

**Western Governors' Association
2025 Annual Meeting
June 22-24, 2025
Santa Fe, New Mexico**

Governors' Draft Agenda
(subject to change)

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

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

Staff Advisory Council Meeting

Noon – 5:00 p.m.

Early Registration Open

4:30 p.m.
All Hotels

Transportation to Museum Hill
**Meet in your 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.

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; 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

WGA Executive Committee Meeting
Governors Lujan Grisham, Cox and Gordon

**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
Presentation of the colors and national anthem

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: **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 is 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.

Location TBD

Sponsor 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, WGA sponsors and VIPs

**One staff per Governor/State; attending Governors may bring up to two staffers if desired. Exclusive to WGA Diamond, Platinum, and Gold sponsors.*

Tuesday, June 24

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Registration Open

8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Bishops 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: **Janessa Graves**, Director, WWAMI Rural Health Research Center; **Joe Theine**, CEO, Southwest Health System; **Janice Walters**, Executive Director, Rural Health Redesign Center.

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*

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

6:30 – 9:30 p.m.

La Fonda Hotel, La Terraza Room and Garden Patio

Closing Dinner Reception – All Attendees

