

Kevin Lembo, State Comptroller

Kevin Lembo was elected to a second four-year term as Connecticut's State Comptroller in 2014 following 20 years of public service and advocacy.

A native of Paterson, NJ, Lembo first came to public service as an independent advocate. Working with the private, public and non-profit sectors, Lembo helped design and implement an innovative long-term home care program in New York that successfully prevented premature and permanent admissions to nursing facilities. He was also program director for an AIDS education, prevention and primary care program before serving as Assistant Comptroller in Connecticut.

In 2004, Lembo was appointed Connecticut's first state Healthcare Advocate where he spent years helping thousands of residents navigate the complexities of the health care system; advocated for patients denied coverage or treatment; and returned millions of dollars to consumers.

As State Comptroller, Lembo continues to lead the charge for affordable and quality health care with an emphasis on access to preventive care and wellness programs. Lembo - focused on consensus building across party lines -- continues to lead ongoing initiatives to establish government transparency and accountability, fiscal stability through an improved Budget Reserve Fund formula, better retirement savings options for all residents and more affordable ultra-high-speed Internet service for every business and household in the state.

Comptroller Lembo serves as the chief fiscal guardian -- reporting on the state's financial status every month to ensure that Connecticut proceeds on a secure financial track, coordinating health care and payroll for hundreds of thousands of public employees and retirees, and administering the statewide electronic accounting system. He has been hailed by advocacy groups and the media as a "champion of transparency" for his efforts to promote public access to vital state financial information. The Connecticut Council on Freedom of Information recognized Lembo's efforts toward open government with its Bice Clemow Award in 2013.

Comptroller Lembo has also been appointed to the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Foundation for Open Government, Inc. (CFOG), a non-profit corporation dedicated to promoting open and accountable government.

His transparency initiatives include "Open Connecticut" - an online hub of state financial data created and maintained by the Office of the State Comptroller that simplifies access to real-time state financial information. Lembo successfully advocated for greater openness surrounding hundreds of millions of dollars in economic development initiatives - resulting in the Governor's Executive Order No. 38 establishing a searchable electronic database containing various forms of state economic assistance and tax credits used to recruit businesses and encourage job creation.

Comptroller Lembo has led the effort for financial and operational efficiencies across state and local government, expanding use of online technologies for employee and retiree payroll, and payments to vendors and municipalities. Under authority granted by the state legislature, Comptroller Lembo launched the Connecticut Partnership Plan and the CT Partnership Pharmacy Plan to extend the state's health-care savings to municipalities and other public employers.

In addition to serving as Comptroller, Lembo has served as a Clinical Instructor at Yale School of Nursing in the Nurse Management Policy & Leadership Specialty in Nursing.

Comptroller Lembo holds a Master of Public Administration degree from California State University and is a member of the Pi Alpha Honor Society. He was named a Toll Fellow of the Council of State Governments in 2004, and has served as a panelist and moderator throughout the state and country as an expert in health care and retirement administration.

In 2004, Comptroller Lembo was commissioned a "Kentucky Colonel," the highest honor awarded by the Governor of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, in recognition of his advocacy on behalf of children in foster care. As an adoptive parent, Lembo frequently collaborates with other agencies and programs to continue his advocacy on behalf of foster care programs, and to help guide parents and families of individuals with autism spectrum disorders. Lembo resides in Guilford with his spouse, Charles Frey; they have three sons.

