



STATE STRATEGIES COMMITTEE ON
AEROSPACE

National Lieutenant Governors Association
www.NLGA.us

**NATIONAL LIEUTENANT GOVERNORS
ASSOCIATION**

2026 NLGA State-Federal Exchange on Aerospace

June 1-2, 2026

Washington, D.C.

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ABOUT NLGA & THE NLGA AEROSPACE COMMITTEE

NLGA, organized in 1962, is an independently managed, 501c3 non-profit, peer to peer association with a mission to promote the office of lieutenant governor in all 50 states and the five U.S. territories by adding to the efficiency and effectiveness of the office and government. NLGA Members include all lieutenant governors and/or the seconds-in-command in each state and territory.

The National Lieutenant Governors Association (NLGA) State Strategies Committee on Aerospace was created in 2025 to advance aerospace, aviation, and defense in the states and territories. Aerospace Committee membership is comprised of lieutenant governors / seconds-in-command and their appointees to the Committee, representing public and governmental aerospace stakeholders. As a committee of the NLGA, the Aerospace Committee falls under the governance of NLGA Bylaws.

IMPORTANT MEETING NOTES

ATTIRE:

- Business casual attire.
- Comfortable shoes and attire for walking/touring are recommended.

ADA & MEALS:

- NLGA complies with ADA. Let NLGA know at least 15 work days before the meeting of needs.
- Meals are listed so attendees will plan for their own dietary needs. No special meals ordered.

ACCESS & SECURITY BADGES:

- **Security governs access rules.**
- NO INDIVIDUAL is allowed access to any room, meal, reception, event, or shared mode of transportation without a security badge – no exceptions.
- Online registration is the only way to generate a security badge. All attendees must have registered online by May 20, 2026. There is no on-site registration or substitution.
- All attendees will show photo ID at the registration desk when picking up their security badge. Security badges may only be picked up by the person whose name is on the badge and only during registration hours.
- State Patrol officers should complete complimentary online registration. All officers are asked to wear the NGSAs or state pin.
- IGA: ONE registrant from each Cabinet office of the President may attend, as approved by NLGA. This registration is good for day events only - not evening events.

PRESS/MEDIA:

- Press must pre-register. At registration, press must show photo ID and press credentials, and will wear NLGA badges to work from designated areas.
- Daytime sessions are open to registered press, unless otherwise noted.
- Meals and evening events are NOT open to any press.
- NLGA reserves the right to close any portion of the meeting at any time.

AGENDA
Monday, June 1

8:00am – 12:40pm | Outside Bader Ginsburg Room, The Darcy

Registration Open

Staffed by NLGA.

Attendees should check in at Registration Desk outside the Bader Ginsburg Room on the first floor to pick up meeting materials and security badges BEFORE heading to the second floor for breakfast in the Gaston Room.

8:00am – 8:45am | Gaston Room, The Darcy

Closed to media

Breakfast

Open to all registered attendees with security badge.

(Serving: Muffins, danishes, bagels and cream cheese, eggs, potatoes, seasonal fruit, assorted yogurt, bacon, ham, hot oatmeal)

8:45am – 9:00am | Bader Ginsburg Room, The Darcy

Opening & Welcome

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Welcome remarks:
 - Louisiana Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser (5 min)
 - Maryland Lt. Governor Aruna Miller (5 min)

Presiding: Louisiana Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser and Maryland Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

9:00am – 9:30am | Bader Ginsburg Room, The Darcy

Rapid Fire Intros: NLGA Aerospace Committee Members

Each attending member of the NLGA Aerospace Committee member will have up to 60 seconds to introduce themselves.

Moderator: Maryland Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

9:30am – 10:00am | Bader Ginsburg Room, The Darcy

Opening Keynote: Federal Policy in Aerospace & Aviation

The mission of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is to provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world, with responsibilities for regulating civil aviation and U.S. commercial space transportation, operating air traffic control and navigation systems, developing aviation safety programs, and more. Hear from FAA Deputy Administrator Chris Rocheleau on how states can collaborate to support and promote aerospace and aviation nationwide.

- **Deputy Administrator Chris Rocheleau, Federal Aviation Administration** (15 min)
- Q&A with Aerospace Committee Members (only)

Moderator: North Carolina Lt. Governor Rachel Hunt

AGENDA
Monday, June 1, *continued*

10:00am – 10:30am | Bader Ginsburg Room, The Darcy

Keynote: Advancing the Global Space Community

Space Foundation is a nonprofit organization founded in 1983 as a gateway to advance the global space community, facilitating collaboration across the global space ecosystem, connecting commercial, education and government stakeholders for open dialogues and joint programs. Space Foundation uniquely educates, collaborates and informs the entire space workforce, from early education through post-secondary, to the start of their careers as new professionals, and ultimately as leaders at the highest levels of government and commercial industry. Hear from Meghan Allen, SVP at the Space Foundation, on how state/territorial leaders can support space exploration and space-related industries, and resources available to advance the space ecosystem in the states/territories through workforce, education and economic opportunity.

- **Meghan Allen, Senior Vice President for Strategic Engagements, Space Foundation**
(15 min)
- Q&A with Aerospace Committee Members (only)

Moderator: Indiana Lt. Governor Micah Beckwith

10:30am – 11:00am | Bader Ginsburg Room, The Darcy

Panel: Multistate Collaboration on Aviation and AAM

The NASAO AAM Multistate Collaborative, launched in 2025, is an initiative of state government agencies or instrumentalities focused on the role of states in the development and integration of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) into the U.S. National Airspace System, and a forum for states to discuss state-level policies and infrastructure needed to support AAM operations. Hear from NASAO President Greg Pecoraro on the future landscape of AAM and how state leaders can advance AAM and the aviation industry. Then, Paul Feldman, GAMA Vice President of Government Affairs, will overview emerging tech in aviation, the important role of aviation manufacturing nationwide, and how state policymakers and aerospace leaders can advance the aviation industry.

- **Greg Pecoraro, President, National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO)**
(10 min)
- **Paul Feldman, Vice President of Government Affairs, General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA)** (10 min)
- Q&A with Aerospace Committee Members (only)

Moderator: Louisiana Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser

AGENDA
Monday, June 1, *continued*

11:00am – 11:30am | Bader Ginsburg Room, The Darcy

Keynote: Airpower and Spacepower to Advance National Security and Defense

The Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies, an affiliate of the Air & Space Forces Association, is the only aerospace power-focused think tank in the nation's capital. The independent, nonpartisan Institute informs the national security debate, educates about the essential role of aerospace power, and cultivates aerospace-minded talent. Hear from Heather Penney, Director of Studies and Research at the Mitchell Institute, on emerging security, airpower, and spacepower challenges of the 21st century, and how state policymakers and aerospace stakeholders can advance national security and defense.

- **Heather Penney, Director of Studies and Research, Mitchell Institute for Aerospace Studies** (15 min)
- Q&A with Aerospace Committee Members (only)

Moderator: North Carolina Lt. Governor Rachel Hunt

11:30am – 12:00pm | Bader Ginsburg Room, The Darcy

Keynote: Academic Engines of Aerospace Advancement

Darryll J. Pines has served as President of the University of Maryland since 2020, where he also serves as the Glenn L. Martin Professor of Aerospace Engineering. President Pines is a former chair of the department of Aerospace Engineering, as well as the former dean at the A. James Clark School of Engineering, and he has held positions with DARPA, the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Chevron Corp., and Space Tethers, among many other roles and distinctions. President Pines will discuss how higher education and research institutions can play a pivotal role in the advancement of aerospace through research, workforce training, industry partnerships and more, and how state policymakers might support and collaborate with the institutions in their states to strengthen the aerospace ecosystem.

- **President Darryll J. Pines, University of Maryland** (15 min)
- Q&A with Aerospace Committee Members (only)

Moderator: Maryland Lt. Governor Aruna Miller

12:00pm – 12:40pm | Gaston Room, The Darcy

Closed to media

Lunch

Open to all registered attendees with security badge.

(Serving: grilled portobello mushroom wraps, black angus roast beef sandwiches, slow roasted turkey breast sandwiches, chopped salad, southwestern bowls, chicken tortilla soup)

12:40pm – 12:50pm

Mini-Break

Brief break before loading busses at 12:50pm in hotel lobby for afternoon visit to NASA HQ.

AGENDA
Monday, June 1, *continued*

12:50pm | Lobby, The Darcy

Load Busses for Afternoon Outing

All attendees should load the NLGA busses to transport to the afternoon visit to NASA HQ. Buses will depart promptly at 12:55pm, no roll call is taken. You must wear your NLGA security badge for entry to the bussing or tour. **Please bring your driver's license / identification.**

1:15pm – 3:00pm | NASA Headquarters (300 E St SW, Washington, DC 20546)

Afternoon Outing: NASA Headquarters

Schedule of activities:

- 1:15pm – 1:25pm: Badging and Security (East Lobby)
- 1:30pm – 1:45pm: Opening Remarks & Group Photo, Jared Isaacman, NASA Administrator (Glennan Conference Room, East Lobby). *Group photo will be taken.*
- 1:45pm – 3:05pm: Tour Stops
 - 1) **Earth Information Center (EIC):** NASA Science Subject Matter Expert TBD (East Lobby)
 - 2) **Space Operations Center (SOC):** Kevin Metrocavage, ISS Operations Manager (7th Floor)
 - 3) **NASA Legislative Affairs:** Joel Graham, Associate Administrator, Legislative & Intergovernmental Affairs (9th Floor)
 - 4) **Aerospace & Aviation in the States:** Dr. John Cavolowsky, Director, Transformative Aeronautics Concepts Program (TACP) (6th Floor)
- 3:05pm – 3:10pm: Badge return (East Lobby)

Following the tours, attendees will reload the NLGA buses to return to the hotel.

3:10pm | NASA Headquarters

Load Busses to Return to The Darcy

All attendees should load the NLGA busses at 3:10pm to return to the hotel. You must wear your NLGA security badge for entry to the bussing or tour.

3:30pm | Return to The Darcy

3:30pm – 4:45pm

Afternoon Break

4:45pm | Lobby, The Darcy

Load Busses for Evening Reception

All attendees should load the NLGA busses to transport to the afternoon visit to NASA HQ. Buses will depart promptly at 4:50pm, no roll call is taken. You must wear your NLGA security badge for entry to the bussing or tour.

AGENDA
Monday, June 1, *continued*

5:00pm – 6:30pm | Airbus Experience Center (1101 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20004)

Evening Reception

All attendees are invited to attend an evening reception at the Airbus Experience Center in Washington D.C., located in the historic Evening Star building on Pennsylvania Avenue, between the White House and the U.S. Capitol. The Experience Center offers immersive exhibits and hands-on experiences, including virtual reality, flight simulations, and rescue missions, where attendees can explore the aerospace industry. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served.

(Serving: BBQ chicken skewers, mini beef tenderloin medallions, coconut shrimp, hummus shooters, cucumber tomato bites, bacon wrapped potatoes, macaroni and cheese poppers, charcuterie)

AGENDA
Tuesday, June 2

8:00am – 2:00pm | Outside Bader Ginsburg Room, The Darcy

Registration Open

Staffed by NLGA.

Attendees should check in at Registration Desk outside the Bader Ginsburg Room on the first floor to pick up meeting materials and security badges BEFORE heading to the second floor for breakfast in the Gaston Room.

8:00am – 8:45am | Gaston Room, The Darcy

Breakfast

Open to all registered attendees with security badge.

(Serving: croissants, muffins, bagels and cream cheese, eggs, potatoes, seasonal fruit, granola parfaits, sausage, bacon, grits)

8:50am | Lobby, The Darcy

Load Busses for Morning Tour

All attendees should load the NLGA busses to transport to the morning tour of TBD. Busses will depart promptly at 8:55am, no roll call is taken. **You must wear your NLGA security badge for entry to the bussing or tour.**

9:10am – 10:30am | National Air & Space Museum (650 Jefferson Drive SW, Washington, DC 20560)

Morning Tour: National Air & Space Museum

All attendees are invited to a private tour of the National Air & Space Museum, a Smithsonian Institution, one of the most visited museums in the world, and home to artifacts from all 50 states. Highlights include exhibitions such as *World War I: The Birth of Military Aviation*, *Destination Moon*, *The Wright Brothers & The Invention of the Aerial Age*, and much more! Through guided tours, attendees will enjoy in-depth exhibits filled with iconic historic objects like the 1903 Wright Flyer, the spacesuit worn by the first human to walk on the Moon, WWI combat aircraft, and more. Comfortable shoes and attire are recommended, please bring no bags.

Schedule of activities:

9:10am: Arrive at NASM; Group photo in the Milestones of Flight Hall

9:15am – 10:15: Guided tours of NASM exhibits across two levels

10:15am – 10:30am: Reconvene in the Milestones of Flight Hall; Opportunity to stop at the Museum Store

10:30am: Depart NASM for The Darcy

10:45am: Arrive at The Darcy

AGENDA
Tuesday, June 2, *continued*

10:45am – 11:30am

Mini-Break

Brief break before returning to the Bader Ginsburg Room at the Darcy to begin the next session at 11:30am.

11:30am – 12:00pm | Bader Ginsburg Room, The Darcy

Keynote: Delivering Mission Success and Bridging Connections Across the Space Enterprise

The Aerospace Corporation is the only federally funded research and development center committed exclusively to the space enterprise, and serves as the nation’s trusted partner solving the hardest problems in space. Hear from Ron Birk at the Aerospace Corporation on their approach to advancing solutions and supporting collaboration for outpacing the threat, enabling new capabilities, and connecting national security and civil and commercial partners to deliver mission success and bridge connections across the space enterprise.

- **Ron Birk, Principal Director, Space Enterprise Evolution Directorate, The Aerospace Corporation** (15 min)
- Q&A with Aerospace Committee Members (only)

Moderator: Delaware Lt. Governor Kyle Evans Gay

12:00pm – 12:45pm | Gaston Room, The Darcy

Lunch

Open to all registered attendees with security badge.

(Serving: grilled portobello mushroom wrap, country ham & swiss sandwiches, grilled organic chicken breast sandwiches, thai bowls, caprese salad, tomato basil soup)

12:45pm – 1:15pm | Bader Ginsburg Room, The Darcy

Speaker: Revolutionizing Global Rapid Transport

Through continuing innovations in the industry – including the advent of reusable launch vehicles, breakthrough developments in propulsion and additive manufacturing, and rapid advances in AI – the U.S. has the opportunity to bring about dramatic changes in long-distance, high-speed aerospace transportation for both people and cargo. Hear from Dr. George Nield, Chairman of the Global Spaceports Alliance, President of Commercial Technologies, LLC, and former FAA Associate Administrator, on how policymakers, stakeholders, and the industry can advance suborbital point-to-point transportation through space as a major game-changer for national security and economic competitiveness.

- **Dr. George C. Nield, President, Commercial Space Technologies LLC and Chairman, Global Spaceports Alliance** (15 min)
- Q&A with Aerospace Committee Members (only)

Moderator: Utah Lt. Governor Deidre Henderson

AGENDA
Tuesday, June 2, *continued*

1:15pm – 1:30pm | Bader Ginsburg Room, The Darcy

Committee Business Session

The NLGA Aerospace Committee, as led by the six-member Board of lieutenant governors, will discuss several items of business regarding the Committee future efforts.

- 2026 – 2027 Aerospace Committee Activities – Kellie Rittershausen, NLGA Executive Director
- New Business for Discussion

Presiding: Louisiana Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser

MEETING ADJOURNS.