



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION®

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Forum on Changing Role of State Governments Focuses on Environmental and Healthcare Policies

*“Governing Across the Divide” Event Held by
National Academy of Public Administration and
University of Southern California’s Price School of Public Policy*

SACRAMENTO, CA – A forum held today by the National Academy of Public Administration and the University of Southern California’s Sol Price School of Public Policy examined the changing role of state governments in the U.S. intergovernmental system, with a focus on the environmental and healthcare policy challenges facing states.

“Our nation is at a crossroads in terms of the way we govern,” said Terry Gerton, President and CEO of the National Academy of Public Administration. “State governments are playing a greater role in determining policies and in the process, their relationships with their counterparts at the federal and local levels are shifting. Today’s forum has offered invaluable insight into how states can work to effectively deliver critical services, such as those related to healthcare and the environment.”

“The remarkable intellectual capital, coupled with the strength of purpose exhibited today, underscored the pivotal role states play in developing governance solutions and policies to serve our citizens,” said Jack H. Knott, dean of the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy. “Historically, California has been a model of innovation, exemplified in its approach to help meet health care needs and address environmental realities. Today provided hope that despite a rapidly-shifting political landscape, states will continue to find new ways to move our country forward.”

The forum in Sacramento is the first of four regional *Governing Across the Divide* events initiated by the Academy in order to bring together government officials, academics and thought leaders from across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to discuss the changing roles at and between all levels of government. In examining the governance challenges facing leaders at the federal, state, and local levels, the *Governing Across the Divide* series seeks to propose a national agenda for improving the government’s effectiveness in delivering services to its citizens. Additional *Governing Across the Divide* forums will take place in Austin, Texas in September, and in Syracuse, New York and Arlington, Virginia in October.

The Sacramento event focused on states' relationships with local and federal government partners, using as examples the areas of health care and environmental policy and programs. The forum focused on identifying both best practices and the gaps and obstacles that hinder states from taking the actions they believe are necessary to meet the needs of their citizens.

At today's forum, **Xavier Becerra**, Attorney General, State of California, delivered opening remarks and **William Pound**, Executive Director, National Conference of State Legislatures, and **Robert Hertzberg**, Senator, California State Senate, spoke at the luncheon. A panel on the *Changing Role of States in Environmental Policy* included **Matthew Rodriguez**, Secretary, California Environmental Protection Agency, **Chad Mayes**, Republican Leader, California State Assembly, and **Greg Devereaux**, City Manager, City of San Bernardino, California. A panel on the *Changing Role of States in Healthcare Policy* included **Diana Dooley**, Secretary, California Dept. of Health and Human Services and **Peter Lee**, Executive Director, Covered California. A panel on the *Changing Relationship Between States and Local Governments* included **Chris Hoene**, Executive Director, California Budget and Policy Center and **Thomas Reilly**, Director, Nevada Board of Regents.

Video footage of the event is available [here](#).

About the National Academy of Public Administration

Chartered by Congress to provide non-partisan expert advice, the Academy is an independent, non-profit, and non-partisan organization established in 1967 to assist government leaders in building more effective, efficient, accountable, and transparent organizations. Learn more at www.napawash.org

About the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy

The USC Sol Price School of Public Policy has defined excellence and innovation in public affairs education for nearly 90 years. Ranked fourth nationwide among 272 schools of public affairs, the Price School is dedicated to teaching and research that advance society through better governance, more effective social policy, and sustainable urban development. Learn more at <http://priceschool.usc.edu>

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