



# WEST



REACH OUT TO YOUR CSG LIAISONS!



**CSG WEST STATE LIAISON**

Sen. Ben Allen



**CSG WEST STATE LIAISON**

Asm. Mike Gipson  
CSG West Immediate Past Chair



**CSG WEST STAFF LIAISON**

Martha Castañeda  
Director of Policy & International Programs  
[mcastaneda@csg.org](mailto:mcastaneda@csg.org)

# 2024 SERVICES PROFILE CALIFORNIA

# THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS WEST



➤ **Member States & Territories**

➤ **Associate Members**

➤ **Nonmember States**

CSG West  
1107 Ninth Street, Suite 730  
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@CSGWest  
[www.csgwest.org](http://www.csgwest.org)



## Our Story is One of Excellence

As a champion of excellence in state governance, The Council of State Governments West (CSG West) provides state legislators and legislative staff with valuable relationship building and professional growth opportunities through a variety of member-driven, regionally focused programs and services. Highly informative conversation and peer-to-peer collaboration are the focus of our regular convenings, with a keen eye on supporting important state and regional policy efforts.

Membership is automatic for western legislators and legislative staff, and our members value the chance to confer with peers from other states in a nonpartisan atmosphere as they share cross-border knowledge and lessons learned in a variety of areas.

Whether addressing concerns specific to the region, assessing international dynamics, or honing essential leadership and consensus-building skills, CSG West's programs are designed to assist elected leaders throughout the West in their work.

## WHO WE ARE

CSG West is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that fosters the exchange of insights and ideas among western state legislators and legislative staff, advocates multi-state partnerships, cultivates leadership, and promotes a regional vision based on common interests that transcend state and international borders. As one of the four regions of The Council of State Governments, a national community of states, CSG West engages members on a more intimate, regional level while also providing a national platform for the exchange of ideas and information.

## WHAT WE DO

In support of our members, CSG West convenes a variety of programs and events that facilitate collaborative learning aimed at addressing regional concerns. This includes policy committees, policy academies, professional development training programs, and international relations opportunities designed to strengthen legislative institutions. Information about our 2024 committees, programs, services, and events is included in this booklet.

## HOW WE ARE GOVERNED

CSG West is governed by our Officers and the Executive Committee, which are comprised of western legislative leaders. The Officers, who provide direct oversight of the organization, are elected annually and rotate in accordance with the organization's rules to ensure bipartisan governance. Acting as a governing board, the CSG West Executive Committee meets annually to review the work of policy committees, adopt policy positions, and review the ongoing development of the organization, as well as select participants for the Western Legislative Academy.

### 2024 OFFICERS



**CSG WEST CHAIR**  
Sen. Bill Hansell  
*Oregon*



**CSG WEST VICE CHAIR**  
Sen. Todd Weiler  
*Utah*



**CSG WEST CHAIR-ELECT**  
Rep. Mike Yin  
*Wyoming*



**CSG WEST IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIR**  
Asm. Mike Gipson  
*California*





**EXPLORE THE  
EXTRAORDINARY**

**JULY 9-12, 2024**

**CSG WEST  
ANNUAL MEETING**

**PORTLAND  
OREGON**

# POLICY COMMITTEES

CSG West policy committees and working groups provide a structured forum for exchanging ideas and collaborative learning on key regional topics. CSG West should be considered an extension of your staff in these policy areas.



## AGRICULTURE & WATER

Co-Chair: Sen. Wendy McKamey (MT)

Co-Chair: Asm. Lori Wilson (CA)

CSG West: Jackie Tinetti [jtinetti@csg.org](mailto:jtinetti@csg.org)



## EDUCATION

Co-Chair: Rep. Cathy Kipp (CO)

Co-Chair: Open (ID)

CSG West: Jonathan Lennartz

[jlennartz@csg.org](mailto:jlennartz@csg.org)



## HEALTH

Co-Chair: Sen. Rochelle Nguyen (NV)

Co-Chair: Rep. Steve Eliason (UT)

CSG West: Shilpa Patel [spatel@csg.org](mailto:spatel@csg.org)



## LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

Co-Chair: Sen. Todd Weiler (UT)

Co-Chair: Asm. David Alvarez (CA)

CSG West: Shilpa Patel [spatel@csg.org](mailto:spatel@csg.org)



## WESTRENDS BOARD

Co-Chair: Rep. Landon Brown (WY)

Co-Chair: Sen. Liz Stefanics (NM)

CSG West: Martha Castañeda

[mcastaneda@csg.org](mailto:mcastaneda@csg.org)



## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Co-Chair: Sen. Eric Barlow (WY)

Co-Chair: Rep. Nicole Lowen (HI)

CSG West: Jackie Tinetti [jtinetti@csg.org](mailto:jtinetti@csg.org)



## CANADA RELATIONS

Co-Chair: Rep. Debra Lekanoff (WA)

Co-Chair: MLA Grant Hunter (Alberta)

CSG West: Martha Castañeda [mcastaneda@csg.org](mailto:mcastaneda@csg.org)



## HOUSING

Co-Chair: Sen. Melissa Wintrow (ID)

Co-Chair: Sen. Daniel Bonham (OR)

CSG West: Jonathan Lennartz [jlennartz@csg.org](mailto:jlennartz@csg.org)



## PUBLIC SAFETY

Co-Chair: Sen. Matt Claman (AK)

Co-Chair: Sen. David Brock Smith (OR)

CSG West: Shilpa Patel [spatel@csg.org](mailto:spatel@csg.org)

## INTERESTED IN JOINING OR PARTICIPATING IN A COMMITTEE?

Members are appointed by their legislative leadership.  
Contact [westpolicy@csg.org](mailto:westpolicy@csg.org) for more information.

## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ON RIVER GOVERNANCE



The Legislative Council on River Governance (LCRG) engages legislators from Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington on issues facing the Columbia and Snake River Basins. Members share relevant legislative actions in their respective states enabling them to learn from one another and identify areas of potential collaboration. Recent meetings have addressed topics such as aquatic invasive species, fisheries, the Columbia River Treaty negotiations, energy, and water quality.

**The 2024 meeting will convene in Washington state, dates TBD.**

For more information, please contact Jackie Tinetti, Policy Analyst at [jtinetti@csg.org](mailto:jtinetti@csg.org).



### CHAIR

Sen. Claudia Kauffman  
Washington

## COLORADO RIVER FORUM

### COLORADO RIVER FORUM



The Colorado River Forum (CRF) provides an opportunity for state legislators to connect and address pressing issues and opportunities of this important river system to the Western region. Appointed members convene annually to exchange information and identify basin-wide strategies.

**The 2024 meeting will convene in Arizona, dates TBD.**

For more information, please contact Jackie Tinetti, Policy Analyst at [jtinetti@csg.org](mailto:jtinetti@csg.org).



### CO-CHAIR

Asm. Howard Watts III  
Nevada



### CO-CHAIR

Sen. Larry Hicks  
Wyoming



# BORDER LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

CSG WEST

## BORDER LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The Border Legislative Conference (BLC) is the premier facilitator for ongoing dialogue among legislators of the U.S. - Mexico border region. State legislators and key stakeholders convene with topic experts and discuss unique, regional policy concerns such as health, trade, ports of entry, water, and more.

Membership is comprised of state legislators from Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas in the U.S., and Baja California, Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas in Mexico. Members are appointed by their respective state leadership each biennium.

**The 2024 meeting will convene in New Mexico, Dates TBD.**

For more information, please contact Martha Castañeda, Director of Policy & International Programs, at [mcastaneda@csg.org](mailto:mcastaneda@csg.org).



2023 BLC  
members  
convened in  
Ensenada, Mexico

BLC Chair, New Mexico Sen. Bill Soules  
BLC Vice Chair, Sonora Diputada Ernestina Castro Valenzuela





## WESTRAIN



PROVIDING TRAINING IN STATE CAPITOLS

including media relations, stress management, public speaking, meeting management, ethics, and negotiations.

Through this unique program, CSG West works with states to offer training to legislators and legislative staff in a local setting. Professional trainers and academic instructors offer interactive sessions designed to help participants sharpen their professional skills. Many topics are available,

For more information, please contact Will Keyse, Legislative Training Manager at [wkeyse@csg.org](mailto:wkeyse@csg.org).



Informative and completely spot on...addressed many of the needs of our legislature.”

Session Participant

## HENRY TOLL FELLOWSHIP

Hosted at the CSG National headquarters in Lexington, Kentucky, the Toll Fellowship program convenes 48 of the nation's top officials from all three branches of state government for an intensive leadership boot camp. The program's sessions are designed to stimulate personal assessment and growth, while also providing relationship-building opportunities.

**Applications are due by May 1, 2024.**

For more information, please contact [leadershipdevelopment@csg.org](mailto:leadershipdevelopment@csg.org).

# LEGISLATIVE SERVICE AGENCY & RESEARCH DIRECTORS



The Legislative Service Agency & Research Directors (LSA/RD) committee offers nonpartisan legislative staff a forum to learn and share best practices. The committee meets annually and comprises Western legislative service agency directors in the legal, research, and administrative departments.

The annual training seminar focuses on developing management skills and sharing state innovations within nonpartisan offices. Through collaborative learning, members support their respective efforts to deliver superior customer service to their legislatures.

**The 2024 meeting will be held in Park City, Utah, on October 7-9.**

For more information, please contact Jennifer Schanze, Director of Operations at [jschanze@csg.org](mailto:jschanze@csg.org).



**CHAIR**  
Jessica Geary  
Alaska



**VICE CHAIR**  
Megan Bolin  
Utah



# LENS

**Leadership Excellence  
for Nonpartisan Staff**

CSG West in partnership with The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University, offer an online academy for nonpartisan staff aimed at strengthening legislative institutions and providing the next generation of leadership with foundational skills and a network of colleagues.

For more information, please contact Will Keyse, Legislative Training Manager at [wkeyse@csg.org](mailto:wkeyse@csg.org).





# WESTERN LEGISLATIVE ACADEMY



The Western Legislative Academy (WLA) brings together western state legislators for an intensive multi-day training designed to sharpen leadership skills in communications, consensus building, time management, ethics, and more. Sessions are interactive and hosted by national leaders and academic authorities. Additionally, class members learn from each other allowing the opportunity to develop lasting relationships with legislative peers.

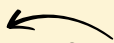
Participation in the WLA is limited to legislators in their first four years of cumulative service. Those interested in being considered must submit an application outlining the following criteria:

1. Dedication to public service and the legislative institution
2. Interest in improving the legislative process
3. Desire to improve personal effectiveness as a legislator

Selected members will be invited to join the 2024 WLA class in Colorado Springs in December.

**Applications are due by May 1, 2024.**

For more information about the program or application process, please contact Will Keyse, Legislative Training Manager at [wkeyse@csg.org](mailto:wkeyse@csg.org).



Scan here to see if you're eligible  
and to learn more about WLA

"This program was just the motivation and training I needed to up my game as a public servant for my communities – both my district and the Wyoming House of Representatives. I learned how to more effectively build relationships with my colleagues in Wyoming and across the West – a skill that will ensure that my district gets the most of my time as their Representative. The relationships I fostered at CSG have already made me a better Representative for the state of Wyoming and I look forward to building a brighter future for all of our constituents together."



2023 Class President, Wyoming Rep. Karlee Provenza





## CSG WEST STAFF

In addition to convening a variety of programming, CSG West staff serve as an extension of legislative staff across the region. Please contact us if we can be of any assistance to you or your staff in connecting you with resource experts or regional colleagues on a particular topic or issue of interest. We are here to support you in your legislative work. Please let us know how we can be of service to you.

### **EDGAR RUIZ**

Director  
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### **JENNIFER SCHANZE**

Director, Operations  
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### **MARTHA CASTAÑEDA**

Director, Policy & International Programs  
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### **JACKIE TINETTI**

Policy Analyst  
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### **WILL KEYSE**

Legislative Training Manager  
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Membership & Meetings Specialist  
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Events Manager  
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### **JONATHAN LENNARTZ**

Policy Analyst  
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### **SHILPA PATEL**

Policy Analyst  
spatel@csg.org

Have a general question?

Call us at 916-553-4423  
or email us at [csgw@csg.org](mailto:csgw@csg.org)



# WAYS TO STAY CONNECTED

## REGIONAL ROUNDUP

The Regional Roundup e-newsletter delivers semimonthly updates amplifying the latest people, policies, and events advancing Western state government.

Sign up at [csgwest.org/newsletter](https://csgwest.org/newsletter)

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## SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow, share, and retweet movers and shakers in the West. CSG West connects and promotes state policy influencers from across the region.

Follow us on X @CSGWest

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## LEGISLATIVE EXCHANGE SERIES

Participate in virtual gatherings focused on development training and policy issues affecting the Western region. Complimenting the work of CSG West's policy committees and programs, the series provides insightful and interactive sessions. Sessions are free to attend. Information about upcoming events and recorded content is available on our website.

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## CSG CAPITOL IDEAS

Produced by CSG National, the CSG Capitol Ideas magazine provides information and insights relevant to state governing. Offering organization updates, regional perspectives and in-depth analysis of key policy issues, the magazine is a great way to stay updated on a variety of topics affecting states.

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## THE BOOK OF THE STATES

Providing easy-to-read summaries, tables and charts, The Book of the States is an invaluable reference tool for legislators and legislative staff. Initially published in 1935, CSG produces an annual collection of information illustrating how state governments operate. The 2021 edition offers information collected from more than 500 sources.



## RESOURCES TO EXPLORE

### JUSTICE CENTER

The CSG Justice Center works with state officials in all three branches of government to develop research driven strategies designed to increase public safety and strengthen communities. Through the use of in-depth data analyses and extensive engagement with officials within the criminal justice system, the Justice Center fosters collaborative policy efforts to address state specific challenges.

**For more information visit:** [csgjusticecenter.org](https://csgjusticecenter.org)

### NATIONAL CENTER FOR INTERSTATE COMPACTS

The CSG National Center for Interstate Compacts promotes the use of interstate compacts to meet the demand for cooperative state action. Acting as an information clearinghouse, as well as providing training and technical assistance, the Center works with states to review, revise, and create new interstate compacts designed to address multistate problems and provide alternatives to federal preemption.

**For more information visit:** [compacts.csg.org](https://compacts.csg.org)

### CENTER OF INNOVATION

The CSG Center of Innovation provides a practical resource for state officials in all three branches of government with data-driven solutions to pressing state issues. Some of the current programs include Shared State Legislation, Occupational Licensure, Overseas Voting Initiative (OVI), Retaining Employment and Talent after Injury/Illness Network (RETAIN), State Exchange on Employment and Disability (SEED), National Center for Interstate Compacts (NCIC), and many others.

**For more information visit:** [csg.org/work/csg-center-of-innovation](https://csg.org/work/csg-center-of-innovation)

# Connected to a broad CSG network.



Our story is one of  
excellence.



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