

Cal Cities Lifetime Achievement Award Winners

- 2020 – John Russo, former city manager and council member, Oakland and former Cal Cities board director
- 2019 – Judy Corbett, former executive director, Local Government Commission
- 2018 – JoAnne Speers, former staff attorney and general counsel, Cal Cities and former executive director, Institute for Local Government
- 2017 – Don Benninghoven, former executive director, Cal Cities; and Chris McKenzie, former executive director, Cal Cities
- 2016 – Gov. Pete Wilson, former mayor, San Diego; Cal Cities president; former U.S. senator and state senator
- 2015 – Anna Cabellero, state senator; former mayor and council member, Salinas; former secretary of the California Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency
- 2014 – Hal Conklin, former mayor, Santa Barbara
- 2013 – Beverly O'Neil, former mayor, Long Beach
- 2012 – Ron Loverage, mayor, Riverside
- 2011 – Dianne Feinstein, U.S senator and former mayor, San Francisco
- 2010 – Ray Remy, former director, California EDD; former deputy mayor, Los Angeles; former assistant director, Cal Cities
- 2009 – Kevin Starr, author, historian, and former state librarian
- 2008 – Harriet Miller, former mayor, Santa Barbara; former president of the Institute for Local Government
- 2007 – A. Alan Post, former chief legislative analyst, state of California
- 2006 – Rosario Marin, secretary, California State and Consumer Services Agency; former mayor, Huntington Park; former U.S treasurer
- 2005 – Jerry Patterson, president, Institute for Local Government; former mayor, Santa Ana; former member, U.S. Congress
- 2004 – Norman Mineta, secretary of transportation, Bush Administration White House Cabinet; former mayor, San Jose
- 2003 – Dan Walters, newspaper columnist, Sacramento Bee
- 2002 – Carol Whiteside, former mayor, Modesto
- 2001 – Joseph Rattigan, former state senator and District Court of Appeals justice
- 2000 – Wes McClure, former city manager, San Leandro
- 1999 – Jack Maltester, former mayor, San Leandro
- 1998 – Bud Carpenter, former executive director, Cal Cities
- 1997 – Tom Bradley, former mayor, Los Angeles
- 1996 – Robert Beverly, former state senator and assembly member