CSG West is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas among western state legislators and legislative staff, advocates multi-state partnerships, cultivates leadership, and promotes a regional vision based on common interests that transcend state and international borders. As one of the four regions of The Council of State Governments, a national community of states, CSG West engages members on a more intimate, regional level while also providing a national platform for the exchange of ideas and information.

In support of our members, CSG West convenes a variety of programs and events designed to facilitate collaborative learning aimed at addressing regional concerns. This includes policy committees, policy academies, professional development training programs, and international relations opportunities designed to strengthen legislative institutions. Information about our 2021 committees, programs, services, and events is included in this booklet.

CSG West is governed by our Officers and the Executive Committee, which is comprised of western legislative leaders. The Officers, which provide direct oversight of the organization, are elected annually and rotate in accordance with the organization's rules to ensure bipartisan governance. Acting as a governing board, the CSG West Executive Committee meets annually to review the work of policy committees, adopt policy positions, and review the ongoing development of the organization, as well as select participants for the Western Legislative Academy.

"Participating in CSG West has made me a better legislator, full stop. Knowing and learning from my colleagues across the 13 western states helps me understand western issues more fully. I have come to rely on CSG West staff and the bi-partisan members for expert advice, legislative ideas and friendship."

Former Rep. Jeni Arndt, Colorado, Past CSG West Chair
Join us in Colorado Springs for discussions on a range of regional topics. All CSG West policy committees, working groups, and leadership convene during the Annual Meeting. Additional learning opportunities are offered through forum sessions hosting in-depth conversation and information sharing on select topics of regional relevance.

DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE FOR EARLY REGISTRATION THROUGH AUGUST 31, 2021

csgwest.org/annualmeeting
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- Ken Gronbach
  - Demographer & Author
- Matthew Griffin
  - Co-Founder and CEO, Combat Flip Flops

SAVE THE DATE FOR 2022

BOISE IDAHO

JULY 19-22
CSG West policy committees and working groups provide a structured forum for the exchange of ideas and collaborative learning on key regional topics. Through the coordination of the co-chairs, each committee convenes to bring together members and topic experts for conversations addressing select policy issues and to identify collaborative resolutions. Committees convene during the CSG West Annual Meeting, as well as other times throughout the year in support of regional efforts.
The presentations were just terrific! I really enjoy hearing from legislators from other jurisdictions.”

2020 Annual Meeting attendee

PUBLIC SAFETY

CO-CHAIR
Speaker Jason Frierson
Nevada

CO-CHAIR
Rep. Rick Lewis
Oregon

WESTRENDS BOARD

CO-CHAIR
Rep. Hugh McKean
Colorado

CO-CHAIR
Rep. Andy Schwartz
Wyoming

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

CO-CHAIR
Rep. Gina Mosbrucker
Washington

CO-CHAIR
Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr.
New Mexico
Launched in 2002, the Border Legislative Conference (BLC) is the premier facilitator for ongoing dialogue among the U.S. – Mexico border region. State legislators and key stakeholders convene with topic experts and discuss unique, regional policy concerns such as migration, trade, ports of entry, water, and more.

Membership is comprised of state legislators from California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas in the U.S., and Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas in Mexico. Members are appointed by their respective state leadership each biennium.

California Assemblymember Jose Medina, BLC Chair, will host the XXXIII meeting in Riverside, California on August 26-28.

**CSG West Staff Contact:** Martha Castañeda

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“We share much more than a border with Mexico, we share opportunities, communities and a forward vision. Now more than ever, communication and collaboration with our neighbors is a vital part of our success as a nation and as a region.”

—California Assemblymember Jose Medina, BLC Chair
The Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG) engages legislators from Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington in dialogue focused on issues facing the Columbia and Snake River Basins. Members share relevant legislative actions in their respective states enabling them to learn from one another and identify areas of potential collaborations. Resource experts from a range of agencies, academia, and other community organizations are invited to join the conversation allowing members to learn from the most current information on the health and wellbeing of the basin, as well as the communities dependent on it for food, water, recreation, and power. Recent meetings have addressed topics such as aquatic invasive species, fisheries, the Columbia River Treaty negotiations, energy, and water quality.

Idaho Senator Michelle Stennett, LCRG Chair, will host the 2021 meeting in Lewiston, Idaho on August 23 &24.

**CSG West Staff Contact:** Jackie Tinetti

*The LCRG is the only forum convened by and for legislators of the Columbia and Snake River Basins. It is vital to our future that the Idaho, Montana, Oregon and Washington delegations come together to hear about the latest issues and developments impacting our shared region, from energy to fisheries and the Columbia River Treaty negotiations.*

**Idaho Senator Michelle Stennett, LCRG Chair**
The Western Legislative Academy (WLA) brings together western state legislators for an intensive multi-day training designed to sharpen leadership skills on communications, consensus building, time management, ethics, and more. Sessions are interactive and hosted by national leaders and academic authorities. Additionally, class members learn from each other allowing the opportunity to develop lasting relationships with legislative peers.

Participation in the WLA is limited to legislators in their first four-years of cumulative service. To be considered for the program, interested members must complete an online application including letters of recommendation from their peers.

Selected members will be invited to join the 2021 WLA class in Colorado Springs from December 7–10. Applications will be available on the CSG West website through April 23. For questions about the program or application process, please contact CSG West staff.

*CSG West Staff Contact: Erica Miller*

“Never has networking and inspiration from a group gelled so completely. WLA takes our strengths and sharpens them, takes our weaknesses and remakes them, to be revealed as strengths. We become the best leaders we can be by being with other incredible leaders, learning from one another, and discovering our best selves.”

*New Mexico Representative Andrea Romero, WLA 2019 Class President*
Through this unique program, CSG West works with states to offer training to both legislators and legislative staff in a local setting. Select trainers and academic instructors offer interactive sessions designed to help participants sharpen their professional skills. A wide range of topics are available, including media relations, stress management, public speaking, meeting management, ethics, and negotiations.

**CSG West Staff Contact: Erica Miller**

“Could not have asked for a better speaker. I left feeling empowered to be more confident and making myself stand out in a crowd.”

**WESTRAIN participant**

Hosted at the CSG National headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky, the Toll Fellowship program brings 48 of the nation’s top officials from all three branches of state government for an intensive leadership boot camp. The program’s sessions are designed to stimulate personal assessment and growth, while also providing relationship-building opportunities.
The Legislative Service Agency & Research Directors (LSA/RD) committee offers nonpartisan legislative staff directors a forum where they can learn and share best practices within state legislative institutions. The committee is comprised of nonpartisan western legislative service agencies directors in the legal, research, and administrative departments and meets annually.

The annual training seminar focuses on developing management skills, as well as sharing state innovations within nonpartisan offices. Through collaborative learning, members support their respective efforts to deliver superior customer service to their legislatures.

**CHAIR**
Raúl E. Burciaga
New Mexico

**VICE CHAIR**
Joe Kolman
Montana

**CSG West Staff Contact:** Jennifer Schanz

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**WASHINGTON**

**OCTOBER 2021**
JUSTICE CENTER

The CSG Justice Center works with state officials in all three branches of government to develop research driven strategies designed to increase public safety and strengthen communities. Through the use of in-depth data analyses and extensive engagement with officials within the criminal justice system, the Justice Center is able to foster collaborative policy efforts to address state specific challenges.

For more information visit: csgjusticecenter.org

NATIONAL CENTER FOR INTERSTATE COMPACTS

Combining policy research with best practices, the CSG National Center for Interstate Compacts promotes the use of interstate compacts to meet the demand for cooperative state action. Acting as an information clearinghouse, as well as providing training and technical assistance, the Center works with states to review, revise, and create new interstate compacts designed to address multistate problems and provide alternatives to federal preemption.

For more information visit: csg.org/ncic

CENTER OF INNOVATION

Since its inception in 2018, the CSG Center of Innovation has engaged thousands of state leaders representing all fifty states. A national initiative designed to provide a practical resource for state officials in all three branches of government they work with over one hundred partner organizations to provide state leaders with data-driven solutions to pressing state issues. Some of the current programs include Shared State Legislation, Occupational Licensure, Overseas Voting Initiative (OVI), Retaining Employment and Talent after Injury/Illness Network (RETAIN), State Exchange on Employment and Disability (SEED), National Center for Interstate Compacts (NCIC), and many others.

For more information visit: csg.org/coi
REGIONAL ROUNDPUP

Offering information on events, resources and topics important to the western region, the Regional Roundup newsletter delivers semi-monthly updates in an easy to read, electronic format.

www.csgwest.org/publications/newsletters.aspx

CAPITOL IDEAS

Produced by CSG National, the Capitol Ideas magazine provides information and insights relevant to state governing. Offering organization updates, regional perspectives and in-depth analysis of key policy issues, the magazine is a great way to stay updated on a variety of topics affecting states.

www.csg.org/publications.aspx

THE BOOK OF THE STATES

Providing easy-to-read summaries, tables and charts, The Book of the States is an invaluable reference tool for legislators and legislative staff. Initially published in 1935, CSG produces an annual collection of information illustrating how state governments operate. The 2019 edition offers information collected from more than 500 sources.

www.csg.org/publications.aspx
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