

Lessons from Merger Workshop

On January 6, 2003, the first large city-county merger in more than 30 years became a reality in Louisville, KY. How is it working? And what does it mean for your community?

AGENDA

Tuesday, November 8

12:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Workshop Registration Open**
Mezzanine Promenade, 3rd Floor

Session 1 *Crystal Ballroom, 3rd Floor*

1:00 pm **Welcome**
Louisville Mayor Jerry E. Abramson

1:15 pm **Setting the Stage**
An overview of Louisville's merger story.
– **Joan Riehm**, Deputy Mayor, Louisville Metro

1:45 pm **Merger: 40 Years of Debate**
A business leader, state legislator, merger advisor, and the former Judge-Executive of Jefferson County government discuss the pros and cons of merger, debated for more than 40 years in Louisville.
– **Sheryl Snyder**, Frost Brown Todd LLC (Moderator)
– **Ed Glasscock**, Finance Chair, 2000 merger campaign
– **Rebecca Jackson**, Former Jefferson County Judge-Executive
– **Gerald Neal**, Kentucky State Senator

Session 2

2:45 pm **Alternatives to Merger**
This panel will discuss other government reform initiatives in Louisville, including shared city-county services, merged departments, countywide service districts, and a revenue-sharing Compact.
– **Jane Driskell**, CFO, Louisville Metro; former Louisville Deputy Mayor (Moderator)
– **Bruce Traugher**, Cabinet Secretary, Louisville Metro; former Deputy County Judge-Executive of Jefferson County
– **Tina Heavrin**, Counsel to the Mayor, Louisville Metro; former Law Director, City of Louisville
– **Herbert Schardein**, Director, Metropolitan Sewer District

3:45 pm **Break**
South Alcove

Tuesday, November 8

Session 3

Crystal Ballroom, 3rd Floor

4:00 pm

Convincing the Voters

Four merger referenda from 1956 to 2000 used different strategies. The successful 2000 campaign is viewed by a campaign strategist, communications director, and former business leader.

- **William E. Summers IV**, Deputy Mayor, Louisville Metro; former VP, Greater Louisville Inc. (Moderator)
- **Michael Shea**, President, Connemara Communications, LLC
- **Kathleen Partlow**, Communications consultant; communications manager of 2000 merger campaign

Session 4

Trolleys from Brown Hotel to Metro Hall, 527 W. Jefferson St.

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Toonerville Trolleys will run a continuous loop from the 4th St. entrance of Brown Hotel to Metro Hall (10-minute round trip)

5:30 pm –
7:00 p.m.

Taste of Louisville Reception at Metro Hall

Mayor Abramson, Workshop speakers, sponsors, and Metro officials welcome participants to a taste of local wines, beers, and hors d'oeuvres at Louisville's government center. Metro employees will offer tours of the Mayor's Office and other areas of the historic building.

7:30 pm

Evening of downtown entertainment

Evening on your own to enjoy dinner at a downtown restaurant, visit attractions at the 4th Street Live! downtown entertainment center, or catch a show at the Jazz Factory.

A list of downtown restaurants and other entertainment options available at the Workshop Registration Desk.

Wednesday, November 9

Session 5

Crystal Ballroom

7:30 a.m.

Breakfast Roundtables

Enjoy a Continental Breakfast while you talk with Metro officials who have been implementing city-county merger. Choose the topic that interests you and sit at that table.

Roundtable Hosts and Their Topics:

Kim Allen, Secretary

Public Protection Cabinet

Topic: Managing a new Cabinet in the merged government

Paul Barth, Chief

McMahan Fire Department; Metro Liaison, Suburban Fire Districts

and

Suburban City Mayor

Topic: Suburban cities and services in the merged government

Kimberly Bunton, Director
Office of Policy & Strategic Planning
Topic: Policy and strategic planning challenges in Metro government

Charles C. Cash, AIA, Director
Planning & Design Services
Topic: Planning and development challenges in Metro government

Lt. Col. Steve Conrad, Administration Bureau
Louisville Metro Police
Topic: Merging the Louisville and Jefferson County Police Departments

Rudolph Davidson, Secretary
Public Works & Services Cabinet
Topic: Managing a new Cabinet in the merged government

William Hornig, Director
Department for Human Resources and Civil Service
Topic: Merging the Louisville and Jefferson County Human Resource systems;
labor union relations and negotiations

Rick Johnstone, Deputy Mayor
Topic: Operations challenges in Metro government

Irv Maze, Jefferson County Attorney
Topic: Legal issues in Metro government

Beth Niblock, Director
Metro Technology Services
Topic: Merging the Louisville and Jefferson County IT systems

Mary Lou Northern, Secretary
Neighborhoods, Parks, and Cultural Affairs Cabinet
Topic: Managing a new Cabinet in the merged government

Mary Gwen Wheeler, Secretary
Health and Family Services Cabinet
Topic: Managing a new Cabinet in the merged government

Session 6

Crystal Ballroom

8:30 a.m.

Reinventing Government

How Louisville created a new government with the help of local foundations and consultants, saving money and increasing service efficiency.

- **Carolyn Gatz**, Director, Greater Louisville Project (Moderator)
- **Jerry Newfarmer**, President, Management Partners, Inc., Cincinnati, Ohio
- **Kevin Thompson**, Senior Managing Consultant, Public Financial Management, Inc., Memphis, TN
- **Larry Hayes**, Deputy Mayor, Louisville Metro

Wednesday, November 9

Session 7 *Crystal Ballroom*

9:30 a.m. ***Case Study: City-County Police Merger***
Louisville merged most of its departments, including city and county police, on Day One of merger. Metro's new Police Chief describes the challenges.
– **Robert White**, Chief, Metro Police

10:15 a.m. ***Break***
South Alcove

Session 8 *Crystal Ballroom*

10:30 a.m. ***Metro Council***
Members of Louisville's 26-member Metro Council discuss their experiences in starting a new legislative branch in the merged government.
– **Tom Owen**, District 8 (Moderator)
– **David Tandy**, District 4
– **Ellen Call**, District 26
– **Ron Weston**, District 13; first Council President

Session 9 *Crystal Ballroom*
Buffet service in South Alcove

12:00 p.m. ***Luncheon—Making Merger Work: What's Next?***
Louisville Mayor Jerry E. Abramson looks ahead, and answers questions about lessons for other communities from the historic merger of Louisville-Jefferson County governments.

1:30 p.m. ***Lessons from Merger Workshop Adjourns***

'Collaborative Governance -- Is Your Community Ready?'
ARS National Forum on Regional Stewardship

12:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Forum Registration Open**
Mezzanine Promenade, 3rd Floor

2:00 – 5:00 p.m. **Tour of the Greater Louisville Region (Optional)**
Sign up in advance for this wide-ranging bus tour, where Louisville experts will discuss the tripling of downtown housing options...the impact of millions of dollars of investment in new attractions...Louisville's award-winning waterfront...and how HOPE VI funds are creating market-rate neighborhoods from former public housing. Regional speakers in Southern Indiana will explore the bi-state effort to build two new Ohio River bridges, and develop a 6,000-acre former Army ammunition plant, and highlight waterfront development and other initiatives.

3:00-8:00 p.m. Alliance for Regional Stewardship Board of Directors Meeting

