

March 20, 2026



The Ninety-Three

Legislative Session Heading Toward the Home Stretch

The Nebraska Legislature will complete Day 47 of the 60-day legislative session when they adjourn today. Things are getting down to the wire.

We are asking all county officials to **ENGAGE** with your state senators to help steer the state's policy in the direction that will deliver the best results for its citizens. We may be a little biased, but we think the government closest to its people is the best and purest form of government.

While your senators are home for the weekend, we are asking you to reach out to them about issues important to county officials. See our [Advocacy](#) page here for more information. Sign up for alerts about our [Friday Action Calls here](#).

Thank you to all of you who have engaged with your state senators so far this session. Every contact makes a difference.

Call for Applications – LB663 Committee

President Valery Bell has created the LB663 Committee to develop best practices, tools, and a resource library to support county regulation and permitting decisions.

The committee will operate from late March through mid-July, with two in-person meetings and the remainder virtual. Key deliverables will include a county siting and review checklist across multiple project types, plus a library of Nebraska and nationwide county land use regulations and guidance on local/state/federal permitting touchpoints. The committee will also provide feedback on the education platform supporting the new education requirement for county board members.

Please submit your application for the committee by filling out this form: [LB663 Committee – Fill out form](#).

If you are unable to complete the form, email Candace.Meredith@nebraskacounties.org to express your interest **no later than TODAY, March 20th.**

LB663 Committee Nomination Form

Register for 2026 COOL Network

In collaboration with the University of Nebraska Extension, the [County Official Online Learning \(COOL\) Network](#) is a hybrid educational course that includes a three-week online unit in May 2026, followed by one in-person session in Kearney, NE, on June 3, 2026.

During the online portion, participants will use a learning management system to access videos and reading materials provided by professors, as well as insights from county and state officials. Participants can engage with the content at their own pace throughout the week, with opportunities for online discussion forums with fellow learners and a one-hour live webinar with the professor at the end of each week. The expected time commitment for learners is three to five hours per week.

The final session will take place in person at the Younes Conference Center North in Kearney, NE, on June 3, from 9:00 to 11:00 AM.

Topics covered include:

- The purpose, structure, and funding of county government
- Government finance, expenditures, and mandates
- Courthouse infrastructure, Information Technology risk management
- Visioning and strategic planning

New county officials and emerging leaders are especially encouraged to participate! [Click here to register.](#)



N
EXTENSION

Week 1
May 4-8



Structure

Week 2
May 11-15



Taxation

Week 3
May 18-22



Management

Week 4
June 3
In-Person Session, Kearney



Vision

COOL NETWORK

County Official Online Learning Network

This course offers participants a chance to connect with fellow county officials, university professors, and local government experts through online content, discussion forum, weekly live webinars, and final in-person session.

Registration Fee: \$100

Session Starts: May 4, 2026

Enrollment Deadline: April 17, 2026



Register Now
nebraskacounties.org

Register for the COOL Network

National Association of Counties Leadership Development: Learn from the best!

Join over 15,000 county leaders already benefiting from the effectiveness of the [NACo Leadership Academy](#), the **10-week, online leadership program** founded by General Colin Powell.

This 10-week online program is designed specifically for senior county leaders who are responsible for people strategy, organizational effectiveness, and cross-department performance. Participants work alongside peers in similar roles across NACo counties and focus on practical solutions for leading change, improving culture, aligning teams, and delivering results with limited resources.

Short, actionable lessons and weekly peer discussions mean you can apply what you learn immediately — without stepping away from the office.

- 100% online, no travel
- ~40 minutes per day, self-paced
- Weekly peer roundtables with administrators & HR leaders nationwide
- Real-world tools you can use right away

Dates: April 13 – June 26, 2026

Special Cohort Pricing: \$1,000 per participant

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate the Nebraska graduates of 2025:

Dianne Wallace, IT Coordinator, Douglas County

Eden Lund, Diversion Director, Seward County

Greg Andersen, CISO, Douglas County

Jon Regnier, Highway Superintendent, Seward County

Magali Chaidez, Pension and Wellness Specialist, Douglas County

Enroll now for [April 2026!](#)

Our April Cohorts are right around the corner. Join us in investing in the workforce – empowering them to become better leaders today and into the future.

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE AND ENROLL](#)

Developed by General Colin Powell, the Professional Development Academy and NACo, the High Performance Leadership Academy is an online 10-week program that helps your workforce develop fundamental, practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties and our residents.

NACO Spring District Meetings

[Panhandle District Meeting](#)

Registration Closed - Walk-Ins Welcome!

Wednesday, March 25, 2026

9:00 am MDT - 12:00 pm MDT

Prairie Winds Community Center, 428 N Main St, Bridgeport, NE

[West Central District Meeting](#)

Registration Closed - Walk-Ins Welcome!

Thursday, March 26, 2026

[View Draft Agendas Here](#)

2026 NACO Outstanding County Board Member Award Nominations Open

Nominations for the 2026 Outstanding County Board Member Award are open to county board members who have been in office for at least two (2) terms. Criteria used to select the 2026 recipient include: the member will have been active on regional boards, served as chairman of their county board, participated in the legislative process, or been appointed to a statewide committee. Regular attendance at NACO educational opportunities, events, and meetings is also required.

Announcement of the recipient of this award will be made after the Wednesday evening meal at the County Board Workshop in Kearney on June 3, 2026. Submit the [nomination form](#) to candace.meredith@nebraskacounties.org by April 24, 2026.

[Outstanding County Board Member Nomination Form](#)

County Budget Prep Refresher Webinar — May 28, 2026

You are invited to register for a Zoom webinar!

When: May 28, 2026, 02:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Topic: County Budget Prep Refresher

Register in advance for this webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Gw6L3cynQ4WS8eFRIZ-5EA

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

2027 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for

State Prisoners Grant Program [RSAT]

The Nebraska Commission on Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice is pleased to announce the availability of the **SFY 2027 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment [RSAT] for State Prisoners Grant**.

The Request for Application [RFA] outlines general guidelines, eligibility, funding requirements, and application instructions. You are encouraged to distribute and post the announcement to other interested parties. Please read the RFA thoroughly to ensure all requirements are met in the application. The attached documents are also located at the following website: <https://ncc.nebraska.gov/grant-apps>.

SFY 2027 RSAT grant: \$220,069

All applicants applying for the SFY 2027 Residential Substance Abuse Treatment [RSAT] for State Prisoners Grant shall submit an application using the link below through Euna (Amplifund).

<https://ne.amplifund.com/Public/Opportunities/Details/8b912986-1c15-4e34-bc1e-4cc7599f47df>

EMAIL APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

PAPER APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

An instructional video for how to apply using Amplifund can be found at https://rooms.vidyard.com/rooms/_wEY6z9GESNh2IBhuCwvlw?vy_player_uuid=92KSHRHx8zy5sqiHhGBJNs

Application Deadline for RSAT Grant: Monday, April 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. (CDT)

2026 NACO Business Members

Support provided by our generous business members helps NACO 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.

2026 business memberships are still open. Click the button below to learn more.

[2026 Business Memberships](#)

20 BUSINESS 26 MEMBERS



ELITE MEMBERS



PREMIUM MEMBERS



RESOURCES

[Legislative Newsletter](#)

[County Employment Opportunities](#)

[Legal Calendar](#)

[2026 Election Calendar](#)

[Property Assessment and Taxation Calendar](#)



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