



**LOCAL
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BRINGING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TOGETHER TO SERVE

"The Local Government Institute of Wisconsin will collaborate with others to find solutions for the efficient delivery and funding of local government services consistent with the needs of our citizens."

999 FOURIER DRIVE, SUITE 201
MADISON, WI 53717
608.831.1662
www.localgovinstitute.org

For Immediate Release

February 29, 2016

Contact: Gary Becker
Executive Director
608.831.1662

The Future of Local Government: Wisconsin Groups to Consider Likely Scenarios

Local governments in Wisconsin are facing political, economic and demographic changes that will significantly impact how they run and how they are funded. We know there will be consequences to the trends that are playing out today – we just don't know what those consequences might be, their likelihood of occurring or how those outcomes can be changed.

The Local Government Institute, which includes the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, the Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Towns Association, and the Urban Alliance has hired a futurist to facilitate a process to identify a set of likely scenarios and how the direction of those scenarios might be changed.

Next Generation Consulting and futurist Rebecca Ryan will lead the effort and expects to have a report completed next fall. Ryan, who completed a similar national study for the International City-County Managers Association (ICMA) last year, said "We cannot predict the future with any degree of accuracy, but we can educate ourselves about the possible consequences of today's trends and the levers we can pull to affect outcomes in the future."

Ryan will use a process called Foresight to methodically collect information about trends and their consequences. Trends in key subject areas of Society, Technology, Economy, Environment and Politics (STEEP) will be examined for their applicability to local government in Wisconsin. Approximately 100 individuals with an informed perspective of various aspects of local government will participate in a Delphi Panel to provide their opinion of the possible impacts today's trends will have in the future. A public workshop will be held in late June to present the results of the trend and scenario analysis. Following the workshop Ryan will prepare recommendations and a final report.

Other groups participating with LGI on the study include the Wisconsin City County Management Association (WCMA), Wisconsin Rural Partners and the Wisconsin Economic Development Association (WEDA).

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