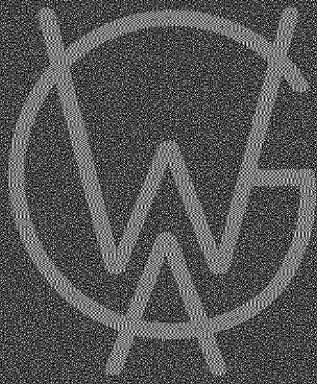




WESTERN GOVERNORS' ASSOCIATION

2025 Annual Meeting Media Kit



Video

WGA will upload video recordings of the meeting's keynotes and panel discussions to its [Dropbox](#) account. Videos will be uploaded roughly an hour after each session is completed. These videos are intended for internal use. We respectfully ask to not share these videos publicly.

Photos

Ellen Jaskol will be photographing the 2025 Annual Meeting for WGA. We will upload 2-3 photos from each panel or keynote real time. At the end of each day, ~ 200 photos will be posted. Photos can be accessed in WGA's [Dropbox](#).

Attendee List

A list of registered attendees can be found on the [2025 Annual Meeting website](#). This site also contains the latest meeting agenda and a map of the Eldorado Hotel and Spa.

Contact Information

- WGA Communications Director Jack Spina - jspina@westgov.org, (303) 917-2335
- WGA Communications Specialist Eli Jaynes - ejaynes@westgov.org, (603) 732-3123



Press List

In Person:

- Morgan Lee, Associated Press - mlee@ap.org
- Heather Richards, E&E News - hrichards@eenews.net
- Bobby Magill, Bloomberg - bmagill@bloombergindustry.com
- Abe Streep, ProPublica - abraham.streep@propublica.org
- Noah Wicks, Agri-Pulse - noah@agri-pulse.com
- Brett Walton, Circle of Blue - brett@circleofblue.org
- Alaina Mencinger, Santa Fe New Mexican - amencinger@sfnewmexican.com
- Daniel Chacón, Santa Fe New Mexican - dchacon@sfnewmexican.com
- Julia Goldberg – Source New Mexico - jgoldberg@sourcenm.com
- Austin Fisher – Source New Mexico - afisher@sourcenm.com
- Dan Boyd, Albuquerque Journal - dboyd@abqjournal.com
- Megan Gleason, Albuquerque Journal - mgleason@abqjournal.com
- Noah Alcala Bach, Albuquerque Journal - nabach@abqjournal.com
- KQRE
- KOB News 4

Remote:

- Jennifer Yachin, E&E News - jyachin@eenews.net
- Ben Lefebvre, Politico - blefebvre@politico.com
- Mackenzie Wilkes, Politico - mwilkes@politico.com
- John Frank, Axios - john.frank@axios.com
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- Jeff Parrott, Salt Lake City Tribune - jparrott@sltrib.com
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- Joseph Harris, Bismark Tribune - Joseph.Harris@bismarcktribune.com
- Jon Murray, Denver Post - jmurray@denverpost.com



2025 Annual Meeting

June 23-24

Santa Fe, New Mexico

GOVERNOR AGENDA

NOT FOR PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

All meeting sessions will be held at the Eldorado Hotel, unless otherwise noted.

Sunday, June 22

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
*Hilton Santa Fe –
Mesa Ballroom A*

Western Governors' Leadership Institute – Leadership Forum
Programming throughout the day.

Noon – 5:00 p.m.
Eldorado Hotel Lobby

Early Registration Open

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
*Eldorado Hotel, Room
Zia B/C*

Staff Advisory Council Meeting

3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
*Pinon Conference
Room – Eldorado*

WGA Executive Committee Meeting
Governors Lujan Grisham, Cox and Gordon

4:30 p.m.
*Eldorado Hotel &
La Fonda on the Plaza*

Transportation to Museum Hill
**Meet in the hotel lobby for transportation to Museum Hill.*

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Museum Hill

Governors' Reception with WGA Diamond and Platinum Sponsors and Governors' Staff
Governors, First Spouses, SAC/Governors' Staff, WGA Diamond/Platinum sponsors, invited VIPs*
**One staff per Governor/State; attending Governors may bring up to two staffers if desired. Exclusive to WGA Diamond and Platinum sponsors.*

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.
Bishop's Lodge

Governors and First Spouses Private Dinner
Governors and First Spouses only; no staff

Monday, June 23

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Eldorado Hotel Lobby

Registration Open

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.
*Georgia O’Keeffe
Museum*

WGA Diamond Sponsor Appreciation Breakfast with Governors

*All Governors and First Spouses welcome; one staff per
Governor/State/Territory; exclusive to WGA Diamond sponsors.*

9:30 – 10:00 a.m.
*Georgia O’Keeffe
Museum*

Governors’ Group Photo and Press Conference

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
Various rooms

Open Time for Governors to Schedule Private Meetings

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Governor’s Residence

Sidebar: Emergency Management / FEMA Review Council

Governor Lujan Grisham strongly encourages Governors to join her for a sidebar meeting with Caitlin Durkovitch, former Deputy Homeland Security Advisor for Resilience and Response, and Lynn Budd, director of the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security. The session will provide an opportunity for Governors to discuss the changing federal approach to disaster response and recovery, explore opportunities for interstate and regional collaboration on disasters, and develop recommendations for the FEMA Review Council.

**11:30 a.m. – 12:30
p.m.**
Governor’s Residence

Governors’ Private Lunch

Governors plus one staff, and non-attending Governors’ SAC members

1:00 – 1:30 p.m.
Eldorado Hotel

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Jack Waldorf, WGA Executive Director
The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of New Mexico

1:30 – 2:00 p.m.

The Honorable Linda McMahon, Secretary of Education

The Department of Education promotes student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access for students of all ages. Education Secretary McMahon will deliver remarks highlighting the Department’s priorities, including efforts to strengthen career pathways and prepare all students for good jobs.

2:00 – 2:15 p.m.

Break

2:15– 3:00 p.m.

BRAND West Chair Initiative

Housing shortages across the West have reached an inflection point, driving costs to untenable levels and leaving affordable housing increasingly out of reach for many Americans. The panel will discuss the key findings and recommendations from Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham’s Chair initiative, Building Resilient and Affordable New Developments in the West (BRAND West), and highlight the policies needed to expand access to housing in western communities.

Panelists: **Sarita Nair**, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions; **Travis Plunkett**, Senior Director, Housing, Labor, and Education, The Pew Charitable Trusts; **Buddy Hughes**, Chairman, National Association of Home Builders; **Johanna Gilligan**, Deputy CEO, Homewise.

3:00 – 3:30 p.m.

The Honorable Brooke Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture works to improve and maintain farm income, develop and expand markets abroad for agricultural products abroad, and help landowners protect natural resources. The Department also oversees management of the national forests and grasslands.

Agriculture Secretary Rollins will discuss the Department’s priorities and opportunities for collaboration with states and territories.

3:30 – 3:45 p.m.

Break

3:45 – 4:30 p.m.

Outdoors for All Abilities

For many westerners, getting outside is a central part of life, but for people with disabilities, outdoor activities and public lands may be difficult or impossible to access. Expanding outdoor recreation opportunities requires addressing a range of needs, from wheelchair users to those with visual impairments. Panelists will discuss what it takes to ensure that accessible trails support a range of user experiences.

Panelists: **Dustin Berg**, CEO, GO Unlimited; **Tracy Meier**, Chief Program and Education Officer, National Ability Center; and **Zach Taylor**, Park Manager, Colorado Parks and Wildlife.

4:30 – 5:00 p.m.

The Honorable Doug Burgum, Secretary of the Interior

The Department of the Interior manages about 75 percent of all federal lands; one-fifth of the entire land mass of the United States. Interior is also responsible for programs related to Native tribes, territorial affairs, and insular areas. Interior Secretary Burgum will discuss some of the

challenges facing the Department and opportunities for collaboration with western states and territories.

5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
Eldorado Lobby

Opening Reception

Governors, First Spouses and all attendees

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
*Eldorado Hotel –
Chapel Room*

Hospitality Suite – WGA Diamond Sponsors and Staff Advisory Council

Exclusive to WGA Diamond sponsors, SAC members, and Governors' staff.

6:30 p.m.
Eldorado Hotel

Group Transportation to Santa Fe Opera House

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Santa Fe Opera House

Governors' Dinner with WGA Sponsors

Governors, First Spouses, SAC/Governors' Staff, WGA sponsors and VIPs*

**One staff per Governor/State; Exclusive to WGA Diamond, Platinum, and Gold sponsors.*

9:00 – 11:00 p.m.
Santa Fe Opera House

Governors' After Party

Governors, First Spouses, SAC/Governors' Staff

Tuesday, June 24

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Eldorado Hotel Lobby

Registration Open

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Bishop's Lodge

Governors and First Spouses Private Breakfast

Governors and First Spouses only; no staff

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
*Eldorado Hotel –
Anasazi Ballroom*

Sponsor Breakfast with WGA Staff Advisory Council and Governors' Staff

SAC members, Governors' staff, all WGA sponsors

**9:00 a.m. – 12:00
p.m.**
Various rooms

Morning for Networking, Sidebar Meetings or Recreation

**11:45 a.m. – 12:45
p.m.**
*La Fonda on the Plaza,
Lumpkins Ballroom*

Governors' Lunch with WGA Sponsors

Governors, First Spouses, SAC/Governors' Staff, all WGA sponsors*

**One staff per Governor/State; attending Governors may bring up to two staffers if desired.*

1:15 – 1:45 p.m.
Eldorado Hotel

The Honorable Lori Chavez-DeRemer, Secretary of Labor

The Department of Labor's mission is to foster, promote, and develop the welfare of the wage earners, job seekers, and retirees of the United States; improve working conditions; advance opportunities for profitable employment; and assure work-related benefits and rights. Labor Secretary Chavez-DeRemer will deliver remarks highlighting priorities for the Department and how Western Governors can work with the Department to improve workers' lives throughout the West.

1:45 – 2:30 p.m.

Flood After Fire: Enhancing Safety in Post-Fire Landscapes

Following wildfire, burned areas are often at an elevated risk of cascading disasters such as floods, debris flows, and landslides, that can prolong the risk to lives, property, and water resources. The panel will address the challenges of post-fire response, highlight successful case studies, and discuss how agencies can enhance safety in post-fire landscapes.

Panelists: **Jonathan Godt**, Landslide Hazards Program Coordinator, U.S. Geological Survey; **Collin Haffey**, Post-Fire Recovery Program Manager, Washington Department of Natural Resources; **Jeremy Klass**, Mitigation and Recovery Bureau Chief, New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

2:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45 – 3:15 p.m.

The Honorable Lee Zeldin, Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency

The Environmental Protection Agency protects public health and safeguards the environment. Administrator Zeldin will deliver remarks highlighting the Agency's priorities.

3:15 – 4:00 p.m.

Rethinking Rural Health Care Delivery

Rural health care systems face critical challenges, including hospital closures, workforce shortages, and limited access to specialty care. Reimbursement often falls short of covering the full cost of rural health care, making it difficult to sustain essential services – especially as rural providers take on expanded responsibilities under a broader scope of practice. The panel will explore opportunities for interstate collaboration and other policy solutions to strengthen the rural health workforce and improve access to care.

Panelists: **Janice Walters**, Executive Director, Rural Health Redesign Center; **Janessa Graves**, Director, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center; **Joe Theine**, CEO, Southwest Health System; **Christina Campos**, Former CEO, Guadalupe County Hospital.

4:00 – 4:15 p.m.

Closing Session

The Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of New Mexico and the Honorable Spencer Cox, Governor of Utah

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

La Fonda Hotel, La Terraza Room and Garden Patio

Governors' Reception with WGA Sponsors and VIPs

Governors, First Spouses, SAC/Governors' Staff, WGA sponsors, VIPs

6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

La Fonda Hotel, La Terraza Room and Garden Patio

Closing Dinner Reception – All Attendees