

2012

# ELECTED City Officials WORKSHOP

**Saturday, February 11**

(Snow date: Saturday, February 18)

**9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

Local Government Center, Concord, NH  
*Registration and continental breakfast begins at 8:30 a.m.*

### Overview

New and experienced elected city officials will gain valuable knowledge at this informational program on topics relevant to city government. Presented by New Hampshire Local Government Center (LGC) and New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) staff, session highlights include discussion of the Right to Know Law, the process for setting property tax rates, the New Hampshire Retirement System and other 2012 legislative issues. Attendees will receive a copy of LGC's 2012 edition *Guidebook for New Hampshire Elected City Officials*. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.



## Register Today!

This workshop is complimentary to city officials of NHMA member municipalities. Pre-registration by February 4 is required. Register online at [www.nhlgc.org/cities](http://www.nhlgc.org/cities)

**Questions?** Contact Judy Pearson at 800.852.3358, ext. 150, or email [registrations@nhlgc.org](mailto:registrations@nhlgc.org).

## AGENDA

**8:30 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast**

**9:00 a.m. Welcoming Remarks and Overview of LGC/NHMA Services**

*Maura Carroll, Executive Director*

**9:15 a.m. Why New Hampshire Is Not a 'Home Rule' State and How the Tax Rate Is Determined**

This session will address two topics. First: Principles that limit municipal authority, including constitutional provisions, State enabling legislation and the doctrine of state preemption. Second: In a period of declining real estate values, taxpayers are confused about their property taxes and rising tax rates. The mechanics of the tax rate setting process, including property valuation, appropriations and revenues will be discussed.

*David R. Connell, Legal Services Counsel*

**10:00 a.m. Right to Know Law: Public Meetings**

"Openness in the conduct of public business is essential to a democratic society." RSA 91-A:1. This session will explain the requirements for public meetings, nonpublic sessions and minutes of meetings, and the use and misuse of electronic communication, including social media.

*C. Christine Fillmore, Staff Attorney*

**10:30 a.m. Break**

**10:45 a.m. Right to Know Law: Governmental Records**

This session will deal with the public's right to inspect and copy governmental records, including electronic records, and the valid exemptions from disclosure. Several important recent court decisions on disclosure of governmental records will be discussed.

*C. Christine Fillmore, Staff Attorney*

**11:15 a.m. Retirement Update**

Current issues regarding the financial status of the New Hampshire Retirement System will be addressed, including proposed rate increases, legislative proposals and other potential system changes.

*Barbara T. Reid, Government Finance Advisor*

**11:45 a.m. NHMA Government Affairs Program, Revenue Sharing and Other Current Legislative Issues**

Members of NHMA's Government Affairs staff will describe NHMA's legislative policy process, discuss why involvement of city officials is critical, and explain how local officials can best participate. The presentation will include a review of current legislative issues, including state-local revenue sharing and an update on the 2012 legislative session.

*Judy A. Silva, Deputy Director for Legal Services and Government Affairs*  
*Cordell A. Johnston, Government Affairs Counsel*

**12:15 p.m. Q&A Luncheon**

LGC/NHMA staff will respond to your questions.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cancellations must be received 48 hours in advance. Please note: If cancellation is not received 48 hours in advance, the LGC will invoice you for \$20 to cover the cost of meals and materials.

*If you have questions or require special accommodations, please call Judy Pearson at 800.852.3358, ext. 150.*