

October 24, 2025



The Ninety-Three

NACO Annual Conference Attendee Information- Register Before November 21st

County official pre-registration for the 2025 annual conference is open until Friday, November 21st.

Please consult the 2025 annual conference [web page](#) for all information relevant to attendees, including the registration policy, agenda overview, hotel reservation details, and other helpful links. Bookmark the web page to ensure you always have access to the most up-to-date information.

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



What Are You "All In" On?

At the 2025 NACO Annual Conference, we're celebrating being "all in" as a 100% NACo

membership state.

Whether it's public safety, infrastructure, economic development, or health and human services, counties are **all in** on delivering solutions and building stronger communities across Nebraska.

Help us amplify and celebrate the dedication and innovation that define county government. Leading up to the conference, we want to know what you're "all in" on.

NACO Communications Specialist Lauren Franken will be collecting county officials' "all in" stories from now until the conference to be shared on our website and social media. To share your **"all in"** story, fill out [this questionnaire](#).

2025 NACO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

What are you "All In" on?

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I'm all in when it comes to conducting safe and open elections.

I learned a long time ago that an "Open Door Policy" is a must in county government. If you have nothing to hide, you shouldn't be nervous about having the public present during the counting process.

I have always had my counting room open to the public, rotating individuals in and out throughout the evening. I take this opportunity to do some election education as well, explaining to those present what is happening during the counting process and answering any questions these individuals may have. I have also made myself available to the local High School for voter education to our future leaders.

”

-CHERYL FEIST
DAWES COUNTY CLERK

Light Up Green for Veterans-November 4-11!

This Veteran's Day, we will celebrate the fifth anniversary of Operation Green Light. The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) invite the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes, and boroughs to show support for veterans by lighting courthouses green from November 4-11, 2025. By shining a

green light, county governments and our residents will let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported. [Click here](#) to view NACo's toolkit, which includes resolution templates, outreach sources, and suggested materials to make your participation in Operation Greenlight as easy as possible.

Please email photos to Lauren.Franken@NebraskaCounties.org so we can share them on our social media channels!



LR195 Update

On October 3rd, NACO Executive Director Jon Cannon, Deputy Director Candace Meredith, and a few of our dedicated county officials and staff testified in front of the Nebraska

Legislature’s Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee regarding the push to reduce unfunded mandates.

A recording of the hearing [can be viewed here](#).

NACO's research team provided the committee with comprehensive research and data about the impact of unfunded and underfunded mandates on counties and county governments. [Click here to view the materials](#).

Legislative Interim Studies Schedule

Proposed initiative and referendum authority for counties ([LR253](#)) and the petition processes used in other states ([LR206](#)) will be the focus of a joint Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on Friday, October 24.

Other hearings in October will focus on municipal land banks ([LR147](#)), riparian weed control funding ([LR168](#)), and affordable housing ([LR86](#)).

Hearings are scheduled in November on the state-administered retirement systems ([LR97](#)) and the annual tax incentive and tax expenditure reports from the Nebraska Department of Revenue. A full list of hearing dates and locations can be found [here](#).

Interim study resolutions are introduced during the regular legislative session to study issues following the adjournment. They provide an opportunity for a deeper dive into bills that were introduced during prior sessions and some focus on ideas for bills to be introduced in 2026. Some hearings are limited to invited testimony, but public comments are accepted through the online comment button for each resolution. Some hearings will be livestreamed through [Nebraska Public Media](#).

From NACo: Apply for the High Performance Leadership Academy

You are invited to join your fellow elected county leaders from across the state and the nation in the [NACo High Performance Leadership Academy](#), beginning this January.

This innovative, online leadership development program—created in partnership with the **National Association of Counties (NACo)** and **General Colin Powell**—is designed specifically for county officials and staff. The nearly 20,000 county graduates can attest that this program uniquely focuses on real-world leadership skills you can apply immediately in your role, including:

- Leveraging positive leadership strategies and mindset for positive outcomes
- Building high-trust for high-performance teams
- Leading effectively through change and uncertainty

- Strengthening communication and collaboration across departments
- Enhancing accountability and results

The program is fully facilitated online, creating a very convenient format and accommodating your busy schedule; participants can complete the program on their own schedule while connecting with peers nationwide in an engaging, interactive environment.

More than two-thirds of counties across the country use this program to help make existing leaders better and emerging leaders ready to address the pressing issues of our day—and we hope you'll be part of the next cohort starting in January 2026.

Learn more and apply here: www.naco.org/skills

If you have questions or would like to connect with past participants from our state, please contact Managing Director Luke Afeman at lukea@pdaleadership.com.

We hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to invest in your professional growth and join your colleagues in this nationally recognized leadership program.

NACo Media Relations Guide

"Part of your responsibility as an elected official is to inform the public about what you and the county are doing on their behalf. To fulfill this responsibility, it is a good idea to develop a workable personal communications plan each year. Having a plan will help you to focus on important objectives, ensure that accomplishments are communicated effectively to the public and prepare you to handle any public relations challenges that arise. Ideally, your county has – or should have – a media relations policy and a social media policy in place. If it does, be sure you are familiar with it and adhere to it. If it does not, or it is in need of major revision, consider leading that effort."

NACo has a comprehensive Media Relations Guide for Counties. The guide includes media relations 101, a breakdown of both traditional and digital tools, education on crisis communications, and much more.

[Click here](#) to download a copy of NACo's Media Relations Guide.

Create a Savi Account for Free Student Loan Repayment Guidance

What Borrowers Need to Know:

- As of August 1, 2025, student loan interest began accruing again for the nearly 8 million borrowers enrolled in the Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) Plan.

- The future of the SAVE Plan remains uncertain. In the meantime, interest is now being added to loan balances, though forbearances that pause payments remain in effect.

- While no immediate action is required, borrowers looking to avoid accumulating interest may want to switch to an active repayment plan. You can explore your options and [enroll directly through your Savi account](#).

The recent changes to student loan repayment plans may be confusing borrowers. **Please encourage county employees and their dependents to start an account using the link above.** If you would like an email template for sending this information to employees in your county, email Lauren.Franken@NebraskaCounties.org.

\$187

AVG. SAVINGS
PER MONTH

\$50K

AVG.
PROJECTED
FORGIVENESS



Founded by longtime student loan experts and advocates, Savi helps borrowers enroll in federal repayment and forgiveness programs that could lower their monthly payments and potentially forgive their loans.

CONQUER YOUR STUDENT LOANS



Savi detects your **eligibility for repayment options** and generates application forms digitally that are signed and submitted directly through Savi.

With Savi, **student loan expertise** is at your fingertips. Savi delivers tailored recommendations based on your unique loan profile with 1:1 support



Savi offers **free monthly educational webinars** to share student loan policy updates, explore the Savi tool, and answer your questions.



You can access a **free, instant estimate of savings** and broad student loan resources for financial health.



SCAN ME

Get started by scanning
the QR code or going to:
nacobenefits.bysavi.com

What is a NACO Business Member?

Support provided by our generous business members helps NACO continue to expand our educational programming for Nebraska county officials. Business members enjoy a number of benefits, including features on our website and social media pages. We also offer our business members a complimentary exhibit booth at the County Board Workshop, discounts on sponsorships, and 15% off the cost of booking our NACO West Training Center in Ogallala.

Click the button below to learn more about NACO business memberships.

2026 Business Memberships Now Open

20 BUSINESS 25 MEMBERS



ELITE MEMBERS



PREMIUM MEMBERS



RESOURCES

Legislative Newsletter

County Employment Opportunities

Legal Calendar



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