National Foundation for Women Legislators

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

LOEWS VANDERBILT HOTEL
NASHVILLE, TN

November 9 - 11, 2026

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2026

9:00am-4:30pm **Conference Registration & Information Station**
Location: Symphony Ballroom Foyer

9:00am-12:00pm **Podcast Studio Open**
Location: Quonset Hut Room, 2nd Floor

12:00-1:30pm **Membership Meeting & Lunch**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
Exclusively for elected women, this opening event will focus on harnessing our strengths using AI, honoring the women of excellence nominated by their peers, voting on our conference resolutions, bylaws and 2027 Board of Directors, and connecting on our committee responsibilities.

1:30-2:00pm **Conference Opening Ceremonies & Welcome**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
All conference participants are welcome to help us kick-off our biggest event of the year.

Introduction **Renee Dabbs,** NFWL Executive Director
Representative Lisa Subeck, Wisconsin State Legislature, NFWL Board

Presentation of Colors, Nashville Metro Police Department

National Anthem, Carter Hammonds, Isaiah T. Creswell Arts Magnet Middle School

Welcome **Senator Becky Massey,** Tennessee State Legislature**,** Conference Co-Chair
Councilwoman Courtney Johnston, Metro Council, Nashville, Conference Co-Chair

2:00-2:30pm **Beyond Awareness: Strengthening Consumer Protections Against Financial Scams**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
Explore how policymakers, financial institutions, and communities can move beyond awareness to strengthen consumer protections, prevent financial exploitation, and better equip individuals to recognize, report, and recover from scams.

Moderator **Senator Becky Massey,** Tennessee State Legislature**,** Conference Co-Chair

Speakers **Jordan Fuhr**, Executive Director for Cyber Resiliency and Human Defense, Wells Fargo
Richard Littlehale, TN Bureau of Investigations

2:30-3:00pm **Fair Chances in a Digital World**

Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III

How can state legislators turn fair chances into practical opportunities before release from incarceration? This fireside chat brings together lived experience, entrepreneurship, and public-safety perspectives to explore preparation before release, barriers to opportunity afterward, and how technology and digital skills can support successful reentry.

Introduction **Representative Sandra Scott,** Georgia State Legislature**,** NFWL Board

Speaker **Ashley Furst,** Senior Manager Strategic Initiatives, Aventiv Technologies
Leslie K. Leland, Founder & President, WIGS PLUS
Alisha James, Senior Vice President, Sales, Securus Technologies

3:00-3:30pm **State Leadership on Hepatitis B: Closing Gaps in Prevention and Treatment**

Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III

This session will highlight state-level opportunities to strengthen hepatitis B prevention, expand access to screening and vaccination, and close gaps in diagnosis and treatment.

Introduction **Senator Gayle Harrell,** Florida State Legislature**,** NFWL Board

Speaker **Len Friedland, MD**, Vice President, Scientific Affairs & Public Health, Vaccines, GSK

3:30-4:00pm **Innovation & Care Across the States: Alzheimer's Policy Update**

Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III

More than seven million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease. The disease severely alters the lives of the patients who have it, as well as the families and caregivers who support them. This panel will explore how innovation in diagnosis and treatment is changing the Alzheimer's landscape, what that change looks like in clinical practice today, what still keeps patients from benefiting, and state policies lawmakers should consider.

Introduction **Representative Kim Schofield,** Georgia State Legislature

Speakers **Amalia Peterson, MD**, Behavioral Neurologist and Assistant Professor of Neurology, Vanderbilt University Medical Center
Maureen Japha, Associate Vice President, Corporate Affairs Neuroscience, Eli Lilly and Co.

4:00- 4:15pm **Networking Break**

Take a quick break, courtesy of Healthcare Distribution Alliance.

4:15-5:15pm **Technology** & **Innovation Roundtables**

Location: Symphony Ballroom I

Elected women will have the opportunity for small group discussions on a variety of topics. Please sit at the table that interests you and be ready to move for the three 15-minute engaging rounds. You won't get to every table, but you will have time to network at the end to be sure you have the info you need.

Introduction **Representative Vanessa Grossl,** Kentucky State Legislature

1. **Broadband Expansion, Rural Connectivity, & Innovation Beyond**
   Discuss innovative state policy solutions to ensure all communities can participate in today's economy.
   Table Host: Emma Looney, Government & External Affairs, & **Stacey Briggs**, State Legislative Affairs, T-Mobile

2. **Technology for All: How Wireless Advances Accessibility and Connectivity**
   Explore how innovations in devices, services and next-generation wireless networks are making technology more accessible, with a particular focus on older adults, and how industry and policymakers can work together to ensure innovation continues to expand access and opportunity for everyone.
   Table Host: **Anissa Reed**, Director, State & Local Affairs, CTIA

3. **Beyond the Aisles – Retail at Work**
   Learn more about retail improving operational efficiency, pricing the product not the person, strengthening supply chains, and how our digital technology supports our associates and customers and communities.
   Table Host: Deborah Herron, Director, Public Affairs and Government Relations, Walmart

4. **From Special Interests to Strategic Insight: AI Policy**
   Learn more about how state policymakers can navigate competing interests, evaluate emerging AI policy proposals, and develop informed, forward-looking strategies that balance innovation, accountability, and the needs of their constituents.
   Table Host: Victoria V. Zepp, DPL, CEO, Team180

5. **Connecting Communities: Broadband, Opportunity & Innovation**
   Discuss broadband access, connectivity, and the role of technology in supporting communities and local economies.
   Table Host: Zachary Bates, Senior Director, State Government Affairs, Charter Communications

6. **Workforce Development**
   How is technology changing the needs of students and shaping the workforce they will enter?
   Table Host: Ginger Hausser, Western Governor's University

7. **Innovative Housing Policy**
   Developed with input from a wide range of stakeholders and subject matter experts, Nashville has released the Unified Housing Strategy which outlines clear strategies and actions to expand access to safe, stable, and affordable housing for all. Dig in to how your community can relate.
   Table Host: Richel Albright, Chief of Staff at Metro Nashville Planning Department

8. **Supporting Small Business in Your Community**
   What are the resources and strategies to help entrepreneurs in your community thrive.
   Table Host: Commissioner Tiffany Boyle, Newport News, Virginia

9. **Listen & Learn with NFWL**
   What are the bipartisan topics that inspire you, and how can they be showcased at NFWL?
   Table Host: Renee Dabbs, Executive Director, NFWL

5:30pm **Bipartisan Choir Rehearsal**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
Music brings people together! Join us for a quick practice of some American classics to perform for our friends at our Installation Dinner and Veterans Celebration.

5:30-6:30pm **Podcast Studio Open**
Location: Quonset Hut Room, 2nd Floor

6:30pm **Group Departure for Offsite Event**
Location: Front Lobby

7:00-8:30pm **Celebration at the Parthenon**
Location: The Parthenon, 2500 West End Ave, Nashville, TN 37203
The Parthenon in Nashville celebrates the city's nickname as "Athens of the South" and NFWL invites all attendees to join us as we celebrate the excellent women among us, and enjoy this historic landmark. Focused on connecting people of all ages with art, architecture, and history. Join us for drinks, dinner, and fun!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026

7:30am-4:30pm **Conference Registration & Information Station**
Location: Symphony Ballroom Foyer

8:00-9:00am **Networking Breakfast**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III

9:00-9:30am **Examining the Long-Term Impact of Most Favored Nation (MFN) Drug - Pricing Policies on Patients, Providers and the Biopharmaceutical Companies**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
MFN refers to drug pricing proposals that tie U.S. drug prices to those paid in other countries, requires state legislators to face important questions that extend well beyond the discussion of drug pricing. This panel will feature stakeholders from across the healthcare ecosystem who will offer their thoughts on the broader, long-term implications of how international reference pricing could affect patient access, treatment options and the practice of medicine, and the impact to research and development for future pipeline innovation, including jobs and economic growth for the state.

Introduction	**Delegate April Miller,** Maryland State Legislature, NFWL Board
Moderator	**Sharon Lamberton, MS, RN,** Deputy Vice President, State Policy, PhRMA
Speakers	**Kathy Oubre**, CEO, Pontchartrain Cancer Center in Louisiana **Mindy Cameron,** Rare Disease Advocate

9:30-10:00am **It's Getting Hot in Here: A Policy Blueprint for Diabetes and Menopause Management**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
Think menopause is just hot flashes? It is a metabolic turning point where estrogen declines, insulin sensitivity falls, cardiovascular risks rise and healthcare costs and budgets are impacted. For women already living with diabetes, these changes arrive on top of an existing condition, compounding risks and outcomes, not to mention daily function and quality of life. In this session you will learn about the metabolic and hormonal lifecycle, the conditions and costs that follow at each stage, and the evidence for coordinated care, including hormone therapy, GLP-1 medicines, and lean-mass protection. It closes with action steps and what you can do to support women in your district through this phase of life.

Introduction **Senator Donna Kim,** Hawaii State Legislature, NFWL Board

Speakers **Jocelyn Collins,** Director of State Advocacy, Diabetes Leadership Council
Donna Ryan, Board Member, Diabetes Leadership Council

10:00-10:30am **Health Access: Protecting Women's Hearts in Tennessee and Beyond**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
Heart disease is the leading cause of death for women in the United States and the leading cause of death overall in Tennessee. This session will explore how barriers to clear, accessible health information, affordability, and continuity of care can affect cardiovascular health, with a focus on LDL, or "bad," cholesterol. Dig into the importance of knowing and understanding your cholesterol numbers and personal goal, along with practical opportunities for state and local leaders to support clear health education and connections to community-based care, including federally qualified health centers.

Introduction **Representative Annie McDaniel,** South Carolina State Legislature

Speaker **Bea Mina,** Director, Strategic Marketing Planning - Patient Health Innovation, Merck

10:30-11:00am **Improving Maternal Health: Connecting Quality, Access and Community**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
Explore how health plans can partner with states, providers, community organizations, and policymakers to improve maternal and infant health. Bringing together clinical expertise with Centene's Medicaid and Marketplace experience, this discussion will explore how data, clinical insights, and community partnerships can identify needs, strengthen access and quality, and better connect mothers and families to care and support. The conversation will highlight how innovation, policy, and shared accountability can address barriers and advance better outcomes for mothers, babies, and families.

Introduction **Representative Mary Bentley,** Arkansas State Legislature, NFWL Board

Speaker **Dawn Steiner, MD, MS-HQS, FACOG,** OB/GYN Medical Director, Centene Corporation

11:00-11:30am **Access at Stake: Behavioral Health & State Power**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
As states navigate Medicaid changes and growing behavioral health needs, policymakers face critical decisions that will shape access to care. This discussion will explore federal policy impacts, parity protections, and strategies to strengthen access and outcomes through partnerships with community providers.

Introduction **Senator Gale Adcock,** North Carolina State Legislature, NFWL Board

Speaker **Sarah Phillips,** Associate Director, The Carter Center Rosalynn Carter Mental Health and Caregiver Program

Alysia Smith Knight, Executive Director, Tennessee Association of Mental Health Organizations (TAMHO)

11:30am-12:00pm **Networking Break**
Take a mental health break to build mental health kits that supports teens in need courtesy of Johnson & Johnson's CareCommunity.

12:00-12:30pm **Concurrent Workshops**

Workshop I: **Maternal Health – Celebrating & Supporting Women in Your State**
Location: Sound Emporium AB, 2nd Floor
Explore the challenges surrounding maternal health, the ways to raise awareness, and the resources, and support systems that can help mothers access care before, during, and after pregnancy.

Introduction **Senator Roxanne Persaud,** New York State Legislature

Speakers **Senator London Lamar,** Tennessee State Legislature
Delegate Anitra Hamilton, West Virgina State Legislature

Workshop II: **Digital connectivity in your community**
Location: Southern Ground, 2nd Floor
How reliable connectivity, digital tools, and community partnerships help small communities grow, strengthen local economies, and create new cost-saving opportunities for constituents in your district.

Introduction **Commissioner Rena Moran,** Ramsey County, Minnesota

Speaker **Zachary Bates**, Senior Director, State Government Affairs, Charter Communications

12:30-1:30pm **Networking Lunch**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III

1:30-2:00pm **The National Human Trafficking Hotline- Every Signal. Every Survivor. Strengthening Prevention, Protection, and Coordinated Response Thought Data, Partnerships and Collaborative Action**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
Human trafficking prevention requires coordinated systems that can identify risk, respond to crises, and connect individuals to support. As trafficking trends evolve, collaboration among service providers, community organizations, child welfare systems, and law enforcement agencies and lawmakers remain critical to improving prevention and survivor outcomes. This presentation explores how data-informed strategies and coordinated Hotline response strengthen prevention and intervention efforts across anti-trafficking systems. Attendees will gain practical insight into how operational data, rapid response systems, and cross-sector communication can improve accountability, responsiveness, and coordinated care for individuals in crisis.

Introduction **Senator Kyra Hoffner,** Delaware State Legislature

Speaker **Tiffany Taylor,** Executive Director for Call Center Operations, Compass Connections

2:00-2:15pm **Stretch Break**
Enjoy a quick break courtesy of the American Gas Association.

2:15-3:15pm **Healthcare Policy Roundtables**
Location: Symphony Ballroom I
Elected women will have the opportunity for small group discussions on a variety of topics. Please sit at the table that interests you and be ready to move for the three 15-minute engaging rounds. You won't get to every tables, but you will have time to network at the end to be sure you have the info you need.

Introduction **Representative Mary Franson,** Minnesota State Legislature

1. **A Simple Blood Test for Alzheimer's: Is Your State Ready?**
   FDA-cleared blood tests are accelerating Alzheimer's diagnosis, and new research shows they help primary care physicians diagnose the disease with far greater accuracy. Paired with treatments that can slow disease progression, these advances could help people living with Alzheimer's and their families get answers and care sooner. This roundtable explores how states can make sure policy keeps pace.
   Table Host: Jennifer Rosen, Vice President, State Affairs, Alzheimer's Association, Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM)

2. **Schizophrenia Lived Experience, Patient & Caregiver Resources, & State Policy Reforms**
   Schizophrenia is one of the top 10 causes of disability worldwide, with its deepest impact on individuals ages 25–54, and total national expenditures estimated at $366.8 billion annually. The disease has deep impacts on the patient, caregiver and community. This roundtable explores the patient lived experience, and how state policymakers can take action to improve care, treatment options early in diagnosis, peer support specialist and behavioral health workforce access, behavioral health and justice system reforms, and family and caregiver engagement resources.
   Table Host: Eric Smith, Commissioner, Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health, Mental Health Advocate, Public Speaker, and Consultant & **Sarah Kan**, Sr. Director, State Government and Policy Teva Pharmaceuticals

3. **Substance Use Prevention & Treatment Policy**
   Discuss how to expand access to effective treatment for substance use disorders, including increased use of Food and Drug Administration-approved medications and behavioral health therapies.
   Table Hosts: **Alaina McBournie**, Senior Manager & **Nawshin Ahmed**, Senior Associate, The Pew Charitable Trusts

4. **Putting Patients and People with Disabilities First in Health Care Decision-Making**
   Join the Partnership to Improve Patient Care (PIPC**)**, for a discussion advocating for patients.
   Table Hosts: **Thayer Surette Roberts**, Deputy Director, & **Sara van Geertruyden**, PIPC

5. **Psychedelics-inspired Medicine, Healthcare Innovation & the Future**
   What should elected women know about psychedelics-inspired medicine and mental health innovation, emerging research, potential treatment pathways, and the role of state policy in advancing safe, evidence-based care for patients.
   Table Host: Joee Lindbeck, Director, State Government Affairs, Otsuka America Pharmaceuticals

6. **Prevention & Access to Immunizations**
   Exploring approaches to prevention, public education, access to immunizations, and opportunities to support the health and well-being of communities across their states.
   Table Host: **Emily Delikat**, MPH, CPH, Director, Tennessee Families for Vaccines & **Barbara Dentz, MD, FAAP,** Board Member, American Families for Vaccines

7. **Supporting Healthy Children**
   Join Nashville Strong Babies for a roundtable discussion on improving maternal and infant health outcomes through community partnerships, family support, and innovative approaches that help mothers and babies thrive.
   Table Host: **Latissa Hall**, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Division, Nashville Metro Public Health Department

8. **FMLA & Your State**
   Explore how the Family and Medical Leave Act intersects with state policies, examining approaches to supporting working families, strengthening workforce participation, and helping employees navigate leave during important life and health events.
   Table Host: **Feroza Freeland**, Government Affairs, A Better Balance

9. **Healing Politics - Encouraging Healthcare Leaders into Elected Office**
   Empowering nurses and midwives to bring their frontline experience into public service, strengthen healthcare policymaking, and build pathways for healthcare professionals to become leaders in their communities and state legislatures.
   Table Host: **Senator Gale Adcock**, North Carolina State Legislature, NFWL Board

3:15-3:30pm **Stretch Break**

3:30-4:15pm ***Documentary Screening* – Tampons & Taxes**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
Eliminating the tampon tax has garnered bipartisan support across the country, with members of both political parties introducing legislation and signing bills into law to eliminate it. This story dives into how that bipartisan support was established, and how this bill passed in one key state.

Introduction **Representative Annie McDaniel,** South Carolina State Legislature

Speakers **Senator Margie Bright Matthews**, South Carolina State Legislature
Senator Tameika Isaac Devine, South Carolina State Legislature
The Honorable Katrina Shealy, Former South Carolina State Legislature
Emily Harrold, Documentary Filmmaker

4:15pm **On your own**

6:00-7:00pm **Installation Reception**
Location: Symphony Ballroom Foyer
Enjoy time to connect with attendees and celebrate our conference success.

7:00-8:30pm **Installation & Dinner**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
Celebrating years of NFWL excellence and the women who make us great.

Introduction **Renee Dabbs,** Executive Director, NFWL

Invocation **Representative Sandra Scott,** Georgia State Legislature, NFWL Board

Installation **Judge Lynne T. Ingram,** Eighth Circuit Court, 20th Judicial District, Davidson County

Speaker **The Honorable Diane Allen**, Former Senator, New Jersey State Legislature

Leadership Award **Beth Loudy,** Executive Director, SGAC

8:30-9:30pm **The Celebration Continues – Late Night!**
Location: Star Struck Gallery

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2026

7:30-11:00am **Conference Registration & Information Station**

7:30-8:15am **Networking Breakfast**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III

8:30-9:45am **OpenAI Academy: AI Tools for Elected Women**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
Learn how elected women can use AI to work smarter, from preparing briefings and communications to organizing information and exploring new ideas. This practical session will introduce resources from OpenAI Academy and offer approachable ways to build AI skills and bring them into your day-to-day work. To get the most out of this session please bring your computer!

Introduction **Assemblywoman Lisa Krasner,** Nevada State Legislature, NFWL Board

9:45-10:00am **Networking Break**

10:00-11:00am **Policy Roundtables**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
Elected women will have the opportunity for small group discussions on a variety of topics. Please sit at the table that interests you and be ready to move for the three 15-minute engaging rounds. You won't get to all 8 tables, but you will have time to network at the end to be sure you have the info you need.

Introduction **Stephanie T. Bolden,** Delaware State Legislature, NFWL Board

1. **Schizophrenia Lived Experience, Patient & Caregiver Resources, & State Policy Reforms**
   Schizophrenia is one of the top 10 causes of disability worldwide, with its deepest impact on individuals ages 25–54, and total national expenditures estimated at $366.8 billion annually. The disease has deep impacts on the patient, caregiver and community. This roundtable explores the patient lived experience, and how state policymakers can take action to improve care, treatment options early in diagnosis, peer support specialist and behavioral health workforce access, behavioral health and justice system reforms, and family and caregiver engagement resources.
   Table Hosts: Eric Smith, Commissioner, Texas Judicial Commission on Mental Health, Mental Health Advocate, Public Speaker, and Consultant & **Sarah Kan**, Sr. Director, State Government and Policy Teva Pharmaceuticals

2. **Campus Free Speech Culture in Trouble: What Students Are Saying and How to Fix It**
   A discussion on the state of free speech on college campuses and how to foster open dialogue and viewpoint diversity.
   Table Hosts: **Carolyn Iodice**, Legislative and Policy Director, FIRE & Government Affairs Counsel, **Michael Hurley**, Government Affairs Counsel, FIRE

3. **Expanding Your State's Primary Turnout**
   Join fellow state leaders for a nonpartisan roundtable discussion on strategies to encourage voter participation in primary elections, increase civic engagement, and help ensure more residents understand and take part in the electoral process.
   Table Host: Chloe Akers, Founder & Principal, Atkin Consulting LLC

4. **Tampons & Taxes Continued**
   Connect with the filmmaker and learn what it takes to host a screening in your state!
   Table Host: **Emily Harrold**, Documentary Filmmaker

5. **Connecting with your Community on Education Policy**
   How can you connect with the people who live education policy issues every day- bringing together teachers, parents, administrators, paraprofessionals, school bus drivers, counselors and our communities to examine education proposals to better create legislation that is strengthened by the voices of the people it will affect.
   Table Host: Representative Sandra Scott, Georgia State Legislature, NFWL Board

6. **Protecting Homeowners & HOA Policy**
   Discuss evolving state approaches to protecting homeowners and renters, strengthening HOA accountability, addressing condominium maintenance and structural safety concerns, and ensuring residents have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing.
   Table Host: Senator Donzella James, Georgia State Legislature

7. **The Crown Act**
   Join fellow state leaders for a roundtable discussion on the CROWN Act, examining state efforts to protect individuals from discrimination based on natural hair textures and protective hairstyles, promote inclusive workplaces and schools, and advance equal opportunities for all.
   Table Host: **Commissioner Rena Moran**, Ramsey County, Minnesota

11:00-11:30am **Veterans, Community & the Power of Connection**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
How can states and employers work together to help veterans and military families thrive after service? Hear Waypoint Vets in Nashville about the importance of connection, camaraderie, and meaningful experiences in supporting veterans, and how outdoor adventures can create space for reflection, resilience, and lasting community.

Introduction **Renee Dabbs,** Executive Director, NFWL

Speaker **Sarah Lee**, Army OIF Combat Veteran, Founder, Waypoint Vets

Bipartisan Choir Performance

11:30am-12:30pm **Student Scholarship Winner Celebration & Luncheon**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
Enjoy one of our favorite events as we celebrate five young Tennessee women recipients of our 2026 Student Scholarship Award. You will love being a part of this recognition of future leaders.

Introduction **Renee Dabbs,** Executive Director, NFWL

Winners
Chelsea Cloyd, Vanderbilt University
Olivia Gade, Vanderbilt University
Neela Malcore, Belmont University
Reaghan Neal, Belmont University
Kendall Sebasky, Vanderbilt University

12:30-1:00pm **Wrap Up**