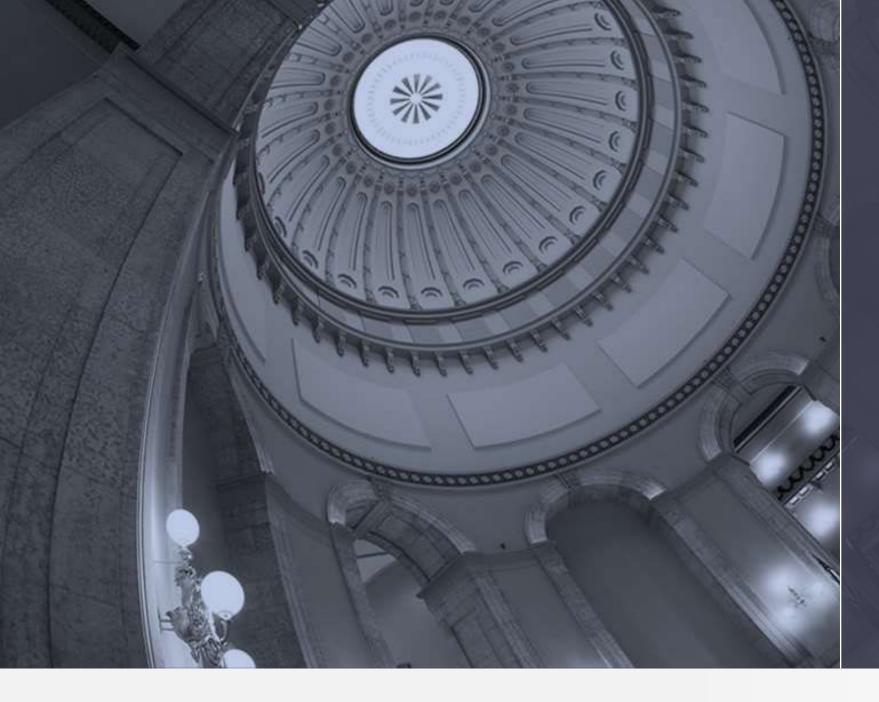
# **MNCSL** State Legislative Overview, ARPA Update, Agriculture Policy

Mindy Bridges, project manager, NCSL Environment, Energy & Transportation

Emily Maher, project manager, NCSL Fiscal Affairs



# MNCSL

Strengthening the legislative institution

### How NCSL Strengthens Legislatures





### Examples of NCSL's Work



### Agriculture Task Force

- Meets in person at least twice per year
- Members are appointed by legislative leadership.
  - Senate and House Agriculture Committee Chairs
  - Farmers
  - Rural legislative districts

### **State-Federal Affairs**

- Standing Committees
  - Natural Resources and Infrastructure

• Federal Policy

• Farm Bill



### 1. Overview of State Legislatures

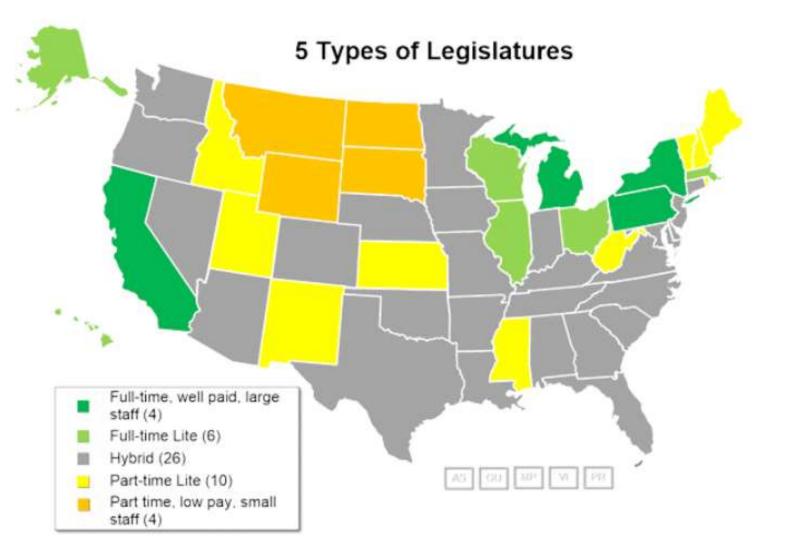
- 2. 2022 Midterm Elections
- 3. ARPA and Fiscal Recovery
- 4. Agriculture Policy Topics



### Webinar Topics

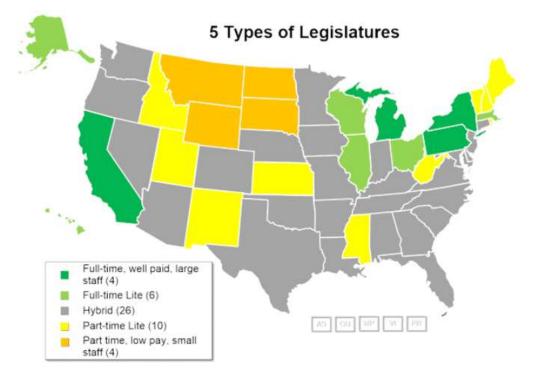
### A Framework for Categorizing Legislatures





### Legislator Pay by Type

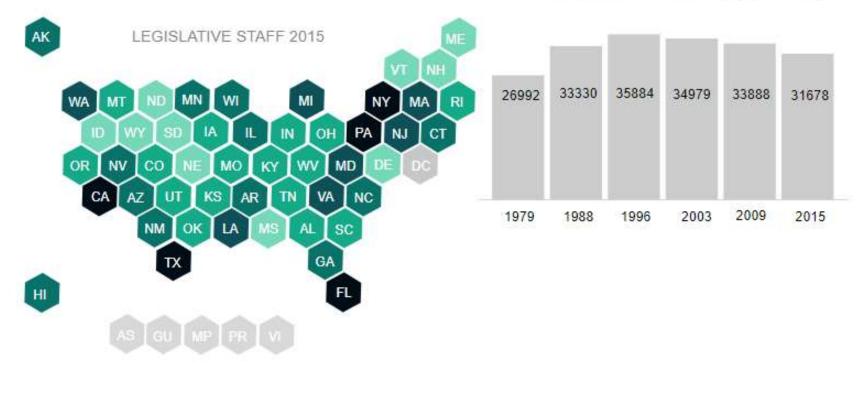




- National Average: \$39,216
- Full-Time Average: \$76,253
- Hybrid Average: \$31,546
- Part-Time Average: \$13,111

Staff Size





#### NATIONAL TOTAL 1979-2015

Number of Legislative Staff as of 2015: 0-250 | 251-500 | 501-750 | 751-1000 | > 1000

### Times of Year





# **During Session**

 $\circ$  Legislative Calendars

○ Committee Structures



Study Committees

○ Interim Committees

 $\circ$  Tours and Visits

### 2022 Midterm Recap

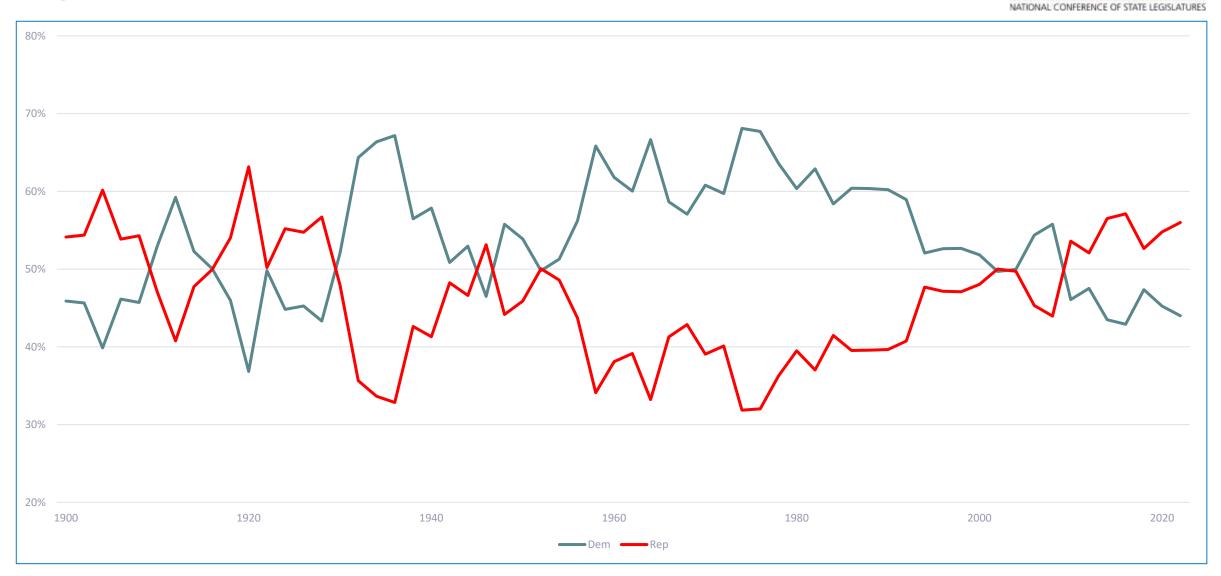
### Key Takeaways

- 1. Democrats overperformed expectations
- 2. Republicans still control more
- 3. Split Control of Government Declines
- 4. Women Continue to Make Gains

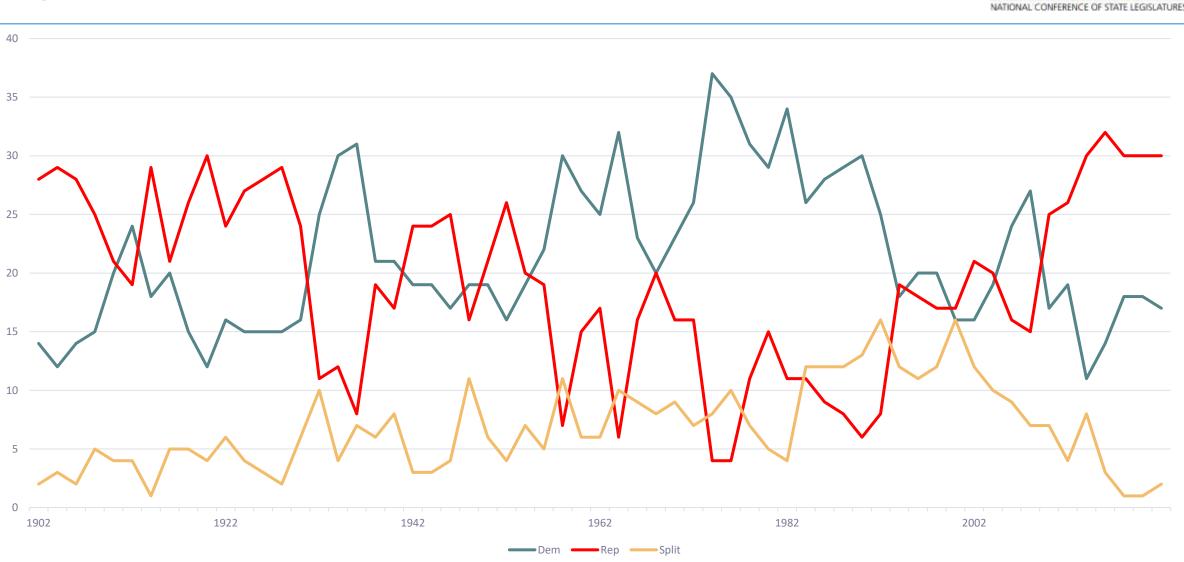


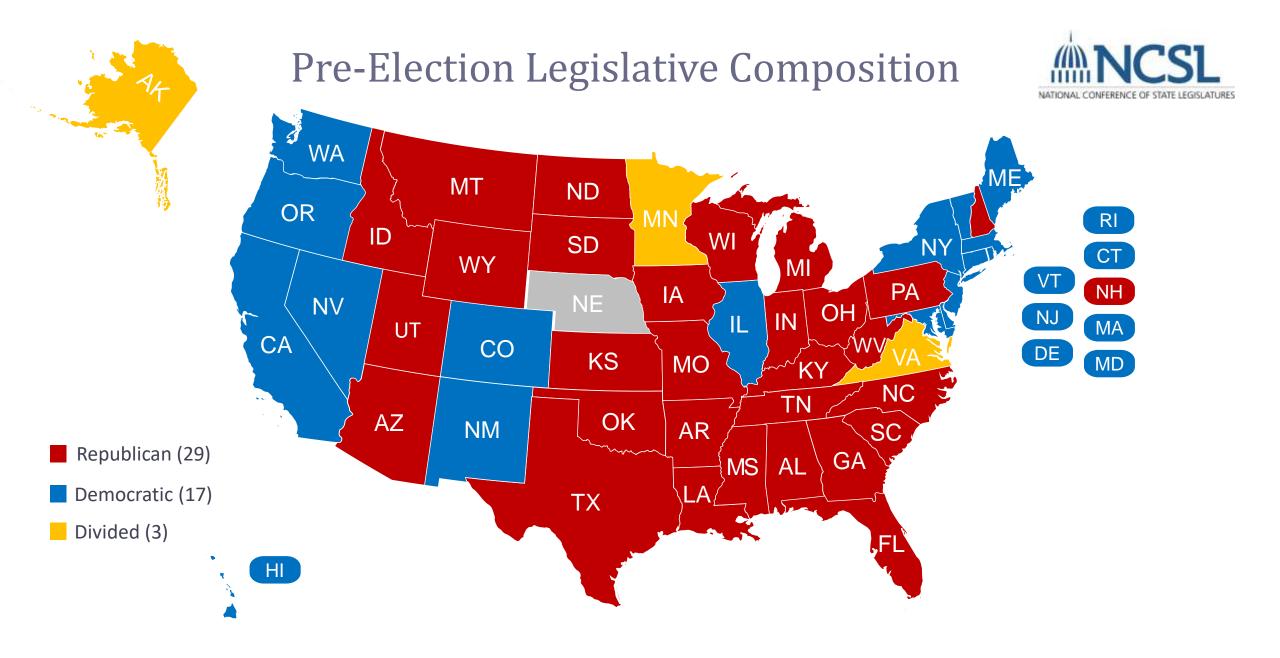


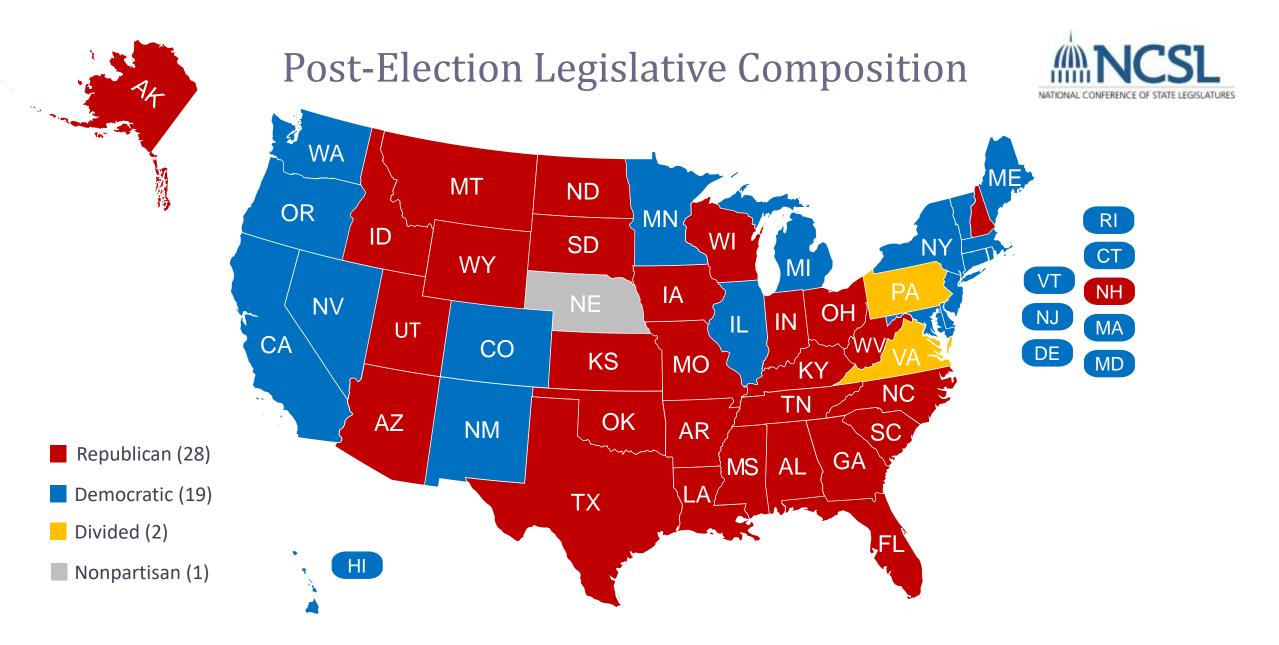
### Legislative Seats Held by Party, 1900 – Election Day 2022

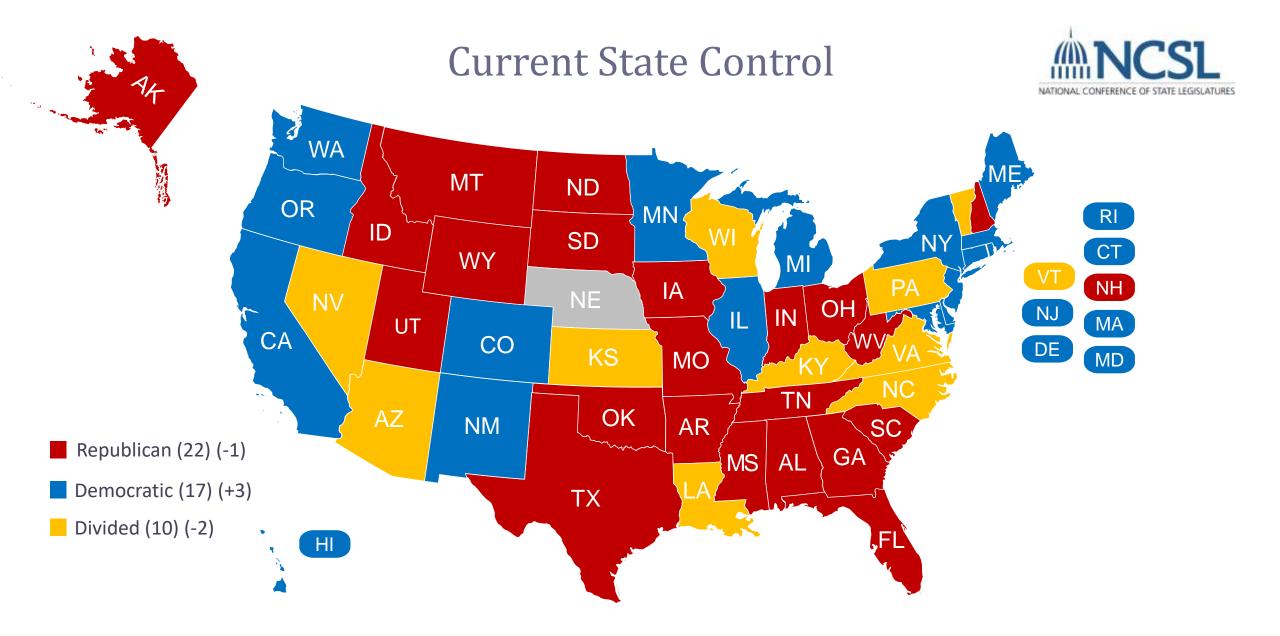


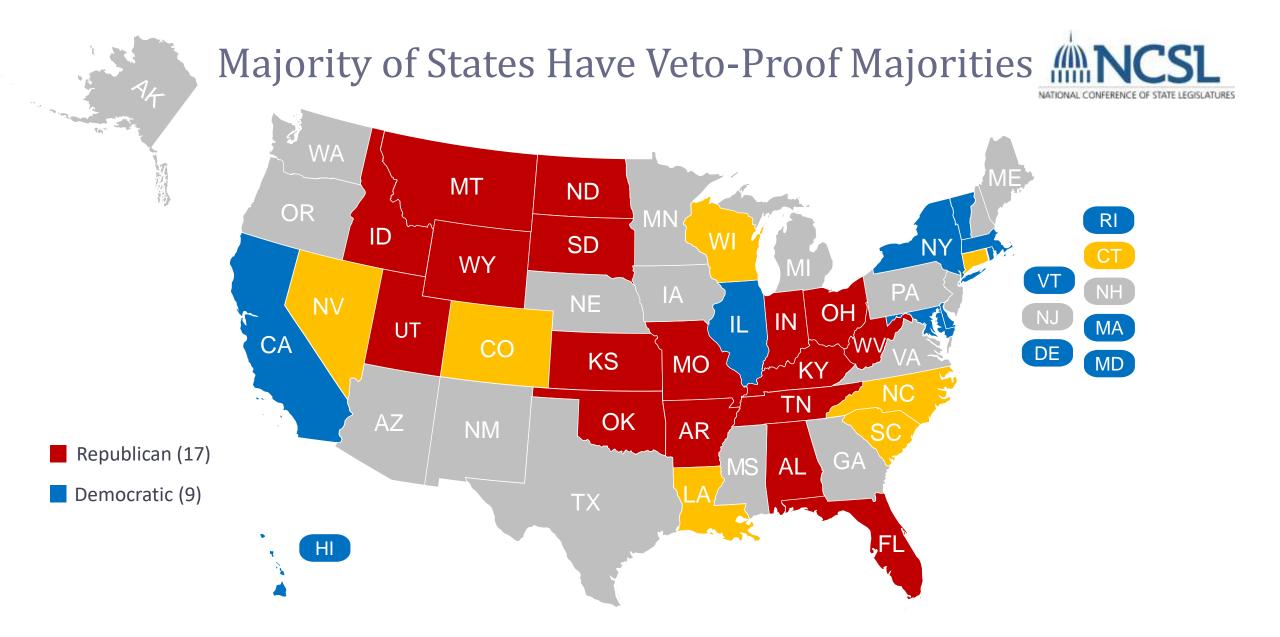
### Legislatures Held by Party, 1900 – Election Day 2022











### Women in Legislatures Continues to Grow

Pre-election share of legislators: 30%

Post-election share: 32%

- Nevada House and Senate = 60% female (38 of 63 seats)
- Colorado House = 60% female (39 of 65 seats)





# Overview of ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds

Overview



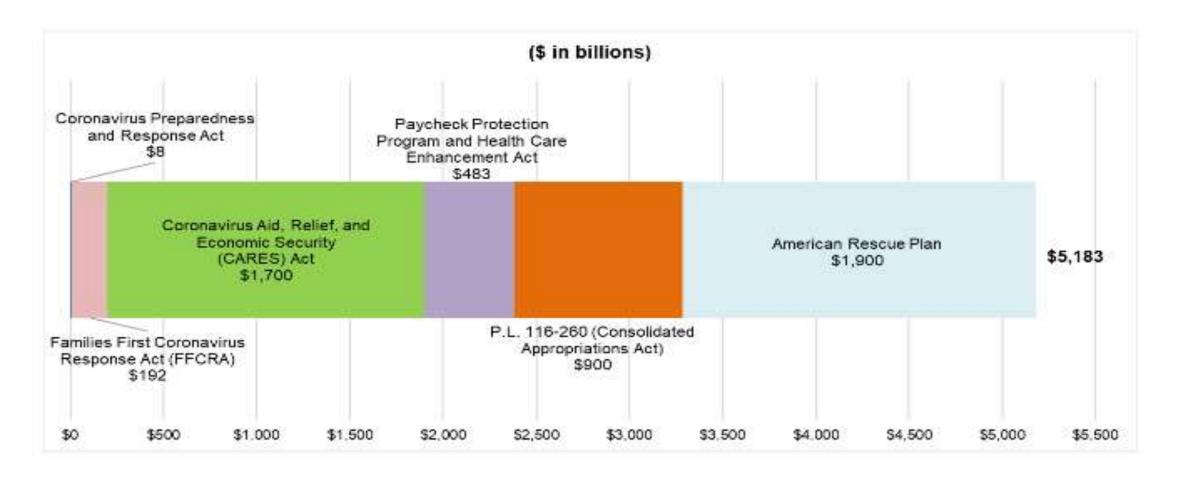
 $\circ$  ARPA Overview

○ NCSL ARPA Tracking

**OProcess and Fiscal Considerations** 

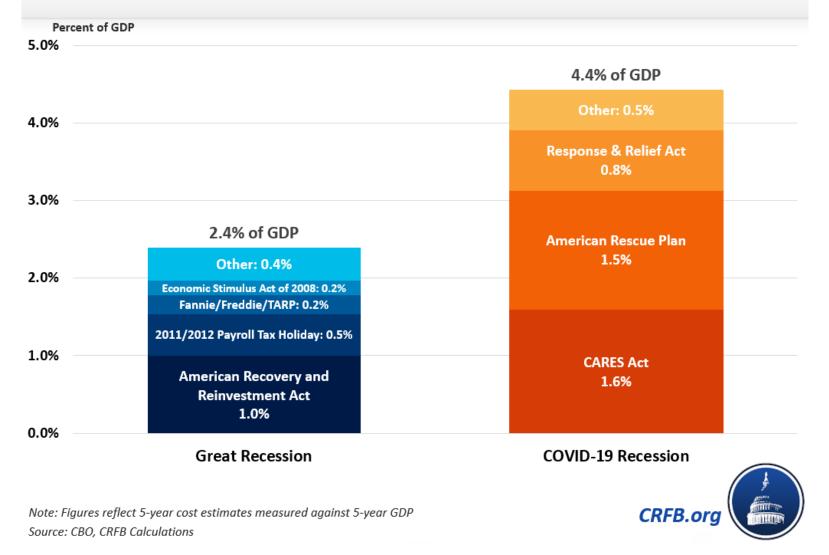


# Enacted COVID-19 relief funding





#### **Cost of COVID-19 and Great Recession Responses**



### Flexible Spending for States

Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (CSFRF) • Allowable uses:

- Emergency and economic effects of pandemic
- Premium pay to essential employees or grants to their employers
- Government services affected by revenue reduction
- Investments in water, sewer and broadband
- Ineligible uses:
  - Towards pensions or to offset revenue loss resulting from tax cuts
- Funds must be obligated by Dec. 31, 2024 and spent by Dec. 31, 2026.



### Recent Amendment Adds Flexibility



#### State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Fiscal Recovery, Infrastructure, and Disaster Relief Flexibility Act

- Allows states to use the greater of \$10 million or 30% of funds for transportation infrastructure projects
- For projects under the Community Development Block Grant
- Toward emergency relief services to address natural disasters
- U.S. Treasury administrative funds

### CSFRF State & Local Aid



#### **Provides \$195.3 billion to states and the District of Columbia:**

- <sup>°</sup> \$25.5 billion to each state, minimum of \$500 million.
- \$169 billion would be allocated based on the states' share of unemployed workers over a three-month period, from October-December 2020.

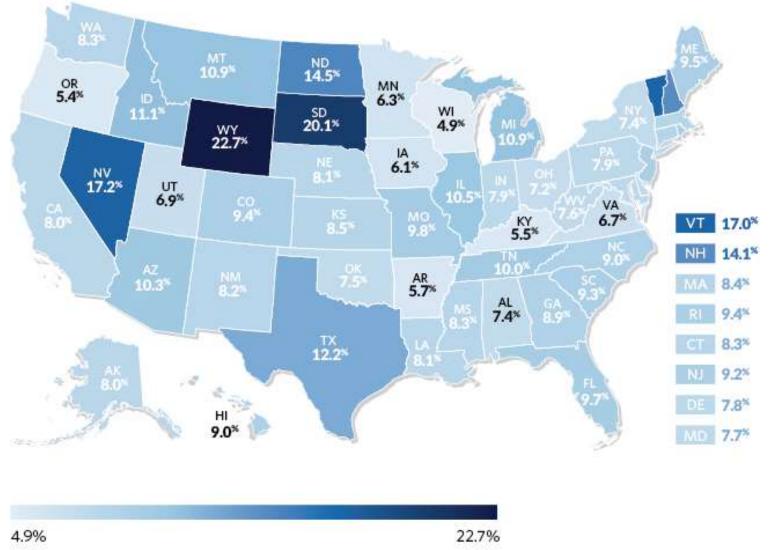
#### **Provides \$130.2 billion to Local Governments:**

- 。 \$65.1 billion for counties.
- <sup>°</sup> \$45.6 billion for metropolitan cities.
- \$19.5 billion for towns with fewer than 50,000 people.
- **Provides \$4.5 billion to U.S. territories**
- **Provides \$20 billion to tribal governments**
- **Provides \$10 billion for a Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund**

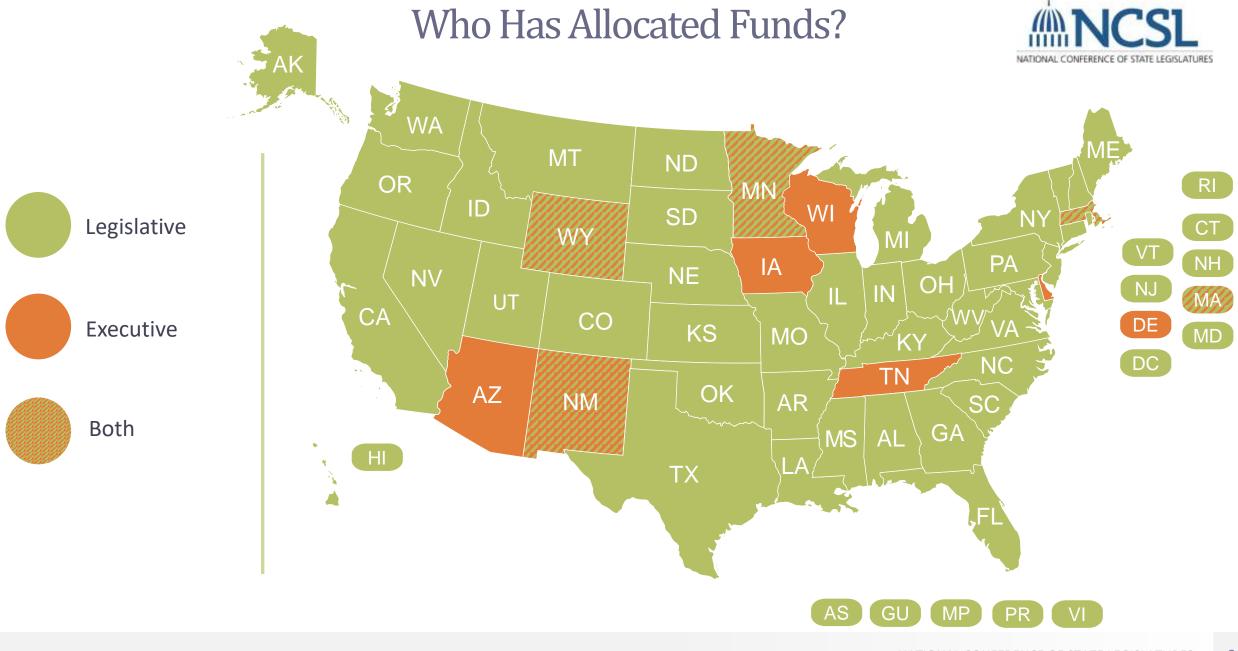
#### How ARPA Aid Compares With the Size of States' Budgets

Allocations range from 4.9% of total FY 2020 spending in Wisconsin to 22.7% in Wyoming





Source: The Pew Charitable Trusts, 2021, using U.S. Department of Treasury and National Association of State Budget Officer's data.



		AF	RPA S	tate Fiscal Recovery Fund Allocations	MNCS	
State Fiscal Recovery Fund Categories Sete::# Arts Categories Brownian archaner Brownian Rieff and Desrigerent Brownian Rieff and Desrigerent Brownian Rieff and Desrigerent Brownian Rieff and Desrigerent Brownian Rieff and Desrigerent Desr Date Categories Date Categories Date Categories Brownian Sector		And Anno Anno Anno Anno Anno Anno Anno A	nt af Landa af Landa af Landa an Af Landa			
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Broadband



**Economic Relief** 

State Ops/Admin. Revenue Replacement



Unemployment

**Trust Fund** 

Education



Water

Infrastructure

ПΓ



Workforce Development

Public Health still a major priority!

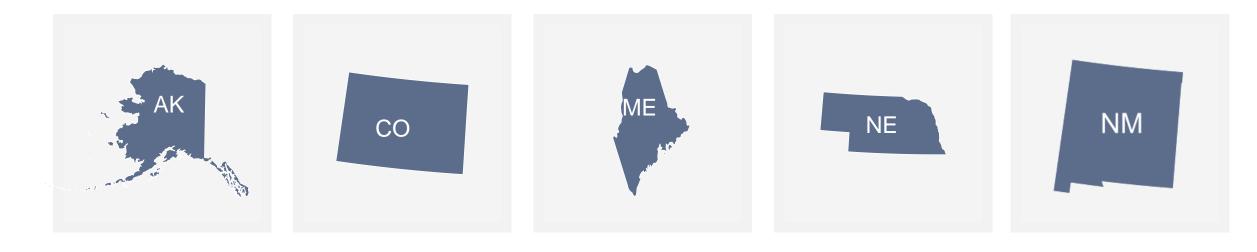




**Human Services** 

CSFRF Major Allocation Categories

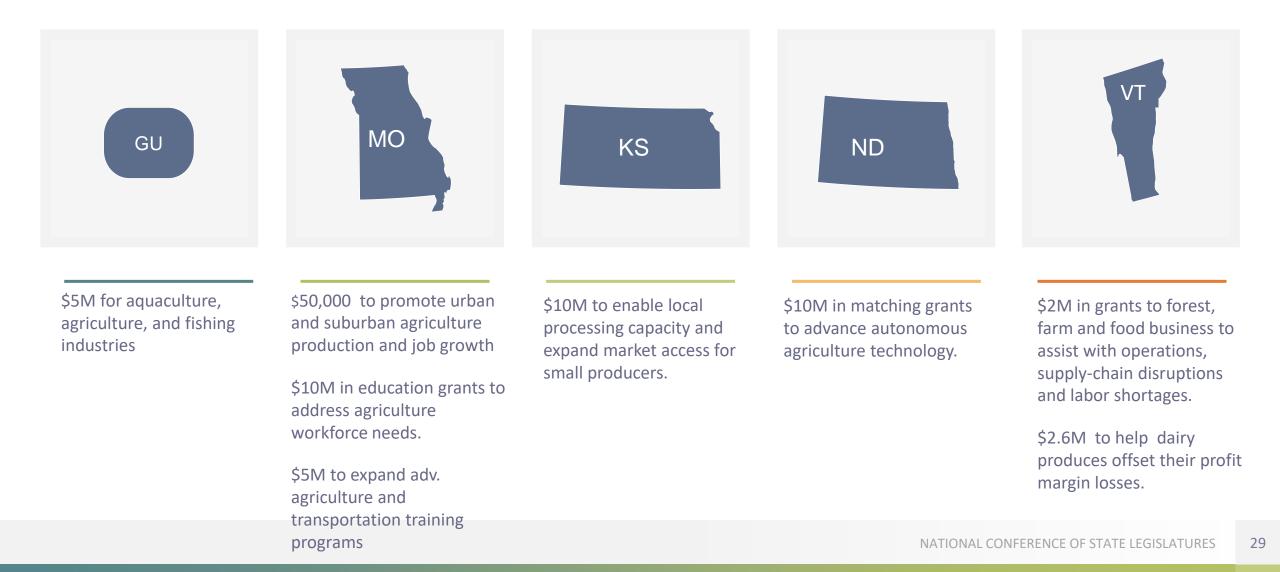
### Food Security



\$625,000 for the Yukon River Salmon Food Security Project to address food supply concerns and food assistance security assistance. \$1M to create a community food access program that is responsible for operating as a good value chain coordinator to connect retailers to local farmers and small and large distributors \$20M to support farms and food processes to ensure the sustainability of farms and farm families, increase the supply of local food to meet state food consumption goals and enhance the State's agricultural exports. \$10M to enable local processing capacity and expand market access for small producers.

\$5 million to assist food banks in meeting the needs of food-insecure New Mexicans.

### Agriculture Business and Workforce

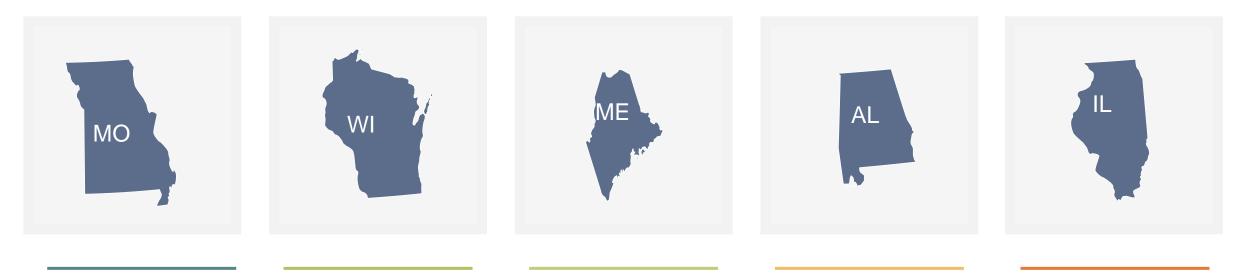


### Watershed Restoration and Land Preservation



\$300 million to project natural and working landscapes that preserve, protect or enhance wildlife habitats or corridors and linkages or agricultural or rural lands. \$15 million to invest in watershed restoration projects and improve resilience of water resources. \$70M for agriculture water optimization projects that reduce water use while maintaining production and profitability

### **Targeted Communities**



Prioritizing grants to assist households that face harsh economic impacts and have been disproportionately underserved. Investments in nonprofits to achieve more equitable outcomes. Wisconsin is investing more than \$330 million in over 420 nonprofits serving residents in all 72 counties. Maine's Job Plan invests in communities with the least ability to rebound from the pandemic to promote diversity and equity. State programs focused on ensuring equitable service to historically underserved, marginalized, and disproportionately affected groups.

Investments in communitybased mental health and substance abuse treatment to address service gaps due to racial and geographic inequities.

## Allocation Timelines Vary



Legislative procedures, spending authority, guidance and disbursement amount play a role.



### Approaches to Priorities and Implementation



- legislative framework.
- Determined specific uses by transfer of funds to existing and new cash funds.
- bipartisan committees to consider proposals and make recs.
- Broadband; Water and Sewer; Economic Impact

- Taskforce
- Working Groups  $\rightarrow$ Advisory Committee  $\rightarrow$ **Executive Committee**  $\rightarrow$  State Finance Council authorizes funds.
- criteria for how to spend the funds.
- Scored proposals based on criteria
- Divided funds into ۰ buckets

- *Phase I*—Urgent Needs . (now-Jan '22)
- Phase II Additional • Recovery Projects (Jan '22)
- Phase III Multi-Year • **Recovery Projects**

### Avoiding the Fiscal Cliff



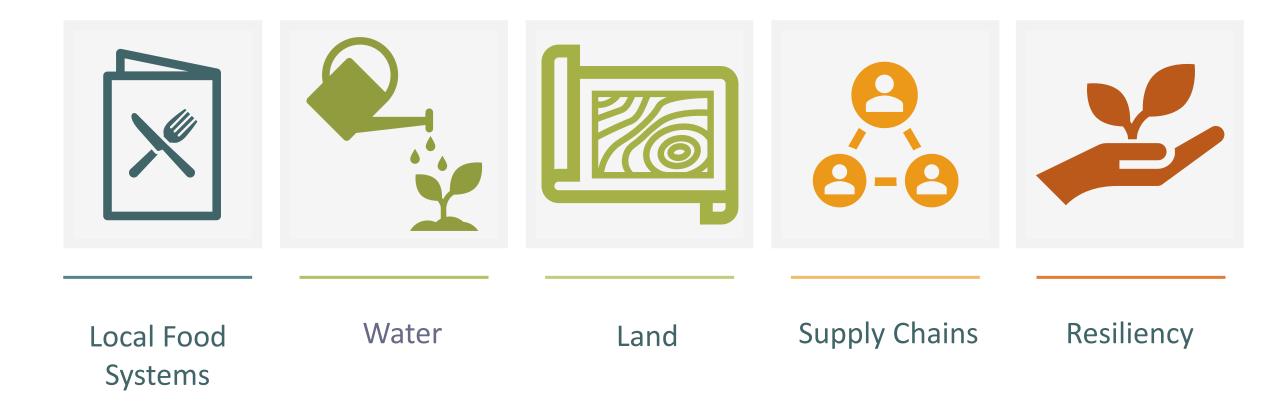
#### • Managing one-time expenditures

- Non-recurring vs. recurring
- Coordinating with local governments
- Oversight measures

#### ○ Long-term fiscal planning

- Multi-year budgeting practices
- Flexibility with investment strategies
- Adjusting for influx of state revenues and federal stimulus
- Planning beyond ARPA

### State Legislative Trends





- Food System Resiliency
- Farmers Markets
- Food Safety
- Food Donations and Food Waste



# Local Food Systems



- Drought and resiliency
- State-wide water planning
- Water quality
- Waters of the US



# Water and Agriculture

### Land – Ownership, Access and the Soil



#### Soil Health

- Implementation of programs
  - Colorado HB 1181 (2021)
  - Nebraska LB 243 (2019)
  - New Mexico HB 204/SB 218 (2019)

#### Access and Preservation

- New and Beginning Farmers
- Farmland Preservation
- Veteran Farmers

#### Foreign Ownership

- Laws in at least 15 states
- At least 17 states have proposed legislation in 2023
- Resources from the National Agricultural Law Center

### More Agricultural Policy Topics



### Highlights from Savannah

Task Force Meeting, June 2022



Ports, Transportation, Trade

Pollinators, Products/Marketing

#### Aquaculture









Legislatures



Elections

# Recap and Key Takeaways



Funding



Agriculture Resiliency



# **2023 Indy Legislative Summit**



#### Aug. 13-17, 2023

### **QUESTIONS?**

Mindy Bridges Project Manager Environment, Energy & Transportation <u>mindy.bridges@ncsl.org</u>

> Emily Maher Project Manager Fiscal Affairs <u>emily.maher@ncsl.org</u>



