

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting
December 15, 2023, 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 telephone and provide verbal public comment during designated times by calling: (669) 900-9128 Meeting ID: 818 2207 4479 Passcode: 601621

AGENDA

Some 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 the November 18, 2022, NACO Board of Directors Meeting. **For Possible Action**
6. Presentation and Discussion Regarding the Economic Recovery Transportation Electrification Plan, Dustin Newsom, Senior Project Manager, Integrated Energy Services, NV Energy.
7. Approval of NACO Resolution 23-04 Recognizing January 2024 as National Radon Action Month. **For Possible Action**
8. Preliminary Presentation and Discussion of NACO Federal Priorities for 2024.
9. Annual Update from NACO Investment Advisor, Moreton Asset Management, LLC, Dan Rusk, Portfolio Manager.
10. Final Discussion and Approval of NACO 2024 Budget. **For Possible Action**

11. Updates from NACO Public Health Coordinator, Including Presentation and Discussion of Year-End Summary of Activities.

12. **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.
- b. Presentation and discussion of the “Western Alliance Smart from the Start Alternative” for BLM Solar PEIS. **For Possible Action.**
- c. Presentation and Discussion of Year-End Summary of Activities from the NACO Public Lands and Natural Resources Subcommittee.

13. Updates from Members on the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties.

14. 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

Agenda Item 4

**2024 National Association of Counties (NACo)
[Annual Legislative Conference](#)**

NEVADA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES (NACO)

Board of Directors' Meeting

November 17, 2023, 9:30am

NACO Office Conference Room

304 S. Minnesota Street

Carson City, NV 89702

UNADOPTED MINUTES

Attendance: President Higbee, President Elect Giomi, Past President Kirkpatrick, Douglas County Commissioner Gardner, Elko County Commissioner Andreozzi, Esmeralda County Commissioner Keyes, Eureka County Commissioner McKay, Humboldt County Commissioner Tipton, Lyon County Commissioner Henderson, Mineral County Commissioner Schlepp, Nye County Commissioner Boskovich, Pershing County Commissioner Crim, Storey County Commissioner Carmona, Washoe County Commissioner Herman, White Pine County Commissioner VanCamp, Fiscal Officer Alan Kalt, and NACO Staff (Vinson Guthreau, Jennifer Berthiaume, Jacob Brinkerhoff, Amy Hyne-Sutherland and Amanda Berg)

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m.
2. **Public Comment.** Nye County Commissioner Strickland discussed a proposed Lithium mine that would abut to Nye County and affect the Ash Meadows National Wildlife Refuge and the endangered Devils Hole Pup Fish, due to the drilling of exploratory wells etc., she noted that the Fish and Wildlife Service is actively engaged in fighting the proposed mine and that National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) studies are being conducted.
3. **NACO President's Report.** President Higbee informed the Board that the National Association of Counties (NACo) is actively working on the Farm Bill renewal making its way through Congress through the Rural Action Caucus and Agriculture Subcommittee, noting that hearings are expected in the Spring. President Higbee also reminded the Board of the upcoming NACo Legislative Conference in February and encouraged early registration.
4. **NACO Executive Director's Report.** Vinson informed the Board of two Commissioner resignations, Patsy Waits from Lander County effective on October 31 and Cassie Hall from Mineral County effective on November 1. He noted that Ms. Hall's resignation left several NACO Board appointments open, which would be addressed under the consent agenda. He also noted that her resignation left an opening on the Executive Committee which would be addressed during the January meeting, Vinson noted Commissioner Schlepp's attendance at the meeting and thanked him for joining in Ms. Hall's place. Vinson then informed the Board that he had reached out to the House delegation regarding their calendar during the NACo Legislative conference and expected to hear back soon but noted that the Senate will be in session during the event. He discussed the upcoming NACO workshop on December 1st regarding the Open Meeting Law and the various changes made during the 2023 State legislative session and reminded the Board that he is the NACO representative on the Open Meeting Law Taskforce. Vinson noted that many of the changes to the law reflect the new environment due to adjustments required during the COVID pandemic and gave an overview of the panelists who will be presenting during the workshop. Vinson concluded

his remarks by reminding the Board that additional workshops were identified as important during the recent strategic planning process undertaken by the Board.

Consent Agenda

5. **Approval of Agenda.** This item was pulled from the consent agenda for individual consideration at the request of Commissioner Gardner. The agenda was approved on a motion by President Elect Giomi with second by Commissioner Herman.
6. **Approval of Minutes of the September 26, 2023, NACO Board of Directors Meeting.** This item was pulled from the consent agenda for individual consideration at the request of Commissioner Gardner. The minutes were approved on a motion by Commissioner Herman with second by President Elect Giomi.
7. **Approval of the Reappointment of Supervisor Maurice White, Carson City, to the Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles. For Possible Action.**
8. **Approval of Commissioner Debra Strickland, Nye County, as a NACO Appointment to the Advisory Board on Outdoor Recreation. For Possible Action.**
9. **Approval of Commissioner Joe Crim, Jr., Pershing County, as a NACO Appointment to the Board of Indigent Defense Services. For Possible Action.**
10. **Approval of Supervisor Curtis Horton, Carson City, as the NACO Appointment to the Nevada Air Service Development Commission, created by Assembly Bill 58, in the 2023 Session of the Nevada Legislature (NRS 231.680). For Possible Action.**
11. **Approval of, Commissioner Mariluz Garcia, Washoe County, as the NACO Appointment to the Commission on Innovation and Excellence in Education, Created by Senate Bill 425, (NRS 385) in the 2023 Session of the Nevada Legislature. For Possible Action.**

Agenda items 7-11 were approved as presented under the Consent Agenda on a motion by President Elect Giomi with second by Commissioner Andreozzi.

Regular Business

12. **Final Update on 2023 NACO Annual Conference, Including Possible Approval of an Annual Conference Performance Bonus for the NACO Office Manager.** Vinson referred to the financial summary included in the agenda packet. He noted that the conference was highly successful and that the sponsorship goals were exceeded. Vinson also informed the Board that both pre-event and onsite registration numbers set records for the Association. Commissioner Andreozzi thanked the Board for their attendance at the conference, noting the immense value of the event noting that Elko County was proud to host the event. President Higbee thanked staff for the work done to ensure the success of the event and item was approved on a motion by Commissioner Andreozzi with second by Commissioner Gardner.
13. **Approval of NACO Resolution 23-03, Thanking Elko County for Hosting the 2023 NACO Annual Conference.** Vinson read the resolution into the record. President Higbee thanked Elko County for their efforts to ensure the success of the conference and expressed his gratitude for their hosting of the President's Reception at the Ruby 360 Lodge. The item was approved on a motion by President Elect Giomi with second by Commissioner Crim.

- 14. Approval of Chorus Innovations as a NACO Associate Member for 2023.** Vinson informed the Board that Associate memberships had exceeded the budget set for the year. He thanked Amy for engaging Chorus Innovations, and she explained to the Board that Chorus provides technical support specific to the public and behavioral health fields. Amy also informed the Board that the firm developed out of Orange County and is currently engaging with multiple county health agencies in other states to further develop their suite of tools that can be shared by agencies to coordinate work with the same individual community members in different capacities. The Associate membership was approved on a motion by Commissioner Herman with second by President Elect Giomi.
- 15. Approval of NACO's June, July, August, and September 2023 Financial Statements.** Vinson directed the Board's attention to the {Financial} statements included in the agenda packet. He noted that expenses for the year remained below target. He also discussed the income showing 200% above target, explaining that was due to the Board approval of the Association acting as a pass-through entity for funding for the National Public Lands Center, noting that an invoice had been received from NACO for the first distribution of those funds and would be reflected on the November financial statements. President Elect Giomi inquired as to why the professional services line item was over and Vinson explained that overage is associated with the Board approved corporate partnership program that will be instituted in 2024. Vinson then noted that the Association remains in a strong financial position. Fiscal Kalt informed the Board that Vinson and Amanda take their responsibilities for stewardship of the NACO finances seriously and are very considerate of the expenses that are made. The financial statements were approved on a motion by President Elect Giomi with second by Commissioner Herman.
- 16. Approval of NACO's August, September, and October 2023 Investment Reports.** Vinson directed the Board's attention to the reports included in the agenda packet, reminding them that they are brought forth quarterly for review by the Board. He noted that all investments remain in accordance with the Board's approved policy. Fiscal Officer Kalt also informed the Board that the current book yield is in accordance with current standards and that Vinson had also instituted a 'sweep account' to increase the Association's investment yield. The investment reports were approved on a motion by Commissioner Gardner with second by Commissioner Herman.
- 17. Preliminary Presentation and Discussion of the NACO Annual Budget for 2024.** Vinson reminded the Board that while the counties follow the State Fiscal Year, the Association works under a calendar fiscal year. He then drew the Board's attention to the documents in the agenda packet, noting that this is a first presentation of the proposed budget and that it will be brought back to the Board for approval in December. Vinson first discussed the proposed 2024 County Dues, explaining that dues were formulated by the approved formula within the Association By-laws, following the adopted percentages for population and revenues. He then reminded the Board that the Public Lands Assessment is based upon PILT revenues and helps to fund the position of the Natural Resources Manager and the efforts conducted on behalf of counties. He also noted that the adopted schedule helps to keep staff accountable for the work conducted on behalf of the members. Next Vinson informed the Board that the budget allows for maintenance of the full staff, reminding them that the Public Health Coordinator position is grant funded and announced that the grant had been extended until 2025. He also noted that the health insurance line item included an increase in costs, which are expected to be between 10 and 12%. Vinson also discussed the upgrades and repairs needed to maintain the historic building that houses the NACO offices and discussed the replacement of the degraded walkway that had been done in the Summer,

noting that the next project to be conducted in 2024 is to be the painting of the exterior. He also informed the Board that the FICA line item had been adjusted to accurately reflect the costs to the Association. He thanked Fiscal Officer Kalt for his invaluable assistance in preparing the budget. Vinson also informed the Board that the NACO vehicle would soon need to be replaced, but that he would bring that decision back to the Board for discussion in the future. He concluded his remarks by noting that there was not a substantial change in dues from 2023 but noted that changes were due to a softening of the economy and the federal dollars received the previous year. Commissioner Andreozzi stated that the proposed budget looked appropriate but suggested the addition of a column that shows the change from the previous year. President Elect Giomi inquired as to a discrepancy in the conference revenue line item from what was presented in agenda item 12 and stated that the dollars associated with the painting of the building might need to be increased. Vinson stated that he would address those concerns directly with President Elect Giomi following the meeting. The final budget will be presented to the Board for further discussion and approval in December.

18. Updates from NACO Public Health Coordinator. Amy discussed Rural Health Day which had occurred the previous day and announced that 140 Veteran service providers had been recognized, she informed the Board that pocket cards were available for the Veteran's Initiative and that there is a list she can provide of Veteran service providers in each county for recognition at local Board of Health or County Commission meetings. Amy informed the Board that Mercer was no longer available to provide technical assistance for the county Opioid Needs Assessments, but that NACO would continue to provide support to counties. She discussed the Public Health Infrastructure Assessments that were beginning and reminded the Board that she will need a dedicated contact partner in each county to assist with the gathering of that data. President Higbee noted that he is glad to see those assessments occurring and Commissioner Andreozzi noted that the Association is happy to have Amy on board and inquired as to how the Elko County Opioids Needs Assessment was going. Amy stated that the County has a consultant that is working on the Assessment and that she has a strong working relationship with both the consultant and Amanda, the County Manager.

19. 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.** Jacob informed the Board that the Subcommittee had met the previous day and had discussed the newly proposed SEC rule that would enable the formation of a new type of entity called a "Natural Asset Company" and for such entities to be publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange. He stated that there are Congressional concerns with that rule, and that while the Public Comment period on the proposed rule had closed, the SEC has delayed its decision on the rule until January 2, 2024. Jacob also informed the Board that the group had discussed best practices for solar fields including abatements to county revenues and that a document regarding those best practices is being worked on by staff and the subcommittee. Jacob also informed the Board that the Sagebrush Eco-system Council had met recently and that there is new science being implemented into the mapping for the conservation credit system. Jacob concluded his remarks by giving an overview of the standing items on the Subcommittee's agenda. President Higbee informed the Board that the group had also discussed available grants including funding for off range management of wild horses and burros and fertility control options. He also discussed green energy issues including counties needs to have more input when those use decisions are being made on public and private land. President Higbee

also discussed a ten-year grazing study conducted by the University of Idaho that found no impacts of grazing on the nesting of Greater Sage-grouse, which is currently under peer review. Commissioner Tipton stated that the ranching industry had committed financial support to the study, noting that if the study results had come out differently it would have been detrimental to the industry. He also informed the Board that the study would be discussed by the WIR Board. The item was concluded by discussing the working group addressing the Cooperating Agency MOU being developed with the support of the BLM that will provide more balance and better descriptions of the various relationship roles and responsibilities of the affected agencies. No action was taken on the item.

20. **Updates from Members of the National Association of Counties Board, Western Interstate Region Board, and Individual Counties.** Commissioner Tipton discussed the WIR meeting in Wyoming that he attended at the end of September. He informed the Board that the Center for Public Lands Counties was moving forward and is tasked with the collection and development of information regarding resources in Western States. Commissioner Tipton also discussed the support of PILT funding in Washington DC, as well as legislative support for reduction of wildfire and sustainable forest health. Other priorities discussed by the WIR Board included strengthening of infrastructure, relationships with federal agencies and the promotion of healthy and safe communities. President Higbee referred to his comments under agenda item 3 and informed the Board that he would not be able to attend the Winter NACO Board meeting due to travel associated with meetings required for a large economic development project in Lincoln County. Members of the Board gave updates on activities within their counties.
21. **Public Comment.** Holly Gatske from the University of Nevada, Extension informed the Board that she is conducting county visits to determine how best to address the impacts of budget issues being experienced and how best to make service delivery by Extension more efficient and impactful. Vinson reminded the Board that he and Past President Kirkpatrick serve as the NACO representatives to the Extension Advisory Council and that they had recently attended a meeting held at the new camp in Lincoln County.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

Economic Recovery Transportation Electrification Plan (ERTEP)

Our plan will expand charging station access across NV Energy's service territory through the implementation of five key programs:

- ▶ Interstate Corridor Depots: Brett Jenkins
- ▶ Outdoor Recreation: Brett Jenkins
- ▶ Urban Charging Depots: Raheel Sadiq
- ▶ Tourism Incentive Program: Raheel Sadiq
- ▶ Public Agency Charging: Dustin Newsom





Contents

- Purpose
- Site Profiles
- Site Selection
- Ideal Sites
- Ownership Models
- Site Design
- Construction
- Branding, Maintenance and Reporting





Purpose:

The Public Agency Charging program serves the public and workplace electric charging needs of federal, state and local government agencies by reducing the financial barrier for the deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Funded through Senate Bill 448.

Site Profiles:

- ▶ Capitol Complexes
- ▶ Colleges and Universities
- ▶ Community Centers
 - ▶ Large (Clark and Washoe County)
 - ▶ Small (Other Counties)



SITE PROFILE	SMALL COMMUNITY CENTERS			LARGE COMMUNITY CENTERS		
	#	Type	kW	#	Type	kW
Charging Ports per Site	6	L2	19.2	10	L2	19.2
Features	Chargers must be publicly available and selected from an ERTEP-specific qualified equipment list. In addition, at least one parking space with charging access must be designed with additional spacing available in parking stalls in anticipation of ADA compliance.					
Estimated Sites	8-9			12-14		



Site Selection:

COMMUNITY CENTER SITE PRIORITIES

First Priority: Sites in the following rural counties: Elko, Humboldt, Pershing, Lander, Nye, Churchill, Mineral, Esmeralda, Lyon, Storey, Douglas, Carson City

Second Priority: Sites in historically underserved communities in Clark County and Washoe County

Third Priority: Unallocated funding will be made available to other eligible community centers on a first-come, first-served basis

- ▶ NV Energy to help site hosts determine charging station location in alignment with the program site profile

Ideal Sites:

- ▶ 24/7 access
- ▶ Dusk to dawn lighting
- ▶ Nearby public amenities, parks, schools, shopping, post offices
- ▶ Community center, recreation center, senior center, government or city hall, tribal hall
- ▶ Not behind barriers or in paid areas



Ownership Models:

Responsibilities per Site Ownership Model

Responsibilities	Customer Owned	Third Party Owned	NV Energy Owned
Grid Side & Make Ready Costs	100% funded and completed by NV Energy		
Charging Site Project Costs	Up to 100% reimbursed by NV Energy over 5 years upon approval of submitted claim package. 75% of approved project costs will be reimbursed after claim package acceptance. The remaining 25% of approved project costs will be paid in 5% increments pending uptime/reporting requirement compliance.*		100% funded upfront by NV Energy
Procurement & Installation	Customer procures & installs charging equipment from pre-qualified vendors	Third party procures & installs charging equipment from pre-qualified vendors	NV Energy works directly with pre-qualified vendors to procure & install charging equipment
Electric Service	Customer pays utility bill for charging site	Third party pays utility bill for charging site	NV Energy pays utility bill for charging site
Charging Fee	Fees set & collected by Customer	Fees set & collected by third party	Set NVEVCN Tariff Rates** collected by NV Energy
Preventative & Corrective Maintenance	Customer	Third party	NV Energy
Quarterly Charger Data Report			
Key Agreements	Agreements between NV Energy and Customer, Customer and others	Agreements between third party and Customer, third party and NV Energy	Agreements between NV Energy and Customer directly
Overview	Customer is responsible for up-front financial investment and maintenance/reporting.	Third party is responsible for up-front financial investment and maintenance/reporting.	NV Energy takes on all financial and operational responsibilities for you.

*Public Agency & Regional Transportation Sites: 100% of approved project costs will be paid after claim package acceptance.

**Tariff explained on the following page.

- ▶ In all ownership scenarios, the grid side make-ready costs, including all electrical requirements to connect to the meter (i.e., fixtures, conduits) will be the responsibility of NV Energy

Site Design:

- ▶ Third-party providers and charging stations must be selected from NV Energy's ERTEP qualified list.

Construction:

- ▶ Any charger installed as part of ERTEP must be installed by a contractor who holds a valid license in the classification required to perform such work issued by the State Contractors' Board and at least one Electrician holding a certification from the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Training Program (EVITP). This program includes training and certification for Electricians installing electric vehicle supply equipment.

Branding, Maintenance and Reporting:

- ▶ Covered in the *Project Requirements & Responsibilities PDF*.



Resolution

of the Nevada Association of Counties

23-04

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH

WHEREAS, many Nevada residents are unaware of radon, yet need to know, for the safety and health of their families, as radon is a colorless, odorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas that is the primary cause of lung cancer among nonsmokers; the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers and

WHEREAS, the U.S. EPA estimates 21,000 people in the U.S. die each year from lung cancer caused by indoor radon exposure, and lung and bronchus cancer kill more people in a year than any other cancer; and

WHEREAS, radon kills more people than secondhand smoke, drunk driving, choking, drowning or home fires; and

WHEREAS, any home in Nevada may have elevated levels of radon, even if neighboring homes do not, and living in a home with an average radon level of 4 picocuries per liter of air poses a similar risk of developing lung cancer as smoking half a pack of cigarettes a day; and

WHEREAS, testing is the only way to know if a home has an elevated radon level, and testing is easy and inexpensive, and when identified, homes can be fixed; and

WHEREAS, University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, the Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency support efforts to encourage all Nevada residents to test their homes for radon, mitigate elevated levels of radon, and have new homes built with radon-reducing materials and features.

NOW, THEREFORE, we, the Nevada Association of Counties, do hereby proclaim January 2024, as “**NATIONAL RADON ACTION MONTH**” **In all Nevada counties**

PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED this 15th day of December, 2023 by the Board of Directors of the Nevada Association of Counties.

Attests:

/ _____
Varlin Higbee
President

/ _____
Vinson W. Guthreau
Executive Director



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 long-term 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 funding for public health so that we can be better prepared for any future public health crisis. This includes support for Federal scholarships, loan repayment programs, and direct support for training of all public health professionals in building the state's public health workforce. As Nevada's counties explore ways 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 presently effective, local and regionally driven policy recommendations.

Direct Assistance to Counties for Ongoing Mental Health Response: 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 applaud the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which provided \$1.04 billion in direct, flexible 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 [Commission on Mental Health and Wellbeing](#). 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.



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): While the state of Nevada passed a state-based solution to the MIEP, 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.**

The National Association of Counties partnered with the National Sheriffs Association taskforce and issued a detailed [report](#), which includes recommendations on removing the MIEP. The report provides information on steps federal, state, and local policymakers can address on inmate healthcare, addressing bail and various other criminal justice reforms. NACO urges Congress to amend the MIEP, allowing pre-trial detainees to access Medicaid services while awaiting trial.



Mental Health and Jails: County jails are not the appropriate place to treat individuals with mental illness, unfortunately, 64% of jail inmates in the United States have a behavioral health issue. 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. For example, NACO encourages federal support for the NACo [Stepping Up Initiative](#), a national initiative 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. Two critical federal programs that counties rely on to provide services to our incarcerated populations and reduce recidivism are the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program (JMHCPC) which offers grants to help in the preparation of comprehensive plans to implement collaboration programs that target qualified offenders and promote public safety and 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 aware, Nevada 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 demand for county services. For all Nevada counties, staying involved in federal land management planning and conservation efforts is critical. 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. NACO will request cooperating agency status on federal planning associated with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and engage in rulemaking efforts that **affect** Nevada's counties. 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. NACO **is a** Cooperating Agency for the BLM's Greater Sage-grouse Land Use Plan Amendment Environmental Impact Statement, and the **Western Solar Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Update**. NACO also is **continuing** discussions with the BLM about the possibility for a State-wide Resource Management Plan (RMP) Update. NACO remains concerned about the *30x30 Initiative* proposed by the Biden Administration and provided input on the "*Conservation Atlas*".

Renewable Energy: While supporting diversification of energy production that brings economic activity to Nevada, NACO has also 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 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 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 supports the Public Land Renewable Energy Development of Act of 2023** which would appropriate amounts collected for wind and or solar projects as bonus bids, rentals, fees, or other payments under a right-of-way, permit, or lease to the state (25%), the county (25%), Treasury (25%), and a Renewable Energy Resource Conservation Fund (25%).



Withdrawals of Public Lands: The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2023 approved the Navy's proposed expansion of land ranges and modernization at the Naval Air Station Fallon (FRTC). The NDAA kept a "status quo" land withdrawal and did not include any expansion of the disposal boundary for the Air Force's Nellis Test and Training Range (NTTR). NACO would like to thank the Nevada delegation for their efforts on the NDAA, and we appreciate the leadership and support from our Congressional Delegation on the Fallon withdrawal proposal. NACO looks forward to our continued partnership with the delegation to address county issues as the implementation of FRTC expansion and modernization moves forward. NACO remains concerned about the plans to expand NTTR, BLM initiating the process for additional land and mineral withdrawals in Northern Nevada, and NASA's land withdrawal in Railroad Valley. On all of these plans we strongly support engagement with the impacted local communities.

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 supports 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 of 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

Boosting Broadband and Emerging Technologies: NACO supports the deployment and availability of emerging technologies, such as small cell 5G to all areas of Nevada, to ensure equitable economic and educational opportunities, as well as emergency preparedness. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law also known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provided \$42.45 Billion to fund broadband deployment in underserved areas. County officials must also 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 (IIJA)/[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.

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 is funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The SLCGP provides a total of \$1 billion in funding over the next four years, to support state and local efforts to address cyber risks to their information systems.



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. 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.

Transportation

Long-term Transportation Funding and Financing: NACO is pleased to see the passage of the five-year, \$973 billion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), formally known as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58). The BIL directs \$284 billion toward modernizing and making improvements across all modes of transportation, with the majority of funding reserved for highways, roads and bridges. NACO created [an interactive funding matrix](#) that includes funding levels, program descriptions, and eligibility requirements that is continually updated and easy to interpret. Nevada will see additional federal funding that invests in 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. In Nevada, counties maintain over 75% of the roads in the State. Counties should be recognized as major owners of transportation infrastructure in any comprehensive package presented by the administration and Congress, including future surface transportation reauthorization legislation. All federal infrastructure investment should reflect county priorities, such as: allocating more federal seed capital and



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matching funds for locally owned infrastructure, increasing local decision-making authority and flexibility, and streamlining and shortening the federal permitting process while still requiring robust public participation and world-class environmental stewardship. 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. 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. As Congress considers additional changes to our elections systems, NACO urges federal lawmakers to protect local control over election administration and oppose mandates and specific requirements regarding equipment, procedures, and personnel responsibilities.

Agenda Item 10

2024 NACO Dues Schedule With 0.5% PL ASSESSMENT ****DRAFT****

County	Revenue Component		Population Component (2)			Public Lands Component		2024 Dues (3)	2023 Dues	Change	
	FY 22 (1) Audited Revenues	Base Assessment	2022 Certified Population	Per Capita Assessment	Population Assessment	2023 County PILT Payment	Public Lands Assessment (0.5%)				
Carson City	136,947,751	\$21,500	58,314	0.06	\$3,499	\$130,981	\$655	\$25,654	\$25,538	\$116	0.5%
Churchill	43,704,119	\$15,500	26,564	0.08	\$2,125	\$2,797,457	\$13,987	\$31,612	\$30,894	\$718	2.3%
Clark	4,902,347,636	\$24,500	2,338,127	0.03	\$70,144	\$4,126,562	\$20,633	\$115,277	\$113,454	\$1,823	1.6%
Douglas	99,920,150	\$21,500	52,674	0.06	\$3,160	\$798,929	\$3,995	\$28,655	\$29,213	-\$558	-1.9%
Elko	69,282,927	\$21,500	56,396	0.06	\$3,384	\$4,129,072	\$20,645	\$45,529	\$44,006	\$1,523	3.5%
Esmeralda	\$6,244,128	\$6,500	1,068	0.15	\$160	\$157,431	\$787	\$7,447	\$7,526	-\$79	-1.0%
Eureka	\$24,042,874	\$13,000	1,847	0.15	\$277	\$403,219	\$2,016	\$15,293	\$15,326	-\$33	-0.2%
Humboldt	\$40,600,886	\$15,500	17,921	0.1	\$1,792	\$2,184,255	\$10,921	\$28,213	\$26,995	\$1,218	4.5%
Lander	\$33,909,851	\$15,500	6,158	0.12	\$739	\$1,190,550	\$5,953	\$22,192	\$21,798	\$394	1.8%
Lincoln	\$12,196,074	\$8,500	4,971	0.15	\$746	\$958,783	\$4,794	\$14,040	\$14,065	-\$25	-0.2%
Lyon	\$67,266,656	\$21,500	60,454	0.06	\$3,627	\$2,592,732	\$12,964	\$38,091	\$37,112	\$979	2.6%
Mineral	\$13,599,624	\$8,500	4,870	0.15	\$731	\$870,863	\$4,354	\$13,585	\$15,288	-\$1,703	-11.1%
Nye	\$69,986,563	\$21,500	51,334	0.06	\$3,080	\$3,843,946	\$19,220	\$43,800	\$43,381	\$419	1.0%
Pershing	\$16,994,522	\$10,500	7,344	0.12	\$881	\$1,307,830	\$6,539	\$17,920	\$17,439	\$481	2.8%
Storey	\$30,966,284	\$13,000	4,427	0.15	\$664	\$45,546	\$228	\$13,892	\$13,866	\$26	0.2%
Washoe	\$664,568,182	\$24,500	501,635	0.03	\$15,049	\$4,201,779	\$21,009	\$60,558	\$63,525	-\$2,967	-4.7%
White Pine	\$31,639,568	\$13,000	10,001	0.12	\$1,200	\$1,456,109	\$7,281	\$21,481	\$20,823	\$658	3.2%
Total	\$6,264,217,795	\$276,000	3,204,105		\$111,258	\$31,196,044	\$155,980	\$543,238	\$540,248	\$2,989	0.6%

(1) From Audited S-1 Revenues

(2) Certified by Governor; provided by the State of Nevada Demographer

2024 NACO Budget - DRAFT

BEGINNING NET POSITION \$ 1,355,005

REVENUES

Membership Dues	\$387,258
Public Lands Assessment Dues	\$155,980
Corporate Partnership Program	\$50,000
Conference Revenue	\$80,000
IAF Administration Contract	\$70,000
Interest & Investment Income	\$15,000
National Programs	\$5,000

Projected Total Revenues \$763,238

Total Available Resources \$2,118,243

EXPENSES

Staff Salaries	\$339,455
Benefits	
PERS	\$113,717
Health/Dental/Vision/Life Insurance	\$43,200
Workers Comp/FICA	\$12,000
Audit	\$9,500
Board Meetings	\$8,000
Building Capital Projects	\$20,000
Building Operating Expenses & Repairs	\$20,000
Conference Expenses	\$38,000
County Leadership Institute	\$3,500
Donations/Sponsorships	\$1,500
Equipment Lease & Maintenance	\$4,500
Equipment Purchases	\$4,500
IT Support	\$2,500
Internet Service	\$9,000
Legislative Expenses	\$12,000
Liability & Auto Insurance	\$5,500
Member Services	\$5,000
Office Supplies	\$3,500
PEHB Liability	\$6,000
Postage	\$500
Printing	\$500
Professional Services	\$15,500
Publications/Dues/Registration Fees	\$4,000
Representative Travel	\$15,000
Special Studies/Litigation/Legal Fees	\$5,000
Staff Travel	\$30,000
Telephone	\$7,000
Vehicle Registration Maintenance	\$3,000
Web-based Hosting & Subscription Software	\$10,000
WIR Dues	\$9,000

Projected Total Expenses \$760,872

Net Income (Loss) \$2,366

Estimated Net Position \$1,357,371

2024 BUDGET DESCRIPTIONS
****DRAFT** – NACO Board of Directors Meeting**
November 17, 2023

NACO REVENUES

MEMBERSHIP DUES: The 2024 NACO membership dues for all counties are calculated to be a total of \$387,258. The 2023 membership dues were \$377,208. The NACO Dues Schedule was developed to recognize the various unique characteristics of each county, while at the same time providing a systematic method of assessment that considers the changes occurring yearly in our member county revenues. As such, the 2023 dues are based upon the FY22 audited S-1 revenues for each county and the 2022 certified population figures. A majority of member counties experienced stable membership dues and saw only a 1% or less increase to their membership dues. Multiple counties saw decreases in their dues assessments for 2024. Dues increases for some counties reflect population threshold increases, along with threshold increases reflected in county revenues.

PUBLIC LANDS ASSESSMENT DUES: This revenue calculation is based on the equivalent of a percentage, as determined by the Board, of up to .5%, of the most recent federal Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) payment made to each county. The proposed Assessment for 2024 is based on 0.5% and is a total of \$155,980 and represents an increase from 2023, although not a significant assessment change. This assessment contributes to the expense of NACO's Natural Resources Manager as NACO supports counties on natural resources and public lands related issues.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS: The NACO Board approved a corporate partnership program, and while we expect to see robust revenue from this program, we are budgeting \$50,000 in revenue for 2024. We believe this is a reasonable projection and allows NACO staff to launch this program effectively in 2024. The Association saw robust interest in our associate membership program in 2023 and has garnered a high-level of interest from our partners as we professionalize and streamline our partnership program in the coming year.

CONFERENCE REVENUE: Conference revenue for 2024 is projected to be \$80,000, which is the same as 2023. This year we had another record for attendance at the NACO Annual Conference. We believe that keeping the \$80,000 revenue projection for 2024 is reasonable.

INDIGENT ACCIDENT FUND (IAF) ADMINISTRATION: \$70,000 is budgeted by NACO for administration and support of IAF activities and the IAF Board of Directors. The current contract to provide administrative services to the IAF Board and Fund extends through June 2026.

INTEREST & INVESTMENT INCOME: \$15,000 has been budgeted for investments that are managed by Moreton Financial Advisors, which is the same amount as 2023. We have implemented a cash management program with Nevada State Bank which is anticipated to increase the amount of interest earned on our daily cash balances.

NATIONAL PROGRAMS: Through agreements entered by the Board, the Association receives revenue from the National Association of Counties (NACo) for marketing Nationwide Retirement Services (deferred compensation) and the CVS Discount Prescription Card Program. The Association also receives royalties based on county participation in Nationwide Retirement Services as well as constituent use of the CVS Discount Prescription Card. We are keeping the same amount in this revenue category as 2023, which is \$5,000.

NACO EXPENSES

STAFF SALARIES AND BENEFITS: The 2024 budget calls for continuing with a full-time NACO staff of four: Executive Director, Government Affairs Manager, Office Manager and Natural Resources Manager. Salaries for NACO employees are **\$339,455** to reflect investment in staff and includes a 5% across the board salary increase for all NACO staff. All employees are members of the employer-funded Public Employees Retirement System (PERS). The PERS contribution rate is currently 33.5%, the same rate from 2023. NACO employees are provided life insurance, health, dental and vision insurance. The 2024 budget reflects an 8% increase in health insurance costs, based on early estimates from our health insurance broker.

The NACO Board approved a grant-funded position for a Public Health Coordinator. That position is fully funded by a federal grant, with a sub-allocation from the State of Nevada, and will not have an impact on salary costs for the Association. NACO will show the grant expenses and revenue reimbursements separately in financial statements for grant tracking purposes. Due to additional grant funding at the state level, this subgrant award has been extended through 2025.

WORKER'S COMP/FICA: The Workers' Compensation is provided under the Public Agency Insurance Pool. The 2024 budget amount is \$12,000. The budgeted amount for 2023 was \$7,500, we have chosen to increase this amount given increased salary costs, this amount has been over budget in prior budget years, and this reflects more of a reality of the association's costs for this budget category.

AUDIT: \$9,500 is budgeted for our independent auditor, Michael Bertrand, to conduct the 2024 NACO Audit. This is a slight increase from 2023.

BOARD MEETINGS: \$8,000 is allocated for expenses related to 2024 Board meetings, which includes expenses for staff to travel for off-site meetings in a to be determined, Eastern Rural County and the Clark County meeting location in December of 2024. This expense item is the same amount as 2023.

BUILDING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: \$20,000 is budgeted for improvements and repairs to the historic NACO office building. Due to needed maintenance, this budget category has been increased from the 2023 allocation to accommodate the painting of the NACO building and various needed updates due to the age of the building.

BUILDING OPERATING EXPENSES: \$20,000 is budgeted for taxes, utilities, landscaping/snow removal, janitorial services, and minor maintenance and repairs. This is a slight increase from 2023.

CONFERENCE EXPENSE: \$38,000 is allocated for the 2024 NACO Annual Conference which will be in Carson City, as we celebrate 100 years of this historic organization.

COUNTY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE: \$3,500 is allocated in 2023 to support attendance for one participant in the National Association of Counties, County Leadership Institute training program. This is the same as 2023.

DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIPS: \$1,500 is being proposed for donations during 2023 to support other groups affiliated with the mission of NACO. This is the same as last year.

EQUIPMENT LEASES & MAINTENANCE: \$4,500 is allocated for office equipment leases and maintenance. This figure represents the lease of a copier, scanner, and fax machine, as well as maintenance costs for equipment. This is the same amount as was allocated for this budget category in 2023.

EQUIPMENT PURCHASES: \$4,500 is allocated for computer and other office equipment including non-subscription software. This is the same amount that was budgeted for in the past four years. We have managed purchases of any new computers or office equipment to stay within budget each year.

IT SUPPORT: \$2,500 has been allocated for IT support. This budget category is for a contract that NACO has with an IT expert who assists NACO with hardware and software issues including internet service and routers, NACO file server, and staff computers. This is the same amount that was budgeted for in 2023.

INTERNET SERVICE: The cost for internet service for the NACO office, including in the NACO Conference room in 2024 is projected to be \$9,000.

LEGISLATIVE EXPENSES: \$12,000 is requested for legislative expenses during 2024 to support active dialogue with members of the legislature and lobbying team efforts on behalf of the membership. This represents a reduction in this budget category as 2024 is a non-legislative year, and no travel by Government Affairs Staff will need to be accommodated.

LIABILITY AND AUTO INSURANCE: NACO is a member of the Nevada Public Agency Insurance Pool. \$5,500 is allocated for general liability for the office and NACO vehicle, which is the same amount that was budgeted for 2023.

MEMBER SERVICES: This budget category is to cover expenses incurred for meetings and events hosted by NACO, and for NACO members, as well as miscellaneous meetings hosted at the NACO offices that may include meals. The amount projected for this expense is \$3,000 which is the same as 2023.

OFFICE SUPPLIES: \$3,500 is allocated for office supplies. This is the same amount as budgeted in 2023.

PEHB LIABILITY: \$6,000 has been budgeted for the prorated subsidy for two former NACO employees from the State who are receiving Public Employee's Health Benefits. This is the same amount as budgeted in 2023.

POSTAGE: \$500 is allocated for postage, which is the same amount budgeted for 2023.

PRINTING: \$500 is allocated for general printing, the same amount budgeted in 2023.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES: \$15,500 has been allocated to pay for professional services in 2024. This includes payroll processing and bookkeeping services.

PUBLICATIONS/DUES/REGISTRATION FEES: \$4,000 is allocated for newspapers and magazine subscriptions, membership dues in other organizations and registration fees to outside conferences and meetings. This is the same as 2023.

REPRESENTATIVE TRAVEL: \$15,000 is allocated for the NACO President, NACo and WIR Board members and other NACO Board members for travel pursuant to NACO's travel policy. This is the same as 2023.

SPECIAL STUDIES/LITIGATION/LEGAL FEES: \$5,000 is allocated for special studies including but not limited to technical studies related to legislative issues and legal research and litigation. This is the same allocation as in 2023 and reflects higher expenses in other budget categories. This budget category has gone unused for multiple budget cycles.

STAFF TRAVEL: \$30,000 is allocated for NACO staff travel for 2024, this is a slight increase from 2023. This includes travel to the NACo Legislative Conference, the NACo Annual Conference, the annual NCCAE meeting, and any other travel that may be required of the NACO staff while carrying out the mission of NACO, including visiting and serving our membership in Nevada.

TELEPHONE: \$7,000 is allocated for telephone expenses including office phones, NACO conference line and cell phones for NACO staff. This is a slight increase from what was budgeted in 2023.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION MAINTENANCE: \$3,000 is budgeted for 2024, this amount has not increased since 2017.

WEB-BASED HOSTING & SUBSCRIPTION SOFTWARE: \$10,000 has been budgeted for software subscriptions such as Microsoft Office, cybersecurity software, PayPal, website hosting and domain registration, and the NACO digital newsletter platform. This is the same amount as 2023.

W.I.R. DUES: \$9,000 is budgeted for WIR annual dues for 2024.

BUDGET SUMMARY:

This proposed balanced budget reflects prudent fiscal management with estimated revenues totaling \$702,387 and estimated expenses of \$702,387 resulting in a balanced budget. This budget reflects increased investment in staff salaries, additional mandated PERS contributions percentages, and additional statewide, full time, engagement with the Nevada Legislature. We appreciate the Board's support of NACO and the work we do to support the membership and the citizens of this State.

Budget Category Comparison Document - 2024 NACO Budget

<u>Category</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	
	<u>2024 - Proposed</u>	<u>2023 NACO Budget</u>
Membership Dues	\$387,258	\$377,208
Public Lands Assessment Dues	\$155,980	\$140,179
Corporate Partnership Program	\$50,000	\$15,000
Conference Revenue	\$80,000	\$80,000
IAF Administration Contract	\$70,000	\$70,000
Interest & Investment Income	\$15,000	\$15,000
National Programs	\$5,000	\$5,000

<u>Category</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	
	<u>2024 - Proposed</u>	<u>2023 NACO Budget</u>
Staff Salaries	\$339,455	\$320,750
Benefits		
PERS	\$113,717	\$106,388
Health/Dental/Vision/Life Insurance	\$43,200	\$40,000
Workers Comp/FICA	\$12,000	\$7,500
Audit	\$9,500	\$9,000
Board Meetings	\$8,000	\$8,000
Building Capital Projects	\$20,000	\$6,000
Building Operating Expenses & Repairs	\$20,000	\$19,000
Conference Expenses	\$38,000	\$38,000
County Leadership Institute	\$3,500	\$3,500
Donations/Sponsorships	\$1,500	\$1,500
Equipment Lease & Maintenance	\$4,500	\$4,500
Equipment Purchases	\$4,500	\$4,500
IT Support	\$2,500	\$2,500
Internet Service	\$9,000	\$9,000
Legislative Expenses	\$12,000	\$14,500
Liability & Auto Insurance	\$5,500	\$5,500
Member Services	\$5,000	\$3,000
Office Supplies	\$3,500	\$3,500
PEHB Liability	\$6,000	\$6,000
Postage	\$500	\$500
Printing	\$500	\$500
Professional Services	\$15,500	\$15,500
Publications/Dues/Registration Fees	\$4,000	\$4,000
Representative Travel	\$15,000	\$15,000
Special Studies/Litigation/Legal Fees	\$5,000	\$5,000
Staff Travel	\$30,000	\$21,249
Telephone	\$7,000	\$6,000
Vehicle Registration Maintenance	\$3,000	\$3,000
Web-based Hosting & Subscription Software	\$10,000	\$10,000
WIR Dues	\$9,000	\$9,000



NACO's Public Health Coordinator 2023 Year in Review

NACO's Public Health Coordinator has undertaken a series of core activities to enhance public and behavioral health services in Nevada's counties.

Stakeholder Collaboration & Relationship Building:

- Regular engagement with NACO members, State of Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Nevada Medicaid, Nevada Division of Child and Family Services, GOED, Fund for a Resilient Nevada administration, the Governor's Public Health Resource Officer, UNR Office of Statewide Initiatives, UNR School of Public Health, UNLV School of Public Health, Nevada Public Health Institute, local Public & Behavioral Health Task Forces, and other organizations to keep county voice present in statewide discussions and support local public and behavioral health infrastructure development.

Opioid Crisis Response and Technical Support:

- Addressed the opioid crisis through participation in opioid summits, county coordination with state agencies, fulfilling data requests for counties, and distribution of information to county leadership, focusing on the critical issue of opioid needs assessments.
- Provided ongoing technical assistance, data collection, survey design, and draft writing for local opioid needs assessments, with 6 counties in progress and 5 completed.
- Presented at the NACO Annual Conference on national white papers and toolkits for county opioid abatement strategies.
- Coordinated Mercer support for external evaluation and assistance with opioid needs assessments.

Public Health Infrastructure Improvement:

- Initiated and led county-level Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS) assessments in collaboration with the UNR Extension's Nevada Economic Assessment Project (NEAP) and local partners.
- Authored "Considerations for Behavioral Health" section for the *Local Rural Health District Toolkit*, encouraging coordination of public and behavioral health efforts at the local level.
- Engaged with county health officers, health district administrators, and other key stakeholders to build relationships, gather input, and ensure a coordinated approach to public health initiatives at the county level.

Workgroup/Committee Participation:

- Actively participated in State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) Committee, Nevada's 21st Century Public Health Infrastructure Workgroup, Healthcare Workforce Pipeline Group, NACHSA meetings, Behavioral Health Policy Board meetings, Statewide Prevention Coalition meetings, and various committee meetings related to public and behavioral health infrastructure, workforce development, and health and human services-related legislative advocacy.

Legislative Monitoring:

- Regularly attended NACHSA and Nevada Public Health Association advocacy and policy committee meetings and monitored public health legislation, providing NACO advocacy team with updates on relevant bills and their potential impact.

Educational Initiatives:

- Organized educational sessions including the Community Health and Emergency Management panels at the NACO Annual Conference.
- Presented on NACO's health-specific work with counties at the Rural Public Health Summit (Douglas, NV)
- Attended NACO Annual Conference (Austin, TX); participated in sessions regarding public health, behavioral health, opioid crisis abatement, housing, homelessness, and data security.
- Built out Public Health section of NACO website with links to county-specific health metrics, opioid needs assessments, and additional resources.

Western Alliance
Smart from the Start Alternative

- I. The *Western Alliance Smart from the Start* alternative requires (in addition to programmatic resource-based exclusions) that solar development only occurs on public lands within ten (10) miles of existing or authorized utility transmission lines that are both “disturbed” and “low conflict” such that—
- A. “Disturbed lands” are either:
 - 1. Lands verified as having heavy anthropogenic disturbance (such as abandoned or reclaimed mining sites or lands that have been identified by a state or local land use plan as brownfields for redevelopment) or;
 - 2. Lands verified as having greater than 40% invasive annuals and on which the ecological site description (ESD) and associated state and transition model (STM)/disturbance response group do not have a restoration pathway back to non-invasive vegetative communities.
 - B. “Low conflict lands” are lands that:
 - 1. Are neither in “core” nor “growth” sagebrush areas (according to the USFWS Sagebrush Conservation Design), and;
 - 2. Are set back by at least a mile-wide buffer zone from agricultural uses, homes, source water protection areas, important wildlife habitat (e.g. GRSG PHMA and GHMA), and cultural or historical resources, and;
 - 3. Do not include lands identified in an applicable resource management plan (RMP) as suitable for disposal if disposal criteria include meeting local public purposes (including community expansion, recreation, and economic development), and;
 - 4. Do not include important habitat connectivity zones or migration corridors, and;
 - 5. Either do not have valid preexisting rights, permitted uses, or public access routes, or, if these are present, impacts to them are minimized and mitigated, and;
 - 6. Are identified through consultation and coordination with relevant local and state government agencies as being appropriate for utility scale renewable energy development.
- II. The *Western Alliance Smart from the Start* alternative will include a provision stating that lands mapped as being open to solar development (i.e. are mapped as “disturbed” and “low conflict”) may be based on modeling and that specific project proposals must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to ensure the proposed site meets all the above criteria. To summarize, under the *Western Alliance Smart from the Start* alternative, solar development land allocation maps provide an educated guess at which lands are open to solar development, but mapped designations must be confirmed by on-the-ground disturbance verification and coordination with local and state government agencies to confirm “low impact” status.

2023 NACO Public Lands & Natural Resources Summary

- Monitored Natural Resources subcommittee meetings during the 2023 Legislative session. Provided testimony on Natural Resource legislation affecting counties.
- Submitted comments on NDEP Ecological Aesthetic Waters proposed rule.
- Scoping comments submitted on BLM's proposed Conservation and Landscape Health rule.
- Scoping comments submitted BLM's Renewable Energy Rule.
- Attended WIR Conference in St. George, Utah. Presented Dale Soward Public Land Office award to Commissioner Higbee at the conference. Participated in panel discussions around western inter-state public lands and natural resource issues, and the implementation of the National Center for Public Lands Counties.
- Scoping comments submitted on revisions to the Endangered Species Act.
- Coordinated with county natural resource staff and the BLM to develop revisions to Cooperating Agency Memorandums of Understanding between BLM and Nevada counties.
- Comments submitted to the Council on Environmental Quality on Proposed NEPA reforms.
- Participated in Cooperating Agency meetings on behalf of counties for 368 Energy Corridor revisions, OHV Special Event Permit revisions, Greater Sage Grouse Plan Amendments, and the Western Solar Programmatic EIS update.
- Public Lands & Natural Resource panel at NACO's annual conference: Hiking, Mining, and Grazing – Supporting the Multiple Use Mission on Public Lands.
- NACO staff attendance and representation on the following interagency groups: State Land Use Planning Advisory Council, Sagebrush Ecosystem Council, Bi-State Sage Grouse Local Area Working Group, Smart from the Start Interagency Consortium, Intergovernmental Executive Committee on FRTC Modernization, Technical Advisory Committee for NWCII Grants, Nevada Natural Resource Leadership Group meetings.
- NACO staff hold regular meetings with leadership at the following agencies: Nevada Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Nevada Department of Outdoor Recreation, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Bureau of Land Management.
- NACO PLNR staff monitor and inform members of federal and state funding opportunities that counties may be eligible for.