2020 NACo Virtual Voting Credentials Process
 Frequently Asked Questions

On what issues or for which candidates do counties/parishes/boroughs vote?
Counties vote on proposed amendments to association bylaws and 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 will take place virtually on Monday, July 20, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. EDT at the NACo Annual Business Meeting.

What is a voting delegate?
A voting delegate is someone authorized by your county board to cast your county's votes at the Virtual Annual Business Meeting. A delegate must register for the meeting.

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 designate themselves as a voting delegate when registering for the Virtual Annual Business Meeting. 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 Virtual Annual Business Meeting registrants before the meeting.

What is a ballot?
A ballot confirms the number of votes that a NACo member county is eligible to cast in the NACo Election. More information on how to access your ballot will be communicated prior to the Annual Business Meeting.

How do I confirm that my county is eligible to 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 registration for the Annual Business Meeting and 3.) proper voting credentials.

How does the voting occur?
Information on the voting process will be communicated prior to the Virtual Annual Business Meeting.
Will the state association of counties/parishes/boroughs be able to cast votes on behalf of my county?
Your state association of counties/parishes/boroughs is allowed to receive or cast any unclaimed ballots for counties/parishes/boroughs that have registered delegates, unless your county has expressly prohibited the state association from doing so.

My county does not want our state association to receive our votes. How do we indicate this?
Please send an email to credentials@naco.org to prevent your state association from receiving or casting 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 attend the Virtual Annual Business Meeting.

If my county is not registering for the Virtual Annual Business Meeting, does my county need to select a delegate or submit credentials information?
No. Only counties who register for the Annual Business Meeting may vote. Please do not submit credentials information to NACo if your county does not plan to register for the Annual Business Meeting.

If my county won’t be registering for this year’s Virtual Annual Business Meeting, can we still vote?
No. Per NACo’s bylaws, registration is required for the Annual Business Meeting in order to vote.

If I register for the Virtual Annual Business Meeting but cannot attend, can I assign a proxy vote?
Yes, but only if another person from your county has not already registered to attend the Virtual Annual Business Meeting as the voting delegate for the county. For more information regarding proxy requirements or to assign a proxy, please email credentials@naco.org.

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.

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.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WILL BE PROVIDED ON HOW TO ACCESS YOUR BALLOT AND VOTING WILL BE COMMUNICATED PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE.

For questions, please send an email to credentials@naco.org.