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## Upcoming NASPO Conferences

### NASPO 2008 Annual Meeting

HotelLumière  
St. Louis, MO  
September 8-11, 2008

[Click Here for information](#)

## NASPO Publications

State and Local Government Procurement: A Practical Guide  
*Coming in August 2008! Pre-Order your copy today!*

2007 Survey of State Government Purchasing Practices CD  
*Now Available!*

2008 NASPO Supplier Guide  
*The 2008 Supplier Guide is THE source for the latest information on how to do business with state governments.*

## Contact Us

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## Member News

- Please join NASPO in welcoming its newest members:
  - [Don Speer](#) (Kentucky)
  - [Ron Pigott](#) (Texas)
- [Doug Richins](#) retires from Utah State Procurement
- [MyFloridaMarketplace](#) wins 2008 Innovation Award from the Council for State Governments and Laureate Gold Medal at the Computer World Honors Program

## 2008 Annual Meeting Registration Now Open

[Registration](#) for the 2008 NASPO Annual Meeting in St. Louis is now open! The NASPO Executive Board has approved FULL FUNDING (including travel, lodging, and meals) for TWO state attendees. In addition, registration has been waived for all life and honorary members. There are only NINE tickets left for the UNOFFICIAL get-together at the Chicago Cubs v. St. Louis Cardinals baseball game on Wednesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>!

NASPO has set up a master account with the Travel Authority to assist in making travel arrangements. Please contact Herman Cottoner via [email](#) or by calling (859) 685-1612. For additional information, contact [Julie Gudlewski](#) or visit the [NASPO website](#).

## NASPO on Emergency Preparedness

NASPO's State and Federal Relations Committee has just completed a whitepaper guide for state procurement offices. "[Emergency Preparedness for State Procurement Officials](#)" is available on the NASPO website for download, and discusses planning, resources, response, and working within the new FEMA National Response Framework.

## State and Local Government Procurement: A Practical Guide

The newest version of NASPO's flagship publication is almost here! The book will be available by mid-August, and NASPO is currently accepting pre-orders via its [website](#). All NASPO state directors will receive one complimentary copy, but the book will prove to be an important asset for staff and agency personnel as well!

Featuring new chapters on construction and anti-trust concerns, the book has been updated with a new look, new tone, and a new reader-friendly format. As a special feature, this edition also includes the **FULL NIGP DICTIONARY OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT TERMS**. Many thanks and congratulations go to Maggie McConnell, Chair Don Buffum and the rest of the Research and Publications Committee for all of their outstanding effort.

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## Government Procurement News

[State Probes Office Depot Pricing](#) – Florida's attorney general is investigating Office Depot Inc. for alleged "bait-and-switch" tactics in its office supplies contract with state and local agencies. The central allegation: Office Depot bid low but sold high. The state is looking into whether the company offered low-price items in its contract but later sold higher-priced alternatives. The civil inquiry comes on the heels of similar investigations in at least four other states (North Carolina, Georgia, California and Nebraska) where auditors have questioned the Delray Beach retailer's pricing, citing frequent overcharges for pens, envelopes, scissors and other supplies. ([Palm Beach Post](#))

[Bush Orders Contractors to Vet Status of Workers](#) – President Bush has ordered federal contractors to participate in the Department of Homeland Security's electronic system for verifying the immigration status of their workers. [Executive Order 12989](#), signed by the president on June 6, 2008, requires federal contractors to use the system, known as E-Verify, to check immigration status when they hire new workers or start work under government contracts. ([New York Times](#))

[Ohio Governor Announces Reforms to State Procurement Process](#) – Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland recently signed two executive orders aimed at maximizing the state's purchasing power for cost savings and increasing the effectiveness of two programs that help grow Ohio's minority-owned and disadvantaged businesses. [Executive Order 2008-12S](#) outlines procurement reform efforts and directs all state agencies to work together for cost savings and efficiencies when purchasing supplies and services. In addition, the executive order directs the Department of Administrative Services to hire a chief procurement officer to oversee agency purchasing functions. [Executive Order 2008-13S](#) reinforces the state's commitment to minority-owned and disadvantaged businesses by increasing participation in the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Encouraging Diversity, Growth and Equity (EDGE) programs. ([GovTech.com](#))

[Automating Procurement Processes Puts States at the Head of the Class](#) - In a recent report card grading the quality of government programs in the states, only three states received A's. Not coincidentally, all three states are investors in e-procurement systems. The PEW Center on the States recently graded the states based on the quality of their programs in four areas: money, people, infrastructure and information. Only 13 states scored better than a B minus, and only three states scored the highest grade: an A minus. The three top states were Virginia, Utah and Washington. ([GovPro.com](#))

[FEMA Change Sends States Searching for Ice](#) – FEMA officials will no longer hand out ice to residents in the wake of a storm, leaving that responsibility to the states, the agency announced late last month. FEMA will provide ice only in medical emergencies or life threatening situations, but will reimburse states for a large part of their costs for providing ice. State emergency officials in Alabama and Mississippi are worried about the lack of federal help and say they think ice is a critical necessity. Yet Florida officials, like FEMA, call ice a comfort item. State officials there say they aren't worried about the new policy, mainly because they believe private vendors are readily available. ([Stateline.org](#))

[GSA Opens Schedule 84 to State and Local Governments](#) – On June 26, 2008, President Bush signed the [Local Preparedness Acquisition Act](#), authorizing the Administrator of General Services to provide for the use by state or local governments of federal supply schedules of the General Services Administration (GSA) for alarm and signal systems, facility management systems, firefighting and rescue equipment, law enforcement and security equipment, marine craft and related equipment, special purpose clothing, and related services (as contained in federal supply classification code group 84).

[Missouri to Build Interface for Real ID](#) – The Homeland Security Department today announced it has awarded \$17 million to Missouri's state government to lead the development of a common interface that states will use to verify documents that individuals use to apply for state-issued identification as part of the Real ID program. The "verification hub" will act as a central router that states can use to confirm the documentation against other states' databases, as well as federal document issuing authorities. DHS also announced grants of \$1.2 million each to Florida, Indiana, Nevada and Wisconsin to test and implement the initiative. ([www.fcw.com](#))