

NACO National Association of Counties

# CountyNews

The Voice of America's Counties

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES ■ WASHINGTON, D.C.

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## Infrastructure gets big boost in Obama jobs bill

BY LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

President Barack Obama recently proposed legislation designed to boost the sagging economy and spur job creation.

The American Jobs Act of 2011, which the president outlined in a Sept. 8 address to a joint session of Congress, includes a series of tax cuts for employers, and investments in infrastructure, job training, school modernization and funding to stem impending layoffs of teachers and firefighters.

The White House did not include an official cost estimate with the bill, though senior administration officials put its approximate cost at \$447 billion, which makes it a little more than half the size of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the \$787 billion stimulus legislation passed by Congress in February 2009.

The act would provide \$140 billion in aid to state and local governments for infrastructure projects, school modernization, retention of public safety workers

and job training.

The breakdown of this aid is as follows:

### TRANSPORTATION

Approximately \$60 billion has been proposed for transportation infrastructure and is divided between immediate transportation infrastructure investments, and building and upgrading long-term infrastructure development.

#### ■ Immediate transportation infrastructure investments – \$50 billion

**Aviation** – \$2 billion would go for airport development grants, better known as the Airport Improvement Program, which is used for capital projects at public airports. There would be no matching requirements. Another \$1 billion would be available for NextGen, a program to upgrade the nation's air navigation facilities.

**Highway and Rail** – \$27 billion would be provided for highway restoration, repair and construction projects. Passenger and freight rail projects would be eligible. Funding would be distributed using the same formula as the stimulus program, which required 30 percent of the funds to be distributed using the

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### QuickTakes

#### Highest Aging Population States

	Percent of pop. 65+
Florida	17.3%
West Virginia	16.0%
Maine	15.9%
Pennsylvania	15.4%
Iowa	14.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Photo courtesy of Bruce Barr

A garage containing a Corvette collection was one of many structural casualties in the wildfire that tore through Bastrop County, Texas in September 2011.

## Months of wildfires challenge Texas counties

BY CHARLIE BAN  
STAFF WRITER

Wildfires tearing through the state this year support the adage that everything is bigger in Texas.

The numbers prove it — 33.1 percent of all wildfires nationally in 2011 have happened in Texas, but those fires have burned more than 48 percent of the acreage lost in the country.

Since November 2010, more than 22,790 wildfires have burned in Texas.

The most damaging fires have taken place in Bastrop County, southeast of Austin, and Cass and Marion counties, on the eastern border near Shreveport, La.

The Bastrop County fires have claimed two lives and destroyed 1,554 homes as of Sept. 20, over more than 34,000 acres. The Bear Creek fire in Cass and Marion counties has burned 40,979 acres, the largest fire by acreage. Both started Sept. 4.

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## Congressmen pledge bipartisan support for PILT funding

BY CHARLES TAYLOR  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

The PILT program must be “a priority” for Congress, Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) told county officials from 16 states during a recent Capitol Hill briefing on the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program.

“I consider PILT payments to be expenditures to keep our communities alive,” Bingaman told those assembled. But he and two House colleagues acknowledged it could be a tough sell in the current climate of cutting federal spending and deficit reduction.

Bingaman was joined by Reps. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) and Steve Pearce (R-N.M.) Sept. 14 in voicing bipartisan support for additional years of mandatory funding for the PILT, which has been guaranteed only through the end of 2012.

Pearce said the “pressure” on

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### CountyNews Features



# Fight over disaster aid continues as counties struggle

By DALEN A. HARRIS

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

With just weeks left in fiscal year 2011 and federal emergency disaster aid funding rapidly running out, Congress continues to wrangle over how to provide critical funds for the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Disaster Relief Funding (DRF) account. Since late August, the DRF has been operating on an "immediate needs" basis, forcing delays in longer-term recovery projects around the nation.

Adding to the urgency, the agency currently has less than \$351 million left in the fund as a result of paying out more than \$400 million since Hurricane Irene damaged communities along the Atlantic Coast.

Since 2005, Congress has readily enacted nine emergency supplemental appropriations to provide additional funds to the DRF, but several members of Congress in both chambers are hesitant about adding additional resources to the DRF without an offset. The administration has indicated that \$5.1 billion is needed for disaster relief efforts, \$500 million immediately and \$4.6 billion for FY12.



Photo courtesy of the Birmingham News/Mark Allmond

Workers begin cleaning up debris from an EF4 tornado that struck Cullman County, Ala. April 23. The twister tore off part of the courthouse roof (seen here) and cut a wide path of destruction through historic downtown Cullman.

Recently, a DRF spending package narrowly won Senate passage by a 62-37 vote. The legislation provided for \$5.1 billion in funding for the DRF, of which \$500 million

would be available immediately. The remaining funds include \$4.6 billion for FY11 and FY12, and disaster recovery assistance for other federal departments and agencies that have

seen their accounts dwindle because of the heightened incidence of disasters throughout the year. Prior to final passage, the Senate defeated two GOP amendments that would have offset the cost of the disaster spending package.

In the House, members are prepared to debate a proposal that includes \$3.65 billion in disaster relief funds attached to the continuing resolution funding bill. This legislation would fund government activities until Nov. 18, and provides \$1 billion immediately to the DRF to cover pending needs. The remaining \$2.65 billion would be provided for FY12 and be offset by cutting \$1.5 billion from the Energy Department's Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program. However, many members of Congress are opposed to including any offset for Disaster Emergency Aid and argue that war costs and previous disaster relief aid were seldom offset.

All in all, there remains wide division between the House and Senate on agreeing to a final number for funding for the DRF in 2011 and 2012, and ultimately time is running out. DRF funding to recover and rebuild from numerous past and present natural disasters is nearly gone. Average monthly expenditures for the DRF are \$383 million (or \$4.6 billion annually), and current projections indicate that the fund will be depleted by the end of September.

In many states and counties, the congressional impasse on the DRF is causing delays in long-term recovery projects, and all past and present Hazard Mitigation Grant Program awards have been put on

hold pending additional federal funding for the DRF.

In Kentucky, 117 of 120 counties, representing 4.2 million residents are awaiting FEMA funding decisions. In Alabama, still recovering from massive storms and tornados from earlier this year, 515 projects are currently delayed totaling nearly \$32 million.

In Iowa, many of the roads damaged by severe winds, flooding and storms in 2011 cannot be repaired until after the DRF is fully funded. In Pottawatomie, Fremont, Iowa, Mills, Harrison, Monona and Woodbury counties, many of the county roads are awaiting repair, and Black Hawk County Supervisor John Miller commented that "Interstate 29 is still not open and affecting commerce in Nebraska, Missouri and Iowa."

In Mississippi, more than \$12 million in disaster funding is delayed from recent tornados and flooding, and none of the replacement projects are being funded for Smithville in Monroe County where all city buildings were destroyed.

In addition to funding needed for the current onslaught of wildfires, Oklahoma is awaiting nearly \$56 million in DRF funds for public assistance and hazard mitigation. And in Ohio, roughly \$31 million in DRF funds resulting from flooding in April and May for 21 counties is on hold, and nearly 95 percent of the work is for road damage and major roads that are still closed due to these disasters.

In 2010, FEMA briefly faced a depletion of the DRF, but Congress ultimately provided funding for the program just before time expired.

## NACo leads National Rural Development Campaign

By ERIK JOHNSTON

ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

The NACo-led Campaign for a Renewed Rural Development recently released joint priority suggestions for enhancing rural development opportunities in the 2012 Farm Bill. The campaign's joint statement emphasizes that the next Farm Bill must include a comprehensive rural development title to help meet the challenges facing rural America.

"Federal rural development programs must be significantly enhanced and made a centerpiece of the 2012 Farm Bill if our nation is to strengthen the economic competitiveness and quality of life in small towns and rural counties across America," said Larry Naake, executive director, NACo, which leads the Campaign for a Renewed Rural Development.

NACo's rural members have continued to advocate for enhancing USDA rural development programs in the Farm Bill and yearly appropriations processes, and NACo's board of directors elevated the issue to a key legislative priority



Photo by Jim Philipps

Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), chairman of the Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Jobs, Rural Economic Growth and Energy Innovation, discusses crafting a strong Rural Development Title in the next Farm Bill with members of the Campaign for a Renewed Rural Development.

for 2011. USDA rural development programs fund water-wastewater infrastructure, community facilities, broadband, electric, telephone, housing, renewable energy and business development.

These programs have received significant cuts over the last two decades, partly due to the absence

of a united constituency. NACo stepped in to fill this void in 2007 when it launched the campaign.

The campaign was able to secure \$150 million in mandatory funding during the 2008 Farm Bill and successfully fought for the

See **CAMPAIGN** page 3

## In Case You Missed It ...

### News to Use from Past County News

#### ► 2011 Coastal Counties Forum Registration Open

Join NACo and the University of Georgia's Coastal Georgia Center in Chatham County for a one-and-a-half-day forum to discuss how coastal counties can take better advantage of public and private resources to build resilient, sustainable ecosystems and economies. The forum will be held Oct. 27-28 in Savannah, Ga.

To register, visit [www.naco.org/coastalforum](http://www.naco.org/coastalforum) or contact Carrie Clingan at 202.942.4246 or [cclingan@naco.org](mailto:cclingan@naco.org).

#### ► New foreclosure publication

Foreclosures have been a daunting problem for counties and residents for the past several years. To help counties deal with the problem, NACo has produced a new publication that explains the negative impacts of foreclosures on counties, and the approaches county leaders and housing professionals are taking to help alleviate those impacts.

For more information, visit [www.naco.org/programs/csd](http://www.naco.org/programs/csd) or contact James Davenport at 202.661.8807 or [jdavenport@naco.org](mailto:jdavenport@naco.org).



# NACo builds support in advance of Farm Bill reauthorization

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inclusion of more than \$4 billion in rural development funding in the 2009 Recovery Act.

The political environment is significantly different for this Farm Bill, which expires in September 2012. Major cuts to all portions of the Farm Bill are likely to be mandated via deficit-reduction efforts. Subsequently, NACo and its partners are seeking to maintain current funding for USDA rural development and are seeking policy changes that will give counties and their partners greater flexibility to use current funding for their top priority projects.

The six key priorities outlined in the joint principles letter fall under the following broad themes:

- Clarify the mission of USDA Rural Development
- Provide flexibility and incentives for regional collaboration
- Maintain rural development investments
- Maintain and improve technical assistance
- Improve metrics and accountability, and

• Streamline application and reporting processes.

“Our farmers, businesses and entrepreneurs are facing immense global competition,” Naake added. “The 2012 Farm Bill offers a timely and appropriate legislative vehicle for Congress and the administration

to bolster economic opportunity in rural America.”

The campaign is working with Agriculture Committee members in the House and Senate and sent its priority principles to these key members who will write the next Farm Bill. NACo also organized a

campaign meeting with Sen. Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio) on Sept. 16 to demonstrate the broad base of support for a strong, rural development title in the next Farm Bill.

Brown chairs the Senate Agriculture Committee’s Subcommittee on Jobs, Rural Economic

Growth and Energy Innovation. In this role, he has jurisdiction over the rural development title of the Farm Bill. He also serves on the Senate Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, which has jurisdiction over rural development programs.



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# Counties join campaign to house chronic, at-risk homeless

By CHARLES TAYLOR  
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

As a child, Harold Fisher would play in the Arlington County, Va. park that eventually became his “home.” He found a sheltered area near the park’s tennis courts to sleep nights in later years when he was homeless.

Today Fisher, 42, who suffers from Type 2 diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure and sleep apnea, has his own apartment in Arlington, thanks to the county and the Arlington Street People’s Assistance Network (A-SPAN).

“It’s nice,” he said of the one-bedroom flat he’s able to afford with the help of county programs and subsidies. “I thought I’d go stir crazy being alone, but I actually love the peace.”

Arlington and counties across the country are hoping to replicate that success many times over as part of a national campaign called 100,000 Homes for 100,000 Homeless Americans (100,000 Homes) launched last year by Community Solutions, a New York City-based nonprofit working to end homelessness. Other counties that have adopted local versions of the campaign include Santa Clara County, Calif., Clark County, Nev. and Pasco County, Fla. There is no cost to affiliate with the national campaign.

“We’re just kind of a connective infrastructure,” said Jake Maguire, communications manager for Community Solutions and 100,000 Homes. “The primary reason this approach works is that communities can share with and learn from one another. What the campaign, I think, is doing is creating kind of a platform and infrastructure for these communities that are already innovating so successfully to share their ideas.”

100,000 Homes provides participating states and localities with tools and training — including a vulnerability index survey — that is administered by volunteers. It’s designed to identify those, like Fisher, at risk of premature death due to multiple risk factors.

“When you fill out this questionnaire, you get a score on the likelihood of the person to die on the street,” said Anita Friedman, economic independence division chief with Arlington’s Department of Human Services. People with three or more potentially life-threatening conditions move to the top of the list. At least three homeless people died on the county’s streets last year, according to A-SPAN.

Maguire said the campaign also



Photo courtesy of The Health Trust

Robin McGovern (l) of EHCLifeBuilders, a Santa Clara County, Calif.-based nonprofit working to end homelessness, and Sam Liccardo, a San Jose, Calif. City Council member, survey a homeless person during the Housing 1000 campaign registry week.

addresses bottom-line issues for local governments. “There’s a win in this if you care about the issue and you care about folks that are homeless, and there’s obviously a social response to what we’re doing, but there’s also a fiscal response,” he said.

“There’ve been plenty of studies now that show that managing homelessness and chronic homelessness — keeping people outside — is actually more expensive than the cost of permanent supportive housing because of all of the public sector interventions that occur, and

often those are within the county system.”

Communities participating in 100,000 Homes enlist teams of volunteers to conduct the surveys of the homeless during a “registry week” in the pre-dawn hours to determine a vulnerability index for each person. The volunteers systematically gather the names and birth dates, and take pictures — with consent — of individuals who have been sleeping on the streets or in shelters. They also obtain data on health status, institutional history (jail, prison, hospital and military), length of homelessness, patterns of shelter use and previous housing situation.

Arlington is just starting its program and will conduct its surveys Oct. 16–21. The county’s campaign is called 100 Homes for 100 Homeless Arlingtonians; in Santa Clara County, the goal is explicit in its name: “Housing 1000.” Arlington averages 50 chronically homeless persons on any given night, county officials said; Santa Clara County counts 2,500 in that category.

Clark County’s Hope Help Home program set a target to house

100 and is furthest along in meeting its goal. The county was already doing virtually the same type of assessments in the 100,000 Homes model and was able to move at least 69 vulnerable homeless into homes between March and July of this year, according to Michele Fuller-Hallauer of the Southern Nevada Regional Planning Coalition’s Committee on Homelessness. The county was able to count those placements towards its goal of 100 without doing a separate vulnerability index survey. The national campaign encourages that kind of flexibility and customization, Maguire said.

Because the county was doing so well on its own, some advocates for the homeless in the county, which includes Las Vegas, questioned the need to affiliate with the campaign, Fuller-Hallauer recalled. The answer soon would become clear.

“One of the things that the affiliation with the 100,000 Homes campaign has done for us is once we signed on, we had a couple of regional managers for property

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## Olson testifies on housing counseling programs

By DARIA DANIEL  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

DuPage County, Ill. Board Member Debra Olson told a congressional subcommittee that the federally supported housing counseling program in her county provided services to more than 2,500 families and helped 279 families avoid foreclosure.

Olson testified on behalf of NACo before the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity regarding housing counseling programs Sept. 14. House Subcommittee Chair Judy Biggert (R-Ill.) held the hearing to discuss the value and oversight of HUD’s Housing Counseling programs, as well as restoring funding.

HUD-certified counseling agencies help ensure residents receive accurate information and effective services, which can make the difference between homeowners saving or losing their homes.

“Taking the guess work out and empowering residents with information makes the process better for all involved,” Olson said. “Counties know these services prevent foreclosures and help homeowners make better decisions in

a process that can be overwhelming for many.”

These services, offered primarily free of charge thanks in part to federal funding, allow residents to make informed decisions about mortgages and rental payments. Olson currently serves as the volunteer interim executive director of the DuPage Homeownership Center (DHOC), a HUD-certified housing counseling agency, providing comprehensive counseling services to county residents.

Olson noted that preventing foreclosures in her county saved taxpayers \$20 million, yet in the FY11 Continuing Resolution (CR) for HUD appropriations, housing counseling services funding was eliminated, a loss of \$88 million. And things look no better for FY12. The House FY12 Appropriations Subcommittee bill did not restore funding for housing counseling programs.

At the hearing, congressional members were supportive of the program, and several requested that HUD’s acting deputy assistant secretary for single family housing, Deborah Holston, who testified, provide more national data showing the program’s success.

The Senate Appropriations Subcommittee has not yet released its FY12 funding levels.



Photo by Daria Daniel

Debra Olson (l), DuPage County, Ill. board member, is pictured with Rep. Judy Biggert (R-Ill.), chair of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Insurance, Housing and Community Opportunity, before testifying at the subcommittee hearing.

### NACo Issue Brief on Foreclosures

This year, NACo published an Issue Brief on Foreclosures — *The Rise and Fall of Neighborhoods in Counties across the Country* — to ensure county officials are aware of the various resources available to reduce foreclosures and assist communities in recovery.

The brief notes the importance of homeowners’ contacting a HUD-certified counseling agency for assistance with working with lenders when facing possible foreclosure. The brief is available to download on NACo’s website, [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org), in the “Research and Publications” section.



# Congress passes aviation, highway-transit extensions

By ROBERT J. FOGEL  
SENIOR LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

Based on an agreement worked out between Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) and House Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio), the House passed H.R. 2887, a bill to extend the federal aviation and airport program by four months and the federal highway and transit program for six months. The Senate passed the same bill by a vote of

92-6 and President Barack Obama signed it.

The programs were scheduled to expire on Sept. 16 and Sept. 30, respectively, and without extension legislation highway, transit and airport funding would have stopped flowing to states, counties and cities after those dates, and federal aviation user taxes and highway fuel taxes would have no longer been collected. The aviation extension, the 22nd such extension, goes to

Jan. 31, 2012, and the highway-transit extension, the eighth, goes to March 31, 2012.

There was some concern about whether the Senate could proceed on its extension vote when Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) objected to the bill's being considered by the Senate unless it included his amendment to eliminate the transportation enhancements section of the highway program. He eventually withdrew his amendment. Sen.

Rand Paul (R-Ky.), however, offered two amendments to trim spending. The first would have allowed the Highway Trust Fund to spend no more money than it collected next fiscal year, which would have cut highway and transit funding by \$49 billion. That amendment failed by a vote of 84-14. The second Paul amendment would have cut aviation funding to the FY08 levels, a reduction of \$700 million, and was defeated by a vote of 61-36.

The Senate and House will now try again to resolve the differences between their passed aviation bills, a resolution of which has been eluding them for many months. While proposals have been put forth on a reauthorization of the highway and

transit programs, no action has yet been taken.

Chairman John Mica (R-Fla.) of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee is proposing a \$230 billion, six-year reauthorization that substantially reduces highway and transit funding to levels reflecting revenue coming into the trust fund. Chairman Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee wants to see a two-year, \$109 billion program at current funding levels.

With some breathing room provided by the extensions, there could be progress, politics permitting, on getting long-term reauthorizations moving.

## EPA's ozone rule withdrawn

By JULIE UFFNER  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

One of the most controversial efforts to tighten the Clean Air Act (CAA) was tabled by President Barack Obama earlier this month.

The ozone rule was originally proposed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in January 2010. The EPA proposed to change the current primary ozone standard of 75 parts per billion (ppb) to a range of 60-70 ppb. The rule

was to be finalized in August 2010, however, EPA asked for several extensions from the courts. The White House estimated the cost of implementation to be between \$19 billion and \$90 billion.

While Obama's decision was applauded by industry and others who claimed the rule was too stringent and financially impossible to meet, many environmental and health groups were dismayed by the policy reversal.

Ozone, a key component of smog,

is blamed for increased health care costs for bronchitis, acute asthma, hospital and emergency room visits, non-fatal heart attacks and premature deaths. According to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America, ozone damages the respiratory tract and the air sacs in the lungs. Repeated exposure leads to respiratory infection and illnesses, especially for people with asthma and allergies, leading to more emergency room visits. It estimates the annual cost for asthma nationwide to be close to \$18 billion. Direct costs, such as hospitalizations, account for close to \$10 billion and indirect costs, such as lost earnings, account for \$8 billion.

Ozone is primarily created through emissions from cars, power plants, industrial facilities and electric utilities. Ozone can also be created through indoor equipment such as printers and copiers.

Since both sunlight and hot weather precipitate its formation, ozone is known as primarily a summer pollutant. Both urban and rural areas can have high levels of ozone due to airborne transport of pollutants from hundreds of miles away.

Obama's staff said the president chose to withdraw the rule due to "reducing regulatory burdens and regulatory uncertainty," rather than concerns over implementation costs for industry and other affected parties.

The administration stressed its continued commitment to the environment and touted past achievements on auto fuel efficiency and emissions from power plants.

Approximately 650 rural and urban counties would have been considered in non-attainment under the proposed standards, in addition to the 515 counties already under non-attainment.

While Obama has chosen to withdraw the current proposal, ozone standards are set for reconsideration in 2013 under the federal Clean Air Act.

The current ozone standard of 75 ppb has been in place since 2008.

## Surveys key in identifying most vulnerable homeless

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management companies that said, "Oh, I was on the 100,000 Homes campaign website and saw that you signed on. What can we do to help?" Fuller-Hallauer said.

Santa Clara County conducted its registry week June 26-July 1. Paul Murphy, a senior policy analyst for Supervisor Liz Kniss, who chairs NACo's Health Steering Committee, was one of the volunteers representing her office. He and his team members met at about 4:30 a.m. to begin their surveying. Trained by the program in how to approach the homeless, he didn't find the task daunting.

"I think it's really about putting yourself out there, approaching people in a way that's nonthreatening and nonjudgmental," Murphy said, "and really just trying to engage them in the surveys to get the best information possible to design effective services."

Jennifer Loving is executive director of Destination Home, which is coordinating the 1000 Homes campaign in the county. She said technology and social media also played an important role in the campaign, as one might expect in this Silicon Valley county that's home to Google and Apple.

Using social media and word of mouth, Santa Clara County and city of San Jose engaged 350 volunteers to conduct the surveys. Many used their smartphones and tablet computers to enter information and take and submit photos to an online database.

More than 943 homeless persons in 12 cities were identified and

surveyed, 367 of whom were found to be vulnerable, having health conditions associated with a high mortality risk.

"A lot of the folks that we're talking about that have been outside the longest and are the sickest are really, maybe, more off the grid," Loving said.

After determining the demand, the next step for Santa Clara County and other counties in the campaign is to line up the supply — "a combination of housing and services, and also what needs to happen in order to make our public sector services more accessible for our community members," she said. "We're in the midst of that now."

Maguire said with the training 100,000 Homes provides in its housing placement "boot camps," some communities have been able to reduce the amount of time it takes to move someone into housing "by 70 to 80 percent."

Whether in Arlington, a bridge-crossing away from the nation's capital, or in Silicon Valley, homeless advocates agree about an additional benefit of their campaigns — enlarging their constituencies of advocates for the homeless.

"When you get a bunch of different people together that might not meet otherwise for a common cause — and you're definitely building the relationships among people that care in the community — is another great benefit of what happens," Murphy said.

For more information about the 100,000 Homes campaign and how your county can get involved, visit <http://100khomes.org>.

## Profiles in Service



» Christopher Johnson  
Editorial Assistant  
County News

**Number of years at NACo:** 3

**Education:** Bachelor's in journalism, George Mason University

**The hardest thing I've ever done:** go through back surgery for spinal stenosis that required 3-4 months of recovery

**Three people (living or dead) I'd invite to dinner:** Bill Clinton, Eddie Murphy and Thomas Jefferson

**A dream I have is to:** write a book and have it published.

**You'd be surprised to learn that I:** have an identical twin brother named Dan.

**My favorite way to relax is:** lying on the beach watching the waves.

**Every morning I read:** *The Washington Post* and *The Examiner*.

**My favorite meal is:** southern fried chicken with mashed potatoes and gravy.

**My pet peeve is:** people who don't keep up with current events.

**My motto is:** "Do what you love and the money will follow."

**The last book I read was:** *Infamous Scribblers: The Founding Fathers and the Rowdy Beginnings of American Journalism* by Eric Burns.

**My favorite movie is:** *L.A. Confidential*.

**My favorite music is:** rock.

**My favorite president is:** Abraham Lincoln.



# Counties state their cases for guaranteed PILT funding

PILT from page 1

Congress to reduce PILT funding is going to continue because there is “no short-term fix for the budget — none.” He added, however, that cutting PILT without any other recourse for counties “is not going to work.”

More than two dozen NACO members attended the meeting, and several of them told the lawmakers and their staffers why the program’s continued funding is important to them. For them it’s a jobs issue as much as anything else. PILT money funds many public-sector jobs in counties, and with their economies already hurting, guaranteed PILT funding is essential to their communities, the county officials said.

The PILT program provides much-needed revenue for counties with large areas of tax-exempt federal land within their boundaries, they said. In 2010, the U.S. Department of the Interior distributed about \$358 million to 1,850 units of local government — most of them counties. That money comes with no strings attached, and counties can use it for infrastructure, education and law enforcement, among other programs and services.

Okanogan County, Wash. Com-



Photos by Tom Goodman

New Mexico Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D) tells county officials it’s come down to priorities in Congress, and he’ll work to ensure PILT is high on the list.

missioner Bud Hovers said his county would be “crippled” without PILT funding. “Unlike the federal government, counties just can’t print money or run a deficit,” he said. “We have to balance our budgets, so any money that’s taken out of our revenue stream has to come off somewhere.” His county contains 1.5 million acres of federal forest, and PILT comprises “between 10

and 11 percent” of the county’s budget. PILT money makes up 18 percent of Harney County, Ore.’s budget, County Judge Steve Grasty said.

Hover said his county is “really struggling” in the current economic climate and that if cuts must be made, they would be to discretion-

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Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) says Easterners, including many of his colleagues in Congress, don’t understand the importance of PILT to the West.

## Report: County officials find guidance in Health Impact Assessments

By PAUL BEDDOE  
ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR

A new report from the National Research Council suggests that a health impact assessment (HIA) can help county officials factor health and related costs into decision making — an essential step to solving the nation’s health problems.

The report offers guidance to public officials and the private sector on how to conduct HIAs to evaluate the public health consequences of proposed decisions and actions that could either minimize negative health impacts or optimize beneficial ones.

“This assessment is needed at all levels: local, state, regional and national,” said Jonathan Fielding, M.D., director, Los Angeles County Department of Health. “Learning how to perform HIA should become a core competency of all public health departments as a critical tool to improve the underlying determinants of health — our physical, social and economic environments.”

The committee noted that some policies not usually recognized as health-related can have important health consequences. For example, policies that determine the quality and location of housing, availability of public transportation, land use decisions or agricultural practices, can have a public health impact.

According to the report, many countries and organizations worldwide use HIA, and its use in the U.S. has slowly increased over the last decade. While no federal laws

specifically require these assessments, some — such as the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) — require a consideration of health, which could be satisfied through HIA. The committee noted that HIA should not be assumed to be the best approach to every health policy question but rather should be seen as part of a spectrum of public health and policy-oriented approaches.

The report proposes a six-step framework for conducting an HIA of proposed policies, programs, plans and projects at federal, state, tribal and local levels, as well as in the private sector.

The six steps are: screening to see whether HIA is warranted; identifying populations that will be affected and health effects to evaluate; assessing beneficial and adverse health effects of the proposal and each alternative; recommending specific actions to minimize or mitigate adverse effects; reporting the findings and recommendations to decision makers and the public, and monitoring and evaluating, for example, to track changes resulting from implementing HIA recommendations.

In addition, the committee identified several challenges to the successful use of HIA, such as balancing the need to provide timely information with the realities of variations in data, producing quantitative estimates of health effects and engaging stakeholders.

To access the report, go to [www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record\\_13229](http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_13229).

## Colorado county tells how PILT helps

Hindsdale County, Colo.’s five “fourteeners” are a powerful lure for “peak baggers” bent on reaching the Rocky Mountains’ many 14,000-foot-plus summits.

But when something goes awry at nearly three miles up, the county sheriff’s department provides search and rescue services. Law enforcement is among the services counties can use PILT funds for at their discretion, including rescue operations.

“The obligation is pretty substantial,” Sheriff Ron Bruce said. “We’re expected in the respective counties to reach a culmination point with either a rescue or a retrieval of the body or bodies. And during a year’s time, it will usually be all of those at one time or another.” He averages three or four rescue operations a year that require calling in outside aircraft.

About 800 people live in the mountainous county’s 1,118 square miles. That can swell to 4,000 to 5,000 in the summer when the tourists come.

On July 4, two teenage climbers from New York signaled electroni-



Stan Whinnery, chair, Hindsdale County, Colo. Board of Commissioners

cally that they were in trouble on the Continental Divide Trail — at 13,000 feet. Bruce called in a Flight for Life helicopter from Boulder and a Cessna under contract to the U.S. Forest Service, but neither could execute a rescue at that altitude. Eventually, a military Black Hawk helicopter was able to make the save.

There was no charge for the government aircrafts’ assistance,

but Bruce said the county received a bill for \$2,000 from Flight for Life that the father of one of the boys promised to pay. “We have not heard from him. The county had to pay that money; we are obligated to take care of that,” Bruce said. “When we personally contract with a private air asset, it’s on our nickel unless we can make recovery from the parties involved.”

County Commission Chairman Stan Whinnery, in Washington, D.C. recently to advocate on behalf of guaranteed Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding, said: “Those are the instances that we have in a small county like ours. That’s a very difficult thing for us to budget.” The county’s annual budget is about \$4 million, \$2 million of which is pass-through, he added.

Ninety-six percent of the land in the county is federal land, and the county receives about \$121,000 annually from PILT. It’s a small percentage of the county’s budget, but Whinnery said, “PILT is beyond huge for us.”



# Jobs Act includes \$30 billion in education grants to states

**JOBS ACT** from page 1

existing Surface Transportation Program formula. There would be no matching requirements. Included in this section is a competitive program for transportation training programs.

**Rail** – \$4 billion is available for existing intercity rail and developing new high-speed rail corridors.

**Amtrak** – \$2 billion for Amtrak for the repair, rehabilitation and upgrade of Amtrak's assets and infrastructure, including rolling stock.

**Transit** – \$3 billion is available for transit capital and operating assistance. The feds would pay full freight and by formula 80 percent of the funds would go to urbanized areas of at least 50,000, 10 percent to "growing states and high-density states," and 10 percent to non-urbanized areas of fewer than 50,000. Unlike existing law, all recipients would have the flexibility to decide how much of the assistance could be used for operations.

An additional \$6 billion would be directed to transit capital projects to modernize existing fixed-rail systems, and to replace and rehabilitate buses and bus facilities. Fixed-rail would get 75 percent of the funds and bus 25 percent. There would be no matching requirements.

**TIGER-TIFIA** – \$5 billion would go towards further funding of the TIGER grant program and the TIFIA transportation loan assistance program. Like current law, awards would be made on a competitive process.

**Local Hiring** – All of the above funding through standards set by U.S. Department of Transportation may be advertised containing "local hiring" requirements in some limited circumstances.

## Federal Infrastructure Bank for Transportation, Water and Energy Projects – \$10 billion

The American Infrastructure Financing Authority is funded at \$10 billion to provide direct loans and loan guarantees for infrastructure projects of regional or national significance. This includes highways, bridges, transit, inland waterways, ports, airports, air traffic control systems, passenger and freight rail, wastewater and storm water systems, dams, solid waste facilities, levees, and a broad range of energy facilities or projects. To be eligible a project must exceed \$100 million except for rural projects, which must exceed \$25 million. The maximum financing for the first two years is \$10 billion each year; years three through nine, \$20 billion per year; and \$50 billion per year thereafter.

## EDUCATION

The act would provide \$60 billion for education. The first \$30 billion would be grants to states to rehire teachers and prevent further layoffs. States could reserve 10 percent of the grants for early childhood and preschool programs, and 2 percent for administration. Governors have 30 days from enactment to apply for the grants. If the state doesn't apply for the grants, then the funds would be distributed to other entities in the state.

Once the state receives the grant, funds must be distributed to Local Education Agencies (LEA) within 100 days. There is maintenance-of-effort provision, and LEAs may not use funds for administrative expenses. Funds

are available to be obligated through Sept. 30, 2013.

The second \$30 billion would support school construction and renovations. The bulk of the construction funds, \$25 billion, would be for elementary and secondary schools. Funds would be allocated to the 100 LEAs with the largest numbers of children living in poverty, a set-aside for the Bureau of Indian Education and outlying areas, and the remainder would go to states in proportion to their respective share under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for FY11.

States would be required to allocate at least 50 percent of their funds to LEAs (other than those 100 LEAs described above) based on their respective allocations under Part A of Title I of the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) for FY11, with a minimum grant of \$10,000. This section also authorizes states to use any remaining funds for grants to LEAs as needed, with priority to rural LEAs. Elementary and secondary schools funds are available for 24 months, but LEAs may obligate funds for 36 months from the date of enactment.

The remaining \$5 billion would be directed toward community colleges with a set-aside for the tribally controlled universities and outlying areas. Funds must be used to supplement, and not supplant, other federal, state and local funds that would otherwise be expended to modernize, renovate or repair existing community college facilities, and cannot be used for routine maintenance. Funds are for FY12, and are available to be obligated up to 36 months after enactment.

## PROJECT REBUILD

The act provides \$15 billion for Project Rebuild — to put construction workers on the job rehabilitating and refurbishing vacant and foreclosed homes and businesses. Project Rebuild expands on the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), which began under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008, providing money to

states, localities and non-profits to rehabilitate vacant and foreclosed properties in communities.

Of the amount, \$10 billion would be allocated by formula to states and local governments, and \$5 billion would be allocated on a competitive basis to all types of eligible entities, now to include for-profit groups.

See **JOBS ACT** page 8

# Michigan ponders property tax repeal

By **CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON**  
EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

County governments across Michigan are keeping a close eye on Lansing as lawmakers zero in on the possible repeal of the personal property tax.

Personal property tax in Michigan is paid by businesses on property not permanently affixed to land, such as furniture, tools and computers. Michigan counties' reliance on personal property tax has increased in recent years as revenue from other sources has plummeted. The state is one of 43 that implement some form of a personal property tax.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder's (R) tax reform plan calls for eliminating personal property taxes. To ease the impact, alternatives have been rumored — including the state's taking over court costs. These costs represent one of the largest expenditures for counties in Michigan. Snyder favors a "revenue-neutral" elimination of the tax, but hasn't announced any proposal to replace the tax with another funding source.

About 8.5 percent of Michigan's tax base comes from personal property taxes, according to the Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency. The tax generates about \$1 billion a year with close to 80 percent going to local governments, with most of the remainder going to local school districts. About 5 percent of personal property taxes end up in the state's general fund.

If the personal property tax is repealed, it could cost county schools \$300 million or more, \$60

million of which would be funding for special education services. It could also harm a county's ability to provide services, such as police and fire, to the public. Counties could not continue to operate if the revenue is not fully replaced with a constitutionally guaranteed revenue source.

The tax repeal would mark the second budget hit this year for most municipalities because of the decline in property tax receipts. However, elected officials have only talked about getting rid of the tax. No legislation has been proposed yet.

Recently, the Michigan Association of Counties joined the Michigan Municipal League at a press conference to launch the "Replace Don't Erase" campaign related to the personal property tax at [www.replacedonterase.com](http://www.replacedonterase.com). The site was created to show that if the personal property tax is repealed, lawmakers will need to have an alternative in place to make up the lost funding.

Even if the repeal of the personal property tax passes, Snyder says it may take five to 10 years to fully take effect — to help counties ready themselves for budget shortfalls.

Michigan is not the only state considering a possible repeal of the personal property tax. A constitutional amendment is being proposed by a citizen petition to abolish the North Dakota personal property tax. The measure will appear on the June 2012 election ballot. Illinois and Missouri are also looking into repealing their personal property taxes, but no legislation has been put forward.

# PILT money helps fund local jobs

**PILT** from page 6

ary spending such as veterans services and public health.

Brad Mitzefelt, a San Bernardino County, Calif. supervisor, said without PILT funding, his county would have to pay for fire suppression in 8 million federal acres in the county.

Stan Whinnery, chairman of the Hinsdale County, Colo. Board of Commissioners, said 96 percent of the land in his county is federal land. As such, it can't be used for activities that would generate local tax revenues. The county, however, is still obligated to maintain access roads to that acreage and provide search and

rescue services in the mountainous county.

"Without this revenue, many counties would be forced to cut services, delay infrastructure maintenance and improvement, and eliminate local jobs," said NACo Executive Director Larry Naake, who opened the briefing.

Not all public lands are in the West, Naake reminded the audience. County officials with public lands from Alabama, Arkansas, Michigan and West Virginia were among those attending the event. "So this is a national issue not just an issue that affects a few states," Naake said.

Still, Western states are "at a disadvantage," Bishop said. "No

one — no one — east of Denver has a clear understanding" of how public-lands counties are affected by having so much non-taxable land within their borders. He said affected counties share the responsibility of making the case for PILT.

"You need to educate the rest of your county officials in the East as much as I need to educate those federal representatives here in Washington, D.C. who live in the East as to what it really means to the West," Bishop told the county officials.

Bingaman said, "Everything in Congress has come down to priorities. The point that I'm going to try to be making is that this needs to be a priority."

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# Jobs Act gives COPS fund a large cash infusion

**JOBS ACT** from page 7

The funding formula for direct grantees — states and localities — would be based on home foreclosures, mortgage defaults and delinquencies, and unemployment information. States would receive a state minimum of \$20 million in formula grants.

All direct formula allocations would be distributed within 30 days of enactment of the legislation. For the competitive grants, a Notice of Funding Availability would be released within 60 days, and the applications would be due within 120 days. All funds must be obligated within 150 days, and 100 percent of the funds need to be expended within three years of receipt by grantees. There is also a 10 percent cap on using funds received for administrative purposes.

## ■ Public Safety Workers

The act proposes \$5 billion in funding to the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Stabilization Fund. Four billion dollars of this funding would be provided to the COPS Hiring Program

to enable the hiring or rehiring of law enforcement officers, as well as preventing lay-offs.

The remaining \$1 billion would be transferred to the Department of Homeland Security for the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) Program. SAFER provides direct grants to career and volunteer fire departments to increase the number of trained, "front line" firefighter personnel.

## UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE AND JOB TRAINING

The American Jobs Act proposes several initiatives intended to ensure the continuation of benefits for unemployment insurance (UI) claimants, and support the expansion of job opportunities and job training in growth industries.

The act would extend unemployment insurance benefits for individuals looking for work as well as expand re-employment assistance services for the long-term unemployed. The act would also expand "work-sharing" programs to encourage arrangements using UI that keep employees on the job

## Obama would raise taxes to pay for jobs bill

On Sept. 19, President Barack Obama proposed a broad deficit-reduction plan that is intended to reduce government borrowing by about \$3.2 trillion over a decade, beyond the \$1.2 trillion that the Joint Deficit Reduction Committee is charged with finding.

According to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the proposal would generate \$580 billion in savings from mandatory programs, almost \$1.6 trillion in tax increases—including offsets for the American Jobs Act of 2011—and almost \$1.1 trillion in expected savings from reduced military costs. The plan would generate an additional \$430 billion in savings by limiting the amount borrowed by the government and thus reducing the interest owed on government debt.

The plan includes the tax hikes Obama had proposed to pay for the American Jobs Act of 2011—those proposals ranged from limits on deductions for wealthy filers to an end to certain corporate loopholes and subsidies for oil and gas companies, and included an expiration of tax cuts for families making more than \$250,000 a year.

The president vowed to veto any package that cuts into Medicare without raising "serious revenues" from wealthy Americans and corporations.

at reduced hours, rather than laying them off. The act would provide additional funds to allow states to introduce new "Bridge to Work" programs where unemployed workers would continue receiving UI while they take temporary, vol-

untary work or pursue work-based training.

The act requires compliance with applicable minimum wage and other worker rights laws, and grants states greater flexibility to seek waivers from the Secretary of Labor to implement other innovative reforms to connect the long-term unemployed to work opportunities.

More than \$4 billion would be provided for the establishment of the Reemployment NOW programs, which would facilitate the reemployment of individuals receiving emergency unemployment compensation.

The act proposes \$5 billion for the creation of a new Pathways Back to Work Fund, which intends to expand job opportunities for low-income youth and adults through a fund that supports three things:

- summer and year-round jobs for youth
- subsidized employment opportunities for low-income individuals who are unemployed, building upon the TANF/Emergency Contingency Fund wage subsidy program, and
- innovative, local work-based job and training initiatives to place low-income adults and youths in jobs quickly.

The act would also offer tax credits and career readiness efforts to support hiring veterans. The president is proposing a Returning Heroes Tax Credit of up to \$5,600 for hiring unemployed veterans who have been looking for a job for more than six months and a Wounded Warriors Tax Credit of up to \$9,600 for hiring unemployed workers with service-connected disabilities who

have been looking for a job for more than six months.

## ■ D-Block

The plan follows the model in the bipartisan legislation from Sens. Jay Rockefeller (D-W.Va.) and Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Texas) in including an investment to develop and deploy a nationwide, interoperable wireless network for public safety. The plan includes reallocating the D-Block for public safety (costing \$3 billion) and \$7 billion to support the deployment of this network and technological development to tailor the network to meet public safety requirements.

This is part of a broader deficit-reducing wireless initiative that would free up public and private spectrum to enable the private sector to deploy high-speed wireless services to at least 98 percent of Americans, even those living in remote rural and farming communities.

In addition, freeing up spectrum from the private sector through voluntary incentive auctions that were included in both the Rockefeller-Hutchison bill and the House-passed budget would raise money to pay for these investments in public safety and also reduce the deficit.

The act would provide \$7 billion through 2016 to build and operate the network, including: funding for network construction (\$6.5 billion), state and local planning grants (\$200 million), and National Institute of Standards and Technology research on public safety communications (\$300 million). An additional \$50 million would be provided in initial funding, as well as permission to charge users to pay for ongoing operations.

The act preserves the broad authority for the use of current narrowband public safety uses. Public Safety Broadband Corporation would be the license holder.

## ■ Tax Provisions

In addition to spending measures, the American Jobs Act contains two components focused on issues facing small businesses, and American workers and families. The component geared towards helping small businesses hire and expand contains a mix of tax provisions, reforms and regulatory reductions.

For counties, the most notable measure is support for a delay of the 3 percent withholding requirement for payments to government contractors for goods and services. The act proposes to delay implementation of the requirement until Jan. 1, 2014. NACo continues to support

# Bastrop, Cass, Marion counties hit hard

**FIRES** from page 1

sponders for wildfires, but the state forest service steps in when local response is insufficient. Mutual aid agreements have brought firefighters from throughout Texas, the other 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands to the Lone Star state. Of the Texas counties, Dallas County has contributed the most to mutual aid operations, Apple said.

"Beyond just helping out counties in need, mutual aid agreements are a great training opportunity for fire departments," she said. "A lot of them are seeing harsher conditions than they would see at home."

When fighting the fires, the first goal is containment. Absent natural barriers, like roads or rivers, crews will create artificial barriers, by bulldozing fuel out of the way or igniting controlled burns to preemptively char the landscape, leaving nothing for the wildfire.

Once the fire is contained, helicopter pilots dump fluid on the flames, to the tune of 5.7 million gallons of retardant and 26.9 million gallons of water as of Sept. 20, according to the forest service.

Texas Association of Counties

Analyst Bruce Barr lives in a Bastrop County and watched the choppers at work.

"The helicopters would disappear into the smoke and suddenly steam would rise from where they dumped water," he said. "It worked, but there was so much fire."

Barr lives in a subdivision that lost 32 houses to the fire, about 10 percent of the total. Around 70 percent of the landscaping is charred, he said.

"It's like a war zone," he said of walking through the ashes. "My home was fine, but a few hundred feet away it was total devastation. It was similar to how a tornado can hit one house and leave another one untouched. Even though we're in the drought of record, it never occurred to me it would happen to my community."

The fire consumed part of Bastrop State Park, including the "lost pines," an isolated region of loblolly pines.

"Part of our history is now gone," he said. "They'll grow back, but the ecosystem will change."

Barr serves as president of his homeowners association, and said the community had intended to change the landscape to the region's natural vegetation, now essentially

expedited by the fire's quick and decisive action.

"From a planning perspective, it's a silver lining, but it's easy for me to say that because I have been spared," he said.

Containing the fire in Cass and Marion counties was crucial, according to Cass County Emergency Management Director Robin Betts, because suppression resources were not available early on. The fire there started in a remote area, he said, likely on a power line, and as it grew it burned a lot of light fuel and diverged into several "heads."

"Our objective was to protect structures and evacuate people, luckily we did not have any casualties," he said.

At one point, the fire jumped a highway, but beating it back was the first major victory in the fight and led to protecting several residential developments.

"It took us about a week to get it to the point where we were attacking it, rather than just keeping it from spreading," he said.

A total of nine aircraft and 11 plows and bulldozers went into the effort.

In the end, Marion County lost 66 buildings and Cass County lost 12.



# Model Programs From the Nation's Counties

Gwinnett County, Ga.

## Cartoon Villains Help Unclog Sewer Backups

By CHARLIE BAN  
STAFF WRITER

Gwinnett County, Ga. is trying to put its sewer system on a fat-free diet to help prevent a sewer version of clogged arteries.

To do that, the county's Department of Water Resources has recruited three cartoon villains and a superhero to illustrate the dangers that fats, oils and grease pose to the sanitary sewer systems, in hopes teaching children not to wash them down the drain.

The program, "Unclog the FOG" (fats, oils and grease), focuses on residential customers, which the water department found are more of a threat to clear sewer lines than the commercial sector, where an education program was already in place for restaurants.

The hero, Secret Agent H<sub>2</sub>O, represents all that is good in the water resources department, and his nemeses, Fats Fiend, Oil Offender and Grease Goblin, literally stand



The nasties, Fat, Oil and Grease.

in his way. Detailed profiles of each evildoer explain in which foods they can be found and recommend disposal strategies that will spare the sewer system needless grief and obstruction.

"We wanted to put a face on these threats, really personify them so children could identify them," said Lisa Robbins, training coordinator. "Our hope was that they would get the message and annoy their parents until the message made it clearly to them."

Fats, oils and grease are, admittedly, vague and ill-defined substances in real life, easily rinsed

down the drain, until, said Grease Management Supervisor James Jones, they block the sewers and cause overflow.

Sewage then backs up through people's homes — through bathtubs and toilets — or spills out into manholes. Then, the substances on dinner plates and pans cease to seem innocuous.

"Cleanup for that is incredibly expensive, so the county is much better off preventing the sewers from getting that bad," Jones said.

The department distributes printed materials with the characters, including a crossword puzzle, with water and sewer bills.

Jones is willing to do his part, too. He dresses up as Secret Agent H<sub>2</sub>O for his classroom visits, which Robbins said have been well received. He has presented in front of more than 2,500 elementary school students.

"Kids identify with James when he's dressed as Secret Agent H<sub>2</sub>O, so I think the message is sticking, no pun intended," Robbins said. "Schools keep inviting us back, so I think the kids enjoy the somewhat-grotesque videos we show, though we try to do that before lunch."

Jones said students have yet to see through his disguise when he is out on the street, so his hidden identity as Secret Agent H<sub>2</sub>O is safe, for now.



Photo courtesy of Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources

Gwinnett County, Ga. Grease Management Supervisor James Jones, dressed as Secret Agent H<sub>2</sub>O, visits one of the county's elementary schools to teach students the dangers of pouring fat, oil and grease down the drain.

The department has left room for further adventures, in which he will square off against stormwater backflow.

Outside of the schools, Unclog the FOG has received attention from a number of water-industry conferences and *Public Works* magazine.

The Department of Water Resources spent a little more than

\$38,000 to build the website [www.unclogthefog.com](http://www.unclogthefog.com) and just under \$15,000 to create the educational materials for students.

*Model Programs from the Nation's Counties* highlights award-winning programs. For more information on this NACo Achievement Award winner, visit NACo's Website, [www.naco.org](http://www.naco.org) ► Research & Publications ► Find Solutions.

## What's in a Seal?



» Stephens County, Ga.  
[www.stephenscountygga.com](http://www.stephenscountygga.com)

Stephens County was created on Aug. 18, 1905 from parts of Habersham and Franklin counties. Named in honor of Alexander Hamilton Stephens, a Georgia statesman and voice of reason during the tumultuous Civil War, it was Georgia's 143rd county.

Stephens, known as "Little Alec" because of his small stature, served in the Georgia House and Senate from 1836 to 1843 and established his reputation as a dedicated public servant.

World War II had a significant impact on the county. The U.S. Army created Camp Toccoa in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, where paratroopers in the army's new airborne units were trained. The mountains were made famous internationally by Steven Spielberg's World War II TV series "Band of Brothers." During the war, Currahee Mountain inspired the motto for paratroopers who ran up and down it as part of their training regimen including the famous quote: "3 Miles up, 3 Miles down."

The seal shows a Cherokee Rose, the official state flower of Georgia, along with Toccoa City Hall, Toccoa Falls and Currahee Mountain.

(If you would like your county's seal featured, please contact Christopher Johnson at 202.942.4256 or [cjohnson@naco.org](mailto:cjohnson@naco.org).)

## House GOP asks for jobs bill cost estimate

**JOBS ACT** from page 8

a full repeal of this requirement as it imposes an unfunded mandate on counties that meet the withholding threshold.

One troubling aspect for state and local governments, however, is found in the offset provisions of the bill. In Sec. 401 of the bill, a cap is placed on the amount of interest from municipal bonds that high-income earners can exclude from their taxable income. Specifically, for existing and new bonds, the tax break for municipal-bond interest would be limited to 28 percent for individuals with an adjusted gross income of \$200,000 or more, and for families with an adjusted gross income of \$250,000 or more.

Several market experts and

analysts worry that this change, if enacted, would have a negative effect on municipal bond demand, which could significantly raise the borrowing costs for state and local governments.

The tax provisions include a payroll tax cut for businesses with a focus on small employers, a payroll tax holiday for new jobs or wage increases, and an extension of 100 percent business expensing through 2012 for firms making investments. The payroll tax cut reduces the portion of payroll taxes paid by employers to 3.1 percent. Federal, state and local government employers (other than state colleges and universities), however, are excluded from eligibility for the reduction.

The payroll tax holiday for increased payroll would offset an

employer's Social Security tax that otherwise would apply to increases in wages from the corresponding period of the prior year. In other words, if an employer's payroll increased from 2011 to 2012, the employer's portion of Social Security taxes (up to \$50 million of the increased wages) would be eliminated. As with the payroll tax cut, the tax holiday is not available to federal, state and local government employers (other than state colleges and universities).

The component focused on the American worker and family extends the payroll tax cuts passed last year to cut workers payroll taxes in half in 2012 and seeks to help more homeowners refinance their mortgages to benefit from today's low interest rates.



# News From the Nation's Counties

## ► ALABAMA

An agreement with the holders of their **\$3.14 billion sewer debt** saves **JEFFERSON COUNTY** from needing to file for the largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history, the specter of which loomed over the county for three years.

The agreement includes \$1.1 billion in concessions from creditors. The terms also call for three annual sewer-rate increases of as much as 8.2 percent, followed by future annual boosts of no more than 3.25 percent.

The deal hinges on action by state lawmakers, and County Commission President David Carrington said bankruptcy is still possible if final terms aren't agreed on. The commission will negotiate with creditors to reach a definitive agreement over the next 30 to 45 days, he said.

Jefferson would have been the sixth municipal issuer to enter bankruptcy this year and the biggest since 1994, when California's Orange County sought protection from creditors after losing \$1.7 billion on interest-rate bets, *Businessweek* reported.

## ► ARIZONA

Meetings of the **MARICOPA COUNTY** Board of Supervisors now start on an absolutely adorable note.

A dog from the county's two shelters gets showcased at the beginning of every meeting. Even when there is a cadre of protesters or a pending budget hearing, the **pet showcase** draws nonpartisan coos and chuckles from the audience and county officials, the *Arizona Republic* reported. About two dozen puppies are featured every year and most are adopted by people in the audience or county employees as soon as they go up for adoption.

The meetings usually have a decent crowd and are broadcast live to the approximately 13,000 county employees.

"A lot of times, it's the visual interest (that matters)," said Aprille Hollis, spokeswoman for the county Animal Care and Control Unit.

It's not exactly scientific, but she has found that cute, well-groomed dogs are "highly adoptable."

## ► CALIFORNIA

**Small businesses** will have an advantage when bidding for **LOS ANGELES COUNTY** contracts. The Board of Supervisors has allowed them to bid up to 8 percent higher than larger firms and still win a bid. The current rate is 5 percent.

Other county incentives for small businesses include a 15-day

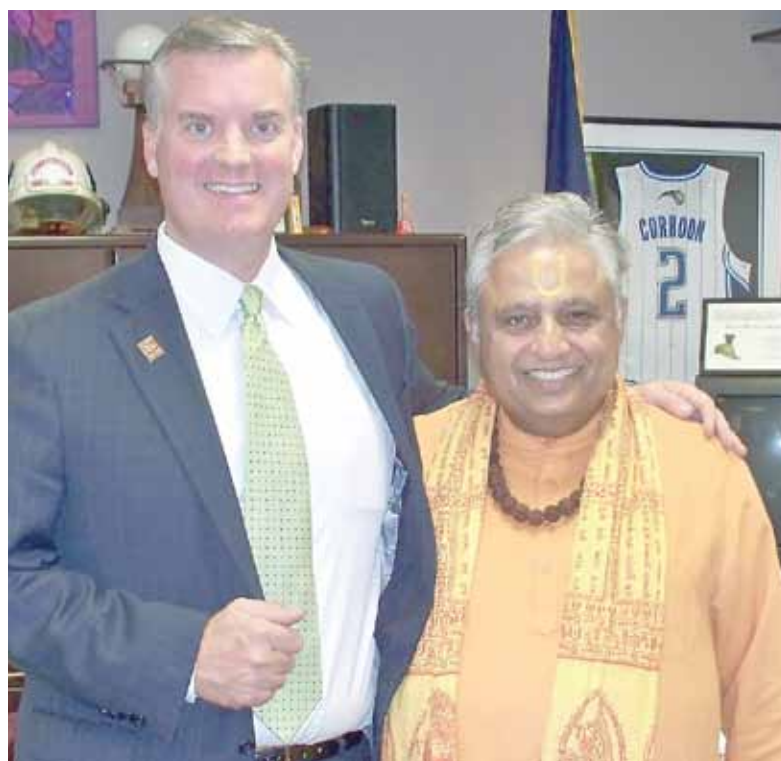


Photo courtesy of Salt Lake County, Utah

Salt Lake County, Utah Mayor Peter Corroon (I) greets Rajan Zed in the mayor's office, prior to Zed's giving a Hindu invocation in Sanskrit to open the County Council meeting Sept. 20.

## ► UTAH

The **SALT LAKE COUNTY** Council recently held its first meeting to be opened with a Hindu invocation.

Rajan Zed, president of Universal Society of Hinduism, delivered the invocation from ancient Sanskrit scriptures followed by an English translation of the prayer, according to the *South Asia Mail*.

He said, "*Asato ma sad gamaya, Tamaso ma jyotir gamaya, Mrtyor mamrtam gamaya,*" which means "Lead me from the unreal to the Real, Lead me from darkness to Light, and Lead me from death to Immortality."

Reciting from another ancient Hindu scripture, he urged council members to keep the welfare of others always in mind.

pay turnaround on invoices, and authorization for county buyers to acquire up to \$5,000 in goods or services without getting three competitive quotes if they are purchased directly from a local small business, EPG News reported.

To qualify, a business must have its principal office in the county for at least one year and be certified as a small business by the state.

## ► FLORIDA

• Scavengers capitalizing on unguarded copper wire and metal crucial to maintaining working streetlights in **MIAMI-DADE COUNTY** will now have to deal with a more vigilant government.

The county's public safety commission created a **task force on scrap metal** and copper wire theft, made up of officers, experts and people from the scrap yard industry, toughening the scrap metal sales ordinance the county already has in place.

"Aside from the dangers and cost of wire-stripping, this ordinance puts dealers and processors on notice: We will not allow 'cash and carry,'" said Commission Vice Chairwoman

Audrey Edmonson. "The buyer of this stolen metal is just as much a guilty party."

Officials also want a crackdown on illicit scrap yards that are buying the copper, while taxpayers foot the bill to repair the lights.

The Florida Department of Transportation said 30 lights along a section of I-95 have been targeted in the past year alone, the *Miami Herald* reported.

• The **prescription pill abuse** epidemic is getting some attention from **PASCO COUNTY**, which has dedicated \$1.6 million to curbing it.

Sheriff Chris Nocco will hire three analysts, eight jail nurses, two sergeants and 10 detectives to crack down on prescription drug dealing.

Last year, 142 people in Pasco died of prescription drug overdoses, the medical examiner's office told the *Tampa Tribune*.

## ► GEORGIA

No dealerships here: Under an agreement approved by the **GWINNETT COUNTY** Board of Commissioners earlier this month,

the county's **fleet mechanics will be trained by General Motors** to perform warranty work on the county's GM vehicles instead of sending them to a dealership for repairs.

"This new agreement will save our local government about \$100,000 every year in reduced transportation costs and vehicle downtime," said Gwinnett's Fleet Management Director Michael Lindsey. "And it will allow us to operate more efficiently than we have in the past."

GM will provide the training at no cost and will reimburse the county for warranty work at \$55.82 per hour. The county has plans to expand this program to other vehicle manufacturers in the near future.

## ► IDAHO

Counties in Idaho will need to wait a little longer to find out what redistricting could do to their political landscape. Like the partisans in the nation's capital, the three Republicans and three Democrats on the **state's redistricting commission** could not agree on where to draw the state's legislative and congressional district lines, subsequently missing their deadline.

To no one's surprise, each side blames the other for the failure to produce a new political map of the state. Now a new commission needs to be appointed since state law prohibits commissioners from participating more than once on a panel. The next commission is due Sept. 28.

## ► MARYLAND

• The **PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY** liquor board is establishing stricter oversight of the decades-old but rarely used practice of **home delivery of alcohol**. The rules require stores that deliver alcohol to verify

and record the identification of the person receiving the booze and to keep records in case the deliveries are questioned by county inspectors. Stores must pay a \$250 application fee before permission to deliver will be granted.

The County Council is considering banning the practice, citing fears of abuse, but county liquor laws must be approved through the state, so no changes can be made until the next General Assembly session, *The Gazette* reported.

• Local governments are scrambling to revise laws that govern how their elected officials handle **conflicts of interest and financial disclosures** before the Oct. 1 deadline for submitting ethics regulations to the state ethics commission.

New regulations must match the state ethics laws that govern Maryland General Assembly members, Les Knapp Jr., associate director of the Maryland Association of Counties, told *The Gazette*.

The state is requiring that counties revise their ethics and also lobbying provisions based on models for counties with large and small populations.

Commissioners and candidates for county commissioner must disclose all property they own, not just in the county they govern. All interests in corporations and partnerships must be disclosed, not just those that do business with the county.

Gifts of more than \$20 and a series of gifts totaling \$100 or more from an individual doing business with the county must be disclosed, and commissioners and candidates for commissioner must divulge the employment of their immediate

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## NACo on the Move

### » In the News

• **Jacqueline Byers**, director of research and outreach, was quoted in the article "Latest sign of hardship: Families unable to bury loved ones" in the *USA Today* Sept. 16.

### » NACo Staff

• **Byers** was also a featured speaker on the Fiscal Outlook for Counties and Local Governments at the University of Pittsburgh's 15th Annual Elected Officials Retreat in Allegheny County (Pittsburgh), Pa. Sept. 16.

• **Paul Beddoe**, associate legislative director, made a presentation on the Affordable Care Act and other NACo health policy issues at the fall meeting of the Virginia Association of Human Services Officials in Virginia Beach Sept. 12.

*On the Move* is compiled by Christopher Johnson, editorial assistant.



Jacqueline Byers



## Research News

# Stopping the Bedbug's Bite



As bedbug infestation has grown more common in the last few years, many counties and states have started implementing programs that address the issues of who is responsible for their eradication and how to implement a successful eradication program.

Some counties such as Multnomah County, Ore. and Boulder County, Colo. have posted information on liability for bedbug removal on their websites. While Multnomah created a publication that responds to questions about tenants' rights, Boulder has also included similar information on its website.

Historically, bedbugs were found in places of lodging, but in recent years they have increased their range to people's homes, hospitals, county vehicles and offices, convenience stores, movie theaters, shelters, assisted living facilities, dormitories, nursing homes and other group living quarters. Polk County, Iowa's Health Department has even published a "Bedbugs Issue Brief" that

outlines the impact of these pests on the public, and why it is necessary to use an integrated pest-management plan to eliminate them.

The issue brief shares some of the activities other communities have undertaken to solve their bedbug problems. These include establishing a Bedbug Task Force or advisory committee, and implementing a coordinated community control program. It also lists establishing rental code enforcement rules as well as information about states that have created laws that include disposal laws for mattresses and other infected items.

One of the most important activities listed is education.

Monroe County, Ind. received so many complaints about bedbug infestations that it is conducting an online survey, the results of which will assist with developing a county-wide eradication plan. Separate surveys were designed of each of following groups: citizens and homeowners, businesses and pest-control providers.

The bedbug problem has grown to such a level of business disruption for universities, landlords and hotel-motel owners that several insurance companies are now issuing policies to help with the loss of revenue and the eradication of the pests. The EPA conducted its second National Bedbug Summit in February 2011 and is highlighting numerous jurisdictions that have established plans and laws to address bedbug infestations on its website.

One of the issues confronting many counties is what to do about service workers, such as home health care aides, emergency re-

sponders and social workers who routinely visit homes that are infested with bedbugs as part of their jobs. Some counties have been faced with employees who have refused to enter their assigned homes for fear of transporting bedbugs to other homes, their cars, county vehicles and their homes.

Using an EPA grant, a consortium in Virginia comprising the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the Virginia Cooperative Extension and Virginia Tech, developed a series of factsheets for these workers.

One factsheet, "Bedbug Action Plan for Home Health Care and Social Workers," recommends that counties contact their local extension agent about providing a bedbug training program for all county employees.

One of the primary focuses of this training is to help employees recognize the signs of bedbug infestations. The factsheet also includes a section on what to wear and what to carry when making a home visit

to a potentially infested property, what to do once you arrive at the suspect residence and even suggests bringing a folding chair rather than sitting on chairs or other upholstered furniture that may be infested. It also covers transporting people who may have bedbugs on their clothing or belongings, which frequently happens when a county employee has to remove a child from a family or emergency responders have to carry someone to the emergency room.

Another of these factsheets called "Bedbug Prevention for Emergency Facilities and Patient Transport" specifically addresses emergency responder situations. These factsheets, provided in both English and Spanish can be found at [www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/bedbugs-facts.shtml](http://www.vdacs.virginia.gov/pesticides/bedbugs-facts.shtml).

For additional information about bedbug programs go to [www.epa.gov/bedbugs](http://www.epa.gov/bedbugs).

(Research News was written by Jacqueline Byers, director of research and outreach.)

## N.Y. counties want their say in where power plants are built

NEWS FROM *from page 10*

family members, which includes spouse and children.

### ► MICHIGAN

The **GENESEE COUNTY** jail certainly isn't a hotel, but the county may soon **start charging inmates** like it is.

Sheriff Robert Pickell asked commissioners for permission to start charging inmates for their stays, possibly using a collection agency to go after wages, bank accounts and tax refunds of those who don't pay voluntarily.

His budget projects a quarter-million dollars coming from pay-to-stay charges, according to the *Flint Journal*. The department already charges a \$12 one-time booking fee, and the state allows for a \$60 daily maximum to charge prisoners.

### ► NEW YORK

County legislators in **OSWEGO** and **JEFFERSON counties** want their constituents to have a say about **where power plants are located**.

Both legislatures passed a resolution voicing their concerns about the Power NY Act of 2011 the governor recently signed into law. They say the law leaves them powerless to protect

residents from the affects of power plant development and want home rule reinstated, the *Post-Standard* reported.

"We want to be able to say we can decide about power plants — we want to make that decision," said Barry Leemann, chair of the Oswego County Legislature.

The state law establishes the state Board on Electrical Generation Siting and the Environment. "The new board will have the authority to ignore any local ordinance, law or any local standard or requirement," according to Oswego County's resolution.

### ► OKLAHOMA

Several municipalities, including **PITTSBURG COUNTY**, plan to inscribe "**In God We Trust**" on public buildings. **CLEVELAND COUNTY** commissioners approved a plan to place the phrase in raised bronze letters in the lobby of a newly renovated courthouse.

A Springfield, Mo. attorney named Dee Wampler is behind an effort to get more local governments to display the motto, *The Oklahoman* reported.

Kevin Smith, Pittsburg County Commission chairman, said thus far there's been no opposition to the

move. "Some people might think it's not a good idea, but it's not locals," he said.

### ► SOUTH CAROLINA

County councils in neighboring **BAMBERG** and **BARNWELL counties** have approved the development of a **regional health system**, *The Times and Democrat* reported.

An affiliate of Dobbs Equity Partners, LLC will purchase the Barnwell County Hospital and Bamberg County Hospital, the company said.

"Bamberg County Hospital is financially not capable of continuing to survive without county support. The county is not financially capable of continuing to support the operations of the hospital," Councilman Chris Wilson said.

### ► TENNESSEE

Convicted sex offenders on the state's **sex offender registry** have been banned from visiting **KNOX COUNTY** libraries under an executive order recently issued by County Mayor Tim Burchett.

Those on the list can still use the libraries' online services and can have someone else check out and return materials for them, the *Knoxville News Sentinel* reported.

"I just don't want them anywhere around our kids," Burchett said. The county is taking advantage of a new state law that allows public library directors "to reasonably restrict the access of any person listed on the sexual offender registry."

Officials said Knox County's is the first of the state's "big four" metropolitan library systems to institute such a policy.

Mark Stephens, a local public defender, said a New Mexico district court recently struck down a similar ban in Albuquerque as unconstitutional.

### ► VIRGINIA

**ARLINGTON COUNTY**'s newest historical marker sits outside the parking garage where from October 1972 to November 1973, Mark Felt, second in command at the FBI, met secretly with *Washington Post* reporter Bob Woodward. Felt was a key source for Woodward and his reporting partner, Carl Bernstein, in breaking the **Watergate scandal** that eventually cost Richard Nixon the presidency.

The marker was approved by the County Board-appointed Historical Affairs and Landmark Review Board in 2008 and installed last month. It was placed in the public

right of way above the garage entrance.

### ► CONGRATULATIONS!

Five counties were among the recently announced winners of local government awards for outstanding professional practices in election administration, presented by the National Association of Election Officials — The Election Center.

"Our local division winners for 2011 have incredibly good ideas that can be utilized by others around the nation," said Dawn Williams, chair of the Election Center's Professional Practices Committee. County winners were:

**MARTIN COUNTY**, Fla. for its "Check Your Voter Status" program; **SALT LAKE COUNTY**, Utah for its "Planning for Success: Project Planning" program; **CITRUS COUNTY**, Fla. for its "Early Voting Ballot Tracking System;" **ALLEN COUNTY**, Ind. for its "Mapping the Ballot" program; and Butte County, Calif. for its program called "Vote by Mail, Making Every Vote Count."

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



# The H.R. Doctor Is In

## Shifting into Reverse

One of the latest fads in television advertising has been the annoying spate of reverse mortgage commercials.

This financial industry invention offers wonderful employment opportunities for aging personalities such as former Sen. Fred Thompson, Henry Winkler and Robert Wagner. These folks get to be compensated spokespersons who have found a splendid way to supplement their Social Security pensions.

The idea is that, in trade for a stake in the ownership of your real estate, not to mention charging fees and interest, a financial institution begins to make payments to you. This is in opposition, of course, to the traditional idea of a mortgage in which you make payments to the "It's a Wonderful Life" Savings and Loan in trade for the funding to purchase a home. The concept is inviting because it appears to offer needed income to many vulnerable senior citizens. Vulnerability in this case opens the door to innovation.

The HR Doctor has also thought over the years about two other extensions of the reverse concept.



The first is a plan I would call reverse retirement. Why not pay a monthly stipend, in effect, reversing Social Security, in which a young person receives a pension for a fixed period of time in trade for a longer working period, or a commitment to public service. A reverse pension would be their ticket to travel, growth, hobbies and education.

After the pension period ends, the person would enter the workforce presumably more mature, worldlier and better able to contribute to their own long-term financial well-being and that of the overall community. Besides, think of all the fun they could have had while receiving

the pension, and being considered retirees when it comes to chain store discounts.

The second observation stems from looking into the garages or family rooms of many mid- to upper-income retirees. The idea is reverse toy collecting.

For retirees who are very fortunate, as well as likely being well-prepared for retirement by many years of planning, being a senior citizen means more than receiving a Social Security and senior meal restaurant discounts. It means buying the Corvette you've always wanted, going on cruises, or taking up the hobbies you never could quite afford.

The inspiration for this idea came also from a peek into my own garage. There I can stare lovingly at

my fully decked-out yellow Jeep. I can also commune with the stars on a clear night from inside my own observatory complete with a large collection of optical gizmos. Then there is my...OK, enough.

The idea was also spurred on by visiting a friend's two-story home recently and noting that the entire top floor consists of a model railroad empire. This chap's personal infrastructure project is in great shape. Any public works improvements to the layout can be easily managed by the hobbyist himself without reliance on transportation tax revenue, and without permits from federal or state governments.

Reverse toy collecting and reverse retirement requires a change in our mindset. It requires what Einstein

called a journey of the mind, as we imagine what our society might be like as we live longer and healthier lives, and aggressively go after ways to explore the world and our own interests.

How many of us might be willing to accept a longer period of working in trade for a period of early pension? Many of us are already compelled to do the former anyway.

I can only imagine how many firefighter union negotiators will read this article and end up demanding that they receive a pension before they start working as well as during and after employment.

*Phil Rosenberg*

Phil Rosenberg  
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## Job Market & Classifieds

### ► HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT – MINNEHAHA COUNTY, S.D.

Salary: \$2,805–\$3,021 bi-weekly; DOQ.

Minnehaha County in Sioux Falls, S.D. invites applications for a Highway Superintendent to direct the planning, design, construction, and maintenance programs for County highways, roads and bridges.

The superintendent will prepare and monitor the annual budget, develop and implement policies and procedures, manage staff, review bids and proposals and develop and implement long-range plans. Requires Bachelor's in civil engineering or related field and 5 or more years experience in civil engineering,

highway administration or comparable field. Previous supervisory and budget management experience preferred.

Individuals interested in applying should complete the online application and attach a cover letter and resume. Salary: DOQ. Appointment above the hiring range is dependent on qualifications and experience. Minnehaha County offers a competitive benefits package including health insurance, life insurance, vacation time, sick leave and retirement.

For a full list of qualifications and to apply visit: <http://jobs.minnehahacounty.org>. Position deadline: Oct. 17 at 5 p.m. EO/AA Employer. Contact HR with questions at 605.367.4337.

National Save for Retirement Week (Oct. 16–22) is the perfect opportunity for you to promote retirement readiness with your employees. Nationwide Retirement Solutions — provider of the NACo Deferred Compensation Program — can make it easy for you to put together a successful week of education.

Reasons to get your employees involved include:

- 70 percent of workers are not very, or not at all, confident in Social Security benefits.
- Only 12 percent of workers are "very confident" they will be able to cover medical expenses in retirement.
- Nearly one in three American households is at risk of being financially unprepared for retirement.

What could be planned for the week?

### Financial Fitness Expo

An expo is an interactive way to provide employees with a comprehensive retirement education experience. Just provide the facility and Nationwide can help organize a great event where your employees can:

- learn more about deferred comp and understand how it fits with their pension and Social Security
- meet one-on-one with their local Nationwide Retirement spe-



cialist or attend a workshop

- enroll, restart or increase contributions on-site, and
- receive information about what to focus on if they're close to retirement.

### Host a Workshop

A recent Nationwide survey showed that public employee satisfaction with retirement plan options increased when they attended educational workshops. Workshops focus on information your employees can really use, such as managing personal finances, getting started with deferred comp, annual investor checkup, and approaching retirement.

### Plan a Retirement Roundtable or Lunch-and-Learn Series

Host open discussions about deferred comp, open enrollment or other relevant subjects. Your

local Nationwide Retirement specialist can provide you with additional ideas and educational material.

### Spark Conversation

Peers can be a good resource for employees to discover more information about retirement investing. Try some of these suggestions to create positive talk:

- set up a "Retirement Zone" where employees can share thoughts, ideas and reading material about retirement planning
- bring them together with a book offering an expert's advice on investing for the future, or
- inspire them with a topic on a message board, such as "Retirement would be perfect if..."

You're an important part of your employees' success. Help them prepare for a financially secure future during National Save for Retirement Week — and beyond. Nationwide can help you put together a variety of activities to get your employees engaged.

For additional information about the NACo Deferred Compensation Program, contact Lisa Cole at [lcole@naco.org](mailto:lcole@naco.org) or 202.942.4270, or contact Linda Barber with Nationwide at [barberl@nationwide.com](mailto:barberl@nationwide.com) or 614.854.8844.

(Financial Services News was written by Nationwide Retirement Solutions.)

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