

Memorandum

TO: Members of the 2023 CSG WEST Executive Committee and Nominating Committee

FROM: David Adkins, CSG Executive Director/CEO

DATE: May 10, 2023

RE: Invitation for CSG WEST to Select a Nominee for 2024 CSG National Vice Chair

On behalf of the CSG national officers and staff, thank you for your service as a member of the CSG WEST Executive Committee. CSG WEST remains a valued resource for our western states because of your leadership. We are a stronger organization, regionally and nationally, because of you. Like you, I am incredibly proud of all the exceptional work produced by CSG WEST Director Edgar Ruiz and his dedicated team. I appreciate your continued support of CSG and CSG WEST.

Each year, one of the CSG regions, during its annual meeting, selects a legislator from one of its member states to become a nominee for CSG National Vice-Chair. This year, CSG West is invited to select a nominee for election to a one year term as CSG National Vice Chair beginning January 1, 2024.

In the past, CSG WEST has selected excellent candidates for the national officer rotation. Alaska Senate President Gary Stevens, former Idaho Senate Majority Leader Bart Davis and the current CSG Immediate Past National Chair, Washington Senator Sam Hunt, all served CSG with great distinction. I have no doubt you will select another excellent nominee this year.

Each region determines the process to be used to select their nominee.

The process used by CSG WEST is set forth in the regional rules as follows:

Nomination of CSG National Vice Chair

Every four years the Nominating Committee will nominate a member from among Member Jurisdictions to serve as the CSG National Vice Chair, in accordance with the CSG Articles of Organization.

The Nominating Committee may receive nominations for the CSG National Vice Chair position so long as candidates are members of the Executive Committee and have engaged in CSG West activities.

Nominations must be submitted to the Director two weeks prior to the first day of the Annual Meeting. A member of the Nominating Committee may not be a candidate for CSG National Vice Chair.

Following the closing of nominations, the Nominating Committee will interview the candidates and will forward its slate of nominees to the Executive Committee. Unless otherwise approved by the Officers, the nomination will be made at least two weeks prior to the CSG National Executive Committee meeting at which consideration of such nomination is scheduled. In accordance with the CSG Articles of Organization, the designated nominee will be nominated by the CSG Leadership Council to the CSG Executive Committee and in the event that CSG West fails to timely recommend a nominee, the CSG Leadership Council will nominate a candidate from CSG West after consulting with the CSG West officers.

The CSG National Executive Committee is scheduled to elect the entire slate of national officers, including president (a governor), chair, chair-elect, vice chair and immediate past chair, during its meeting at the CSG National Conference in Raleigh, NC in early December 2023.

By tradition, assuming they remain in legislative office, it is generally expected that the legislator elected national vice chair will, in the following year, be elected national chair-elect, and then in the year after that, be elected national chair. If that tradition holds, the nominee selected by CSG WEST this year would serve as the CSG National Vice Chair in 2024, the National Chair-Elect in 2025 and the National Chair in 2026 and Immediate Past National Chair in 2027. Candidates for the nomination as national vice chair should expect to be a legislator through their entire time in the national officer rotation.

While there is no requirement to annually alternate political affiliation among those who serve as national chair, striking a balance between Democrats and Republicans is preferred. Since 2013, seven of the national chairs have been Republicans and three have been Democrats. The current national chair is a Republican. We anticipate the next two national chairs will be Democrats. The last two national chairs from CSG WEST have both been Democrats. Women and persons of color have historically been significantly underrepresented among those who have served as CSG National Chair.

With this memo, I am sharing the “job description” for each of the offices in our national chair rotation. This information is excerpted from the CSG National Articles of Organization. Please consider these criteria carefully in selecting a nominee.

While the national articles of organization set forth the duties and responsibilities of the national chair, by tradition and practice, several factors are often cited as helpful to a successful term as national chair.

First, since the national chair is expected from time to time help with outreach to a state that is in arrears on their CSG dues, it is helpful if the national chair is from a state that is annually paying the full amount of state dues.

Additionally, the national chair should be someone whose demonstrated temperament and leadership style are conducive to leading a nonpartisan organization.

History has also proven that legislators who hold elected leadership positions in their chambers more easily succeed in their role as a CSG national officer. They often have the benefit of year round staff support, they receive a strong response to fundraising appeals and their state will often help cover some or all the travel related expenses during their service as a CSG officer.

The financial success of a CSG national conference is assured when the national chair can help raise the hundreds of thousands of dollars necessary to host the event. So, whether the national chair decides to host the national conference in their home state or in another state, it is important to confirm that they are able and willing to help raise significant funds to assure the success of the conference.

The ethics requirements in a state can place significant limitations on the ability of a legislator from that state to carry out the duties of the national chair. While this should not be disqualifying, every candidate for the nomination should make certain that the ethics requirements in their state would not preclude them from fulfilling the responsibilities of the national chair.

Please let me know if you need additional information regarding the process of selecting a nominee for the CSG national officer rotation or if I can be of any further assistance. Thank you for your leadership in this process and I look forward to learning the results.

I'll see you in Hollywood!

Copy: Edgar Ruiz, CSG WEST Director

Washington Senator Sam Hunt, 2023 CSG Immediate Past National Chair