National Foundation for Women Legislators

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

LOEWS VANDERBILT HOTEL
NASHVILLE, TN
November 9 - 11, 2026

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2026

8:00am-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	**Nashville Metro Police Department**
Welcome	**Representative Karen Camper,** Tennessee State Legislature, NFWL Board & Conference Co-Chair **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

It is estimated that seven million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and this session will address the needs of patients, families and caregivers beyond. How is innovation making change, and what are the state policy supports to consider?

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

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

Take a quick break, courtesy of HDA.

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 all 10 tables, but you will have time to network at the end to be sure you have the info you need.

Introduction **Delegate April Miller,** Maryland State Legislature**,** NFWL Board

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, 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. **Innovation in Retail in Your Community**
   Learn more about how companies continue to transform the retail experience, improving operational efficiency, pricing the product not the person, strengthening supply chains, and helping businesses better serve customers and communities.
   Table Host: Deborah Heron, Director, Public Affairs and Government Relations, Walmart

4. **Youth Protections in Social Media**
   Stay up to date on tools for teen safety, parental involvement, and collaboration with policymakers to create safer online experiences for young people.
   Table Host: Meta

5. **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

6. **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

7. **Supporting Tech Policy for Local Nonprofits**
   How can you build a community of support for your local nonprofits?
   Table Host: TechFed Nashville

8. **Education & Technology**
   How are cell phone bans at schools having an impact, and how can your state have the bipartisan support to take on this issue?
   Table Host: Representative Kim Schofield, Georgia State Legislature

9. **Connecting Communities: Broadband, Opportunity & Innovation**
   Discuss broadband access, connectivity, and the role of technology in supporting communities and local economies.
   Table Host: Charter Communications

10. **Utilizing AI as a Community Leader**
    What are the resources and strategies that elected women can use to harness the power of technology to be a better leader?
    Table Host: Alana Sanders, Former County Commissioner, AI Leader

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

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

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

7:00-8:30pm **Evening Celebration at the Parthenon**
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, food, and fun!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2026

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

8:00-8:45am **Networking Breakfast**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III

8:45-9:15am **Workforce Development**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
Dive into innovative approaches to workforce development, from skills training and education to creating pathways into in-demand careers across different industries and explore how states can partner with employers and educators to strengthen their workforce.

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

Speaker **Craig Orlan**, American Honda Motor Co., Inc.

9:15-9:45am **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
Mark Eging, Executive and Founder with the Rare Access Action Project (RAAP)

9:45-10:15am **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

10:15-10:45am **The Importance of Health Access**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
This conversation will explore how state and local leaders can identify and address gaps in access, affordability, prevention, and quality of care. Elected women will hear practical approaches for strengthening health outcomes in their communities and ensuring more women can access the care and resources they need.

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

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

10:45-11:15am **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 Lisa Subeck,** Wisconsin State Legislature, NFWL Board

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

11:15-11:45am **Mental Health & Healthcare Policy**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
Examine state policy solutions to strengthen mental health care access, improve healthcare outcomes, and address barriers to affordable, quality care for individuals and families.

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

11:45-12:15pm **Networking Break**
Join together during the break to take a moment to reflect on mental health, and put together a little something together to bring that reflection to a teen in need.

12:15-12:45pm **Concurrent Workshops**

Workshop I: **Maternal Mental Health – Deep Dive**
Location: Sound Emporium AB, 2nd Floor
Explore the challenges surrounding maternal mental health and the state policies, resources, and support systems that can help mothers access care before, during, and after pregnancy.

Speakers: **Caren Howard, Mental Health America**
Kelsey Caddell, Mamaya Health

Workshop II: **Small Businesses & Community Support**
Location: Ocean Way, 2nd Floor
How does reliable connectivity, digital tools, and community partnerships help small businesses grow, strengthen local economies, and create new opportunities for entrepreneurs in your district?

12:45-2:00pm **Networking Lunch**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III

2:00-2:30pm **Saving Lives & Staying Alert - Human Trafficking Hotline**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
How can elected women support human trafficking victims, expand the awareness of the hotline, and support the local safety net that is available when a survivor calls.

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

Speaker **Drew Carter,** Executive VP of Operations, Compass Connections

2:30-2:45pm **Stretch Break**
Enjoy a quick break courtesy of the American Gas Association

2:45-3:45pm **Caregiving & 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 all 10 tables, but you will have time to network at the end to be sure you have the info you need.

Introduction **Representative Mary Fransen,** 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 at 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. **Maternal Mental Healt**h
   Table Host: **Caren Howard,** Mental Health America

7. **Deeper Dive** – Vaccine Policy & Your State
   Table Host: **Emily Delikat**, MPH, CPH, Director, Tennessee Families for Vaccines

8. **Supporting Healthy Children** –
   Table Host: Nashville Strong Babies

9. **Healing Politics**
   Table Host: **Senator Gale Adcock**, North Carolina State Legislature, NFWL Board

3:45-4:00pm **Stretch Break**

4:00- 4:45pm ***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

5:00pm **On your own**

6:30-7:00pm **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 **Late Night**
The celebration continues!

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2026

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

8:00 – 8:30am **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. Open AI Academy. The Structural Integrity Law

9:45-10:45am **Policy Roundtables**

Location: Symphony Ballroom I

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. **Discussion on Structural Integrity Law**
   a. **Table Host: Senator Donzella James**, Georgia State Legislature

3. **Campus Free Speech Culture in Trouble: What Students Are Saying and How to Fix It**
   Table Hosts: **Carolyn Iodice**, Legislative and Policy Director, FIRE & Government Affairs Counsel, **Michael Hurley**, Government Affairs Counsel, FIRE

4. **Higher Education Innovation**
   Table Host: Western Governors University

5. **The Crown Act**
   Table Host: Commissioner Rena Moran, Minnesota

6. **FMLA & Your State**
   Table Host: Feroza Freeland, Government Affiars, A Better Balance

7. **Expanding Your State's Primary Turnout**
   Table Host: Chloe Akers, Founder & Principal, Atkin Consulting LLC

8. **Education Policy**
   a. **Table Host: Rep. Sandra Scott**, Georgia State Legislature

10:45-11:00am **Stretch Break**

11:00-12:00pm **Student Scholarship Winner Celebration**

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.

Winners **Chelsea Cloyd**
Olivia Gade
Neela Malcore
Reaghan Neal
Kendall Sebasky

12:00-1:30pm **From Service to Success: State Policy Solutions for Veterans and Military Families**
Location: Symphony Ballroom II & III
How can states and employers work together to help veterans and military families thrive after service?

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

1:30pm **Wrap Up & Conclusion**