

## MISSION

Our nation's 3,069 counties stand ready to work together to not only ensure a robust intergovernmental partnership, but to also leverage our collective strengths to help meet the challenges ahead.

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### Clear Vision

Counties are united behind a clear vision: to foster healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient communities across America. Counties of all sizes are problem solvers, able to adjust their efforts to match local assets and needs.

### Collaboration

Counties achieve results by partnering with public, private and philanthropic partners to serve constituents and build strong local economies. As both global and local challenges arise, counties are poised to lead, convene and participate in community and economic development efforts.

### Connecting

Counties are the fabric that connects American civil society – practicing pragmatism over partisanship. County governments were designed to serve as connectors between the federal and state governments and constituents on the ground.

## WHY COUNTIES MATTER TO THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION?

As candidates begin to speak with voters across the country, county elected officials have a unique opportunity to engage with candidates and campaign staff. As a county elected official, you speak on behalf of the very same people each campaign hopes to address.

Through the "Counties Connect America" initiative, NACo will work to ensure county officials are actively engaged by Presidential candidates while providing the necessary tools and information to help deliver the county message. If you are interested in participating in the "Counties Connect America" initiative or wish to receive updates on candidate engagement opportunities, please email [Connect@NACo.org](mailto:Connect@NACo.org)

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## HOW TO GET INVOLVED WITH THE 2016 U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION



**2016. GET INVOLVED.**

**#countiesconnectUS**

## WHY COUNTIES MATTER TO THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL PARTNERSHIP?

Counties are a critical piece of our nation's federal-state-local intergovernmental system. Decisions made by the President and the Executive Branch have a substantial and often long-lasting impact on our nation's counties responsible for implementing federal decisions and administering federal programs at the local level.

For all levels of government, our common bond is our shared constituency. It is our close connection to the people that make counties a key partner in the intergovernmental relationship. Our proximity to the people fosters an inherently heightened level of accountability while generating measurable results...

**63%** OF THE PUBLIC HAS A FAVORABLE OPINION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**57%** COMPARED STATE GOVERNMENT

**28%** AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

PEW RESEARCH CENTER MARCH 2013

## WHY COUNTIES MATTER FAST FACTS

### COUNTIES INVEST OVER

**\$482 BILLION** ANNUALLY 

& EMPLOY **MORE THAN THREE MILLION PEOPLE** WITH MORE THAN **19,300 ELECTED COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS & ELECTED COUNTY EXECUTIVES**

### HEALTH

**\$70 BILLION** FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH & HOSPITALS ANNUALLY 

SUPPORTING **960 HOSPITALS & MORE THAN 96K HOSPITAL BEDS**

### JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**\$70 BILLION** IN JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES 

SPENDING MORE THAN **\$23 BILLION ON CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES & 16 BILLION ON COURTS AND LEGAL SERVICES**

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**\$26 BILLION** FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS 

& MORE THAN **\$9 BILLION ON PARKS & RECREATION FACILITIES, LIBRARIES, & COMMUNITY CENTERS**

### TRANSPORTATION

**45 PERCENT** OF AMERICA'S ROAD MILES 

MORE THAN **39 PERCENT** OF BRIDGES **ONE THIRD** OF ALL AIRPORTS & TRANSIT SYSTEMS

## COUNTY QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

**1** Our nation's 3,069 counties are as unique as they are diverse. Ranging in size, population, resources, strengths, struggles and opportunities - counties face a unique set of factors while collectively sharing a common goal: to provide a healthy, vibrant and safe community for America's families. What experience do you have working with county government to achieve these goals and how has that experience helped shape your view on moving this country forward?

**2** The county role has changed drastically in recent years. Counties must constantly evolve and adapt to changing environments and populations. What challenges do you see ahead for our nation's counties and how do you hope to help address them should you be elected President?

**3** Counties play a key role in the federal-state-local intergovernmental system. Decisions made by the President have a substantial and often long-lasting impact on our nation's counties, who are responsible for implementing federal decisions and administering federal programs at the local level. What do you believe are the defining issues facing this country that require intergovernmental collaboration with counties to address?