

DRAFT

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE UTILITY CONSUMER ADVOCATES

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

Hyatt Centric French Quarter
New Orleans, Louisiana
November 15-18, 2026

Registration and all sessions will be in the ???? unless otherwise noted in the agenda. Dress is business casual or casual (ties not necessary)

Sunday – November 15, 2026

Noon – 5:00 pm Registration
 -Please pick up your meeting name badges

Located at: <https://www.nasuca.org> or

-Meeting Agenda
-Bios and Headshots for Speakers
-Meeting Registrants List

NASUCA Meeting Begins

1:30 pm – 5:00pm Closed Business Session

- Officer Reports
 - Karen Stachowski (TN) - Secretary's Report
(Vote on Minutes from the Annual meeting)
 - Anthony Ornelas (WY) - Treasurer's Report
(Vote on Treasurers Report, Vote on Proposed 2027 Budget and Dues)
 - Nomination Committee Report
(Vote on 2027 Officers and Executive Committee)
 - Michael Moody (MI) - President's Report
- Executive Director's Report
- Committee Reports
 - Work Draft Resolutions
- Roundtable of the States

5:00 pm – 6:30 pm Wine and Cheese Reception

Dinner on your own

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Monday – November 16, 2026

7:30 am – 8:10 am Registration and Breakfast ()
Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants and Speakers

Open Session Begins

8:15 am – 8:30 am *Welcome*

Michael Moody Division Chief, Special Litigation Division, Michigan
Department of the Attorney General, NASUCA President

8:30 am – 9:25 am **Private Equity and Gas Utilities: Transparency, Risk, and Regulatory Oversight**

Private equity ownership of gas utilities raises important questions about transparency, financial structure, corporate goals and obligations, and regulatory oversight. Unlike publicly traded gas utility companies, private equity firms generally do not provide the same periodic public SEC filings. That can make it harder to see how ownership, debt, governance, and financial risk are structured. This panel will look at how private equity ownership differs from the traditional gas utility model. What should regulators know about ownership structures, affiliate relationships, management fees, and debt? How do the goals and obligations of private equity owners differ from those of traditional gas utility companies? Do current reporting and disclosure requirements give regulators and the public enough information to understand who owns the utility, how it is financed, and where the risks may be?

Moderator:

Clark Kaml Financial Analyst, Consumer Advocate Division,
Office of the Tennessee Attorney General

Speakers:

Tyson Slocum Director - Energy Programs, Public Citizen
Joseph Terry Policy Analyst, Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Kristen van de Biezenbos Professor of Law, California Western School of Law

9:35 am – 10:30 am **Modern Networks, Modern Metrics: Service Quality Reporting in the Digital Era**

Quality of service standards and reporting are irreplaceable tools regulators rely on to oversee the reliability of communications networks. In light of the FCC's approvals and pending approvals of ILEC applications to accelerate copper discontinuance, NASUCA's Telecom Working Group seeks to explore the nuances of creating and enforcing quality of service standards for digital voice services such as VoIP and fixed wireless. As digital technologies replace legacy services, advocates will discuss what standards should be preserved, what measures or metrics should be introduced, and how to thoughtfully engage states and other stakeholders to ensure that rules created to oversee network reliability for essential voice services are modernized to match the pace of modern technology deployment.

Moderator:

Rhiana Ash Telecom Policy Advisor, Connecticut Office of Consumer
Counsel

Speakers:

Hooman Hedayati Senior Strategic Research Associate - Telecom Policy,
Communications Workers of America

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	TBD TBD
10:30 am – 11:00 am	Coffee Break
11:00 am – 11:55 am	Fixed Charges, Fairness, and the Black Box Bill: Customer Evidence in Debate Over Rate Structure and Bill Design Utility rate structure and bill design debates are often dominated by technical and economic analysis - revenue requirement allocations, volumetric versus fixed charge tradeoffs, behavior responses to conservation incentives. Absent from most proceedings is a fundamental question: what do customers understand, experience, and need from their utility bills? This session will examine recent evidence on consumer understanding and what that evidence implies for consumer advocates engaged in rate design, bill reform, and affordability proceedings nationally. <u>Moderator:</u> Jessica Freedman Assistant Attorney General, Energy and Ratepayer Advocacy Division, Office of Attorney General Andrea Joy Campbell <u>Speakers:</u> Dr. Courtney Henderson Founder & President, Hawks Peak Strategies TBD TBD
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch Break – grab a friend and go...
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Heads of Office Lunch -Open to office heads or their assigned deputy if the office head is not in attendance
1:30 pm – 2:25 pm	Performance-Based Ratemaking: Taking a closer look Various states have explored performance-based regulation (PBR) as a potential alternative to traditional cost-of-service ratemaking in an effort to address safety, reliability, affordability, and, for some, CAPEX bias. The question, of course, is whether PBR can address these concerns or does PBR create unintended challenges. This panel will provide perspectives states who have explored PBR or who have adopted PRB to identify lessons learned from their experiences. <u>Moderator:</u> Tim Tessier Utility Administrator, Office of Consumer Advocate of Iowa <u>Speakers</u> Michael S. Angelo Executive Director, Hawaii Division of Consumer Advocacy TBD TBD

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2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Federal/National Speakers

2:30 pm - EPRI - Flex Mosaic
- David Porter, Vice President, Data Center Power, EPRI

3:00 pm - TBD

:30pm – 4:00 pm Coffee and Snack Break

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm ***“Vignettes”***
“noun /vin-yet/: a brief evocative description, account or episode”

1. Financial Research Institute
- Michael Sykuta, Executive Director
- 2.
- 3.

6:00 pm – 9:00pm ***NASUCA Reception***
Open to All Meeting Registrants and speakers

Location:
New Orleans School of Cooking

Awards to Be Presented
Manifold Awards (Lifetime of Public Service)

Popowsky Awards (Exceptional Service to NASUCA)

Service Award (Service to NASUCA)

Dinner on your own

Tuesday – November 17, 2026

7:15 am – 8:15 am Registration and Breakfast ()
Breakfast available to NASUCA meeting registrants and speakers

Open Session Begins

8:30 am – 10:30 pm ***DOE/LBNL Technical Training***

Session 1: 8:30am – 9:25 am
Promoting energy affordability through utility customer programs
- Sydney Forrester

Energy affordability has long been a persistent issue. However, in recent years it has risen to a primary concern for government officials and their constituents. States across the political spectrum have passed legislation, issued orders, began

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investigations, and developed or adapted goals and programs to address affordability challenges. This presentation will summarize state actions with a focus on customer energy efficiency and demand flexibility programs that lead to bill savings for the participant as well as downward pressure on rates for the entire customer base. Using specific case studies from across the country, we will summarize recent trends in programs such as energy efficiency's migration to deeper retrofits and dual fuel savings and demand flexibility's battery programs. We will focus on specific costs and benefits of these programs to the participant and the grid as a whole, and will also highlight common challenges, lessons learned, supporting legislation and regulation, important program design features, evaluation practices, and any emerging best practices where possible.

Session 2: 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Promoting electricity affordability through distribution system planning

- Sean Murphy

Recent increases in electricity rates have elevated concerns about the affordability of electricity and motivated discussions on how to manage electricity system costs. Many affordability strategies raised have focused on the adoption of technologies that reduce customer electricity usage and avoid electricity system costs. States also can support electricity affordability through distribution system planning processes that describe and prioritize capital investments in grid infrastructure. In this presentation, we will summarize how commissions have assessed distribution system spending and promoted electricity affordability in recent orders on distribution system plans and rate cases. We also will review how different distribution system planning processes can support electricity affordability.

10:30 am – 11:00 am

Break-Coffee and Tea

11:00 am – 12:00 am

A Waterside Chat with Scott Hempling: Liquid Assets or Empty Shells – The Reemergence of Holding Companies and the Utility Obligation to Serve

With ever increasing capital investment needs and a push toward consolidation of water/wastewater systems, empty corporate holding companies are reemerging as key corporate vehicles for acquiring and managing water/wastewater public utilities. This waterside chat, and real time audience participation, will explore the regulatory and legal implications of this structural revival with a focus on how the historic "obligation to serve"—a foundational tenant of utility law—is tested when essential public infrastructure is managed through multi-tiered, investor-backed corporate shells.

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Karen H. Stachowski	Deputy Attorney General, Consumer Advocate Division, Tennessee Attorney General's Office
Scott Hempling	Attorney at Law

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm

Lunch on you own

-Note - CAPS will not have a board meeting in New Orleans

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1:30 pm – 2:30 pm **Panel TBD**

Moderator:

Speakers

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm Federal/National Speakers

2:30 pm -

3:00 pm - Critical Consumer Issues Forum - 2027 Kickoff
Katrina McMurian - Executive Director,

3:30pm – 4:00 pm Coffee and Snack Break

4:00 pm – 5:00 pm ***“Vignettes”***
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1.
2.
3.

End of Open Sessions - Dinner on your own

Wednesday – November 18, 2026

8:30 am – 9:00 am Continental Breakfast –
Breakfast open to NASUCA meeting registrants and speakers

9:00 am – 11:00 am *Closed Session for Members of NASUCA*
-Informal NASUCA Member Roundtable Discussion

Meeting End

Save The Dates:

NASUCA Mid-Year Meeting - July 18-21, 2027, Salt Lake City, Utah

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