SERVING THE WEST

Founded in 1947, the Council of State Governments – WEST (CSG-WEST) represents the most geographically diverse, pristine and fastest-growing region in America. CSG-WEST serves the Western legislatures of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming. Associate members include the Canadian provinces of Alberta and British Columbia and the Pacific islands of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Guam.

The mission of CSG-WEST is to facilitate regional, nonpartisan cooperation and exchange of information, and to strengthen legislative institutions among our 13 member states. These services are achieved through a variety of programs and services offered to legislators and their staff, including the convening of policy forums, professional development training, international relations opportunities, publications and institutional links with other political entities in the West.

CSG-WEST also provides lawmakers unique opportunities, through its institutional relationship with CSG national, to engage with state officials of all three branches of state government, to access a myriad of national policy research and to stay abreast of developments in Washington, D.C. impacting state governments.

BY THE NUMBERS

The Council of State Governments is a regional organization with a national presence. In this way, the organization reflects the priorities and interests of the different regions of the United States, while providing an opportunity in a national framework for sharing information and experiences.

CSG-WEST serves 1,307 legislators in 13 states with a population of 71,568,081. The charts to the right provide a quick comparison to the other CSG regions.
2011 was an exciting and transformational year for The Council of State Governments–WEST. CSG–WEST, in partnership with the Hawaii Legislature, delivered among the most robust and best attended Annual Meetings in recent years. The 64th Annual Meeting in Hawaii provided professional development training and a unique setting for Western legislators to exchange information on critical issues affecting the region and the Asia–Pacific community.

We are proud to report the successful completion of the 12th Western Legislative Academy, the West's premier training event for newer lawmakers. The Class of 2011 spent long hours working to improve their legislative effectiveness and to build support of their legislative institutions.

Taking advantage of our shared borders with Canada and Mexico, CSG–WEST delivered opportunities for cross-border cooperation. This included the hosting of substantive forums by the Border Legislative Conference and CSG–WEST serving a key role in the 2012 CSG National Conference and North American Summit held in Bellevue, Washington. The Summit convened stakeholders from all three countries to discuss and identify strategies aimed at enhancing economic competitiveness, energy security, and the environmental.

As we look back at 2011, we have much to celebrate. As we look forward, CSG–WEST will continue to serve Western legislators with opportunities for the exchange of ideas and best practices. From education to energy to fiscal affairs and more, CSG–WEST in 2012 will offer forums, training, webinars and committee events to address the unique concerns of our region.

Please join us July 20-23 in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada as policymakers and international experts gather for our 2012 annual meeting and North America Summit.

Sincerely,

Representative Rosie Berger, Wyoming
CSG–WEST Chair

Assemblyman Kelvin Atkinson, Nevada
CSG–WEST Chair–Elect

Representative Craig Johnson, Alaska
CSG–WEST Vice Chair

Representative Marcus Oshiro, Hawaii
CSG–WEST Immediate Past Chair
COMMITTEES

Executive Committee
The Executive Committee serves as the Board of Directors of CSG-WEST, reviewing the work and activities of the policy committees, adopting policy positions for the organization and annually selecting participants for the Western Legislative Academy. The Executive Committee is composed of the four CSG-WEST officers, the presiding legislative leaders and ranking minority leaders in each chamber of the 13 Western states, the chair and vice chair of CSG-WEST policy committees and other legislators appointed by the presiding legislative officer in each chamber of each member state.

WESTRENDS Board
The WESTRENDS Board, which is composed of one legislator from each of the 13 Western states, provides a forum to evaluate the direction and velocity of regional and international trends affecting the quality of life in the West. In particular, the WESTRENDS Board focuses on the implications for policymakers of the demographic, economic, and cultural trends shaping the West.

Policy Committees
The work of the CSG-WEST policy committees reflects the substantive, complex and broad issues facing Western legislatures. CSG-WEST policy committees offer opportunities for participating legislators to learn from the experiences and expertise of other states as well as hear from nationally recognized experts in particular subject matters. Moreover, policy committees can recommend resolutions and policy positions for the consideration of the CSG-WEST Executive Committee.

2011—2012 POLICY COMMITTEES

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| Future of Western Legislatures
| CHAIR         | VICE CHAIR            |
| Sam Hunt      | Gary MacLaren         |
| Representative| Representative         |
| Washington    | Montana                |

TASK FORCES AND FORUMS
Task Force on Higher Education  ◊  Task Force on the Western Electrical Grid  ◊  Health Forum
Task Forces and forums are created to provide focus and direction on specific issues or policy areas.
CAPITALIZING ON REGIONAL STrengths:
PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

The Western U.S. is the most geographically diverse and fastest growing regions in the country. In order to address and capitalize on specific regional needs and strengths, CSG-WEST offers a portfolio of programs and projects designed to facilitate dialogue and regional solutions.

North America Summit

Of all the CSG regions, the West is the only region that has states that border both Canada and Mexico. The North America Summit provides a unique opportunity to bring together state and provincial lawmakers from Canada, Mexico and the Western U.S. to discuss critical issues facing North America, such as economic competitiveness, border crossings, infrastructure, energy and strengthening state/provincial and federal relations among the three countries.

Border Legislative Conference

The Border Legislative Conference (BLC) provides a forum for ongoing collaboration among legislators of the 10 U.S. – Mexico border states. These states include California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas in the U.S., and Baja California, Sonora, Coahuila, Chihuahua, Nuevo Leon and Tamaulipas in Mexico. The BLC aims to empower border legislators to engage in the binational agenda and address the unique challenges and opportunities along the 2,000-mile border region.

Legislative Council on River Governance

The Columbia River is the largest river in the Pacific Northwest region of North America. The river and its tributaries have been central to the region's culture and economy for thousands of years. The Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG) is a cooperative association of legislators from the states of Washington, Oregon, Montana and Idaho that enables discussion on common environmental and commercial interests along the Columbia River Basin.

Modernizing and Strengthening the Capacity of the Western Electrical Grid

In cooperation with the Western Governors’ Association and the U.S. Department of Energy, CSG-WEST is working on a project to modernize and strengthen the capacity of the Western electrical grid. This project provides financial support for the involvement of Western legislators in the policy decisions affecting transmission of electrical power that impacts 11 Western states, as well as British Columbia and Alberta in Canada and Baja California in Mexico.

U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnership

The U.S. – Mexico State Alliance Partnership is a collaborative, multi-branch program aimed at strengthening cooperation among state officials and institutions of both countries. The Partnership promotes and convenes binational exchanges among border legislators, attorneys general, treasurers, lieutenant governors, regional entities and academic institutions/think tanks to enhance the role of states officials to address shared public policy concerns that transcend international borders.
CAPACITY TRAINING AND STRENGTHENING WESTERN LEGISLATURES

Western Legislative Academy

Over the past 11 years, CSG-WEST has provided premier capacity building opportunities for Western legislators within their first four years of service through the Western Legislative Academy (WLA). The WLA is an intensive three and half day professional development program designed to assist legislators become more effective leaders and to strengthen legislative institutions. The WLA focuses on communications, time management, governing, ethics, and consensus building. A highlight is a half day spent at the US Air Force Academy working on personnel assessments and team building. WLA takes place November 13-16 and is by invitation only. Information at www.csgwest.org

Toll Fellowship Program

Western lawmakers are encouraged to apply to CSG National’s Henry Toll Fellowship Program, one of the nation’s premier leadership programs for officials from all branches of state government. Annually convened in Lexington, KY, the Tolls Program is an intensive “intellectual boot camp” focused on crisis management, adaptive leadership, and personal assessment, among others. For more information, visit www.csg.org/programs/leadershipprograms/tollfellows

Annual Legislative Training Assembly

In an effort to provide continuing capacity building opportunities for lawmakers, both new and seasoned, CSG-WEST incorporates a full-day of professional development into its annual meeting through the Annual Legislative Training Assembly (ALTA). All annual meeting attendees are welcome to hear from respected speakers and engage in fun, educational activities aimed at sharpening your skills.

Legislative Service Agency and Research Directors

CSG-WEST convenes the Legislative Services Agency and Research Directors Committee in an annual fall training seminar which provides nonpartisan Western staff leaders management training and opportunities to share best practices.

Innovations Awards

Each year, CSG-WEST recognizes exemplary state programs and facilitates the transfer of those successful experiences to other states through Innovations Awards. To learn more about program criteria, please visit our website at www.csgwest.org
RESEARCH SERVICES

Through CSG’s national policy & research team, legislators can access a wide range of research on topics such as education, energy, environment, fiscal, health, interstate relations, stimulus funds and transportation – to name a few. Whether via website or in print, as part of our many national programs and services, CSG’s policy team provides the information you need to better understand complex policy situations and help you make informed decisions.

Specific products and services from CSG’s policy group are wide-ranging: national and regional meetings, national policy task forces, state specific forums and training, national reports, fact sheets, interactive websites, interstate compact legislation, policy projects assisting states in the creation of policy, and numerous educational efforts tied to key issues.

Customers of CSG’s national Policy & Research team include CSG’s core constituency – state officials – as well as various local and federal agencies/officials, other national associations serving government officials, academics, researchers, think tanks and libraries. To access CSG research services, log on to www.csg.org and click on "policy and research" on the top menu.

KNOWLEDGE CENTER

Legislators are pulled in many directions and have to spend their time wisely. To better assist state officials, CSG created The Knowledge Center, an interactive clearinghouse of more than 600 tagged and indexed policy reports, blogs and other items—a one-stop policy shop. State government officials can browse all policy information by topic and, most importantly, quickly find what they’re looking for. Simply visit http://knowledgecenter.csg.org

MULTI-STATE PROBLEM SOLVING

National Center for Interstate Compacts

Interstate compacts are a reinvigoration of our federalist system, enabling states to work cooperatively to solve multi-state problems. The National Center for Interstate Compacts (NCIC) is designed to be an information clearinghouse, a provider of training and technical assistance and a primary facilitator in assisting states review, revise and create new interstate compacts to solve multi-state problems or provide alternatives to federal pre-emption. NCIC combines policy research, best practices, and functions as a membership association to serve the needs of compact administrators, compact commissions and state agencies across the country.

To learn more about NCIC, please visit www.csg.org/programs/policyprograms/NCIC, please visit www.csg.org/programs/policyprograms/NCIC

CSG-WEST
65th
ANNUAL
MEETING

The CSG-WEST Annual Meeting provides legislators and legislative staff unparalleled opportunities to share their experiences and learn from regional/national experts and insightful leaders. All policy committees, task forces and leadership convene during the Annual Meeting. In 2012, the CSG-WEST Annual Meeting will convene in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada July 20-23, 2012.

Join other leading edge thinkers and legislators as they come together to learn from each other and discuss issues that cross state and provincial borders. Canada is critical to U.S. energy security and trade relations, and this is an excellent opportunity to obtain first-hand knowledge.
CSG-WEST STAFF

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Chris Whatley, Director

2012 EVENTS

- Border Legislative Conference Americas 2020 Summit
  San Antonio, Texas
  February 15-17, 2012

- XXV Border Legislative Conference
  Sacramento, California
  March 28-30, 2012

- CSG National Spring Leadership Conference
  La Quinta, California
  May 18-19, 2012

- CSG-WEST 65th Annual Meeting
  Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
  July 20-23, 2012

- CSG-WEST Western Legislative Services Agency/Research Directors Fall Training Seminar
  Park City, Utah
  Late September/Early October TBA

- Western Legislative Academy
  Colorado Springs, Colorado
  November 13-16, 2011

- CSG National Conference
  Austin, Texas
  November 30 to December 2, 2012