

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING DATE: June 27, 2006

SUBJECT: NACo 2006 Credentials

ATTACHMENTS:

- 1) 2006 General Voting Frequently Asked Questions
- 2) NACo Credentials (Voting) Identification Form

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

NACo is preparing for its 71st Annual Conference to be held August 4-8, 2006 in Cook County, IL. NACo has requested that the County submit its credentials (voting) in order to participate in official business of the Conference.

COUNTY MANAGER RECOMMENDATION/BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Recommend Chairman Moyer be approved as the Designated Delegate and that Vice Chairman Messer be approved as the First Alternate.

2006 General Voting F.A.Q. (Frequently Asked Questions)

On what issues or for which candidates do counties/parishes/boroughs vote?

Counties vote on resolutions that set NACo legislative and association policy for the coming year. Delegates also elect NACo officers for the coming year. In 2006, one of the four officers' slots is contested, that of the second vice- president.

How can my county vote?

A county must be a NACo member "in good standing" in order to vote. This means your county's dues for 2006 must be paid before the voting occurs. Also, the county must have at least one paid registration for the annual conference and have proper credentials.

What are credentials?

Credentials attest to a county's eligibility to vote. Credentials contain information on the number of votes a county is eligible to cast, as well as the identity of the delegate that is authorized to cast the county's vote.

How is the credentials form distributed?

The form is mailed to the chief elected official of member counties so that the county can provide the name of the voting delegate to NACo. Only counties that have paid their 2006 NACo dues will receive a credentials form. This form is mailed in the **LAST** week of May. The deadline to return the form is Friday, July 14, 2006.

What is a voting delegate?

A voting delegate is someone authorized by your county/parish/borough board to pick up a ballot and cast your county's votes at the annual conference. The delegate must have a paid registration to the conference.

Who may be a voting delegate?

Any county official may be a voting delegate. That decision is up to the discretion of your county board.

What is an alternate?

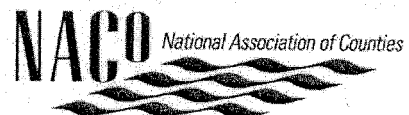
An alternate is another person delegated by the county to pick up and cast its ballot. The alternate must have a paid registration to the conference.

My county has only one person attending the conference. Does my county have to designate an alternate?

No. It is not necessary to list an alternate if a delegate is named.

Whose ballots may the state associations of counties/parishes/boroughs receive?

Your state association of counties/parishes/boroughs is allowed to pick up any unclaimed ballots from counties/parishes/boroughs that have registered delegates at the conference on the Monday afternoon during the conference, according to NACo's bylaws. The state association may then cast those ballots in the election.



My county does not want our state association to pick up our votes. How does my county go about indicating this decision?

Simply check the "No state association pick up" box on the credentials form before returning it to NACo.

- *If the box is not checked and your county/parish/borough's ballot has not been picked up by the deadline, the state association WILL be allowed to pick up your ballot and vote your votes.*

What does "vote by proxy" mean?

A county may designate a conference attendee from another county or their state association to cast its ballot as long as both are registered conference attendees.

Why would a county vote by proxy?

Counties may vote by proxy for a number of reasons. For example, sometimes counties are unable to attend the conference but still want to vote in the election. The county still must have a paid registration for the conference. Another example would be a county official who needs to leave the conference before the vote is taken and would want another county to vote on their behalf.

How would my county vote by proxy?

- Your county must have paid its 2006 dues.
- Your county must have at least one paid conference registration for the conference, even if no officials are attending.
- If you delegate another county to vote for you, that county must also have paid 2006 dues and have at least one paid conference attendee.
- You may designate your state association as your county's proxy.

I missed the July deadline for returning the credentials identification form to NACo. What should I do?

You can still return the form, but you must call Membership Coordinator Emily Landsman at (202) 942-4242 to let her know the form will be late. If you have misplaced the form, it will be available at www.naco.org before the conference. Print out this form and fax it to NACo/Emily Landsman at (202) 393-2630. Your chief elected official can also write a letter on county stationary stating the name and job title of the voting delegate and alternate delegate. This letter can be used by the voting delegate to pick up your county's ballot at the credentials desk. Your delegate can also fill out a voting delegate authorization form at the credentials desk at the conference. It must then be signed by a credentials committee member to be valid.

How does NACo determine the number of votes each county receives?

The number of votes is determined by the amount of dues a county pays. Dues are based on population. NACo's bylaws allot one vote per \$500 in dues. Therefore, counties with dues of \$360 to \$499 receive one vote, counties with dues of \$500 to \$999 receive two votes, counties with dues of \$1000 to \$1,499 receive three votes, and so on. The maximum number of votes a county can receive is 88.

My county has 10 votes. How can our 25 commissioners divide or share the votes?

That is up to your county. NACo has no rule as to how counties decide to allocate their votes. Counties may split their vote amongst the candidates running for second vice president if it is desired.

Our county executive is the only person from our county attending the conference, but he will be leaving before the voting takes place. Can our county still vote?

Yes. Your county may vote by proxy. The executive can give the county's ballot to either your state association's executive director/president or to another county official within your state.

I've heard the term "unit vote" used. What is that?

Some states, by custom or policy, cast all of their votes as a block or "unit." However, NACo bylaws permit each county to cast its vote as it chooses. State associations typically have a meeting before the election to determine how they will handle the voting process. Check with your state association regarding the time, date and location of this meeting.

When does the voting take place?

This year's election will be held on Tuesday, August 8, 2006.

How does the voting occur?

Counties within a state sit together as a delegation. The reading clerk will call out a state. A state appointed representative will approach the microphone and call out that state's vote. This will continue until one of the candidates has a majority (fifty percent plus one) of the total number of votes being cast. Voting may still continue after the fifty one percent mark has been reached.

What is the credentials committee?

The credentials committee ensures the credibility of the election and is charged with resolving disputes about election issues.

How are committee members selected?

The current NACo president appoints elected officials from member counties to fill the positions on the Credentials Committee. This year, President Bill Hansell has appointed the following to serve on the 2006 Credentials Committee:

Chair - Oscar Soliz, Clerk Emeritus and Lifetime NACo Board Member, Nueces County, Texas

Member - Hon. David Burris, Kent County, Delaware

Member - Hon. Julia Gouge, Commission President, Carroll County, Maryland

Member - Hon. Mary Louise Williams, Justice of the Peace, Pulaski County, Arkansas

Member - Hon. Rocco "Rocky" DiVeronica, Madison County, New York

Parliamentarian - Hon. Ray Valdes, Tax Collector, Seminole County, Florida

Tally Clerk - Hon. Doris Karloff, Supervisor, Saunders County, Nebraska

Reading Clerk - Hon. Ben Boswell, Commissioner, Wallowa County, Oregon

