

February 27, 2026



The Ninety-Three

NACo Legislative Conference Takeaways: Bringing Resources Back to Nebraska Counties

NACO Deputy Director Candace Meredith recently attended the 2026 NACo Legislative Conference (Feb. 21–24, 2026) in Washington, D.C., where county leaders from across the nation gathered to discuss federal issues impacting local government. Head to our blog to read about a few key takeaways and to watch the NACo We Are Counties video.



NACO Blog

New County Resource: Property Tax Educational Flyer

[Click here](#) to download an infographic showing how property taxes in each county are calculated for an average home, and how county property taxes compare to other annual household expenses. If you have any questions or concerns about the infographic, please contact Luke Bonkiewicz at luke.bonkiewicz@nebraskacounties.org.

[Property Tax Flyers](#)

Job Opening at NACO: Benefits Specialist

We're hiring a Benefits Specialist in Ogallala who is detail-driven and people-focused—coordinating benefits administration, ensuring accuracy, and delivering an outstanding member experience. Apply today or share with someone who would be a great fit!

[Click Here to Apply](#)

Register for NACO Spring District Meetings

[Southeast District Meeting](#)

Thursday, March 12, 2026

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Southeast Community College Career Academy, 8800 O Street, Lincoln, NE

[Northeast District Meeting](#)

Friday, March 13, 2026

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Lifelong Learning Center, Northeast Community College (601 E Benjamin Ave, Norfolk, NE 68701)

[Central District Meeting](#)

Thursday, March 19, 2026

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Younes Center North, 707 Talmadge St, Kearney, NE 68845

[Panhandle District Meeting](#)

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](#)

Thursday, March 26, 2026

9:00 am MDT - 12:00 pm MDT

NACO West Training Center, 102 Diamond Springs Trail, Ogallala, NE 69153

FUNDING DEADLINE: FY2027 Community Project Funding Requests Due Soon

FY 2027 Community Project Funding Requests for all three of Nebraska's Congressional Districts are open, and applications are due soon. Please carefully review the following information to properly proceed with the application for your Congressional District.

[Congressman Adrian Smith's Request Form](#) – Due March 6, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. CST

[Congressman Mike Flood's Request Form](#) – Due March 9, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. CST

[Congressman Don Bacon's Request Form](#) – Due March 13, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. CST (this deadline has recently been extended, and the attached materials from the Congressman's office do not reflect that extension).

***Please note that Congressman Bacon is proceeding under FY2026 guidance for the FY2027 applications. Appropriations guidance for FY2027 applications has not been released yet, but his office noted that they don't anticipate any major changes to the guidelines. See the attached items about the requests, process for selection, and other important information. It is probably safe to assume that applicants from the other two districts can proceed in a similar manner.**

Additional context: Community Project Funding (CPF) allows Members of Congress to request federal funding for specific, high-priority local projects that meet an authorized federal purpose and fall within eligible appropriations accounts.

Eligible applicants include state and local governments and nonprofit organizations, and projects must demonstrate strong community support, a clear public benefit, and compliance with federal requirements such as environmental reviews and applicable cost-share or matching provisions. Requests are limited to one fiscal year of funding, are not guaranteed even if submitted, and must ultimately be approved by Congress and signed into law before federal agencies release funds, which can take a year or more from initial submission.

County Legislative Day at the Capitol - April 1st in Lincoln

County Legislative Day - April 1, 2026

Join us in Lincoln on April 1, 2026, as we kick off County Government Month with a fun-filled County Legislative Day. Participants will connect with state senators, hear from state leaders, and explore the Capitol while learning more about the legislative process and the NACO platform.

Those interested in participating are encouraged to register in advance.

If lodging is needed, the closest hotel to the Capitol is the Cornhusker Hotel. Please note that there is no NACO room block available. [Click here to view a draft of the agenda.](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

County Government Accounting Basics Workshop - April 2nd in Lincoln

County Government Accounting Basics Workshop – April 2, 2026

NACO will host a full-day County Government Accounting Basics Workshop for County Clerks' and Treasurers' Offices on Thursday, April 2, 2026, at the Cornhusker Marriott.

This free workshop will feature sessions led by the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts, focusing on best practices in county financial management. Lunch will be provided and is generously sponsored by NPAIT/PTMA.

You can register and view the draft agenda [here](#).

[REGISTER HERE](#)

2026 NACO Scholarship Application Available Now

The NACO scholarship application is available now. The scholarship program is open to graduating seniors whose parent, step-parent, or grandparent is a current county official or employee. To be considered, students must complete the required application form, submit a seven-semester transcript from an accredited Nebraska high school, and prepare a written essay on the importance of county government.

Scholarship recipients must plan to attend a post-secondary educational institution within the state of Nebraska and may use the scholarship for any costs associated with their continuing education.

Application deadline: March 16, 2026

[Click Here to Learn More](#)

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](#)

February Cybersecurity Keypoints: Data Privacy & Compliance

CYBERSECURITY KEYPOINTS

FEBRUARY 2026

From the County
Network Security
Cooperative



DATA PRIVACY & COMPLIANCE

Nobody wakes up excited about compliance—but it's one of the most important ways organizations protect themselves and those they serve. **Here's the truth.** Compliance isn't about making life harder. It's about creating guardrails that make work safer, easier, and more consistent.

WHAT COMPLIANCE REALLY DOES

1) Creates structure. Policies and procedures give you a roadmap so there's no guesswork during audits or incidents. **2) Protects your organization.** Compliance reduces liability and ensures you're meeting legal requirements. Builds trust. When you take privacy and security seriously, your community notices. **3) Prevents small mistakes from becoming big problems.** A clear set of expectations helps everyone make better choices. **4) Supports a culture of safety.** When teams understand the "why," they naturally make smarter decisions about data. Compliance works best when it's simple, practical, and easy to follow—exactly what we aim for.

DATA PRIVACY BASICS

Keeping private information safe isn't just an IT thing anymore; everyone's on the hook. Most privacy laws—whether state, federal, or industry-specific—expect everyone to play a role in protecting sensitive data.

Here's the quick rundown:

- **Collect only what you truly need.** The less information you store, the less you're responsible for protecting.
- **Know where your info hangs out.** A sticky note, a desktop file, or an email attachment. It all counts as data.
- **Encrypt sensitive files.** If someone grabs it, all they'll see is digital gibberish.
- **Share smart.** Give access only to those who truly need it—nosy coworkers included.
- **Clean house regularly.** If you don't need it, delete it!
- **One simple rule:** Treat people's info the way you'd want yours treated—carefully, respectfully, and far from the wrong hands.



WHY DATA PRIVACY MATTERS

- **People trust you with their personal information.** Whether it's a name, address, social security number, or health detail, you're counted on to keep it safe.
- **Privacy laws come with serious consequences.** Penalties can include fines, reporting obligations, or mandatory audits. Staying compliant protects the entire organization.
- **A privacy incident can damage reputations.** Losing data—even accidentally—can erode public trust for years.
- **Privacy protects employees too.** Your organization stores HR files, payroll details, and medical information. Strong privacy practices protect every member of your team.
- **Good privacy habits reduce stress.** When you know where information is, who has access to it, and how it's protected, you eliminate guesswork during an audit or incident.



DATA HANDLING: THE PLAYBOOK

A little structure goes a long way. Here's what your daily routine should include:

- **Identify what counts as sensitive.** Social Security numbers, birthdates, financial accounts, medical notes, and anything involving minors needs extra care.
- **Use secure channels only.** If information needs to be shared, use approved systems—not personal email, texts, or cloud accounts.
- **Store information safely.** Locked cabinets, password-protected folders, and secure drives are all part of a compliant environment.
- **Be cautious when printing.** Printed documents count as data too. Pick them up right away and shred them when you're done.
- **Report anything unusual.** If something feels off—an odd email, a missing file, or a system error—speak up. Reporting early prevents bigger problems later.

The County Network Security
Cooperative is a collaboration
of partners including:



- AND -



Disclaimer: This document reflects current guidance and is subject to change due to the evolving cyber security environment.

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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