



**THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2020**

## **PAUL PUBLIC POLICY INSTITUTE LAUNCHES NEW “MEET THE MAYOR” VIRTUAL SERIES**

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute is excited to announce the launch of a new series of virtual conversations called “Meet the Mayor.” Each month, Institute Director John Shaw will host a conversation with a mayor from a different Illinois community. They will discuss the mayor’s career and the challenges and opportunities civic leaders face during this time of tumultuous change.

The series will begin Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 11 a.m. CT with Leon Rockingham, Jr., the mayor of North Chicago and the current president of the Illinois Municipal League.

“We are delighted to begin this series with Mayor Rockingham who has been an effective and barrier-breaking leader of his community. His success in North Chicago and his leadership among Illinois’ mayors will help us understand the position of serving as mayor in Illinois and American government,” Shaw said.

“There are nearly 1,300 mayors in Illinois. We look forward to hosting informative conversations with some of the most creative and consequential mayors. These conversations will help us better appreciate the diversity of Illinois and the daunting challenges confronting mayors in the Prairie State.”

Shaw noted a recent Brookings Institution report about mayors in the United States emphasized the enormous range of issues and responsibilities that mayors face. According to the report, mayors are expected to provide visionary policy leadership, clear communication about their priorities, and professional management that balances long-term planning and short-term service delivery. They are required to respond to the shifting needs and preferences of residents, develop strategies to be competitive in the global economy, model good governance, transparency, and accountability, and represent the interests of their city to other government levels.

“Mayors are increasingly important in the United States, especially given the partisan stalemate in Washington, D.C. Successful mayors are practical problem solvers and often are non-ideological. They oversee the delivery of services that are the most tangible and essential to Americans,” Shaw said.

The series will be accessible via Zoom. There will be no charge to attend the programs, but advance registration is required.

Learn more at <https://paulsimoninstitute.siu.edu/event-information/meet-the-mayor>