

NLGA

National Lieutenant Governors Association

You're invited to work with us.

There are no office hours for leaders.
—Cardinal J. Gibbons

National Lieutenant Governors Association

Leading today . . . preparing for tomorrow

“ Lieutenant governors, once the fifth wheel of politics, are playing an increasingly significant, visible, and controversial role in state government.”

— USA Today

“ I know the critical leadership role that lieutenant governors have in each state in America.”

— Former Lt. Governor & 4-term Governor James B. Hunt (NC)

“ The job (of Lt. governor) groomed...leading presidential candidates... and helped launch governors.”

— Washington Post

You're invited to join the only group of state leaders with powers in both the executive and legislative branches. NLGA members become governor at a rate higher than any other local, state or federal official. Most preside over Senates, cast tie-breaking votes, and act as governor. Others run state departments. Nearly all pursue legislative agendas, influence and act on policy and initiate projects. They testify in committees and appear before Congress. Your relationship with a lieutenant governor may be the one contact you need when you need it most.

Please join us in the National Lieutenant Governors Association.

The National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) was named one of the nation's six best associations in 2007. In 2010, NLGA was recognized for success in developing public-private partnerships. NLGA members are the elected officials first in line of succession to governor in the 50 states and five territories. In 43 states, this is the lieutenant governor. In three states, it is the secretary of state and in four states, the senate president is first in gubernatorial succession. All are NLGA members.

The Office of Lieutenant Governor

Executive Branch Leadership and Powers

NLGA members are first in line of succession to be governor

- Of 43 states with a lt. governor, 23 serve as acting governor when the governor is out of state. Every member becomes governor if the office is vacated.
- From 2000-2010, 22 NLGA members succeeded to governor.

NLGA members launch to higher office

- From 1900-2009, about one in every four governors first served as lieutenant governor or first in line of succession. Lieutenant governors have had a better success rate of becoming governor than any other local, state, or federal official since 1980.
- Lieutenant governors have gone on to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House, governor, state supreme courts, ambassadorships and even U.S. President.
- Thirteen governors at the start of 2011 had first served as lieutenant governor or as the official first in succession.

NLGA members lead departments and commissions

NLGA members head state departments and agencies and collectively they hold hundreds of leadership positions in public safety, economic development, health care, agriculture and the environment. At this writing:

- Elections are run by NLGA members in five states, while many represent their state on international development.
- Lt. Governors in Indiana, Oklahoma, Nevada and Ohio head economic or growth efforts.
- Members in Louisiana, Nevada, Missouri, and Oklahoma lead on tourism.
- Homeland security or emergency management is led by lt. governors in Utah, Nebraska, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.
- Lt. governors in Indiana, Maryland, Utah, Massachusetts and South Dakota helped usher the governor's legislative package in the legislature or advise the governor on vetoes.



NLGA members at a Federal-State Relations Meeting

Lieutenant governors work with and as governor

Twenty-six lieutenant governors are elected to office with the governor, while seventeen are elected separately from the governor and may be of the opposite party. Both methods have strengths.

For teams, a strong partnership with the governor is likely to continue while governing. A lieutenant governor may have a role in the budget process, a voice in vetoes, or lead key policy. If elected separately, the lieutenant governor has the strength of statewide election to lead on key issues, sometimes providing an alternate view.

Legislative Branch Leadership and Powers

Twenty-nine NLGA members preside over their state Senates

- Many control the manner of debate, fourteen assign bills to committee, others determine the order bills are heard. Several appoint committees and chairs.
- “The (MS) lieutenant governorship is one of the most powerful positions in state government,” wrote the Hattiesburg American while KVUE-TV said, “As presiding officer of the Senate, the lieutenant governor is arguably the most powerful person in Texas government.”

Many affect statewide issues

- Since 2007, lt. governors cast tie-breaking votes on income reporting, reproductive funding, application of sales tax, income tax, manufacturing processes, and more.
- The Hawaii lieutenant governor used his power to place a vote on holding a constitutional convention on the 2008 ballot.
- About a half dozen lieutenant governors are active in federal health care reform implementation.

Some former lieutenant governors . . .

- President Calvin Coolidge and Presidential candidates Gov. Mike Huckabee (AR), Gov. Howard Dean (VT) and U.S. Sen. John Kerry (MA)
- U.S. Representatives Madeleine Bordallo (GU), John Carney (DE), Denny Rehberg (MT), and U.S. Senator Jim Risch (ID)
- Governors Stephen Beshear (KY), Dave Heineman (NE), Rick Perry (TX), Jan Brewer (AZ), Beverly Perdue (NC), Pat Quinn (IL), Sean Parnell (AK), Terry Branstad (IA), Jack Dalrymple (ND), Mary Fallin (OK), Dennis Daugaard (SD), Gary Herbert (UT), and more.

Senate Leaders

Policy Leadership

NLGA members actively pursue state legislation

- The Lt. governors of Rhode Island, Virginia and Maryland promoted healthcare through education or legislation, while their counterparts in Mississippi, Michigan and Massachusetts worked on the economy, budget and stimulus.
- Nearly every Lt. governor is active in energy or education, while the Lt. governors of Missouri and Nebraska have championed legislation regarding information technology.
- Lieutenant governors also pursued legislation to assist small business, promote arts and film, affect healthcare and coverage, develop the work force, increase government transparency and more.

NLGA members testify for or against bills, even in Congress

- Rhode Island's Lt. governor testified on health reform while other Lt. governors have testified on bills related to taxation, senior care, drugs, biomed, and justice.
- Illinois' Lt. governor testified in the state senate on higher education, while Ohio's Lt. governor lobbied regulatory and business reform and the former Louisiana Lt. governor testified congressionally on oil drilling.
- Montana's Lt. governor testified congressionally on Amtrak, while the lieutenant governors of Maryland, Massachusetts, and Missouri have testified on veterans issues.

“The resignation of the (former) New York Governor should serve as a wake up call to the importance of the office of lieutenant governor” (Crosscut, 2008).

“If anyone has ever questioned the importance of the role of lieutenant governor, it has now been answered,” said Indiana's former senate president regarding the 2003 succession of the state's lieutenant governor.

Florida Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll at the microphone



Pursue Legislation

“NLGA is a place for the states’ second-most powerful officeholders to exchange ideas, promote best practices, and work on partnerships.”

— Governor Mary Fallin
Oklahoma
(former Lt. Governor)

Statewide Leadership

Initiatives

- Kansas’ Lt. governor is leading Medicaid reform, the Pennsylvania Lt. governor is leading on energy and members in Colorado and Delaware are leaders on education reform.
- Many Lt. governors are active on aerospace issues, an industry employing nearly 700,000 persons.
- Lieutenant governors are active on economic development. Lt. governors in Iowa, Florida, and Wisconsin have engaged in listening tours and business roundtables.

Projects

- More than half the Lt. governors have led in a gun-lock distribution effort.
- Several Lt. governors launched fitness campaigns, one is championing an Olympic bid, and others promote mentoring.
- The Vermont lieutenant governor’s “Everyday Jobs” initiative allows him to actually work in various industries and learn their needs.



Massachusetts Lt. Governor Tim Murray and Procter & Gamble’s Pat Hayes

National Lieutenant Governors Association

History and Membership

Founded in 1962, the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) is the professional association for the elected officials who are first in line of succession to the governors in the 50 states and five territorial jurisdictions.

In 43 states and four territories, this official is a statewide elected lieutenant governor. In three states and one territory, this official is the secretary of state. In five states, the president of the senate is first in line of succession and two may statutorily use the title "Lt. Governor" (TN and WV). Should a vacancy occur, a state's constitution dictates who is the first in line of succession and this official represents the state as a NLGA member.

NLGA provides members the opportunity to network, meet, foster interstate cooperation, gain policy knowledge, share policy work and promote the effectiveness of the office of lieutenant governor. NLGA does adopt national policy resolutions on subjects of importance to the membership. Resolutions are considered for adoption during the Federal-State Relations and Annual Meetings. Members may request study on policy issues and ad-hoc committees can be established per the Articles.

The association office is located in Kentucky and is staffed by an Executive and Deputy Director. The NLGA web site at www.nlga.us provides information on policy work and upcoming activities, as well as the best practices being promoted by NLGA members. NLGA contracts with The Council of State Governments for administrative support.

“Lieutenant governors hold hundreds of key and diverse posts across the country and many move on to become governor. As a former lieutenant governor who served as governor myself, I chaired NLGA and know it to be an association dedicated to promoting professionalism and policy education—often with its private sector partners.”

— Former Governor Jim Folsom, Alabama

Tireless leaders



Oklahoma Lt. Governor Todd Lamb
and South Dakota Lt. Governor
Matt Michels

Networking

Networking

NLGA holds at least two meetings per year. The Federal-State Relations Meeting is held each March in Washington D.C. The focus is federal-state relations. The agenda consists of White House and Cabinet-level briefings, as well as policy discussions appropriate to the venue and prioritized by the members.

The Annual Meeting is held each year, often in July, in a Host State. Each NLGA member is eligible to bid to host the meeting. A standing Annual Meeting Program committee advises the Host State on agenda content. All members may have input.

Both meetings feature time for private discussions among the members. For each meeting, NLGA Conference Associate Partners (CAPs—private sector, labor, and non-profit partners) are apprised of agenda discussions. CAPs may suggest topics and speakers.

Additional meetings may be held throughout the year for the members. An Executive Committee meeting is typically held, often open to newly elected members to introduce them to the Association.

Policy

Policy resolutions must be filed by two NLGA member co-sponsors, one of each party, and one sponsor must be present at the meeting to speak to the resolution. Resolutions are first heard in the standing Resolutions Committee. Witnesses to the resolution may speak in Committee. If passed, resolutions are considered by the full general business session of NLGA. CAPs members are notified of resolution filing deadlines and of filed resolutions.

NLGA passed more than ninety policy resolutions since 1990. The Association passed resolutions regarding education, energy policy, aging, tourism and the US military. Health care has been the subject of more than a dozen policy resolutions in the past five years. NLGA addressed some hospitals charging uninsured patients more than insured patients, the judicious use of antibiotics, Medicare prescription drug benefits, long term care and support for the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, obesity, pandemic, asthma, hepatitis C, and breast and cervical cancers.

Policy resolutions have also addressed national environmental policy, global business competitiveness, homeland security, low income housing, privacy and technology. Some policy resolutions become the subject of grant requests for further study and of written testimony to Congress.

Partnerships

NLGA engages in partnerships with potential to benefit the members or their constituents. Projects may include endorsement of particular activities or events, full partnering to make an event occur, or consistent relationship building that promotes the introduction and discussion of ideas.

NLGA is a partner of Americans for the Arts to provide an annual arts award to a member and to provide best practices on arts as an economic development tool. NLGA and General Electric partner to present the annual Public Leadership in Energy and Environmental Stewardship award to a member.

Into 2011, NLGA will promote cardiovascular health with "Your Heart is in Your Hands" and the Lieutenant Governors' Challenge. The program promotes education on nutrition, fitness and health to reduce the cardiovascular disease burden. In 2009, the American College of Cardiology gave NLGA a national program award for this campaign.

In 2010, NLGA was recognized for success in developing public-private partnerships. In 2007, NLGA was named one of the six best associations in the country for its "Ending Cervical Cancer in our Lifetime" campaign. The largely preventable and highly curable nature of cervical cancer was promoted in more than 20 states. In 2008, NLGA conducted "Helping Americans Breathe Easier," an asthma awareness program.

NLGA was the partner for the Project ChildSafe gun-lock distribution program funded by the Department of Justice. Lieutenant governors and NLGA were cited positively in a 2002 report from The Future of Children for this creative public awareness campaign regarding gun safety for families.

NLGA also established a Conference Associates Partners (CAPs) program to promote NLGA's interaction with the corporate, non-profit, and labor communities and to advance cooperation between the public and private sectors. The Conference Associates program provides a medium where groups interested in the states can develop a partnership with NLGA and its members and participate in discussions on policy development and emerging trends within the states.



Merck's Heather Densmore & Illinois Lt. Governor Sheila Simon

..... Garner attention

“NLGA provides ways to appropriately share on matters of public policy with our nation’s lieutenant governors. The ability to engage lieutenant governors in conversation at NLGA meetings is an example, as is the opportunity to offer topical information on NLGA policy resolutions. NLGA staff provide an accessible environment reflected by the responsible manner in which NLGA members address public policy.”

— Jim Ruda
Intuit

You’re invited to . . .

NLGA Conference Associate Partners (CAPs)

The CAPs program provides a vehicle for the corporate, non-profit, and labor communities to access lieutenant governors and develop personal relationships while advancing cooperation and knowledge between the public and private sectors. The Conference Associates program provides a medium where groups interested in the states can develop a partnership with NLGA and its members and participate in discussions on policy development and emerging trends within the states.

NLGA meetings are an outstanding opportunity for CAPs members to meet directly with NLGA members to address pertinent issues. CAPs members are invited to an exclusive reception with the lieutenant governors during at least one meeting per year. CAPs members receive complimentary meeting registrations and access to special meeting events dependent on level of membership.

CAPs members are notified of development of agendas for the meetings and of policy resolution filings and are invited to have input on same. CAPs receive ongoing recognition as partners through the NLGA Web site and printed publications. CAPs members are invited to submit articles, policy findings and press recognitions for possible publication to NLGA’s Web site and electronic and printed newsletters.



Minnesota Lt. Governor Yvonne Prettner Solon with Paul Doucette and Trey Paris of General Electric and Maryland Lt. Governor Anthony Brown

work with us

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