



WEST

LEVIN CENTER



FOR OVERSIGHT
AND DEMOCRACY

Legislative Exchange:
Ensuring Transparency, Accountability and Efficiency
of U.S. Infrastructure Investments

CSG West

Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy

Jim Townsend, Director

October 21st, 2022



WAYNE STATE
Law School

Agenda

- About the Levin Center
- Legislative oversight basics and examples
- Oversight of infrastructure investments
- State oversight best practices
- State Oversight Academy (2023)

About the Levin Center

Advance Oversight & Strengthen Democracy

- Build oversight capacity at federal, state, local levels and abroad
- Empower lawmakers to expose abuses, ensure effective governance, and bring critical facts to light for the benefit of all

About the Levin Center

Restore America's Fact -Based Public Square

- Promote civil discourse and a shared appreciation for and understanding of relevant facts
- Encourage exchange across the political divide that builds mutual respect and empathy



About the Levin Center

How we Go about our Work

- Workshops and Trainings
- Research and Scholarship
- Convenings
- Online Resources for Lawmakers (State Oversight Academy)
- Commentary in the Media and Courts

Legislative Oversight Basics and Examples

Six Dimensions

- ✓ Analytic Bureaucracies (Auditors, Fiscal, Ombudsman, etc.)
- ✓ Appropriations
- ✓ Advice & Consent
- ✓ Administrative Rule Review
- ✓ Committees
- ✓ Contracts

Examples

- Child welfare services (State Sen. Sarah Gelser Blouin (OR))
- Corrections (April 4, 2021 panel)
- Pandemic response (May 4, 2021 panel)

The Levin Center for Oversight and Democracy

Advancing Oversight, Strengthening Democracy

Research, events, workshops to carry on the legacy of Senator Carl Levin

2022 Wayne Law Review Oversight Symposium

- Oversight, Infrastructure, and Federalism: Ensuring Transparency, Accountability, and Effectiveness of U.S. Infrastructure Investments



Legislative Oversight of Infrastructure Investments

Capacity Building, Design & Practice

Performance of infrastructure programs

- Include assessment of past performance and future projections
- Assign to a specific legislative committee at least a quarterly review of high dollar, high risk infrastructure investments
- Include repair and safety as part of oversight efforts

Institutional capacity to oversee implementation

- Entity with legislative representation tasked with reviewing projects and contracts
 - ✓ E.g., add legislative representation to State Administrative Boards drafting and approving contracts
- Rigorous and timely investigations and reports from committees, using data shared by contractors and relevant agencies

Legislative Oversight of Infrastructure Investments

Contracting

In the contract

- Essential oversight elements: performance data, cooperation with agency and auditor, oversight costs
- Performance metrics: outcomes > organizational structure and process
- Incentivize cooperation, reciprocal relationship where reputation matters

Improving governmental contracting

- Public/private sector advisory committees
- Review contractor's power over decisions impacting contract oversight and accountability
- Update cost estimates every three years

Legislative Oversight of Infrastructure Investments

Data and Measurement

Infrastructure condition, safety, and performance management results.

- Movement of people, car and non-car transportation

Electric vehicle charging stations

- Data on charger use, reliability, and performance

Public website to track spending and contract progress

- Similar to state websites set up to monitor pandemic response contracts

State Oversight Best Practices

- Power of a phone call
- Plan, a vision for oversight in upcoming session
- Increase visibility and public discourse
- Working together to find facts
- Research, more best practices, tutorials on our website
 - www.levin-center.org

State Oversight Academy (2023)

- Improve state legislative oversight
- Promote and elevate oversight scholarship
- Cultivate and exchange best practices
- Increase oversight visibility and stimulate public discourse
- Orientations and workshops for legislators and legislative staff
- Online tutorials and extensive materials: <https://levin-center.org>

CONNECT WITH US



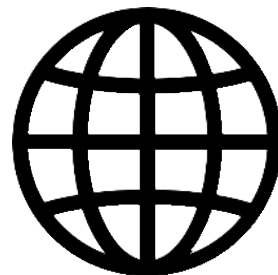
FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/LevinCenterforOversightandDemocracy>



TWITTER: https://twitter.com/Levin_Center



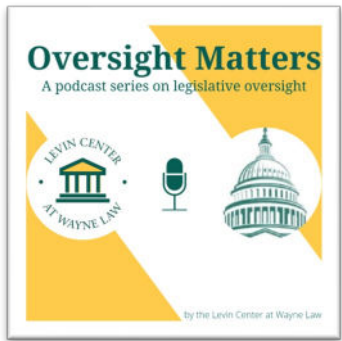
YOUTUBE



WEBSITE: www.levin-center.org



NEWSLETTER



PODCAST

Advancing Oversight. Strengthening Democracy.

Contact info: benjamin.eikey@wayne.edu or jimtownsend@wayne.edu

Website for Wayne Law Review Oversight Symposium:

<https://levin-center.org/levin-center-at-work/2022-wayne-law-review-oversight-symposium/>

