FINANCE, PENSIONS AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Resolution on the Secure Elections Act (S. 2261)

Issue: The Secure Elections Act of 2017 (S. 2261) seeks to protect states' primacy in conducting elections; improve information sharing between the federal government and state, county and municipal election agencies; assist state, county and municipal election agencies in election cybersecurity preparedness; support states in replacing outdated and insecure electronic voting machines; and encourage robust sanctions in response to a state-sponsored hack on U.S. election systems.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports efforts by Congress to combat the cybersecurity threats that are already negatively impacting public perception of the integrity of elections. NACo appreciates that the Secure Elections Act would involve county election authorities in addressing these threats and that it seeks to share crucial information from federal authorities to state and local authorities and vice-versa.

NACo believes it is essential that election cybersecurity guidelines and grant administration remain coordinated within the existing structure of the Election Assistance Commission rather than having a new federal entity develop potentially conflicting guidelines.

In addition, NACo supports certain revisions in the Act and any related legislation, including but not limited to:
1) giving greater representation to state and local authorities on any new advisory panel on election cybersecurity;
2) maximizing flexibility and opportunities for nimble, innovative and secure tabulation auditing protocols;
3) providing county election officials with maximum information about cyber threats;
4) increasing the proposed aggregate amount of interim election preparedness grants to 25 percent of the given state's limitation, with criteria based on security principles rather than specific technologies;
5) authorizing a separate and sustainable allocation of funds for local governments; and
6) removing the "hack the election" program, or else placing it under the EAC.

Approved | March 5, 2018

Resolution on Federal Tax Intercept of Unpaid Court Fees

Issue: Re-introduce and pass the Crime Victim Restitution and Court Fee Intercept Act to facilitate a federal tax intercept for recovering court debt.

Adopted Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress to re-introduce and pass the Crime Victim Restitution and Court Fee Intercept Act.

Approved | March 5, 2018