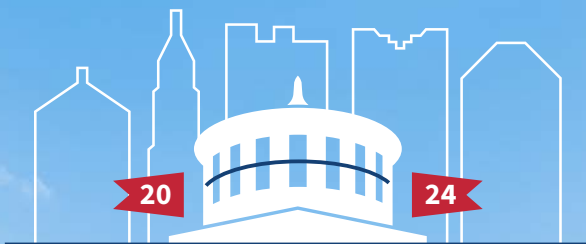




MIDWEST



COLUMBUS

MIDWESTERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE • JULY 21-24



THE
HEART
OF IT ALL™

General Information

Meeting Space

Sessions will be held in the Hyatt Regency Columbus. A floor plan is available on the meeting app and at the MLC Registration & Information Desk.

CSG Staff Office: Marion Room, 2nd Floor

Host State Office: Knox Room, 2nd Floor

Presenters' Room: Champaign Room, 2nd Floor

Registration and Information Desk Hours

DELAWARE FOYER, 2ND FLOOR

Saturday: 12 to 6 p.m.

Sunday: 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Monday and Tuesday: 7:30 a.m. to 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? Staff are available to assist at the MLC Registration & Information Desk.

Bus Transportation

Bus transportation for offsite events will be available from the second level of the Hyatt Regency Columbus. Follow signs to the Convention Center. Buses will depart from the East Connector (double glass doors on the right side).

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.

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Visit the MLC 2025 Saskatchewan Table

Be in the know on all things Saskatchewan—your host for next year's conference! Check out the Saskatchewan Table next to the MLC registration desk, and the Saskatchewan Reception on July 23, prior to this year's State Dinner.

Mark your calendars! The 2025 CSG Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting will be in **Saskatoon, Saskatchewan on July 27 to 30, 2025**. Saskatchewan has what the world needs – come prepared for high energy discussions, impactful learning, and networking opportunities in abundance.



Welcome from the MLC Chair



Dear Legislative Colleagues and Friends,

On behalf of the entire Ohio General Assembly, welcome to the Buckeye State, our vibrant capital city of Columbus, and this year's Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting.

Over the next few days, you are going to learn a lot while deepening relationships and

building important new ones. The MLC Annual Meeting is special in this way. We have the chance to get to know legislative colleagues from other states and even another country — thanks to the valuable participation by our friends from the neighboring provinces of Canada.

Another hallmark of the meeting is that it gives you and other participants the chance to discover a great city of the Midwest each year. You will have that opportunity to see Columbus, Ohio, over the next four days as we proudly showcase our capital.

You'll see in this program and the meeting app that we've scheduled several learning site tours in the Columbus area, plus special evening events at the Franklin Park Conservatory, the one-of-a-kind National Veterans Memorial and Museum, and our historic Ohio Statehouse. We also have a special treat for you: the catering of some of these events by nationally renowned Columbus restaurateur and author, Cameron Mitchell.

As you'll see, we have planned many policy sessions for you, including a morning built around the MLC Chair's Initiative on Workforce and Innovation. We also have leading policy experts as well as featured speakers such as political strategist (and historian) Karl Rove, esteemed political journalist April Ryan, leading tech journalist and thought leader Kevin Roose, and "Reunited States of America" mediator Mark Gerzon.

It is going to be an exciting few days!

Thank you for joining us in Columbus. Our goal is that you leave after these four days with ideas and inspiration to advance your legislative work.

Sincerely,

Ohio Sen. Bill Reineke | MLC Chair

MLC Executive Committee



CHAIR

**Senator
Bill Reineke**
Ohio



1ST VICE CHAIR

**Minister
Lori Carr**
Saskatchewan



2ND VICE CHAIR

**Senator
Mary Kunesh**
Minnesota



PAST CHAIR

**Senator
Roger Victory**
Michigan

ILLINOIS

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

INDIANA

Sen. Ed Charbonneau
Rep. Edward Clere
Sen. Susan Glick
Rep. Mike Karickhoff
Rep. Ethan Manning

IOWA

Sen. Janet Petersen
Sen. Tom Shiple
Sen. Amy Sinclair

KANSAS

Rep. Blake Carpenter
Rep. Susan Concannon
Sen. Marci Francisco
Sen. Ty Masterson
Sen. Carolyn McGinn
Rep. Jarrod Ousley
Rep. Troy Waymaster

MICHIGAN

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

MINNESOTA

Sen. Heather Gustafson
Sen. Mary Kunesh
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
Minister Lori Carr
MLA Todd Goudy
MLA Joe Hargrave

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

MLA Shane Getson

MANITOBA

MLA Kelvin Goertzen
MLA Jim Maloway

ONTARIO

Speaker Ted Arnott
MPP Ernie Hardeman

Ohio Hosts

Midwestern Legislative Conference Chair

Sen. Bill Reineke

Host State Committee

Rep. Cindy Abrams
Rep. Dontavius Jarrells
Rep. Sharon Ray
Rep. Tracy Richardson
Rep. Anita Somani

Sen. Andrew O. Brenner
Sen. Hearcel F. Craig
Sen. Paula Hicks-Hudson
Sen. Stephanie Kunze
Sen. Michele Reynolds

Host State Planning Committee

Averel Meden
Host State Coordinator
Maggie Wolf
Transportation Coordinator
Theresea Varrasso
Volunteer Coordinator

Amy Peirano
Spouse, Guest and Youth Team Leader
Brendon Embry
Lead Volunteer
Sophia Spriggs
Sr. Legislative Aide to Sen. Bill Reineke

**The Council of State Governments’
Midwestern Legislative Conference
greatly appreciates all the work done
for the MLC Annual Meeting by the
members and staff of the Ohio Legislature.**



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 2001.

2023

Detroit, Michigan
Sen. Roger Victory, Chair

2022

Wichita, Kansas
Sen. Carolyn McGinn, Chair

2021

Rapid City, South Dakota
Sen. Gary Cammack, Chair

2019

Chicago, Illinois
Sen. Elgie Sims, Jr., 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

Saint 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



Conference Agenda

Saturday, July 20

1 to 5 p.m.

Site Tour: Economic Development Tour of Dublin and Marion

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

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



Sunday, July 21

9 to 11 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions

MLC Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee Meeting

DELAWARE AB, 2ND FLOOR | OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES

Attendees will hear a presentation on the science and policies of soil health, followed by a roundtable discussion that focuses on state and provincial approaches to this issue. There also will be time for committee business and a consideration of proposed resolutions.

PRESENTER:

- **Dr. Rattan Lal**, Distinguished Professor of Soil Science, The Ohio State University

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 21)

9 to 11 a.m.

Concurrent Sessions (continued)

MLC Criminal Justice & Public Safety Committee Meeting

DELAWARE CD, 2ND FLOOR | OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES

Participants will examine how data-driven, evidence-based policy and legislative oversight can help drive improvements to state criminal justice systems, as well as outcomes in these systems. The meeting will include time for discussion among presenters and participants.

PRESENTERS:

- **Ben Eikley**, Manager of State Training and Development, Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy, Wayne State Law School
- **Laura van der Lugt**, Deputy Program Director of State Initiatives, 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 Health & Human Services Committee Meeting

FAIRFIELD, 2ND FLOOR | OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES

Ohio has embarked on an ambitious plan to transform its systems of child services and child welfare — strengthening supports for families, improving foster care and adoption, strengthening kinship care and more. Participants will learn about these efforts as well as participate in a broader, legislator-led roundtable discussion.

PRESENTERS:

- **Joel Potts**, Chief Government and External Affairs Officer, Ohio Department of Children & Youth
- **Rita Soronen**, President & CEO, Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption

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 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

MLC Executive Committee Meeting and Lunch

TAFT CD, 1ST FLOOR

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

MLC Policy Committees' Lunch

TAFT AB, 1ST FLOOR | OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES

2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

MLC Education & Workforce Development Committee Meeting

DELAWARE CD, 2ND FLOOR | OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES

Participants will explore how state policy on education and workforce development can be more integrated. They also will hear about and discuss the “science of reading” approach to literacy education. The meeting will include a roundtable discussion on recent policy trends in the areas of education and workforce development as well as a discussion of committee business.

PRESENTERS:

- **Rick Carfagna**, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, Ohio Chamber of Commerce
- **Stephen Dackin**, Director, Ohio Department of Education & Workforce
- **Rebecca Estes**, Assistant Secretary for Educator Talent, Indiana Department of Education

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 21)

2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions (continued)

MLC Energy & Environment Committee Meeting

FAIRFIELD, 2ND FLOOR | OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES

Attendees will hear the latest information on PFAS — also known as “forever chemicals” — policy and technology. They will then participate in a roundtable discussion on developments in legislation, laws and regulations from their states and provinces pertaining to energy and environmental policy.

PRESENTERS:

- **Dr. Gavin Dehnert**, Emerging Contaminants Scientist, Wisconsin Sea Grant
- **Bill Kramer**, Vice President of Policy, MultiState
- **Jake Wilhelm**, Environmental Scientist, GSI Environmental

MLC Energy & Environment Committee Officers



CO-CHAIR
**Senator
Laura Ellman**
ILLINOIS



CO-CHAIR
**Representative
Ethan Manning**
INDIANA



VICE CHAIR
**Representative
Sharon Ray**
OHIO

MLC Midwest-Canada Relations Committee Meeting

DELAWARE AB, 2ND FLOOR | OPEN TO ALL ATTENDEES

Participants will hear the latest on manufacturing and purchasing incentives for electric vehicles in the U.S. and Canada. The meeting also will include a roundtable discussion on a variety of topics pertinent to the Midwest-Canada relationship. Time will be reserved for committee business and consideration of any proposed resolutions.

PRESENTERS:

- **Neal Osten**, Executive Director, The Institute for State Policy Leaders
- **Matt Stephens-Rich**, Director, Electrification Coalition

MLC Midwest-Canada Relations Committee Officers



CO-CHAIR
**MLA
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

4:45 to 6 p.m.

Newcomers Welcome and Reception

TAFT A, 1ST 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. Enjoy refreshments with other first-time attendees while also meeting MLC Executive Committee members.

5 to 6 p.m.

BILLD Alumni Reception

REGENCY SOUTH FOYER, 3RD FLOOR | BY INVITATION ONLY

6 to 9 p.m.

Opening Night Reception at Franklin Park Conservatory

FOR ATTENDEES, SPOUSES AND OTHER ADULT GUESTS
CASUAL LIGHTWEIGHT ATTIRE RECOMMENDED

Columbus Mayor Andrew Ginther and Ohio legislative leaders will welcome you to Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens — central Ohio’s premier botanical garden. It is home to the iconic John F. Wolfe Palm House, which dates back to 1895, and to 13 acres of picturesque, lush gardens and botanical biomes. You will be transported to another world full of green and flowering plants along with warmer climates suitable for the tropical and desert fauna housed within the conservatory. Feel free to roam the property and enjoy the four-acre garden that encompasses an apiary, rose pavilion and berry house.

Buses will start loading at the Hyatt Regency at 5:30 p.m. and will loop between the hotel and Franklin Park Conservatory every 30 minutes. The last bus will depart Franklin Park Conservatory at 9:15 p.m.



Photo: Courtesy Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens

Agenda continued

Monday, July 22

7:30 to 8:45 a.m.

General Breakfast

DELAWARE BALLROOM, 2ND FLOOR

BILLD Steering Committee Business Session and Breakfast

FAIRFIELD, 2ND FLOOR | COMMITTEE MEMBERS ONLY

Breakfast Table Topic Discussions

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

Serving Our Veterans and Active Duty Military: Policy Considerations for States

TAFT A, 1ST FLOOR

DISCUSSION FACILITATOR:

- **Sen. Larry Zikmund**, South Dakota

Bridging the Partisan Divide to be Effective Policymakers: A Sharing of Best Practices and Strategies for Success

TAFT B, 1ST FLOOR

DISCUSSION FACILITATOR:

- **Senate Minority Leader Nickie Antonio**, Ohio

Commemorating 45 Years of the Taiwan Relations Act: The Importance of the Relationship in the Midwestern Region

TAFT C, 1ST FLOOR

DISCUSSION FACILITATOR:

- **Rep. Joel Kitchens**, Wisconsin

9 to 10:30 a.m.

Opening and Keynote Session

REGENCY BALLROOM, 3RD FLOOR

MLC Annual Meeting Welcome

- **Sen. Bill Reineke**, Ohio, Midwestern Legislative Conference Chair

Welcome to Ohio

- **Lt. Gov. Jon Husted**, Ohio

Welcome from the Ohio General Assembly

- **Senate President Matt Huffman**, Ohio

Keynote Presentation | Silicon Heartland: Transforming the Midwest from Rust Belt to Tech Belt

CNBC contributor, acclaimed business journalist and Ohio native Rebecca Fannin will chronicle her on-the-ground reporting of often-unnoticed changes occurring in the Midwest — a transformation that points to a bright economic future.



PRESENTER:

- **Rebecca Fannin**, Author and CNBC Contributor

10:45 to 11:45 a.m.

MLC Chair's Initiative Panel: Advancing Innovation, Building State Workforces

REGENCY BALLROOM, 3RD FLOOR

Effective workforce development policies and programs are crucial to ensure economic growth and the health and vitality of our communities. This 2024



Workforce Innovation and Transformation

CHAIR'S INITIATIVE

MLC Chair's Initiative panel discussion will cover a myriad of challenges related to labor shortages and workforce participation, including the importance of public-private partnerships, the impact of automation and advanced technology in the workplace, and the need to mitigate barriers that reduce labor force participation. The session will conclude with a video message from Columbus entrepreneur and restaurateur Cameron Mitchell.

MODERATOR:

- Former U.S. Rep. and Former Ohio State Rep. **Pat Tiberi**, Director, Ohio Business Roundtable

PANELISTS:

- **Lt. Gov. Jon Husted**, Ohio
- **Shalin Jyotishi**, Senior Advisor for Education, Labor, and the Future of Work, New America
- **Jeannine LaPrad**, Managing Director, Policy and Research, National Skills Coalition



Photo: Courtesy Experience Columbus

Agenda continued (Monday, July 22)

11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Book Signing by Rebecca Fannin

DELAWARE FOYER, 2ND FLOOR

Rebecca Fannin will be available to sign copies of "Silicon Heartland: Transforming the Midwest from Rust Belt to Tech Belt," which will also be for sale.

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

Luncheon and Featured Presentation

DELAWARE BALLROOM, 2ND FLOOR

National CSG Report

- **Rep. Kevin Ryan**, Connecticut, CSG National Chair

Featured Luncheon Presentation | What State Lawmakers Need to Know About Generative AI

One of the nation's leading thought leaders on technology and the rise of artificial intelligence will share his unique insights on the changes ahead in the age of AI and what skills are necessary to stay ahead of today's intelligent machines.



PRESENTER:

- **Kevin Roose**, Author, Technology Columnist and Podcast Host, *New York Times*

1:45 to 2:15 p.m.

Book Signing by Kevin Roose

DELAWARE FOYER, 2ND FLOOR

Kevin Roose will be available to sign copies of "Futureproof: 9 Rules for Humans in the Age of Automation," which will also be for sale.

Photo: Courtesy Experience Columbus



2 to 3:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

Midwestern Fiscal Leaders' Forum

FAIRFIELD, 2ND FLOOR

Participants will receive an expert analysis of the recent developments and future challenges shaping state budgets, followed by a presentation on the role of forecasting in creating a comprehensive, forward-looking financial plan for the state. The forum's co-chairs will then lead a roundtable discussion of the fiscal health of the states and provinces in the Midwest and the challenges they face.

PRESENTERS:

- **Stacey Mazer**, Consultant, National Association of State Budget Officers
- **Phil Dean**, Chief Economist & Public Finance Senior Research Fellow, Kem C. Gardner Policy Institute, David Eccles School of Business, University of Utah

MLC Fiscal Leaders' Forum Officers



CO-CHAIR
**Representative
Fue Lee**
MINNESOTA



CO-CHAIR
**Representative
Troy Waymester**
KANSAS



CO-VICE CHAIR
**Senator
Jerry Cirino**
OHIO



CO-VICE CHAIR
**Senator
Sarah Anthony**
MICHIGAN

Tools and Strategies to Address Youth and Adult Crime, Violence and Victimization

TAFT AB, 1ST FLOOR

Policymakers around the country are increasingly concerned about crime and violence. At the same time, adult and juvenile justice systems are dealing with significant challenges, including in staffing, behavioral health and recidivism. During this session, the CSG Justice Center will share first-of-its-kind findings on youth crime data and an analysis of adult violent crime trends in order to help participants identify research-informed approaches.

PRESENTERS:

- **Madeleine Dardeau**, Deputy Program Director of State Initiatives, CSG Justice Center
- **Josh Weber**, Deputy Program Director of Reentry Initiatives, CSG Justice Center

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

Agenda continued (Monday, July 22)

2 to 3:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions (continued)

Delivering and Paying for Quality Maternity Care Services: Policy Options for States

TAFT C, 1ST FLOOR

States are increasingly investing in programs to expand the availability of maternity care — critical services before, during and after the birth of a child. This session will explore policy options and payment models to ensure the delivery of quality services.

PRESENTERS:

- **Maureen Corcoran**, Director, Ohio Department of Medicaid
- **Sinsi Hernández-Cancio**, Vice President, National Partnership for Women & Families

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

2 to 5 p.m. Site Tour | Savion Solar Project and the Molly Caren Agricultural Center

Preregistration was offered for meeting participants. However, please visit the registration desk to see if space remains available for this site tour.

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

The bus will begin loading at the Hyatt immediately after the luncheon presentation and will depart at 2 p.m. The bus will return to the hotel at 5 p.m.

3:45 to 5:15 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

Professional Development Session | The Reunited States of America

REGENCY BALLROOM, 3RD FLOOR

Author of the book-turned-documentary “The Reunited States of America,” Mark Gerzon is known for his decades of work in helping bridge political divides. He will lead a session for legislators on the “whys and hows” of finding common ground.

PRESENTER:

- **Mark Gerzon**, President, Mediators Foundation



Legislative Staff Professional Development Session | Collaboration and Conflict Management Skills

TAFT D, 1ST FLOOR | LEGISLATIVE STAFF ONLY

Through interactive exercises and discussions, legislative staff will explore common assumptions they might make when seeking to influence others. They also will develop strategies to collaborate with others with whom they disagree.

PRESENTER:

- **Naseem Khuri**, Adjunct Assistant Professor of International Negotiation, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Salute to Veterans Reception at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

FOR ATTENDEES, SPOUSES AND OTHER ADULT GUESTS
BUSINESS CASUAL ATTIRE

Enjoy cocktails and hearty hors d'oeuvres as we celebrate our U.S. military and honor the Midwest's veterans serving in public office. A hidden gem of Columbus, the National Veterans Memorial and Museum opened in late 2018. It reflects the vision of Ohio's beloved John Glenn — the U.S. Marine Corps veteran and colonel, astronaut and former U.S. senator who understood the pressing need to honor the legacy of the courageous men and women who answer the call to defend our country. This one-of-a-kind cultural institution stands as a place of inspiration for all visitors to come together as one people with a common bond and a shared pride in the nation's veterans. Make your way up to the rooftop to see the picturesque view of Columbus' skyline.

Buses will start loading at 5 p.m. They will loop between the hotel and museum every 20 minutes. The last bus will depart the museum at 7:45 p.m.

Agenda continued

Tuesday, July 23

7:30 to 8:45 a.m.

General Breakfast

DELAWARE BALLROOM, 2ND FLOOR

BILLD Breakfast

FAIRFIELD, 2ND FLOOR | BY INVITATION ONLY

MLC Resolutions Committee and Breakfast

MADISON, 2ND FLOOR

Breakfast Table Topic Discussions

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

The Border, Immigration and Asylum: Public Opinion, Messaging and the Challenges for State Legislators

TAFT A, 1ST FLOOR

DISCUSSION FACILITATOR:

Sen. Hearcel Craig, Ohio

Legislating Life: A Weighty Discussion of State Sentencing Laws and the Policymaker's Role in Addressing Mortality in Prisons and Jails

TAFT B, 1ST FLOOR

DISCUSSION FACILITATOR:

• Sen. Michele Reynolds, Ohio

Charged Up About Batteries: Illinois Battery Stewardship Act

TAFT C, 1ST FLOOR

DISCUSSION FACILITATOR:

• Rep. Anna Moeller, Illinois

9 to 10:15 a.m.

Plenary Session | The Midwest's Energy Future

REGENCY BALLROOM, 3RD FLOOR

Changing energy portfolios and increasing demands for electricity raise important questions for legislators around reliability, particularly as it relates to generation capacity and the electrical grid. A panel of industry leaders will share their insights during an expert-led panel discussion.

MODERATOR:

- **Tony Clark**, Senior Advisor, Wilkinson Barker Knauer; and former Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner, Chair of the North Dakota Public Service Commission and North Dakota State Representative

PANELISTS:

- **Maria Haberman**, Vice President, Ohio External Affairs, AEP Ohio
- **J. Arnold Quinn**, Chief Economist and Senior Vice President Regulatory Policy, Vistra Corp.
- **Todd Snitchler**, President & CEO, Electric Power Supply Association
- **Chris Zeigler**, Executive Director, API Ohio

10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

Greetings and Plenary Session

REGENCY BALLROOM, 3RD FLOOR

Greetings from the Governor

- **Gov. Mike DeWine**, Ohio

Plenary Session | The Great Lakes and Beyond — Protecting the Midwest's Water Resources

The Midwest is home to invaluable freshwater resources and productive agricultural land. Learn how we can improve and protect water quality by pursuing practices that limit nutrient runoff into our waterways.

MODERATOR:

- **Erika Jensen**, Executive Director, Great Lakes Commission

PANELISTS:

- **Dan Egan**, Author, "The Devil's Element: Phosphorus and a World out of Balance"
- **Joy Mulinex**, Director, Ohio Lake Erie Commission
- **Kirsten Wallace**, Executive Director, Upper Mississippi River Basin Association

11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Book Signing by Karl Rove

DELAWARE FOYER, 2ND FLOOR

Karl Rove will be available to sign copies of his book "The Triumph of William McKinley: Why the Election of 1896 Still Matters," which will also be for sale.



Agenda continued (Tuesday, July 23)

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

Luncheon and Featured Presentation

DELAWARE BALLROOM, 2ND FLOOR

Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development Report (BILLD)

- **Rep. Anna Moeller**, Illinois, MLC BILLD Steering Committee Co-Vice Chair

Featured Luncheon Presentation | Why the Election of 1896 Still Matters

Best known as a political strategist, Karl Rove wrote the highly acclaimed book “The Triumph of William McKinley: Why the Election of 1896 Still Matters.” He will share what today’s leaders can learn from that pivotal election of one of Ohio’s eight U.S. presidents.



PRESENTER:

- **Karl Rove**, Political Strategist and Author

2 to 3:30 p.m.

Concurrent Sessions

State Strategies to Address Academic Remediation

FAIRFIELD, 2ND FLOOR

Presenters will explore state policies to help students in need of academic remediation as they transition from high school to college, as well as prevention strategies for students prior to high school graduation.

PRESENTERS:

- **Mike Abrahamson**, Senior Manager of Research and Policy, Partnership for College Completion
- **Katie Beal**, External Affairs Associate, MDRC
- **Sen. Andrew Brenner**, Ohio

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

Cross-Border Law Enforcement Collaboration and Information Sharing

TAFT CD, 1ST FLOOR

Learn how law enforcement and organizations on both sides of the border collaborate to create safer communities in Canada and the United States.

PRESENTERS:

- **Janet Campbell**, President and CEO, Joy Smith Foundation
- **Melissa Kaiser**, Grant Tech, North Dakota Human Trafficking Task Force
- **Abeid Morgan**, Assistant Director, Ontario Firearms Smuggling Enforcement Team, Canada Border Services Agency
- **Teresa Petit**, Special Agent, U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

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

The U.S. Supreme Court, the Chevron Doctrine and Implications for States

TAFT AB, 1ST FLOOR

The 40-year-old *Chevron* doctrine has been used by the federal courts in determining when to defer to a government agency’s interpretation of the statutes that it administers and implements. Limiting deference was at the heart of two U.S. Supreme Court decisions this term, and at the state level, a mix of new laws and court decisions already has had the same effect. This session will look at how these changes impact the relationship between legislatures, the courts, and state and federal executive branch agencies.

MODERATOR:

- **Rep. Paul Thomas**, North Dakota, MLC Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee Vice Chair

PANELISTS:

- **David Doniger**, Senior Strategist at the National Resource Defense Council
- **Kali Murray**, Professor of Law, Marquette University Law School
- **Rusty Rumley**, Senior Attorney, National Agricultural Law Center
- **Mathura Sridharan**, Deputy Solicitor General, Ohio; and Director, Ohio Tenth Amendment Center

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

3:45 to 5:15 p.m.

Featured Session | A History-Making Journalist Looks Ahead: The 2024 Elections and Beyond

REGENCY BALLROOM, 3RD FLOOR

The nation’s longest-serving African American female White House correspondent, April Ryan has had a front-row seat to immense changes in U.S. politics and the media. She will share her insights and look ahead to the fall elections.



PRESENTER:

- **April Ryan**, Senior White House Correspondent





Wednesday, July 24

8:30 to 10 a.m.

Breakfast and Business Session

DELAWARE BALLROOM, 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 Tours in and Around Columbus

To close this year's MLC Annual Meeting, multiple site visits are being offered for attendees.

- New Albany Economic Development
- Honda's Marysville Auto Plant
- The Ohio State University Energy Tour

Preregistration was offered for meeting participants. However, please visit the registration desk to see if space remains available for these site visits.

Buses will begin loading at the Hyatt at 10:30 a.m. and depart at 11 a.m. Buses will return to the hotel by 3 p.m.

Agenda continued [Tuesday, July 23]

5 to 6 p.m.

Contributors Reception

FAIRFIELD, 2ND FLOOR | BY INVITATION ONLY

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Saskatchewan 2025 Reception

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

Members of the Saskatchewan Legislative Assembly invite you to a reception highlighting plans for the Midwestern Legislative Conference's 79th Annual Meeting in Saskatoon next summer.

7 to 10:30 p.m.

State Dinner at the Ohio Statehouse

FOR ATTENDEES, SPOUSES AND OTHER ADULT GUESTS
BUSINESS/COCKTAIL ATTIRE

Enjoy an exceptional State Dinner with your Ohio hosts under the Rotunda of the Ohio Statehouse. The evening will include music from the Lima Symphony, which offers a fresh take on classical music. The night also will include a special musical treat from Ohio State Rep. Brian Lampton's band, "Rock It 88"! Enjoy award-winning Ohio wines tableside, a signature cigar bar out on the terrace, and artifacts throughout the building reflecting Ohio's history.

Buses will start loading at 6:30 p.m. At the end of the dinner program, the buses will start to depart for the Hyatt. The last bus will depart the Statehouse at 10:45 p.m.

Spouse, Guest & Youth Program

Space is limited and advanced registration is required. If you did not register in advance, you can inquire at the MLC Registration & Information Desk about availability. Lunch will be provided on all day trips and attire 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 for the day and evening events. Adults can only attend evening youth activities if they are accompanying their child and have paid the registration fee. We request youth wear comfortable shoes for walking and activities throughout the program.

Spouses/Adult Guests: In addition to the special day trips listed below, 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 21

6 to 9 p.m.

Opening Night Reception at Franklin Park Conservatory

FOR ATTENDEES, SPOUSES AND OTHER ADULT GUESTS
CASUAL LIGHTWEIGHT ATTIRE RECOMMENDED

Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens is central Ohio's premier botanical garden. It is home to the iconic John F. Wolfe Palm House, which dates back to 1895, and to 13 acres of picturesque, lush gardens and botanical biomes. You will be transported to another world full of green and flowering plants along with warmer climates suitable for the tropical and desert fauna housed within the conservatory. Feel free to roam the property and enjoy the four-acre garden that encompasses an apiary, rose pavilion and berry house.

Buses will start loading at the Hyatt Regency at 5:30 p.m. and will loop between the hotel and Franklin Park Conservatory every 30 minutes. The last bus will depart Franklin Park Conservatory at 9:15 p.m.

6 to 9 p.m.

Youth Meet and Greet at Franklin Park Conservatory

FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

Welcome to Columbus! Enjoy an evening of fun and making new friends. Highlights include specially catered food for children; the chance to play some classic yard games; and fort building, stump jumping, digging and climbing in the nearby Nature Play Zone — beneath the shade of the conservatory's popular 75-year-old mulberry tree. If it gets too hot, we'll cool down inside with themed activities.

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

Parents: Please drop off your child and check in with a youth volunteer before you enter the Franklin Park Conservatory. As you get off the bus, follow the signs and garden path to the right of the main entrance. Please pick up your child by 9 p.m.



Photo: Courtesy Franklin Park Conservatory & Botanical Gardens

Monday, July 22

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Animal Encounters at the Columbus Zoo

FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, SPOUSES AND ADULT GUESTS

Be ready to be on the prowl! The day will include fascinating animal encounters and pop-up zookeeper presentations at this famous, nearly 100-year-old Columbus attraction. Visitors experience animals and sights from Africa to Antarctica to Asia by exploring the zoo by continent. One of the many highlights of a trip here is Discovery Reef, featuring an 85,000-gallon aquarium that is home to everything from clownfish to zebra sharks. It's a beautiful underwater experience that will relax and intrigue.

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

Parents: Please check in with a youth volunteer at the Youth Room between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m. Please pick up your child no later than 3:30 p.m.

Buses will start loading at 9:45 a.m. and depart at 10 a.m., and will return to the Hyatt at 3 p.m.

5 to 8 p.m.

Explosion of Fun: An Evening at the Hyatt with COSI, the Center for Science and Industry

FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

COSI is kicking the tires and lighting the fires to bring science on wheels to us at the meeting's host hotel. Our youth guests will explore several interactive science experiments and demonstrations by the team at COSI, a nationally esteemed science center that has delighted people of all ages for nearly 60 years. Its experiential, hands-on brand of learning inspires interest in science, technology, engineering and math topics. Dinner will be provided.

Parents: Please drop off your child and check in with a youth volunteer at the Morrow Room, located on the second floor of the Hyatt, between 4:30 and 5 p.m. Please pick up your child no later than 8:30 p.m.

Spouse, Youth & Guest Program

continued (Monday, July 22)

5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Salute to Veterans Reception at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

FOR ATTENDEES, SPOUSES AND OTHER ADULT GUESTS
BUSINESS CASUAL ATTIRE

Enjoy cocktails and hearty hors d'oeuvres as we celebrate our U.S. military and honor the Midwest's veterans serving in public office. A hidden gem of Columbus, the National Veterans Memorial and Museum opened in late 2018. It reflects the vision of Ohio's beloved John Glenn — the U.S. Marine Corps veteran and colonel, astronaut and former U.S. senator who understood the pressing need to honor the legacy of the courageous men and women who answer the call to defend our country. This one-of-a-kind cultural institution stands as a place of inspiration for all visitors to come together as one people with a common bond and a shared pride in the nation's veterans. Make your way up to the rooftop to see the picturesque view of Columbus' skyline.

Buses will start loading at 5 p.m. They will loop between the hotel and museum every 20 minutes. The last bus will depart the museum at 7:45 p.m.

Tuesday, July 23

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Bridge Park: Duck Bowling & Ice Cream

FOR CHILDREN, TEENS, SPOUSES AND ADULT GUESTS

Come and experience the growing pastime of duck bowling — fun for kids and adults alike! Also, enjoy a catered meal by local favorite Sweet Carrot and try out Ohio's famous Jeni's Ice Cream in historic downtown Dublin. Adults are welcome to explore Bridge Park, which has plenty of treats to sample as well as ample pristine outdoor walking trails. If you're feeling adventurous, you can even walk to the waterfall.

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

Parents: Please check in with a youth volunteer at the Youth Room between 9:30 and 9:45 a.m. Please pick up your child no later than 3:30 p.m.

Buses will start loading at 9:45 a.m. and depart at 10 a.m., and will return to the Hyatt at 3 p.m.

Photo: Courtesy Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams



Photo: Courtesy National Veterans Memorial and Museum

4:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Columbus Clippers Baseball Game and Movie at the Hyatt

FOR CHILDREN AND TEENS

We're taking you out to the ball game to see the Columbus Clippers, Triple-A affiliate of the Cleveland Guardians, take on the Memphis Redbirds. We'll also see "Mustard," "Ketchup" and "Relish" battle it out in the race for "Top Dog." Watch out for fly balls and the T-shirt cannon! After the game, you'll be treated to popcorn and a movie at the Hyatt.

Parents: Please drop off your child and check in with a youth volunteer at the Youth Room between 4 and 4:15 p.m. Please pick up your child no later than 10:45 p.m. at the Morrow Room, located on the second floor of the Hyatt.

Children/Teens: Wear your MLC-provided baseball shirt.

Buses will start loading at 4:30 p.m. and return to the Hyatt at 7:45 p.m.

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Saskatchewan 2025 Reception

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

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FOR ATTENDEES, SPOUSES AND OTHER ADULT GUESTS
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Buses will start loading at 6:30 pm. At the end of the dinner program, the buses will start to depart for the Hyatt. The last bus will leave the Statehouse at 10:45 p.m.

Contributors

The Council of State Governments' Midwestern Legislative Conference gratefully acknowledges the following contributors for their generous support of its 78th Annual Meeting. (List is as of July 5, 2024.)

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The Council of State Governments is a nonpartisan, region-based community of the states, committed to connecting, informing, inspiring and empowering public servants in all three branches of state government to put the best ideas and solutions into practice. CSG Midwest supports several groups of state officials, including the Midwestern Legislative Conference. The MLC counts all legislators from 11 Midwestern states as members. The province of Saskatchewan is a member of the MLC, and the provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario are affiliate members.

Upcoming Events

Mark your calendar for these learning and networking opportunities

2024

29th Annual Bowhay Institute For Legislative Leadership Development

AUGUST 23-27 | MADISON, WISCONSIN

CSG Henry Toll Fellowship Program

SEPTEMBER 6-10 | LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Legislative Caucus Annual Meeting

SEPTEMBER 9-10 | DULUTH, MINNESOTA

Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission Annual Meeting

NOVEMBER 18-20 | ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

CSG National Conference

DECEMBER 4-7 | NEW ORLEANS, LA

2025

79th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference

JULY 27-30 | SASKATOON, SASKATCHEWAN

30th Annual Bowhay Institute For Legislative Leadership Development

TBD | MADISON, WISCONSIN

2026

80th Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Legislative Conference

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 2 | SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA



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SAVE THE DATE!



79TH ANNUAL MEETING
CSG MIDWESTERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

SASKATOON
SASKATCHEWAN
JULY 27-30, 2025