



## National Lieutenant Governors Association

### Resolution On The Importance of Beautification and Anti-Littering Efforts in the States and Territories

- 1       **WHEREAS**, the National Lieutenant Governors Association has an opportunity to highlight the important  
2 but often ignored issue of litter, and to examine the different state strategies that impact public policy and  
3 budgets, and
- 4       **WHEREAS**, states and territories promote tourism, economic development, natural beauty, beautiful  
5 architecture, and historic communities, but litter is a blight on cities, counties, parks, roadways, and  
6 waterways, and
- 7       **WHEREAS**, there is an estimated 50 billion pieces of litter on the ground in America, with 152 items of  
8 litter per person in the U.S. <sup>1</sup>, and
- 9       **WHEREAS**, litter, misplaced trash, and debris are detrimental to a state/territory's image and negatively  
10 impact economic development, community investment, infrastructure, and tourism, and
- 11       **WHEREAS**, improperly placed materials along roadways and in waterways negatively affects an  
12 individual's place and connection to their neighborhoods and communities, and
- 13       **WHEREAS**, litter clean up costs the U.S. more than an estimated \$11.5 billion each year <sup>2</sup>, and
- 14       **WHEREAS**, the costs of litter cleanup are a small portion of the impact compared to the indirect and  
15 hidden costs associated with the adverse effects on the quality of life for humans and wildlife, and
- 16       **WHEREAS**, litter's indirect negative economic impacts include lost tourism revenues, expenses for  
17 repairing vehicles, boats and ships, restoration of ecosystems, wildlife injury, and eventually the cost to  
18 human health, and
- 19       **WHEREAS**, litter can also lead to environmental contamination and other adverse effects to the  
20 environment, and
- 21       **WHEREAS**, the presence of litter in a community decreases property values by a little over 7%, according  
22 to the National Association of Home Builders house price estimator, and
- 23       **WHEREAS**, each state and territory working together on solutions to litter will lead to quicker results and  
24 an improved quality of life for residents, and
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<sup>1</sup> 2020 National Litter Study, Keep America Beautiful, <https://kab.org/litter-study/>

<sup>2</sup> Key Findings: The Costs of Americans Littering, [LitterinAmerica FactSheet CostsofLittering.pdf \(kab.org\)](https://kab.org/litter-study/litter-in-america-fact-sheet-costs-of-littering.pdf)



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27 **WHEREAS**, litter is a global issue that will only change when we address the behavior that creates it, both  
28 from the individual who litters and the industries that manufacture the products, and NLGA recognizes that  
29 public leaders need to work together to change the culture that creates litter, and

30 **WHEREAS**, a coordinated effort between state and local governments, businesses, and nonprofits is  
31 essential to combating and minimizing litter and consistent messaging about the impacts of litter and  
32 littering behavior is critical to solving the problem, which is possible.

33 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National Lieutenant Governors Association  
34 recognizes the importance of promoting awareness of litter as a community nuisance, and supports efforts  
35 in the states and territories to discourage and prevent littering and other harmful behaviors to local  
36 environments.

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLGA encourages states and territories to adopt policies,  
38 promote anti-littering campaigns, and institute other methods of prevention to reduce littering.

ADOPTED, this day, the \_\_\_\_ of March, 2022.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Pamela Evette (R – South Carolina), Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist (D – Michigan), Lt.  
Governor Billy Nungesser (R – Louisiana)