

August 29, 2025



The Ninety-Three

NACO Raises Concerns Over Ballot Proposals Threatening Local Services

Recently filed petitions aiming to change Nebraska's property tax system could harm counties' ability to serve their communities. NACO has examined the dual petitions sponsored by Advocates for All Nebraskans and finds them to be ineffective in some ways and harmful in others. This week, NACO submitted a statement to the press outlining how the proposed ballot initiatives could negatively affect public services in our communities.

You can read the full press release by [clicking here](#).

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.

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](#)

Inside Emergency Management: Celebrating National Emergency Management Awareness Month

NACO celebrated National Emergency Management Awareness Month in August by conducting Q&As with some of Nebraska's emergency management professionals. While the month may be ending, our elected officials' commitment to readiness continues year-round. [Head to our blog](#) to read all four installments of our Q&A series!

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

NACO LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2025
9AM-3PM

VINTAGE VENUE, 620 COURT STREET
BEATRICE, NE

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](#)

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: August 2025 Policy Updates

The One Big Beautiful Bill (OB BB):

This bill was passed on July 4th, 2025, and major changes to income-driven repayment plans are on the way and will begin on July 1st, 2026. Some of these changes include:

- Removing PAYE, ICR, and SAVE repayment plans and replacing them with a new Repayment Assistance Program (RAP). Enroll in one of these existing income-driven repayment plans today before enrollment ends in July.
- Borrowers already enrolled in one of these existing plans can remain enrolled through 2028.
- Savi recommends borrowers review their income-driven repayment plan options every few months directly through their [Savi account](#).
- Placing yearly and lifetime caps on the total amount a student can borrow, and limiting the availability of specific loan types (e.g., removing Grad PLUS Loans entirely).
- Removing the ability to enroll in certain forbearances and deferments (e.g., economic hardship and unemployment deferment), and limiting how much/often a borrower can use discretionary forbearance.

The SAVE Income-Driven Repayment Plan:

- 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

Download the NACO Connect App!

The NACO Connect app gives you access to the latest news, events, updates, and more - all in one convenient place!

☐ Access the Ninety-Three Newsletter archive

☐ Explore advocacy resources

☐ Get information about continuing education opportunities & upcoming events

☐ [Apple App Store](#)

☐ [Google Play Store](#)

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DOWNLOAD NOW



NACO
www.nebraskacounties.org

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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