NACo appoints policy committee chairs

WASHINGTON, D.C. – National Association of Counties (NACo) President Lenny Eliason recently appointed NACo steering committee chairs and vice chairs for 2011-12. Eliason made his policy committee leadership appointments shortly after being installed as NACo president during the association’s Annual Conference and Exposition July 15-19 in Portland/Multnomah County, Ore.

“I am pleased and grateful that these honorable public officials will be shaping national policies and funding priorities affecting county governments as a part of NACo’s steering committees,” said Eliason, commission president, Athens County, Ohio.

NACo’s steering committees annually review and make recommendations to the NACo Board of Directors on public policy issues and federal legislation. The policy development process initiated by the steering committees leads to the publication of the American County Platform, which NACo uses to deliver the county government message to the administration, Congress, and the American people.

NACo’s steering committee chairs and vice chairs for 2011-12 are as follows:

**Agriculture**

Chair  
Don Larson, commissioner, Brookings County, S.D.

Vice Chairs  
Bob Fox, commissioner, Renville County, Minn.
Dexter Payne, commissioner, Muskogee County, Okla.
Kathleen Bessette, commissioner, Hill County, Mont.

**Community and Economic Development**

Chair  
Lee May, commissioner, DeKalb County, Ga.

Vice Chairs  
Welton Cadwell, commissioner chair, Lake County, Fla.
Brent Paxton, board member, Lake County, Ill.
Grady Prestage, commissioner, Fort Bend County, Texas

**Environment, Energy and Land Use**

Chair  
Salud Carbajal, supervisor, Santa Barbara County, Calif.

Vice Chairs  
Penny Gross, vice chair, Fairfax County, Va.
Paula Brooks, commissioner, Franklin County, Ohio
Michael Victorino, councilmember, Maui County, Hawaii.
Brian Dahle, supervisor, Lassen County, Calif.
Bob Cope, commissioner, Lemhi County, Idaho

**Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs**

Chair  Daniel Troy, commission president, Lake County, Ohio
Vice Chairs Larry Inman, commissioner, Grand Traverse County, Mich.
       Priscilla Taylor, commissioner, Palm Beach County, Fla.
       Ray Valdes, tax collector, Seminole County, Fla.

**Health**

Chair  Liz Kniss, supervisor, Santa Clara County, Calif.
Vice Chairs Lee Kyle Allen, commissioner, Craven County, N.C.
       Larry Johnson, commissioner, DeKalb County, Ga.
       Toni Preckwinkel, president, Cook County, Ill.

**Human Services and Education**

Chair  Hub Walsh, supervisor, Merced County, Calif.
Vice Chairs Mary Rose Wilcox, supervisor, Maricopa County, Ariz.
       Paul Wilson, commissioner, Olmsted County, Minn.
       Lu Barron, supervisor, Linn County, Iowa

**Justice and Public Safety**

Chair  David Hudson, county judge, Sebastian County, Ark.
Vice Chairs Tony Bennett, commissioner, Ramsey County, Minn.
       Leon Evans, president/CEO, The Center for Healthcare Services, Texas
       Nancy Schouweiler, commissioner, Dakota County, Minn.
       Joseph Giles, council chair, Erie County, Pa.
       Stephanie Lynch, commissioner, Caddo Parish, La.

**Labor and Employment**

Chair  Carol Holden, commission vice chair, Hillsborough County, N.H.
Vice Chairs Terry Garrison, commissioner, Vance County, N.C.
       Willis Braning, commissioner, Dakota County, Minn.
       Orrin Bailey, CEO, Michigan Works!, Delta County, Mich.

**Public Lands**

Chair  Tim Josi, commissioner, Tillamook County, Ore.
Vice Chairs Mike Murray, commissioner, Lewis & Clark County, Mont.
       Paul Pearce, commissioner, Skamania County, Wash.

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Telecommunications and Technology
Chair  Joyce Dickerson, councilmember, Richland County, S.C.
Vice Chairs  David Ferdinand, commission chair, Canyon County, Idaho
            Allan Angel, Levy Court commissioner, Kent County, Del.
            Tony Fleming, supervisor, Clarke County, Miss.

Transportation
Chair  Leo Bowman, commissioner, Benton County, Wash.
Vice Chairs  Eldrin Bell, chairman, Clayton County, Ga.
            David Brand, county engineer, Madison County, Ohio
            James Healy, board member, DuPage County, Ill.
            Peter McLaughlin, commissioner, Hennepin County, Minn.
            Joe Bryan, commissioner, Wake County, N.C.

Rural Action Caucus
Chair  Keith Langenhahn, commissioner, Marathon County, Wis.
Vice Chairs  Kim Dolbow-Vann, supervisor, Solusa County, Calif.
            Linda Ring-Erickson, commissioner, Mason County, Wash.
            Bill Kennedy, commissioner, Yellowstone County, Mont.
            Vikki Magee Bauer, supervisor, Mono County, Calif.
            Robert Manuel, police juror, Evangeline Parish, La.
            Tom Bardwell, commission chair, Tuscola County, Mich.

Large Urban County Caucus
Chair  Helen Holton, commissioner, Baltimore City, Md.
Vice Chairs  Scott Haggerty, supervisor, Alameda County, Calif.
            Roy Brooks, commissioner, Tarrant County, Texas
            Jim McDonough, commissioner, Ramsey County, Minn.
            Ilene Lieberman, commissioner, Broward County, Fla.
            Pat O’Bannon, supervisor, Henrico County, Va.

For more information about NACo’s steering committees, please visit www.naco.org.

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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.