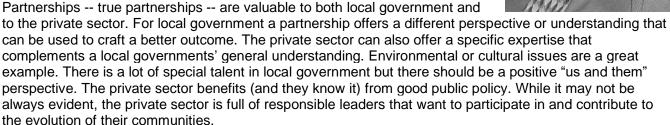
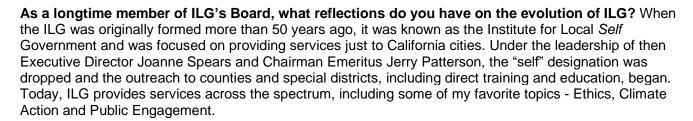
BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Mark S. Gaughan Principal, Genesee Group

What are you most thankful for during your time in and around public service? My public service has been somewhat unique. I have never held an elected position, but I have volunteered for leadership positions in 20+ non-profit organizations that provide a vast array of services. With each organization and volunteer opportunity, I believe I have been successful in offering an unbiased, non-partisan, agenda-free perspective that helped each organization achieve greater success. I am very thankful for the many things I learned from these organizations. I have learned something about mental health issues, small and large business concerns, taxpayer issues, environmental issues, politics and more. I am also thankful for the many great people who I have met while serving the non-profit world.







Looking forward, what are you most excited for local government to achieve in 2022? Wow! There are so many good things that local governments do. The federal and state governments get so much attention with the media choosing to emphasize the negative. I would hope that local governments focus on the specific needs of their unique communities and set the example for the return of civil public policymaking. Trust must be re-established between our elected officials, the electorate and staff. I am looking forward to 2022.

What advice do you have for the next generation of local government leaders or the private sector leaders that support them? Earlier I mentioned "true partnerships". I want to emphasize that this should not be a buzz word or talking point, but rather a culture that should be practiced every day on every subject. There are many good people sincerely providing good products and services. We must trust each other and demonstrate that trust by working together on every issue, purchase or contract before us. Progress can be achieved through cooperation, even between the regulators and regulated. We do not need to separate ourselves into "us versus them." I think we start by finding common ground, setting our goals and moving forward in earnest to achieve each goal.

