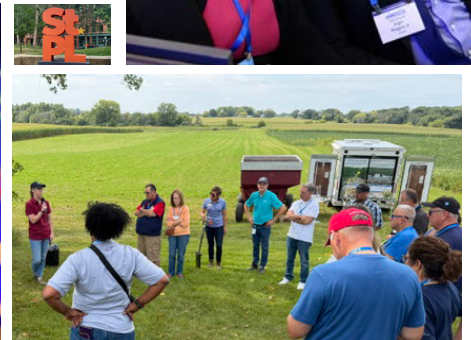


STATELINE MIDWEST

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS 2026

80TH ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

MIDWESTERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE



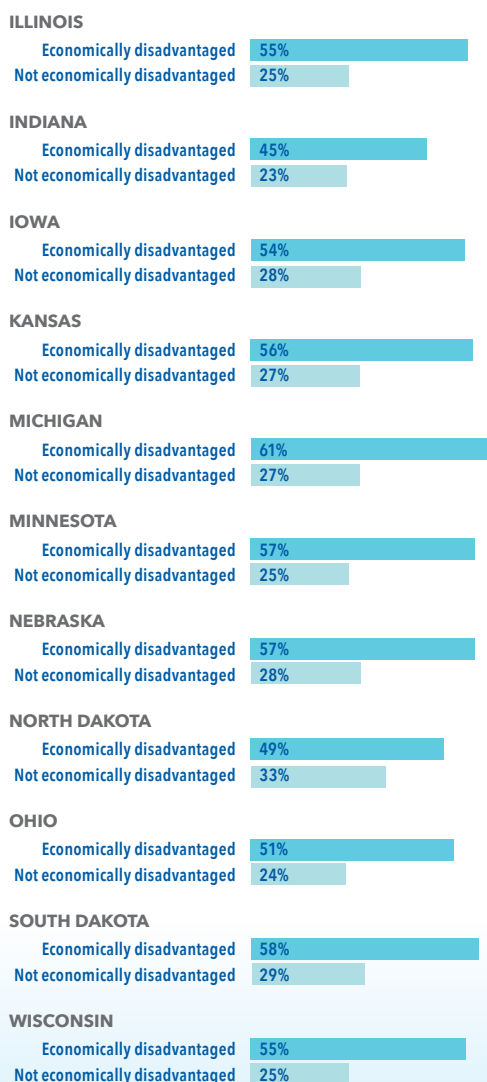
Midwestern
Legislative
Conference

★ Saint Paul ★
MINNESOTA
AUG 30-SEP 2, 2026

LITERACY EDUCATION REFORM: LESSONS FROM A PIONEERING STATE SUPERINTENDENT

Carey Wright, who has served as a state superintendent in both Mississippi and Maryland, says she never intended to work in such a role. Nonetheless, it was her time in Mississippi and the reforms she oversaw to literacy education instruction that inspired states nationwide to adopt similar student interventions.

% OF FOURTH-GRADE STUDENTS SCORING BELOW BASIC ON THE NATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS, BY INCOME STATUS, 2024



Source: National Center for Education Statistics

During a plenary session at the 2026 Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting in Minnesota's capital city of Saint Paul, Wright talked about her approach to executing policy change in both those states and shared advice with Midwest lawmakers currently working to improve student reading skills and comprehension.

"There used to be a phrase in the South, 'Thank God for Mississippi,'" Wright said. "Because whenever the [student] data would come out, it didn't matter what data you were looking at, Mississippi was always at the bottom. Your state could be guaranteed to be higher than that.

"Not so anymore."

The challenge of leading that turnaround is what convinced Wright to come to Mississippi.

When she first became state superintendent, in late 2013, the Mississippi Legislature had recently passed a comprehensive piece of legislation (SB 2347) outlining new interventions for literacy education. The law's stated objective was to "improve the reading skills of kindergarten and first- through third-grade students enrolled in the public schools so that every student completing the third grade is able to read at or above grade level."

To help bring these ambitious goals to fruition, Wright said, her first priority was to ensure that employees of the state Education Department adhere to an outcomes-focused strategic plan; namely, articulate agreed-upon benchmarks for early-childhood literacy improvement. Wright also emphasized the importance of accountability — for example, making sure the department could transparently demonstrate how it was utilizing state-appropriated dollars and how it was interpreting student data.

"Mississippi [had become] the poster child for what I'm going to call the 'honesty gap report,'" Wright said.

"Our state assessments were saying we got 65 to 70 percent of our kids who are proficiently reading. Then a national assessment would come out and say, 'No, you're looking at about 22 percent.' Something was amiss."

Wright discovered that the department was conflating certain "proficient" and "basic" reading level scores, and thus oversaw a redesign of the state's assessment procedures.

Holding individuals accountable, however, was not limited to department personnel.

Wright explained that since Mississippi habitually ranked near the bottom nationally, the state needed to better understand what specific issues were impeding those students who scored in the bottom 25th percentile. Local school superintendents were directed to have their principals prepare lists of names of the students in their schools who fell into this percentile.

"Behind every data point is a face, and if you don't know who that face is, you don't know what that child needs."

- Carey Wright



Carey Wright engages in conversation with Minnesota Sen. Mary Kunesh for a plenary session built around Sen. Kunesh's yearlong MLC Chair's Initiative: Literacy in Action.



"When [the principals] show you the list, I said, 'I want you to take your finger and randomly point to somebody on that page and say, "What are you doing for that kid right there?"' Wright recalled about the directive she gave to school superintendents.

"Behind every data point is a face, and if you don't know who that face is, you don't know what that child needs."

PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

States across the country took notice of Mississippi's reforms and the subsequent rise in that state's student reading performance. In the Midwest, new laws across the region reflect the embrace of Mississippi's approach. For example:

- Mandating professional development training (paid for by the state) for teachers and other school staff about "science of reading" teaching methods, as well as ensuring these methods are taught in a state's teacher preparation programs;
- Employing literacy coaches who are not only trained in evidence-based practices, but also have experience working with and leading adults (these coaches work with teachers to improve instruction);
- Administering reading assessments multiple times a school year to inform instruction and interventions;
- Notifying the parents or guardians of students identified as struggling with reading comprehension;
- Developing individualized reading plans for struggling readers.

In addition to using outside resources like literacy coaches, Wright stressed the need for schools to better utilize the expertise offered by in-house school librarians.

She explained that in Maryland, school librarians are often called upon to facilitate small-group and one-on-one literacy lessons, as well as to curate reading materials for teachers that reflect a range of skill levels. In addition, many Maryland school librarians host "literacy night" events for students' parents/guardians.

The purpose behind these events, Wright explained, is to "invite the parents in so that they could create materials that night to be able to take them home to use with their children the very next day."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5 »



**Midwestern
Legislative
Conference**

The Council of State Governments' Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting is the premier event for state and provincial legislators from this region. This publication highlights sessions and activities of the MLC's 80th Annual Meeting in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

The MLC is a nonpartisan association of all legislators representing 11 states (Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin) and the Canadian province of Saskatchewan. The provinces of Alberta, Manitoba and Ontario are affiliate members.

The MLC is governed by an Executive Committee of legislators from the Midwest, including four committee officers. It supports these binational interstate policy committees:

- Agriculture & Rural Affairs
- Economic Development & Infrastructure
- Education & Workforce
- Energy & Environment
- Health & Human Services
- Midwest-Canada Relations

The MLC also has policy forums on Fiscal Affairs and on Corrections and Public Safety, along with a bipartisan committee that oversees the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development — the premier leadership development program for state and provincial legislators in the Midwest.

MLC EDUCATION & WORKFORCE COMMITTEE



Sen. Jana Hughes
Nebraska, Co-Chair



Rep. Bernie Perryman
Minnesota, Co-Chair



Rep. Mari-Lynn Poskin
Kansas, Vice Chair

NEW MLC LEADERSHIP TEAM TAKING SHAPE



A four-officer team of legislators guides The Council of State Governments' Midwestern Legislative Conference, and North Dakota Sen. Paul Thomas will officially join this leadership team in December.

His selection took place at the MLC Annual Meeting this summer in Saint Paul, Minn.

A farmer, owner of Thomas Grain Farms and a past city commissioner, Sen. Thomas has been a member of the North Dakota Legislative Assembly since first winning election to the House in 2020. He moved to the Senate in 2024.

He served as chair of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee in the House and on two key appropriations committees during his first biennium in the Senate.

Thomas is a 2022 graduate of the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development, the premier legislative training program of CSG's Midwestern Legislative Conference, and serves as co-chair of the MLC Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

He will become second vice chair of the MLC later this year. Thomas also is in line to become MLC chair in 2029.

Minnesota Sen. Mary Kunesch is the MLC chair in 2026. The officers are: first vice chair, Nebraska Sen. Brad von Gillern; second vice chair, Indiana Rep. Ed Clere; and immediate past chair, Saskatchewan Minister Lori Carr.

The next rotation of officers will occur in December when the MLC Executive Committee meets during the CSG National Conference: Dec. 3-6 in Anaheim, Calif.

2026 MLC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS



Sen. Mary Kunesch
Minnesota, Chair



Sen. Brad von Gillern
Nebraska, First Vice Chair



Ed Clere
Indiana, Second Vice Chair



Minister Lori Carr
Saskatchewan, Immediate Past Chair



THREE-TERM OHIO LEGISLATOR TAPPED FOR CSG NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Midwest legislators have nominated Ohio Rep. Cindy Abrams to join the national leadership team of The Council of State Governments. This Midwestern Legislative Conference nomination must be approved by CSG leaders; that vote will occur during the CSG National Conference on Dec. 3-6 in Anaheim, Calif.

Now in her third term, Rep. Abrams is chair of the Ohio House Public Safety Committee. She came to the legislature after public service as a police officer in Cincinnati and as a member of the Harrison City Council in Ohio.

The vote on her nomination was held at the 2026 MLC Annual Meeting.

CSG's current national leadership team consists of California Assemblyman Mike Gipson, CSG national chair; Hawaii Gov. Josh Green, CSG national president; Tennessee House Speaker Cameron Sexton, CSG national chair-elect; Puerto Rico Senate President Pro Tempore Carlos Rios, CSG national vice chair; and Illinois Sen. Elgie Sims, CSG national immediate past chair.

VOICE FOR THE REGION: MLC ADOPTS FOUR POLICY RESOLUTIONS

During the business session at this year's Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting, members gave final passage to four resolutions on topics ranging from literacy education and cross-border agricultural trade, to relations with Taiwan and the importance of competition and strong supply chains in grocery retail and meat processing.

The resolution on literacy calls for a modernization of federal investments in state-led programs. It reflects a yearlong focus of this year's MLC Chair's Initiative of Minnesota Sen. Mary Kunesch: Literacy in Action. *See page 5 for details.*

Here is an overview of the three other policy resolutions.

North American Agricultural Cooperation and Food Security — In this policy statement, legislators recognize the deep and long-standing relationship that Canada and the United States have in agriculture. The United States purchases 60 percent of Canada's agricultural exports, and it supplies 50 percent of Canada's agricultural imports. Much of this economic activity occurs among the 11 U.S. states and four Canadian provinces of The Council of State Governments' Midwestern Legislative Conference.

The MLC resolution urges that any future reviews of or changes to the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (or other Canada-U.S. trade agreements) "recognize the value of allowing agricultural goods and inputs to move freely between the two countries." It also calls on the two nations to collaborate on technological advances related to soil health, sustainable farming practices and resilient supply chains.

Fair Competition and Strong Supply Chains — This resolution focuses on the need for competitiveness in the grocery retail and the meat processing industries in order to ensure "affordable food, resilient supply chains, economic opportunity and consumer choice." It also raises concerns about increased consolidation and vertical integration. The MLC resolution voices support for "policies that promote fair competition, transparency, market access and economic opportunity throughout the grocery retail and meat processing industries."

Continued Support of MLC-Taiwan Relationship — This resolution affirms the value of the economic and trade partnership between the United States and Taiwan and voices support for "Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations" and "Taiwan's aspiration to make more contributions in international societies."



To be considered, a policy resolution must be introduced by a legislator from one of the MLC's member jurisdictions. It often is first heard and considered by one of the MLC's six policy committees.

At the Annual Meeting, a bipartisan MLC Resolutions Committee (made up of legislators from across the Midwest) reviews and votes on resolutions before they are sent to a vote of all participating legislative attendees from 11 Midwestern states and the province of Saskatchewan (a full member of the MLC).

This year's resolutions are available at csgmidwest.org.

Each resolution specifies where the resolutions should be transmitted — often to members of the U.S. Congress, leaders of the federal governments of the United States and Canada, and/or relevant state and provincial leaders.

According to the latest “Kids & Family Reading Report” by Scholastic (based on data collected in 2022), children between the ages of 6 and 17 years who are “frequent readers” — meaning they read for fun five to seven days a week — were more likely to agree with the statement that a lot of people in their life enjoy reading compared to those children who read recreationally less than once a week (80 percent compared to 26 percent).

Wright also touched on the different types of student-retention policies in Mississippi and Maryland and how they impact student performance.

In Mississippi, test-based performance is the determining factor: Students who don’t have a high enough score in reading

comprehension are required to repeat the third grade. However, Wright explained that these students are not simply asked to take the same lessons over again; they are provided with extra levels of support and instruction outside of core class times. (These students also receive interventions prior to being retained.)

A Boston University study published in 2023 found that this policy of retaining students did have some long-term success in Mississippi. The study tracked the performance of two subsets of students: 1) students whose scores were just below proficiency, causing third-grade retention; and 2) students whose third-grade reading with scores were just above proficiency,

allowing for matriculation to fourth grade.

By sixth grade, the first group had significantly higher scores than the second group on a sixth-grade English language arts assessment.

In Maryland, student retention for poor reading comprehension is contingent upon parental/guardian approval. Under the policy, Wright said, school officials meet with the parents/guardians of students recommended for retention, lay out the data, and explain why they believe retention is warranted.

Regardless of the policy, Wright said, policymakers need to emphasize “prevention and intervention” when it comes to dealing with struggling readers.

by Derek Cantù (dcantu@csg.org)

About the MLC Chair's Initiative

Minnesota Sen. Mary Kunesh has made “Literacy in Action” the subject of her Midwestern Legislative Conference Chair’s Initiative.

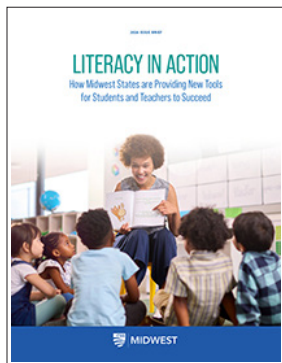
The various literacy-focused policy sessions held at the 2026 MLC Annual Meeting are part of a yearlong focus on this topic. The Midwestern Office of the Council of State Governments also has developed a series of resources for legislators, including the release this summer of “Literacy in Action: How Midwest States Are Providing New Tools for Students and Teachers to Succeed.”

This comprehensive report, written by CSG Midwest policy analyst Derek Cantù, provides a regionwide look at notable new laws, investments and strategies. It also analyzes the impacts of state actions to date; provides state-by-state data on trends in fourth-grade reading scores; and shows gaps in performance in every Midwestern state by race, ethnicity, gender and family income.



Various aspects of state literacy policy, along with trends in student performance, also have been featured in the 2026 editions of *Stateline Midwest*, the flagship publication of CSG Midwest.

These articles, along with the Issue Brief, are available at csgmidwest.org.



MLC resolution on federal investments in literacy

On the final day of this year’s MLC Annual Meeting, legislators approved a resolution on the future of federal investments in state-based literacy programs.

The Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant Program dates back to 2015, when it was first authorized as part of the U.S. Every Student Succeeds Act. This program continues to fund state literacy initiatives nationwide.

The MLC-approved resolution calls on the U.S. Congress to:

- Continue funding the Comprehensive Literacy State Development Grant Program (a total of \$194 million in grants were awarded in FY 2024 to 22 states and the District of Columbia).
- Modernize the program by tying the allocation of federal grant dollars to certain state policies. For example, to secure federal dollars, states would need to show they are implementing the “science of reading” in the classroom and in teacher-preparation programs; investing in high-impact tutoring, summer learning programs and other evidence-based interventions; requiring parental notification; and providing for early-literacy screenings.
- Avoid establishing set-asides for “low-performing” states, as measured by student results on the National Assessment of Educational Progress. Few, if any, Midwestern states would qualify for these set-asides.

This resolution is being sent to members of the relevant committees in the U.S. Congress, to members of the congressional delegations in each of the 11 Midwestern states, and to the U.S. Department of Education.



Rep. Taylor Rehfeldt
South Dakota, Co-Chair



Rep. Anna Moeller
Illinois, Co-Chair



Rep. Brett Barker
Iowa, Vice Chair

AI'S TRANSFORMATION OF HEALTHCARE HAS BEGUN; TOUGH QUESTIONS FOR POLICYMAKERS LIE AHEAD

Nearly across the board, whether the question is about jobs, national security or social connections, public opinion polls show widespread concern about the future of artificial intelligence in people's own lives and the world around them.

One exception, though, is health care, with many seeing promise in AI's capacity to improve medical diagnoses and treatments.

Count Dr. Robert Wachter among them.

A leading physician, thought leader and author, Wachter spent two years studying the topic and interviewing practitioners across the country during a time when AI in health care transitioned from "novelty to normalcy."

"This is the biggest experiment in the history of medicine," Wachter said during his featured presentation this summer at the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting.

"I can't think of anything like this in my 40 years of medicine where there's so much uncertainty, so much promise, so much peril."

He has landed in a place of "informed optimism" for two reasons: one, the remarkable, and continuing, advances in the reliability and effectiveness of AI tools in medicine; two, the nation's healthcare system is in serious need of repair.

"The status quo is unsustainable and really unacceptable and, to me, immoral," he said.

Wachter laid out his vision for how it can help cure what ails the system, as well as his perspective on the future of state-level regulations in managing potential pitfalls.

'TRICKY TO CALIBRATE'

Wachter shared with the audience anecdotal stories familiar to many about the doctor-patient interaction. During a visit, the doctor types wildly on the computer, making little or no eye contact with the patient.

AI is changing this dynamic for the better.

Physicians now trust AI tools to capture what was said and to summarize it in a useful way. The doctor-patient interaction becomes more meaningful; the physician can talk through proper diagnoses and treatment with the AI tool; and the AI tool produces meaningful doctor notes and summaries of a patient's medical record.

That all improves outcomes, Wachter said, as do AI tools used for medical imaging, disease detection, and personalized treatment plans.

Wachter noted, too, that AI is being incorporated into the administrative side of healthcare — providers using the tool to request prior authorizations, health insurers using it on their end as well.

In the hospital system where he works, about 1,500 people are employed in the billing department alone. Wachter said that number could drop dramatically.

That means fewer costs in the system, but also the loss of jobs.

Wachter outlined various other ways that AI will disrupt the status quo in healthcare.

For instance, a mental-health chatbot can bring care to hundreds of thousands of people who otherwise would go without it, but there also may be a handful of cases of bots encouraging people to hurt or kill themselves.

That example, Wachter said, is emblematic of the challenge ahead for legislators in healthcare-related AI policy — deciding when to regulate to protect patients, but also not standing in the way of necessary advances.

"It's very tricky to calibrate, and you, as legislators, are going to have to be on the lookout for this," Wachter said. "There will then be a tendency to say, 'We have got to legislate against this,' without recognizing maybe how many lives has it saved. How many good things has it done."

As AI becomes a greater part of state systems, too, there will be debates in state capitols about accountability and the rules governing malpractice. In Utah, the state has launched a pilot program allowing patients to renew certain prescriptions through an AI platform, Doctronic. This third party was required to have malpractice insurance, Wachter said.

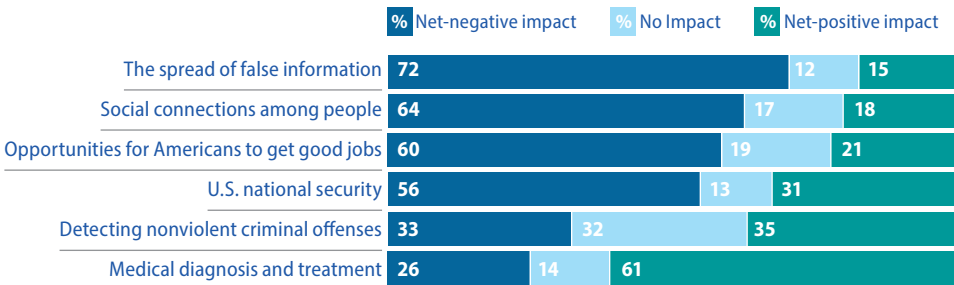
He also said concerns about deepfakes, privacy and security will continue to rise.

According to Wachter, one glaring hole right now in state oversight involves direct-to-consumer health markets.

"People are handing over all their data to these huge companies, they don't really understand what the risk of that is, and there's very little oversight on these tools," he said. "I think that is an area where we, essentially, need more consumer protection."

GALLUP POLL OF AMERICANS' VIEWS ON AI'S POTENTIAL IMPACT

Question asked: In the next five years, do you believe that AI will have a positive or negative impact on



Source: Dr. Robert Wachter presentation at MLC Annual Meeting

by Tim Anderson (tanderson@csg.org)



EDUCATION INNOVATOR SAL KHAN SAYS SMART USE OF AI CAN UNLOCK POWER OF PERSONALIZED LEARNING

Sal Khan's vision for the future of education is rooted firmly in the past. In fact, he explains it to an audience in part by reaching as far back as fourth-century B.C., a time when the Greek philosopher Aristotle was tutoring a young Alexander the Great.

"That type of one-on-one, very personalized education has always been viewed as the gold standard," Khan said during his keynote address this summer at the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting in Minnesota. "It was just that it's always been very expensive, so you only got it if you were a young prince or a member of nobility."

Could artificial intelligence make this "gold standard" commonplace across states' K-12 schools?

"The reason my cousins were struggling wasn't because they weren't bright. It wasn't because they weren't hard-working. And it wasn't because they didn't have access to good schools," Khan said. "It was actually just an artifact of how we happen to do things."

As we opened public education to all (no longer limited to Alexander the Great or other nobles), the "gold standard" was not feasible, so the United States, Canada and other countries settled on a model that we still see



Outside the school day, Khan believes, AI tools can help reduce teacher workloads, whether that is through help with grading or lesson planning. During the school day, the 30 students can be broken into smaller groups — some working at their own pace with the assistance of an AI tool (with monitoring by the teacher); some working in small groups and problem-solving together (potentially one peer student tutoring another); and some getting more individualized, teacher-led instruction.

According to Khan, Newark Public Schools in New Jersey has been an early adopter of this model, with encouraging results so far.

While acknowledging the many potential downsides to AI in education — deepfakes, cheating, security threats, surveillance, etc. — Khan said the technology should not be "run away from."

"AI, just like every other technology, amplifies human intent ... and if you're ceding it only to the bad actors, you're pretty much ensuring that we're going to live in a dystopia with probably the most powerful technology humanity has ever created," Khan said.

He urged state and provincial legislators to "lean in" on AI and explore its possibilities for helping students and teachers alike.

"It's not about how you replace humans with robots. It's all about, What if we discovered all the money in the world and we could give every teacher two or three teaching assistants?"

- Sal Khan

The founder and CEO of the nonprofit Khan Academy sees the technology as a way to advance his decades-long, pioneering work around teaching and learning: Opening up access to rigorous, high-quality instruction, and providing a platform for students to learn at their own time and pace.

His academy has grown to have more than 200 million registered users, and Khan's instructional videos have well over 1 billion views worldwide. They began with an audience of one in mind, his younger cousin Nadia. Khan started posting videos on YouTube to provide long-distance tutoring to Nadia, who was struggling with math, and eventually to other family members.

largely today: Approximately 30 students of the same age grouped into one classroom with a single teacher and expected to learn the same material at the same time and pace.

"Talk to any teacher," he said, "and maybe a third of the kids [in the classroom] are ready to move ahead. Maybe a third of the kids are really struggling. Maybe today's lesson is just right for about a third of them."

Smartly incorporating AI allows a reimagining of that classroom, according to Khan.

"It's not about how you replace humans with robots," he said. "It's all about, What if we discovered all the money in the world and we could give every teacher two or three teaching assistants?"

by Tim Anderson (tanderson@csg.org)



Sen. Laura Ellman
Illinois, Co-Chair



Rep. Pauline Wendzel
Michigan, Co-Chair



Rep. Lauren Bohi
Kansas, Co-Vice Chair



MLA Erika Ritchie
Saskatchewan, Co-Vice Chair



AMID GROWTH OF DATA CENTERS, LEGISLATORS EXPLORE STATE, LOCAL POLICY OPTIONS

State energy and environmental policymakers are facing a data center dilemma.

On the one hand: as the backbone of the digital economy and artificial intelligence programs, data centers can bring construction and tech jobs, as well as property tax revenue.

On the other: their demands on local water and electricity systems — sometimes including the need for new power lines — can strain infrastructure and raise local concerns about their impacts on utility rates and a community's quality of life. Opposition also often is tied to growing apprehension over AI.

Options for states, as well as considerations for local governments, were part of a featured session at this year's Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting. Reid Wilson, founder and editor of *Pluribus News*, also described to attendees some of the dramatic shifts in public sentiment:

- Since August 2025, the percentage of Americans opposed to data centers has grown from just above 40 percent to more than 70 percent.
- Asked about AI's impact over the next 10 years, majorities of respondents said artificial intelligence will have a net negative impact on children (61 percent), jobs (58 percent), and accuracy of news (51 percent).

Still, rapid data center growth continues, with states such as Illinois, Ohio and Indiana among the Midwest's "hot spots" for this activity.

Brad Tietz, director of state policy for the Data Center Coalition (the membership association for the data center industry), said public opposition stems in part from "the failure on our part to, I think, properly communicate what's happening."

For example, he said, data centers are diverse; while hyper-scale data center projects dominate the news, smaller-scale

or "co-located" centers (where more than one company shares the facility) have been successfully operating for 25 to 30 years.

"From a planning perspective, that is something that all of you — as well as your local governments — should really be thinking about. What kind of data center, if you want one, do you plan around?" Tietz said to lawmakers.

Nicol Turner Lee, director of the Brookings Institution's Center for Technology Innovation, said data centers can fill economic development gaps in communities where traditional industry has departed.

She encouraged state and local leaders to authorize community benefit agreements (CBAs) — legally binding agreements between developers and host communities — as a condition for development.

When demanding those benefits, Turner Lee added, think big. "They should be done with longer-term thinking, with bigger impact [in mind]," she said.

In a report released earlier this year, she noted that a CBA should include quantifiable data in areas such as job opportunities, tax revenue and workforce training, with those benefits then tracked and evaluated over time. Infrastructure improvements, health and well-being services, and new education opportunities also can be part of a CBA.

Under legislation introduced this year in Michigan (SB 1050 and HB 6137), no data center project could be approved at the local level without a CBA in place that benefits "the public health, safety, and general welfare of the inhabitants and the lands and resources of the local unit of government."

Tietz said CBAs for data centers are broadly acceptable in concept, as are the use of large-load tariffs and transmission security

POLICY TRENDS ON DATA CENTERS

CSG Midwest recently explored policy trends in this region on data center policy and regulation. Among the notable trends and new laws:

- **New protections for public resources such as water and safeguards for ratepayers.** One such example is South Dakota's new "Data Center Bill of Rights for Citizens" (SB 135).
- **Legislatures and/or utilities implementing new large-load tariffs, such as provisions in a Minnesota law from 2025 (HF 16).** It seeks assurances through these tariff agreements that other customers are protected from rate increases due to data center growth and "not placed at risk for paying stranded costs." The law also requires large data centers to pay an annual fee to fund energy conservation and weatherization.
- **Policymakers reconsidering existing tax incentives for data centers.** One such example: a 2026 executive order from Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker instituting a two-year pause on incentives.
- **Various legislative proposals calling for temporary moratoria on new data center construction or bans on local non-disclosure agreements.** No such state measures have been passed in the Midwest.

The full analysis is available at csgmidwest.org.

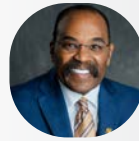


agreements with utilities to protect other ratepayers.

So, too, are state-level requirements for reporting water use. "From our perspective, you all in your communities deserve to have access to that information," he said.

While the data center industry is open to water-use regulations, the Data Center Coalition believes they should be outcome-based, rather than having a specific technology (like closed-loop water systems) be mandated by state or local governments, Tietz said. He added that any new water-use regulations should be applied to all industries.

by Jon Davis (jdavis@csg.org)



Sen. Hearcel Craig
Ohio, Co-Chair



Sen. Kathleen Kauth
Nebraska, Co-Chair

STATES STEP UP TO ADDRESS HOUSING NEEDS, FROM CODE REFORM TO NONPROFIT PARTNERSHIPS

Land use and zoning typically command much of the discussion around government regulations and their impacts on housing production, and rightly so, according to Nick Erickson, executive director of the Housing Affordability Institute.

But he also suggests that legislators take a closer look at what he called “secondary barriers” potentially stifling construction or increasing costs.

“First among those is going to be building codes,” Erickson told lawmakers during a session this summer led by the Midwestern Legislative Conference Economic Development and Infrastructure Committee.

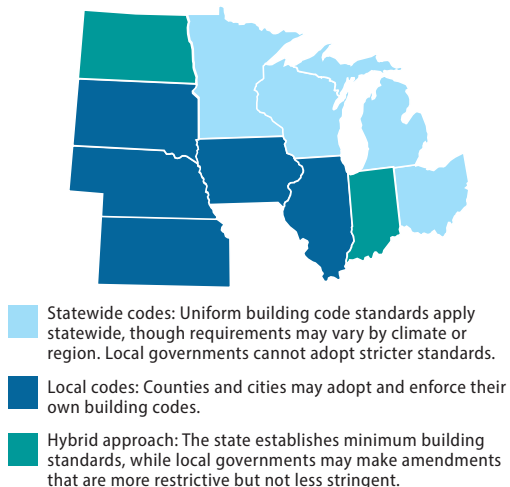
Held as part of the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting, the session gave legislators the chance to explore state policies on building codes, as well as to learn about notable advances in housing policy in Minnesota.

HOW BUILDING CODE IS MADE

When a new home is built, Erickson told legislators, about 53 percent of the costs are from “sticks, bricks and labor” — the physical construction of it. This means construction, energy and fire codes can play a significant role in the price tag for the home builder and, ultimately, the buyer.

Legislatures create the policy framework for

STATE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR BUILDING CODES



Source: Housing Affordability Institute

adoption of these codes (*see map*).

However, nongovernmental organizations produce the model building codes, which often then serve as the basis for state and local governments’ enforceable rules and standards.

Erickson explained that these organizations produce new model codes on a three-year cycle. Once a new iteration is established, he said, the process restarts almost immediately.

Partly for that reason, Erickson said, the process itself can lack the necessary rigor. Are the additions or changes to model codes working as intended and addressing an actual problem? What have been the real-world costs and benefits?

Those are crucial questions that go unanswered without enough scrutiny, Erickson said.

As an example, he cited the inclusion of increased ground-fault-protection requirements on electrical outlets in model codes. This safety feature, which cuts the flow of power to prevent electrocution, was unintentionally being tripped by common household appliances.

Erickson suggested that a six-year cycle would allow more time to evaluate changes and would better control construction costs related to changes in building codes. His suggestions for lawmakers include establishing state-level affordability guardrails and ensuring a state-guided process to closely examine proposed changes to building codes. In Minnesota, for example, the safety and cost impacts of each change are reviewed by a state Department of Labor technical advisory group.

Erickson also recommended moving to a

performance-based (rather than prescriptive-based) system.

“You allow the builders and the trade partners to be more creative with how they address the problems, and that does lead to more affordable homes,” he said.

SPOTLIGHT ON MINNESOTA

The MLC session was held in Minnesota’s capital of Saint Paul, and a second speaker highlighted a mix of steps on housing policy already taken in that state, as well as ideas for future action.

One notable legislative decision has been to establish a Housing Tax Credit Program and Contribution Fund, said Elizabeth Glidden, deputy executive director of the Minnesota Housing Partnership.

Launched in 2023, this program operates as a donor-based system: taxpayers may contribute to a pool of funds available for affordable housing investment, receiving a tax credit for up to 85 percent of the donation’s value. The contribution also can go to a specific affordable housing project.

Also in 2023, Minnesota legislators made the single largest investment in housing in state history (\$1 billion); HF 2335 included funding to build more affordable and workforce housing, as well as to prevent homelessness and reduce disparities in home ownership.

Looking ahead, Glidden said, her organization and others are looking to advance a series of legislative changes. Among them: creating minimum residential zoning standards at the state (rather than local) level, removing barriers to mixed housing, and standardizing local approval processes.

“How do we balance the concerns around local control with how we also meet the need for policy that allows more homes to be built?” she said. “That’s what we’re looking at here.”

by Joseph Dell’Olio (jdellolio@csg.org)

At the MLC Annual Meeting, the chance to learn and collaborate extends beyond policy sessions.

These visits to various locations around the Twin Cities deepened the learning experience for meeting participants while also helping showcase the region.

Ravenview Farm Tour

A Transition to Regenerative Agriculture

"It looks just like a painting," Manitoba MLC Kathleen Cook said about the drive to Mike Seifert's farm in the gentle rolling hills near Jordan, Minn. While on the site tour, attendees learned about soil saturation during a rainfall simulator demonstration, tasted craft food and drinks, and heard from experts about Minnesota's soil and water conservation programs. The tour showcased a farm that uses regenerative and conventional agricultural techniques to bolster profits on just 80 acres of fertile farmland.



Franchise Tours

Unleashing Entrepreneurs and Growing Local Economies

Attendees toured the corporate headquarters of Purpose Brands and learned how new and veteran franchise owners are taught how to make their business ventures as successful as possible. The group was also able to converse one-on-one with current franchise owners to learn firsthand about their experiences and challenges.



Starkey Technologies - Lessons in Healthcare Innovation

State and provincial leaders visited Starkey Technologies for an inside look at the development and production of its award-winning hearing aids. The tour included hearing tests, a visit to the manufacturing facility, and a look at the company's research, development, and testing operations focused on innovative hearing-loss prevention technologies.



Minneapolis American Indian Center

Advancements in State-Tribal Relations

The newly renovated Minneapolis American Indian Center stands as a bright landmark in a South Minneapolis neighborhood, where it has served urban American Indian families since 1975. A group of MLC Annual Meeting participants visited the center to learn about and discuss tribal-state relations and programs.

During the tour, Laura Newton, family services director for the center, shared the history of the facility and the stories behind its murals and artwork. She explained that the center provides a range of early-intervention services for urban American Indians living throughout the city, regardless of tribal membership.

One of the Learning Site Tour's most impactful presentations came from Levi Brown, who shared his journey from a skeptical teen growing up on a reservation to leading Minnesota's Office of Tribal Affairs. Brown joined Mary Otto, director of the Minnesota Department of Children, Youth, and Families' Office of Tribal Relations, to discuss Minnesota's Tribal-State Relations Training program, a unique and required program for all agency officials whose work is likely to include matters that have tribal implications.

First created by an executive order, the tribal-state training was codified into law in 2022. Under the statute, state agencies must consult with each tribal government that shares geography with the state at least annually, or as often as is required, to address matters that have tribal implications.

★ The Minnesota State Fair delivers!

The MLC Annual Meeting kicked off with a special event at the Minnesota State Fair, the largest fair in the nation, known as "The Great Minnesota Get Together." A group of legislators toured the fair's agricultural attractions and were not disappointed. Within minutes of walking into the barn, they watched the birth of a calf! The CHS Miracle of Birth Center is a Minnesota State Fair favorite and was specifically designed to give fairgoers that experience. Each year, hundreds of farm babies — calves, piglets, lambs, kids and chicks — are born (or hatched) during the fair. Every year, the MLC meeting showcases a great Midwestern city and state — through the mix of Learning Site Tours and evening events such as this year's trip to the Minnesota State Fair.



MLC MIDWEST-CANADA RELATIONS COMMITTEE



MPP Ernie Hardeman
Ontario, Co-Chair



Rep. David Monson
North Dakota, Co-Chair



Rep. David Armstrong
Wisconsin, Co-Vice Chair



MLA David Pankratz
Manitoba, Co-Vice Chair



IN AN ERA MARKED BY BINATIONAL TRADE TENSIONS, ONE OPTION FOR STATES AND PROVINCES: LEAN INTO 'NEIGHBORISM'

An uncertain two years in U.S.-Canadian relations has Midwestern state and provincial leaders wondering where matters stand, and where they're heading.

Over two sessions in as many days at the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting in Minnesota, a trio of tourism and trade experts tried to lay out a road map.

If all the activity among the Midwest's U.S. states and Canadian provinces were its own economy, it would be the fourth-largest in the world, said Laura Dawson, executive director of the Future Borders Coalition.

"It's a powerhouse as a cohesive unit," Dawson said. "You cannot beat it in the world, but you know what beats it every time? Put a barrier between the movement of goods and services between willing buyers and willing sellers."

There also has been an invisible barrier of sorts, one that has slowed the cross-border movement of people. According to Dawson, Canadian tourism to the United States fell 15 percent from June 2024 to June 2025 and dropped another 13 percent from June 2025 to June 2026.

"[It is] a passive erosion that is directly tied to the erosion of the relationship," she said.

Lauren Bennett McGinty, executive director of Explore Minnesota, the state's tourism agency, acknowledged potential other factors causing this decline, such as concerns for personal security and an exchange rate that favors the U.S. dollar.

"But the number one reason why Canadians are not coming is because of political tensions," she said.

The economic impact often is felt most acutely in border communities and states such as Michigan, Minnesota and North Dakota.

In Minnesota, for example, due largely to significant decline in visitors from Canada, international visitor volume and spending fell in that state by 15.8 percent and 13.8 percent, respectively, between 2024 and 2025.

Not even the 2026 World Junior Hockey Championship in Minneapolis and Saint Paul

We're not making national trade rules in Minnesota; we are working on that individual relationship," McGinty said.

This year, a social media outreach campaign on that theme resulted in a 675 percent increase of Canadian web traffic to Explore Minnesota's website, she said.

"It wasn't just talking strictly about, 'Come visit all of our attractions in Minnesota.' It was really about, 'Come visit the people here,'" McGinty said.

Christopher Sands, director of the Center for Canadian Studies at Johns Hopkins University, echoed some of those same ideas a day later. After tracing the history of the North American Free Trade Agreement of 1994 to

"We're not making national trade rules in Minnesota; we are working on that individual relationship."

Lauren Bennett McGinty, executive director, Explore Minnesota

drew as many Canadians as expected, McGinty said, adding, "I think it becomes a huge international issue when Canadians don't want to come for hockey."

Minnesota's response in 2026 has been to lean into "neighborism" — the idea that Canadians can come see for themselves that Minnesotans are neighborly and still think of Canadians as neighbors.

"How do we market our individual state, sort of pull away from political headlines?

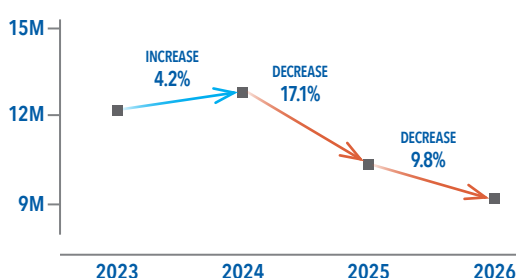
the current U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, he likened the current state of relations to a strained marriage.

The "elbows up" campaign — the informal Canadian boycott of U.S. goods and tourism-based travel — may not impact the United States in macro-economic and GDP numbers, but it does hurt communities that rely on Canadian visitors, he said. Some of those communities are in the Midwest.

"My view of this strategy is that it's as though Canada is giving the silent treatment to its marriage partner," Sands said. "I understand where it's coming from; I don't think it's very effective. But I also think that for the United States, as we get ourselves back to a better relationship with Canada, it's going to start with rooms [of state and provincial leaders] like this.

"Let's see if we can fix it."

TRENDS IN CANADIANS' TRAVEL TO THE UNITED STATES, 2023 to 2026 (first four months of each year)



The latest data from Statistics Canada run through the first four months of 2026. Data are based on the number of Canadian residents returning from the U.S. Previous Statistics Canada studies have shown three Midwest border states to be among the 15 most visited states by Canadian residents: Michigan (6), North Dakota (13) and Minnesota (15).

DECREASE OF TRAVELERS IS 22.7% 2023 to 2026

by Jon Davis (jdavis@csg.org)



Professional Development

At the Midwestern Legislative Conference 2026 Annual Meeting in Saint Paul, CSG Midwest welcomed former Ohio Sen. Fred Strahorn and former Ohio Senate President Tom Niehaus to discuss their time working together across the aisle to build a stronger state legislature in a session titled “Building Trust Across Differences: Strategies for a Stronger State Government.” Legislators and legislative staff from across the Midwest participated in a discussion on how leading with integrity and accountability strengthens not only the work of a legislature, but the institution itself.



Legislator-Led Breakfast Conversations

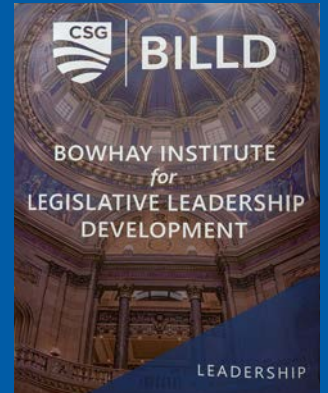
Developed and facilitated by a state or provincial legislator, Breakfast Table Topic discussions are held every year at the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting. They give participants the opportunity to share ideas, information and innovations with one another in a welcoming and informal setting.

This year's Breakfast Table Topics in Saint Paul explored *State Water Policy, Planning and Management* and *Lotteries as a Public Business: How Lottery Dollars Support Public Good*.

Interested in hosting a Breakfast Table Topic at next year's MLC Annual Meeting? Or helping lead a virtual event on a topic of your choosing at any time of the year? Please reach out to CSG Midwest's Tim Anderson at tanderson@csg.org.

Building Legislative Leadership Skills

Leadership training and professional development are cornerstones of the services provided to legislators through The Council of State Governments. This includes annual training programs such as the regional Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development, or BILLD, and CSG's national Henry Toll Fellowship.



At each MLC Annual Meeting, events are held for graduates of the BILLD program to reconnect and deepen relations. This year in Saint Paul, BILLD alumni took part in a special evening reception. Over 60 alumni of the BILLD program were present at the MLC Annual Meeting, including several members of the 2026 program that was held earlier in the summer. Legislators on the BILLD Steering Committee met and discussed ways of enhancing the leadership program, which will hold its 32nd program in 2027, and welcomed current and prospective sponsors of the program to a breakfast to celebrate the contributions that make the program possible.

Corrections and Public Safety

A rising older-prisoner population raises important questions for states on how to address the impact of this demographic trend on costs and care. During a session at the Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting, David D'Amora and Robert Hamill of the CSG Justice Center explained the complexity of these issues and provided both immediate and longer-term policy responses for states to consider.



State agency actions tend to seek to adapt prisons to function more like geriatric care systems, while legislative solutions have sought to reduce the number of older people who remain incarcerated, they noted. For example, North Dakota and South Dakota both have compassionate-release laws that include age and high medical costs in the criteria. Another approach: develop age-specific re-entry and continuity-of-care programs. New York's Elder Reentry Initiative provides people age 50 and older who are leaving prison with comprehensive assessments and discharge plans to support medical care continuity, housing, basic education, and health care connections.

D'Amora and Hamill also suggested that policymakers consider these immediate steps:

- Track and analyze data on the state's aging prison population and conduct fiscal analysis of the costs to provide care for older people in prison.
- Assess the existing health care infrastructure for individuals aging in prison in order to determine adequacy.
- Evaluate the existing policy and program infrastructure for older people re-entering the community following incarceration.

Learn more about the assistance available to states via the CSG Justice Center at csgjusticecenter.org.

MLC AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



Sen. Teresa Ibach
Nebraska, Co-Chair



Sen. Paul Thomas
North Dakota, Co-Chair



Rep. Bradley Fritts
Illinois, Co-Vice Chair



Sen. Robert Kupec
Minnesota, Co-Vice Chair



UNIQUE IN ITS APPROACH, MINNESOTA EMBEDS SEVERAL GROUPS IN STATUTE TO DRIVE RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Rural economic development organizations are not new, but how states structure and support them can determine their effectiveness.

Minnesota's distinctive approach dates back more than 50 years, when the Legislature established in statute nine Regional Development Commissions — a layer of regional governance between the state and local governments. Nearly three decades ago, legislators created two organizations to focus specifically on rural research and agricultural economic development: one the Center for Rural Policy and Development, the other the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute.

All three groups continue to operate today, and their work was highlighted during a session of the Midwest Legislative Conference Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee.

Together, leaders from these three organizations described how their work contributes to a rural economic development ecosystem focused on collaboration rather than a competition for funding.

"What makes Minnesota's regional development commissions unique is their levying authority. Other states rely on voluntary membership dues," explained

Dawn Hegland, executive director of the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission.

"The [property tax] levy provides a portion of our budget, with the remaining portions coming from fee-for-services; contracts and grants from local, state and federal agencies; and other outside funding sources."

"By statute, we're nonpartisan," a designation that helps keep the focus on rural needs, regardless of the issue.

— Julie Tesch, President and CEO Center on Rural Policy and Development

According to Hegland, this funding mix gives regional commissions the capacity to provide technical assistance to local governments and businesses, which then use it to pursue additional grants and funding.

Hegland also emphasized the importance of statutory language defining board membership. Every municipality and county must be represented, with elected officials, business leaders and other citizens having a voice. This diverse group meets regularly, she said, creating opportunities to identify shared challenges and coordinate solutions.

The Center on Rural Policy and Development adds a second element to Minnesota's ecosystem for rural development: research focused specifically on rural communities. Its board is composed mainly of members appointed by the governor and legislators.

"By statute, we're nonpartisan," a designation that helps keep the focus on rural needs, regardless of the issue, said Julie Tesch, president and CEO of the center. For example, its research has informed legislative discussions about the impacts of state child care regulations on rural regions, where home-based care is much more prevalent and critical to access for families.

Perhaps most unique to Minnesota's mix of legislatively created economic development organizations is the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute. Its statutory task: find additional uses and markets for agriculturally derived products.

This rural development strategy is a marked shift away from the "recruit a factory" approach. Instead, it seeks to facilitate entrepreneurship and expand economic

opportunities for Minnesota's existing farm operations and businesses, said Jennifer Wagner-Lahr, senior director of business development and commercialization at AURI.

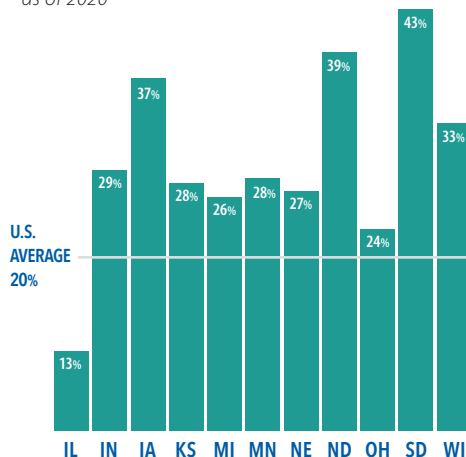
All three organizations' experiences also offer lessons for lawmakers in other states. When asked how states could incorporate similar strategies, all three panelists cautioned against simply creating new organizations or replacing existing ones.

"Start with asset mapping and fill in the gaps," Hegland said.

The panelists agreed that once a state identifies all of its existing economic development organizations, it can identify gaps in their areas of expertise and establish a framework for bringing the appropriate stakeholders together.

Minnesota's experience suggests that rural economic development does not necessarily depend on a single program or organization. Instead, regional coordination, research capacity and technical assistance can provide complementary pieces of an ecosystem designed to connect local assets with broader economic development opportunities.

% OF RESIDENTS LIVING IN RURAL AREAS,
as of 2020



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

by Becky Leis (bleis@csg.org)

CULTURE AND CURRENT EVENTS

Luncheons featured Midwestern native Anna Palmer, a co-founder of Punchbowl News and former co-author of POLITICO Playbook, who shared a breakdown of what's happening in Washington, D.C., and a look toward the 2026 midterm elections; historian Michael Hattem, author of "The Memory of '76," who spoke about the founders and America's "origin myth"; and a performance by Native American hoop dancers The Sampson Brothers, Lumhe and Samsoshe.



Pictured: (above) Anna Palmer during MLC luncheon, (below) Michael Hattem, (left) The Sampson Brothers



SPONSORED LEARNING LABS

At this year's Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting, state leaders and industry experts gathered for Legislative Learning Labs – a series of action-oriented sessions tackling the region's top policy priorities. Highlights from the sponsor-led and -hosted lineup included:

WORKFORCE & ECONOMY: **Arnold Ventures** explored effective career pathway credentialing.

ENERGY & INFRASTRUCTURE: The **Pew Charitable Trusts** shared strategies for maximizing existing power grids, the **Clean Grid Association** covered Midwest energy production and transmission, and **Geronimo Power** outlined responsible data center development.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES: **Bristol Myers Squibb** addressed rural farmer mental health solutions, while **Casey Family Programs** detailed strategies to improve child welfare policy.

EDUCATION & LITERACY: **Fredrickson Government Relations** discussed building home-reading habits, then **Minneapolis Foundation** shared early lessons from Minnesota's READ Act, and the **AAAS Epi Center** examined AI opportunities and safeguards in classroom learning.

TECHNOLOGY & CONNECTIVITY: **Comcast** highlighted the role of AI in strengthening broadband networks.

These interactive Learning Labs provided attendees with practical takeaways and proven models to bring back to their home state capitols. We extend our sincere gratitude to our sponsor organizations, whose support, expertise and leadership made these valuable learning opportunities possible.



Interested in a Deep Dive into a Policy Subject?

Several Issue Briefs were made available at the Annual Meeting in support of the work of the MLC policy committees and MLC Chair's Initiative. The 2025-26 biennium focus included literacy, child labor, housing, farmland ownership, and the Midwest's role in U.S.-Canada energy trade. Electronic copies of all MLC Issue Briefs are available at csgmidwest.org.



Align your brand with the nonpartisan, collaborative mission and reputation of The Council of State Governments' Midwestern Legislative Conference.

Are you interested in sponsoring the 2027 MLC Annual Meeting in Omaha?

Sponsorship packages offer branding opportunities at multiple levels, name or logo placement in marketing materials, dedicated information tables, and branded premiums. Premium visibility opportunities are also available through hosting one of our Legislative Learning Labs or hosting an official after-hours reception.

Contact CSG Midwest Development Manager Katie Kelly at kkelly@csg.org for more information.

THANK YOU

SPONSORS OF THE 80TH MLC ANNUAL MEETING

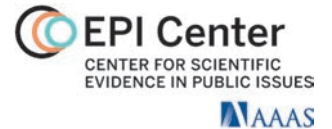
CHAIR'S CIRCLE



EMERALD



PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER

Altria • Amazon • Cambium Learning Group • Government of Canada • Copic • DaVita • Fresenius Medical Care
JPMorgan Chase • Minnesota Local Business Alliance • Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
State Government Affairs Council • Takeda Pharmaceuticals • Xcel Energy

BRONZE

Airbnb, Inc • American Gas Association • Batteries Plus • Corteva Agriscience • Great River Energy
Infinite Campus • Mars, Inc • Medtronic • Minnesota Credit Union • Missouri River Energy Services
Prairie Island Indian Community • Target • TikTok • U.S. Bank • Wells Fargo

FRIEND

Hy-Vee • Solventum



MIDWEST

The Council of State Governments | Midwestern Office
701 E. 22nd Street, Suite 110 | Lombard, IL 60148-5095

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OAK BROOK, IL
PERMIT NO. 100

STATELINE MIDWEST

ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

CSG Midwest Office Staff

Laura A. Tomaka, Director
Tim Anderson, Director of Policy and Research
Luke Bingaman, Program Associate
Derek Cantù, Policy Analyst
Jon Davis, Policy Analyst / Communications Specialist
Joseph Dell'Olio, Policy Analyst
Adam Diersing, Senior Program Coordinator
Cherylyn Gnad, Design and Marketing Specialist

Katie Kelly, Development Manager
Laura Kliewer, Program Manager
Rebecca Leis, Policy Analyst
Jessica Lienhardt, Great Lakes Program Director
Christina Luporini, Office Manager
Cathy Malloy, Meeting Planner / Operations Specialist
Melissa Shahzadeh, Project Director

Stateline Midwest is published by the **Midwestern Office**
of **The Council of State Governments**. To order, call 630.925.1922

csgm@csg.org | csgmidwest.org

Follow us on X: @CSGMidwest and LinkedIn: @CSG-Midwest

A SUCCESS IN SAINT PAUL & LOOKING FORWARD TO MLC 2027 IN OMAHA

Hundreds of state and provincial legislators, their guests and others gathered in Saint Paul, Minn., late this summer for the 2026 Midwestern Legislative Conference Annual Meeting.

From policy sessions to site visits to an evening at the Minnesota State Fair, the four-day event of learning, collaboration and relationship building was a tremendous success — a testament to “Minnesota Nice” and the work of the host state of Minnesota and its Legislature, including the leadership provided by Sen. Mary Kunesch, 2026 chair of the MLC, the state’s entire host team and staff, and many others who volunteered their time.

The Midwestern Office of The Council of State Governments thanks the host state, as well as all the attendees, speakers and sponsors.

**Don’t miss next year’s Annual Meeting of the Midwestern
Legislative Conference in Omaha, Neb., on July 18-21, 2027, or
the CSG National Conference in Anaheim, Calif., on Dec. 3-6, 2026.**



SAVE THE DATE



ANNUAL MEETING

JULY 18-21

2027
OMAHA
NEBRASKA

MIDWESTERN
LEGISLATIVE
CONFERENCE