



## **New Data Release on Finance and Budgeting Officials Points To An Important Pipeline Opportunity For Women Leadership In Local Government**

*In partnership with GFOA, CivicPulse and ELGL release new data on the gender composition of finance and budgeting officials for over 21,000+ local governments in the United States.*

June 5, 2022 — In their most recent release of data to the DiversityDashboard.org, **CivicPulse** and **ELGL** are shining a light on an essential role in local government leadership that is composed of a majority of women. The resource is an open-source benchmarking tool that comprehensively tracks the gender diversity of the leaders of more than 21,000 local governments in the United States.

In their inaugural release of the benchmarking tool last March, they documented a widespread gender gap among local government managers and administrators. In contrast, this data release, in combination with a new report “[Representation of Women in Local Government Financial Leadership](#)” points to an essential role in local government leadership in which women are well represented.

### **Key findings from the report:**

- Almost all states have at least 50% women occupying their top finance/budgeting role in local government
- Local governments with larger populations are less likely to have women in the top finance/budgeting role
- Despite being seen as a pipeline position, the percentage of women in top finance/budgeting roles is far higher than the percentage of women in the top appointed role in local government.

“Historically, the United States has lacked standardized information on the hundreds of thousands of individuals leading our township, municipal, and county governments,” said Dr. Nathan Lee, Professor of Public Policy at RIT and the Managing Director of CivicPulse, which led the development of the data tool and report. “With state-of-the-art data analysis techniques, however, we can make this important information available for those trying to identify where to target their DEI efforts.”

CivicPulse leveraged recent developments in data collection and probabilistic name-based gender coding to develop a rigorous methodology that can provide dynamically updated benchmarks on the gender composition of top local government-appointed officials (e.g., manager, administrator, etc.) and top finance/budgeting officials for all municipalities, townships, and counties with populations of 1,000 or more. More information on the methodology and plans for future data releases are available here: [diversitydashboard.org/faq](https://diversitydashboard.org/faq).

### **Key features of DiversityDashboard.org:**

- [Lookup your community](#) (city, county, or state) from more than 21,000 communities

- [Map your region or condition](#) with granularity going down to the township level
- [Chart changes over time](#) by any state or Census region within the database
- [Learn more](#) about the important DEI work in local governments nationwide

“GFOA is pleased to support the Local Government Diversity Dashboard initiative,” said Terri Velasquez, GFOA President-elect and Chair of the Executive Board’s DEI Committee. “Data like this is critical to inform our efforts to build a local government workforce that reflects the communities we serve. I think it speaks well of the potential of a career in local government finance that the national percentage of women in the top finance/budgeting role is 68%.”

### **About Government Finance Officers Association**

Government Finance Officers Association ([GFOA](#)) advances excellence in government finance by providing best practices, professional development, resources, and practical research for more than 22,500 members and the communities they serve.

### **About CivicPulse**

[CivicPulse](#) is a nonprofit that generates high-quality, publicly available data and research to support effective local governance through rigorous data collection and careful analysis. CivicPulse’s nationally representative surveys now offer the most reliable resource to understand the experiences of the over 200,000 local government leaders in the United States. By combining these surveys with the latest advances in administrative data collection, CivicPulse offers research reports and benchmarks on a wide range of critical issues facing local governments today.

### **About ELGL**

Engaging Local Government Leaders ([ELGL](#)) is an “accidental professional association” that began in Portland, Oregon in 2012 with a 16 member dinner group. Today, ELGL has grown to over 4800 members from all 50 states plus Canada, UK, Israel, and Australia. Focused on all levels of local government (from analysts to mayors; librarians to planners; and everyone in between), ELGL’s mission is to engage the brightest minds in local government by providing timely and relevant content through podcasts, blogs, webinars, social media, learning cohorts and conference gatherings, with the objective of fostering authentic and meaningful connections that are grounded in practices of equity and inclusion.

### **Press Contacts**

Natalie Laudadio, (312) 578-2298, [nlaudadio@gfoa.org](mailto:nlaudadio@gfoa.org)  
Nathan Lee, (618) 319-3404, [nathanlee@civicpulse.org](mailto:nathanlee@civicpulse.org)  
Kirsten Wyatt, (919) 225-2961, [kirsten@elgl.org](mailto:kirsten@elgl.org)