SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

THE PREMIER PUBLIC POLICY FORUM FOR SOUTHERN STATE LEGISLATURES
Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Nashville and the 75th Annual Meeting of the Southern Legislative Conference (SLC) of The Council of State Governments. You will find the Volunteer State extremely welcoming and excited that you have chosen to spend your week here with us.

This year, Tennessee is celebrating its 225th birthday; our state is filled with a rich culture influenced by American history, music, agriculture, and innovation. These two historic events coinciding in the same location will make this year’s conference unlike any you have experienced before!

I believe that participating in the SLC is the most effective way for sharing information and finding new opportunities and solutions to the challenges facing policymakers throughout the Southern region. Our sessions will cover a diverse and stimulating slate of topics and presenters. Whenever possible, they will highlight several successful programs and initiatives unique to Tennessee.

Our dedicated members and coordinators have arranged an outstanding schedule of events for you and your families throughout the week. As everyone knows, our youth program, guest tours, and social events are unparalleled, bigger, and better than ever!

Thank you for your continued support of the SLC and for gathering with us in Nashville for this premier public policy forum for Southern state legislatures. While your attendance is primarily based on policy discussions, we certainly hope you stay around and enjoy the festivities and surprises that we have in store for you throughout the course of the week.

And always, if we can be of additional assistance to you throughout your stay, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Sincerely,

Speaker Cameron Sexton, Tennessee
SLC Chair 2020–2021

CHAIR ELECT
Senate President Pro Tempore Greg Treat, Oklahoma

IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR
Speaker Tim Moore, North Carolina

DIRECTOR
Ms. Lindsey Gray
### Annual Meeting Overview

#### SATURDAY
**JULY 10**
- 7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. **REGISTRATION**
- 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **GOVERNMENT STAFF WORKSHOP**
- 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SESSION**
- 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. **GOVERNMENT STAFF NETWORKING EVENT**
- 7:00 – 10:00 p.m. **OPENING RECEPTION**

#### SUNDAY
**JULY 11**
- 7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **REGISTRATION**
- 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. **COMMITTEE SESSIONS**
  - Agriculture & Rural Development
  - Economic Development, Transportation & Cultural Affairs
  - Education
- 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. **CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER**
- noon – 1:30 p.m. **WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP FORUM**
- 2:30 – 4:30 p.m. **COMMITTEE SESSIONS**
  - Energy & Environment
  - Fiscal Affairs & Government Operations
  - Human Services & Public Safety
- 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. **CALS/SAGE RECEPTION**
- 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. **CSG ASSOCIATES RECEPTION**
- 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. **FAMILY NIGHT**

#### WEDNESDAY, JULY 14
- Departure day. No programmatic events are scheduled.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>JULY 12</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>JULY 13</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>REGISTRATION</td>
<td>7:30 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>REGISTRATION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00 – 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>COMMITTEE SESSIONS</td>
<td>8:00 – 9:30 a.m.</td>
<td>CLOSING PLENARY &amp; BUSINESS BREAKFAST SESSION</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Energy &amp; Environment</td>
<td></td>
<td>EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fiscal Affairs &amp; Government Operations</td>
<td></td>
<td>Meets upon conclusion of the Closing Plenary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human Services &amp; Public Safety</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 – 11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>OPENING PLENARY SESSION</td>
<td>10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.</td>
<td>STATE TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION RECOGNITION (STAR) AWARD JUDGES PANEL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>noon – 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>POLICY PLENARY SESSION</td>
<td>11:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.</td>
<td>COMMITTEE SITE VISITS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 – 4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>COMMITTEE SESSIONS</td>
<td></td>
<td>noon – 1:30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Agriculture &amp; Rural Development</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Economic Development, Transportation &amp; Cultural Affairs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00 – 9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>PROGRAM INTERVAL</td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00 – 10:00 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 – 11:30 p.m.</td>
<td>2022 HOST STATE RECEPTION: OKLAHOMA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Departure day. No programmatic events are scheduled.
Saturday, July 10

7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION
Summit Foyer, Level 4

11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
(lunch available from 11:00 - 11:30 a.m.)
GOVERNMENT STAFF WORKSHOP CLE
Grand Halls B-C, Level 2
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Jay Hartz, Director, Legislative Research Commission, Kentucky; Legislative Service Agency Directors Group Chair

Supreme Court Update
Lisa Soronen, J.D., Executive Director, State and Local Legal Center, Washington, D.C.

COVID-19: A New Operating Model for State Government
Anastasia Campbell, J.D., Director, Office of Legal Services, General Assembly, Tennessee

Demographic Changes in State Governments
Casey Osterkamp, Director, Division of Personnel, Office of Administration, Missouri

Data Protection: Cybersecurity and Unemployment Claims
Mark Weatherford, Chief Strategy Officer, National Cybersecurity Center, Colorado
Saturday, July 10

3:00-4:30 p.m.
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Summit Halls A-C, Level 4
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Speaker Cameron Sexton, Tennessee; SLC Chair

Rick Barnes
Men’s Basketball Head Coach
University of Tennessee

Tennessee’s fortunes on the hardwood have never looked brighter, as Rick Barnes, the most decorated and accomplished head coach in school history, has led the Volunteers to new heights in his six seasons on Rocky Top. The 2021-22 campaign will be his seventh at Tennessee and his 35th as a head coach. Over the past four seasons, Barnes has directed the Big Orange to a 92-38 record, and the Vols have made three straight NCAA Tournament appearances. Twice during that span, Tennessee has finished among the top 10 nationally in KenPom’s defensive efficiency ratings.

5:00-6:00 p.m.
GOVERNMENT STAFF NETWORKING EVENT
North Coast A, Level 4
Come participate in a unique opportunity to network with your staff colleagues across all branches of state government.

7:00-10:00 p.m.
OPENING RECEPTION at
COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM
Shuttle buses will run loops between the Grand Hyatt and the Hall of Fame from 6:45 - 10:00 p.m.
Name badge required for entry.
Sunday, July 11

7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION
Summit Foyer, Level 4

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SESSION CLE
Grand Halls B-C, Level 2
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senator Casey Murdock, Oklahoma; Committee Chair

Broadband Internet: Access and Challenges in Rural America
The COVID-19 pandemic prompted temporary stay-at-home orders and a move to working and learning from home. This change was difficult for all Americans, especially for those living in rural areas that often lack broadband internet access. According to the Federal Communications Commission, 80 percent of the 24 million American households that do not have reliable, affordable high-speed internet are in rural areas. This session examines the reasons why rural Americans lack broadband internet access and policy initiatives aiming to close this digital divide.

Senator Steve Gooch, Georgia
Delegate Daniel Linville, West Virginia
Brent Skorup, Senior Research Fellow, Mercatus Center, George Mason University, Virginia
Michael Romano, Senior Vice President of Industry Affairs & Business Development, NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association, Virginia

ANNUAL MEETING APP
Visit slcatlanta.org/TN2021/app for easy access to information on policy sessions, presenters, and more!
(Event access code: SLC TN2021)
Sunday, July 11

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
(breakfast available at 7:30 a.m.)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION CLE

Summit Halls A-C, Level 4

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Representative Manly Barton, Mississippi; Committee Chair

Improving and Expanding Infrastructure in the South

Experts widely agree the nation’s infrastructure is in dire need of maintenance and repair. According to the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), the national 10-year infrastructure investment gap is nearly $2.6 trillion, up from $2.1 trillion in 2017. In recent years, many Southern states have successfully pushed initiatives to expand and improve critical infrastructure needs, using a combination of higher fuel taxes, bond sales, tolls, and additional fees for electric vehicles to increase revenue. These advancements are essential; however, much more needs to be done. This session provides an overview of ASCE’s 2021 Infrastructure Report Card – published every four years to outline the condition and performance of American infrastructure – and highlights the implications for states if a federal infrastructure package passes this year.

Janey Camp, Ph.D., Research Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Vanderbilt University, Tennessee
Joung Lee, Director, Policy and Government Relations, American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Washington, D.C.

Legislative Roundtable

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important economic development, transportation, and cultural affairs issues addressed in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.
Sunday, July 11

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
(breakfast available at 7:30 a.m.)

EDUCATION COMMITTEE SESSION CLE

**Summit Hall D, Level 4**

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senator Greg Hembree, South Carolina; Acting Committee Chair

COVID-19 and School Governance:
Lessons for State and Local Policymakers

The unprecedented public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic placed unbelievable stress on education systems. Schools and lawmakers implemented various measures to continue providing education access during a public health emergency. This panel, featuring perspectives from state and local education officials, reexamines public education’s shared governance and explores how state and local officials can better collaborate and respond to future crises—learning from responses to COVID.

*Abigail Potts, Director of Strategic Initiatives and Planning, National Association of State Boards of Education, Virginia*

*Chip Slaven, J.D., Chief Advocacy Officer, National School Boards Association, Virginia*

Legislative Roundtable

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important education issues addressed in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.

10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST HUNGER

**Grand Halls D-E, Level 2**

Begun in 2011 under the auspices of the former SLC Chair, U.S. District Judge Mark Norris, this service event gives attendees an opportunity to support local food-insecure families through the packaging of 50,000 meals for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee.
The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

Sunday, July 11

noon - 1:30 p.m.
(lunch served at noon)

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP FORUM
Summit Halls D-E, Level 4

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Representative Patsy Hazlewood, Tennessee

This event highlights outstanding female leaders in the South. Join women in high-ranking state government positions and SLC leadership roles for an address by our keynote presenter.

(As this forum is intended to bring women in government positions together, we ask that other attendees allow women in government to find their seats first.)

Maneet Chauhan
Chef, Restaurateur, Author, and Television Personality

Maneet Chauhan is an award-winning chef, author, television personality, and founding partner and president of Morph Hospitality Group in Nashville, Tennessee. She is a recipient of the 2012 James Beard Foundation Broadcast Media Award for her role as a permanent judge on Food Network’s “Chopped.” A leader in the Nashville community, Chauhan has been honored as one of the Nashville Business Journal’s “40 under 40,” which highlights young, successful business leaders and was recognized in Nashville Lifestyles’ Women in Business, which showcases local women who are at the top of their respective industries.
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE SESSION CLE

Grand Hall E, Level 2

PRESIDING OFFICER:  
Representative Jim Gooch, Jr., Kentucky; Committee Chair

New Federal Energy Changes

The start of a new presidential administration brings new priorities, agency heads, and rule changes. The Biden administration is pushing for a move to renewable energy and has promised job growth in the renewable energy sector. What will this move mean for states that have relied upon fossil fuel energy and how will it affect employment in the energy sector? This session examines the new federal policy agenda and its impact for Southern states.

Michael J. Nasi, J.D., Partner, Jackson Walker LLP, Texas

The Impact of COVID-19 on the Energy Sector

The COVID-19 pandemic prompted temporary stay-at-home orders and a move to working and learning from home. This change profoundly impacted the economy, energy consumption, and daily life for all Americans. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, energy use decreased considerably in 2020 and it will likely take years to return to pre-COVID levels. This session studies how COVID-19 affected the energy sector and the post-COVID outlook for Southern states.

Susan Grissom, Chief Industry Analyst, American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers, Washington, D.C.
The Premier Public Policy Forum for Southern State Legislatures

Sunday, July 11

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

FISCAL AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE SESSION CLE

Summit Halls A-C, Level 4

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Representative John Read, Mississippi; Committee Chair

The State of the South: Surveying the Current and Future Fiscal Landscape
In fiscal year 2020, state general fund revenues declined for the first time since the Great Recession. In addition to more than $345 billion in federal aid, several states implemented new revenue streams or expanded existing ones to better respond to the changing economic landscape, or utilized reserve accounts or rainy-day funds to assist with pandemic and other related expenses. This session provides a comprehensive examination of the region’s current fiscal landscape, focusing on federal funding, new and emerging revenue streams, and the current health of states’ reserve funds.

Laurel Graefe, Regional Executive, Nashville Branch, Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, Tennessee
Shelby Kerns, Executive Director, National Association of State Budget Officers, Washington, D.C.

Public Pensions: Resiliency and Reforms
While concerns over a collapse of public pension systems due to the pandemic likely were overblown, decreased actuarial funding levels and reductions in scheduled pension payments may lead to future issues. Data collected by The Pew Charitable Trusts show an unprecedented $1.4 trillion total funding gap for state pension funds in 2020. Whether reforming pension structures, implementing robust stress testing, or diversifying investments, lawmakers can take various steps to create more resilient and stable public pension systems. This program highlights the resiliency of state public pension systems during the recent economic downturn, as well as policies and reforms that can strengthen state public pension plans.

David H. Lillard, Jr., State Treasurer, Tennessee
Sunday, July 11

2:30 - 4:30 p.m.
HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SESSION CLE
Grand Halls B-C, Level 2
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senator Katrina Shealy, South Carolina; Committee Chair

Juvenile Collateral Consequences
A growing number of states have limited restrictions related to education and employment for people with criminal records. However, few have devoted the same attention to how these “collateral consequences” impact people with juvenile records. Like adults, people with juvenile records can experience various barriers to their continued education and employment, even as a result of committing minor offenses. These restrictions especially affect people of color due to persistent racial and ethnic disparities in juvenile justice involvement rates. This session provides sample legislation and best practices that policymakers can use to ensure people with juvenile records have the opportunity to attain economic and personal success.

Senator Wes Climer, South Carolina

Human Trafficking and Exploitation
Human trafficking and exploitation are prevalent throughout the United States, part of a worldwide industry involving billions of dollars and millions of victims. Due to underreporting and the difficulty of identifying victims, there is no official estimate of the number of people trafficked nationally. However, tens of thousands of cases have been reported involving both U.S. citizens and foreign nationals. This session highlights approaches to connecting services and treatment to victims of trafficking and exploitation and identifies actions taken in Southern states.

Kathryn A. Moorehead, Director, Violence Against Women Act and Human Trafficking Programs, Office of the Attorney General, South Carolina
Sunday, July 11

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.
**CALS/SAGE RECEPTION**

*North Coast A, Level 4*

We invite CALS and SAGE participants to reconnect with fellow alumni as well as those interested in the programs to come by and learn more about them!

**SOUTHERN LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**

CALS is an annual four-day leadership program designed for new and mid-career Southern state officials. Full scholarships are provided to those selected. Visit [slcatlanta.org/CALS](http://slcatlanta.org/CALS) for more information and the online application, due July 30!

The Staff Academy for Governmental Excellence (SAGE) is a professional leadership development program for Southern state legislative, judicial, executive, and agency staff. In addition to developing their leadership skills, participants have the opportunity to build a network of their peers from across the Southern region. Visit [slcatlanta.org/SAGE](http://slcatlanta.org/SAGE) for more information and the online application, due August 27!

5:00 - 6:00 p.m.

**CSG ASSOCIATES RECEPTION**

*Rail Yard B-C, Level 4*

6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

**FAMILY NIGHT at**

**TOPGOLF NASHVILLE**

Shuttle buses will run loops between the Grand Hyatt and Topgolf from 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. and 8:00 - 9:00 p.m.

*Name badge required for entry.*
Monday, July 12

7:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION
Summit Foyer, Level 4

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
(breakfast available at 7:30 a.m.)
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE SESSION CLE
Grand Hall D, Level 2
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Representative Jim Gooch, Jr., Kentucky; Committee Chair

Security and Resiliency of America’s Energy Grid
In recent years, the security and resiliency of America’s energy grid have come under increased scrutiny due to cybersecurity threats, terrorism, and natural disasters. The 2020 Solar Winds cyberattack and power outages caused by winter storms and other weather events have highlighted the importance of this issue. This session explores the policies and initiatives that governments and utility providers are undertaking to increase the security and resiliency of America’s energy grid.

Jeffrey J. Lyash, President & Chief Executive Officer, Tennessee Valley Authority
Scott Aaronson, Vice President, Security & Preparedness, Edison Electric Institute, Washington, D.C.

Legislative Roundtable
The Legislative Roundtable highlights important energy and environment issues addressed in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.

Follow @SLCStates on Twitter and share your photos using the hashtag #SLCNashville. Each post using the hashtag will be entered into a contest to win free registration to next year’s Annual Meeting in Oklahoma City. The winner will be announced on Twitter following the conference.
Monday, July 12

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
(breakfast available at 7:30 a.m.)

FISCAL AFFAIRS & GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS COMMITTEE SESSION CLE

Grand Hall E, Level 2

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Representative John Read, Mississippi; Committee Chair

Comparative Data Reports
Prepared annually by legislative staff in Kentucky, Louisiana, and West Virginia, comparative data reports track a multitude of revenue sources, performance measures, program variances, and appropriations levels in SLC member states.

Adult Corrections
Rebecca Robinson, Legislative Fiscal Office, Louisiana

Education
Hank Hager, J.D., Senate Education Committee, West Virginia

Transportation
Justin Perry, Legislative Research Commission, Kentucky

Legislative Roundtable
The Legislative Roundtable highlights important fiscal and governance issues addressed in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.
Monday, July 12

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
(breakfast available at 7:30 a.m.)

HUMAN SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE SESSION CLE
North Coast A-B, Level 4

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senator Katrina Shealy, South Carolina; Committee Chair

The Social and Economic Impact of Alzheimer’s and Related Dementias

In 2020, the direct costs of caring for individuals with Alzheimer’s and related dementias amounted to approximately $305 billion nationally – with Medicare and Medicaid covering two-thirds of the total – in addition to billions of dollars in economic value provided by unpaid caregivers. This session reviews actions taken by states to address the social and economic impact of these diseases, including providing financial support for unpaid caregivers, building a dementia-trained healthcare workforce, and creating task forces to coordinate statewide efforts to address this critical public health issue.

Representative John LaHood, Georgia
Jennifer Rosen, Senior Director, State Affairs, Alzheimer’s Association, Washington, D.C.

Legislative Roundtable

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important human services and public safety issues addressed in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.
The Gig Economy and the Workforce of the Future

In 2020, an estimated 36 percent of U.S. workers participated in the gig economy in some capacity. Lawmakers are coming to terms with a changing economic landscape full of new opportunities – and uncertainties – for gig workers, employers, and all levels of government. This policy plenary – featuring a panel of public, private, and federal perspectives – explores the gigification of the economy and innovative policy responses to the challenges that it poses.

Senate President and Lieutenant Governor
Craig Blair, West Virginia
Representative Jason Saine, North Carolina
Shelly Steward, Ph.D., Director, Future of Work Initiative, Economic Opportunities Program, The Aspen Institute, Washington, D.C.
Brice Brewer, Director, Worldwide Operations & Software Engineering, Amazon, Tennessee
Casey Aden-Wansbury, Vice President, Policy & Governmental Affairs, Instacart, California
Elizabeth Jarvis-Shean, Vice President, Communications & Policy, DoorDash, California
Monday, July 12

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SESSION CLE

Summit Hall D, Level 4

PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senator Casey Murdock, Oklahoma; Committee Chair

Rural Hospital Response to COVID-19

With decreasing rural populations, geographic isolation, and changing federal regulations, many rural hospitals have struggled to maintain financial viability in recent years. Since 2005, 180 rural hospitals have closed across the nation, with most closures in the South. The pandemic further highlighted this issue, as many rural Americans had to travel long distances to be tested or receive a vaccine. This session examines the current state and outlook for rural hospitals in the South and their response to COVID-19.

Keith J. Mueller, Ph.D., Director, Center for Rural Health Policy Analysis, Rural Policy Research Institute, University of Iowa
Mark Holmes, Ph.D., Director, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, Chapel Hill, North Carolina

COVID-19 and Agriculture: Pandemic Response and Agriculture Forecast

Like all sectors of the American economy, the agriculture sector has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of the largest purchasers of agricultural products—including restaurants, schools, and hotels—have closed or operated at limited capacity. Farmers and ranchers have had to adjust their methods to meet these new trends. This session explores how the agriculture sector is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic and the outlook for American farmers.

Michael Nepveux, Economist, American Farm Bureau Federation, Washington, D.C.

Legislative Roundtable

The Legislative Roundtable highlights important agricultural and rural development issues addressed in SLC member states during recent legislative sessions. Members from each state brief the committee on new measures undertaken in their respective states.
Monday, July 12

2:30-4:30 p.m.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SESSION CLE
Summit Halls A-C, Level 4
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Representative Manly Barton, Mississippi; Committee Chair

Utilizing Workshare Programs During Economic Downturns
Workshare programs, also known as short-time compensation, allow businesses to temporarily reduce employees’ hours, rather than resorting to layoffs, during economic downturns. These programs allow employees to qualify for a percentage of unemployment benefits, determined by the amount of time their hours are cut. Designed to reduce overall unemployment, worksharing can benefit both businesses and workers, while also reducing the total amount states pay toward unemployment claims. This session provides an overview of worksharing, how it has been used during the current economic downturn, and what actions states can take to utilize such programs in the future.

Keerthi Sugumaran, J.D., Associate, Jackson Lewis P.C., Massachusetts

Emerging Trends in Occupational Licensure Policy
Over the last 60 years, the number of jobs requiring an occupational license has grown from about one in 20 to nearly one in four. When implemented correctly, occupational licensing protects consumers’ health and safety by requiring practitioners to undergo designated training and education in their field and enforces oversight in cases where harm occurs. However, differences and disparities in occupational licensing laws across states create barriers for those looking to enter the market and make it harder for workers to relocate. This session features a panel discussion on licensing regulations that ensure states maintain qualified, successful, and inclusive workforces.

Senator Barrow Peacock, Louisiana
Amy Firestone, Ph.D., Vice President, Apprenticeship Carolina, South Carolina Technical College System
Michelle Feldman, Program Director, Corrections and Reentry, The Council of State Governments Justice Center, New York
Monday, July 12

2:30 – 4:30 p.m.
EDUCATION COMMITTEE SESSION CLE
North Coast Rooms A-B, Level 4
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Senator Greg Hembree, South Carolina; Acting Committee Chair

State Strategies to Correct the “COVID Slide”
The unprecedented disruptions to education over the past year have led to concerns of long-term effects on student achievement and performance. Pre-pandemic National Assessment of Education Progress testing exhibited concerning declines in reading and math performance across the Southern region. This program examines possible solutions for policymakers to not only mitigate the pandemic’s impact but emerge from this disruption with a more solid foundation for student success.

Beth Tarasawa, Ph.D., Executive Vice President of Research, NWEA, Oregon
Nathaniel Schwartz, Ph.D., Professor of Practice, Annenberg Institute for School Reform, Brown University, Tennessee

Creative Solutions to Address Education Staffing Shortages
Over the past decade, the number of students studying to become educators has plummeted. In a recent survey by the U.S. Department of Education, 43 states reported shortages in math teachers, 42 in science teachers, and 44 in special education teachers. The issues surrounding the recruitment and retention of teachers and school support staff require creative strategies. This session highlights innovative policy solutions lawmakers can implement to address staffing shortages while maintaining high-quality standards.

Barnett Berry, Ph.D., Research Professor and Founding Director, ALL4SC, College of Education, University of South Carolina
Jared Bigham, Ed.D., Senior Advisor, Workforce and Rural Initiatives, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce & Industry

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
PROGRAM INTERVAL
Free time for attendees and individual state activities.
Monday, July 12

9:00 - 11:30 p.m.
2022 HOST STATE RECEPTION
Grand Halls D-E, Level 2

Join the Oklahoma Legislature in Oklahoma City for the 2022 SLC Annual Meeting!

With so much to see, do, and experience in America’s heartland, we’re more than meets the eye! Home to restaurants, shops and unique attractions, 14 distinctive districts dot the metro and present a special taste of all OKC has to offer. The Oklahoma City National Memorial gives a powerful look at our state’s resilience and strength, and the Historic Stock Yards take you back in time for an up-close look at Oklahoma’s heritage.

Be one of the first to experience the beautiful 70-acre Scissortail Park, which links the heart of the city to the Boathouse District, and get your fan on with OKC Thunder or come back in the fall to experience some bedlam rivalry between two top-notch college football programs. The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum, Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center, and brand new First Americans Museum offer an inside look at our state’s rich history. How about some family-friendly fun? See lions, tigers, and bears at the world-class OKC Zoo, get crafty at the Oklahoma City Museum of Art or get your experiment on at the OKC Science Museum.

In OKC, there’s history, arts, and fun for everyone. See you there!
Tuesday, July 13

7:30 - 10:00 a.m.
REGISTRATION
Summit Foyer, Level 4

8:00 - 9:30 a.m.
CLOSING PLENARY SESSION AND BUSINESS BREAKFAST
Summit Halls D-E, Level 4
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Speaker Cameron Sexton, Tennessee; SLC Chair

Colonel Littleton
Designer and Proprietor
The Great American Leather Company
Colonel Littleton is an American fashion designer and business proprietor, best known for his Col. Littleton brand of upscale leather goods and specialty products – most handmade in his Lynnville, Tennessee, workshop by local craftsmen. His products have garnered a national and international following from customers who have come to recognize and appreciate the authenticity of the brand and its Americana roots. He launched his label in 1987 from the third-floor attic of his home, selling antique cufflinks to specialty stores that appreciated his eye for the interesting. Over the years, the business has expanded and his collection of leather goods and personal gear for today’s market reflect his respect for days gone by. They are a testament to the value he sees in individual craftsmanship and in those who work with their hands and hearts.

(Meets upon conclusion of the Closing Plenary Session)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE BUSINESS SESSION
Summit Halls A-C, Level 4
PRESIDING OFFICER:
Speaker Cameron Sexton, Tennessee; SLC Chair
Tuesday, July 13

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

**STAR AWARD JUDGES PANEL**

*CLE*

**North Coast Rooms A-B, Level 4**

**PRESIDING:**

*Jay Hartz, Director, Legislative Research Commission, Kentucky*

Sought by a wide array of state agencies, departments, and institutions operating within the three governmental branches, the State Transformation in Action Recognition (STAR) recognizes creative, impactful, transferable, and effective state government solutions. Each year, two exceptional programs are selected by a panel of experienced policy professionals as models of innovation and effectiveness in state government in the Southern region. The five finalists for the 2021 STAR are:

**ALABAMA** Commission on the Evaluation of Services

**OKLAHOMA** Uninsured Vehicle Enforcement Diversion

**TENNESSEE** Governor’s Investment in Vocational Education

**VIRGINIA** Military Medics and Corpsmen

**VIRGINIA** Housing Reform for Inmates with Serious Mental Illnesses

11:15 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE SITE VISIT**

Bus will depart promptly at 11:30 a.m. from the hotel; casual attire; lunch is provided.

**Arrington Vineyards**

*Note: Comfortable clothing and walking shoes are recommended; masks required indoors*

Arrington Vineyards strives to provide a “wine country experience” with award-winning wines set in the rolling hills of middle Tennessee. Owned by country music legend Kix Brooks, master vintner Kip Summers, and Nashville businessman John Russell, the beautiful 95-acre property includes 16 acres of vineyards, five tasting rooms, gorgeous views, and shaded picnic areas. Arrington Vineyards produces and bottles all twenty-one of their award-winning wines on-site. Committee members will participate in a guided tour of the vineyards and a wine tasting.
Tuesday, July 13

11:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE SITE VISIT
Bus will depart promptly at 11:30 a.m. from the hotel; casual attire; lunch is provided.

Lipman Brothers

Note: Comfortable clothing and walking shoes are recommended

Established in 1939, Lipman Brothers was the first distributor of wine and spirits in Tennessee. With an extensive wholesale portfolio of wine, spirits, beer, bottled water, mixers, Riedel crystal, and cigars, Lipman Brothers has proven leadership in the marketplace for more than 80 years and delivers wine, spirits, and beer to 74 of the 96 Tennessee counties, representing over 77 percent of the state’s population. As a family-owned and operated enterprise, Lipman Brothers continues to serve as an educational resource for both trade and consumer markets. Members will participate in a guided tour of Lipman Brothers, followed by an on-site beverage tasting.

11:15 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
EDUCATION COMMITTEE SITE VISIT
Bus will depart promptly at 11:30 a.m. from the hotel; casual attire; lunch is provided.

Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology (TCAT) Smyrna Campus and Nissan Training Center

Note: Closed-toe shoes required; masks and safety goggles will be provided and required indoors

The Smyrna Campus and Nissan Training Center is jointly occupied by the Tennessee College of Applied Technology—Murfreesboro and Nissan, representing a public-private partnership to create educational opportunities closely aligned to current workforce needs in the region. The $46-million campus offers high-quality programs to prepare students and Nissan employees for careers in advanced manufacturing and other fields. Committee members will receive a briefing on the genesis of this public-private partnership and tour the state-of-the-art facility where students and workers train and gain hands-on experience.
Tuesday, July 13

noon - 1:30 p.m.
(lunch served at noon)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FORUM

Summit Halls A-C, Level 4

MODERATOR:
Masami Izumida Tyson, Global Director of Foreign Direct Investment and Trade, Department of Economic and Community Development, Tennessee

This forum features an international roundtable discussion by representatives from the Government of Ontario, Consulate General of Canada, and Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The forum will focus on the importance and benefits of international relationships in the Southern region for trade, investments, economic development, and tourism. Following the discussion, panelists will field questions and comments from the audience.

Ard van der Vorst, Consul General, Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; Chair, Presidency of the Council of the European Union, U.S. Southeast
Jag Badwal, Agent-General, Government of Ontario
Louise Blais, Ambassador, Consulate General of Canada

6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

CLOSING RECEPTION
Grand Foyer, Level 2

7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

STATE DINNER
Grand Hall, Level 2
(Please note, this event is intended for guests age 18 and older.)

Wednesday, July 14

DEPARTURE DAY
**2021 SLC Executive Committee**

**Chair**  
Speaker Cameron Sexton, Tennessee

**Chair Elect**  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
Greg Treat, Oklahoma

**Immediate Past Chair**  
Speaker Tim Moore, North Carolina

---

**Alabama**  
Lieutenant Governor  
Will Ainsworth
  Senate President Pro Tem  
Greg Reed
  Speaker Mac McCutcheon
  Representative Laura Hall
  Representative  
Howard Sanderford

**Arkansas**  
Senate President Pro Tem  
Jimmy Hickey Jr.
  Senator Keith M. Ingram
  Senator Mark Johnson
  Senator Bill Sample
  Speaker Matthew Shepherd
  Representative Robin Lundstrum
  Representative  
David Whitaker

**Florida**  
Senate President Wilton Simpson
  Speaker Chris Sprowls

**Georgia**  
Lieutenant Governor  
Geoff Duncan
  Senate President Pro Tem  
Butch Miller
  Senator Steve Gooch
  Senator Jeff Mullis
  Speaker David Ralston*
  Representative Jon G. Burns
  Representative Terry England

**Kentucky**  
Senate President Robert Stivers’
  Senator Julie Raque Adams
  Senator Mike Wilson
  Speaker David Osborne

**Louisiana**  
Senate President  
Patrick Page Cortez
  Senate President Pro Tem  
Beth Mizell
  Senator Patrick Connick
  Speaker Clay Schexnayder
  Speaker Pro Tempore  
Tanner Magee

**Mississippi**  
Lieutenant Governor  
Delbert Hosemann
  Senate President Pro Tem  
Dean Kirby
  Senator J. Walter Michel
  Senator John Polk
  Speaker Philip Gunn’

**Missouri**  
Lieutenant Governor Mike Kehoe
  Senate President Pro Tem  
Dave Schatz
  Senator John Joseph Rizzo
  Senator Caleb Rowden
  Speaker Rob Vescovo
  Representative Becky Ruth

**North Carolina**  
Senate President Pro Tem  
Philip E. Berger
  Speaker Tim Moore
  Representative Julia C. Howard’

**Oklahoma**  
Senate President Pro Tem  
Greg Treat
  Senator Kim David
  Senator Roger Thompson
  Speaker Charles McCall
2021 SLC Executive Committee

South Carolina
Senator Harvey S. Peeler Jr.
Senator Shane A. Massey
Speaker James H. “Jay” Lucas
Speaker Pro Tempore Tommy Pope
Representative Dennis Moss

Tennessee
Lieutenant Governor and Speaker of the Senate Randy McNally
Senator Ken Yager
Speaker Cameron Sexton
Representative Curtis G. Johnson
Representative Pat Marsh

Texas
Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick
Speaker Dade Phelan

Virginia
Lieutenant Governor
Justin E. Fairfax
Senate President Pro Tempore
L. Louise Lucas
Speaker Eileen Filler-Corn
Delegate Mark D. Sickles

West Virginia
Senate President and Lieutenant Governor
Craig Blair
Senator Tom Takubo
Senator Eric Tarr
Speaker Roger Hanshaw
Speaker Pro Tempore
Gary G. Howell

Ex-Officio Members
Senator Casey Murdock, Oklahoma
Chair, Agriculture & Rural Development Committee
Representative Nathaniel Ledbetter, Alabama
Chair, Economic Development,
Transportation & Cultural Affairs Committee
Representative Manly Barton, Mississippi
Chair, Economic Development,
Transportation & Cultural Affairs Committee
Senator Greg Hembree, South Carolina
Acting Chair, Education Committee
Representative Jim Gooch Jr., Kentucky
Chair, Energy & Environment Committee
Representative John Read, Mississippi
Chair, Fiscal Affairs & Government Operations Committee
Representative Fredrick J. Love, Arkansas
Chair, Human Services & Public Safety Committee
Senator Katrina Shealy, South Carolina
Chair, Human Services & Public Safety Committee

*Outgoing standing committee chair

Past Officers of the SLC Serving in the Legislature
Senator Keith M. Ingram, Arkansas (2013-2014)
Speaker David Ralston, Georgia (2014-2015)
Senate President Robert Stivers, Kentucky (2015-2016)
Speaker Philip Gunn, Mississippi (2016-2017)
Speaker Tim Moore, North Carolina (2019-2020)