JOIN THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES CONSTITUENCY GROUPS

New networking opportunities and strengthening your NLC involvement may be just what you are looking for.

APAMO  GLBTLO  HELO  NBCLeo  WiMG
Constituency Groups are networks of city officials operating within NLC that share common interests and issues. They reflect the diverse demographics and interests of NLC’s membership. They work collaboratively to contribute to leadership development, policy formulation, advocacy, and programs. The groups, led by elected Boards, meet at both NLC annual conferences and sponsor ongoing special activities for their members.

Whether you are an elected local municipal official or someone who has an interest in similar issues, you are welcome to become a member of one or more of the following NLC groups:

APAMO 1985
Asian Pacific American Municipal Officials

GLBTLO 1993
Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Local Officials

HELO 1976
Hispanic Elected Local Officials

NBC-LEO 1970
National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials

WIMG 1974
Women in Municipal Government

Each group has a nominal annual individual membership fee. Constituency Group events are open to all NLC government officials and other individuals who participate in NLC. The groups are made up mainly of member city officials who individually choose to join a particular group. Constituency Group membership categories consist of

• regular members (elected officials from NLC member cities)
• associate members (elected officials from non-member NLC cities) and
• supporting members (all other individuals).

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES
• The Constituency Groups work within established NLC guidelines with adopted bylaws approved by NLC. All have Boards of Directors elected annually at the NLC conferences. All members have opportunities to apply for service on their particular Board, and there is an application process for Board nominations. Each Board has a nominating committee that reviews the applications and provides a recommended slate for each year’s new Board, which is voted on at each group’s membership meeting.

• Many of the groups’ Board members serve in other capacities while involved with their groups such as the NLC Board of Directors, Advisory Council, steering and policy committees and councils.

CELEBRATE DIVERSITY BREAKFAST
• During the March Congressional City Conference, all of the groups cosponsor the Celebrate Diversity Breakfast which was founded by NBC-LEO. The event, featuring notable national speakers from Congress, the Administration and national organizations, offers delegates time to contemplate how the issues of changing demographics throughout the nation influence their roles as local leaders.

PROGRAMS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS
• NBC-LEO established the City Cultural Diversity Awards Program to annually recognize NLC cities for their achievements in honoring diversity and multicultural programs. The award is presented at the March NLC Celebrate Diversity Breakfast and up to eight cities are honored.

• Most of the groups host events featuring prominent national keynote speakers who have included Donna Brazile, political strategist and contributor to CNN and ABC news, Neera Tanden, President for the Center of American Progress, Judy
Chu, US Representative for California’s 27th district, Reverend Al Sharpton, civil rights activist and radio/television talk show host, James E. Clyburn, US Representative for South Carolina’s 6th district, and Nikki Giovanni, American writer, commentator, activist, and educator.

- All of the groups honor national and local leaders or organizations through award programs that recognize leadership that supports local government.
- Constituency Groups engage with representatives of NLC’s Corporate and Business Partners programs for educational initiatives and information sharing as a substitute for the Enterprise Programs sentences that you recommend be deleted.
- The WIMG Leadership Award Program was created to recognize female municipal officials for outstanding leadership and mentoring in local government. Each year, finalists and a winner are honored at the WIMG luncheon at the Congress of Cities.
- NLC partners with the NBC-LEO Foundation, a separate entity from the NBC-LEO Constituency Group. It sponsors a new Foundation Fellows Program to cultivate a new generation of elected municipal leaders from diverse communities by providing year-long fellowships to promote professional development and networking opportunities.

ADVOCACY ISSUES

- Through proactive engagement, various group members travel to Washington each spring to hold briefings and promote NLC’s legislative priorities by meeting with members of Congress, their staffs and Administration officials about federal issues affecting local governments.
- NLC’s policy priorities are: Community Development Block grants, support of the Marketplace Fairness Act, protection of municipal bonds, and calling for Comprehensive Immigration Reform

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Constituency Group sponsorship lets your company or organization target its investment by reaching specific officials or aligning with specific issues. Each group offers a wide variety of sponsorship opportunities, including awards programs, regional and national meetings, receptions and special events. Sponsorship amounts range from $1,000 to more than $30,000 and can provide your organization with:

- Complimentary registrations to conferences and events
- Recognition of your investment through logo recognition on signage and conference materials
- Priority seating at events
- Advertising opportunities
- Opportunities to share your organization’s expertise with speaking opportunities
HOW TO JOIN, GET CONNECTED, AND MAKE PAYMENTS

Pay by invoice, onsite at the NLC March or November conferences near the registration area or contact constituencygroups@nlc.org and request instructions about how to pay your annual dues online using myNLC.org or call 202-626-3169.

To be an active member, you must pay your dues. Dues vary among each group so contact constituencygroups@nlc.org to express your interest in which group you would like to join and an invoice will be sent to you.

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WIMG member, city in Georgia

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HELO member, city in Connecticut

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