CN
CountyNews

Energy Sec. Granholm talks American Jobs Plan with counties

by Charlie Ban
senior writer

Stressing jobs and clean energy, U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm pitched the Biden Administration's $2 billion American Jobs Plan June 2 to county officials.

While the plan would usher in a transition toward renewable energy sources, Granholm stressed in a remote meeting with members of NACo's Energy, Environment and Land Use Steering Committee that workers in traditional energy sectors would not only have roles in a new energy economy, but there is tremendous economic potential in correcting environmental degradation caused by fossil fuels.

"We want to partner with local communities and counties

to make sure this shift to a green economy creates good-paying union jobs, spurs economic revitalization and supports energy workers in coal and oil and gas and power plant communities and environmental justice communities," she said, noting that studies indicated a $23 trillion global market for carbon capture technologies by 2030.

"The American Jobs Plan would turbocharge all of those efforts by making a historic investment in the infrastructure, allow us to live up to our environmental justice goals," Granholm said.

"Forty percent of the benefits of this massive $2 trillion investment would go to communities that have either been affected by the energy transition or been living in the shadow of power plants, where their children have to use inhalers because they can't breathe."

"We want those communities to feel the impact of the American jobs plan which would invest $78 billion in workforce development and training," she noted.

NACo President Gary Moore said that although some minor differences existed between counties' priorities and the proposed plan, "We see value in the American Jobs Plan, and we

Granholm

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San Mateo County, Calif. libraries will invest an additional $892,000 this year in summer programming.
Photo courtesy of San Mateo County Libraries

County libraries bridge COVID 'learning loss'

by Rachel Looker
staff writer

While learning loss, often known as the "summer slide," is a challenge for many students every summer, the past year of virtual and hybrid learning has created more concern in a year following the COVID-19 pandemic.

Counties and county library

systems are taking steps to combat the "summer slide" by providing resources and programming to prevent learning loss.

In New Castle County, Del., County Executive Matt Meyer, a former middle school math teacher, proposed an investment of up to $500,000 to the county council for urgent summer learning programs in

collaboration with K-12 institutions.

"We're hearing of learning loss in the base subjects of English and math where students just were not getting any sort of academic attainment, not retaining much information, not accelerating their reading performance through online

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COUNTIES USE ARP FUNDS TO BOOST TOURISM AFTER BIG PANDEMIC HIT

by Charlie Ban
senior writer

Indian River County, Fla. had some unexpected time in the sun last year, but the timing of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions still left the county feeling cold.

With funding from the $61.5 billion American Rescue Plan,

leaders in counties across the country are hoping to make up for lost revenue that their tourism operations, along with the rest of the county, missed out on during the height of the pandemic and stay on their toes bringing in new visitors and boost their vacation budgets this year.

Summertime is usually pret-

ty slow in Indian River County, but in July and August 2020, the county saw a surprising number of visitors, taking their hotel tax revenue well above typical late-summer hauls.

It's a problem most counties faced for at least part of 2020, when, particularly during the

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Counties stepping up programs for at-risk kids to prevent 'summer slide'

learning," he said.

The proposal includes a collaboration with the Red Clay Freedom School, which provides summer and after-school enrichment to support K-12 students, and Reading Assist, which provides intensive services for at-risk children facing reading challenges, as the first organizations to receive funding from the county.

"As a former math teacher, I know we'd always say, 'you learn to read and then you read to learn,'" Meyer said.

New Castle County previously launched a website for county residents to contribute ideas on where to invest American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds throughout the county, which led to the formation of five task force committees to make recommendations, one focused on early education.

"We've got to make sure that resources are not the problem," Meyer said.

While some students benefited from a hybrid or online

A child browses for books in a San Mateo County, Calif. library where the board approved an investment of nearly $900,000 to support summer programming this year. Photo courtesy of San Mateo County Libraries

learning environment, he said areas with high poverty rates are seeing significant learning loss.

"There are really some urgent issues in terms of learning loss both this summer and this fall and so we wanted to make sure we partnered with all of our public schools to support their efforts to address COVID-19-related learning loss and we did it as a matter of urgency," he said.

County libraries are also stepping up to provide summer programming with enhanced schedules of events to keep children reading during the summer.

Houston County, Ga. Public Library System Director J. Sara Paulk said the library is getting back to holding more programming events that she hopes serve as a return to in-person learning this fall.

"We're gearing up a little bit stronger and heavier this summer and we're getting a lot of good turnout," she said.

San Mateo County, Calif. Libraries launched new summer learning opportunities to help students overcome challenges from the past year with the Library's Joint Power Authority (JPA) Board approving nearly $900,000 in funding to support programming this summer.

Library JPA Governing Board Chair Reuben Holober said summer learning loss is a concern every year but has been

> "We really felt compelled to make this investment in our youth and summer programming to help ease the transition back to in-person education."
>
> - *Reuben Holober*

exacerbated because of the pandemic.

"We really felt compelled to make this investment in our youth and summer programming to help ease the transition back to in-person education," he said.

Deputy Director of Library Services Carine Risley said the library developed and expanded upon already-existing programming for the summer.

"Staff worked really hard to focus on some strategies that we felt would be most effective and beneficial this summer,"

she said.

The library expanded its Big Lift Inspiring Summers Program, usually held as a four-week camp, to five weeks, holding ratios down for more personalized attention between adults and youth.

This year, Risley said they will serve 1,100 kids in the summer, a bump from previous years due to more interest in enrollments.

"There's more need than we are serving this summer for sure," she said.

"There's a lot of demand."

The camp supports youth in the seven highest need districts with youth who aren't reading on grade level by third grade. San Mateo County Libraries will also be holding youth-only days three times per week throughout the summer using the curriculum from the Big Lift program.

Additionally, the libraries will be offering more interactive materials and experiences for families who want to work with children at home.

"Many people want to limit the number of in-person experiences they're having this summer, but we want to provide those quality enrichments and make sure people have the tools and the resources to do hands-on, project-based learning," Risley said.

To expand the reach of library programming this summer, county libraries will be working with the parks and recreation department to provide library materials and further enrich the youth experience.

"I think if this is a program that is successful, that alleviates some of the summer learning loss and provides a nourishing, enriching experience for the kids and their families, then I think that would certainly be a success," Holober said. **CN**

SNAP/STATS

2021 HURRICANE SEASON OUTLOOK

Named Storms: ..... 13-20 (winds 39 MPH or higher)
Hurricanes: .... 6-10 (winds 74 MPH or higher)
Major Hurricanes: ... 3-5 (winds 111 MPH or higher)

Source: NOAA Climate Prediction Center

Counties allocate ARP funding to help attract tourists to local businesses

pandemic's peak in the spring and summer, Americans dramatically reduced nonessential travel, which was often accompanied by two-week quaratine periods that dissuaded many travelers.

When restrictions loosened, many avoided air travel and opted for lower-key destinations.

"One of the reasons we were so quick to rebound was that we aren't Miami Beach, we aren't Fort Lauderdale," said Kristin Daniels, director of the Indian River County's office of management and budget. "We're less crowded, people didn't want to be around crowds. Our beaches are quiet, and you didn't have to wait two hours to get lunch outdoors.

"They felt safer here."

Those qualities drew people to the county, despite the late-summer heat, but it wasn't enough to make up for the damage in March and April 2020.

"March is when we collect our highest hotel taxes and see our busiest restaurants, so it definitely affected us in our highest revenue-generating month, having a statewide moratorium on short-term rentals and safer-at-home orders," Daniels said.

The Board of County Commissioners has allocated $275,000 of the county's American Rescue Plan money to the Indian River Chamber of Commerce for a repeat business campaign.

"If you've stayed in the county before, you can get a voucher to come back, stay at a hotel, get discounts for restaurants and activities like skydiving," Daniels said.

"We're hoping that will help to drive tourism in the slower summer season. We figure we already have an audience of people who have come, so we're banking on them having a good experience, they're comfortable with traveling, maybe they have the money to do so, so we're trying to encourage them to come back."

Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau gets a percentage of the Ingham Coun-

ty, Mich.'s hotel tax revenues, which were down significantly.

The County Board voted to use a portion of the $11 million allocated to small business grants for the bureau, making up their lost 2020 revenue.

"We wanted to make sure they had the resources to promote people staying local this summer and seeing more of Ingham County," said Controller Gregg Todd.

"We lose a lot of travelers to the Upper Peninsula in the summer. If our hotels are empty, that means our restaurants are empty which means the bars and everything else get hit. We're trying to get people back in Lansing.

"Our commissioners really wanted to get that first tranche of money to people and businesses who need it now."

While the pandemic is waning, it didn't wane fast enough for the 2021 Arts Festival in Centre County, Pa. In March, the festival's Board of Directors canceled the event, held in July, for the second straight year, taking one of eight big tourism weekends off the board for the central Pennsylvania county.

The festival is a high point for a community that sees vis-

itors peak in the fall for Penn State football games, though Commissioner Mark Higgins sees potential for more diversification.

The festival draws an international crowd of roughly 200 vendors, and the accompanying People's Arts Fest features 160 local artists.

"The second week in July is like a football weekend that goes on for five days," he said. "Tourism is one of our largest job creators and supports local businesses, so supporting those events and opportunities is important to our economy and quality of life here."

Centre County's commissioners allocated $49,000 in

ARP funding to the Happy Valley Adventure Bureau to promote tourism. The county's longstanding tourism grant program funds local nonprofits that attract tourists, including the Arts Fest.

"If it takes hold and gets some legs, we'll give them more," Higgins said.

"Some local nonprofits are doing scaled-down art walks this year, but we wanted to help them. Maybe we can take some of this funding and give them to these tourism-related fundraisers for the local nonprofits where there isn't the money from the grant program, because it's based on the hotel tax."

In the meantime, Centre County has highlighted its outdoor recreation resources for hiking, biking, fishing and agricultural tourism.

A burgeoning farm-to-table dining scene, sourced from local farmers, kept supply lines short when resources got scarce during the height of the pandemic.

On the southeastern edge of the state, Bucks County is still determining how much to allocate to tourism efforts, but county spokesman Larry King said the commissioners know what's at stake.

"Given recent history, and the role that travel, tourism and hospitality play in the Bucks County economy, I would suspect that the industry will be part of the decision-making conversation," he said.

"Last year, a significant allotment of Bucks County's CARES Act funding – more than $3.7 million – was directed to Visit Bucks County for use in supporting the industry in Bucks County."

Bucks County sees more than 8 million visitors annually, generating $1 billion for the local economy and supporting nearly 30,000 jobs in the travel and hospitality sector. **CN**

In a non-pandemic year, the Central Pennsylvania Festival of the Arts draws crowds larger than those at Penn State football games.

Stafford County Testbed fosters 'smart-city' technology

by Rachel Looker
staff writer

A former 7-Eleven in Stafford County, Va., is being used to help the county become a "smart community."

Located outside the county government center, the former 7-Eleven is now home to the Virginia Smart Community Testbed, one of the first in the nation built around an Internet of Things platform, according to Andrew Spence, the county's director of community engagement.

Officials held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the facility at the end of May to launch the testbed, which will fully integrate 5G and other emerging technologies.

"We like to call it a living laboratory for new generations and to foster business investments," Spence said.

The Virginia Smart Community Testbed is the first in the state and is dedicated to supporting companies as they test their products and build case studies around new technology.

Spence described how emerging technologies often need an area to test certain aspects of a project, which technology companies can do at the testbed in Stafford County.

"In today's markets, it's really hard to build up some of these emerging technologies in your garage," he said. "You need a place to develop and really test your product."

Stafford County, located between Richmond and Washington D.C., is the second fastest-growing county in Virginia. Spence said it is a prime location because it is uniquely positioned off Interstate 95.

"We're just well positioned to really have an opportunity for innovative companies who want to test certain emerging technologies in a place like this that doesn't have as much development," Spence said.

The goal of the county-owned Virginia Smart Community Testbed is to produce innovative solutions using emerging and smart technologies to help communities across the country while also implementing them in Stafford County.

Projects have already started through a partnership with Verizon which led to the installation of one of the region's first 5G towers outside the testbed. Another partnership will install flood sensors on specific county roads that frequently flood.

"We're ready to partner with all types of emerging technologies and become a smart community that really moves our community to that next future step," Spence said.

The testbed is a partnership with the Center for Innovative Technology (CIT), an extension of state government, which creates technology-based economic development strategies to increase innovation.

The partnership began when CIT Chief Technology Officer David Ihrie met with Stafford County's chief technology officer at a conference and the two discussed Stafford County's goals of becoming a "smart destination."

CIT will facilitate the space, which Ihrie said will have large television screens, furniture and space to foster collaboration. There will be full-time staff in the facility to help students or support entrepreneurs.

"The intent is that we want it to be a space where we can do educational kinds of things where we can have seminars, where we can work with entrepreneurs, maybe work with students, as well as test out different types of technology," he said.

Ihrie said he hopes the testbed validates new technologies and provides public outreach and education to the community.

"We want the testbed to be a resource for every location, every locality and certainly in the Commonwealth," he said.

Stafford County Economic Development Director John Holden described the testbed as a space that can host pilot projects around smart technology as well as a space for innovators and entrepreneurs to test products around technology.

He said the testbed is located in an area of the county that he hopes to see develop as a more urban, downtown environment, which the county does not currently have.

"It's a growing community, a suburban, bedroom community that's been seeking to define a place that would call downtown," he said. "The time is right including with this partnership with the testbed that we may be able to start the development of a more urban place that we can call downtown Stafford."

Through a partnership with RIoT, a non-profit that will act as a facilitator between the county and businesses to attract entrepreneurs, the county launched a new entrepreneur accelerator program based at the Virginia Smart Community Testbed. The program will be focused primarily on technology and the Internet of Things and bring smart technologies to the area.

He said through the project, the county has combined the idea of downtown development with CIT's desire to create a smart community while expanding entrepreneur opportunities in the area.

"It's about business retention, expansion, attraction and entrepreneurship," Holden said. **CN**

A ribbon-cutting ceremony marks the opening of the new Virginia Smart Community Testbed in Stafford County, Va.

GET TO KNOW...

Abbeville County, S.C.

Welcome, Abbeville County, S.C.

Abbeville County is located along the Savannah River that separates South Carolina from Georgia. It was founded in 1785 and named after a town in France located 20 miles from the Atlantic Ocean. The 508-square-mile county currently has a population of around 25,000.

Abbeville is the county seat and is known as the "birthplace and deathbed of the confederacy" for being the location where both an initial secessionist meeting was held and where President of the Confederate States Jefferson Davis agreed to give up the fight.

Abbeville County has many natural resources and outdoor activities at the Calhoun Falls State Park and Marina, Richard Russell Dam or the Sumter National Forest. The county is also filled with rich history. Visitors can stop by the Abbeville Opera House or the Trinity Episcopal Church founded in 1842.

John Calhoun, a famous politician and former vice president, is a native son of the county.

"Get to Know" features new NACo member counties.

Calhoun Falls State Park Photo courtesy of park via @creamsiclechica

--- BOOK EXCERPT ---

Our Darkest Hours

County executives Marcus Molinaro (Dutchess County, N.Y.) and Dan McCoy (Albany County, N.Y.) recently announced the release of "Our Darkest Hours," a new book that chronicles the county response through the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic. The book was commissioned by the New York State County Executives Association (NYSCEA) to document and share the hard lessons learned during this once-in-a-century public health crisis.

Part I of the book comes directly from the written or oral histories submitted by county executives to document what happened in their county. These riveting first-person accounts provide a glimpse into the fear, struggle, triumph and pain that local leaders faced as they worked to protect their residents from an invisible and insidious enemy.

"The work that we did to stop the spread of the virus and get our communities vaccinated may be the most important work we ever do as county leaders," said NYSCEA President Marcus Molinaro. "We felt that we owed it to the county leaders who come after us to provide an accurate and unvarnished account of what happened so that when it's their turn to step up as onsite incident commanders, they don't have to re-learn the same hard lessons that many of us did."

If you are attending the NACo Annual Conference, attendees are invited to a Q&A with *County News* and NYSAC Executive Director Stephen Acquario, Sunday, July 11, 3:45-5 p.m. Attendees will receive a free copy of the book. Below is an excerpt from the book:

Lessons Learned from COVID-19 — A National Overview

by Matt Chase, executive director, NACo

From the beginning, county officials and employees have worked tirelessly on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, in communities large and small, to preserve both the lives of our residents and our way of life.

Starting with the Great Recession, the number of county and city public health jobs decreased by more than a quarter between 2008 and 2020, losing more than twenty-five thousand positions in one thousand nine hundred forty-three local government public health agencies. Large public health departments saw nearly a one-third drop in their budgets over that time, and small county health departments experienced about a 10 percent decrease. This loss of funding has forced public health departments to shift their approach, reacting rather than anticipating threats and planning for them.

As a nation, we fund our health responses on a crisis-by-crisis basis—for H1N1 or Zika or Ebola or HIV/AIDS or opioids. This shortsighted pattern starved our public health functions. Thus, when a global pandemic like COVID-19 hits, it is no surprise the country isn't prepared. In fact, we were so unprepared that nine months after COVID-19 was detected here, there would only be two sparsely populated rural counties that did not register positive test results.

Sounding the Alarm

NACo started tracking the coronavirus early in 2020. San Diego County, California, was the first to take action, on February 14, when it declared a public health emergency so it could access state and federal funds to combat the spread of the virus. At the time, San Diego County was taking in U.S. overseas military personnel and family members from China, and the concern was that many of those individuals could be carrying COVID-19.

That was happening as NACo was adjusting the agenda for our 2020 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. We changed our programming and media tour to stress the danger posed by the virus. At a time when the national media was focused mainly on China, Europe, Washington state, California, and New York, it was essential to put counties across the nation on alert because we believed the virus would soon be moving inland from the coasts.

Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and CDC Chief Medical Officer Mitch Wolfe spoke to county officials, along with President Trump, at the NACo conference. Afterward, attendees headed home, and within a week were starting to take protective measures to slow the spread of the virus.

This was going to test counties in new, dramatic ways. Of course, preserving the lives and health of residents took precedence. Yet it was apparent that the economic consequences of life-saving measures would strain county budgets and reduce basic services. Counties were already funding human services to the tune of $58 billion annually before the pandemic, but soon we would be stacking responsibilities higher on a narrower tax base.

Financial Stability

As counties worked to save as many lives as possible, the federal and state governments worked to provide us with the resources we needed to accomplish the job.

Early on, Congress and the White House worked well together to pass a series of stimulus bills to help stabilize the economy. Congress also appropriated $500 billion for the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve to create the Municipal Lending Facility (MLF), giving state and local governments access to credit when other financing routes were blocked by the chaos in traditional financial markets. The MLF served as a backstop lender for the municipal bond market, which funds up to 80 percent of the nation's public infrastructure. That was a necessary move because investors had pulled $41 billion from that market in just a few days. Before the MLF was established, borrowing costs for local governments increased by up to 2.25 percent, and anyone who had a variable interest rate on their municipal bonds was facing dramatic increases.

The MLF and the financing opportunities it allowed for counties with populations of more than five hundred thousand was one of the most important actions the federal government took. It restored the confidence of the private markets that state and local governments and special purpose districts are still a sound investment. That not only was a lifeline to county governments, but it also calmed a jittery bond market.

A Little Help Here

That's not to overlook the impact of the overall Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act—the CARES Act. The $2.2 trillion stimulus package included the $150 billion Coronavirus Relief Fund, which supplied local governments with additional resources to pay for costs associated with fighting the pandemic. With direct payments to large counties and optional suballocations to smaller counties through state governments, counties had funding to purchase personal protective equipment, pay for social distancing measures to be installed in county facilities, and allow counties to make their own decisions about how to support our communities.

As general understanding increased around the nature of the virus's contagion, counties worked to secure non congregate housing not just for residents who needed a safe place to quarantine, but also shelter for unhoused residents who would otherwise be living in close quarters.

With extended closures to nonessential businesses adding up, counties provided services to out-of-work residents. Rental and utility assistance kept people in their homes, grants to small businesses kept the lights on, and local versions of the Paycheck Protection Program allowed businesses to pay their workers. Counties also lent a hand to the municipalities within their borders.

Some counties planned relief fund distributions with the impact of the virus in mind, directing funds to women- and minority-owned small businesses. Counties provided relief for struggling families with food procurement programs and also funded existing food banks.

As people stayed home, economic challenges, isolation, and psychological strains mounted. Counties saw increased demands on mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence programs. Social service practitioners developed new service delivery strategies to work around physical distancing.

And with workers and students alike trying to work and study from home, many found that their internet connectivity couldn't handle the load. Counties set up broadband hotspots to expand access to high-speed internet.

As the playing field changed, the Coronavirus Relief Fund supported contact tracing costs as counties tried to get a handle on the extent of the virus's spread and provided hazard pay for county employees whose work put them in contact with the virus.

There were a few drawbacks to the CARES Act. The relief fund forbade counties from using the money to replace lost revenue. And counties with populations below five hundred thousand were at the mercy of state suballocation. Counties had a December 30 deadline to spend allocations, while at the same
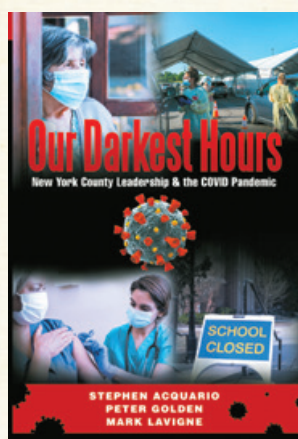
time, the pandemic had no respect for deadlines. This deadline was changed by Congress late in 2020, giving counties until the end of 2021 to spend CARES Act funds.

As late May approached, the federal response broke down along partisan lines. The Senate Republicans took a wait-and-see approach, thinking the pandemic would be short-lived. The House Democrats figured the pandemic would continue into 2021 and pushed for an additional relief package. Initially, the Trump administration sided with Senate Republicans, but as the pandemic continued, President Trump's negotiating position was closer to the House Democrats.

Senate Republicans represented states that were largely spared from the first two waves of the pandemic. Even their counties had a different experience based on their sources of local tax revenue. Counties that rely on property taxes didn't see the same impacts as those that rely on sales taxes and user fees to fund operations, such as New York counties.

Even within county governments, the effects of the pandemic varied when the courts, the clerks, and recorders—those functions that rely on user fees—saw them plummet to almost zero in March, April, and May. In many instances, the problem continues.

The Consequences of a Divided Nation

The federal government was a good banker for America's counties, but its role as a supplier needed a few attempts to adjust to the demands of the pandemic.

That was illustrated by the initial choice of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to distribute medical equipment. But PPE was a job better left to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the changeover in May was an improvement.

FEMA is accustomed to swift massive responses and brings connections with local emergency managers. While the response by the federal government has been uneven, there's been no lack of communication among federal partners.

Treating the pandemic as a disaster worthy of FEMA was apt. The nearly one quarter of all counties that have dealt with an event that rose to the level of a presidential disaster declaration were ready to react, falling back on previous plans and drawing on previous relationships built during action or in preparation. Practice doesn't always make perfect, but it cuts down on mistakes and, in this case, saved lives.

Part of the pain of the pandemic has come from facing the atrophy in our system of federalism. While we have seen disasters play out on local and regional levels, it has been a long time since a multistate emergency had federal, state, and local officials scrambling to find out who was in charge of what. Understandably, the regions that had practice and knew how to organize and communicate were better positioned to confront the virus.

If there's anything to be learned from the federal response, it's that we need a national strategy, including international collaboration. In the absence of one, states took their own approaches to combating the pandemic, which turned into a roller coaster ride.

Not having a comprehensive testing or contact tracing plan left counties with incomplete pictures of how

the virus had spread in their communities. The long incubation period of COVID-19 and the number of asymptomatic carriers were already making the challenge harder, but unreliable and incomplete information added magnitudes of difficulty.

Another consequence of the fragmented response left counties, cities, and states bidding against each other for limited supplies of PPE, sometimes negotiating with dubious suppliers at inflated rates.

The lack of a national strategy was also reflected in the divisions that formed as the stress from the pandemic continued. The virus started on the coasts and moved inward at an uneven pace. As hotspots developed in certain regions, provincialism kicked in and the delineations followed: "That's a blue state problem" or "that's an urban problem." Soon enough, by the summer, the spikes were moving through the Sun Belt, and as November began, it was in the heartland.

That "us versus them" mentality is a national weakness and creates a false sense of security for those folks who weren't caught in the first phase or hotspots. The virus doesn't respect jurisdictional boundaries, and even nine months in, we were seeing a third spike in infections as winter came and people spent more time indoors.

We're still hoping to develop a national testing strategy, along with contact tracing, so we can reopen the economy. We know that testing and vaccines will not make the virus disappear, but they will allow us to interact with more confidence than we have now. These lessons learned should inform and improve our national strategy and rollout of vaccines and treatments

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION *of* COUNTIES NACo®

2021 NACo ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JULY 9-12

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MD.

IN-PERSON AND VIRTUAL

for future pandemics.

The County Official

Even in the best of times, with record low unemployment and impressive national GDP growth, counties were still facing headwinds. There are a host of issues that are challenging; if you add a global pandemic on top of that, along with social unrest and a contentious election, local officials get caught in a perfect storm.

You can have legitimate policy arguments around our response, but we should all have shared values that the role of government is to protect and serve our residents. We can achieve this in a way that still protects our civil liberties. We wish we didn't have to mandate masks. We wish that people would behave responsibly.

By no means are county officials perfect, but they have nowhere to hide from constituents. They grew up and live in the communities they serve. They're not picking up their briefcase and flying off to a distant location. At their best, they have the mindset that "we can succeed if we have a shared vision and remember that all of us are in this together." They're always around to hear residents' needs, complaints, and suggestions. Without question, they are our most responsive level of government.

Even so, it's hard for local elected officials to find a balance that pleases everyone while struggling to decide whether to try to keep people or the economy alive. Those are lose-lose situations. Often, those tensions boil over, like a customer slapping the hand of a Texas county judge who offered him a face mask in a store. It's the county official's job to remain calm and project that calm to constituents.

We have been siding with protecting life and looking at how we can safeguard people while restoring our economy. You can always bring back an economy, but the heartbreak of losing loved ones lingers forever.

And if the pandemic wasn't enough, county leaders are still responsible for maintaining infrastructure, working with elections administrators, managing criminal justice reform, and more. The world doesn't stop because of COVID-19.

Where counties excelled was their focus on problem solving. How can we help people in need? How can we figure out how best to deliver scarce resources? This mentality has delivered unprecedented levels of collaboration with chambers of commerce and learning how to help small businesses and manufacturers. Counties are using the bulk of federal aid not to fund our own operations, but to inject resources into our communities. We're seeing counties help the smallest of the small businesses and the nonprofit sector in an even greater way than before the pandemic. The comeback won't be easy, but it would have been far harder without the partnerships developed over the last nine months.

We saw some wins for counties start to bear fruit. As e-commerce exploded with residents staying home, the Marketplace Fairness Act brought tax revenue to rural communities that aren't traditional shopping centers.

We should never be complacent, and that's the role of public-sector leaders, dispensing optimism about our future and preparing us for the darker hours—some of them predictable, others that will catch us off guard.

COVID-19 taught county leaders three important lessons. The first: Long-term planning matters. This means practicing for a disaster, knowing who you need to talk to and who your partners can be. The second: Saving funds during the best of times to prepare for the worst of times is crucial. The costs to fix something that has been turned upside down are astronomical. The third: We've learned that there is no such thing as a status quo, and we need to be ready whether it's a global pandemic and waves of unemployment, terrorist attack, or a natural disaster. Getting ready to fight a future emergency is hard and expensive work. But it leads us to the most important question of all: Can a great nation that wants to remain great afford to do any less?

Granholm: American Jobs Plan 'allow us to live up to our environmental justice goals'

want to help," he said.

"We believe that now is the time to seize this exceptional moment and deliver investments that will enhance the quality of life for Americans across the country and help improve our global competitiveness from the bottom up."

EELU Chairwoman Melissa Cribbins, from Coos County, Ore., told said that her committee's priorities are addressing ongoing and emerging threats due to climate change, a comprehensive energy policy, increasing liquid gas infrastructure and supporting electric vehicles.

"This national energy policy must give local governments a central role in formulating local environment, energy and land use policies, as well as support for environmental equity issues," Cribbins said.

"We are supportive of clean energy block grants for state, tribal and local governments to support policies on zero-carbon power as long as they include city populations in the overall

U.S. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm addresses NACo members on June 2.

county population numbers," she noted.

"Any time we discuss zero-carbon power, we do get concerned about the impacts on local economies since the tax base for many of our communities is focused on energy production," she said.

Granholm also heard from county officials about their individual efforts and goals for how the future of energy policy would play out in their counties. Los Angeles County, Calif.

Supervisor Hilda Solis, a former labor secretary in the Obama administration, voiced her hopes for adding to the green energy workforce.

"One of my big aspirations is to get more of our young people into green jobs, so using programs like the green path career program, transitioning foster youth into these programs, is one our big priorities here because we have a large population of foster youth," she said.

"We've been working on

workforce development with our industries, especially Metro, working in partnership with new up and coming bus operators, developing the batteries and the whole production cycle and building out manufacturing facilities here in Southern California, doing it in partnership with community colleges and also with re-entering individuals who were formerly homeless or veterans."

Oil is the king in Houston, but Harris County Commissioner

Adrian Garcia has other plans for the third-largest U.S. county.

"My goal is to make it the clean energy capital of the country," he said. In addition to representing the precinct with the lowest median income, home ownership rate, educational attainment rate, his residents sport the highest rate of children and families without health insurance.

"If that's not bad enough [my precinct] also owns the highest rate of diagnosed cancer, nearly, in Texas, so having environmental justice be a hallmark of this administration is critical, and I applaud you for taking that on," he said.

"Because the fossil fuel industry is so prevalent in Harris County and prevalent in my precinct," he noted, "making sure that we're working with you to provide the education and the training necessary to ensure that our folks in the industry...recognize that there is a job waiting for them, they just have to get prepared for it. Ensuring that there is a smooth transition to thar brighter, cleaner future is critical." **CN**

Designate voting delegate for Annual Business Meeting

NACo's 2021 annual business meeting (ABM) and election will be held in-person at the Gaylord National Resort & Convention Center in Prince George's County, Md. and virtually on Monday, July 12. During the ABM, credentialed NACo members elect NACo officers, set our national policy agenda and conduct other association business.

Voting credentials verify a member county, parish or borough's eligibility to vote and the number of votes available to cast at the ABM. To be eligible to vote, please:

• Register for the 2021 Annual Conference

• Pay 2021 NACo membership dues in full, and

• Designate one voting delegate by Friday, July 9, 2021 at 5 p.m. ET.

Members are encouraged to authorize one primary voting delegate per county and must provide the cell phone number of the voting delegate. County chief elected officials, clerks to the county board and conference registrants can visit the voting credentials portal at *NACo.org/VotingCredentials* to assign a primary voting delegate or proxy. A proxy voter can be another county attendee from the same state or your state association of counties.

Paper voting credential forms will not be mailed to member counties but can be accessed electronically by visiting *NACo.org/VotingCredentials.*

Any changes to a county's primary voting delegate can be made using the online voting credentials portal by Friday, July 9 at 5 p.m. ET. Should any changes be required during the conference, members can visit the on-site credentials desk or call the credentials support hotline before Sunday, July 11 at 5 p.m. ET.

All in-person and virtual primary voting delegates and proxies will cast their votes during the business meeting electronically using a secure system called Election Buddy. Primary voting delegates and proxies will be invited to several training webinars to learn how to access Election Buddy and practice casting votes.

Primary voting delegates can register for the training webinars by visiting *NACo.org/Webinars*. Trainings are scheduled for:

● Monday, June 21 at 2:30-3:30 p.m. ET

● Thursday, June 24 at 4-5 p.m. ET

● Wednesday, July 7 at 4-5 p.m. ET

More information about the voting credentials process and delegate appointment can be accessed at www.NACo.org/VotingCredentials or by emailing credentials@naco.org.

ON THE MOVE

(L-r) Whitney, Joyce, Espy, Chilcott and Past President Joel Bousman of Sublette County, Wyo.

NACo OFFICERS

• The WIR Board of Directors met recently in Ravalli County, Mont. and elected Beaver County, Utah Commissioner **Mark Whitney** president; Malheur County, Ore. Judge **Dan Joyce** first vice president; Carbon County, Wyo. Commissioner **John Espy** second vice president and Ravalli County, Mont. Commissioner **Greg Chilcott** immediate past president.

- -

NACo STAFF

• **Monica Walker** has joined NACo as a staff accountant. She previously worked at the National Association of Chain Drug Stores, Front Point Security, and the Federal Bar Association.
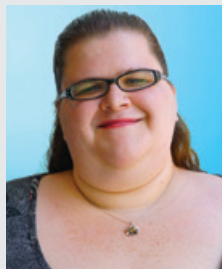
• Executive Director **Matt Chase** spoke to members of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, the Association of Indiana Counties, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners and the South Carolina Association of Counties.

• Chief Information Officer **Rita Reynolds** participated in a roundtable discussion on IT Supply Chain Risk Management facilitated by the National Association of State Procurement Officials.

• Reynolds also presented at the Texas Association of Counties Technology Workshops "Evolving to Adapt & Secure - County Technology in a New Administration" and "A New Norm."
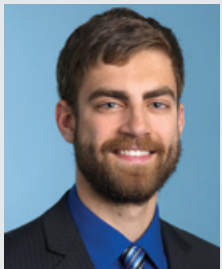
• Associate Legislative Director **Eryn Hurley** spoke to the Association of Oregon Counties about the ARP State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund.

• Hurley also spoke to Colorado Counties, Inc. in Eagle County, along with West Region Representative **Joe Briggs** and Associate Membership Director **John Losh**.

• Program Manager **Arabella Pluta-Ehlers** took part in the Child Care Services Association Moving the Needle Summit.

• Associate Research Director **Jonathan Harris** gave a workforce overview to NACo's West Region Caucus.

• Losh and Membership Director **Kim Hall** presented at the Association of Minnesota Counties' Virtual New Commissioner Training.

Walker

Pluta-Ehlers

Harris

BEHIND THE SEAL

CLAY COUNTY, Fla.

Clay County, Fla. adopted its current seal in 2017 after receiving a grant to redesign the county logo and seal. The seal represents the county's six "passion pillars" of family, faith, military heritage, natural amenities, drive for the future and distinct small towns.

Images of water and a tree symbolize the natural resources found in Clay County, which sits on the banks of the St. John's River and is home to state parks, state forests and an expansive county park system.

A skyline features the county courthouse with a flag flying.

A steeple in the skyline and "In God We Trust" around the perimeter of the seal represent the county's passion pillar of faith.

With the county home to 38,000 veterans and close to a military base, the stars on the outer perimeter represent the county's patriotism and support for veterans in the community.

Sun rays depict how Clay County, one of 18 "Clay Counties" in the United States, is located in the Sunshine State of Florida.

If you would like your county's seal featured in "Behind the Seal," contact Rachel Looker at rlooker@naco.org.

2021 NACo ELECTION
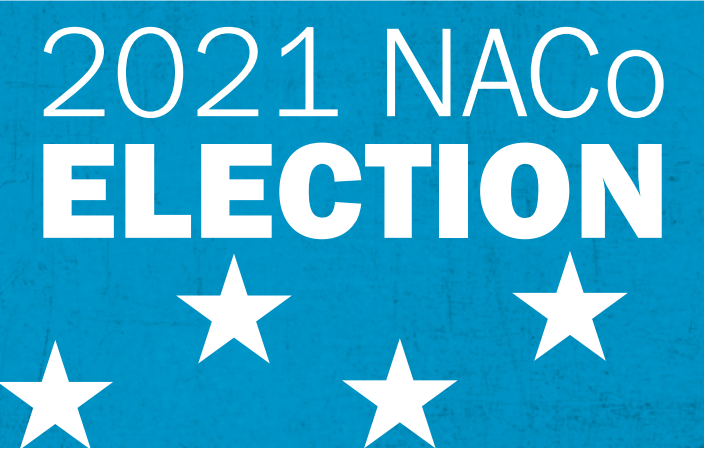
During NACo's 2021 Annual Conference in Prince George's County, Md., delegates from member counties will cast their votes for a new executive leadership team and new policy positions for the American County Platform. Following are the vote totals for each member county. The number of votes assigned to each county is based on a formula that awards one vote for every $1,200 (or fraction thereof) paid in NACo dues.

County delegates must be present at the Annual Business Meeting, set for Monday, July 12, to cast their vote.

Alabama

Autauga County 1
Baldwin County 3
Barbour County 1
Bibb County 1
Blount County 1
Bullock County 1
Butler County 1
Calhoun County 2
Chambers County 1
Cherokee County 1
Chilton County 1
Choctaw County 1
Clarke County 1
Clay County 1
Cleburne County 1
Coffee County 1
Colbert County 1
Conecuh County 1
Coosa County 1
Covington County 1
Crenshaw County 1
Cullman County 2
Dale County 1
Dallas County 1
DeKalb County 2
Elmore County 2
Escambia County 1
Etowah County 2
Fayette County 1
Franklin County 1
Geneva County 1
Greene County 1
Hale County 1
Henry County 1
Houston County 2
Jackson County 1
Jefferson County 11
Lamar County 1
Lauderdale County 2
Lawrence County 1
Lee County 3
Limestone County 2
Lowndes County 1
Macon County 1
Madison County 6
Marengo County 1
Marion County 1
Marshall County 2
Mobile County 7
Monroe County 1
Montgomery County 4
Morgan County 2
Perry County 1
Pickens County 1

Pike County 1
Randolph County 1
Russell County 1
Shelby County 3
St. Clair County 2
Sumter County 1
Talladega County 2
Tallapoosa County 1
Tuscaloosa County 4
Walker County 2
Washington County 1
Wilcox County 1
Winston County 1

Total 113

Alaska

Aleutians East Borough ... 1
Anchorage Municipality ... 5
Bristol Bay Borough 1
City and Borough
of Juneau 1
City and Borough of Sitka 1
City and Borough of
Wrangell 1
City and Borough of
Yakutat 1
Denali Borough 1
Fairbanks North Star
Borough 2
Haines Borough 1
Kenai Peninsula Borough . 1
Ketchikan Gateway
Borough 1
Kodiak Island Borough 1
Lake And Peninsula
Borough 1
Matanuska-Susitna
Borough 2
North Slope Borough 1
Northwest Arctic Borough 1
Petersburg Borough 1
Skagway Borough 1

Total 25

Arkansas

Arkansas County 1
Ashley County 1
Baxter County 1
Benton County 3
Boone County 1
Bradley County 1
Calhoun County 1
Carroll County 1
Chicot County 1
Clark County 1

Clay County 1
Cleburne County 1
Cleveland County 1
Columbia County 1
Conway County 1
Craighead County 2
Crawford County 1
Crittenden County 1
Cross County 1
Dallas County 1
Desha County 1
Drew County 1
Faulkner County 2
Franklin County 1
Fulton County 1
Garland County 2
Grant County 1
Greene County 1
Hempstead County 1
Hot Spring County 1
Howard County 1
Independence County 1
Izard County 1
Jackson County 1
Jefferson County 2
Johnson County 1
Lafayette County 1
Lawrence County 1
Lee County 1
Lincoln County 1
Little River County 1
Logan County 1
Lonoke County 1
Madison County 1
Marion County 1
Miller County 1
Mississippi County 1
Monroe County 1
Montgomery County 1
Nevada County 1
Newton County 1
Ouachita County 1
Perry County 1
Phillips County 1
Pike County 1
Poinsett County 1
Polk County 1
Pope County 2
Prairie County 1
Pulaski County 7
Randolph County 1
Saline County 2
Scott County 1
Searcy County 1
Sebastian County 3

Sevier County 1
Sharp County 1
St. Francis County 1
Stone County 1
Union County 1
Van Buren County 1
Washington County 3
White County 2
Woodruff County 1
Yell County 1

Total 94

Arizona

Apache County 2
Cochise County 3
Coconino County 3
Gila County 1
Graham County 1
Greenlee County 1
La Paz County 1
Maricopa County 42
Mohave County 3
Navajo County 2
Pima County 16
Pinal County 3
Santa Cruz County 1
Yavapai County 3
Yuma County 3

Total 85

California

Alameda County 26
Alpine County 1
Amador County 1
Butte County 4
Calaveras County 1
Colusa County 1
Contra Costa County 18
Del Norte County 1
El Dorado County 3
Fresno County 16
Glenn County 1
Humboldt County 3
Imperial County 3
Inyo County 1
Kern County 13
Kings County 3
Lake County 2
Lassen County 1
Los Angeles County 51
Madera County 3
Marin County 5
Mariposa County 1
Mendocino County 2

Merced County 4
Modoc County 1
Mono County 1
Monterey County 7
Napa County 3
Nevada County 2
Orange County 42
Placer County 5
Plumas County 1
Riverside County 29
Sacramento County 24
San Benito County 1
San Bernardino County . 33
San Diego County 42
San Francisco City and
County 14
San Joaquin County 11
San Luis Obispo County ... 5
San Mateo County 12
Santa Barbara County 8
Santa Clara County 30
Santa Cruz County 5
Shasta County 3
Sierra County 1
Siskiyou County 1
Solano County 7
Sonoma County 9
Stanislaus County 9
Sutter County 2
Tehama County 2
Trinity County 1
Tulare County 8
Tuolumne County 1
Ventura County 14
Yolo County 4
Yuba County 2

Total 505

Colorado

Adams County 7
Alamosa County 1
Arapahoe County 10
Archuleta County 1
Baca County 1
Bent County 1
Boulder County 5
Broomfield City
and County 1
Chaffee County 1
Cheyenne County 1
Clear Creek County 1
Conejos County 1
Crowley County 1
Custer County 1
Delta County 1

Dolores County 1
Douglas County 3
Eagle County 1
El Paso County 10
Elbert County 1
Fremont County 1
Garfield County 1
Gilpin County 1
Grand County 1
Gunnison County 1
Hinsdale County 1
Huerfano County 1
Jackson County 1
Kit Carson County 1
La Plata County 1
Lake County 1
Larimer County 5
Las Animas County 1
Lincoln County 1
Logan County 1
Mesa County 3
Mineral County 1
Moffat County 1
Montezuma County 1
Montrose County 1
Morgan County 1
Otero County 1
Ouray County 1
Park County 1
Phillips County 1
Pitkin County 1
Prowers County 1
Pueblo County 3
Rio Blanco County 1
Rio Grande County 1
Routt County 1
Saguache County 1
San Juan County 1
San Miguel County 1
Sedgwick County 1
Summit County 1
Teller County 1
Weld County 4
Yuma County 1

Total 100

District Of Columbia

District Of Columbia 11

Total 11

Delaware

Kent County 3
New Castle County 9
Sussex County 3

Total 15

Florida

Alachua County 5
Baker County 1
Bay County 3
Brevard County 10
Broward County........... 30
Calhoun County 1
Charlotte County 3
Citrus County 3
Clay County.................... 3
Collier County................. 5
Columbia County............ 2
DeSoto County................ 1
Dixie County................... 1
Duval County/City of
Jacksonville 15
Escambia County 5
Flagler County 1
Franklin County 1
Gadsden County 1
Gilchrist County.............. 1
Glades County 1
Gulf County 1
Hamilton County 1
Hendry County 1
Hernando County 3
Highlands County 2
Hillsborough County 19
Holmes County................ 1
Indian River County 3
Jackson County............... 1
Jefferson County 1
Lafayette County 1
Lake County 4
Lee County...................... 9
Leon County.................... 5
Levy County 1
Liberty County................. 1
Madison County 1
Manatee County.............. 5
Marion County 5
Martin County 3
Miami-Dade County 42
Monroe County 2
Nassau County................ 2
Okaloosa County............. 4
Okeechobee County 1
Orange County 16
Osceola County............... 3
Palm Beach County 21
Pasco County.................. 7
Pinellas County 16
Polk County.................... 10
Putnam County 2
Santa Rosa County.......... 3
Sarasota County 7
Seminole County............. 7
St. Johns County 3
St. Lucie County 4
Suwannee County 1
Taylor County 1
Union County 1
Volusia County 9
Wakulla County 1
Walton County................ 1
Washington County 1

Total 326

Georgia

Appling County................ 1
Athens-Clarke County...... 2
Atkinson County 1
Augusta-Richmond County 4
Bacon County 1
Baker County 1
Baldwin County 1
Banks County.................. 1
Barrow County 1
Bartow County 2
Ben Hill County 1
Bleckley County 1
Brooks County................. 1
Bryan County 1
Bulloch County 2
Butts County 1
Camden County 1
Carroll County 2
Catoosa County 1
Charlton County 1
Chatham County 5
Cherokee County............. 3
Clayton County................ 5
Clinch County................. 1
Cobb County 11
Colquitt County 1
Columbia County............ 2
Columbus-Muscogee
County 4
Cook County 1
Crawford County 1
Crisp County 1
Cusseta-Chattahoochee
County 1
Dade County 1
Dawson County 1
DeKalb County 12
Dodge County 1
Dougherty County 2
Douglas County.............. 2
Echols County 1
Effingham County............ 1
Elbert County 1
Emanuel County.............. 1
Evans County 1
Fannin County................ 1
Fayette County 2
Floyd County 2
Forsyth County 2
Fulton County............... 16
Georgetown-Quitman
County 1
Gilmer County 1
Glascock County 1
Glynn County 2
Gordon County............... 1
Grady County 1
Gwinnett County........... 10
Habersham County 1
Hall County 3
Hancock County.............. 1
Haralson County.............. 1
Harris County 1
Hart County.................... 1
Henry County 2
Houston County 3
Irwin County................... 1

Jackson County 1
Jeff Davis County............. 1
Jefferson County 1
Jenkins County................ 1
Jones County 1
Lamar County................. 1
Lee County..................... 1
Liberty County................. 2
Lincoln County 1
Long County.................... 1
Lowndes County............. 2
Lumpkin County 1
Macon County................. 1
Macon-Bibb County 3
Marion County 1
McDuffie County............. 1
McIntosh County............. 1
Meriwether County 1
Mitchell County 1
Monroe County 1
Montgomery County 1
Morgan County................ 1
Murray County................ 1
Newton County 2
Oconee County 1
Oglethorpe County 1
Paulding County............. 2
Peach County.................. 1
Pierce County................. 1
Polk County.................... 1
Pulaski County 1
Putnam County 1
Rabun County 1
Randolph County 1
Rockdale County 2
Schley County 1
Screven County 1
Spalding County.............. 2
Stephens County............. 1
Stewart County 1
Sumter County 1
Talbot County 1
Taylor County 1
Thomas County 1
Tift County 1
Toombs County 1
Towns County 1
Troup County.................. 2
Twiggs County 1
Union County 1
Upson County 1
Walker County................. 2
Walton County................ 1
Ware County 1
Warren County 1
Wayne County 1
Webster County............... 1
Wheeler County.............. 1
White County 1
Whitfield County............. 2
Wilkinson County 1
Worth County 1

Total 214

Hawaii

Hawaii County 3
Honolulu City and County 16

Kauai County 2
Maui County.................... 3

Total 24

Iowa

Adair County 1
Allamakee County 1
Appanoose County.......... 1
Benton County 1
Black Hawk County.......... 3
Boone County 1
Bremer County 1
Buchanan County............ 1
Buena Vista County......... 1
Butler County 1
Calhoun County 1
Carroll County 1
Cedar County 1
Cerro Gordo County......... 1
Cherokee County............. 1
Chickasaw County........... 1
Clarke County................. 1
Clay County.................... 1
Clayton County................ 1
Clinton County 1
Crawford County 1
Dallas County................. 1
Davis County.................. 1
Des Moines County 1
Dickinson County 1
Dubuque County 2
Emmet County 1
Franklin County 1
Fremont County............... 1
Greene County 1
Grundy County 1
Hamilton County 1
Hardin County 1
Harrison County 1
Henry County 1
Howard County............... 1
Humboldt County 1
Jackson County............... 1
Jasper County 1
Johnson County............... 3
Jones County 1
Kossuth County............... 1
Lee County..................... 1
Linn County.................... 4
Lucas County 1
Lyon County 1
Mahaska County 1
Marion County 1
Marshall County.............. 1
Mills County 1
Mitchell County 1
Monona County............... 1
Montgomery County 1
Osceola County............... 1
Page County................... 1
Palo Alto County.............. 1
Plymouth County............. 1
Pocahontas County......... 1
Polk County.................... 8
Pottawattamie County..... 2
Poweshiek County 1
Sac County 1
Scott County 3

Shelby County................. 1
Sioux County.................. 1
Story County 2
Tama County 1
Union County 1
Wapello County 1
Warren County 1
Washington County 1
Wayne County 1
Webster County............... 1
Winnebago County 1
Winneshiek County......... 1
Woodbury County........... 2
Worth County 1
Wright County 1

Total 98

Idaho

Ada County 6
Adams County................. 1
Bannock County.............. 2
Bear Lake County 1
Benewah County 1
Bingham County.............. 1
Blaine County 1
Boise County.................. 1
Bonner County 1
Bonneville County 2
Boundary County 1
Butte County................... 1
Camas County................. 1
Canyon County................ 3
Caribou County 1
Cassia County................. 1
Clark County 1
Clearwater County.......... 1
Custer County 1
Elmore County................ 1
Franklin County 1
Fremont County............... 1
Gem County.................... 1
Gooding County 1
Idaho County 1
Jefferson County 1
Jerome County 1
Kootenai County.............. 2
Latah County 1
Lemhi County.................. 1
Lewis County.................. 1
Lincoln County 1
Madison County 1
Minidoka County 1
Nez Perce County 1
Oneida County 1
Owyhee County 1
Payette County................ 1
Power County.................. 1
Shoshone County............ 1
Teton County 1
Twin Falls County............ 2
Valley County 1
Washington County 1

Total 55

Illinois

Alexander County 1
Bond County 1
Boone County 1
Brown County.................. 1

Bureau County 1
Calhoun County 1
Carroll County 1
Cass County.................... 1
Champaign County.......... 4
Christian County............. 1
Clark County 1
Clay County.................... 1
Clinton County 1
Cook County 49
Crawford County 1
Cumberland County 1
De Witt County 1
DeKalb County 2
DuPage County 16
Edgar County 1
Edwards County 1
Effingham County............ 1
Fayette County 1
Fulton County.................. 1
Gallatin County 1
Grundy County 1
Hamilton County 1
Henderson County........... 1
Henry County 1
Iroquois County............... 1
Jackson County 2
Jasper County 1
Jefferson County 1
Jo Daviess County 1
Johnson County.............. 1
Kane County 8
Kankakee County 2
Kendall County................ 1
Knox County................... 1
Lake County 12
LaSalle County................ 2
Lawrence County............. 1
Lee County..................... 1
Livingston County........... 1
Logan County.................. 1
Macon County................. 2
Madison County 5
Marion County 1
Marshall County.............. 1
Mason County................. 1
Massac County 1
McDonough County......... 1
McHenry County.............. 5
McLean County 3
Menard County 1
Monroe County 1
Montgomery County 1
Morgan County................ 1
Moultrie County............... 1
Ogle County 1
Peoria County 4
Perry County 1
Piatt County 1
Pike County.................... 1
Pope County 1
Pulaski County 1
Putnam County 1
Randolph County 1
Richland County.............. 1
Saline County.................. 1
Schuyler County 1
Shelby County................. 1

St. Clair County 5
Stark County 1
Stephenson County 1
Tazewell County 3
Union County 1
Wabash County 1
Warren County 1
Washington County 1
Wayne County 1
White County 1
Whiteside County 1
Will County..................... 9
Williamson County 2
Winnebago County 5
Woodford County 1

Total 208

Indiana
Adams County................. 1
Allen County.................... 6
Bartholomew County....... 2
Benton County 1
Blackford County............. 1
Boone County 1
Brown County.................. 1
Clinton County 1
Daviess County 1
Dearborn County............. 1
Decatur County 1
Dubois County 1
Elkhart County 4
Floyd County 2
Franklin County 1
Fulton County................. 1
Gibson County 1
Greene County 1
Hamilton County 3
Harrison County 1
Hendricks County 2
Henry County 1
Indianapolis and Marion County 16
Jay County 1
Jennings County.............. 1
Johnson County.............. 3
Knox County................... 1
Kosciusko County............ 2
Lake County.................... 9
LaPorte County 2
Madison County 3
Marshall County 1
Monroe County 3
Montgomery County 1
Morgan County............... 2
Newton County 1
Noble County 1
Ohio County 1
Owen County................... 1
Parke County................... 1
Perry County 1
Pike County.................... 1
Posey County 1
Pulaski County 1
Putnam County 1
Randolph County 1
Rush County................... 1
Shelby County................. 1
Spencer County............... 1
Steuben County............... 1

Sullivan County 1
Switzerland County 1
Tipton County................. 1
Vanderburgh County........ 3
Vermillion County 1
Vigo County.................... 2
Warrick County 1
Washington County 1
Wayne County 2
Wells County 1
White County 1

Total 110

Kansas
Allen County.................... 1
Atchison County 1
Barber County 1
Bourbon County 1
Brown County.................. 1
Butler County 2
Cloud County 1
Coffey County................. 1
Crawford County 1
Decatur County 1
Dickinson County 1
Douglas County............... 2
Elk County...................... 1
Ellis County 1
Ellsworth County 1
Finney County 1
Ford County 1
Franklin County 1
Geary County 1
Gove County 1
Graham County............... 1
Greeley County............... 1
Greenwood County.......... 1
Hamilton County 1
Harvey County................ 1
Haskell County 1
Jackson County 1
Jefferson County 1
Jewell County 1
Johnson County.............. 9
Labette County 1
Leavenworth County........ 2
Linn County.................... 1
Marion County 1
Marshall County 1
McPherson County 1
Miami County.................. 1
Mitchell County 1
Morris County................. 1
Nemaha County 1
Neosho County 1
Ness County 1
Norton County................. 1
Osage County.................. 1
Phillips County 1
Pottawatomie County 1
Pratt County................... 1
Rawlins County 1
Reno County 2
Republic County.............. 1
Rice County.................... 1
Riley County................... 2
Rooks County................. 1
Russell County 1
Saline County................. 1

Sedgwick County............. 9
Seward County................ 1
Shawnee County 3
Sheridan County 1
Sherman County 1
Smith County.................. 1
Stafford County............... 1
Stanton County 1
Stevens County 1
Trego County 1
Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City 3
Wilson County 1

Total 92

Kentucky
Adair County 1
Allen County.................... 1
Anderson County............. 1
Ballard County 1
Barren County................. 1
Bath County.................... 1
Bell County 1
Boone County 2
Bourbon County 1
Boyd County 1
Boyle County................... 1
Bracken County............... 1
Breathitt County.............. 1
Breckinridge County 1
Bullitt County 2
Butler County 1
Caldwell County 1
Calloway County.............. 1
Campbell County............. 2
Carlisle County 1
Carroll County 1
Carter County................. 1
Casey County 1
Christian County.............. 2
Clark County 1
Clay County.................... 1
Clinton County 1
Crittenden County 1
Cumberland County 1
Daviess County 2
Edmonson County 1
Elliott County 1
Estill County................... 1
Fleming County 1
Floyd County 1
Franklin County 1
Fulton County................. 1
Gallatin County 1
Garrard County............... 1
Grant County.................. 1
Graves County 1
Grayson County............... 1
Green County 1
Greenup County 1
Hancock County............. 1
Hardin County................ 2
Harlan County................ 1
Harrison County 1
Hart County.................... 1
Henderson County........... 1
Henry County 1
Hickman County 1

Hopkins County............... 1
Jackson County............... 1
Jessamine County 1
Johnson County.............. 1
Kenton County 3
Knott County.................. 1
Knox County................... 1
LaRue County.................. 1
Laurel County.................. 1
Lawrence County............. 1
Lee County..................... 1
Leslie County 1
Letcher County 1
Lewis County.................. 1
Lexington-Fayette County 5
Lincoln County 1
Livingston County........... 1
Logan County.................. 1
Louisville Jefferson County Metro Government 13
Lyon County 1
Madison County 2
Magoffin County.............. 1
Marion County 1
Marshall County.............. 1
Martin County 1
Mason County................. 1
McCracken County 2
McCreary County............. 1
McLean County 1
Meade County................. 1
Menifee County 1
Mercer County................ 1
Metcalfe County.............. 1
Monroe County 1
Montgomery County........ 1
Morgan County............... 1
Muhlenberg County 1
Nelson County................. 1
Nicholas County.............. 1
Ohio County 1
Oldham County 1
Owen County.................. 1
Owsley County 1
Pendleton County........... 1
Perry County 1
Pike County.................... 2
Powell County 1
Pulaski County 2
Robertson County 1
Rockcastle County........... 1
Rowan County................. 1
Russell County 1
Scott County 1
Shelby County................. 1
Simpson County.............. 1
Spencer County.............. 1
Taylor County 1
Todd County................... 1
Trigg County 1
Trimble County 1
Union County 1
Warren County 2
Washington County 1
Wayne County 1
Webster County............... 1
Whitley County 1
Wolfe County.................. 1

Woodford County 1

Total 149

Louisiana
Acadia Parish 2
Allen Parish.................... 1
Ascension Parish............. 2
Beauregard Parish........... 1
Bienville Parish................ 1
Bossier Parish 2
Caddo Parish 5
Calcasieu Parish 4
Caldwell Parish................ 1
Cameron Parish 1
Claiborne Parish.............. 1
Concordia Parish............. 1
DeSoto Parish 1
East Baton Rouge Parish.. 8
East Feliciana Parish 1
Evangeline Parish 1
Franklin Parish 1
Grant Parish 1
Iberia Parish.................... 2
Iberville Parish................ 1
Jackson Parish 1
Jefferson Davis Parish...... 1
Jefferson Parish............... 8
Lafayette Consolidated Government 4
Lafourche Parish 2
LaSalle Parish 1
Lincoln Parish 1
Livingston Parish 2
Madison Parish 1
Natchitoches Parish 1
Orleans Parish................. 8
Ouachita Parish.............. 3
Plaquemines Parish......... 1
Pointe Coupee Parish 1
Rapides Parish 3
Red River Parish 1
Sabine Parish.................. 1
St. Bernard Parish 2
St. Charles Parish............ 1
St. Helena Parish............. 1
St. James Parish.............. 1
St. John The Baptist Parish 1
St. Landry Parish 2
St. Martin Parish 1
St. Mary Parish................ 1
St. Tammany Parish......... 4
Tangipahoa Parish........... 2
Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government 2
Vermilion Parish 1
Vernon Parish................. 1
Washington Parish 1
Webster Parish 1
West Baton Rouge Parish. 1
West Feliciana Parish 1
Winn Parish.................... 1

Total 103

Massachusetts
Barnstable County 1
Bristol County 1
Nantucket County............ 1
Norfolk County 1

Woodford County 1

Total 149

Plymouth County............. 1

Total 5

Maryland
Allegany County 2
Anne Arundel County....... 9
Baltimore City 11
Baltimore County 14
Calvert County 2
Caroline County 1
Carroll County 3
Cecil County................... 2
Charles County............... 3
Dorchester County 1
Frederick County 4
Garrett County 1
Harford County............... 5
Howard County............... 5
Kent County 1
Montgomery County 17
Prince George's County . 15
Queen Anne's County 1
Somerset County............. 1
St. Mary's County 2
Talbot County 1
Washington County 3
Wicomico County 2
Worcester County............ 1

Total 107

Maine
Androscoggin County 2
Aroostook County............ 2
Cumberland County 5
Hancock County.............. 1
Kennebec County 3
Knox County................... 1
Lincoln County 1
Oxford County 1
Penobscot County 3
Piscataquis County 1
Sagadahoc County.......... 1
Somerset County............. 1
Washington County 1
York County.................... 4

Total 27

Michigan
Alger County................... 1
Allegan County................ 2
Antrim County 1
Bay County 2
Branch County 1
Calhoun County 3
Charlevoix County........... 1
Cheboygan County 1
Clare County 1
Clinton County 2
Crawford County 1
Delta County 1
Dickinson County 1
Emmet County 1
Gogebic County.............. 1
Grand Traverse County..... 2
Houghton County 1
Huron County................. 1
Iosco County 1
Iron County 1
Isabella County 2

Wayne County, Michigan's Alisha Bell takes to the microphone at NACo's 2019 Annual Business Meeting and Election in Clark County, Nev.

County	
Jackson County	3
Kalamazoo County	5
Kent County	11
Lake County	1
Leelanau County	1
Lenawee County	2
Mackinac County	1
Macomb County	15
Manistee County	1
Marquette County	2
Midland County	2
Missaukee County	1
Montcalm County	2
Muskegon County	3
Newaygo County	1
Oakland County	21
Oceana County	1
Ontonagon County	1
Osceola County	1
Oscoda County	1
Otsego County	1
Ottawa County	5
Roscommon County	1
Saginaw County	4
St. Clair County	3
Tuscola County	1
Washtenaw County	6
Wayne County	32
Wexford County	1
Total	**158**

Minnesota

County	
Aitkin County	1
Anoka County	6
Becker County	1
Beltrami County	1
Benton County	1
Big Stone County	1
Blue Earth County	2
Brown County	1
Carlton County	1
Carver County	2
Cass County	1
Chippewa County	1
Chisago County	1
Clay County	1
Clearwater County	1
Cook County	1
Cottonwood County	1
Crow Wing County	2
Dakota County	7
Dodge County	1
Douglas County	1
Faribault County	1
Fillmore County	1
Freeborn County	1
Goodhue County	1
Grant County	1
Hennepin County	20
Houston County	1
Hubbard County	1
Isanti County	1
Itasca County	1
Jackson County	1
Kanabec County	1
Kandiyohi County	1
Kittson County	1
Koochiching County	1
Lac Qui Parle County	1
Lake County	1
Lake Of The Woods County	1
Le Sueur County	1
Lincoln County	1
Lyon County	1
Mahnomen County	1
Marshall County	1
Martin County	1
McLeod County	1
Meeker County	1
Mille Lacs County	1
Morrison County	1
Mower County	1
Murray County	1
Nicollet County	1
Nobles County	1
Norman County	1
Olmsted County	3
Otter Tail County	1
Pennington County	1
Pine County	1
Pipestone County	1
Polk County	1
Pope County	1
Ramsey County	9
Red Lake County	1
Redwood County	1
Renville County	1
Rice County	2
Rock County	1
Roseau County	1
Scott County	2
Sherburne County	2
Sibley County	1
St. Louis County	4
Stearns County	3
Steele County	1
Stevens County	1
Swift County	1
Todd County	1
Traverse County	1
Wabasha County	1
Wadena County	1
Waseca County	1
Washington County	4
Watonwan County	1
Wilkin County	1
Winona County	1
Wright County	2
Yellow Medicine County	1
Total	**142**

Missouri

County	
Adair County	1
Andrew County	1
Atchison County	1
Audrain County	1
Barry County	1
Barton County	1
Bates County	1
Benton County	1
Bollinger County	1
Boone County	3
Buchanan County	2
Caldwell County	1
Callaway County	1
Camden County	1
Cape Girardeau County	2
Carroll County	1
Carter County	1
Cass County	2
Cedar County	1
Chariton County	1
Christian County	1
Cole County	2
Cooper County	1
Dallas County	1
DeKalb County	1
Dent County	1
Franklin County	2
Gentry County	1
Greene County	5
Grundy County	1
Henry County	1
Hickory County	1
Howard County	1
Howell County	1
Jackson County	12
Jasper County	2
Johnson County	1
Lafayette County	1
Lincoln County	1
Linn County	1
Livingston County	1
Macon County	1
Madison County	1
Marion County	1
Miller County	1
Moniteau County	1
Monroe County	1
Morgan County	1
Nodaway County	1
Ozark County	1
Perry County	1
Pettis County	1
Phelps County	1
Pike County	1
Polk County	1
Randolph County	1
Ray County	1
Reynolds County	1
Scotland County	1
Scott County	1
Shannon County	1
St. Clair County	1
St. Francois County	2
Ste. Genevieve County	1
Stone County	1
Sullivan County	1
Taney County	1
Texas County	1
Vernon County	1
Warren County	1
Washington County	1
Wayne County	1
Total	**96**

Mississippi

County	
Adams County	1
Alcorn County	1
Attala County	1
Benton County	1
Bolivar County	1
Calhoun County	1
Carroll County	1
Choctaw County	1
Claiborne County	1
Clarke County	1
Coahoma County	1
Copiah County	1
Covington County	1
DeSoto County	2
Forrest County	2
Franklin County	1
George County	1
Grenada County	1
Hancock County	1
Harrison County	4
Hinds County	5
Holmes County	1
Itawamba County	1
Jackson County	3
Jasper County	1
Jefferson Davis County	1
Jones County	2
Kemper County	1
Lafayette County	1
Lauderdale County	2
Leake County	1
Lee County	2
Leflore County	1
Lincoln County	1
Lowndes County	1
Madison County	2
Marion County	1
Marshall County	1
Monroe County	1
Montgomery County	1
Neshoba County	1
Newton County	1
Oktibbeha County	1
Pearl River County	1
Perry County	1
Pontotoc County	1
Prentiss County	1
Quitman County	1
Rankin County	3
Scott County	1
Sharkey County	1
Simpson County	1
Smith County	1
Stone County	1
Tate County	1
Tishomingo County	1
Tunica County	1
Union County	1
Warren County	1
Wayne County	1
Webster County	1
Wilkinson County	1
Yalobusha County	1
Yazoo County	1
Total	**81**

Montana

County	
Anaconda-Deer Lodge County	1
Beaverhead County	1
Big Horn County	1
Blaine County	1
Broadwater County	1
Butte-Silver Bow County	1
Carbon County	1
Carter County	1
Cascade County	2
Chouteau County	1
Custer County	1
Daniels County	1
Dawson County	1
Fallon County	1
Fergus County	1
Flathead County	2
Gallatin County	2
Garfield County	1
Glacier County	1
Golden Valley County	1
Granite County	1
Hill County	1
Jefferson County	1
Judith Basin County	1
Lake County	1
Lewis And Clark County	2
Liberty County	1
Lincoln County	1
Madison County	1
McCone County	1
Meagher County	1
Mineral County	1
Missoula County	2
Musselshell County	1
Park County	1
Petroleum County	1
Phillips County	1
Pondera County	1
Powder River County	1
Powell County	1
Prairie County	1
Ravalli County	1
Richland County	1
Roosevelt County	1
Rosebud County	1
Sanders County	1
Sheridan County	1
Stillwater County	1
Sweet Grass County	1
Teton County	1
Toole County	1
Treasure County	1
Valley County	1
Wheatland County	1
Wibaux County	1
Yellowstone County	3
Total	**63**

North Carolina

County	
Alamance County	3
Alexander County	1
Anson County	1
Ashe County	1
Avery County	1
Beaufort County	1
Bertie County	1
Bladen County	1
Brunswick County	2
Buncombe County	4
Burke County	2
Cabarrus County	3
Camden County	1
Caswell County	1
Catawba County	3
Chatham County	1
Cherokee County	1
Chowan County	1
Clay County	1
Cleveland County	2
Columbus County	1
Craven County	2
Cumberland County	6
Currituck County	1
Dare County	1
Davidson County	3
Davie County	1
Duplin County	1
Durham County	5
Edgecombe County	1

Forsyth County 6
Franklin County 1
Gaston County 4
Gates County 1
Graham County 1
Granville County 1
Greene County 1
Guilford County 8
Halifax County................. 1
Harnett County................ 2
Haywood County 1
Hertford County.............. 1
Hoke County 1
Hyde County 1
Iredell County.................. 3
Jackson County 1
Johnston County 3
Jones County 1
Lee County...................... 1
Lenoir County.................. 1
Lincoln County 2
Macon County................. 1
Madison County 1
Martin County 1
McDowell County 1
Mecklenburg County 13
Mitchell County 1
Montgomery County........ 1
Moore County 2
Nash County 2
New Hanover County 3
Northampton County....... 1
Onslow County 3
Orange County 3
Pamlico County 1
Pasquotank County 1
Pender County 1
Perquimans County 1
Person County.................. 1
Pitt County 3
Polk County..................... 1
Randolph County 3
Richmond County............ 1
Robeson County.............. 3
Rowan County 3
Rutherford County........... 2
Sampson County............. 2
Scotland County.............. 1
Stanly County.................. 2
Stokes County.................. 1
Surry County 2
Swain County 1
Transylvania County......... 1
Tyrrell County 1
Union County 3
Vance County.................. 1
Wake County................. 11
Warren County 1
Washington County 1
Watauga County.............. 1
Wayne County 3
Wilkes County 2
Wilson County 2
Yadkin County 1
Yancey County................. 1

Total 188

North Dakota

Adams County.................. 1
Barnes County 1
Benson County................. 1
Billings County 1
Bottineau County 1
Bowman County.............. 1
Burke County 1
Burleigh County.............. 2
Cass County.................... 3
Cavalier County 1
Dickey County 1
Divide County.................. 1
Dunn County 1
Eddy County.................... 1
Emmons County.............. 1
Foster County.................. 1
Golden Valley County....... 1
Grand Forks County......... 2
Grant County................... 1
Griggs County 1
Hettinger County 1
Kidder County 1
LaMoure County.............. 1
Logan County.................. 1
McHenry County.............. 1
McIntosh County 1
McKenzie County............. 1
McLean County 1
Mercer County................. 1
Morton County 1
Mountrail County............ 1
Nelson County................. 1
Oliver County.................. 1
Pembina County.............. 1
Pierce County.................. 1
Ramsey County 1
Ransom County............... 1
Renville County............... 1
Richland County.............. 1
Rolette County 1
Sargent County 1
Sheridan County 1
Sioux County................... 1
Slope County 1
Stark County 1
Steele County 1
Stutsman County 1
Towner County................ 1
Traill County 1
Walsh County 1
Ward County 2
Wells County 1
Williams County 1

Total 58

Nebraska

Adams County.................. 1
Banner County 1
Boone County 1
Boyd County 1
Buffalo County 1
Burt County..................... 1
Butler County 1
Cass County.................... 1
Cedar County 1
Chase County.................. 1
Cherry County 1

Cheyenne County 1
Clay County..................... 1
Colfax County.................. 1
Cuming County............... 1
Custer County 1
Dakota County 1
Dawes County 1
Dawson County 1
Deuel County 1
Dixon County.................. 1
Dodge County 1
Douglas County............... 9
Fillmore County 1
Franklin County 1
Frontier County............... 1
Furnas County................. 1
Gage County 1
Garfield County 1
Gosper County 1
Greeley County............... 1
Hall County 1
Hamilton County 1
Hayes County.................. 1
Hitchcock County 1
Holt County 1
Howard County............... 1
Jefferson County 1
Kearney County.............. 1
Keith County 1
Kimball County............... 1
Knox County.................... 1
Lancaster County 5
Lincoln County 1
Logan County.................. 1
Madison County.............. 1
Merrick County............... 1
Morrill County 1
Nance County 1
Nemaha County 1
Nuckolls County 1
Otoe County.................... 1
Pawnee County 1
Perkins County............... 1
Phelps County................. 1
Platte County 1
Red Willow County.......... 1
Richardson County 1
Rock County.................... 1
Saline County................. 1

Sarpy County 3
Saunders County............. 1
Seward County................ 1
Sherman County 1
Sioux County................... 1
Stanton County............... 1
Thayer County 1
Thomas County 1
Thurston County.............. 1
Washington County 1
Wayne County 1
York County..................... 1

Total 86

New Hampshire

Belknap County............... 1
Carroll County 1
Cheshire County.............. 1
Coos County 1
Grafton County............... 1
Hillsborough County 1
Merrimack County 1
Rockingham County 1
Strafford County.............. 1
Sullivan County 1

Total 10

New Jersey

Bergen County 16
Cape May County 2
Cumberland County 3
Essex County 14
Gloucester County........... 5
Hudson County 11
Mercer County................ 7
Ocean County 10
Somerset County............. 6
Sussex County 3
Union County 9

Total 86

New Mexico

Bernalillo County........... 12
Catron County................. 1
Chaves County 2
Cibola County 1
Colfax County.................. 1
Curry County 1

De Baca County 1
Dona Ana County 4
Eddy County.................... 1
Grant County................... 1
Guadalupe County 1
Harding County 1
Hidalgo County............... 1
Lea County...................... 2
Lincoln County 1
Los Alamos County.......... 1
Luna County.................... 1
McKinley County 2
Mora County 1
Otero County................... 2
Quay County 1
Rio Arriba County 1
Roosevelt County 1
San Juan County 3
San Miguel County 1
Sandoval County............. 2
Santa Fe County.............. 3
Sierra County 1
Socorro County 1
Taos County 1
Torrance County 1
Union County 1
Valencia County 2

Total 57

Nevada

Carson City 1
Churchill County.............. 1
Clark County 22
Douglas County............... 1
Elko County..................... 1
Esmeralda County........... 1
Eureka County................. 1
Humboldt County 1
Lander County................. 1
Lincoln County 1
Lyon County 1
Mineral County............... 1
Nye County 1
Pershing County 1
Storey County 1
Washoe County 7
White Pine County 1

Total 44

New York

Albany County 6
Allegany County 1
Cattaraugus County 2
Cayuga County 2
Clinton County 2
Dutchess County 5
Erie County 16
Essex County 1
Genesee County.............. 2
Hamilton County 1
Herkimer County 2
Livingston County............ 2
Madison County.............. 2
Monroe County 13
Nassau County.............. 23
Niagara County 4
Onondaga County 8
Ontario County 2
Orange County 7
Orleans County 1
Oswego County 3
Otsego County 2
Putnam County 2
Rensselaer County 3
Rockland County 6
Saratoga County 4
Schoharie County............ 1
Seneca County................ 1
St. Lawrence County........ 2
Steuben County 2
Suffolk County............... 25
Sullivan County 2
Tompkins County............. 2
Ulster County 4
Warren County 2
Washington County 2
Westchester County 16
Wyoming County 1
Yates County 1

Total 183

Ohio

Allen County.................... 2
Ashtabula County............ 2
Athens County................. 2
Auglaize County 1
Belmont County 2
Carroll County 1

Humboldt County, Calif.'s Virginia Bass announces votes at the 2019 Annual Business Meeting and Election.

Champaign County.......... 1
Clermont County 4
Clinton County 1
Columbiana County......... 2
Crawford County 1
Cuyahoga County 22
Defiance County.............. 1
Delaware County 2
Fairfield County 3
Fayette County 1
Franklin County 20
Fulton County................. 1
Gallia County 1
Hamilton County 14
Henry County 1
Highland County.............. 1
Holmes County................ 1
Jackson County 1
Jefferson County 2
Knox County................... 2
Lake County 4
Lawrence County............. 2
Licking County................. 3
Lorain County.................. 6
Lucas County 8
Mahoning County 5
Marion County 2
Meigs County 1
Miami County.................. 2
Monroe County 1
Montgomery County........ 9
Morrow County............... 1
Muskingum County......... 2
Ottawa County 1
Perry County 1
Pike County..................... 1
Portage County 3
Preble County 1
Ross County.................... 2
Sandusky County 2
Scioto County 2
Shelby County................. 1
Summit County 10
Trumbull County 4
Union County 1
Warren County 3
Williams County 1
Wood County 3
Wyandot County.............. 1

Total 175

Oklahoma
Alfalfa County 1
Beaver County................. 1
Beckham County............. 1
Blaine County 1
Bryan County 1
Caddo County 1
Canadian County 2
Cherokee County............. 1
Cleveland County 4
Coal County 1
Comanche County........... 3
Cotton County................. 1
Craig County 1
Creek County 2
Custer County 1
Delaware County 1

Grady County 1
Grant County................... 1
Greer County................... 1
Harmon County 1
Haskell County 1
Hughes County 1
Jackson County 1
Jefferson County 1
Johnston County 1
Kay County...................... 1
Kiowa County 1
LeFlore County 1
Logan County 1
Love County 1
Major County 1
Marshall County 1
Mayes County 1
Muskogee County............ 2
Noble County 1
Nowata County................ 1
Oklahoma County.......... 12
Osage County.................. 1
Ottawa County 1
Pawnee County 1
Payne County................... 2
Pontotoc County.............. 1
Pottawatomie County 2
Roger Mills County.......... 1
Rogers County................. 2
Sequoyah County 1
Stephens County............. 1
Texas County 1
Tillman County 1
Tulsa County 11
Wagoner County.............. 2
Washington County 1
Washita County............... 1
Woods County 1
Woodward County 1

Total 88

Oregon
Baker County 1
Benton County 2
Clackamas County 7
Clatsop County 1
Columbia County............. 1
Coos County 2
Crook County 1
Curry County 1
Deschutes County 2
Douglas County............... 2
Gilliam County 1
Grant County................... 1
Harney County 1
Hood River County.......... 1
Jackson County 4
Jefferson County 1
Josephine County 2
Klamath County 2
Lake County 1
Lane County.................... 6
Lincoln County 1
Linn County..................... 2
Malheur County............... 1
Marion County 6
Morrow County............... 1
Multnomah County........ 13

Polk County..................... 2
Sherman County 1
Tillamook County............. 1
Umatilla County 2
Union County 1
Wallowa County 1
Wasco County 1
Washington County 8
Wheeler County 1
Yamhill County 2

Total 84

Pennsylvania
Adams County................. 2
Allegheny County 21
Armstrong County 2
Beaver County................. 3
Bedford County 1
Berks County 7
Blair County 3
Bradford County.............. 2
Butler County 4
Cambria County 3
Cameron County 1
Carbon County 2
Centre County 3
Chester County 9
Clarion County 1
Clearfield County............. 2
Clinton County 1
Columbia County............. 2
Crawford County 2
Dauphin County 5
Delaware County 10
Elk County....................... 1
Erie County 5
Fayette County 3
Forest County.................. 1
Franklin County 3
Fulton County.................. 1
Greene County 1
Indiana County................ 2
Jefferson County 1
Juniata County 1
Lackawanna County 4
Lancaster County 9
Lawrence County............. 2
Lehigh County 6
Lycoming County 2
McKean County 1
Mercer County................. 2
Mifflin County................. 1
Monroe County 3
Montgomery County....... 14
Northampton County....... 5
Philadelphia County 26
Pike County..................... 1
Potter County 1
Schuylkill County............. 3
Snyder County................. 1
Somerset County............. 2
Sullivan County 1
Susquehanna County...... 1
Tioga County 1
Union County 1
Venango County 1
Warren County 1
Washington County 4

Wayne County 1
Wyoming County 1

Total 200

South Carolina
Abbeville County 1
Aiken County................... 3
Allendale County............. 1
Bamberg County 1
Barnwell County 1
Beaufort County.............. 3
Berkeley County 3
Calhoun County 1
Charleston County.......... 6
Cherokee County............. 1
Chester County 1
Chesterfield County......... 1
Clarendon County 1
Colleton County.............. 1
Darlington County 2
Dillon County 1
Dorchester County 2
Edgefield County 1
Fairfield County 1
Florence County 3
Georgetown County 2
Greenville County 8
Greenwood County 2
Hampton County 1
Horry County 4
Jasper County 1
Kershaw County 1
Lancaster County 2
Laurens County 2
Lee County...................... 1
Lexington County............. 4
Marion County 1
Marlboro County 1
McCormick County 1
Newberry County............. 1
Oconee County 2
Orangeburg County 2
Pickens County 2
Richland County.............. 7
Saluda County 1
Spartanburg County 5
Sumter County 2
Union County 1
Williamsburg County 1
York County..................... 3

Total 93

South Dakota
Aurora County 1
Beadle County 1
Bennett County 1
Bon Homme County 1
Brookings County 1
Brown County.................. 1
Brule County 1
Buffalo County 1
Butte County................... 1
Campbell County............. 1
Charles Mix County.......... 1
Clark County 1
Clay County..................... 1
Codington County 1

Corson County 1
Custer County 1
Davison County 1
Day County 1
Deuel County 1
Dewey County 1
Douglas County............... 1
Edmunds County............. 1
Fall River County.............. 1
Faulk County 1
Grant County................... 1
Gregory County 1
Haakon County 1
Hamlin County 1
Hand County 1
Hanson County 1
Harding County 1
Hughes County 1
Hutchinson County 1
Hyde County 1
Jackson County............... 1
Jerauld County 1
Jones County 1
Kingsbury County 1
Lake County 1
Lawrence County............. 1
Lincoln County 1
Lyman County 1
Marshall County 1
McCook County............... 1
McPherson County 1
Meade County................. 1
Mellette County............... 1
Miner County................... 1
Minnehaha County 3
Moody County................. 1
Oglala Lakota County 1
Pennington County.......... 2
Perkins County 1
Potter County 1
Roberts County 1
Sanborn County 1
Spink County 1
Stanley County................ 1
Sully County.................... 1
Todd County.................... 1
Tripp County.................... 1
Turner County................. 1
Union County 1
Walworth County 1
Yankton County 1
Ziebach County 1

Total 69

Tennessee
Anderson County............. 2
Bradley County................ 2
Campbell County............. 1
Chester County 1
Coffee County 1
Decatur County 1
Dickson County 1
Hamblen County 2
Hamilton County 6
Hardin County 1
Henry County 1
Hickman County.............. 1
Jefferson County 1

Knox County.................... 8
Lauderdale County 1
Lincoln County 1
Marshall County.............. 1
Meigs County 1
Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County.......................... 11
Montgomery County........ 3
Overton County 1
Rhea County 1
Roane County 1
Robertson County 1
Sevier County.................. 2
Shelby County............... 16
Tipton County................. 1
Washington County 3
Weakley County 1
White County 1
Williamson County 3

Total 78

Texas
Andrews County 1
Aransas County............... 1
Austin County.................. 1
Bandera County 1
Bell County 5
Bexar County................. 27
Borden County 1
Brazoria County.............. 5
Brazos County 3
Brewster County.............. 1
Briscoe County................ 1
Brown County.................. 1
Caldwell County 1
Calhoun County 1
Carson County 1
Chambers County............ 1
Cochran County 1
Comal County 2
Comanche County........... 1
Concho County................ 1
Cooke County.................. 1
Coryell County................. 2
Crane County 1
Crockett County 1
Dallas County............... 40
Deaf Smith County 1
Denton County 7
Eastland County.............. 1
Ector County 3
El Paso County 14
Ellis County 2
Erath County 1
Fannin County................. 1
Fort Bend County 6
Freestone County 1
Gaines County................. 1
Garza County 1
Gillespie County.............. 1
Glasscock County............ 1
Gonzales County 1
Grayson County............... 3
Gregg County 3
Grimes County 1
Hale County 1
Hamilton County 1

Harris County 45
Hartley County 1
Hays County 2
Hidalgo County 10
Hill County 1
Hockley County 1
Hood County 1
Hopkins County 1
Houston County 1
Hutchinson County 1
Irion County 1
Jack County 1
Jackson County 1
Jasper County 1
Jefferson County 5
Jim Wells County 1
Kaufman County 2
Kendall County 1
Kenedy County 1
Kimble County 1
Kleberg County 1
Lamb County 1
Lampasas County 1
Lavaca County 1
Leon County 1
Lipscomb County 1
Live Oak County 1
Lubbock County 5
Marion County 1
McLennan County 4
McMullen County 1
Midland County 3
Montague County 1
Moore County 1
Morris County 1
Navarro County 1
Nueces County 6
Ochiltree County 1
Oldham County 1
Palo Pinto County 1
Panola County 1
Parker County 2
Polk County 1
Presidio County 1
Rains County 1
Real County 1
Reeves County 1
Robertson County 1
Rockwall County 1
Runnels County 1
San Augustine County 1
Schleicher County 1
Scurry County 1
Shackelford County 1
Smith County 4
Starr County 2
Sterling County 1
Swisher County 1
Tarrant County 27
Terry County 1
Throckmorton County 1
Tom Green County 2
Travis County 15
Trinity County 1
Tyler County 1
Upshur County 1
Victoria County 2
Washington County 1

Wharton County 1
Willacy County 1
Williamson County 4
Wilson County 1
Wise County 1
Wood County 1
Yoakum County 1
Young County 1

Total 352

Utah
Beaver County 1
Box Elder County 1
Cache County 2
Carbon County 1
Daggett County 1
Davis County 5
Duchesne County 1
Emery County 1
Garfield County 1
Grand County 1
Iron County 1
Juab County 1
Kane County 1
Millard County 1
Morgan County 1
Piute County 1
Rich County 1
Salt Lake County 18
San Juan County 1
Sanpete County 1
Sevier County 1
Summit County 1
Tooele County 1
Uintah County 1
Utah County 7
Wasatch County 1
Washington County 2
Wayne County 1
Weber County 4

Total 61

Virginia
Accomack County 1
Albemarle County 2
Alleghany County 1
Amelia County 1
Amherst County 1
Arlington County 4
Augusta County 2
Bath County 1
Bland County 1
Botetourt County 1
Brunswick County 1
Buchanan County 1
Buckingham County 1
Campbell County 1
Caroline County 1
Charles City County 1
Charlotte County 1
Chesterfield County 5
Clarke County 1
Craig County 1
Culpeper County 1
Cumberland County 1
Dickenson County 1
Dinwiddie County 1
Essex County 1

Fairfax County 19
Fauquier County 2
Floyd County 1
Fluvanna County 1
Franklin County 1
Frederick County 2
Giles County 1
Gloucester County 1
Grayson County 1
Greene County 1
Greensville County 1
Hanover County 2
Henrico County 6
Henry County 1
Highland County 1
Isle of Wight County 1
James City County 1
King And Queen County ... 1
King George County 1
King William County 1
Lancaster County 1
Lee County 1
Loudoun County 3
Louisa County 1
Lunenburg County 1
Madison County 1
Mathews County 1
Mecklenburg County 1
Montgomery County 2
Nelson County 1
New Kent County 1
Northampton County 1
Northumberland County .. 1
Nottoway County 1
Orange County 1
Page County 1
Patrick County 1
Pittsylvania County 2
Powhatan County 1
Prince Edward County 1
Prince George County 1
Prince William County 5
Pulaski County 1
Rappahannock County 1
Richmond County 1
Roanoke County 2
Rockbridge County 1
Rockingham County 2
Russell County 1
Scott County 1
Shenandoah County 1
Smyth County 1
Southampton County 1
Spotsylvania County 2
Stafford County 2
Surry County 1
Sussex County 1
Warren County 1
Washington County 1
Westmoreland County 1
Wise County 1
Wythe County 1
York County 2

Total 136

Washington
Asotin County 1
Benton County 3

Chelan County 2
Clallam County 2
Clark County 7
Columbia County 1
Cowlitz County 2
Douglas County 1
Ferry County 1
Franklin County 1
Garfield County 1
Grant County 2
Grays Harbor County 2
Island County 2
Jefferson County 1
King County 33
Kitsap County 5
Kittitas County 1
Klickitat County 1
Lewis County 2
Lincoln County 1
Mason County 1
Okanogan County 1
Pacific County 1
Pend Oreille County 1
Pierce County 14
San Juan County 1
Skagit County 2
Skamania County 1
Snohomish County 11
Spokane County 8
Stevens County 1
Thurston County 4
Wahkiakum County 1
Walla Walla County 1
Whatcom County 4
Whitman County 1
Yakima County 5

Total 130

Wisconsin
Adams County 1
Ashland County 1
Barron County 1
Bayfield County 1
Brown County 5
Burnett County 1
Calumet County 1
Chippewa County 2
Clark County 1
Columbia County 1
Dane County 9
Dodge County 2
Door County 1
Douglas County 1
Dunn County 1
Eau Claire County 2
Florence County 1
Fond du Lac County 2
Forest County 1
Grant County 1
Green County 1
Jackson County 1
Jefferson County 2
Juneau County 1
Kenosha County 3
Kewaunee County 1
La Crosse County 2
Lafayette County 1
Langlade County 1

Lincoln County 1
Marathon County 3
Marinette County 1
Marquette County 1
Milwaukee County 16
Oconto County 1
Oneida County 1
Outagamie County 3
Ozaukee County 2
Pierce County 1
Polk County 1
Portage County 2
Price County 1
Racine County 4
Richland County 1
Rock County 3
Rusk County 1
Sauk County 2
Sawyer County 1
Shawano County 1
Sheboygan County 2
St. Croix County 2
Taylor County 1
Trempealeau County 1
Vernon County 1
Vilas County 1
Washburn County 1
Washington County 3
Waukesha County 7
Waupaca County 1
Waushara County 1
Winnebago County 3
Wood County 2

Total 122

West Virginia
Barbour County 1
Berkeley County 2
Boone County 1
Braxton County 1
Brooke County 1
Cabell County 2
Calhoun County 1
Clay County 1
Doddridge County 1
Fayette County 1
Gilmer County 1
Grant County 1
Greenbrier County 1
Hampshire County 1
Hancock County 1
Hardy County 1
Harrison County 2
Jackson County 1
Jefferson County 1
Kanawha County 4
Lewis County 1
Lincoln County 1
Logan County 1
Marion County 1
Marshall County 1
Mason County 1
McDowell County 1
Mercer County 2
Mineral County 1
Mingo County 1
Monongalia County 2

Monroe County 1
Morgan County 1
Nicholas County 1
Ohio County 1
Pendleton County 1
Pleasants County 1
Pocahontas County 1
Preston County 1
Putnam County 1
Raleigh County 2
Randolph County 1
Ritchie County 1
Roane County 1
Summers County 1
Taylor County 1
Tucker County 1
Tyler County 1
Upshur County 1
Wayne County 1
Webster County 1
Wetzel County 1
Wirt County 1
Wood County 2
Wyoming County 1

Total 65

Wyoming
Albany County 1
Big Horn County 1
Campbell County 1
Carbon County 1
Converse County 1
Crook County 1
Fremont County 1
Goshen County 1
Hot Springs County 1
Johnson County 1
Laramie County 2
Lincoln County 1
Natrona County 2
Niobrara County 1
Park County 1
Platte County 1
Sheridan County 1
Sublette County 1
Sweetwater County 1
Teton County 1
Uinta County 1
Washakie County 1
Weston County 1

Total 25

NACo Second Vice President Candidates

CANDIDATE PLATFORM ★

Leinbach

Christian Leinbach

County Commissioner
Berks County, Pa.

The Team Leinbach campaign is all about you, your county, and your constituents. County government is the level of government that works as it was intended. We get things done in our counties and communities every day. In the face of unprecedented challenges over the past 15 months county leaders are an example of calm and thoughtful leadership amid a "storm."

This "storm" has helped once again highlight the importance of NACo. The strengths of NACo are its ability to be our voice as an advocate for counties, and a source of education for each of us as county leaders. Within NACo, urban and rural counties, red and blue counties, come together to get the job done. We have a powerful voice when we work together.

Since 2012 I have served on the NACo board and am honored to have served for more than six years on the NACo Executive Committee. Since 2011 I also have served on my state association board of directors (CCAP) and was elected as CCAP 2nd VP through CCAP board chair between 2011 and 2014. This experience has helped prepare me to be a better county commissioner and I believe it will help me be an effective NACo 2nd Vice President.

I am committed to listening to and partnering with you. That is how we can better understand what's required for counties to navigate complicated issues, remain innovative, and create programs and solutions that make a positive difference for our county residents. I am dedicated to using my leadership experience with NACo/CCAP to be an effective NACo 2nd VP. I'm committed to an open-minded approach to finding solutions and charting a course to address not only common challenges but also helping address specific issues

that many of you have shared with me. By working together, we can help NACo and our members do an even better job telling our story.

Through our Team Leinbach website we are providing you with tools to help you Tell Your Story right now. This campaign is not about future promises - it's about today and it's about you and your county. Check out the "Tools" section of *https://www.teamleinbach.com/tools/*.

There are several issues that impact and are important to virtually every county no matter their size, demographics, population or geographical location. Some of these critical issues include transportation and infrastructure, water, air and soil protection, criminal justice reform, mental health and county jails, cybersecurity, public safety and unfunded mandates.

Regionally and even down to the state level there are clear and unique differences. Secure rural schools and PILT are critical to many western states. In the Northeast United States, we have a few states with no county government while having some of the oldest infrastructure in the nation. The Southeast United States and

Gulf states prepare and expect serious hurricanes annually and are impacted in a way no other region is. At Team Leinbach we want to make sure you have the tools and understanding to Tell Your Story. Sometimes there are crises that impact every single county and the COVID-19 pandemic is just such a challenge. Whether it is a story of great accomplishment or rather a story explaining the unique challenges your county, state or region is facing, telling your story is critical in helping your state and federal officials, as well as the media, understand what you do and what you need. Finally, it is critical that your county residents understand what you as a county leader are doing to better represent them.

I want to help make NACo and counties even stronger and these are the steps we can take to accomplish that objective. Let's bolster the voice of all our county leaders.

1. The first challenge is to **strengthen the system of Federalism** that treats county government as a critical part of the policy making effort in D.C. We are either at the table or on the menu!

2. Secondly, we should **enhance the ability of county**

leaders to tell the story of what they are doing every day to improve the lives of their county residents. If we don't tell our story who will?

3. Thirdly, we must continue to **promote the value of NACo federal advocacy.** It is clearly the #1 value provided by NACo. Federal advocacy will always be strongest when we work together.

As you contemplate who to support for NACo 2nd VP please consider my NACo and CCAP experience as well as my message. **It's not about a party, it's not about me - it's about the issues that are important to our counties. It's about solving problems and challenges for our county residents. It's about working together to move our counties and the work of NACo forward.** It's all about telling the story around the great work each of us are doing for our county constituents. I respectfully request your support for NACo 2nd VP.

For more information please visit *www.TeamLeinbach.com* or email me at *CLeinbach@CountyofBerks.com*

★ CANDIDATE PLATFORM ★

McGuire

Mary Jo McGuire

County Commissioner
Ramsey County, Minn.

I'm Mary Jo McGuire and I am excited to be running for 2nd Vice President of the National Association of Counties (NACo). Talking with many of you over these last few months, I am continually impressed by the innovative and vital work that county leaders are doing across the US. From east to west and north to south, counties are playing a critical role in providing essential services and improving the quality of life in our communities.

As public servants, county leaders have always been faced with difficult decisions but this moment in time has brought unprecedented challenges. Despite a global pandemic, a struggling economy and high unemployment, we have rallied to engage our partners in Congress to help us safely deliver services and support emergency relief efforts - and NACo was an essential part of that effort. Now more than ever, the value of NACo is clear. As your next 2nd Vice President, I want to ensure that NACo continues to be a strong and effective organization and to help grow it forward.

I am well-prepared for this role because I currently serve as the 2nd Vice President of the non-partisan Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC). You can find among Minnesota's 87 counties the same range of communities that exist throughout the US. From the diverse economies of the Twin Cities, to the agriculture economy of rural towns on the prairie, to the tourism economy of Minnesota lake country, to the mines, timber and factories of the Iron Range, each area has its own unique priorities, challenges and strengths. I was elected to lead AMC because I have forged connections across all regions and walks of life to ensure that it continues to serve as the united voice for all 87 counties. I will bring this same effort and enthusiasm to my leadership at NACo.

For those of you who don't know me, I grew up the second of six children in Falcon Heights, Minnesota, a suburb of St. Paul and home of the Minnesota State Fair (which I love!). Growing up, I participated in many activities including 4H, Camp Fire, biking, skating and softball, and I continue to enjoy outdoor sports and activities such as skiing, biking, hiking and kayaking.

What inspires me is the opportunity to make a positive difference in people's lives. Over my 24 years in public service - 16 years as a Minnesota State Legislator and eight as a Ramsey County Commissioner - I have dedicated my life to helping my community and fostering strong and enduring relationships. I am proud to represent the community where I was born and raised and am active in our local Rotary Club, Optimist Club and Chamber of Commerce business councils. I feel especially fortunate to now be working at the county level at a moment when counties are on the front line of crucial life-saving public health and safety efforts.

A county commissioner since 2013, my colleagues and I have worked hard to ensure that we operate in a manner that is transparent, efficient and cost-effective. In a major effort, we successfully restructured our county government, streamlining our administrative structure, and discovered new synergies between departments that had previously operated in silos. In my most recent campaign for re-election, I earned the support of a wide variety of community organizations, including the endorsement of my local Chamber of Commerce.

In regard to my involvement in NACo, I have learned that one of the most important contributions anyone can make is to simply show up and do the work. I do my best to bring my passion, energy and a positive attitude to this effort. I am an active member of the NACo network and have enjoyed working with you as colleagues and friends. Specifically, I have served in multiple NACo leadership positions including Chair and Vice-Chair of Healthy Counties and Vice-Chair of Programs and Services. I also am a long-time member of the Justice and Public Safety Committee and Vice-Chair of several of its subcommittees. In addition, my work with the Arts and Culture Commission, the Resilient Counties Advisory Board, and Women of NACo has been particularly fulfilling.

Finally, I want to emphasize the critical importance of diversity of membership and the need to ensure that all voices are heard. We all benefit when people of differing viewpoints and life experiences are engaged in the pursuit of solutions to our problems.

Moving forward, I see three key opportunities for NACo leadership to focus on in the years ahead:

1. Increasing Membership and Engagement

Our members are a valuable resource for sharing ideas, advocating for county needs and developing innovative policies. The more diverse our membership, the more we have to learn from each other. Growing our membership and increasing engagement is therefore critical to our success.

Throughout the pandemic, NACo's nimble and productive staff has done a great job of helping us stay connected by providing countless virtual learning and networking opportunities and assisting us in maintaining existing relationships and building new ones.

We all gain from a robust membership of counties and commissioners, as well as their active engagement, to effectively shape NACo's legislative agenda, programs and services.

In addition to members, we also need to bring strategic partners to the table. Our financial stability as an organization depends on expanding our for-profit and premier partners and the services and programs of NACo's Financial Services Corporation. Increasing revenues and establishing broader relationships nationwide will expand the range of work that NACo can do for our members at all levels.

I want to work with all of you to continue NACo's great work and explore further creative ways to educate and engage our counties. I am proud of the fact that Minnesota is a 100% state - all our counties are members of both NACo and our state association. At AMC, we have made a concerted effort to help everyone realize the benefits of participation and membership in NACo. I will bring this same focus and dedication to NACo and will work to expand NACo's outreach and engagement to State Executives and Associations.

2. Strengthening our Partnership with Congress and the Administration

NACo must work to ensure that we have a strong working relationship with the White House, Congress and Federal agencies. As counties incubate innovative new policies and programs, we know that sometimes changes are needed at other levels of government for our efforts to have the impact intended. Likewise, we need to be at the table when programs and policies that affect counties originate at the Federal level.

NACo has just had an incredibly successful year, advocating for our counties' needs in responding to the pandemic. We need to continue educating the Administration and Congress on the expansive role that counties play and how we can help each other to collectively better serve our communities.

As a long-time public servant, I have extensive experience building relationships and partnerships with policymakers at all levels and would bring this knowledge to my leadership role at NACo.

3. Bringing America Together

The beauty and strength of America is our diversity. Here in Minnesota, we have as wide a range of viewpoints, backgrounds and lifestyles as anywhere in the country. In my work with the State Legislature and AMC, my goal has always been to work together and build consensus to make our communities stronger. NACo is an essential resource to help bring together different perspectives to address issues that matter to us all, such as the use of pandemic recovery dollars, and to support regional priorities such as relief from storms, flooding and other natural disasters.

In a nation as expansive as the United States, we know there is no one-size-fits-all solution to our problems, but it is critical that we find common ground where we can. To get there, I believe we should start with deliberate, facilitated discussions among small groups, like the NACo Board and our committees, and then bring it to the greater membership.

I will work with the NACo Board, committee chairs and membership to ensure NACo is inclusive in their approach to issues and engagement and that we are focused on addressing the most pressing needs of our diverse membership.

Please contact me at *maryjofornaco@gmail.com* or 651-560-6231 if you have questions or would just like to talk with me. More information is available at *www.maryjomcguire.com.*

I look forward to connecting with all of you in the coming months. I am eager to learn what is important to you and your county and how we can best move forward together. I am excited about this opportunity to serve you and with you. I ask for your support - and your vote!

★ CANDIDATE PLATFORM ★

Wenger

Tina M. Wenger
Councilwoman-at-Large
Elkhart County, Ind.

Leadership is for service, not for power !

Greetings! My name is Tina M Wenger. County Councilwoman for Elkhart County Indiana, and I'm running to be your next NACO 2nd VP.

You maybe asking, "Can Tina possibly lead us? after all she's only been in county politics for five years"?

The answer is a resounding YES. Here's why.

I bring a respectful, flexible, interactive, average constituent- based, common sense approach to the kind of multi-dimensional problem solving that is required to address our complex issues these days. I have a personal history as an assimilated female Filipino immigrant which supports that. I love probing these public policy issues and think that more information and perspectives lead to more informed choices about where our policy re-sets are needed most. There are no pre-determined answers. Certain facts raise more questions. Issues can be sorted and prioritized through respectful dialog. We must consider expert opinion, but our own opinion and perspectives and those of our constituents are just as important, mainly because we are crafting rule sets that affect so many aspects of everyone's social lives. Experts must limit the focus of their study and cannot possibly make all those determinations. I call this a "wholistic" decision making. We are all, in some ways, here to find "the greatest (public) good for the greatest number."

I've been able to bring a different perspective to a leadership core that had previously conducted a lot of its business informally. I've slowed down some aspects of the decision making process, opening up issues for additional questioning based on extensive research and study, thereby allowing for more client input rather than complete deference to specialized experts on redevelopment issues who aren't always seeing the full impact on those directly affected. I've argued for more formality and transparency in how information is shared with council members, which lead to more informed decisions and consideration of our issues. I've given a voice to many who felt like their opinions had little chance of making a difference.

Allow me to share with you my platform: The 3 S's
Service. Strength. Stability.

I support NACO's vision of healthy, vibrant, safe, and resilient counties across the United States.

1. Service:

Restating from NACO's Manual. The nation's 3,069 county governments provide the essential services to create healthy, vibrant and safe communities. Counties support and maintain public infrastructure, transportation and economic development assets. I bound to make sure that this focus continue to be directed. We need to keep residents healthy, we need to ensure public safety to protect our citizens. It's vital that we maintain public information and coordinate elections. The past elections have been very challenging and we must work harder to be an essential and important part of the process and definitely should be a part of the solution. We will continue to implement a broad array of federal, state and local programs in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

The populace depend on counties to provide services that build, maintain, and protect their homes, schools, and neighborhoods. The importance of county government in our lives can not be undermined. Counties are instrumental player in America's intergovernmental system of federal, state and local governments. In my opinion, county government IS the higher office.

The beauty of our NACO members is that they support state and federal policies and programs that provide the tools, resources, and solutions needed to spur job growth, improve the quality of life of all Americans, and increase the economic competitiveness of America's counties and communities. To accomplish this, NACO adheres to a set of core principles through its core functions which I wholeheartedly support.

Because I contribute my professional growth in my service to my constituents to NACO, by my attending seminars, meetings and conferences, I commend them for their first core principle which is, to empower county leaders with new skills, resources and ideas. Since we, as public servants must serve in a cost effective manner, NACO comes to the rescue by assisting counties with first class, cost-effective services, their second core principle. I support providing timely, informative and value-added data, knowledge and programs. To promote sound public policies that advance the interest of our counties has had seen success in majority of the member counties. It's one of NACO's core principle to exercise sound stewardship and management of its financial, intellectual and human resources. And best of all, they educate. Now more than ever we must bring the completed and enhanced public understanding of county government.

I am very appreciative of NACo's core functions for the benefit of our member counties. Of note, legislative, regulatory and judicial representation in the nation's capital.

Now more than ever is the time to connect regularly and often with our legislators. This is a task I would look forward to doing as often and as needed. There's numerous first hand stories related and connected to legislations that are already in placed, these, our legislators must hear. Without research our county policies would have seem incomplete, thus, the importance of research must not be overlooked, it leads to education and technical assistance on cost-saving programs for the solutions of critical problems by using innovative strategies that meet future county needs.

Strength

The strength of our nation and the strength of our counties lies in diversity. Diversity is strength, strength is diversity. No two counties are exactly the same. Counties, being one of America's oldest forms of government dating back since 1634 continue to evolve. Counties adapt to changing environment and population. Petersburgh Borough, Alaska incorporated just recently in 2013. Yet the first county governments were established in 1634 in Virginia.

Counties are very diverse in its structure and on how they deliver services to their communities, States decide counties roles and responsibilities. I plan to visit at least two counties from each State when elected. I desire to learn from the most liberal-run county, and from the most conservative-run county to determine where the polarization issue is most apparent and the reasons why. It is only through hands-on and face-to-face interaction that a most meaningful conclusion can be reached. We recognize that counties' demographic and economic characteristics dictate how they deliver services to their communities, the question is, is it the best way? Can it be improved?

I need to see proof that the organization and structure of counties are tailored to fit their communities needs and char-

acteristics, if not, perhaps then, a suggestion would be offered. For example Los Angeles county invests $18.9 billion annually or even more compared to 23 of our State governments each year. But the recent news is that it has the highest number of people getting out of the county and the State. Is there something to learn from this trend? What about Cook county Illinois, it is such a big county that if it were a state it will be bigger than 30 states in population. Is bigger better? Is change called for? How about counties with less than 50,000 residents? Are they stronger? Are they effective? Are they efficient? What can be learned from this? We need to find where the biggest strength lies and adapt.

Stability

A strong foundation provides stability. As with a house, counties are built with four strong pillars as foundation. First, Transportation and Infrastructure; Second, Healthcare; Third, Justice and Public Safety; Fourth, County Management. All four pillars provide a glimpse of how strong America's county governments are. Here are a few numbers to prove it.

First, Transportation and Infrastructure: It is the critical components that support the economies of our counties and improve the standard of living for all Americans. Efficient transportation and transit options are the driving force connecting communities. Counties invest in building schools where students learn. In building hospitals that treat and provide care for the community. In building jails that house and rehabilitate wrongdoers. From cleaning up storm debris and restoring safety to the community, to cleaning the water we drink by maintaining reservoirs, purification plants and pumping stations. Counties provide services that are often taken for granted. This should not be so. We must educate our population to the

★ CANDIDATE PLATFORM ★

following data of importance. That counties invest $52.3 Billion in construction of public facilities annually. Counties invest $106.3 Billion in building infrastructure, maintain and operate public works annually. Counties own 230,690 bridges. Counties own and maintain 45% of America's roads. Counties invest $18.6 Billion in sewerage and solid waste management annually. Counties are also involved in 27% of public transit system. I would like to look at these numbers closely to determine if taxpayer dollars are spent effectively, if wasteful spending is determined, then suggestions should be offered for correction and improvement. These are huge numbers. As county officials we are stewards of our county's finances and must guard it with utmost care and safety.

Second, Healthcare: Many counties operate hospitals and Healthcare facilities that provide critical services, cancer and cardiac care, as well as emergency and trauma care. Counties create support systems to keep us healthy from birth till old age. County nursing homes offer restorative care and rehabilitation. They promote quality of life and wellness to the elderly. County health departments ensure the everyday health of their residents. Counties support 976 hospitals with a total of 100,378 beds that serve more than 15 Million patient days. Counties are involved in promoting public health through more than 1,550 local health departments. Counties invest $69.7 Billion for community health and hospitals annually. Counties own 692 nursing homes which represent 75% of the publicly owned nursing homes. The current administration has been aggressively drafting and implementing needed additional funds, unprecedented in US history due to the COVID19 pandemic. It is without a doubt our counties' finances were and continue to be affected by this pandemic. I support getting our counties back to normal as quickly as possible. Federal funds are needed to support our counties.

Third, Justice and Public Safety. Counties keep communities safe. They provide law enforcement and promote crime prevention. They patrol and police the streets. They operate and maintain county detention facilities. They serve as the arm of county courts. County sheriffs and police departments are the linchpin of the criminal justice system. We appreciate our key players in the system like our judges, district attorneys, public defenders, court clerks, jail directors and coroners. Counties invest $70.2 Billion total in justice and public safety services annually. There are 3,105 county police and sheriffs departments which spends a total of $30.2 Billion. Correctional Facilities spends $23.3 Billion. In the year 2021 there were 11.6 million people admitted to county and other local jails. $16.7 Billion is spent on County Courts and Legal Services annually. These numbers have only been rising since tabulations were taken, I don't recall what year it started exactly. Are the yearly number increase an indication of the decline of our morality system? Are we less or more safe each year? These are the questions I would like answered and I will be doing research and sharing the result so we can lower these numbers one area at a time without sacrificing quality public service.

Fourth, County Management. All Americans benefit from county government for vital services, from issuing birth certificates and marriage licenses to operating 911 call centers. Counties often build and maintain the parks, swimming pools, community centers and cultural centers. Counties are responsible for running elections from presidential to local.

Counties deliver essential services to ensure safe, healthy and resilient communities for the residents while also balancing numerous administrative responsibilities.

Counties invest $25.5 Billion in economic development each year. Another $9.3 Billion is invested to build and maintain parks and recreational facilities annually. Every two years, counties fund and oversee more than 167,000 polling places. Counties coordinate more than 704,000 poll workers. And here's where I'm one of them, there are almost 39,000 total county elected officials. And there are 711 elected county executives. Effective county management is a collaborative effort. Each and every one county official contributes to the success or failure of the county. We must continue to look for "model" county government and incentivize their efforts for maintaining such a high degree of professionalism and service to their community. I would like to see some guidelines drafted for distribution to the counties on how to be a more successful, more effective, and more constituent-friendly county government. Everybody needs to have a pat in the back every now and then. It's a "feel good" about that kind of thing. And why not?

When elected, I like to engage as deeply with as many of you as I possibly can as we work together to bring our best efforts to today's immense challenges. I'm reminded of my late father who once told me. "Maski baog, patad" meaning even if the odds are against you but you know you have something to give, fight anyway. If you fight you win. In today's America, the underdogs have a lot to offer.

Thank you for your support. I am beyond grateful and I am looking forward to serving you!

Tina M Wenger

Councilwoman at-Large

Elkhart County Indiana

May 21. 2021

WORD SEARCH

WASHINGTON COUNTY, Arkansas
Created by: Mary Ann Barton

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N M N S J K H J G O Z N S E S O P E S A
H O H N C A S U S G S S L Y P T A R T Z
R U T M W V O R K T O L L U A D Z A Y U
X N V N V A R W Q U I G A K O Q B U C A
C T V W I M S X Q V W M H U G O S Q F T
Q A F X T L U H E S E V J P Y Y T S D M
N I S Z D R C T I R W N G J S D B Y T P
O N R K Q J T C I N E J S U R Z T S E B
S S B Z C E U C N W G F Q P N X U U R Z
K B J D Y A A D S W Y T S E W H T R O N
C Y F A V O B P G T Q E O L O A A C M R
I K F H L L A R I E S I Y N T E W R A L
D A A O O P T S O N I I Z M S Y A X B Y
R S F X E Z R Y K Z T Q N G L P H O V J
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N N D H V V G X U H Z R E R U Z Q S G N
K H X I A B Q F D W I E L J X S Y N Z U
Z X N W A L M A R T Z S H Y S G P O P I
M U I F T P D N P M J A Q N T S G Z O D
Q N D Z M O E S J S D S O S R R Z S N G
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AMERICA: Miss America 2017, Savvy Shields, is from the county.

BEST: The county often is found on "best places to live" lists because of its job market, housing affordability, quality of life, desirability and net migration.

CLINTON: Former President Bill Clinton taught at the University of Arkansas law school in the county and he and Hillary Clinton were married there.

DICKSON: Dickson Street is the main drag near the University of Arkansas college campus and is lined with restaurants and bars.

FAYETTEVILLE: The county seat and the third-largest city in Arkansas. It was known as Washington until 1829.

HUGOS: Just off the town square a few steps down, this subterranean eatery that opened in 1977 serves up great burgers and fries.

JUDGE: The county judge is the chief executive officer for the county government.

MOUNTAINS: The county is in the Boston Mountains, part of the Ozarks.

NEWSPAPER: The local paper, the *Northwest Arkansas Times*, was established in 1868.

NORTHWEST: The county is located in the northwest corner of the state of Arkansas.

RAZORBACKS: University of Arkansas athletes are called Razorbacks.

SQUARE: The center of Fayetteville features a downtown square featuring historic buildings, restaurants and boutiques.

UNIVERSITY: The county is home to the University of Arkansas.

WALMART: The company holds its annual meeting in the county at the Bud Walton Arena.

WASHINGTON: The county was established in 1848 and is named for President George Washington.

PROFILES IN SERVICE

MARY KEATING

NACo Board Member
Director of Community Services
DuPage County, Ill.

Number of years active in NACo: I've been active in the National Association for County Community and Economic Development (NACCED) for about 20 years. NACCED is a NACo affiliate, so through that, I've been attending CEWD meetings and NACo conferences for many years. In 2020, following the completion of my term as NACCED president, I was appointed as the NACCED representative to the NACo board.

Years in public service: I've worked in the public sector for 35 years, with 22 of those being with DuPage County.

Occupation: Director of Community Services for DuPage County, Ill. I run a large department that manages a variety of social service and grants management programs including Community Development, Senior Services, Information and Referral and the Homeless Continuum of Care.

Education: Bachelor of Science in Communications from Northwestern University; Master of Science in Management from National-Louis University.

Keating

The hardest thing I've ever done: Help my mother cope with the isolation of the pandemic.

Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner: Jimmy Carter, Ina Garten and Brandi Carlile.

A dream I have is to: Spend a few years living in different places across the country and around the world.

You'd be surprised to learn that: I have a background in local television production.

My favorite way to relax is: Cook, play golf or hang out with my friends in my neighborhood.

I'm most proud of: Professionally, it would be the culture of collaboration that exists in the human services sector in DuPage County. We approach every issue with an understanding that partnerships between government and the non-profit sector will build the strongest solutions. Personally, it's being the mom of two kind, smart and independent young women.

Every morning I read: My local newspaper in paper form.

My favorite meal is: Really any meal that I share with family or close friends. Even though I love to cook, the food is secondary to the people I share it with.

My pet peeve is: Insincerity and the improper use of your/you're.

The last book I read was: *The Address Book: What Street Addresses Reveal About Identity, Race, Wealth, and Power* by Deirdre Mask. I'm reading it for NACCED's new book club which was created to offer another way for NACCED members to connect by discussing topics related to the work we do.

My favorite movie is: I'm not much of a movie person, but if *Easy A* is on, I'll stop and watch it every time. The cast, especially Stanley Tucci and Emma Stone, really makes the movie.

My favorite music is: I love live music of nearly any genre, but the full experience of live musical theater on Broadway would have to rank at the top of my list.

My favorite U.S. president: Barack Obama for many reasons, not the least of which is that he's a Chicago White Sox fan, like me.

My county is a NACo member because: From a staff perspective, the opportunity to connect with and learn from peers around the country helps us to more effectively implement the federal programs we manage. That's good for our counties and the people we serve.

The most adventurous thing I've ever done:
Taken aerial photographs while sitting on the edge of a helicopter.

NEWS FROM ACROSS THE NATION

CALIFORNIA

SAN DIEGO COUNTY launched a pilot program to increase access to **free menstrual products**. The Free 4 Menstrual Equity program addresses "period poverty" for individuals who do not have access or are unable to pay for tampons or pads. Through a partnership with Aunt Flow, a non-profit that works to ensure everyone has access to menstrual products, the county installed 57 free menstrual product dispensers in 23 county-owned facilities.

COLORADO

● **BOULDER COUNTY** has launched an interactive dashboard that provides detailed information on **COVID-19 vaccine data**. The dashboard provides users with an interactive look at vaccination rates in the county. Users can view vaccination rates by date, city, race or ethnicity, age and gender and also see the number of county residents who are fully vaccinated.
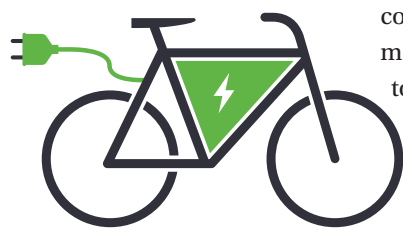
● **PUEBLO COUNTY** is providing low-income essential workers with **electric bikes**. The program aims to provide reliable transportation options for those who may be unable to afford a car and do not have access to public transportation. The county received funds from the Colorado Energy Office to purchase 42 e-bikes, which have integrated motors and are chargeable through electrical outlets, *The Pueblo Chieftain* reported.

FLORIDA

A pilot program in **PINELLAS COUNTY** is allowing **transit buses to use the shoulder** of interstates to get around traffic. As part of the Bus-on-Shoulder program, buses will only be able to use the shoulder when traffic is moving under 35 miles per hour on Interstate 275. The goal is to decrease travel times from Pinellas to Hillsborough County, WFTS-TV Tampa Bay reported. Florida's Department of Transportation widened the shoulders in both directions on the interstate.

GEORGIA

A strange "alarm" heard recently by **UNION COUNTY** residents caused an **increase in 911 calls**, according to the county's Emergency Management Agency. The agency took to Facebook to tell residents that the alarms they were hearing were in fact Brood X cicadas. Every 17 years, Brood X cicadas emerge and can produce a range of different sounds loud enough to cause hearing loss. "If you think you hear an alarm, ensure that it is an alarm and determine the location before contacting authorities," the agency said in the post.

ILLINOIS

● The Illinois Supreme Court will decide this year if a **tax on guns and ammunition** in **COOK COUNTY** is constitutional. The non-profit Guns Save Life argues the tax makes it more difficult to purchase guns and violates second amendment rights. The case will determine whether taxes can be levied on items where people exercise their rights. Commissioners passed a $25 tax on firearms in 2012 and a per-cartridge tax on centerfire and rimfire ammunition a few years later, NPR Illinois reported.

INDIANA

HAMILTON COUNTY is creating a Community Action Plan to **address mental health and addiction issues** throughout the county. Through a partnership with Hamilton County Community Foundation and Aspire Indiana Health, the county will conduct an assessment of behavioral health needs and collect information and resources to help address mental health and addiction issues. The goal is to use the data and information collected to form the Community Action Plan.

MARYLAND

● The police department in **ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY** is participating in a **community policing program** to assist formerly incarcerated individuals with re-entering the community. The Re-Entry and Community Collaboration program will focus on veterans and youth, according to WMAR Baltimore. The program will offer county services to help train and prepare individuals to re-enter society.

● **BALTIMORE COUNTY** is making plans for a **public art memorial** for those who lost their lives to COVID-19. The county is partnering with the Baltimore County Public Arts Guild to install a "free-standing public art concept" to represent hope, unity and healing. Interested artists can apply online to design the memorial, WJZ-TV Baltimore reported.

ILLINOIS

● The **DUPAGE COUNTY** Sheriff's Office launched a **horticulture program** for non-violent inmates at the county correctional facility. Through a partnership with the College of DuPage, eligible inmates can enroll in a sustainable urban vegetable and herb production course and earn three credit hours. Inmates will participate in virtual lectures and meet with professors in person at the jail's Hope's Garden. Fruits and vegetables grown through the program will be donated to food pantries.

MICHIGAN

Commissioners in **WAYNE COUNTY** called for the state to **end a tax on menstrual products**. The commissioners noted that menstrual products are considered luxury items instead of necessities. The tax was an initial priority for the county's newly formed Women's Commission to address issues that concern women in the county. The resolution notes that period poverty is a

public health crisis and causes many students to miss school because of lack of access to menstrual products.

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS COUNTY Library and the Department of Public Health are working together to hold **vaccination events at county library branches** during the summer. The vaccine events will provide free COVID-19 doses and will not require health insurance or proof of residency. Distributions will feature book giveaways and a mobile produce vendor. The collaboration will provide wider access to the vaccine and eliminate disparities among ZIP codes, County Executive Sam Page told NBC's St. Louis affiliate.

NEVADA

● With Allegiant Stadium complete, **CLARK COUNTY** is taking steps to make sure the Raiders' home won't resemble a pirate ship in a sea of roads. The County Commission approved a plan to create a **1.25 square mile multi-use entertainment district.** The stadium district aims to create a pedestrian-friendly zone out of the surrounding industrial area by creating smaller blocks and fewer dead-end streets, adding public art installation gardens and outdoor dining

NORTH CAROLINA

The Carolina Panthers will be getting a new playing surface in Bank of America Stadium and six **MECKLENBURG COUNTY** parks will get materials from the old one. Roughly **4,000 cubic yards of soil** will be transplanted in 300 truckloads. The soil was originally contributed in 1994 from all 100 North Carolina and 46 South Carolina counties.

opportunities, KTNV-TV News reported.

● **LANDER COUNTY** is the first in the nation to join the **Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association**, the *Elko Daily Free Press* reported, and **ELKO COUNTY** was not far behind in passing a resolution to join.

The organization maintains that "the law enforcement powers held by the sheriff supersede those of any agent, officer, elected official or employee from any level of government when in the jurisdiction of the county. The vertical separation of powers in the Constitution makes it clear that the power of the sheriff even supersedes the powers of the President [sic]."

● Legislation signed by Gov. Steve Sisolak (D) will outlaw counties from sounding **sundown sirens** "at a time during which the siren, bell or alarm was previously sounded on specific days or times in association with an ordinance enacted by the city which required persons of a particular race, ethnicity, ancestry, national origin or color to leave the city by a specific time."

NEW YORK

ALBANY COUNTY will play host to a **"creative aging" campus**, serving as a senior center without walls offering programs and services throughout the county and connecting seniors with arts, education, wellness, a new restaurant program and more.

NORTH CAROLINA

● With more residents over 60 than under 17, The **NEW HANOVER COUNTY** Board of Commissioners has adopted a **five-year Master Aging Plan**. The New Hanover County Senior Resource Center developed the plan with community members and organizations, and the plan serves as a roadmap for New Hanover County to ensure a comprehensive approach to services and resources in the community that support and foster lifelong community engagement and well-being.
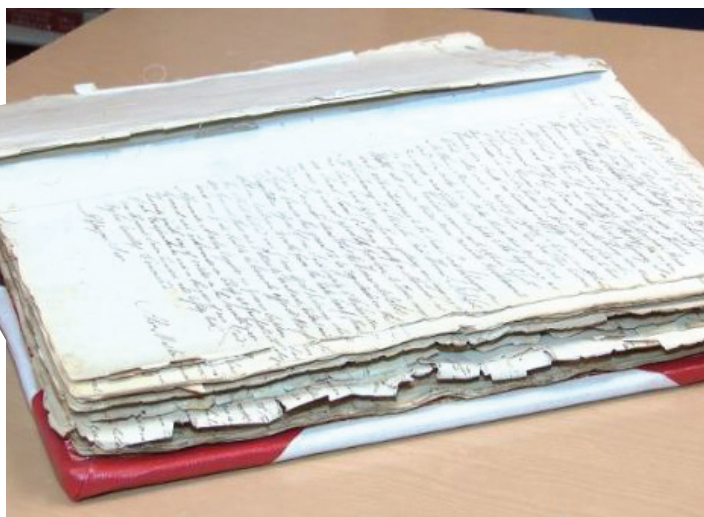
TENNESSEE

A long-gone, handwritten copy of **WASHINGTON COUNTY**'s **first property deed book** is scheduled to come home for Tennessee's 225th anniversary of statehood celebration. The book, covering property transactions from 1775-1782 had been in Nashville since the state's centennial in 1897. Washington was the state's first county.

OHIO

The Ohio Supreme Court has ruled that the **STARK COUNTY** Board of Commissioners must buy the **voting machines selected by its Board of Elections**.

The Board of Elections had requested the Supreme Court to instruct the county commissioners to accept an elections board proposal after the commissioners attempted in March 2021 to block the purchase of 1,450 machines from Dominion Voting Systems, the *Highland County Press* reported.

OKLAHOMA

PAYNE COUNTY will create an **Infant Toddler Court** to help improve the health, safety, well-being and development of infants, toddlers and families involved in the child welfare system, the *Stillwater News Press* reported.

The program will help address parents' past trauma and meet their immediate needs as a way of supporting the parent-child relationship and improving the child's well-being. A large team of partnering social service organizations will advocate for supportive community services that could help prevent maltreatment in the first place and keep families from becoming involved

with the child welfare system, she noted.

OREGON

A combination of increased revenues, grant opportunities, productive investments and operational efficiencies has allowed **DOUGLAS COUNTY** to **eliminate day-use parking fees** at all of the county-run parks, *The World* reported.
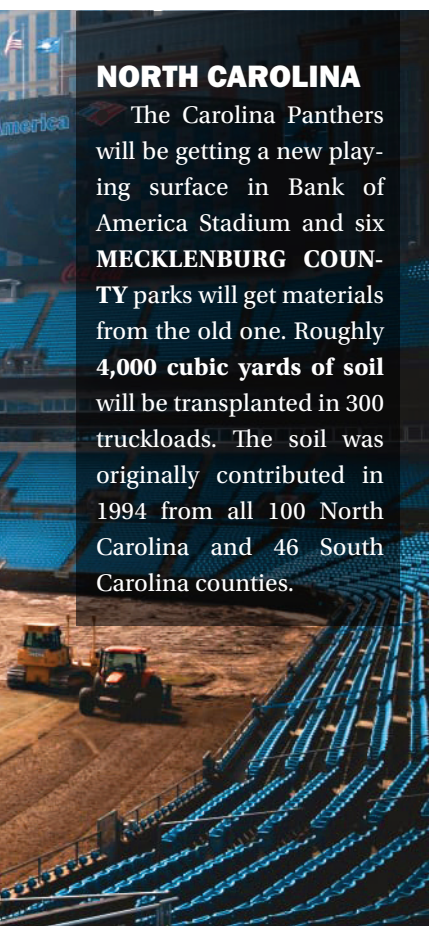
WASHINGTON

KING COUNTY is the first in the United States to ban government use of **facial recognition software**. The legislation bans the use of the software by county government agencies and administrative offices, including by the King County Sheriff's Office, and none had used it before the legislation passed, though it allows law enforcement or government agencies to comply with the National Child Search Assistance Act. "The Sheriff's Office operations will not be hindered by the proposed legislation regarding facial recognition technologies," said Sgt. Tim Meyer. "This legislation reflects the values of the communities we serve."

News from Across the Nation is compiled by Charlie Ban and Rachel Looker. Does your county have news we should know about? Contact cban@naco.org and rlooker@naco.org.

VIRGINIA

LOUDOUN COUNTY and **MONTGOMERY COUNTY**, Md. are working to reopen a **commuter ferry** that crosses the Potomac River. A legal dispute in December 2020 closed the ferry, which had served 800 vehicles per day. The counties will study the ferry operation and evaluate land ownership and acquisition scenarios for the Virginia landing and will present options for restoring service.

BRIGHT IDEAS | DURHAM COUNTY, N.C.

Library Initiative Creates Inclusive Space for All

PROBLEM:
County libraries need inclusive spaces for individuals with disabilities.

SOLUTION:
Launch an initiative to adapt programs, create spaces and provide technologies to meet the needs of all members of the community.

by Rachel Looker
staff writer

A child plays with bubble tubes installed in the Durham County, N.C. library system as part of the Practicing Inclusivity Initiative to create more welcoming and accessible spaces for individuals with special needs.

When an adult with special needs approached Durham County, N.C.'s Community Engagement Administrator Sarah Alverson on just the third day of her job working for the library, she had no idea it would be the beginning of a 10-year journey to launching the library's Practicing Inclusivity Initiative.

The person's caregiver asked if she would be interested in hosting a weekly program for individuals with disabilities.

"It was the third day of work," she said of her former position at the library. "I don't know what my job duties are, I don't know what I'm supposed to be doing, so I said 'Sure, why not?'"

The interaction with the man and his caregiver led to a series of weekly programs held by Alverson and a group of sometimes up to 100 adults, children and teens with disabilities.

When Alverson was promoted to community engagement administrator and asked for grant ideas, she knew just what was needed: A special needs coordinator.

The grant ended up incorporating more than just that position.

The Practicing Inclusivity Initiative officially launched in 2018 to create a more welcoming and accessible space for individuals with a variety of special needs at the Durham County Library system.

Supported by grant funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the federal Library Services and Technology Act and administered by the State Library of North Carolina, Alverson managed the initiative's three-prong approach focusing on staff training, inclusive spaces and inclusive programming.

Alverson said there was a need for staff training within the county libraries to increase employee awareness and hear about the personal experiences from guest speakers who have special needs.

Staff training covered topics ranging from inclusion, customer service, sensory processing and American Sign Language.

"Through our staff training, we've learned it's never going to be enough, no matter what we do, we can always do more," Alverson said.

A key aspect of the initiative involved the addition of sensory items and inclusive spaces to all county libraries including "bubble walls" and other sensory elements.

Faith Phillips, who formerly served as manager of the main library and as the co-project manager for the initiative, said the main library was undergoing a complete renovation and transformation during this time, providing a unique opportunity to improve the space's inclusivity.

The main library now features three sensory spaces, providing a multi-sensory environment with immersive interactive spaces that include color-controlled fiber optic cables that appear like a waterfall to a Vibroacoustic waterbed where individuals can feel vibrations from music when lying down to a LiteZilla, which resembles a giant LiteBrite.

Renovations included a sensory calming room on the first floor which serves as a multi-sensory environment and includes bubble walls, tactile toys and special seating.

"The idea is if somebody comes into the library space and just needs a minute, they're overwhelmed, there's too much going on, overstimulated, that's what that room is for," Alverson said.

Alverson and Phillips worked together to design the sensory spaces, research different sensory tools and even modeled spaces after a concept from the Netherlands.

The library held a weeklong, pop-up event while renovations were happening to create a temporary multi-sensory environment with bubble tubes, fiber optics and other sensory items.

Over 770 people visited the pop-up space in six days.

"We did outreach events and that combination proved to be very, very valuable, because people who had never heard of the library before were suddenly going, 'Oh, we did this here at our place and we can come to the library and have that same program,'" Alverson said.

Each library now has sensory solutions kits to make programs more adaptive and inclusive with items such as handheld fidget toys, sensory balls, bean bags, sunglasses and noise-cancelling headphones.

Phillips said feedback about the initiative was overwhelmingly positive.

"The overwhelming response was 'the library is for me now,'" Phillips said.

She explained how many families were hesitant to come to the library if they didn't bring their own sensory elements a loved one needed, but now feel comfortable coming to the space knowing they have access to a variety of tools.

"We want to connect you to the services and resources and then we want you to play, we want you to interact," Alverson said. **CN**

Durham County's Practicing Inclusivity Initiative is the recipient of a 2020 NACo Achievement Award in the Libraries category.