

MAYORS INNOVATION PROJECT

REALIZING THE PROMISE OF CITIES

The Mayors Innovation Project is a learning network for American mayors committed to “high road” policy and governance: shared prosperity, environmental sustainability, and efficient democratic government. We provide clear, useful information on policies and programs for local governments and create high-quality peer learning experiences for local leaders.



Around the country, cities like yours are taking the lead on pressing issues—climate change, infrastructure, economic revitalization, housing, and more. The Mayors Innovation Project supports and encourages this by providing cutting-edge thinking and concrete examples that your city can implement right away.

Through our meetings, our policy briefs and publications, and our technical assistance, we focus on bringing you the most useful and relevant information to help you address the needs of your city. The Mayors Innovation Project connects you with leaders from around the country, to benefit from their knowledge and experience, and share your own.

LEARN

The Mayors Innovation Project connects mayors and senior city staff to research and expertise relevant to the policy issues they are working on. Our website (www.mayorsinnovation.org) has information on new policy innovations, best practices, case studies, model legislation, background research, communication tools, and access to technical assistance. Our newsletter, Good Ideas for Cities, and our Facebook and Twitter accounts keep our members updated on ideas and innovations from around the country.

EXCHANGE

The Mayors Innovation Project meetings provide a forum for mayors and city staff to share best practices. Many of the best policy ideas discussed at MIP meetings— in housing, energy, transportation, economic development—come from our member cities, and are presented by the mayor who led their implementation. Each meeting provides plenty of time for all attendees to share their experiences.



NETWORK

The Mayors Innovation Project helps you connect with mayors and senior staff from around the country, share your successes and lessons learned, and get exposure to cutting edge ideas. You'll also meet the best and brightest from the private, non-profit and academic sectors. Our meetings provide an off-the-record collegial environment, in which to discuss new ideas.

INNOVATE

At each Mayors Innovation Project meeting, we aim to send you back to your city with three to four new policy ideas you can implement immediately. The Mayors Innovation Project connects mayors and staff to technical assistance as you implement policies that benefit your constituents and our country.



What they're saying

“MIP is always a great source of information.”

*- Mayor Paul Dyster
Niagara Falls, NY*

“It’s an energetic, focused group, and the program and participants result in an exhilarating experience.”

*- Mayor Marjorie Sloan
Golden, CO*

“If you want to see how to get it done, this is the conference for you.”

*- Mayor Chris Rey
Spring Lake, NC*

“Gathering creative minds in a forum that encourages sharing of new ideas and best practices. MIP believes a few dedicated individuals can achieve great results.”

*- Mayor Roy Buol
Dubuque, IA*

“Excellent Program with discussions that are directly relevant to operations and long term goals of my city and providing increased awareness of coming opportunities and developments.”

*- Mayor Earl Leiken
Shaker Heights, OH*

“I found it valuable and inspirational.”

*- Mayor Tom Stevens
Hillsborough, NC*

“Frankly, this has been one of the best conferences I’ve been to”

*- Mayor Dave Bieter
Boise, ID*



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ABOUT US

The Mayors Innovation Project gives you a chance to step back, look at the big picture, work through problems and develop solutions with your peers and leading experts. We were founded in 2005 by then-mayor of Madison, Wisconsin, Dave Cieslewicz, and Joel Rogers, a professor and director of COWS, a think-and-do-tank based at UW-Madison.

Participating cities represent a broad diversity of population, geography, economic situation, form of government, and more. All cities are welcome. Since its inception, over 200 cities, representing over 52 million people in 44 states and Canada, have participated in the Mayors Innovation Project.

The Mayors Innovation Project provides an opportunity to pull back from the crises of the day and focus on what you're really trying to accomplish over your term of service.



"If all you do is come to the office every day and get on a treadmill, after a while you stop seeing things with fresh eyes. And that's deadly. The Mayors Innovation Project gets you out of your routine, off the treadmill."

- Dave Cieslewicz, Former Mayor of Madison, Wisconsin



OUR MEETINGS

The Mayors Innovation Project's meetings are informal and relaxed but packed with substance. We pick a few policy areas important to cities, invite one or two national experts on the topic, and sit down over a couple days to discuss and develop city strategies in these areas. Mayors have a chance to share their experiences, get advice from other mayors and experts, and then continue to receive support upon returning home. We focus on the "conversation in the hallway" that is often rushed at busy national meetings but can prove to be incredibly useful in advancing your goals.

Join us at our next meeting! Find out more at www.mayorsinnovation.org, or contact us at 608.262.5387 or info@mayorsinnovation.org.

Steering Committee

Mayor Stephen Benjamin
Columbia, South Carolina

Mayor Rosalynn Bliss
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Mayor Frank Cownie
Des Moines, Iowa

Mayor Joseph Curtatone
Somerville, Massachusetts

Valarie J. McCall, Chief of
Government Affairs
Cleveland, Ohio

Mayor Pete Buttigieg
South Bend, IN

Mayor Marjorie Sloan
Golden, Colorado

Mayor Miro Weinberger
Burlington, Vermont

Joel Rogers, Director
COWS

Advisory Committee

Dave Cieslewicz
Former Mayor, Madison, Wisconsin

Heidi Davison
Former Mayor, Athens, Georgia

Pegeen Hanrahan
Former Mayor, Gainesville, Florida

Mike Kasperzak
Former Councilmember, Mountain
View, California

Mark Kleinschmidt
Former Mayor, Chapel Hill, North
Carolina

David Pope
Former Mayor, Oak Park, Illinois