

**CONTACT:** Robyn Hodges, Office of Nate Miley, 510-272-3691 [robyn.hodges@acgov.org](mailto:robyn.hodges@acgov.org)  
Dawn Argula, Office of Scott Haggerty, 925-551-6995 [dawn.argula@acgov.org](mailto:dawn.argula@acgov.org)  
Melanie de la Grange, Bay Area Council, 415-946-8725, [mdelagrang@bayareacouncil.org](mailto:mdelagrang@bayareacouncil.org)

## Alameda County Citizens Call for Change: Constitutional Convention Townhall

SEPTEMBER 8, 2009 - Alameda County Supervisors Nate Miley and Scott Haggerty are partnering with the Bay Area Council, Repair California and the Alameda County Citizens for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities to convene a Constitutional Convention Townhall.

**WHEN:** Thursday, September 17, 2009 from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm  
**WHERE:** Alameda County Administration Building, 1221 Oak Street, Oakland  
inside the Board of Supervisors Chambers on the Fifth Floor.

The Town Hall will include Panel discussions on the goals and objectives of a California Constitutional Convention, the Alameda County perspective on reform, and the path to a California Constitutional Convention. It includes opportunities for public testimony and Q/A. There is no cost to attend and registration will begin at 8:45 am. To register online, log onto:

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dHJjQk9PVkZSSFd1bWhqRHg4V0NvYmc6MA>.

Across the state of California, people are frustrated and appalled by state government. Our system is dysfunctional and broken. In every city, town and unincorporated area citizens have begun to come together to dialogue about the need for change. In conjunction with this, Repair California and the Bay Area Council have facilitated meetings focused on how to revamp state government. From their joint meetings, web blogs and conversations with people, the consensus is that California residents express an overwhelming desire to affect change in four areas:

**Governance**, including the structure of the legislative and executive branches of government, with the latter to include State agencies and commissions.

**Elections**, including the initiative and referenda processes, campaign finance, and term limits.

**The Budget**, including the budget process and related requirements, such as the 2/3ds legislative vote required to pass a budget, the term and balancing of a budget, and mandated spending.

**Revenue distribution**, including the revenue relationship between local and state government.

“In Alameda County at the Board of Supervisors, we are angry,” states Supervisor Miley, who has had enough of negative state government, and concurs that the time for reform has come. “On a daily basis, our residents grapple with drastic cuts in services that impact their quality of life. As elected officials, we’ve endured a financial “gutting” of our revenues to the point where we can no longer accept cuts to education, social and medical services, senior and youth programs as well as transportation and municipal services.”

“Alameda County has absorbed almost a billion dollars in cuts since 2000 as a result of the State’s inability to develop and adopt a sustainable, long-term financial plan. This has had dire impacts on our ability to deliver essential services placing the public in a precarious position. On September 17, I look forward to hearing about the proposals for State reform that may effectively remedy this condition,” said Supervisor Scott Haggerty.

The Town Hall will engage the public in a conversation with those who are interested in reform so that we can work toward solutions together.