



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Governing Institute Announces Women in Government Leadership Class of 2018

Twenty-five new participants selected for yearlong program designed to promote and support elected women leaders from across the nation.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – September 19, 2017 – Governing announced the selection of 25 women elected leaders to the Women in Government Leadership Program Class of 2018. The women selected to the program are changing the face of politics in America, from council chambers to statehouses, during a tumultuous time in American history. Their service, courage and commitment to advancing good government is celebrated with their invitation to this national network.

Governing Institute's [Women in Government Leadership Program](#) brings together outstanding elected women leaders from across the nation to acknowledge their contributions, provide leadership development and mentor the next generation of women leaders to run for office. The 75 alumnae of the program are now "paying it forward" by recruiting women candidates around the U.S. and supporting initiatives to support women in appointed, elected and staff positions in government.

"Gender parity in politics continues to stagnate in this country with women elected to only 23 percent of all local and state offices," said Cathilea Robinett, president of Governing. "2018 will be a bellwether year for female candidates, however, as thousands have registered for training programs since the most recent general election. At Governing, we are proud to contribute to this movement through the Women in Government Leadership Program. We see first-hand the difference women make in the lives of millions of constituents. Congratulations to the 25 women selected for the Class of 2018."

Nominations were received for nearly 150 women for the Class of 2018. The class was selected based on career and educational accomplishments, personal recommendations, a commitment to actively participate and the goal of seating a diverse class. Each class also includes one rising star, a young woman not yet serving in elected office, but with the interest and potential to run in the future.

The first member of the Class of 2018, Indiana State Rep. Robin Shackelford, was selected in July as the State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF) Lois M. DeBerry Scholar. The annual scholarship acknowledges the pioneering work of Rep. DeBerry of Tennessee and encourages recipients to carry the spirit of leadership forward in support of women in elected office as Rep. DeBerry did for 41 years in the Tennessee House of Representatives.

"The women in the Class of 2018 are subject matter experts, negotiators, civic activists and pioneers," said Julia Burrows, director of the Governing Institute. "Each year, the program adds

to a national network, with 25 new members who establish deep friendships, provide consultation and campaign support and recruit future female candidates. The common goals of gender parity and advancing good government forge a bond that rises above partisanship and will pay dividends for many generations.”

Women in Government Leadership Program Class of 2018

The Women in Government Leadership Program Class of 2018 includes women from twenty different states holding a variety of elected offices in state and local government.

The Honorable Allison Ball

Kentucky State Treasurer

The Honorable Kim McMillan

Mayor, Clarksville, Tennessee

The Honorable Alisha Bell

Commissioner, Wayne County, Michigan

The Honorable Helena N. Moreno

Louisiana State Representative

The Honorable Rosalynn Bliss

Mayor, Grand Rapids, Michigan

The Honorable Kim K. Ogg

District Attorney, Harris County, Texas

The Honorable Cindy Bobbitt

Commissioner, Grant County, Oklahoma

The Honorable Marian Orr

Mayor, Cheyenne, Wyoming

The Honorable Affie Ellis

Wyoming State Senator

The Honorable Catherine E. Pugh

Mayor, Baltimore, Maryland

The Honorable Vivian Davis Figures

Alabama State Senator

The Honorable Connie Rockco

Supervisor, Harrison County, Mississippi

The Honorable Lena Fowler

Supervisor, Coconino County, AZ

The Honorable Attica Scott

Kentucky State Representative

The Honorable Nellie M. Gorbea

Rhode Island Secretary of State

The Honorable Robin Shackelford

Indiana State Representative
SLLF Lois M. DeBerry Scholar

The Honorable Toi Hutchinson

Ohio State Senator

The Honorable Emilia Sykes

Ohio State Representative

The Honorable Brenda A. Howerton

Commissioner, Durham County, North Carolina

The Honorable Acquanetta Warren

Mayor, City of Fontana, California

The Honorable Themis Klarides

Connecticut State Representative

The Honorable Kimberly Yee

Arizona State Senator

The Honorable Debra March

Mayor, Henderson, Nevada

Macy Amos

Assistant Metropolitan Attorney, The Metropolitan Government of Nashville & Davidson County, TN
Rising Star

The Honorable Melissa McKinlay

Vice Mayor, Palm Beach County, Florida

Each class is chosen from nominations submitted online at www.governing.com/wig. Women must be elected to a state or local office and not on the ballot or running unopposed during the program year.

The 25 women in the program's new class will be profiled in the February 2018 issue of *Governing* magazine and will participate in Governing events throughout the coming year. The Class of 2018 will gather for their first leadership conference November 4-5 in Phoenix, Arizona.

About the Governing Institute

[The Governing Institute](#) advances better government by improving performance and outcomes through research, decision support and executive education to help public sector leaders govern more effectively.

Governing is a division of [e.Republic](#), the nation's only media and research company focused exclusively on state and local government and education.

For more information:

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