



## NCSL 2011 LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

*STRONG STATES* ★ *STRONG NATION*

AUGUST 8 – 11, 2011

HENRY B. GONZALEZ CONVENTION CENTER

San Antonio, Texas

### **“Return on Investment: Improving Results and Saving Money”**

Wednesday, August 10, 2011

10:00 am – 11:30 am

### **Speaker Biographies**

#### **Moderator:**

**Senator John Whitmire**  
P.O. Box 12068  
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Austin, Texas 78711  
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Senator John Whitmire represents the 15th Senatorial District of the State of Texas. He was elected to the Texas Senate in 1982 after serving 10 years in the Texas House of Representatives. Senator Whitmire ranks first in seniority and is the "Dean of the Texas Senate." Senator Whitmire serves as Chair of the Senate Criminal Justice Committee. He is also a member of the Senate Finance Committee, Government Organization Committee, Administration Committee, and the Business and Commerce Committee. Senator Whitmire serves as a member of the Texas Sunset Commission which is responsible for reviewing state agencies to identify and eliminate duplication and inefficiency in state government. Senator Whitmire earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Houston and attended the Bates College of Law. He was admitted to the Texas State Bar in 1981 and is attorney of counsel to the law firm Locke Lord Bissell & Liddell LLP.

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**Steve Aos**  
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Steve Aos is the director of the Institute for Public Policy, the non-partisan research arm of the Washington State legislature. He has 34 years of experience conducting cost-benefit analyses and communicating the

results to policy makers in a wide range of public policy areas, as well as in the private sector. His work has become the primary source of evidence on the cost-effectiveness of prevention programs in the US. In addition, the institute has been effective in altering the balance of expenditure in Washington in favor of prevention. His current work focuses on identifying and evaluating the costs and benefits of programs and policies that reduce crime, improve K-12 educational outcomes, reduce child abuse and neglect, improve mental health, and reduce substance abuse. Mr. Aos has many years of experience in energy economics and regulatory policy as well.

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**Tina Chiu**  
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Tina Chiu is the director of technical assistance at the Vera Institute of Justice and currently heads Vera's Cost-Benefit Analysis Unit. Ms. Chiu joined Vera in 1999 and has worked with jurisdictions and policymakers on a variety of issues, including police-immigrant relations, prison conditions, juvenile justice and youth development, adult sentencing and corrections, and responses to domestic violence. Before coming to Vera, Ms. Chiu was a research associate at Columbia University, specializing in community economic development. She has a BA in liberal arts from St. John's College, an MA in history and philosophy of science from the University of Chicago, and an MS in urban planning from Columbia University.

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**Senator Joe Negron**  
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Senator Joe Negron represents District 28 in the Florida State Senate. Senator Negron is Chairman of the Senate Health and Human Services Appropriations Committee and Vice Chair of the Budget Committee. From 2000 to 2006, he served in the Florida House of Representatives, the final two years as Chairman of the Appropriations Committee.

Senator Negron is a native Floridian, born in West Palm Beach. He has an undergraduate degree from Stetson University, a law degree from Emory University and a master's degree in public administration from Harvard University. Senator Negron practices law with the statewide law firm of Gunster. He and his wife, Rebecca, have three children and live in Stuart, Florida. Senator Negron has focused his legislative efforts on the budget, insurance issues and protection of individual liberties.