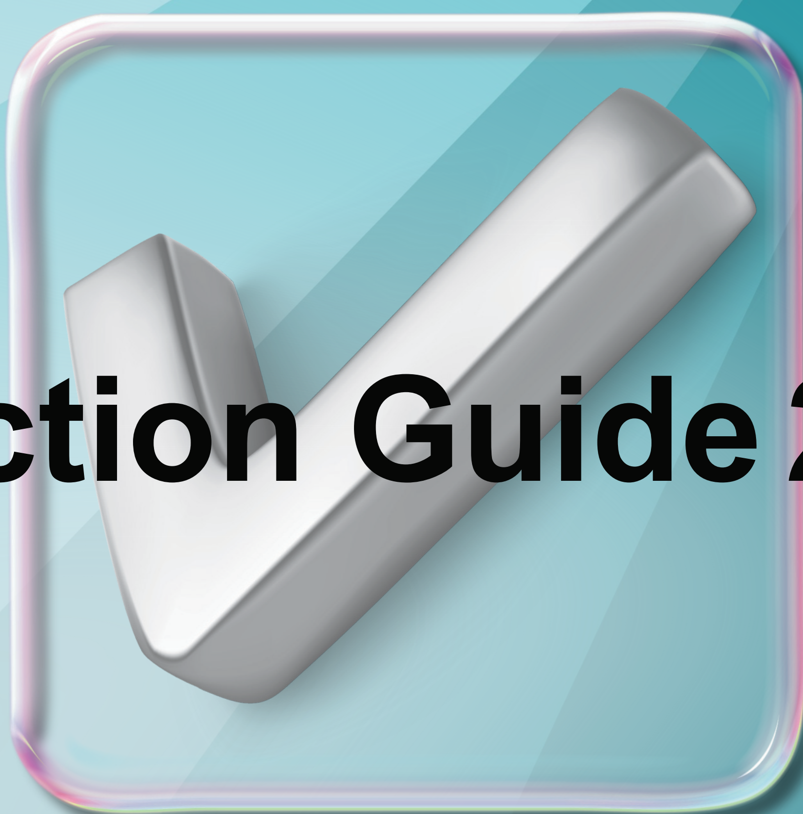
MIC3 | MILITARY INTERSTATE CHILDREN'S COMPACT COMMISSION

Election Guide 2026



Leadership Nomination Committee (LNC)

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2026-2027 Leadership Nomination Committee

Ernise Singleton, Louisiana Commissioner and Chair
Debra Jackson, New York Commissioner and Vice Chair
Laura Cyr, Maine Commissioner
Teresa Ferenczhalmy, New Mexico Commissioner
John I. “Don” Kaminar, Arkansas Commissioner
J. Clarke Orzalli, Massachusetts Commissioner
Shelley Joan Weiss, Wisconsin Commissioner

Committee Overview and the Electoral Process

Background

Established in 2008, the Leadership Nomination Committee's intent is to provide a clear process that allows commissioners to evaluate the qualifications of the Commission's potential leaders, the Commission authorized a committee to create a transparent and uniform election process, annually evaluate this process, and recommend changes if necessary. This effort not only promotes strong leadership but also contributes to the organization's consistency and long-term stability. In accordance with ***MIC3 By-Laws, Article III (Officers), Section 1. Election and Succession***, elections are required to be held annually.

Leadership Positions

Three (3) Executive positions are elected annually by the commission members, following the established succession plan:

1. Commission Chair
    a. historically served two (2) one-year consecutive terms (at least one term as a committee Chair or Vice Chair)
    b. historically served two (2) one-year consecutive terms as Vice Chair
    c. upon election of the new Chair, the individual will succeed to Past Chair

2. Vice Chair
    a. historically served two (2) one-year consecutive terms
    b. historically served two (2) one-year consecutive terms as a committee chair

3. Treasurer (and Chair of the Finance Committee)
    a. historically, there has not been a term limit for this position

Executive Committee Responsibilities

The EXCOM: oversees organizational governance and alignment with the mission and vision through the implementation of the Strategic Plan; assists the National Office staff with Compact initiatives; collaborates with fellow commissioners and ex-officio to support national and state-level implementation; and manages and executes policies, programs, and procedures effectively.

Time Commitment

Commitment varies, and on average requires 50+ hours annually to include Attending EXCOM Meetings (1 hour/month = 12 hours); preparation, planning, and other duties (average 20 hours); attending two-day EXCOM Meetings held in Lexington in April (average 18 hours). In addition, the Chair has the discretion to hold a two-day Leadership Retreat in the Fall/Winter for onboarding new officers.

Application

Interested candidates completed the online self-nomination application by the July 6th deadline. Additionally, they could submit up to two documents of evidence, limited to: a resume; letter of recommendation and/or biography, that demonstrates their viability as a candidate.

Slate of Candidates

The application and evidence documents are released through the *Election Guide each year,* prior to the Annual Business Meeting (ABM). Should an office have multiple candidates, they will be provided two minutes to address the Commission at the ABM. In addition, members will have the opportunity to meet candidates at the ABM Reception.

Note: Should the ABM be held virtually, all processes and procedures normally present during an in-person ABM will be followed to the extent possible.

Floor Nominations

To support the transparency and fairness of the electoral process, proper vetting of the candidates, and to ensure candidates are appropriately qualified for the office they are seeking, all candidates must apply by the established deadline. General Counsel has advised that while Commission By-Laws mandate that annual elections be held, it does not mandate nominations be accepted from the floor. Further, the Commission may determine the electoral process of the organization and may refer to Robert's Rules if necessary.

Voting Process

As a quasi-governmental, publicly funded entity whose meetings are open to the public, voting for leadership positions during the General Session will be conducted by a roll call vote. As the appointed representative for their state, commissioners are considered public officials; therefore, their vote is considered public record. If a candidate runs unopposed, the Commission may accept the uncontested candidate without requiring a roll call vote. If the candidates for the three Executive positions are unopposed, then the Commission may elect the slate of candidates by acclamation.

Organizational Timeline & Historical Leadership

2006
USDoD initial discussions on the Compact

2007
Advisory group formed by USDoD and the Council of State Governments

2008
Compact adopted by 11 states and the first Commission meeting was held in Phoenix, Arizona

2010
Adopted by 31 states and coverage surpassed 75% of military children. A national office was set up in Lexington, KY

2014
MIC3 celebrates the adoption of the Compact in all 50 states and D.C.

2016
Adoption of the first official strategic plan for the MIC3

2019
Adoption of the second strategic plan

2022
Adoption of the third strategic plan

2025
Adoption of the fourth strategic plan

Leadership

CHAIR
2008-2010 Cheryl Serrano (CO)
2010-2011 Mark Needham (KY)
2011-2014 Kathy Berg (HI)
2014-2016 Kate Wren Gavlak (CA)
2016-2018 Rosemarie Kraeger (RI)
2018-2021 John I. "Don" Kaminar (AR)
2021-2023 Laura Anastasio (CT)
2023-2025 Ernise Singleton (LA)
2025-Present Daron Korte (MN)

VICE CHAIR
2008-2009 Mark Needham (KY)
2009-2011 Kathy Berg (HI)
2012-2014 Kate Wren Gavlak (CA)
2014-2016 Rosemarie Kraeger (RI)
2016-2017 Mary Gable (MD)
2017-2018 Pete LuPiba (OH)
2018-2021 Laura Anastasio (CT)
2021-2023 Ernise Singleton (LA)
2023-2025 Daron Korte (MN)
2025-Present Mary Gable (MD)

TREASURER
2010-2011 Brad Neuenswander (KS)
2011-2013 Pam Deering (OK)
2014-2019 Bob Buehn (FL)
2020-2021 Craig Neuenswander (KS)
2021-2023 Brian Henry (MO)
2023-Present Greg Lynch (WA)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
2010-2013 Norman Arflack
2013-2015 Stephen Hogan
2016-2025 Cherise Imai
2026-Present Lindsey Dablow

Updated July 7, 2026

Committee Chairs

EXECUTIVE
2008-2010 Cheryl Serrano (CO)
2010-2011 Mark Needham (KY)
2011-2014 Kathy Berg (HI)
2014-2016 Kate Wren Gavlak (CA)
2016-2018 Rosemarie Kraeger (RI)
2018-2021 John I. "Don" Kaminar (AR)
2021-2023 Laura Anastasio (CT)
2023-Present Ernise Singleton (LA)
2025-Present Daron Korte (MN)

FINANCE
2010-2011 Brad Neuenswander (KS)
2011-2013 Pam Deering (OK)
2014-2019 Bob Buehn (FL)
2020-2021 Craig Neuenswander (KS)
2021-2023 Brian Henry (MO)
2023-Present Greg Lynch (WA)

COMPLIANCE
2012-2013 Laura Anastasio (CT)
2013-2014 Mark Oettinger (VT)
2014-2017 Pete LuPiba (OH)
2018-2021 Daron Korte (MN)
2021-Present Steve Bullard (KY)

RULES
2009 Spessard Boatright (FL)
2010 David Phillips (NC)
2011 Susan Haberstroh (DE)
2012-2016 Mary Gable (MD)
2016-2017 John I. "Don" Kaminar (AR)
2017-2025 Mary Gable (MD)
2025-Present Ben Rasmussen (UT)

TRAINING
2017-2018 John I. "Don" Kaminar (AR)
2018-2021 Ernise Singleton (LA)
2021-2024 Shelly Ramos (TX)
2024-2025 Kathleen Murphy (NH)
2025-Present Tremekia Priester (SC)

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH
2017-2018 Shelley Joan Weiss (WI)
2019-2021 Brian Henry (MO)
2021-Present Chad Delbridge (WY)

PUBLIC RELATIONS & TRAINING
(SPLIT INTO TWO COMMITTEES IN 2017)
2011-2014 Rosemarie Kraeger (RI)
2014-2017 Davina French (ND)

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2026 Campaign Guidelines

Purpose: Provide candidates with direction and expectations for the annual election campaign process.

Applications and Evidence Documents

- The online application/documents must be received by **Monday, July 6, 2026, 6:00 PM ET.**
- The applicant will provide:
  - The office you are applying for
  - Describe why you would be a good leader for this position and the Commission (Max 500 words)
  - Describe your contributions to the Commission (max 500 words)
  - Describe your professional experience/relevant qualifications for the position (Max 500 words)
- Individuals may submit **up to two supplemental documents,** limited to a resume, letter of recommendation, or a biography, that demonstrate their viability as a candidate.
- Documents must be emailed separately to mic3info@csg.org.
- Applications and documents received beyond the deadline will not be considered. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Applications will be reviewed by the Leadership Nomination Committee. **Late applications are not accepted.**

Lobbying, Campaigning and Advertisements

Candidates will not:

- Campaign or lobby members of the Commission.
- Email/utilize social media to distribute campaign materials or lobby members of the Commission.
- Display campaign materials or advertisements at any meeting of the Commission.
- Use Commission publications to advertise or lobby for office.

Election Guide

- An Election Guide with the received candidate applications and supporting documents will be disseminated to the Commission prior to the Annual Business Meeting (ABM).

Opportunity to Meet with Commission Members

- Members of the Commission will have the opportunity to speak with candidates at the Annual Business Meeting evening reception.

  Note: Should the meeting be held virtually, a virtual opportunity to speak with the candidates may be provided to the extent possible as determined by the Executive Committee.

Speeches

Each candidate will be provided two minutes to address the Commission at the ABM.

Floor Nominations

- General Counsel has advised while Commission By-Laws mandate that annual elections be held; it does not mandate nominations be accepted from the floor.
- Further, the Commission may determine the electoral process of the organization, and we may refer to Robert's Rules if necessary.
- To support the transparency and fairness of the electoral process; proper vetting of the candidates; and to ensure candidates are appropriately qualified for the office they are seeking, the Committee determined all candidates must file an application by the submittal deadline.
- **Floor nominations are not accepted.**

Violations

- Any discrepancies, clarifications, or concerns can be reported to mic3info@csg.org and will be addressed by the Leadership Nomination Committee. Violations that are verified by the Committee will be addressed in accordance with Commission guidelines.

Definitions and Position Descriptions
(ref. Commission By-laws, as amended October 2017)

Executive Committee

Responsible for guiding and overseeing the administration of all Commission activities and for acting on behalf of the Commission, as permitted by the Compact, during the interim between Commission meetings. *Note: For more information, refer to the Commission Bylaws: Article III Officers.*

- ***Chairperson* -** The chairperson shall call and preside at all meetings of the Commission and in conjunction with the Executive Committee shall prepare agendas for such meetings, shall make appointments to all committees of the Commission, and, in accordance with the Commission's directions, or subject to ratification by the Commission, shall act on the Commission's behalf during the interims between Commission meetings.
- ***Vice Chairperson* -** The vice chairperson shall, in the absence or at the direction of the chairperson, perform any or all of the duties of the chairperson. In the event of a vacancy in the office of chairperson, the vice chairperson shall serve as acting until a new chairperson is elected by the Commission.
- ***Treasurer* -** The treasurer, with the assistance of the Commission's executive director, shall act as custodian of all Commission funds and shall be responsible for monitoring the administration of all fiscal policies and procedures set forth in the Compact or adopted by the Commission. Pursuant to the Compact, the treasurer shall execute such bond as may be required by the Commission covering the treasurer, the executive director and any other officers, Commission members and Commission personnel, as determined by the Commission, who may be responsible for the receipt, disbursement, or management of Commission funds. *Note: Also serves as Finance Committee Chair*
- ***Past Chair* -** The past chair is the most recent previous chair who is still serving as a Commissioner member and shall perform duties as may be requested by the Commission. *Note: Serves as an advisor and historian for the Commission*

Standing Committee Descriptions and Chairpersons

The composition, procedures, duties, budget, and tenure of such committees shall be determined by the Commission. *Note: Chairpersons are appointed annually by the Commission Chair, except for the Finance Committee, which the Treasurer chairs.*

- ***Training*** – Responsible for developing educational resources and training materials for use in the member states to help ensure awareness of, and compliance with, the terms of the Compact and the Commission's rules.
- ***Communications and Outreach*** – Responsible for raising awareness, informing, and promoting the Compact to member states and other stakeholders.
- ***Compliance*** – Responsible for monitoring the compliance by member states with the terms of the Compact and the Commission's rules, and for developing appropriate enforcement procedures for the Commission's consideration.
- ***Rules*** – Responsible for administering the Commission's rulemaking procedures, and for developing proposed rules for the Commission's consideration as appropriate.
- ***Finance*** – Responsible for monitoring the Commission's budget and financial practices, including the collection and expenditure of Commission revenues, and for developing recommendations for the Commission's consideration as appropriate.

Interstate Commission on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Bylaws (as amended, October 2015, 2017, and 2019)

Article IV – Commission Personnel

Section 1. Commission Staff and Offices.

The Commission may, by a majority of its Members, or through its executive committee, appoint or retain an executive director, who shall serve at its pleasure and who shall act as secretary to the Commission but shall not be a Member of the Commission. The executive director shall hire and supervise such other staff as may be authorized by the Commission. The executive director shall establish and manage the Commission's office or offices, which shall be located in one or more of the Compacting States as determined by the Commission.

Article VII Committees

Section 1. Executive Committee.

The Commission may establish an executive committee, which shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Commission during the interim between Commission meetings, except for rulemaking or amendment of the Compact. The Committee shall be composed of all officers of the Interstate Commission and the chairpersons of each committee. The procedures, duties, budget, and tenure of such an executive committee shall be determined by the Commission. The power of such an executive committee to act on behalf of the Commission shall at all times be subject to any limitations imposed by the Commission, the Compact or these By-laws.

Section 2. Other Committees.

The Commission may establish such other committees as it deems necessary to carry out its objectives, which shall include, but not be limited to Finance, Rules, Compliance, Training, Communications and Outreach, and Leadership Nomination. The composition, procedures, duties, budget, and tenure of such committees shall be determined by the Commission.

Chair

Leadership Election Application

First Name: Daron
Last Name: Korte
State of: MN

I am interested in running for: Chair

Describe why you would be a good leader for this position and the Commission:
For the past year, I have served as Chair of the Commission. We have many accomplishments to celebrate from the last year. I am particularly proud of the open, transparent, and competitive process we used to hire our newest Executive Director as well as the progress we have made in implementing year one of the new MIC3 Strategic Plan. But as an EXCOM, we still have much work to do.

I am seeking another term as Chair to continue this work with EXCOM to put the organization on a trajectory to its next evolution. MIC3 continues to mature as an organization; we have maintained 50+1 for several years, we have been through multiple iterations of strategic plans, we recently passed a history dues change to stabilize the finance future of our organization. It is now time to look to the future on how become a world-class organization with a global reputation for serving at the confluence of military and education issues. My 12 years of experience as a commissioner and six years on EXCOM, combined with my legal, legislative, and state agency experience, leave me uniquely qualified to help lead this transition.

Describe your contributions to the Commission:
For the past year, I have served as Chair of the Commission. In that time, I led the search for the organization's fourth Executive Director. This included working with CSG on developing the job posting, screening applications, selecting the interview panel, interviewing candidates, and ultimately collaborating with EXCOM to select Executive Director Dablow. I've also led year one of implementing MIC3's new Strategic Plan, including implementation of the new dues increase that was passed at 2025 ABM. I have also represented MIC3 at NAFIS and MISA conferences, providing an MIC3 briefing at the MISA Breakfast and sharing information about the compact on Congressional visits.

I lead the effort in getting the compact legislation passed in Minnesota and have served as the Commissioner-Designee for Minnesota since it joined the compact in 2014. In that time, in addition to serving as Chair, I served as Compliance Committee chair for three years (2018-2021) and Vice Chair for two years (2023-2025). In my time as Compliance Committee chair, we created and adopted several essential policies which remain in effect today, including; Conflict of Interest, Guidelines for Commission Meetings, and Defining the Role of Compact Commissioner, Designee, and Proxy. As Vice Chair, I have assisted Chair Singleton in leading the EXCOM through completing MIC3's last strategic plan and creation of our new strategic plan. I also lead the Ex-Officio group meetings.

Describe your professional experience and other relevant qualifications for this position:
In Minnesota, I am Assistant Commissioner for the Office of Student Support Services at the Minnesota Department of Education. In that role, in addition to compact related activities, I

oversee agency implementation of several large programs including the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) School and Community Nutrition Programs, and Charter Schools. My experience in overseeing these large and complex programs has been essential in navigating the complexities of the US Department of War Education Agency structures, programs, and personnel. It also has taught me how interagency collaboration and communication is essential to programmatic success and enhanced student outcomes.

My background and training is as a licensed attorney. Prior to my time at MDE, I served as Counsel to the Minnesota Senate Education Finance and Policy Committee and also worked in the Law Department of Chicago Public Schools. These experiences gave me multiple perspectives on policy development, implementation, advocacy, and funding, all of which are extremely relevant to leadership within MIC3.

Vice Chair

Leadership Election Application

First Name: Mary
Last Name: Gable
State of: MD

I am interested in running for: Vice Chair

Describe why you would be a good leader for this position and the Commission:
It has been my honor to have served as the Maryland Commissioner of the Interstate Compact on Education Opportunity for Military Children since 2009. When I started my position as a Director at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and later as an Assistant Superintendent, I brought with me experience of working as a Director of an elementary school, two middle schools, and one high school located directly on Ft. George G. Meade Base in Anne Arundel County. There are 24 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in Maryland, one of which is Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) which has 126 public schools serving more than 85,000 students, is the fourth largest LEA in Maryland, and the 39th largest school district in the United States.

My experience was especially heightened during the days and weeks following 9-11 when I was charged by the Local Superintendent to work with the military and AACPS to do all that was necessary to get school principals back into their buildings, and educators and students onto the post in order to attend school. It was that experience that started my work with the military and continued in AACPS until I had the opportunity to come to MSDE. The State Superintendent at the time knew of this experience and provided me with a new opportunity to work in Maryland on Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) which involved Ft. Meade and Aberdeen Proving Grounds (APG), which ultimately led to being part of the study when the Military Interstate Compact Legislation came before the Maryland General Assembly in 2008. I provided leadership to the team to study Maryland's Statute and the Code of Maryland Regulations that led to the recommendation to the General Assembly to adopt the Interstate Compact. The General Assembly adopted the Interstate Compact in 2009 and I was named the Maryland Commissioner.

My experience has continued at MSDE and I have served as Maryland Commissioner for 17 years. Bringing educational experience as a high school principal in two high schools in AACPS for a total of 12 years, the Director of High Schools, and then my role as an Assistant State Superintendent at MSDE presently in the Division of Student Support and Federal Programs has provided me with the knowledge of the challenges that students have as they transition from state to state and the contacts to resolve educational issues. My Division works regularly with Student Services Directors and Coordinators in each of the LEAs which allows for continual communication, training, and problem-solving ability as part of our daily work. It would be an honor to continue to serve as the Vice Chair, and provide support to the Chair and the group of most talented Commissioners who are committed to serving our military families across the country and the Department of War Schools.

Describe your contributions to the Commission:

As the Maryland Commissioner for the past 17 years, a committee member, and a Tier Group I member, I have also had the opportunity to chair the Rules Committee, and in this past year to serve as Vice-Chair. These last two positions have enabled me to be a member of the Executive Committee. Accomplishments of the Rules Committee have been numerous, including one of the first Rule amendments which was defining kindergarten enrollment in Rule 3.102(b) to address clarity needed in the differences in the age requirement across states of the age to enter kindergarten. The Rules Committee regularly reviews proposed Rule Amendments submitted by fellow Commissioners and reviews current cases/inquiries to determine if the Rules Committee should further study particular cases for potential rule changes. A significant accomplishment has been a complete review, study, and publishing of the Third Edition of the Commission's Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children Compact Rules document. The Rules Committee discussed and reviewed every rule. Another topic that the Rules Committee addressed was clarity on the promulgation and adoption of final rules by the Interstate Commission. As Vice-Chair, I have had the privilege to chair the meetings of the Ex-Officio members. The meetings thus far have been very productive, and I appreciate the contributions of the Ex-Officio members.

The Maryland State Council meets annually. The 2026 meeting included a reminder of the dues increase, and a discussion of cases addressed, the MIC3 Strategic Plan, Purple Star Schools, and new legislation in Maryland regarding Advanced Enrollment.

The Maryland School Liaisons, who are a very talented group of individuals, are invited to all State Council meetings and reach out as needed to the Maryland Commissioner to address more complicated cases. Partnership between the School Liaison, the LEA, the Commissioner, and the State Student Services team members has resulted in the resolution of cases. Whether the case is Compact-related or not, the team is dedicated to resolution, ensuring on-time graduation and ease of transition for military-related students who move to Maryland. I have worked to support the military child by participating in the Maryland Military Installation Council (MMIC) as the designee of the State Superintendent, a newly appointed member of MMIC as a result of 2025 legislation. MMIC identifies the public infrastructure, potential impact on local communities, and support needed for military installation development and expansion. The Council reviews State Policies to support military installations. It is a benefit to MMIC and to the Maryland State Department of Education to have the Superintendent represented on the Council and it is an honor to be the designee of the State Superintendent.

Describe your professional experience and other relevant qualifications for this position:
My professional experience includes several responsibilities at the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) and formerly in Anne Arundel County Public Schools. At the Maryland State Department of Education, I am the Assistant State Superintendent and responsible for leadership of all aspects of the Division of Student Support and Federal Programs which includes approximately 45 staff members. The Student Support Branch administers and supervises programs for economically and socially disadvantaged children, program and services that facilitate the emotional, mental, and physical well-being of all students, that promote positive student behavior, that develop safe and orderly environments conducive to learning, and that facilitate the engagement of students in activities that develop civic responsibility.

The Division also provides the lead on the development of policy and plans related to the Every Student Succeeds Act. The Branch also includes student support staff comprising school counseling, health services, school psychologists, social workers, pupil personnel workers, and safety personnel. All these positions are responsible for outreach and support to the

Coordinators and Directors of the same programs across the State in each of the LEAs. This partnership supports the communication necessary for work with military families. A Mental Health Response Team was designed to support, enrich, and enhance site-based student services personnel. The Federal Programs Branch of the Division oversees the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) federal programs, including Title I, Parts A, C, and D, Title II and III grant responsibilities, Titles IV, Parts A and B, Title V, and McKinney Vento. The Federal Programs Branch has been a new responsibility in the last two years with a new Superintendent adding financial and grants staff to the Division. In this time of change, the Federal responsibilities have brought on new challenges. Charter schools are also a part of my responsibilities within the Division.

Two years ago, the General Assembly adopted Purple Star Legislation. I am also responsible for Purple Star which supports the work of the Interstate Compact. I was responsible for the development of Code of Maryland Regulations aligned to the statute and for developing the application process. At the April 2026 State Board Meeting, 26 schools were recognized as Purple Star Schools at the State Board of Education Meeting. Commanding officers of each military installation, Local Superintendents, principals, school liaisons, and Purple Star School liaisons were in attendance. We are proud of our Purple Star Schools and look forward to welcoming more schools. In Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS), I was a High School Principal for 12 years at two different high schools, and in my last years in AACPS, I served as the Director of High Schools. It has been an honor to serve in these roles in AACPS and MSDE and to be the Maryland Commissioner of the Interstate Compact. I believe strongly in the work of the Interstate Compact and look forward to collaboration, communication, and support for each other as we work together for the military child.

Treasurer

Leadership Election Application

First Name: Gregory
Last Name: Lynch
State of: WA

I am interested in running for: Treasurer

Describe why you would be a good leader for this position and the Commission:
I have served as the Washington Commissioner since 2009, a role I've proudly held for 17 years, alongside continuous service on the Finance Committee. With over 40 years of leadership experience managing large, complex organizations, including multi-million-dollar budgets and teams of tens of thousands, I bring expertise at the state, national, and international levels. As a retired Army officer and parent, I've seen firsthand the challenges military families face. My daughter attended several different school systems due to our frequent relocations, making the mission of easing transitions for military-connected students deeply personal and meaningful to me.

Describe your contributions to the Commission:
I have been actively involved with MIC3 for many years. Washington was an early adopter state, engaging with the Compact as its statutes and rules were being developed. Prior to that, I served as the school superintendent representative on the Governor's 16-member Military Interstate Compact Task Force. In 2015, we proudly hosted the 8th Annual Business Meeting. I have served on the Finance Committee since 2009 and was a member of the Leadership Nomination Committee from July 2019 to November 2022. In collaboration with other MIC3 ex-officio organizations, including the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) and the Military Impacted Schools Association (MISA), I have worked to promote the Compact nationally. I've prepared and delivered numerous MIC3-related professional development events at both the state and national levels, and I've participated in panels on best practices for implementation, establishing effective state councils, and the history of the Commission. I've also mentored new Compact Commissioners. Since 2023, I have served as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee.

Describe your professional experience and other relevant qualifications for this position:
My professional experience includes:
- 2013-2022 Superintendent, Olympic Education Service District 114
  Preschool and K-12 Regional Superintendent leading and supporting 15 school districts in the Kitsap and North Olympic Peninsula regions, which included district superintendents in 7 county areas.
- 2004-2013 Superintendent of Central Kitsap School District (CKSD).
  A K-12 military-impacted district which served Puget Sound Naval Shipyard & IMF, and Naval Base Kitsap with management of multi-million-dollar budgets, 19 schools, 1,500 employees, and 11,000+ students. CKSD was the 25th largest school district of 295 total

districts in Washington.

- U.S. Army Colonel retired with 27 years of service.
  Commanded and supported thousands of soldiers and their families at company, battalion, and brigade levels.
  I am also military parent of a child who experienced multiple moves in many different school systems.
- Dean of Academics and School Director for Higher Education at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.
- Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childhood Education, Master's in Management, and Training in Executive Leadership & Education Administration.

Reference Documents

Elections: Frequently Asked Questions

1) **Q: How often does the Commission hold officer elections?**
A: Officers shall be elected annually by the Commission at any meeting at which a quorum is present (Ref. MIC3 By-Laws, Article III Officers, Section 1. Election and Succession). Typically, the ABM is held in the fall. For continuity, individuals are often elected for two consecutive one-year terms.

2) **Q: If individuals are elected for 2 consecutive terms, why doesn't the Commission hold elections every other year?**
A: Funded by the US Department of Defense, the model compact language/statute was developed in 2008 by an Advisory Group, which included federal, state, and local officials as well as national stakeholder organizations representing education groups and military families. Adopted by the 50 member states and the District of Columbia, it mandates annual elections be held; changing this requirement to biennial elections would necessitate amendments in each state. In 2018, the Commission considered this option but decided against pursuing a statute change.

3) **Q: What leadership positions are available and what are their roles?**
A: The Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer are elected annually at the Annual Business Meeting.
MIC3 By-Laws, Article III Officers, Section 1. Election and Succession and Section 2. Duties
Section 1. Election and Succession
The officers of the Commission shall include a chairperson, vice chairperson, secretary, treasurer, and the past chair. The officers shall be duly appointed Commission Members, except that if the Commission appoints an Executive Director, then the Executive Director shall serve as the secretary.
Section 2. Duties.
The officers shall perform all duties of their respective offices as provided by the Compact and these By-laws. Such duties shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. *Chairperson.* The chairperson shall call and preside at all meetings of the Commission and in conjunction with the Executive Committee shall prepare agendas for such meetings, shall make appointments to all committees of the Commission, and, in accordance with the Commission's directions, or subject to ratification by the Commission, shall act on the Commission's behalf during the interims between Commission meetings.

b. *Vice Chairperson.* The vice chairperson shall, in the absence or at the direction of the chairperson, perform any or all of the duties of the chairperson. In the event of a vacancy in the office of chairperson, the vice chairperson shall serve as acting until a new chairperson is elected by the Commission.

c. *Secretary.* The secretary shall keep minutes of all Commission meetings and shall act as the custodian of all documents and records pertaining to the status of the Compact and the business of the Commission.

d. *Treasurer.* The treasurer, with the assistance of the Commission's executive director, shall act as custodian of all Commission funds and shall be responsible for monitoring the administration of all fiscal policies and procedures set forth in the Compact or adopted by the Commission. Pursuant to the Compact, the treasurer shall execute such bond as may be required by the Commission covering the treasurer, the executive director and any other officers, Commission Members and Commission personnel, as determined by the Commission, who may be responsible for the receipt, disbursement, or management of Commission funds.

e. *Past Chair*. The past chair is the most recent previous chair who is still serving as a Commission member and shall perform such duties as may be requested by the Commission.

4) **Q: Who can be nominated for a leadership position within MIC3?**
A: Duly appointed State Commissioners or Designees who have been appointed by the *MIC3 Delegation of Authority Form* may run for office.

<u>MIC3 Bylaws, Article III, Section 1. Election and Succession</u>
"The officers shall be duly appointed Commission Members, except that if the Commission appoints an Executive Director, then the Executive Director shall serve as the secretary."

<u>MIC3 Rules. Chapter – 100, SEC.1.101 Definitions</u>
"Compact Commissioner' means: the voting representative of each compacting State, appointed pursuant to Article VIII of this compact."

<u>MIC3 Model Compact Language. Article VIII STATE COORDINATION</u>
"C. The compact commissioner responsible for the administration and management of the state's participation in the compact shall be appointed by the Governor or as otherwise determined by each member state."

5) **Q: Will nominations for leadership positions be accepted from the floor?**
A: No. To support the transparency and fairness of the electoral process, proper vetting of the candidates, and to ensure candidates are appropriately qualified for the office they are seeking, the Committee determined all candidates must submit an application by the deadline. (July 6, 2026) General Counsel has advised while the By-Laws mandate that annual elections be held, it does not mandate nominations to be accepted from the floor. Further, the Commission determines the electoral process and may refer to Robert's Rules if necessary.

6) **Q: How will voting be conducted at the 2025 ABM?**
A: As a quasi-governmental, publicly funded entity, whose meetings are open to the public, voting will be conducted by roll call vote during the General Session. As commissioners are public officials, their votes are part of the public record. Holding elections by roll call vote supports transparency and the role of commissioners as public officials. In the past, voting was done via secret ballot, but transparency now dictates a roll call. Note: If a candidate is running unopposed, then a slate of candidate(s) may be elected by acclamation, and a roll call vote will not be utilized.

7) **Q: If a member state's appointed Commissioner is unable to attend the meeting, can they vote?**
A: No, a member state commissioner or designee must be present at the Annual Business Meeting to vote in the elections. As defined by the Compact Rules Chapter 100, SEC. 1.101 the *"Compact Commissioner" means: the voting representative of each compacting State, appointed pursuant to Article VIII of this compact.* This individual, as indicated by an appointment letter from their state's appointing authority, administers and manages the Compact in their state.

If the Compact Commissioner or Designee is unable to attend, the Commissioner or appointing authority, may designate a “Proxy” may be selected to serve as the voting representative for their state only for the duration of the specified Annual Business Meeting. In accordance with MIC3 Policy 5-2019:

- A “proxy” will not serve on a Standing Committee but may attend any meetings held during the Annual Business Meeting, so they may communicate relevant information to their Commissioner or State Council upon the conclusion of the Annual Business Meeting. A proxy may not run for or hold a leadership position on the Commission.
- The *MIC3 Delegation of Authority Form* for the Annual Business Meeting containing the name and contact information of the selected individual must be submitted at least 60 business days but no later than 30 business days prior to the first day of the Annual Business Meeting to ensure all pertinent information, i.e. items to be voted on, are communicated.
- The *MIC3 Delegation of Authority Form* must be submitted at minimum 30 days prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

MIC3 Delegation of Authority Forms received less than the required 30-day notice will be addressed by the Executive Committee.

8) **Q: Why doesn’t the application process specify which two supplemental documents a candidate must submit?**
A: Candidates have diverse backgrounds, and the flexibility to submit the documents that best showcase their qualifications is important to the vetting process. Requiring identical documents could be restrictive.

9) **Q: Can I revise my application if I realize I missed a field after the deadline?**
A: No. All applications must be complete and submitted by the July 6, 2026, 6:00 PM ET deadline. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

10) **Q: Can I email my missing evidence documents after the deadline?**
A: No. All evidence documents must be submitted by the deadline (July 6, 2026, 6:00 PM ET). While optional, evidence documents must be included with the application by the deadline.

2026 Election Memorandum

June 1, 2026

TO: Commissioners and Designees

FROM: 2026 Leadership Nomination Committee (LNC)

- Ernise Singleton, LA Commissioner and Committee Chair
- Debra Jackson, NY Commissioner and Vice Chair
- Laura Cyr, Maine Commissioner
- Teresa Ferenczhalmy, NM Commissioner
- Don Kaminar, AR Commissioner
- J. Clarke Orzalli, MA Commissioner
- Shelley Joan Weiss, WI Commissioner

RE: 2026 Election Applications
Deadline: Monday, July 6, 2026, 6:00 PM ET

We are pleased to announce that we are accepting applications for the Executive Committee (EXCOM) positions, which include: Commission Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. Elections will take place in October at the Annual Business Meeting (ABM). Interested State Commissioners/Commissioner Designees must complete the online application posted here.

Note: Ex-officio, non-voting members are not eligible to run for an elected position. Under the *MIC3 By-Laws, Article III, Sec 2 (a),* the Commission Chair appoints standing committee chairs, who serve for a one-year term.

Background

Since its inception in 2008, the Commission established a past practice and understanding that the Chair and Vice Chair would serve two (2) consecutive one-year terms. Although this practice is not formalized in the bylaws, the Commission recognized early on that identifying members who were active, engaged, and possessed the necessary leadership skills and experience was important for organizational consistency and longevity. Under the ***MIC3 By-Laws, Article III (Officers), Section 1. Election and Succession***, elections are mandated to be held annually.

Leadership Positions

Three (3) Executive positions are elected annually by the commission members, following the established succession plan:

1. Commission Chair
    a. historically served two (2) one-year consecutive terms
    b. historically served two (2) one-year consecutive terms as Vice Chair
    c. upon election of the new Chair, the individual will succeed to Past Chair

2. Vice Chair
   a. historically served two (2) one-year consecutive terms
   b. historically served two (2) one-year consecutive terms as a committee chair

3. Treasurer (and Chair of the Finance Committee)
   a. historically, there has not been a term limit for this position

Executive Committee Responsibilities

- Overseeing organizational Governance and ensuring alignment with the mission and vision through the implementation of the Strategic Plan
- Assisting National Office staff with Compact initiatives
- Collaborating with fellow commissioners and ex-officio to support national and state-level implementation
- Managing and executing policies, programs, and procedures effectively

Time Commitment

Commitment varies. Time invested annually on average is 50+ hours and includes:

- Attending EXCOM Meetings (1 hour/month = 12 hours)
- Preparation, planning, and other duties (average 20 hours)
- Attend two-day EXCOM Meetings held in Lexington in April (average 18 hours)
- The Chair has the discretion to hold a two-day Leadership Retreat in the Fall/Winter for onboarding new officers.

Application

Interested candidates may complete the **online self-nomination application.**

In addition, candidates may submit **up to two documents of evidence**, limited to a resume, letter of recommendation, and/or biography, that demonstrate their viability as a candidate. Documents must be emailed to mic3info@csg.org and received by the deadline.

Although not required under the By-laws, an ideal candidate:

- would have at minimum one calendar year of experience as a commissioner or commissioner designee
- is an active member of and regularly participates on a standing committee
- has a member state in good standing and meets the obligations of the Compact

Note: While candidates historically serve as a committee chair prior to seeking higher office, interested candidates may have an equivalent leadership and understanding of organizational/governmental policy and procedures, and may be considered.

Slate of Candidates

The slate, applications, and evidence documents will be released to the Commission through the *Election Guide* prior to the Annual Business Meeting (ABM). Should an office have multiple candidates, they will be provided two minutes to address the Commission at the ABM. In addition, members will have the opportunity to meet candidates at the ABM Reception.

Note: Should the ABM be held virtually, all processes and procedures normally present during an in-person ABM will be followed to the extent possible.

Floor Nominations

To support the transparency and fairness of the electoral process, proper vetting of the candidates, and to ensure candidates are appropriately qualified for the office they are seeking, the LNC determined that all candidates must apply by the established deadline. **Late applications will not be considered.**

General Counsel has advised that while Commission By-Laws mandate that annual elections be held, it does not mandate nominations be accepted from the floor. Further, the Commission may determine the electoral process of the organization and may refer to Robert's Rules if necessary.

Voting Process
As a quasi-governmental, publicly funded entity, whose meetings are open to the public, voting for leadership positions during the General Session will be conducted by a roll call vote. As the appointed representative for their state, commissioners are considered public officials; therefore, their vote is considered public record. If a candidate runs unopposed, the Commission may accept the uncontested candidate without requiring a roll call vote. If the candidates for the three Executive positions are unopposed, then the Commission may elect the slate of candidates by acclamation.

Deadline
The online application and up to two evidence documents must be emailed to mic3info@csg.org and received by Monday, July 6, 2026, 6:00 PM ET.

Should you have additional questions, contact LNC Chair Ernise Singleton at ernise.singleton@la.gov or the National Office at micinfo@csg.org.

USEFUL LINKS

Online Self-Nomination Application

Campaign Guidelines

Definitions and Position Descriptions

Election FAQ