



Carolyn Berndt
Legislative Director for Sustainability, National League of Cities

Carolyn Berndt is the Legislative Director for Sustainability in the federal advocacy department at the National League of Cities (NLC), the nation's oldest and largest national organization representing municipal governments. As a member of the federal advocacy team, Carolyn leads NLC's advocacy, regulatory and policy efforts on energy and environmental issues, including water infrastructure and financing, water and air quality, climate change, energy efficiency and more. Carolyn received her B.A. in political science from Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut and master's degree in public administration

from American University in Washington, DC.



Margaret M.L. Byrnes
Executive Director, New Hampshire Municipal Association

Margaret Byrnes serves as Executive Director and oversees all activities of the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA). Margaret joined NHMA in September 2014 as a staff attorney before becoming Executive Director in 2019. Before joining NHMA, Margaret was an associate attorney with the firm Hage Hodes, P.A. in Manchester. She has also taught legal research and writing at Northeastern University School of Law, Suffolk Law School, and The Massachusetts Schools of Law for several years. Margaret earned her B.A. in English Language and Literature and Classical Languages from Smith College in 2008 and her J.D. from the Massachusetts

School of Law in 2011. She will receive her M.B.A. from The University of New Hampshire Paul School of Business in March 2021.



Tom Neltner
Chemicals Policy Director, Environmental Defense Fund

Tom Neltner is the Environmental Defense Fund's Chemicals Policy Director. He leads efforts to remove or minimize hazardous chemicals from products and the marketplace through cross-cutting policy initiatives. His primary focus is on food additive safety and reducing exposure to lead in our homes and communities. He is a chemical engineer and attorney with experience in chemical safety issues in the workplace, the environment, the

home, consumer products and food. Tom has worked on lead poisoning prevention at the federal, state and local levels for more than 20 years.



Jeff Oxenford
Director of Training and Technical Services, Rural Community Assistance Partnership

Jeff Oxenford is the Director of Training and Technical Services for the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP). He has over 30 years of experience combining a strong technical background in water quality and treatment, with an extensive experience in training development and delivery. He has an M.S.E. in Environmental Engineering from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a B.A. in Chemistry and Environmental

Management from Warren Wilson College.



Anthony Santiago
Director, Program and Partnership Development, Institute for Youth, Education and Families, National League of Cities

Anthony Santiago joined the Institute for Youth, Education, and Families (IYEF) at NLC in 2013. As a department Director focusing on Partnership and Program Development, Anthony facilitates new collaborations with municipal governments and IYEF, while also supporting several portfolio areas from program design through implementation. Since 2016, Anthony has been leading NLC's efforts to inform and engage municipal leaders on the intersection between health and housing, and the role housing policies can play in positively impacting health outcomes for residents. As of 2019, Anthony is also leading an effort to promote a network of municipal officials in the states of AR, LA and MS around having a children and families policy agenda. He is a proud Annie E. Casey Foundation Children & Family Fellow and is committed to leading large-scale efforts that improve outcomes for vulnerable populations. Prior to his position at the National League of Cities, Anthony was Deputy Chief of Staff for the mayor of Newark, NJ for several years. In municipal government, his concentration was in the use of data for innovation and performance management in addition to managing the city's financial empowerment initiatives.



Ted Stiger
Senior Director of Government Relations and Policy, Rural Community Assistance Partnership

Ted Stiger joined RCAP in 2016 and is responsible for the organization's national policy, legislative and regulatory efforts, as well as assists with the overall management of the organization as a member of the senior leadership team. Ted has also managed and secured multi-million dollar technical assistance and training programs while at RCAP. Currently, he oversees RCAP's new Economic Development and Events Departments. Previously, he was the Legislative Associate for the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), which represents local government-based regional development and planning organizations nationwide. He provided advocacy of NADO's legislative priorities and policy development in the areas of rural community and economic development. Prior to that, he worked on Capitol Hill for U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Albion College and hails from rural northeast Michigan.



Steve Via
Director of Federal Relations, American Water Works Association

Steve Via is Director of Federal Relations for the American Water Works Association (AWWA), working in AWWA's Washington, D.C. office. Steve's primary responsibilities are two-fold. First, working with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and other federal agencies on the development of policy and regulations that affect the water sector. Second, communicating the basis and substance of federal policy and regulations to the water sector.



**Carroll “Lew” Watson
Mayor, City of Lincoln, Alabama and Chair, National League of Cities Small Cities
Council**

Mayor Carroll “Lew” Watson was elected mayor of Lincoln, Alabama during three different time periods: 1972-1990, 1996-2006, and 2016-present. During the times he was not in elected office, Mayor Watson managed cable systems in North Carolina, Georgia and Tennessee, and later returned to Alabama to work in appraisals with a local real estate company, where he obtained his brokers license and became a licensed appraiser. In 2016, he was elected president of the Alabama Chapter of the Appraisers Institute and in 2017 was appointed to the State of Alabama Real Estate Appraisers Board. During his time in office, Mayor Watson has served on numerous committees with the National League of Cities (NLC) and the Alabama League of Municipalities, including serving as Alabama league president in 2006. He currently serves as chair of the NLC Small Cities Council. Mayor Watson is a retired Captain in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a Vietnam veteran.