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## Upcoming NASPO Conferences

NASPO Annual Conference  
September 24-27 2007  
Savannah, GA

WSCA Cooperative Development  
Conference December 4-7 2007  
San Diego, CA

## NASPO Publications

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

2007 NASPO Supplier Guide  
*The 2007 Supplier Guide is THE  
source for the latest information on  
how to do business with state  
governments.*

State & Local Government  
Purchasing Practices and  
Principles  
*A companion piece to the Survey of  
State Government Purchasing  
Practices, this publication offers  
many insights to policies and  
procedures followed by government  
purchasers as well as new  
techniques and methods being  
implemented*

## Member News

- New Assistant Secretary for  
Procurement & Logistics in  
the State of Maryland, **Mark  
Pemberton**

## Top Stories

- In the news: What's going on in federal/state/local  
procurement

## NASPO Survey of State Government Purchasing Practices

The NASPO Survey of State Government Purchasing Practices is now available on CD-ROM! The Survey was released June 26<sup>th</sup> and is now available for purchase on the NASPO website (see link to the left under Publications). Each NASPO State and Associate member receives one complimentary copy of the survey so be sure to look for it in your mailbox!

## Federal/State/Local Procurement News

**Bribery Charged in School IT Contracts** - Former Dallas Associate School Superintendent Ruben Buhochot and William Coleman, a former deputy superintendent who later became Detroit's interim school superintendent, were charged along with a Houston computer vendor with bribery, accused of steering \$39 million in school computer contracts to the vendor's company and siphoning off millions of dollars for their personal use ([Dallas Morning News](#))

**FEMA gives lawmakers list of nearly 4,000 sole-source contracts** - The Federal Emergency Management Agency has awarded nearly 4,000 no-bid contracts, prompting House appropriators to seek explanations and to write legislation that would require competition for most contracts in the future. The list of 4,000 no-bid contracts, which FEMA recently sent to the House Appropriations Committee in response to questions, is one of the highest numbers ever disclosed for any agency across the government. ([GovExec.com](#))

**Judge blocks Colorado ethics mandate** - Colorado's tough new ethics law suffered a significant blow when a judge issued a temporary injunction stopping enforcement of Amendment 41 - a decision Gov. Bill Ritter plans to appeal. Denver District Judge Christina Habas' decision to suspend Amendment 41 came in response to a request by a group of elected officials, government workers and nonprofit groups that said the ethics-in-government law was overly broad, invaded private lives and violated the First Amendment. The amendment, passed by more than 60 percent of voters last year, bans lawmakers from taking anything from lobbyists and prohibits government workers and their families from receiving gifts worth more than \$50, except on special occasions. ([The Denver Post](#))

- New Chief Procurement Office for District of Columbia, **David Gragan**
- New NASPO Honorary Members: **Walt Bikowitz, Kay Kishline and Dana Watlington**

### Contact Us

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**After the Storm: A Public Purchasing Perspective** - In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, procurement personnel of the Fort Worth (TX) Purchasing Division share their experiences about the massive relief effort. When the winds and water of Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast of the United States on August 29, 2005, the impact was immediate and severe. ([GovPro.com](#))

**Connecticut takes a bite out of food costs** - Anyone who has set foot in a grocery store believes that he or she is an expert at purchasing food. However, as any buyer who has attempted to apply strategic sourcing to the procurement of food will tell you, few commodities are more challenging. Despite the difficulty, the State of Connecticut tried and succeeded with a procurement that stretched from 2003 into 2004. ([GovPro.com](#))

**County Contractors Must Verify Workers' Immigrant Status** - The county commission voted to require companies seeking county contracts to verify that all of their employees are legal U.S. residents. The board also empowered county auditors to periodically inspect the records of companies hired to do county work and question their employees. ([Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#))

**White House Urged to Punish GSA Chief** - to the "fullest extent" for violating the law that limits political activity in agencies, the head of the independent agency investigating the matter said in a letter to President Bush. The [four-page letter](#), released by the Office of Special Counsel, stated that Doan also should be punished for failing to cooperate fully and honestly with OSC's investigation. ([GovExec.com](#))

**Former Governor Lobbies for Privatization** - Former governor William F. Weld (MA), a staunch supporter of privatization during his administration, has reemerged in the halls of the State House, now as a corporate lawyer trying to drum up support for the sale of lucrative state assets, meeting with state officials and legislative leaders to pitch the idea of privatizing the state lottery and transportation infrastructure such as the Massachusetts Turnpike. ([Boston Globe](#))

**Wisconsin Shops for Renewable Energy** - The Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA) took another step to meet Governor Jim Doyle's Energy Independence goals to meet 25 percent of Wisconsin's energy needs from renewable energy by 2025. DOA released a request for proposal (RFP) to purchase renewable energy for Wisconsin state government. Six state agencies are looking for over 90,000 Megawatt hours of renewable energy to meet 10 percent of their annual electric needs, the largest state government purchase of renewable energy in the country. ([GovPro.com](#))

**Texas Contract, Procurement Responsibilities May Change** - When Texas's new fiscal year begins September 1, procurement processes will most likely be significantly different. Broad and sweeping changes affecting which state agencies are responsible for certain state contracts and procurements will occur if the governor signs HB 3560. This bill takes duties and responsibilities from the Texas Building and Procurement Commission (TBPC) and moves them to the Comptroller of Public Accounts and a new state agency, the Texas Facilities Commission (TFC). ([Strategic Partnerships, Inc.](#))

**Former contractor sues Chicago schools** - Officials from a Chicago-based computer company filed a lawsuit against Chicago Public Schools, alleging that a \$30 million contract it had with the school system was rescinded after it failed to hire the brother of a school district official. ([Chicago Tribune](#))

**State and Local IT Spending to Reach \$77 Billion by 2012** - Total state and local information technology (IT) spending is expected to grow from approximately \$55 billion in 2007 to \$77 billion by 2012, representing a compound annual growth rate of 6.6%, according to initial findings from the five-year State & Local IT Industry Forecast presented at INPUT's State and Local MarketView Conference. ([GovPro.com](#))

**A call for more competition** - Roughly half of the money spent on all federal contracts in 2006 was awarded with little or no competition, according to a congressional report just released. The report, prepared by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform for its Chairman, Henry A. Waxman (D-Calif.), found that the federal government spent \$412.1 billion on procurement last year. Of that, \$206.9 billion, or 50.2 percent, was awarded through contracts that required either no bidding process, had limited competition or otherwise fell short of "full and open competition." ([MSNBC.com](#))