



NATIONAL FEDERALISM INITIATIVE

RE-BALANCING THE STATE-FEDERAL PARTNERSHIP



"Federalism is neither a partisan issue, nor is it an issue dividing liberals and conservatives. It's a philosophical concept of how the federal governmental system operates, an effort to determine the proper role of state and federal governments."

- Gov. Scott Matheson (D-Utah, 1977-1985), *Out of Balance*

OUR MISSION

The National Federalism Initiative (NFI) is a bold effort focused on re-balancing the foundational State-Federal governing partnership to enhance diversity among the States, reduce political friction and uncertainty, and strengthen our national union for the next 250 years.

We are a movement based in education, engagement, and leadership to re-establish functional American federalism -- the structural protection that secures to Americans the liberty that derives from the healthy allocation of powers between State and Federal governments.

OUR STRATEGY



Educate:

- Equip state and civic leaders, citizens, and educators with a functional understanding of State-Federal responsibilities and state powers to maintain a balanced governing partnership.
- Foster national thought leadership on functional federalism.



Engage:

- Convene an annual Summit of State leaders to explore the restoration of a functional State-Federal partnership.
- Build a nationwide coalition of state, federal, academic and civic leaders to enhance state diversity and magnify the voice of the people.



Elevate:

- Create a state-led jurisdictional watchdog (akin to the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 1952-1996), to foster coordination and accountability.
- Implement networking tools for real-time State collaboration on jurisdictional matters.

WHY NOW?

"The structure of our Government is central to liberty," Justice Antonin Scalia taught, "and when we destroy it, we place liberty at peril." For decades, states left unheeded their responsibility to maintain the State-Federal balance at the heart of our governing structure. The uncertainty caused by this imbalance leaves Americans anxious that liberty is "at peril".

This unique moment in our nation's history compels States to restore this governing balance facilitating a strong national union, a rich diversity among the States, and the certainty that our lives and livelihoods are not imperiled with every national election cycle.

The States are separate and independent sovereigns. Sometimes they have to act like it.

- Chief Justice John Roberts

2025 PRIORITIES

-  Engage scholars and state, federal, and civic leaders toward greater clarity on State-Federal roles and responsibilities
-  Convene an annual Summit of States to coordinate NFI efforts

-  Release the Federalism Toolkit for policymakers and citizens
-  Collaborate with state, federal, and academic leaders to reconstitute a state-led jurisdictional watchdog

GET INVOLVED

Join the coalition to restore American Federalism - the governing partnership that secures our rights.

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About NFI

NFI is a non-partisan coalition of state, federal, and civic leaders, policy experts, and academics dedicated to restoring functional American federalism.

Together, we work to educate and empower leaders to maintain the State-Federal constitutional balance.

