



# A Proposal for an Intergovernmental Policy Council

The issues facing our nation transcend the boundaries of federal, state and local governments. Developing effective policies to address these challenges requires a national strategy and thoughtful engagement with leaders from all levels of government.

Whether the issue is stimulating our nation's economy and creating jobs by investing in our nation's infrastructure, health care, climate change, jobs, energy, education, or safety and security, local, state, and federal governments all have critical roles to play, along with the private and nonprofit sectors. Local and state governments have a history of working together and across boundaries to tackle difficult issues. They are fully committed to building an effective partnership with the federal government and will bring a spirit of innovation and practical experience to the table.

To advance the President's domestic agenda, it is critical to rebuild the intergovernmental partnership and to commit to new communication channels. We recommend that the new Administration create and staff an Intergovernmental Policy Council to support a consistent dialogue and to develop recommendations and supporting strategies that require intergovernmental and cross-sector execution.

We recommend that the Council meet quarterly and include the following stakeholders:

- One representative from the executive boards of each of the seven major state and local government organizations (Big 7)
- The executive directors of the Big 7
- Senior White House Intergovernmental Policy Advisor and Senior White House Urban Policy Advisor
- Senior Intergovernmental Affairs and Policy Advisors from federal agencies

The functions of the Intergovernmental Policy Council are to:

1. Provide guidance on the development of policies and programs that state and local governments have a role in implementing.
2. Serve as a conduit for information to reach local and state governments
3. Provide feedback regarding the effectiveness of programs implemented by local and state governments.
4. Evaluate the capacity of the intergovernmental system to secure the resources necessary to achieve the desired outcomes.
5. Assess the strengths and weaknesses of the intergovernmental system to achieve national policy objectives.
6. Provide issue expertise to working groups that may be needed to follow up on Council priorities

We recognize that a more robust intergovernmental partnership has staffing implications and we recommend that the White House provide the resources needed to support this initiative and to build more institutional capabilities. The Big 7 is committed to this partnership and will bring perspective and data, explain differences, and give our candid advice on policy development and implementation.