



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

# Serving States, Shaping Tomorrow





# SERVING TOGETHER

For half a century, NCSL has stood as the trusted partner for legislators and legislative staff—delivering research, training and support that strengthens every statehouse. But as we celebrate our legacy, we’re focused on the future: empowering members with innovative tools, building connections and championing solutions for tomorrow’s challenges.

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# A Letter From NCSL's Officers and CEO

What a year!

In 2025, NCSL marked 50 years of service to and alongside our state legislatures. This was a celebration of the legislative institution and our members that shone a light on the central role that state legislatures play in the American democratic experiment.

We clearly weren't the only ones excited. Legislatures in every state, territory and the District of Columbia took legislative action to recognize this landmark anniversary. And then, you turned up! More than 9,000 people came to the 2025 Legislative Summit in Boston. Not only does that set the new high-water mark of Legislative Summits, but it stands both as the largest gathering of state legislators and the largest gathering of legislative staff in America's 250 years. In Boston, we traded views on policy, recommitted ourselves to civil discourse and saw

the best that the city had to offer, thanks to the amazing hospitality of the Massachusetts host committee.

These celebrations didn't slow down NCSL's work to serve its members. In the pages that follow, you'll learn more about the thousands of research requests completed, issues tracked and resources published for state legislatures. In addition to the Legislative Summit, NCSL brought together more than 7,000 members at in-person policy meetings. And through training, technical assistance and testimony, our team supported thousands more. We owe our thanks to the incredible NCSL staff who work every day to support our legislatures.

As you read this annual report, we hope you find inspiration for other ways that NCSL can support you and your colleagues in their legislative service. As always, we stand ready to serve.



Rep. Marcus C. Evans Jr.  
NCSL President  
Assistant Majority Leader, Illinois

Sen. Barry Usher  
NCSL President-Elect  
Majority Whip, Montana Senate

Sen. Bob Duff  
NCSL Vice President  
Connecticut Senate

Sen. Wayne A. Harper  
NCSL President Emeritus  
Utah House of Representatives

Lonnie Edgar  
NCSL Staff Chair  
Mississippi Joint Legislative PEER Committee

Aurora Hauke  
NCSL Staff Vice Chair  
Chief of Staff, Alaska Senate

John Snyder  
NCSL Immediate Past Staff Chair  
Transportation Committee Staff Administrator, Kentucky  
Legislative Research Commission, Kentucky General Assembly

Tim Storey  
NCSL CEO

# Our Mission

NCSL represents the legislatures in the states, territories and commonwealths of the U.S. Its mission is to advance the effectiveness, independence and integrity of legislatures and to foster interstate cooperation and facilitate the exchange of information among legislatures.

NCSL also represents legislatures in dealing with the federal government, especially in support of state sovereignty and state flexibility, and protection from unfunded federal mandates and unwarranted federal preemption. The conference promotes cooperation between state legislatures in the U.S. and those in other countries.

In addition, NCSL is committed to improving the operations and management of state legislatures and the effectiveness of legislators and legislative staff. NCSL also encourages legislators and legislative staff to practice high standards of conduct.



"I'M TRULY HONORED TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY, THROUGH NCSL, TO FACILITATE MEANINGFUL DIALOGUE AND COLLABORATION AMONG LEGISLATIVE LEADERS FROM ALL STATES AND ACROSS THE AISLE, WORKING TOGETHER TO PROMOTE EFFECTIVE LEGISLATIVE PROCESSES AND POLICIES THAT SERVE THE BEST INTERESTS OF OUR COMMUNITIES."

**Sen. Wayne Harper, Utah Senate President Pro Tempore and NCSL President Emeritus**





# Discover. Research. Inform.

NCSL connects legislators and legislative staff with trusted, nonpartisan research and timely insights. We track trends, answer tough questions and deliver the information you need to make a difference in your statehouse—today and for the future.

We're not just about reports—we're about results. In 2025, our website saw 8.5 million page views and added 560-plus new webpages. We hosted more than 16,000 members at in-person policy meetings and answered 2,505 research requests. Plus, our bill tracking databases and hot topic resources remain go-to tools for legislative action.

### POLICY RESEARCH AREAS

- Center for Legislative Strengthening
- Center for Results-Driven Governing
- Children and Families
- Civil and Criminal Justice
- Education
- Elections and Redistricting
- Employment, Labor and Retirement
- Energy, Environment and Transportation
- Financial Services, Technology and Communications
- Fiscal Affairs
- Health

### BILL TRACKING DATABASES

NCSL's 50-state bill tracking databases provide comprehensive information on more than 40 topics.

### TOP 5 MOST-VIEWED DATABASES

- State Public Health Legislation Database
- ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Fund Allocations Database
- Housing and Homelessness Legislation Database
- Postsecondary Legislation Database
- Immigration Legislation Database

### TOP 5 MOST-VIEWED TOPICS ON NCSL.ORG

- Elections and Redistricting
- Health
- Employment, Labor and Retirement
- Civil and Criminal Justice
- Human Services

# 2025

By the Numbers

**8.5 million**  
ncsl.org pageviews.

**2,505**  
Research requests completed.

**2,000**  
Issue areas tracked.

**560+**  
New webpages published.

**16,368**  
Registrants for in-person policy meetings by members.\*

\*Includes NCSL Legislative Summit

# 2025 Year in Review

This seasonal timeline captures key moments that shaped NCSL’s work throughout 2025, from connecting leaders and staff across the country to celebrating achievements and sharing critical policy insights. Each season reflects our commitment to collaboration, innovation and service to the states.



## Winter

### CONNECTING

- Winter Executive Committee and LSCC meetings in Salt Lake City launch the year’s collaborative work.
- Dedicated NCSL state liaisons travel to capitols during session for face-to-face meetings with members.

### CELEBRATING

- NCSL publishes an award-winning special 50th anniversary commemorative issue of State Legislatures magazine.
- A 50th anniversary ncsl.org webpage honors the organization’s legacy with videos, articles, a timeline and more.

### INFORMING

- New research highlights: cybersecurity, reentry, budgeting, energy trends, election resources, AI and higher education.

## Spring

### CONNECTING

- 2025 Spring Executive Committee and LSCC meetings take place in San Antonio.
- NCSL Policy Review Week brings together legislators and staff to shape federal advocacy priorities for the year ahead.

### CELEBRATING

- Legislative Staff Week honors and recognizes staff with a special series of professional development webinars, podcasts, shoutouts and more.
- State Legislatures News launches “Profiles in Service,” a series honoring legislative staff recognized by each professional staff association.

### INFORMING

- NCSL strongly opposes a proposed federal 10-year moratorium on state and local regulation of artificial intelligence.
- NCSL, with the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, releases “Helping America Vote: Election Administration in the United States,” an in-depth resource detailing the policies and practices that govern elections across the nation.
- New research highlights: AI, energy, law enforcement, health workforce trends, student loans, tracking the 2025 budget reconciliation process, cybersecurity, SNAP, the SAVE Act and vaccine policies.



## Summer

### CONNECTING

- The 2025 Legislative Summit in Boston sets records with more than 9,000 participants.
- Summer NCSL Executive Committee and LSCC meetings are held in Boston.
- Forty-two legislative staffers take part in the prestigious Legislative Staff Management Institute in Denver.

### CELEBRATING

- Illinois Rep. Marcus C. Evans Jr. (D) becomes NCSL’s 54th president, succeeding Utah Senate President Pro Tempore Wayne Harper (R), who becomes NCSL’s president emeritus. Other newly elected officers: Montana Sen. Barry Usher (R), president-elect; Connecticut Sen. Bob Duff (D), vice president; Mississippi’s Lonnie Edgar, staff chair; Alaska’s Aurora Hauke, staff vice chair; Kentucky’s John Snyder, immediate past staff chair.
- NCSL recognizes the 2025 Legislative Staff Achievement Award recipients honoring 21 outstanding current and former legislative staff.
- NCSL officers applaud U.S. Senate’s 99-1 vote to strip the AI moratorium from the reconciliation bill.
- NCSL releases “Capitol Views: A Journey Through America’s Legislatures,” a keepsake coffee table book that comes with a customizable dust jacket.

### INFORMING

- NCSL officers release joint statement condemning the attacks that killed Minnesota Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband and injured Sen. John Hoffman and his wife.
- NCSL launches new NCSL Roll Call app for a streamlined and modernized meeting experience.
- New research highlights: state Medicaid budgets, consumer privacy, higher education, legislator safety and security, infrastructure challenges, voter turnout, civility, NIL and budget statuses.



## Fall

### CONNECTING

- NCSL Base Camp 2025 draws a record 12,000 participants for interactive virtual sessions on elections, workforce, health, technology and other hot topics.
- Nine professional staff associations host more than 1,400 members representing all 50 states, D.C., two territories and six countries at professional development seminars held across the country, focusing on leadership, innovation and policy trends.
- Legislators, legislative staff, Foundation members and others gather in Washington, D.C., for the 2025 NCSL Capital Forum, where they engage with federal officials and make the states’ voices heard.

### CELEBRATING

- NCSL honors 10 U.S. senators with the “Restoring the Balance Award” for their leadership on striking the artificial intelligence amendment from the reconciliation bill.

### INFORMING

- State Legislatures News releases its Forecast ’26 package. From education to the environment, from elections to energy, the stories in this third annual special report provide insights from NCSL experts on what lies ahead for state lawmakers in 2026.
- New research highlights: rural health, mid-decade redistricting, wildfire mitigation, elections, education budgets, workforce, weight loss medications, daylight saving and tax policies.





# Assist. Testify. Support.

NCSL delivers hands-on support to legislators and legislative staff. In 2025, our team completed technical assistance projects, provided objective committee testimony and visited capitols across the country to foster personal connections. We quantified member value through policy wins, fulfilled research requests and expanded professional development opportunities.

## NCSL's Resources

NCSL is dedicated to strengthening legislatures through programs that empower legislators and staff.

- **NCSL Center for Legislative Strengthening:** Offers nonpartisan research on legislative operations, processes, pay, demographics, HR issues and separation of powers.
- **NCSL Women's Legislative Network:** Promotes participation, empowerment and leadership of women legislators.
- **Quad Caucus:** Convening of the National Asian Pacific American Caucus of State Legislators (NAPACSL); National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL); National Caucus of Native American State Legislators (NCNASL); and the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL).

## Technical Assistance and Testimony

NCSL delivers objective, nonpartisan, fact-based assistance, trusted committee testimony and resources to support sound policymaking.

## NCSL State Liaison Program

Every state and territory has an NCSL staff member ready to assist. Your liaison will quickly connect you with the right information or expert.

**23** Technical assistance projects completed, serving 500 legislators and staff.

**39** Committee testimonies delivered, reaching 960 legislators and staff.

**3,765** Legislators and legislative staff visited in 52 states and territories by NCSL staff in 2025.



# Learn. Practice. Lead.

NCSL sparks new ideas and connections for legislators and legislative staff through innovative trainings, professional development opportunities and resources. From thought-provoking sessions to real-world success stories, we help members learn from each other and lead with confidence—today and into the future.

## Leadership in Action

NCSL provides leaders with opportunities to sharpen their skills and connect with peers nationwide. Some of the standout experiences from 2025:

### NORMANDY LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

An experiential program centered on the leadership lessons of D-Day, June 6, 1944. The program brought 12 presiding officers from 12 states together in France in June to strengthen their understanding of leadership through the study of the history and heroism displayed on one of the most pivotal days in world history.

### GREECE LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

This program, held in August, provided 11 leaders from 11 states with the opportunity to study the history of democracy in Athens, through ancient Greek philosophers, gods and historic sites of the first democracy. Leaders explored their own understanding and practice of democracy, culminating in examining their own philosophy in the very place democracy was born.

### LEADER SYMPOSIUMS

The Leaders' Center hosted 150-plus legislative leaders through biannual Leadership Symposia, leadership experiences and unique gatherings to discuss federalism, foreign affairs, leadership successes and challenges and more. The 2025 international leaders symposium took place in Iceland, welcoming more than 75 leaders to the Icelandic Parliament, the oldest parliament in the Western world.

### IRELAND LEGISLATIVE STUDY TOUR

In July, NCSL organized a study tour to Ireland for 16 legislative leaders from 14 states, fostering connections with Irish counterparts and exploring shared governance challenges and opportunities. The delegation engaged with Irish Parliament members from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and local leaders in Derry, alongside cultural visits to historic sites representing Bloody Sunday and studies of the Troubles.

### LEADERSHIP CHIEFS OF STAFF PRECONFERENCE

NCSL hosted 26 chiefs of staff to presiding legislative officers from 21 states in Nashville, Tenn., in October for a professional development preconference. Attendees took part in interactive workshops focused on AI, management strategies and human resources leadership. They also benefited from networking opportunities to build relationships with their peers from around the country.

### EMERGING LEADERS

In November, NCSL hosted 50 legislators from 29 states identified by their leadership as emerging leaders in their chamber. Leaders engaged with each other on communication topics, case studies of the American Revolution and negotiation strategies.

### ASSEMBLY OF STATE LEGISLATIVE LEADERS

A bipartisan group of more than 40 top legislative leaders representing more than 30 states issued a declaration on the restoration of federalism and state empowerment at the inaugural convening of the Assembly of State Legislative Leaders in Columbus, Ohio, in December.

**186**

Professional development trainings held, reaching 10,250 members.

**42**

Legislative staff attended the 2025 Legislative Staff Management Institute.

**350**

International attendees from 23 countries at the record-setting 2025 Legislative Summit.

**3**

International NCSL affiliate members.

**126**

Legislative staff from 37 states took part in the Legislative Staff Institutional Essentials program.

*Opposite: An Emerging Leaders meeting in Philadelphia.*

# Professional Development for Legislators and Staff

A sampling of 2025 NCSL trainings designed to build skills and strengthen legislative expertise:

## LEGISLATIVE STAFF MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE (LSMI)

NCSL's premier professional development program took place in Denver in July with 42 senior legislative staffers attending the seven-day workshop designed to prepare them for future management roles within the legislature.

## SENIOR STAFF DIRECTOR LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

This experiential program, held in partnership with the George Washington Institute, brought together 15 top staff leaders who learned key leadership lessons from the Revolutionary War that can be applied in their daily practices.

## AVOIDING THE SOPHOMORE SLUMP

Freshman legislators from 17 states gathered in Philadelphia for a skill-building conference designed to strengthen their capacity for a strong "sophomore" session.

# 1,000

Legislative staff from all 50 states, three territories and six countries attended one of nine professional staff association seminars.

# 550+

Number of videos added to Legislative Video Resource Center in 2025.



LSMI workshop in Denver.

"I HAVE TO SAY THAT THIS WAS PROBABLY THE MOST WONDERFUL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE I HAVE EVER HAD. I REALLY FEEL LIKE I HAVE GROWN AS A LEADER AND INDIVIDUAL, AND I MADE SOME REAL CONNECTIONS WITH MY PEERS ACROSS STATES. THANK YOU, NCSL, FOR THIS WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE."

LSMI Survey Response

## TOP 3 TRAININGS IN 2025

- Self-Care
- Negotiation
- Communication Styles

PROGRAM/CENTER	WHAT IT DOES
NCSL Leaders' Center	Helps leaders manage, build consensus and protect the legislative institution.
Legislative Staff Services Program	Connects staffers and offers top-tier training opportunities.
Legislative Training Institute	Delivers professional development to strengthen legislatures.
NCSL Institute for International Cooperation	Builds global ties through meetings, tours and exchanges.
Legislative Video Resource Center	Offers access to hundreds of on-demand policy and training videos.



Legislative Leaders Symposium in Iceland.



# Innovate. Engage. Inspire.

NCSL connects legislators and legislative staff by delivering timely news, insightful podcasts and engaging social media content on the issues that matter most. Our platform fosters bipartisan discussions on critical topics through in-person and online meetings, year-round communication across digital, print, and social channels and targeted outreach. State liaisons serve as dedicated points of contact for every state and territory, while state coordinators act as ambassadors in their chambers, ensuring members stay informed, connected and empowered to lead.

## 265

Number of State Legislatures News articles published.

## 28

Episodes of the "Our American States" podcast, averaging 750 listeners per episode.

## 5

Number of live NCSL Town Hall videos produced on hot policy topics, elections, the Legislative Summit and more.

## 7,600

Number of NCSL podcast downloads.

## 10

"State of Play" videos posted in partnership with A Starting Point.

## 5,200

Number of media mentions with a potential reach of 2.3 billion.

## 2.2 million

Social media impressions across all platforms.

## 8,182

Number of new followers across four social media platforms (Facebook, X, LinkedIn and Instagram).

## 20,000

Potential NCSL podcast listeners.

## 28

NCSL newsletters.



### 2025 COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS

NCSL was honored for work connecting and communicating with members, including:

- American Business Awards Gold Stevie Trophy (top honors): State Legislatures magazine, summer 2024 edition.
- Hermes Creative Awards Gold Award: State Legislatures magazine, summer 2024 edition.
- Hermes Creative Platinum Award (highest honors): State Legislatures magazine, special 50th anniversary edition.
- MarCom Awards Gold Level: State Legislatures magazine, summer 2025 edition.
- MarCom Awards Gold Level: 2024 Annual Report.

### STAY CONNECTED WITH NCSL

- **State Legislatures News:** News and analysis on trending topics.
- **Podcasts:** Expert voices and member stories.
- **Social Media:** Updates and engagement.
- **NCSL Town Hall:** Live policy conversations on hot issues.
- **Newsletters:** Curated insights delivered to your inbox.
- **State of Play:** Bipartisan member video interviews.



# NCSL's 50th Anniversary: Honoring a Legacy of Legislative Leadership

NCSL's 50th anniversary was a yearlong showcase of its impact as the nation's go-to bipartisan resource for state legislatures. Founded in 1975, NCSL has united lawmakers and staff from every state, territory and D.C. to strengthen democracy and legislative leadership. The celebration kicked off at the 2024 Summit in Louisville, Ky., with a bold gold-themed logo and digital tributes, then hit its peak at the record-breaking 2025 Boston Summit. More than a milestone, the anniversary reignited NCSL's commitment to empowering legislatures, fostering civility and driving innovation for decades to come. Learn more at [nctl.org/50](https://nctl.org/50).

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY HIGHLIGHTS

- Legislatures in every state, territory and Washington, D.C., passed resolutions recognizing the organization's contributions.
- NCSL published "Capitol Views: A Journey Through the Nation's Capitols," a beautiful coffee table book featuring photos from all capitols in the states, territories and D.C. The book is now for sale on both [nctl.org](https://nctl.org) and Amazon, with a customizable option to select your favorite dust jacket cover.
- A commemorative 50th anniversary-themed issue of State Legislatures magazine was mailed in January and reprinted in the summer issue.
- A special "Profiles in Service" series in State Legislatures News featured 17 legislative staffers, all nominated by the professional staff associations.
- Bipartisan videos showcasing the organization and members debuted at both the 2024 and 2025 Legislative Summits.
- A three-part "Our American States" podcast highlighted the anniversary and NCSL members.
- Special NCSL 50th anniversary logo branding was used throughout the year, including on decks of custom playing cards gifted to Summit attendees.

"YOU ONLY GET ONE SHOT AT A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY, SO YOU WANT TO CELEBRATE IT RIGHT. THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN SO EXCITED TO WORK WITH LEGISLATORS, LEGISLATIVE STAFF, AND THE NCSL TEAM OVER THE LAST YEAR-PLUS TO THINK ABOUT THIS MOMENT IN OUR ORGANIZATION'S HISTORY."

**Sabrina Lewellen, deputy director and assistant secretary of the Arkansas Senate and past NCSL staff chair**





**7,255**

Members registered for in-person NCSL meetings, excluding the Legislative Summit.

**3,895**

Webinar registrations for legislators and legislative staff from all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and four territories.\*

\*Does not include NCSL Base Camp or LSIE.



# Convene. Connect. Collaborate.

NCSL brings legislators and legislative staff together—both across states and virtually—to share ideas, build relationships and drive solutions. From the record-breaking Legislative Summit in Boston and online NCSL Base Camp to the revamped Capital Forum in Washington, D.C., our signature events create space for learning, networking and collaboration that strengthen every statehouse.

# 2025 NCSL Legislative Summit Breaks Records

The 2025 Boston Summit set new records for attendance and engagement, bringing together more than 9,000 legislators, legislative staff, sponsors, international delegates and others from across the country and around the world. With more than 100 policy sessions, inspiring speakers and special events celebrating NCSL's 50th anniversary, the Summit became the largest and most diverse gathering in NCSL history. Attendees connected through innovative programming, stayed organized with the newly launched NCSL Roll Call app and learned from top experts on the hottest topics. They also networked at premier social events where they shot hoops at TD Garden, danced at a Boys II Men and Boston Pops concert and took in an epic fireworks display.



## SESSION SPOTLIGHT: CELEBRATING INSPIRATION

The Summit wrapped up with an unforgettable closing session featuring Tony Award-winner Leslie Odom, Jr. Best known for his role in "Hamilton," Odom reflected on creativity and leadership—and shared that his own career began in the halls of a state legislature, answering phones for then-Pennsylvania Rep. Dwight Evans and serving as a page on the House floor in Harrisburg.



"THIS SUMMIT WAS EVERYTHING I NEEDED AND MORE. I FEEL MORE CONFIDENT ABOUT MY ROLE AS A LEGISLATIVE STAFFER, AND THAT PUBLIC SERVICE IS MY CALLING."

Summit Attendee

**9,111**  
Attendees representing all 50 states, D.C., and four territories.

**1,599**  
Legislators registered, with an almost even split between Republicans and Democrats.

**90**  
Summit sessions.

**1,656**  
Legislative staff registered.

**954**  
NCSL Foundation sponsor registrations.

**24**  
Session tracks.

**\$15.7 million**  
Direct economic impact.



## SESSION SPOTLIGHT: HONORING SERVICE AND RESILIENCE

The opening session included a moving tribute to Minnesota Speaker Emerita Melissa Hortman, who was assassinated in June, led by Minnesota House Speaker Lisa Demuth and Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy. The session closed with powerful remarks from former U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords, whose advocacy for civility and resilience inspired attendees. The event set a tone of unity, remembrance and hope for the future of state legislatures.





- NOTED SPEAKERS**
- Leslie Odom, Jr. (“Hamilton”)
  - Michael Smerconish (radio and TV host)
  - Amy Walter (Cook Political Report)
  - Shankar Vedantam (Hidden Brain)
  - Meb Keflezighi (Olympian)
  - Gabrielle Giffords (former congresswoman)

“THE PROGRAMMING IS ALWAYS GREAT: SO MANY SESSIONS TO CHOOSE FROM, AND THE NCSL STAFF IS TRULY DEDICATED. THE SUMMIT IS A HIGHLIGHT EVERY YEAR FOR ME.”

Summit Attendee

**92%**  
of respondents to our post-Summit survey were “extremely” or “somewhat” satisfied with the event.

**78%**  
of respondents said they plan to attend another Summit in the future.

**70%**  
of legislators said they learned more about policy issues, and 59% said they discovered new ideas from other states’ experiences.

**79%**  
of legislative staff highlighted professional development and networking as top takeaways.



## Peak Performance: 2025 NCSL Base Camp

The 2025 NCSL Base Camp brought together more than 12,000 participants for two days of learning, connection and inspiration. Legislators, legislative staff and policy professionals from across the nation joined live, interactive sessions on elections, workforce, health, technology and more—all designed to help members stay ahead in a rapidly evolving policy landscape. Launched in 2020 during the pandemic, the event continues to be a cornerstone for professional development and collaboration in the legislative community, especially popular among legislative staff.



# 12,305

Number of registrants from 48 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico for the 2025 NCSL Base Camp online meeting.

## 2025 NCSL Capital Forum

Held in November in Washington, D.C., the revamped Capital Forum brought state legislators and legislative staff together to shape NCSL's federal priorities and advocate on key issues. Attendees met with members of Congress and administration officials, tackled topics like Medicaid, workforce and disaster resilience, and closed the day with networking and recognition events. A legislator-only White House meeting took place the next day.



NLPES professional development seminar in Helena, Montana.

## Legislative Staff Professional Development Seminars

NCSL's professional development seminars offer legislative staff hands-on learning and real-world strategies to strengthen their skills and expand their networks. Each seminar brings together experts, peers and thought leaders for conversations on the latest policy issues, leadership, and innovation in state government. Whether you're new to the legislature or a seasoned staffer, these seminars provide practical tools, fresh perspectives, and opportunities to connect with colleagues from across the country.

**To: Emily Thompson, North Dakota**

Emily leads her outstanding legal division by setting a high standard of professionalism. She is dedicated, diligent, and detailed in all respects. She is an excellent teacher and mentor, always seeking to lift her staff up.

*John Bjornson, North Dakota*

**To: Jeannette Farnsworth, Maine**

Jeannette is the consummate professional. As Chief Calendar Clerk, she has a keen eye for detail and is extremely thorough in all she does. She is the unsung hero of the organization.

*Robert Hunt, Maine*

**To: Johnathan Harris, Kentucky**

As our CIO, Johnathan has been instrumental in leading our agency through significant technological challenges and changes, including our move into temporary chambers for the next few legislative sessions. Thank you and your staff for your exceptional work.

*Erica Warren, Kentucky*

**9**  
Number of professional staff associations and networks associated with NCSL that convened in 2025.

**1,129**  
Registrants for legislative staff professional development seminars, representing all 50 states, D.C., two territories and six countries.

**5,104**  
Number of shoutouts from 40 states and territories received during the 2025 Legislative Staff Week.

"IT IS MY PRIVILEGE TO SERVE AS AN AMBASSADOR FOR NCSL AND TO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS AND NEEDS OF THE ROUGHLY 33,000 LEGISLATIVE STAFF NATIONWIDE. I ATTRIBUTE MUCH OF MY SUCCESS AND CAREER ADVANCEMENT WITHIN MY OWN ORGANIZATION TO MY EXPERIENCE WITH NCSL. I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENERGIZE OTHERS AND KEEP THEM EXCITED AND ENGAGED FOR NCSL'S NEXT 50 YEARS OF SERVICE."

**NCSL Staff Chair Lonnie Edgar, deputy director of the Mississippi Joint Legislative Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review**

LINCS professional development seminar in Anchorage, Alaska.





# Track. Advocate. Protect.

The Washington, D.C., team serves as NCSL's bridge between state legislatures and federal policymakers, ensuring that state voices are heard in national conversations. This trusted team monitors federal developments, advocates for state interests, and provides timely analysis on issues impacting legislatures nationwide.



**37** Formal letters/comments made to Congress and the administration on topics including the AI moratorium, farm bill, disaster assistance and the Second Chance Act.

**22** Policies adopted at Summit. Topics included tax reform, higher education reauthorization, behavioral health, artificial intelligence in financial services and child care.

**13** State Legislatures News articles written on state-federal issues including critical infrastructure, workforce Pell, AI moratorium, SNAP changes and the SAVE Act.

**11** Number of NCSL standing committees.

**2,167** Standing Committee members.

**7** Number of NCSL task forces.

**433** Task force members.

**38** Issues of Capitol to Capitol published.

# Member Value

Highlights of how NCSL’s D.C. team helped states navigate federal uncertainty, protect state sovereignty, and deliver timely updates and technical assistance.

## AI PREEMPTION

NCSL and its members successfully pushed back against federal legislation that would have preempted state authority to legislate or regulate AI.

## NCSL RESTORING THE BALANCE AWARD

During the 2025 NCSL Capital Forum, NCSL awarded its Restoring the Balance Award to 10 U.S. senators for championing an amendment to remove the proposed moratorium on state AI legislation from the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA). The award recognizes members of Congress and the administration who have worked to protect and advance the role of states within the federal system.

## STATE AND LOCAL TAX DEDUCTION

NCSL successfully worked to ensure that provisions removing the Pass-Through Entity Tax as a viable option for state and local tax deduction purposes were not included in the final OBBBA.

## TAKE IT DOWN ACT

The NCSL-supported bipartisan Take It Down Act was adopted. The legislation bans and criminalizes the publication of non-consensual, sexually exploitative images—including AI-generated deepfakes—and requires platforms to remove images within 48 hours of notice.



## NCSL MEMBERS IN D.C.

In 2025, NCSL facilitated numerous opportunities for its members to engage with federal officials, virtually and in person. Legislators were in D.C. for meetings on data centers, energy project permitting, preemption of state taxing authority and the AI moratorium. In November, a bipartisan group of 75-plus state legislators attended a White House meeting with officials from numerous federal agencies.

## THE PENNY

With the U.S. Treasury Department’s announcement of the elimination of the penny, NCSL’s State and Local Taxation Task Force issued a policy brief that addresses the economic, legal and operational implications of eliminating the penny and provides guidance for states navigating this transition.

## POLICY REVIEW WEEK

In June, NCSL hosted Policy Review Week, during which each committee met to discuss policies to be considered at the 2025 Legislative Summit. There was a 70% increase in participation, compared with 2024.

## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

NCSL’s priorities for the next surface transportation reauthorization were met with near-universal approval by several congressional offices thanks to the bipartisan work of NCSL’s Surface Transportation Working Group. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act expires at the end of fiscal year 2026. NCSL’s priorities include increased formula funding, preservation of successful IJJA projects, the future of funding the Highway Trust Fund, permit streamlining and right-sizing project reporting requirements and autonomous vehicles.



## U.S. SENATORS RECEIVING THE NCSL 2025 RESTORING THE BALANCE AWARD:

- Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.)
- Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.)
- Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.)
- Susan Collins (R-Maine)
- Andy Kim (D-N.J.)
- Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.)
- Ed Markey (D-Mass.)
- Roger Marshall (R-Kan.)
- Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.)
- Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska)





## Foundation Expands NCSL's Impact Beyond State Dues

Through year-round sponsor engagement and stewardship of Legislative Summit sponsorships and Exhibit Hall sales, the Foundation enhances the setting for bipartisan learning and collaboration that supports NCSL's mission and the work of its policy staff.

In FY 2025, the Foundation provided \$3.4 million to expand NCSL's capacity beyond what state dues alone allow by funding leadership development, legislative staff training, international exchanges, technical assistance and hundreds of high-impact learning opportunities for legislators and legislative staff nationwide. Together, these efforts help build public trust and equip lawmakers to address the critical issues of the day.

# 957

Foundation sponsors attended the Legislative Summit.

# 307

Total Foundation sponsors.

# 100%

Summit Exhibit Hall space sold to 299 exhibitors.



**43**  
Capitol Circle sponsors.  
\$50,000+/sponsor

**68**  
Platinum sponsors.  
\$30,000/sponsor

**109**  
Gold sponsors.  
\$15,000/sponsor

**87**  
Silver sponsors.  
\$10,000/sponsor



## Invest. Empower. Advance.

The NCSL Foundation for State Legislatures strengthens America's state legislatures by fostering trusted public-private dialogue and supporting NCSL's mission to serve lawmakers and legislative staff across all 50 states, territories and the District of Columbia. Created in 1982, the Foundation engages more than 300 sponsors and 299 exhibitors representing leading corporations, unions and nonprofit organizations.

# Looking Ahead: Building On 50 Years of Excellence

Looking ahead to 2026, NCSL has exciting plans. We will continue to deliver trusted information and training, and connect members through meetings, committees and task forces. We'll be back with another dynamic NCSL Base Camp, and our premier event—the Legislative Summit—heads to Chicago in July, where we'll bring together policymakers and thought leaders for an unforgettable experience of learning and collaboration.

As we close out a year that honored our legacy and celebrated 50 years of service, we look forward to an even brighter future. The foundation we built in 2025 sets the stage for the next 50 years of innovation, engagement and impact. Together, we'll continue sharing trusted policy research, strengthening connections, and driving progress for legislatures across the nation.







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