



**FORWARD  
TOGETHER** CONNECT.  
INSPIRE.  
LEAD.

# **FORWARD TOGETHER SYMPOSIUM & NACo FALL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Nov. 30-Dec. 2, 2023 • Ramsey County (St. Paul), Minn.

Intercontinental St. Paul Riverfront Hotel | 11 East Kellogg Blvd.



## Hon. Mary Jo McGuire

*NACo President*

*Commissioner, Ramsey County, Minn.*

County officials are indispensable stewards of America's future. Serving as the vital 'connective tissue' that binds our country together, our counties are the building blocks for our nation's democracy, prosperity, and safety.

As part of my NACo presidential spotlight, ForwardTogether, we will showcase a three-tiered concept for enriching the leadership, partnerships and practices of county officials, with the ultimate benefit of better outcomes through improved trust and engagement.

Consistent with the NACo Blueprint, the Association's strategic framework, the three specific themes of ForwardTogether are:

- (1) **Connect** and build bridges through enriched professional connections, leadership skills and peer networks among county officials
- (2) **Inspire** civic engagement through well-informed community participation and public trust, and
- (3) **Lead** intergovernmental partnerships through enhanced collaboration with our federal, state, local and tribal partners.

In our nation's eternal pursuit of a more perfect union, a key part of our own, time limited leadership journey is to strengthen our 'connections' - to other county officials, to other governmental partners, to other sectors, and to our residents - as we advance excellence in county government.

**Now is the time for us to connect, inspire and lead as we move forward together.**

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A Presidential Spotlight of the NACo Blueprint

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to learn more



# ForwardTogether Symposium

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 | DAY 1

### 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Registration Open

*Minnesota Court, Lower Level.*

### 2:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. Ramsey County Mobile Tour

*3M Innovation Center  
2350 Minnehaha Ave. E,  
St. Paul, Minn. 55119*

Ramsey County has a changing landscape of youth and young adult employment and training services. Learn how the infusion of federal funds aided the creation of a new, creative public/private partnership that serves as a vital coordination hub, centering the voices of young people. The experience will include a tour of the 3M World of Innovation at its Innovation Center.

*\*Buses will begin loading at 1:15 p.m. and promptly depart at 1:30 p.m. from the Intercontinental St. Paul Riverfront Hotel Wabasha Street Entrance*

### 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. Welcome Reception

*Landmark Center  
75 W 5th Street,  
St. Paul, Minn. 55102*

- Welcome Remarks: Ramsey County Board Chair Trista Martinson
- Kamoinge (Walker West Academy's string ensemble)

*\*Buses will begin loading at 5:45 p.m. from the Intercontinental St. Paul Riverfront Hotel Wabasha Street Entrance*

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 | DAY 2

### 7:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. Registration Open

*Minnesota Court, Lower Level.*

### 8:00 A.M. – 8:30 A.M. Breakfast

*Minnesota Ballroom, Lower Level*

### 8:45 A.M. Welcome and Keynote Address

*Minnesota Ballroom, Lower Level*

- Welcome: President Mary Jo McGuire
- Centering Ceremony: Elder June Blue
- Welcome: Minnesota Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan
- Keynote: Dr. Bill Doherty, Co-Founder, Braver Angels

**9:30 A.M. Panel 1: Connect and Build Bridges Among County Officials**

*Minnesota Ballroom, Lower Level*

**Moderator:**

- Ms. Julie Ring, Executive Director, Association of Minnesota Counties

**Panelists:**

- Hon. Jhonathan Aragon, Commissioner, Valencia County, N.M.;  
Past President, New Mexico Counties
- Dr. Bill Doherty, Co-Founder, Braver Angels
- Mr. Scott Teruya, Director, Department of Finance, Maui County, Hawaii

**10:15 A.M. Break**

*Minnesota Court, Lower Level*

**10:30 A.M. Panel 2: Inspire Engagement**

*Minnesota Ballroom, Lower Level*

**Moderator**

- Hon. Debbie Lieberman, Commission President, Montgomery County, Ohio;  
Past President, County Commissioners Association of Ohio

**Panelists:**

- Hon. Ed Booth, Commissioner, Beaufort County, N.C.
- Hon. Irene Fernando, Chair, Hennepin County, Minn.
- Mr. Antonio Montez, Racial and Health Equity Administrator,  
Ramsey County, Minn.

**11:15 A.M. Panel 3: Lead Intergovernmental Partnerships**

*Minnesota Ballroom, Lower Level*

**Moderator**

- Mr. Mark O'Connell, President & CEO, Wisconsin Counties Association

**Panelists:**

- Hon. John Choi, County Attorney, Ramsey County, Minn.
- Hon. John Espy, Commissioner, Carbon County, Wyo.; President, NACo Western  
Interstate Region
- Hon. Merceria Ludgood, Commissioner, Mobile County, Ala.

**NOON – 1:30 P.M. Lunch and Keynote: Building Trust for Excellence in Public Service**

*Minnesota Ballroom, Lower Level*

- Ms. Mariah Levison, Interim CEO, Convergence
- Mr. Rob Fersh, Founder/Senior Advisor, Convergence



# Board of Directors Meeting

## FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1 | DAY 2

**2:00 P.M. – 5:15 P.M.**

*Minnesota Ballroom, Lower Level*

**NACo Board of Directors Business Meeting – Part I**

**6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**

*Union Depot,  
214 4th Street East, St. Paul, Minn.*

**NACo Board and Partners Dinner**

*\* Buses will begin loading at 5:45 p.m. from the Intercontinental St. Paul Riverfront Hotel Wabasha Street Entrance*

## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 | DAY 3

**6:30 A.M. – 7:00 A.M.**

*Kellogg I, Lobby Level*

**Qi Gong**

Join NACo President Mary Jo McGuire for a qi gong wellness activity.

**7:00 A.M. – NOON**

*Minnesota Court, Lower Level.*

**Registration Open**

**8:00 A.M. – 8:45 A.M.**

**Board of Directors Breakfast Sessions**

- New Board Member Orientation — *Minnesota Ballroom, Lower Level*
- Board Member Peer Networking — *Governors IV, Lower Level*

**9:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.**

*Minnesota Ballroom, Lower Level*

**NACo Board of Directors Forum: Advancing the NACo Blueprint**

- Review of the NACo Board Polling Results
- Breakout Groups on Board Member Feedback & Priorities

**11:30 A.M.**

**Adjourn**

**11:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.**

*Minnesota Ballroom, Lower Level*

**Boxed Lunch and Networking**



A Presidential Spotlight of the NACo Blueprint

## Focus Areas



### **Connect and Build Peer Bridges**

Enrich professional relationships, leadership skills and peer networks of county officials at the national, state and local levels.



### **Inspire Community Engagement**

Galvanize well-informed community participation and trust in county government.



### **Lead Intergovernmental Partnerships**

Forge deeper intergovernmental collaboration and value with our federal, state, local and tribal partners.

Scan the QR Code  
to learn more





# SAVE THE DATES

## Upcoming NACo Conferences

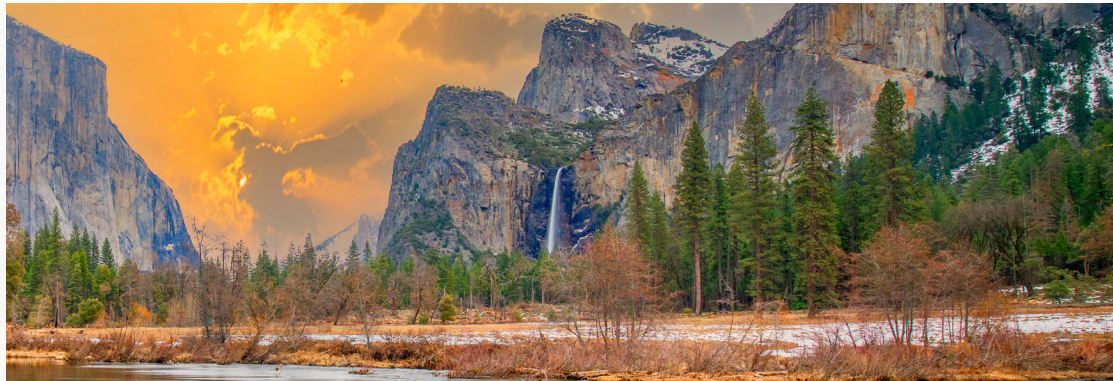
### 2024 NACo Legislative Conference

February 10-13  
Washington, D.C.



### 2024 Western Interstate Region Conference

May 8-10  
Mariposa County, Calif.



### 2024 NACo Annual Conference & Exposition

July 12-15  
Hillsborough County (Tampa), Fla.






### Joint Board of Directors, Large Urban County Caucus and Rural Action Caucus Symposium

December 4-7  
Sonoma County, Calif.





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