



2020 NACo Voting Credentials Process Frequently Asked Questions

On what issues or for which candidates do counties/parishes/boroughs vote?

Counties vote on resolutions that set NACo legislative and association policy for the coming year. Delegates also elect NACo officers for the coming year. The second vice president is typically the only contested position.

When does the voting take place?

This year's election is on Monday, July 20, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. EDT at the NACo Annual Business Meeting. The business meeting takes place on the last day of the NACo Annual Conference in Orange County/Orlando, Florida.

What is a voting delegate?

A voting delegate is someone authorized by your county board to pick up and cast your county's votes at the business meeting during the Annual Conference. A delegate must have a paid conference registration.

Who may be a voting delegate?

Any elected or appointed official or staff member from your county/parish/borough may be a voting delegate. That decision is up to your county board.

What are voting credentials?

Voting credentials attest to a county's eligibility to vote. Credentials contain information on the number of votes a county is eligible to cast and the identity of the delegate(s) that are authorized to cast those votes.

How can a voting delegate become credentialed?

Registrants from NACo member counties can be designated as voting delegates when registering for the Annual Conference. If you intend to serve as a designated voting delegate for your county on Monday, July 20, at the Annual Business Meeting, select the voting delegate option on the registration page. Please note that by choosing this option, you are selecting yourself as delegate and are declaring that you and the other conference attendees from your county have agreed that you are a voting delegate. The online credential registration option is for self-selection only. To assign another individual to vote for your county, or for more information, please email credentials@naco.org. NACo will also send voting credentials information to NACo member chief elected officials, clerks and conference registrants before the Annual Conference.

If I sign up to be a voting delegate, when can I pick up my county/parish/borough's ballot?

You can pick up your county/parish/borough's ballot when the NACo Voting Credentials Booth opens at the Annual Conference. Voting Credentials pickup times for delegates are:

Thursday, July 16 from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. EDT

Friday, July 17 from 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EDT

Saturday, July 18 from 7:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. EDT

What is a ballot?

A ballot is a printed slip of paper that confirms the number of votes that a NACo member county is eligible to cast in the NACo election.



Where do delegates pick up their voting ballot?

The Voting Credentials Booth is located near conference registration.

If I am a voting delegate, what do I need to do before the NACo election?

After becoming credentialed, you will need to pick up your paper ballot at the NACo Voting Credentials Booth at the Annual Conference in order to vote on your county's behalf. Your county delegate has until 5 p.m. EDT on Saturday, July 18 to come to the NACo Voting Credentials Booth and pick up the ballot. If you or another voting delegate from your county/parish/borough do not pick up the ballot by 5 p.m. on Saturday at the conference, your state association can then pick up your vote on Sunday, July 19 unless you have sent an email to credentials@naco.org indicating that you will not allow state association pickup. If you do not allow your state association to pick up your county's ballot, and a registered delegate from your county does not pick up the ballot at the Voting Credentials Booth, your county will not be permitted to vote in the NACo election at the Annual Business Meeting on Monday, July 20.

How can my county vote?

A county must be a NACo member "in good standing" in order to vote.

"Good standing" is defined as having: 1.) 2020 NACo membership dues paid in full before the NACo Election, 2.) at least one paid registration for the Annual Conference and 3.) proper voting credentials.

How does the voting occur?

Votes are cast by state, not by state association. Counties from a state sit together as a delegation. The NACo reading clerk will call out states at random. A state appointed representative will approach the microphone and call out that state's vote. This process will continue until one of the candidates has received a majority of the total number of votes being cast. Voting may still continue after a majority has been reached.

What if other individuals from my county/parish/borough have chosen to be a delegate through the online registration process?

Please communicate with Annual Conference attendees from your county/parish/borough on who plans to become credentialed through online registration and pick up the ballot at the Annual Conference. The first registered delegate from your county to arrive to the NACo Voting Credentials Booth will receive the ballot. Only one ballot will be distributed per county. All counties/parishes/boroughs decide how their votes will be cast during the election. NACo does not have any role in determining which eligible designated voting delegate should arrive to pick up the ballot at the Voting Credentials Booth.

What would happen if I, the delegate, have picked up my ballot, but need to leave before the election?

If you have picked up the ballot for your county but will not be present to cast it at the NACo Annual Business Meeting on Monday morning, you can transfer your ballot in the following ways: 1.) to a delegate from your same county, 2.) from another active member in your state, 3.) the head of your state delegation, or 4.) your state association president or president's designee. Typically, state associations receive ballot transfers. More information will be shared with voting delegates prior to the Annual Conference.

Whose ballots may the state associations of counties/parishes/boroughs receive?

Your state association of counties/parishes/boroughs is allowed to pick up any unclaimed ballots for counties/parishes/boroughs that have registered delegates, unless your county has expressly prohibited the state association from doing so. The pick-up time for state associations is Sunday, July 19 from 7:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. EDT during the Annual Conference. The state association may then cast those ballots in the election.



My county does not want our state association to pick up our votes. How do we indicate this?

Please send an email to credentials@naco.org to prohibit your state association from picking up your unclaimed ballots. Please remember that your county's votes will not be cast at all with this option if you or another voting delegate from your county do not pick up your county's ballot during pick up hours.

If my county is not registering for the Annual Conference, does my county need to select a delegate or submit credentials information?

No. Only counties who register for the Annual Conference may vote. Please do not submit credentials information to NACo if your county does not plan to register for the Annual Conference.

If my county won't be attending this year's Annual Conference, can we still vote?

Yes. Your county can still have its votes counted without attending the conference, but one person from your county still needs to register. You must have at least one person registered by 12:00 PM EDT on Tuesday, July 14. If you register, will not attend and wish to vote, please email credentials@naco.org to assign your state association president or their designee to pick up and cast your ballot.

How does NACo determine the number of votes each county receives?

The number of votes is determined by the amount of dues a county pays. Dues are based on population. All counties are entitled to at least one vote. Members with more than \$1,199 in dues are entitled to one additional vote for each additional \$1,200 in dues or fraction thereof paid in the year the meeting is held.

- Counties with dues of \$450 to \$1,199 receive one vote.
- Counties with dues of \$1,200 to \$2,399 receive two votes, and so on.
- The maximum number of votes a county can receive is 51.

My county has 10 votes. How can our commissioners divide or share the votes?

That is up to your county. NACo has no rule as to how the counties decide to allocate their votes and is not involved in the decision. Counties may split their votes amongst the second vice president candidates, but fractions of a whole vote are not permitted.

I've heard the term "unit vote" used. What is that?

Some states, by custom or policy, cast all of their votes as a block or "unit." State associations typically have a meeting before the election to determine how they will handle the voting process.

- Check with your state association regarding the time, date and location of this meeting.
- NACo bylaws permit each county to cast eligible votes at their discretion. Your county does not have to vote with your state association should you so choose.

What happens if there is a dispute over the election process?

It is rare, but sometimes irregularities occur with how votes are cast or tallied or how the credentialing process is conducted. As a safeguard, elections may be challenged during the NACo Election. Challenges are allowed under two circumstances. 1.) A voting delegate may challenge the vote for their state, and their state only. 2.) A candidate running to become a NACo officer may challenge the vote of any state. If a challenge is made, the NACo Credentials Committee may audit the ballots of a state delegation to ensure that the number of votes the state is casting matches the number of ballots the state has. The committee may also audit the ballot transfer records on the back of each ballot and the State Voting Totals Form.

For questions, please contact Lauren Wilson, Credentials Committee Liaison, at credentials@naco.org or 888.407.NACo (6226), direct line: 202.661.8840.