

LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS ARE PIVOTAL LEADERS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Washington Post calls the economy “the worst in modern times” and occupants of the office of lieutenant governor are assuming the mantle of leadership to promote jobs, recovery, and opportunity. Within just three days beginning January 16, 2010, two more lieutenant governors shouldered enormous tasks for economic recovery in their states. The Governor signed Executive Order No. 1 naming **Virginia Lt. Governor Bill Bolling** the Chief Job Creation Officer. As such, he will co-chair the Economic Development Commission and serve as a Cabinet member coordinating all state economic development efforts.

On January 19, 2010, the governor named **New Jersey Lt. Governor Kim Guadagno** the top economic development officer as head of a public-private partnership to coordinate state efforts. Thru Executive Order No. 3, she will chair the Red-Tape Review Group to assess all pending and proposed regulations and she will serve as secretary of state. They join **Nevada Lt. Governor Brian Krolicki**, **Louisiana Lt. Governor Mitch Landrieu**, and **Indiana Lt. Governor Becky Skillman** in specific economic development roles. The lieutenant governors of those states are, by statute, head of their respective states’ tourism divisions. **Washington Lt. Governor Brad Owen** is, by statute, Chair of the joint Economic Development and International Relations Committee in his state.

Lt. Governor Skillman and **Delaware Lt. Governor Matt Denn** are their governor’s appointees to coordinate all spending of stimulus dollars in their states. **North Dakota Lt. Governor Jack Dalrymple** is Chair of the state International Trade Office, thru gubernatorial appointment. **New Mexico Lt. Governor Diane Denish** says she’s specifically impacted about 1,800 small businesses in five years through travelling forums and other assistance, while **Rhode Island Lt. Governor Elizabeth Roberts**, by statute, is Chair of the Small Business Advisory Council. The **lieutenant governors of California, Missouri, North Carolina**, and **Oklahoma** lead or sit on commissions for economic development and/or tourism.

Building on these individual efforts, NLGA assists with and advances the collective role of lieutenant governors in economic development in several ways. The Federal-State Relations meeting each March and the Annual Meeting every summer feature high profile public and private sector business leaders and ideas. As a grantee of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), NLGA engages in economic development exchange with Mexico. And, NLGA just entered its third year of partnership which affords a group of lieutenant governors an opportunity to engage in a Fall economic development mission to China.

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