

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Governing Institute Announces  
Women in Government Leadership Class of 2019**

*Twenty-five honorees selected for annual program to highlight extraordinary elected women and pay it forward to the next generation of women seeking public office*

**WASHINGTON, D.C. – June 19, 2018** – Governing announced the selection of 25 elected leaders to the Women in Government Leadership Program Class of 2019. The outstanding women leaders are courageous problem solvers making a difference in the communities they serve and blazing a trail for future women candidates to follow.

Governing Institute's [Women in Government Leadership Program](#) invites elected women leaders from across the nation to be featured in *Governing* magazine, attend leadership programs to learn job critical skills and pay it forward by mentoring the next generation of women leaders to run for office. The 100 alumnae of the program are actively recruiting women candidates to run and creating initiatives to empower potential officeholders and women already serving in government.

"In this election year, we are gaining momentum with hundreds of women candidates on state and local ballots including many of our WIG alumnae and candidates they personally recruited" said Cathilea Robinett, president of Governing. "However, moving from 23 percent of women in elected office to gender parity will take a long-term investment including the program we have created at Governing. These incredible women are 'In the Arena' as President Roosevelt would say. Congratulations to the 25 women selected for the Class of 2019."

Nominations were received from elected officials, academics, agency staff, and WIG alumnae throughout the year. The honorees were selected by the Governing Institute based on career and educational accomplishments, personal recommendations, a commitment to actively participate and diversity in class membership. Each cohort includes one rising star, a young woman not yet serving in elected office, but with aspirations to run in the future.

The first member of the Class of 2019, Georgia State Rep. Debra Bazemore, was selected in May as the State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF) Lois M. DeBerry Scholar. The annual distinction honors 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.

"This national women's political network becomes more powerful with each new member" said Julia Burrows, director of the Governing Institute. "Strong connections are created at the leadership retreats through shared learning and conversation and lifelong friendships are formed. Together, the women provide advice and campaign support, recruit and fundraise for future female candidates and are accelerating the advancement of good governance. Women do make a difference as legislators, problem solvers, and role models. The Women in Government Leadership Program is paying dividends today and for future generations."

## **Women in Government Leadership Program Class of 2019**

The Women in Government Leadership Program Class of 2019 includes women from twenty-two different states holding a variety of elected offices in state and local government.

**The Honorable Lashrecse Aird**  
Virginia Commonwealth Delegate

**The Honorable Kirsten Baesler**  
North Dakota Superintendent of Public Instruction

**The Honorable Debra Bazemore**  
Georgia State Representative

**The Honorable Karen Carter-Peterson**  
Louisiana State Senator

**The Honorable Letitia Clark**  
Councilmember, Tustin, California

**The Honorable Kathy Dahlkemper**  
County Executive, Erie County, Pennsylvania

**The Honorable Kimberly M. Foxx**  
State's Attorney, Cook County, Illinois

**The Honorable Sara Howard**  
Nebraska State Senator

**The Honorable Val Hoyle**  
Oregon Commissioner for the Bureau of Labor & Industries-elect

**The Honorable Rachel Kippley**  
Commissioner, Brown County, South Dakota

**The Honorable Lisa Krasner**  
Nevada State Assemblymember

**The Honorable Kathy Lambert**  
Councilmember, King County, Washington

**The Honorable Liz Mathis**  
Iowa State Senator

**The Honorable Tara Nethercott**  
Wyoming State Senator

**The Honorable Sheila Oliver**  
New Jersey Lt. Governor

**The Honorable Phyllis Randall**  
Chair-at-Large, Loudoun County, Virginia

**The Honorable Rebecca Rhynhart**  
City Controller, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

**The Honorable Julie Rogers**  
Commissioner, Kalamazoo County, Michigan

**The Honorable Brigid Shea**  
Commissioner, Travis County - Austin, Texas

**The Honorable Robyn Tannehill**  
Mayor, Oxford, Mississippi

**The Honorable Lena Taylor**  
Wisconsin State Senator

**The Honorable Lovely Warren**  
Mayor, Rochester New York

**The Honorable Karen Weaver**  
Mayor, Flint, Michigan

**The Honorable Nan Whaley**  
Mayor, Dayton, Ohio

**Arienne Jones**  
Judicial Law Clerk, United States District Court for the Southern District of Alabama  
*Rising Star*

Each class is chosen from nominations submitted online at [www.governing.com/wig](http://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 honorees will be profiled in the February 2019 issue of *Governing* magazine and will participate in Governing events throughout the coming year. The Class of 2019 will gather for their first leadership conference November 9-10, 2018 in Palm Springs, California.

**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:**

Julia Burrows  
Director, Governing Institute  
916.316.0416  
[jburrows@governing.com](mailto:jburrows@governing.com)