



**The Council
of State
Governments**



GREECE 2024

CSG Democracy Delegation to the Hellenic Republic

SUNDAY, OCT. 13 - SATURDAY, OCT. 19, 2024

Overview

The invention of democracy and the tradition of governing by means of political debate among citizens has its roots in ancient Greece.

Today, as democracies around the world face the rise of nationalism, populism and authoritarianism, leaders are searching for new ways to ensure democracy thrives and endures. To better understand the current state of democracy, we can learn much by focusing on the origins of this powerful idea.

The Council of State Governments will host a delegation of prominent state leaders to the Hellenic Republic, better known as Greece, in the fall of 2024. The itinerary will include opportunities to trace the Grecian origins of American democracy from the early writings of Cleisthenes, the father of Athenian democracy, to the revolutionary words of Thomas Jefferson in the Declaration of Independence.

Greece, as a member of the European Union, is also a great place to gain insights on how connections between democracies, through diplomacy and international trade, can help build resiliency. Representatives of state trade offices and private sector firms will round out the delegation, with a mission of growing opportunities for bilateral trade between Greece and U.S. states.

The Opportunity

This unique opportunity will be led by Indiana Governor Eric Holcomb. The delegation will have the opportunity to explore the foundations of democracy and bilateral trade relations. This mission will provide an opportunity for delegation members and CSG leaders to learn more about the strong and unique relationship between the United States and Greece as well as opportunities to strengthen these bilateral relations.

Each day will incorporate a mix of policy and cultural exchanges. Pending examples include roundtable discussions with the Hellenic Government and municipal government officials, tours of government facilities and key industrial sites, meetings with the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Consulate, and sightseeing. Meetings will take place in and around Athens with excursions to Thessaloniki, Paros and other cultural hotspots.



ATHENS



THESSALONIKI



PAROS



Locations

ATHENS, one of the world's oldest cities and largest in Greece, is also the birthplace of democracy, arts, science and philosophy of western civilization. It is home to the Golden Age philosophers including Plato, Socrates, Pericles, Euripides, Sophocles and Aeschylus.

THESSALONIKI, the second largest city in Greece, is an ever-growing urban commerce center and cultural melting pot. Home to the countries' main outlet for international trade, it also houses a seaside view of the ancient Roman and Byzantine Empire ruins.

PAROS, an island in the Aegean Sea, offers the quintessential Greek landscape and historical experiences of other isles with less crowds and commercialization. Located in the center of the Cyclades island group, the island is a boating and transportation hub.

Investment

Due to the high value of this international mission, only a limited number of sponsorship opportunities are available for this event. Investors will be required to pay for their own flights and lodging. Presenting Sponsorship is \$25,000 and the benefits include the following:

PRESENTING SPONSOR | \$25,000

Limited Availability (5 remaining)

- Opportunity for one representative from the organization to travel with the delegation to Greece.
- Opportunity to network and attend sessions, tours, meals and special events with state officials and CSG staff.
- Acknowledgement as a Presenting Sponsor with company and representative information to be included in trip materials.
- Advanced list of attendees.
- Opportunity to suggest or to host a site visit or tour of a company location in Greece.
- Sponsorship recognition at session and/or one-hour reception at the 2024 CSG National Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana, Dec 4-7.

CONTACT

If you are interested in participating in the CSG International Democracy Mission to Greece, please reach out to Margaret Ridley, mridley@csq.org.