

#### 4. POLICY POSITION

##### STRENGTHENING THE STATE/LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

###### Background

The Southern Legislative Conference and the Southern Municipal Conference share a common interest in the maintenance of a strong state-local partnership in the southern states, and the two organizations have worked cooperatively since the creation of the Southern Municipal Conference in late 1988.

The Southern Legislative Conference, Southern Municipal Conference and other prominent organizations have worked together to restore balance to the federal system. The Southern Legislative Conference initiated this effort, which continues as a national effort under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Partnership Task Force.

The Southern Municipal Conference adopted resolutions supporting the Southern Legislative Conference federalism reform proposals and was instrumental in the National League of Cities decision to join the Intergovernmental Partnership Task Force. By resolution adopted July 19, 1989, the Southern Legislative Conference recognized that "state and local governments are partners with a common and equal interest in the balanced operation of the federal system" and urged a strong state-local coalition in the federalism reform effort.

In addition to this partnership, the Southern Legislative Conference and the Southern Municipal Conference have maintained a relationship of reciprocity in other areas critical to the work of both groups.

The Southern Legislative Conference, in its desire to work toward strengthening the state-local partnership, wishes to preserve and continue its cooperative relationship with the Southern Municipal Conference, which has demonstrated its benefits to both organizations, and recognizes that this area of cooperation extends beyond the initial coalition for federalism reform.

###### Recommendation

It is the consensus of the Southern Legislative Conference that state and local governments are partners with a common interest in serving their citizens through the broad range of governmental activities. To strengthen this partnership, the Southern Legislative Conference urges all members of the Conference to recognize the valuable contribution the Southern Municipal Conference has made and

to include, whenever appropriate, the Southern Municipal Conference in the activities of the Southern Legislative Conference.

Furthermore, the Southern Legislative Conference urges the development of an institutional agreement with the Southern Municipal Conference whereby a cooperative relationship extends beyond the issues of federalism and that the Southern Municipal Conference be given equal status with our existing sister organizations.

And furthermore, the Southern Legislative Conference urges all state and local governments to promote strong state-local government partnerships in a balanced federal system.

Adopted by the Southern Legislative Conference  
July 25, 1990

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