



# The United States Conference of Mayors

1620 Eye Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20006  
Phone (202) 293-7330 • Fax (202) 293-2352  
E-mail: [info@usmayors.org](mailto:info@usmayors.org) URL: [usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org)

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Contact:

Elena Temple  
202-861-6719 ([etemple@usmayors.org](mailto:etemple@usmayors.org))  
Carlos Vogel  
202-861-6708 ([cvogel@usmayors.org](mailto:cvogel@usmayors.org))

## HUNDREDS OF MAYORS TO MEET IN OKLAHOMA CITY FOR THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS' 78TH ANNUAL MEETING – JUNE 11 TO JUNE 14

Washington, D.C. – The nation's mayors, led by Conference President and Burnsville, MN Mayor Elizabeth Kautz, will gather in Oklahoma City from Friday, June 11 to Monday, June 14, for the 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of The United States Conference of Mayors (USCM), to be hosted by Oklahoma City (OK) Mayor Mick Cornett.

**The economy, job creation, immigration, energy efficiency, the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the growing number of vacant and abandoned properties in America's cities, high speed rail and education reform top this year's agenda.** During the meeting, mayors from all over the country come together to discuss public policy issues impacting residents in cities large and small – namely **New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon, Los Angeles Mayor Villaraigosa and several new mayors from cities like Charlotte, Houston and Atlanta.** On the final day of the meeting, the mayors will debate and vote on policy resolutions to forward to Congress and the Administration in the hopes of shaping federal legislation.

The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, and each city is represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the mayor.

All press MUST pre-register to gain access to the 78th Annual Meeting of The U.S. Conference of Mayors by logging onto [http://usmayors.org/78thAnnualMeeting/press\\_registration.asp](http://usmayors.org/78thAnnualMeeting/press_registration.asp). After showing VALID, CURRENT identification, working press representatives must pick up meeting credentials in Room 10 of the Cox Convention Center (street level). An advance DRAFT agenda is located on the USCM website at [www.usmayors.org](http://www.usmayors.org).

The Conference of Mayors is pleased to announce a Title Sponsor for this year's meeting – America's Natural Gas Alliance (ANGA). ANGA exists to promote demand for and supply of clean, abundant, affordable North American natural gas. The 34-member trade association is taking its message to a wide range of energy stakeholders including electric power utilities, commercial enterprises, federal, state and local government and, most importantly, the American people who stand to reap the benefits of this clean, reliable, domestic energy resource.

### **MEETING HIGHLIGHTS (Cox Convention Center):**

#### **Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup>**

9:30 am to 11:30 am:

- Mayors Water Council Meeting (Meeting Room 17) – Release of 100-city survey on bottled water policies in cities and the movement to phase out the use of bottled water in city halls across the country.

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm:

- Mayors Climate Protection Awards Luncheon (Exhibit Hall 1) –
  - One set of awards will recognize mayors for innovative practices in their cities designed to increase energy efficiency and curb global warming. An independent panel of judges determines one large city winner and one small city winner from a pool of over 100 applicants.
  - Another set of awards will honor cities with new Green Jobs Training Programs that embody mayoral leadership in green jobs and innovative strategies in green jobs efforts. The grant awards support the work of mayors in partnership with 501(c)(3) organizations in their cities to establish comprehensive green jobs training initiatives. The non-profit organizations in the three winning cities receive monetary awards ranging from \$300,000 to \$500,000.

- Congressman Chaka Fattah (PA) and Chair of the Urban Caucus – Will address the mayors on H.R. 4832, The Local Jobs For America Act, Cosponsored by Congressman George Miller (CA) which would provide federal funding to cities to retain employees that would otherwise have to be cut because of local budget shortfalls. Congressman Fattah will also speak about the most recent Kerry/Graham/Lieberman Climate Bill and the fact that the local Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program were not included.

2:30 pm to 4:00 pm:

- New Mayors Forum (Ballroom A) -- This session will and will feature New Orleans, LA Mayor Mitch Landrieu, Charlotte, NC Mayor Anthony Foxx, Houston, TX Mayor Annise Parker and others who will participate in a moderated panel discussion about the challenges/opportunities of being a new mayor in this political climate (with the recession, budget cuts, increasing foreclosures looming, all while “greening” America’s cities).
- Special Session on Vacant and Abandoned Properties (Ballroom B) – Release of a study highlights effective and unique strategies of 76 cities, partnerships and the best practices on the disposition of distressed, vacant and abandoned properties – particularly existing foreclosure properties. Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, Little Rock, AR Mayor Mark Stodola and Bridgeport, CT Mayor Bill Finch will share “best practices” for how they handle foreclosures and abandoned properties in their cities.

## **Saturday, June 12<sup>th</sup>**

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm:

- City Livability Awards Luncheon (Exhibit Hall 1) -- The Conference of Mayors City Livability Program, sponsored by Waste Management, Inc., honors mayors and their city governments for developing programs that enhance the quality of life in urban areas. Established in 1979, the City Livability Awards are given annually to ten mayors and their cities--a first-place award and four Outstanding Achievement Awards for cities with populations under 100,000, and a first-place and four Outstanding Achievement Awards for cities of 100,000 or more inhabitants.

2:30 pm to 4:00 pm:

- Energy Efficiency Workshop (Ballroom A) -- This workshop will highlight mayors who have greened their cities and reduced their carbon footprints. Specifically, mayors have used energy block grant monies (funded thru the stimulus bill) to invest in cost-effective energy strategies that reduce energy use, curb green house gas emissions and protect the environment and promote energy independence and how lighting solutions play a role in advancing energy efficiency and climate protection goals, while at the same time reducing maintenance and operating costs, stimulating more social and economic activity in neighborhoods and making streets safer. This Phillips sponsored workshop is titled “Lighting the Way to a More Beautiful, Energy Efficient City.”

Forum participants:

Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa

Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter

Indianapolis Mayor Gregory Ballard

Moderated by USCM President Burnsville, MN Mayor Elizabeth Kautz

Phillips Co. CEO Zia Eftekhar

- The High School Dropout Crisis and Data (Ballroom B) -- Using Data to Solve Seemingly Unsolvable Problems – The U.S. *high school dropout crisis* poses one of the greatest threats to the nation's economic growth and competitiveness. In addition, high school dropouts become far more likely to lead lives of crime and entrenched poverty. In this Forum, mayors will examine the use of data as a means to address the high school dropout crisis, turn around underperforming schools, and improve student outcomes. The session will examine innovative and creative ways to capture, process and collect data from disparate systems to push school reform, set more appropriate targets for students, focus staff development efforts for teachers, encourage curriculum reform, and improve instruction and instructional materials.

Members of the USCM Taskforce on Public Schools:

Sacramento, CA Mayor Kevin Johnson, Chair

St. Paul, MN Mayor Chris Coleman, Vice Chair

Berkeley, CA Mayor Tom Bates

Boston, MA Mayor Thomas M. Menino

Davenport, IA Mayor Bill Gluba

Miami Beach, FL Mayor Matti H. Bower

Nashville, TN Mayor Karl Dean

New Haven, CT Mayor John DeStafano, Jr.

Norfolk, VA Mayor Paul Fraim

Philadelphia, PA Mayor Michael Nutter

Pembroke Pines, FL Mayor Frank C. Ortis

Portland, OR Mayor Samuel F. Adams  
Rochester, NY Mayor Robert J. Duffy  
Seattle, WA Mayor Mike McGinn  
Tacoma, WA Mayor Marilyn Strickland  
Trenton, NJ Mayor Douglas H. Palmer  
West Sacramento, CA Mayor Christopher L. Cabaldon

4:00 pm to 5:30 pm:

- Environment Standing Committee (Meeting Room 15) – A 150 city survey on Brownfields Redevelopment will be released in this session. The report identifies the problems of brownfields redevelopment faced by local communities, outlines the fleeting opportunities lost when properties remain idle and abandoned, and quantifies some of the benefits from brownfields redevelopment efforts across the country with cities highlighting their positive results from land recycling and the return of brownfields to productive uses.

**Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>**

11:00 am to 12:00 pm:

- Plenary Session Feat. Immigration Reform Panel (Exhibit Hall 1) – Discussion of the new Arizona Law with Los Angeles (CA) Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Phoenix (AZ) Mayor Gordon and Trenton (NJ) Mayor Doug Palmer

**Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**

8:30 am to 11:00 am:

- Morning Business Session (Exhibit Hall 1) --
  - Debate and vote on key resolutions before the body of mayors including the Gulf Coast Oil Spill, Arizona's new immigration law and others.
  - Release of a groundbreaking report analyzing the economic impacts of high speed rail transportation on four cities and their metropolitan areas:
    - Los Angeles, CA
    - Chicago, IL
    - Albany, NY
    - Orlando, FL

**WHO: The United States Conference of Mayors**

**WHAT: 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

**WHEN: Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> to Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**

**WHERE: Cox Convention Center  
1 Myriad Gardens  
Oklahoma City, OK 73102**

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