



The United States Conference of Mayors

Mayors Water Council

93rd ANNUAL MEETING OF THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

**THURSDAY – JUNE 19th, 2025
TAMPA, FLORIDA**

Ybor Ballroom - Salon II-III, Level 2

Mayors Water Council

Thursday, June 19th 3:30 pm – 4:30 pm
Ybor Ballroom (Salon II-III)

Agenda

<i>Moderator</i>	Welcoming Remarks and Mayoral Introductions DANENE SORACE Mayor of Lancaster Chair, Mayors Water Council
<i>Remarks</i>	Reconciliation Update Staff Report
<i>Remarks</i>	Regulatory Briefing JUDY SHEAHAN Assistant Executive Director, USCM
<i>Remarks</i>	What Recent Orders Mean for U.S. Regulations SUSAN BODINE Partner, Earth & Water Law
<i>Remarks</i>	Next Steps: Political Roadmap to Achieve Water Affordability DANENE SORACE, Mayor of Lancaster Chair, Mayors Water Council
<i>Remarks</i>	Water Workforce Development ASHANTI HAMILTON Workforce Development Manager, Veolia North America
<i>Remarks</i>	American Water, Solutions Provider MICHAEL CHIRICO Director of Legislative & External Affairs, American Water



Mayors Water Council 2025 Mayoral Membership



Chair

Danene Sorace, Mayor of Lancaster, PA

Steven L. Reed
Mayor of Montgomery, AL

Becky Daggett
Mayor of Flagstaff, AZ

Mark Freeman
Mayor of Mesa, AZ

John. P Marchand
Mayor of Livermore, CA

Justin Brooks
Mayor of Erie, CO

Joe Ganim
Mayor of Bridgeport, CT

Joy Cooper
Mayor of Hallandale Beach, FL

Alix Delsume
Mayor of North Miami, FL

Kevin C. Richardson
Mayor of Lake Barrington, IL

John D. Noak
Mayor of Romeoville, IL

Mark W. Myers
Mayor of Greenwood, IN

Deborah Whitfield
Mayor of Lawrence, IN

LaToya Cantrell
Mayor of New Orleans, LA

Leirion Gaylor Baird
Mayor of Lincoln, NE

J. Christian Bollwage
Mayor of Elizabeth, NJ

David R. Mayer
Mayor of Gloucester, NJ

Timothy McDonough
Mayor of Hope, NJ

Robert T. Kennedy
Mayor of Freeport, NY

Thomas Roach
Mayor of White Plains, NY

Jamael Tito Brown
Mayor of Youngstown, OH

Sharetta Smith
Mayor of Lima, OH

Jack W. Bradley
Mayor of Lorain, OH

Danene Sorace
Mayor of Lancaster, PA

Mary Lou Pauly
Mayor of Issaquah, WA

Angela Birney
Mayor of Redmond, WA

Ryan Sorenson
Mayor of Sheboygan, WI

Shawn. N. Reilly
Mayor of Waukesha, WI



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THE UNITED STATES
CONFERENCE OF MAYORS



May 16, 2025

The Honorable Lee Zeldin
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20460

RE: Executive Order: Directing the Repeal of Unlawful Regulations (April 9, 2025)

Dear Administrator Zeldin,

On behalf of the nation's mayors, cities and counties, we write to you regarding President Trump's Executive Order titled, *Directing the Repeal of Unlawful Regulations*, announced on April 9, 2025. The Executive Order directs federal agencies to immediately review and potentially repeal regulations deemed unlawful under ten recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions, many of which concern major environmental law and policies. The Executive Order also calls upon agencies to invoke the Administrative Procedure Act's (APA) "good cause" exception to rescind these regulations without adhering to standard notice and comment procedures.

Collectively, our organizations represent the nation's 3,069 counties, 19,000 cities and the mayors of the 1,400 largest cities throughout the United States. The health, well-being and safety of residents and communities are top priorities for local leaders. **We fully support the Administration's efforts to review, and when appropriate, revise any regulations that are found to impose significant financial burdens and compliance concerns for local governments, especially those for which the benefits to public health do not outweigh the costs. We believe the best way to achieve our mutual goals is guided by the fundamental principles of Federalism and can be achieved through meaningful engagement and collaboration with intergovernmental partners following the APA notice and comment process.**

Executive Order 13132: *Federalism* requires the federal government to consult with local stakeholders concerning the direct impacts of promulgated regulations. Local governments serve as co-regulators in implementing and enforcing many federal laws and our members take these responsibilities seriously. Given that many communities face unique challenges, it is these principles that have allowed our organizations to work collaboratively with the federal government in developing practical rules and regulations that both achieve the desired public health benefits and are implementable by all of our members.

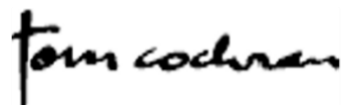
To that end, as both regulated entities and regulators, it is critical that local leaders remain fully engaged as intergovernmental partners through the entire federal regulatory process, from initial development and implementation through any consideration of repeal or revision.

As the Agency moves forward with potentially repealing regulations, we strongly urge EPA to adhere to the APA guidelines and follow typical notice and comment procedures with its intergovernmental partners. An immediate repeal of certain regulations will likely result in direct impacts for local leaders, including abrupt changes in budget planning, operational adjustments and administrative shifts. Notice and comment opportunities with appropriate stakeholders will help ensure these impacts are identified and mitigated as best as possible.

Additionally, for these and future rulemaking processes, we urge the Agency to adhere to the requirements of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and EPA's own guidance on Executive Order 13132: *Federalism*, and to consider enhancing this process through a more responsive collaboration approach with intergovernmental partners. This includes offering consistent (early and accessible) comment opportunities, facilitating more dialogue-focused meetings (versus a one-sided presentation of information), and by providing Agency feedback on submitted input before final decisions are made.

We look forward to continued, meaningful and timely engagement with EPA as the Agency moves forward with reviewing and possibly repealing existing regulations that place an undue burden on local governments. If you have any questions, please contact us: Judy Sheahan (USCM) at 202-355-8540 or jsheahan@usmayors.org; Carolyn Berndt (NLC) at 202-626-3101 or Berndt@nlc.org; and Charlotte Mitchell Duyshart (NACo) at 405-326-475 or CMitchell@naco.org.

Sincerely,



Tom Cochran
CEO and Executive Director
The U.S. Conference of Mayors



Clarence E. Anthony
CEO and Executive Director
National League of Cities



Matthew D. Chase
CEO/Executive Director
National Association of Counties

Ashanti Hamilton

Workforce Development Manager

Veolia North America



Ashanti Hamilton – Workforce Development Leader

Ashanti Hamilton is a seasoned public servant and workforce development leader with over two decades of experience driving change in Milwaukee. He began his career as a high school teacher in Milwaukee Public Schools, where he spent four years educating and mentoring youth. Hamilton went on to serve 18 years on the Milwaukee Common Council, including four years as Council President.

During his time on the council, he championed bold workforce initiatives such as the Milwaukee Jobs Act and the expansion of the residency preference program to connect more city residents with employment opportunities. Following his time on the council, Hamilton was appointed Director of the City of Milwaukee's Office of Community Wellness and Safety. In this role, he led the city's violence prevention efforts, resulting in a 40% drop in homicides during his two-year tenure—one of the most significant reductions in recent history.

In January 2025, Hamilton joined Veolia as Workforce Development Manager, where he continues his mission to build stronger communities through career pathways, training programs, and inclusive hiring strategies. His career reflects a deep commitment to equity, public safety, and creating real opportunities for residents across the country.

Michael Chirico
Director of Legislative & External Affairs
American Water



Michael Chirico serves as Director of Legislative and External Affairs, primarily focusing and leading efforts to strengthen and expand key, strategic 3rd party relationships, helping to further elevate American Water's industry leading voice with policy makers and regulators across the nation. Reporting to Christine Keck, Vice President, Chief Legislative and External Affairs Officer, Michael brings a wealth of experience from his previous roles at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Marshall Health, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and as a Chief of Staff in the U.S. House of Representatives.

He most recently served as Vice President of Government Relations at the chamber, managing relationship-building activities, creating advocacy engagement plans, and providing strategic advice and counsel. His extensive interaction with Members of Congress, senior staff, and key decision-makers, as well as his execution of state contracts and orchestration of high-profile visits and events, is a strong addition to the American Water Government Affairs team.

Susan Parker Bodine

Partner, Earth & Water Law LLC

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Susan Parker Bodine is an environmental attorney with over 36 years of public and private experience with environmental public policy issues including water pollution control, wetlands issues, federal regulation of property, regulation of wastes, remediation of contaminated properties, and water resources development. Ms. Bodine's experience includes serving as the assistant administrator of EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and as the assistant administrator of EPA's Office of

Solid Waste and Emergency Response (now the Office of Land and Emergency Management).

Ms. Bodine also served as the Chief Counsel for the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and as the staff director and senior counsel for the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the U.S. House of Representatives. Before and after her government service Ms. Bodine practiced environmental law at Covington & Burling and at Barnes & Thornburg. She currently is a partner with Earth & Water Law. Ms. Bodine is a graduate of Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Law.



Mayors Water Council

A Task Force of The United States Conference of Mayors

The primary purpose of the Mayors Water Council (MWC) is to assist local governments in providing high quality water resources in a cost effective manner. The MWC provides a forum for local governments to share information on water technology, management methods, operational experience, and financing of infrastructure development. The MWC will monitor and respond, as appropriate, to federal legislative, regulatory or policy proposals affecting the delivery of municipal water services. The MWC will also provide a forum to assist local government in exploring competition and public-private partnership approaches, and alternative methods of financing water infrastructure development.

The Mayors Water Council (MWC) officially commenced operations within the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) on August 1, 1995. The MWC began its first program year with an August 4, 1994 forum held in Washington, DC. At the forum, Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner noted that the federal government will not be able to meet the future water development financing needs of cities. Therefore, local governments must seek public/private partnerships to finance future water development projects.

Participation in the Mayors Water Council is open to all mayors, and functions like a USCM task force.