



# FIRST 100 DAYS

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## NACo Webinar Series | Week 9

MARCH 27, 2025

## Recent Executive Action: Election Executive Order

- **Proof of Citizenship Requirement:** The order seeks to mandate that individuals provide documentary proof of citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections
- **Ballot Submission Deadline:** Proposes that all ballots must now be received by Election Day to be counted. This change seeks to standardize the ballot submission timeline across all states.
- **Conditional Federal Election Funding:** The EO wants states to take "reasonable steps" to secure their election processes. Failure to comply may result in a reduction of federal election funding, incentivizing states to adhere to the new federal standards.
- **Utilization of Homeland Security Data:** DHS is directed to use its data to identify and remove non-citizens from State voter rolls, aiming to enhance the accuracy and integrity of voter registration lists. Other federal databases, such as the Social Security Number Verification System, would be made available to state and local election officials
- **Voting System Guidelines:** The EO requires the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to update voluntary voting system guidelines to require voter-verifiable paper records for each ballot. A majority of states require adherence to these guidelines, although most states already use voting systems with paper audit trails.

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## Recent Executive Action: Election Executive Order

- **Implementation of New Requirements:** Legal challenges are a certainty.
- **County Registration Process:** Counties will need to adjust their voter registration processes to comply with the proof of citizenship mandate, necessitating updates to training programs for election staff and volunteers.
- **Resource Allocation:** The mandate to maintain accurate voter rolls and enhance election security may require additional funding and resources. Counties will need to assess their budgets and seek potential federal assistance to meet these new demands.
- **Standardization Efforts:** Aligning with standardized voting procedures will require counties to review and possibly revise their current practices to ensure consistency with federal guidelines.
- **Collaboration with Federal Agencies:** Increased federal oversight means counties will need to work closely with federal entities to implement these changes, ensuring compliance and leveraging available support.

## Recent Executive Action: DHS Announces Plans to Drastically Shrink FEMA

- Addresses FEMA’s role in funding long-term rebuilding efforts and halt grant programs
- Aims to rebrand FEMA and put the agency under White House control
- Narrows the agency’s responsibilities to assist survivors in the immediate aftermath of disasters
- Task the “new” FEMA with giving states disaster funding to address only “immediate needs” and for live-saving or life-sustaining operations
  - Search and rescue
  - Emergency services – Shelter, food and water
- May abolish the National FEMA Advisory Council – Originally established by President Trump

*New efforts  
aim to  
eliminate or  
drastically  
shrink FEMA  
by September  
30, 2025*

## Recent Executive Action: Treasury Announces Next Steps for ARPA

- Treasury announced it will begin enhanced compliance checks on obligation data
- Treasury intends to recoup funds obligated or expend impermissibly and recapture funds that were not obligated by the Dec. 31, 2024 deadline
- Notes of “Financial Instructions to Return Unobligated Funds” will be sent to counties that did not award funds by Dec. 31, 2024 deadline:
  - Inform county how much it owes
  - Provide a deadline to pay back Treasury
  - Requires the county to use Pay.gov to process repayments
- **If your county has received a notice of noncompliance for your Project and Expenditure Report, notify NACo immediately.**



[Click here for Treasury's self-service resources](#)

## Recent Executive Action: HUD & DOI Joint Task Force on Federal Land for Housing

- HUD and DOI launched a new interagency group to aimed at addressing the nation's housing crisis by leveraging federally owned land for residential development.
- Aims to streamline coordination between agencies, identify available land for housing, and support communities facing housing shortages.
- NACo has met with both HUD and DOI to discuss coordination efforts and are supporting their efforts by recommending members for the interagency group, reviewing data and more.

*DOI manages more than 500 million acres of federally owned land, accounting for roughly 78% of all federally owned land in the United States.*

## Recent Executive Action: White House AI Framework

- NACo submitted comments, which highlighted seven key priorities:
  - Establishing intergovernmental AI governance
  - Supporting workforce development
  - Improving local compliance resources
  - Securing elections, strengthening consumer protections
  - Promoting vendor transparency while safeguarding proprietary data
  - Adopting public sector data privacy standards.

*The White House will release an AI Action Plan in the coming months, along with investments in AI data centers*

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## Recent Executive Action: HHS revokes the public comment period

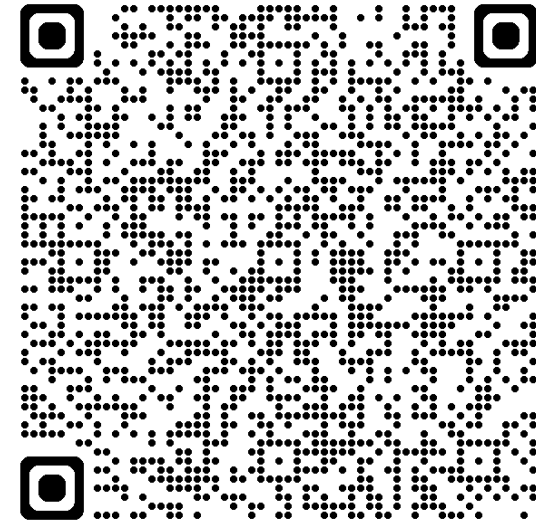
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has rescinded a longstanding policy that required public comment periods for certain rulemakings
- HHS agencies are no longer obligated to provide public notice and seek comments before finalizing regulations in these areas, unless otherwise required by law.
- The department argues that the previous policy imposed unnecessary procedural burdens and hindered efficient operations.
- Provides HHS with greater flexibility to implement policies without the delays associated with public comment periods.

*This may impact federal programs, like Medicaid, at the federal and state levels, impacting counties*



## Recent Executive Action: EPA announces pause on certain programs

- **Grant Terminations** – The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee sent a letter about EPA grants related to the Inflation Reduction Act
- **Document reveals a list of canceled grants** - Several county grants are in the documents
- **Ongoing legal fight** – These grants are related to the federal funding pause issues, being debated in federal court.



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## Congress: Reconciliation

- **Senate Republicans** are accelerating the timeline, with Majority Leader Thune aiming for a vote on a joint House-Senate budget resolution as early as next week. Pending a green light from the Senate parliamentarian on a controversial scoring method.
- **House-Senate coordination** remains fragile, as House Republicans have warned that any Senate changes to their \$1.5 trillion spending cut target could stall the process. While committees in both chambers are prepping for rapid action, reconciliation hinges on procedural sign-offs and alignment on debt limit strategy.
- **Memorial Day is the (ambitious) target**

*The House needs to approve any Senate alterations to finally unlock the process of budget reconciliation and allow lawmakers to start drafting the actual legislation.*