FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 28, 2011

CONTACT: Jim Philipps
202-942-4220, jphilipps@naco.org

NACo Past President Brown appointed by President Obama to national group on prevention and public health

WASHINGTON, D.C. – National Association of Counties (NACo) Immediate Past President Valerie Brown has been appointed by President Obama to serve on a new national advisory group on the development and implementation of a national strategy for disease prevention and health promotion.

Brown, supervisor, Sonoma County, Calif., was appointed to the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion, and Integrative and Public Health, which will provide recommendations and advice to the National Prevention, Health Promotion, and Public Health Council. The council, chaired by the U.S. Surgeon General, provides federal leadership on American wellness and U.S. health care system.

Specifically, the advisory group, created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under a provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, will develop policy and program recommendations on lifestyle-based chronic disease prevention and management, integrative health care practices, and health promotion. The advisory group will be composed of up to 25 non-federal members appointed by the president.

“I am deeply honored to receive this appointment by President Obama to the advisory group,” said Brown, who as NACo President (2009-10) ensured that the voice of the nation’s counties was heard in Washington during debate on what national health reform should look like. “It’s a tremendous opportunity and daunting challenge. I am looking forward to getting to work.”

Brown, a former California state legislator and mayor of the city of Sonoma, was the driving force behind the launch of the nationally acclaimed Network of Care for Healthy Communities Project. The project is an innovative local delivery web portal that provides the public, healthcare providers, local government leaders, and community organizations with easy-to-find resources and understandable key data.

Also representing county governments’ interests on the advisory group is Dr. Jonathan Fielding, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health and County Health Officer.

For more information about NACo’s role in the nation’s health care system, contact Paul Beddoe at 202.942.4234 or pbeddoe@naco.org.

###

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.