



# Governmental Research Association

## Annual Policy Conference

July 25-28 at CUNY Graduate Center  
365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10016



### Sunday, July 25

- 4-6 PM Registration: Lobby of Affinia Shelburne  
6-8 PM Reception: Captain's Room, Affinia Shelburne

### Monday, July 26 (CUNY Graduate Center)

- 7:30 AM Breakfast
- 8:00 AM **GRA Organizations Roundup (*members only*)** Steve Kroes, GRA President, moderator
- 9:00 AM **Panel 1: Mayoral Control (Moderator: Sam Tyler, Boston Municipal Research Bureau)**  
Dennis Walcott, Deputy Mayor for Education, NYC  
Joseph Viteritti, Ph.D., Hunter College of CUNY (ed., *When Mayors Take Charge: School Governance in the City*, Brookings Institution Press, 2009)  
Anneliese M. Dickman, J.D., Research Director, Public Policy Forum, Milwaukee
- 10:15 AM **Panel 2: Improving Effectiveness in the Classroom (Moderator: Kirstin Pryor, Center for Governmental Research, Rochester, NY)**  
Jean-Claude Brizard, Superintendent, Rochester, NY City School District  
Yutaka Tamura, COO, Teacher U at Hunter College (also founder of Excel Charter in Boston)
- 11:05 AM *Break*
- 11:20 AM **Panel 3: Charter Schools as a Reform Model (Moderator: Janet Howard, Bureau of Governmental Research, New Orleans)**  
James Merriman, CEO, NYC Charter School Center  
Whitney Tilson, Founder, Tilson Funds
- 12:15 PM **Facilitated discussion among all morning panelists (Moderator: Kirstin Pryor, CGR)**
- 1:00 PM **Luncheon: Richard Ravitch, Lieutenant Governor, State of New York**
- 2:30 PM **Panel 1: State Finances (Moderator: Jeffrey Guilfoyle, President, Citizens Research Council of Michigan, former Dir. Office of Revenue & Tax Analysis, State of Michigan)**  
Robin Prunty, Managing Director, Standard & Poor's  
Robert Megna, Director, Division of the Budget, State of New York  
Andrew Sidamon-Eristoff, Treasurer, State of New Jersey  
Michael Cicchetti, Deputy Secretary of the Budget, State of Connecticut  
David Kline, VP of Communications and Research, California Taxpayers' Association
- 3:40 PM *Break*
- 3:50 PM **Panel 2: City Finances (Moderator: Chuck Brecher, Executive VP and Dir. Research, Citizens Budget Commission, NYC)**  
Ronnie Lowenstein, Director, Independent Budget Office of NYC  
Stephen Agostini, Budget Director, City of Philadelphia  
Sam Tyler, President, Boston Municipal Research Bureau
- 5:30 PM **Adjourn**

## Tuesday, July 27

### *Morning: Politics & Policy in the States*

7:30 AM **Breakfast**

8:30 AM **Panel 1: Roots of Dysfunction & Solutions (Moderator: Laurence Msall, Civic Federation of Chicago)**

Marc Holzer, Dean, School of Public Affairs & Admin, Rutgers University

E.J. McMahon, Director, Empire Center for State Policy

Jennifer Pike, Research Director, Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana

10:00 AM *Break*

10:15 AM **Panel 2: Promoting Public Policy through Citizen Action (Moderator: David Liebschutz, Center for Governmental Research, Albany, NY)**

Blair Horner, Legislative Director, NY Public Interest Research Group

Dominic Calabro, President & CEO, Florida TaxWatch

Steve Wray, Managing Director, Pennsylvania Economy League

**Facilitated discussion among panelists (Moderator: David Liebschutz, CGR)**

### *Afternoon: Lunch and Activities on Your Own*

6-9:00 PM **Awards Dinner: Domenico's Restaurant  
120 E. 40<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Speaker: Wayne Barrett, Village Voice**

## Wednesday, July 28

8:00 AM **Breakfast**

8:30 AM **Panel 1: Use of Online Media Within GRA**

Intro & presentation: Joseph Stefko, Dir. Public Finance, Center for Governmental Research  
Group discussion

**NOTE: This panel will be available ONLINE through a GoToMeeting connection. Email [mzilora@cgr.org](mailto:mzilora@cgr.org) or [jstefko@cgr.org](mailto:jstefko@cgr.org) if you wish to participate.**

9:45 AM *Break*

10:00 AM **Panel 2: GRA Competition Award Winners**

11:30 AM **Conference Adjourns**

**With the exception of the awards dinner, all sessions will take place in the Martin Segal Theatre at the City University of New York's Graduate Center at 365 Fifth Avenue.**