



NEWS The United States Conference of Mayors

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BURNSVILLE, MN MAYOR ELIZABETH KAUTZ IS INAUGURATED AS THE 68TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

Burnsville, MN – Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth B. Kautz was inaugurated today as the 68th President of The United States Conference of Mayors during a special gavel passing ceremony at 11 a.m. at the Performing Arts Center in Burnsville.

This special inauguration was scheduled due to the fact that the immediate past President of The Conference of Mayors, Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels, was defeated in the most recent mayoral election and his term ended on January 2. Mayor Kautz was the Vice President of The Conference and under the rules of the organization's Constitution, when the President is no longer a mayor, the Vice President automatically becomes President. Mayor Kautz will serve the balance of Seattle Mayor Greg Nickel's term, which would have ended in June 2010, and then serve a full term of her own as President of the organization until June 2011.

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the membership of the Conference, U.S. Conference of Mayors CEO and Executive Director Tom Cochran passed the gavel and introduced Mayor Kautz as the new President of The U.S. Conference of Mayors at the ceremony.

"We are encouraged by Mayor Kautz, our new leader, who will ensure a seamless transition," Cochran said. "The U.S. Conference of Mayors will move forward as an organization with resolve to strengthen America's cities and help American families during these difficult economic times," Cochran continued.

Mayor Kautz also delivered remarks during the ceremony saying, "The news today is often inundated with stories about how the economic recession is taking a terrible toll on our citizens, our businesses, and our city budgets. These are real challenges that mayors across the nation struggle to address. But, we can also reset our paradigms and can look at these challenges as opportunities."

Mayor Kautz reminded the audience of the strength of America's cities and their surrounding metropolitan areas. "The nation's 362 metropolitan areas account for 86 percent of all jobs, and 90 percent of the nation's labor income and gross domestic product. Out of the world's largest 100 economies, 40 are U.S. metropolitan areas! Legally, we are a nation of states within a federal system; but economically, we function as a conglomeration of metro economies that are powerhouses not just within the U.S., but also within the global marketplace."

As President, Mayor Kautz will preside over all official meetings and execute the bipartisan political agenda adopted by the nation's mayors, appoint committee and task force chairs, and will be the global and national spokesperson for the USA mayors' organization.

Mayor Kautz will preside over her first official meeting this month from January 20 - 22 in Washington D.C. at The 78th Winter Meeting of The U.S. Conference of Mayors, when the nation's mayors assemble at The Capitol Hilton to meet with the Obama Administration and Congress to advocate for a national bipartisan political agenda that confronts the unemployment that still exists on main street America, the need for a federal/city partnership on climate protection and energy with block grants to cities producing green jobs, and a more balanced transportation bill next year that recognizes the necessity to modernize the current transportation system in order to daily move goods, services and people in our metro areas of the nation.

Mayor Kautz was first elected Burnsville's Mayor in 1994 and has been re-elected five times since. Mayor Kautz will be the fifth woman and the first minority woman President in the history of The U.S. Conference of Mayors. Mayors Helen Boosalis of Lincoln Nebraska, Mayor Kathy Whitmire of Houston, Mayor Deedee Corradini of Salt Lake and Mayor Beverly O'Neill of Long Beach each served one term respectively. Due to her immediate succession today, Mayor Kautz will be the longest serving woman President in the organization's 78-year history.

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The U.S. Conference of Mayors is the official nonpartisan organization of cities with populations of 30,000 or more. There are 1,139 such cities in the country today, each represented in the Conference by its chief elected official, the Mayor.