Get Involved!
JOIN A NACo COMMITTEE AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES
NACo is you ...
You are an owner and shareholder in the National Association of Counties.
GET INVOLVED!

Join a NACo Committee and Make a Difference

Do you have knowledge or expertise on key county issues? Do you want to become involved in the development of national policy on issues affecting counties and their residents? Do you want to make your association stronger and more effective as a voice for counties?

Remember: NACo is you – you are an owner and shareholder in the National Association of Counties. Our association exists because of you and is made up of local leaders like you from across the United States. More than 1,200 county officials currently serve on NACo committees. That is why it is essential for you to become involved on a NACo committee.

COMMITTEES AND CAUCUSES
The two big questions are:
• What committee do you want to join?
• How do you become a member of a committee?

NACo’s committees and caucuses, whose members include elected and appointed officials from every region of the country, have a variety of responsibilities. Officials who want to serve on committees must be from member counties. All members of NACo committees, with the exception of the Audit Committee, are appointed by the NACo president and serve one-year terms.

Steering committees annually review and make recommendations on federal policy issues and legislation. They start the policy development process leading to the development of the American County Platform, which guides the county government message presented to the Administration, Congress and the American public.

Ad hoc and standing committees, such as the Membership Committee, Programs and Services Committee, and the Information Technology Committee, make recommendations on programs and projects for NACo to pursue that will help counties.

Other caucuses and groups include:
• Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC)
• Rural Action Caucus (RAC)
• Healthy Counties Advisory Board
• International Economic Development Task Force
• Cybersecurity Task Force
• Green Government Advisory Board
• Arts and Culture Commission
• Veterans and Military Services Commission, and
• Next Generation NACo.

The Audit Committee, which reviews NACo’s finances and makes recommendations to the Board of Directors, is comprised of Board members. The Board votes to determine who serves on the committee.

PROCESS FOR GETTING INVOLVED
To serve on a steering committee you must apply through your state associations of counties. To be considered for committee leadership positions (i.e. chair or vice chair), you must complete an application form and submit it by the announced deadline in the spring. Those appointments are announced by the president during the Annual Business Meeting held during the Annual Conference.

Officials interested in serving on standing and ad hoc committees, caucuses and other groups must also fill out an appointment form in the spring. The appointment becomes effective after the Annual Conference in July each year.

However, you can be considered for serving on committees and caucuses any time during the year by submitting the request through your state association in a letter to the NACo president.
Policy Steering Committees Cover Issues Important to Counties

There are 10 policy steering committees on which to serve. They are:

**AGRICULTURE & RURAL AFFAIRS**
Responsible for all matters pertaining to USDA agriculture, rural development programs, rural renewable energy development, research and extension, food safety, and conservation programs.

**COMMUNITY, ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**
Responsible for all matters pertaining to housing, community and economic development, public works, and workforce development including the creation of affordable housing and housing options for different populations, residential, commercial, and industrial development, and building and housing codes.

**ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY & LAND USE**
Responsible for all matters pertaining to air, water, energy, and land use, including water resources/management, stormwater, pesticides, air quality standards, climate change, solid, hazardous, and nuclear waste handling, transport, and disposal, national energy policy, renewable/alternative energy, alternative fuel vehicles, energy facility siting, electricity utility restructuring, pipeline safety, oil spills, superfund/brownfields, eminent domain, land use, coastal management, oceans, parks and recreation.

**FINANCE & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**
Responsible for all matters pertaining to the financial resources of counties, fiscal management, federal assistance, municipal borrowing, county revenues, pensions, the federal budget, federal tax reform, elections and Native American issues.

**HEALTH**
Responsible for all matters pertaining to public health and healthy communities, including disease and injury prevention, health disparities reduction, health financing, health insurance, Medicaid, Medicare, long-term care, behavioral health services, substance abuse prevention and treatment.

**HUMAN SERVICES & EDUCATION**
Responsible for all matters pertaining to children’s issues, foster care, public assistance and income support, services to senior citizens and individuals with disabilities, immigration policy, social services, and elementary, secondary and post-secondary education.

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**STEERING COMMITTEE PROCESS IS SIMPLE**
Here are the important points to remember for participating on a steering committee:
- Fill out and submit a nomination form to serve on a NACo steering committee to your state association of counties.
- The steering committee nomination forms are on the NACo website (www.naco.org).
- Mark on the nomination form your first and second choice on which steering committee you would like to serve.
- Members of NACo affiliate organizations who want to serve on steering committees should follow the same process.
- Submit the form to your state association one month before the NACo Annual Conference, which usually occurs in July.
- NACo works to accommodate a nominee’s first choice of steering committee assignments. Officials cannot transfer membership to another committee during their year of service, or serve on more than one steering committee during the year.

“If you want to serve as a member of a NACo steering committee, contact your state association of counties.

To serve as a chair or vice chair, fill out a leadership application form on the NACo website — www.naco.org”
JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY
Responsible for all matters pertaining to criminal justice and public safety systems, which includes law enforcement, courts, corrections, homeland security, community crime prevention, juvenile justice and delinquency prevention, emergency management, fire prevention and control, and civil disturbances.

PUBLIC LANDS
Responsible for all matters pertaining to federally-owned public lands including federal land management programs, natural resource revenue sharing payments, payments in lieu of taxes, and property tax immunity concerns.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS & TECHNOLOGY
Responsible for all matters pertaining to telecommunications and technology policy, including the county role as a telecommunications regulator, service provider, and consumer.

TRANSPORTATION
Responsible for all matters pertaining to federal transportation legislation, funding and regulation and its impacts on county government. This includes highway and bridge development, finance and safety, public transit development and finance, transportation planning, airport development and service, passenger and freight railroads, ports and waterways, freight movement, and research and development of new modes of transportation.

Caucuses Address Key County Issues

LARGE URBAN COUNTY CAUCUS
LUCC is a bipartisan coalition of elected county executives and board members from counties with populations of more than 500,000. LUCC members work together to identify urban challenges, provide input in developing pragmatic national solutions, and implement grassroots programs that improve their communities.

RURAL ACTION CAUCUS
RAC is the voice for America’s rural counties before Congress and the Administration. County elected officials from rural areas are dedicated to solving many critical issues impacting rural life and development, including infrastructure development, broadband deployment, development of new rural clinics and hospitals, road and bridge construction and maintenance, business development opportunities, and many more county responsibilities.
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION
The Arts and Culture Commission demonstrates how the arts can be used by county officials to promote economic development and provide solutions to many of the challenges that they face, through workshop sessions, field trips and special publications.

CYBERSECURITY TASK FORCE
The mission of the Cybersecurity Task Force is to promote cybersecurity awareness and education to better protect county government networks and residents; to disseminate information regarding services and programming from federal partners directly to county government policy makers and IT professionals; and to advocate for cybersecurity educational opportunities and training during NACo conferences.

GREEN GOVERNMENT ADVISORY BOARD
The Green Government Initiative Advisory Board advises NACo on the development and implementation of the organization’s sustainability programs. The advisory board is made up of leaders from both county government and private organizations, and provides input to ensure that NACo sustainability initiatives are timely, innovative, and meet the greatest needs of America’s 3,069 counties.

HEALTHY COUNTIES ADVISORY BOARD
NACo’s Healthy Counties Initiative is guided by the Healthy Counties Advisory Board, which is comprised of county officials and staff who are health leaders at NACo and corporate partners. The public/private Healthy Counties Advisory Board assists NACo in identifying the priorities and activities of the Healthy Counties Initiative and provides input and expertise on program implementation.

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE
This task force facilitates the exchange of information, ideas and resources, and guides NACo programming, concerning county-level engagement in international economic development activities.

NEXT GENERATION NACO NETWORK
The Next Generation NACo Network provides a grassroots forum for young county officials to network, become engaged in NACo and develop a new generation of association leaders. The network identifies and serves the unique educational and professional development needs of young officials, and draws on the talent, ideas and expertise of young officials to inform NACo’s strategic plan and programs and services for the future.

VETERANS AND MILITARY SERVICES COMMITTEE
This committee engages NACo and its members to develop and highlight county best practices and policies to promote innovative programs, services and benefits for our nation’s military, veterans and their families.
This steering committee nomination form should be completed and sent to the executive director of your state association of counties. **Appointments are made after the NACo Annual Conference.** You may serve on only ONE steering committee and must be from a NACo member county. **Only eight individuals from any state (including up to two from any one county) can serve on a particular committee.** (Please indicate your first choice with #1 and second with #2.) NACo will notify you of your appointment in September. For appointment to other committees and caucuses, send the form to NACo.

Fill out the online form at www.naco.org under "Advocacy > Join a Steering Committee" from the menu bar.

**STEERING COMMITTEES**
- Agriculture & Rural Affairs
- Health
- Public Lands
- Community & Economic Development
- Human Services & Education
- Telecommunications & Technology

**OTHER COMMITTEES AND CAUCUSES**
- Environment, Energy & Land Use
- Justice & Public Safety
- Transportation
- Finance and Intergovernmental
- Labor and Employment
- Large Urban County Caucus
- Rural Action Caucus
- Arts and Culture
- Cybersecurity
- Green Government
- Healthy Counties
- International Economic Development
- Next Generation NACo
- Veterans and Military Services

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**TO BE COMPLETED BY STATE ASSOCIATION**

The State Association President and NACo Board Members from the state concur with this nomination.

**SIGNATURE** ..........................................................................................................................  **DATE** ..........................................................................................................................
NACo’s Vision
Healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient counties across the United States.

NACo’s Mission
The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo assists America’s 3,069 counties in pursuing excellence in public service to produce healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient counties. NACo promotes sound public policies, fosters county solutions and innovation, promotes intergovernmental and public-private collaboration and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money.