



Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations

2020 Congressional City Conference
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel

Washington 5
Sunday, March 8, 2020
1:30 p.m.

Agenda: Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations

Marriot Wardman Park Hotel
 Washington Room 5
 Washington, DC

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<p>1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND MEETING OVERVIEW</p> <p>The Honorable Chris Brown, Chair <i>City Controller, City of Houston, Texas</i></p> <p>The Honorable Victoria Farrar-Meyer, Vice Chair <i>Deputy Mayor Pro Tem, City of Arlington, Texas</i></p> <p>The Honorable Mark Shepherd, Vice Chair <i>Mayor, City of Clearfield, Utah</i></p>
<p>1:40</p>	<p>A Presentation by NLC Staff Preemption and Home Rule Followed by Discussion by Members on the Issue</p> <p>Spencer Wagner <i>National League of Cities (NLC)</i></p> <p>Michael Gleeson <i>National League of Cities (NLC)</i></p> <p>Spencer will discuss current landscape of preemption. He will discuss what NLC has done to this point and some of the organization’s resources.</p>
<p>2:10</p>	<p>A Discussion with the Census Bureau: Hard to Reach Communities, How to Distinguish Authentic Communications from the Census Bureau, and An Overview of Disclosure Avoidance System</p> <p>Sylvia Doyle <i>Intergovernmental Affairs Liaison Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs U.S. Census Bureau</i></p> <p>Sylvia will talk about how to reach hard to reach communities, what members should know about distinguishing genuine Census communication from scams and fraud, and provide a brief disclosure on avoidance disclosure system.</p>

<p>2:40</p>	<p>NLC Census Grant Program: Census Rapid Response</p> <p>Olivia Snarski <i>National League of Cities (NLC)</i></p> <p>Miki Noguchi <i>National League of Cities (NLC)</i></p> <p>Olivia and Miki will discuss the grant, its purpose, and the RFP process. We will leave time at the end for Committee members to ask questions about the RFP and engage with questions.</p>
<p>3:20</p>	<p>Discussion of The National Debt and Deficit—How Should Municipalities Engage and What Role Should NLC Play</p> <p>Marc Goldwein <i>Senior Vice President and Senior Policy Director Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget</i></p> <p>The growing deficit and debt will at some point put a strain on the federal government’s resources, putting pressure domestic discretionary spending. What role should municipalities and NLC play in the national conversation around this issue? Marc will table set the discussion and then we will open it up to members to discuss this issue.</p>
<p>4:00</p>	<p>Discussion on Advanced Refunding Bonds and Bank Qualified Debt</p> <p>Michael Thomas <i>Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA)</i></p> <p>GFOA will provide a brief overview of the current infrastructure debate and highlight federal legislative priorities that could enhance the ability for state and local governments to invest in much needed projects. Additionally, GFOA will touch on a few regulatory matters that will have an impact on issuers in the municipal market that elected officials should be aware of.</p>
<p>4:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Adjourn</p> <p>The Honorable Chris Brown, Chair <i>City Controller, City of Houston, Texas</i></p> <p>Michael Gleeson <i>National League of Cities (NLC)</i></p>

Next FAIR Committee Meeting:
NLC Summer Board and Leadership Forum
Los Angeles, California
June 17-19, 2020

NLC POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND ADVOCACY PROCESS

As a resource and advocate for more than 19,000 cities, towns and villages, the National League of Cities (NLC) brings municipal officials together to influence federal policy affecting local governments. NLC adopts positions on federal actions, programs and proposals that directly impact municipalities and formalizes those positions in the *National Municipal Policy (NMP)*, which guides NLC's federal advocacy efforts.

NLC divides its advocacy efforts into seven subject areas:

- Community and Economic Development
- Energy, Environment and Natural Resources
- Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations
- Human Development
- Information Technology and Communications
- Public Safety and Crime Prevention
- Transportation and Infrastructure Services

For each of the seven issue areas, a Federal Advocacy Committee advocates in support of NLC's federal policy positions. Members of each Committee serve for one calendar year and are appointed by the NLC President.

Federal Advocacy Committees

Federal Advocacy Committee members are responsible for advocating on legislative priorities, providing input on legislative priorities, and reviewing and approving policy proposals and resolutions. Additionally, Committee members engage in networking and sharing of best practices.

Federal Advocacy Committees are comprised of local elected and appointed city and town officials from NLC member cities. NLC members must apply annually for membership to a Federal Advocacy Committee. The NLC President makes appointments for chair, vice chairs, and general membership. In addition to leading the Federal Advocacy Committees, those appointed as Committee chairs will also serve on NLC's Board of Directors during their leadership year.

At the Congressional City Conference, Federal Advocacy Committee members are called upon to advocate for NLC's legislative priorities on Capitol Hill, as well as develop the committee's agenda and work plan for the year. Committee members meet throughout the year to further the plan, hear from guest presenters, discuss advocacy strategies and develop specific policy amendments and resolutions. At the City Summit, Committee members review and approve policy proposals and resolutions. These action items are then forwarded to NLC's Resolutions Committee and are considered at the Annual Business Meeting, also held during the City Summit.

Advocacy

Throughout the year, Committee members participate in advocacy efforts to influence the federal decision-making process, focusing on actions concerning local governments and communities. During the Congressional City Conference, Committee members have an opportunity, and are encouraged, to meet with their congressional representatives on Capitol Hill. When NLC members are involved in the legislative process and share their expertise and experiences with Congress, municipalities have a stronger national voice, affecting the outcomes of federal policy debates that impact cities and towns.

Principles of Home Rule for the 21st Century

Cities, counties, and towns are on the front lines of America's most pressing problems. Local governments today are responsible for protecting our health and safety and are increasingly called to respond to inequality, fight climate change, manage technological change, and so many other vital demands. Local governments have always been the places where innovative and timely policy solutions are devised and tested—but today so much more is being asked of them.

Home rule—the legal structure that determines local power and how states can interfere with local decision-making—has historically provided a framework for local governance. But it is no longer up to the task of meeting the challenges we face in the 21st century.

It is time for an urgent and fundamental reform of the relationship between cities and states.

The last comprehensive effort to reform home rule was launched in 1953. A lot has changed in the nearly seven decades since. Cities and counties are the drivers of our nation's and the global economy. Four out of five Americans call cities home, including America's most diverse populations. State and local governments used to work together collaboratively – but now, states are systematically removing or reducing the power of local governments to act on the needs and values of their residents. The old rules governing state and city relations have fundamentally broken down.

Now is not the time for tinkering around the edges. For trying to resolve the friction between cities and states issue after issue, legislative session after legislative session.

Now is the time for a bold, long-term, holistic fix: a new vision of home rule.

That is why the National League of Cities, in partnership with the Local Solutions Support Center, has published a groundbreaking *Principles of Home Rule for the Twenty-First Century*, articulating a set of values to rebalance state and local relations and providing model constitutional language to encourage law reform.

The Principles and their accompanying model constitutional language center on several fundamental propositions. First, home rule must affirm the full range of local government authority to solve the challenges they face. Home rule must particularly protect local fiscal authority, because the ability to solve local problems locally means nothing without the resources to act. Indeed, states should ensure that every local government is equipped to succeed.

Home rule also requires rethinking when and how states displace local democracy. In some circumstances, states may have compelling reasons to interfere with local governance, but they should be prepared to articulate—and defend—those reasons, setting a high bar for preemption. And to make local democracy meaningful, home rule must protect above all the choices communities make in their own governance.

Moving toward a vision of home rule built around these Principles would be an important step in aligning the role that cities and other local governments now play with the state legal structure that governs them. It would not be the first time that cities and states have fundamentally redefined their relationship. America is now at another one of those periodic junctures where the need for change is urgent and the time right for reforming home rule.



Download the report here
[NLC.org/homerule2020](https://www.nlc.org/homerule2020)

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Census Rapid Response Grant Proposal Application

NLC's Census Rapid Response Grant Program extends urgent financial resources for cities, towns, villages, and their local partners to improve or increase Get Out The Count (GOTC) activities in order to reach historically undercounted communities and hard-to-count (HTC) communities.

GRANT AMOUNTS:

\$2,500; \$5,000; \$10,000; \$20,000; \$40,000

Proposals will be accepted on a rolling, on-going basis until all funds are granted, or by July 31, 2020, whichever comes first.

WHO CAN APPLY:

- Cities, towns, and villages
- Local partners working with city leaders (including but not limited to: nonprofit organizations, community-based organizations, local social service providers, libraries, county offices, fraternities and sororities, faith-based groups, parent and volunteer groups with tax status)
- Tribal governments and organizations
- NLC members and non-members eligible!

TO APPLY for this grant, please be prepared to provide the following information in our simple application form:

- Specify which HTC population(s) your grant will target. You can target more than one group with a single grant. Also check out [CUNY's Hard-To-Count map](#) to see high risk census tracts in your area.
- Be able to explain how quickly your organization (city or otherwise) is able to receive and deploy funds received. We want money to go from our account to yours quickly so you can use the funds fast to reach your historically undercounted communities.
- Describe (in a few sentences) what kind of activity you will fund with this grant money (see below for some examples).
- Tell us how much this/these activity/activities will cost (estimates are fine) -- don't forget to add 10% for overhead/operating costs!
- Give us a basic timeline of when these activities will happen. Remember, this is CRUNCH time! Don't hesitate to spend this money fast!
- Provide your banking information so that upon grant approval, funding can begin processing immediately

DELIVERABLES for this grant include (but are not limited to):

- Spend all the funds before July 31, 2020.
- Pay-it-forward: Notify a minimum of three (3) other city census offices or local partner organizations that are NOT members of the Local Census Preparedness Network and that could use additional funding for their HTC Census outreach of this grant opportunity. We want to make sure that cities and organizations that may not be plugged in to the same networks that we're plugged in to find out about this money.
- CensusRapidResponse@nlc.org must be included on the Pay-It-Forward emails.
- Publish a minimum of three (3) social media posts (ideally with images) of activities funded with this grant.
- Use the hashtag #CensusRapidResponseNLC on all social media about events/activities funded with this grant.
- Be available for one to three (1-3) check-in calls over the life of the grant.

- Respond to a short survey report about what you did with your grant award.

ACTIVITY IDEAS for Census 2020 Rapid Response grants:

- Buy 5 tablets and create 5 census kiosks to set-up around your city
- Increase your printing budget by \$5,000! Print posters, fliers, door hangers or buttons for GOTC activities in your community
- Hire additional staff for the duration of the Census to execute on your GOTC activities to reach historically undercounted communities
- Host community census response parties (who doesn't love pizza while filling out their census??). Coordinate a census response party with your local library and order \$500 of pizza to the library every Saturday between April and June for these parties!
- Give us your best idea! You are the expert on your community, so please tell us how you think you can best reach HTCs in your area.