



Nevada Association of Counties
304 South Minnesota Street
Carson City, NV 89703
(775) 883-7863

www.nvnaco.org

NACO Priorities 2021 Legislative Session

This interim, based on county legislative priorities, the NACO Board of Directors voted to request four bills. Listed below is a summary of each.

AB 1 – Mandating Training on Local Governments for All New Legislators

Currently, all new legislators are required to take New Legislator Training, administered by the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB). AB1 would require that information on how counties and cities operate be included in training for new legislators. As a Dillon’s Rule state, legislators have control over much of what local governments do, and many of the policy changes and budget decisions that they work on throughout their careers will impact counties and cities. This legislation would ensure that Legislators are provided training on the services that counties provide as well as on county authority and county budgets.

AB 2 – Governor-Appointed Boards

Currently in Nevada Law, a qualified individual cannot serve on more than one board whose members are appointed by the Governor.¹ However, there are many statewide boards and commissions that require specific expertise or residence requirements and there are sometimes few Nevadans that have the required qualifications. There are instances where qualified individuals willing to serve on a particular body are limited because of existing appointments; and yet sometimes there are no other individuals interested in or willing to serve. There are examples of this across policy and geographic areas. This proposal would remove the existing prohibition and allow the Governor to appoint an individual to more than one board or commission.

AB 33 – Clarifying the Process to Determine Paternity

In order to ensure that the system for transitioning children out of the child welfare system is efficient and uniform, AB 33 proposes to codify the procedure for determining paternity into NRS 432B. Currently that procedure, including timing of hearings and noticing requirements for parents, exists in NRS 126 but not in NRS 432B, the chapter of Nevada law dealing with child welfare. This bill would take the existing procedure and codify it into NRS432B. Providing this clarification will ensure that the law is applied consistently and that children do not stay in the system longer than is absolutely necessary.

¹ There are two minor exceptions to this - both the State Land Use Planning Advisory Council (SLUPAC) and the Sagebrush Ecosystem Council (SEC) can have members who have an appointment to another board.



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SB 10 - Protecting County Property Tax Revenue

As counties continue to struggle with the effects of the Great Recession on property tax revenue, they are now looking toward another potential reduction in revenues due to the economic fallout from COVID-19. For all Nevada counties, property taxes are either the primary or secondary source of revenue - making them critical to the services counties provide to all Nevadans. Property taxes are also an important source of revenue for Nevada's schools. Currently residential property tax bills are capped so that they cannot increase any more than 3% each year; and commercial property tax bills cannot increase more than 8%; however, the property tax formula includes an additional calculation that allows the caps to drop to 0%. Because of this, even in years where property values grow, property tax revenue growth could potentially be suppressed to zero. In FY17 for example, a year when the economy was strong and property values had grown, some counties did not see any increase at all in property tax collections. Without the adjustment provided in SB10 this scenario could occur again - SB10 would make one simple change to the existing property tax structure in Nevada and that is remove the ability of the 3% and 8% caps on property taxes to fall below 3%. Making this small change to ensure that the caps on property tax growth cannot drop below 3% may not actually raise any revenue for counties in the short term; however, what it will do is provide additional fiscal stability for local governments and, in the event of a second economic slowdown, help ensure that revenues will not be suppressed to unsustainable levels.