

**City Council**  
Mayor Neysa Hinton  
Vice Mayor Patrick Slayter  
Michael Carnacchi  
Una Glass  
Sarah Glade Gurney



**City of Sebastopol**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Sebastopol Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Mary Gourley Honored as California’s 2019 City Clerk of the Year**

**SEBASTOPOL, Calif., (April 9, 2019)** – The City of Sebastopol is pleased to announce that Assistant City Manager/City Clerk Mary Gourley has been recognized as City Clerk of the Year for the State of California by the 1,087-member City Clerks Association of California (CCAC). The award was presented to Ms. Gourley at the organization’s President’s Awards Banquet at its annual conference in Anaheim on April 4, 2019. This was the third time Ms. Gourley has been nominated for the prestigious award.

The purpose of the award is to recognize City Clerk professionals who have made significant and exemplary contributions to their city, community or profession. Says CCAC President Stephanie Smith, “The Awards of Distinction are highly valued and particularly meaningful for City Clerks, and being named ‘City Clerk of the Year’ is a lifetime honor few achieve.” Ms. Gourley thanked Mayor Neysa Hinton, Vice Mayor Patrick Slayter, City Manager Larry McLaughlin, City Department Heads and fellow City Clerks for nominating her for the honor. She was also appreciative of her family who surprised her by attending the awards ceremony in Southern California. Said Ms. Gourley, “I am so humbled and so thankful to serve for some of the best bosses and with some of the most wonderful people in this profession.”

City Staff, Council and Department Heads, community leaders and members of the public have praised Ms. Gourley for her high degree of professionalism, responsiveness, compassion and advocacy for the City of Sebastopol and for her profession.

Ms. Gourley began her career with the City of Sebastopol in 1995 as Clerk to the Planning Director and Superintendent of Public Works; she was promoted to Planning Technician in 1998, and since 2006, she has been the City Clerk for the City of Sebastopol. In 2016, she was promoted to the position of Assistant City Manager/City Clerk. Ms. Gourley's colleagues have noted that she has always conducted her duties and responsibilities with dedication, passion and a loyalty to those she works for and with. Says City Manager Larry McLaughlin, "Not only does Mary handle the myriad of tasks of City Clerk, she also is a mentor, cheerleader, and inspiration to those around her, but, most importantly, she is an advocate for her City, community and her profession."

Ms. Gourley is a graduate of the inaugural class of the Sonoma County Local Leadership Academy and, in May of 2013, became Sebastopol's first City Clerk to earn the Certified Municipal Clerk designation. Three years later she achieved her Master Municipal Clerk designation, certification for which requires hundreds of hours of advanced education in the field. Fellow colleagues and staff voted Ms. Gourley City Employee of the Year in 2010 and nominated her for the same award in six of the seven preceding years.

Continues City Manager Larry McLaughlin of Ms. Gourley, "She has received accolades from Mayors, Councilmembers, and from City Managers of not only our city but of neighboring cities lauding her professionalism, her attention to detail, and her quick responses. She is relied upon by myself, our Council, City staff and all members of the community. They know that all they need to do is call City Hall, ask for Mary, and she will ensure that no matter what the issue, it will be addressed. There is no one in the City that exemplifies what a public servant should be quite like Mary and I cannot think of a better way to honor Mary's success and commitment than for her to receive this great honor and award."

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