

September 19, 2025



# The Ninety-Three

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## **Press Release: Governor Patten Signs \$20 Million Property Tax Relief Executive Order**

Due to the return of unused property tax credits and an increase in casino gambling revenue, more funds are available in the Property Tax Credit Fund and the School District Property Tax Credit Fund. Executive Order 25-13 directs Nebraska's Property Tax Administrator to certify and distribute the full amount of the funds to taxpayers, which will result in an additional \$20 million in property tax relief.

[Click here to read the full press release](#)

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## **County Official Registration & Hotel Reservation for Annual Conference Now Open**

County official registration for the 2025 annual conference is now open. The hotel reservation form deadline is October 10th, and county official pre-registration for the conference ends 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.

[Register Here](#)

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## **BEAD Update: Public Comment Submitted By**

The Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) serves as the voice of county officials across Nebraska, with a mission to continuously improve county government operations, promote efficiency, and raise the standard of public service for the ultimate benefit and well-being of Nebraska's county residents.

From the early stages of working alongside many stakeholders on the proposal of the NBEAD program, NACO and its members have been enthusiastic contributors to the feedback process, advocating for solutions that would bring high-speed broadband to Nebraska's rural communities that are currently underserved or unserved. We recognize that reliable broadband is essential for accessing telehealth services, working remotely, advancing precision agriculture, emergency responsiveness, and staying connected with loved ones.

However, following the June 6th policy decision by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to restructure the BEAD program, we have been deeply concerned to witness a degradation in what was once seen as a transformative, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. This decision diminished the potential of this investment to bring affordable, reliable broadband to thousands of citizens in our rural communities. Although we appreciate the work of the NBO team and understand the constraints that NBO had under the NTIA policy decision, the rushed pivot left Nebraska with an unfortunate result that does not line up to other state proposals.

While we acknowledge the awarding of funds, we respectfully request that the State of Nebraska advocate for the redirection of the remaining funds to stay in Nebraska to support non-deployment projects. These projects may include workforce development to support digital skills training, and precision agriculture initiatives, which will equip our farming community with the tools to stay competitive in a rapidly evolving market.

We also urge that all unserved and underserved Community Anchor Institutions, including schools, libraries, healthcare facilities, and other community-serving entities, be prioritized for fiber broadband connectivity. Ensuring these institutions are connected is a step in creating meaningful access to resources for Nebraska citizens.

NACO appreciates that the draft final proposal will connect many Nebraskans, and we remain committed to expanding affordable broadband access to all. We look forward to working alongside the State of Nebraska to ensure that every resident is served.

To Learn more about the Draft Final Proposal for the NBEAD Program, you can find it <https://broadband.nebraska.gov/>

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## 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](#).



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## Fall 2025 NACO District Meetings

**Panhandle** - Wednesday, September 24th - Prairie Winds Community Center, 428 N Main St, Bridgeport. **Registration closed. Walk-ins welcome.** [View the agenda here.](#)

**District Meeting Registration**

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## **NACO Salary Study Overview & GIS Database Walk-Thru Webinar October 22nd**

NACO will host a webinar on October 22nd at 2 p.m. CST to discuss the salary study findings and walk through the GIS database.

[Register here.](#)

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## **New Report Highlights Need to Fully Fund PILT and SRS Programs for Rural Counties**

Each year PILT payments are issued to over 1,850 counties in 49 states – roughly 62% of all counties. These resources offset lost property tax revenue from non-taxable federal public lands within county jurisdictions to support emergency response, transportation infrastructure, education and more.

The SRS program supports schools and roads in public lands counties and was not reauthorized after FY 2023. Congressional reauthorization is now required to offset steep budget shortfalls significantly impacting rural communities.

The NCPLC's newest report *Primer for Counties: the PILT & SRS Programs* explores the critical need for full funding of PILT and SRS including each program's history, the "mechanics" of funding calculations and key policy priorities.

Learn more at [https://www.naco.org/page/payments-lieu-taxes-resource-hub?\\_page=1&field\\_topics=46](https://www.naco.org/page/payments-lieu-taxes-resource-hub?_page=1&field_topics=46)

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## **Legislative Interim Studies Scheduled**

Unfunded mandates on counties ([LR195](#)), publication of meeting notices ([LR192](#)), and valuation of ethanol plants ([LR118](#)) will be the subject of legislative interim study hearings on October 3.

Other hearings in October will focus on county initiatives and referendums ([LR253](#)), riparian weed control funding ([LR168](#)), and affordable housing ([LR86](#)). 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](#).

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## 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](#). View the tentative agenda [here](#).

[Register for the Legislative Conference](#)

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## County Official Award Nominations Now Open!

We are now accepting nominations for the County Official of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, and Next Generation awards. Nominations will be accepted until Friday, October 17, and the award recipients will be announced at the NACO Annual Conference in December.

Click the links below to access the nomination forms:

[County Official of the Year](#)

[Lifetime Achievement Award](#)

[Next Generation Award](#)

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## SFY2026 JAG TECHNOLOGY GRANT: \$140,000

The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice is pleased to announce the availability of the **SFY2026 JAG Technology Grant**. The Request for Application [RFA] outlines general guidelines, eligibility, funding requirements, and application instructions. Click here for the full RFA: <https://ncc.nebraska.gov/grant-apps>

### SFY2026 JAG TECHNOLOGY GRANT: \$140,000

Eligible applicants include units of state and local government (i.e., city, county, town), Indian tribal government which has its own law enforcement, and state operated criminal justice programs.

All applicants applying for the SFY2026 JAG Technology Grant shall submit an application using the link below through AmpliFund.

<https://ne.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/5f69d27b-5973-4b78-a7d2-ae1b541bc360>

EMAIL APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

PAPER APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

For instructions on how to submit an application through AmpliFund, please refer to the video guide found here: [https://rooms.vidyard.com/rooms/\\_wEY6z9GESNh2IBhuCwvIw?vy\\_player\\_uuid=92KSHRHx8zy5sqiHhGBJNs](https://rooms.vidyard.com/rooms/_wEY6z9GESNh2IBhuCwvIw?vy_player_uuid=92KSHRHx8zy5sqiHhGBJNs)

**Application Deadline: October 14, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. (CDT)**

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## **Cyber Security Keypoints - September 2025**



## AI Procurement

Questions & Strategic Considerations when adopting AI:

- What are the Specific Needs & Goals?
- What are the data requirements?
- What are the ethical considerations?
- What is the total cost of ownership?
- What are the vendor qualifications?



### Ethical Considerations

- Evaluate potential biases in AI models.
- Verify transparency and accountability in AI decision-making.
- Ensure constituent data remains protected by verifying it is not used to train models available to others.
- Conduct a security assessment and ensure AI solutions follow ethical coding standards.
- Ensure data privacy and security measures are in place.
- Evaluate the return on investment and vet each vendor's experience/expertise.

### Potential Public Service Enhancements

- **Public Safety** (predictive policing to allocate resources effectively)
- **Infrastructure Management** (predictive maintenance, traffic management)
- **Citizen Services** (virtual assistants for 24/7 citizen support)
- **Administrative Efficiency** (data analysis and decision support, automating routine tasks such as document processing)
- **Public Health** (chatbots for broadcasting public health information)

The County Network Security Cooperative is a collaboration of partners including:



- AND -



*Disclaimer: This document reflects current guidance and is subject to change due to the evolving cyber security environment.*

## 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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## ELITE MEMBERS



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## PREMIUM MEMBERS



TRANE  
TECHNOLOGIES



## RESOURCES

County Employment Opportunities

Legal Calendar



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