

# **New Jersey Irish Caucus and members of the Trade Commission Ireland Trip April 18 through April 23, 2026**

## **The Ireland Trade Commission**

New Jersey was the first state and author of the Irish Trade Commission Legislation within the State's Department. That same Legislation has now been passed or pending in approximately 30 other states. New Jersey is in many ways is looked upon as the leader in American/Irish Caucus and Commissions.

During the recent delegation trip in April 2026, was a week of meeting with New Jersey businesses and others member of Irish Government and Universities. Our meeting discussions consisted, among other topics, of how NJ businesses in Ireland and the State of NJ spurred a partnership in business, sports and government. In addition to the Business aspect of the Trade Commission Legislation, there is an educational proponent. A meeting with several of the Universities and NJIT to discuss student/business exchange to establish Irish businesses to come to NJ to open their business is being scheduled by my office over the next several weeks. In talks with Rutgers the intention is to get the college football to play in Ireland at one of the opening college's games held over the last week of August. This was started three years ago with Notre Dame vs. Navy opening the weekend up. This year's game is North Carolina and Texas Christian University.

As stated above the American Irish State Legislature Caucus (AISLC- which I am a co-chair) is holding their annual meeting in Chicago at the NCSL Summitt in July. Since I have the honor of being part of the Executive Board and the Foundation Executive Board, with a reappointment this July I will be in attendance. If interested in that information, please let me know I will be more than happy to send you details on the summit.

Presently I am working with NY Ireland's Consul General Gerald Angly to set up another Business Roundtable in his office to include New York and Connecticut members to foster relationship and partnerships to work across state lines. We did a roundtable three years ago with former CG Helene Nolan.

Here are a few events that have taken place in New Jersey in 2026.

The Irish Caucus and Speaker Coughlin hosted, TD Chairman Cathal Crowe; Chairman Education & Youth, Leinster House Ireland, Senator Pauline Tully, Ireland, Deputy Consul

General Katie Daughen and Consul General Gerald Angley to the Swearing-In Ceremonies and the State-of-the State in January 2026.



A St Patrick's business roundtable was held in my district, at Dooney's Pub in Delran in March 2026. The event was hosted by EDA. We had the opportunity to discuss the Irish Trade Commission and NJ Businesses as well as doing business in New Jersey. The roundtable panelists were, EDA COS Sean Kennedy; Gregory local Irish Brewery Owner; Commissioner Weiss, EDA, Assemblywoman Carol Murphy, Deputy Consul General Katie Daughen, and Consul General Gerald Angley NY Irish Embassy.



A Background on the Trade Commission as explained in the Trade Commission's Report 2025 authored by Ireland's Senator Mark Daly.

The first Ireland Trade Commission legislation was drafted by a member of the New Jersey American Irish State Legislators Caucus following their trip to Ireland in 2022. The members of the Caucus asked after their visit to Belfast how they could help support the peace process and the Good Friday Agreement and this legislation was the result of their discussions.

With this Commission they are helping communities in Ireland but also helping communities. In their own State through the creation of educational, economic, governmental and people to people links. This is an all-island commission, encompassing both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It can play a pivotal role in sustaining the Good Friday Peace Agreement, which was only made possible with the continued support of both U.S. state and federal legislators, and successive U.S. Presidents and their administrations.

Ireland serves as a strategic gateway to the European Union for U.S. States, offering access to a single market of approximately 500 million people across 27 member states. More than 1000 global companies have chosen to base their operations in Ireland to access into this market. As Northern Ireland is part of the UK, this arrangement also enables U.S. states to access to both the UK and EU markets simultaneously, an important advantage in today's global economy.

25 US States Houses passed the Ireland Trade Commission legislation so far, with 19 more states with bills published. Nevada and Vermont Ireland Trade Commissions were passed and signed into law by their respective Governors recently The Ireland Trade Commission Legislation will see the appointment of 301 commissioners across the 25 States that have passed the legislation, with 201 of those appointments already filled and 100 appointments to be made by Governors, Senate Presidents, and House Speakers as well as other leaders, agencies and departments in the States.

#### Annual Dublin Summit

Each August, in the week leading up to the Aer Lingus College Football Classic, the American Irish State Legislators Caucus hosts a Summit for members of the Caucus and Ireland Trade Commissioners from the United States. The 2025 Summit saw a delegation of 289, from 21 US States including the Governor of South Dakota. The teams competing in the Aer Lingus College football classic 2026 is North Carolina and Texas Christian University. An invite will be forthcoming in separate email.

Irish Delegation Trip to Ireland April 18 through April 25, 2026  
(NJ Caucus Co-Chairs Assemblywoman Carol Murphy, Assemblyman Wayne Deangelo and Assemblywoman Vicki Flynn)

Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>- Delegates Arrived and Checked into the hotel. The evening of the 18<sup>th</sup> the members of the delegation met and kicked off the week in a NJ fashion meet-n-greet. There were 13 legislative members, 2 members of the Staff and 8 Guests. All participated in all of meeting, events and tours scheduled for the week.