



Agenda

**The 94th
Winter Meeting
of
The United States
Conference of
Mayors**



**January 28-30, 2026
Washington, DC
Marriott Marquis Washington DC**



Title Sponsor of the 94th Winter Meeting



The United States Conference of Mayors 94th Winter Meeting

January 28-30, 2026

Washington, DC

Marriott Marquis Washington DC

Key Information for Attendees
Floor Plan

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DAILY SCHEDULE

Tuesday, January 27, 2026

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Wednesday, January 28

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Workforce Development Council (WDC)

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Key Information for Attendees

Participation

Unless otherwise noted, all plenary sessions, council meetings, best practice forums, and social events are open to all mayors and other officially registered attendees.

Registration

Registration will be open:

- Tuesday, January 27: 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, January 28: 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Thursday, January 29: 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- Friday, January 30: 7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Badges and Lanyards

The badge you receive upon check-in serves as your official identification for admission to all events at the 94th Winter Meeting. All delegates, participants, and guests must wear their registration badges to enter all sessions, meeting areas, and social events. The color-coded lanyard supplied must also be worn with the badge at all times. Failure to wear the badge and lanyard for security viewing may cause inconvenience to participants. There is a \$50 fee for replacing lost badges. A photo ID will be required upon check-in to pick up your badge.

Lanyard Color Code

BLUE	Member Mayor
RED	Service City Mayor
YELLOW	Non-member Mayor
GREEN	City Official
LIGHT BLUE	Speaker, Speaker Staff, Mayors Water Council, or Guest
BLACK	USCM Platinum Partner, Mayors Business Council, or Sponsor
MAROON	Workforce Development Council
CORAL	Registrant's Family, Spouse, Partner, or Child
ORANGE	Press
SILVER	USCM Staff

Media Coverage

Unless otherwise noted, all plenary sessions, committee meetings, council meetings, and best practice forums are open to credentialed press registrants. **All social and evening events are CLOSED to press registrants.**

All plenary sessions are streamed live on our [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#) channels.

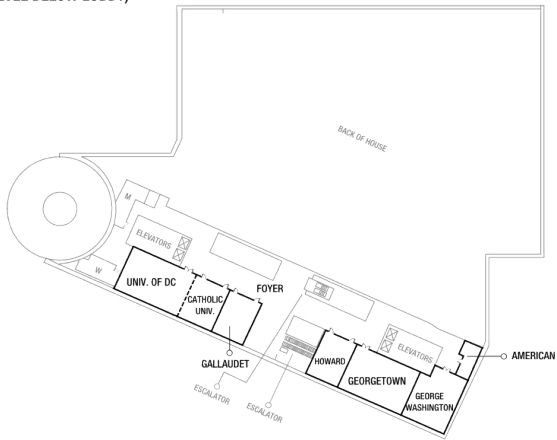
The hashtag for the meeting is **#MayorsDC26**

Mobile App

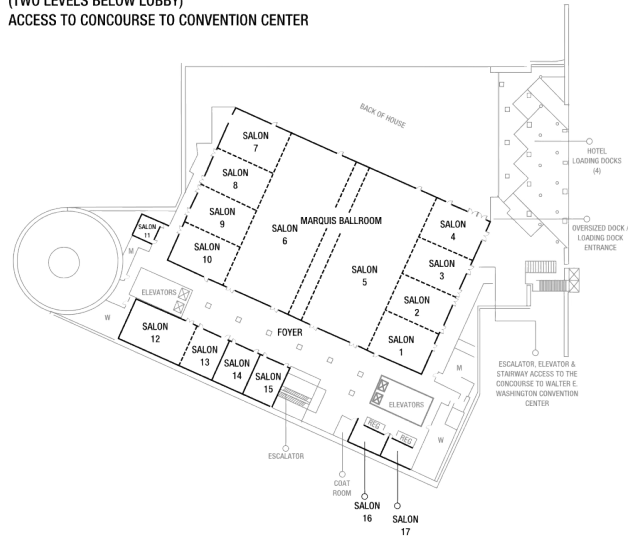
Download the official mobile app to view and build your own custom agenda, the list of attending mayors, and more. You can find it at usmayors.org/app. Available on the App Store and Google Play.

Floor Plans

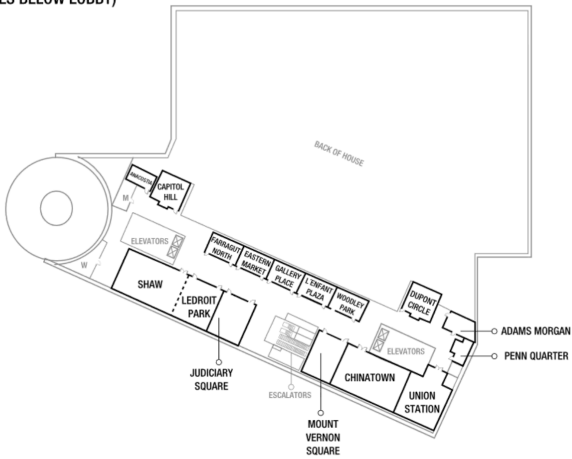
MEETING LEVEL 1 (M1)
(ONE LEVEL BELOW LOBBY)



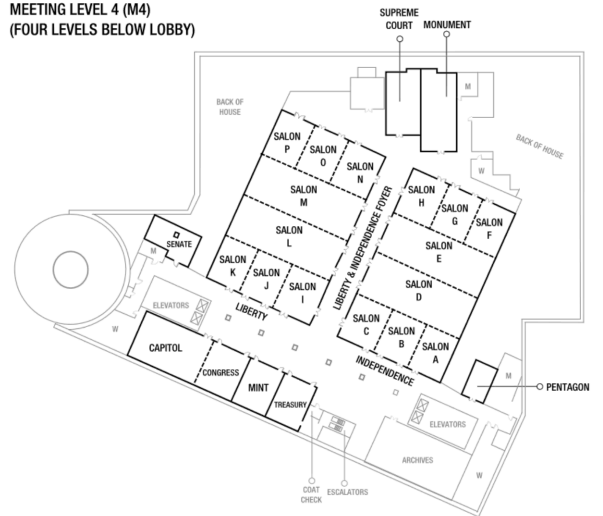
MEETING LEVEL 2
(TWO LEVELS BELOW LOBBY)
ACCESS TO CONCOURSE TO CONVENTION CENTER



MEETING LEVEL 3 (M3)
(THREE LEVELS BELOW LOBBY)



MEETING LEVEL 4 (M4)
(FOUR LEVELS BELOW LOBBY)



TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

Registration

2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Salon 16, Level M2

Executive Committee (Closed)

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Large Conference Room 420, U.S. Conference of Mayors Offices (1620 I St. NW Suite 400)

The Executive Committee will meet at the newly renovated headquarters of the United States Conference of Mayors, located near Farragut Square.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

Registration

7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Salon 16, Level M2

Breakfast Available

7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

Marquis Ballroom, Level M2

Opening Plenary Session

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Marquis Ballroom, Level M2

The program will begin at 8:30 a.m.

<i>Presiding</i>	DAVID HOLT Mayor of Oklahoma City President, The United States Conference of Mayors
<i>Video</i>	<i>A Message from Senator Tim Scott</i>
<i>Fireside Chat</i>	<i>Conversations with a Colleague</i> DAVID HOLT Mayor of Oklahoma City President, The United States Conference of Mayors DANIEL LURIE Mayor of San Francisco
<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Bloomberg Philanthropies City Data Alliance</i> CARRIE BISHOP Government Innovation Bloomberg Philanthropies
<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Public Safety Panel</i>
<i>Moderator</i>	DAVID HOLT Mayor of Oklahoma City President, The United States Conference of Mayors
<i>Panelists</i>	JERRY DYER Mayor of Fresno
<i>Fireside Chat</i>	<i>Conversations with a Colleague</i> DAVID HOLT Mayor of Oklahoma City President, The United States Conference of Mayors MURIEL BOWSER Mayor of the District of Columbia
<i>Video Introduction</i>	TOM COCHRAN CEO and Executive Director The United States Conference of Mayors
<i>Video</i>	<i>The Holt Presidency - Part 1</i>
<i>Address</i>	DAVID HOLT Mayor of Oklahoma City President, The United States Conference of Mayors

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Council on Metro Economies and the New American City

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Independence Salon A-B-C, Level M4

This session will focus on the major affordability issues at the American family's kitchen table, as well as how cities can promote the economic mobility of their residents.

Moderator ANDY SCHOR
Mayor of Lansing
Chair, Council on Metro Economies and the New American City

Remarks THE HONORABLE ELISSA SLOTKIN
United States Senate (MI)

Discussion *Mayoral Panel on Affordability*
MATT TUERK
Mayor of Allentown
Chair, Children, Health, and Human Services Committee

BRIAN WAHLER
Mayor of Piscataway
Chair, Legislative Action Committee

DANIEL RICKENMANN
Mayor of Columbia, SC

Discussion *Partnerships in Economic Mobility and Security*
ERIN SMITH
Global Commercial Banking Sustainability Executive
Bank of America

DANIEL RAMOT
Chief Executive Officer
VIA

JOE BARTLETT
Senior Vice President of Business Development
Cambridge Mobile Telematics

CATHERINE LYONS
Director of Policy and Coalitions
Economic Innovation Group

First-Time Attendee and New Mayors Session

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Liberty Salon I-J-K, Level M4

Is this your first United States Conference of Mayors meeting? Then this session is for you! Hear from our leadership and other active mayors to get the most out of the organization.

Remarks DAVID HOLT
Mayor of Oklahoma City
President, The United States Conference of Mayors

Remarks TODD GLORIA

Mayor of San Diego
Chair, Membership Task Force
Vice President, The United States Conference of Mayors

Remarks LEIRION GAYLOR BAIRD
Mayor of Lincoln
Second Vice President, The United States Conference of Mayors

Remarks TOM COCHRAN
CEO and Executive Director
The United States Conference of Mayors

Remarks ERIN SHEERAN
Membership Manager
The United States Conference of Mayors

Remarks DAVID W. BURNS
Assistant Executive Director for Technology and Innovation
The United States Conference of Mayors

Mayors Water Council

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Independence Salon D, Level M4

Join us for a discussion on the most pressing water and wastewater issues facing U.S. cities, including a focus on federal policy and funding outlooks, workforce development needs, and updates on PFAS.

Co-Chairs MARK MYERS
Mayor of Greenwood

JOHN P. MARCHAND
Mayor of Livermore

Discussion *Federal Water Policy Outlook 2026*
JESSICA KRAMER
Assistant Administrator
Office of Water, U.S. EPA

Discussion *Congressional Funding Outlook - State Revolving Loan Fund Programs*
MAYELY BOYCE
Senior Water Policy Advisor for Water Infrastructure
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee (EPW)

ED HIGGINS, Ph.D.
Water Policy Advisor
Senate Environment & Public Works Committee (EPW)

Discussion *Water Utility Training & Infrastructure Workforce Development*
CAMILLE RUBEIZ
Vice President, Plastics Pipe Institute

<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Building the Future of Water Through the Veolia Workforce Academy</i> ANNA WILDEMAN Senior Vice President of Stakeholder Affairs & Sustainability Veolia North America
<i>Discussion</i>	<i>PFAS Update</i> ALAN ROBERSON Water Policy Advisor Former Executive Director, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators

Discovering the Creator Economy in Your City

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Liberty Salon L, Level M4

The creator economy is a booming industry where content creators, influencers, and other digital entrepreneurs monetize their skills and audiences. TikTok and other social media platforms are now driving small business growth and opportunities in cities. Yet, most city services' programs don't reach these new entrepreneurs. Learn from the best experts and a top social media influencer how your city can master the algorithms and AI to reach entrepreneurs and small businesses and take your city to the next level.

<i>Moderator</i>	ELIZABETH B. KAUTZ Mayor of Burnsville Chair, Small Business and Entrepreneurship Task Force
<i>Remarks</i>	LOUIS MOSCA Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer American Management Services
<i>Remarks</i>	ANGIE SOETY Senior Vice President American Management Services
<i>Remarks</i>	RAFAEL CARBONELL Executive Director, Taubman Center for State and Local Government Harvard University
<i>Remarks</i>	SHELBY LEIMGRUBER Creator Economy Advisor TikTok Founding Launch Team

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Cities Delivering on Climate Solutions

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Independence Salon A-B-C, Level M4

Despite shifting federal priorities, cities continue to lead the way in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, fostering clean energy, and advancing resilient policies. From lowering energy costs to expanding affordable transit options, local leaders are meeting challenges through innovative best practices and unique funding streams. This session will equip attendees with practical, transferable ideas they can bring back to their own communities to advance local climate action goals.

<i>Moderator</i>	BARBARA BUFFALOE
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	Mayor of Columbia (MO) Chair, Environment Committee
Remarks	<i>Systems for Success: Delivering Climate Solutions Through Affordable Housing in Redmond</i> ANGELA BIRNEY Mayor of Redmond
Remarks	<i>From Heat to Harm Reduction: A Program Improving Safety and Climate Resilience in Mount Vernon</i> SHAWYN PATTERSON HOWARD Mayor of Mount Vernon
Remarks	<i>Investing Green, Saving Green: The ROI of Sustainability in Knoxville</i> INDYA KINCANNON Mayor of Knoxville
Presentation	<i>Old Money, New Tricks: How to Fund Climate and Clean Energy</i> KATE JOHNSON North America Regional Director C40 Cities
	NIDHI SHASHIDHARA US Federal Affairs Officer C40 Cities
Remarks	KEITH WILSON Mayor of Portland

Duty, Honor, Country from a West Point Cadet Perspective

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Room TBD Level M4

In these challenging times, producing leaders of character in our communities is more important than ever. The West Point Military Academy has an unparalleled leadership development record dating back to 1802. Ten current West Point cadets will join the legislators in an open and candid discussion about how best to promote leadership and selfless service in our cities and towns in the years to come.

Moderator DR. FRANK I. LUNTZ
President
FIL, Inc.

How Cities are Shaping Global Affairs

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Liberty Salon I-J-K, Level M4

This panel will explore how U.S. cities are increasingly shaping global affairs through international partnerships, city diplomacy, and leadership on major global challenges—from disaster resilience and trade to geopolitical engagement.

Moderator MURIEL BOWSER
Mayor of the District of Columbia
Chair, International Affairs Standing Committee

<i>Remarks</i>	THE HONORABLE OVITA NELIUPŠIENĖ Ambassador of the European Union to the United States
<i>Remarks</i>	GINA ORTIZ JONES Mayor of San Antonio
<i>Remarks</i>	KAZUFUMI ONISHI Mayor of Kumamoto City, Japan
<i>Remarks</i>	RIZNYK MYKOLA Mayor of Opishnya, Ukraine
<i>Remarks</i>	WILLIAM HENAGAN Research Fellow Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)

Local Strategies: Substance Use Disorders, Mental Health, and Recovery Initiatives

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Independence Salon D, Level M4

This panel will highlight local innovations in behavioral health, showcasing how cities are leveraging opioid settlement funds, building partnerships, and implementing community-driven strategies to meet growing needs.

<i>Moderator</i>	SHARETTA SMITH Mayor of Lima Co-Chair, Substance Use Disorder, Recovery and Treatment Task Force
	LEONARDO WILLIAMS Mayor of Durham Co-Chair, Substance Use Disorder, Recovery and Treatment Task Force
<i>Remarks</i>	BETH SIEBERT Commissioner Board of Commissioners Allen County, Ohio
<i>Remarks</i>	TAMMIE COLON Executive Director Mental Health Recovery Services Board of Allen, Auglaize, and Hardin Counties

Opening Press Conference

11:45 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Salon 12, Level M2

Remarks by USCM Officers

Wednesday Plenary Lunch

12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Marquis Ballroom, Level M2

The program will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Presiding DAVID HOLT
Mayor of Oklahoma City
President, The United States Conference of Mayors

Fireside Chat *Embracing Innovation: How Mayors Can Lead with AI*

Cities are on the frontlines of delivering the services that shape our lives, and AI presents an immediate opportunity to build capacity, enabling governments to serve their communities faster and more equitably. This conversation will focus on with Cris Turner, Vice President Government Affairs & Public Policy at Google and Mableton Mayor Michael Owens will share how he is embracing this opportunity by building his newly incorporated city as AI-first from the ground up.

CRIS TURNER
Vice President, Government Affairs & Public Policy, Knowledge and Information Products
Google
USCM Platinum Partner

MICHAEL OWENS
Mayor of Mableton, GA

Discussion *Power of Mayors + Power of Design*

From tackling the housing crisis to mitigating the worst impacts of climate change, mayors are providing a bold vision for the future and shaping the built environment in lasting, meaningful ways. This conversation will examine efforts within the City of Boston to provide safe, healthy and affordable housing options, build resilient communities, and increase opportunity. Mayor Wu and Ms. Wedge will discuss how architecture has shaped iconic spaces throughout Boston and how the local design community is working with city leaders to revitalize neighborhoods, stimulate economic development, and support innovation.

CAROLE WEDGE, FAIA
CEO/EVP
American Institute of Architects

MICHELLE WU
Mayor of Boston

Presentation The Words that Work: 2026
DR. FRANK I. LUNTZ
President, FIL, Inc.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Current Issues in Policing

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Room TBD, Level M4

The session will feature an informal roundtable discussion that will provide an opportunity for mayors and police

chiefs to share information on the public safety issues facing their cities and discuss successful efforts and programs underway to address them.

Moderators JERRY DYER
Mayor of Fresno
Co-Chair, Mayors and Police Chiefs Task Force

BRETT P. SMILEY
Mayor of Providence
Co-Chair, Mayors and Police Chiefs Task Force

Bloomberg Philanthropies and U.S. Conference of Mayors Local Infrastructure Hub

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Liberty Salon I-J-K, Level M4

This session will discuss ongoing opportunities within the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, along with updates on managing infrastructure grants and navigating evolving requirements.

Moderator LEIRION GAYLOR BAIRD
Mayor of Lincoln
Second Vice President, The United States Conference of Mayors

Remarks *U.S. DOT Funding Opportunities in 2026*
LOREN A. SMITH
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy
U.S. Department of Transportation

MELISSA MEJIAS NEWTON
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Transportation

Remarks SUE FINKAM
Mayor of Carmel

Remarks STEVEN REED
Mayor of Montgomery

Remarks JAIME LAVIN
Senior Director, Government Innovation
Bloomberg Philanthropies

Remarks MATTHEW HANSON
Managing Director, Grants and Policy
Witt O'Brien's

The State of Federal Housing Legislation

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Room TBD, Level M4

This session will feature presentations and discussions on current and potential federal housing legislation. Mayors will participate in a discussion with Congressional staff on the status of key legislation and what lies ahead in 2026.

<i>Moderator</i>	WADE KAPSZUKIEWICZ Mayor of Toledo Chair, Community Development and Housing Committee
<i>Remarks</i>	MATTHEW TURKSTRA Director, Federal Government Affairs CITI
<i>Remarks</i>	TANNER DANIEL Director, Federal Government Affairs CITI
<i>Remarks</i>	DENNIS STEIGERWALT President Housing Innovation Alliance
<i>Remarks</i>	JARED SUTTON Deputy Policy Director for Housing, Insurance, and Transit U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs - Majority
<i>Remarks</i>	MADELEINE MARR Housing Policy Advisor Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs - Minority

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Improving the Environment Through Community Engagement

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Room TBD, Level M4

Recognizing the critical role residents play in shaping their environments, this session will emphasize how local leaders are successfully engaging with their residents to design and deliver sustainable projects in their communities. Join us to learn more about effective outreach strategies to strengthen engagement, foster partnerships, and further advance environmental goals.

<i>Moderator</i>	BARBARA BUFFALOE Mayor of Columbia (MO) Chair, Environment Committee
<i>Presentation</i>	<i>Health In All Policy Framework and the Dearborn Environmental Commission</i> ABDULLAH HAMMOUD Mayor of Dearborn Vice-Chair, Health and Equity, Environment Committee
<i>Presentation</i>	<i>The Workforce Program: Creating Opportunities for People Experiencing Homelessness</i> JANET COWELL Mayor of Raleigh Co-Vice Chair, Environment Committee
<i>Presentation</i>	<i>The Truth About Litter: What the Data Says—and What Mayors Can Do</i> JENNIFER LAWSON

President and CEO
Keep America Beautiful

Presentation *For the Love of the City- Engaging Communities in City Beautification Efforts*
DANNY TK AVULA MD, MPH
Mayor of Richmond

New Approaches to Reducing Violent Crime

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Independence Salon D, Level M4

This session will include remarks by the Deputy Director of the ATF about his agency's efforts to support cities in reducing gun violence and a discussion with four mayors about how their cities achieved record reductions in violent crime.

Moderator QUINTON LUCAS
Mayor of Kansas City, MO
Chair, Criminal and Social Justice Committee

Remarks ROBERT CEKADA
Deputy Director
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
United States Department of Justice

ANDRE DICKENS
Mayor of Atlanta

BRANDON SCOTT
Mayor of Baltimore

MICHELLE WU
Mayor of Boston

Discussion

AI-Powered Cities

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Independence Salon A-B-C, Level M4

Moderator GINA ORTIZ JONES
Mayor of San Antonio
Chair, Technology and Innovation Standing Committee

Remarks MICHELLE WU
Mayor of Boston

Discussion *Getting the Right Skills and Resources to Prepare for the Artificial Intelligence Wave*

OLIVER WISE
Executive Director
Bloomberg Center for Government Excellence (GovEx) at Johns Hopkins University

Remarks *Supporting Improved Safety and Accessibility in an Autonomous World*
MATT WALSH
Regional Head of State & Local Policy, US East
Waymo

Key Transportation Priorities in this Congress

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Liberty Salon I-J-K, Level M4

Moderator JAMES B. HOVLAND
Mayor of Edina
Chair, Transportation Standing Committee

Discussion *Renewal of the Surface Transportation Law*
KIRK WATSON
Mayor of Austin

BEN GILSDORF
Associate Legislative Director
National Association of Counties

BILL KEYROUZE
Executive Director
Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations

Discussion *Public Transit*
TRAVIS STOVALL
Mayor of Gresham

ART GUZZETTI
Vice President for Policy, Mobility, Technical Services & Innovation
American Public Transportation Association

Discussion *Intercity Passenger Rail*
ELAINE M. CLEGG
Board Member
Amtrak Board of Directors

Update *Working with the U.S. Department of Transportation*
MELISSA MEJIAS NEWTON
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Transportation

Update *The U.S. Department of Transportation's Regulatory Reform Agenda*
GREGORY ZERZAN
General Counsel
U.S. Department of Transportation

Mayors-Only Session (Closed)

4:40 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Liberty Salon M-N-O-P, Level M4

The following issues will be discussed:

- Keeping mayors safe
- Discussion regarding immigration enforcement in U.S. cities

Moderator CHUCK WEXLER
Executive Director
Police Executive Research Forum

Remarks CHARLES RAMSEY
Advisor, The United States Conference of Mayors
Former Police Chief, Washington, DC and Philadelphia

Discussion

OPENING RECEPTION

7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Second Level Foyer

Marriott Marquis Washington, DC

All registrants for the 94th Winter Meeting are invited.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

Registration

7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Salon 16, Level M2

Breakfast Available

7:30 a.m. - 8:15 a.m.
Marquis Ballroom, Level M2

Mayors and Business Leaders Plenary Session

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Marquis Ballroom, Level M2

The program will begin at 8:30 a.m.

<i>Presiding</i>	DAVID HOLT Mayor of Oklahoma City President, The United States Conference of Mayors
<i>Remarks</i>	BRIE SACHSE Senior Vice President & Head of Government Affairs Siemens USA Co-Chair, Mayors Business Council Steering Committee
<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Expanding Affordable Access: How Cities are Modernizing Local Transit</i> JIM ROSS Mayor of Arlington, TX PAUL YOUNG Mayor of Memphis DANIEL RAMOT Chief Executive Officer VIA
<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Mayors PLAY BALL Celebrates America's 250th</i> RYAN ZIMMERMAN Former Firstbaseman and 2019 World Series Champion, Washington Nationals Major League Baseball USCM Platinum Partner
<i>Fireside Chat</i>	<i>Conversations with a Colleague</i> DAVID HOLT Mayor of Oklahoma City President, The United States Conference of Mayors BRANDON JOHNSON Mayor of Chicago

<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Global Trade, Local Stakes</i> MICHAEL FROMAN President Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)
<i>Discussion</i>	<i>America's Newest Mayors</i>
<i>Moderator</i>	DAVID HOLT Mayor of Oklahoma City President, The United States Conference of Mayors
<i>Panelists</i>	KATIE WILSON Mayor of Seattle MARY SHEFFIELD Mayor of Detroit EILEEN HIGGINS Mayor of Miami HELENA MORENO Mayor of New Orleans
<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Financial Scams: Educating Residents to Safeguard their Future</i>
<i>Moderator</i>	JANE CASTOR Mayor of Tampa
<i>Panelists</i>	FREDDIE O'CONNELL Mayor of Nashville JOHN DURRANT Head of Deposits, Payments, and Business Banking, Consumer Banking and Lending Wells Fargo & Company
<i>Remarks</i>	REX RICHARDSON Mayor of Long Beach Host, 94th Annual Meeting
<i>Fireside Chat</i>	<i>Conversations with a Colleague</i> DAVID HOLT Mayor of Oklahoma City President, The United States Conference of Mayors KAREN BASS Mayor of Los Angeles
<i>Remarks</i>	<i>Celebrating 2026 FIFA World Cup From Coast to Coast</i> GIOVANNI INFANTINO President FIFA

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Datacenters in America's Cities

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Independence Salon A-B-C, Level M4

Rapid growth in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and advanced manufacturing is fueling a surge in data center development - and driving unprecedented electricity demand. These projects represent billions of dollars in long-term infrastructure investment and can serve as powerful engines for local economic growth. At the same time, they raise critical questions about energy reliability, land use, zoning, and workforce readiness. This session will serve as a "Data Center 101," equipping mayors with the foundational knowledge needed to assess and understand how data centers align with their local economic strategy and how to maximize community benefits while supporting reliable, affordable energy.

Moderator DANIEL RICKENMANN
Mayor of Columbia, SC

Panelists GINA ORTIZ JONES
Mayor of San Antonio
Chair, Technology and Innovation Standing Committee

GREG BODENHAMER
Head of Vertical Markets - Smart Infrastructure
Siemens USA

RACHAEL MARSH
Chief Legal Officer
Edison Electric Institute

Early Childhood Education Task Force

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Independence Salon D, Level M4

Many mayors are investing in early childhood education (ECE), making it a key priority for their cities. Whether through their bully pulpit, by leveraging city resources, or in considering how city department policies and practices impact children, mayors are using their influence to convene stakeholders and align plans, definitions, goals, and expectations. Come learn how mayors are improving educational outcomes and workforce competitiveness, and strengthening their communities through ECE.

Moderator JON MITCHELL
Mayor of New Bedford
Co-Chair

Remarks TIM KELLER
Mayor of Albuquerque

MICHELLE ROMERO
Mayor of Henderson

CAITLIN CODELLA LOW
Managing Director of Human Capital
Bipartisan Policy Center

BRUCE LESLEY
Executive Director
First Focus for Children

Generosity and Leadership in Times of Crisis

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Liberty Salon I-J-K, Level M4

This session will bring together mayors who have guided their cities through moments of profound challenge and provide a forum for sharing hard-earned lessons from navigating extraordinarily difficult situations. It will explore how mayors and other city leaders partner across sectors with nonprofits and the private sector to engage community generosity, empower neighbors helping neighbors, and rally their cities around the work of recovery.

Moderator MARGARET RICHARDSON
Chief Marketing and Corporate Affairs Officer
GoFundMe

Panelists ESTHER MANHEIMER
Mayor of Asheville

BRETT P. SMILEY
Mayor of Providence

BRANDON SCOTT
Mayor of Baltimore

TUNDE WACKMAN
Chief Development Officer
World Central Kitchen

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

America 250

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Rooms TBD, Level M4

2026 is here and plans are underway for cities to celebrate America's semiquincentennial. Whether your city has activities planned or your city is just starting to plan things, this session will provide you with a range of options to consider in planning for your city's own America 250th celebration. This session will highlight a range of options, including tourism opportunities for cities and nationwide activations with Smithsonian partners. Come learn how your city can participate in the America 250 City Art Posters, filming mayoral reflections, and unifying your community through events like America's Potluck. Additional highlights include plans for a national coordinated reading of the Declaration of Independence and an America Gives volunteer opportunity on September 11, 2026, for the 25th anniversary of 9/11, with a day of service.

Moderator CHERELLE PARKER

Mayor of Philadelphia
America 250 Task Force Chair

Remarks *America 250 Commission Update*
ROSIE RIOS
Chair
U.S. Semiquincentennial Commission

Remarks *America's Potluck*
ELIZABETH B. KAUTZ
Mayor of Burnsville
Past President, The United States Conference of Mayors

Remarks *USCM-NEA Freedom 250 City Art Poster Initiative*
MICHAEL ORLOVE
Senior Program Director for State, Local, and Regional Partnerships and International Activities
National Endowment for the Arts

Remarks *Tourism Opportunities for Cities*
GEOFF FREEMAN
President and CEO
U.S. Travel Association

Remarks *Our Shared Future: 250*
LISA SASAKI
Deputy Under Secretary for Special Projects
Smithsonian Institution

Bridging Policy and Practice: Shaping America's Health Future

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Liberty Salon L, Level M4

This panel will bring together mayors and national policy leaders to examine how federal and state health policies are translating into real-world impacts in cities to strengthen health outcomes for residents nationwide.

Moderator MATT TUERK
Mayor of Allentown
Chair, Children, Health and Human Services Standing Committee

Remarks SHARONA NAZARIAN, Psy D.
Mayor of Beverly Hills

SCOTT BROOK
Mayor of Coral Springs

Remarks *USCM/AARP Survey on Aging in Cities: A Ten-Year Reflection*
NANCY LeaMOND
Chief Advocacy and Engagement Officer
AARP

Remarks ALLISON ORRIS

Senior Fellow & Director of Medicaid Policy
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Remarks ELLEN TELLER
Chief Government Affairs Officer
Food Action Research Center (FRAC)

Homelessness Task Force

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Independence Salon D, Level M4

Moderator KAREN BASS
Mayor of Los Angeles
Chair, Homelessness Task Force

Remarks ANN OLIVA
CEO
National Alliance to End Homelessness

Federal Economic Development and Housing Tax Incentives

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Independence Salon A-B-C, Level M4

This session will explore housing and economic development tax incentives, including opportunity zones, new market tax credits, and low-income housing tax credits.

Moderator TIM KELLER
Mayor of Albuquerque
Vice Chair, Metro Economies Committee

Remarks ELIZABETH EVERETT KRISBERG
Deputy Director of Bank of America Global Research
Bank of America

Remarks *New Opportunity Zones*
CATHERINE LYONS
Director of Policy and Coalitions
Economic Innovation Group

Remarks *LIHTC and New Market Tax Credits*
MATT JOSEPHS
Senior Vice President for Policy
Local Initiatives Support Corporation

Remarks *Update: Tax Exempt Municipal Bonds*
EMILY BROCK
Director of Federal Liaison Center
Government Finance Officers Association

Healthy and Sustainable Communities Plenary Lunch

12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Marquis Ballroom, Level M2

Sponsored by the American Beverage Association

The program will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Presiding DAVID HOLT
Mayor of Oklahoma City
President, The United States Conference of Mayors

Presentation 2026 Health and Sustainable Communities Awards

Discussions *Building a Future-Ready Workforce*

Building a future-ready workforce involves proactive skill-building, fostering adaptability, and leveraging technology such as AI to support employees in an unpredictable, rapidly changing world of work. These themes will be explored in discussions with two dynamic mayors who are striving to remove barriers to economic success by supporting combined action in policy, employer practices, private-sector partnerships, and community support.

Panel *Philadelphia Inclusive Economy*
BRET PERKINS
Senior Vice President of Community Growth and Economic Development
Comcast

CHERELLE PARKER
Mayor of Philadelphia

Fireside Chat *Making a Community Impact*
DAVID HOLT
Mayor of Oklahoma City
President, The United States Conference of Mayors

TRAE YOUNG
Four-Time NBA All-Star Guard, Washington Wizards
Trae Young Family Foundation

Discussion *Expanding Apprenticeships in America*
ACQUANETTA WARREN
Mayor of Fontana
Chair, USCM Women Mayors Leadership Alliance

BRYAN BARNETT
Mayor of Rochester Hills
Past President, The United States Conference of Mayors

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Building Stronger Pathways Back to Work

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Liberty Salon L, Level M4

As cities work to connect more residents to quality jobs, local leaders are reexamining how education, workforce systems, and employers can better align to meet today's labor market needs. Presented by the USCM Women Mayors Leadership Alliance, this session will explore strategies to strengthen pathways back to work, with particular attention to challenges and opportunities facing women and women of color reentering the workforce. The discussion will examine bipartisan, cross-sector approaches to modernizing workforce development systems, strengthening coordination between education and employers, and advancing practical, locally-driven solutions that support workers and communities alike.

Moderators

ACQUANETTA WARREN
Mayor of Fontana
Chair, Women Mayors Leadership Alliance

SHARETTA SMITH
Mayor of Lima
Vice Chair, Women Mayors Leadership Alliance

Panelists

D.C. REEVES
Mayor of Pensacola
Chair, USCM Jobs, Education, and the Workforce Standing Committee

MARGARET SPELLINGS
President & CEO
Bipartisan Policy Center

How Cities are Responding to the Current Immigration Climate

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Independence Salon A-B-C, Level M4

This session will include an update on pending litigation relating to federal immigration executive orders, actions, and policies, and a discussion among the mayors on the situation in their cities relating to federal immigration actions and what they are doing to support immigrant communities.

Moderators

MIKE JOHNSTON
Mayor of Denver
Chair, Immigration Reform Task Force

JOHN COWEN
Mayor of Brownsville

Vice Chair for Border Policy
Criminal and Social Justice Committee

Remarks *Update on Pending Litigation*
JONATHAN MILLER
Chief Program Officer
Public Rights Project

Discussion *Current Situation in Cities and How City Governments and Local Agencies are
Supporting Immigrant Communities*

JAMES HOVLAND
Mayor of Edina

ANDREW J. GINTHER
Mayor of Columbus, OH
Past President, The United States Conference of Mayors

KEITH WILSON
Mayor of Portland

VALERIE AMEZCUA
Mayor of Santa Ana

Cities and Universities: Building Partnerships for Innovation

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Independence Salon D, Level M4

A dynamic conversation between mayors and university presidents on forging strong city-university partnerships to drive innovation, prepare the workforce of the future, and seize opportunities amid shifting federal policies and resource landscapes. Together, we'll explore how collaborative research technology advancements, and shared priorities can strengthen communities and create new pathways for growth.

Moderator LEIRION GAYLOR BAIRD
Mayor of Lincoln
Chair, Mayors and Metro Universities Task Force

Remarks DR. JEFFREY GOLD
President
University of Nebraska

Remarks MICHAEL A. FITTS
President
Tulane University

Remarks KATE GARMAN BURNS
Director of State and Local Innovation
Federation of American Scientists

Small Cities, Big Solutions: A Collaborative Roundtable for Small City Mayors

2:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Liberty Salon I-J-K, Level M4

Join Small Cities Task Force Co-Chairs Hope, NJ Mayor Tim McDonough and Orion, MI Mayor Chris Barnett for an energizing, solutions-focused conversation with fellow mayors leading communities under 100,000. This breakout session will highlight innovative approaches, shared challenges, and practical best practices that strengthen small cities across America. Come ready to exchange ideas (and business cards), learn from peers, and help shape the priorities of small city leadership in the year ahead.

Moderators CHRIS BARNETT
Supervisor of Orion Township, MI
Co-Chair, Small Cities Forum

TIMOTHY C. MCDONOUGH
Mayor of Hope, NJ
Co-Chair, Small Cities Forum

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

AAPI Alliance

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Independence Salon D, Level M4

Moderator AFTAB PUREVAL
Mayor of Cincinnati
Chair, AAPI Alliance

Remarks MICHELLE WU
Mayor of Boston

Big City Alliance (CLOSED)

3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Independence Salon A-B-C, Level M4

Moderator MIKE JOHNSTON
Mayor of Denver
Chair, Big City Alliance

LGBTQ+ Alliance

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Liberty Salon L, Level M4

The Session will cover current litigation relating to executive orders and laws challenging LGBTQ+ individuals and communities and how mayors and their cities are supporting LGBTQ+ residents and communities in the face of these challenges. It will include an informal roundtable discussion in which mayors will have an opportunity to discuss the situation relating to the LGBTQ+ community in their cities and how they are responding to it.

Co-Chairs TODD GLORIA
Mayor of San Diego

SATYA RHODES-CONWAY

	Mayor of Madison
<i>Remarks</i>	EVAN LOW President & CEO LGBTQ+ Victory Institute
<i>Remarks</i>	CYNTHIA CHENG-WUN WEAVER Senior Director, Litigation Human Rights Campaign
	CHAUNCEY GRAHAM Legislative Counsel Human Rights Campaign

Discussion

Mayors Game Changer: Transforming Cities in Sports and Entertainment

3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Liberty Salon I-J-K, Level M4

Over 30 new professional sports leagues have recently been formed and are looking for cities to play in. Ranging from women's baseball and hockey to drone racing to youth sports, these leagues are looking for medium-sized communities to host teams and games. The new USCM Mayors Game Changer program is designed to help match these needs with mayors who want to see their communities enter the lucrative sports and entertainment worlds. The Mayors Game Changer program will bring mayors together with the best sports business minds to develop a game-winning strategy for their cities. Oklahoma City is a good example of a city that developed such a winning strategy, especially in becoming the nation's center for rowing. Sign up and find out how your city can become a sports and entertainment game changer!

<i>Moderator</i>	BUDDY DYER Mayor of Orlando Chair, Mayors Professional Sports Alliance
<i>Remarks</i>	DAVID HOLT Mayor of Oklahoma City President, The United States Conference of Mayors
<i>Remarks</i>	<i>If You Have Water, You Can Be A Rowing City</i> MIKE KNOPP Founder RIVERSPORT OKC
<i>Remarks</i>	<i>How Rowing Can Change Lives in Your City</i> ARSHAY COOPER Author, <i>Most Beautiful Thing</i> Captain, First All-Black US High School Rowing Team
<i>Remarks</i>	<i>The Mayors Game Changer Program - How To Get Involved</i> CAROLE WEDGE, FAIA EVP/Chief Executive Officer

The American Institute of Architects

PETER ZINGONI
Senior Vice President
Oak View Group

**Community Leaders of America (CLA) | Forum for Community Leaders (FCL)
Republican Mayor Forum Reception (Closed to Press)**

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Chinatown Room, Level M3

Chair JAN KULMANN
Mayor of Thornton

Democratic Mayors Association Meeting (Closed to Press)

5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Liberty Salon M-N-O-P, Level M4

President JUSTIN BIBB
Mayor of Cleveland

Welcome to Washington, D.C. Reception

7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Embassy of the Republic of Singapore
3501 International Place, NW

Hosted by:

The Honorable Lui Tuck Yew, Singapore's Ambassador to the United States
District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser, Host City Mayor
Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt, President, The United States Conference of Mayors

7:45 p.m. - Official Welcoming Remarks

Buses will depart from the Marriott Marquis beginning at 6:15 p.m. and will be available for return to the hotel.

All 94th Winter Meeting registrants are invited. ***Attending guests are required to wear their USCM registration badge and present a government-issued photo ID. For security reasons, there will be no exceptions without a USCM badge or an official ID.***

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

Registration

7:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Salon 16, Level M2

Breakfast Available

8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.
Marquis Ballroom, Level M2

Honoring Leadership in the Arts Plenary Session

9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
Marquis Ballroom, Level M2
Hosted by The United States Conference of Mayors and Americans for the Arts

The program will begin at 9:00 a.m.

<i>Presiding</i>	DAVID HOLT Mayor of Oklahoma City President, The United States Conference of Mayors
<i>Greetings</i>	KEVIN KRAMER Councilman, Louisville, KY President, National League of Cities
<i>Presentation</i>	2026 DollarWise Economic Mobility Awards LARRY DI RITA Head of Global Public Policy Bank of America
<i>Introduction</i>	JUSTIN BIBB Mayor of Cleveland Chair, Tourism, Arts, Parks, Entertainment, and Sports Standing Committee
<i>Discussion</i>	<i>The Arts in 2026</i> MARY ANNE CARTER Chair National Endowment for the Arts ERIN HARKEY Chief Executive Officer Americans for the Arts
<i>Discussion</i>	<i>Local Leadership in the Arts Awards Honorees</i> ROBYN TANNEHILL Mayor of Oxford, MS TIM KELLER Mayor of Albuquerque

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Issues Facing State Capital Cities

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Liberty Salon L, Level M4

An opportunity for mayors from state capital cities to discuss common challenges and opportunities.

Moderator ARUNAN ARULAMPALAM
Mayor of Hartford

Current Issues Relating to FEMA and Disaster Management

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Liberty Salon I-J-K, Level M4

This session will cover several emergency management issues including the FEMA Review Council, pending FEMA reform legislation, and reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program.

Moderator JANE CASTOR
Mayor of Tampa
Chair, Intergovernmental Emergency Management Task Force

Remarks *Update on FEMA Issues and Appropriations*
MATT COWLES
Deputy Executive Director
National Emergency Management Association

Remarks *The FEMA Act*
TBD
Economic Development, Public Buildings and Emergency Management Subcommittee
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
U.S. House of Representatives

Remarks *National Flood Insurance Program*
TBD
Energy & Commerce Committee and
Office of Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr. (NJ)
U.S. House of Representatives

Bloomberg Cities Ideas Exchange

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.

Independence Salon D, Level M4

Attendees will hear how their city can leverage support from the Bloomberg Cities Idea Exchange to identify and implement proven ideas from other cities. Mayors will explore innovative ideas that can be “borrowed” from other cities that have proven impact to save time, money, and energy. Mayors will have the opportunity to engage in an open discussion and exchange their own ideas.

Moderator DANA RALPH
Mayor of Kent

Panelists

SUZANNE LAFRANCE
Mayor of Anchorage

SATYA RHODES-CONWAY
Mayor of Madison

RYAN PIERCE
Government Innovation
Bloomberg Philanthropies

P3 Task Force Meeting

10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
Liberty Salon E, Level M4

Local government infrastructure construction spending reached approximately \$300 Billion in 2025. Learn how cities like Atlanta have used public-private partnerships to leverage their local dollars and improve local infrastructure. Attendees will also hear from a panel of partners from the federal government and the private sector, who will share opportunities and best practices for obtaining federal funding and attracting private investment.

Moderator

ANDRE DICKENS
Mayor of Atlanta

Panelists

RICK SHERMAN
Vice President of Commercial Sales for Sustainable Industries & Buildings
Veolia

DR. MORTEZA FARAJIAN
Executive Director
Build America Bureau

PATRICK HECK
Vice President of Business Development
Vantage Group

BRIGHAM MCCOWN
Board of Advisors
U.S. Department of Transportation

Remarks

TOM PEREZ
Partner
Mayer Brown

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Mayors' Institute on City Design: Lead with Design, Lead with Values

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Liberty Salon L, Level M4

The Mayors' Institute on City Design is a leadership initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the United States Conference of Mayors. Come learn more about this technical assistance and leadership development program available to mayors at no cost, all geared towards helping you harness your role as "chief urban designer" of your city. MICD staff will also introduce new resources, including Principles for City Design Leadership and a Guide to Writing Innovative RFPs.

Moderator TRINITY SIMONS WAGNER
Executive Director
Mayors' Institute on City Design

Remarks GERARDO GARCIA
Founder
The Urbanism Bureau

Remarks ELEANOR BILLINGTON
Civic Partnerships Manager
National Endow

ment for the Arts

Energy Certainty in American Cities

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Independence Salon D, Level M4

Cities are facing a growing energy crisis characterized by rising costs, an aging grid, and surging electricity demand driven by new technologies like AI data centers. Federal agencies (like FERC) and the current Administration are pushing for rapid integration of AI and data centers, which puts additional strain on existing infrastructure. Rather than relying solely on external providers, Mayors and city leaders should consider public investment in a diverse mix of energy sources to achieve "energy certainty," and ensure that essential public services remain powered and affordable.

Moderator MARK FREEMAN
Mayor of Mesa
Vice Chair, Energy Standing Committee

Remarks *Electricity Supply and Demand in American Communities*
DARIN KNICELY
Co-Founder and CEO
RW Energy

Remarks MARK FREEMAN
Mayor of Mesa
Vice Chair, Energy Standing Committee

P3 Readiness: Expanding Capacity Through Education and Technical Assistance

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Independence Salon E, Level M4

Since launching the P3 Institute in January 2024, USCM has collaborated with the Association for the Improvement of American Infrastructure (AI2I) to host over a dozen no-cost P3 Fundamentals workshops nationwide. To date, there have been more than 350 participants from a host of cities. In this session, attendees will learn how previous P3 Institute host-city mayors have utilized institute insights to build stronger P3 teams,

how to access federal funding for technical and financial assistance, and best practices for leveraging resources to build internal capacity to manage P3s. Participants will also hear from AIAI faculty about the fundamentals covered at the P3 Institute Workshops.

Moderator ANDRE DICKENS
Mayor of Atlanta
Chair, P3 Task Force

Speakers LISA BUGLIONE
Executive Director
Association for the Improvement of American Infrastructure

RODNEY MOSS
Senior Vice President
Hunt Companies

DR. MORTEZA FARAJIAN
Executive Director
Build America Bureau

Closing Plenary Lunch

12:45 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Marquis Ballroom, Level M2

The program will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Presiding DAVID HOLT
Mayor of Oklahoma City
President, The United States Conference of Mayors

Discussion *The Abundance Mindset in Local Government: Leadership, Culture, and Public Trust (45 Minutes)*

This discussion will focus on how the Abundance mindset fosters a culture of innovation and building trust in a time of government mistrust. Elevates leadership practices that unlock abundant outcomes.

Moderator GISELLE HALE
Managing Partner
Abundance Network

Panelists TIM KELLER
Mayor of Albuquerque

MELANIE KEBLER
Mayor of Bend

THERESA RICH
Mayor of Farmington Hills

LEONARDO WILLIAMS
Mayor of Durham



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL (WDC)

The Workforce Development Council is an affiliate organization of the United States Conference of Mayors.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

Workforce Development Council Board Winter Meeting

8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Independence Salon E, Level M4

DANIELLE FRAZIER

Special Assistant to City Manager, Workforce Development

City of Charlotte

WDC President

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

Workforce Development Council Board Winter Meeting

8:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Independence Salon E, Level M4

DANIELLE FRAZIER

Special Assistant to City Manager, Workforce Development

City of Charlotte

WDC President

9:00 - 9:45 a.m. *Mayors as Workforce Champions*

MICHELLE ROMERO

Mayor

City of Henderson

Chair, Local Elected Officials (LEO) Consortium