

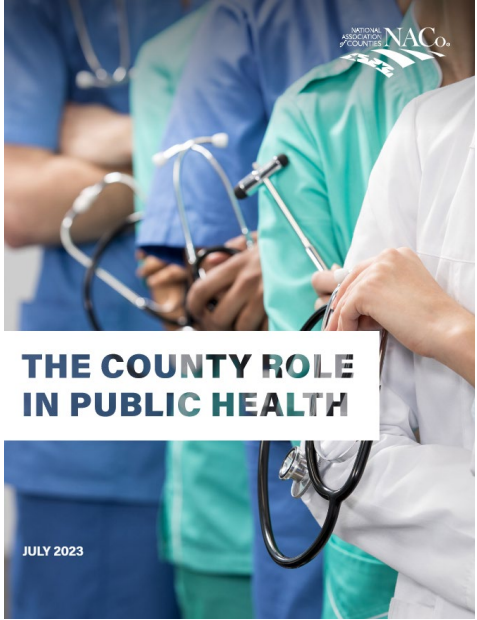
Overview of Federal Legislation

Mark Ritacco, Chief Government Affairs Officer

NACo



NACo Federal Policy Resources

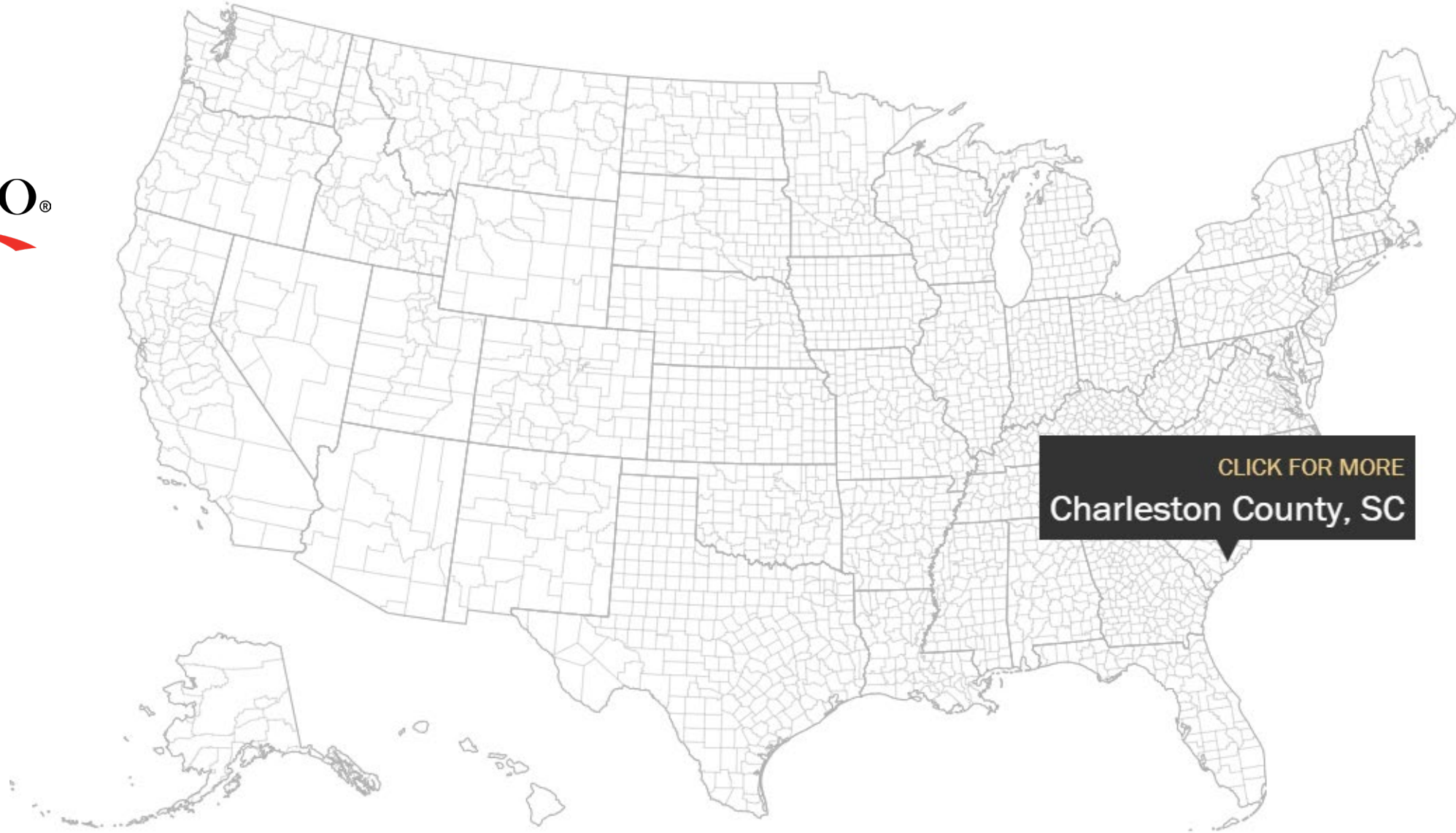


COUNTY EXPLORER

MAPS

PROFILES

COMPARE



County Explorer - County Profiles



CHARLESTON COUNTY, SC

COUNTY DETAILS

County Seat:	Charleston
Year Organized:	1769
Total Square Miles:	918
2020 Population:	408,235
Persons/Square Mile:	445

COUNTY STRUCTURE

Government Type:	County
Authority:	Home Rule
Legislative Body:	County Council
Size of Legislative Body:	9

ECONOMY

2019 Gross Domestic Product (GDP):	\$28.74 B
2020 Labor Force:	211,939
2020 Unemployment Rate:	6.30%

The Race is On: Deadlines in Congress

- **A budget deal must be reached by Sept 30. to avoid a government shutdown**
- **Congress must resolve huge differences spending issues and policy priorities to fund government for the next fiscal year.**
- **The last government shutdown occurred from Dec. 2018 to Jan. 2019**

“This will go all the way into a time of snowflakes falling in December before we actually get an agreement done. If we get one done.”

The Race is On: Deadlines in Congress

Congress is also working on...

- **Farm Bill**
- **State and Local Tax Deduction (SALT)**
- **SUPPORT Act**
- **National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**
- **FAA Reauthorization**
- **Disaster Relief Fund Supplemental**

Negotiating a Better Farm Bill: County Priorities for 2023


- **Improving ease of access/county eligibility for Farm Bill programs**
- **Maintain SNAP funding levels, structure, and eligibility**
- **Provide stronger support for small, mid-size producers**
- **Maintain Farm Bill voluntary conservation programs**
- **Maintain or expand rural development programs**
- **Rural broadband, wastewater, business programs, rural capacity building**
- **Elevate the county role in federal land management**



Collaboration for GNA Projects: The Forest Service, BLM, and Counties

These projects are designed to improve public access to natural resources, protect wildlife habitats, and promote sustainable development.



A person wearing a brown sweater is shown from the side, with their hands clasped together and resting on a wooden railing. They are looking out over a vast, blurred green forest. The lighting is soft and natural, suggesting an outdoor setting.

**NACo's
NATIONAL
COMMISSION
ON MENTAL
HEALTH AND
WELLBEING**



Advocating for MIEP Reforms



NACo's MIEP Toolkit

Secured MIEP reforms in FY 2023 Omnibus bill, including provisions amending MIEP for eligible, enrolled juveniles and individuals released within 30 days from jails.

Medicaid Reentry Section 1115 demonstration opportunity from HHS that would allow state Medicaid programs to cover health services for individuals who are incarcerated in the period immediately prior to their release

MENTAL HEALTH LEGISLATION IN 118TH CONGRESS

Two bipartisan bills have been introduced this Congressional session, which NACo has publicly endorsed

- **Due Process Continuity of Care Act (S. 971)**

Removes Medicaid coverage exclusion for inmates in custody pending disposition of charges and allows pretrial detainees to receive Medicaid benefits at the option of the state

- **Reentry Act (H.R. 2400)**

Allows Medicaid payment for medical services to an eligible incarcerated individual during 30-day period prior to an individual's release

Fixing 988 Geo-routing

15%



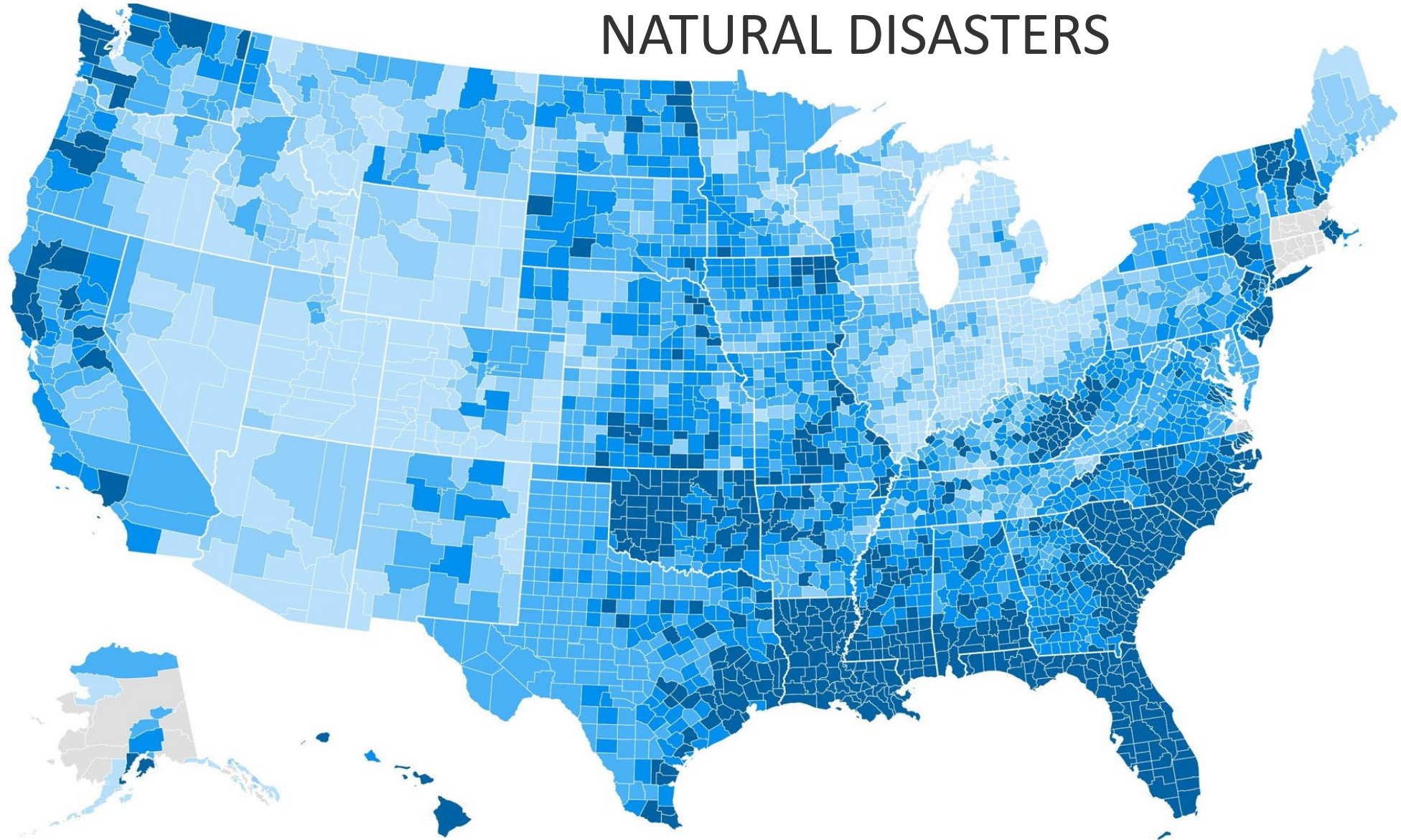
Of 988 Calls in LA County are potentially misrouted



**Responding and
Recovering from
Disasters with FEMA**

2013-2022 NUMBER OF DISASTER DECLARATIONS

NATURAL DISASTERS





Creating Transparency: NACo and FEMA Working Together

NACo is working to ensure that counties have the resources and information they need to navigate the Public Assistance reimbursement process.

NACo's proposed dashboard would bring transparency to the process, making it easier for county staff to understand and manage.

Additionally, NACo is hosting FEMA training sessions to provide county officials with the knowledge and tools they need to respond to disasters.



BIL: Available Grants to Counties



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES **NACo**

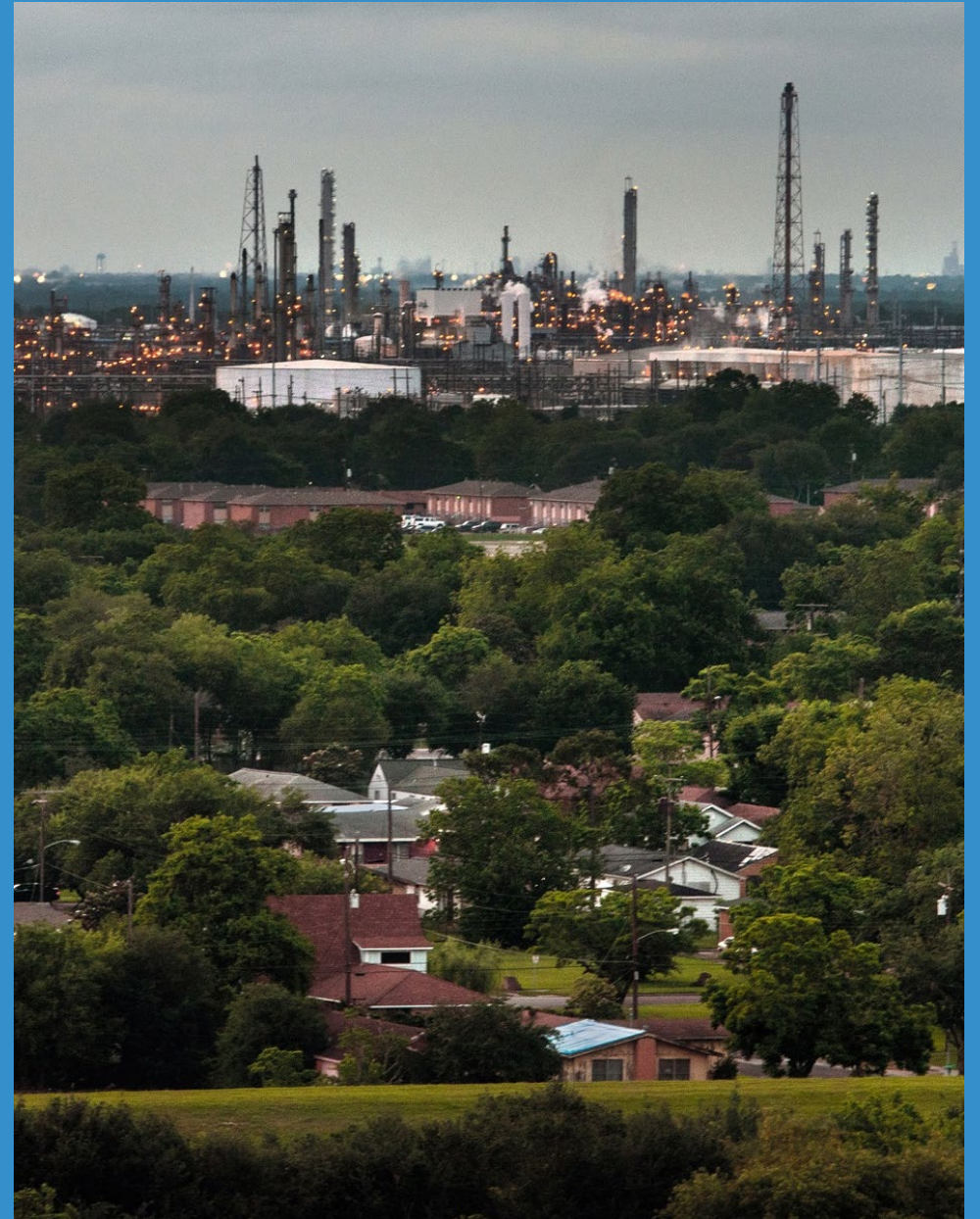
Implementing Infrastructure Investments at the County Level: The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (P.L. 117-58)

On November 15, President Biden signed the bipartisan infrastructure package, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA/P.L. 117-58), into law.



Speeding up Federal Infrastructure Investments through the BUILDER Act

Reform the National Environmental Policy Act and reduce costly delays. This would allow counties to quickly turn federal investments in local infrastructure into tangible assets for our residents.



FAA Authorization Expiration Sept 2023

Ensuring County Priorities in FAA Reauthorization

- **Increasing Flexibility and Federal Match for Airport Improvement Projects**
- **Uncapping and Indexing Passenger Facility Charges to Inflation**
- **Maintaining Key Air Service Programs for Rural America**
- **NACo Working with Congressional Staff**



THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGAL CENTER

Provides a strong and unified voice to the Supreme Court regarding local government issues and helps educate the Supreme Court in cases involving issues that impact local governments

2022-2023 Supreme Court Term



58 Oral Arguments

Major cases touched on immigration, free speech, elections, religious freedom, student loan forgiveness, affirmative action, WOTUS, voting rights and more



6 NACo briefs

Advocacy targeted to cases with clear impact on county governments with an emphasis on clarifying the intergovernmental partnership



8 state/local association briefs

Transition from State and Local Legal Center to Local Government Legal Center



2022 – 2023 Supreme Court Term: NACo Amicus Briefs

✓	<i>Sackett v. EPA*</i> *Filed in favor of neither party	Definition of WOTUS
	<i>Moore v. Harper</i>	Elections administration
	<i>Wilkins v. United States</i>	Statue of limitations on Quiet Title Act claims
✗	<i>Groff v. DeJoy</i>	Employee religious accommodations
	<i>Tyler v. Hennepin County</i>	Surplus equity from tax-forfeited property sales
	<i>HHC of Marion County v. Talevski</i>	Private lawsuits against publicly-owned nursing homes



The Impact of WOTUS on County Governments

Counties are responsible for the construction and maintenance of a variety of water infrastructure projects, such as public safety water conveyances, municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4), green infrastructure, water reuse infrastructure, and emergency management systems. The definition of WOTUS directly impacts county governments, as they may need to apply for a federal permit to maintain or build new infrastructure.



What Counties Want in any WOTUS Rule

Counties are committed to safe drinking water for our residents. As environmental stewards living in the very communities we are responsible for protecting, we support allowing counties to control **county-owned water infrastructure**. This type of infrastructure should not be regulated by the EPA in their WOTUS rule. In addition to local decision-making about how to get the safest, cleanest water possible, counties also require **certainty** about how these waterways will be regulated going forward. The back and forth between administrations is unhelpful and inefficient. The Supreme Court provided certainty on one aspect of this issue in the ***Sackett*** case.

Energy Tax Credits

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) established a new **direct-pay mechanism** that enabled counties to access several clean energy tax incentives only previously available to tax-paying entities.

Direct-Pay Tax Credits

- **Production Tax Credit**
- **Investment Tax Credit**
- **Clean Electricity Production Tax Credit**
- **Clean Electricity Investment Tax Credit**
- **Credit for Carbon Oxide Sequestration**
- **Credit for Qualified Commercial Clean Vehicles**
- **Alternative Fuel Refueling Property Credit**
- **Clean Fuel Production Tax Credit**
- **Advanced Energy Project Credit**
- **Advanced Manufacturing Production Credit**

South Carolina Broadband Funding

BEAD Funding

\$551 Million

County Broadband Deployment Efforts



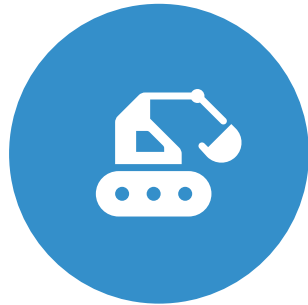
**Communicating county
insights to FCC**



**Highlighting county role in
broadband deployment**

NACo is committed to ensuring that counties have a voice in broadband deployment efforts, both in data collection and opposing certain permit streamlining initiatives that erode local decision-making.

Making it Easier for Counties to Access Federal Funds: Ideas for Congress



Pre-Award Considerations

Simplified NOFOs, extended deadlines



Implementation

Provide technical assistance and support to counties. Clearly outlined reporting.



Post-Award

Single Audit. Streamlining reporting

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