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Essential Policy Solutions

A GUIDE TO EMPOWER
YOUR STATE



TABLE OF CONTENTS

About ALEC	3
Celebrating America 250 with Essential Policy Solutions	4
Best of 2025: Oklahoma Set the Standard	5
Policy Help Desk	6
ALEC Policy Centers & Task Forces	7
Economic Competitiveness	8
• How to Establish American Energy Dominance	
• How to Increase Government Efficiency	
• ALEC Government Efficiency Coalition	
• Regulatory Reform	
• State Budget Reform	
• Cutting the Strings of Federal Funding	
• How to Foster Economic Growth Through Tax Policy	
• Reforming State Tax Codes	
• Avoiding Discriminatory Taxes	
• Property Tax Reform	
• How to Solve Pension Problems	
• Getting Politics Out of Pensions	
• Addressing Unfunded Liabilities	
• How to Tackle the National Debt	
• How to Promote Economic Development	
• How to Protect Workers	
• How to Strengthen the Civil Justice System	
Education	18
• How to Empower Parents Through Education Freedom	
• How to Improve Test Scores	
• How to Minimize Chronic Absenteeism	
• How to Create Distraction-Free Learning Environments	
• How to Certify More High-Quality Teachers	
• How to Improve Higher Education Transparency	
• How to Fix Workforce Shortages	
• How to Address Controversial Curriculum	
Elections	24
• How to Make Elections Safe, Secure, and as the Founding Fathers Intended	

Protecting Individual Liberty [**26**](#)

- How to Reduce Agency Overreach
- How to Protect Free Speech on College Campuses
- How to Balance Free Speech and Online Safety
- How to Protect the Privacy of Donors
- How to Protect Consumer Data Privacy

Building Better Communities [**31**](#)

- How to Better Serve Our Veterans
- How to Reduce Violent Crime
- How to Clean Up the Justice System
- How to Encourage Housing Development
- How to Harden School Security
- How to Combat Antisemitism
- How to Keep Teens Safe on Social Media
- How to Promote Family Rights and Keep Children Safe
- How to Enable Innovation in Emerging Technologies

Infrastructure [**37**](#)

- How to Protect Governments from Cyber Attacks
- How to Deploy Broadband to Rural America
- How to Protect Critical Infrastructure

Health Care [**40**](#)

- How to Expand Health Care Freedom
- How to Lower Costs Through Price Transparency
- How to Reform Medicaid
- How to Craft Sound Prescription Drug Policy
- How to Secure Health Care Data

International Relations [**44**](#)

- How to Protect the States from China's Threat Potential
- How to Strengthen Economic and Strategic Partnerships

Effective Local Government [**47**](#)

- How to Balance State and Local Power
- How to Increase Fiscal Responsibility
- How to Stop Illegal Possession of Private Property
- How to Enhance Education Freedom and Accountability



ABOUT ALEC

Essential Policy Solutions for 2026 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.

SUPPORT ALEC

To support the work of ALEC in the states by making a tax-deductible gift, visit ALEC.org/donate.

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2026

Essential
Policy
Solutions

Celebrating America 250 with Essential Policy Solutions

Across the country, the celebration of July 4, 2026—the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence—is underway. This once-in-a-generation milestone is more than a celebration of our past; it's a movement to shape America's future.

For ALEC, the semi-quincentennial is a powerful opportunity to renew our commitment to the principles that built and sustained our republic—limited government, free markets, and federalism.

In 2025, ALEC members approved the [Resolution Commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States of America](#). This model resolution offers state lawmakers a simple way to honor America's 250th birthday and encourage their state's educational institutions to participate in the celebrations, enhance civics education, and promote our founding principles.

ALEC is also proud to be a member of the [America 250 Civics Education Coalition](#), a nationwide effort led by the U.S. Department of Education, America First Policy Institute (AFPI), Turning Point USA, and more than 40 other national and state-based organizations that is dedicated to renewing patriotism, strengthening civic knowledge, and advancing a shared understanding of America's founding principles in schools across the nation.

To honor America's founding, our hope is that state legislators utilize Essential Policy Solutions for 2026 as their go-to guide to empower states and shape America's future through principled policy ideas. Throughout this publication, you will find an ALEC Model Policy Checklist for each of our policy priorities, as well as ALEC Policy Champions (state legislators who have successfully implemented these policies), state rankings, expert commentary, and more.

Since 1973, the American Legislative Exchange Council has worked with elected officials and private sector leaders to develop trusted policy solutions for all Americans. Together, we will work together to create the greatest opportunities for all Americans to flourish by advancing and promoting the principles of limited government, free markets, and federalism.

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."

As you review these key policy ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out to our team if we can ever be of assistance.

Jonathan Williams

President &
Chief Economist

Lisa B. Nelson

Chief Executive Officer

*Empowering States,
Shaping America's Future*

Lee Schalk

Senior Vice
President of Policy



BEST OF 2025:

OKLAHOMA SETS THE STANDARD

In 2025, Oklahoma achieved a remarkable series of policy successes, setting the standard for other states to emulate in 2026. The Sooner State achieved major tax cuts, strengthened health care price transparency, and ensured greater judicial accountability by limiting deference to unelected agencies. At the same time, Oklahoma enacted broad tort reforms to protect consumers, curb frivolous litigation, and enhance its business environment. All of these accomplishments were in line with Essential Policy Solutions.



TAX REFORM

Oklahoma's HB 2764, signed into law in May of 2025, reduces the state's top income tax rate to 4.5% starting next year and allows its trigger to continue the reductions all the way to zero.



HOSPITAL PRICE TRANSPARENCY

In 2025, [ALEC recognized](#) Oklahoma Sen. Casey Murdock and Rep. Mark Lepak as Policy Champions for their leadership in passing SB 889, one of the strongest health care price transparency laws in the country.



JUDICIAL DEFERENCE AND REINS-STYLE LEGISLATION

In 2025, ALEC recognized Oklahoma Sen. Micheal Bergstrom and Rep. Gerrid Kendrix as Policy Champions for successfully carrying [HB 2728](#) and [HB 2729](#) through their respective chambers. These bills reduce agency overreach, as HB 2728 brings [REINS-style legislation](#) to Oklahoma, and HB 2729 ends judicial deference practices in its courts (consistent with the [ALEC Judicial Deference Reform Act](#)).

Together, these bills return rule-making authority to the legislature and reduce agency overreach in Oklahoma.



TORT REFORM

In 2025, the state enacted a broad tort reform package to deter frivolous litigation, promote transparency, and strengthen the state's business environment while protecting Oklahoma consumers and families.

Key measures include [SB 453](#), which re-establishes the noneconomic damages cap previously struck down in 2019 and aligns Oklahoma's evidentiary rules with the recently amended Federal Rule of Evidence 702. Complementing this, [HB 2619](#) requires disclosure of third-party litigation funding agreements, prohibiting foreign entities from secretly financing lawsuits in Oklahoma.



ALEC POLICY HELP DESK



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about ALEC policy resources?*

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contact an ALEC Policy Expert.*



alec.org/alec-policy-help-desk



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AMERICAN CITY COUNTY EXCHANGE



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EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT



ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT, AND AGRICULTURE



FEDERALISM, HOMELAND SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



JUDICIARY



PROCESS AND PROCEDURES



TAX AND FISCAL POLICY



VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS



2026 | ESSENTIAL POLICY SOLUTIONS

How to Establish American Energy Dominance

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Resources

Upon returning to the White House, President Trump outlined a vision for a new “Golden Age of America,” unabashedly powered by American innovation and American energy dominance. If we hope to restore manufacturing, win the global AI race, jump-start the auto industry, and increase our housing supply, we need to increase our energy supply – and fast.

States must support pro-growth policies that leverage our abundant natural resources to power today’s businesses and the economy of the future. Prioritizing market-driven energy solutions will not only lower electricity prices but also strengthen long-term energy security. A regulatory approach that encourages innovation and competition will lead to more efficient, affordable, and sustainable outcomes.

States can set clear, realistic standards for what qualifies as clean energy, ensuring taxpayer dollars fund resources that balance both environmental and economic priorities.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [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](#)
- [Energy Choice Resolution and Natural Gas](#)
- [Resolution in Opposition to a Carbon Tax](#)

How Does Your State Rank?

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

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [Lowering Energy Costs in America \(Real Clear Energy\)](#)
- [Energy Dominance Powering States' Success \(Washington Reporter\)](#)
- [Botched Energy Policies Are Driving High Energy Prices \(The Orange County Register\)](#)
- [California's Energy Diet \(The Orange County Register\)](#)
- [West Virginia and Oklahoma Make Energy and Permitting Reform Top Priorities for 2025 \(ALEC.org\)](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [Louisiana Rep. Jacob Landry Delivers Energy Reliability and Security](#)

How to Increase Government Efficiency



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ALEC Government Efficiency Coalition

During the 2024 States and Nation Policy Summit, ALEC announced the creation of the ALEC Government Efficiency (AGE) Coalition. During our monthly coalition meetings, we continue to solicit input on the best and brightest ideas for government waste reduction from our members and allies across America.

To get involved with the ALEC Government Efficiency Coalition, visit ALEC.org/AGE.

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [What DOGE Can Learn from the States \(Washington Examiner\)](#)
- [States Can Help Provide a Roadmap for DOGE \(American Radio Journal\)](#)
- [340B Program Should Be a Priority for DOGE \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Myths vs. Facts: Closing the Federal Education Bureaucracy \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [ALEC & DOGE Aligned on Countering Executive Overreach \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [DOGE Follows ALEC's Proven Solutions for Government Efficiency \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [States Creating Their Own DOGE Efforts \(Stateline\)](#)

Regulatory Reform

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 Checklist ✓

- [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](#)
- [An Act to Establish the Office of Regulatory Management](#)
- [Occupational Licensing Review Act](#)
- [State Constitutional Amendment: Jury-Determined Compensation for Property Devaluations Caused by Regulatory Takings](#)

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [The Office of Regulatory Management Makes Virginia a Leader on Regulatory Reform \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Digital Assets, Blockchain, and Cryptocurrency \(WIBW News\)](#)
- [Nebraska Looks to Increase Government Accountability and Transparency \(ALEC.org\)](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [North Carolina Rep. Chesser, Sen. Jarvis, Sen. Moffitt, and Sen. Sawrey Rein in Agency Overreach](#)
- [Oklahoma Sen. Bergstrom and Rep. Kendrix Reduce Agency Overreach](#)
- [Kentucky Representatives Williams, Banta, Fleming, Huff, Roberts, and Moser Pull Lawmaking Authority Back to Kentucky's Legislature](#)
- [ALEC Policy Champions Kansas Rep. Patrick Penn and Sen. Stephen Owens Reduce Barriers to Innovation](#)
- [Utah Rep. Wilcox and Sen. McCay Return Major Rule-Making Authority to Utah Legislature](#)
- [Montana Senator Greg Hertz Reduces Restrictions on Housing Options](#)
- [Kansas Sen. Renee Erickson and Rep. Barb Wasinger Protect Citizens from Agency Overreach](#)

Procedural Efficiency

To further its mission of ensuring government efficiency, ALEC launched the Process and Procedures Task Force, a new initiative promoting clear rules of engagement between government and its citizens. To safeguard liberty, there must be rules of engagement within the government, between different governments, and between the government and the people. The Process and Procedures Task Force will expand on ALEC's efforts to safeguard these rules and ensure they are made fairly and executed for the betterment of the American people.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [Statement of Principles on Process and Procedures](#)
- [Resolution to Restore Citizenship on the United States Census](#)
- [Presumption of State Jurisdiction Amendments](#)
- [Constitutional Sovereignty Act](#)

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 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.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [72- Hour Budget Review Act](#)
- [Federal Grant Review Act](#)
- [Federal Receipts Reporting Requirements Act](#)
- [Tax and Expenditure Limitation Act](#)
- [Taxpayer Receipt Act](#)
- [State Constitutional Amendment to Oppose New State Taxes, Increased Spending, and Debt without Voter Approval](#)
- [Spending Evaluation Act](#)

Does Your State Have a Fiscal Rule?

- [FiscalRules.org](#)
 - [VIDEO: How States Can Design Fiscal Rules to Protect Taxpayers](#)

Publication

- [State Budget Reform Toolkit](#)

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [Testimony on Proposed Arkansas TABOR Amendment \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [A Lesson From Iowa on Government Reform \(The Hill\)](#)
- [The Pro-Taxpayer Formula for Economic Success \(Governing Magazine\)](#)
- [The Future of the SALT Deduction \(The Epoch Times\)](#)
- [Thank You, TABOR: Colorado Owes \\$1.7 Billion to Taxpayers \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Why Tighter Budgets Might Be Better for States in the Long Run \(Governing Magazine\)](#)
- [Colorado Offers the Gold Standard for Fiscal Restraint \(National Review\)](#)

Cutting the Strings of Federal Funding

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 reduction.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [Federal Funds Oversight Act](#)

How to Implement 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 18 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, more than half of 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.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [ALEC Principles of Taxation](#)

What is Your State's Economic Outlook?

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

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [Tax-Cutting Governors Experience Growth \(Real Clear Policy\)](#)
- [The Pro-Taxpayer Formula for Economic Success \(Governing Magazine\)](#)
- [The Ten Golden Rules of Taxation \(American Radio Journal\)](#)
- [How States are Eliminating the Personal Income Tax \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [A Turning Point for Ohio's Economy \(American Radio Journal\)](#)
- [Louisiana Exodus Replaced by Economic Comeback \(The Hugh Hewitt Show\)](#)

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 Checklist ✓

[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 Checklist ✓

[Truth-in-Taxation Act](#)

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [The Impact of Property Taxes \(American Radio Journal\)](#)
- [Iowa Can Become a Model for Property Tax Reduction \(Governing Magazine\)](#)

How to Solve Pension Problems



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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 Checklist ✓

- [State Government Employee Retirement Protection Act](#)

Publication

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

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [New Ohio Law Follows ALEC Model to Protect Pensioners and Taxpayers \(ALEC.org\)](#)

Addressing Unfunded Pension Liabilities

As noted in the latest edition of 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.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [Modernizing Public Sector Defined Contribution Plans Act](#)
- [Defined-Contributions Pension Reform Act](#)
- [ALEC Statement of Principles on Sound Pension Practices](#)

How Does Your State Rank?

- [Unaccountable and Unaffordable, 7th Edition](#)



How to Tackle the National Debt

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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. It is imperative to address the federal government's unsustainable spending habit and to begin chipping away at the national debt, which has surpassed \$38 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 Checklist ✓

- [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](#)
- [Resolution Recognizing the Seriousness of the National Debt and Its Threat to National Security](#)

Sign the Letter on the National Debt

- [ALEC & SFOF Letter to the President and Congress on our National Debt Crisis](#)

How to Promote Economic Development

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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. States can encourage business development and new American infrastructure by implementing policies that lower barriers to private sector innovation and remove unnecessary regulations.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [The Home-Based Business Fairness Act](#)
- [Establishing a Public-Private Partnership \(P3\) Office Act](#)
- [Right to Start Act](#)
- [State Permit Transparency and Efficiency Act](#)
- [Open Contracting Act](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

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

How to Protect Workers



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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 Checklist ✓

- [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](#)
- [Right to Work Act](#)
- [The Model Interstate-Mobility and Universal-Recognition Occupational Licensing Act](#)
- [Collateral Consequences Reduction Act](#)
- [Prohibition on Paid Union Activity \(Release Time\) by Public Employees Act](#)
- [Public Employee Rights and Authorization Act](#)
- [E-Verify Requirement Act](#)

Where Does Your State Rank in Worker Freedom?

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

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [Worker Freedom Starts in the States \(Townhall\)](#)
- [Arizona No. 1 State for Worker Freedom \(The Center Square\)](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [Utah Rep. Jordan Teuscher and Sen. Kirk Cullimore Increase Government Accountability to Taxpayers](#)
- [Arkansas Rep. Ray, Sen. Gilmore, and Sen. Dotson ALEC Policy Champions Increase Flexibility for Workers, Advocate for Taxpayers](#)



How to Strengthen the Civil Justice System

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Nuclear verdicts (jury verdicts of \$10+ million) have become a widespread phenomenon in the past decade, 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.

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.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [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](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [Georgia Sen. Kennedy, Rep. Burchett, and Gov. Kemp Strengthen Georgia's Civil Justice System](#)

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [**Idaho Moving Quickly to Prevent Meritless Lawsuits with Anti-SLAPP Bill \(ALEC.org\)**](#)

NOTES:

EDUCATION



2026 | ESSENTIAL POLICY SOLUTIONS

How to Empower Parents Through Education Freedom

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Resources



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.

Since the Hope Scholarship became law in West Virginia, 16 additional states (as of 2025) have joined in creating education freedom programs that are available to all, or nearly all, students in their state. The result? Twenty-two million kids, about 40% of K-12 students nationwide, now have access to an education freedom program.

As we outline in the 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 Checklist ✓

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

Where Does Your State Rank on Education Freedom?

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

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [Texas Launches Nation's Largest Universal Education Savings Account Program \(The Daily Caller\)](#)
- [Families First: Setting the Record Straight on Education Freedom in West Virginia \(The Center Square\)](#)
- [Myths vs. Facts: Education Freedom \(ALEC.org\)](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [Tennessee Gov. Lee, Lt. Gov. McNally, Speaker Sexton, House Majority Leader Lamberth, and Senate Majority Leader Johnson Drive Education Freedom in Tennessee](#)
- [Texas Gov. Abbott, Lt. Gov. Patrick, Speaker Burrows, Sen. Creighton, and Chairman Buckley Deliver Universal Education Freedom to Texas](#)
- [Texas Sen. Bettencourt and Rep. Bell Expand Virtual Learning](#)
- [Wyoming Speaker Nieman, Rep. Andrew, and Senate President Biteman Deliver Universal Education](#)
- [New Hampshire Sen. Sullivan, Rep. McDonnell, and Gov. Ayotte Expand Education Freedom in the Granite State](#)

How to Improve Test Scores



Scan for ALEC Resources



States are increasing the quality of instruction and materials in a variety of ways. One of the most recognizable is modeled in ALEC's Science of Reading Act, which requires the use of evidence-based literacy instruction in public elementary schools. According to Education Week, 40 states have passed laws or policies related to this since 2013.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [The Science of Reading Act](#)

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [NAEP Scores Signal Urgent Need for Change in American Education \(ALEC.org\)](#)

How to Minimize Chronic Absenteeism



Scan for ALEC Resources



The NAEP data released in September 2025 reported that 31% of 12th graders reported missing 3 or more days of school in the month prior to taking the assessment. In 2019, this number was 25%. Chronic absenteeism is a rising challenge that states are starting to address. ALEC's Chronic Absenteeism Model Policy utilizes best practices for addressing this issue, like creating an early-warning system for students at risk of being chronically absent, implementing better attendance monitoring policies, and creating high-quality plans to address attendance issues among individual students.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [Chronic Absenteeism Model Policy](#)

How to Create Distraction-Free Learning Environments

Scan for ALEC Resources



Cell phones at school are a major negative factor affecting student learning. In 2024, one survey of high school teachers found that 72% of them said cell phones were “a major problem in the classroom.” In 2025, 22 states responded by passing new laws addressing this issue. Notably, this includes a mix of both red and blue states. ALEC’s Limiting Student Use of Cell Phones in K-12 Schools Act requires local school districts to adopt policies that limit student cell phone use. While the model lays out a minimum threshold for limiting student cell phone use, school districts are free to enact stricter policies if they choose to do so. In addition, teachers are empowered to permit cell phone usage for instructional purposes at any time.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [Limiting Student Use of Cell Phone in K-12 Schools Act](#)

How to Certify More High-Quality Teachers

Scan for ALEC Resources



There are more than 411,000 teaching positions across the country that are either unfilled or filled by a teacher who lacks full certification. ALEC’s Alternative Teacher Credentialing Act creates a new pathway for prospective teachers to obtain their certification through a program not offered by a college or university. These programs are especially beneficial for adult learners who might be interested in the teaching profession but lack the financial resources or time commitments required by traditional certification pathways.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [Alternative Teach Credentialing Act](#)



How to Improve Higher Education Transparency

Scan for ALEC
Resources

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 Checklist ✓

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

How to Fix Workforce Shortages

Scan for ALEC
Resources

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 Checklist ✓

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



How to Address Controversial Curriculum



Scan for ALEC Resources



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 Checklist ✓

- The Academic Transparency Act
- The Honesty in Teaching Act

NOTES:

ELECTIONS



2026 | ESSENTIAL POLICY SOLUTIONS

How to Make Elections Safe, Secure, and as the Founding Fathers Intended

Scan for ALEC
Resources

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 2026.

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 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 Checklist ✓

- [Statement of Principles on Elections](#)
- [Valid Voter Identification Act](#)
- [Protecting Election Administration from Private Influence Act](#)
- [Election Crime Prosecution Act](#)
- [Mail Voting Deadlines Act](#)
- [One Citizen, One Vote Act](#)
- [Statement of Principles for Presidential Elections](#)
- [Only Citizens Vote Model Policy](#)
- [Citizen Only Voting Amendment](#)

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [Ballots by Prime \(The Blaze\)](#)
- [Can Texas Hold 'Em? \(Daily Caller\)](#)
- [Consolidating Elections \(NPR\)](#)
- [Virginia Takes Steps to Secure Elections \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Election Timing is Critical for Voter Turnout \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [West Virginia Leads the Charge in Securing Elections \(ALEC.org\)](#)

NOTES:

PROTECTING INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY



2026 | ESSENTIAL POLICY SOLUTIONS



PROTECTING INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY

2026

Essential
Policy
Solutions

How to Reduce Agency Overreach

Scan for ALEC Resources



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. In 2025, more than 13 states have introduced aligned anti-deference bills, five of which—Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas—prevailed. 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.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- Independent Administrative Law Judges Act
- Judicial Deference Reform Act
- Emergency Power Limitation Act

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [One Year Later: A World Without 'Chevron Deference' \(The Hill\)](#)
- [SCOTUS Ends Chevron: ALEC Task Force Directors React \(ALEC.org\)](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [Missouri Sen. Schroer, Rep. Keathley, and Gov. Kehoe Eliminate Judicial Deference](#)
- [Kentucky Senators Rawlings, Frommeyer, Nunn, Reed, Tichenor, and Wheeler Strengthen Kentucky's Judicial Branch](#)
- [Oklahoma Sen. Bergstrom and Rep. Kendrix Reduce Agency Overreach](#)

Scan for ALEC Resources



How to Protect Free Speech on College Campuses



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 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 2026. 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 2026.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

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

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [Equal Campus Access Act Introduced in U.S. Senate \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Speech Is Not Violence. Violence Is Not Free Speech. \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Violent College Protesters Didn't Defend Free Speech—They Undermined It \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [A Win for Free Speech on Campus in Idaho \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Universities Adopt Institutional Neutrality Policy to Promote Free Speech \(ALEC.org\)](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [Idaho Sen. Ben Toews Protects Free Speech Against Indoctrination and Suppression at Idaho Universities](#)
- [Ohio State Sen. Jerry Cirino Protects Free Speech and Restores Academic Excellence on Ohio Campuses](#)
- [Idaho Rep. Ehardt and Sen. Cook Protect Free Speech on Idaho's College Campuses](#)

How to Balance Free Speech and Online Safety

Scan for ALEC Resources



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.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

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

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [Balancing Free Speech and Online Safety in the AI Era \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Free Speech Concerns with Legislation Regulating Use of AI \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Meta's New Free Speech Policy is a No-Brainer \(The Orange Country Register\)](#)
- [Free Speech Isn't Welcome on RedNote App \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [President Trump Signs Executive Order Protecting Free Speech \(ALEC.org\)](#)

How to Protect the Privacy of Donors

Scan for ALEC 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.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

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

ALEC Amicus Brief

- [First Choice Women's Resource Centers, Inc. v. Platkin](#)

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [Threats to Donor Privacy in 2025 \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Weaponized Government Threatens Free Speech \(The Hugh Hewitt Show\)](#)

Scan for ALEC Resources



How to Protect Consumer Data Privacy



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. 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). CBDCs also open the door to granting the federal government significant control of and access to personal financial data and accounts.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [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

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [The UK's War on Privacy is a Warning for America \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Crypto Innovation and Preserving Financial Privacy \(Detroit's Morning Answer\)](#)

NOTES:

BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES



2026 | ESSENTIAL POLICY SOLUTIONS

BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES

2026

Essential
Policy
Solutions**How to Better Serve our Veterans**Scan for ALEC
Resources

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.

Additionally, ALEC launched the Veterans and Military Affairs Task Force to address the needs of veterans, service members, and their families. The new initiative will focus on tackling the challenges veterans and service members face, creating practical and actionable model policies that deliver meaningful results for a community that has given so much to our country.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [Veterans Justice Act](#)
- [Statement of Principles on Effective Veterans and Military Affairs Policy](#)

ALEC Expert Commentary

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

ALEC Policy Champions

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

How to Reduce Violent CrimeScan for ALEC
Resources

To protect our communities, targeting and reducing violent crime in effective and responsible ways is critical to increase public safety in 2026 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 Checklist ✓

- [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](#)

How to Clean Up the Justice System

Scan for ALEC Resources



The criminal justice systems in the United States, while the best in the world, face a significant amount of strain. The states are reforming their laws to provide alternatives and opportunities to individuals with high levels of potential, while prioritizing the prosecution of serious, violent crime. Employing such reforms cleans up and maximizes the efficiency of our systems, reduces the likelihood of violent crime occurring in the future, and better applies the rule of law.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [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](#)

How to Encourage Housing Development

Scan for ALEC Resources



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 Checklist ✓

- [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](#)
- [Private Property Restoration Act](#)
- [FAIR Zoning Act](#)
- [Third-Party Challenges to Development Permits](#)
- [By-Right Housing Development Act](#)
- [The Safe Harbor from Excessive Exactions Act](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

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

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [Housing Reform Across the States \(Stateline\)](#)

How to Harden School Security



Scan for ALEC 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 Checklist ✓

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

How to Combat Antisemitism



Scan for ALEC 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 in recent years. 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 Checklist ✓

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

How to Protect Teens Safe on Social Media



Scan for ALEC Resources



The subject of children's online safety 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 Checklist ✓

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

ALEC Policy Champions

- [Tennessee Rep. Maberry and Sen. Powers Sets New Standard for Responsible Tech Use in Schools](#)

Scan for ALEC Resources



How to Promote Family Rights and Keep Children Safe



Promoting family rights helps ensure that every child grows up in a supportive and nurturing environment where their emotional and physical needs are met. Protecting children from harm is essential for their healthy development and for building stronger, safer communities.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [Child Protection Investigations Reform Act](#)
- [Family Rights in Medical Investigations Act](#)
- [The Kinship Care and Fictive Kin Reform Act](#)
- [Relative Search Act](#)
- [Central Registry Reform Model Legislation](#)
- [Confidential Reporting Act](#)

Scan for ALEC Resources



How to Enable Innovation in Emerging Technologies



Promising emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, automation, advanced manufacturing, blockchain technologies, autonomous vehicles, virtual and augmented reality are becoming mainstream. 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 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 Checklist ✓

- [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](#)
- [Right to Compute Act](#)
- [Technology-Neutral Anti-Discrimination Clarification Act](#)
- [Artificial Intelligence Tax Non-Discrimination Act](#)

Publication

• A Threat to American Tech Innovation: The European Union's Digital Markets Act

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [Navigating AI Policy \(Let People Prosper Show\)](#)
- [Testimony on Digital Assets and Cryptocurrency Innovation in Michigan \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [How States Can Help President Trump Usher in a Golden Age of AI \(ALEC.org\)](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [Utah Sen. Kirk Cullimore and Rep. Jefferson Moss Lead the Way on State Artificial Intelligence Legislation](#)

NOTES:

INFRASTRUCTURE



2026 | ESSENTIAL POLICY SOLUTIONS

INFRASTRUCTURE

2026

Essential
Policy
Solutions**How to Protect Governments from Cyber Attacks**Scan for ALEC
Resources

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 Checklist ✓

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

How to Deploy Broadband to Rural AmericaScan for ALEC
Resources

In recent years, federal and state governments have dedicated massive sums of taxpayer funding and resources for rural broadband deployment. 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 Checklist ✓

- [A Resolution on Network Neutrality](#)
- [Principles on Municipal/Government Owned Networks](#)
- [Resolution Supporting Pro Consumer Public Policy for Voice, Video, and Data Services](#)
- [Statement of Principles on Broadband Internet Access Service Non-Regulation](#)

ALEC Expert Commentary

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



How to Protect Critical Infrastructure

Scan for ALEC 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 Checklist ✓

Critical Infrastructure Protection Act

NOTES:

HEALTH CARE



2026 | ESSENTIAL POLICY SOLUTIONS

How to Expand Health Care Freedom

Scan for ALEC
Resources

Free market solutions are essential to address health care concerns, such as provider shortages and increased access to care. These policies open up new alternatives for health care providers and benefit patients by giving them more options for their care.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

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

How to Lower Costs Through Price Transparency

Scan for ALEC
Resources

Giving patients more information and, as a result, more control over their health care is the key to bringing down health care 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.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [Hospital Price Transparency Act](#)
- [Site Neutral Payments Act](#)

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [States Realize the Importance of Price Transparency in Healthcare \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Health Care Price Transparency Is Having a Michigan Moment \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [President Trump Can Fix Biden's Price Fixing Fiasco \(ALEC.org\)](#)

ALEC Policy Champion

- [Oklahoma Sen. Murdock and Rep. Lepak Ensure Health Care Price Transparency for Oklahoma Patients](#)
- [Representatives Barhorst and Ferguson Deliver Price Transparency for Ohio Patients](#)

How to Reform Medicaid



Scan for ALEC
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 2026.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

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

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [Costly COVID-Era Subsidies Lead to Government Shutdown \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Restoring the Integrity of Medicaid in Indiana \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [States Should Implement Creative Medicaid Reforms \(The Center Square\)](#)
- [Myths vs. Facts: Medicaid Expansion \(ALEC.org\)](#)

How to Craft Sound Prescription Drug Policy



Scan for ALEC
Resources



We continue to see misguided efforts to lower the price of prescription drugs on both a state and federal level. History has repeatedly shown that fixing the price of any good or service does not achieve the intended goal—no matter how well intentioned.

Model Policy Checklist ✓

- [340B Transparency and Accountability Act](#)

Publication

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

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [340B Impact on States, Taxpayers, and the Health Care System \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [How the 340B Drug Program Is Driving Up Costs For States and Employers \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Myths vs. Facts: 340B, Drug Discounts, and Price Fixing \(ALEC.org\)](#)



How to Secure Health Care Data

Scan for AEC
Resources



As technology and our personal devices continue to advance, much of our health care 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 Checklist ✓

- Statewide Health Data Utility Act
- Resolution in Support of Telehealth Modernization Principles

NOTES:

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS



2026 | ESSENTIAL POLICY SOLUTIONS



How to Protect the States from China's Threat Potential

Scan for ALEC
Resources



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.

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 Checklist ✓

- [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](#)
- [Resolution to Oppose the People's Republic of China's \(PRC's\) Misuse of United Nations Resolution 2758 to Delegitimize Taiwan and Exclude Taiwan from International Organizations](#)
- [An Act Restraining State and Local Governmental Use of Mobile or Online Software Applications and Electronic Devices under Control of a Foreign Adversary](#)

ALEC Expert Commentary

- [Identifying Bad Actors in Our Supply Chains \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Addressing Maryland Security Vulnerabilities \(ALEC.org\)](#)
- [Seven Things You Can't Say about China: Insights from US Senator Tom Cotton \(ALEC.org\)](#)

How to Strengthen Economic and Strategic Partnerships

Scan for ALEC
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 Checklist ✓

- [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](#)
- [Resolution on the Importance of Strengthening the United States' Medical Supply Chains with Trusted Trading Partners](#)

ALEC Policy Champions

- [West Virginia Sen. Rucker and Assistant Majority Whip Ridenour Support Taiwan Participation in International Institutions](#)

NOTES:

EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT



2026 | ESSENTIAL POLICY SOLUTIONS

EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

2026

Essential
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SolutionsHow to Balance State and Local Power

ACCE

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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](#)

How to Increase Fiscal Responsibility

ACCE

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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 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 Checklist ✓

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

How to Stop Illegal Possession of Private Property

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Crime and homelessness are significant factors that plague both large and smaller towns and cities. ACCE has 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 Checklist ✓

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

How to Enhance Education Freedom and Accountability

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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 Checklist ✓

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

NOTES:



*Empowering States,
Shaping America's Future*