



National League of Cities

A Letter from NLC Executive Director Clarence Anthony

As my first year as Executive Director of the National League of Cities (NLC) comes to a close, I'm proud of all that we have accomplished in just 12 months. We've put in place a bold, new [three year strategic plan](#) and set the course for NLC to become the most relevant, powerful force for cities that it can be. We will be implementing the strategic goals outlined in the plan in the coming year, and we greatly look forward to your input and feedback throughout this process. As state municipal leagues you are important to the success of the National League of Cities.

2013 was a successful year for NLC, and 2014 promises to be just as eventful and productive for NLC and for cities nationally. Despite a tenuous economic recovery and continued federal partisan gridlock, cities across the country are experiencing renewed optimism and a sense that today's challenges can be met through creative local leadership. Regardless of the issue, mayors, councilmembers, and city staff are working tirelessly to address our country's most significant problems.

As we at NLC know so well, the work of local officials is never done. Cities are where government is closest to the people and where real change is happening. From economic development to transportation, city-led innovation is paving the way for continued prosperity in our nation.

We are committed to representing cities and championing this innovation through the dissemination of resources and best practices and through our conferences and other events, including state municipal league meetings. In 2014, we are continuing our important journey towards becoming "One NLC", a unified, cohesive organization that works hand in hand with both state leagues and local officials to solve real world problems in practical ways.

In partnership with your state municipal league, we are also committed to being a stronger lobbying force that provides THE voice on Capitol Hill for cities on the issues that impact them the most. After having served as President of both the Florida League of Cities and the National League of Cities, and now as NLC's Executive Director, I am at a unique vantage point to truly understand the importance of strong local government representation at the federal level.

It is a privilege to advocate for cities throughout America on the issues that matter most, and to work with you to create more vibrant communities that provide economic opportunity, quality education, and plentiful opportunities for your residents. 2014 is going to be all about continuing to connect with cities all over America through our advocacy and programming.

It's never been a better time to be a member of the National League of Cities. Join us now to capitalize on the opportunity to make your voice heard and make a difference on the issues that matter most to you.

As always, thank you for all that you do!

Clarence Anthony
Executive Director
National League of Cities