



MIDWEST

**2025
—
26**

THE COUNCIL OF
STATE GOVERNMENTS

WHO WE ARE

Founded in 1933, The Council of State Governments is the nation's largest nonpartisan organization serving all three branches of state government, both elected and appointed officials. The mission of CSG is to champion excellence in state government. It offers unparalleled regional, national and international opportunities for state officials to collaborate with and learn from one another, develop their leadership skills, and create problem-solving partnerships.



CSG fosters opportunities to connect with fellow policymakers from across the region, providing a platform for bipartisan dialogue and collaboration.”

– SEN. ROGER VICTORY
Michigan, Past MLC Chair

CSG'S WORK IN THE MIDWEST

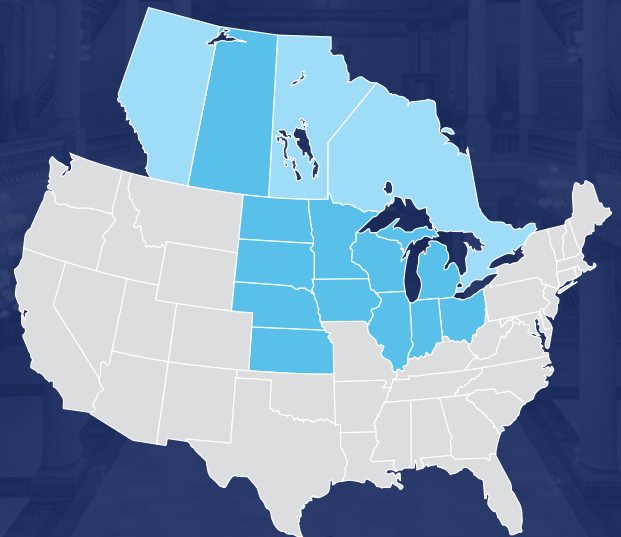
CSG is a regionally based national organization. The CSG Midwest office focuses on meeting the needs of state policymakers and leaders from the nation's heartland. CSG Midwest supports several interstate groups of legislators and other state officials. Through its mix of policy resources, research assistance, and in-person and virtual meetings, CSG Midwest provides a forum for policymakers to share information, strategies and ideas with counterparts from across the region. In addition, professional development training is available to help state legislators develop their leadership skills.

CSG MIDWESTERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

A principal objective of CSG Midwest is to support the efforts of the Midwestern Legislative Conference (MLC). The MLC is a nonpartisan association of all legislators representing 11 states and four Canadian provinces (see map).

The purpose of the MLC is to support the work of state and provincial legislators as well as foster cooperation among these policymakers from the Midwestern region.

The MLC provides a forum for the regional exchange of information, innovations and ideas, as well as the pursuit of collaborative efforts among member states and provinces.



12 Member Jurisdictions: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Saskatchewan, South Dakota and Wisconsin

3 Affiliate Members: Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario

MLC POLICY COMMITTEES

CSG Midwest supports six standing policy committees of the Midwestern Legislative Conference. Legislators serve on these regional committees to work together on common issues and to learn from one another as well as leading policy experts.

Agriculture and Rural Affairs

Economic Development and Infrastructure

Education and Workforce

Energy and Environment

Health and Human Services

Midwest-Canada Relations

Each committee meets in conjunction with the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting, and also keeps legislators informed on key policy trends and developments via virtual meetings and ongoing policy research. Additionally, the MLC provides staff support to the Fiscal Affairs and Criminal Justice and Public Safety policy forums.



ANNUAL MEETINGS

The family-friendly Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting features a mix of highly acclaimed speakers, professional development workshops and policy sessions on issues of critical importance to the Midwest.

The MLC Annual Meeting will be held in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on July 27-30, 2025, and in St. Paul, Minnesota, on August 30-September 2, 2026.

“

An informative meeting that will provide you with an opportunity to learn from and engage with your colleagues from around the region.”

– SEN. ELGIE SIMS, JR.
*Illinois, 2025 CSG National Chair,
Past MLC Chair*

The CSG National Conference brings together policymakers from all three branches of state government for conversation, networking and collaboration.

See the calendar insert in the back for a full list of CSG meetings for state legislators and other officials from the Midwest.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND POLICY TRAINING

The **Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development (BILLD)** is the premier leadership training program for the Midwest's state and provincial legislators. Held each summer, BILLD helps newer legislators develop the skills necessary to become effective leaders, informed decision-makers and astute policy analysts.

“

The BILLD program is a tremendous asset for legislators across the Midwest who want to better state government.”

– SEN. SUSAN MANCHESTER
Ohio

The **Under the Dome** initiative delivers customized professional development training and policy workshops in the region's capitols.

The **CSG Henry Toll Fellowship Program** annually brings officials from each of the four unique CSG regions and all three branches of state government to Lexington, Kentucky, for an immersive five-day training opportunity. Sessions are designed to stimulate personal assessment and growth while providing priceless networking and relationship-building opportunities. csg.org/toll

The **CSG 20 Under 40 Leadership Award** recognizes the outstanding work of up-and-coming elected or appointed officials who exemplify strong leadership skills and demonstrate a true commitment to serving their state. web.csg.org/20-40

CSG National Policy Academies and Midwest Policy Workshops offer legislators and other state officials the chance for in-depth policy analysis as well as interstate dialogue on key policy issues. They are held on a variety of topics and are tailored to meet the needs of states. csgmidwest.org and csg.org

CSG MIDWEST INTERSTATE WORKING GROUPS

In addition to its work on behalf of the Midwestern Legislative Conference, CSG Midwest provides staff support to several other regional groups of legislators and state officials:

GREAT LAKES-ST. LAWRENCE LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

A nonpartisan, binational organization of state and provincial legislators, the Caucus works to protect and restore the he Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin for the region's residents, businesses and wildlife. For information, visit gllc.csgmidwest.org.

LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AGENCY GROUP

This network of nonpartisan legislative service agency directors and staff facilitates the interstate exchange of information and ideas among participating agencies.

MIDWEST INTERSTATE PASSENGER RAIL COMMISSION

Created by and for Midwestern states, this interstate compact agency promotes, coordinates and supports regional passenger rail improvements and formulates positions on federal rail policy. For information, visit miprc.org.

MIDWESTERN RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

This regional group of state legislators and state emergency, public health, environment and police officials brings stakeholders together with the U.S. Department of Energy to create policy and plan for shipments of radioactive materials through the region.

CSG POLICY RESOURCES

Stateline Midwest is a quarterly newsletter that explores key policies and trends in the Midwest, includes profiles of legislative leaders, and examines important institutional issues impacting the region's state governments and legislatures. The newsletter is available in print and digitally.

CSG Capitol Ideas magazine highlights the stories of state leaders and the key issues shaping public policy. It offers new insights and the latest updates on issues affecting the states. The magazine is published digitally four times a year. csg.org/work/publications/capitol-ideas-magazine

The Book of the States has been a go-to reference guide since 1935, offering relevant, accurate and timely information for all 56 U.S. states, commonwealths and territories. Originally an annual publication, it is now a year-round digital resource with state-by-state comparisons. bookofthestates.org

CSG Midwest News & Research provides coverage of key issues in state government and the Midwest. csgmidwest.org/news

CSG Shared State Legislation, originally launched in 1941, is both a member-driven process and an annual publication detailing topics of importance to the states. SSL Committee, comprised exclusively of state officials, meets once annually to review legislation adopted in the states. The committee then selects legislation to be included in the annual SSL volume, which is published online for state leaders and staff. ssl.csg.org

State Talk provides the latest news, analysis and content from The Council of State Governments, its regional offices, affiliated organizations and partners. csg.org/state-talk/

Webinars are held throughout the year to provide web-based opportunities for learning and collaboration among state leaders. Visit csg.org, csgmidwest.org, and csgjusticecenter.org to get information about upcoming web events or view past events.

CSG POLICY CENTERS

The **CSG Justice Center** is a national, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that combines the power of a membership association, serving state officials in all three branches of government, with policy and research expertise to develop strategies that increase public safety and strengthen communities. Now after 20 years, the Justice Center is one of the most robust criminal justice organizations in the country, composed of approximately 190 employees. The Justice Center works in all 50 states to uphold justice, offer second chances, and ensure safer and stronger communities. csgjusticecenter.org

The **National Center for Interstate Compacts (NCIC)** is a premier research-based, member-driven technical assistance center dedicated to serving states, compact administrators and compact commissions. NCIC provides technical assistance and is a primary facilitator for states to review, revise and create new interstate compacts as solutions to multi-state problems or alternatives to federal preemption. In particular, NCIC coordinates the development of interstate occupational licensure compacts that enable licensed professionals to practice across compact member states without the need to get licensed in each. compacts.csg.org

The **CSG Policy Research Team** specializes in providing tailored, quick-turnaround research at no cost for state officials. Research is conducted on various policy topics based on member requests to develop resources that support state policymakers. If you have a research request or would like more information, please contact the CSG research team at csgm@csg.org or research@csg.org.



HOW CAN I MAKE THE MOST OF CSG AND CSG MIDWEST?

COLLABORATE: Join fellow policymakers at the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting, the CSG National Conference, and other events to learn from and network with colleagues.

ENGAGE: Participate in the Midwestern Legislative Conference policy committees or other CSG Midwest interstate groups for legislators and state officials.

CONNECT: Take part in regularly held CSG virtual sessions that cover a wide array of topics on public policy, leadership and professional development.

LEARN: We regularly write about key issues and trends impacting the region and state government. Read CSG publications such as *Stateline Midwest*, *Capitol Ideas* and *The Book of the States*.

RELY ON US: As a trusted source for information and individualized research assistance, CSG policy staff is always available to help.

STAY IN TOUCH: Get the latest news and events.



Visit csgmidwest.org



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[CSGMIDWEST.ORG](https://csgmidwest.org)

The national CSG office is located in Lexington, KY. CSG has regional offices in Atlanta, Chicago (Lombard, IL), New York and Sacramento. It also has an office in Washington, D.C.





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THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS

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