Athens County Commissioner Eliason elected to lead the National Association of Counties

PORTLAND, ORE. – The membership of the National Association of Counties (NACo) today elected Athens County, Ohio Commissioner Lenny Eliason as NACo president during the association’s 76th Annual Conference and Exposition in Multnomah County/Portland, Ore.

Eliason was first elected as a NACo officer during the 2009 Annual Conference in Davison County/Nashville, Tenn. and has served on NACo’s Executive Committee since that time. He has been a member of NACo’s Board of Directors since 2005 and has been an active NACo member for many years.

After assuming the NACo president position, Eliason described his goals for leading NACo over the next 12 months. He said NACo will continue to serve as a strong voice of America’s counties in Washington, D.C., raise public awareness about county government through the County Government Works campaign and National County Government Month, and would continue the Veterans Task Force to help counties support those who serve in the military and their families.

He announced that his NACo Presidential Initiative would be “Healthy Counties” – a county by county public awareness campaign to promote healthy living and lifestyle choices in communities. Details of his initiative will be announced in the weeks ahead.

“I am deeply honored to lead this great organization,” Eliason said. “I believe that through the strong voice of the National Association of Counties, the challenges local governments are facing in Athens County, throughout my home state of Ohio, and all 3,068 counties across the country will be heard loud and clear over the next 12 month. That’s my promise and my commitment to this office.”

First elected as Athens County Commissioner in 1998, Eliason serves on the board of directors for County Commissioners Association of Ohio and is a past board member of the County Risk Sharing Authority. He is president of the Board of the County Employee Benefits Consortium of Ohio. He is vice president of the Buckeye Hills Resource and Conservation Council. He serves on the Buckeye Hills Hocking Valley Regional Development Executive Committee and is a member of the board of the Appalachian Development Corporation. He is a past board member of the Hocking Athens Perry Community Action and a past board member of the Southeast Ohio Emergency Medical Services Board.

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Eliason earned a Master’s of Public Administration Degree from Ohio University in June of 2002. He is trained as a public sector dispute resolution mediator and also serves as a mediator for the Athens Area Mediation Service. He and his wife, Lisa, reside in the city of Athens. They have a daughter and a son.


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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation’s 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public’s understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.