



National
League of Cities

2009 Annual
Congressional
City Conference

Marriott Wardman Park Hotel • Washington, DC • March 14-18, 2009

Lobbying for America's Cities

2009 Congressional City Conference

Opportunities You Will Not Want To Miss

Come to Washington, D.C., March 14 – 18 to join America's cities and towns as we forge new partnerships on behalf of the 225 million people we collectively represent with the new Administration and Congress. With the election behind us, the transition underway, and the economy in a crisis, both the Administration and Congress will have significant impact on the future of our cities and towns.

The National League of Cities Congressional City Conference provides local elected officials and municipal staff a myriad of opportunities you will not want to miss.

There will be opportunities to learn about federal issues important to America's cities and towns, to lobby Congress on those priorities, and to be a part of the clear, unified voice we present to the new Administration and Congress. The program will also include general sessions featuring national leaders, members of the new Administration and Congress, workshops to learn more about the issues and NLC's positions, and a chance to go to Capitol Hill to visit with your representatives on Wednesday, March 18.

The National League of Cities provides the resources, the connections, and the collective power to help city leaders have an impact on Capitol Hill.

The Action Plan

Sunday, March 15

City officials gather at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel for leadership meetings, policy discussions, and legislative briefings to learn about current federal issues and priorities for America's cities and towns.

Monday, March 16

NLC's leaders and general session speakers set the stage for the action to come by outlining the opportunities and challenges and building capacity to make a difference with Congress on key federal issues.

Tuesday, March 17

The new President and his Cabinet and Congressional leaders are invited to discuss their priorities and ways in which Washington can work with cities and towns to meet the challenges facing the country. The program will wrap up with the opportunity to review NLC's federal legislative agenda and confirm plans for Capitol Hill visits on Wednesday.

Wednesday, March 18 – City Lobby Day

Travel to the Hill for strategic meetings with Congressional leaders to talk about NLC's priorities for federal action and what America's cities and towns want from Congress and the Administration.

Pre-Conference Leadership Training Institute Seminars

Information pertaining to the pre-conference Leadership Training Institute Seminars being held **Saturday, March 14** and **Sunday, March 15**,

will be available on the NLC website at www.nlc.org in late December 2008 or early January 2009. Registered delegates will be notified by e-mail when registration for these seminars is available.

Special Events

Celebrate Diversity Breakfast

Monday, March 16; 7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.; Fee: \$35

The 23rd annual Celebrate Diversity Breakfast will feature a keynote speaker who will provide a perspective on "diversity" issues facing America's cities and towns. The breakfast is sponsored by five NLC constituency groups.

Reception and The Capitol Steps

Tuesday, March 17; 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

The Capitol Steps will perform on Tuesday as part of a conference wrap up to energize the delegates for City Lobby Day on Wednesday morning. This troupe of former Congressional employees provides bi-partisan fun for everyone.

Preliminary Schedule

The Conference will provide a range of education, networking, and strategy sessions to maximize the value of this event for city officials. This preliminary schedule provides an outline of major events during the conference to help delegates make travel plans.

Saturday, March 14

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Leadership Training Seminars
1:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. City Futures Panel Meetings
5:30 p.m. – 6:45 p.m. Orientation to the National League of Cities for First Time Attendees
5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Constituency and Special Group Meetings

Sunday, March 15

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. NLC Board of Directors Meeting
NLC Advisory Council Meeting
Leadership Training Seminars
Policy and Advocacy Committee Meetings
5:15 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Constituency and Special Group Meetings

Monday, March 16

7:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Celebrate Diversity Breakfast
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Opening General Session
10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Workshop Sessions
12:15 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Roundtable Networking Lunch
1:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m. Workshop Sessions
3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. General Session
5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. State League Caucuses and Receptions
Constituency and Special Group Meetings/Events

Tuesday, March 17

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Steering Committee Work Sessions
8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. General Session
10:30 a.m. – 11:45 p.m. Workshop Sessions
Noon – 1:30 p.m. Roundtable Networking Lunch
1:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Workshop Sessions
3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Closing General Session
5:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. State League Caucuses and Receptions
6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Reception and The Capitol Steps

Wednesday, March 18

7:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Shuttle Service to Capitol Hill for Lobbying

Be part of the national voice of America's cities and towns in 2009.



The 2009 Congressional City Conference will feature **general sessions, workshops, and strategy meetings** built around NLC's advocacy priorities for the first session of the 111th Congress. Key issues likely to be in play on the federal agenda in 2009 include:



The Economy

The crisis in the nation's financial markets is increasingly curtailing the ability of municipal governments – even those with AAA credit ratings – to borrow funds for ready-to-go projects to serve their citizens. Projects like roads, bridges, schools, hospitals, sewage treatment plants and libraries, the bedrocks of any community, are now at risk of being indefinitely delayed or cancelled because the cost of borrowing is too high. At the same time, housing foreclosures remain at an all-time high in many communities triggering a decline in property values and the property taxes that fund critical services for our citizens. In addition to economic stimulus packages and the \$700 billion economic recovery plan, find out what additional steps the federal government might take to stabilize the economy and help local economies.



Transportation Financing

With the current authorization of the federal transportation funding program set to expire in 2009, Congress will embark upon an important debate over the future of our country's national surface transportation plan. As part of this discussion, Congress will have to make decisions about how to address the shortfall in gas tax revenues for the Highway Trust Fund, how to repair and maintain the nation's aging infrastructure, how to address concerns over the impact of transportation on the environment, and ways to ensure that the program meets local transportation and economic development goals.



Alternative Energy and Climate Change

Energy and environmental issues of concern to local governments continue to be an important congressional issue. Congress continues to discuss and debate the specifics of a comprehensive energy package that would move this country toward greater energy independence. Renewable fuels standard, solar, wind and nuclear energy, tax credits for renewable energy production, elimination of oil and gas tax incentives, energy and environmental block grants for local governments and issues related to climate change will all be topics for this debate.



Immigration Reform

Uncertainty over federal immigration policy continues to impact cities and towns. Until comprehensive action is taken, communities will continue to face the challenges of immigration on their own. Faced with federal inaction, city leaders recognize that local governments cannot wait and are developing new strategies to take constructive action locally to manage growing immigrant populations.



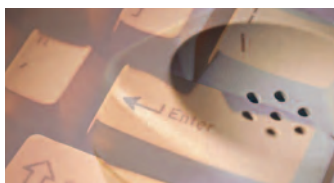
Federal Funding for Local Activities

The federal budget continues to be under intense pressure due to war spending, the federal deficit, the economy, mandatory spending, and renewed emphasis on fiscal restraint. This means that federal programs important to cities and towns, including the Community Development Block Grant program, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, public safety, and transportation, will continue to be vulnerable to attack.



Housing and Neighborhood Stabilization

With mortgage foreclosures, predatory lending, inadequate financial literacy, and market volatility continuing to threaten family economic self-sufficiency, neighborhood stability and the national economy, Congress is continues to identify resources and mechanisms to preserve homeownership and stabilize neighborhoods, including stronger consumer education and protections and market interventions.



Telecommunications

Local government authority to offer municipal broadband services to citizens, to control rights of way, and to collect franchise fees and taxes remain under attack in federal regulatory and legislative arenas. Municipal officials must be knowledgeable about emerging technologies and be prepared to refute industry arguments that local governments are an impediment to competition.



Education Reform

Discussions are underway in Congress regarding education reform programs. An NLC Task Force has developed a set of recommendations for reforming K-12 and adult education programs to make them more responsive to the changing fiscal climate. Local government officials – many of whom have little control over schools but are often blamed when they fail – must be prepared to advocate for needed reforms and for the funding that will be required to meet educational program goals.



Public Safety

Public safety challenges both new and old, are forcing local governments to stretch their dollars farther than ever before. As cities across the country face severe budget shortfalls, a productive partnership that supports our first responders is more important than ever. Federal cooperation with local government is crucial in keeping police patrolling our communities, implementing new strategies against crime, and preparing for natural and man-made disasters.

Visit the NLC website at www.nlc.org for regular updates on key issues and advocacy priorities.

Registration and Housing Form

Dates to Remember

February 6, 2009 - Deadline for advance registration and housing requests. All requests must be postmarked by this date. After this date, all delegates must register on-site at higher rates.

February 6, 2009 - Deadline for Cancellations. Cancellation letters must be postmarked by this date and are subject to a \$75 cancellation fee. There are no refunds for cancellations after this date.

No housing or registration will be processed without accompanying payment in full.

Congress of Cities '08 Conference ID# _____

Are you a newly elected official? _____ Size of city? _____

Name _____ Sex _____

Title _____

City/Organization _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Confirmation Format - HTML: YES NO

Spouse/Partner Name* (\$35 fee) _____

**Spouse/Partner not eligible for a separate hotel room.*

Child Name (14 and under, no fee) _____ Age _____

Youth Delegate** (15-18, \$100 fee) _____ Age _____

***Local officials are encouraged to register youth as active participants in this conference to contribute to NLC's youth agenda. If the youth delegate requires hotel accommodations separate from yours, attach the registration form with your completed form.*

Youth Chaperone Name (\$100 fee) _____

Special Conference Rates

(You must register online at Congress of Cities to receive these rates.)

\$360 At Congress of Cities Member Registration \$ _____
\$470 At Congress of Cities Non-Member Registration \$ _____

Conference Rates

SG \$35 Spouse/Partner (non-refundable) \$ _____
7 \$100 Youth Delegate \$ _____
8 \$100 Youth Chaperone (not applicable to elected officials) \$ _____
22 \$175 Students \$ _____

Advance Registration Fees (Postmarked by February 2, 2009)

5 \$360 First Time Attendee \$ _____
1 \$430 NLC Member City (On-site rate is \$480 after 2/2/09) \$ _____
2 \$430 Associate Member (On-site rate is \$480 after 2/2/09) \$ _____
3 \$550 SML Member City (On-site rate is \$610 after 2/2/09) \$ _____
4 \$655 Non-Member/Other (On-site rate is \$700 after 2/2/09) \$ _____

Registration for Leadership Training Institute Seminars will be available in mid-December.

Special Events

P1 \$35 Celebrate Diversity Breakfast \$ _____
L12 \$40 Leadership Luncheon \$ _____

Constituency Group Events

You must be registered for the conference in order to attend.

A1 \$40 APAMO Activity Fee \$ _____
G1 \$40 GLBLO Activity Fee \$ _____
H1 \$50 HELO Activity Fee \$ _____
N1 \$125 NBC-LEO Activity Fee \$ _____
W1 \$45 WIMG Luncheon \$ _____

Total Registration Fee: \$ _____

Registration Cancellation Policy:

All requests must be received in writing, postmarked by February 2, 2009, and are subject to a \$75 cancellation fee. No partial refunds will be made if you decide not to attend particular functions. No registrations or cancellations will be accepted by telephone. No cancellations will be accepted after February 2, 2009.

Office use only: Payment _____ Check# _____ Amount _____

Hotel Reservations:

You must be registered to reserve a hotel room. To guarantee your room, all hotels require one night's deposit plus 14.5% tax, per room 21 days prior to your arrival. This is required even if you plan to arrive before 6:00 p.m. If accommodations are not guaranteed 21 days in advance, the reservation will be cancelled.

- Please make my hotel reservation as indicated below.
- I do not require hotel accommodations at any of the hotels listed below.
- Please contact me regarding suite information.

Room Dates: Arrival Date: ____/____/____ Departure Date: ____/____/____
Some hotels charge an early departure fee. Please confirm your arrival and departure dates are correct on NLC Meeting Services and Hotel confirmations.

Room Type Preference: Single (1 person/1 bed) Smoking
 Double (2 people/1 bed) Non-Smoking
 Double/Double (2 people/2 beds) *Hotels attempt to provide room type preference but it is not guaranteed. Marriott Wardman is a 100% smoke-free hotel!*
 Triple (3 people/2 beds)
 Quad (4 people/2 beds)

Sharing My Room With (This is for hotel rate and check-in purposes.):
1) _____ 2) _____ 3) _____

Special Housing Request (e.g., wheelchair accessible rooms, etc.):

If you have special housing or transportation needs, please contact NLC Meeting Services.

Hotel Choices:

Indicate your first-choice hotel with the number "1".
Marriott Wardman Park is the Headquarters Hotel.

	Room Type	Rate Sgl/Db/ Trip/Quad
____ Marriott Wardman Park	Standard	\$249/\$269/\$289/\$309
____ Omni Shoreham	Standard	\$229/\$229/\$229/\$229

Hotel Deposit:

All major credit cards with expiration date of 03/09 or later are accepted at the conference hotels. All checks, government purchase orders, vouchers or claims must be submitted to the hotel after January 19th but before February 13th and are subject to approval. Please include your 6 digit REG ID # indicated on the NLC Meeting Services confirmation.

Registration Fee Payment Information:

[You must check one of the options below.]

- Charge my REGISTRATION FEES to VISA, MasterCard or AMEX listed below
- Check for REGISTRATION FEES made payable to National League of Cities
- Purchase Order for REGISTRATION FEES - copy must be enclosed & payment must be received by February 2, 2009.

Hotel Deposit Payment Information:

[You must check one of the options below.]

- Charge my HOTEL DEPOSIT to the credit card listed below
- Check for HOTEL DEPOSIT - please submit to hotel address noted on confirmation after January 19, 2009 and before February 13, 2009 - subject to hotel approval

Credit Card Authorization:

NLC Meeting Services is authorized to use the card below to pay all applicable registration fees and guarantee my hotel reservation. I understand that one night's room charge plus tax will be billed through this card if I fail to show up for my assigned housing on the confirmed date, unless I have cancelled my reservation with the hotel at least 72 hours in advance. I also understand some hotels will process the credit card for one night's deposit immediately upon receiving reservation information from NLC Meeting Services.

Visa/MC/AMEX #: _____ Exp. Date _____

Card Holder Name _____

Card Holder Signature _____

Additional Credit Card Authorization:

For hotel deposit only if different than the credit card number listed above.
(Expiration date must be 03/09 or later, per hotel requirement.)

Visa/MC/AMEX #: _____ Exp. Date _____

Card Holder Name _____

Card Holder Signature _____

Return Conference Registration and Housing Form to:

Fax: 703-631-6288 (Credit Card and Purchase Orders Only - No Checks)

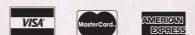
Mail: NLC Meeting Services, c/o J. Spargo & Associates,
11208 Waples Mill Road, Suite 112, Fairfax, VA 22030

For more information and/or changes:

Email: nlcregandhousing@jspargo.com

Phone: 888-319-3864 or 703-449-6418

Office use only: Hotel _____ Sublkl _____ Cate _____ Rate _____





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