

IGFOA DOWNSTATE CHAPTER CONFERENCE

February 5-6, 2026 | Speaker Bios

Sofia Anastopoulos, Executive Director, Illinois Metropolitan Investment Fund (IMET)

Sofia Anastopoulos is the Executive Director of IMET. She started her work in the public sector with the Government Finance Officers Association in 2005, then her own firm, Public Funds Consulting, before joining IMET. She is passionate about helping local governments learn, appreciate and implement best practice in treasury and investing.

Sofia is a graduate of Northwestern University and received an MBA from DePaul University in Chicago. She holds the designation of Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA).

Michelle Binns, Director, PFM Asset Management

Michelle Binns has been with PFM Asset Management for 19 years and is a director in the Chicago office. She works closely with a variety of local government clients in Illinois to develop and implement prudent investment strategies for short, intermediate, and long-term funds, including fixed income and multi-asset class portfolios. Her responsibilities include investment performance analysis, cash flow modeling, portfolio structuring and restructuring, providing economic summaries and research, and evaluating investment policies and practices for compliance with state investment statutes. Michelle serves on the Illinois Government Finance Officers Association's Ruth Limpers Scholarship Funds Committee.

Anthony Cervini, CPA, CFE, Principal, Sikich

Anthony M. Cervini, CPA, CFE, is a Principal at Sikich and serves as the firm's Local Government Audit Leader. Since joining Sikich in 2005, Anthony has led engagement teams for audits of governmental entities, delivering expert guidance in governmental accounting, auditing, financial reporting, and internal controls.

Brad Cole, Executive Director, Illinois Municipal League (IML)

Brad Cole serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Illinois Municipal League (IML), based in Springfield, Illinois, which is the statewide association of all 1,294 cities, villages and towns. Since 1913, the League's mission has been to articulate, defend, maintain and promote the interests and concerns of Illinois communities. He began in this position in December 2014.

Tim Gavin, CPA, Principal, Lauterbach & Amen, LLP

Tim Gavin is a Principal with Lauterbach & Amen, LLP and has two decades serving the public sector as a payroll provider and consultant. He currently oversees Lauterbach & Amen's payroll services team which provides outsourced payroll and consulting to a wide variety of clients. Tim has extensive experience with payroll systems, compliance, internal controls, and fraud prevention, and is a regular speaker on public sector industry topics. He is a Certified Public Accountant, a graduate of North Central College with a degree in accounting, and holds an MBA from Northern Illinois University.

Matt Hanigan, Institutional Sales and Relationship Manager, PFM

Lisa Nusko, VP, Investment Services, PTMA

Randi Van Wie, Deputy Director of Finance, City of Edwardsville

Scot Wrighton, Senior Management Consultant, LeaderGov; Team Leader, Interim Solutions, LLC

Chicago native, Scot Wrighton, is an independent governance consultant, trainer and occasional author. His career is dedicated to resourceful public management and effective governance.

He holds a Bachelor's degree in History and Government from Sterling College, in Sterling, Kansas; a Master's degree in History from the University of Hawaii; and a Master's in Public Administration (city management) from the University of Kansas. He has worked in the field of government management for more than 40 years, in Kansas, Georgia, Missouri, the Republic of India, and Illinois, more than 30 of these years as a city manager.

Wrighton's consulting specialties include strategic planning, organizational development, executive coaching, designing and implementing governance and structural change, teaching government ethics concepts and strategies, and local government performance management and measurement.

From 2003 to 2009, Scot served on the faculty of the University of Georgia's Carl Vinson Institute of Government. In this capacity he taught government courses, and provided local governance consulting services to elected and appointed officials in the United States, and abroad.

From 2009 to 2014, Scot served as city manager of new private city built from scratch in Maharashtra, India; it was intended to serve as a model of how new urban areas can be created and governed in South Asia as a response to the rapid urbanization of India.

From 2014 to 2019, Scot served as city manager of Streator, Illinois; and from 2019 to 2024 he was city manager of Decatur, Illinois.

Scot has published several articles and a book on effective local government supervision. Most of his publications concern the management, governance and sustainable development of the public sector. In 2023 he authored and published Article Five: Repairing American Government Amid Debilitating Partisan Strife (EBL Publishing).