



american council of  
young political leaders

## **US to Croatia and Hungary October 21-31, 2019**

### **Exchange Guide**

*This exchange is made possible through a grant from the US Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs and in partnership with CEC Government Relations and Academy for Political Development*

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## Schedule

### Monday, October 21

#### Washington, DC

Delegates arrive to Washington, DC and check in to hotel:

#### Residence Inn by Marriott Dupont Circle

2120 P Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20004  
Tel: 202.638.6887

6:00pm Meet **Ms. Kaylee Boalt** in hotel lobby  
Program Director, ACYPL

6:30pm Dinner hosted by **The Honorable Kemp Conrad**  
Chairman, Memphis City Council  
[ACYPL alumnus to China 2004]

Location: City Tap House Kitchen  
1250 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite 105

### Tuesday, October 22

#### Washington, DC

**Attire:** *Business*  
**Breakfast:** *At the hotel*  
**Additional:** *Please check out of the hotel and pay for all your incidentals.*

8:00am Meet **Kaylee** in hotel lobby

8:15am Depart for first activity

9:00am Meeting with **Mr. Ivan Weinstein**  
Hungary Desk Officer, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department  
of State

Also in attendance:

**Mr. Michael Ball**

Croatia Desk Officer, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S. Department of  
State

**Mr. Dmitri Tarakhovsky**

Desk Officer for Central Europe, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S.  
Department of State

**Ms. Lilian Wahl-Tuco**

Public Diplomacy Desk Officer, Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs, U.S.  
Department of State

Topic: US foreign policy in Central Europe  
Location: 2201 C Street NW

10:00am Depart for next activity

10:45am Meeting with **His Excellency Pjer Šimunović**  
Ambassador, Embassy of Croatia

Topic: Croatia-US bilateral relations  
Location: 2343 Massachusetts Avenue  
Contact: Mario Martinec – (202) 394-6199

11:45am Depart for lunch meeting

12:15pm Lunch meeting hosted by the **Embassy of Hungary**

In attendance:  
**TBD**

Topic: Hungary-US bilateral relations  
Location: 3910 Shoemaker Street NW  
Contact: Peter Paplanos – (202) 362-6730

1:15pm Depart for next meeting

1:40pm Meeting with **Ms. Libby Rosenbaum**  
CEO, ACYPL  
[Argentina 2019]

Topic: Delegate overview and expectations  
Location: ACYPL  
1030 15th Street NW, Suite 580 West

2:30pm Depart for airport

3:10pm Arrive at **Dulles International Airport (IAD)**

Check into flight and proceed through security

5:35pm **United Airlines #UA0950** departs **Washington, DC**

**Wednesday, October 23**  
**Brussels, Belgium/Zagreb, Croatia**

**Attire:** *Business*  
**Breakfast:** *Please use per diem*

7:15am Arrive at **Brussels Airport (BRU)**

9:45am **United Airlines #7264** departs Brussels, Belgium

11:30am Arrive at **Franjo Tudman Airport Zabreb (ZAB)**

1:30pm Depart for hotel

2:00pm Arrive at hotel

**Hotel Dubrovnik**

Gajeva ul. 1, 10000

Zagreb, Croatia

Tel: +385 1 4863 512

*Free afternoon; Please use your per diem for lunch*

4:15pm Meet in hotel lobby

4:30pm Depart for first meeting

5:00pm Visit **Invisible Zagreb**

Topic: Homelessness in Zagreb

8:00pm Depart for next meeting

8:30pm Welcome dinner with **Ms. Iva Petkovic**  
Executive Director, Academy for Political Development

Also in attendance:

**Mr. Darko Suljicic**

Program Coordinator, Academy for Political Development

**ACYPL Alumni** to be confirmed

10:00pm Depart for hotel

**Thursday, October 24**

**Zagreb**

**Attire:** **Business**

**Breakfast:** **At hotel**

**Additional:** **Please check out of the hotel and pay for all your incidentals.**

9:00am Meet in hotel lobby and depart for first activity

9:30am Meeting with **Ms. Iva Petkovic**  
Executive Director, Academy for Political Development

Also in attendance:

**Mr. Darko Suljicic**

Program Coordinator, Academy for Political Development

Topic: ADP Welcome

10:00am Depart for next meeting

10:30am Meeting with **The Honorable Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic**  
President, The Republic of Croatia

Topic: Women in power, national security, and international relations

11:30am Depart for next meeting

12:00pm Meeting with **Mr. Michael Faulend**  
Vice Governor, Croatian National Bank

Topic: Microeconomy of Croatia and the adoption of the Euro

Location: Croatian National Bank

12:45pm Depart for lunch

1:00pm Lunch

1:45pm Depart for next meeting

2:00pm Meeting with representative(s) of the **Institute of Economics**

Topic: Dynamics and determinants of migration

3:30pm Depart for next meeting

4:30pm Meeting with representative(s) of **The Center for the Renewal of Culture**

Topic: The foundation of a free society in Croatia

5:15pm Return to hotel

*Free early evening*

7:30pm Group dinner

9:30pm Return to hotel

**Friday, October 25**  
**Zagreb**

**Attire:** **Business**  
**Breakfast:** **At hotel**

9:15am Meet in hotel lobby

9:30am Depart for first meeting

10:00am Meeting with representative(s) of the **US Embassy – Zagreb**  
Topic: NATO and US foreign trade with Croatia

11:00am Depart for next meeting

12:00pm Meeting with **Association of Cities in the Republic of Croatia**  
Topic: The role of cities in economic and cultural development in Croatia

12:45pm Meeting with representative(s) of the **Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs**  
Topic: Croatian priorities during the Presidency of the EU Council

1:40pm Lunch

3:00pm Depart for next meeting

3:30pm Meeting at **N1 Television, CNN**  
Topic: Media freedom and critical journalism in Southeast Europe

*Free evening; Please use your per diems for dinner*

**Saturday, October 26**  
**Zagreb/Budapest, Hungary**

**Attire:** *Casual*  
**Breakfast:** *At the hotel*  
**Additional:** *Please check out of the hotel and pay for all your incidentals; please have your passport readily accessible*

TIME Meet in hotel lobby

TIME Depart for first meeting

11:00am Tour the **Image of War Photography Museum**  
Topic: The Croatian War

12:00pm Depart for lunch

12:15pm Lunch

1:45pm Depart for train station

4:38pm Train departs for **Budapest, Hungary**

10:25pm Arrive in **Budapest, Hungary**

Delegation will meet:  
**Mr. Tamas Sardi**  
Managing Partner, CEC Government Relations  
[Pennsylvania and Colorado 2004]

**Mr. Sandor Holbok**  
[Wyoming, Florida, and New York 1995]

**Ms. Dora Almasi**  
Senior Consultant, CEC Government Relations  
[Kentucky and Louisiana 2006]

11:00pm Arrive at hotel

**Danubius Hotel Helia**  
62-64 Karpat utca, 1133  
Budapest, Hungary  
Tel: +36-1-889-5800

**Sunday, October 27**  
**Budapest**

**Attire:** *Casual*  
**Breakfast:** *At hotel restaurant*

9:45am Meet in hotel lobby

10:00am Depart for first meeting

10:30am Visit **House of Terror Museum**

Topic: History of Fascism and Nazim in Hungary

12:00pm Depart for lunch

12:30pm Lunch  
Location: Callas Café & Restaurant

2:00pm Return to hotel

*Afternoon activities are pending*

6:00pm Meet in hotel lobby and depart for dinner

7:00pm Group dinner

9:00pm Return to hotel



**Monday, October 28**  
**Budapest**

**Attire:** **Business**  
**Breakfast:** **At hotel**  
**Additional:** **Please bring your passport to today's meetings**

8:00am Meet in hotel lobby and depart for first meeting

8:45am Meeting with **The Honorable Peter Ungar**  
Member, National Assembly of Hungary  
[Iowa 2018]

Topic: The political platform of the LMP political party

9:45am Meeting with **Mr. László Szakács**  
Vice President, Hungarian Socialist Party

Topic: The political platform of the Hungarian Socialist Party

10:20am Depart for next meeting

11:00am Guided tour of the **National Assembly**

11:40am Depart for lunch

12:00pm Lunch meeting with **The Honorable Zsolt Csenger-Zalan**  
Member, National Assembly of Hungary

Topic: Hungarian foreign policy

1:30pm Depart for next meeting

2:15pm Meeting with **The Honorable Tamas Vargha**  
Secretary of State for Civil Intelligence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Topic: Cyber security and the Fidesz-Hungarian Civic Alliance

3:30pm Depart for next meeting

4:00pm Meeting with **Mr. Marc Dillard**  
Deputy Chief of Mission, United States Embassy – Budapest

Topic: Hungary-US bilateral relations

5:00pm Depart for next meeting

5:30pm Meeting with **Ms. Aniko Paroczai**  
International Relations Director, Momentum Party

Topic: Public diplomacy and international relations

6:30pm Depart for dinner

7:00pm Dinner hosted by **Mr. Istvan Kovacs**  
Director of Strategy, Center for Fundamental Rights  
[Colorado 2016]

8:30pm Return to hotel

**Tuesday, October 29**  
**Budapest/Debrecen, Hungary**

**Affire: Business**  
**Breakfast: At the hotel restaurant**  
**Additional: Please bring your passport. Please check out of your hotel room and pay for incidentals**

9:05am Meet in hotel lobby

9:15am Depart for first meeting

10:00am Meeting with **Mr. Laszlo Szoke**  
Director for Foreign Affairs, Office of the President of the Republic of Hungary

Topic: Hungarian foreign affairs

10:45am Depart for next meeting

11:00am Meeting with **Ms. Zsuzsa Raho**  
Chief Counselor, Office of the Prime Minister

Topic: Hungarian judicial system

11:45am Lunch hosted by **Ms. Zsuzsa Raho**  
Chief Counselor, Office of the Prime Minister

1:30pm Depart for **Debrecen, Hungary**

4:00pm Arrive at and check in to hotel

**Aquaticum Thermal and Wellness Hotel**  
4032 Nagyerdei Park 1  
Debrecen, Hungary  
Tel: +3652 514 100

*Free afternoon*

7:00pm Meet in hotel lobby and depart for dinner

7:30pm Dinner with **The Honorable Laszlo Papp**  
Mayor, City of Debrecen

**Wednesday, October 30**

**Decrecen**

**Attire:** **Business casual**  
**Breakfast:** **At the hotel restaurant**  
**Additional:** **Please bring your passport, swimsuit, and towel**

*Morning activities are pending*

12:00pm Meeting in the lobby and depart for lunch

12:15pm Lunch

*Afternoon activities are pending and may include a visit to the **Thermal Bath Aquaticum***

6:30pm Meet in hotel lobby and depart for dinner

7:00pm Farewell dinner

**Thursday, October 31**

**Decrecen/Budapest/Washington. DC**

**Attire:** **Casual**  
**Breakfast:** **At the hotel**  
**Additional:** **Please pay for any incidentals and check out of hotel. Please have your passport readily accessible**

8:00am Meet in hotel lobby and load luggage onto bus

8:30am Depart for airport

10:30am Arrive at **Budapest Airport (BUD)**

Check into flight and proceed through security

1:20pm United Airlines #9037 departs Budapest

2:40pm Arrive to **Munich international Airport (MUC)**

*Please refer to your individual flight itineraries for the remainder of your travels*

**\*\*End of Program\*\***

## Schedule Notes

### Tuesday, October 22

**Kaylee Boalt** joined ACYPL in July 2016, serving the organization as a Program Officer, the Professional Fellows Program Manager, and now Program Director as of January 2019. In her role, Kaylee liaises with ACYPL's international and domestic partners and oversees the program team in the implementation of global exchange programs. Prior to joining ACYPL, Kaylee was the Director of Student Programs at the National Council on US-Arab Relations where she administered leadership development programs and facilitated short-term exchanges for American professors and students studying the Arab World. Kaylee graduated from Converse College in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in politics and music. During her time at Converse, she performed in opera productions in the US and Italy and realized her passion for educational exchanges during a study visit to Saudi Arabia in 2012.

**The U.S. Department of State** is the federal executive department responsible for the international relations of the United States, equivalent to the foreign ministries of other countries. The Department was created in 1789 and was the first executive department established. The Department operates the diplomatic missions of the United States abroad and is responsible for implementing the foreign policy and diplomacy efforts of the United States. The Department is led by Secretary Mike Pompeo who was nominated by President Trump and confirmed by the US Senate in April 2018.

**Ivan Weinstein** currently serves as a Desk Officer covering Hungary. He is also a Foreign Service Officer at the U.S. Department of State.

**Michael Ball** presently serves as a Desk Officer covering Croatia at the U.S. Department of State.

**Dmitri Tarakhovsky** is a Desk Officer covering Central Europe. He is also a Foreign Service Officer at the U.S. Department of State.

**Lilian Wahl-Tuco** is currently a Public Diplomacy Desk Officer for the Bureau of European and Eurasian Affairs. She is also a Foreign Service Officer at the U.S. Department of State. Prior to this role she served as the Executive Director at the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire.

The **Embassy of the Republic of Croatia** is the main diplomatic mission between the Croatian and United States governments. Bilateral relations have existed between the two countries since 1992, shortly after Croatia gained independence from Yugoslavia. Like other diplomatic missions, the Croatian embassy provides assistance with visas, passports, documents, and registration forms to Croatian nationals in the United States. The current ambassador is Pjer Šimunović.

**His Excellence Pjer Šimunović** is the Croatian ambassador to the United States. Pjer is a career diplomat, prior to his role as ambassador he served as Director of Croatia's National Security Council. He also worked in the Foreign Ministry for the Minister of Defense, serving as the Director of Defense Policy and as State Secretary for Defense Policy. Pjer also served as the chief negotiator with NATO and assisted Croatia's entrance into NATO in 2013.

The **Embassy of Hungary** is the main diplomatic mission between the Hungarian and United States governments. Diplomatic relations were established between the US and Hungary in 1922, however World War II and the Cold War limited the depths of the two nations' relationship. After the end of the Cold War, relations between the two governments warmed significantly, and

today the embassy is one of several Hungarian consular missions located in US territory. Hungary's current ambassador to the United States is László Szabó.

**Libby Rosenbaum** serves as the Chief Executive Officer overseeing ACYPL's fundraising, communications, grants management, new business development, and strategic planning. Libby previously served as the Vice President of Programs and Communications. Prior to this, Libby served as the Education Partnerships Manager at the British Council where she promoted and established US-UK university research collaborations and planned international summits devoted to higher education best practice. She also served as the Major Gifts Officer at the Center for American Progress, a progressive think tank, and as a fundraiser on the US Senate campaigns of Ken Salazar and Joe Hoeffel. Libby graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in political science and received an MSc in politics and government of the European Union from the London School of Economics. She traveled on an ACYPL exchange to Argentina in July 2019.

### **Wednesday, October 23**

**Zagreb** is the capital and the largest city of Croatia. It is located in the northwest of the country, along the Sava River, at the southern slopes of the Medvednica Mountain. Zagreb officially dates back to 1049 A.D. when the Hungarian King Ladislaus founded a diocese, however, a Roman town dating between the 1st and 5th century AD has been excavated in Šćitarjevo which is just southeast of the city. Zagreb is the seat of the central government, administrative bodies, and nearly all government ministries. Most of the largest Croatian companies, media, and scientific institutions are headquartered in the city.

**Invisible Zagreb** is an organization that seeks to publicize the challenges faced by the homeless population of Croatia's capital, Zagreb. The organization arranges tours led by former and current homeless people throughout the city, offering an unconventional approach for the public to be educated on Zagreb's homeless population, including what the homeless must do to survive within the city. These tours also educate the public on ways to contribute assistance to the homeless.

The **Academy for Political Development (APD)** is a civil and societal organization headquartered in the Croatian capital of Zagreb. Operating under the jurisdiction of the Council of Europe, APD provides political education to Croatian leaders and professionals from across backgrounds, political views, and career fields. APD currently boasts more than 400 alumni, including members of parliament, government ministers, activists, and businessmen and women.

**Iva Petković** is the Executive Director of the Academy for Political Development, serving in this position since July 2019. In this role, she oversees the APD's activities and ongoing projects. Prior to this, she followed up on a series of student internships with becoming a Project Coordinator for the Central State Officer for Sports, a position she held from February 2017-June 2019. During this time, she also interned in the office of a Member of the European Parliament from May-June 2017.

**Darko Suljicic** is the Program Coordinator for the Academy for Political Development. He has occupied this role since March 2017. In addition to this position, he is also currently a Member of the Council of Advisors for Policy and Practice.

### **Thursday, October 24**

President **Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović** has served as the fourth President of Croatia since 2015. In this role, she is the country's head of state and commander in-chief, however she is not the

head of the executive branch, as that role is filled by the Prime Minister. She is the first woman to hold the office, and the youngest. Before her election in 2015, she held a variety of government positions, including Minister for European Affairs from 2003-2005, Minister for Foreign Affairs and European Integration from 2005-2008, Croatian Ambassador to the United States from 2008-2011, and Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy at NATO from 2011-2014. As President, she is required to be nonpartisan, but before her election she was a member of the conservative Croatian Democratic Union party.

**Michael Faulend** is the Vice Governor of the Croatian National Bank, a position he has held since 2013. His previous role at the Croatian National Bank was the Executive Director of International Affairs. He is the author of several scholarly papers on economic issues.

**Croatian National Bank** is the central bank of Croatia. Its main responsibilities are maintaining the stability of the national currency, the kuna, and ensuring the financial liquidity of Croatia's banking system. Additionally, the bank is responsible for issuing currency and holding Croatia's national monetary reserves.

**The Institute for Economics, Zagreb** is a public scientific institute with more than seventy-five years' experience conducting scientific and developmental research in the field of economics. The institute has four main research areas of focus: macroeconomics/international economics, business economics/business sectors, regional development, and social policy/labor markets.

The **Center for the Renewal of Culture** is an organization dedicated to advancing conservative policies in Croatia. It promotes limited government, particularly in the field of economics, as well as the lowering of taxes, and a reduction of welfare programs. The Center also promotes socially conservative causes, such as opposition to abortion and gay marriage.

#### **Friday, October 25**

The **United States Embassy in Croatia** is the main American diplomatic mission in the country. It is located in the capital city, Zagreb. The embassy's mission is to provide a variety of services to Americans in Croatia and Croatians hoping to travel to the United States. The current ambassador to Croatia is W. Robert Kohorst.

The **Association of Cities in the Republic of Croatia** is a non-profit, non-governmental organization established by several Croatian municipalities to promote and protect their common interests. The organization is built on the principles of voluntary association, and currently 284 of Croatia's 428 municipalities are members of the Association. The Association also works to promote economic and cultural cooperation between different municipalities, along with reviewing parliamentary legislation relevant for local governments, and assisting the training of municipal staff.

The **Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs** is the main ministry within the Croatian government responsible for foreign relations. The Ministry also oversees many components of Croatia's membership in the European Union, along with other international organizations. The current minister is Gordan Grlić-Radman.

**N1 Television** is an international 24-hour cable news channel launched in 2014. The channel covers news from the ex-Yugoslav countries of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia, though the channel is available in all of former Yugoslavia. N1 is CNN International's local broadcast affiliate. The channel maintains separate headquarters, editorial policies, reporters,

and TV stations in each of the countries in which it broadcasts. The Croatian headquarters are located in Zagreb.

### **Saturday, October 26**

The **Image of War Photography Museum** in Zagreb contains many photographs of armed conflict, in order to enhance public understanding of the true cost of war. Inspiration to found the museum came from the founders' view that public discourse on war had become increasingly detached from the suffering Croatia experienced during its 1991-1995 war for independence. Alongside its depiction of past conflicts, the museum donates a portion of proceeds to refugee relief while working to raise awareness of the consequences of war on nations.

**Budapest** is the capital and most populous city of Hungary and one of the largest cities in the European Union. It has an area of 525 square kilometers (203 square miles) and an estimated population of 1.8 million within the administrative limits. It is both a city and county, and forms the center of the Budapest Metropolitan Area, which has an area of 7,626 square kilometers (2,944 square miles) and a population of 3.3 million, comprising 33 percent of the population of Hungary. Budapest became a single city occupying both banks of the Danube river with the unification of Buda and Óbuda on the west bank, with Pest on the east bank, on November 17, 1873.

**CEC Government Relations** is a leading independent public affairs agency throughout Central Europe. Its main Hungarian office is in Budapest, though the organization has offices in several Central European capital cities. The agency prioritizes the analysis of decision-making processes and taking into account the full-range of policy actors in major political decisions throughout the region. The agency also works to offer a more in-depth understanding of the relationship between the European Union and its Central European member states. The agency also maintains ties with other public affairs groups in the European Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

**Tamás Sárdi** is the Managing Director and Partner of CEC Budapest. At CEC, he has managed accounts with multinational and local clients including Philip Morris, EICTA (European Information & Communications Technology Industry Association), SAB Miller, Pfizer, MOL, Nokia, Atel, Holcim, and Citadel. Prior to joining CEC Budapest in January 2002, he worked for the Hungarian Ministry of Economy on a number of investment projects. Tamás also worked at the European level, leading campaigns in the European Parliament targeting Hungarian MEPs. Tamás has a master's degree from the London School of Economics and Political Science, where he majored in European studies, EU policy-making, and international business. He also has a degree in European studies and tourism from the Faculty of International Relations at the Budapest University of Economic Sciences. He is an ACYPL alumnus from the 2004 Hungary to United States exchange. Tamas traveled to Pennsylvania and Colorado.

**Sándor Holbok** joined FIPRA Hungary - CEC Government Relations in 2001. Prior to this, he spent several years in the Hungarian Parliament as the Chief of Staff for József Szájer, the Majority Leader, and now Member of the European Parliament. He has acted as Secretary General of the Hungarian Association of Branded Products Manufacturers, the principal FMCG pressure group in Hungary, and has been a board member of AIM, the European Brands Association in Brussels. He graduated in with a degree in history and German from ELTE University in Budapest, has a doctorate in law, and has held research fellowships at the University of Vienna. He speaks Hungarian, English, Russian, and German. He is an ACYPL alumnus from the 1995 Hungary to United States exchange. Sandor traveled to Wyoming, Florida and New York.

**Dóra Almási** is a Senior Consultant at CEC Government Relations. She has over 10 years of experience with the organization, with an expertise in research, public affairs, and legal analysis. Her clients have mainly come from the IT, energy, and transportation sectors. She received a degree in law from Loránd Eötvös University and a master's degree in international relations from the Gyula Andrásy German Speaking University of Budapest. She is an ACYPL alumna from the 2006 Hungary to United States exchange and traveled to Kentucky and Louisiana.

### **Sunday, October 27**

The **House of Terror Museum** in Budapest contains exhibits related to the 20th century fascist and communist regimes that ruled over Hungary. The museum opened in 2002 and is a member organization of the Platform of European Memory and Conscience. It also serves as a memorial to those detained, interrogated, tortured, or killed under Hungary's autocratic governments.

### **Monday, October 28**

**The Honorable Péter Ungár** is the Local Councilor of the 2nd municipality in Budapest, Hungary. He also interns with MOL Group, the largest central and eastern European energy company. At the MOL Group, he works within both the Communications and Strategy Departments. Prior to this, Péter worked at Al Jazeera Balkans, he reported on the new Hungarian constitution. He won an award for The Jozsef Antall Foundation essay competition and his essay "Model and Reality" was later published in the *Heti Valasz*, a weekly newspaper. Péter has a bachelor's degree in geography from The University of Edinburgh. He is an ACYPL alumnus from the 2018 Hungary and Croatia to US exchange and traveled to Iowa.

**LMP (Politics Can Be Different)** is a green political party in Hungary. It was founded in 2009, and in the most recent election in 2018, won 8 out of 199 seats in Hungary's National Assembly. Its current president is János Kenderney. It has a self-described ideology of green politics, patriotism, progressivism, alter-globalization, and agrarianism. LMP is considered to be on the center-left of Hungarian politics.

**The Honorable László Szakács** is the Vice President of the Hungarian Socialist Party. He has served in this position since July 2016. Prior to this, he served as the mayor of Komló from 2002 to 2006 and a Member of Parliament from 2006 to 2010. In 2014, he was elected again to the National Assembly, where he continues to serve in addition to his duties as Vice President. He is a Member of the Committee on Budget and the Economic Committee in the National Assembly. He has a degree in law from the University of Pécs.

The **Hungarian Socialist Party (MSZP)** is a social-democratic party. Until 2010, it was one of the largest two parties in Hungary, however in the 2018 elections it came in third with 15 of 199 seats in the National Assembly. In recent elections, it has partnered with the green party Dialogue for Hungary. The MSZP's current president is Bertalan Tóth. The MSZP considers its ideology to be social democracy and pro-Europeanism. It is on the center-left of Hungarian politics.

The **National Assembly** of Hungary is the parliament of the country. It is a unicameral body consisting of 199 MPs, elected from either a geographic area or a party list. The Assembly contains 25 standing committees who debate on bills before reporting them to the full assembly. The Assembly has met in the Hungarian Parliament Building since 1902.

**The Honorable Zsolt Csenger-Zalán** is a Member of the National Assembly and Vice Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. He is a member of the ruling Fidesz party and has served in the National Assembly since 2010. His career with Fidesz began earlier, in 2002, where he became involved in party politics after a career in chemical engineering. He was a councilor in the



General Assembly of Pest County from 2006 to 2010. He has a degree in chemical engineering from the Budapest University of Technology and a master's degree in business administration from the University of Buffalo.

**Fidesz-Hungarian Civic Alliance** is a national-conservative, right-wing populist party that has governed Hungary since the 2010 elections. It is led by Prime Minister Viktor Orbán and is elected on a joint list with the Christian Democratic People's Party. In the 2018 elections, the party won 117 of 199 seats in parliament and, in addition, controls the majority of Hungary's seats in the European Parliament and a majority of seats in the local County Assemblies. Fidesz's positions have historically been on the center-right but in recent years have been considered to be gravitating to right-wing and far-right positions.

**Tamás Vargha** is the Hungarian Secretary of State for Defence, having held this position since October 2012. A member of the Fidesz party, he previously worked as a teacher and then as a Member of the National Assembly before being appointed to this current position. He also served as President of the General Assembly of Fejér County between 2010 and 2012. While in the National Assembly, he was a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Defence and Internal Security Committee.

The Hungarian **Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade** is the main government agency responsible for maintaining Hungary's foreign relations. The current minister is Péter Szijjártó, who has held the position since September 2014.

**Marc Dillard** is the Deputy Chief of Mission of the US Embassy in Hungary. Marc has had a variety of postings in Washington and overseas since joining the State Department in 1998. Most recently, he was the Director of the Office of Economic Policy Analysis and Public Diplomacy in the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs, where his team worked on strategic planning, communications, and policy issues related to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Marc received a bachelor's degree in history from Duke University and a Ph.D. in political economy and public policy from the University of Southern California.

The **US Embassy in Hungary** is the main diplomatic mission of the United States within Hungary. The Embassy provides a variety of services to US citizens within Hungary as well as to Hungarians hoping to travel to the United States. The current US ambassador to Hungary is David B. Cornstein.

**The Honorable Anikó Paróczai** is the International Relations Director for the Momentum Party. She is also a Member of the Municipal Legislature of Budapest, representing the 19th district. Before her career in politics, she worked as a Mission Coordinator for the European Students' Forum, a Financial Controller for ExxonMobil, and a Business Development Manager for Jövőképző. Currently, she works as an International Business Development Manager for Let's Start Hungary, in addition to her responsibilities as an elected official. Anikó earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in international economics from the University of Debrecen.

**Mr. István Kovács** is the Director of Strategy for the Center for Fundamental Rights where he focuses on the changes of European Union law and how it will affect the Hungarian legal environment. In this role, he has also been featured as a foreign affairs expert on Hungarian TV and radio programs. Prior to this position, he worked for the Office of the Hungarian Parliament and the Prime Minister's Office, focusing on the European Union and foreign relations. He graduated from Eötvös Lóránd University's School of Law in 2009 while also completing multiple

courses in Economics at Budapest University of Corvinus. István is an ACYPL alumnus from the 2016 Hungary to US exchange and travelled to Colorado.

### **Tuesday, October 29**

**Laszlo Szoke** is the Director of Foreign Affairs for the Office of the President of the Republic of Hungary.

**Zsuzsa Rahói** is the Chief Counselor to Prime Minister Viktor Orbán.

**Debrecen** is the second largest city in Hungary. Located east of Budapest, it is the regional center of Hungary's Northern Great Plains region and is the seat of Hajdú-Bihar county. The city was Hungary's largest city in the 18th century and served as Hungary's capital from 1848-1849 and 1944-1945. Debrecen is home to the University of Debrecen, the oldest continually operating educational institution in Hungary. In 2019, its population was 201,432.

**The Honorable László Papp** has served as the mayor of Debrecen since 2014. He was first elected as a municipal representative in 1998. In this position, he served as the Fidesz leader within the municipal assembly, and as Chair of the Rules Committee and Member of the Ownership Committee. In 2010, he was elected as Representative of the 16th district to the Debrecen Municipal Assembly, where he served for four years until his election as mayor in 2014.

### **Wednesday, October 30**

**Aquaticum** is a thermal bath and wellness hotel in Debrecen. It is one of the largest spas in Debrecen and offers a variety of programs to promote health and cleanliness at its resort. Aquaticum is one of many thermal baths located in Hungary, the country has long been considered a center for spas within Europe.

## Delegate Biographies

### **Ms. Maisie Clark**

Public Policy and Government Affairs Manager  
Google  
*Republican*

Maisie serves as the Public Policy and Government Affairs Manager at Google. She is a member of Google's US Congressional Relations team, where she prepares Google's executives to testify before Congress, communicates Google's policy positions to members of Congress and their staff, and serves as the manager of Google's political action committee.

Previously, Maisie worked at Google's headquarters as the Government Affairs team's External Outreach and Visits Manager. In that role, she briefed world leaders on technology policy issues and managed visits of high-ranking international government officials to meet with Google's executives.

Maisie earned a bachelor's degree in history from Harvard College.

### **The Honorable Denise Diaz**

Vice Mayor  
City of South Gate  
*Democrat*

Denise is the Vice Mayor of the City of South Gate. Prior to this role, she was elected citywide to serve on the South Gate City Council. She focuses on community outreach, job creation, economic development, and public and traffic safety. As a Councilwoman, Denise has helped South Gate build a municipal reserve fund and create business-friendly policies for the city. She has also spearheaded a youth employment program to train the future workforce of her community.

Denise is currently the Director of the non-profit organization, the Institute for the Attention of Immigrants, that encourages civic and economic empowerment for immigrant communities in the greater Los Angeles area.

Denise earned her bachelor's degree in communications from California State University, Long Beach, and received a post-graduate certificate in international business from Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education in Guadalajara, Mexico.

### **The Honorable Miguel Soils**

Member  
Dallas School Board  
*Democrat*

Miguel serves as a Member of the Dallas School Board for the Dallas Independent School District Board of Trustees. He has since been re-elected twice and served as President and Vice-President of the Board. He is also the current Deputy Director of the Coalition for a New Dallas, a Dallas-based policy think tank working to remove the physical and economic barriers that have divided Dallas neighborhoods, reinforced segregation, and stifled economic opportunity.

Previously, Miguel was the Co-Founder and President of the Latino Center for Leadership Development where he oversaw the organization's efforts to develop new political leaders and policy ideas for the Latino community. Miguel's professional experiences also include serving as a staff member on President Barack Obama's 2008 presidential campaign, a Teach for America public school teacher, and Special Assistant to the Superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District.

Miguel received his bachelor's degree in history and political science from Lamar University and a master's degree in education policy and management from Harvard University.

**Mr. Benjamin Staub**

Vice President, Government Affairs  
Motion Picture Association of America  
*Democrat*

Ben works as the Vice President of Government Affairs for the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA). Ben represents major film and television studios on intellectual property, trade, appropriations, telecom, and immigration issues, primarily before congressional committees, US trade representatives, copyright offices, commerce departments, and various industry coalitions and trade groups. At MPAA, Ben also leads Democratic fundraising, including affiliated MPAA PAC-solicitation, allocation decisions, and event-hosting.

Prior to coming to the MPAA, Ben worked for six years at the U.S. House of Representatives' Judiciary Committee on intellectual property and antitrust policy, and before that, with the political tv-advertising firm Murphy Putnam Schorr and Partners.

Ben earned his bachelor's degree in anthropology from Yale University.

**The Honorable Tyler Vorpapel**

Member  
Wisconsin State Assembly  
*Republican*

Tyler is a Member of the Wisconsin State Assembly. Alongside the tasks of legislating, Tyler works to help constituents navigate the state's bureaucracy. Tyler is Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Federalism and Interstate Relations where he works with legislators from other states to promote federal legislation to increase the authority of the states.

Before being elected to the State Assembly, Tyler worked in Congressman Tom Petri's office as a Staff Assistant, Field Representative, and, finally, as his District Director where he oversaw the congressman's district office and interacted with state and local officeholders on the congressman's behalf.

Tyler graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Green Bay where he earned dual bachelor's degrees in political science and public administration.

**Ms. Kelly Wright**

Director of Government Affairs  
Mississippi Manufacturers Association  
*Republican*

Kelly is the Director of Government Affairs for the Mississippi Manufacturers Association (MMA). In her role, she monitors legislation at the federal and state levels and lobbies the state legislature. Kelly was involved in passing legislation that lowered taxes, reduced regulatory burdens, and created economic opportunities for manufacturers in Mississippi.

Prior to MMA, she worked for the Mississippi Legislative Budget Office and Van Scoyoc Associates in Washington, DC.

Kelly is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, where she received bachelor's degrees in history and psychology.

**Escort**

**The Honorable Kemp Conrad**

Chairman  
Memphis City Council  
*Republican*

Kemp currently serves as the Chairman of the Memphis City Council. In this role, he spearheads efforts to implement universal needs-based pre-kindergarten schooling, shared mobility ordinances, public transportation and civil service reforms, and efficiency in government. Kemp also led the Council to a historic replacement of three Council seats that resulted in an overall council of eight African American members including four African American women.

Kemp also serves on the Board of Trustees of the National Civil Rights Museum and the Emerge Memphis Business Incubator. He is also a former Member of the Phoenix Club of Memphis – a fraternal organization that raises money for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Memphis. Kemp co-founded the Phoenix Club of Nashville, where he also served as a Board Member. In 2018, Kemp was presented with the Downtown Memphis Commission's Vanguard Award for his efforts to improve mobility and first-and last-mile transportation options by bringing Bird scooters to Memphis.

Kemp graduated with a bachelor's degree in history from Rhodes College. He earned his master's degree in business administration from the Owen Graduate School of Management at Vanderbilt University. He previously traveled on an ACYPL exchange to China in 2004.

## Program Contact Information

### **Washington, DC – October 21-22**

#### **American Council of Young Political Leaders**

1030 15th Street NW  
Suite 580 West  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel: 202-857-0999

Ms. Ashley Aniton, Program Officer  
Cell: 216-324-1318  
Email: [aaniton@acypl.org](mailto:aaniton@acypl.org)

Ms. Libby Rosenbaum, CEO  
Cell: 202-306-0712  
Email: [lrosenbaum@acypl.org](mailto:lrosenbaum@acypl.org)

### **United States Department of State**

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs  
Mr. Eythan Schiller  
Program Officer, Professional Fellows Division  
Office: 202-632-6424  
Email: [SchillerE@state.gov](mailto:SchillerE@state.gov)

### **Hotel in Washington, DC**

**Residence Inn by Marriott Dupont Circle**  
2120 P Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20037  
Tel: 202-466-6800

### **Croatia – October 23-26**

#### **Academy for Political Development**

Makanceva 16, HR  
Zagreb 10000  
Croatia

**Ms. Iva Petkovic**, Executive Director  
Cell: +385 (0)91 731 6642  
Email: [ipetkovic@apr.hr](mailto:ipetkovic@apr.hr)

### **US Embassy in Croatia**

Ul. Thomasa Jeffersona 2, 10000  
Zagreb, Croatia  
Tel: +385 1 6612 200  
Web: <https://hr.usembassy.gov/hr/>

### **Hotel in Zagreb**

**Hotel Dubrovnik**  
Gajeva ul 1, 10000  
Zagreb, Croatia  
Tel: +385 1 4863 555

### **Hungary – October 26-31**

#### **CEC Government Relations**

Falk Miksa ut. 28/V/1  
H-1055 Budapest  
Hungary

**Dr. Dora Almasi**, Senior Consultant  
Cell: +36 1 319 6635  
Email: [da@cecgr.com](mailto:da@cecgr.com)

### **US Embassy in Hungary**

Szabadsag ter 12, 1054  
Budapest, Hungary  
Tel: +36 1 475 4400

### **Hotel in Budapest – October 26-29**

**Danubius Hotel Helia**  
62-64 Karpát utca, 1133  
Budapest, Hungary  
Tel: +36-1-889-5800

### **Hotel in Decrecen – October 29-31**

**Aquaticum Thermal and Wellness Hotel**  
4032 Nagyerdei Park 1  
Debrecen, Hungary  
Tel: +3652 514 100

## Flight Confirmations and Itineraries

Last Name	Confirmation Number
Clark	FHPMY9(UA)
Diaz	F7WLK4 (UA)
Solis	GKSHT2(UA)
Staub	DN5B89 (UA)
Vorpagel	H2JMGK (UA)
Wright	FJ1NKX (UA)
Conrad	AHY7GX (UA)

**Tuesday,  
October 22** United Airlines #0950

**IAD Washington, DC  
BRU Brussels**

Depart: 5:35pm  
Arrive: 7:15am

United Airlines #7264

**BRU Brussels  
ZAG Zagreb**

Depart: 9:45am  
Arrive: 11:30am

**Thursday,  
October 31** United Airlines #9037

**BUD Budapest  
MUC Munich**

Depart: 1:20pm  
Arrive: 2:40pm

**NOTE:** Please refer to your personal flight itinerary for all remaining flights.