

Proposal for NASPE 2026 Annual Meeting

Burlington, Vermont

Beth Fastiggi, Commissioner

Department of Human Resources - State Vermont

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Burlington, Vermont on beautiful Lake Champlain



One of the best places in the world to view a sunset, **Burlington** is the most populous city in state of Vermont situated on the eastern shore of Lake Champlain. As of the 2020 U.S. census, the population was 44,743. It is the least populous city in the 50 U.S. states to be the most populous city in its state.

A regional college town, Burlington is home to the University of Vermont (UVM) and Champlain College.

Lake Champlain



Vermont is home to the nation's "Sixth" great lake, Lake Champlain. Stretching over 120 miles long and 13-miles at its widest point, this majestic body of water is as historical as it is beautiful. Situated between the Adirondack Mountains of New York and the Green Mountains of Vermont, Lake Champlain is a prized possession for Vermonters and New Yorkers alike.

Providing recreational opportunities year-round, from swimming, boating, and fishing to ice skating, and a number of other winter activities.

Burlington is accessible by land, air, rail, and water.



Link to Vermont Convention Bureau website (Burlington area and Chittenden County)

<https://www.helloburlingtonvt.com/meet-vermont/>

Travel to Burlington:**Air:**

Patrick Leahy Burlington International Airport (BTV) is served by full-service and discount airlines including American, Breeze, Delta, Frontier Airlines, United and Sun Country Airlines.

Ground Transportation Options include Bus, Taxi, Uber, Lyft, Car Service, Car Rental.

Amtrak (Daily Service):

- Ethan Allen Express – New York City to Burlington (Western Route)
- The Vermonter – Washington DC to Essex Junction (Eastern Route).

Drive Times:

- Montreal: 1 hour 45 minutes
- Boston: 3 hours 20 minutes
- New York City: 5 hours 30 minutes
- Philadelphia: 6 hours 45 minutes

Possible Venues for Annual Meeting:

Downtown Burlington – Beautiful waterfront and beautiful downtown area with lots of boutique shopping and great restaurants:



Hotel Champlain

 60 Battery Street

Facilities

Number of Guest Rooms	258
Number of Meeting Rooms	11
Total Sq. Ft.	18,000
Largest Meeting Room Sq. Ft.	5,460

15 minutes from BTV airport (3.8 miles)

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Other greater Burlington areas facilities that would have enough space, but they are not as close to downtown Burlington are below:



DoubleTree by Hilton Burlington, Vermont

 870 Williston Road

Facilities

Number of Guest Rooms	311
Number of Meeting Rooms	15
Total Sq. Ft.	30,000
Largest Meeting Room Sq. Ft.	12,480

1.6 miles to downtown Burlington

8 minutes to BTV airport (2.1 miles)

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Delta Hotels Marriott Burlington

- 1117 Williston Road
- Facilities
- Number of Guest Rooms **161**
- Number of Meeting Rooms **8**
- Total Sq. Ft. **7,944**
- Largest Meeting Room Sq. Ft. **4,488**
- 1.8 miles to downtown Burlington

6 minutes to BTV airport (1.3 miles)



The Essex Resort & Spa

 70 Essex Way

 Facilities

Number of Guest Rooms	120
Number of Meeting Rooms	18
Total Sq. Ft.	41,533
Largest Meeting Room Sq. Ft.	5,000

9 miles from Downtown Burlington,

Great facility with a Spa, fantastic food but farther away from Downtown Burlington.

Staff Availability/Assistance with Speakers:

- Vermont Department of Human Resources: With 100 employees providing a full suite of HR services to State government including more than 30 “field operations” employees/business partners and managers, NASPE would be able to draw on this contingent to get volunteers to help with registration and other logistics.
- Governor Phil Scott: A Republican Governor in a very blue state, Phil Scott, is the “most popular governor” in the U.S, with an approval rating of over 70% and is often available for welcoming remarks for conferences like NASPE.
- College Town: Burlington is a college town and home of the University of Vermont, Champlain College and Saint Michael’s College and could be helpful in getting guest speakers or panelists.
- Commissioner Fastiggi: Department of Human Resources Commissioner Fastiggi is a resident of Burlington. A former business executive, she has served on many business and non-profit boards, as a community volunteer and has many community, educational, business and political connections to draw upon.

Dining:

Burlington has a vibrant food scene with a variety of excellent dining options including outdoor dining options on the waterfront and the Church Street Marketplace in the summer months and much more.

Potential Group Activities/Events:

- **Lake Champlain Dinner/Sunset Cruise [aboard the Spirit of Ethan Allen](#).**
- **[Echo Leahy Center](#), Science and Lake History Museum on Burlington's waterfront, boasting over 70 live exhibits daily.**



- **The [Shelburne Museum](#), with historic museum grounds, exploring exhibits, and catching glimpses of life from hundreds of years ago. Shelburne Museum is an unparalleled and unique experience of American history, art, and design. Designed to allow visitors the pleasure of discovery and exploration, the Museum includes thirty-nine distinct structures on forty-five acres, each filled with beautiful, fascinating, and whimsical objects including American folk art, French Impressionist paintings, Historic New England architecture, Duck decoys, circus animals, and dolls.**



Burlington & Vermont Activities/Tourism:

- **Spend a day shopping and dining along the [Church Street Marketplace](#)**, Burlington's pedestrian shopping district. With seemingly endless shops and boutiques to explore, venture a few corners off Church Street to discover even more.
- **Rent a SUP or kayak and explore the waters** of Lake Champlain or one of the many inland lakes and ponds in the region. [Check out this article on rentals to reserve your board or boat.](#)
- **Raise a glass at the second-ever Craft Brewpub in the nation - [Vermont Pub & Brew](#)**. Interested in learning more? Check out this article on the history of brewing in Burlington.
- **Explore the biodiversity of Lake Champlain** at the [Echo Leahy Center](#), boasting over 70 live exhibits daily.
- **Rent a bike and explore beautiful downtown Burlington, the waterfront, and an 8-mile bike path extending to the Champlain Islands.** Check out our list of bike rentals and trail systems.
- **Explore the [Lake Champlain Islands](#) by car or bike.** That's right, the **Burlington Bike Path** extends all the way to the Champlain Islands with the help of Local Motion's Bike Ferry crossing on the causeway.
- **Tour one of the many local craft breweries** and uncover the secrets behind Vermont IPAs.
- **Capture a picture of the Burlington sunset** from the Burlington Waterfront.
- **Visit the world-class [A-Dog Skatepark](#)** along the Burlington Waterfront.
- **Dust off your boots and set off on a hike in Vermont's Green Mountains** and soak in the breathtaking views of mountains and lakes.
- **Grab your swim trunks and head to the beach.** Burlington boasts three sandy beaches along the shores of Lake Champlain.
- **Listen to one of the many local artists** at venues like the [Light Club Lamp Shop](#), [Radio Bean](#), [Foam Brewers](#), and other local spots.
- **Check out the [Burlington Surf Club](#)**, take a board out on the lake, or take a refreshing dip into Lake Champlain.

- **Indulge in tacos, burritos, and homemade chips** at [Taco Gordo](#) or El Gato Cantina.
- **Cool off on a hot summer day** by taking a dip in one of the hundreds of local streams and brooks. [Check out a list of local waterfalls here!](#)
- **Take a gondola ride up Vermont's tallest peak** in **Stowe** and enjoy a drink or a meal at the Cliff House.
- **Hit the links on an 18-hole [golfing adventure with stunning views and good times.](#)**
- **Spend a summer night watching the [Vermont Lake Monsters](#),** Burlington's Single-A Professional Baseball Team.
- **Enjoy a comedy show at the [Vermont Comedy Club.](#)**
- **Visit the [Fleming Museum of Art](#)** and appreciate a diverse collection of art pieces on exhibit.
- **Book a day at the [Essex Resort and Spa](#)** and indulge in an assortment of relaxing spa offerings. Don't forget to bring your appetite along—two on-site restaurants await.
- **Hop on a brew bus** and take a ride to explore the amazing craft breweries in the area.
- **Embark on a Segway Tour of the city.** Explore Burlington's historic sites and enjoy the tour without worrying about uphill walking.
- **Head to [Shelburne Farms](#)** and visit the operating farm or enjoy a drink while gazing over Lake Champlain and the Adirondack Mountains.

Additional things to do:

[Burlington Trolley Tours](#)

[Champlain Valley Exposition](#) – Fairgrounds and Exhibition Space, Essex

[Green Mountain Audubon Center](#), Huntington

[Sail Vermont LLC](#), Burlington

[Vermont Lake Monsters](#), A collegiate summer baseball team, Burlington

[Catamount Outdoor Family Center and B&B](#) – Mountain biking, running trails, Williston

[Vermont Teddy Bear Factory](#) – Factor tours, Shelburne

[Birds of Vermont Museum](#), Huntington

[Ethan Allen Homestead](#) – Revolutionary War Hero, Burlington

[Lake Champlain Maritime Museum](#), Vergennes

[Burlington Boat House](#), Burlington



Lake Champlain Fun Facts:

LAKE CHAMPLAIN

Vermont is home to the nation's "Sixth" great lake, Lake Champlain. Stretching over 120 miles long and 13-miles at its widest point, this majestic body of water is as historical as it is beautiful. Situated between the Adirondack Mountains of New York and the Green Mountains of Vermont, Lake Champlain is a prized possession for Vermonters and New Yorkers alike. Providing recreational opportunities year round, from swimming, boating, and fishing to ice skating, and a number of other winter activities.

Here are some fun facts and FAQ's about Lake Champlain!

The original Abenaki name for the lake was "Pe-ton-bowk", which means "waters that lie between".

Lake Champlain was renamed in 1609, by Samuel de Champlain.

Burlington, Vermont is the largest city on the lake.

For over 250 years, since 1759, a ferry has been crossing Lake Champlain at the site of the historic Ticonderoga Cable Ferry.

As many as 300 shipwrecks have occurred during Lake Champlain's maritime history.

How big is Lake Champlain?

Lake Champlain is the eighth largest naturally occurring body of fresh water in the continental United States!

It contains 587 miles of shoreline, 70-some islands, and 6.8 trillion gallons of water.

How old is Lake Champlain?

The oldest known fossil reef in the world is located in Lake Champlain. It is 450-480 million years old!

At one time, Lake Champlain was a sea that covered parts of New York, Vermont, Quebec, and Ontario. This Champlain Sea lasted from about 13,000 years ago to about 10,000 years ago.

What birds can I spot on Lake Champlain?

There are 318 species of birds in Vermont that live on, near, or depend on Lake Champlain.

Among these are the Common Goldeneye, Ring-necked duck, common and hooded Mergansers, Caspian Terns, northern pintail, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Osprey, and many more!

What kind of fish are in Lake Champlain?

Yes, Lake Champlain has about 81 species of fish. It is considered a world-class fishery for salmonid species (Lake trout and Atlantic salmon) and bass. Other species in the lake include yellow perch, white perch, brown bullhead, bluegill sunfish, and northern pike!

Sources:

Wikipedia

Bing CoPilot

HelloBurlingtonVt.com

General Internet