America’s 3,069 county governments provide the essential building blocks that help to create healthy, vibrant and safe communities. Counties support and maintain key public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, airports and transit systems, help create and sustain a skilled workforce to meet the needs of business, and promote public health and safety to protect our citizens.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal policies and programs that equip county governments with the resources and tools needed to effectively serve their residents. Each year, NACo’s Board of Directors adopts the association’s federal policy priorities, which help to shape NACo’s advocacy efforts on behalf of America’s counties.
NACo supports maintaining the federal-state-local structure for financing and delivering Medicaid services. Counties continue to be concerned about measures that would further shift federal and state Medicaid costs to counties including cuts, caps or block grants.

**PROTECT THE TAX-EXEMPT STATUS OF MUNICIPAL BONDS**

NACo supports the preservation of the federal deductibility of local property and income taxes and the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds that provide critical funding for public facilities, infrastructure and development. Provisions like the tax exemption for municipal bond interest have been part of the federal tax code for over 100 years, helping finance more than $3.7 trillion in public works projects.

75% of national infrastructure projects are completed using bond financing.

The majority of tax-exempt bonds fund the building of schools, hospitals, roads and jails.

**PROTECT THE FEDERAL-STATE-LOCAL PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID**

NACo supports maintaining the federal-state-local structure for financing and delivering Medicaid services. Counties continue to be concerned about measures that would further shift federal and state Medicaid costs to counties including cuts, caps or block grants.

**SUPPORT LONG-TERM TRANSPORTATION FUNDING AND COUNTY PRIORITIES IN MAP-21 REAUTHORIZATION**

NACo urges Congress to fix the Highway Trust Fund and pass a multi-year surface transportation bill that supports county roads, bridges and transit systems. Key priorities include allocating more funding for locally owned infrastructure, increasing local decision making authority, expediting project delivery and prioritizing investments that increase safety.

Counties spend almost $70 billion annually on health care services.

Counties run 976 hospitals and 692 nursing homes across the country.

42% of states require counties to contribute to the non-federal share of Medicaid.

2 in 3 states require counties to provide health care for low income, uninsured or underinsured residents.

**COUNTIES OWN**

39% of the nation’s bridges

45% of the nation’s road miles

**COUNTIES ARE INVOLVED WITH**

a third of the nation’s airports & transit systems
NACo supports extending full mandatory funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program as well as legislative efforts to reform and fund the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program. PILT compensates counties for tax-exempt federal land within their boundaries, while SRS provides payments to counties to compensate for significant declines in federal revenue sharing due to reduced revenue generating activities within the National Forest System. Even though the federal government does not pay property tax on public land, counties must still provide essential services for their residents and those who visit public lands each year.

NACo supports legislation to permit the collection of existing sales and use taxes from remote sellers. The issue of taxing remote sales has compounded in recent years due to the extraordinary development of the Internet as a retail marketplace. As a result, state and local governments have lost billions in uncollected sales taxes and Main Street businesses find themselves at a significant competitive disadvantage to various online sellers.

NACo supports efforts to prevent the redefinition of “waters of the U.S.” that would result in the federal regulation of all public safety ditches. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have proposed to broaden the existing definition; this would increase the number of county owned and maintained public safety infrastructure that would fall under federal permitting authority. NACo has called on the federal government to withdraw the proposal until further analysis has been completed.

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$26.1 BILLION IS CURRENTLY BEING UNCOLLECTED

This would provide important local services: infrastructure, public safety, education & economic development.

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PILT helps counties provide important local services: road and bridge maintenance, law enforcement, search and rescue, emergency medical, fire protection, solid waste disposal and environmental compliance.

62% of counties have 62% of federal land within their boundaries.

NACo supports comprehensive immigration reform that includes a modernized legal immigration system, establishes a temporary worker program, provides an earned path to citizenship and enhances border security while taking into consideration the financial impacts of immigration on county governments.

Counties are required by law to provide health care, public safety & education services for all, regardless of immigration status.
NACo’s VISION

HEALTHY, VIBRANT AND SAFE COUNTIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

The National Association of Counties (NACo) assists America’s counties in pursuing excellence in public service by advancing sound public policies, promoting peer learning and accountability, fostering intergovernmental and public-private collaboration, and providing value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. Founded in 1935, NACo provides the elected and appointed leaders from the nation’s 3,069 counties with the knowledge, skills and tools necessary to advance fiscally responsible, quality-driven and results-oriented policies and services to build healthy, vibrant, safe and fiscally resilient counties. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.

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