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## **Auditing Reimagined: Looking Beyond the Public Dollar**

**COMMENTARY | Today's auditors don't just account for finances, they also account for outcomes. Local government leaders should look to them as key allies.**

Having dedicated most of my public service career to elevating the profession of performance auditing, I was gratified to see recently that it had progressed from a nice idea to a top priority for the current generation of local government auditors.

This focus on "auditing for impact" is a healthy progression toward a more inclusive and results-oriented approach, promoted by an activist brand of practitioners who, in the words of one scholar of the field, "regard the public as their 'ultimate client.'"

It's a positive change that has been cultivated, in part, by the Association of Local Government Auditors, or ALGA. And I saw it on display in Seattle last month at the group's annual conference, especially on the all-female panel I moderated featuring leading auditors from diverse backgrounds, a metamorphosis that is clearly invigorating the profession.

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### **Route Fifty**

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