



National Lieutenant Governors Association

NLGA Members Lead the Senates

Key Roles & Predictions of NLGA Members for the 2019 Legislative Sessions

By: Julia Hurst, NLGA Director
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Twenty-eight NLGA members preside over state senates as the 2019 sessions begin. Many of these members hold tie-breaking votes, which will be key in several states. Pennsylvania Lt Governor John Fetterman, Michigan Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist, and Virginia Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax all preside over senates with a less-than-7 vote majority of the opposite political party – with Lt. Governor Fairfax holding the tie-breaking vote in a senate with a thin 21-19 Republican majority.



NLGA Members Preside Over the Senate in These States in 2019:

Alabama	Maine	New Mexico	Tennessee
Arkansas	Michigan	New York	Texas
Connecticut	Mississippi	North Carolina	Vermont
Delaware	Missouri	North Dakota	Virginia
Georgia	Nebraska	Oklahoma	Washington
Idaho	Nevada	Pennsylvania	West Virginia
Indiana	New Hampshire	South Dakota	

2018 was a banner year for elections in the states, and almost half of NLGA Members are newly elected. Due to a change in state law, South Carolina’s lieutenant governor will no longer preside over the senate.

A former state legislator, Alabama Lt. Gov. Will Ainsworth spoke on the importance of education, job creation and ethics in government as he presides over the senate.



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In Arkansas, Lt. Gov. Tim Griffin says he hopes to begin to reorganize the state's 42 Cabinet level agencies in 2019.

In Connecticut, Lt. Gov. Susan Bysiewicz says her priorities are budget, health care, energy sustainability, and pay equity.

Georgia Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan says he wants to cut bureaucratic red tape for teachers so they can focus on teaching, including testing that may be a distraction in schools.

As a small business owner, Lt. Gov. Janice McGeachin hopes to strengthen the business climate in Idaho through education and career preparation, as well as focus on the distribution and preservation of natural resources.

Illinois Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton has proposed a new state Office of Criminal Justice Reform and Economic Opportunity, and will also head up the state's rural affairs council. Lt. Gov. Stratton says she will also work hard to make sure Illinois passes a balanced budget each year.

Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch presides over the state senate, as well as serves as the Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development, chairs the Indiana Counter Terrorism and Security Council and oversees five state agencies.

Missouri Lt. Gov. Mike Kehoe used his experience as a businessman, state commission member, and state senator for eight years, to support a legislative proposal to increase pay for state employees in 2019.

The state senates in both Maine and New Hampshire switched party control after the 2018 election. Maine Senate President Troy Jackson says the senate's first legislative bill considered would require insurance companies to cover essential health benefits and patients with pre-existing conditions. Rural broadband access in Maine communities is also a priority for Senator Jackson. In New Hampshire, Senate President Donna Soucy says there will be several likely legislative issues in 2019, including education funding, moving the state psychiatric unit out of the state prison, and paid family leave.

In Nebraska, Lt. Gov. Mike Foley, who presides over the only unicameral legislature in the United States, spoke out against a legislative proposal to legalize medical cannabis.

In addition to presiding over the senate, New Mexico Lt. Gov. Howie Morales will serve as temporary Public Education Secretary.

In New York, Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul is pushing to lengthen the statute of limitations on reporting child abuse and is serving as chair of the Child Care Availability Task Force.



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Several NLGA Members have previously held other statewide elected positions before being elected lieutenant governor, including Members in Connecticut, Montana, Nevada, and Ohio. A former state Treasurer, Nevada Lt. Gov. Kate Marshall plans to advocate for a state-backed retirement savings program for residents.

Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Matt Pinnell will serve as secretary for Tourism and Branding, saying tourism is the third-largest industry in the state. Lt. Gov. Pinnell will also serve as an adviser to a committee over the Oklahoma Department of Commerce, focusing on small business and the 117 different Opportunity Zones across the state.

Lt. Gov. John Fetterman will hold listening sessions in all 67 counties in Pennsylvania as part of efforts to explore the legalization of marijuana.

Both Tennessee and West Virginia law name the Senate President concurrently as Lieutenant Governor. Tennessee Lt. Gov. Randy McNally says a balanced budget, criminal justice reform, bringing jobs to rural areas, combating opioids, and ending the statute of limitations on reporting child abuse are 2019 legislative priorities. In West Virginia, Lt. Gov. Mitch Carmichael says 2019 priorities include creating an intermediate court of appeals, tuition payments for students for community and technical college, and pay raises for educators and public employees.

Vermont Lt. Gov. David Zuckerman has expressed support for legislation for the legal sale of cannabis in Vermont with a sales tax, to help fund prevention and treatment, education and law enforcement, and higher education and economic development.

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