



News Release

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Jobs, economic recovery takes center stage for NACo's 2010 Legislative Conference, March 6-10

More than 2,000 county officials to Restore the Partnership with Washington

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Jobs and economic recovery will be the main focus for more than 2,000 elected and appointed county officials from around the country during the **National Association of Counties' (NACo) 2010 Legislative Conference, March 6-10, at the Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel.** Featured guest speakers include Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, White House energy and climate change advisor Carol Browner, and Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va.) and TIME magazine columnist Joe Klein.

During the five-day conference, county officials will discuss NACo's [2010 Key Legislative Priorities](#), meet with Obama administration officials and members of Congress, and hear from prominent national leaders and commentators. Specifically, they will:

- work collaboratively to address the great economic challenges facing counties and communities as a result of declining revenues, high unemployment and home foreclosures;
- continue their work toward effective implementation of the [American Reinvestment and Recovery Act](#) which contains several provisions important to counties; and
- participate in [educational workshops](#) to explore strategies to address issues and meet challenges specific to their home counties.

Workshop titles include: Economic Development in the Face of Recession and a Networked World; Transforming America's Workforce: Leveraging Local, State and Federal Investments in Training and Job Creation, and Health Care Reform and the Federal Benefits Debate for Justice-Involved Individuals.

In addition, county officials will pursue federal grant opportunities, including: Sustainable Communities Resources: Incentive Grants for Regional Planning and Development Projects, and What USDA Grant and Loan Opportunities Are Available for Your County?

“In these tough times, it's more important than ever for county officials to work together through NACo to Restore the Partnership between the federal government and America's counties,” said NACo President Valerie Brown, supervisor, Sonoma County, Calif. “County governments are experiencing significant budget shortfalls, aging infrastructure and increased demands for services at levels not seen in decades. Only by working together can we begin to recover, grow our economy and better meet the needs of our residents and businesses.”

The conferences featured speakers will address conference participants during the General Sessions and Attendee Luncheon (Marriott Ballroom, lobby level):

- Opening General Session
1:30–3:30 p.m., Monday, March 8
Confirmed speaker: **Joe Klein**, TIME magazine columnist; and **Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-Va)**.
- General Session – A Focus on National Health Reform
8:30–10:15 a.m., Tuesday, March 9
Confirmed speakers: **Nancy Pelosi**, House Speaker, and **Kathleen Sebelius**, Health and Human Services Secretary.
- Attendee Luncheon
12:15-2:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 9
Confirmed speakers: White House energy and climate change advisor **Carol Browner**, **Tom Vilsack**, Agriculture Secretary

Additional [featured speakers](#) as well as other guest speakers will be announced upon confirmation. Check the NACo Web site at www.naco.org for updates.

Wednesday, March 10 will be Counties on Capitol Hill Day, when county officials will meet with their Congressional representatives.

Other business at NACo's 2010 Legislative Conference

NACo's 11 [steering committees](#) will meet during the conference to review and make recommendations on issues and legislation important to counties and communities. The issues that the committees cover include justice and public safety, agriculture and rural affairs, taxes, environment and energy, telecommunications, economic and community development, healthcare, human services, education, labor and employment, public lands, and transportation.

The policy development process initiated by the steering committees leads to the publication of the [American County Platform](#), which NACo uses as a guide to deliver the county government message to the administration, Congress and the American public.

In addition to the steering committees, NACo has organized caucuses – the [Rural Action Caucus](#) and the [Large Urban County Caucus](#) – to perform targeted advocacy efforts focused on specific needs of large urban counties and rural counties.

Note to Media

Members of the working news media wishing to cover conference events must present their press credentials at the conference press room, located in the Taft Room (Mezzanine Level), to obtain a NACo press badge. The press room will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, March 6 through Tuesday, March 9. (Phone number TBA). For more information about NACo or the 2010 Legislative Conference, contact Jim Philipps at 202.942.4220 or jphilipps@naco.org.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) is the only national organization that represents county governments in the United States. Founded in 1935, NACo provides essential services to the nation's 3,068 counties. NACo advances issues with a unified voice before the federal government, improves the public's understanding of county government, assists counties in finding and sharing innovative solutions through education and research, and provides value-added services to save counties and taxpayers money. For more information about NACo, visit www.naco.org.