

Ted Celeste



Former State Representative Ted Celeste is Director of State Programs at the National Institute for Civil Discourse. Ted leads Next Generation, a program of the National Institute for Civil Discourse. His goal is to inspire and support state legislators who want to promote greater understanding and better decision-making. As part of a bi-partisan team, Celeste has facilitated training for the CSG Midwest Regional Conference and the Ohio, Pennsylvania, Washington and Nebraska Legislatures. He has also presented at the CSG BILLD leadership program in Madison, and the National CSG annual meeting in

Kansas City.

Celeste served in the Ohio Legislature from 2007-2012. Known for working effectively “across the aisle” whether he was in the majority or the minority, he has lived his belief in respectful dialogue. One of the only candidates for state office who insisted on running a positive campaign, he won each of his 3 races with a comfortable majority in a swing district. He was recognized for his emphasis on civil dialogue with the John Glenn Public Policy Institute’s Outstanding Public Service Award in 2011. Celeste lives in Columbus, Ohio, is married and has two daughters and 3 grandchildren.

Sen. Elaine Bowers



Elaine was first elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in 2006. She was born and raised in north central Kansas and has been a small business owner since 1988. She and her husband, Charlie, currently own and operate Concordia Chevrolet/Buick in Concordia, KS. She was elected to the Kansas Senate in 2011 and is in her first term representing Senate district #36, which is about 11,000 sq. mile in north central, northeast, and northwest Kansas along the border of Nebraska. She is the Vice chair of Public Health & Welfare, and serves on Financial Institutions & Insurance and the Agricultural

committee. Elaine also serves as co-chair of NCSL’s Legislative Effectiveness Committee.