

NACo Membership Yields Benefits for Counties

ACCG represents all 159 counties in Georgia, but did you know there is a national county association that represents the interest of America's 3,069 counties? The National Association of Counties, also known as NACo, is the voice of counties on the federal level and works to strengthen the nation's counties just as ACCG works to advance those here in Georgia.

"Is your county on board on the federal level?" asked Lamar County Commissioner Nancy Thrash who, along with DeKalb County Commissioner Jeff Rader, serves as a NACo Board Representative on ACCG's Board of Managers. She further expressed, "I always say we are more powerful in numbers. NACo lobbies for counties on a federal level. Did you know that NACo has been successful in 75% of the federal platforms? Legislation has a trickle-down effect from the federal level all the way down. Become a NACo member today and have an impact on federal legislation!"

As Commissioner Thrash stated, legislation has a trickle-down effect with often direct and lasting impacts on counties. As a NACo member, a county has a voice representing local government in the nation's capital.

"Serving as a county commissioner, you never know what thorny problem may be thrust upon you. Luckily, thousands of other Commissioners and their staff from across the nation are organized into an association whose primary objective is to help each of us be more effective in our work," said DeKalb County Commissioner Jeff Rader. "The National Association of Counties is a critical infrastructure for sharing solutions, representing our interests on Capitol Hill, and for many services useful to you and the communities you represent. With a low cost of membership scaled to your jurisdiction's population, it's possible to immediately begin to grow through NACo."

A few additional membership benefits include:

- Free registration to NACo's Annual and Legislative conferences for elected officials and staff for the first year.
- Leadership opportunities that allow county officials to expand their knowledge, enhance skills, and grow networks to more effectively serve residents.
 - County Leadership Institute (not to be confused with ACCG's Leadership Institute)
 - Web-based Education
 - High Performance Leadership Academy & Enterprise Cybersecurity Leadership Academy
- Access to data-driven reports on emerging trends and proven methods to improve county governance, policy and management.

Further details included in the [NACo Membership Overview](#).

Like ACCG, NACo members can serve in various leadership capacities within the association. For example, DeKalb County Commissioner Larry Johnson currently serves as Chairman of NACo's Large Urban County Caucus and is a candidate for its 2nd Vice President. His candidacy for 2nd Vice President will be determined at the 2019 NACo Annual Conference this week in Clark County, Nevada.

Leadership, a unified voice in Washington D.C., and access to resources tailored specifically to America's counties are just a few benefits of NACo. Is your county ready to join? For more information on how to become a member, visit <https://www.naco.org/what-we-do/naco-membership/how-join-naco>.