



**MILKEN INSTITUTE**  
CENTER FOR THE FUTURE OF AGING



Dear Mayor:

As members of the Milken Institute Center for the Future of Aging's Advisory Board, we're asking for your pledge to improve lives in your community. In cities across America and the world, a massive demographic shift poses unique challenges and offers unprecedented opportunities. We share the Center's goal: to make our cities work better for older residents and young people as well. Change is needed, and mayors stand at the forefront.

In 2012, the Milken Institute, a nonpartisan, nonprofit think tank, first issued its groundbreaking, data-based Best Cities for Successful Aging ("BCSA") report. In conjunction with the publication of the second edition of BCSA in 2014, the Institute called upon mayors across the nation to sign the Mayor's Pledge. With the upcoming release of the third edition of BCSA, the Institute will again publicly recognize mayors who are leading the way and demonstrating their commitment to positive change by signing the Mayor's Pledge.

Best Cities for Successful Aging measures, compares and ranks U.S. metropolitan areas for their capacity to enable successful aging. Its methodology makes use of publicly available data on health care, wellness, living arrangements, transportation and convenience, financial characteristics, employment, educational opportunities and community engagement.

BCSA has received extraordinary attention from national and local media, public and private sector leaders and a wide range of other stakeholders. Regularly cited in major outlets such as PBS NewsHour, Forbes, Money, CBS, NBC, CNN, USA Today, Yahoo, Next Avenue, and the New York Times, the report has been called "a valuable resource for Americans" by the Wall Street Journal. We expect even greater visibility upon the release of the upcoming report.

The Center is not alone in seeking progress on this issue. Recognizing the power of cities to change the landscape, the age-friendly networks of the World Health Organization and AARP aim to transform communities as they prepare for an aging population. Both nationally and globally, cities are in the spotlight. In its July 2016 double issue, "240 Reasons to Celebrate America Right Now," Time magazine referenced the Mayor's Pledge and highlighted "Cities that embrace all generations" as a reason to celebrate.

Beyond making our cities work for an aging population, older adults should have the opportunity to work for our cities. Older residents improve the lives of all generations through volunteer activity and encore careers across the government, nonprofit and private sectors.

We respectfully ask you to sign the Mayor's Pledge, and we look forward to celebrating your commitment to making your city an even better place to live and age successfully. Thank you.

The Advisory Board  
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**Additional information**

- If you have any questions, please contact Liana Soll at (310) 570-4876 or [lsoll@milkeninstitute.org](mailto:lsoll@milkeninstitute.org).
- Please submit your signed Pledge at your earliest convenience by email to [lsoll@milkeninstitute.org](mailto:lsoll@milkeninstitute.org) or by fax to (310) 570-4601.



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**Mayor's Pledge**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, pledge to make \_\_\_\_\_ a city for successful aging:

***To make our city work for older adults, I will take steps to:***

- Ensure that the well-being of our aging population is addressed by each department, agency and division in our city government.
- Make our city safe, affordable and comfortable for our older residents.
- Provide older adults access to resources promoting health and wellness.
- Support employment, entrepreneurship, education and other services to make our older residents more financially secure.
- Offer housing options that suit the varied needs of our older population.
- Improve access to transportation and mobility options for our older adults.

***To provide opportunities for older adults to work for our city, I will:***

- Promote the engagement of older residents in volunteer and paid roles that serve the needs of our city and its residents.
- Call upon higher education and workforce development programs to help older adults refresh their skills, train and transition to a new stage of work focused on strengthening our city.
- Recognize older residents as an asset for our city and celebrate their contributions to improving lives for all generations.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_