

LEADERSHIP & ELECTED OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT

Program Update
Fall 2024



South Carolina fellows sharing their "river of life" drawings with one another

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Our Earth Is Worth Mobilizing For



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Boards & Commissions Fellowship Now Training Leaders in Five States

LCV Education Fund's Nebraska and South Carolina state affiliates kicked off their Boards and Commissions Fellowship programs in 2024, joining programs in Idaho, Colorado and North Carolina. This is the first time we have had high school students as part of the cohort (in Nebraska), even though many cities and counties have youth advisory boards and commissions. We are excited to see how our youngest fellows do as they pursue leadership roles in their communities.



Sharing Learning Across the CVM

We were very proud to share the work that our state affiliates are doing with leaders through Boards and Commissions Fellowship programs at this year's Conservation Voters Movement (CVM) conference, held in May. We highlighted the work of two of our alumni — Shari Baber, who is now serving as Vice Chair of the Boise (Idaho) Parks and Recreation Commission, and Malik Davis, who is now serving on the Fayetteville (North Carolina) City Council. They shared their priorities for their leadership roles and how public service is changing both their communities and how they see themselves.



Program Managers Learn Strategies to Help Fellows Get Appointed

Our Boards and Commissions Fellowship Program Manager cohort (from six states) meets once a month to support each other, share ideas, and learn from one another. In August 2024, we discussed strategies for supporting fellows through the process of being appointed to a board or commission — for example, holding regional meet-and-greets with elected and appointed officials from different parts of a state, which has been effective in Idaho. At these gatherings, fellows learn about a wide range of appointed positions that they are eligible for and make connections that can help them to win appointments. Additionally, fellows are often less intimidated after meeting currently appointed officials and realizing that they are ordinary people (i.e., not that different from themselves). Each fellow is also assigned a mentor who can play an important role in helping them to explore and get appointed to a local board or commission.



Idaho fellows attend a regional meet-and-greet with local appointed and elected officials

Coming Soon: Boards & Commissions Fellowship for Alaska Leaders

Our Boards and Commissions Fellowship program with the Alaska Center Education Fund (ACEF) is hiring a program manager this fall and will launch a fellowship in Spring 2025. ACEF has a long history of youth organizing around policy issues in Alaska, and we're excited to be part of another program that Alaska youth can join to continue on their leadership journeys.



Leaders from Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA)

Governance Training to Support Newly Elected Officials in New Jersey



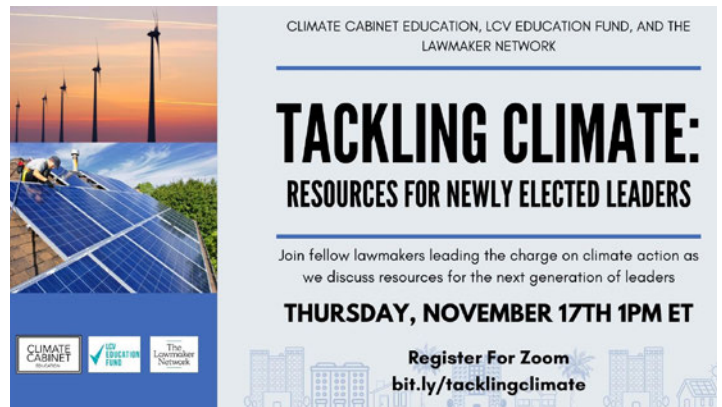
In 2024, we held governance training with newly elected members of the New Jersey state legislature and several New Jersey city council members. Our governance training sessions are intended to support newly elected officials as they transition into their new roles, helping them to set goals, plan for self-care, and learn about power mapping, building political will and strong relationships, and more. In 2025, we plan to return to Vermont to support newly elected members of the state legislature.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

LCV Education Fund's leadership development work is focused on changing the face of leadership in the United States, so that our leaders and elected officials are more reflective of the population of our country, and so that more voices that have historically been excluded from environmental policymaking are included.

We have two main programs. One is our **governance trainings**, which we conduct annually for newly elected officials, with the goal of providing support to environmental champions in local and state office so they can be the most effective leaders possible. The trainings also introduce our elected leaders across the Conservation Voters Movement (**CVM**) to opportunities for support from partner organizations like Climate Cabinet and the Lawmaker Network, which can serve as resources for developing policy, communicating with constituents, and more.

The second program is our **Boards and Commissions Fellowship**, a grant program through which LCV Education Fund supports state affiliates' work to provide in-depth training to environmental champions. State affiliates have already held trainings in five states: Colorado, Idaho, Nebraska, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The goal of this program is threefold: to recruit diverse leaders to serve on boards and commissions in their communities, so that a broader range of voices are at decision-making tables across the country; to develop skilled policy leaders who could one day serve in elected office (or in other positions that influence environmental policy); and to position more environmental champions to shape environmental policy in their communities.



This strategy is yielding results: Boards and Commissions Fellowship alumni have been appointed to elected office (due to vacancies) and are serving on public boards and commissions.