NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting February 21, 2025, 9:30am NACO Conference Room 304 S. Minnesota Street Carson City, NV 89703

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC:

The public may provide public comment in advance of a meeting by written submission to the following email address: info@nvnaco.org For inclusion or reference in the minutes of the meeting, your public comment must include your full name and be submitted via email by not later than 3:00 p.m. the day before the meeting.

The public may also join the meeting via remote access and provide verbal public comment during designated times by using the provided <u>Microsoft Teams Link</u>.

AGENDA

NACO Board members may attend via remote technology from other locations. Items on the agenda may be taken out of order. The NACO Board may combine two or more agenda items for consideration. The NACO Board may remove an item from the agenda or delay discussion relating to an item on the agenda at any time.

Call to Order, Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance

- 1. Public Comment. Please Limit Comments to 3 Minutes.
- 2. Approval of Agenda. For Possible Action
- 3. NACO President's Report.
- 4. NACO Executive Director's Report.
- 5. Approval of Minutes of January 31, 2025, NACO Board of Directors Meeting. **For Possible Action**
- 6. Discussion and Approval of NACO's 2025 Federal Priorities. For Possible Action.
- 7. Presentation From the Nevada Secretary of State's Office Regarding Existing County Responsibilities Regarding Election Administration, Mark Wlaschin, Deputy Secretary of State for Elections.
- 8. Discussion and Possible Appointment for One (1) of NACO's Appointments to the National Association of Counties (NACo) Board of Directors. **For Possible Action.**
- 9. Discussion and Possible Approval Regarding the Re-Appointment of Gina Rackley, Humboldt County, to the Committee on Local Government Finance. **For Possible Action**

- 10. **Update and Possible Action.** Regarding Public Lands and Natural Resources Issues Affecting Counties Including:
 - a. Updates from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee.
- 11. NACO Legislative Committee Update Regarding the 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature and Discussion of Bills Affecting Nevada's Counties.
- 12. Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties.
- 13. Public Comment. Please Limit Comments to 3 Minutes.

Adjournment.

Members of the public who are disabled and require special accommodations or assistance at the meeting are requested to notify NACO in writing at 304 S. Minnesota Street, Carson City, NV 89703, or by calling (775) 883-7863 at least three working days prior to the meeting.

Members of the public can request copies of the supporting material for the meeting by contacting Amanda Berg at (775) 883-7863. Supporting material will be available at the NACO office and on the NACO website at: www.nvnaco.org

This agenda was posted at the following locations:

NACO Office 304 S. Minnesota Street, Carson City, NV 89703

Washoe County Admin. Building 1001 E. Ninth Street, Reno, NV 89520

Elko County Manager's Office 540 Court Street #101, Elko NV 89801

POOL/PACT 201 S. Roop Street, Carson City, NV 89701

NACO Website: www.nvnaco.org

Please Join Us!

We cordially invite you to join us for the Nevada State Dinner at the 2025 NACo Legislative Conference. We hope you will join our host Storey County, NACO staff and your fellow local county officials and guests for a one of a kind dining experience in Washington D.C.





Just steps away from the White House, our venue is majority owned by American family farmers. With menus that feature American-inspired food & drink made from scratch with thoughtfully sourced ingredients from local area farmers.

What: NACO State Dinner, Hosted by Storey County

When: Saturday, March 1st 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Where: Founding Farmers - 1924 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20006

Please RSVP: Amanda at amandaberg@nvnaco.org or 775-883-7863 on or

before Friday, February 21st.

While we hope to enjoy your company, please remember that NACO is unable to reimburse for alcoholic beverages.

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting January 31, 2025, 9:30am NACO Conference Room 304 S. Minnesota Street Carson City, NV 89703

UNADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Giomi, President Elect Andreozzi, Vice President Gardner, Esmeralda County Commissioner Perez, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lincoln County Commissioner Reese, Lyon County Commissioner Keller, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Pershing County Commissioner Crim, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Andriola, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, White Pine County Commissioner VanCamp and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume and Amanda Berg)

Affiliate Attendance: Douglas County Recorder Garren, County Fiscal Officers Association; Washoe County Assessor Sarman, Nevada Assessors Association; Carson City Treasurer Rasor, Nevada Association of County Treasurers; Washoe County Recorder Work, Recorders Association of Nevada

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

- 1. **Public Comment**. President Giomi welcomed newly elected Esmeralda County Commissioner Fred Perez to the Board of Directors.
- 2. **Approval of Agenda**. The agenda was approved on a motion by Commissioner Tipton with second by Commissioner Andriola.
- 3. **Investiture of the 2025 NACO Officers**. The Investiture of the 2025 NACO Officers was conducted by Nevada Supreme Court Justice Ron D. Parraguirre. Elko County Commissioner Delmo Andreozzi was sworn in as President, Douglas County Commissioner Mark Gardner was sworn in as President Elect, and Washoe County Commissioner Clara Andriola was sworn in as Vice President.
- 4. NACO President's Report. President Andreozzi recognized Past President Giomi and thanked him for his service as the 2024 NACO President. He stated that it is an honor to serve as the NACO President and informed the Board that he had attended the annual Presidents and Executives Fly-In hosted by the National Association of Counties (NACo) with Vinson earlier in the month. President Andreozzi discussed meetings that were held with Congressman Amodei and Senator Cortez Masto and that he found the logistics surrounding the preparations for the Presidential Inauguration fascinating. He concluded his report by informing the Board that he had reappointed Commissioner Tipton as the Chair of the Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee and that President Elect Gardner had accepted his appointment to the Chairmanship of the Legislative Subcommittee, thanking both for their service.
- 5. **NACO Executive Director's Report**. Vinson began his remarks by also welcoming Commissioner Perez to the Board. He informed the Board that the Board for the Fund for Hospital Care to Indigent Persons (IAF) had met earlier in the month and reminded them that the IAF is funded in part with local tax revenues. He also reminded them that a portion

of those dollars are returned to the counties through the IAF to offset a portion of their non-federal share of the match for the Medicaid Long Term Care Program. Vinson reminded the Board of the upcoming NACo Annual Legislative Conference and noted that it is a good opportunity to be involved with advocacy efforts at the federal level by attending policy steering committee meetings and informed the Board that a dinner would be hosted for Nevada attendees during the conference. Vinson concluded his remarks by reminding the Board of the presentation they received during the December meeting by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding the use of federal disposal lands for workforce and State employee housing. He informed the Board that the BLM is working on producing the requested maps of land available for disposal, noting that they would be distributed when received.

- 6. **Approval of Minutes of December 13, 2024, NACO Board of Directors Meeting**. The minutes were approved as presented on a motion by Past President Giomi with second by Commissioner Reese.
- 7. **Discussion of NACO's 2025 Federal Priorities**. Jennifer directed the Board's attention to the draft included in the agenda packet, noting that yellow highlight indicated additions to the document and red strike through were to be deleted from the draft as the content was either outdated or no longer included in the NACo platform of federal advocacy. She also noted that with a change in the Administration and a new Congress the document is more heavily edited than in interim years. Jennifer then gave the Board an overview of added language specifically related to Public Health, Telecommunications & Technology, and Elections. She requested that the Board reach out to her directly with any feedback and reminded them that the document would return to the February agenda for approval prior to the NACo Legislative Conference.
- 8. **Discussion and Possible Approval Regarding the Appointment of April Becker, Clark County Commissioner, to the Nevada Commission on Nuclear Projects.** Vinson reminded the Board that NACO receives an appointment to the Commission and that the Clark County Commission has traditionally advised the Board on the appointment. He informed the Board that Commissioner Becker would replace former Commissioner Ross Miller who chose not to seek re-election in the middle of the term of this appointment. President Elect Gardner inquired as to the length of the term and it was clarified that the appointment is for two years. Commissioner Becker's appointment was confirmed on a motion by President Elect Gardner with second by Vice President Andriola.
- 9. Discussion and Possible Approval Regarding the Re-Appointment of Abagail Yacoben Chief Financial Officer, Washoe County, to the Committee on Local Government Finance (CLGF). Vinson reminded the Board that NACO receives three appointments to the CLGF which have traditionally been reserved for a representative from Clark County, Washoe County and one from a rural county, noting that they last made an appointment for the Clark County representative during the June meeting in Eureka County. He informed the Board that Ms. Yacoben is interested in being reappointed and reminded them that all actions for counties that may have fiscal challenges go through the CLGF. Vinson concluded his remarks by informing the Board that the rural representative is Gina Rackley from Humboldt County and her appointment would be on the Board's February agenda. Vice President Andriola stated that she works closely with Ms. Yacoben and that she is well versed in county finances. Ms. Yacoben's re-appointment was confirmed on a motion by Vice President Andriola with second by Past President Giomi.

- 10. Introduction, and Update Regarding Intergovernmental Partnership with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest from the Newly Appointed Forest Supervisor, Mr. **Jon Stansfield.** Mr. Stansfield thanked the Board for the opportunity to address them and informed them that he had been in the position for just over a year, having replaced Bill Dunkelberger who had retired after over twenty years with the Forest. He gave an overview of his history and career with the Forest Service in both rural areas and the urban interface, noting that his experience gives him the unique and broad perspective to oversee Nevada's only National Forest. Mr. Stansfield informed the Board that having strong intergovernmental relationships with the counties is important to him, specifically as work is done to address and mitigate the ongoing issue of wildfire. He discussed successful projects with counties and the Southern Nevada Land Planning Management Act and informed the Board that the 2025 Capital Christmas Tree would be coming from the Forest and for the first time from Nevada. Mr. Stansfield discussed the upcoming pre-season cooperator discussions for fire suppression, specifically noting that no one entity can deal with the threat of wildfire alone. He informed the Board that the Forest is the largest range management system held within the Forest Service and discussed collaboration on topics from utility corridors to minerals management and gave the Board an overview of his priorities as the Forest Supervisor, noting that his favorite aspect of the position is the relationships he builds with the counties and informed the Board that he expects his Rangers to carry forward with regular meetings and communications. Past President Giomi inquired as to where the Christmas Tree would be harvested and Mr. Stansfield stated that they had identified possibilities from the Carson Range and the Spring Mountains, but it would ultimately be the decision of the National Architect. President Elect Gardner stated that it was nice to have someone local in the position and discussed the recent Tamarac and Davis fires inquiring about a perceived "let it burn" policy of the Forest Service. Mr. Stansfield informed the Board that decisions are made based on risk, specifically to personnel, when fire starts are identified in wilderness areas, but stressed that there is not a "let it burn" policy adopted by the Forest Service. Mr. Stansfield was also asked about jurisdictional cooperation during wildfire events and the impression that local fire agencies are not allowed on Forest Service property. He stated that it is an misinformed impression and reiterated that unified command centers are developed during fire events and all jurisdictions are a part of those command centers, noting that success is only achieved through cooperation. Commissioner Reese discussed multiple catastrophic events occurring within the past couple of months and the loss of institutional knowledge at the county level due to elections and encouraged Mr. Stansfield to work closely with the new County Commissioners. Vice President Andriola thanked Mr. Stansfield for his agencies work on the Davis fire, specifically the minimization of structure loss, noting that while fire is expected the frequency of fire events is increasing. She encouraged Mr. Stansfield to revisit the training of elected officials on their roles and responsibilities, especially regarding communications during fire events. Mr. Stansfield concluded his presentation by agreeing with Vice President Andriola and stating that if time is made available by the Commissioners, he will ensure that Forest Service staff is available to meet their schedules.
- 11. **Review and Possible Approval of the NACO 2025 County Directory**. Amanda thanked the Board and county staff for their cooperation on the necessary updates and noted that there had been additional updates received since the distribution of the draft included in the agenda packet. Amanda also noted that additional updates would be made based on the actions the Board took earlier in the meeting. She encouraged the Board to reach out to her directly with any edits to their county's page and received additional information from Commissioner Keller, Commissioner Tipton, and Commissioner Reese. The 2025 NACO Directory was approved with edits as necessary on a motion by Past President Giomi with second by Vice President Andriola.

- 12. NACO Legislative Committee Update Regarding the Upcoming 83rd Session of the Nevada Legislature and Discussion of Bills Affecting Nevada's Counties. Jennifer reminded the Board that the Legislative Session would begin this coming Monday and noted that weekly meetings of the Legislative Committee would begin on Friday, February 7th. She reminded the Board of the four NACO bills, AB14 which would require county elected officials to be registered voters as well as qualified electors; AB70 which would require greater consideration to county comments on renewable energy projects; SB65 which clarifies which records of a Medical Examiner or Coroner are public records; and SB73 which will prohibit County Clerks from providing or allowing the copying of the signatures of registered voters. Jennifer then discussed the importance of the submission of fiscal notes by the counties, noting that the LCB had already sent requests to county staff for the information, and again noted the importance of the information in determining positions on bills affecting county finances. Vinson discussed SB116 sponsored by Senator Daly, regarding the compensation of local elected officials, noting that the bill had been released less than 48 hours prior to the meeting. He informed the Board that meetings had been held with the sponsor going all the way back to October and that in its current form there are issues with the proposed legislation but that it will be amended. Vinson stressed that one of the biggest priorities for the legislation is that it would be the last time the legislature needs to vote on the issue. The lack of equity was discussed, and President Elect Gardner informed the Board that he had asked his county manager to put together a spreadsheet that will show the fiscal impacts. Past President Giomi stated that it is not a responsibility of the State to set salaries for local officials and that it is not a one size fits all issue. What is applicable in Clark County will not be applicable in Eureka County. Vinson again stressed that what was released will not be the final language and that staff will continue to work towards NACO's goals. Commissioner Perez inquired as to what sets the current salaries and whether it was population based. Vinson stated that it is currently population based but that it is not a fair mechanism for determining elected salaries, noting that Storey County has a small population but a lot of industry. Commissioner Carmona discussed the need to level out the equity between the elected officials and their deputies, and Vinson stated that the goal is to ensure that the elected official makes 3% more than their deputy. Commissioner Tipton discussed SB2 which would exempt collective bargaining from the Open Meeting Law, noting that his county is facing budget issues because of bargaining agreements. Challenges for counties with only three commissioners were also discussed and Vinson stated that he would find guidance from the Attorney General's office for small Boards. The Board also discussed SB28, which would make changes to the median gross income for affordable housing, a technology fund for treasurers, and AIR1 which would create a re-set on property taxes upon transfer of ownership.
- 13. **Approval of the Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) By-Laws**. Jennifer directed the Board's attention to the document in the agenda packet, noting that they had previously reviewed the draft in November and December and that it had been transmitted to the counties in accordance with the existing By-Laws. She thanked the Committee for their hard work and Past President Giomi for the direction to undertake the update. Past President Giomi inquired as to why the appendix regarding the association's dues was not updated per recent Board action and it was clarified that the appendix is just the base dues structure called out within the By-Laws. Commissioner Keller inquired as to what edition of Robert's Rules of Order is referred to under the general provisions section and it was clarified that the intent is the most recent version in print. Vinson stated that the inclusion of that language is an administrative update and would not preclude the Board from adopting the By-Laws. The By-Laws were approved on a motion by Past President Giomi with second by President Elect Gardner.

- 14. Update and Possible Action. Regarding Public Lands and Natural Resources Issues Affecting Counties Including:
 - a. Updates from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee. Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that the Subcommittee had discussed the new Director for the National Center for Public Lands housed under the National Association of Counties, the new Administrations pause on renewal energy development, noting that efforts would be made to have a meeting with the Department of Interior during the NACo Legislative Conference. The Subcommittee also discussed the lack of applications received for the Natural Resources Manager position and considered the options of contracting or sharing costs with the National Center for Public Lands since a lot of work on the same issues would be taking place. The Subcommittee also discussed the Greater Sage Grouse plans at the BLM, noting that a Record of Decision had not been signed prior to the new Administration. Commissioner Tipton concluded his update by informing the Board that the Subcommittee had also discussed the Baker Ranches vs. National Park Service lawsuit and their recommendation is for counties to join in on the submission of Amicus Briefs.
 - b. **Discussion and Possible Approval of Amicus Brief Regarding Baker Ranches vs. National Park Service (NPS). For Possible Action.** Vinson informed the Board that the budget includes a small amount for legal activities noting that an Amicus Brief is a filing by a party that is not a part of the case but has an outcome in the proceedings, a "friend of the court." He stated that the issue is about takings that the outcome could set precedent and usurp State law and those of existing water right holders. He also noted that it is within his purview as the Executive Director to sign onto the Brief but that he wanted to bring it to the Board for discussion and approval. Past President Giomi asked when the Brief was due and Vinson informed the Board that it had been moved back to February 18th and the Association would sign onto a document that had already been prepared by Schroder Law Firm in Reno and is supported by several counties as well as the Central Nevada Regional Water Authority. The filing of an Amicus Brief in the Baker Ranches vs. National Park Service action was approved on a motion by Commissioner Reese with second by Vice President Andriola.
- 15. Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties. Vinson reminded the Board that NACO has two seats on the NACo Board of Directors, and that Former Commissioner Higbee would need to be replaced on that Board. However, with no meetings scheduled prior to the February meeting, the appointment will be on that agenda. He also informed the Board that an email will be distributed with details on the appointment for those who may be interested in serving. Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that the WIR Board had met in December to elect a new President as the re-election bid of the 2024/2025 President was unsuccessful, noting that the new WIR President is a Supervisor out of Bridgeport CA. Commissioner Tipton informed the Board that he was expecting a robust agenda for the next WIR meeting and would have a full report in February. Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.
- 16. **Public Comment**. Commissioner Tipton thanked Past President Giomi for his service to the Board and congratulated President Andreozzi on his swearing in. Jenny Lesieutre, President of Rangelands, Wildlife and Wild Horses LLC introduced herself as a resource for issues related to rangeland health and the overpopulation of Wild Horses. Shawnyne Garren,

President of the County Fiscal Officers Association thanked the Board for their acknowledgement of the challenges that surround the salaries of local elected officials.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.



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

www.nvnaco.org

Nevada Association of Counties (NACO) Federal Priorities

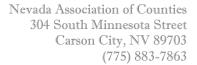
Public Health & Community Resiliency

Nevada's counties continue to provide the local social safety net and the many community services that Nevadans depend on, while supporting our communities as they focus on growing the economy and supporting our citizens on a pathway to resiliency.

Continued Support for Public Health: While unprecedented federal funding and aid to counties has occurred in recent years, it has served to highlight the need for additional longterm support for our country's public health system. In Nevada, public health is provided through a partnership between health districts, counties, and the State. During Nevada's response to a historic public health emergency, we saw that the lack of sustained resources for health districts, emergency responders and county hospitals complicated those efforts. As a result, in partnership with the State, Nevada's counties will focus on working with the federal delegation to support increased flexible funding for public health so that we can be better prepared for any future public health crisis while also improving health outcomes in our communities. This includes support for Federal scholarships, loan repayment programs, and direct support for training of all public health professionals in continuing efforts to build the state's public health workforce. This also includes support for the continuation of the CDC's Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG), which has been instrumental in improving local public health coordination, strategic planning, and public health infrastructure development across the State of Nevada. As Nevada's counties collaborate to stand up additional public health services, we look to the federal delegation to support these efforts with direct funding that supports these local programs. NACO supports a federal effort for a comprehensive state and local analysis of the Public Health System and current and effective local and regionally driven policy recommendations. In addition, NACO encourages initiatives that support rural health through tax incentives for health professionals practicing in rural/underserved areas, extended Medicare reimbursement for telemedicine to all rural areas, and enhancements to rural health research.

Direct Assistance to Counties for Ongoing Mental Health Response: NACO remains grateful to our Nevada Congressional delegation for supporting vital relief packages such as the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). These pieces of legislation provided direct, flexible funding to local governments that allowed for mitigation from the pandemic. Counties have been able to stand up programs such as mobile crisis services, community-based behavioral health services, and housing stabilization services.

NACO thanks our Nevada Congressional delegation for supporting the initial CARES ACT funding, a vital first step in getting relief to our counties. Also, counties applaed the passage





funding to local governments, to mitigate impacts from the pandemic and support the ongoing response to COVID-19. As a direct result of the passage of ARPA, counties have stood up programs to assist small businesses, local nonprofits, and recover lost revenue, along with housing, nutrition and mental health programs with a focus on children's behavioral health.

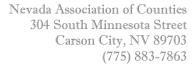
With 75% of the U.S. population reliant on county-based behavioral health services, the National Association of Counties (NACo) launched a <u>Commission on Mental Health and Wellbeing</u>. The Commission aims to bring county leaders from across the country together to address the mounting mental health crisis from the local government perspective while building and supporting the mental health workforce and enhancing local crisis response systems. Due to the various touchpoints that counties have with residents seeking care, direct mental health service delivery responsibilities have steadily increased. Counties should be considered in any regulatory reforms that support the development and funding of long-term mental health support services.

Health & Human Services

Protect the Federal-State-Local Partnership for Medicaid: NACO supports maintaining the federal-state-local structure for financing and delivering Medicaid services while maximizing or enhancing flexibility to support local systems of care. Counties have made the most of Medicaid's flexibility and have supported health systems that serve a disproportionate share of low-income populations, including the homeless, and those cycling in and out of county jails. Nevada counties are opposed to any measures that would further shift Medicaid costs to counties. In Nevada, counties already provide an important part of Nevada's non-federal Medicaid contribution, and as Nevada's Medicaid caseloads continue to grow, counties are concerned about any proposal that increases State or local responsibility for Medicaid funding. If Medicaid costs or costs for uncompensated care for indigent individuals were increased, counties in Nevada, who have limited ability to raise revenues, would be hard-pressed to meet new fiscal responsibilities. Medicaid funding also impacts county hospitals - without sustained funding, some county hospitals may be forced to shutter their doors. Counties do support efforts to improve the efficiency, flexibility and effectiveness of policies and operations. NACO supports the strengthening of the intergovernmental partnership envisioned in the Medicaid statute and the provision that requires the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) to be passed through to counties contributing to the non-federal share.

Justice and Public Safety

Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy (MIEP): The state of Nevada passed a state-based solution to the MIEP that required Nevada Medicaid to apply for a Section 1115 Reentry Services Demonstration waiver. The waiver will enable coverage of authorized services for

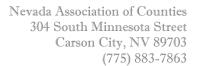




Medicaid-eligible, incarcerated adults 90 days prior to scheduled release. Nevada has requested a go-live date of October 1, 2025 (pending CMS approval of the waiver application, Implementation Plan, and completion of negotiations). NACO continues to support a federal solution to the policy, that upon detention (not conviction), inmates are no longer eligible for Federal health benefits. The current federal policy denies federal health benefits to individuals who are pending disposition and still presumed innocent under the U.S. Constitution. Instead, NACO supports access to federal health benefits for non-convicted individuals as it would allow for improved coordination of care and also decrease short-term costs to local taxpayers and long-term costs to the federal government. During the 118th Congress, The Medicaid Reentry Act of 2023 (H.R. 2400/S. 1165) would have removed the Medicaid payment exclusion for all Medicaid enrolled inmates in the 30 days prior to release from a public institution, thereby allowing states to receive federal matching funds for state plan services during the specified period. Regarding Justice Involved Reentry Initiatives for Youth, effective January 1, 2025, Nevada Medicaid will now cover authorized services for youth up to age 21 and former foster youth up to age 26, thirty (30) days pre- and postrelease. This includes Targeted Case Management (TCM). NACO continues to support programs that enable continuity of care, improve outcomes and reduce recidivism.

Mental Health and Jails: County jails are not the appropriate place to treat individuals with mental illness, but unfortunately, the incidence of mental illness for those that are incarcerated is significantly higher than the general population. Additionally, drug and alcohol abuse and addiction are factors in the crimes and incarceration of 80 percent of the inmates in local jails. In Nevada, our county jails are the largest provider of behavioral health services in the State. NACO supports sensible measures that promote and advance the overall safety of the public and the communities we serve. Within this context, we also support policies and approaches that would enhance the ability of counties to prevent and treat mental illness and substance use disorders, both in the community and within the context of the criminal justice system. This includes community continuation-of-care programs that ensure individuals transitioning out of a carceral setting are connected to clinical care and recovery supports. For example, NACO encourages continued federal support for the NACo Stepping Up Initiative, a national project to reduce overincarceration of people with mental illnesses, that was launched in 2015 together with the CSG Justice Center and the APA Foundation.

NACO also supports programs and legislation that divert non-violent individuals struggling with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from jails and into treatment programs while protecting overall public safety. One example of a critical federal program that counties rely on to provide services to our incarcerated populations and reduce recidivism is the Second Chance Act, which supports state and local government, and nonprofit organizations in their work to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes for people returning from state and federal prisons, local jails, and juvenile facilities.





Public Lands & Natural Resources

Public Land Management and Funding County Services: As Nevada's Congressional Delegation is well aware, our state has the largest percentage of federal lands of any state in the contiguous 48 at over 80% federal ownership. Some of our counties (Nye, Esmeralda, Lander, Lincoln, and White Pine) have over 90 percent of their acreage administered by the federal government. As a result, Nevada's counties find their local economies, fiscal condition, and quality of life are greatly influenced by federal land management decisions. For example, in many Nevada communities, resource-based industries that are tied to public lands are their lifeblood and public access for recreation is also a high priority. It is important to recognize the impacts of public land use on local economies and ways of life, as well as on the demand for county services. As a western state with a large amount of Federal land, it is critical for all 17 of our counties to stay involved in federal land management planning and conservation efforts. Individual county governments have a critical role in policy development, planning, and management of federal land. Counties provide road maintenance, emergency response, law enforcement and other mandated services on public lands and to public lands users. Counties also manage assets that require federal permits, leases, or easements.

NACO supports the following: efforts to increase federal land managers' engagement with county governments; appropriate federal revenue sharing to support county services; and the transfer of select federal land to states or counties when feasible and where appropriate, based on consultation with or direct recommendation of the affected county. NACO thanks the Nevada delegation for their support of full funding of the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT) and Secure Rural Schools (SRS) programs. These payments to counties offset a portion of the losses in tax revenues that result from the federal land ownership within their jurisdictions. Because local governments are unable to collect property taxes on federal lands, Nevada's rural counties increasingly rely on these payments to balance their budgets and provide essential services. NACO supports comparable funding that allows counties to provide the above-mentioned essential services and remain solvent.

Consultation on Planning and Rulemakings: NACO is appreciative of the delegation's support on several significant land withdrawal proposals. Even where NACO is not a cooperating agency, consultation and coordination with counties is crucial. Whether it is a species listing, or a monument designation, counties take federal mandates to consult very seriously.

Renewable Energy: While supporting diversification of energy production that brings economic activity to Nevada, NACO has long held the position that public lands administered by the federal agencies should be managed for multiple uses. NACO is concerned with the significant increase of proposals which would narrow public land use solely to renewable

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



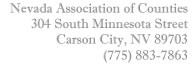


energy infrastructure (particularly solar arrays) across significant acreages. Nevada's counties should be compensated for these use restrictions, as well as the services counties will be expected to provide as these projects are constructed. Tax abatements and exemptions extended to renewable energy companies result in county taxpayers subsidizing renewable energy projects. Renewable energy projects should contribute to their local economies with ongoing revenue streams so that the counties are able to provide the required support services during the life of these projects. County government should be able to provide local input on renewable energy projects proposed on public lands and be remunerated for the permitting, infrastructure, safety and emergency services they will provide to these projects. NACO continues to support the principles of the Public Land Renewable Energy Development Act which would create a formula for distributing royalties paid by companies that use public land for energy development.

Wild Horses and Burros: Nevada has by far the largest population of wild horses and burros (WH&B) on public lands of any State. The Free-Roaming Wild Horses and Burros Act of 1971 requires the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to maintain populations at an agency-determined appropriate management level (AML). Wild horse and burro populations continue to far exceed AMLs. Overpopulation remains a major impediment to effective land management and has created serious environmental concerns for wildlife, the ecology of Nevada's rangelands, and for the horses themselves. Wild horses suffer death from starvation or dehydration due to resource scarcity. NACO supports the \$153 million 2023 request from BLM for this program but believes additional funding will be needed for this program to bring WH&Bs to AML and maintain them at that level.

NACO maintains our support for the "The Path Forward" proposal, which outlines a strategy of adoption, relocation, and fertility control that is both humane and promotes ecological balance. Achieving AML of Nevada's WHB populations as quickly and efficiently as possible is of ever-increasing urgency to Nevada's rangeland ecosystems, and all the socioeconomic activity that stems from having healthy rangelands across our state. NACO urges the Bureau of Land Management to follow the recommendations contained in their 2020 Report to Congress. The recommendations therein reflect those in the Path Forward and BLM's recognition of the urgency of WHB management.

Sage-Grouse: Stakeholders across Nevada have engaged in significant collaborative conservation efforts and species management planning regarding both the Bi-State and Greater Sage-grouse. NACO has been a cooperating agency in both the Departments of Interior's and Agriculture's previous Greater Sage-grouse Land Use Plan Amendments. NACO believes the 2019 plans (*with 2021 E.I.S. clarification*) contain more accurate data and provide the flexibility necessary to accommodate the planning needs of the State of Nevada and Nevada's counties. We appreciate continued engagement on this issue even if a listing becomes necessary.

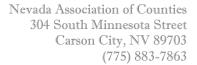




Telecommunications and Technology

Boosting Broadband and Emerging Technologies: NACO supports the deployment of existing and emerging technologies that provide timely and effective services to support equitable economic and educational opportunities, emergency preparedness and response, as well as new public safety systems. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provided \$42.45 Billion to fund broadband deployment in underserved areas through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program. NACO continues to be grateful for this 10year Federal investment in broadband expansion and access, especially for the rural areas of the Silver State. The BEAD program has obligated all \$42.45 Billion in federal funding across the nation and territories for broadband planning, deployment, mapping, equity, and adoption activities. Between June 2023 and June 2024 broadband providers brought internet access to 2.6 million new locations. Thanks to efforts by Senator Rosen who helped craft the broadband section of the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law*, Nevada has been approved to receive more than \$416 million. This means affordable, reliable high-speed internet to all of the more than 50,000 unserved and underserved households in every county in Nevada. County officials are required to fulfill their responsibilities as trustees of public property and as protectors of public safety and health during this deployment process. By preserving local authority, county governments can ensure that communications providers are serving the public interest regardless of the delivery platform. Federal policymakers should also support local decision-making and accountability and oppose any actions that would preempt or limit the zoning and siting authority of local governments. NACO continues to be grateful for Federal investment in broadband expansion and access, especially in rural areas of the Silver State. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (HJA)/H.R. 3684, created the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program to provide federal funding to all fifty states for broadband planning, deployment, mapping, equity, and adoption activities. Widespread access to broadband is significant for advancements in education, economic development and health care delivery.

NACO has been a longtime supporter in calling for accurate broadband connectivity data which is essential to buildout critical broadband infrastructure in areas lacking access to high-speed internet. As companies continue to look to business-friendly states such as Nevada and as our counties continue to look to diversify their economies, it is essential that Nevada's counties have the connectivity businesses require. NACO is pleased that Congress and federal agencies afforded counties the opportunity to participate in the Broadband Data Collection (BDC) process, which was intended to be instrumental in the distribution of more than \$40 billion in federal broadband grants to states in 2023. The National Broadband Map consists of 2 datasets, each designed to be challenged as a means to continually identify the unserved and underserved communities most in need of funding for high-speed internet infrastructure investments. This is part of an ongoing effort to publish a new national map of broadband availability across the country to provide both fixed service and mobile service data.





Counties utilize advanced telecommunication systems for a full range of public and law enforcement services. This requires voice and data interoperability for coordination, programmatic integrity, and accountability. NACO supports Federal financial assistance for these initiatives and encouragement of efforts to improve coordination across jurisdictions and systems.

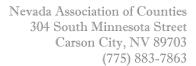
Cybersecurity: Counties continue to face increasing risk of cyber threats from multiple sources every day and must ensure that citizens' personal information and critical infrastructure are protected, recoverable and secured in the event of any potential breach. NACO supports the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP), which was funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The SLGCP provided a total of \$1 billion in funding over four years, to support state and local efforts to address cyber risks to their information systems.

Artificial Intelligence (AI): Artificial Intelligence (AI) is rapidly becoming part of daily life for people around the world. As with any new technology, the implications can be both positive and negative. NACO recognizes that counties across the country have utilized AI to automate administrative tasks, analyze large amounts of public information in a short amount of time, and to provide language translation in public meetings or in the process of county transactions. NACO supports the responsible use of AI, with guardrails that advance innovation while minimizing risks to the public. This would include the ability to modify regulations as AI evolves, promotion of digital literacy for county employees and the public, and clarity around liability for AI discrimination.

County Financing and Funding

Optimizing Intergovernmental Partnerships and Federalism: NACO is pleased with our partnership with our federal delegation, and we look to continued coordination on policies that benefit and impact Nevadans. NACO continues to oppose unfunded mandates and federal initiatives that fail to protect county revenue. We support efforts that recognize and respect the unique roles and responsibilities of counties as essential partners in our nation's intergovernmental system of federal, state, local and tribal officials. It is the right and a responsibility for counties to be able to raise the necessary revenues to finance critical basic public services. County governments are tasked with implementing both state and federal policies as well as regulations at the local level and should be included in all stages of the governing process. NACO urges Congress to support measures that increase transparency, reduce regulatory burden, foster intergovernmental dialogue, and unite all levels of government in supporting our unparalleled system of federalism.

Support Funding for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program: NACO strongly supports the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program established in the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The State of Nevada is a recipient of



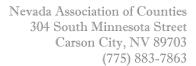


the State Administered CDBG program, also known as the Small Cities' CDBG program or the CDBG non-entitlement. Each State develops annual funding priorities and criteria for selecting projects. Nevada's priorities are established by the consolidated planning process, state priorities, and the regional community and economic development needs of each community. The CDBG program provides increased opportunities for elected county officials to plan, implement, and evaluate local community development and housing assistance programs. NACO asks for continued flexibility of the funds to address certain immediate and unanticipated priorities from all levels of government.

Transportation

Long-term Transportation Funding and Financing: As time winds down on the five-year, \$973 billion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), formally known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58), NACO remains grateful for this historic investment in American infrastructure. Over 60,000 projects have gone forward, modernizing and making improvements across all modes of transportation. NACo maintains an interactive funding matrix that is continually updated and easy to interpret that includes, funding levels, program descriptions, and eligibility requirements.

Counties play a major role in transportation as the owners of 44% of the nation's roads and should be recognized as such in any comprehensive package presented by the administration and Congress, including possible future surface transportation reauthorization legislation. In Nevada, counties maintain over 75% of the roads in the State and have benefited from additional federal funding for our roads, broadband, wastewater systems and other critical infrastructure projects. Nevada's Counties support efforts by the administration and Congress to increase our nation's infrastructure investments to help promote economic development, public safety, and overall mobility. One such example is our delegation's support for the Brightline West High-Speed Rail Project and the expected completion in time for the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. This 218-mile high-speed rail line will operate between Las Vegas, Nevada, and Rancho Cucamonga, California, easing road traffic and expanding access to economic opportunity. All federal infrastructure investment should reflect county priorities and capabilities. This includes allocating more federal seed capital and matching funds for locally owned infrastructure, increasing local decision-making authority and flexibility, and streamlining and shortening the federal permitting process. Additionally, the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund is critical as is the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funding.





Election Integrity & Funding

Administering our Nation's Elections: NACO supports federal policies that provide flexibility for local decision making and increased federal investments in the nation's elections system. The diversity of geography, population distribution, and language needs across the country and specifically across Nevada, require local understanding. Election integrity and safety is critical to a strong democracy. As administrators and financers of our elections, NACO continues to support a consistent, predictable, and dedicated federal funding stream to assist counties with meeting the significant federal requirements already imposed on local governments administering elections. We also support efforts by Congress and the Administration to combat cybersecurity threats in a way that is inclusive of county election and technology officials. NACO continues to urge federal lawmakers to protect local control over election administration and to fully fund any new mandates and specific requirements regarding equipment, procedures, and personnel responsibilities.

NACO appreciates the Nevada Congressional delegation's advocacy to reconsider a plan by the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to downsize and relocate part of the operations of the Reno Processing and Distribution Center. Their leadership led to the cancelation of the plan to reroute Reno-area mail processing to Sacramento. The mail system, both domestically and internationally, is an integral support for our election systems that ensures that all voters are able to fairly and freely participate in our elections.

Agenda Item 7

Biography for Mark Wlaschin

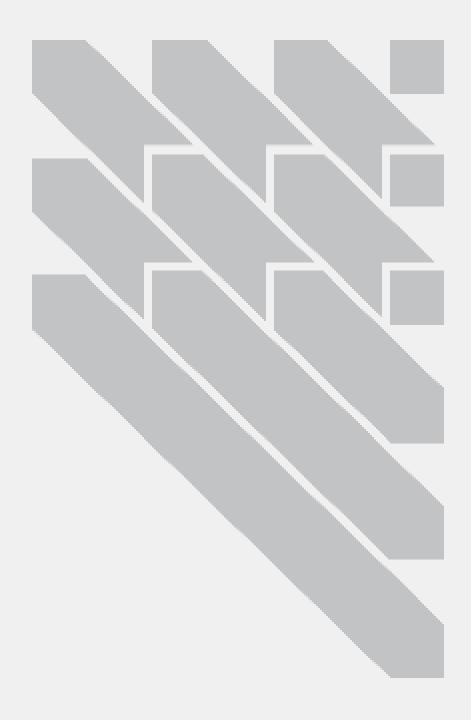
Mark Wlaschin was appointed Deputy Secretary of State for Elections in October 2020. In this capacity he is responsible for overseeing the Secretary of State's Elections Division and administering the state's election processes, including enforcing state and federal election laws and procedures. Mark Wlaschin previously served as the Deputy Secretary of State for Operations.

Mr. Wlaschin served 20 years in the United States Marine Corps. He holds a BA in History from the University of South Carolina, an MBA in Strategic Leadership from New England College, and is certified as a Project Management Professional (PMP).



State, County, and City Elections Responsibilities

Mark Wlaschin, Deputy Secretary for Elections



Agenda

- Who and What (Requirements)
- **Training & Elections Procedure Manual**
- **Looking Forward**



Secretary of State

Chief Officer of Elections

17 County Elections Officials

- 15 Elected Clerks
- 2 Appointed Registrars of Voters

18 City Elections Officials

• 18 City Clerks

Elections Division

- Mark Wlaschin Deputy Secretary for Elections
 - 18 Full time state employees
 - 27 Contractors (VREMS project)
- Supports the Secretary in role as Chief Officer of Elections
 - NRS 293.124: As Chief Officer, the Secretary of State is responsible for the execution and enforcement of the provisions
 of title 24 of NRS and all other provisions of state and federal law relating to elections in this State.
- How:
 - Oversight and regulation of federal and state elections
 - Training & standardization of policies and procedures, forms and templates
 - Lead implementation & refinement of new federal & state election law & administrative codes
 - Conduct elections related tasks (e.g., execute role as a filing office, petitions)
 - Outreach and education to the 2.1M voters and the 3.3M people whose lives are impacted by the votes they cast
- Provides <u>Fiscal</u> and <u>Operational</u> analysis of proposed legislation
- Works closely with all 17 county Clerks/Registrars and 18 city Clerks



17 County Elections Officials

- 15 Elected Clerks
 - Average number of elections staff: 2.2 employees
- 2 Appointed Registrars of Voters
 - Clark Co staff: 51 employees
 - Washoe Co staff: 19 employees
- Various Elected Clerks have additional (non-elections) responsibilities that include:
 - Recorder;
 - Treasurer;
 - Public Administrator;
 - Clerk of County Commission Meetings & Boards;
 - · Clerk of the Court;
 - Other duties (e.g., Marriage licenses, Minister licenses, Notary, County business licenses, Dog Licenses)
- Supported by county leadership, manager, District Attorney, IT, & Public Information Officer (PIO)

City Clerks

- Work closely with County Clerks/Registrars for the conduct of City Elections
 - Do not "own" voting systems or have Voter List Maintenance responsibilities under Title 24
- Conduct Special Elections in coordination with County Clerks/Registrars
- Partner in Voter Education and Outreach
- Numerous other non-elections responsibilities

Functional Knowledge

<u>Topic</u>	<u>Topic</u>	
Ethics in Elections	Election set up (in EMS) & proofing	
Federal election requirements & ADA	Mail ballot timelines & development	
Overview of 48 month elections calendar	Voter challenges	
Ballot adjutication & duplication	Polling location setup & logistics	
Voter registration	Leadership for Elections Officials	
Candidate filing	UOCAVA / FVAP	
Poll worker recruitment	Investigations and Fraud Reporting	
Poll worker training	Recalls	
Voter Notices	Initiatives & Referendum	
SOS reporting requirements	Petitions (other than I&R and Recalls)	
Federal reporting requirements (EAVS)	NV Legislative & Regulatory Processes	
Election night reporting	Campaign Finance	
Voter education & outreach	Observers and Meaningful Observation	
Public Records Requests	Ballot Questions	
Tabulation timelines	Pre- and Post- election audits and certifications	
Same Day Registration (SDR)	Provisional Ballots	

Working Knowledge

List of classes	
1. US Constitution, Amendments, and concept of "Constitutional Supremacy"	13. County Government
2. Civil Rights Act (CRA) of 1964	14. Campaign Finance Overview
3. Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965	15. Legislative Session
4. UOCAVA and MOVE	16. NV SOS Elections Division Processes
5. National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993	17. Automatic Voter Registration
6. Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002	18. AB422 & AB432 implementation
7. Nevada Constitution (Art. 2 & 19; Art. 5, Secs. 4, 8, 17-20; Art. 4, Secs. 3-5, 12, 25)	19. Voter Registration Drives
8. Title 24 - Overview of all 9 chapters	20. Election Crimes
9. Nevada Administrative Code (NAC)	21. Petitions
10. Other Chapters of Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS)	22. Voting System 101
11. Voting Accessibility	23. TotalVote – 101
12. Tribal Voting	24. Poll Pads / ePulse

Preparing Our Elections Officials

Training and Elections Procedure Manual

NRS 293.2405 -

- 1. The Secretary of State shall develop and provide a training course to each county clerk and city clerk related to elections procedures, including, without limitation, the procedures set forth in the elections procedures manual required pursuant to NRS 293.2502.
 - 2. Each county clerk and city clerk shall attend the training course provided by the Secretary of State.
- 3. A county clerk or city clerk may require any deputy or employee of the office of the county or city clerk whose duties relate to elections to attend a training course provided by the Secretary of State pursuant to this section.
 - 4. The Secretary of State:
- (a) Shall provide to or reimburse the county or city, as applicable, for the cost of the per diem allowance and travel expenses of the county clerk or city clerk for attending the training course required pursuant to this section. Any reimbursement must be paid from the Reserve for Statutory Contingency Account upon recommendation by the Secretary of State and approval by the State Board of Examiners.
- (b) May provide to or reimburse the county or city, as applicable, for the cost of the per diem allowance and travel expenses of any deputy or employee of the office of the county or city clerk for attending the training course required pursuant to this section. Any reimbursement must be paid from the Reserve for Statutory Contingency Account upon recommendation by the Secretary of State and approval by the State Board of Examiners.

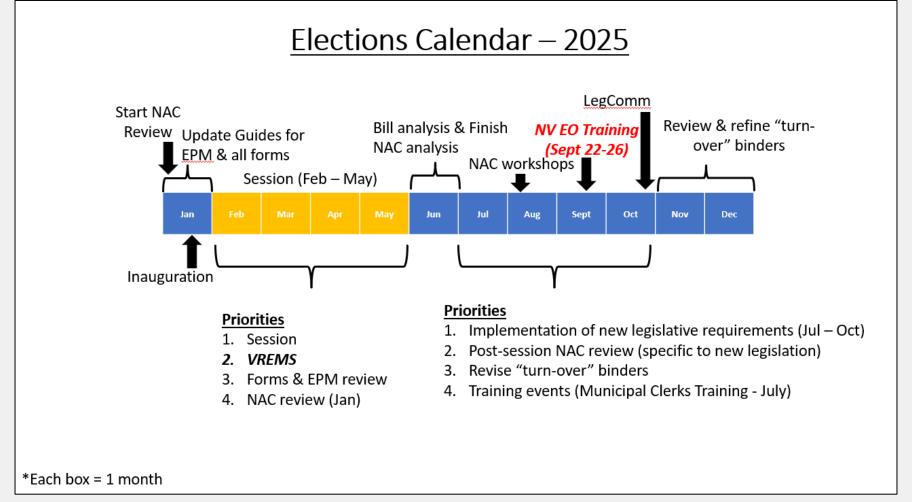
(Added to NRS by 2023, 2613)

Preparing Our Elections Officials

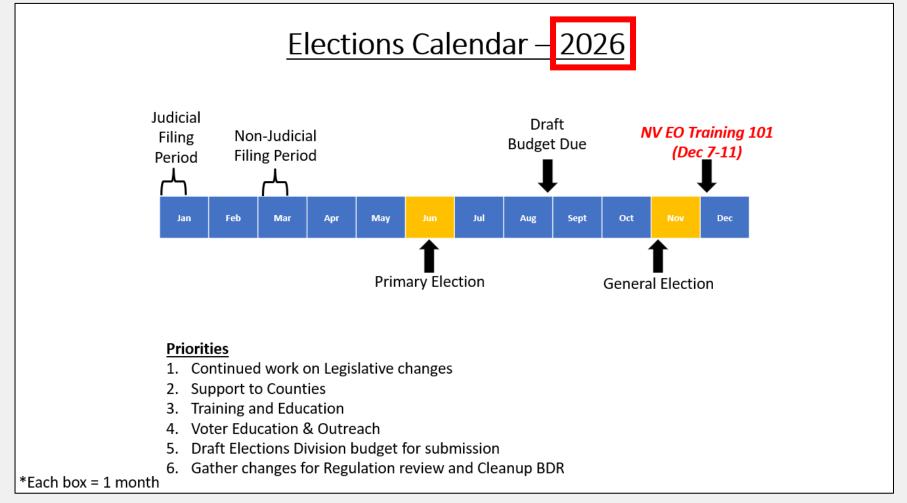
Training and Elections Procedure Manual

Nevada Election Official Training Conference (NEOTC)							
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
	TD-1	TD-2	TD-3	TD-4	TD-5		
8:30-9:00	Opening comments						
9:00-9:50	1	8	15	22	29		
10:00-10:50	2	9	16	23	30		
11:00-11:50	3	10	17	24	31		
12:00-1:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		
1:00-1:50	4	11	18	25	Graduation		
2:00-2:50	5	12	19	26	EOTC meeting		
3:00-3:50	6	13	20	27	EOTC meeting		
4:00-4:50	7	14	21	28	EOTC meeting		
4:50-5:00	Closing comments	Closing comments	Closing comments	Closing comments	EOTC meeting		

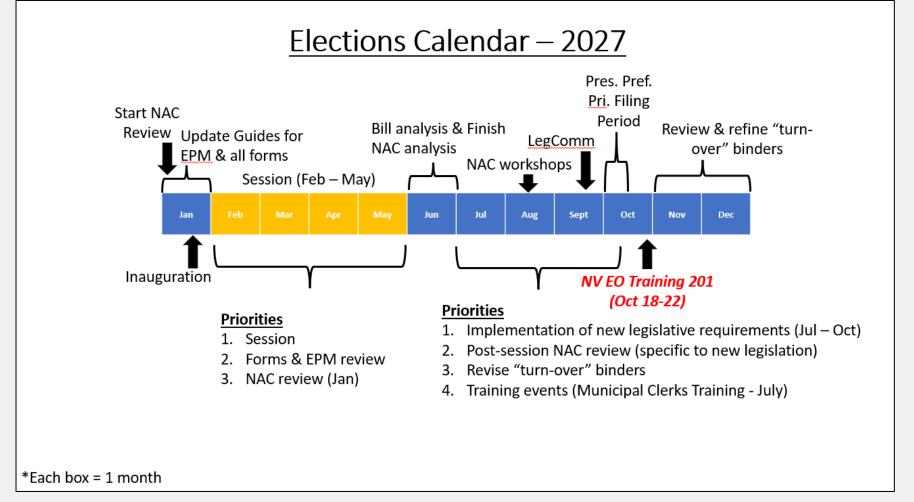
The Way Forward



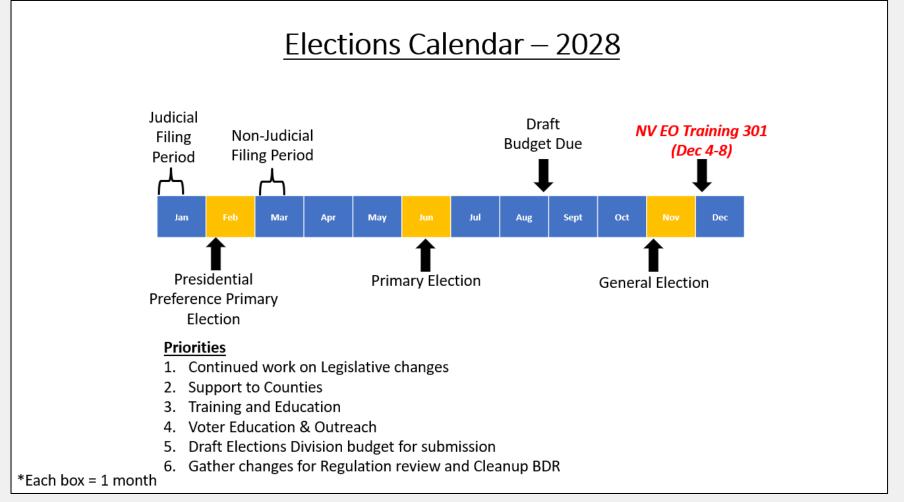
The Way Forward



The Way Forward



The Way Forward



14

The Way Forward

- Training Lab
 - Permanent "polling place" established in Carson City at SOS
 - Available for training for ALL NV elections officials
 - Training packages (2-3 days)
 - · Creates a capability
 - They come to Carson and leave with ability to...
 - · Register voters, establish a polling place, use TotalVote & Poll Pads, basic understanding of petitions, recalls, etc.
 - Perpetual training opportunity
- Dedicated County Elections Official
 - AB237 -

Section 1 of this bill removes the requirement that a county have a population of 100,000 or more to be authorized to create the office of registrar of voters. Removal of the population requirement authorizes any county to create the office of registrar of voters.



Questions?

Mark Wlaschin
Deputy Secretary for Elections

Phone: (775) 687-VOTE

Email: NVElect@sos.nv.gov

2/7/2025
Mr. Vinson Guthreau, Executive Director
Nevada Association of Counties
Re: Nevada Rural Counties Representative to NACo Board of Directors
Vince and fellow NACO Board members,
This letter is intended to express my desire to fill the vacant Nevada rural countys' seat on the National Association of Counties Board of Directors.
As we all know, previous NACO president Varlin Higbee has fulfilled this role for several years. He has done an excellent job in representing the rural counties on Nevada and is leaving big shoes to fill. It was my anticipation that he would continue to serve us and unfortunately that was not to be.
I was honored to be named several years ago to the NACo Rural Counties and Agriculture Steering Committee and remain an active participant on that committee and have attended all National Legislative conferences and National General Conferences and intend to continue to do so as I fulfill my duties as President Elect and hopefully next year as President of our association.
As such, I would be honored to be selected by our board to pick up where Varlin left off in representing our rural counties in this capacity on the national board of directors serving along with Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpartick of Clark County in her role as Urban Counties representative.
I appreciate your consideration,
Sincerely,
Mark Gardner, Commissioner

Douglas County

NACO President Elect



CONTACT

50 W. Fifth Street
Winnemucca, NV 89445
Gina.rackley@humboldtcountynv.gov
www.hcnv.us

I have received several awards for my outstanding dedication to local government finance including being recognized as a finalist for the Nevada Taxpayers Association, Cashman Good Government Award.

In 2015, I completed my certification as a Fixed Income Practitioner.

LEADERSHIP

I have served as the Secretary and also the President of County Fiscal Officers Association of Nevada.

I have been an active membership of the Humboldt County Management Team and Investment Committee since 2007.

GINA RACKLEY

HUMBOLDT COUNTY COMPTROLLER

EDUCATION

University of Nevada, Reno Great Basin College, Winnemucca Associate of Applied Science Business / Computer Technology

EXPERIENCE

January 1991 – February 1999 Administrative Assistant / City of Winnemucca, Nevada

February 1999 – January 2007 Accounting Technician / Humboldt County, Nevada

January 2007 – January 2017 Treasurer / Humboldt County, Nevada

January 2017 – August 2024 Comptroller / Humboldt County, Nevada

August 2024 – Current Rehired Comptroller – Critical Need, Humboldt County, Nevada

I have 34 years of experience in local government finance. I have served as the rural NACO appointee to the Committee on Local Government Finance since 2018.

REFERENCES

Available Upon Request