



Policy Insider

A biweekly webinar series on federal and intergovernmental policy.

March 26, 2026

Appropriations

- Fund all DHS except for \$5.5 billion in ICE
 - Senate Republicans would fund ICE through reconciliation
- Majority Leader Thune aiming to pass a deal by end of week
 - Democrats have counter offered
 - Unanimous consent needed to vote
- Senate Democrat proposed ICE reforms:
 - Judicial warrant for private property entrance
 - No masks
 - Require ID
 - Protect sensitive locations
 - Body cameras
- Congress heads out on recess for 2 weeks

As of today, DHS
has been
shutdown for 41
days with
Congress set to
leave for 2 weeks

Reconciliation 2.0

- 60 votes are **NOT** needed in the Senate to pass – *same procedure used for H.R. 1*
- Provisions **MUST** be about taxes and spending
- First meeting took place to begin drafting a budget resolution – House and Senate Budget Committee Chairmen
 - ICE funding - \$5.5 billion
 - Funding for Iran - \$200 billion request by the White House
 - Energy and permitting reform
 - SAVE America Act
- 60-day goal for a final budget resolution

Reconciliation is a unique legislative tool that only requires a simple majority vote to pass the Senate instead of the typical 60 votes

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

- September 30, 2026 is the deadline for Congress to pass a new bill or extend at existing levels.
- No committee of jurisdiction has put out its base text, either in the House of Representatives or the Senate
- Chairman Graves of the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee and Chairman Capito of the Senate Environment & Public Works are still committed to advancing a bill this spring and passing legislation by the end of this year
- This bill will affect billions of dollars in spending for roads, bridges, public transit and more



QR Code for NACo's Surface
Transportation Reauthorization
Hub

Surface Transportation Reauthorization

NACo's Top Ask: Include the *BASICS Act* in the Reauthorization Bill

- Led by Reps. McDonald Rivet (D-Mich.) and Bresnahan (R-Pa.)
- Would increase formula funding that is “suballocated” or made available to regions for use in locally led projects
- Expands the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) program, and adds a new suballocation requirement to formula programs for bridge funding and safety funding.
- Includes process reforms to ensure that counties—especially rural counties—can access formula funds that are intended for them
- NACo is asking members to advocate for the bill with their Members of Congress, including by asking them to cosponsor the bill.



QR Code for NACo's *BASICS Act* blog and template letter

Elections Legislation – SAVE America Act

Senate continues deliberations on the SAVE America Act (S. 1383).

- President Trump is calling it the top priority piece of legislation
 - Requiring counties to collect and verify documentary proof of citizenship for federal voter registration
 - Requires Photo ID at time of voting
 - Establishing a uniform federal framework – federalism
 - Expanding verification, compliance and enforcement responsibilities
 - New requirements effective immediately if enacted – no timeline
 - Imposes criminal penalties on Election Workers in violation
 - Unfunded Mandate
 - Proposed Amendment: Restrict Universal Mail-in Voting (S. Amend. #4420)



*Scan for
SAVE America Act Policy Brief*

Elections Legislation – SAVE America Act

Estimated Impacts:

- ~\$510 million increase per election cycle (unfunded mandate)
- ~109 million voters may lack required documentation
- 1.5 to 3 million additional poll worker training hours
- Immediate implementation with no transition period

NACo Engagement:

- Sent letters on SAVE Act and MEGA Act
- Developed and distributed NACo policy brief
- Led elections delegation at Legislative Conference
- Ongoing outreach to congressional offices
- Staying Engaged



*Scan for NACo Elections
Resource Hub*

ARPA Annual and Quarterly Reporting – Due April 30, 2025

Treasury is committed to recouping funds used in violation of SLFRF rules and guidance.

- Annual and Quarter 1 (Q1) Project & Expenditure (P&E) Reports will open in April and due on April 30, 2026.
- All State and Local Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Funds must be spent by 12/31/26 (except Trans and Title 1: 09/30/26)
- Entities who have obligated and expended all funds will be invited to close-out.
- Counties must start close out procedures via Closeout Reports section on the Treasury Website
 - Counties that were invited to closeout, but did not, we need to submit another quarterly or annual report and then to will be re-invited to closeout
 - Treasury staff has outlined in certain terms that the administration is focuses On recouping costs. Anyone who fails to close-out or expend all funds by deadlines Will be flagged for audit.



*Scan for the Treasury Closeout
Resource Hub*

Artificial Intelligence

White House and Congress make moves on AI frameworks and legislation.

- White House released legislative recommendations on an AI framework that came from the December AI Executive Order
- Senate unveiled a discussion draft that codifies the framework – TRUMP AMERICA Act
 - Protecting children and empowering families
 - Safeguarding and strengthening American communities
 - Respecting intellectual property rights and supporting creators
 - Preventing censorship and protecting free speech
 - Enabling innovation and ensuring American AI dominance
 - Educating Americans and developing an AI-ready workforce



Scan for NACo's blog the White House AI Framework



Policy Insider

A biweekly webinar series on federal and intergovernmental policy.

March 26, 2026