

August 22, 2025



The Ninety-Three

Gov. Pillen Issues [Disaster Declaration](#) for 23 Counties Following August Storms

CONTACT:

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LINCOLN, NE – Governor Jim Pillen has issued a disaster declaration for 23 counties resulting from storms that impacted the state earlier this month. Thunderstorms from Aug. 8 – 11 resulted in exceptionally high winds and heavy rain and caused significant damage to public property and infrastructure.

The Governor's declaration applies to the following counties: Burt, Butler, Cass, Dodge, Douglas, Fillmore, Gage, Harlan, Jefferson, Johnson, Lancaster, Nemaha, Nuckolls, Otoe, Pawnee, Saline, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward, Thayer, Washington, Webster and York. Estimated damage currently exceeds \$24 million. As a result, state funds can be directed to assist those areas as necessary.

NACO Hosts Property Tax 101 for Nebraska Senators

NACO welcomed senators and legislative aides to our office on Thursday for a Property Tax 101 session. The discussion provided valuable insight into property tax policy and assessment, as well as its implications for Nebraskans. Attendees also heard from the Nebraska Association of School Boards' presentation of 'TEEOSA 101.'

NACO will host a similar event for senators and their staff on September 17.



Fall 2025 NACO District Meetings

Southeast - Thursday, September 11th - Peter Kiewit Lodge, Eugene T. Mahoney State Park, 28500 W Park Hwy, Ashland. **Registration Deadline: 9/4/2025.** [View the agenda here.](#)

Northeast- Friday, September 12th - Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College - 601 E Benjamin Ave, Norfolk. **Registration Deadline: 8/29/25.** [View the agenda here.](#)

Central - Thursday, September 18th - The Leadership Center, 2211 Q St, Aurora. **Registration Deadline: 9/11/2025.** [View the agenda here.](#)

Panhandle - Wednesday, September 24th - Prairie Winds Community Center, 428 N Main St, Bridgeport. **Registration Deadline: 9/17/2025.** [View the agenda here.](#)

West Central - Thursday, September 25th - NACO West, 102 Diamond Springs Trail, Ogallala. **Registration Deadline: 9/17/25.** [View the agenda here.](#)

District Meeting Registration

Save the Dates - 2025 Annual Conference

The [web page](#) for the 2025 NACO Annual Conference is now live! This page will serve as the hub 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!

ANNUAL CONFERENCE IMPORTANT DATES

Aug. 18

Sponsor & Exhibit Hall Registration Opens - 8 AM CST

Sept. 10

County Official Registration Opens - 8 AM CST
Hotel Reservation Form Available - 2:30 PM CST

Oct. 10

Hotel Reservation Form Deadline

Nov. 21

County Official Pre-Registration Deadline - 11:59 PM CST
Registration Cancellation Refunds No Longer Available

Dec. 17

Conference Begins

[Annual Conference Web Page](#)

NACO West Hosts Nebraska Hospital Association District 3 Summer Conference

We had the pleasure of hosting the Nebraska Hospital Association's District 3 Summer Conference at the NACO West Training Center this week for a productive day of learning and collaboration!

Planning a meeting, conference, or training session? [Click here](#) to learn why NACO West is the ideal venue.



Legislative Interim Studies Scheduled

The Legislature's standing committees have begun scheduling public hearings in September and October on interim study resolutions. Some resolutions are a deeper dive into bills that were introduced during the last session and others are ideas for bills that will be introduced in 2026.

Among the studies on issues affecting counties, on September 5, the Natural Resources Committee will hear [LR159](#), an interim study to examine the nameplate capacity tax rate and how it affects privately developed renewable energy in Nebraska.

Controlled burn permits will be examined on September 12 under [LR235](#).

On September 19, the committee will hear [LR225](#) that would examine the need for a Green Amendment that was proposed as [LR22CA](#) during the 2025 session. LR22CA, if passed by the Legislature and adopted by voters, would require the state and political subdivisions to serve as trustees for the state’s natural resources.

Hearings are scheduled in October on the Open Meetings Act ([LR192](#)), unfunded mandates ([LR195](#)), county initiatives and referendums ([LR253](#)), and riparian weed control funding ([LR168](#)). A full list of hearing dates and locations can be found [here](#).

Some hearings are limited to invited testimony but public comments are accepted through the online comment button for each resolution.

Register for the 2025 NACO Legislative Conference



Mark your calendar for the 2025 NACO Legislative Conference!

If you have a suggestion for a legislative change that impacts your county, please reach out to Beth Ferrell or your NACO [Board of Directors representative](#) prior to the Legislative Conference.

[Register here](#). A full agenda will be available soon.

Register for the Legislative Conference

Live Healthy Prescription, Health, and Dental Discount Program

The National Association of Counties (NACo) Live Healthy prescription discount applies to everyday prescription costs. By following a few simple steps to sign your county up, counties can support community health and provide real savings to our residents. The program helps county residents save on prescription medications, with **no cost** to the county. This easy-to-implement program is designed for residents who are uninsured, underinsured, or simply looking to reduce costs.

NACO is working to increase county participation in the [Live Healthy Program](#) by ordering the necessary materials and aiding in distribution efforts. Keep an eye out for further information about next steps.



Build healthier counties with NACo

NACo's **Live Healthy Discount program**

delivers health savings to county residents at NO COST to the county.

Live Healthy has saved residents **more than \$720 million** on their prescriptions.



Enroll online at NACorx.org



Appoint staff to lead the program



Order NO-COST print and digital materials



Display materials for residents to save



Enroll into Live Healthy now

*The Live Healthy program is not insurance. Prescription savings may vary by drug and pharmacy; discounts are only available at participating pharmacies. MinuteClinic discounts are available in 33 states and the District of Columbia

Savi: Important Updates on the SAVE Plan

As of May 5, the Department of Education has resumed collections on defaulted federal

student loans. That means borrowers behind on payments could face wage garnishment, tax refund withholding, and more.

If you're unsure about your loan status—or know you're behind—you're not alone. Over 9 million borrowers are in default or serious delinquency.

Our partner Savi can help you check your status, avoid or recover from default, and take action fast. Join [our next webinar](#) to learn more, or [get started with an account today](#).

Policy Updates: The SAVE Plan

- The **SAVE Plan is still on hold** due to a federally issued court injunction
- Borrowers already enrolled in SAVE were automatically placed into a **General Forbearance**, and will remain there until the litigation is resolved.
- Under this forbearance:
 - You do **NOT** have to make your monthly payments on your student loans \
 - Interest **IS** accruing [**July 9 ED announcement: Interest WILL start to accrue August 1**]
 - Time spent does **NOT** provide credit toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF)
- Currently **only two ways borrowers in SAVE can receive PSLF credit**:
 - **Enroll/switch into a different IDR plan (PAYE, ICR or IBR) to resume making qualifying monthly payments for PSLF.**

"Buy back" months of PSLF credit for time spent in SAVE forbearance by submitting a "PSLF Buyback Request" via ED (**must have 120 months of certified PSLF employment to be eligible**)

Policy Updates: Other IDR Plans (Non-SAVE)

- **Other IDR plans (PAYE, ICR & IBR) are currently available** for eligible borrowers to enroll
- But borrowers **should expect lengthy delays** when enrolling, recertifying, or switching IDR plans right now due to massive application backlog
 - Dept of Ed only just **recently began processing IDR applications again in May**, after having been paused since the start of 2025.
 - **Only 3.84% of all IDR applications submitted in 2025 have been processed**, with millions of applications still backlogged.
- If you've submitted an IDR application recently, **be prepared to wait a longer than normal to receive your results.**
 - Your servicer may place you into a **60-day "processing forbearance"** to allow time to process your application- and during which no payment is due.

Get guidance from Savi experts at www.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.

NACO Business Memberships

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RESOURCES

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