

October 17, 2025



The Ninety-Three

NACO Board of Directors Appoints New Vice President



The NACO Board of Directors appointed Box Butte County Treasurer Valery Bell to serve as the 2025 NACO Vice President. Prior to this appointment, Valery has been serving as the Treasurer Representative on the Board.

Congratulations and thank you for your dedication!

2025 NACO Annual Conference Attendee Information

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



ALL CONFERENCE SPONSOR

County official pre-registration for the 2025 annual conference is open until Friday, 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.

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](#).

What are you All In on?

I'm **all in** on providing my services to help veterans and their families.

I engage with my community by being proactive, building trust, and providing support for veterans and their families. Being a VSO is a powerful way to find purpose.

”

-NICK WOLLENBURG
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER - FILLMORE COUNTY

NACO Award *Nominations Close TODAY*

We are now accepting nominations for the County Official of the Year, Lifetime Achievement, and Next Generation awards. **Nominations will be accepted until TODAY, 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](#)

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.](#)

The salary study report & salary study database walkthrough are available. Email elaine.menzel@nebraskacounties.org or luke.bonkiewicz@ebraskaounties.org for access.

LR195 Update

On October 3rd, NACO Executive Director Jon Cannon, Deputy Director Candace Meredith, and a few of our dedicated county officials and staff testified in front of the Nebraska Legislature's Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee regarding the push to reduce unfunded mandates.

A recording of the hearing [can be viewed here.](#)

NACO's research team provided the committee with comprehensive research and data about the impact of unfunded and underfunded mandates on counties and county governments. [Click here to view the materials.](#)

Legislative Interim Studies Scheduled

Proposed initiative and referendum authority for counties ([LR253](#)) and the petition processes used in other states ([LR206](#)) will be the focus of a joint Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee hearing on Friday, October 24.

Other hearings in October will focus on municipal land banks ([LR147](#)), riparian weed control funding ([LR168](#)), and affordable housing ([LR86](#)).

Hearings are scheduled in November on the state-administered retirement systems ([LR97](#)) and the annual tax incentive and tax expenditure reports from the Nebraska Department of Revenue. 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](#).

Light Up Green for Veterans-November 4-11!

This Veteran's Day, we will celebrate the fifth anniversary of Operation Green Light. The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers (NACVSO) invite the nation's 3,069 counties, parishes, and boroughs to show support for veterans by lighting buildings green from November 4-11, 2025. By shining a green light, county governments and our residents will let veterans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported. [Click here](#) to view NACo's toolkit, which includes resolution templates, outreach sources, and suggested materials to make your participation in Operation Greenlight as easy as possible.

Please email photos to Lauren.Franken@NebraskaCounties.org so we can share them on our socials!



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.



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

Create a Savi Account for Free Student Loan Repayment Guidance

What Borrowers Need to Know:

- 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

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.

2026 Business Memberships Now Open

20 BUSINESS 25 MEMBERS



ELITE MEMBERS



UBT
Union Bank & Trust.
You belong here.™



first CONCORD
Benefits Group



PREMIUM MEMBERS



TRANE
TECHNOLOGIES



RESOURCES

County Employment Opportunities

Legal Calendar



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