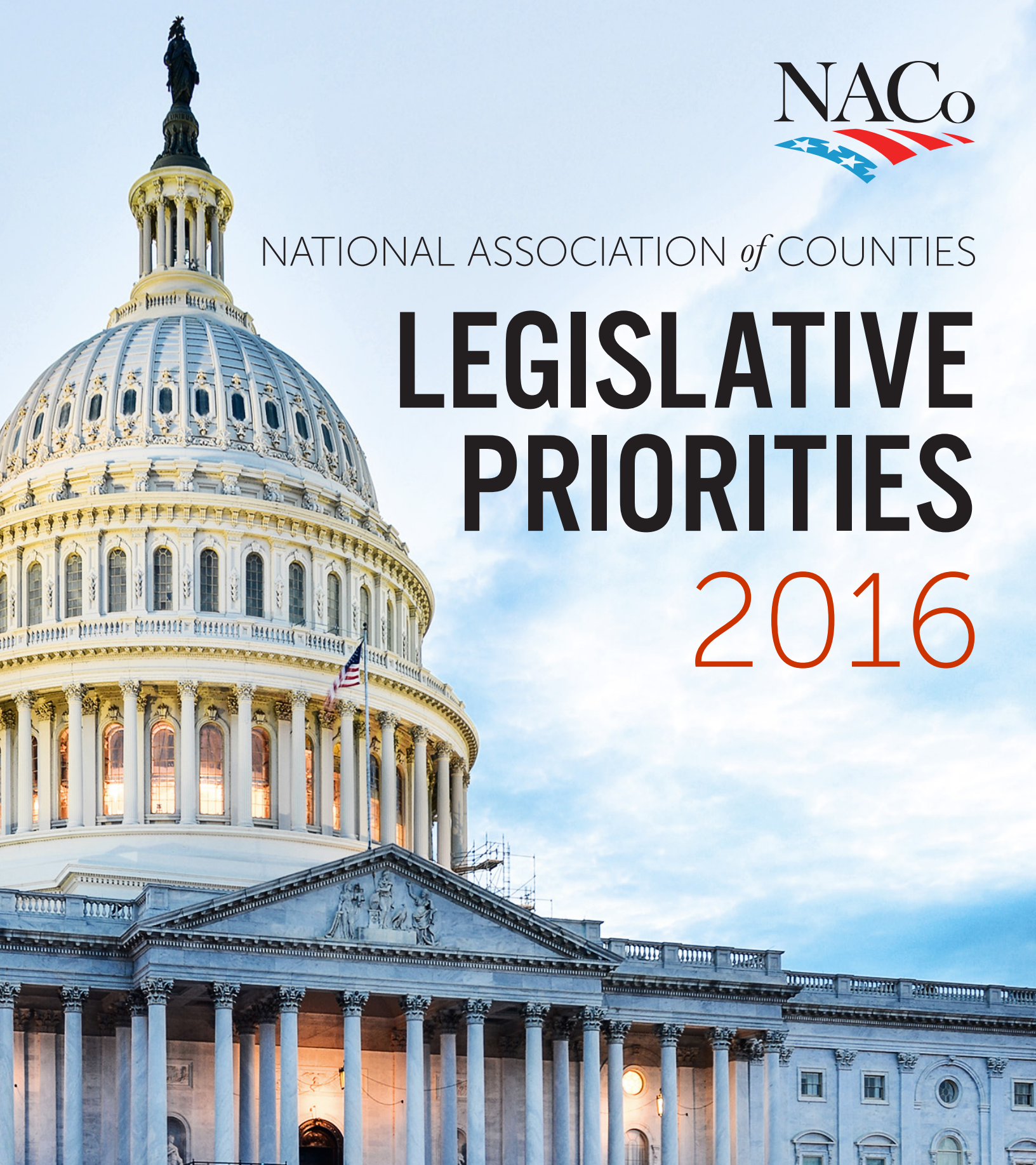




NATIONAL ASSOCIATION *of* COUNTIES

# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2016



NACo WORKS TO PRESERVE LOCAL DECISION MAKING  
AND PROTECT COUNTIES FROM UNFUNDED MANDATES  
AND PREEMPTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY.

**Stronger Counties.  
Stronger America.**





# LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## 2016

### PROTECT MUNICIPAL BONDS

NACo supports preserving the federal deductibility of local property and income taxes and the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds that provide critical funding for public facilities, infrastructure and development. Provisions like the tax exemption for municipal bond interest have been part of the federal tax code for over 100 years, helping finance trillions of dollars in public works projects.

**THE MAJORITY OF TAX-EXEMPT BONDS FINANCE THE BUILDING OF SCHOOLS, HOSPITALS, ROADS AND JAILS**

**75% OF OUR NATION'S PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS ARE COMPLETED USING BOND FINANCING**

### SUPPORT MARKETPLACE FAIRNESS

NACo supports legislation to permit the collection of *existing* sales and use taxes from remote sellers. The issue of collecting remote sales taxes has escalated in recent years due to the Internet's growth as a retail marketplace. As a result, state and local governments have lost billions in uncollected sales taxes and Main Street businesses find themselves at a significant competitive disadvantage to online merchants.

**\$26.1 BILLION OF EXISTING SALES TAX REVENUE IS CURRENTLY BEING UNCOLLECTED— THIS WOULD PROVIDE FUNDING FOR ESSENTIAL LOCAL SERVICES INCLUDING INFRASTRUCTURE, PUBLIC SAFETY, EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

### PROTECT MEDICAID

NACo supports maintaining the federal-state-local structure for financing and delivering Medicaid services. Counties continue to be concerned about measures that would limit the ability of states to direct supplemental payments to county providers, curtail the ability of counties to contribute local funds to match federal dollars or otherwise shift federal and state Medicaid costs to counties including cuts, caps or block grants. We support efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of policies and operations.

**COUNTIES SPEND \$83 BILLION ANNUALLY ON COMMUNITY HEALTH AND HOSPITAL SERVICES**

**COUNTIES OWN AND SUPPORT 976 HOSPITALS AND 714 NURSING HOMES, AND OPERATE 1,592 PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

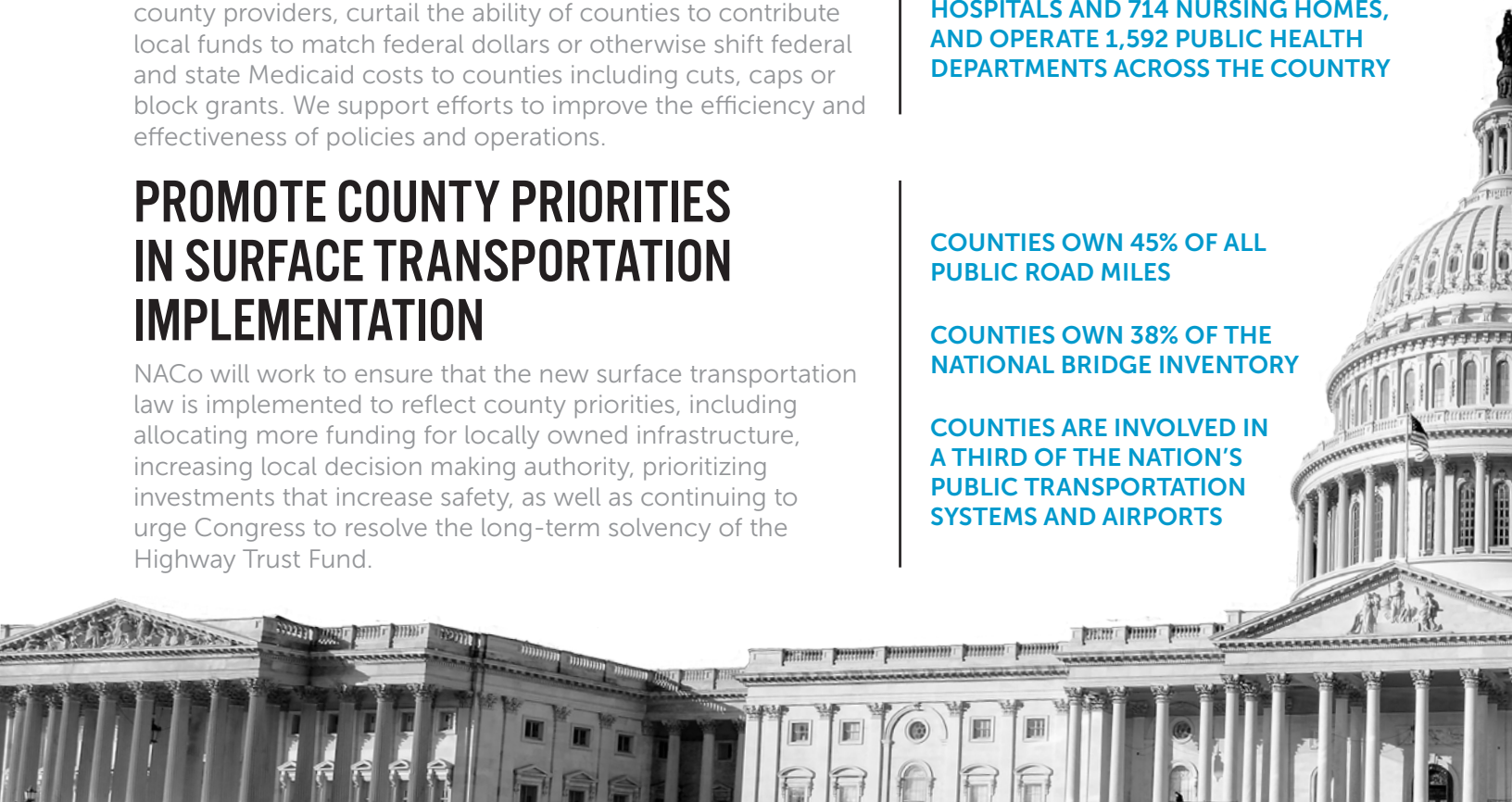
### PROMOTE COUNTY PRIORITIES IN SURFACE TRANSPORTATION IMPLEMENTATION

NACo will work to ensure that the new surface transportation law is implemented to reflect county priorities, including allocating more funding for locally owned infrastructure, increasing local decision making authority, prioritizing investments that increase safety, as well as continuing to urge Congress to resolve the long-term solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.

**COUNTIES OWN 45% OF ALL PUBLIC ROAD MILES**

**COUNTIES OWN 38% OF THE NATIONAL BRIDGE INVENTORY**

**COUNTIES ARE INVOLVED IN A THIRD OF THE NATION'S PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS AND AIRPORTS**



## SUPPORT PILT AND SRS

NACo supports restoring full mandatory funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, which compensates counties for tax-exempt federal land within their boundaries. NACo also supports extending the Secure Rural Schools (SRS) program as a transitional funding mechanism until the federal government fully implements a sustainable long-term forest management program with adequate revenue sharing for forest counties and schools.

**62.3% OF COUNTIES HAVE FEDERAL LAND WITHIN THEIR BOUNDARIES**

**PILT AND SRS SUPPORT CRITICAL SERVICES IN COUNTIES INCLUDING EMERGENCY SERVICES, SEARCH AND RESCUE, FIRE PROTECTION, FOREST MAINTENANCE, EDUCATION AND TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE**

## ACHIEVE MENTAL HEALTH AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

NACo supports measures that maintain funding for Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) block grants, fully implement and expand mental health parity, ease the Medicaid Institute of Mental Disease (IMD) exclusion, expand access to health information technology (HIT), develop and expand the behavioral health workforce, simplify health privacy provisions and provide services across the life cycle. NACo also supports programs and legislation to reduce mental illness in jails and provide appropriate treatment to those in custody, while protecting overall public safety.

**APPROXIMATELY 8.5 MILLION ADULTS HAVE BOTH A MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE DISORDER**

**11.6 MILLION INDIVIDUALS CYCLE IN AND OUT OF MORE THAN 3,000 LOCAL JAILS EACH YEAR**

**64% OF JAIL INMATES HAVE A MENTAL ILLNESS**

## PRESERVE COUNTY INTERESTS IN “WATERS OF THE U.S.” REGULATIONS

NACo believes that local streets, gutters and human-made ditches should be excluded from the definition of “Waters of the U.S.” (WOTUS) under the federal Clean Water Act. NACo calls on Congress to require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw the new WOTUS rule and rewrite it in consultation and collaboration with state and local governments.

**MORE THAN 70% OF COUNTIES INVEST IN STORM SEWER SYSTEMS, SEWAGE DISPOSAL, SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT AND WATER UTILITIES**

**COUNTIES INVEST \$18 BILLION IN SANITARY, STORM SEWER SYSTEMS AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL/TREATMENT AND WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS**



# NACo LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT STAFF DIRECTORY 2016

**MATTHEW D. CHASE** | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
mchase@naco.org • 202.942.4201

**DEBORAH COX** | LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR  
dc Cox@naco.org • 202.942.4286

**PAUL BEDDOE** | DEPUTY LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR  
Large Urban County Caucus  
pbeddoe@naco.org • 202.942.4234

**MIKE BELARMINO** | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR  
Finance, Pensions and Intergovernmental Affairs  
mbelarmino@naco.org • 202.942.4254

**BRIAN BOWDEN** | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR  
Health  
bbowden@naco.org • 202.942.4275

**DARIA DANIEL** | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR  
Community, Economic and Workforce Development  
ddaniel@naco.org • 202.942.4212

**CHRIS MARKLUND** | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR  
Public Lands | Western Interstate Region  
cmarklund@naco.org • 202.942.4207

**JESSICA MONAHAN** | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR  
Transportation  
jmonahan@naco.org • 202.942.4217

**ARTHUR SCOTT** | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR  
Agriculture & Rural Affairs | Rural Action Caucus  
ascott@naco.org • 202.942.4230

**HADI SEDIGH** | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR  
Human Services & Education | Justice & Public Safety  
hsedigh@naco.org • 202.942.4213

**JACOB TERRELL** | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR  
Telecommunications & Technology  
jterrell@naco.org • 202.942.4256

**JULIE UFNER** | ASSOCIATE LEGISLATIVE DIRECTOR  
Environment, Energy & Land Use  
jufner@naco.org • 202.942.4269

**ERYN HURLEY** | LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT  
ehurley@naco.org • 202.942.4204

**AUSTIN IGLEHEART** | LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT  
aigleheart@naco.org • 202.942.4260

**JACK PETERSON** | LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT  
jpeterson@naco.org • 202.661.8805

## ABOUT NACo

America's 3,069 county governments provide the essential building blocks to create healthy, vibrant, safe and resilient communities. Counties support and maintain key public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, airports and transit systems, help create and sustain a skilled workforce to meet the needs of businesses, and promote public health and safety to protect our citizens.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) supports federal policies and programs that equip county governments with the resources and tools needed to effectively serve their residents. Each year NACo's Board of Directors adopts the association's federal policy priorities, which help shape NACo's advocacy efforts on behalf of America's counties.



25 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, NW  
SUITE 500 • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001  
202.393.6226 • WWW.NACO.ORG

 [FB.COM/NACoDC](https://www.facebook.com/NACoDC)

 [TWITTER.COM/NACoTWEETS](https://twitter.com/NACoTWEETS)

 [YOUTUBE.COM/NACoVIDEO](https://www.youtube.com/NACoVIDEO)

 [LINKEDIN.COM/IN/NACoDC](https://www.linkedin.com/in/NACoDC)