



# U.S. MAYOR

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## President Obama Nominates San Antonio Mayor Castro as HUD Secretary

President Obama announced his nomination of San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro in a White House event on May 23 to serve as Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and current HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan to serve as Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB).

Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran attended the event.

In introducing Castro, President Obama

said, "Today, companies are choosing to create jobs in San Antonio. And this year, my administration named the East Side of San Antonio a Promise Zone – a place where citizens and the federal government are working together to remake the community, family by family and block by block. And it speaks to the fact that Julián cares deeply about the people he serves and the city that he loves. It's also a

See CASTRO on page 11



*San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro speaks during a plenary session at USCM Winter Meeting on January 23 on "Pre-K 4 SA, A Catalyst for Success in a 21st Century."*

## Bipartisan, Bicameral Deal Reached on Workforce Investment Bill

See Story on Page 5

### 82nd Annual Conference of Mayors Dallas: June 20-23 Confirmed Speakers Include...



USCM President  
Sacramento Mayor  
Kevin Johnson



Education Secretary  
Arne Duncan



Homeland Security  
Secretary  
Jeh Johnson

**And more to be announced soon!**

## House, Senate Overwhelmingly Pass Water Infrastructure Bill President Expected to Sign Into Law

By Judy Sheahan

The House, on May 20, overwhelmingly approved the House and Senate conference report (H.R. 113-49) that reauthorizes the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014

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**May 27, 2014  
Washington DC**

## Mayors / Obama Cabinet

I was pleased to attend a White House event last Friday where President Obama announced his nomination of San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro is to be our new Secretary of Housing and Urban Development. This is very good news for the nation's mayors. For this appointment, coupled with former Charlotte Mayor Anthony Foxx as Secretary of Transportation, the nation's mayors are grateful to President Obama for recognizing mayors like these.

They are effective, visionary and want to get things done. Getting things done here in Washington is indeed difficult with the poisonous partisan atmosphere we've experienced over the past years.

Conference President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson said on April 16 in his inaugural address that while Washington is stalled, mayors can't wait to act and deliver on providing services and building modern livable cities for our great nation.

Certainly the new young mayors that President Obama has catapulted forward as a positive move and bringing to Washington key leaders, two mayors who led two modern cities where there is a strong political culture to work with all segments and all parties to move their cities forward.

We look forward to our continued relationship with Mayor Castro and pledge our support to him as he takes the helm at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, an agency we were, in 1965, very instrumental in creating.

Secretary Shaun Donovan, with his New York City career experience and his years heading HUD, makes an ideal choice for OMB director. We appreciate his creativity since he was appointed as HUD Secretary during the challenges we faced following the 2008 economic meltdown. His leadership as President Obama's point person following super storm Sandy was well received.

Throughout Secretary Donovan's time at HUD, he has been a believer and a "doer" supporting the USCM metro economy initiatives. We look forward to working with him at OMB as we continue to emphasize, along with the Brookings Institution and others, that our metro economies are the drivers to keep our national economy strong.

## Dallas - 82nd Annual Meeting

Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings continues to build, for all mayors, an annual meeting in Dallas next week you don't want to miss.

Conference President Kevin Johnson is working with me and staff to present some dynamic sessions next month.

Please join with us. Register now for the 82nd annual meeting of The U.S. conference of Mayors June 20-23 in Dallas, Texas. Register now at [usmayors.org/registration](http://usmayors.org/registration) or call Carol Edwards at 202-293-7330.

See you soon in Dallas!



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# City Needs Must Be Reflected in State Public Safety Communications Plans

*By Houston Mayor Annise D. Parker,  
USCM Criminal and Social Justice  
Committee Chair*

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) sent “consultation packages” to the states and territories April 30. These packages provide guidance and a readiness checklist to be used in developing each state’s plan. I write this column to alert my fellow mayors to this development and to encourage you to make every effort to assure that your cities’ needs, particularly those of your first responders, are taken into account as your state develops its plan.

FirstNet, created through The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, is expected to provide emergency responders with the first high-speed, nationwide network dedicated to public safety. That network will be a single, nationwide long-term evolution (LTE) network that makes it easier for public safety users to communicate during emergencies and on the job every day. FirstNet is designed to improve communications among local, state, regional, tribal, and national emergency services personnel. The vast majority of emergency responders, of course, are at the local level and for the network to be effective it must be designed to meet their needs.

FirstNet is working through each state’s designated single point of contact (SPOC) to consult with states, local communities, tribal governments, and first responders to gather the requirements needed to plan for the deployment of the network. City officials and first responders can participate in the state planning process by contacting their SPOC. Contact information for these state officials is at [http://www.firstnet.gov/sites/default/files/SPOC\\_list\\_05052014.pdf](http://www.firstnet.gov/sites/default/files/SPOC_list_05052014.pdf). Informa-

tion on the state consultation process is at <http://firstnet.gov/consultation>.

Why is this so important? The FirstNet network is expected to enable a faster, more informed and better coordinated response to incidents. Just as smartphones have changed the way we communicate in our personal lives, FirstNet devices and applications will ultimately change the way our first responders operate in the public sector. The FirstNet vision is a single, nationwide interoperable communications network that can be used to seamlessly exchange critical response information among police, fire, and EMS personnel from different jurisdictions.

FirstNet’s goal is to provide public safety-grade reliability and extensive coverage so that first responders can count on the network when they are on the job. This dedicated network will provide service during emergencies when traditional commercial cellular systems are often overloaded. FirstNet is also aiming to provide coverage solutions that let first responders “take the network along” to the destination, even in certain geographies where commercial systems are not often available. Incident commanders and local officials will have local control over the network so, for example, they can assign users and talk groups as well as determine who can access applications.

When the FirstNet network launches, it is expected to provide mission-critical, high-speed data services to supplement the voice capabilities of today’s land mobile radio (LMR) networks. Initially, the FirstNet network will be used for sending data, video, images and text. The FirstNet network will also carry location information and eventually support streaming video. In time, FirstNet plans to offer voice over LTE (VoLTE).

When law enforcement, fire, and



**Houston Mayor Annise D. Parker**

emergency medical services personnel are able to use the FirstNet network, they should be able to significantly improve their situational awareness and safety through this improved communications capability. The network will make it possible to use modern tools in the field to gain efficiency. Real-time data and audio/video feeds sent before, during and after incident response will improve their overall effectiveness. They will be able to share images, applications, and databases to have a common operational picture as incidents unfold.

Most mayors believe that assuring the safety of their cities and their citizens is their primary responsibility. The FirstNet network, when it is fully functional, can help us to do this, but only if it is designed and built based on the needs of our first responders.



# 2014 USCM NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Conference of Mayors President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson, as of May 14, has appointed the following mayors to The United States Conference of Mayors 2014 Nominating Committee for the upcoming Annual Meeting in Dallas. The Nominating Committee will meet in the Bishop Arts Boardroom of the Omni Hotel in Dallas on Saturday, June 21 from 2:30pm to 3:45 pm. The Nominating Committee will recommend candidates for Officers, Trustees and Advisory Board vacancies. The recommendations will be voted on by the assembled membership in Dallas on Monday, June 23 during the Business Session.

Member mayors seeking office should submit a letter of interest to each member of the Nominating Committee, with a copy to The United States Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran by e-mail to [sfredeen@usmayors.org](mailto:sfredeen@usmayors.org).

Following are the current Leadership openings as of May 20:

Second Vice President – One (1)

Trustees – Three (3)

Advisory Board - Four (4)

## **USCM NOMINATING COMMITTEE** as of May 20:

Fresno Mayor Ashley Swearengin, Chair  
Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz  
Philadelphia Mayor Michael A. Nutter  
Akron Mayor Donald L. Plusquellic  
Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley, Jr.  
Tulsa Mayor Dewey F. Bartlett, Jr.  
Columbia (SC) Mayor Stephen K. Benjamin  
Albuquerque Mayor Richard J. Berry  
West Sacramento Mayor Christopher L. Cabaldon  
Clarksville Mayor Kim McMillan  
Hartford Mayor Pedro E. Segarra

## **ALTERNATES**

Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere  
Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker  
St. Louis Mayor Francis G. Slay

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## Another Partner America/American Management Success Story

The Partner America program, the mayors' small business initiative, is proud of its partner American Management Services, Inc. (AMS). For almost 15 years, AMS has been working with The U.S. Conference of Mayors to provide mayors with the tools, resources and technical assistance to help their small businesses grow and be successful.

Bill Miller, owner of Pennsylvania-based Miller Gas, recently wrote to American Management Services and said, "I would like to thank American Management Services for the terrific job helping our team identify and address our company's weaknesses. All systems are in place and hopefully our company will reach its full potential. I am excited and motivated about the future of the company and feel that if I had not reached out to American Management Services, I could not expect to increase our profits to \$1,545,000 over the next three years."

According to AMS Executive Vice President and COO Lou Mosca, this is a typical response from companies they have worked with. "Through the Partner America program we are able to reach out to business owners and provide them with assistance and tools to increase their profits and sales. We have helped hundreds of businesses like Miller Gas become successful, which in turn, allows them to create more jobs and expand their business," he said.

For more information about the Partner America Program, go to the website [www.partneramerica.com](http://www.partneramerica.com) or call Jeff Bean at 202-446-8140 or send e-mail to [jbean@usmayors.org](mailto:jbean@usmayors.org).

**Partner  
America™**  
THE MAYOR'S SMALL BUSINESS INITIATIVE



**AMS Executive Vice President and  
COO Lou Mosca**

# Leaders from House, Senate Introduce Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act

By Kathy Wiggins

After months of negotiations, and in a rare show of bipartisan and bi-cameral collaboration, on May 21, leaders from the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee and the House of Representatives' Education and Workforce Committee introduced legislation to improve the nation's workforce development system through a new reauthorization bill – the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA, H.R. 803) – which has the support of Democrats and Republicans in both chambers of Congress. The current federal workforce bill, The Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which was written in 1998, is more than ten years overdue for reauthorization.

WIOA represents a compromise between the SKILLS Act (H.R. 803), which passed along party lines in the House in March 2013, and the Workforce Investment Act of 2013 (S. 1356), which passed in the Senate HELP Committee on an 18-3 bipartisan vote in July 2013. The bill, which will now be considered by both the House and Senate, modernizes and improves existing federal workforce development programs, helps workers attain skills for 21st century jobs, and fosters the modern workforce that evolving American businesses rely on to compete.

"Access to training, education, and employment services opens doors to the middle class for workers and helps strengthen our economy. This bipartisan, bicameral reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act will help ensure that all workers – including those with disabilities – can access these opportunities. It will provide better coordination and value to our workforce development system," said Senator Tom Harkin (IA), Chairman of the Senate HELP Committee. "This bill truly represents the spirit of bipartisan compromise and cooperation, and I applaud my colleagues on the HELP Committee and on the Education and the Workforce Committee for their perseverance and commitment to updating this critical law. I urge senators on both sides of the aisle to support this bill

when it comes up for a vote."

"We can't expect a modern workforce to succeed with an outdated job training system. The current workforce development system is broken with too much bureaucracy, too many inefficiencies, and too little accountability," said Representative John Kline (MN), chairman of the House Education and the Workforce Committee. "The problems we face have been apparent for a long time and I am pleased we are moving toward adopting comprehensive reform that provides employers, workers, and taxpayers the job training solutions they deserve. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to send this agreement to the president's desk without delay."

## Bill Details

Overall, the bill maintains local control and the basic structure of the local workforce system, but adds provisions to modernize and improve efficiencies. The funding formulas follow current law, but there will be a 90 percent hold harmless provision for adult and youth programs to help protect against wide variations in annual funding levels due to the formula. The bill also provides for 100 percent transferability between local adult and dislocated worker programs to ensure that local needs are being met. There is also a stronger emphasis on regional planning and service, career pathways, consistent reporting, and the effective use of technology.

Workforce Investment Boards (WIBs) will still be business led, but will shrink in size to 33 required partners at the State WIB and 19 on the Local WIB. The bill requires a unified state plan and creates common performance measures across all programs serving adults and common performance measure across all programs serving youth.

Sequence of service requirements are eliminated and 15 workforce programs have been consolidated. Consolidated programs include:

- WIA Veterans Workforce Investment Program
- WIA Workforce Innovation Fund
- WIA Incentive Grants

- WIA Pilots and Demonstration Projects
- Youth Opportunity Grants
- 21st Century Workforce Commission
- National Institute for Literacy
- Health Care Cap Coverage for Trade Adjustment Assistance
- Community-Based Job Training Grants
- Green Jobs Act
- Projects with industry under Rehabilitation Act Amendments
- Recreation programs under Rehabilitation Act Amendments
- In-service training under Rehabilitation Act Amendments
- Migrant and Seasonal Farmworker Program under Rehabilitation Act Amendments
- Grants to states for Workplace and Community Transition Training for Incarcerated Individuals under the 1998 Amendments to the Higher Education Act

In addition to strengthening the role of industry-recognized credentials and sector strategies, the measure places an emphasis on using work-based training options, customized training, and incumbent worker training.

## Other General Funding Provisions

The state set-aside is restored to 15 percent; 75 percent of youth funding must be used to serve out-of-school youth; under the Adult Education Title, the current provision requiring 82.5 percent of funds be directed to local adult education providers is maintained; and states may increase funding for corrections education up to 20 percent.

WIOA, which is now an amendment to the SKILLS Act, has been presented to the full Senate for review and it is expected that the Senate will vote on the bill soon after it returns from Memorial Day recess. As soon as it passes in the Senate, the bill will go back to the House for approval, where it is expected to pass without issue. Once signed into law, WIOA will go into effect in 2015.

# Mayors Johnson, Ballard Pledge to Reduce Foreign Oil Dependence Through Joint City Agreement

By Debra DeHaney-Howard

Conference of Mayors President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson and Indianapolis Mayor Greg Ballard entered into a joint agreement, pledging to work together to reduce their respective cities dependency on foreign oil. The Memorandum of Intent (MOI), signed on May 21 during the closing session of the 2014 Electric Drive Transportation Association's Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, establishes a partnership between the two cities, and allows them to share best practices on a number of energy-related practices.

Under the agreement, the cities agree to work collaboratively on the following activities: reducing foreign oil in municipal fleets, promoting alternative fuel technologies to residents, developing clean energy and alternative transportation technologies, and implementing innovative financing mechanisms. Additionally, the cities will work together on educational forums that cover economic development and job creation, renewable energy, and energy security and smart grid technologies.



**At left, USCM President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson and USCM Advisory Board Member Indianapolis Mayor Gregory Ballard sign Memorandum of Intent to reduce use of foreign oil.**

Emphasizing the importance of the MOI, Johnson said, "Mayors are leading in transportation sustainability by modernizing our city fleets. In Sacramento,

we cut our fleet's use of gasoline by one-third and lowered greenhouse gases by more than 3,000 metric tons between 2009 and 2013 by switching to alternative fuels. Our new agreement with Indianapolis signals cities are united in making this kind of progress."

"Our nation's security and economic vitality is threatened by foreign interests who control the price and access to oil," said Ballard. "Light transportation consumes about 40 percent of our oil; I am hoping Indy and Sacramento can lead the way, encouraging other cities, states, and companies to take similar action, thereby releasing the chokehold oil plays in our foreign policy."

***"Mayors are leading in transportation sustainability by modernizing our city fleets. In Sacramento, we cut our fleet's use of gasoline by one-third and lowered greenhouse gases by more than 3,000 metric tons between 2009 and 2013 by switching to alternative fuels. Our new agreement with Indianapolis signals cities are united in making this kind of progress."***

***- USCM President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson***



# Miramar's Intergenerational Fruit and Vegetable Garden Receives 2014 GRO1000 Garden and Green Spaces Award... and a Little More!

By Crystal Swann

The 3,150-square-foot Miramar Community Garden expanded May 15 with the addition of the Intergenerational Fruit and Vegetable Garden as a part of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company's and The U.S. Conference of Mayors' nationwide GRO1000 gardens and green spaces program. The expansion will include a new fruit grove, raised edible garden beds, a culinary herb garden, a seedling nursery and an outdoor classroom, which will serve a nearby elementary school, senior center and youth and family outreach center. The Miramar Community Garden and its new addition provide an outlet for socializing, garden education and healthy eating for local residents of all ages.

"What a great honor it is for us to receive this award, particularly for the many garden volunteers who donate

their time, sweat and expertise to allow our garden to be so successful," said Miramar Mayor Lori Moseley. "This generous grant from Scotts Miracle-Gro will have a major impact on the future growth and success of our Community Garden."

During the remarks section of the program, Chairman and CEO Jim Hagedorn had a little surprise for Moseley and the Miramar community when he presented the city with an additional \$20,000 for landscape improvements around the community center adjacent to the garden. Hagedorn, known for his impromptu remarks and commitment to community improvement, noticed that the grassy areas around the community center were in desperate need improving. After being informed by Moseley that most of the improvement dollars were directed toward the center's interior and that they simply ran out of money, Hagedorn gen-

## GRO1000

erously offered to give the city an additional \$20,000 towards improving the grounds. He promptly changed the numbers on the "mock" check and signed it.

GRO1000 is a national program launched by Scotts Miracle-Gro in 2011 to create more than 1,000 community gardens and green spaces in the U.S., Canada and Europe by 2018. The U.S. Conference of Mayors partnered with Scotts Miracle-Gro on the GRO1000 initiative to recognize mayors for the installation of innovative, public green spaces designed to improve our nation's cities.

This year's winning cities include Houston, Mesa, Tallahassee, Miramar, and Minneapolis. For more information on the program, go to the website [usmayors.org/gro1000](http://usmayors.org/gro1000).



**Miramar Mayor Lori Moseley thanks Scotts Miracle-Gro Chairman and CEO Jim Hagedorn for this year's GRO1000 award and the additional \$20,000 he spontaneously gave to the city.**



**Left to right, Scotts Miracle-Gro Chairman and CEO Jim Hagedorn, Regional President Chris Allen, USCM staffer Crystal Swann, and Miramar Mayor Lori Moseley with the "adjusted" GRO1000 check.**

# Cancer Insurance: Protecting Employees from Financial Loss

By Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company Public Sector Vice President Carey Adamson

Cancer impacts almost everyone. The disease cuts a wide path that can be emotionally and financially devastating. Making cancer insurance available to your city's employees helps protect them from the financial impact of one of today's most costly, and feared, diseases. Today's cancer plans offer more benefits than ever before and can help employees protect themselves and their families.

## Cost Is High

Medical insurance doesn't cover all the costs associated with cancer, yet cancer treatment and recovery can be expensive. In addition to the direct costs involved with medical tests, doctor visits and treatment, people with cancer face numerous indirect expenses. They deal with long lists of expenses such as transportation, child care, hotel stays, meals away from home and time missed from work.

More than 40 percent of cancer patients experience a significant or catastrophic financial burden, according to a 2013 study from the *Economics of Oncology Practice*. They spend an average of \$456 per month on cancer-related expenses, not including indirect costs. With all the additional expenses brought on by this disease, it's easy to see why cancer patients are more than two and a half times more likely to go bankrupt than people without cancer.<sup>1</sup>

## Few Are Financially Prepared

Few people are prepared for the costs associated with cancer or any other serious illness. In fact, many folks today are struggling just to get by. A CareerBuilder survey shows that 76 percent of American workers say they live paycheck to paycheck at least sometimes.<sup>2</sup> And half of all households say they couldn't raise \$2,000 within a month if needed.<sup>3</sup> Without a safety net, the average person would suffer serious financial consequences if diagnosed with cancer.

## Cancer Insurance Offers Serious Protection

Cancer insurance has been around for more than 50 years. Yet today's policies offer a lot more protection than early plans that paid for little more than an ambulance ride and a hospital stay. Some of the leading cancer plans now include dozens of benefits that reflect advances in medicine such as egg and sperm collection and harvesting, cancer vaccines and experimental treatment. This kind of coverage can help your employees protect themselves and their loved ones from point of diagnosis through treatment and recovery.

Today's workforce shows considerable interest in purchasing cancer insurance. An online survey of employees conducted for Colonial Life by Harris Poll showed that 21 percent of employees would be interested in purchasing cancer insurance if they had access to it through their employers.<sup>4</sup>

## Choose a Cancer Plan That's Right for Your Employees

Many carriers offer cancer insurance, but policies can vary greatly. Consider some of the top features and benefits available when selecting a cancer plan for your employees:

- Flexible family coverage options — Look for plans that cover individuals, spouses, one-parent and two-parent families.
- A choice of plan levels — Multiple plans with various levels of coverage helps meet your clients' budget and coverage needs.
- Wellness/health screenings — The best plans cover tests and screenings that encourage early detection of cancer. Some offer these screenings as an optional employer benefit.
- Family care coverage — Look for plans that cover inpatient and outpatient treatment for covered dependent children. Some carriers offer optional riders that pay a one-time benefit when dependent children are diagnosed with cancer and receive treat-

ment.

- Hospital confinement coverage — This benefit is often offered with a choice of levels that cover hospital stays of various durations.
- Treatment benefits — Typical treatment benefits include payment for radiation/chemotherapy, anti-nausea medication, surgical procedures, blood/plasma/platelets/immunoglobulins, private full-time nursing services, experimental treatments, prostheses and bone marrow and stem cell donation and transplant.
- Transportation and lodging benefits — Some plans also pay for transportation for a traveling companion.
- Surgical procedures benefits — Typical plans pay for surgical procedures, anesthesia, second medical opinions, reconstructive surgery, prostheses/artificial limbs and outpatient surgical center procedures.
- Extended care benefits — Look for plans that pay for skilled nursing care, family care, hospice and home health care services.
- Initial diagnosis benefits — Some plans offer riders that pay a one-time benefit when the insured and his or her covered dependent children receive an initial diagnosis of cancer. Some also pay for the initial diagnosis of skin cancer.
- Specified disease riders — Some carriers offer optional riders that pay for hospital stays needed to treat various specified diseases upon diagnosis such as muscular dystrophy, Lyme disease and sickle cell anemia.

Some other attractive features to look for in today's cancer plans include waiver of premium, health savings account compliance, composite rate pricing and portability.

## Employees

Adding voluntary cancer insurance to your benefits package can provide

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## INSURANCE

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employees with important protection against a disease that's all-too common.

### About the Author

Adamson is Vice President for Public Sector for Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company. Colonial Life & Accident Insurance Company is a market leader in providing financial protection benefits through the workplace, including disability, life, accident, cancer, critical illness and supplemental health insurance. The company's benefit services and education, innovative enrollment technology and personal service support more than 80,000 businesses and organizations, representing more than three million working Americans and their families. More than 10,000 career agents work for Colonial Life in one of the fastest growing segments of the insurance industry. The company has received national recognition for its excellent sales training programs, and annually receives national recognition as brokers' partner of choice in the workplace benefits market.

To learn more about how your city can benefit from the Colonial Life partnership, contact Jen Mosca at [jmosca@usmayors.org](mailto:jmosca@usmayors.org) or Jeff Bean at [jbean@usmayors.org](mailto:jbean@usmayors.org) or visit [www.ColonialLife.com](http://www.ColonialLife.com)

- 1 "Washington State Cancer Patients Found to be at Greater Risk for Bankruptcy than People Without a Cancer Diagnosis," *Health Affairs*, May 21, 2013.
- 2 [CareerBuilder.com](http://CareerBuilder.com), "Share of U.S. Workers Living Paycheck to Paycheck Continues Decline from Recession-Era Peak, Finds Annual CareerBuilder Survey," Sept. 25, 2013
- 3 Annamaria Lusardi, Daniel Schneider, and Peter Tufano, *Financially Fragile Households: Evidence and Implications* (National Bureau of Economic Research, 2011)
- 4 Colonial Life-Harris Poll, Mar. 28-Apr. 1, 2014.

## SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS!

***We know you have good news to share about your mayor or a unique local program. Tell us about it so other cities can learn from your success!***

***Send your press releases and photos for U.S.***

***Mayor newspaper to***

***USCM Public Affairs Office:***

***[etemple@usmayors.org](mailto:etemple@usmayors.org) 202-861-6719***

## Calendar of Events

(Updated 05/21/14)

### June 20-23

**82nd Annual Conference of Mayors**, Dallas. Contact: Carol Edwards [cedwards@usmayors.org](mailto:cedwards@usmayors.org) / 202-293-7330. Sponsorship: Geri Powell [gpowell@usmayors.org](mailto:gpowell@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6774. Registration Open at [usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org)

### September 27-29

**Fall Leadership Meeting**, Sacramento (USCM Executive Committee, Advisory Board, and Chairs Only). Contact: Carol Edwards [cedwards@usmayors.org](mailto:cedwards@usmayors.org) / 202-293-7330; Sponsorship: Geri Powell [gpowell@usmayors.org](mailto:gpowell@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6774. Registration Opens in July.

**USCM Community Policing Meeting at Clinton Presidential Center, and USCM Ports/Exports and Imports Meeting**, Little Rock

- Community Policing: October 8-9
- Ports/Exports and Imports: October 10

Contact: Carol Edwards [cedwards@usmayors.org](mailto:cedwards@usmayors.org) / 202-293-7330. Sponsorship: Geri Powell [gpowell@usmayors.org](mailto:gpowell@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6774. Registration Available Soon.

### October 15-17

**Municipal Waste Management Association (MWMA) Fall Summit**, San Diego. Contact: Jubi Headley [jheadley@usmayors.org](mailto:jheadley@usmayors.org) / 202-861-6798. Registration Opens in June.



For updates or changes, check our web site at

**[usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org)**



## WATER

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(WRRDA) by a vote of 412-4. The \$12.3 billion piece of legislation addresses new water projects including ports, levees, harbor maintenance issues, and authorizes a new Water Infrastructure Financing program. The Senate followed suit on May 22 by a vote of 91-7. The legislation will be sent to the President where he is expected to sign it. This is one of the few substantive pieces of legislation that Congress is expected to pass this year and has been hailed as a blueprint for passing other bipartisan bills, such as the upcoming Transportation bill, which will be handled by the same committees in both the House and Senate.

The legislation was spearheaded in the House by Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (PA), Committee Ranking Member Nick J. Rahall, II (WV), Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee Chairman Bob Gibbs (OH), and Subcommittee Ranking Member Tim Bishop (NY). In the Senate, the lead negotiators were Environment and Public Works Chair Senator Barbara Boxer (CA) and Ranking Member Senator David Vitter (LA).

Conference of Mayors President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson issued a statement saying, "On behalf of the nation's mayors, I congratulate Senator Barbara Boxer, Ranking Member David Vitter, House Chairman Bill Shuster, and Ranking Member Nick Rahall for creating critically needed legislation that will strengthen the nation's waterways infrastructure, improve critical flood control and infrastructure resiliency to protect communities from extreme weather, and enhance our global competitiveness. In the midst of intense partisan gridlock, the House has

taken an important first step in approving the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 [WRRDA] on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis, with a 412-4 vote."

The conference report was the result of over six months of negotiations between House and Senate conferees. The major discrepancies between the House and Senate versions were hammered out with both sides winning out on different concessions. The House preserved their method for authorizing new projects, despite a ban on earmarks, through a system where local project sponsors would submit proposals to the Army Corps of Engineers and having the Corps submit that list to Congress which would allow lawmakers to approve specific projects. The Senate, however, was able to include more project authorizations than the House originally specified.

Other issue areas that are of importance to Conference of Mayors include:

- **Harbor Maintenance Fund:** Both the Senate and House agreed that more of the money that is collected for harbor maintenance is actually spent on harbor maintenance. Currently, only about 50 percent of the money collected is used for harbor and channel dredging while the rest has been appropriated by Congress for other expenditures. The conference report states that each year there should be a percentage increase in the amount of funding generated by the tax for harbor maintenance activities so that by the year 2025, 100 percent of the funds generated by the tax will be utilized for harbor maintenance and dredging. However, the conference report does not mandate the increase so it will be up to appropriators, who were part of the deal, to follow through.
- **Water Infrastructure Financing:** Although originally only included in the Senate version, the negotiators for both sides included a new financing pilot program, called the Water



Infrastructure Financing and Innovation Act (WIFIA). Although WIFIA is a concept strongly endorsed by the Conference of Mayors, there are some issues with the final conference report that may not make it as useful as originally hoped. WIFIA is modeled after the Transportation Financing Model called TIFIA and like TIFIA, WIFIA funds can only be used for 49 percent of a projects financing and requires that the other 51 percent not be funded through tax-exempt bonds. Since most publically-owned utilities use tax-exempt bonds to finance their projects, this is a hurdle that may prove difficult to overcome.

- **Revolving Loan Funds:** In order to alleviate concerns that WIFIA would be replacing the popular State Revolving Fund (SRF) program, the conferees also included in their report provisions that would strengthen the SRF program through extending the payment periods for the loans from 20 to 30 years, allowing certain loan repayment to be forgiven, as well as expanding the types of projects eligible for SRF loans including green infrastructure, water efficiency, and reuse projects. The Conference of Mayors is on record for endorsing all of these ideas. Also included was a mandate regarding the use of domestic materials and the payment of prevailing wages.
- **Protection for Communities from Extreme Weather and Natural Disasters:** The conferees

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reminder that he's never forgotten where he comes from."

President Obama also congratulated Donovan for his work at HUD, including his leadership in responding to Hurricane Sandy. "Over the years, Shaun has taken an agency with a \$40 billion budget; he's made it smarter and he's made it more efficient. He's changed the way HUD uses data to solve problems and save taxpayer dollars. He's helped build strong, sustainable neighborhoods – and connect those neighborhoods with good schools and good jobs. He's helped reduce homelessness among our veterans by 24 percent since 2010. And he's helped 4.3 million families buy their piece of the American Dream: a new home," the President said.

## Castro Remarks

Following are the remarks given by Castro in the White House:

"First of all, Mr. President, this is quite an honor. Thank you very much for the honor and for the opportunity. To Secretary Donovan, I have some very big shoes to fill, I know. I understand that fully. However, I just want to say you understand the importance of urban development and housing in your new role.

"And, Mr. Vice President, it's an honor to join your administration, the President's administration. And I also want to thank Madam Leader, you, and Chairman Hinojosa for being here. And I am here today with my father, with my mother, who, along with my grandmother, raised my brother Joaquin and I as a single parent after the age of eight. And I'm here with the two ladies who have stolen my heart, my wife, Erica, and my daughter, Karina.

"To be your nominee, President Obama, is simply a blessing to me. I am here alone at the podium right now, but I stand on the shoulders of so many folks over the generations who have worked very hard and dreamt the American Dream, and have reached it. And I feel blessed to have reached it as well. And especially to the great many folks in San Antonio, I want to say a huge muchísimas gracias – thank you very much – for your support.

"And my brother, Joaquin, and I grew up on the West Side of San Antonio, taking public transportation and living in rental homes as we grew up. And it was there that both of us got a sense of what is possible in America, and an understanding that just because you were of modest means does not mean that your aspirations or your opportunity ought to be limited. And it certainly means that you can have the talent to succeed and achieve the American Dream.

"After five years as mayor of my hometown, I know this much. We are in a century of cities. America's cities are growing again, and housing is at the top of the agenda. I look forward to being part of a department that will help ensure that millions of Americans all across the country have the chance to get good, safe, affordable housing and to reach their American dreams. And if confirmed, I stand ready to assist you, Mr. President, your administration, and local officials across the country to ensure that we do housing right and that because of it more Americans achieve their dreams. Thank you very much."

## Johnson Statement

Following is the press statement released by Conference of Mayors President Sacramento Mayor Kevin Johnson congratulating Castro on the appointment:

"The nation's mayors congratulate Mayor Julián Castro on his appointment. Mayor Castro has proven to be one of the most dynamic mayors in the country and we are pleased that we will be working with him as HUD Secretary.

"Mayors supported and created HUD and have worked closely with the agency since, so we thank President Obama for appointing a young, capable mayor to head this key department. There are many critical programs that must be protected such as Community Development Block Grants and the Home Investment Partnership program. There are also many other challenges such as homelessness, Section 8 rental assistance and public housing that mayors will work with the new Secretary on to find solutions for our cities and their residents.

"We also thank Secretary Shaun Donovan for his outstanding leadership and look forward to working with him at the Office of Management and Budget."

***"To be your nominee, President Obama, is simply a blessing to me. I am here alone at the podium right now, but I stand on the shoulders of so many folks over the generations who have worked very hard and dreamt the American Dream, and have reached it."***

***– San Antonio Mayor Julián Castro***



## President's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience Convenes in Des Moines



*Left to right, Greensburg (KS) Mayor Bob Dixon, Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Fort Collins Mayor Karen Weitkunat, Council on Environmental Quality Acting Chairman Mike Boots, Salt Lake City Mayor Ralph Becker, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs David Agnew, U.S. Interior Secretary Sally Jewell, Des Moines Mayor T. Franklin Cownie, Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, Assistant to the President for Science and Technology Dr. John P. Holdren and Carmel (IN) Mayor Jim Brainard. Several mayors and others, including senior Administration representatives, took part in the third meeting of the President's State, Local, and Tribal Leaders Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience held May 14 in Des Moines.*

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included in their report language that encourages the Army Corps to use resilient construction techniques that are more durable and sustainable in the face of extreme weather. It also provides the Army Corps with new authority to conduct rapid, post-disaster watershed assessments and implement small flood control and ecosystem restoration projects.

- **Flood Protection:** The report authorized critical flood control and coastal hurricane protection projects

across the country. It also established a National Levee Safety Initiative that promotes consistent safety standards as well as increased funding for dam inspections and maintenance, upgrades emergency preparedness plans to prevent dam failures, and improves recovery plans in the event of a dam failure.

- **Environmental Streamlining:** The conference report requires concurrent environmental reviews and ensures collaboration among all agencies to accelerate the delivery of Corps projects. It also establishes a three year deadline for feasibility studies.

## MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL Member Profile

### KRONOS

Kronos is the global leader in workforce management solutions that enable public sector organizations to more effectively manage their largest and most controllable expense—their employees. Today over 2,000 government and education organizations use Kronos time and attendance, scheduling, absence management, HR and payroll, hiring, and labor analytics applications. The average government organization, after implementing Kronos, significantly reduces payroll and overtime expense.

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- Control Labor Costs
- Minimize Compliance Risks
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Often augmenting an ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) system, Kronos provides a completely configurable solution with full functionality out-of-the-box to automate all workforce management business processes. Only Kronos delivers high quality information instrumental in making quality decisions and understanding the impact of the workforce on the organization.

To learn more, visit the website [www.kronos.com/government](http://www.kronos.com/government).

Special Interests: Education, Employment & Training, Labor Relations, Productivity Improvement, Risk Management

For more Business Council profiles visit the Conference of Mayors website at [usmayors.org/buscouncil](http://usmayors.org/buscouncil)



## ABOUT THE MAYOR



### COPS Program Funded

Charleston (SC) Mayor **Joseph P. Riley** discussed the value of the COPS Program in an article posted on the Clinton Foundation's blog May 12, the 15th anniversary of President Bill Clinton's announcement that the COPS Program had funded the 100,000 additional officers it had promised. Riley commented that the COPS Program "...went well beyond providing us with these badly needed additional police officers, as important as that was: It fundamentally changed policing in America's cities by instituting community policing practices in our departments." His article, The Lasting Legacy of the COPS Program, is available online at <http://www.clintonfoundation.org/blog/2014/05/12/lasting-legacy-cops-program>.

### Super Bowl 2018

"This is our opportunity to shine on a nationwide and worldwide platform and to brag like crazy how great we are for the next four years," said Minneapolis Mayor **Betsy Hodges** after the National Football League voted to award the 2018 Super Bowl to her city.

### Newark's New Mayor

**Ras Baraka** was elected mayor of Newark (NJ) May 13 with more than 54 percent of the vote. A former high school principal and councilman, Baraka ran on a promise to "take Newark back," referencing state leadership, which has controlled the city's schools for two decades and outside investors from Wall Street and Silicon Valley. Education was a leading issue in the election, and Baraka

received strong support from the education-workers unions statewide, stating that he wants to improve the damaged Newark school system, not dismantle and replace it. Jobs and crime were also key issues in the Newark mayoral election. Baraka pledged to tackle the 13 percent unemployment rate by tapping into resources such as the Newark Liberty International Airport, Port Newark, and its proximity to New York City. In order to combat crime, Baraka has promised to treat crime as a public health issue, with job training and prevention, and by introducing an FBI-backed anti-gang initiative. He will be sworn in on July 1.

### Archer City's Youngest Mayor

Eighteen-year-old Texas high school senior **Kelvin Cletus Green** is the new mayor of Archer City (TX), population 1,763 people, located 25 miles southwest of Wichita Falls. After being sworn into his two-year term on May 16, Green became the youngest mayor in the town's history since it was founded in 1888.

Green had no competition. Before his swearing-in ceremony, he told News Channel 6 that, "The city wanted me in this position even though there was not an election. It's more or less a childhood dream, and I'm ready to take on the task for sure. It's a good feeling, too, and gives you something good to wake up about in the morning."

Among other issues, Green will need to try to find answers to the severe water shortage. Archer City is now under a Stage 5 Drought Catastrophe.

The mayor also plays shortstop for the Archer City High School Wildcats baseball team, which is making a run at the state baseball title in the coming weeks.

The Pulitzer Prize winning author Larry McMurtry is also a native son of Archer City, and movies based on his novels *The Last Picture Show* and *Texasville* were filmed on the streets of Archer City.

## MAYORS BUSINESS COUNCIL

### Member Profile

#### URS

URS Corporation is a fully integrated engineering, construction and technical services organization with the capabilities to support every stage of the project life cycle. The Company offers a full range of program management; planning, design and engineering; systems engineering and technical assistance; construction and construction management; operations and maintenance; and decommissioning and closure services.

Our comprehensive skills and expertise are a valued resource to clients around the world, including U.S. federal government agencies, national governments of other countries, state and local government agencies both in the U.S. and internationally, FORTUNE 500 companies and other multinational corporations. Our business is focused on four key market sectors: federal, infrastructure, power and industrial and commercial. We have approximately 56,000 employees and an established presence in major cities in the Americas, Europe and Asia-Pacific.

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Special Interests: Education, Energy, Environment, Health Care, Homeland Security, Infrastructure, Law Enforcement/Criminal justice, Public Works, Recreation, Toxic Waste/Hazardous Materials, Traffic Management, Transportation, Utilities Issues, Waste Water Treatment

For more Business Council profiles visit the Conference of Mayors website at [usmayors.org/buscouncil](http://usmayors.org/buscouncil)





# **82nd Annual Conference of Mayors IN DALLAS June 20-23**

## **HIGHLIGHTS:**

### **Friday Night:**

- AT&T (Cowboys) Stadium – performances by The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders, Asleep at The Wheel, and Leann Rimes

### **Saturday Night:**

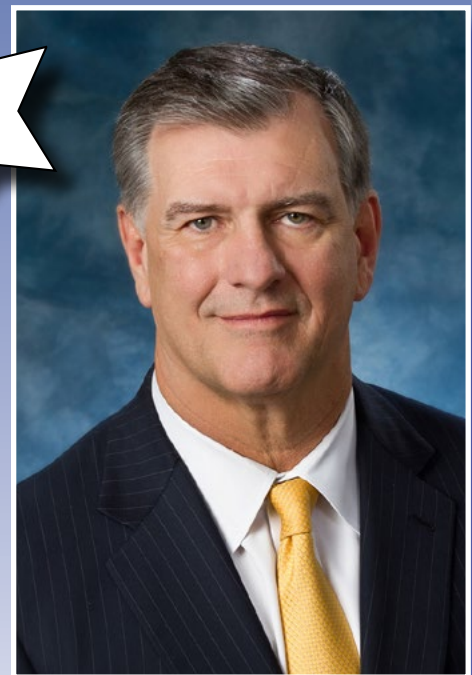
- Perot Museum of Nature and Science, and Klyde Warren Park – barbeque feast and performance by Grammy Award-Winning Artist Lyle Lovett and his full band

### **Sunday Night:**

- Evening in the Arts District, featuring Los Lonely Boys, a once-in-a-lifetime concert by Grammy Award-Winning Artist Bonnie Raitt, and an after party featuring fireworks and a legendary performance by Kool and the Gang

### **Monday Night:**

- Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Gardens – Backyard Bash featuring a performance by Marcia Ball



**Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings, Host**

**Register Now at [usmayors.org](http://usmayors.org)**

**Registration Contact: Carol Edwards 202-293-7330**  
**Sponsorship Information: Geri Powell 202-861-6774**

