

October 9, 2026



The Ninety-Three

Western Interstate Region Fall Board Meeting Highlights Federal Policy, Economic Innovation, and Rural Support

Nebraska recently participated in the National Association of Counties' (NACo) Western Interstate Region (WIR) Fall Board of Directors meeting held in Fremont County, Colorado. As a probationary associate member of WIR, NACO was pleased to represent Nebraska's counties, bringing our perspective to regional conversations while learning how neighboring Western states tackle shared fiscal, statutory, and operational challenges.

Head to our blog to read NACO Executive Director Jon Cannon's key takeaways.

NACO Blog

IMLA 2026 Conference: Enhancing Legal Expertise and Collaboration for Nebraska Local Governments

Last week, the [International Municipal Lawyers Association](#) (IMLA), a non-profit organization dedicated to advancing the interests and education of local government lawyers, hosted its 2026 annual national conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. NACO Legal Counsel Elaine Menzel attended and shared her reflections and significant takeaways on the NACO blog. [Click here](#) to read about the conference!

NACO Legislative Conference Registration Closes TODAY

Registration for the 2026 NACO Legislative Conference closes TODAY, October 9th. We are excited to announce that Gubernatorial candidate Brett Lindstrom, Lieutenant Governor candidate Ben Steffen, and Lieutenant Governor Joe Kelly have been added to our agenda! Please click here to register and to view more details about the conference: https://nebraskacounties.org/about_naco/event-calendar.html/event/2026/10/16/naco-legislative-conference/544657.

If you have any questions about registration or cancellation, please contact Peggy.Brass@NebraskaCounties.org.

Updated LB663 Land Use Toolkit Now Available on NACO Website

NACO has updated the 2026 Land Use Permit Toolkit with additional content. The new section, "County Zoning Maps: Modernization and Accessibility," explains what a county zoning map is, summarizes pertinent statutes, details the conversion of paper zoning maps to GIS-based zoning maps, and discusses shared GIS services in general. NACO expects to further amend the Land Use Permit Toolkit with up-to-date content as we meet with county officials at district meetings and continue working with the Land Use Committee.

The most current Land Use Permit Toolkit can be found [here](#).

2026 Annual Conference Hotel Registration Form Closes TODAY, October 9th

County officials planning to attend the Annual Conference **must complete the [online form](#) to request a room in the NACO block at the Younes Conference Center Campus**. The form will be available until Friday, October 9th at 5:00 PM CT. Please direct all questions about hotel reservations to the Younes staff at 308-237-8813 or by email youneshotels@gmail.com.

Conference Registration is also open on the [NACO website](#). The cost is \$165.00 per attendee and \$100.00 per guest. A spouse is considered a guest. The pre-registration deadline is November 20th, 2026, at 11:59 PM Central Time. All cancellations after November 20th are subject to a \$75.00 administrative fee.

[Click here for an agenda overview](#). Please note that this is subject to change. We encourage you to bookmark the [Annual Conference landing page](#) for registration, agendas, and the most up-to-date conference information.

Please Submit Your Nominations for Annual County Official Awards!

Time is running out to submit your nominations for the annual county official awards, which we'll announce at the [2026 NACO Annual Conference](#) in Kearney. These awards are an excellent opportunity to celebrate the hard work and dedication of Nebraska's county officials.

Click the link below to view and fill out a nomination form:

[County Official of the Year](#)

[Next Generation Award](#)

[Lifetime Achievement](#)

As a reminder, nominations must be submitted to Candace.Meredith@NebraskaCounties.org no later than next Friday, October 16th.

Interim Study Special Hearing Schedule

The Legislature's standing committees have begun scheduling public hearings on issues designated for study over the interim. The legislative resolutions are introduced by senators during the regular session. Ideas generated from the studies are often introduced as legislation in the following session. A full list of the resolutions can be found [here](#), and hearings are [here](#).

Here are some of the hearings of interest to counties. Note that other studies may be heard at the same hearing. Hearings held at the State Capitol are generally livestreamed on [Nebraska Public Media](#).

November 6, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Urban Affairs Committee, Room 1510

[LR415](#) (Conrad) Interim study to examine current practices under Nebraska law related to the designation of real property as blighted and substandard

[LR407](#) (McKinney) Interim study to examine revitalization of urban areas and how cities and villages may utilize the role of culture as a driver of economic development, workforce attraction, tourism, and community revitalization in Nebraska

[LR419](#) (Urban Affairs Committee) Interim study to examine volunteer burnout on municipal boards and commissions and identify specific municipal boards or commissions that could effectively function with a reduced number of members

[LR467](#) (McKinney) Interim study to examine strategies, policies, and investments that cities, villages, and the State of Nebraska may use to make the state more attractive to young people

Nationwide to Host Retirement Planning and Financial Wellness Webinar Series in October

Nationwide is hosting a [series of webinars](#) in October designed to give you the insights, guidance, and educational materials you need to make the most of your retirement savings plan. [Click here](#) to view the webinar schedule and to register.

NACo Artificial Intelligence Leadership Academy

The NACo AI Leadership Academy is a 6-week collaborative readiness program designed for current and emerging leaders who manage teams. Learn more about the leadership academy by clicking the button below.

[NACo Leadership Academy](#)

NACO Business Memberships

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 discounts on sponsorships and 15% off the cost of booking our NACO West Training Center in Ogallala.

2027 NACO Business Memberships are now open on our website! [Click here](#) to learn more.

20 BUSINESS 26 MEMBERS



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RESOURCES

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[County Employment Opportunities](#)

[August 2026-August 2027 Legal Calendar](#)

[2026 Election Calendar](#)

[Property Assessment and Taxation Calendar](#)



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