

2025

Essential Policy Solutions





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INTRODUCTION

ABOUT ALEC

Essential Policy Solutions for 2025 was published by the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) to equip and empower today's state leaders to shape America's future through our unwavering commitment to limited government, free markets, and federalism.

ALEC is governed by a Board of Directors of state legislators and is classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, public policy and educational organization. Individuals, philanthropic foundations, businesses, and associations are eligible to support the work of ALEC through tax-deductible gifts.

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If you are a state legislator interested in joining America's largest nonpartisan, voluntary membership organization of state policymakers, a membership application can be found at the end of this publication.

Applications for private sector, alumni and American City County Exchange memberships can be found at ALEC.org/membership.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND DISCLAIMERS

The authors wish to thank ALEC CEO Lisa B. Nelson, Lisa Bowen, Courtney Cook, Marie Vulaj, and the professional staff at ALEC for their valuable assistance with this project.

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ESSENTIAL POLICY SOLUTIONS FOR 2025

Now, more than ever, is the time for states to lead.

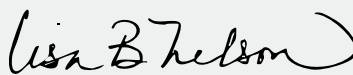
On Election Night 2024, the American people overwhelmingly embraced the path of lower taxes, fewer regulations, and a fundamental shift of power back to the states. In other words, America chose the path championed by ALEC: federalism.

The message to Washington is clear: No more wasteful spending that leaves constituents with empty results. No more federal overreach that stifles our freedoms. No more to the endless and unaccountable bureaucracy.

For 2025, ALEC is proud to offer these Essential Policy Solutions to empower and equip state legislators who will shape America's future. When Washington overreaches, we know the answer lies in strong, principled policy rooted in the states. These aren't "cookie cutter" solutions; these models should inspire tailored solutions that address the unique needs of each state.

To develop these trusted policy solutions, ALEC worked with state lawmakers and private sector leaders committed to upholding our Founding Fathers' vision for the nation. As we approach America's 250th birthday in 2026, we will continue this work to create the greatest opportunities for all Americans to flourish by advancing and promoting the principles of limited government, free markets, and federalism.

As you review these key policy ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team if we can ever be of assistance. We look forward to hearing from you as we continue to build our free market collection of policy ideas from the 50 "laboratories of democracy."



Lisa B. Nelson

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CENTERS



CENTER FOR INNOVATION
AND TECHNOLOGY



CENTER TO RESTORE THE
BALANCE OF GOVERNMENT



CENTER TO PROTECT
FREE SPEECH



CENTER FOR STATE
FISCAL REFORM

TASK FORCES



AMERICAN CITY COUNTY EXCHANGE



CIVIL JUSTICE



COMMERCE, INSURANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY



CRIMINAL JUSTICE



EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND AGRICULTURE



FEDERALISM AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



HOMELAND SECURITY



TAX AND FISCAL POLICY

ECONOMIC **COMPETITIVENESS**

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ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

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Maintaining Energy Reliability and Affordability



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While global instability upended energy prices throughout the world last year, 2025 is a chance for state governments to make sensible, market-based decisions concerning the costs and reliability of the fuels and infrastructure that power our nation. Reliability and affordability are two of the most important drivers of our economic system.

There is an increasing trend of shuttering traditional power plants before new generation sources are online and ready to operate that must be reversed. By closing power plants before their replacements are ready, Americans are at increased risk for rolling blackouts, especially during critical periods such as height of summer and dead of winter.

However, energy costs have a much larger impact on society than the utility bills paid at the end of the month. Energy costs are inextricably linked to agricultural production and modern transportation. From the cost of fertilizer, which is primarily a product of natural gas, or the cost of freight shipment, which is primarily powered by diesel, almost every aspect of every product used in our day-to-day lives is impacted by the price of energy.

The debate around green energy has been dominated by ideology rather than practical solutions, often leaving out realistic, practical ideas from the states. Resources that meet practical emission standards, like high-quality natural gas and nuclear energy, are sound ideas that shouldn't be discriminated against. Thankfully, states can set clear, realistic standards for what qualifies as clean energy, making sure taxpayer dollars fund resources that balance both environmental and economic priorities. A new ALEC model policy, [The Affordable, Reliable, and Clean Energy Security Act](#), does just that. This innovative model is based on a 2023 Ohio law that was then adopted in Tennessee. Recently, the idea was endorsed by Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry in an executive order, providing a blueprint for state-led energy security.

Model Policy

- [The Affordable, Reliable and Clean Energy Security Act](#)
- [Resolution Supporting Reliable and Affordable Energy](#)
- [Electric Generation Facility Closures and Reliability Act](#)
- [Affordable, Reliable, and Resilient Electricity Act](#)
- [Electric Ratepayers Affordability and Reliability Advocacy Act](#)

Publication

- [Energy Affordability Report, 4th Edition](#)

Commentary

- [Myths vs. Facts: Electrification and Carbon Emissions](#)
- [Powerless Promises: How Mandates Leave Grids Vulnerable](#)
- [American Radio Journal: Reducing Roadblocks to Real Energy Independence](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [Utah Rep. Colin Jack and Sen. Ronald Winterton Protect Electric Reliability](#)
- [Governor Glenn Youngkin, Secretary Travis Voyles, Senator Richard Stuart, Senator Ryan McDougale, and Delegate Tony Wilt Remove Virginia from California EV Mandate](#)

Regulatory Reform



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Holding executive branch departments and agencies accountable has proven to be an important issue to legislators and their constituents throughout the states, particularly throughout the pandemic. By implementing accountability measures and review processes to scrutinize new and existing rules and regulations, states can use proposed regulations as opportunities to review older regulations as well. Setting regulatory caps and deregulation requirements can aid states in streamlining government.

Model Policy

- [An Act to Establish a Cap on Government Red Tape](#)
- [Regulatory Sunset Act](#)
- [Universal Regulatory Sandbox Act](#)
- [Targeted Legislative Review Act](#)
- [Accountability in Rule Making Act](#)
- [Resolution Reaffirming Support for the U.S. State-Based System of Title Insurance Regulation in Response to Growing Federal Encroachment](#)

Pro-Growth Tax Policy



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REFORMING STATE TAX CODES

A tax system that allows citizens to keep more of what they earn spurs increased work, saving and investment. This is evident across 17 editions of our annual report [Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index](#), which reveals the economic benefits associated with states that keep tax burdens and spending at prudent levels. All taxes matter for economic growth, but taxes on capital, including business and individual income taxes, have the largest negative impact on economic outlook and growth.

In recent years, we've seen significant income tax relief in the states. Notably, 26 states have engaged in efforts to reduce their income tax burdens. With each tax cut comes increased pressure on surrounding states to increase economic competitiveness by simplifying their tax codes and bringing them more in line with the ALEC Principles of Taxation.

Model Policy

- [ALEC Principles of Taxation](#)

Publication

- [Rich States, Poor States: ALEC-Laffer State Economic Competitiveness Index](#)

Op-Eds

- [Governing Magazine: The States Where Pro-Growth Policies Rule](#)
- [The OC Register: California's Anti-Business, High-Tax Policies are Driving Businesses and People Away](#)
- [The Daily Caller: Good Things Happen to States that Cut Taxes](#)



FEDERAL TAX REFORM

At the end of 2025, several provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) of 2017 are set to expire. Extending the provisions of President Donald Trump's signature tax cut are crucial to protecting the American taxpayer, enhancing economic growth, and keeping the country competitive on a global stage. In May 2024, [ALEC released a letter](#) with more than 400 signatures from lawmakers in 43 states highlighting the benefits brought on by TCJA and encouraging its permanent extension.

Absent congressional action, 23 provisions of the 2017 tax cuts directly relating to individual income taxes, such as the reductions in personal income tax rates, the near doubling of the standard deduction, and the substantial reduction of the hated Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) will expire after December 31, 2025.

Following in the footsteps of [Arizona](#) and [Michigan](#), states leaders can continue to call on Congress to [make permanent the federal 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act \(TCJA\)](#).

Model Policy

- [Resolution Urging Congress to Permanently Extend the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017](#)

Commentary

- [Making the 2017 Federal Tax Cuts Permanent](#)
- [American Radio Journal: Keeping the Tax Cuts & Jobs Act from Expiration](#)
- [Fox Business: State Lawmakers Push to Extend Trump-Era Tax Cuts](#)

Op-Ed

- [The Daily Caller: Biden's Pledge to Let Trump's Tax Cuts Die Has Stirred Up a Hornet's Nest](#)

AVOIDING DISCRIMINATORY TAXES

Imposing discriminatory taxes can negatively affect state economies and lead to unintended consequences. The [ALEC Principles of Taxation](#) are clear: "The government should not use the tax system to pick winners and losers in society, or unfairly shift the tax burden onto one class of citizens. The tax system should not... engage in discriminatory or multiple taxation, nor should it be used to bestow special favors on any particular group of taxpayers."

Model Policy

- [ALEC Principles of Taxation](#)

PROPERTY TAX REFORM

Property tax burdens are a pressing problem in most states nationwide. At the end of the day, the problem is mostly a local one that has to do with local spending. This often leaves state lawmakers with a lack of solutions and a wealth of constituent complaints. However, the state can play a role in solving the property tax issue through Truth-in-Taxation.

Truth-in-Taxation aims to reduce the growth of property taxes through transparency and accountability. Perhaps the most significant component of Truth-in-Taxation is the focus on revenue collection. Truth-in-Taxation contains a mechanism that ensures rates fall when assessments rise. It prevents local governments from taking advantage of assessment windfalls because local governments receive the same amount of revenue as the previous year. If local elected officials want to collect more property tax revenue than the previous year, they have to notify the voters and take a publicly recorded vote themselves. This solves the "honesty gap" problem, and local governments can no longer tell taxpayers that they are "lowering property tax rates," while the taxpayer is left wondering why their property tax bill is higher than it was the year before.

The ALEC model policy, [Truth-in-Taxation Act](#), is based on Utah's most taxpayer-friendly property tax law. The measure was enacted in Utah in 1985 to provide a solution to taxpayer unrest from ever increasing assessments and property taxes. In recent years, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska have wisely adopted versions of Truth-in-Taxation.

While Truth-in-Taxation does not technically limit property taxes, it makes local elected officials think twice about increasing property taxes because they know all citizens will be notified of the increase and its potential impact on their property. They also know that they will have to hold a broadly advertised public hearing and recorded vote, where citizens can communicate their concerns about a proposed tax and spending increase.

Model Policy

- [Truth-in-Taxation Act](#)

Commentary

- [Iowa Adds Truth and Transparency to Property Taxes](#)

Sound Pension Reform



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GETTING POLITICS OUT OF PENSIONS

With unfunded pension liabilities continuing to be a problem for state retirement systems, it is imperative that states take measures to protect these pension investments from politically motivated investment strategies, like environment, social, and governance (ESG) investing. In recent years, the threat of ESG has grown and subsequently waned, as pushback to the strategy has forced retirement systems to focus solely on investments that financially benefit pension plans and their participants. States can continue to prioritize workers and financial returns with the ALEC model policy [State Government Employee Retirement Protection Act](#).

Model Policy

- [Defined-Contribution Pension Reform Act](#)
- [ALEC Statement of Principles on Sound Pension Practices](#)
- [State Government Employee Retirement Protection Act](#)

Publication

- [Keeping the Promise: Getting Politics Out of Pensions](#)

Op-Ed

- [The Orange County Register: With First Veto, President Biden Fails to Learn from California](#)

ALEC Policy Champion

- [South Carolina Rep. Bill Taylor Keeps Politics Out of Pensions](#)



KEEPING THE PROMISE

As noted in the ALEC report *Unaccountable and Unaffordable*, unfunded state pension liabilities are growing rapidly, now totaling \$4.78 trillion or \$14,378 for every man, woman and child in the United States. Clearly pension plans are in serious need of reform. Several states have taken steps to switch new state workers from the broken defined-benefit plans to portable defined-contribution plans, but many are still in need of reforms. Until they do, plans will continue to under-perform as unfunded liabilities grow and these states will struggle to keep the promise made to plan beneficiaries without soaking the taxpayer in the process.

Publication

- [Unaccountable and Unaffordable, 8th Edition](#)

Responsible Budgeting



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STATE BUDGET REFORM

As states enter into their next budgeting cycles and revenue forecasts move in a less optimistic direction in many states, the [ALEC State Budget Reform Toolkit](#) is a great resource for implementing priority-based budgeting. The toolkit outlines 23 proven policy solutions for states to improve their budget process, while avoiding wasteful spending and economically damaging tax increases.

The goal of the toolkit is not to implement wholesale changes that reduce a budget by drastic amounts overnight – though, if done properly, it could achieve that. Instead, the toolkit offers proven policy solutions that can alter the budgeting process in a way that reshapes the budgeting culture.

One hallmark of the toolkit that achieves just that is the [Tax and Expenditure Limitation Act](#). Tax and Expenditure Limitations (TELs) limit the growth of revenue collections and spending. The most effective TELs, like Colorado's Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR), require voter approval to raise taxes or issue debt and apply to local governments as well, making it the perfect pairing to Truth-in-Taxation. Policy reforms like TABOR give hardworking taxpayers more protection and ensure that state budget growth is stabilized at a reasonable level. ALEC's Fiscal Rules microsite and animated video explore how a hypothetical TABOR could help control state spending and taxes.

Model Policy

- [72- Hour Budget Review Act](#)
- [Federal Grant Review Act](#)
- [Federal Receipts Reporting Requirements Act](#)
- [Tax and Expenditure Limitation Act](#)
- [Taxpayer Receipt Act](#)

Publication

- [State Budget Reform Toolkit](#)

Commentary

- [Texas: The New Financial Powerhouse?](#)
- [Thank You, TABOR: Colorado Owes \\$1.7 Billion to Taxpayers](#)

Op-Eds

- [Governing Magazine: Why Tighter Budgets Might Be Better for States in the Long Run](#)
- [National Review: Colorado Offers the Gold Standard for Fiscal Restraint](#)

CUTTING THE STRINGS

States' dependency on federal funds has accelerated in recent years. Federal funding to the states comes in many forms such as education spending, Medicaid, infrastructure spending, and housing grants. For the states, these monies often appear harmless – after all, they are obtained without the need for increased levels of taxation. However, by accepting these funds, states may cede sovereignty over aspects of their own governments. Federal funds come with strings attached, such as Maintenance of Effort requirements, which mandate that states continue to provide funding towards those programs that receive federal funds. In other words, there's no such thing as a free lunch. Through reforms in the model of Financial Ready Utah or the ALEC model policy [Federal Funds Oversight Act](#), state leaders can determine the extent of their reliance on federal funds and plan for the eventuality of their disappearance.

Model Policy

- [Federal Funds Oversight Act](#)

PUTTING AMERICA'S FISCAL HOUSE IN ORDER

America's strength domestically directly impacts our ability to meet global challenges and to be helpful to our friends around the world, so putting our nation's fiscal house in order is crucial to our success here and abroad. Inflation exacerbated by federal overspending is striking a serious blow to US households that are still recovering from the economic hardship created by the COVID pandemic response. This fiscal reality underscores the need to address the federal government's unsustainable spending habit and to begin chipping away at the national debt, which is approaching \$36 trillion. Congress has consistently demonstrated that it is unable to police its overspending problem, leaving it to the states to restore fiscal sanity to the nation.

Model Policy

- [Act to Ensure US Amendments Ratified by Article V State Conventions Are a Vote of "We the People"](#)
- [Article V Application for a Federal Fiscal Responsibility Amendments Convention to Curb Runaway Inflation and Restore Fiscal Sanity](#)

Op-Ed

- [Colorado Times Recorder: Correcting the Record on the Amendments Convention](#)

The Failure of Carbon Taxes



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Carbon taxes are often marketed as a means to reduce emissions and combat climate change, but in practice, they serve as punitive measures that burden consumers and businesses alike. By artificially inflating energy prices, these taxes harm Americans who spend a larger share of their income on energy needs. Instead of incentivizing innovation, carbon taxes stifle economic growth by increasing costs across the board, affecting everything from manufacturing to transportation.

Moreover, carbon taxes ignore the substantial progress made by the U.S. in reducing emissions through market-driven technological advancements. The natural gas revolution, for example, has done more to lower carbon emissions than any government mandate or tax could ever hope to achieve. Imposing a carbon tax not only undermines these free-market successes but also threatens the reliability of our energy grid by pushing intermittent, less reliable renewable energy sources into a dominant role.

At a global level, unilateral carbon taxes put U.S. businesses at a competitive disadvantage, driving jobs and investments overseas to countries with weaker environmental standards. This not only results in negligible reductions in global emissions but also un-



dermines American workers and industries. Policymakers should reject carbon taxes and instead focus on fostering innovation, supporting an energy strategy that allows the free market to lead the way in emissions reductions.

Model Policy

- [Resolution in Opposition to a Carbon Tax](#)

Commentary

- [Anti-Carbon Tax Resolution Passes House of Representatives](#)

Economic Development



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After another year of high inflation, unaffordable housing, and inefficient government spending, America needs a greater focus on the policies that stimulate economic development, not economic dependence. As always, getting government out of the way is a surefire way to achieve growth.

Some like Arizona, Colorado, Iowa, and Missouri have already led the way by implementing reforms that identify and remove regulations stifling innovation, business development, and American infrastructure. By implementing similar policies, other states can strengthen their economies in 2025 by lowering barriers to private sector innovation and entrepreneurship with reforms like those below and in adjacent sections.

Model Policy

- [The Home-Based Business Fairness Act](#)
- [Establishing a Public-Private Partnership \(P3\) Office Act](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [Missouri Sen. Travis Fitzwater and Rep. Alex Riley Increase Entrepreneurial Opportunity in the Show Me State](#)

Worker and Workplace Protection



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Flexibility is now king in the job market as [Americans continue to select jobs](#) that offer flexible options. Lawmakers should ensure government does not get in the way of Americans seeking work options that are best for them and their families. That includes opening state economies and communities to talented, experienced workers by recognizing comparable, out-of-state occupational licenses and qualifications. It also means protecting workers' right to choose a work model that works for them and their unique needs, as well as giving public sector workers more say about union representation by requiring union recertification.

Model Policy

- [Right to Earn a Living Act](#)
- [Uniform Worker Classification Act](#)
- [Union Recertification Act](#)
- [Fair and Accountable Public Sector Authority Act](#)
- [Taxpayer Dollars Protect Workers Act](#)
- [Military Spouse Licensure Act](#)
- [The Model Interstate-Mobility and Universal-Recognition Occupational Licensing Act](#)

Publication

- [States that Work: A Labor Policy Roadmap Across America](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [Louisiana Sen. Thomas Pressly and Rep. Charles Owen Bring Universal Recognition to the Pelican State](#)

Lawsuit Reform

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ALEC's civil justice policy efforts have enjoyed widespread success on the legislative front over the past several decades, pro-business members of the civil justice communities, in both public and private sectors, are addressing the broader issues affecting the civil justice systems: Nuclear Verdicts and Third-Party Litigation Financing.

Nuclear verdicts (jury verdicts of \$10+ million) have become a widespread phenomenon in the past decade, making them top of mind issues for ALEC members. Juries are now reaching verdicts higher than ever, producing awards in the tens of millions to several billions to individual plaintiffs. The unavoidable impact left on the price of consumer goods and services by these damage awards raises serious concerns of sustainability. With several factors playing into exorbitantly high verdicts, there is no "silver-bullet" solution to this problem. It instead requires state specific, tailored legislative efforts. ALEC's repertoire of civil justice model policies contribute in a variety of ways to this over-arching pattern of exorbitant wealth redistribution.

Third-Party Litigation Financing is a multimillion-dollar effort to fund widespread litigation as an investment strategy. It is a relatively new, yet growing phenomenon facing states across the nation. Such litigation funding is often anonymous, with courts not requiring the funding behind plaintiffs be known. States are beginning to address the matter with more urgency, finding ways to prevent this abuse of the justice system.

One of the more recent efforts to combat these issues includes the states mirroring the December 1, 2023 updates to Federal Rule of Evidence 702. Rule 702 governs the admissibility of expert testimony and was recently amended to more explicitly require courts to find – more likely than not – that a party's expert meets the substantive criteria of the rule, prior to admitting their testimony. Most states have rules that mirror or are similar to the federal rule, and several have followed suit in updating them, including Arizona in 2023, and Ohio, Kentucky, and Missouri and Louisiana in 2024. ALEC's [Reliability in Expert Testimony Standards Act](#) serves as another model resource to continue to help the states adjust their rules of evidence accordingly.

Model Policy

- [Reliability in Expert Testimony Standards Act](#)
- [Overtime Exceptions and Class Actions Prohibition Act](#)
- [Anchors Away Act](#)
- [Liability Protection for Employers in a Declared Disaster or Public Emergency Act](#)
- [Transparency in Lawsuits Protection Act](#)

EDUCATION FREEDOM

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Empowering Parents Through Education Freedom

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State lawmakers are increasingly recognizing that there is no such thing as one school that will best fit every student. While some students will be put in the best position for future success by attending their local public school, plenty of other students will realize a higher potential and become more productive citizens by attending a private school, home school, charter school, virtual school, or micro school. States should not discriminate against any valid form of learning. Instead, they can ensure a better future for America's students by ensuring that state education dollars are flexible and follow each student to the best learning environment for them.

As of 2024, 12 different states have passed programs that bring education freedom to every student. These states are West Virginia, Arizona, Arkansas, Iowa, Utah, Florida, Ohio, Indiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Alabama, and Louisiana.

As we outline in our new ALEC Index of State Education Freedom, states can also expand education freedom through policies on charter schools, open enrollment, homeschooling, and virtual schools. Likeminded lawmakers and organizations should also join the [Education Freedom Alliance](#).

Model Policy

- [The Hope Scholarship Act](#)
- [Protecting Religious Homeschooling Act](#)
- [Next Generation Charter Schools Act](#)
- [Open Enrollment Act](#)
- [Statewide Online Education Act](#)
- [Statement of Principles: Microschooling](#)

Publication

- [The ALEC Index of State Education Freedom: A 50-State Guide to Parental Empowerment](#)

Op-Eds

- [Fox News: Every Child Deserves Education Freedom. Let's Take It Nationwide](#)
- [National Review: Texas Needs Universal Education Freedom](#)
- [Des Moines Register: School Choice in Iowa Puts Students First, Delivers Freedom for Families](#)

Commentary

- [Myths vs. Facts: Education Freedom](#)
- [ALEC Annual Meeting: Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds on Universal Education Freedom](#)
- [A New Era for Louisiana with Universal Education Freedom](#)
- [Moore Money: Improving Education Outcomes and School Access](#)
- [Hugh Hewitt Show: Education Freedom Momentum in 2024](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [Alabama Sen. Arthur Orr and Rep. Danny Garrett Lead on Education Freedom](#)
- [Missouri Sen. Andrew Koenig and Rep. Doug Richey Expand Education Freedom](#)



Improving Literacy



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The National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) [shows](#) that less than half of fourth-grade students can read at a proficient level. Just 17% of black students, 21% of Latino students, and 10% of students with special needs are proficient in reading by the time they reach the fourth grade. States can address this crisis by ensuring that the latest science-backed instructional techniques are utilized to teach young students how to read.

Model Policy

- [The Science of Reading Act](#)

Higher Education Finance and Transparency



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One of the most important decisions that a student must make is whether they want to attend an institution of higher education, and which one. States should ensure that public funding for colleges and universities is dependent upon how many students graduate with a degree and whether those degrees are filling key workforce shortage areas for the state. Students should also be empowered with this data in an easily accessible and transparent manner.

Model Policy

- [Public Community College State Finance Program](#)
- [The Career Transparency Act](#)

Workforce Development



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A key issue in every state is how best to address workforce shortages across industries. From an education perspective, lawmakers can tackle these shortages by creating additional degree pathways for students. This includes the promotion and expansion of dual-enrollment programs, for example, which allow high school students to enroll in courses that count for both high school and college credit.

Model Policy

- [The Opportunity High School Diploma Act](#)
- [The Early College Education Program](#)

Addressing Controversial Curriculum



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Parents should have greater input with local school boards, including curriculum decisions. Local boards should also focus on providing great education for students in the trades.

Controversial curriculum in K-12 schools continues to be a major issue for lawmakers around the country. ALEC advocates for a two-pronged approach. The first is represented by our Academic Transparency Act and Honesty in Teaching Act, which both create mechanisms for parents to object to controversial material and file complaints with the school board when it is being taught. The Academic Transparency Act also requires all teaching and learning materials to be posted online, while the Honesty in Teaching Act creates professional development opportunities for teachers found to be teaching controversial curriculum in violation of the Act.

When families discover and object to this controversial curriculum, but the school district refuses to remove it, ALEC believes they should have an alternative. Our Hope Scholarship Act model policy, which is discussed in the above section, creates a universal education savings account program that parents can access to send their children to another school that better aligns with their values.

Model Policy

- [The Academic Transparency Act](#)
- [The Honesty in Teaching Act](#)

FUNCTIONAL FEDERALISM

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FUNCTIONAL FEDERALISM**2025**Essential
Policy
Solutions**Elections as the Founding Fathers Intended**Scan for ALEC
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America's Founding Fathers crafted a system of elections that is fair and ensures that smaller states still wield influence at the national level. However, these protections are being undermined systematically, as some want to experiment with the precious American right of suffrage. Emphasizing the importance of upholding our federal republic of the structure the constitutional framers devised – including but not limited to the Electoral College – will be of the utmost importance in 2025.

Additionally, special interests are pushing a novel and complicated election process called ranked-choice voting (RCV). Often, they try to enact this in local jurisdictions, creating a conflict between local and state election processes. RCV is promoted as a solution to perceived difficulties with voting in the US; however, it is more likely to exacerbate rather than mitigate elections problems in part because it is complicated. RCV's complexity causes more voter error, leading to electoral results that less accurately reflect voter sentiment.

Model Policy

- [Statement of Principles for Presidential Elections](#)
- [Safeguard American Votes and Elections Act \(SAVE ACT\)](#)
- [Only Citizens Vote Model Policy](#)
- [Citizen Only Voting Amendment](#)
- [Presumption of State Jurisdiction Amendments](#)
- [Constitutional Sovereignty Act](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [Leaders Safeguard American Votes in Five States](#)

PROTECTING INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

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Judicial Reform

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In the wake of the death of *Chevron* deference (*Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*), states are more focused on judicial reform than ever. With federal courts now prohibited from deferring to agency interpretations of the law, states are eager to follow suit; several have successfully implemented reforms even prior to the 2024 Supreme Court decision. Idaho, Indiana and Nebraska all eliminated judicial deference in 2024, while Iowa, Louisiana, and Oklahoma made efforts to do so. The issue of administrative law judges unilaterally adjudicating with limited oversight continues to be top of mind in the regulatory reforms space, but also in the larger civil justice realm. North Dakota recently addressed their administrative law judge issue, while Indiana successfully implemented reforms to make their adjudicating bodies in the regulatory realm more independent and accountable.

Model Policy

- [Independent Administrative Law Judges Act](#)
- [Judicial Deference Reform Act](#)
- [Emergency Power Limitation Act](#)

Commentary

- [SCOTUS Ends Chevron: ALEC Task Force Directors React](#)
- [How Overturning Chevron Affects Us](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [ALEC Policy Champions: Idaho Rep. Vito Barbieri and House Speaker Mike Moyle Protect Idahoans from Agency Overreach](#)
- [Indiana Rep. Gregory Steuerwald, Sen. Cyndi Carrasco, Sen. Eric Koch, and Sen. Chris Garten End Judicial Deference in the Hoosier State](#)

Campus Speech

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Resources

ALEC's Education and Workforce Development Task Force, in collaboration with the ALEC Center to Protect Free Speech, has passed two campus speech policies, the [Forming Open and Robust University Minds \(FORUM\) Act](#) and the [Free Speech in Higher Education Act](#). The FORUM Act requires that outdoor areas of public colleges and universities be deemed public forums where members of the campus community can express themselves freely. It requires these universities to educate students on their free speech rights and responsibilities and requires that administrators, campus police, etc. understand their role regarding free expression on campus. It also requires universities to report on free speech issues and allows alleged victims to bring a cause of action for a violation of their free speech rights. The FORUM Act has now been implemented in over 23 different states. In 2024, New Hampshire joined this list when Governor Chris Sununu signed HB 1305, which is consistent with the FORUM Act.



The Free Speech in Higher Education Act addresses specific concerns around student-on-student harassment that results in free speech violations (i.e. a student shouting down a classmate, thus preventing the classmate from being heard). It also bans the use of “bias response teams,” which some universities have used to intimidate students into silence under the threat of investigation.

Education on the First Amendment and what activity it protects will also be an important goal for 2025. Many illegal demonstrations have been mistakenly described as legal protest, such as the encampment protests that took place at Columbia and other universities this past year as well as blocking roads and vandalism. This year, ALEC has addressed these myths and provided the facts on the First Amendment and will continue to do so in 2025.

Model Policy

- [The Free Speech in Higher Education Act](#)
- [Forming Open and Robust University Minds \(FORUM\) Act](#)
- [Freedom from Indoctrination Act](#)

Commentary

- [Myths vs Facts: Free Speech](#)
- [Once Again, Harvard Ranks Dead Last in Free Speech Rankings](#)
- [U.S. House of Representatives Passes Campus Free Speech Legislation](#)
- [Antisemitism on Display at Columbia University “Encampment”](#)

Online Speech



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For decades, the internet has traditionally served as a great equalizer of free speech and a bastion of First Amendment values. Thanks to broadly supported policies enacted in the early days of the internet to minimize government regulation, the United States remains the undisputed global leader in the technology sector to this day.

However, recent reporting unveiled efforts by the Biden Administration to pressure social media platforms to remove online speech they disagree with or classify as misinformation, disinformation, or malinformation. In 2022, the Biden Administration was rightly criticized for its plan to create a Disinformation Governance Board housed within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, but further documents and reporting revealed the underlying work of this body continues.

Congress should address these repeated government efforts to curate online speech by investigating the full extent to which the Biden Administration pressured platforms to restrict or limit information online.

Model Policy

- [Resolution in Support of Congressional Law to Combat Government Pressuring of Social Media Platforms to Remove Speech](#)
- [Statement of Principles on Online Free Speech](#)

Commentary

- [Free Speech Online at Risk? Implications of the Murthy v. Missouri Decision](#)

Donor Privacy



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Resources



Protecting the privacy of donors to non-profit organizations is important in preventing the suppression of free speech. Over the past few years, states have considered legislation that requires nonprofit organizations to disclose their donors as well as their donors' donors through what is called "original source" donor disclosure.

Proponents of increased donor disclosure requirements claim this will increase transparency. In reality, it will intimidate individuals from supporting causes they believe in out of fear of harassment. Ultimately, this leads to suppression of speech. In the case of original source disclosure, this will also lead to people being publicly associated with organizations they never directly supported.

ALEC's [Resolution in Support of Nonprofit Donor Privacy](#) opposes efforts to expand donor disclosure requirements for 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. Our Statement of Principles on Philanthropic Freedom supports philanthropy and the privacy of individual donors.

Model Policy

- [Charitable Organizations Privacy Protection Act](#)
- [Statement of Principles on Philanthropic Freedom](#)
- [Resolution in Support of Nonprofit Donor Privacy](#)

Commentary

- [The Latest Threats to Donor Privacy](#)

Consumer Data Privacy



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Resources



For well over a decade, state and federal lawmakers have considered various legislative proposals regarding the use of consumer data in our increasingly digital and internet connected world. To date, at least 19 states have enacted so-called comprehensive data privacy laws: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, and Virginia. We expect this momentum to continue across the states in 2025 as Congress remains stalled on this issue.

ALEC maintains that a unified federal standard on consumer privacy is preferable to a 50-state patchwork. However, absent a federal solution, many states are likely to advance their own comprehensive privacy bills. When crafting privacy legislation, lawmakers must carefully balance the issues of consumer protection and child safety without hampering innovation and unduly burdening interstate commerce pursuant to Article I of the U.S. Constitution.

As part of this effort to balance privacy and innovation, ALEC members have already approved a model resolution opposing the development of a central bank digital currency (CBDC). While CBDCs are a significant financial innovation, they also open the door to granting the federal government significant control of and access to personal financial data and accounts. Nine states passed legislation against an American CBDC in 2024, and many more considered similar policies. As federal agencies continue to signal interest in developing a CBDC, states can play an important role in pushing back against this development.



Model Policy

- [Resolution for a Single Federal Standard for Consumer Privacy](#)
- [Principles on Online Privacy](#)
- [Privacy Protection Act](#)
- [Employee Online Privacy Act](#)
- [Reject CBDCs and Protect Financial Privacy Act](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [Indiana Sen. Eric Koch and Rep. Kyle Pierce Protect Hoosiers from Government-Run Central Bank Digital Currencies](#)

BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES

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Veterans Justice



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Veterans are often faced with significant life challenges after completing their service to our nation. Unfortunately, some find themselves involved with the justice system, often from issues and behaviors correlated to their service experience. Enabling courts to take these specific circumstances into account and provide alternative avenues for adjudication, while holding individuals accountable, is what veterans need and deserve. ALEC's [Veterans Justice Act](#) is a model that states can follow to do just that. In 2024, Nebraska took the lead in doing so.

Model Policy

- [Veterans Justice Act](#)

Commentary

- [Recognizing Sacrifice and Restoring Honor: The Veterans Justice Act](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [Nebraska Sen. Tom Brewer and Sen. Justin Wayne Protect Veterans in the Justice System](#)

Violent Crime Reduction



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Resources



To protect our communities, targeting and reducing violent crime in effective and responsible ways is critical to increase public safety in 2024 and beyond. While legislators are eager to crack down on crime in their states, it is crucial to understand that truly doing so means pursuing long-term, data-driven responses to efficiently target violent crime. Providing tailored support systems to both law enforcement and civilians to prevent crime cycles altogether should be the desired policy goal.

Model Policy

- [Resolution In Support of Effective Strategies to Support Law Enforcement and Reduce Violent Crime](#)
- [Resolution in Support of Enhancing Police Officer Training, Wellness, and Support Mechanisms](#)

Publication

- [Addressing Violent Crime: A Guide to Advancing Community Safety](#)

Justice System Cleanup

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Resources



To protect our communities, targeting and reducing violent crime in effective and responsible ways is critical to increase public safety in 2024 and beyond. While legislators are eager to crack down on crime in their states, it is crucial to understand that truly doing so means pursuing long-term, data-driven responses to efficiently target violent crime. Providing tailored support systems to both law enforcement and civilians to prevent crime cycles altogether should be the desired policy goal.

Model Policy

- [Act To Prepare Inmates for Re-Entry and The Workforce](#)
- [Resolution In Support of Victim-Offender Dialogue](#)
- [Elimination of Youth Justice Fines and Fees Act](#)
- [Record Expungement Act](#)
- [Resolution on Mental Health and Criminal Justice](#)

Commentary

- [States Can't Afford to Take Away People's Freedom to Drive](#)
- [Budget Gimmick: Using Fines and Fees to Pay Down Unfunded Liabilities](#)
- [States Look to Mental Health Reforms to Alleviate Stress on Justice System](#)

Housing and Land Use

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Resources



ACCE

Home ownership continues to be the [greatest source of wealth](#) for American families, but America is [millions](#) of homes short of meeting housing needs and demands. States can help address this problem through reforms that encourage housing development of all kinds.

Model Policy

- [Rent Control Preemption Act](#)
- [Factory-Built Housing Act](#)
- [Accessory Dwelling Units Act](#)
- [Statement of Principles on Ending Home Equity Theft](#)
- [Stop Squatters Act](#)
- [Statement of Principles on Illegal Possession of Private Property](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [South Dakota Sen. Jim Stalzer and Rep. Kirk Chaffee Eliminate Home Equity Theft](#)



School Security



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Resources



The safety and education of our children is of paramount importance, yet violence in our schools is increasing. States should pursue policies that empower local authorities to make decisions on school security, utilize proven technological innovations to identify threats faster and minimize the response time of law enforcement, and provide critical training and guidance to school officials so that they are prepared for a security incident.

Model Policy

- [Statement of Principles on School Safety and Security](#)
- [Use of AI Firearm Detection Software in Schools](#)

Combating Antisemitism



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Resources



Antisemitic incidents have been on the rise since Hamas' October 7, 2023 attack on Israel, especially on college campuses. While ALEC supports free expression in US educational institutions, this does not include the harassment and violence students have faced this past year. ALEC's [Act to Prohibit Antisemitism in K-20 Educational Institutions](#) strikes the appropriate balance between promoting speech and protecting students from antisemitic attacks, which are becoming dangerously more prevalent.

Model Policy

- [Act to Prohibit Antisemitism in K-20 Educational Institution](#)
- [Act to Adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\) Working Definition of Antisemitism](#)

Commentary

- [Antisemitism on Display at Columbia University "Encampment"](#)

Social Media and Youth Online Safety



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Resources



The subject of children's online safety was a top issue across state legislatures in 2024 and remains a critical priority for parents, educators, and government officials nationwide. Although some policy solutions like strict age verification mechanisms are often crafted with noble intentions to protect children online, some stakeholders have raised concerns about the unintended consequences of excessive government intervention in social media platforms and likely First Amendment concerns.

ALEC members offer a better approach that puts parents in the driver's seat and aims to prepare teens for the digital world by incorporating digital literacy and internet safety into the school curriculum. Such instruction in grades 6-12 would not only promote

healthy online behaviors and the benefits of responsible social media use, but also teach the negative effects of social media on topics like mental health, cyberbullying, and the permanency of sharing information online.

By teaching teens how to responsibly navigate online platforms, states can partner with parents to mitigate the risks and determine the appropriate level of use for each individual child. This approach allows our kids to develop the skills they need to become productive members of our digital-first future and advance in their careers, all while avoiding the perils of ever-expanding government overreach.

Model Policy

- [Teen Social Media and Internet Safety Act](#)
- [ALEC Statement of Principles for Teen Use of Social Media](#)

Enabling Innovation in Emerging Technologies



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Resources



The United States is on the cusp of another leap in technology innovation as promising emerging technologies inch closer to mainstream adoption, such as artificial intelligence, automation, advanced manufacturing, blockchain technologies, autonomous vehicles, virtual and augmented reality, and more. These groundbreaking technologies often disrupt the existing market, while legacy statutes and regulations can inhibit or prohibit the development and testing of such technologies.

Across the Atlantic, the European Union's years-long legislative rampage against American companies has worsened with the passage of two new laws: The Digital Markets Act (DMA) and Digital Services Act (DSA). For federal and state officials in the U.S., pushing back against these sweeping EU regulations – designed to damage successful American companies – should be a no-brainer.

Model Policy

- [Model State Artificial Intelligence Act](#)
- [Stop Deepfake CSAM Act](#)
- [Stop Non-Consensual Distribution of Intimate Deepfake Media Act](#)
- [Resolution Opposing the Imposition or Expansion of Digital Trade Barriers](#)

Publication

- [A Threat to American Tech Innovation: The European Union's Digital Markets Act](#)

Commentary

- [Letter to U.S. House AI Task Force: Support a Pro-Innovation Framework for Artificial Intelligence](#)

Op-Eds

- [The Orange County Register: Throttling Artificial Intelligence Will Come Back to Haunt California](#)
- [The Virginian-Pilot: With the Right Approach, Virginia Can Lead a Tech Revolution](#)
- [The Center Square: US Businesses Win When America Writes the Global Digital Rules](#)

INFRASTRUCTURE

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Cybersecurity

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Bad actors, global and domestic, will continue to attack networks for any number of purposes. State networks are still vulnerable and need to improve their cybersecurity infrastructure, as recent crippling cyber-attacks demonstrate.

The energy sector's interdependencies between physical and cyber infrastructure leaves the industry uniquely vulnerable to state-sponsored threats and sophisticated criminals. Although high-level threats are dealt with on the federal level, state and local governments must be prepared to deal with the initial first response to emergencies and disruptions.

Model Policy

- [Statement of Principles for Cybersecurity](#)
- [State Infrastructure Protection Act](#)

Broadband

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Resources

In recent years, federal and state governments have dedicated massive sums of taxpayer funding and resources for rural broadband deployment. One report estimates there are at minimum 16 federal programs totaling over \$400 billion dedicated to broadband expansion. With precious taxpayer dollars on the line and dozens of federal and state agencies involved, there is a risk that funds could be wasted on duplicative projects in areas that already enjoy broadband services, or on problematic government-owned networks with a long track record of failure.

One 2021 effort—the Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program—appropriated over \$42 billion to make high-speed broadband internet available to all Americans. To date, states have been stymied by regulatory red tape, and not one home has been connected through this program. Many BEAD projects will not even begin construction until 2026.

Federal agencies should work in tandem with states and localities to ensure broadband dollars are spent wisely, not squandered on counterproductive pet priorities. Such broadband projects must be rooted in free market principles that have been proven to improve access in unserved or underserved communities, particularly in rural areas. State lawmakers should work closely with their broadband program administrators to solve this problem in an all-of-the-above, technology-neutral fashion.

Model Policy

- [A Resolution on Network Neutrality](#)
- [Principles on Municipal/Government Owned Networks](#)
- [Resolution Supporting Pro Consumer Public Policy for Voice, Video, and Data Services](#)



Commentary

- [Myths vs. Facts: Net Neutrality](#)

Protecting Critical Infrastructure



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Resources



As one of the cornerstones of modern society, power infrastructure plays a critical role in delivering electricity to the vast majority of Americans. However, significant parts of this infrastructure, particularly electrical substations, [are vulnerable to unsophisticated attacks](#) that can easily be carried out by a single person.

Although electrical operators are continually working on building redundancy and security into our electrical infrastructure, the fact remains that if a relatively small percentage of the nation's 2,000+ high-power transformers are taken offline all at once, most of the country could lose power for weeks, if not months.

When it comes to critical infrastructure versus free speech, [protect both](#).

Model Policy

- [Critical Infrastructure Protection Act](#)

Commentary

- [Protecting Critical Infrastructure Amid Recent Substation Attacks](#)

HEALTHCARE

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HEALTHCARE

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Healthcare Freedom



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ALEC supports free market solutions to address healthcare concerns, such as provider shortages and increased access to care. These policies open up new alternatives for healthcare providers and benefit patients by giving them more options for their care.

Model Policy

- [Expanding Physicians Access Act](#)
- [Birth Freedom Act](#)
- [Pharmacists Prescribing Authority Act](#)
- [Associate Physician Act](#)
- [Safeguard the Right-To-Try Cutting Edge Medicine Act](#)

Commentary

- [Patients Win as States Recognize the Right to Try Cutting Edge Treatments](#)

Price Transparency



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Resources



Giving patients more information and, as a result, more control over their healthcare is the key to bringing down healthcare costs. Healthcare is one of the only industries where customers are expected to buy products or services without knowing the cost up front. Transparent costs will lead to more competition, which lowers prices. Laws like those passed on a bipartisan basis in Virginia, Texas, Rhode Island, and Colorado will help patients take more control over their care, better plan for healthcare needs and shop for the best value and best price.

Model Policy

- [Hospital Price Transparency Act](#)

Commentary

- [Transparency in Healthcare: It's Up to States to Lead](#)

ALEC Policy Champion

- [Rhode Island Senate Minority Leader Jessica de la Cruz Delivers Hospital Price Transparency](#)

Medicaid Reform

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Resources



Currently, all but 10 states expanded Medicaid under the “Affordable Care Act” (ACA) believing those generous federal matches were permanent. States that opted for Medicaid expansion, however, are already [contributing more](#) towards Medicaid spending than originally planned, causing some to warn that current Medicaid spending is unsustainable, especially with budget battles on the horizon. Meanwhile, expansion has diverted resources from low-income pregnant women, individuals with disabilities, seniors and children.

The vast majority of the waste, fraud, and improper spending in Medicaid comes from a failure to verify eligibility. Recent reports from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) show an estimated \$132 billion annually in improper payments and fraud. Cleaning up state Medicaid rolls will be a daunting but necessary task in 2025.

Model Policy

- [Requiring Legislative Approval for Medicaid Expansion Act](#)
- [Self Sufficiency in Medicaid Act](#)

Op-Eds

- [Medicaid Expansion Won't Save Mississippi's Rural Hospitals: Brooklyn Roberts in Magnolia Tribune](#)
- [Alabama's Hospital Crisis and The Medicaid Expansion Mirage: Brooklyn Roberts & Rep. Arnold Mooney in Yellowhammer News](#)

Commentary

- [Myths vs. Facts: Medicaid Expansion](#)

Prescription Drug Policy

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Resources



We continue to see [misguided efforts to lower the price of prescription drugs](#) on both a state and federal level. A new debate is also taking place over prescribing authority. Scope of practice reforms that would allow pharmacists and mid-level providers like psychologists to prescribe certain kinds of medication are going to be a hotly debated issue in 2025.

Publication

- [Price-Fixing Prescription Drugs Will Cost Us in Cures](#)

Commentary

- [The 340B Program and State Mandates](#)
- [Myths vs. Facts: 340B, Drug Discounts, and Price Fixing](#)



Securing Healthcare Data and Technology

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Resources



As technology and our personal devices continue to advance, much of our healthcare data is collected and maintained on apps, phones, and cloud-based systems. Looking at who has access to this data, how the data is kept secure, and ways policymakers can use the data to make better policy decisions will be increasingly discussed at both the federal and state levels.

Model Policy

- [Statewide Health Data Utility Act](#)
- [Resolution in Support of Telehealth Modernization Principles](#)

Healthcare Sharing

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A goal of our healthcare system should be to give patients safe and convenient options for accessing treatment. While traditional health insurance is most common and meets the needs of many, it is not the only way to pay for healthcare. Healthcare sharing is an important alternative. Giving patients different options to pay for their healthcare allows them to choose what best fits their needs.

Model Policy

- [Healthcare Sharing Ministries Freedom to Share Act](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [West Virginia Del. Michael Hornby and Sen. Michael Azinger Preserve Healthcare Freedom](#)

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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China's Threat Potential



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China has devised and is accelerating a highly sophisticated subnational strategy in the United States and has identified state and local governments as an American Achilles' heel to undermine federal legislation to counter the PRC's influence. As speakers from the Federalism and International Relations Task Force have observed, "Beijing is poised to subvert the subnational U.S. system, turning the country inside-out against itself." State and local governments must protect their institutions against influence by rogue global actors, including but not limited to China, and press the federal government to do its part on the national level.

While the federal government has mechanisms in place to protect national security, the states are highly vulnerable to Chinese influence campaigns through the United Front and other entities; China's acquisition of US rural lands; and the homeland security risks inherent in Chinese-manufactured technology.

Model Policy

- [An Act to Prohibit State Contracts with Chinese Government-Owned or Affiliated Technology Manufacturers](#)
- [State Infrastructure Protection Act](#)
- [An Act to Facilitate the Disclosure of Foreign Grants or Gifts Received by State Agencies](#)
- [Act to Identify and Support Certain Foreign-Related Transactions to the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States \(CFIUS\)](#)
- [Urging the United States Government to Keep the American People Safe and Healthy by Decreasing the Nation's Dependency on Foreign Manufactured Pharmaceutical Ingredients and Medicine, Particularly from China](#)
- [Resolution Urging US Universities to Relocate Chinese Language Programs from Mainland China to Taiwan](#)
- [Pacific Conflict Stress Test Act](#)

Strengthening Economic and Strategic Partnerships



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Resources



The United States is strongest when acting in concert with likeminded economic and strategic allies. Measures to strengthen these bonds can take the form of establishing ties between individual states and overseas partners, or a resolution encouraging the federal government to strengthen ties with a nation or region.

Model Policy

- [Resolution to Affirm Support for Israel and to Condemn Hamas](#)
- [Resolution Commending This State's and the United States' Cordial and Mutually Beneficial Relationship with the Nation of Israel](#)
- [Resolution in Support of Deepening Euro-Atlantic Integration of the Republic of Moldova](#)

- [Resolution to Prioritize Strengthening the US-Taiwan Partnership to Enhance Global Supply Chain Security and Resilience](#)
- [Resolution Supporting Taiwan's Meaningful Participation in International Organizations Including the International Civil Aviation Organization \(ICAO\) and Interpol](#)
- [Act to Prohibit State Procurement of Electric Vehicles with Forced Labor Components](#)

Commentary

- [One Year Later, ALEC Support for Israel Grows Stronger](#)

EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

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ACCE

Our Founding Fathers outlined their vision of how the government should be structured in the Federalist Papers and later enshrined it in the U.S. Constitution, hoping their design allowed each level of government to function properly and provide stability to the country. Since the Founders made no mention of local government in the Constitution, this necessarily implies that local governments are creations of state governments under their authority.

Within this context exist two types of governing authorities, Home Rule and the Dillon Rule. Home Rule gives local governments the authority to make broad legislative decisions not addressed by the state; Dillon Rule allows for local governments to only legislate what the state government has decreed. State governments created both authorities to help administer the functions of government, as it would be virtually impossible for state governments to administer public safety, infrastructure, and zoning ordinances without these political subdivisions. The Dillon Rule and Home Rule keep local governments focused on what they handle best: local matters. Whether the Dillon Rule or Home Rule governs a local government, states ultimately decide their powers.

Publication

- [Balancing State & Local Power](#)

Fiscal ResponsibilityScan for ALEC
Resources

ACCE



Fiscal responsibility with resident's tax dollars is one of the cornerstones of good government. Local leaders should prioritize transparency and accountability in how these funds are managed and spent. The Taxpayer Transparency Act directs the Department of Finance to create and maintain a searchable budget database website detailing where, for what purpose, and what results are achieved for all taxpayer investments in county government. The Local Taxpayer Protection Act requires a two-thirds vote by the Legislature to increase the property tax levy on county residents.

Additionally, the model Savings Incentive Partnership Program rewards county employees who develop proposals that increase productivity, conserve county resources, and/or reduce county costs.

Model Policy

- [Taxpayer Transparency Act](#)
- [Local Taxpayer Protection Act](#)
- [Savings Incentive Partnership Program](#)



Illegal Possession of Private Property

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Resources



ACCE



Crime and homelessness are significant factors that plague both large and smaller towns and cities. ACCE recently adopted statement of principles is meant to address the problems related to illegal possession of residential or commercial properties, also known as squatting.

Model Policy

- [Statement of Principles on Illegal Possession of Private Property](#)
- [Stop Squatters Act](#)

K-12 Governance and Education Freedom

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Resources



ACCE



Most Americans assume that public schools are accountable simply by virtue of being government entities. Despite that assumption, public schools often face no consequences when their students underperform. Much of this is driven by the fact that school board elections are typically held in off-cycle years when voter turnout is the lowest. Education is a critical issue, so lawmakers should ensure that as many voters as possible are able to vote in their local school board elections.

To enhance education freedom at the local level, the ACCE Model County Code Ordinance seeks to streamline the zoning ordinances as they related to educational startups such as micro or charter schools.

Model Policy

- [The School Board Election Date Act](#)
- [ACCE Model County Code Ordinance](#)

LEGISLATOR RECRUITMENT

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Revised 08/07/2024

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