

NACo  
National Association of Counties

# CountyNews



Thick black smoke rises from the oil train derailment near Heimdahl in north central North Dakota on May 6. Photo courtesy of Curt Benson

## Regulating the rails

DOT releases final rule on shale oil and ethanol trains

BY CHARLIE BAN  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

More crude oil than ever is now moving across the United States in railroad cars, but it's going to move a little slower after new U.S.

Department of Transportation regulations take effect.

Rail shipments of flammable liquids, primarily crude oil and ethanol, are now subject to new speed limits and routing restrictions.

See **TRAINS** page 6

## Stepping Up initiative kicks off around the country

BY CHARLIE BAN  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Addressing mental illness starts with a good hard look inside, but all too often, "inside" has meant inside a jail cell.

The Stepping Up initiative aims to change that by encouraging counties to divert the estimated 2 million mentally ill inmates currently in local jails to appropriate treatment services

instead of leaving them confined and receiving a shadow of the treatment they need to right themselves.

The initiative started off strong the week of May 3 with events in Washington, D.C.; Johnson County, Kan.; Miami-Dade County, Fla. and Sacramento County, Calif. The collaboration between NACo, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation challenges counties to publicly declare their intent to tackle the problem and follow through.

"The potential impact on public safety and on county budgets is great, but the impact on people who have mental illness and their families is immeasurable," said Ramsey County, Minn. Commissioner Toni Carter,

who spoke at a briefing on Capitol Hill in Washington May 5. "This battle won't be won in individual counties, we need a national movement to reduce these numbers and change the way we treat people who have mental illnesses."

As of May 15, at least 14 counties had passed resolutions committing themselves to analyzing their county's deficiencies and developing a plan to get mental health services to the people who need them. The efforts will build toward a national conference on mental illness and jails in Washington, D.C. in 2016.

Nationally, Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) and Rep. Doug Collins (R-Ga.) hope to help with

See **STEPPING UP** page 5



Sen. Al Franken (D-Minn.) helps launch the Stepping Up campaign at a news event May 5 on Capitol Hill. Photo by Alix Kashdan

## House bill to restart 'waters of the U.S.'

BY JULIE UFFNER  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

A bill that would require EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw the proposed "waters of the U.S." rule within 30 days and restart the rule-making process passed the House by a vote of 261-155, May 12.

The Regulatory Integrity Protection Act of 2015 (H.R. 1732) would require the agencies to consult and collaborate with state and local governments on the "waters of the U.S." rule development process. The agencies would also be required to document the interactions, including those areas where consensus was reached and not reached, and submit a final report to Congress.

At the end of April, a similar bill was introduced in the Senate. The Federal Water Quality Protection Act (S. 1140) would also stop and restart the rule-making process and require the agencies to work more closely with state and local governments in a rule rewrite.

The measure contains a list of principles the agencies should consider when rewriting the rule including types of water features that can be regulated or exempt under the proposal. The Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works is scheduled to hold

a hearing on the bill May 18.

On the appropriations front: The House's FY16 Energy and Water Appropriations bill targets the "waters of the U.S." rule by prohibiting any Corps funding to be used for developing, implementing and administering the proposed rule. The House's FY16 Interior appropriations bill is likewise expected to contain similar restrictions on EPA funding.

Meanwhile, the White House has issued a veto threat for H.R. 1732.

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# Counties press for MAP-21 reauthorization during Infrastructure Week briefings

By CHARLIE BAN  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

With MAP-21’s expiration in less than two weeks, county officials’ hopes for a long-term surface transportation bill are giving way to acceptance that for now, they’ll have to make do with another extension.

Any plans for wholesale improvements or aggressively tackling weak spots in their roads or bridges will have to be put on hold, and planning beyond a few months will be essentially an exercise in hypotheticals.

With that in mind, several of those county officials took to Washington, D.C. during Infrastructure Week (May 11 – 15) to tell Congress why short-term fixes wouldn’t be enough and show that counties were ready and willing to help pass a reauthorization.

“We know the costs of under-investment and inaction at the federal level,” NACo President Riki Hokama said at a briefing at the National Press Club. “Counties have been doing our part to raise revenue locally, issue bonds, recruit private investment. We know we cannot do it alone.”

County elected officials framed the transportation crises from a variety of perspectives. Hokama harkened back to President Eisenhower’s “big idea” plan for the national interstate system.

“Americans have never aimed for mediocrity,” he said.

Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin framed transportation infrastructure funding as a matter of global economic competitiveness.

“We’re not competing with another county down the road, we’re competing with Sao Paulo, Brazil,” he said. “The difference is, their infrastructure is in worse shape than ours, so we still have an advantage, but that won’t last.”

NACo Large Urban County Caucus Chairman Roy Brooks, a Tarrant County, Texas commissioner, illustrated what lack of road upgrades would mean in urban counties.

“One of the biggest transportation challenges facing urban counties is congestion,” he said. “Congestion threatens air quality in urban areas and costs businesses and families precious time and money.”

Despite lower population density, things aren’t much better in

rural areas, as Bob Fox, a Renville County, Minn. commissioner, related. There’s still congestion, but on a different scale.

“Our problem is the roads that were built 50 or 60 years ago do not work for today’s agriculture,” he said. “There are certain times of year we call rural rush hour — October. You’ve got 500, 800 trucks heading down the road every hour. That’s why we need four-foot shoulders. If you met a John Deere tractor in 2015 on a shoulder that was built in 1960, your heart is going to jump out of you.”

Compounding officials’ frustration with the lack of federal funding to put toward road projects is that construction costs are increasing faster than inflation, and when the money does make it to the county, it has significantly less buying power.

“We’ve gone from paying \$300k for a mile of road to \$1 million per mile,” Fox said. “These days we can do two bridges every three years.”

MAP-21 originally expired at the end of September 2014, so Congress is approaching its second extension, and that elicited some frustration.

“It seems like we continue to sound this alarm, as we have been for years now,” said Commissioner Diane Lieberman from Montgomery County, Ohio.

“What’s it going to take? Bridges collapsing? We’re all a bridge or two away from (budgetary) devastation.”

At a Capitol Hill briefing, Del. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-D.C.) gave some inside perspective on why long-term transportation funding isn’t close to fruition, but encouraged county officials to redouble their lobbying efforts in a more local focus.

“You really have to take into account what the Congress has become,” she said, noting the House is loath to spend money. “Even emergencies don’t get acted on unless someone ramps it up. We came down to the last minute on the Homeland Security appropriation.”

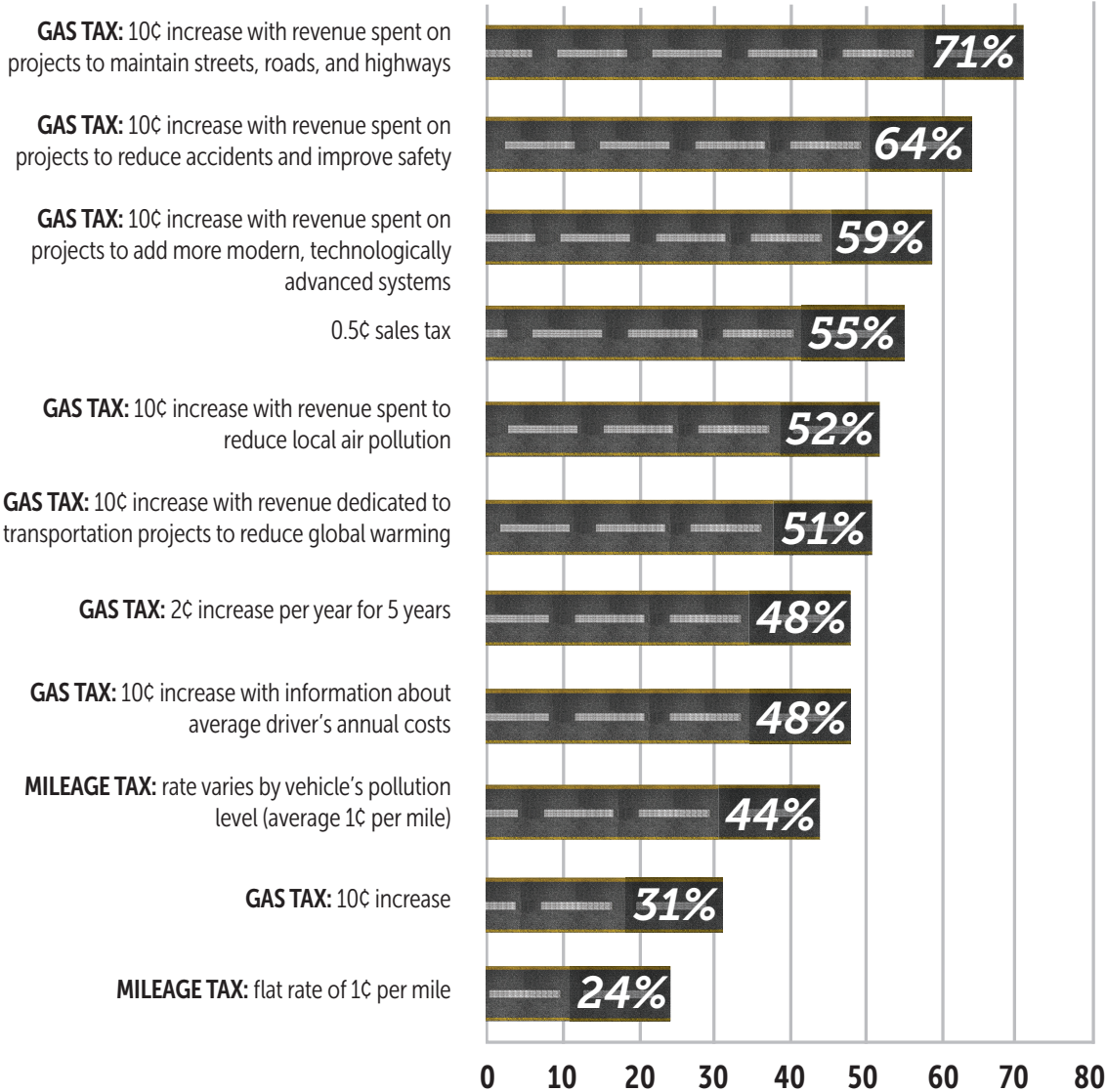
She noted that representatives don’t have a good sense that roads and bridges matter to the people in their district, so making appeals on the congressional district level will be key.

“Sounding the alarm hasn’t worked (in Washington), she said, “We’re exactly where we were last July. As long as this Congress believes that this habit is satisfying the immediate need, they’ll keep giving you six-month patches.”



NACo President Riki Hokama leads off NACo recognition of Infrastructure Week at a National Press Club luncheon May 12. Photo by Matt Fellows

## AMERICANS’ SUPPORT FOR TRANSPORTATION TAX OPTIONS



Source: How Do Americans Feel About Taxes and Fees to Fund Transportation, Mineta Transportation Institute, April 2015



## Administration threatens veto

WOTUS from page 1

In its Statement of Administration Policy (SAP), the Administration says it “strongly oppose[s]” and would veto the bill if it were to be passed by Congress, arguing that it would decrease the Administration’s ability to protect water sources and create uncertainty for stakeholders.

The proposed rule, jointly released by EPA and the Corps in April 2014, would amend the definition of “waters of the U.S.” within the Clean Water Act and dramatically expand the range of public safety infrastructure that falls under federal permitting authority, according to NACo.

Since its publication in April 2014, NACo has expressed concerns about the scope of the proposed rule and called for it to be withdrawn until further analysis and more in-depth consultation with state and local officials could be completed.

The rule has been sent to the White House’s Office of Management and Budget for a final interagency review. It is likely to be finalized within the next month.

# New funding opportunity available for body cameras

On May 1, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) released an FY15 grant solicitation for state and local law enforcement agencies to establish or expand body-worn cameras (BWC).

Counties are eligible to apply and must provide a 50 percent in-kind or cash match if the application is accepted. The deadline to apply is June 16, 2015.

A total of \$17 million is available for the BWC Pilot Implementation Program. BJA anticipates making 50 awards to law enforcement agencies, with about one-third of the grants directed toward agencies with fewer than 250 officers.

Successful applicants must demonstrate a commitment and adherence to a strong BWC policy framework, including comprehensive policy adoption and requisite training. Additionally, the continuity of long-term costs, such as data storage fees, will be the responsibility of the local law enforcement agencies.

In addition to the 50 awards, \$2 million will go toward establishing a BWC Training and Technical Assistance Center, funded through a competitive process, focusing on agencies developing and enhancing their BWC programs. The center will also provide national resources on BWC topics and address concerns related to the program.

BJA will also launch a BWC Implementation Toolkit this month, designed as an online resource for stakeholders. The toolkit will focus on implementation requirements, retention issues, policy concerns, interests of prosecutors, victim and privacy advocates’ concerns, along with community engagement and funding considerations.



Clip-on video cams, as pictured above, provide an added perspective during police interactions.

## NACo election credentials forms mailed May 12

Credentials and voting information for NACo’s 2015 election were mailed May 12 to the chief elected official (CEO) and clerk of each member county.

Registered attendees for the annual conference also received a link to credentials information via e-mail.

In order to vote, a county must have paid its 2015 dues and have at least one paid registration to the annual conference. The CEO must indicate on the credentials form, the names of the voting delegate and alternate authorized to pick up a county’s voting materials. There can only be one alternate designated on the form.

State association of counties presidents will pick up unclaimed ballots on the evening before the election unless a county’s CEO indicates on the credentials form that the state association president cannot pick up the ballot. A county may also choose not to cast its ballot.

Each member county must return a form, signed by the chief elected official, in order to vote. In addition to being mailed, the credentials form is also available via a link on the NACo website at [www.naco.org/credentials](http://www.naco.org/credentials). The deadline to return the form is Friday, June 19.

This year’s election will be held on Monday, July 13 at 10 a.m. during

the Business Meeting at the NACo Annual Conference in Mecklenburg County, N.C. Counties will vote on resolutions that set NACo legislation and association policy for the coming year. Delegates will also elect NACo officers for the coming year. The position of second vice president is typically contested.

The county must be a NACo member “in good standing” in order to vote, meaning that a county’s dues for 2015 must be paid before the voting occurs. Also, the county must have at least one paid registration for the annual conference and have proper credentials.

The credentials form attests to a county’s eligibility to vote. The form contains information on the number of votes a county is eligible to cast, as well as the identity of the

delegate who is authorized to cast the county’s votes.

The number of votes per county is determined by the amount of dues it pays. Dues are based on population.

- **Counties with dues of \$450 to \$499 receive one vote**
- **Counties with dues of \$500 to \$999 receive two votes**
- **Counties with dues of \$1,000 to \$1,499 receive three votes, and so on.**

The maximum number of votes a county can receive is 121.

The Credentials Committee ensures that all member counties participating in the election process, either for NACo officers or policy, are able to do so in the most efficient and fair manner. The committee confirms requests for credentials pick up, helps guarantee that the process

runs smoothly, resolves credentials disputes, and assists during the election itself.

The 2015 Credentials Committee members are:

- **Gerald Hyland**, supervisor, Fairfax County, Va. — Chair
- **Alisha Bell**, commissioner, Wayne County, Mich. — Member
- **Helen Purcell**, recorder, Maricopa County, Ariz. — Member
- **Tony Hyde**, commissioner, Columbia County, Ore. — Member

The NACo bylaws also provide for a Parliamentarian, Reading Clerk and Tally Clerk to aid in the election process.

- **Daniel Chadwick**, executive director, Idaho Assoc. of Counties — Parliamentarian
- **Ron Houseman**, administrative liason, Cape Girardeau County, Mo. — Reading Clerk
- **Patty O’Connor**, taxpayer services director, Blue Earth County, Minn. — Tally Clerk



Annual meeting delegates ready to vote. Photo by David Hathcox

## Quick Takes

### STATES WITH HIGH GRADUATION RATES (2012-2013)

Iowa .....	89.7
Nebraska .....	88.5
Texas .....	88.0
Wisconsin .....	88.0
New Jersey .....	87.5
North Dakota .....	87.5

Source: Governing

### CORRECTIONS

It was Brevard County, Fla. commissioners — not Broward County — who voted in April to allow a Confederate-themed Civil War display at the county’s main library. An item in News From the Nation’s Counties (County News, April 21, 2015) erroneously misidentified the county. We regret the error, which also has been corrected online.

Due to an editing error, text in an infographic listing the counties with the highest percentage of aging populations was incorrect. It should have read: “Top Five Counties.”

The photo on page 12 was incorrectly attributed. It is reprinted courtesy of *The Daily Advocate*.

The acronym on the page 1 headline about the CDBG Coalition was misspelled.

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# Senate introduces bipartisan Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, sets FY16 funding at \$159 million

By YEJIN JANG  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Sens. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa) and Sheldon Whitehouse (D-R.I.) have introduced the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 2015 (JJJPA), a legislative priority for NACo and critical legislation for counties that operate juvenile detention centers, house justice-involved children in jails or provide social services to justice-involved children.

The JJJPA (S.1169) is the principal program through which the federal government sets standards and provides funding for the care and custody of juveniles in the criminal justice system. Counties must adhere to requirements in the JJJPA in order to receive federal funding.

NACo supports reauthorization of the JJJPA, legislation which has not been renewed in over 10 years.

The new bill would make a num-

ber of changes to current law. It would phase out the use of a provision, the Valid Court Order (VCO) exception, that allows judges to detain juveniles for committing status offenses. Additionally, S. 1169 would strengthen accountability measures largely a result of the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention's admission that its monitoring and auditing procedures were outdated and insufficient.

The JJJPA would also require the state agency that receives federal juvenile justice grants to collaborate with the state agency receiving Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) funds. The two agencies would be charged with developing a plan that would accomplish the following: timely transfer of student records between juvenile facilities and school districts; transfer of credits, and application of "full or partial"

credit toward high school graduation for coursework completed during incarceration.

Funding for JJJPA would be authorized at \$159 million for FY16, \$162.2 million for FY17, \$165.4 million for FY18, \$168.7 for FY19 and \$172.1 for FY20.

The proposal would maintain the four core protections for juveniles now contained in current law:

- **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders:** Status offenses are offenses that are only crimes if committed by children under age 18. These include truancy, running away, breaking curfew and possession or use of alcohol. Under the JJJPA, status offenders may not be held in secure detention or confinement unless there is a valid court order (VCO) issued by a judge that would allow the status offending juvenile to be detained.

- **Jail Removal:** Under the JJJPA, juveniles may not be detained in adult

## Reach Out

NACo members are encouraged to reach out to their senators and ask them to co-sponsor S. 993, the Juvenile Justice and Mental Health Act of 2015. Additionally, consider using social media to advocate for reauthorization of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJJPA).

Sample tweets are below:

- #Counties thank Senator @ChuckGrassley and @Sen.Whitehouse for their work on #juvenilejustice @NACoTweets
- Thank you Senator @ChuckGrassley and @SenWhitehouse for your work on bipartisan #juvenilejustice @NACoTweets
- #Counties support #juvenilejustice reauthorization introduced by Sen. @ChuckGrassley and @SenWhitehouse @NACoTweets

jails except for limited periods before release or transporting to an appropriate juvenile placement (6 hours), in rural areas (24 hours plus weekends and holidays), or when weather and travel conditions prevent authority from transport.

- **Sight and Sound Separation:** Under the JJJPA, when youths are held in an adult jail under the exceptions listed above, they may not have sight or sound contact with adult inmates. Children may not be housed with or next to adult cells or share dining halls, recreation areas or any other common spaces with adult inmates. Further, children may not be placed in a circumstance where they could have any visual or verbal contact with adult inmates.

- **Disproportionate Minority Contact:** States must assess and address the disproportionate contact of youth of color at key decision points in the juvenile justice system.

# NACo voices views on Endangered Species Act reform

By CHARLES TAYLOR  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

NACo and counties want a seat at the table when decisions are made to improve or update the Endangered Species Act.

The Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee is currently considering eight Endangered Species Act-related bills, which, if passed, would affect counties that are home to hundreds of threatened and endangered species.

During a recent committee hearing, Valley County, Idaho Commissioner Gordon Cruickshank outlined the issues important to counties.

"I have seen firsthand the impacts of the ESA on my county, my state and counties nationwide," said Cruickshank, who is also first vice president of NACo's Western Interstate Region. He related an example from Ottawa County, Okla., where a bridge construction project was stopped by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife (FWS), after it decided to reconsider possible harm to an at-risk species of catfish. The ensuing delay of more than 170 days added \$270,000 to the project's costs.

"For counties, every dollar spent on regulatory compliance or project delays takes away from funds available for other critical services like law enforcement, firefighting and ensuring public

health," he added.

Cruickshank's key message: Counties support protecting the nation's fish, plants and wildlife. However, the ESA needs to reflect the lessons learned since the act's passage in 1973 about how to protect threatened and endangered species — oftentimes through local-state-federal cooperation.

He outlined three "key elements" that Congress should consider as it seeks to modify the ESA. They are:

- ESA decisions must consider economic and societal impacts on communities as well as species impacts
  - Federal agencies must reduce the costs of ESA compliance to local governments, and
  - State and county governments must be treated as cooperating agencies when enacting conservation measures and settling ESA litigation.
- "Local governments have every incentive to work with the federal

government to promote species conservation," Cruickshank said, "and this collaborative approach has been successful."

As an example, he noted the active role California and Nevada counties played in conservation of a subspecies of greater sage grouse along the bi-state border. The bird population has recovered to the point that it will not be listed as threatened, as FWS previously proposed.

"Collaboration and consultation between all levels of government is critical to the success of species conservation efforts," he said. "Locally driven conservation must be given time to work."

Cruickshank's comments were well received by his home state's senior senator, Mike Crapo (R-Idaho), a member of the committee. During Crapo's introduction of the commissioner, he said, "ESA listing determinations — lacking in transparency and absent the proper accounting to the socioeconomics and costs for local governments — do not help commissioners, such as Commissioner Cruickshank, to manage county resources while also preserving viable wildlife populations."

Among the bills being considered by the committee is S. 112, the Common Sense in Species Protection Act of 2015. It would require the Fish and Wildlife Service to consider short-term economic impacts when protecting critical

habitat for endangered species and require the agency to exclude areas if the costs were deemed too high.

EPW Committee Chairman Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.) said some of the bills address local issues, while others are designed to address "overarching problems with the direction of the ESA."

"In examining these bills, I hope to have a more clear direction in moving forward as to how we can modify the Endangered Species Act and return to its purpose," he said. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.), the committee's ranking member, called the bills "backdoor efforts" to weaken the ESA.

## NACo POLICY ON ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

NACo supports legislation that would require the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to perform cumulative and quantitative economic analysis, prior to the designation of Critical Habitat, that would measure the effects of such a designation on all affected stakeholders — not just on federal agencies — and would include the effects on possible uses of land and property values, employment and revenues available for state and local governments.



Gordon Cruickshank (right), chairman, Valley County, Idaho Board of Commissioners, testifies on Capitol Hill May 6 about updates needed to the Endangered Species Act before the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. David Bernhardt, former solicitor at the Department of the Interior, looks on. Photo by Alix Kashdan



# Coal counties talk economic diversification

By KATHY NOTHSTINE  
PROGRAM DIRECTOR

A group of county and regional leaders convened in Pike County, Ky., in late April, bound by a common interest in finding new ways to grow their economies. Based in communities that have long been reliant on the coal industry, these leaders came together to share ideas and learn about innovative strategies to create jobs and improve quality of life through changing economic times.

NACo hosted this workshop in Pikeville from April 22–24 as part of a larger effort to support communities seeking to diversify their economies and create jobs. Known as the Innovation Challenge for Coal-Reliant Communities, the effort centers on three workshops, the first of which was held in Pikeville.

Prior to the event, teams from counties in eastern Kentucky, southwest Virginia and West Virginia and Moffat County, Colo. were asked to think through their goals for the workshop and outline the biggest challenges they face, which they presented on the first day of the event.

Number one among the challenges listed? Jobs. Everyone voiced concerns about how contractions in the coal industry has meant fewer local jobs, which in turn has affected small businesses and the local tax base, and has led to population loss. The loss of young people was a particular issue brought up repeatedly.

In response, keynote speakers and

panelists highlighted the importance of embracing diverse leaders to foster economic growth and community prosperity.

“Rural places must build collaborative leadership networks and embrace current demographic changes: engage younger, more diverse leaders and make sure you get more women into leadership roles,” said Chuck Fluharty, president and CEO of the Rural Policy Research Institute. He also noted that economic growth and community cohesion can not be achieved without addressing social equity.

Similarly, Kelly Ryan, president and CEO of Encourage Community Foundation, directed counties and regions in coal country to envision diverse, collaborative leadership networks in their regions, and to bring those values into their own organizational structures.

During a panel discussion, participants considered how to cultivate pride and ownership in their communities, as well as how to encourage residents and business owners to embrace change.

Commissioner Matt Wender of Fayette County, W.Va. said “It’s amazing what you can do as a community if you don’t worry about who gets credit for it.”

Peter Hille, another panelist and president of the Mountain Association of Community Economic Development in Berea, Ky., reassured participants that “the greatest challenge every community faces is getting

people to work together.”

Participants learned about economic diversification and community leadership strategies via general session presentations and small group dialogues on specific topics such as entrepreneurship, broadband development and workforce training. In between those sessions, teams mapped out their short-term goals and paths for achieving those goals in the next 100 days, known as their “Implementation Roadmaps.”

As participants strategized action steps, several themes quickly emerged: strategies to help coal miners find work were paramount, as were ways to bolster job opportunities for young people so they can remain in their communities.

Participants also brainstormed ways to build an entrepreneurial culture in their communities, support small business growth, nurture growing industries and leverage broadband

infrastructure.

Josh Barnes of EDA spoke with the group to explain the Obama Administration’s new POWER Initiative (see sidebar), and Jared Arnett, executive director of Shaping Our Appalachian Region (SOAR), discussed how these efforts could integrate with SOAR, a new regional initiative to expand job creation and enhance regional opportunity in Appalachian Kentucky.

At the close of the workshop, each team presented its Implementation Roadmap and explained how this event would enable them to expand and deepen economic development efforts upon returning home.

Sandi Curd, Promise Zone coordinator for the Kentucky Highlands Investment Corporation, speaking on behalf of Harlan County, Ky. said, “We’ve been having lots of community forums in Harlan County, so there is a lot of listening happening, but

## SpeedRead » » »

- » Coal-reliant counties map ways to diversify economies
- » Free resources available at new Web portal, [diversifyeconomies.org](http://diversifyeconomies.org)
- » Planning grants available for counties affected by changes in power sector increase

with this workshop we want to take tangible ideas back to the community and get their input and ownership, and find out who it is that wants to move these into action.”

Erik Pages of Entworks Consulting, served as the workshop facilitator and highlighted the progress each team made. “The introductory presentations on day one had many similarities, but now these closing presentations speak very specifically to their economic diversification goals.”

The five-county area around Pikeville set goals to collect and analyze data to map assets and identify clusters in their region, while the adjacent counties to the north laid out plans to work with stakeholders in the region’s downtown areas to come up with ways to reinvest in historic centers.

Clif Moore, county administrator for McDowell County, W.Va., reminded participants of why this

See KENTUCKY page 11

## SHORT-TERM PLANNING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO COAL-IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) has announced the availability of \$3 million in planning assistance to communities impacted, or which may be impacted, by contractions in the coal economy. These funds are made available as part of the Partnerships for Opportunity and Workforce and Economic Revitalization (POWER) Initiative, a new interagency effort to assist communities negatively impacted by changes in the coal industry and power sector. For more information about how to apply, visit [www.eda.gov/power](http://www.eda.gov/power).

## Federal proposal would add mental health crisis training for law enforcement officers

STEPPING UP from page 1

the Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act, which has been introduced in both chambers of Congress. The bill reauthorizes the Mentally Ill Offender Treatment and Crime Reduction Act — which funds specialty courts, such as mental health courts — and adds an additional facet: training for every public law enforcement officer in the country to handle mental health crises.

The status quo, without specialized training, “doesn’t make sense for law enforcement officers who often enter situations where they themselves are at risk or people with mental illness are at risk and they don’t have proper training,” Franken said at the Capitol Hill briefing. “It doesn’t make sense for courts, which are inundated with cases of people with mental illness. It doesn’t make sense for those who often

would benefit from treatment and supervision. And it certainly doesn’t make sense for taxpayers.”

Loudoun County, Va. Sheriff Mike Chapman began training part of his force to deal with mental health crises when he took office four years ago, and those trained officers handle about three cases a day. But he was a realist about where his employees fit.

“We end up having to deal with this problem,” he said. “We’re law enforcement officials and by default, we become the people that tend to handle whatever goes on out there.”

He pointed out that officers who are trained to deal with mental health crises can appropriately close the cases in a fraction of the time it would take for a layman to handle the same situation.

On the other end of the programming field, Carter touted Ramsey County’s mental health court as an example of what could

be replicated around the country.

Since its introduction in 2005, the court has provided services to 431 people with mental illness to divert them from the traditional criminal justice system. The court focuses on the mental health needs of the defendant in hopes of correcting behavior that may be a symptom of a mental illness, rather than willful disregard for the law.

“Our mental health court graduates are less likely to be

charged with another offense and less likely to be convicted of another offense and less likely to spend time in jails,” she said.

Denise O’Donnell, director of justice assistance at the U.S. Department of Justice, met, head-on, any skepticism that diverting mentally ill offenders from the justice system would reduce crime.

“We know more than ever before, what works in treating mental illness,” she said. “Science is advancing and providing medically assisted treatment for behavioral health issues. We have innovative pilot programs...leading the way.”

Paton Blough, a South Carolina man with bipolar disorder was even more blunt.

“People say we can’t release mentally ill criminals back into

the streets,” he said. “That’s what we’re doing now.”

In Miami-Dade County, Commissioner Sally Heyman recounted how her county’s corrections and rehabilitation were nicknamed “the forgotten floors,” where the mentally ill waited out their sentences because there was no coordination for their treatment. Those inmates have since been moved to appropriate care.

“We’re the safety net,” NACo First Vice President Sallie Clark told the crowd in Johnson County, Kan. “We’re where everyone goes when they’re having their first day. Whether that is needing food assistance, or needing mental health counseling, or having the worst day of their lives when they’re arrested (for) a crime. That’s where they end up — in local government.”



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CN SPOTLIGHT



**Counties on the Hill:**  
Madison County, Mont. Commissioner David Schulz was in Washington, D.C. May 14 to testify before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands. Photo by Alix Kashdan

Speed limits, new car models aim to boost rail safety for trains carrying crude oil

TRAINS from page 1

tions, among other provisions of a final rule on transport of those liquids, issued May 1. Five days later, another train derailed and caught fire in North Dakota, adding to the more than a dozen domestic train derailments resulting in spilled Bakken shale oil in less than two years.

Trains carrying primarily crude oil and ethanol will now be limited to 50 miles per hour — 40 miles per hour in urban areas — and they will have to take the least-hazardous route, which will be determined by 27 factors contained in the rule. Railroads will also designate a point of contact on both routing and the contents of the tank cars who will be available to local emergency responders. A hazardous train is defined as one with 20 or more continuous tank cars carrying flammable liquids or 35 tank cars throughout the train.

“The truth is that 99.9 percent of these shipments reach their destination safely,” said Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx. “The accidents involving crude and ethanol have shown us that 99.9 percent isn’t enough. We have to strive for perfection.”

John Miller, a Black Hawk County, Iowa supervisor and Clinton-era regional FEMA director was encouraged by the rule.

“It all helps,” he said. “There’s a lot more space between these smaller communities in the Midwest, but that doesn’t mean people feel safe. The general public doesn’t consider the safety ramifications until something happens with these oil trains.”

Judd Freed, director of emergency management for Ramsey County, Minn., sits roughly one-eighth of a mile from a rail line that carries Bakken crude four times a day. Ramsey

County was one of 15 counties of focus that DOT examined because of its population density and number of trains per day that carry Bakken crude through the county.

“The version of the (new standard) car seems protective and cost-effective,” he said. “I’m just worried about the implementation time and whether failure to comply will have any penalty. We’re accepting a high level of risk for a long time.”

Despite his reservations, Freed was encouraged by the railroad industry’s participation.

“I’m glad they’re doing something,” he said of the rule. “I’m glad it’s not just another round of ‘blame the railroads.’ The big positive was that it was nice to see the industry embrace the rulemaking process. I see no reason to expect they’ll take all this time to upgrade their cars. They probably won’t wait until the last minute.”

Freed said he would have liked to have seen more investment in at-grade protection. He also wishes the risk-assessment data were available by county, rather than by state, so counties could figure those numbers into local planning.

“If we could get all the risk data about the physical critical infrastructure, that would be very helpful,” he said.

He is also concerned about plans to take advantage of new braking systems by running trains closer together because those systems were developed and tested at a lower density.

Safety improvements included in the final rule were forged by DOT with input from the Federal Railroad Administration, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration and Canada — site of the Lac-Mégantic derailment and

fire that killed 47 people in 2013.

In addition to the speed limits and routing requirements, the rule mandates a new enhanced tank car standard and a risk-based retrofitting schedule, a new braking standard, operational protocols for trains carrying large volumes of flammable liquids and new sampling and testing for oil.

That train that derailed in Lac-Mégantic carried its oil in the DOT -111 tank car, a design rendered obsolete by the final DOT rule. Those cars will now have to be retrofitted to meet the standards set by the new DOT-117, which uses a stronger, thicker shell.

Foxx pointed out that the enhanced braking system mandated in the rule for trains traveling faster than 30 miles per hour could have prevented a collision with a stopped train in a 2013 derailment in Cass County, N.D.

“(These brakes) can be the difference between a contained fire and a catastrophe,” Foxx said.

More than 182,000 signatories were represented in roughly 3,200 comments submitted to DOT. The rule is the culmination of almost 30 actions the Department of Transportation has taken over 19 months, including emergency orders and safety advisories.

Since 2008, the volume of crude oil transport by rail has increased more than 4,000 percent and now accounts for 68 percent of flammable liquid transport by rail.

The Wells County, N.D. derailment in early May forced the evacuation of the 40 residents of Heimdal when the BNSF train carrying crude oil from the Bakken shale caught fire. There were no reported injuries or incidents of property damage in the incident.



Wreckage of the BNSF oil train derailment smolders just outside of Heimdal, N.D., more than 10 hours after the accident. Photo by Eric Hylden / Forum News Service

Historic first: Florida hits 100 percent NACo member status

Florida has achieved 100 percent membership status for the first time in NACo’s 80-year history with all 67 counties currently members.

One-hundred-percent states receive an extra NACo Board of Directors member and recognition at conferences and on NACo’s website to honor this exemplary membership status.



Florida joins 19 other states that have 100 percent membership status. They are:

Arizona	Minnesota	Oregon
Arkansas	Montana	South Dakota
Delaware	Nevada	Utah
Florida	New Hampshire	West Virginia
Hawaii	New Mexico	Wyoming
Idaho	North Carolina	
Maryland	North Dakota	

NACo also welcomes 15 new members who have joined since the end of January.

Elbert County, Colo.	Randolph County, Ind.
Baker County, Fla.	Marquette County, Mich.
Calhoun County, Fla.	Wexford County, Mich.
Pasco County, Fla.	Allen County, Ohio
Union County, Fla.	Crawford County, Ohio
Chattooga County, Ga.	Pittsylvania County, Va.
Dooley County, Ga.	Lafayette County, Wis.
Pulaski County, Ind.	

Each new member county receives a free NACo conference registration as well as the county official who recruited the county. Contact NACo’s membership staff for more information on this exciting membership recruitment incentive program at [membership@naco.org](mailto:membership@naco.org) or 1.888.407.NACo (6226).



Commentary

# The Death of Freddie Gray: Reflections from the Ground

By COUNCILWOMAN HELEN HOLTON  
BALTIMORE CITY, MD.

When life is going on as usual in a constant state of hurriedness to get things done, what does a county official do when you hit a bump in the road that has never been there before? That's what the past few weeks in Baltimore have been for the majority of currently serving elected officials in Baltimore City. Many were not born or not old enough to remember the unrest and riots of 1968 following the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Unfortunately, many of the underlying causes of the riots of 1968 are still present today.

What messages have we heard and where do we go from here to rebuild and restore the lives of our citizens and our city?

As an elected official of my beloved city what have I learned from this crisis? How do we move forward? Can we move forward? We must.

These are all complex questions I've pondered since the death of Freddie Gray and the aftermath of what ensued. Today it is Baltimore in the spotlight, less than a year ago it was Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., Eric Garner in Staten Island, N.Y., and too many others to list here.

What county will be next? What are the warning signs? Is your county poised to be the next national headline news? I hope by sharing some of my reflections it may help another county official to be prepared for when the next outbreak occurs. I say "next" because I am convinced that until we begin to look realistically at our criminal justice systems and seriously consider reforms that are necessary to create an updated reality, there will be another county on the world's stage of civil unrest with the potential to become violent.

On some level, issues such as poverty, unemployment, poor performing schools, inadequate housing, have not changed much over the last 50 years. Dr. King wrote in one of his last books, *Where Do We Go From Here: Chaos or Community*, "Laws are passed in a crisis mood after a Birmingham or a Selma, but no substantial

fervor survives the formal signing of legislation. The recording of the law in itself is treated as the reality of the reform." Today it is important as county officials to really roll up our sleeves and go to work on the underlying issues that foster a ripe environment for what happened and is still happening in Baltimore.

Different from 50 years ago, though, is today's quick access to information. One can speak a statement in a closed meeting and

while the meeting is going on that message can be on social media with video and sound coverage while the meeting is taking place. In attempts to break the latest news first, it appears journalists rarely spend the time and diligence of the past on fact checking,

and misrepresentations are often not corrected or acknowledged as being false.

As county officials, it is important that we be more mindful of what we say and how we say it especially in the face of a crisis and in front of a camera. Sharing of information among all officials at the local, state and federal levels makes a difference and creates an atmosphere of unity and inclusion.

In a crisis, a unified front demonstrates to everyone the importance of the issue over and above anything else. We were successful in having local, state, and federal representatives on the ground and present with the protestors to help keep the peace and minimize further outbreaks of disobedience and violence.

Two officials that went above and beyond the call of duty to ensure the safety of citizens and addressing the needs of those directly impacted by the rioting were Congressman Elijah Cummings of the 7th Congressional District and City Council President C. Bernard "Jack" Young. Both of these leaders were in regular contact and on the ground with citizens demonstrating public service leadership in a crisis. Whether it was getting citizens to go home before the time of curfew to avoid arrest or coordinating food and water delivery until more comprehensive efforts could be organized helped

to bring calm to impacted riot victims.

Freddie Gray did not live in my district but he represents all the Freddie Grays of Baltimore over the years that fell victim to police brutality. This is not an indictment of our police department as a whole, but it's important to note that in any large institutional organization there are more often than not a few bad players. Our police department as a whole does a good job protecting and serving the citizens of our city.

Recovery will be a long process and it is here where a county official must look deeper than the obvious to determine what really caused the unrest. Police brutality is not new in Baltimore, and Freddie Gray is not the first person to lose his life at the hands of the police. This issue is beyond black and white. As I heard someone explain: It is a blue and green issue. It's an issue of public safety and the criminal justice system (blue) and economic inequity or inequality (green).

As an active member of NACo I've learned some insightful, innovative and useful best practices, creative tools and opportunities to share within Baltimore to help us be more effective in delivering services and opportunities to our citizens.

The ability to build relationships with county officials around the country and exchange ideas while discussing real issues has broadened my perspective in how to be more effective as a local leader, even in a crisis. Our active engagement with Capitol Hill and the White House was a valuable tool in my toolkit during this crisis to be able to share with my colleagues as we confront this issue.

Going through this experience had made me appreciate even more the many offerings NACo makes available to members. The NACo forums, conference learning opportunities, and quick access to legislative and research experts from among the NACo staff really serve as an extension of the resources available to my work as a local city (county) official in Baltimore. I'm grateful for NACo in helping me help my city, one of the greatest cities in America.

*Helen Holton has served as a member of the Baltimore City Council since 1995. Baltimore City, considered a "county*

*equivalent" in the state of Maryland, is a NACo member. Holton chairs the council's Budget and Appropriations Committee and is vice chair of the Health Committee. An active NACo*

*member, she serves on its Board of Directors, has led the Large Urban County Caucus and is a member of the Community, Economic and Workforce Development Steering Committee.*



## Profiles in Service

### Richard Malm

NACo Board of Directors  
County Commissioner  
Jefferson County, Kan.

**Number of years active in NACo:** Seven

**Years in public service:** 37, counting Army time

**Occupation:** Farmer

**Education:** some college, a lot of military leadership courses

**The hardest thing I've ever done:** inform a good friend that his stepson had been killed in an auto accident

**Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner:** my Granddad on my dad's side (I never knew him), President Abraham Lincoln and President Ronald Reagan

**A dream I have is to:** walk the Continental Divide.

**You'd be surprised to learn that I:** have kept a daily journal since 1960.

**The most adventurous thing I've ever done is:** trips to Sweden to look at places where my Dad and other family lived.

**My favorite way to relax is:** eat out with friends.

**I'm most proud of:** my two daughters; both have degrees in mechanical engineering.

**Every morning I read:** selected dates from past journals, *Topeka Daily* capital newspaper.

**My favorite meal is:** anything with Kansas beef.

**My pet peeve is:** short-term thinkers. They don't realize the decisions made today have effects on people years from now.

**My motto is:** the impossible just takes longer.

**The last book I read was:** *Gifted Hands* by Dr. Ben Carson.

**My favorite movie is:** *The Searchers* with John Wayne.

**My favorite music is:** classic country.

**My favorite president is:** Thomas Jefferson.

**My county is a NACo member because:** legislation in Washington affects counties. Also, the information and training available to counties.





# YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY NOW IN 3D

## LIBRARIES INTRODUCE 3D PRINTERS TO GREAT ACCLAIM

By SARAH A. FOOTE  
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

In the past few years, county-funded public libraries across the U.S. have begun offering three-dimensional printing as a public service and yet another resource for library users.

3D printers can be used to create solid objects — anything from action figures to functional weaponry, but the libraries have guidelines for what can be printed.

“We don’t allow our patrons to print things that could be inherently dangerous,” said Gair Helfrich, assistant director at the Hammonton Library in Atlantic County, N.J., “but we haven’t had to get any more specific than that yet.”

Ramsey County, Minn.’s Maplewood Library was an early adopter; it’s had a 3D printer for five years. Johnson County, Kan. took the plunge in 2012, and Atlantic County acquired its machine in March of this year, library officials said.

Printer costs can range from

\$1,000 to about \$3,000, according to Helfrich. But she got lucky. A grant of nearly \$1,000 from Wells Fargo helped to purchase her library’s printer.

The Twin Hickory Library in Henrico County, Va. charges by weight, 10 cents per gram for each print job, to pay for supplies such as the thermoplastic filaments the printers use to print objects, according to Hillary Burns, assistant manager.

Perhaps because of their cost — or their sometimes finickiness — “people tend to treat the printers with a lot of respect,” said Meredith Nelson, the Johnson County librarian who runs its “makerspace” printing lab. “The worst thing we’ve had happen is that someone has clogged it, but that tends to happen sometimes anyway.” The library offers “patron education” tutorials that are available online.

So far, patrons’ print jobs have run the gamut. “I’ve printed two [prosthetic] hands for two different people, one of whom was a little

girl,” Nelson said. “She told her dad she wanted a pink hand, so I ordered the pink material and we were able to make it happen.”

Helfrich received a request to print a small-scale Tardis, the time-traveling blue phone box from the *Doctor Who* TV series, as well as machine parts — for example, a replacement dishwasher wheel.

A veteran 3D printer operator, Amy Boese, Ramsey County’s teen librarian, helps teach a Sketchup class at the library, an architecturally based design class that gives students the skills they need to come up with their own print designs. While the class is open to everyone from kids to adults, Boese said teens seem to benefit from it most.

“When we let them design their own requests, we get a lot of attempts to make (mobile) phone cases,” she said.

Because of the printers’ popularity, Nelson and her colleagues have had to juggle a huge influx of requests from eager patrons, with the printers sometimes in use for weeks straight with no breaks between jobs. Her county won a NACo Achievement Award last year for its innovative printing offerings.

“We’ve regularly had a queue of 60 to 70 print jobs,” she said. “There was a point in time when our machine was constantly whirling away.” The challenge is that some individual print jobs take a long time to complete — occasionally 12 or more hours — which backs up the process, she added. The library has set an eight-hour-per-job limit, so it could help as many patrons as possible and keep the line moving along.

Henrico’s Twin Hickory Area Library has devised a similar system, Burns said. “When the print jobs got too long, we capped the number of hours at 10 per request, for practical reasons.”

As for the future of the printers, the librarians are optimistic. Demand for print jobs is steady, and public interest and involvement are high.

“We’ve even got a backup one now,” said Johnson County’s Nelson, “and our makerspace lab area is quadrupling in size.”

Ramsey County recently ordered its fourth printer, the fifth-generation replicator, Boese said. “We just put in the order this week, and it’s really cool.

“We’ve had our first one for five years, so we call it our ‘antique’ printer. It’s always been problematic,” she added, “but even when it wasn’t printing well, it was still great to have it... just to strike up a conversation about this technology is great.”



Frederick County, Md. Executive Jan Gardner holds an item created on the 3D printer in front of her. The county’s public libraries are receiving four new 3D printers thanks to a grant from the Young Adult Library Services Association. Photo courtesy of Frederick County, Md.



## Financial Services News

# U.S. Communities: Gold Standard for Cooperative Purchasing

There are a lot of purchasing cooperatives out there these days, but NACo sponsors only one—U.S. Communities. What differentiates U.S. Communities from other regional and national programs? The answer lies in these key distinctions.

### Lead Public Agency Model

U.S. Communities initiated the use of a lead public agency as its model from its first contract offering in 1998. Each contract offered by the program has been publicly solicited by a large lead public agency on behalf of all other local and state agencies in the United States.

### Public Agency Oversight Model

U.S. Communities provides program oversight and compliance with professional public procurement standards through its advisory board. The board consists of 28

public procurement professionals representing cities, counties, schools, higher education and state government. Each member serves a three-year term. Each appointed member must have the authorization of its public jurisdiction to serve.

### Lowest Cost to Government Commitment

Prior to the award of a contract to a supplier, the supplier must agree to specific terms and conditions. A key commitment is that the offering is the lowest-priced offering the supplier provides to the government sector.

### Program Audits

U.S. Communities provides internal and third-party audits of the contracts on the program. Each year, several contracts are audited by a third-party independent auditing firm for compliance with contract pricing, terms and conditions.

### Significant Savings

All U.S. Communities contracts are offered without fees or costs to participating public agencies and nonprofit organizations. Registration is free, and public agencies are not required to commit to minimum amounts of purchasing. Agencies can use the program as frequently or as little as they desire.

Today more than 55,000 registered agencies, education institutions and nonprofits use U.S. Communities contracts to procure more than 1.8 billion dollars in products and services annually.

Each month more than 600 new participants register their organization to simplify their procurement process. This continuing growth is fueled by the program's proven track record of delivering excellence in procurement solutions.

### Professional Association Sponsorship

U.S. Communities was co-founded as a public benefit cooperative to assist public agencies in procuring goods and services on a cooperative basis. Its co-founders include NACo, the Association of School Business Officials, the National League of Cities, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors. For 17 years, U.S. Commu-

nities has provided significant hard-dollar savings on commodities and services, as well as soft-dollar savings on avoided administrative costs to public agencies nationwide.

For more information on U.S. Communities, contact Sarah Lindsay at 202.942.4228 or [slindsay@naco.org](mailto:slindsay@naco.org).

## FY16 budget resolution limits spending for key county programs

BY LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS STAFF

The compromise budget resolution (S. Con. Res. 11) adopted by the House and Senate lays out Congress' tax and spending plan for FY16. Most relevant to counties: The measure maintains the sequestration caps on discretionary spending set by the Budget Control Act of 2011, which includes \$493.5 billion for non-defense programs. This is roughly the amount made available to appropriators for domestic discretionary spending in FY15.

It also would make deep changes to the health care safety net system by repealing the Affordable Care Act and sharply cutting Medicaid.

The conference report, which does not require a presidential signature and is enforced by House and Senate rules, sets limits for spending in broad categories or function areas with programs important to counties. These include:

### Agriculture and Rural Affairs

The report includes \$15.5 billion in total budget authority for community and regional development functions including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's

rural development programs that counties use to improve economic conditions and promote rural development activities. This is \$1.9 billion less than the Senate version and \$8.4 billion more than the House levels for community and regional development programs.

The budget agreement also provides \$19.1 billion in overall budget authority for FY16 agricultural functions including production, direct assistance and loans to farmers, export assistance, research, marketing and inspection services. This level is \$1.5 billion less than the Senate resolution and \$1 billion less than the House amendment.

### Health

The conference report would put in motion the procedure known as budget reconciliation to partially repeal or make changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA). It gives the House Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, Education and Workforce committees and the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee until July 24 to produce reconciliation legislation, which could bypass the traditional Senate filibuster and pass with a simple majority.

The budget also calls for \$5.3

billion in spending cuts over 10 years, with almost 80 percent of the reductions coming from mandatory programs such as Medicaid and Medicare.

It assumes the repeal of the ACA Medicaid expansion and calls for legislation to convert the reduced Medicaid program into "State Flexibility Funds" or block grants.

NACo opposes Medicaid block grant proposals because of the risk of shifting additional health care costs to county taxpayers and reducing counties' capacity to provide health care services, including those mandated by state laws.

### Human Services

The education, training, employment and social services function would receive cuts totaling \$163 billion over 10 years. Although cuts to specific programs have not been outlined, the overall level of cuts to this function likely lays the ground work for the elimination of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG). NACo strongly supports SSBG—which is used by many counties for programs such as adult protective services, child

## NACo on the Move

### ► In the News

• The launch of Stepping Up: A National Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails generated significant media coverage nationally and in local media markets where launch events took place. Print, online and broadcast stories appeared in outlets including *U.S. News & World Report*, *The LA Times*, *The Miami Herald*, *The Kansas City Star*, Atlantic Media's *Route Fifty*, *The Crime Report* blog, *Daily Business Review*, WFOR (CBS-Miami) News at 6, KCUR-FM (Kansas City) and KCTV (CBS-Kansas City) News at 5.

### ► NACo Officers and County Officials

• NACo Second Vice President **Brian Desloge** joined a roundtable discussion on combating rural childhood poverty with U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and Doug O'Brien, senior rural advisor for the White House Domestic Policy Council, May 1, in Quincy (Gadsden County), Fla.

### ► NACo Staff

• **Matt Chase**, executive director, and **David Thompson**, president and managing director NACo FSC, spoke at the Conference of Southern County Associations May 13–14 in Richmond, Va. They gave an FSC update and a key federal issues update.

• Chief Innovation Officer **Bert Jarreau** moderated a panel discussion titled Available Technology Resources to Minimize Your Risk at the Iowa State Association of Counties' 2015 Smart Connections Conference that took place on April 30 in Johnston (Polk County), Iowa. This one-day conference was intended for all Iowa local government officials to learn more about protecting themselves, their organization and their information from cybercrime.

• **Jessica Monahan**, associate legislative director participated in the White House's Build America Investment Initiative roundtable titled Building the Project Pipeline on May 5. The event was co-hosted with the Ford Foundation and The Rockefeller Foundation, and brought together public and private sector representatives to explore ideas to support better infrastructure predevelopment and more resilient, equitable outcomes for communities.

### ► Coming Up

• **Andrew Goldschmidt**, director of membership marketing, will be exhibiting on behalf of NACo at the Colorado Counties, Inc. Annual Summer Conference in Summit County on June 1–3.



Chase



Thompson



Monahan





# News From the Nation's Counties

## ► ARIZONA

The **PIMA COUNTY** Board of Supervisors unanimously approved 20-year contracts to have **solar-panel-covered parking structures** installed at 11 county-owned locations.

Solon Development will build and own the installations, while the county retains ownership of the land covered.

Over the life of the agreements, the county will spend about \$22 million to purchase power. "These new installations will save the taxpayers approximately \$6 million over the next 20 years," said Linda Mayro, director of the county's Office of Sustainability and Conservation.

## ► CALIFORNIA

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY** is in the heart of Silicon Valley, but there's one technology it won't be using. The Board of Supervisors was unable to successfully negotiate with a company to purchase a \$500,000 **cell-site simulator** for the Sheriff's Office, using a federal

grant, arstechnica.com reported.

The simulator, commonly known as "stingray," mimics a cellphone tower and can determine a phone's location, as well as intercept calls and text messages. However, the Sheriff's Office would only have used the location function, such as in instances of "serious and violent felony crimes committed against people, at-risk missing children and adults, and locating victims of human trafficking," according to a Board of Supervisors agenda document.

The county and the manufacturer, Florida-based Harris Corp., parted ways, said James Williams, deputy county executive, because "we couldn't get them to agree to even the most basic criteria we have in terms of being responsive to public records requests."

## ► MISSOURI

A bill that would allow **counties to use a cell phone tax** to help fund 911 — if local voters approve it — awaits its fate in the state Senate. The

House recently passed the measure that would allow a surcharge of up to \$1.50 per month.

Historically, counties have funded 911 services through land-line surcharges. But as consumers have switched from wireline to mobile phones, that funding has been declining.

State officials estimate that most counties would seek to collect about 60 cents per month, KOAM TV news reported.

## ► MARYLAND

The **MONTGOMERY COUNTY** Council approved **taxing electronic cigarettes** and private lodgings booked online, *The Washington Post* reported. E-cigarettes will be taxed at 30 percent of the wholesale price.

Private lodgings, such as those booked through sites similar to Airbnb, will be subject to the county's 7 percent hotel tax. Both tax measures are expected to be signed by the county executive.

On June 12, another e-cigarette related bill takes effect in the county:

a ban on their use in public places where tobacco smoking is prohibited.

## ► MICHIGAN

A social media company's donation of \$100,000 will help **WAYNE COUNTY** prosecutors clear a **backlog of rape kit investigations**.

MOKO Social Media said its gift to Enough SAID's (Sexual Assault in Detroit) campaign will help to investigate and prosecute unsolved cases, according to *The Detroit News*.

Prosecutor Kym Worthy said the money will help her office to investigate and prosecute forgotten rape kit cases. "Words cannot adequately express how huge this is," she said. "We currently have over 600 cases where there have been DNA [matches] waiting to be investigated. This donation will help us get many of these cases moving."

## ► MINNESOTA

About 50 people resolved outstanding nonviolent misdemeanor warrants at the first-ever **Warrant**

**Resolution Event** in **RAMSEY COUNTY**.

Judges, lawyers and sheriff's officials were on hand May 2, the *Star Tribune* reported, to help citizens to clear up mistakes from their past.

In most cases, the warrants were cleared from the law breakers' records with a scheduled court date, a fine or forgiveness.

Minor offenders seen at the event included a man who shoplifted \$36 worth of groceries in 2009.

An estimated 4,000 to 5,000 active warrants in the county are for nonviolent misdemeanors, such as petty theft and unpaid parking tickets, sheriff's officials said. Half of them are more than four years old.

## ► NEW YORK

**ALBANY COUNTY** legislators are asking Times Union Center management to explore ways to allow county residents to purchase tickets to events at the venue before their costs are driven up, sometimes tenfold, by **legal scalpers**, the *Albany Times Union* reported.

The \$98 million venue, built as the Knickerbocker Arena in 1990, was largely funded by the county. A 2007 law, and its 2010 reauthorization, legalized scalping of tickets at any price.

## ► NORTH CAROLINA

A federal judge ruled the **ROWAN COUNTY** Board of Commissioners was violating the U.S. Constitution when **opening meetings with prayers** specific to one religion.

The ruling from U.S. District Judge James Beaty stated that the board's "practice fails to be non-discriminatory, entangles government with religion, and over time, establishes a pattern of prayers that tends to advance the Christian faith of the elected Commissioners at the expense of any religious affiliation unrepresented by the majority," the *News Observer* reported.

The ACLU of North Carolina Legal Foundation and national ACLU Program on the Freedom of Religion and Belief filed a lawsuit challenging the commissioners' prayer practice in March 2013.

• Congratulations to **WAKE COUNTY**. Its libraries deputy director, Ann Burlingame, is the recipient of the 2015 Peggy Sullivan Award for **Public Library Services for Children** from the American Library Association. Among other



## ► GEORGIA

**DEKALB COUNTY** officials recently marked the 100th anniversary of the county police department. The color and pageantry of the occasion also had a solemn side, as officials honored **fallen officers in a memorial service**.

Forty-one officers have been killed in the line of duty since the

department's founding in 1915.

During the ceremony, the DeKalb Police Department Honor Guard presented colors, a wreath was laid at the memorial and a bell tolled as the names of each fallen officer was spoken. A 21-gun salute, taps and a flyover closed out the event. Photo courtesy of DeKalb County, Ga.



## The H.R. Doctor Is In

# Nie Wieder! — Never Again!

Two very important occasions for remembrance occur near the beginning and end of May. One of these, Memorial Day, is much more than a time to go shopping and avoid school.

It is a time to honor and remember the people who served in the Armed Forces and gave their lives that the rest of us might continue to live in the United States. Despite its many flaws, no country in history has offered so much to so many as a place to live out the potential in everyone.

Memorial Day must be a time for education — even without going to school. Let it be a time for family and community communications and reflection on how different our lives would be without those who sacrificed for us. What if there were no United States, or if we lived in a place like Somalia, Syria, North Korea or the Central African Republic?

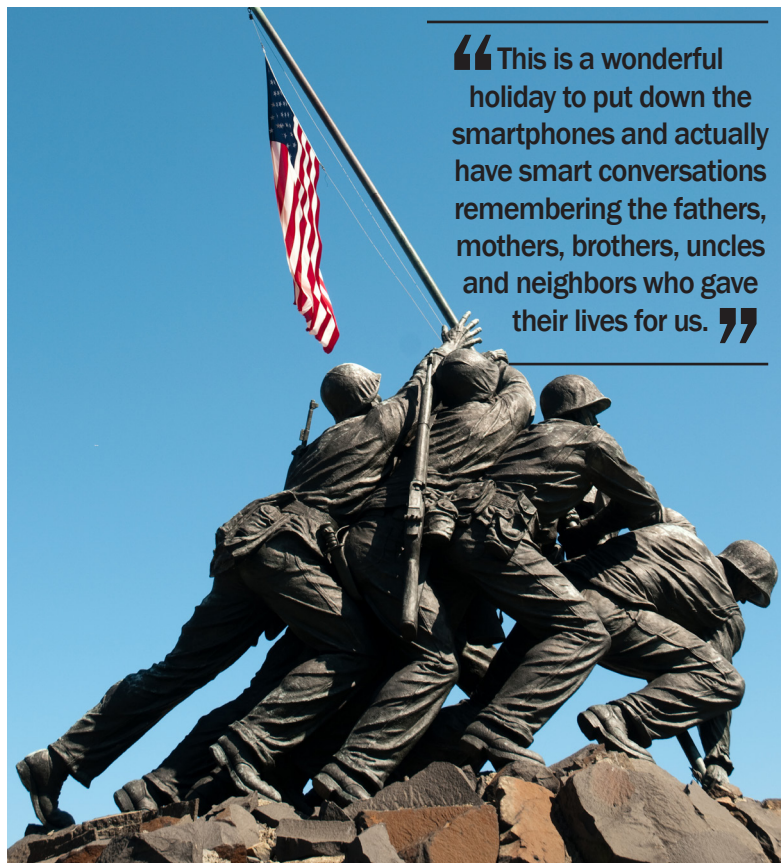
This is a wonderful holiday to put down the smartphones and actually have smart conversations remembering the fathers, mothers, brothers, uncles and neighbors who gave their lives for us.

The second critically important time for memories occurred in late April. It was Holocaust Remembrance Day. Like Memorial Day, Holocaust Remembrance Day is definitely the

time to set aside the lust for shopping and television watching and spend time in somber thought about how a society should never be allowed to become corrupted. The legacy of death and dishonor, which the Holocaust

represents, is a powerful lesson for all of us to remember forever.

How did that corruption happen? The failure to act is a consequence of people and nations just “walking by something wrong.” This disease of



“This is a wonderful holiday to put down the smartphones and actually have smart conversations remembering the fathers, mothers, brothers, uncles and neighbors who gave their lives for us.”

allowing wrong to go uninterrupted is the great culprit in many other tragedies in our lives.

Both times of remembrance have two consistent themes. The first was brought home to me many years ago. Captain Phil walked quietly through the gates of the former concentration camp Dachau. There I saw a small statue with immensely powerful words: *Den Toten Zur Ehr Den Lebenden Zur Mahnung*, “To honor the dead. To warn the living.”

Although the language happened to be German, the meaning is universal. It is also the basic meaning of Memorial Day.

The second theme is the concept of “Nie Wieder!” Never again should we forget that hate is a vicious carnivore at our door. It is ready to murder and destroy. Never again should we stand by and allow sexism, racism, the bigotry of religion gone awry or other markers of hatred to survive and thrive. Certainly not at home. Certainly not next door. Certainly not anywhere else on the planet.

Phil Rosenberg  
The HR Doctor

## NACo unveils new resources website for transitioning economies

KENTUCKY from page 5

work is so important: “We are about restoration, transformation, leadership, wisdom and hope. Remember that.”

The workshop was hosted in partnership with the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) and the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Research Foundation,

In conjunction with the event, NACo has also unveiled a new Web portal, Resources for Transitioning Economies at [www.diversifyeconomies.org](http://www.diversifyeconomies.org). The website is stocked with free tools, reports, case studies and other resources available to any county, community or region seeking to diversify and strengthen its local economy.

Later this year, NACo and NADO will host two more workshops. Counties and regions that are economically linked to the coal industry are invited to form teams to apply to attend a workshop and access pre- and post-workshop support.

For more information and to apply, visit [naco.org/innovationchallenge](http://naco.org/innovationchallenge) or contact Kathy Nothstine: [knothstine@naco.org](mailto:knothstine@naco.org) or Jen Horton at [jhorton@naco.org](mailto:jhorton@naco.org).

## CN JOB MARKET

**County Administrator** — Franklin County, Wash.

**Salary:** \$116,000.00 – \$121,000.00

Franklin County is accepting job applications for a County Administrator. Full Time. Full Benefits. Applicants must submit a resume and completed application to [hr@co.franklin.wa.us](mailto:hr@co.franklin.wa.us) or in person. Go to [www.co.franklin.wa.us/humanresources](http://www.co.franklin.wa.us/humanresources) for application and full job description.

Franklin County is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**Commission Administrative**

**Officer** — Minnehaha County, S.D.

**Salary:** \$3,397.60 – \$3,658.40/ biweekly

Minnehaha County in Sioux Falls, S.D. invites applications for a Commission Administrative Officer to support a Board of Commissioners by assisting in the overall leadership and direction of the county.

Assist in preparing and presenting budgets. Carry general responsibility and authority for assuring successful completion of commissioner-directed programs. Develop business relationships with legislators to provide information to advance county

legislative agenda. Oversee preparation of ordinances, resolutions, and memorandums. Assist with contracts for goods and services. Represent commissioners in contract negotiations with employee bargaining units.

Requires bachelor's degree in public or business administration and five years of experience in public administration or closely related fields. MBA, MPA, or JD preferred. Full salary range is \$3,397.60 – \$5,044.00/biweekly. Consideration for appointment above the hiring range is DOQ.

Minnehaha County offers health, dental and life insurance, a generous paid time off program, extended sick leave, retirement and an employee assistance program. Full list of qualifications and application: <http://jobs.minnehahacounty.org>. Posting deadlines June 5, 2015 at 5pm. EO/AA Employer. Contact HR with questions at 605.367.4337.

**Director of Facility Services** —

Hennepin County, Minn.

**Salary:** \$109,636.80 – \$151,480.16

We are seeking a senior-level professional who has knowledge and experience to be account-

able for leading a team of individuals who provide facility planning, and delivery of operational and capital projects and programs, while also advancing and supporting technology, security and safety within numerous Hennepin County facilities. We are seeking a leader demonstrating strategic analysis, effective communication, project and program management skills and competencies delivering operational and capital projects and programs within a multi-disciplinary team environment with varied customers and stakeholders, including executive leadership and elected officials.

Position requires a related bachelor's degree or higher and at least seven (7) years of supervisory or managerial experience.

For consideration, a resume and cover letter outlining your qualifications are required as part of the Hennepin County's online application process. To view the complete posting and access the online application visit [www.hennepin.jobs](http://www.hennepin.jobs). This posting is open until filled and candidates will be referred on a regular basis.

Contact [Leanne.Rajtar@hennepin.us](mailto:Leanne.Rajtar@hennepin.us) or 612.348.9045.

## What's in a Seal?

Beaufort County, S.C.



Beaufort County, established in 1769, went from having a board of directors to a County Council. To distinguish the county, County Council appointed an ad hoc citizen committee to hold a competition for the best Beaufort County seal design. More than 100 entries were submitted from as far away as Tennessee and Indiana. The winning image, designed by a local artist from Hilton Head Island, was selected due to its reflection of the county's history, traditions and natural beauty.

The seal's colors of blue and green represent key colors of Beaufort County's outdoor environment with its many waterways, marshlands and maritime forests. The five images within the seal depict some of the county's distinguishing features: ancient live oak trees, the seafood industry, rich natural resources and a rare marine ecology, antebellum architecture, and miles of rivers, creeks and inlets.

For the past 40 years, Beaufort County has maintained this seal and transforms its colorization for different occasions, believing it to still be relevant in illustrating important aspects of its community.

Monica N. Spells, assistant county administrator, contributed



## Franklin County, Ohio's living-wage initiative funds worker training programs with grants to employers

NEWS FROM *from page 10*

accomplishments, the ALA recognized her for successfully ensuring “that every library branch, no matter what size, had a dedicated professional youth services librarian on staff.”

ALA also mentioned that in FY12, Wake County Public Libraries offered more programs for children (7,360) than any other library system in the state, and circulated 6.3 million juvenile materials, nearly three times as many as its closest North Carolina peer institution, according to the State Library of North Carolina.

- Military veterans in five counties who had “bounced out” of the criminal justice system on nonviolent, misdemeanor offenses were invited to take advantage of **Veteran's Amnesty Day**.

Current and former military members and their spouses in **BLADEN, COLUMBUS, BRUNSWICK, NEW HANOVER** and **PENDER** counties were eligible to resolve pending nonviolent misdemeanors, failure to appear, failure to pay fines and other minor traffic matters without fear of arrest, the *Fayetteville Observer* reported.

### ►OHIO

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** has launched an initiative that will pay for training that connects people with **living-wage jobs**. The five-year, \$2.5 million People Works program will provide grants to employers for training that will keep them earning enough to support their families without county aid, though the county hasn't released specific target figures, the *Columbus Dispatch* reported.

The workforce-development initiative will be divided into three grant programs. One will offset employer costs to train workers to develop new business lines. Another pays to quickly train people receiving public assistance in technical skills needed for a job. The third allows similar companies to combine efforts to train pools of potential employees.

The county hasn't set specific goals for the number of people in the program but will require companies to meet benchmarks and will require companies to pay back money that isn't spent in the right way.

The program is the second of three economic-development plans that commissioners funded by a quarter-cent sales-tax increase in 2013. The other plans are a low-interest loan

infrastructure bank and a yet-to-be announced energy program.

### ►OREGON

State lawmakers approved a bill giving cities and counties the ability to finance loans or entice private lenders to do so, and now officials from **MULTNOMAH COUNTY** and Portland want to make it easier for some property owners to borrow money for costly **earthquake-protection seismic upgrades**.

The program would apply to commercial, industrial and multi-family residential property owners. The county would be willing to place any uncollected debt from a bank onto a lender's annual property tax bill, *The Oregonian* reported.

According to the legislation, cities and counties can use dollars they get from revenue bonds to create lending programs, or they facilitate lending for private banks. It's up to the cities and counties to establish the parameters of the programs.

*(News From the Nation's Counties is compiled by Charles Taylor and Charlie Ban, senior staff writers. If you have an item for News From, please email ctaylor@naco.org or cban@naco.org.)*

## Transportation budget authority expanded by \$72.1 billion

FY16 *from page 9*

welfare and child abuse prevention — and opposes cuts to, or elimination of, the block grant.

### Justice and Public Safety

Within the administration of justice function, the budget conference agreement calls for \$51 billion in budget authority and \$56.5 billion in outlays. This is a decrease from FY15 when new budget authority was \$54.01 billion and \$54.25 in outlays. While the impact to the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance grants — widely used by counties to support improvements to the local justice systems — are not specified, lower budget authority could mean decreased funding for programs within the justice function.

### Public Lands

Within the natural resources and environment budget function, the conference calls for new legislation to accelerate natural resource-driven eco-

nomics growth and job creation. It also paves the way for new legislation to improve management practices on federal lands and resources, provide adequate payments to counties for federal land holdings and reduce federal land holdings.

### Transportation

The conference agreement provides funding for surface transportation, aviation and safety, which the conferees direct will be “offset by reductions in transportation activities of lower priority to the federal government.”

Specifically, the agreement provides \$72.1 billion in new budget authority for transportation programs in FY16, which includes \$30.1 billion in discretionary budget authority.

The overall budget authority provided is actually an increase from both the House and Senate proposals, which called for \$36.7 billion and \$71.5 billion respectively. In addition, the agreement includes a deficit-neutral reserve fund to enact legislation to maintain the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.

**NACO** National Association of Counties

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## THE RACE TO MECKLENBURG COUNTY, N.C. BEGINS NOW

### NACo's 2015 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND EXPOSITION JULY 10 – 13

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