




C I T Y O F
RENO
Memorandum

DATE: May 29, 2026

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, City Manager 

FROM: Noemi Gomez, Community Relationships Manager
Cynthia Esparza, Director

DEPT: Community Engagement & Services

SUBJECT: 2026 Reno Constituents Institute (RCI)

The Reno Constituents Institute (RCI), established in the late 1990s, is a free twelve-week civic engagement program that provides community members the opportunity to learn about the City of Reno's government structure, departments, programs, services, and public engagement efforts. This annual program supports the City's commitment to transparency, civic participation, and community education by providing the community with direct access to municipal operations, staff, and services.

Over the years, the program has evolved and expanded and continues equipping participants to serve as informed community voices, build community connections, and since 2023, the RCI alumni base serves as a recruitment body for board and commission openings and additional engagement opportunities.

2026 RCI Cohort Highlights

The 2026 RCI cohort graduated 33 participants on Thursday, May 7, 2026. They completed more than 30 hours of interactive learning, discussions, and engagement opportunities designed to increase participants' understanding of City operations and community priorities. Participants received firsthand insight into service delivery, infrastructure, public safety, community development, and resident engagement efforts across the organization, and activities included:

- Nine educational tours and site visits
- Engagement with 30 City departments, divisions, and programs
- Visits to 10 City facilities and operational sites

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Program Outcomes Since 2023

Since 2023, collective program accomplishments include:

- 138 program graduates
- 91% participant retention rate
- 31 facility and operational tours conducted
- More than 100 cumulative instructional and engagement hours
- 119 presentations facilitated by City staff and program representatives

RCI Alumni Feedback

Participant's feedback highlights the value of experiencing City operations firsthand and gaining a clearer understanding of the work happening across departments.

As shared via program surveys, participants often found tours, facility visits, and discussions with City staff most valuable, especially at public safety sites, dispatch centers, infrastructure operations, and community service programs. Participants noted that sessions on budgeting, taxes, housing aid, service requests, utilities, and regional coordination clarified how community services are funded and managed.

Feedback consistently recognized the professionalism, preparation, and dedication demonstrated by City employees and program staff, with participants expressing greater appreciation for public service and a stronger connection to the work being done across the City. The following are participant excerpts:

"Thank you so much for providing this incredibly educating experience. I learned a ton and I really feel like I have a better understanding of how the city I call home functions at a governmental level now." – RCI Participant

"That city employees were very engaged and thoughtful about their participation and expressed their appreciation that the program existed. And the pride in their work for the City and that they were free to and interested in implementing innovations that improve Reno and make it a better place to live." - RCI Participant

"I just wanted to say thank you so much along with all the speakers, a lot of people aren't always thankful of government work and it's really nice how you guys do this." – RCI Participant

For additional information, please contact Noemi Gomez at gomezn@reno.gov. Program details and the [RCI video](#) are available can be found on Reno.Gov/RCI.



Reno Constituents Institute (RCI) 2026 Cohort