman, CPFO

Kansas Turnpike Authority, Wichita, Kansas

Matthew Lentz

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Willow Grove, Pennsylvania

Margaret Moggia

West Basin Municipal Water District,
Carson, California

