



National Lieutenant Governors Association

NLGA Consensus Resolution in Support of Efficiency and Innovation in Government Procurement through Cooperative Purchasing

WHEREAS, government procurement plays a significant role in the effectiveness and efficiency of public sector operations throughout the United States and its territories, and

WHEREAS, state and local government purchasing functions are directly responsible for forecasting and procurement strategies; the acquisition of goods, services, and construction; the execution and administration of contracts; and the development of productive working relationships with suppliers and governmental partners, and

WHEREAS, state and local governments collectively spend more than \$4.84 trillion¹ annually, with substantial impacts on local, state, national, and international economies, and

WHEREAS, state and local governments are estimated to spend more than \$61 billion² in 2026 through cooperative purchasing arrangements, and

WHEREAS, cooperative purchasing is a procurement method conducted on behalf of public entities that allows products and services to be made available to other state and local governments pursuant to cooperative purchasing statutes and joint powers authorities, and

WHEREAS, cooperative purchasing is a competitive, transparent, and publicly administered solicitation and contract award process that provides significant benefits to state and local governments, including administrative efficiencies, reduced procurement timelines, cost savings through economies of scale, accelerated access to supply chains, and expanded access to qualified vendors and suppliers,³ and

WHEREAS, cooperative purchasing is grounded in an open and fair competitive process that promotes maximum competition among vendors and suppliers for the benefit of government while allowing vendors to efficiently deploy resources through the use of a single government contract, and

¹ <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/gov-finances.html>

² <https://www.cappo.org/news/592591/5-Reasons-Cooperative-Purchasing-is-on-the-Rise.htm>

³ https://www.sourcewell-mn.gov/sites/default/files/2023-01-31/Harvard%20Kennedy%20School%20White%20Paper%20on%20Cooperative%20Procurement_0.pdf

WHEREAS, cooperative purchasing contracts uphold recognized standards and best practices of public procurement and supplement and enhance traditional government procurement methods,⁴ and

WHEREAS, cooperative purchasing is a trusted, efficient, and innovative procurement tool used across all states and territories, and is recognized as a best practice by leading procurement organizations, including the American Bar Association,⁵ the National Institute for Governmental Procurement,⁶ the National Association of State Procurement Officials,⁷ and the National Purchasing Institute.⁸

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) encourages states and territories to explore utilizing cooperative purchasing and procurement strategies, where authorized by law, that can promote cost savings, improve state and local government procurement processes, encourage innovation, and enhance operational efficiency across government.

ADOPTED, this day, the 9th of April, 2026.

Co-Sponsors:

Proposed for the docket by: Sourcewell, NLGA Partner

4

<https://www.nigp.org/resource/care/2025%20CARE%20GBP%20Strategic%20Use%20of%20Cooperative%20Procurement.pdf?dl=true>

⁵ <https://publicprocurementinternational.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2000-ABA-Model-Procurement-Code.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.nigp.org/resource/position-papers/Cooperative%2520Procurement%2520Great%2520Value%2520Great%2520Confusion%2520Position%2520Paper.pdf?dl=true>

⁷ State and local government procurement: A practical guide. (2023). National Association of State Procurement Officials

⁸ https://www.npi-aep.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=39:aep-award&catid=20:site-content&Itemid=135