



MIDWEST



77th Annual Meeting

DETROIT

July 9–12, 2023

CSG MIDWESTERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

General Information

Meeting Space

Sessions will be held in the Westin Book Cadillac Detroit. All meeting rooms are accessible from the lobby elevator or escalator. A floor plan is available on the meeting app and at the MLC Registration & Information Desk.

CSG Staff Office: Esquire Room, 3rd Floor

Host State Office: Book Boardroom, 3rd Floor

Presenters’ Room: State Room, 2nd Floor

Registration and Information Desk Hours

WOODWARD BALLROOM FOYER, 2ND FLOOR

Saturday: 12–6 p.m.

Sunday: 9 a.m.–6 p.m.

Monday and Tuesday: 7:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

Meeting App

The MLC Annual Meeting app puts details of this year’s conference at your fingertips. Check your email for an invitation to download the app. Need help getting on the app? Volunteers are available to assist at the MLC Registration & Information Desk.

Wi-Fi

To access Wi-Fi in the hotel meeting space, connect to the “Westin conference” network and use this code: MLC2023.

Bus Transportation

Bus transportation for offsite events will be available at the Westin Book Cadillac’s Michigan Avenue valet pickup area.

Photography

Photographers will be present during the MLC Annual Meeting sessions. Photographs of meeting attendees may appear in CSG publications and in printed and online MLC promotional materials.

Please Note: Your name badge is required for admission to all events. Please silence your cell phones during meetings and meal functions.

Table of Contents

Welcome from the MLC Chair 2

MLC Executive Committee 3

Meeting Hosts, Leaders & Volunteers 4

MLC Past Chairs..... 5

Conference Agenda 6

Spouse, Guest & Youth Program 20

Contributors..... 24

CSG Associates Program 26

CSG Information & Leadership 28

CSG Upcoming Events 29

Visit the MLC 2024 Ohio Table

Mark your calendars for the CSG Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting in Columbus, Ohio, on July 21-24. There’s so much to do within two hours of Columbus. You’ll want to stay a few extra days to visit one or more of eight presidential sites, or go to one of three major Ohio water parks, or climb the Hocking Hills — and then end the day at a winery.

Visit us at the Ohio Table (located by the MLC Registration Desk) for more information and a sweet treat. Also, plan to attend the 2024 Ohio Reception tailgate on Tuesday evening just prior to this year’s State Dinner.



Welcome from the MLC Chair



Dear Legislative Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the entire Michigan Legislature, welcome to our home state and this year's Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting.

The Council of State Governments' MLC Annual Meeting is a special event in many ways.

We have the chance to build valuable friendships and relationships — across party lines, across state borders, and even across the U.S.-Canada border.

We'll also have ample opportunity to advance our work as policymakers and leaders, through the meeting's mix of educational sessions and inspiring speakers.

Lastly, we have the chance to showcase and experience a great Midwestern city.

Special evening activities, site visits and daytime events have been planned in and around the Motor City, including our Opening Night Reception at the Detroit Institute of Arts, Family Night at the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation, and the State Dinner at Detroit's iconic Eastern Market.

Details about all of the sessions and special events are included in this meeting program.

Our speakers include acclaimed author and innovation expert Steven Johnson and *Pluribus* editor-in-chief Reid Wilson. Each of the MLC's policy committees will be meeting and holding information-packed sessions for us, and on Tuesday morning, we will focus on the issue that I chose for this year's MLC Chair's Initiative — "Food Security: Feeding the Future."

I look forward to seeing old friends from the MLC and building new binational, interstate relationships, while also helping you make the most of these four days of learning, collaboration, enrichment and fun.

Sincerely,

Michigan Sen. Roger Victory | MLC Chair

MLC Executive Committee



CHAIR

**Senator
Roger Victory**
Michigan



1ST VICE CHAIR

**Senator
Bill Reineke**
Ohio



2ND VICE CHAIR

**Speaker
Randy Weekes**
Saskatchewan



PAST CHAIR

**Senator
Carolyn McGinn**
Kansas

ILLINOIS

Sen. Bill Cunningham
Sen. Laura Ellman
Rep. Anna Moeller
Sen. Julie Morrison
Sen. Elgie Sims, Jr.

INDIANA

Sen. Ed Charbonneau
Rep. Edward Clere
Rep. Mike Karickhoff
Rep. Ethan Manning
Sen. Mark Messmer

IOWA

Sen. Janet Petersen
Sen. Tom Shipley
Sen. Amy Sinclair

KANSAS

Rep. Susan Concannon
Sen. Marci Francisco
Speaker Daniel Hawkins
Sen. Ty Masterson
Sen. Carolyn McGinn
Rep. Jarrod Ousley
Rep. Troy Waymaster

MICHIGAN

Rep. Amos O'Neal
Sen. Sylvia Santana
Sen. Sam Singh
Sen. Roger Victory

MINNESOTA

Sen. Heather Gustafson
Rep. Fue Lee
Rep. Jamie Long

NEBRASKA

Sen. John Cavanaugh
Sen. Wendy DeBoer
Sen. Justin Wayne

NORTH DAKOTA

Sen. David Hogue
Rep. Mike Lefor
Rep. David Monson
Rep. Paul Thomas

OHIO

Sen. Jerry Cirino
Sen. Hearcel Craig
Rep. Susan Manchester
Rep. Sharon Ray
Sen. Bill Reineke
Sen. Michele Reynolds

SASKATCHEWAN

MLA Steven Bonk
MLA Todd Goudy
MLA Joe Hargrave
Speaker Randy Weekes

SOUTH DAKOTA

Speaker Hugh Bartels
Rep. Gary Cammack
Rep. Taylor Rehfeldt
Sen. Larry Zikmund

WISCONSIN

Sen. Joan Ballweg
Sen. André Jacque
Sen. Jesse James
Sen. LaTonya Johnson
Rep. Joel Kitchens
Rep. Robert Wittke

ALBERTA

TBD

MANITOBA

Speaker Myrna Driedger
Minister Kelvin Goertzen

ONTARIO

Speaker Ted Arnott
MPP Ernie Hardeman

Michigan Hosts

Midwestern Legislative Conference Chair

Sen. Roger Victory

Honorary Co-Chair

Sen. Sylvia Santana

Host State Committee

Sen. Winnie Brinks

Rep. Nancy DeBoer

Rep. Rachel Hood

Former Sen. Ken Horn

Rep. Sarah Lightner

Sen. Aric Nesbitt

Rep. Amos O'Neal

Sen. Sylvia Santana

Speaker Joe Tate

Rep. Curt VanderWall

Rep. Stephanie Young

Host State Planning Committee

Rachael Johnston

Host State Coordinator

Martin Johnston

Legislative Director, Sen. Roger Victory

Mike Witkowski

Chief of Staff, Sen. Roger Victory

Dave Biswas

Transportation Coordinator

Maggie Lenard

Volunteer Coordinator

Jordan Jorritsma

Spouse and Guest Team Leader

Emerson Silvernail

Youth Team Leader

Host State Volunteers

Darin Ackerman

Lorna Beard

Emily Carney

Madelyn Day

Alex Dempsey

Michelle Diffin

Alannah Garrett

Barb Gonzales

Tricia Gregory

Jimmy Johnston

Ben Kauffman

Bobby Lawrence

Rhonda Patterson

Former Sen. Wayne Schmidt

Jon Shiflett

Kevin Shopshire

Beth Shopshire

Deanna Silkowski

Filonna Thomas

Amber Wendel

Thank you to the Detroit Caucus!

CSG's Midwestern Legislative Conference greatly appreciates the work and support of the Michigan Legislature's Detroit Caucus.

Rep. Tyrone Carter
(chair)

Rep. Helena Scott
(vice chair)

Rep. Abraham Aiyash

Sen. Mary Cavanagh

Sen. Stephanie Chang

Rep. Kimberly Edwards

Rep. Alabas Farhat

Sen. Erika Geiss

Sen. Veronica Klinefelt

Rep. Mike McFall

Rep. Donovan McKinney

Sen. Mallory McMorrow

Sen. Jeremy Moss

Rep. Veronica Paiz

Rep. Laurie Pohutsky

Rep. Natalie Price

Sen. Sylvia Santana

Rep. Lori Stone

Speaker Joe Tate

Rep. Regina Weiss

Rep. Karen Whitsett

Sen. Paul Wojno

Rep. Stephanie Young

MLC Annual Meetings: A Look Back at Past Chairs & Meetings

The Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting was first held in 1945. Here is a list of the sites and MLC chairs since 2000.

2022

Wichita, Kansas

Sen. Carolyn McGinn, Chair

2021

Rapid City, South Dakota

Sen. Gary Cammack, Chair

2019

Chicago, Illinois

Sen. Elgie Sims, Chair

2018

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Indiana Sen. Ed Charbonneau,
Chair

Manitoba Speaker Myrna

Driedger, Host Committee Chair

2017

Des Moines, Iowa

Sen. Janet Petersen, Chair

2016

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Rep. Joan Ballweg, Chair

2015

Bismarck, North Dakota

Sen. Tim Flakoll, Chair

2014

Omaha, Nebraska

Sen. Beau McCoy, Chair

2013

St. Paul, Minnesota

Rep. Alice Hausman, Chair

2012

Cleveland, Ohio

Rep. Armond Budish, Chair

2011

Indianapolis, Indiana

Rep. Scott Reske, Chair

2010

Toronto, Ontario

Ohio Sen. Steve Buehrer, Chair

Ontario Speaker Steve Peters,
Host Committee Chair

2009

Overland Park, Kansas

Sen. Jay Scott Emler, Chair

2008

Rapid City, South Dakota

Sen. Tom Dempster, Chair

2007

Traverse City, Michigan

Sen. Patricia Birkholz, Chair

2006

Chicago, Illinois

Sen. Donne E. Trotter, Chair

2005

Regina, Saskatchewan

Ohio Sen. Kevin Coughlin, Chair
Saskatchewan Speaker P. Myron
Kowalsky, Host Committee Chair

2004

Des Moines, Iowa

Rep. Libby Jacobs, Chair

2003

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Rep. Suzanne Jeskewitz, Chair

2002

Fargo, North Dakota

Sen. Rich Wardner, Chair

2001

Lincoln, Nebraska

Sen. DiAnna Schimek, Chair

2000

Minneapolis, Minnesota

Sen. John Hottinger, Chair

77th Annual Meeting

DETROIT

July 9 -12, 2023



Conference Agenda

Saturday, July 8

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MLC Midwest-Canada Relations Committee Border Tour

BY INVITATION ONLY | PREREGISTRATION WAS REQUIRED

1 to 5 p.m.

MLC Chair's Initiative Site Visit to Eastern Market

PREREGISTRATION WAS REQUIRED

The bus will begin loading at the Westin at 12:30 p.m. and depart at 1 p.m. The bus will return to the hotel by 5 p.m.



Photo: Visit Detroit

Sunday, July 9

10 to 11:30 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

MLC Education & Workforce Development Committee Meeting

WOODWARD CD, 2ND FLOOR | OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES

Participants will hear from a regional leader on higher education about what key trends and data show about the state of post-secondary systems in the Midwest. The session also will include a roundtable discussion among legislators and other attendees on education and workforce development policy; time will be reserved for any committee business.

PRESENTER:

- **Susan Heegaard**, President, Midwestern Higher Education Compact

MLC Education & Workforce Development Committee Officers



CO-CHAIR

**Senator
Hearcel Craig**

OHIO



CO-CHAIR

**Representative
Joel Kitchens**

WISCONSIN



VICE CHAIR

**Senator
Heather Gustafson**

MINNESOTA

Agenda continued (Sunday, July 9)

10 to 11:30 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions (continued)

MLC Midwest-Canada Relations Committee Meeting

WOODWARD A, 2ND FLOOR | OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES

Committee members and guest presenters will come together to discuss irregular border crossings and other border issues in the Midwest and Canada. There will also be discussion of committee business and consideration of any proposed resolutions.

PRESENTER:

- **Alex Vernon**, Director, Immigration Law Clinic, University of Detroit Mercy

MLC Midwest-Canada Relations Committee Officers



CO-CHAIR
**Minister
Kelvin Goertzen**
MANITOBA



CO-CHAIR
**Representative
Amos O'Neal**
MICHIGAN



CO-VICE CHAIR
**MPP
Ernie Hardeman**
ONTARIO



CO-VICE CHAIR
**Representative
David Monson**
NORTH DAKOTA

MLC Health & Human Services Committee Meeting

WOODWARD B, 2ND FLOOR | OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES

Participants will explore policies and emerging opportunities to strengthen child protection services, including evidence-based strategies that prevent child removals and improve long-term family outcomes. Time also will be left for a roundtable discussion and any committee-related business.

PRESENTER:

- **Dr. David Sanders**, Executive Vice President for Systems Improvement, Casey Family Programs

MLC Health & Human Services Committee Officers



CO-CHAIR
**Representative
Susan Concannon**
KANSAS



CO-CHAIR
**Senator
Julie Morrison**
ILLINOIS



VICE CHAIR
**Representative
Taylor Rehfeldt**
SOUTH DAKOTA

11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

MLC Executive Committee Meeting & Lunch

VENETIAN BALLROOM, 4TH FLOOR

12 to 1:30 p.m.

MLC Policy Committees' Lunch

CRYSTAL BALLROOM, 4TH FLOOR

3 to 4:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

MLC Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee Meeting

WOODWARD A, 2ND FLOOR | OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES

Participants will explore potential new opportunities for the Midwest's states, agriculture producers and rural communities under the next federal farm bill and for the provinces under the new Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership. Time also will be reserved for discussion among members and for committee business.

PRESENTERS:

- **MLA Steven Bonk**, Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan
- **Dr. Roman Keeney**, Associate Professor, Purdue University, Center for Food and Agricultural Business

MLC Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee Officers



CO-CHAIR
**MLA
Steven Bonk**
SASKATCHEWAN



CO-CHAIR
**Senator
Marci Francisco**
KANSAS



VICE CHAIR
**Representative
Paul Thomas**
NORTH DAKOTA



Agenda continued (Sunday, July 9)

3 to 4:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions (continued)

MLC Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee Meeting

WOODWARD B, 2ND FLOOR | OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES

Participants will take part in a roundtable discussion on recent developments in the region's states and provinces. The session will also include a presentation about the services offered by the CSG Justice Center, as well as examples of how states have advanced bipartisan policy reforms through partnerships with the CSG Justice Center. Time also will be reserved for committee business.

PRESENTER:

- **Megan Quattlebaum**, Director, CSG Justice Center

MLC Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee Officers



CO-CHAIR
Senator John Cavanaugh
NEBRASKA



CO-CHAIR
Senator Jesse James
WISCONSIN



VICE CHAIR
Senator Michele Reynolds
OHIO

MLC Energy & Environment Committee Meeting

WOODWARD CD, 2ND FLOOR | OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES

Committee members and guest presenters will discuss current and future trends in electricity generation and distribution in Midwestern states and provinces. Time also will be reserved for any committee business and for a discussion of relevant energy and environmental policies and legislation in members' states or provinces.

PRESENTER:

- **Bob Kuzman**, Director of State Regulatory Affairs, Midcontinent Independent Systems Operator

MLC Energy & Environment Committee Officers



CO-CHAIR
Senator Laura Ellman
ILLINOIS



CO-CHAIR
Representative Ethan Manning
INDIANA



VICE CHAIR
Representative Sharon Ray
OHIO

4:30 to 5 p.m.

Newcomers' Orientation

FOUNDERS A, 3RD FLOOR

If you are a legislator attending the MLC Annual Meeting for the first time, come learn more about the Midwestern Legislative Conference and The Council of State Governments. You also will have a chance to win a \$50 gift card.

5 to 6 p.m.

BILLD Alumni Reception

CRYSTAL BALLROOM, 4TH FLOOR | BY INVITATION ONLY

Newcomers' Reception

FOUNDERS B, 3RD FLOOR

If you are a legislator attending the MLC Annual Meeting for the first time, come and enjoy refreshments with other first-time attendees while also meeting MLC Executive Committee members.

6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Opening Night Reception at Detroit Institute of Arts

CASUAL ATTIRE

For the meeting's opening reception, we are excited to offer an exclusive, one-of-a-kind experience in the Great Hall and Grand Rivera Court of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Connect with fellow legislators and other attendees while enjoying some of Detroit's most-celebrated cuisine and strolling through three of the museum's most popular galleries: Impressionist, Modern and American.

Buses will start loading at the Westin at 6 p.m. and loop between the hotel and DIA every 15 minutes. The last bus will depart the DIA at 9:45 p.m.

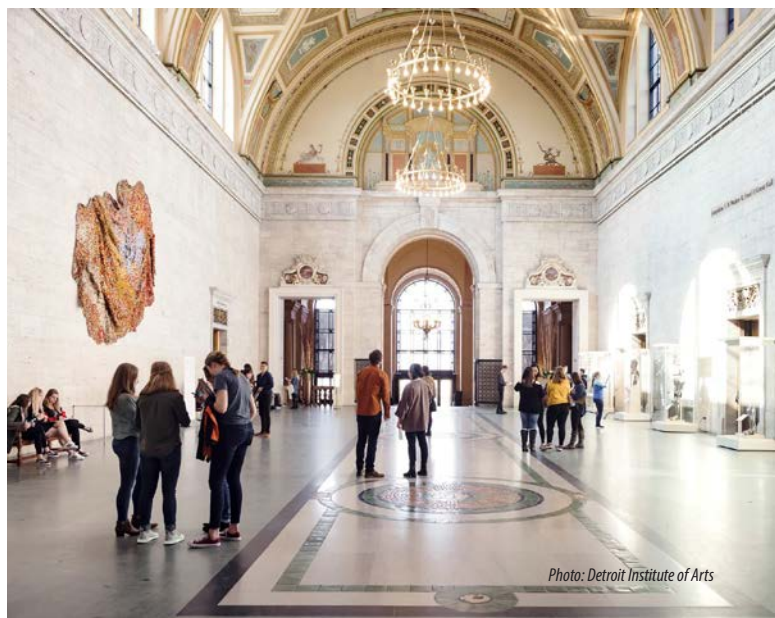


Photo: Detroit Institute of Arts

Agenda continued

Monday, July 10

7:30 to 8:45 a.m.

General Breakfast

WOODWARD AB, 2ND FLOOR

BILLD Steering Committee Business Session & Breakfast

FOUNDERS A, 3RD FLOOR | COMMITTEE MEMBERS ONLY

Breakfast Table Topic Discussions

Please join your colleagues for a legislator-initiated and -led discussion over breakfast.

State Policies To Enhance Educational Opportunities and Outcomes for Children in Foster Care

WOODWARD C, 2ND FLOOR

DISCUSSION FACILITATOR:

- **Rep. Stephanie Young**, Michigan

Avenues for Building Legislative Oversight Capacity

WOODWARD D, 2ND FLOOR

DISCUSSION FACILITATOR:

- **Rep. Amos O'Neal**, Michigan

Force for Good: Taiwan Friendship Caucus in the Midwestern States

BOULEVARD A, 2ND FLOOR

DISCUSSION FACILITATOR:

- **Sen. Jim Runestad**, Michigan

Incentivizing Employer-Based Emergency Savings Accounts for Workers: A Tool for Attracting/Retaining Workers, Increasing Financial Literacy and Decreasing Dependence on Payday Lending

FOUNDERS B, 3RD FLOOR

DISCUSSION FACILITATOR:

- **Rep. Mari-Lynn Poskin**, Kansas

9 to 10:30 a.m.

Opening and Keynote Session

VENETIAN BALLROOM, 4TH FLOOR

MLC Annual Meeting Welcome

- **Sen. Roger Victory**, Michigan, Midwestern Legislative Conference Chair
- **Sen. Sylvia Santana**, Michigan, MLC Honorary Co-Chair

Welcome to Michigan

- **Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II**, Michigan (invited)

Welcome to Detroit

- **Mayor Mike Duggan** (invited)

Keynote Presentation: The Midwest's Policy Landscape: A Look at What Surveys of Public Opinion – and Legislators Themselves – Tell Us

What are voters thinking? What are legislators thinking? Reid Wilson, founder and editor of *Pluribus News*, dives deep into public opinion and surveys of state legislators to identify the key trends happening in states across the country this year. During this morning's keynote, he will debut the results of his very first survey of state lawmakers.



PRESENTER:

- **Reid Wilson**, Founder and Editor, *Pluribus News*

10:45 to 11:45 a.m.

Plenary Session | Midwestern Legislatures in the 21st Century

VENETIAN BALLROOM, 4TH FLOOR

Reid Wilson will moderate a panel of former Midwestern legislative leaders who will discuss the state of the legislature as an institution, including recent changes, current challenges and future prospects.

MODERATOR:

- **Reid Wilson**, Founder and Editor, *Pluribus News*

PANELISTS:

- **Bob Cupp**, Former Speaker of the House, Ohio
- **Christine Greig**, Former House Minority Leader, Michigan
- **Helen Miller**, Former House Assistant Minority Leader, Iowa
- **Christine Radogno**, Former Senate Minority Leader, Illinois

11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Luncheon

WOODWARD AB, 2ND FLOOR

National CSG Report

- **Sen. Elgie Sims**, Illinois, CSG Vice Chair

Featured Luncheon Presentation | Where Good Ideas Come From: The Patterns of Innovation

Best-selling author, historian and celebrated PBS host Steven Johnson will discuss his unique insights into how genuine innovations occur and thrive.



PRESENTER:

- **Steven Johnson**, Author and Expert on the History of Innovation

1:45 to 2:30 p.m.

Book Signing

OUTSIDE WOODWARD AB, 2ND FLOOR

Steven Johnson will be available to sign copies of his highly acclaimed book "Where Good Ideas Come From: The Natural History of Innovation," which will be for sale by Source Booksellers.

Agenda continued (Monday, July 10)

2 to 3:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

Workforce Challenges, Collaborative Solutions: A Strategy to Address Talent Gaps and Improve Opportunities

FOUNDERS AB, 3RD FLOOR

Michigan is investing in an innovative workforce development strategy: an employer-led initiative in which businesses from the same sector collaborate with each other, as well as education and labor leaders, on ways to strengthen sector-specific talent pipelines. This approach will be highlighted as part of the afternoon session.

This session is being presented by the MLC Education & Workforce Development Committee.

Road to Recovery: A Path to Improve Policies on Substance Abuse Disorder

CRYSTAL BALLROOM, 4TH FLOOR

The problem of substance abuse disorder has impacted communities and families across the Midwest. Part of the solution: evidence-based policies and financing principles that expand access to effective treatment, improve outcomes and save lives.

PRESENTERS:

- **Andrew Whitacre**, Officer, Pew Charitable Trusts, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Initiative
- **John O'Brien**, Affiliate, Technical Assistance Collaborative; and Former Senior Advisor, U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

This session is being presented by the MLC Health & Human Services Committee.

3:45 to 5:15 p.m.

Professional Development Workshop | Finding Common Ground: A Road Map for Good-Faith Debates over Policy, Science and Innovation

WOODWARD CD, 2ND FLOOR

Artificial intelligence. Food biotechnology. Editing the human genome. Emerging sciences and technological breakthroughs and disruptors are all around us, posing important and potentially thorny questions for legislators. During this afternoon workshop, leading science communications expert Dietram Scheufele will help you map out the path toward good-faith policy debates and common ground around scientific issues.



PRESENTER:

- **Dietram Scheufele**, Taylor-Bascom Chair in Science Communication, University of Wisconsin-Madison



Photo: The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation

6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Family Night at The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation

CASUAL ATTIRE

Be inspired by the icons of innovation and American history while enjoying some of the best dinner, dessert and drinks that Detroit has to offer. Whether you're stepping inside the bus where Rosa Parks took a stand by taking a seat, viewing the Kennedy limousine or surrounding yourself with the sights and sounds of the Wright brothers' first flight, you will be informed and engaged by the museum's many historical artifacts and national treasures — no matter your age.

Buses will start loading at the Westin at 5:45 p.m. and loop between the hotel and museum every 30 minutes. The last bus will depart the museum at 10 p.m.

Tuesday, July 11

7:30 to 8:45 a.m.

General Breakfast

WOODWARD AB, 2ND FLOOR

MLC Social Justice Forum Breakfast Discussion

WOODWARD C, 2ND FLOOR | OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES

DISCUSSION FACILITATOR:

- **Sen. Elgie Sims**, Illinois

BILLD Breakfast

FOUNDERS A, 3RD FLOOR | BY INVITATION ONLY

MLC Resolutions Committee & Breakfast

FOUNDERS B, 3RD FLOOR

Breakfast Table Topic Discussion

Please join your colleagues for a legislator-initiated and -led discussion over breakfast.

Engaging State Legislators in Sportsmen's Issues of Regional and National Importance

WOODWARD D, 2ND FLOOR

DISCUSSION FACILITATOR:

- **Rep. Amos O'Neal**, Michigan

Agenda continued (Tuesday, July 11)

9 to 10:30 a.m.

MLC Chair's Initiative Session On Food Security: Feeding the Future

VENETIAN BALLROOM, 4TH FLOOR

A panel of experts will lead a session that aims to provide a greater understanding of the causes and extent of food insecurity in the Midwest. The session will explore policy options on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border, as well as the role of agriculture producers and local food systems.



This session is part of the 2023 MLC Chair's Initiative of Michigan Sen. Roger Victory.

MODERATOR:

- **Sen. Roger Victory**, Michigan, Midwestern Legislative Conference Chair

PRESENTERS AND PANELISTS:

- **Dr. Craig Gundersen**, Snee Family Endowed Chair, Baylor Collaborative on Hunger and Poverty
- **Dr. M. Jahi Johnson-Chappell**, Director of the Center for Regional Food Systems and W.K. Kellogg Foundation Endowed Chair in Food and Society, Michigan State University Department of Community Sustainability
- **Dr. Phil Knight**, Executive Director, Food Bank Council of Michigan
- **Dr. Valerie Tarasuk**, Professor, University of Toronto Department of Nutritional Services; Principal Investigator, PROOF Research Program on Food Insecurity

10:45 to 11:45 a.m.

Plenary Session | Priming the Pump: State Policies to Help Cities of the Midwest Prosper

VENETIAN BALLROOM, 4TH FLOOR

A leading national thinker on urban planning and development, Pete Saunders — who describes himself as “Detroit born and raised, Hoosier trained and Chicago polished” — will share his insights on the role of states in helping cities prosper.



PRESENTER:

- **Pete Saunders**, Editor & Publisher, *Corner Side Yard*

11:45 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

Luncheon

WOODWARD AB, 2ND FLOOR

Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD) Report

- **Rep. Jarrod Ousley**, Kansas, MLC BILLD Steering Committee Co-Vice Chair

Featured Luncheon Presentation: Why Place Matters — A Path for Building Healthier People and Communities

A Michigan leader on health policy, Shannon Wilson will discuss how understanding and addressing the social needs and determinants of health can be the foundation for building healthier communities.



PRESENTER:

- **Shannon Wilson**, Vice President, Population Health & Health Equity; and Executive Director, Total Health Care Foundation, Priority Health

2 to 3:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Future of Farmland in the Midwest

VENETIAN BALLROOM, 4TH FLOOR

State laws (some new, some longstanding) reflect concerns about the loss of farmland across the Midwest. There also are mounting pressures related to a rise in renewable energy development. This session will look at the loss of farmland as well as emerging ideas such as agrivoltaics that allow agricultural and solar production to co-exist.

PRESENTERS:

- **M. Charles Gould**, Bioenergy Educator, Michigan State University Extension
- **Kristopher Reynolds**, Midwest Director, American Farmland Trust

This session is being jointly presented by the MLC Agriculture & Rural Affairs and the MLC Energy & Environment committees.

Developing a Comprehensive, Research-Based Response to Youth Crime, Violence and Juvenile Justice System Improvement

CRYSTAL BALLROOM, 4TH FLOOR

This session will provide an overview of current challenges and opportunities to improve outcomes for youths in juvenile justice systems. A panel discussion of state lawmakers and government officials will highlight recent changes in the Midwest that have sought to strengthen public safety and improve these systems.

PRESENTERS:

- **Lisa Bjergaard**, Director, North Dakota Division of Juvenile Services
- **Rep. Wendy McNamara**, Indiana
- **Nina Salomon**, Deputy Director of Corrections and Reentry, CSG Justice Center
- **Sen. Sylvia Santana**, Michigan

This session is being presented by the MLC Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee.

Agenda continued (Tuesday, July 11)

2 to 3:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions (continued)

Midwestern Fiscal Leaders' Forum

FOUNDERS AB, 3RD FLOOR

This session will offer expert analyses on the latest data on state fiscal conditions and how states can leverage surpluses to address economic cycles and long-term financial needs. Participants also will engage in a roundtable discussion about state surpluses and how those funds have been used.

PRESENTERS:

- **Shelby Kerns**, Executive Director, National Association of State Budget Officers
- **Justin Theal**, Officer, The Pew Charitable Trusts, State Fiscal Health Project

MLC Fiscal Leaders' Forum Officers



CO-CHAIR
**Representative
Fuee Lee**
MINNESOTA



CO-CHAIR
**Representative
Troy Waymaster**
KANSAS



VICE CHAIR
**Senator
Jerry Cirino**
OHIO

3:45 to 5:15 p.m.

Featured Session | U.S.-Canada Federal Relations

VENETIAN BALLROOM, 4TH FLOOR

Panelists will discuss how our two nations interact and cooperate at the federal legislative level, how these interactions affect states and provinces in our region, and how state and provincial legislators can become and stay involved in fostering positive cross-border relations.

MODERATOR:

- **Christopher Sands**, Director, Canada Institute at the Wilson Center

PRESENTERS:

- **Brian Masse**, Member of the Canadian Parliament, Ontario
- **Collin Peterson**, Former U.S. Representative, Minnesota
- **Rick Snyder**, Former Governor, Michigan

This session is being presented by the MLC Midwest-Canada Relations Committee.

5 to 6 p.m.

Contributors' Reception

WOODWARD CD, 2ND FLOOR | BY INVITATION ONLY

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Ohio 2024 Reception

WOODWARD AB, 2ND FLOOR

The leaders and members of the Ohio General Assembly invite you to a tailgate reception highlighting plans for the MLC's 78th Annual Meeting, which will be held in the capital city of Columbus next summer.

7 to 10 p.m.

State Dinner at the Eastern Market

CASUAL ATTIRE

The Eastern Market has become a cornerstone in nourishing a healthier, wealthier and happier Detroit. It's the perfect venue to hold this year's State Dinner, especially considering the 2023 MLC Chair's Initiative on "Food Security: Feeding the Future." The evening at this historic, iconic Detroit venue will include food, drinks and some Michigan-inspired surprises!

Please note: This is an open-air venue.

Buses will start loading at the Westin at 6:30 p.m. At the end of the dinner program, approximately 9 p.m., the buses will start to depart the Eastern Market for the Westin. The last bus will depart the Eastern Market at 10:30 p.m.

Wednesday, July 12

8:30 to 10 a.m.

Breakfast and Business Session

WOODWARD AB, 2ND FLOOR

Everyone is invited to attend the MLC business session. Members will elect new conference officers and act on any proposed resolutions. Susan Heegaard, president of the Midwest Higher Education Compact, will update members on the work of MHEC.

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Site Visits and Tours in Detroit

CASUAL ATTIRE

To close this year's MLC Annual Meeting, multiple site visits are being offered for attendees, including a cultural tour of Detroit and other visits that focus on the future of technological advances in areas such as energy, transportation and the environment.

Preregistration was offered for meeting participants. However, please visit CSG Midwest staff to see if space remains available for these site visits.

Spouse, Guest & Youth Program

Space for day trips is limited. Although advance registration was required, check in at the MLC Registration & Information Desk about availability. Lunch will be provided on all day trips. Attire for all events is casual; comfortable walking shoes are recommended. Please inform conference staff at the registration desk if you have special needs or other requirements.

Youth Events: An adult must accompany children ages 5 and under. Please have children wear their MLC-provided T-shirts and closed-toe shoes for the Youth Meet and Greet on Sunday and for the day trips on Monday and Tuesday. Adults can only attend evening youth activities if they are accompanying their child and have paid the registration fee.

Spouses/Adult Guests: In addition to the special day trips listed in this section, you are welcome to attend any session on the business program. You must be 21 or older to take part in events for spouses and adult guests.

Sunday, July 9

5:15 to 9:45 p.m.

Youth Meet and Greet at Universal Nonstop

FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

An evening dedicated to making new friends, eating yummy food and having too much fun! Universal Nonstop is all about nonstop entertainment, adventure and thrills. There will be games and activities for all ages — bowling, go-karts, laser tag, arcade games and so much more.

Children/Teens: Please wear your MLC-provided white T-shirt.

Parents: Please drop off your children and check in with a youth volunteer at the Youth Room between 5 and 5:15 p.m. Pick up your children between 9:45 and 10 p.m.

6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Opening Night Reception at Detroit Institute of Arts

FOR ATTENDEES, SPOUSES AND OTHER ADULT GUESTS

For the meeting's opening reception, we are excited to offer an exclusive, one-of-a-kind experience in the Great Hall and Grand Rivera Court of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Connect with fellow legislators and other attendees while enjoying some of Detroit's most-celebrated cuisine and strolling through three of the museum's most popular galleries: Impressionist, Modern and American.

Buses will start loading at the Westin at 6 p.m. and loop between the hotel and DIA every 15 minutes. The last bus will depart the DIA at 9:45 p.m.



Photo: Outdoor Adventure Center

Monday, July 10

9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Riverboat Tour and Detroit's Outdoor Adventure Center

FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

Start the morning with a cruise on the Detroit River and enjoy a picnic lunch at Riverfront Park. Then, head to the Outdoor Adventure Center for a taste of Michigan's great outdoors in the heart of the city. A combination of hands-on activities, exhibits and real-life simulators allows you to climb a tree, hop on an airplane, swim with the fish, and more. These experiences also will help show you how the Department of Natural Resources manages Michigan's forests, wildfires, fish and all things outdoors.

Children/Teens: Please wear your MLC-provided yellow T-shirt.

Parents: Please drop off your children and check in with a youth volunteer at the Youth Room between 8:45 and 9 a.m. Pick up your children no later than 3:30 p.m.

9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Detroit History and Architecture Bus Tour and Lunch

FOR SPOUSES AND OTHER ADULT GUESTS

Enjoy exclusive insights into Detroit's new developments, historical gems, small-business and innovative projects, and more through the City Institute's bus tour. You will hear stories of the people, places and neighborhoods that make up Detroit and its diverse landscape. Reflect on your experience over lunch at Ottava Via.

Buses will start loading at the Westin at 9:15 a.m. and depart promptly at 9:30 a.m. They will return to the Westin at 3 p.m.

Spouse, Youth & Guest Program continued (Monday, July 10)

6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Family Night at The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation

FOR ALL AGES

Be inspired by the icons of innovation and American history while enjoying some of the best dinner, dessert and drinks that Detroit has to offer. Whether you're stepping inside the bus where Rosa Parks took a stand by taking a seat, viewing the Kennedy limousine, or surrounding yourself with the sights and sounds of the Wright brothers' first flight, you will be informed and engaged by the museum's many historical artifacts and national treasures — no matter your age.

Buses will start loading at the Westin at 5:45 p.m. and loop between the hotel and museum every 30 minutes. The last bus will depart the museum at 10 p.m.

Tuesday, July 11

9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Explore and Picnic at Greenfield Village

CHILDREN, TEENS, SPOUSES AND OTHER ADULT GUESTS

Experience how America came to be through the village's 80 acres that encapsulate 300 years of American perseverance. Catch a ride in a Model-T or a real steam-powered locomotive, and walk through one of the many working farms. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the newly restored The Lodge at Christie & Main.

Children/Teens: Please wear your MLC-provided blue T-shirt.

Please check in your children with a youth volunteer at the Youth Room between 8:45 and 9 a.m. Buses will start loading at the Westin at 9 a.m. and depart promptly at 9:15 a.m. Buses will return to the Westin at 3:30 p.m. Pick up your children at the Youth Room between 3:30 and 3:45 p.m.



Photo: The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation



Photo: The Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation

5:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Youth Closing Event at Westin Book Cadillac

BOULEVARD A, 2ND FLOOR | FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

Enjoy a night of food and entertainment: dinner, sweet treats, movies and games.

Parents: Please drop off your children and check in with a youth volunteer at Boulevard A, 2nd Floor, between 5:30 and 5:45 p.m. and pick up your children no later than 10:30 p.m.

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Ohio 2024 Reception

WOODWARD BALLROOM AB, 2ND FLOOR | FOR ATTENDEES, SPOUSES AND OTHER ADULT GUESTS

Members of the Ohio General Assembly invite you to a tailgate reception highlighting plans for the MLC's 78th Annual Meeting, which will be held in the capital city of Columbus next summer.

7 to 10 p.m.

State Dinner at the Eastern Market

FOR ATTENDEES, SPOUSES AND OTHER ADULT GUESTS

The Eastern Market has become a cornerstone in nourishing a healthier, wealthier and happier Detroit. It's the perfect venue to hold this year's State Dinner, especially considering the MLC Chair's Initiative on "Food Security: Feeding the Future." The evening at this historic, iconic Detroit venue will include food, drinks and some Michigan-inspired surprises!

Please note: This is an open-air venue.

Buses will start loading at the Westin at 6:30 p.m. At the end of the dinner program, approximately 9 p.m., the buses will start to depart the Eastern Market for the Westin. The last bus will depart the Eastern Market at 10:30 p.m.

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Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar for these learning and networking opportunities

2023

CSG Henry Toll Fellowship Program

AUGUST 16-20 | LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

28th Annual Bowhay Institute For Legislative Leadership Development

AUGUST 18-22 | MADISON, WISCONSIN

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus Annual Meeting

SEPTEMBER 8-9 | QUÉBEC CITY, QUÉBEC

Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission Annual Meeting

SEPTEMBER 18-20 | NORMAL, ILLINOIS

CSG National Conference

DECEMBER 6-9 | RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

2024

78th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference

JULY 21-24 | COLUMBUS, OHIO

29th Annual Bowhay Institute For Legislative Leadership Development

AUGUST 23-27 (TENTATIVE) | MADISON, WISCONSIN

2025

79th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference

JULY 27-30 (TENTATIVE) | SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN



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