



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Governing Institute Announces Women in  
Government Leadership Program Class of 2016**

*A yearlong program for elected women leaders from across the nation*

**WASHINGTON, D.C. – Oct. 6, 2015** – The Governing Institute is proud to announce the 25 members of the Women in Government Leadership Program Class of 2016, the new class of elected officials from state and local government selected to participate in the annual program.

Governing Institute's [Women in Government Leadership Program](#) highlights the outstanding contributions of women currently in public office, provides leadership development and job critical skills during three in-person summits, and creates a network to pay it forward by inviting and mentoring the next generation of women leaders to run for office. The inaugural class of 24 completed a yearlong curriculum in July 2015 and already have taken action to mentor women leaders in their respective regions.

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 during the program year. Over 100 women were nominated for the Class of 2016 and selections were made based on career and educational accomplishments, recommendations from the nominators, a commitment to actively participate, and a goal of seating a diverse class in a number of categories. 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 Class of 2016 will gather for their first leadership conference Nov. 7-8 in Hilton Head, South Carolina. The 25 women in the program's new class will be profiled in the February 2016 issue of *Governing* magazine and will participate in Governing events throughout the coming year, including a roundtable discussion in Washington, D.C. in January 2016 and a third leadership retreat in summer 2016.

The first member of the class, Tennessee State Rep. Raumesch Akbari, was selected in August 2015 as the inaugural recipient of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation (SLLF) Lois M. DeBerry Scholarship winner. The annual scholarship from the SLLF enables one Women in Government Leadership Program recipient to travel to each of the three leadership conferences.

"The new class is a remarkable group of women from Alaska to Florida. We look forward to a year of inspiration, professional development, sharing best practices, and establishing relationships that will directly result in more women seeking to advance their careers in elected office," says Julia Burrow, executive director of the Governing Institute.

## **Women in Government Leadership Program Class of 2016**

The Women in Government Leadership Program Class of 2016 includes women from 22 different states holding a variety of offices statewide and at the local level.

**The Honorable Raumesh Akbari**  
Tennessee State Representative  
*SLLF Lois M. DeBerry Scholar*

**The Honorable Carol Alvarado**  
Texas State Representative

**The Honorable Marlene Anielski**  
Ohio State Representative

**The Honorable Stephanie Bice**  
Oklahoma State Senator

**The Honorable Mary Ann Borgeson**  
Commissioner, Douglas County, Nebraska

**The Honorable Toni Carter**  
Commissioner, Ramsey County, Minnesota

**The Honorable Rebecca Casper**  
Mayor, Idaho Falls, Idaho

**The Honorable Joy Cooper**  
Mayor, Hallandale Beach, Florida

**The Honorable Shelley Goodman Taub**  
Commissioner, Oakland County, Michigan

**The Honorable Betsy Hodges**  
Mayor, Minneapolis, Minnesota

**The Honorable Wendy Horman**  
Idaho State Representative

**The Honorable Lindsey P. Horvath**  
Mayor, West Hollywood, California

**The Honorable Adrienne Jones**  
Maryland State Delegate

**The Honorable Linda Langston**  
Supervisor, Linn County, Iowa

**The Honorable Andrea Lea**  
Arkansas State Auditor

**The Honorable Gail McCann Beatty**  
Missouri State Representative

**The Honorable Charisse Millett**  
Alaska State Representative

**The Honorable Erin Oban**  
North Dakota State Senator

**The Honorable Cherrish Pryor**  
Indiana State Representative

**The Honorable Brenda Roberts**  
Auditor, Oakland, California

**The Honorable Loretta Smith**  
Commissioner, Multnomah County, Oregon

**The Honorable Melanie Stambaugh**  
Washington State Representative

**The Honorable Ivy R. Taylor**  
Mayor, San Antonio, Texas

**The Honorable Michelle Wu**  
Councillor, City of Boston, Massachusetts

**Sarah Besnoff**  
Law Clerk, United States Courts  
*Rising Star*

## **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.

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