

April 10, 2026



The Ninety-Three

A note from Executive Director Jon Cannon about the Legislature, which is now in Day 59 of its 60-day short session

Yesterday, Day 58, saw an agenda which was all bills on Final Reading. Because senators have to remain in their seats and are not permitted to leave the Chamber, most lobbyists stay in their offices to get other work done. And so I thought that was how Thursday would be.

One of the bills on Final Reading – LB834, sponsored by Senator Kathleen Kauth (Omaha) – is a NACO bill, and has several cleanup items that should happen but have never been high on the priority list. At the beginning of the day, we discovered that a “floor amendment” had been filed by Senator Ben Hansen (Blair). The floor amendment was later updated to AM3142, which would have restricted the ability of political subdivisions to raise their property tax to 2.5% plus real growth.

Filing a major policy-shifting amendment to a bill on Final Reading is unusual, to say the least. Senator Jane Raybould (Lincoln) filed a motion to recommit the bill to committee to block the Hansen amendment from getting a vote. Several senators who generally favor more conservative tax policies spoke against the peculiar procedural timing of the amendment and indicated they would be voting against it.

I would like to draw your attention to [this floor speech](#) from Senator Brad von Gillern (Omaha). Also speaking in favor of a more measured approach to property tax reform were Senators Rob Dover (Norfolk), Senator Mike Moser (Columbus), and Senator Kathleen Kauth (who also included her interest in bringing legislation next year to allow counties to determine their own fees for governmental services). When the Legislature returned from their lunch break, Senator Hansen withdrew his amendment.

Because the Legislature never took up Senator Hansen’s amendment prior to its withdrawal, it will not be found on the Legislature’s website. A copy, generously provided by Lynn Rex at the League of Nebraska Municipalities, [may be found here](#).

I would encourage writing or emailing Senators von Gillern (bvongillern@leg.ne.gov), Kauth (kkauth@leg.ne.gov), Raybould (jraybould@leg.ne.gov), Dover (rdover@leg.ne.gov), Storer (tstorer@leg.ne.gov), and Moser (mmoser@leg.ne.gov) to thank them for speaking up and

persuading Senator Hansen to withdraw his amendment. I want to be clear that I do not blame Senator Hansen for filing his amendment – he wanted to have a conversation about what he thought was the easiest way to fix property taxes in the State, and by taking this route, it was likely to take the least time from the Legislature’s day.

Thanks again to all of you who have remained engaged with your state senators and the entire legislative process. NACO has had a pretty good session, and it is primarily due to your efforts.

Happy National County Government Month!

NACO is proud to join the National Association of Counties and other associations across the country in celebrating National County Government Month in April by championing the county workforce and encouraging civic engagement. This year’s emphasis on storytelling will help residents better understand how county services impact their day-to-day lives.

We encourage all county officials to participate in National County Government Month by helping [tell the county story](#) as part of NACO's "We are Nebraska Counties" initiative.

Additionally, if your county is hosting a county government day or any other county government month activities, send photos to lauren.franken@nebraskacounties.org so that we can help you celebrate!



Deadline Approaching to 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. **[Please register by Friday, April 17th.](#)**

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.](#)



The graphic features a dark blue background with a vertical column of four hexagonal icons on the left, each representing a week of the course. The icons are: a blue hexagon for 'Week 1: May 4-8, Structure' with a group of people icon; an orange hexagon for 'Week 2: May 11-15, Taxation' with a stack of coins icon; a red hexagon for 'Week 3: May 18-22, Management' with a building icon; and a green hexagon for 'Week 4: June 3, In-Person Session, Kearney, Vision' with a group of people and a gear icon. To the right of the icons, the text reads 'COOL NETWORK County Official Online Learning Network'. Below this, a paragraph describes the course: '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.' Further down, it lists 'Registration Fee: \$100', 'Session Starts: May 4, 2026', and 'Enrollment Deadline: April 17, 2026'. A laptop icon with a building on the screen is positioned to the right of the session start date. At the bottom right, there is a large orange button that says 'Register Now nebraskacounties.org'. The top left corner of the graphic contains the NACOE logo and the text 'N EXTENSION'.

Register for the COOL Network

2026 NACO Outstanding County Board Member

Award Nominations Close Soon

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_Gw6L3cvnQ4WS8eFR1Z-5EA

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

Registrations for County Board Workshop & Land Use Permit Forum Now Open

[Land Use Permit Forum](#)

Date: Wednesday, June 3, 2026 - 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Location: Younes Conference Center North, Kearney

Registration Fee: \$0

Deadline: 5/27/2026 at 11:59 pm

[County Board Workshop](#)

Dates: Wednesday, June 3 – Thursday, June 4, 2026

Location: Younes Conference Center North, Kearney

Registration Fee: \$125 in Advance, \$150 at the door

(Registration includes dinner on 6/3, breakfast and lunch on 6/4)

Guest dinner ticket for 6/3: \$35

Registration Deadline: 5/27/26 at 11:59 pm CST

Cancellation Policy: Registrants who submit a written cancellation prior to the 5/27/2026 deadline are eligible for a full refund. Registrants who do not submit a written cancellation prior to the 5/27/2026 deadline, do not attend, and did not pay are subject to a \$50.00 administrative fee, including No Shows. Registrations are non-transferable.

Submit cancellation notices to peggy.brass@nebraskacounties.org.

NACO Hotel Block at Crowne Plaza, \$149.95, 308-238-7000

National Association of Counties Leadership Development

Congratulations to our January 2026 graduates!

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.

We want to acknowledge and congratulate the Nebraska graduates:

Amber Kula-Figliomeni, Lead Risk Assessor, Douglas County

Brent Heller, Juvenile Detention Supervisor, Douglas County

Thaddeaus Recek, Juvenile Detention Supervisor, Douglas County

Enrollment is now open for our April and July 2026 cohorts!

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](#)

Understanding Medicare Webinar Thursday, April 16th

Get the information you need to manage your health care costs and navigate the Medicare transition with confidence. [Attend a free webinar](#) on Thursday, March 19th, at either 12:00 PM or 6:00 PM CST.

New NACO Partnership: NACo Public Promise Procurement

We're excited to announce that we have signed an agreement as an endorsed partner of the NACo Public Promise Procurement purchasing program.

NACo Public Promise Procurement provides counties with cost-effective and efficient purchasing contract vehicles. The unique Lead Public Agency (LPA) and peer-vetted model provides for a fully transparent and competitive process to identify best-in-class suppliers. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Strengthen Your Agency's
Purchasing Power

- Best-in-Class Suppliers
- Competitively-Bid & Single-Award
- Simplified & Optimized Procurement

Available to All Counties, Cities, States,
Public Schools & Taxing Authorities

Eliminate the Administrative Burden
with Our **Lead Public Agency Model**

Wholly-Owned & Operated By NACo®

100% Transparent & Vetted By Public Peers

Small Business Participation on Select Contracts

Leverage the **Buying Power** of
\$660 Billion
in Aggregate County Spend

“As a purchasing cooperative expressly for public entities, Public Promise understands the nuances of **government bidding & procurement**.”



Megan Perry-Balonier
Director of Purchasing
Franklin County, OH



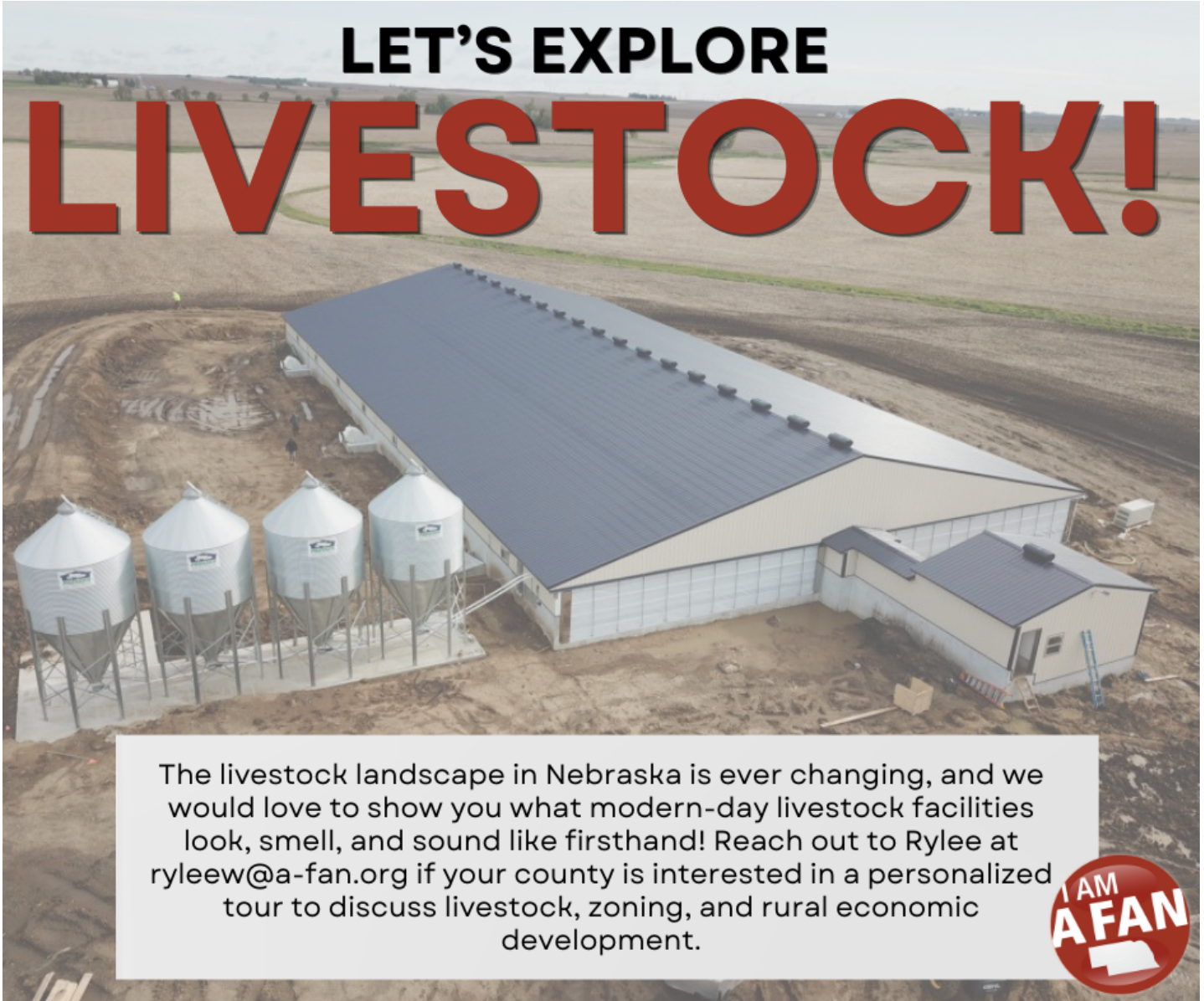
Scan QR code for more info & FAQs

More than a **supplier**. We are a **partner**.
Our Public Promise to you.

www.publicpromiseprocurement.org


Contact:
Anthony Chapman
Program Director
achapman@naco.org
(804) 399-1821

AFAN Offering Livestock Facility Tours for County Officials



LET'S EXPLORE
LIVESTOCK!

The livestock landscape in Nebraska is ever changing, and we would love to show you what modern-day livestock facilities look, smell, and sound like firsthand! Reach out to Rylee at ryleew@a-fan.org if your county is interested in a personalized tour to discuss livestock, zoning, and rural economic development.



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 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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