



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

July 15, 2026

Contact:

Mikaila Kruse

MKruse@riversideca.gov

Riverside Mayor Lock Dawson Recognized Among U.S. Mayors for Strong, Independent City Leadership

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – Last week, Riverside Mayor Patricia Lock Dawson was recognized as one of the strongest independent mayors in the United States by [The Fulcrum](#), a nonpartisan publication dedicated to strengthening democracy by fostering informed civic engagement and elevating diverse perspectives.

Mayor Lock Dawson was one of six city leaders across the country highlighted for her commitment to independent leadership, economic revitalization, and infrastructure investment, and commitment to public safety.

Below is an excerpt from the article:

“A Riverside native and environmental scientist by training, Patricia Lock Dawson was first elected mayor in 2020 and won reelection in March 2024, having previously served nine years on the Riverside Unified School District board.

Her signature initiative is a self-organized "Bipartisan Forum," a standing group of seven Democrats and seven Republicans convened since 2021 to tackle homelessness, mental health reform, and public safety outside partisan structures -- work she credits with helping pass California's CARE Court mental-health legislation, connecting adults with untreated mental illness to care and housing services.

Under her leadership, Riverside has secured over \$300 million in state and federal dollars to address needs in infrastructure, homelessness, and workforce development. In October 2025 she was selected to lead Big City Mayors, a coalition of California's 13 largest-city mayors.”

Under Lock Dawson’s leadership, Riverside has done more than build bipartisan connections across the region. The City has also become a living laboratory for next-generation transportation and clean technology solutions, investing in renewable energy, electric vehicle infrastructure, advanced mobility projects, workforce development initiatives, and strategic partnerships that help accelerate commercialization of new technologies.

Mayor Lock Dawson also serves on the Governing Board of the South Coast AQMD representing the cities of Riverside County. An environmental scientist by training, she was also appointed by Governor

Gavin Newsom to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to champion regional environmental sustainability and clean-technology economic initiatives.