Thank you to the members of NLC’s Presidential Election Task Force:

Co-Chairs
Karen Freeman-Wilson
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Betsy Price
Mayor, City of Fort Worth, Texas

Members
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Mayor, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Dan Gilmartin
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Mayor, City of Boca Raton, Florida
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Mayor, City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
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Craig Thurmond
Mayor, City of Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
Randal Wallace
Councilmember, City of Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
Nan Whaley
Mayor, City of Dayton, Ohio
Judy Silva
Executive Director, New Hampshire League of Municipalities

Over the course of the 2016 election cycle, the National League of Cities is pleased to serve as a resource to those vying to be the next leader of our nation, and to those who want to better communicate about the needs most important to America’s cities.

#CitiesLead2016

Learn more at Citieslead2016.nlc.org
On behalf of the 19,000 cities, towns and villages represented by the National League of Cities, we urge the 2016 presidential candidates to address the issues that are most important to our nation’s cities and towns: the economy, infrastructure, and public safety.

The next president will govern an increasingly urban country. 80 percent of Americans already live in cities. The next president must understand the issues that impact U.S. cities in order to be a successful leader.

The National League of Cities, on behalf of the communities it represents, is pleased to be a resource to the 2016 presidential candidates and their campaigns.

#CitiesLead2016

THE ECONOMY

Cities stand ready to work with the next president to do what cities do best: create environments that support workers and grow businesses. To help cities strengthen the economy, we ask the next president to:

1. Increase federal funding for workforce development to cultivate a skilled workforce that meets 21st century employer needs.
2. Support initiatives that ensure all young people have an opportunity to graduate from high school prepared for post-secondary education or employment.
3. Support federal economic development tools such as the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) that will help local governments attract and retain small businesses.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure investment is essential to economic growth. Improvements in transportation, water and broadband draw new businesses and jobs to cities and their regions, while creating a better climate for current businesses to expand and add workers.

If America is to preserve its economic prominence, our federal leaders must modernize our nation’s infrastructure. We call upon the next president to:

1. Support reliable long-term funding for infrastructure that reflects local needs.
2. Support a vibrant web of connected transportation options—from transit and air to railways, roads, and waterways—as a means to reduce congestion, protect the environment, and stimulate economic development.
3. Preserve local authority to take action to ensure all residents have access to high speed Internet and other communications services.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Good relations between police and the community they serve are vital to a thriving city. With recent events across the nation showing the need for stronger police-community relations, local elected leaders have played a crucial role in bringing together officers, stakeholders, and non-profits to help develop trust between residents and law enforcement. To strengthen these efforts, we ask that the next president:

1. Support local government authority to manage law enforcement and emergency management operations.
2. Establish national training standards and technical assistance to improve community policing.
3. Provide sufficient funding to support coordination and cooperation between federal, state and local law enforcement agencies.
4. Expand the deployment of advanced communications and broadband technology to improve public safety.