

# AUDiit LiKE A ROCK STAR



ALGA • CLEVELAND, OH • MAY 3-6, 2026

# OFFERINGS AND FEES



## Sunday, May 3: Preconference Workshops

	Cost	Max #	Delivery Method
WS#1. Peer Review	\$400 - 7 CPE	40	In-Person
WS#2. Tools for More Efficient Performance Auditing	\$200 - 4 CPE	40	In-Person
WS#3. Plain Language for Auditors: Best Practices in Report Writing	\$200 - 4 CPE	40	In-Person

## Monday and Tuesday, May 4 – 5: Annual Conference

(in-person attendance is limited to the first 475 who register)

	Early Bird (before April 1)	Regular (after March 31)
ALGA Member: In-Person	\$600	\$700
ALGA Member: Virtual	\$500	\$500
Guest (evening events only)	\$160	\$160
Nonmember: In-Person	Not Available	\$1,200
Nonmember: Virtual	Not Available	\$1,200

## Wednesday, May 6: Postconference Workshops

	Cost	Max #	Delivery Method
WS#4. Internal Controls for Auditors	\$200 - 4 CPE	40	In-Person
WS#5. In the Field: Cuyahoga County, Ohio, Animal Shelter	\$200 - 4 CPE	40	In-Person

## How to Register

Register for the conference at [algaonline.org](http://algaonline.org).

Call **Member Services** at (859) 276-0686 if you have any questions or problems.

 = in-person attendance

 = virtual attendance



## MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



**Arushi Thakorlal**  
Conference Co-Chair  
Acting City Auditor,  
City of Seattle, WA



**Deborah Jenkins**  
Conference Co-Chair  
ALGA President-Elect  
City Internal Auditor,  
City of Bowling Green, KY

We hope you are ready to **AUDIT LIKE A ROCK STAR** at the **2026 ALGA Annual Conference in Cleveland!**

On behalf of ALGA's Conference Committee, it is our great pleasure to invite you to our annual conference in the historic and dynamic city of Cleveland. We would be delighted to have you join us, either in person or virtually, for this important gathering of auditing professionals dedicated to strengthening the integrity and effectiveness of local government.

The work we do is essential to promoting transparency, accountability, and good governance in our communities. We have an exciting agenda featuring expert speakers, interactive sessions, and ample opportunities for networking. Whether you are attending to participate in meaningful discussions, learn from peers, or expand your technical expertise, we are confident this year's conference will provide valuable insights to support your professional growth.

In addition to a robust learning program, we have planned a variety of restorative and engaging activities for both in-person and virtual attendees, including virtual networking opportunities, morning wellness sessions, a photo booth to capture ALGA connections, and our Monday evening reception at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame — with numerous exhibits and a chance to form your own garage rock band!

Cleveland is a vibrant cultural hub, whose story of resilience, innovation, and community pride reflects the very spirit of our profession and this gathering. For those attending in person, we hope you will also take time to explore this city known for its rich musical heritage and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame; its legacy of innovation as the "City of Firsts"; its beautiful "Emerald Necklace" park system; and its passionate sports culture as home to the NFL Browns, MLB Guardians, and NBA Cavaliers.

Thank you for your continued commitment to advancing the highest standards of local government auditing. We look forward to the conversations, connections, and collaboration that will unfold throughout the conference. We hope you leave feeling inspired, energized, and supported by a strengthened network of colleagues.

We sincerely hope you will join us in Cleveland for ALGA's 2026 Annual Conference!

Respectfully,

Deborah and Arushi

# VOLUNTEER ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



The conference would not be possible without the work of many volunteers. Thank you to the Conference Committee's subcommittee leads, members, and liaisons!



**Kayvon Zadeh**  
Administration  
Lead



**Ruthe Holden**  
Budget  
Lead



**Kymber Waltmunson**  
Programming  
Lead



**Melissa Allman**  
Experience  
Lead



**Richard Walls**  
Sponsorship  
Lead

## Committee Co-Chairs

- Arushi Thakorlal, City of Seattle, WA
- Deborah Jenkins, City of Bowling Green, KY

## Administration Subcommittee

- Kayvon Zadeh, State Auditor's Office, WA
- Ruthe Holden, City of Pasadena (ret.), CA
- Richard Walls, City of Chattanooga, TN
- Pam Weipert, Oakland County (ret.), MI

## Experience Subcommittee

- Melissa Allman, City of Seattle, WA
- Shayleen Agarwal, Office of the Inspector General, OH
- Chevelle Jackson, City of Sacramento, CA
- Travis Kamm, City of Minneapolis, MN
- Molly Pahl, Milwaukee County, WI
- Cory Swaisgood, Cuyahoga County, OH

## Programming Subcommittee

- Kymber Waltmunson, King County, WA
- Snehi Basnet, City and County of San Francisco, CA
- Michelle Cleveland, Johnson County, KS
- Anita Geter, Greenville County Schools, SC
- Deborah Jenkins, City of Bowling Green, KY
- Annamarie McNeil, Multnomah County, OR
- Emma Mueller, Cincinnati Public Schools, OH
- Carissa Nash, City of San Diego, CA
- Lamar Norwood, Cary, NC
- Andrew Scoggin, City of Seattle, WA
- Jenny Wong, City of Berkeley, CA

## Site Selection Subcommittee

- Arushi Thakorlal, City of Seattle, WA
- Farishta Ahrary, City of Sacramento, CA
- Randall Daniel, Oklahoma City, OK
- Brian Evans, Office of the Metro Auditor, OR
- Ruthe Holden, City of Pasadena (ret.), CA
- Van Lee, City and County of Honolulu (ret.), HI
- Lamar Norwood, Cary, NC
- Steve Sanderson, Chesterfield County Internal Audit, VA
- Andrew Scoggin, City of Seattle, WA
- Richard Walls, City of Chattanooga, TN
- Pam Weipert, Oakland County (ret.), MI
- Kayvon Zadeh, State Auditor's Office, WA

## Communications Liaison

- Allie Boman, Boman Communications

## DEI Liaison

- Linden Pierce, Senior Performance Auditor, City of Atlanta, GA

## Digital Strategy Liaison

- Karen Reyes Perez, Long Beach City Auditor's Office, CA

## Awards Liaison

- Michelle Cleveland, Johnson County, KS

## Merch Queen

- Meg Sykes, King County, WA




## SUNDAY, MAY 3

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ET

### WS#1. Peer Review Workshop

\$400 | 7 CPE | Auditing-Governmental

Attendance: *In-Person*

 In this interactive workshop, members of ALGA's Peer Review Committee will use ALGA peer review guidance along with in-depth exercises to teach you the requirements and skills needed to serve as a team member on an ALGA peer review. In addition to instruction on peer review logistics and performance, this workshop includes discussion of the various ways that ALGA shops meet auditing standards. **Participants are required to bring a computer/tablet.**

***Includes breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack.***

- **Brian Parks**, Audit Manager, Council Auditor's Office, Jacksonville, FL
- **Paula Ward**, Chief Auditor (retired), Washoe County School District, Reno, NV

**Learning Objectives:** To be able to conduct peer reviews based on Government Auditing Standards.


**Maximum Capacity:** 40 participants

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

### WS#2. Tools for More Efficient Performance Auditing

\$200 | 4 CPE | Auditing-Governmental

Attendance: *In-Person*

 This 4-hour workshop will begin with time-tested tools to make the performance audit process more efficient — from planning to fieldwork to reporting. We will describe the tools and apply them to the phases of the audit, highlighting objectives and scope to focus audit work on what is most important.

We will also discuss setting criteria, considering “micro” criteria and the “macro” issues that specific rules describe. We will learn to create more focused objectives and work with tools to speed the writing process and communicate audit results to management and the public.

***Includes breakfast.***

- **Drummond Kahn**, Professional Trainer, Past ALGA President and ALGA Lifetime Member

### Learning Objectives:

- Apply time-tested audit tools to improve efficiency.
- Define clear audit objectives and scope that focus on areas of highest risk, significance, and impact.
- Develop and evaluate audit criteria, distinguishing between micro-level rules and the macro-level policy or accountability issues they represent.
- Apply tools to speed the audit writing process.
- Communicate audit results effectively.


**Maximum Capacity:** 40 participants

1:00 – 5:00 p.m. ET

### WS#3. Plain Language for Auditors: Best Practices in Report Writing

\$200 | 4 CPE | Communications and Marketing

Attendance: *In-Person*

 Elevate your audit impact with better clarity and plain language in your reports and audit communications. Attendees will participate in activities, discussions, and Q&A covering essential elements of audit report writing based on professional audit standards and international standards for plain language: audience, clarity, brevity, consistency, focus and structure, objectivity and tone, accessibility and readability, and layout and design. **Participants are required to bring a computer/tablet.**

***Includes afternoon snack.***

- **Kristen Clark**, Founder and Owner of Pristine Clarity LLC


**Learning Objectives:** Attendees will learn why plain language is both reputable and valuable for audit reports, learn 10 strategies for using plain language in report writing, and practice techniques to implement in their daily work.

**Maximum Capacity:** 40 participants

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. ET

### ON-SITE NETWORKING EVENT

#### Opening Conference Reception

 After your travels, please join us for hors d'oeuvres and refreshments during the Sunday night welcome reception. Catch up with old friends, meet new ones, and capture the moment with our very own ALGA photobooth. Plus, don't miss our ALGA Bingo with prizes – a lively way to break the ice and kick off the conference with some friendly competition.

# CONFERENCE AGENDA



## MONDAY, MAY 4

7:00 – 8:15 a.m. ET  
BREAKFAST



8:15 – 8:30 a.m. ET  
OPENING REMARKS



8:30 – 9:20 a.m. ET  
GENERAL SESSION



### GS#1. Auditors as Integrators: Advancing Holistic Public Risk Management | Auditing-Governmental

Government auditors are well positioned to protect and enhance public value by facilitating effective integration between emergency and risk management in public organizations. This session traces the historical roots and professional logics of contemporary practices in Emergency (Crisis) Management and Enterprise Risk Management, and discusses organizational problems associated with their often siloed implementation. Attendees will learn practical concepts, criteria sources, and concrete examples for designing audit work to help governments overcome key barriers to holistic public risk management.

- **Chelsea Lei**, Ph.D., Research Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School of Government

9:20 – 9:45 a.m. ET  
AWARDS RECOGNITION: SESSION 1



9:45 – 10:00 a.m. ET  
BREAK

10:00 – 10:50 a.m. ET  
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### CS#1. Enhancing Audit Efficiency Using AI | Auditing-Governmental



This course introduces participants to practical applications of generative AI in audit planning, testing, and reporting. Participants will learn how to enhance audit efficiency using generative AI while maintaining professional judgment.

- **Daniel Nuccio**, Senior Auditor, City of Charlotte, NC

### CS#2. Frontlines to Findings: How State and Local Voices Shape Federal Program Audits | Auditing-Governmental



Disaster preparedness, response, and recovery begin at the state and local level, with federal support when incidents exceed local capacity, primarily through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). In February 2025, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) designated federal disaster assistance delivery as high risk due to rising costs and disaster frequency. This session will explore how state and local perspectives inform GAO's audits, highlight oversight opportunities for the local audit community, and examine proposed reforms that may shift greater responsibility to states and localities with varying capabilities.

- **Caryn Kuebler**, Assistant Director, Homeland Security and Justice, U.S. Government Accountability Office

### CS#3. Hidden Gems: Making the Most of Confidential Audits | Auditing-Governmental

The objective of this presentation is to provide auditors with practical options for auditing, reporting, and following up on recommendations when public reporting is not feasible. Attendees will learn how to navigate the complexities of confidential reporting to maximize impact and ensure accountability.



- **Joseph Picek**, Performance Auditor, City of San Diego, Office of the City Auditor, CA

### CS#4. Embedding Equity Practices: Auditing Equity in a Politicized Environment | Auditing-Governmental

As DEI has become increasingly politicized, local government auditors face growing pressures to avoid talking about DEI even when our audits have equity-related risks and outcomes. This session explores how auditors can incorporate equity into audit work without relying on politically sensitive labels. The session highlights ways to frame equity through access, outcomes, and risk — helping auditors add value, communicate effectively, and maintain credibility in challenging environments.



- **Leonard Hyman**, Internal Auditor, Port of Los Angeles, CA
- **Anu Sidhu**, Management Auditor, King County, WA



## CS#5. New Auditor's Roundtable | Auditing (Governmental)



Come together with fellow new and new-ish auditors to discuss your experiences, common issues you have faced, strategies used to address those issues, ways you have improved your skills, and what's next.

- **Carissa Nash**, Principal Performance Auditor, City of San Diego, CA
- **Andrew Scoggin**, Assistant City Auditor, City of Seattle, WA

10:50 – 11:05 a.m. ET  
**BREAK**

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11:05 – 11:55 a.m. ET  
**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

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## CS#6. Audigators — Synergies Between Audits and Investigations | Auditing-Governmental



This session covers the potential of maximizing skill overlap and joint work — as well as optimizing any referrals — between auditors and investigators. We'll discuss coordination, overlap, and referral options from audits to investigations. If your office encounters audits with an investigative nexus, attend our session and learn how to best align these fields!

- **Drummond Kahn**, Professional Trainer, Past ALGA President and ALGA Lifetime Member

## CS#7. Auditor Made \$900 Million Error in Recent Report | Regulatory Ethics



When the worst happens and you discover an error in your report after publication, what is next? In this session we will talk through our errors, how they happened, how we responded, and what we changed to make sure it never happens again. It is a high-stress, high-pressure time; being prepared will help you cope, respond appropriately, and recover stronger.

- **KyMBER Waltmunson**, County Auditor, King County, WA
- **Farishta Ahrary**, City Auditor, City of Sacramento, CA

## CS#8. Auditing During Difficult Economic Times | Auditing-Governmental



Performance auditing can be challenging in difficult economic times. We will discuss how performance auditors have identified savings and revenue gains; how audit shops can help their jurisdiction; and how difficult economic times impact audit shops.

- **Mike Eglinski**, Senior Auditor, Johnson County Kansas County Auditor's Office, KS
- **Stephanie Noble**, Performance Audit Manager, City of Oakland, CA

## CS#9. Rats! How to Not Chase Your Tail When Working With Qualitative Audit Methodology | Auditing-Governmental



If a rat runs across a Chicago alley and no one sees it, is it really there? In this talk, two auditors share their experience designing and executing qualitative testing methodology to determine whether Chicago is achieving long-term control of its rat population. To reach its findings, the team engaged stakeholders (from elected officials to community gardeners to professional rodentologists) to understand how rat infestation can impact a city's public health, economy, and quality of life. Through interviews, literature review, and direct observations of rodent control crews, the team built a case that the city's on-the-street rodent control approach did not match its commitment to best practices.

- **Amy Dupuis**, Performance Analyst, City of Chicago - Office of Inspector General, IL
- **Anne O'Brien**, Senior Performance Analyst, City of Chicago - Office of Inspector General, IL

## CS#10. Office Culture Roundtable | Business Management and Organization



What does life in your office look like in this post-pandemic world? Share tips about how to build office culture and cohesion as we settle into our new normal.

- **Tina Adams**, City Auditor, City of Charlotte, NC

11:55 a.m. – 12:55 p.m. ET  
**LUNCH**

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**12:55 – 1:45 p.m. ET**  
**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**CS#11. Visualizing Risk in Power BI | Information Technology**



Spatial data can help auditors identify issues with city services by locating gaps in the quality and availability of those services. Through real audit examples, we will show how to leverage spatial data with the user-friendly mapping features in Power BI.

- **Chris Wilson**, Audit Analytics Manager, City and County of Denver - Auditor's Office, CO
- **Kayley Smiley**, Audit Analytics Senior, City and County of Denver - Auditor's Office, CO

**CS#12. Audit as a Vocation: The Role of Ethics in Practice | Regulatory Ethics**



Auditors play a unique role within government — one that carries distinct responsibilities and obligations. Fulfilling these obligations requires more than acting in accordance with our personal values; it requires respecting the professional boundaries and duties inherent in our role. This session will be grounded in the obligations established by applicable professional standards and will explore ethical frameworks that can help auditors better understand how to carry out their work both effectively and ethically. The session will also examine common ethical challenges that arise in the course of audit work and discuss practical ways to navigate them using these frameworks.

- **Kayvon Zadeh**, Principal Performance Auditor, State Auditor's Office, WA

**CS#13. Enhancing Accountability: Investigative and Collaborative Approaches Used by San Francisco's Whistleblower Program | Auditing-Governmental**



The San Francisco Whistleblower Program (Program) is the central intake point for reports of misconduct within San Francisco's government. The Program is one of many agencies in the City and County of San Francisco's accountability ecosystem; it addressed over 650 misconduct reports last fiscal year. This training will focus on the experiences of Senior Auditor Kevin Comer, one of the Program's investigators. Kevin will discuss the investigative, interviewing, and collaboration techniques that make the Program an impactful segment of San Francisco government.

- **Kevin Comer**, Auditor, City and County of San Francisco, CA

**CS#14. From Probable Cause to Proven Value: Strategic Auditing in Law Enforcement | Auditing-Governmental**



The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Audit and Accountability Bureau will present an overview of its ongoing audits of traffic stops, detentions, and community public complaints. Audit team members will explain the strategic use of limited scope audits to provide operational feedback, affect change within the organization, improve police services, and regain community trust, all under the watchful eye of the Department of Justice.

- **Rowena Nelson**, Head Compliance Officer, Los Angeles Co. Sheriff's Department, Audit and Accountability Bureau, CA
- **Geoffrey Chadwick**, Captain, Los Angeles Co. Sheriff's Department, Audit and Accountability Bureau, CA
- **Chaquita Moore**, Law Enforcement Auditor, Los Angeles Co. Sheriff's Department, Audit and Accountability Bureau, CA
- **Soraya Sanchez**, Sergeant, Los Angeles Co. Sheriff's Department, CA

**CS#15. Voices at the Table: A Roundtable on Strengthening Community Through Diversity and Inclusion | Auditing-Governmental**



Come discuss your wonderings and ideas about diversity, equity, inclusion, and access and its intersection with audit work.

- **Snehi Basnet**, Audit Manager, City and County of San Francisco, CA
- **Linden Pierce**, Senior Performance Auditor, City of Atlanta, GA

**1:45 – 2:00 p.m. ET**  
**BREAK**

**2:00 – 2:50 p.m. ET**  
**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**CS#16. From Oversight to Impact: How Auditors Can Drive Survivor-Centric Disaster Services | Auditing-Governmental**



In 2025, the Office of Management and Budget's Recovering from a Disaster customer experience team received the Service to the Citizen Award for Excellence in Digital Services for transforming how the federal government supports disaster survivors. By combining survivor listening sessions, cross-agency collaboration, and trauma-



informed practices, the team simplified the FEMA online application process, reduced registration time, created data-sharing systems to cut redundant paperwork, and delivered trauma-informed care training that improved the effectiveness of over 500 federal staff. This session will explore how auditors can adapt similar approaches in their work to drive improvements in emergency management services, ensuring they are accessible, compassionate, and client-focused.

- **Alexandra Fercak**, Disaster Action Team Lead Associate, American Red Cross

### CS#17. Data Reliability: Go or No-Go | Auditing-Governmental



Data reliability is the backbone of credible audits — but how do we know the numbers we rely on are truly trustworthy? This session dives into real-world challenges auditors face with incomplete or inconsistent data and shares practical techniques for validating and strengthening reliability.

- **Christopher Armstead**, Performance Auditor Senior, City of Atlanta, GA

### CS#18. Asking the Right People the Right Questions — Tips for Successful Audit Interviews, Surveys, and Team Meetings | Auditing-Governmental



Ever wonder if an audit would have changed with a different interview subject or survey question? An experienced auditor and former newspaper reporter provides advice for leading successful audit interviews, conducting effective audit surveys, and communicating between audit teams and audit management. These practices have helped identify critical information leading to more insightful and impactful audits and have helped manage internal expectations for audit engagement delivery.

- **Daniel Genz**, Audit Manager, City of Dallas, TX

### CS#19. Supporting and Compensating Vulnerable Populations with Performance Audits | Auditing-Governmental



Community perspectives can greatly strengthen an audit's findings; however, determining how to obtain these insights can be daunting, especially when working with vulnerable populations. Presenters will share lessons learned from prior audits so that attendees will be prepared to conduct audits that engage vulnerable populations

and cover a variety of methodologies, including interviews with incarcerated youth, reviews of assault case files, and conversations with residents of an affordable housing program. The session will also discuss how to ensure that information gathered is safeguarded adequately and outline considerations for compensating community participants. Learning these methods and approaches can help ensure that findings and recommendations are appropriate and beneficial, while also maintaining privacy, respect, and safety for community participants.

- **Grant Dailey**, Senior Management Auditor, King County, WA
- **Luc Poon**, Principal Management Auditor, King County, WA
- **Brenton Clark**, Senior Performance Auditor, State Auditor's Office, WA

### CS#20. Public Engagement Roundtable | Auditing-Governmental



Come to this roundtable to compare notes about how to engage with your community, whether that's getting feedback from the public or letting them know how your shop is working for them.

- **Kelsey Thompson**, Deputy City Auditor, City of Austin, TX

2:50 – 3:05 p.m. ET  
BREAK

3:05 – 3:55 p.m. ET  
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

### CS#21. Making a Difference: Strategies for Amplifying Audit Impact | Auditing-Governmental



Audit work has the power to drive meaningful results, but barriers to implementing recommendations can stymie change. This session will explore practical strategies for measuring the value of audit activities, showcasing results in annual reports, and using those insights to motivate strong follow-through from auditees. We will also examine how informal communications can be powerful in driving change. Drawing on real-world examples and proven practices, this session will leave attendees with actionable methods for amplifying the impact of their audits.

- **Brooke Leary**, Senior Principal Management Auditor, King County, WA
- **Simone Rede**, City Auditor, City of Portland, OR



## CS#22. Scope Creep: Why It's Haunting You and How to Banish It | Auditing-Governmental



Keeping audits timely is almost impossible when so many enticing topics materialize to pull us away from our plan. In this interactive session, teams will work through examples of scope creep that arise in audit planning, fieldwork, and writing. We will hone auditors' sixth sense for detecting scope creep and identify strategies for keeping it at bay.

- **Carissa Nash**, Performance Auditor, City of San Diego Office of the City Auditor, CA

## CS#23. How to Audit Organizational Culture | Auditing-Governmental



Auditing organizational culture can seem daunting, but studies have shown that poor culture leads to low morale, unresolved problems, and high and costly turnover. Thus, there is a growing need to audit this topic. For its first organizational culture audit, the Denver Auditor's Office studied four city agencies. The auditors found that the culture staff wanted did not align with the culture they had; they also found that staff did not feel comfortable or understand how to report serious issues. This session will explore the methodologies used to assess culture — including how we used a sentiment analysis to quantify qualitative information — as well as challenges faced and lessons learned. We will provide attendees with tips on which methodologies — such as surveys and focus groups — could be used to assess culture. We will also discuss how to validate information heard from staff while recognizing gaps may exist if staff feel processes are ineffective. Attendees will also learn how to report on culture findings in a way that protects the identify of staff who participate.

- **Kharis Eppstein**, Audit Supervisor, City and County of Denver - Auditor's Office, CO
- **Danielle Pluid**, Senior Internal Auditor, City and County of Denver - Auditor's Office, CO

## CS#24. Knighton Award Session 1 | Auditing-Governmental



Hear from some of this year's exemplary Knighton winners about their award-winning reports, useful project approaches, and successful audit processes.

## CS#25. Audit Managers Roundtable | Auditing-Governmental



Come discuss issues surrounding supervision and share your experiences as a manager. This session is for anyone who manages auditors and wants to connect with and learn from other managers.

- **Arushi Thakorlal**, Acting City Auditor, City of Seattle, WA
- **Caitlin Palmer**, Audit Manager, City of Berkeley, CA

3:55 – 4:10 p.m. ET  
**BREAK**

4:10 – 5:00 p.m. ET  
**GENERAL SESSION**

## GS#2. Grantus Fraudus and How Data Analytics Can Help | Auditing-Governmental



In FY 24, the federal government awarded over \$1 trillion in grants, of which approximately 90% went to state governments. In this session, we will discuss the primary fraud and other compliance risks in grants and how big data and technology can help better target limited oversight resources. We will also discuss the role and future of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC).

- **Kenneth Dieffenbach**, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee

5:00 – 5:05 p.m. ET  
**CLOSING REMARKS** 

6:00 – 10:00 p.m. ET  
**IN-PERSON NETWORKING EVENT**

## Networking at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame



In-person attendees will be treated to a private event at the **Rock & Roll Hall of Fame** in downtown Cleveland, a pleasant walk from the conference hotel (a shuttle bus is also available). It celebrates the history, influence, and evolution of rock and roll and related music genres through immersive exhibits, iconic memorabilia, and interactive displays.

Heavy appetizers and beverages will be provided.

## Networking at the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame

Conference attendees will have exclusive access to six floors of exhibits where musicians from different decades are celebrated. Test out your creative side by visiting the Garage where attendees can play real instruments!

Bring home a special souvenir from the Hall of Fame gift shop – **ALGA members get a 10% discount!**



## Conference Merch

You wanted ALGA merchandise, so we have it for you! Get your audit-related or conference-specific items in our Etsy shop.

Order early to receive your gear and show your ALGA pride at the conference (or your office!).

Order at <https://www.etsy.com/shop/ALGAConferenceShop>.







## TUESDAY, MAY 5

7:30 – 8:30 a.m. ET  
BREAKFAST

8:30 – 8:35 a.m. ET  
OPENING REMARKS  

8:35 – 9:50 a.m. ET  
GENERAL SESSION

**GS#3. The Art of Asking Better Questions |**  
Personal Development

  This fully participatory presentation is designed to assist in creating a work environment that ignites curiosity, introduces the effectiveness of asking better questions, and identifies how authentic inquiry assists with creating a culture of accountability. Our learning journey will focus on participants' professional development, increasing their knowledge and ability to use critical thinking skills to make authentic inquiry, apply appropriate meaning to terms and phrases, problem solve, communicate confidently, and foster more collaborative work environments rooted in authentic relationships.



- **Alonzo Kelly**, Strategic Leadership Partner and Executive Coach

9:50 – 10:15 a.m. ET  
AWARDS RECOGNITION: SESSION 2  

10:15 – 10:30 a.m. ET  
BREAK



10:30 – 11:20 a.m. ET  
CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**CS#26. The Art of Asking Better Questions: Application |**  
Personal Development

  This session follows the general session of the same name, offering an opportunity for participants to deepen and apply what they learned.



- **Alonzo Kelly**, Strategic Leadership Partner and Executive Coach

**CS#27. From Findings to Action: Why Audit Recommendations Get Ignored (And How to Change That) |**  
Auditing-Governmental

  Auditors often watch as management nods politely and moves on, rendering audit reports into "just another document." This session examines the example of parking operation audits, which identified over \$180,000 in annual revenue risk. In response to these audits, management implemented corrective actions within months. Learn how detailed operational observations, quantified risk scenarios, and actionable recommendations transformed findings into tangible organizational improvements.



- **Jonathan Edwards**, Internal Auditor, Volusia County, FL

**CS#28. Strategies and Best Practices for Developing an Effective Annual Audit Plan |**  
Auditing-Governmental

  This session will explore different approaches to audit planning, including using enterprise risk assessments (ERAs) to enhance the preparation of annual audit plans. Useful for shops of all sizes, attendees will learn practical approaches to audit planning and conducting ERAs, including various strategies and techniques tailored to the unique challenges faced by local government auditors. We will discuss common obstacles encountered during ERA and audit planning processes and offer solutions for improving risk identification and prioritization.

- **Maria Stroth**, Senior Manager, Baker Tilly
- **Cameron Lagrone**, Senior Auditor, Austin Transit, TX


**CS#29. Auditing With Community Input: A Radical Shift in Risk Assessment and Audit Scoping |**  
Auditing-Governmental

  What if your audit plan could be shaped not just by internal risk assessments, but by the voices of residents and frontline staff? This session introduces a new approach we call Pre-Audit Risk Refinement. We use tools from social science such as interviews, focus groups, surveys, and digital engagement to gather rich, representative input to sharpen audit focus and build community trust. Learn how partnering with a sociologist and treating community members as stakeholders not only empowers the public but also strengthens the influence and relevance of the audit function. This model makes audits more targeted, defensible, and transformational.



- **Nathan Pickard**, City Auditor, City of Tulsa, OK
- **Michael Stout**, Deputy City Auditor, City of Tulsa, OK

## CS#30. Emerging Issues: AI Roundtable | Information Technology

 Whether you're an AI whiz or a newbie looking for tips, this is the roundtable for you. Come together to discuss questions and share experiences about generative AI, its applications, and its risks.

- **Danny Nuccio**, Senior Auditor, City of Charlotte, NC



11:20 – 11:35 a.m. ET

**BREAK**

11:35 a.m. – 12:25 p.m. ET



**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

## CS#31. Emission Impossible: When Auditors From Across the Bay Unite! | Auditing-Governmental

  This session dives into the real-world collaboration between two jurisdictions, working under a joint agreement, to audit the Clean Truck Fund Rate. Learn how both cities, each having different processes and priorities, came together (with a bit of persuasion and a lot of spreadsheets) to share data and conduct a unified audit. We'll explore the challenges, breakthroughs, and practical strategies that made this cross-jurisdictional effort a success.



- **Briana Frias**, Performance Auditor, City of Long Beach, CA
- **Alvin Chu**, Assistant City Auditor, City of Long Beach, CA
- **Leonard Hyman**, Auditor, Port of Los Angeles, CA

## CS#32. Applying the IPPF Topical Requirements in the Public Sector | Auditing-Governmental

  Topical Requirements are a new addition to the International Professional Practices Framework® to be used with the Global Internal Audit Standards when audits of specific topics are selected from the internal audit function's risk assessment. This session will expand on how local government and small internal audit functions can approach their adoption and implementation. Presenters will focus on how conformance with the Topical Requirements will improve the consistency, quality, and reliability of internal audit services and results.



- **Pamela Stroebel Powers**, Director Professional Guidance, Public Sector, The Institute of Internal Auditors
- **Harriet Richardson**, Lifetime Member of ALGA

## CS#33. AI Governance Locally: Practical Strategies for Operationalizing AI Policy and Auditing AI Use | Information Technology


  This session explores two aspects of AI governance for auditors. (1) Building and Operationalizing an Office AI Use Policy: Learn how to craft a risk-based internal AI policy that addresses concerns from audit staff and ensures your auditors are equipped to responsibly leverage AI tools. (2) Auditing AI Use in Your Organization: Learn emerging strategies for auditing agency use of AI. By the end of this session, you'll walk away with approaches for both building internal AI policies and auditing AI use in your organization.

- **Sarah Bland**, Assistant City Auditor, City of Seattle, WA
- **Basil Hariri**, Auditor, King County, WA

## CS#34. Knighton Award Session 2 | Auditing-Governmental

  Hear from some of this year's exemplary Knighton winners about their award-winning reports, useful project approaches, and successful audit processes.

## CS#35. Law Enforcement Roundtable | Auditing-Governmental

 Looking to connect with others who audit law enforcement agencies? Come to this roundtable to discuss common issues and brainstorm solutions.

- **Brittney Harvey**, Audit Manager, New York City Office of the Comptroller, NY
- **Brooke Leary**, Audit Director, King County, WA



12:25 – 1:25 p.m. ET

**LUNCH**





**1:25 – 2:15 p.m. ET**  
**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**CS#36. From Objectives to Assurance: ERM in IIA Standards and Green Book Updates** | Auditing-Governmental

  Local government audits become disconnected from the objectives they are meant to protect when "risk" is not grounded in an operational view of how work actually occurs, causing risk, controls, and assurance to drift out of alignment. This session introduces the Chain of Assurance — a practical model that anchors ERM to what we care about, connects risk directly to real objectives, and aligns controls and assurance accordingly. The presenter will explain his approach to strengthening management conversations and ownership, and how he reinforces the role of internal audit within local government using an ERM mindset.



- **Albert Beltran Jr.**, Senior Internal Auditor, County of Santa Clara, CA

**CS#37. How to Teach Yourself SQL!** | Auditing-Governmental

  In this session, we will discuss how the Washington State Auditor's Office has used SQL to analyze millions of records and answer audit objectives. We will describe why and how auditors could use SQL in their own audit work. We will also provide resources to help auditors learn how to use SQL and troubleshoot issues with writing queries.



- **Michael Huynh**, Program Manager, State Auditor's Office, WA

**CS#38. Rebuilding Trust in the Grant Management Process** | Auditing-Governmental

  Baltimore City has significant single-audit repeat findings. This session will describe how the Department of Audits conducted performance audits on key agencies' grant management processes, in order to assist agencies in resolving these findings.


- **Josh Pasch**, City Auditor, City of Baltimore, MD
- **David Walton**, Performance Audit Manager, City of Baltimore, MD
- **Bernard Akrofi**, Performance Audit Supervisor, City of Baltimore, MD

**CS#39. Cybersecurity Risk — Trends and Solutions** | Information Technology

  Cybersecurity risk, threats, and costs continue to rise. We face these challenges and see headlines daily. What are the driving forces and root causes of what is occurring today for governments? This session will discuss current events in IT security impacting governments. We will also cover how auditors can help assess and evaluate the current threats and vulnerabilities and provide leading recommendations to work with IT, management, and governance to mitigate and reduce the threat landscape.

- **James Kreiser**, Principal, CLA

**CS#40. Chief Audit Executives Roundtable** | Auditing-Governmental



 Need a space to debrief with your fellow CAEs? Discuss your ideas and experiences with leading audit shops and hear lessons from other chief audit executives.

- **Simone Rede**, City Auditor, City of Portland, OR

**2:15 – 2:30 p.m. ET**  
**BREAK**

**2:30 – 3:20 p.m. ET**  
**CONCURRENT SESSIONS**

**CS#41. Leading Through the Unpredictable: Using Change Management to Strengthen Disaster Resilience** | Personal Development

  Disasters — wildfires, floods, hurricanes, and pandemics — are becoming more frequent and more complex. While technical tools and plans are essential, true resilience depends on people: how they adapt, communicate, and act under pressure. This session explores how change management principles can help government leaders, emergency managers, and community stakeholders strengthen disaster preparedness and response. By anticipating resistance, fostering trust, and guiding behavior change, agencies can close the gap between strategy and sustained action. Drawing insights from recent GAO reports and real-world examples, this session highlights practical ways to build the capacity needed to thrive in an era of constant change.

- **Cardell Johnson**, Managing Director of Strategic Issues, U.S. Government Accountability Office



## CS#42. Navigating Contentious Issues in Audits | Auditing-Governmental



In this session we will dive into challenging situations in audit communication, particularly with auditees and external stakeholders. We will talk through examples of communication challenges that arise in audits and techniques for addressing these challenges in order to keep audits moving forward.

- **Corrie Stokes**, Lifetime Member of ALGA

## CS#43. Coming Prepared to Your Data Analysis | Auditing-Governmental



A little extra preparation goes a long way. Reaching your dataset before you start analysis can save time and heartache. Revisit the fundamentals: learn how to establish a clear goal for your analysis, figure out what data to include, and efficiently prepare your dataset.

- **Paoa Wandke**, Senior Management Auditor, Metro Office of the Auditor, OR

## CS#44. Embracing Innovation in Internal Audit | Auditing-Governmental

This session explores how internal audit teams can embrace innovation to deliver greater strategic value, enhance efficiency, and proactively manage emerging risks. Discover how internal audit teams are leveraging data analytics, machine learning, generative AI, and more to transform their approach. The session will also highlight how a culture of innovation within internal audit can foster continuous improvement and stronger alignment with organizational goals.



- **Peter Doan**, Internal Auditor, Aurora Public Schools, CO
- **Bailey Kahl-Wu**, Manager, Risk and Accounting Advisory Services, Plante Moran

## CS#45. Fraud and Investigations Roundtable | Auditing-Governmental



Calling all fraud fighters! Come discuss your questions and experiences with fraud, whistleblowers, and other investigations with your peers.

- **Farishta Ahrary**, City Auditor, City of Sacramento, CA

3:20 – 3:35 p.m. ET  
BREAK

3:35 – 4:50 p.m. ET  
GENERAL SESSION

## GS#4. Leading in Turbulent Times | Personal Development



Join keynote speaker Dr. Kelly Richmond Pope — author, professor, forensic accounting expert, and award-winning filmmaker — for an engaging session on leading with confidence amid uncertainty. Drawing on her research and real-world insights, Dr. Pope will share practical, empowering strategies for reducing organizational risk, strengthening fraud prevention, and focusing on what leaders can control. This session offers attendees a renewed sense of confidence and actionable tools to build stronger, more resilient organizations across the public sector.

- **Kelly Richmond Pope**, Author, Education Innovator, and Forensic Accounting Expert

4:50 – 5:00 p.m. ET  
CLOSING REMARKS





## WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

### WS#4. Internal Controls for Auditors

\$200 | 4 CPE | Auditing-Governmental

**Attendance:** *In-Person*



Assessing internal controls has long been required as part of Government Auditing Standards, but most guidance on assessing internal control is based on financial-related audits. In this workshop, we will delve into the Standards for Internal Control in the federal government's (the Green Book's) framework for designing, implementing, and operating an effective internal control system. We will discuss the components and principles of internal control and how we can consider and incorporate them into our performance audit planning and fieldwork. We'll include real-world examples from local government performance audits and hands-on exercises.

**Includes breakfast.**

- **Corrie Stokes**, Lifetime Member of ALGA

**Learning Objectives:** Understand:

- The U.S. Government Accountability Office's Green Book framework and how to apply it.
- The relationship between internal control components and principles.
- Application of internal control concepts to local government performance audits.

**Maximum Capacity:** 40 participants

8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. ET

### WS#5. In the Field: Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter

\$200 | 3 CPE | Auditing-Governmental

**Attendance:** *In-Person*



Participants will attend a site visit and tour of the Cuyahoga County Animal Shelter in Valley View, Ohio (about 20 minutes south of the hotel). The tour will begin with staff from the Cuyahoga County Internal Audit Department sharing the audit scope and key lessons learned from their review of shelter operations. Next, shelter staff will provide an overview of daily operations and discuss current challenges in the animal shelter field. The visit will conclude with a guided tour of the facility, which may include opportunities to meet dogs up close.

Please meet in the lobby at 8 a.m. The visit will last about three hours and will include prolonged standing. Please wear long pants and sneakers for safety. Part of the tour may include time outside, so please dress weather appropriate."

**Includes breakfast and transportation.**

- **Cory Swaisgood**, Director of Internal Audit, Cuyahoga County, OH
- **Tom Schneider**, Senior Staff Auditor, Cuyahoga County, OH

**Learning Objectives:** Gain a practical understanding of key workflows and compliance controls—including licensing, health and safety, and controlled substance management—and learn how to audit these areas for accuracy, accountability, and regulatory compliance. Learn about animal shelter operations and observe the care and handling of dogs.

**Maximum Capacity:** 40 participants





## Hilton Downtown Cleveland

The conference will be held at the **Hilton Downtown Cleveland** (100 Lakeside Avenue East, Cleveland, OH, 44114). Reservations are now open at the government rate of \$159/night plus applicable taxes.

Book online at <https://book.passkey.com/event/51046146/owner/14238363/home> (Group Code: ALGA).

The cutoff date to receive ALGA's rate is **April 10, 2026**. However, the room block has historically sold out before the cutoff date. **We recommend booking early.**

### Getting There

The hotel is 12.5 miles from the Cleveland Hopkins International airport (CLE). Taxi and ride share services are available.

If you are interested in taking public transportation from the airport to the hotel, please follow signs from the airport terminal to the Red Line train. From the Airport Station, you will take the train 9 stops to Tower City Center. The hotel is an approximate 12-minute walk North from the station.

### Parking at the Hilton

Self-parking is available at \$50.00 per day; valet service is \$60.00.



## Attire

Appropriate dress for the conference is business casual. Meeting rooms can be cool, so be sure to bring along a light jacket or sweater. Attendees usually wear casual clothes to the Sunday and Monday night events.

## Conference Meals

Each lunch will include a vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free option. You will be asked during registration to indicate your preference. Other meal opportunities will be designed with a range of needs in mind. Those with severe allergies may wish to make alternate arrangements for meals.

## Volunteer to Be a Moderator

We are seeking volunteers to moderate sessions. Duties include introducing speakers, monitoring time, and moderating questions. If you'd like to volunteer, let us know when you register.

## Accommodations

We will provide a private space for nursing mothers, as well as a contemplation room. Member Services will provide keys to these rooms onsite, upon request. If you need additional accommodations, please let us know when you register.

## Health and Wellness

Stay tuned for more details on health and wellness activities, including a morning walk, beginner yoga, grounding meditation, and more!

## Cancellations, Refund, and Complaint Policy

Full refunds are available for cancellations on or before April 1. Refunds of 50% will be allowed for cancellations made between April 1 and 24. After this time, refunds will be considered on a case-by-case basis for emergencies, illness, and similar special circumstances. Substitutions are always permitted.

Complaints may be directed to ALGA Member Services, at 449 Lewis Hargett Circle, Suite 290, Lexington, KY, 40503, or (859) 276-0686.

## Questions

Direct questions to Member Services at (859) 276-0686 or by email as listed below:

### Sponsorships and General Inquiries

Kathleen Young ([kyoung@nasact.org](mailto:kyoung@nasact.org))

### Registration and Membership

Tanya Grayson ([tgrayson@nasact.org](mailto:tgrayson@nasact.org))

Katie Young ([katie.young@nasact.org](mailto:katie.young@nasact.org))

### CPE or Educational Content

Meredith Johns ([mjohns@nasact.org](mailto:mjohns@nasact.org))

## Conference Platform

**Conference materials will be provided through our digital streaming platform and mobile app. Information about how to access the platform and app will be provided before the conference.**



## Conference Learning Objectives

Following this training, attendees will be able to:

- Apply practical skills learned through case studies from peers.
- Apply strategies for remaining objective in a professional setting affected by the political environment.
- Identify and discuss new guidance and standards as they apply to local government auditing.
- Define and implement leadership strategies.

Workshop learning objectives and CPE credits are listed on pages 3 and 14 of this brochure.

**CPE:** 14 credits of continuing professional education have been recommended for the two-day conference.



The Association of Local Government Auditors is registered with the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) as a sponsor of continuing professional education on the National Registry of CPE Sponsors. State boards of accountancy have final authority on the acceptance of individual courses for CPE credit. Complaints regarding registered sponsors may be submitted to the National Registry of CPE Sponsors through its website: [www.nasbaregistry.org](http://www.nasbaregistry.org).

## Applies to All Workshops and Sessions

**Level of Knowledge:** Overview

**Education or Experience Prerequisite:** None; government auditors of all levels and other interested parties are encouraged to attend.

**Advance Preparation:** None.

**Delivery Method:** Live and group internet based. All sessions include Q&A.

**Attendance Requirements:** To obtain CPE credit for this event, participants must verify attendance through the conference platform.





ALGA

**ALGA Member Services**

449 Lewis Hargett Circle, Suite 290, Lexington, KY 40503  
(859) 276-0686, [algaonline.org](http://algaonline.org)