

Dr. Lesli Gooch
Senior Vice President – Government Affairs
Manufactured Housing Institute

Dr. Lesli Gooch has spent her career on Capitol Hill, with a focus on mortgage finance, consumer credit and affordable housing policy. She has worked on the key housing and mortgage reform bills that have moved through Congress in the past decade, including helping to draft and promote the "Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act," legislation critical to the manufactured housing industry.

Lesli served as the Chief Policy Advisor for Congressman Gary G. Miller (California), the Vice Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, until he retired from Congress at the end of 2014. She has helped the Congressman successfully navigate the legislative process on a range of issues, including legislation to change the Dodd-Frank Act that was recently signed by the President. Lesli started her career in Congress as the Legislative Director for Congresswoman Marge Roukema (New Jersey) during her Chairmanship of the Housing Subcommittee, the Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit Subcommittee, and Vice-Chairmanship of the House Financial Services Committee. In addition to her work inside the Capitol building, Lesli has extensive advocacy experience. She was a partner at the firm Potomac Partners DC (PPDC), where she specialized in financial services, housing, and community development policy.

Lesli is a seasoned legislative and policy professional with proven ability to successfully execute policy and political goals. Well-respected on both sides of the aisle, Lesli is known for her ability to conceptualize and write legislation, develop partnerships, and negotiate agreements. As a congressional candidate to succeed retiring Congressman Miller, Lesli received the support of business and housing leaders and endorsements of the Congressional leaders from California including the Chairmen of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and Armed Services Committee.

Lesli has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Carl Albert Congressional Research and Studies Center at the University of Oklahoma. Her dissertation, *When Politics is Personal: The Role of Personal Policy Interests in Legislative Activity*, was based on interviews she conducted with more than 60 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and explores the motivations of members in selecting issues to champion in Congress. As the Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for MHI, Lesli will serve as MHI's chief advocate on Capitol Hill. She is based at MHI headquarters in Arlington, VA.