

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. 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. Many move on to higher office. 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. NLGA members are the elected officials first in line of succession to governor in the 50 states and five territories. In 42 states, this is the lieutenant governor. In three states, it is the secretary of state and in five states, the senate president is first in gubernatorial succession. All are NLGA members.

Act as Governor

The Office of Lieutenant Governor

Executive Branch Leadership and Powers

NLGA members are first in line of succession to be governor

- Of 42 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.
- Since 2000, at least fifteen NLGA members succeeded to governor.

NLGA members launch to higher office

- From 1900-2006, about one in every four governors first served as lieutenant governor or first in line of succession. Occupants of the office of lieutenant governor 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, state supreme courts, ambassadorships and even U.S. President.

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.
- Commerce Departments are led by Lt. governors in Ohio and Indiana while California, Maryland, Nevada and North Carolina members head economic or growth commissions.
- Members in Louisiana, Nevada, Missouri, and Oklahoma lead on tourism.
- Homeland security or emergency management is led by Lt. governors in Utah, Nebraska, Iowa, Pennsylvania and Rhode Island.
- Lt. governors in Indiana, Florida, Utah, New Mexico and North Dakota help usher the governor's legislative package in the legislature or advise the governor on vetoes.



NLGA members at the Winter Meeting

Legislative Branch Leadership and Powers

Thirty 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.
- Oklahoma’s former lt. governor used the power to preside to bring the issue of Right to Work to a vote of the people for the first time in 25 years.
- The Hawaii lieutenant governor used his power to place a vote on holding a constitutional convention on the 2008 ballot.

Lieutenant governors work with and as governor

Twenty-four lieutenant governors are elected to office with the governor; while eighteen 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.

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), Mike Castle (DE), Denny Rehberg (MT), and Mary Fallin (OK)
- Supreme Court Justice Maureen O’ Connor (OH)
- Governors Stephen Beshear (KY), Dave Heineman (NE), M. Jodi Rell (CT), Ruth Ann Minner (DE), Rick Perry (TX), David Paterson (NY), Timothy Kaine (VA), and more

Senate Leaders

Policy Leadership

NLGA members actively pursue state legislation

- The Lt. governors of Rhode Island, Virginia and North Carolina promoted health-care through education or legislation, while their counterparts in Florida, Delaware, Montana and Massachusetts worked on housing and mortgages.
- Nearly every Lt. governor is active in energy or education, while the Lt. governors of Missouri, Nebraska and Illinois championed legislation regarding information technology.
- Lieutenant governors also pursued legislation to create lotteries, promote arts and film, mitigate water issues, affect healthcare and coverage, develop the work force, and more.

NLGA members testify for or against bills, even in Congress

- North Dakota's Lt. governor testified for a school funding formula while other Lt. governors testified on bills related to taxation, senior care, drugs, biomed, and justice.
- South Carolina's Lt. governor testified to Congress on the impact of steel tariffs to the state's economy, while Vermont's Lt. governor lobbied federal aerospace legislation and the Illinois Lt. governor testified congressionally for guards and reserve.
- Michigan's Lt. governor testified Congressionally for Great Lakes law and Montana's Lt. governor testified on Amtrak.

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

On the 2003 succession of Indiana's lieutenant governor, the Senate President Bob Garton said, “If anyone has ever questioned the importance of the role of lieutenant governor, it has now been answered.”

Michigan Lt. Governor John Cherry 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.”

— U.S. Rep. Mary Fallin
Oklahoma
(former Lt. Governor)



Lt. Governor Diane Denish and Golden Rule's Bill Dowden

Statewide Leadership

Initiatives

- Hawaii's Lt. governor is leading state efforts on drug and alcohol abuse problems while members in Colorado and Michigan have been leaders on education reform.
- Nearly one-fourth of the Lt. governors are active on aerospace issues, an industry employing nearly 700,000 persons.
- Lieutenant governors are active on energy issues. Illinois' Lt. governor led a state energy task force while several other Lt. governors lead their state's initiatives on rural infrastructure.

Projects

- More than 35 Lt. governors have led in a gun-lock distribution effort.
- Two Lt. governors lead statewide ranked cycling tours, several launched fitness campaigns, one is championing an Olympic bid, and others champion mentoring.
- "Wisconsin Women = Prosperity" according to the Lt. governor who is working on ways to promote women as part of the solution to the state's economic development challenges.



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 42 states and four territories, this official is a statewide elected lieutenant governor. New Jersey will seat the nation's 43rd statewide elected lieutenant governor in 2010. 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 Winter 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 Associate Director. The NLGA Web site 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 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.”

— Lt. Governor Jim Folsom
Alabama

Tireless leaders



Oklahoma Lt. Governor Jari Askins
with Bayer's Jim Hoover

Networking

Networking

NLGA holds at least two meetings per year. The Winter Meeting is held in 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 formal time for private discussions among the members. NLGA members' staff, too, are provided time for closed discussion. For each meeting, NLGA Conference Associate Partners (CAPs—private sector partners) are apprised of agenda discussions. CAPs may suggest topics and speakers.

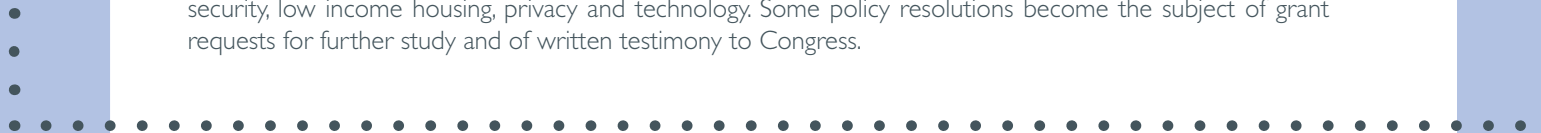
Additional meetings may be held throughout the year for the members. An Executive Committee meeting is typically held, often open to newly elected members to introduce them to the Association.

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 seventy policy resolutions since 1990. The Association passed resolutions regarding federal energy policy, aging, tourism promotion 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 financing reform, and support for the prevention and treatment of 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.

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 continues “Helping Americans Breathe Easier,” an asthma awareness program. Into 2009, NLGA will promote cardiovascular health with “Your Heart is in Your Hands.”

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 endorsed two projects to bring attention to their occurrence. A mental health flag, painted by a constituent of Arkansas' lieutenant governor, served to bring awareness to the issues surrounding mental illness. The flag is travelling the United States and is flown over state capitols, often with lieutenant governors signing the flag. Likewise, a genuine Declaration of Independence is touring the nation. Utah's former lieutenant governor profiled this event as part of the Olympics. It became one of the biggest attractions.

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.

..... **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

“NLGA is the best kept secret in Washington D.C.”
-Brooke Ransom

National Association of Homebuilders

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. The CAPs Advisory Board is a forum where CAPs members privately exchange information and discuss issues relating to NLGA activities. CAPs members are also 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.

work with us

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