



National Lieutenant Governors Association

## **Resolution on Open Government Data**

**WHEREAS**, open data for government is a philosophy and practice requiring that machine-readable meta data sets are freely available to the public without restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control. This data is offered through a single website to allow for the ease of use for citizens; and

**WHEREAS**, a growing number of states and cities across the country have already adopted open data policies, publishing easy-to-download meta data sets for government contracts, population information, traffic and crime data, education performance of schools, election information, geographic data, air quality, financial data, health information and other important data sets; and

**WHEREAS**, open data enables the public to observe, better understand the decisions of and participate in government by providing easy-to-download state and federal datasets, empowering citizens then to build applications, conduct analyses and perform research; and

**WHEREAS**, open data policies expand creative use of data sets beyond the walls of government by encouraging innovative ideas; and

**WHEREAS**, open data leads to the creation of new economic opportunities and jobs through secondary use and repurposing of data by private firms; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government made open data a priority, saying “openness will strengthen our democracy and promote efficiency and effectiveness in Government” and now provides 118,000 meta data sets from federal agencies (up from 47 sets previously published prior to January of 2009) on [www.data.gov](http://www.data.gov); and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government is encouraging and working with state and local governments to improve access to machine-readable data; and

**WHEREAS**, the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) published a call to action in September of 2009 encouraging states to adopt metadata transparency initiatives and open data policies; and

**WHEREAS**, NASCIO defined the value of open data policies, in part, to include higher productivity for government workers; increased detection of government waste, fraud and abuse; and earlier identification of innovations that improve government effectiveness, new opportunities and emerging issues; and

**WHEREAS**, voluntary disclosure of government information to the public increases confidence in government by promoting a culture of openness and transparency in state government operations and information; and

**WHEREAS**, current states implementing an open data policy, such as Utah and Michigan, accomplished it without additional budget appropriations;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) encourages state and local data sets be made available that follow the principles of NASCIO's Open Government Initiative of:

- **Transparency** – to enable greater accountability, efficiency, and economic opportunity by making government data and operations more open.
- **Participation** – to create early and effective opportunities to drive greater and more diverse expertise into government decision making.
- **Collaboration** – to generate new ideas for solving problems by fostering cooperation across government departments, across levels of government and with the public.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the NLGA encourages members to forward and discuss this resolution with their state Chief Information Officers;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent by the NLGA to the President of the United States, Vice-President of the United States, the Speaker of the U.S. House, Minority Leader of the U.S. House, President Pro Tempore of the U.S. Senate, Majority and Minority Leaders of the U.S. Senate, Chairs of the Democratic and Republican National Committees, the National Association of State Chief Information Offices (NASCIO), the National Governors Association (NGA), and that the NLGA make all state elected officials aware of passage of the resolution through a notice in StateNews magazine, and that the NLGA further post the full text of the resolution to its web page making the resolution available at all times for all NLGA members, state elected official, and other interested parties.

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