

## SOURCEWELL AND INTERCONNECTED FOUNDATIONS

Sourcewell is a sponsor of the Big Seven. We are all being played by our politicians and foundations. NCLS and Foundations

Over the years I have shared the downsides of Foundations. So, let me explain. There is a group of non-profits or 501c3, called the Big seven. These seven foundations include all politician as members once elected.

ICMA partners with several organizations in advocating on behalf of local government. In particular, ICMA is a part of the "Big 7" -a collaboration of seven associations in Washington D.C., that represent their state and local government members from a broad and far-reaching perspective. Executive directors of these seven organizations meet regularly to discuss issues and legislation impacting state and local governments. Frequently the Big 7 prepare joint letters to members of Congress on pending legislation expressing a unified position on behalf of their memberships.

The Big 7 are:

International City/County Management Association (ICMA) [<https://icma.org/>](https://icma.org/):

Representing professional appointed local government administrators, including city and county managers, department heads, and assistant managers.

- \* Council of State Governments (CSG) [<http://www.csq.org/>](http://www.csq.org/): CSG is the multibranch organization forecasting policy trends for the community of states, commonwealths and territories on a national and regional basis.
- \* National Association of Counties (NACo) [<http://www.naco.org/>](http://www.naco.org/): Founded in 1935, NACo is the national organization that represents county governments in the United States and provides services to the nation's 3,066 counties.
- \* National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) [<http://www.ncsl.org/>](http://www.ncsl.org/): NCSL was founded in 1975 and is a bipartisan organization that serves the legislators and staffs of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories.
- \* National Governor's Association (NGA) [<http://www.nga.org/>](http://www.nga.org/): NGA is the collective voice of the nation's governors, representing governors and their senior staff members on Capitol Hill and before the Administration on key federal issues.
- \* National League of Cities (NLC) [<http://www.nlc.org/>](http://www.nlc.org/): NLC represents municipal governments throughout the United States with the mission to strengthen and promote cities as centers of opportunity, leadership, and governance.
- \* U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM) [<http://www.usmayors.org/>](http://www.usmayors.org/): The U.S. Conference of Mayors is a nonpartisan organization representing the 1,139 cities with populations of 30,000 or more. Cities are represented by their chief elected official, the mayor.

Other ICMA Partners:

ICMA also works closely with the State and Local Legal Center [<http://www.statelocallc.org/>](http://www.statelocallc.org/), Government Finance Officers Association [<http://www.gfoa.org/>](http://www.gfoa.org/), the National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers [<http://www.nasact.org/>](http://www.nasact.org/), the National Association of State Retirement Administrators [<http://www.nasra.org/>](http://www.nasra.org/), the National Association of State Budget Officers <https://www.nasbo.org/home>, most recently on issues relating to pension funding and GASB regulations.

ICMA also collaborates with the Center for State and Local Government Excellence [<http://slge.org/>](http://slge.org/), which provides in-depth research into policy issues that impact local government.

Here is the concern, The big Seven does not answer to the people. These are foundations and all state elected Representatives are members of these organizations. They go to Washington and Colorado twice a year to visit with lobbyist. Big sponsors pay up to 50K just to have a seat at the table and push their agendas. One sponsor is Sourcewell out of Staples MN. Their sponsor membership is only 15K. They get a seat at the table. not necessarily to be at the head table with the biggest donors. That is an additional fee.

How much of the voting public knows that their state representatives belong to a foundation, both Democrats and republics belong to the same foundations or 501c3, who lobby for big business. Bi partisan? I think not. All Working with the same objectives.

I could go into more detail, but all you need to know is this. All state representatives play from the same sandbox. We as voters think they work for us. Sorry to burst your bubble, foundations run the big show and dictate to politicians through grants.

I could write a whole Book and explain in detail, but the truth is, we pick sides, Democrats or Republicans. Hoping for a result that satisfies our wants and needs, only to fall victim to the game. Just a sample of what I am sharing with you below.

**Sponsorship Levels**  
**Capitol Circle (50,000-plus)** This custom sponsorship level is designed to enhance the engagement of sponsors who give to the NCSL Foundation plus contribute to other NCSL opportunities. The \$50,000 Capitol Circle sponsorship includes \$30,000 of unrestricted and \$20,000 of restricted funds, and sponsors may customize the restricted portion in the amount and/or by directing it to specific programs of interest.