



Southern Office of The Council of State Governments

P.O. Box 98129
Atlanta, GA 30359
1946 Clairmont Road
Decatur, Georgia 30033
404/633-1866
Fax 404/633-4896
www.slcatlanta.org

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COLLEEN COUSINEAU
SUJIT CANAGARETNA
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SENATE PRESIDENT ROBERT STIVERS ELECTED AS CHAIR OF THE SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Senate President Robert Stivers
Kentucky
Chair

Speaker Phillip Gunn
Mississippi
Chair Elect

Speaker Chuck Kleckley
Louisiana
Vice Chair

Speaker David Ralston
Georgia
Immediate Past Chair

Representative Tom McKee
Kentucky
Chair, Agriculture & Rural
Development Committee

Senator Jeff Mullis
Georgia
Chair, Economic Development,
Transportation & Cultural Affairs
Committee

Senator Dolores Gresham
Tennessee
Chair, Education Committee

Representative William E. "Bill"
Sandifer III
South Carolina
Chair, Energy & Environment
Committee

Senator Roman Prezioso
West Virginia
Chair, Fiscal Affairs & Government
Operations Committee

Representative Joni Jenkins
Kentucky
Chair, Human Services & Public
Safety Committee

Marty Garrity
Arkansas
Chair, Legislative Service Agency
Directors Group

Colleen Cousineau
Director, SLC
Deputy Executive Director, CSG

Savannah, Georgia – Delegates to the 69th Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC), the Southern Office of The Council of State Governments (CSG), on July 22, elected Kentucky Senate President Robert Stivers chair of the Conference. Delegates from SLC’s 15 member states unanimously elected Senate President Stivers to succeed Speaker David Ralston of Georgia. Alongside Senate President Stivers, Speaker Philip Gunn of Mississippi will serve as SLC chair elect and Speaker Charles E. "Chuck" Kleckley of Louisiana will serve as SLC vice chair.

Programmatic highlights of the 69th Annual Meeting included an opening plenary session featuring former U.S. Senator and Congressman Saxby Chambliss of Georgia and chairman of Atlanta Equity A.D. "Pete" Correll. The Annual Meeting closing plenary included remarks by the legendary Vince Dooley, former head football coach and director of athletics at the University of Georgia. Each Annual Meeting focuses, in part, on the innovative programs of the host state, and Georgia’s continued successes in workforce training, nuclear energy generation, specialty courts of justice, attracting the motion picture industry, and agricultural food chain logistics were discussed at substantive committee sessions. Also, a fiscal legislative plenary focused on Georgia’s and Tennessee’s strategies toward promoting a 21st century workforce, featuring Jackie Rohosky, assistant commissioner, Quick Start, Georgia; John "Jay" Neely III, vice president, Law and Public Affairs, Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, Georgia; and J. Edward "Ted" Townsend III, chief of staff, Department of Economic and Community Development, Tennessee.

The SLC/Mark Norris Campaign Against Hunger brought together SLC participants to assemble 50,000 meals, to be distributed to families through America’s Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia. Outreach, Inc., SLC’s project partner, is a recipient of the prestigious Daily Point of Light Award by President Barack Obama and President George H. W. Bush for their long-standing commitment to provide food, water, medical care and education to millions of children in the United States and in East Africa.

In addition to the substantive programs, technical tours offered legislators a chance to see first-hand innovative approaches to common challenges. These site visits give attendees an opportunity to grasp a specific understanding of a program that could potentially be replicated within their home state. This year’s technical tours visited the Port of Savannah, Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, Hunter Cattle Company, and International Paper.

As SLC Chair, Senate President Stivers will preside over the Conference and guide its major policy deliberations. Also, Senator Stivers will play a key role in welcoming the 70th SLC Annual Meeting in Lexington, Kentucky, July 9 - 13, 2016.

Founded in 1947, the Southern Legislative Conference is one of four regional legislative offices operating under The Council of State Governments. The mission of the Southern Office is to foster and encourage intergovernmental cooperation among its 15 member states, the largest regional coalition with common interests and goals served by the offices of the Council. By working together within the SLC and participating on its committees, Southern state legislative leaders are able to speak in a distinctive, unified voice to address the issues that affect their states and the greater region.