ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

2021 City Summit

Virtual

Friday, November 19, 2021
3:15-5:15 PM Eastern Time
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2021 National League of Cities
Annual Business Meeting
Agenda

Date: November 19, 2021
Time: 3:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. EST

Welcome and Call to Order
Kathy Maness, Presiding, NLC President
Councilmember, Lexington, South Carolina

Report of the Credentials Committee
Mary Dennis
Mayor, Live Oak, Texas

Appointment of the Minutes Committee
Kathy Maness, Presiding, NLC President
Councilmember, Lexington, South Carolina

NLC State of the Organization Address
Clarence Anthony
NLC CEO and Executive Director

Report of the Resolutions Committee
Vince Williams NLC First Vice President
Mayor, Union City, Georgia

Presentation of Proposed National Municipal Policy Amendments and Resolutions

• Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee
  Matt Orlando, Vice Chair
  Councilmember, Chandler, Arizona

• Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee
  Ellen Smith, Chair
  Councilmember, Oak Ridge, Tennessee

• Community and Economic Development Committee
  Jesse Matthews, Chair
  Councilmember, Bessemer, Alabama

• Human Development Committee
  Elizabeth Carr-Hurst, Chair
  Mayor, Fairburn, Georgia

• Transportation Infrastructure and Services Committee
  David Sander, Chair
  Councilmember, Rancho Cordova, California

• Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee
  Alan Wapner, Chair
  Mayor Pro Tem, Ontario, California

• Information Technology and Communications Committee
  John Fogle, Chair
  Councilor, Loveland, Colorado

Action on Proposed Amendments and Resolutions
Report of the Nominating Committee

Joe Buscaino, NLC Immediate Past President
Councilmember, Los Angeles, California

Election of NLC Officers and Board Members

Incoming NLC President’s Remarks and
Call to Action

Other Business

Adjournment
Annual Business Meeting

2021 Special Rules for the Conduct of Business

1. **Call to Order:**
   a. The President of the National League of Cities shall call the business meeting to order. If the President is absent from the meeting, the call to order shall be made by, in order of succession: a) the first vice president, b) the second vice president, c) a member of the Board of Directors selected by the Board of Directors.

2. **Presiding Officers:**
   a. The presiding officer of the Annual Business Meeting shall be the President, or her successor as defined in Rule 1 or the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, or any member of the Board of Directors or Nominating Committee recognized by the President as presiding officer for the purpose of conducting business.

3. **Rules of Order:**
   a. **Parliamentarian:**
      i. A qualified parliamentarian shall be appointed to assist the presiding officer and delegates on matters of procedure at all times during the Annual Business Meeting.
   b. **Adoption of Rules:**
      i. These standing rules were adopted at the last Board of Directors Meeting prior to the Annual Business Meeting.
      ii. These rules shall be used for the 2021 Annual Business Meeting and expire with the adjournment of that meeting.
   c. **Agenda:**
      i. The Annual Business Meeting shall be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors at the last meeting of the Board before the Annual Business Meeting.
   d. **Governing Conduct:**
      i. Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the conduct of the business meeting unless otherwise specified in the NLC Bylaws or these standing rules.

4. **Certification of Voting Delegates**
   a. **Designating and Certifying Voting Delegates:**
i. All voting delegates must be registered with and certified by the Credentials Committee by 5:00 PM ET the day before the Annual Business Meeting.

ii. To certify as voting delegate, member cities shall complete the Request for Voting Credentials 2021 form and follow the subsequent instructions from the Credentials Committee.

iii. On a weighted vote, the head of each state league delegation may tally and report the vote of the delegation.

iv. A city official serving as the voting delegate or alternate for a city may also serve as a voting delegate or alternate for the state league.

b. Credentials Committee:
   i. The President in advance of or at the beginning of any such meeting shall appoint a credentials committee of three persons, at least one of whom shall be a representative of a member city
   ii. The Credentials Committee shall settle any dispute concerning the voting rights of voting delegates.

5. Quorum:
   a. Establishing a Quorum:
      i. The presence of a quorum shall be determined by the certified votes present as indicated in Election Buddy, our electronic voting software.

   b. Access to the Meeting:
      i. The virtual meeting shall be divided between a private Zoom meeting and a livestream for observers.
      ii. Only certified voting delegates or their alternates, members of the Board of Directors, the Advisory Council, Executive Directors of State Municipal Leagues, Federal Advocacy Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs, and designated staff members will be allowed in the private Zoom meeting.

   c. Signing in:
      i. Voting delegates shall display their name upon entry to the private Zoom meeting, and
         1. shall maintain video and audio connectivity throughout the meeting whenever present, but
         2. shall sign out upon any departure before adjournment.
      ii. Voting delegates shall keep their microphone on mute when not speaking, and

6. Discussion
a. **Seeking Recognition:**
   i. Only voting delegates, NLC support personnel, Federal Advocacy Committee Chairs, and the parliamentarian may be recognized to speak at the meeting.
   ii. To seek recognition by the presiding officer, voting delegates shall click on the *Raise Hand* icon and use the *Chat Box* to indicate:
      1. the purpose for which recognition is being sought, or
      2. the intention to speak for or against the motion.
   iii. NLC support personnel will determine and keep track of the speaking order.

b. **Limits of Debate:**
   i. Voting delegates may speak no longer than **one minute**.
   ii. No voting delegate can speak more than once on the same question.
   iii. The presiding officer may cause or direct the muting of a voting delegate’s microphone if that delegate does not adhere to the time limit when notified by the presiding officer, if someone speaks without being recognized, or if there is feedback from an unmuted mic.

c. **Making a Motion:**
   i. Only voting delegates may make motions.
   ii. A voting delegate intending to make a main motion, or an amendment, shall, before being recognized, post the motion in the *Chat Box* preceded by the delegate’s name, title, and city.
      1. Motions are not made until voting delegates a) are recognized and b) state their motion.
   iii. A voting delegate who intends to make a motion or a request that under the rules may interrupt a speaker shall click on the *Raise Hand* icon for so indicating, and
      1. Shall thereafter wait a reasonable time for the presiding officer’s instructions.
   iv. Motions shall not be discussed until they are seconded by another voting delegate, which shall be indicated by saying “Second” in the *Chat Box*.

d. **Nominations:**
   i. Nominating and seconding speeches for each nominee for President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President shall be limited to **one minute**.
   ii. Nominating and seconding speeches for nominees to the Board of Directors are not permitted during the business meeting.

e. **Informal Discussion:**
   i. The *Chat Box* shall only be used for official business.
   ii. Any debate or messages in the chat will be considered informal discussion.
iii. The presiding officer may cause or direct the removal of voting delegates if they are excessively using the chat for informal discussion.

7. Voting:

a. Voting on Official Actions:
   i. Only voting delegates can vote during the Annual Business Meeting.
   ii. A majority of certified votes present shall be required for election of any officer or board member or for passage of any matter of business voted upon at the Annual Business Meeting, except as follows
      1. A two-thirds vote of certified votes present and voting shall be required to adopt, repeal, or amend National Municipal Policy statements and to adopt separate policy resolutions.

b. Method of Voting:
   i. Voting shall first be by voice vote.
   ii. If 10% of the certified votes present decide otherwise, there shall be a weighted voting using Election Buddy, our electronic voting software.
   iii. In weighted voting, each certified voting delegate, who votes, shall cast the total number of votes to which he or she is entitled.

c. Resolutions and Amendments:
   i. Resolutions for and amendments to the National Municipal Policy will be considered in bulk for each chapter and voted unless one is set aside.
   ii. Voting delegates may set aside any amendment or resolution for independent discussion and votes by saying “Set aside” and indicating the proposal title, resolution or section number, page number, and line number in the Chat Box.
   iii. Grammatical corrections that do not substantively change the policy or resolution may be incorporated without amendment.
   iv. Proposals that are not submitted to voting delegates by the Board of Directors or Resolutions Committee shall be accompanied by a petition of 10 voting delegates and submitted by no later than 10:00 AM ET on the day of the Annual Business Meeting. Voting delegates pursuing the special petition process must email advocacy@nlc.org to receive the petition packet.

d. Nominations:
   i. The Nominating Committee shall present to the annual meeting a slate of qualified candidates for officer positions and seats on the Board of Directors.
   ii. The report from the Nominating Committee should be posted on the virtual event site at least 6 hours before the scheduled Call to Order at the Annual Business Meeting.
iii. Nominations may be made by petition, provided that such petition is presented to the annual meeting by 10 voting delegates. All such nominating petitions must be submitted by 10:00 AM ET on the day of the Annual Business Meeting. Voting delegates pursuing the special petition process must email smith@nlc.org.
   1. Such petition will carry the name of the individual proposed for nomination, the position nominated for, as well as the printed name, title, city and state, and the signature of sponsoring delegates.

iv. An electronic ballot shall separate those names presented by the Nominating Committee from those nominated from the floor.
   1. A ballot for Board of Director positions shall also distinguish those positions held customarily by state league directors.
   2. Nominees by petition shall run against the entire slate for the category in which they are nominated (i.e., officer positions, one-year or two-year seats on the Board of Directors).

v. A majority vote of the certified votes present at the Annual Business Meeting shall be required for election of any officer or member of the Board of Directors.

vi. When more than two persons are nominated for an NLC officer position and no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest vote will be eliminated from the ballot and a new vote taken. To facilitate the elections process, the names of any candidates receiving less than 10 percent of the votes cast on any ballot may be eliminated from subsequent ballots.

vii. When more persons are nominated for election to the Board of Directors than vacancies exist, those persons receiving a majority vote on the first ballot will be declared elected. The name receiving the least number of votes, and any names receiving less than 10 percent of the votes cast on the previous ballot, shall then be eliminated and a new vote taken. This process will be repeated until all vacant positions are filled.

viii. Member cities must cast unanimous votes. Member leagues may cast votes unanimously, or split, however the league wishes.
Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions
Executive Summary

Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

❖ Section 1.03 Intergovernmental Relations
   o Q. Election Administration

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #01: Calling to Resolve the Conflict Between State and Federal Cannabis Laws

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #02: Preserving the Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #03: Calling for the Restoration of the Tax-Exemption on Advance Refunding Bonds

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #04: Calling for The Modernization of The Small Borrower’s Exemption (Bank Qualified Debt)

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #05: Support for Reforming the Earned Income Tax Credit for Childless Workers

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #06: Exempts from Taxation Income from Loan Modification, Forgiveness or Cancellation for Small Businesses

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #07: Calling to Preserve and Enhance Voting By Mail

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #08: Support for The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee

❖ Section 2.00 Environmental Quality
   o D. Principles

❖ Section 2.02 Energy
   o A. Goals
   o E. Renewable Energy
   o F. Conventional Energy Sources
   o G. Electricity
   o H. Transportation and Energy

❖ Section 2.04 Solid and Hazardous Waste
o A. Problem  
   o B. Goals  
   o C. Solid Waste Policies  
   o D. Nuclear Waste Management Policies

❖ Section 2.10 Security of Critical Infrastructure  
   o C. Federal Policies

❖ Section 2.11 Health-Focused Local Food Systems

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #09: Supporting Local Pace Programs

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #10: Supporting and Advancing Resilient Communities to Prepare for Changing Climate and Extreme Weather Events

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #11: Supporting Urgent Action to Reduce Carbon Emissions and Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #12: Addressing Lead Contamination and Calling for Nationwide Federal Support for Water Infrastructure

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #13: Increase Federal Investment in Water Infrastructure

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #14: Support for Integrated Planning and New Affordability Consideration for Water

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #15: Calling on the Federal Government to Take Action to Address PFAS Contamination

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #16: Improve the Benefit-Cost Analysis for Federally Funded Flood Control Projects and Supporting Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Material

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #17: Increase Funding for Border Water Infrastructure Projects

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #18: Supporting Local Control of Water Infrastructure Projects

Community and Economic Development Committee

❖ Section 3.04 Economic Development  
   o C. Recommended Federal Actions

❖ Section 3.06 Housing  
   o C. Recommended Federal Actions
❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #19:** Supporting a Federal Agenda for Local Economic Development, Economic Mobility, and Entrepreneurship

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #20:** Urging the Development of Criteria for Neighborhood Preference as an Anti-Displacement Tool

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #21:** Urging the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to Enact Safeguards Against Abuses in Contracts for Deeds

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #22:** Supporting the Need for Public Transparency Surrounding Installation Scoring from Past Rounds of Base Realignment and Closure

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #23:** Supporting a National Agenda for U.S. Housing Investment and Opportunity

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #24:** Endorsing the Recommendations of NLC’s National Housing Task Force Report “Homeward Bound, The Road to Affordable Housing”

*Human Development Committee*

❖ **Section 4.00 Introduction**

❖ **Section 4.01 Social Services**

❖ **Section 4.02 Children and Learning**

❖ **Section 4.03 Poverty Reduction and Income Support**

❖ **Section 4.04 Employment**

❖ **Section 4.06 Seniors and Social Security**

❖ **Section 4.07 Individuals with Disabilities**

❖ **Section 4.08 Health**

❖ **Section 4.09 Immigration and Refugees**

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #25:** In Support of Action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to Study and Address Violence in America

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #26:** In Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #27:** In Support of Efforts to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault
NLC RESOLUTION #28: In Support of Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Increased Investment in Workforce Development Programs

NLC RESOLUTION #29: Addressing Systemic Racism as a Public Health Crisis

NLC RESOLUTION #30: In Support of Actions by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) And Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to Address Coronavirus Health Disparities through Resources and Data

NLC RESOLUTION #31: In Support of the One Health Initiative

NLC RESOLUTION #32: In Support of Child Nutrition Reauthorization

NLC RESOLUTION #33: In Support of a National Holiday Commemorating the Accomplishments and Legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez

NLC RESOLUTION #34: In Support of The Equality Act

NLC RESOLUTION #35: In Support of Mothers in The Workforce

NLC RESOLUTION #36: In Support of Equal Pay for Women

Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee

- 5.00 Transportation Principles
- 5.04 Air Transportation
- 5.05 Rail

NLC RESOLUTION #37: Partner with Cities, Towns, and Villages on Flexible Programs to Meet Every Community’s Transportation Needs and Vision

NLC RESOLUTION #38: Advancing Safety for All to Reach Vision Zero with Policies that Achieve Safe, Healthy and Equitable Mobility for All

Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee

- Section 6.01 Crime Prevention
  - C. Weapons and Ammunition Control
  - D. Youth Oriented Crime Prevention
    - 1. Youth Crime and Violence
    - 3. Corrections
4. School Safety

- **NLC Resolution #39**: In support of legislation to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to ensure property owners are able to afford insurance for other natural disasters such as wildland fires and earthquakes.

- **NLC Resolution #40**: In support of federal efforts to ensure state and local governments have the authority to regulate the manufacturing, distribution and sale of medical and adult-use cannabis.

- **NLC Resolution #41**: In support of federal efforts to prevent and treat first responder post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

- **NLC Resolution #42**: On the use of force by municipal law enforcement officers.

- **NLC Resolution #43**: In support of federal efforts to recruit and retain a diverse public safety workforce.

- **NLC Resolution #44**: In support of federal efforts to ensure local governments can hold law enforcement officers accountable.

**Information Technology and Communications Committee**

- **NLC Resolution #45**: Local government support of community/municipal broadband networks.

- **NLC Resolution #46**: Federal investment in broadband access: a call for universal availability, affordability and world-class quality.

- **NLC Resolution #47**: Local government support for fairness and truth in advertising for internet service providers.

- **NLC Resolution #48**: Preserving local control of broadband infrastructure siting.

- **NLC Resolution #49**: Calling for updated federal safety standards for radiofrequency emissions of wireless facilities.

- **NLC Resolution #50**: In support of municipal data ownership and protection.

- **NLC Resolution #51**: In support of digital equity for American communities.
Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Federal Advocacy Committee

FAIR
Only sections of the *NLC National Municipal Policy (NMP)* where modifications are proposed are reproduced in this report. The complete text of the current *NMP*, divided into seven policy chapters, can be found at [nlc.org/national-municipal-policy](http://nlc.org/national-municipal-policy).

Please note:
- Proposed new language is underlined;
- Proposed language for deletion is struck out; and
- Existing, unchanged language is shown as plain text.

**POLICY:**

- **Section 1.03 Intergovernmental Relations**
  - Q. Election Administration
Q. Election Administration

Voting is fundamental to democracy in the United States’ form of government. Citizen trust in the integrity of this process is essential. Procedures and administration of this process must be completely honest, transparent and impartial. State and local officials are primarily responsible for administering the voting process but all levels of government – federal, state and local should exercise oversight in a balanced and even-handed manner. NLC is opposed to any federal laws that disenfranchise individuals from exercising their most fundamental constitutional right to vote. Moreover, NLC supports equitable voting rights and protections for individuals whose ability to cast a ballot has historically been restricted on the basis of race, sex, disability, age, English proficiency, or housing status.
Proposed FAIR Resolutions

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #01: Calling to Resolve the Conflict Between State and Federal Cannabis Laws

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #02: Preserving the Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #03: Calling for the Restoration of the Tax-Exemption on Advance Refunding Bonds

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❖ NLC RESOLUTION #07: Calling to Preserve and Enhance Voting By Mail

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #08: Support for The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act
CALLING TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL CANNABIS LAWS

WHEREAS, state and local governments share with the federal government the responsibility to ensure public health and safety are addressed through competent, thoughtful, and comprehensive legislation and regulation that is reflective of local values and needs; and

WHEREAS, forty-seven states, four U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia – representing 97.7% of the U.S. population – have legalized some form of recreational or medical marijuana; and

WHEREAS, cannabis’ status as a Schedule I illicit substance on the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) and the CSA’s coupling with the Bank Secrecy Act have created a condition under which the cannabis industry has severely limited access to the federally regulated banking industry; and

WHEREAS, this condition has led to a reliance on “cash only” models that involve the transportation of large sums of paper money through cities, increasing the risks of theft crimes and tax evasion, and denying large groups of business owners the capital needed to enter the market; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Justice has rescinded guidance that previously provided a minimal level of confidence for financial institutions looking to provide services to this growing industry, causing Congress to introduce and pass legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives to try to tackle this issue; and

WHEREAS, on April 19, 2021, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1996, the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2021. The bill would allow marijuana-related businesses in states with some form of legalized marijuana and strict regulatory structures to access the banking system. The bill passed with overwhelming, bipartisan support by a vote of 321 to 101, including 106 Republicans; and

WHEREAS, on March 23, 2021, Senators Jeff Merkley (D-Ore) and Steve Daines (R-Mont.) introduced the SAFE Banking Act in the Senate with nearly a third of the chamber supporting the bill.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities urges the federal government to remove cannabis from Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act and provide guidance to financial institutions that results in the cannabis market having access to the federally regulated banking system, such guidance to include the United States Senate to pass the SAFE Banking Act and the President of the United States of America to sign the bill into law.
NLC RESOLUTION #02

PRESERVING THE TAX-EXEMPT STATUS OF MUNICIPAL BONDS

WHEREAS, the federal tax exemption for municipal bonds has been in place since the federal income tax was instituted in 1913; and

WHEREAS, tax-exempt municipal bonds are the primary funding mechanism for state and local government infrastructure projects with three-quarters of the total United States investment in infrastructure being accomplished with tax-exempt financing from over 50,000 state and local governments and authorities; and

WHEREAS, the tax-exemption for municipal bonds was granted to ensure affordable access to credit for municipal projects that, among other things, provide for public health and well-being, and as a result, local governments have saved taxpayers an average of 20 to 25 percent on interest costs with tax-exempt municipal bonds as compared to taxable bonds; and

WHEREAS, a cap or elimination of the federal tax exemption for municipal bonds would place federal, state, and local governments at cross-purposes because any savings realized by the federal government as a result of tampering with the tax exemption would be more than offset by economic losses at the state and local level due to higher credit costs, canceled infrastructure projects, fewer job opportunities, and a greater burden on local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, stability in the municipal bond market rests on the tax exemption for municipal bonds, and market stability is essential to local and national economic recovery.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities calls on members of Congress and the Administration to state their support for maintaining the tax exemption for municipal bonds to promote employment and investment in our nation’s cities and towns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC opposes any attempt to eliminate or limit the federal tax exemption for municipal bonds as a part of a federal deficit reduction plan, pension reform legislation or as a consequence of efforts to advance comprehensive tax reform; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports maintaining the tax exemption for qualified private activity bonds (PABs) to finance critical infrastructure, affordable housing projects and other local services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports efforts to reduce the cost and redundant burdens of issuance and administration by eliminating redundant rules on arbitrage and private use; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports Congress and the Administration providing certainty to municipal issuers of tax credit and other federally subsidized bonds by exempting subsidies from sequestration rules.
CALLING FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE TAX-EXEMPTION ON ADVANCE REFUNDING BONDS

WHEREAS, prior to January 1, 2018, municipal governments could issue tax exempt securities known as advance refunding bonds; and

WHEREAS, advanced refundings represented 27% of municipal bond market activity in 2016 and 19% in 2017; and

WHEREAS, such single use bonds allowed municipalities to refinance outstanding debt and achieve interest rate reductions prior to the original bond’s call date; and

WHEREAS, lower borrowing costs allowed issuers to save at least $12 billion of local tax dollars per year in debt servicing costs and free up capital to invest in additional infrastructure improvements, better balance budgets and lower local tax rates; and

WHEREAS, advance refunding bonds provided municipalities with a tool to better-weather recessions by allowing them to reduce otherwise fixed costs as tax receipts fall; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 eliminated the ability of municipalities to issue single use tax exempt advance refunding bonds; and

WHEREAS, in the 116th Congress (the prior Congress) bills to reinstate tax-exempt advanced refunding was introduced in both chambers of Congress, as well as incorporated into H.R. 2., the Moving Forward Act. Legislation to reinstate tax-exempt advanced refundings was again introduced in the 117th (the current Congress).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities supports the full reinstatement of the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds or a substantial equivalent.
NLC RESOLUTION #04

CALLING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE SMALL BORROWER’S EXEMPTION (BANK QUALIFIED DEBT)

WHEREAS, small municipalities frequently struggle to access financing opportunities through the traditional bond underwriting process; and

WHEREAS, local and community banks are typically disincentivized from purchasing and holding municipal securities due to their inability to deduct the associated carrying costs from their federal income tax returns; and

WHEREAS, governments issuing $10 million or less in bonds per calendar year are able to have their bonds designated as bank-qualified; and

WHEREAS, banks are able to deduct most of the carrying costs associated with holding bank-qualified bonds and are therefore incentivized to buy directly from small municipalities; and

WHEREAS, these small municipalities are able to bypass the traditional underwriting process by selling their bank-qualified bonds directly to local banks at a substantial cost savings to local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, more than three decades of inflation has reduced the utility of the $10 million threshold since it was set in 1986, creating a situation whereby small municipalities are not able to leverage bank-qualified debt to the degree they did 30 years prior; and

WHEREAS, the threshold was temporarily increased to $30 million from 2009 to 2010, which created a market for thousands of small borrowings for small municipalities during the Great Recession.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities supports the modernization of the small borrower’s exemption to allow more small municipalities, struggling to finance critical projects through the traditional bond underwriting process, to issue bank-qualified debt; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the small borrower’s exemption threshold should be permanently raised to $30 million and indexed to inflation for all future calendar years;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the small borrower’s exemption should be modified to apply to governmental issuers and the borrowing organizations separately regardless of the issuer and permit 501(c)(3) organizations to provide the designation.
NLC RESOLUTION #2021-05

SUPPORT FOR REFORMING THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR CHILDLESS WORKERS

WHEREAS, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable credit to eligible workers. Even if a worker does not owe any federal tax, the worker may benefit from it; and

WHEREAS, the EITC is the nation's largest cash antipoverty program, with a tax year 2016 (returns filed in 2017) total of $66.7 billion claimed on 27.4 million tax returns. Most of the claimed EITC dollars—$64.7 billion, or 97% of total EITC dollars—were for taxpayers with children compared to $2.1 billion in claimed EITC for taxpayers with no qualifying children; and

WHEREAS, the EITC is so small for childless workers, it effectively does not lift them out of poverty because the EITC for this group is much too small (and for some, isn’t available at all) that it does not offset the income taxes and employee share of payroll taxes that they must pay; and

WHEREAS, this affects 5 million childless adults aged 21 through 66; and

WHEREAS, the maximum credit in 2018 is more than 10 times as much for a taxpayer with a child than a childless taxpayer; and

WHEREAS, recipients without children must be at least 25 years old—there are no age restrictions for parents; and

WHEREAS, prior to 2021 the maximum amount that a childless taxpayer could receive through the EITC was $538; and

WHEREAS, as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, a childless taxpayer will be able to receive just more than $1,500 from the EITC; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC will support Congress making the EITC for childless workers permanent as a way to help reduce poverty in cities.
NLC RESOLUTION #06

EXEMPTS FROM TAXATION INCOME FROM LOAN MODIFICATION, FORGIVENESS OR CANCELLATION FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

WHEREAS, for this resolution a “small business” or “small businesses” is defined as a business having fewer than 50 full-time employees; and

WHEREAS, the recent economic downturn and lockdowns forced many businesses to forgo significant amounts of revenue; and

WHEREAS, prior to the pandemic, struggling small businesses would have been able to refinance debt or extend lending terms on the original agreement; and

WHEREAS, today, many small businesses are fighting for survival, and creditors face a choice of demanding payment under the original terms outlined in the agreement or engage in loan modification, forgiveness or cancellation; and

WHEREAS, the viability of many small businesses in the coming months to stay afloat will rely on loan modifications, forgiveness, or cancellation to stay in business; and

WHEREAS, the modification, forgiveness and cancellation of debt comes with its own burdens; and

WHEREAS, Internal Revenue Code (“IRC”) general rule considers cancellation of debt (“COD”) ordinary income under Sec. 61(a)(12); and

WHEREAS, for example, XYZ business has a loan with a bank with a balance of $500,000, and modifies the loan to cancel 50 percent of the balance – $250,000. The business will receive a 1099-C stating it had income of $250,000 for that tax year. The business might not have the corresponding cashflow to pay the taxes on the cancelled portion of the loan when the tax bill comes due and may have to close despite altering is loan terms to try to stay afloat.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities will advocate for small businesses as defined herein this resolution to be exempt from taxation on income from loan modification, forgiveness or cancellation to help maintain healthy thriving cities.
NLC RESOLUTION #07

CALLING TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE VOTING BY MAIL

WHEREAS, voting is a constitutionally protected right; and

WHEREAS, all governments, especially state and local, must ensure an accessible, safe and secure method of voting for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, measures are taken to ensure electoral integrity and prevent fraud when votes are cast by mail; and

WHEREAS, use of the terms “voting by mail” and “absentee voting” varies from state to state, “voting by mail” is assumed to mean any ballot sent through the mail, including by absentee voting; and

WHEREAS, all states allow voting by mail in certain circumstances; and

WHEREAS, in the 20 years prior to 2016, the percentage of voters casting ballots in person on Election Day has gradually declined, falling from 89% in 1996 to 60% in 2016; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, nearly ¼ of all U.S. votes were cast by mail. Due to the pandemic the number of voters casting ballots on Election day in 2020 rose to 46%; and

WHEREAS, opinion polls consistently find that a majority of American support having an option to vote by mail; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has pushed states to expand options for voting by mail due to limited election facilities and poll workers, increased sanitation costs, the nature of COVID-19 being spread through person-to-person contact, and the need to ensure all citizens have equal access to exercise their right to vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that while it takes no stance on individual state election laws, the National League of Cities supports federal efforts that preserve and enhance systems that allow for accessible, safe and secure vote by mail options.
NLC RESOLUTION #08

SUPPORT FOR THE JOHN LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT

WHEREAS, voting is fundamental to democracy in the United States’ form of government; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed to ensure that millions of Black, Latinx, Asian American and Native American citizens who were previously denied suffrage have an equal opportunity to cast their ballot; and

WHEREAS, in the 2013 Shelby County v. Holder decision, the United States Supreme Court upheld Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, requiring jurisdictions with a history of discrimination to submit any proposed changes in voting procedures to the U.S. Department of Justice or a federal district court in Washington, D.C. to ensure the change would not harm minority voters (known as “preclearance”); and

WHEREAS, in the Shelby County V. Holder decision, the United States Supreme Court struck down Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which contained the coverage formula used to determine which jurisdictions are covered by Section 5 of the Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is practically defunct; and

WHEREAS, following the 2013 Shelby County V. Holder decision, several states enacted new voting restrictions that, prior to the 2013 decision, would have been subject to preclearance under Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives, in a report entitled Voting Rights and Election Administration in the United States of America concluded that “without federal protections, new and old barriers to voting have emerged” that “disproportionately impact minority voters;” and

WHEREAS, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act creates a new coverage formula that applies to all states; and

WHEREAS, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act establishes a targeted process for reviewing voting changes in jurisdictions nationwide, that utilizes measures that have historically been used to disenfranchise minority voters; and

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities is opposed to any federal laws that restricts American citizens from exercising their most fundamental constitutional right to vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities supports the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and urges its enactment into law.
Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Federal Advocacy Committee

EENR
Proposed Policy Amendments

Only sections of the *NLC National Municipal Policy (NMP)* where modifications are proposed are reproduced in this report. The complete text of the current *NMP*, divided into seven policy chapters, can be found at [nlc.org/national-municipal-policy](http://nlc.org/national-municipal-policy)

Please note:

- Proposed new language is underlined;
- Proposed language for deletion is struck out; and
- Existing, unchanged language is shown as plain text.

POLICY:

- **Section 2.00 Environmental Quality**
  - D. Principles
- **Section 2.02 Energy**
  - A. Goals
  - E. Renewable Energy
  - F. Conventional Energy Sources
  - G. Electricity
  - H. Transportation and Energy
- **Section 2.04 Solid and Hazardous Waste**
  - A. Problem
  - B. Goals
  - C. Solid Waste Policies
  - D. Nuclear Waste Management Policies
- **Section 2.10 Security of Critical Infrastructure**
  - C. Federal Policies
- **Section 2.11 Health-Focused Local Food Systems**
Section 2.00 Environmental Quality

D. Principles

1. Regional Approaches

2. Sustainability

NLC is committed to the concept of sustainability, that as a society we must find ways to meet the needs of the present population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. Adopting sustainable solutions offers the potential of multiple, significant benefits to individuals, communities and society, including economic prosperity, environmental protection, environmental justice, social well-being, public health and national security.

A wide array of issues should be viewed through the sustainability lens, including energy, water, transportation, land use and economic development, housing, and public health. (See also the Community and Economic Development (CED) and Transportation Infrastructure and Services policy chapters.)

NLC supports the Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities formed by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate housing, community development, transportation, energy, and environmental policies that will help local communities create better and more affordable places to live, work and raise families. NLC urges Congress to pass legislation to officially authorize the partnership and to continue funding.

From a municipal perspective, protecting and rebuilding existing communities are vital components of a national environmental protection program. Restoring and strengthening existing communities contributes toward ensuring a sustainable future. (For more details on sustainable development, see CED Section 3.07 (C) (4) (c), Land Use, Promoting Sustainable Communities.)

America’s cities can benefit from the exchange of experiences and engagement with local governments in other countries, and must join in international cooperation and collaboration efforts to mount meaningful actions to achieve goals and reduce the impacts of climate change.

3. Environmental Justice

The impacts of pollution fall disproportionately on various communities, including people with disabilities, economically disadvantaged households, the elderly, Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), and other vulnerable and underrepresented populations, poor and minority communities, an issue of special concern to the nation’s cities, towns and villages. To mitigate these unacceptable impacts, the federal government should:

- Identify those areas with the largest concentrations of toxic chemicals in air, land, and water;
- Assess the human health in the areas of highest impact;
- Provide opportunities and resources that will allow them to participate in determining adverse health effects and economic impacts;
• Identify activities that have significant effects on human health and develop plans that will result in net reductions in pollution;
• Include environmental justice as an integral component of all federal planning, programs, and statutes; and
• Enhance opportunities for early public and local government participation, including access to accurate, objective information about the consequences of permit issuance; and
• Prioritize equitable access to nature and natural spaces.

NLC opposes any federal regulations that place restrictions on state and local government actions regulating private property or that require additional compensation beyond current interpretations of the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

2.02 Energy

A. Goals
NLC urges the federal government to work with local governments to develop and implement a sustainable energy policy that is reliable, equitable, environmentally responsible and evidence-based and that will:
• Continue to assess the future of our nation’s energy requirements to ensure that our energy policy adequately addresses the future needs of the country;
• Promote the most efficient and affordable use of renewable and sustainable energy sources while protecting the environment;
• Encourage the transition to a clean energy economy that increases the use of carbon neutral energy and promotes energy efficiency, with a goal of at least 50 percent carbon neutral energy by 2030 and 100 percent by 2050 or sooner;
• Protect the supply of energy by promoting the use of renewable energy sources and alternative fuels, while implementing measures developing techniques to reduce the environmental impact of the use of conventional fossil fuels;
• Protect our economic and national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil and minimizing the environmental impact of the encouraging environmentally responsible domestic production of conventional and renewable energy sources;
• Ensure a national energy supply which will decrease greenhouse gas emissions;
• Encourage conservation and increased energy efficiency across the country and sectors of the economy;
• Encourage the widespread use and deployment of both distributed energy resources and utility scale generation of renewable energy as a component of energy infrastructure to help communities withstand impacts from disruptions in regional supply systems; and
• Promote community resilience by strengthening and modernizing energy infrastructure to reduce vulnerability to disruptions and withstand the impacts of climate change;
• Support local economies with job training and workforce development as the nation transitions to clean energy; and
• Ensure that low-income households do not face unaffordable costs related to the transition away from fossil fuels.
B. Climate Change Mitigation
[no change]

C. Federal Policies
[no change]

D. Energy Efficiency
[no change]

E. Renewable Energy Sources

1. Alternative and Renewable Energy

Federal tax policies should promote the development and use of alternative and renewable energy. NLC supports long-term extensions of the investment tax credit and the production tax credit for renewable energy as an incentive for their development and deployment. NLC supports policies and financial mechanisms that lower the cost and eliminate financial, regulatory and market barriers to development, procurement and implementation of alternative and renewable energy sources by residential, commercial and municipal entities, as well as producers. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) should continue to offer grants to cities for the procurement of these non-conventional renewable energy sources for use in municipal buildings.

To promote the use and development of renewable energy such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, tidal and hydro power, the federal government should:

- Increase funding for research and development to implement the use of renewable energy sources;
- Create a renewable portfolio standard that increases the share of electricity from renewable sources;
- Create standards for and evaluate the effectiveness of renewable energy products;
- Promote and support improvements to the electrical grid, including capabilities and incentives for smart metering, support for large scale distributed generation and storage capacity, and construction of long-distance renewable energy transmission capabilities; and
- Increase funding to research and develop innovative alternative energy technology for energy production, storage and transmission.

2. Demand Management

NLC urges the federal government to establish tax incentives promoting demand-side management of energy in such areas as distributed generation systems and electricity production to reduce base load demand.

3. Distributed Generation

The federal government should develop a comprehensive research and development program to improve storage capacity and affordability of distributed energy systems, as well as promote their implementation.

4. Renewable Energy Sources
a. Hydroelectric
The use of hydroelectric power should be done in a manner that minimizes environmental impact. The pricing of hydroelectric power generated at federal projects should be as low as possible, while ensuring that all costs to the federal government are fully recovered including the cost of federal capital. The federal government should continue to own and operate the federal power marketing agencies and should not sell, transfer, exchange or otherwise dispose of them. NLC supports the protection of municipal utility purchases of hydroelectric power through federal contracts.

b. Solar
The federal government should support research programs to develop innovative and practical solar technology. Additionally, the federal government should promote financing mechanisms that stimulate and incentivize the adoption and installation of solar technologies for residential, commercial and municipal use.

c. Wind
The federal government should support research programs to develop wind technology for commercial and residential use, clarify regulations related to its implementation, and provide incentives to promote its use.

d. Additional Energy Sources
The federal government should support research and development and use of additional energy sources such as geothermal and bioenergy, including waste-to-energy and landfill gas recovery projects, that help meet goals of an efficient, economical, and environmentally responsible energy supply. NLC urges the federal government to support technical assistance and incentives for local- and regional-scale efforts to obtain biogas from waste materials and biological feedstocks.

F. Conventional Energy Sources

2. Fossil Fuels
NLC supports the transition away from fossil fuels as energy sources toward a clean energy economy that increases the use of carbon neutral energy and promotes energy efficiency. During this transition, the federal government must ensure that:

- Fossil fuel use minimally impacts the environment;
- Communities with a reliance on the fossil fuel industry are supported with job training and workforce development;
- Low-income households do not face unaffordable energy costs;
- Carbon capture technologies are deployed to minimize environmental impacts and harm and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The federal government should support research and development for technologies that have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, such as carbon sequestration and hydrogen production; and
- No new leases for fossil fuel development on federal land are granted and that existing permits are phased out.

While carbon sequestration has the potential to cut greenhouse gas emissions, it should not be used to extend the life of coal or natural gas plants, nor should it be a substitute for transitioning
to clean energy sources. The federal government should support nature-based carbon removal
approaches, such as increasing and maintaining forests and trees, wetland preservation and
restoration, and changes in farming practices that can increase soil carbon capture.

4-a. Coal
The use of clean coal technology (as defined by DOE standards) will help NLC support
maximum use of measures to decrease emissions from coal utilization while helping cities
affected by such emissions to reach and maintain attainment of air quality standards. Therefore,
NLC urges the federal government to:

- Support research programs to develop the most efficient, environmentally responsible
  methods to extract, transport, and utilize coal for energy production
- Expediously minimize environmental impacts and harm from production and use of coal as the nation
  transitions to renewable and sustainable energy;
- Eliminate the practice of mountain top removal mining and prohibit disposal of spoils in
  watersheds to protect water quality and water sources;
- Continue to support and enhance efforts to minimize ongoing harm to environmental
  quality and threats to public safety associated with abandoned coal mines; and
- Streamline requirements for development and retention of leases for coal reserves on
  federal land in an environmentally responsible manner;
- Research the use and storage of coal byproducts, such as methane, as a future energy
  source;
- Provide appropriate guidance and standards for the safe management of coal combustion
  ash;
- Develop incentives for the use of clean coal technology and Best Available Control
  Technologies for new and existing plants; and
- Increase research and development for carbon capture and storage technology and fund
  large-scale integrated demonstration projects for carbon capture, transportation and
  storage that reduce emissions from existing coal plants.

4-b. Natural Gas
The federal government should encourage the domestic production of natural gas occurs
in a manner that minimizes environmental impacts and harm in an environmentally responsible
manner. Therefore, the federal government should:

- Promote measures to avoid leakage and other accidental release of methane during
  production and transport of natural gas and support development of new technologies for
  leak detection;
- Ensure that water quality and water resources are protected;
- Require the disclosure of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing; and
- Study the relationship of the oil and natural gas production and extraction process on
  drinking water resources and air quality, the impacts on land and aquatic ecosystems,
  seismic risks and public safety.

4-c. Petroleum
While the nation continues to rely on petroleum as an energy source, the federal government
should promote the domestic production occurs in a manner that minimizes
environmental impacts and harm of domestic petroleum in an environmentally responsible manner.

In the event of a supply disruption, there should be no action by the federal government that causes the depletion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve simply to mitigate oil prices. The federal government should not reinstate price controls on domestically produced crude oil.

3. Nuclear

Nuclear power will be a necessary component of the carbon-neutral energy portfolio for the coming decades. The federal government should use its capacities and authorities to maximize the safety and minimize the adverse environmental effects and public costs of nuclear power production and the nuclear fuel cycle. The federal government should support and encourage the development and deployment of technical innovations and advanced technology that enhances safety and efficiency of nuclear power production and reduces the potential for misuse or diversion of nuclear materials. In the exploration of nuclear power options, the federal government should require the development of design and safety features that will maximize the safety of nuclear energy. The federal government should ensure that its licensing and regulatory procedures for new and existing nuclear power plants are appropriate for the potential hazards associated with their specific technologies and external conditions, including implications of climate change. In particular,

Additionally, Congress should strengthen the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC) protection of the public – and public confidence in the NRC – by prohibiting “revolving door” employment between industry and the NRC. Final siting approval of nuclear facilities should be a shared responsibility among federal, state and local governments, subject to appropriate federal environmental laws and regulations.

Federal agencies providing review of emergency preparedness, response and evacuation plans must include cities in the development and review of the plans. These plans should include a protocol for educating communities, particularly those who reside within the evacuation zone, on radioactivity and radiological hazards before an incident occurs. Federal funding should be available to local governments as first responders for emergency preparedness and response for nuclear events. (Specific policies for disaster preparedness and response are contained in Section 6.03 of the Public Safety and Crime Prevention chapter.)

4. Petroleum

The federal government should promote the production of domestic petroleum in an environmentally responsible manner. In the event of a supply disruption, there should be no action by the federal government that causes the depletion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve simply to mitigate oil prices. The federal government should not reinstate price controls on domestically produced crude oil.

G.F. Electricity

1. Infrastructure

NLC supports federal incentives for all generators and transmission grid owners to create new infrastructure, consistent with current environmental regulations and laws. To ensure that the
nation has an adequate and reliable national transmission grid, the federal government should coordinate with state and local governments. NLC opposes any attempts to preempt local authority in siting energy producing facilities or transmission grids.

2. Smart Grid

Smart grid technology will increase the capacity, quality and reliability of the electric power grid, increase the grid’s energy and operational efficiencies, and enable significant increases in distributed renewable and stored energy. NLC supports federal programs that:

- Conduct research into smart grid technology and help promote its commercialization;
- Create standards for interoperability and security;
- Fund pilot programs to study techniques that reduce energy demand by giving customers more direct and automated control over their energy use, evaluate rate structures that more accurately reflect energy costs, and investigate the integration of renewable energy sources onto the local grid;
- Provide consumer education and workforce training; and
- Facilitate an accelerated implementation of smart grid technology across the distribution and transmission networks.

2. Demand Management

NLC urges the federal government to establish tax incentives promoting demand-side management of energy in such areas as distributed generation systems and electricity production to reduce base load demand.

3. Distributed Generation

The federal government should develop a comprehensive research and development program to improve storage capacity and affordability of distributed energy systems, as well as promote their implementation. The federal government should incentivize the buildout and deployment of microgrids, which can provide backup power during emergencies.

H.G. Transportation and Energy

NLC supports federal programs that:

- Reduce dependence on fossil fuels used for transportation, including through the support and promotion of transportation alternatives such as public transportation, multi-modal transportation systems and safe and connected networks for walking and bicycling to employment, education and commercial centers, routes to schools;
- Increase funding for federal research and development of alternative sources of energy for transportation;
- Pursue a national distribution system for alternative fuels for transportation use;
- Encourage national standards for electric vehicle infrastructure to ensure compatibility with all brands of vehicles;
- Offer incentives for acquisition of zero- or low- emission vehicles, such as natural gas or electric vehicles. Incentives should be available for cities to purchase these vehicles for use in public transportation systems, and municipal fleets and school buses, and to public and private entities to install electric vehicle infrastructure;
- Minimize environmental harm associated with the extraction, processing, and disposal of metals used in electric vehicle batteries, and encourage development of alternatives; and
• Ensure that the air quality benefits of using zero and low emission vehicles are quantified and credited toward meeting national air quality goals.

NLC opposes a federally mandated phase-in of a fixed number of alternative fueled vehicles for fleets, in the absence of federal funding for this purpose. (See also the Transportation Infrastructure and Services policy chapter).

2.04 Solid and Hazardous Waste

A. Problem
Disposing of solid and hazardous wastes and conserving resources are two of the most challenging issues facing local governments. The Chinese National Sword Policy has had ripple effects on community recycling programs and recycling markets across the country and necessitates finding new solutions to waste management and recycling in the United States.

Improper disposal of hazardous wastes, including nuclear and radioactive waste, and spills of chemicals, oils, and other hazardous substances, can endanger public health and pollute our nation’s air, water and land resources.

B. Goals
Waste management must be addressed aggressively through source reduction, volume reduction and resource recovery. The federal government should invest in and develop sustainable domestic capacity for recovering resources and returning them to economically beneficial use. These actions must be compatible with protecting the environment.

The Chinese National Sword Policy presents an opportunity to reimagine and strengthen U.S. waste management and recycling infrastructure and programs. Investments in domestic infrastructure, support for local and regional recycling programs and education efforts, and policy changes will ensure recycling remains environmentally and economically sustainable throughout the country.

C. Solid Waste Policies
Solid waste management is primarily a local matter, but the nature and quantity of waste that must be managed is largely dictated by national and multinational decisions and trends. The federal government should support local and regional programs by developing a national solid waste management policy that takes an integrated approach to best meet local needs.

1. Source Reduction
To help relieve local governments and tax-payers of the financial burden of product and packaging management and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the federal government should:

• Develop and implement policies that promote product stewardship and create incentives inducements for manufacturers and marketers to design and produce products and packaging created with less energy, materials and toxins;
• Support the creation of effective producer-led reduction, reuse and recycling programs to address a product’s life cycle environmental impacts;
• Create incentives for local governments and producers to develop systems to collect, compost, reuse and recycle products;
• Promote material exchange and secondary markets;
• Support research and development on conversion technology, packaging materials, biodegradability and techniques to minimize solid waste, facilitate recycling and reuse, and provide safe and cost-effective methods to convert nonrecyclable wastes to energy;
• Support public participation and education programs to provide a better understanding of source reduction (reduce, reuse, recycle) and disposal options; and
• Promote the recycling of materials for federally-funded projects.

2. Electronic Waste
NLC supports federal efforts to educate the public on minimizing electronic waste and associated risks to health and the environment. NLC urges Congress to develop a system to maximize the reuse and responsible recycling of used electronics and create a viable financing mechanism.
Congress should investigate the use of appropriate incentives to:
• Design products that facilitate source reduction, reduce environmental impact, and encourage reuse, recycling, product take-back, and responsible reclamation of components;
• Ensure that used electronics are recycled in a sustainable manner, such as through an accredited third-party certification program;
• Promote green electronics as a source selection preference;
• Reduce toxicity by limiting the use of hazardous materials in electronics manufacture; and
• Increase recycled content and improve efficiencies in development and operation of electronic products.

NLC urges Congress and the Administration to ensure that all exported electronics are handled and disposed of safely in a manner that does not harm public health or the environment.

3. Recycling
To support municipal recycling initiatives, EPA should develop a clearinghouse to share best practices among cities on delivering efficient recycling programs and to create connections that foster collaboration between waste producers and users.

Congress should encourage development of long-term stable markets for recycled products, hard-to-recycle products (such as plastics) and non-recyclable products. In addition, federal funding should:
• Support research and development and pilot programs to assist local governments in demonstrating of new recycling techniques;
• Fund research and development for conversion technology for recycled materials, including products from tires and batteries; and
• Develop fair and appropriate tax incentives to target problematic waste streams from recycling processing centers.
4. *Environmental Labeling*

NLC supports the development of national programs and guidance to ensure that environmental labels for products and packaging, including labels regarding recyclability, biodegradability, flushability and suitability for composting or other processing, are based on a set of clear and verifiable definitions and standards that facilitate the safe and efficient processing of municipal solid waste and recycled goods and reduce costs to municipalities.

5. *Plastics*

Plastic waste is found in the planet’s land and oceans, in our food streams and in animals and human bodies. Plastics in our environment do not biodegrade, nor are all plastics are recyclable. For these reasons, NLC supports federal efforts to:

- reduce plastic use, including incentives to reduce the use of single-serve plastics that are not recyclable;
- incentivize and support research and development to reuse plastic waste through extended producer responsibility or other programs; and
- increase plastic recycling through public education and outreach and clear and verifiable definitions and labeling.

6. *Organic Material*

NLC supports the diversion and reduction of compostable materials from landfills. NLC encourages development of reliable technical guidance to assist municipalities in establishing successful arrangements, including composting programs or other bioprocessing operations, that will convert organic waste materials into useful products or energy sources, rather than sending these materials to landfills.

Organic material, such as food waste, breaks down anaerobically and produces methane, which is a short-lived climate pollutant. Collected food waste can be composted into nutrient rich soil or renewable natural gas and lessen the impact on landfills and the environment.

Organic waste diversion and reduction are costly to implement. Barriers for organic waste collection are the requirements to sort into its own designated recycling bin with its own collection, public education and outreach, and the lack of technology and infrastructure by solid waste providers to process and convert organic waste. Additional barriers are individual environmental approvals for recycling facilities, as well as the need for regional recycling sites.

To support the proliferation of organic material diversion and reduction from landfills, Congress should consider:

- Funding to support the procurement organic waste infrastructure, including technological advancements in organic waste processing;
- Support for environmental approvals to establish anaerobic recycling facilities;
- Funding for public education and outreach to support and comply with organic waste collection; and
- Incentives for waste haulers or processors.
A byproduct of organic waste collection is food waste prevention. Markets, restaurants, farmers, and institutions (hospitals and schools) contribute to the organic waste stream by disposing edible food products. Congress can incentivize unnecessary food waste by:

- Supporting the redistribution or donation of edible food sources to local charities, food pantries or homeless shelters;
- Supporting the redistribution of edible food sources to animal feed processors; and
- Creating tax incentives and liability protections for donations.

7. Medical Sharps and Pharmaceuticals

NLC supports medical sharps and pharmaceutical collection in order to protect public health, the environment and water quality. Improper disposal of expired or unused pharmaceuticals and medical sharps, such as needles and syringes, can endanger municipal workers and the public, as well as impose a cost-burden on local governments.

Extended producer responsibility through pharmaceutical and drug take-back programs will help prevent pollution of waterways, drinking water and soil contamination. Although pharmacy chains are working with drug manufacturers to create greater resources for drug disposal, the federal government should continue to work with drug manufacturer and local communities on public education and outreach and to further develop and expand product stewardship and take-back programs.

Product stewardship and collection centers are also important in sharps disposal. Sharps have been commingled in regular and public trash cans (such restrooms, hotels) leading to injury and harm to children, maintenance workers, and others. Sharps could contaminate trash, recycling bins and landfills, which impacts sanitation workers, recycling workers and water treatment facilities. While hospitals and pharmaceutical chains have participated in collection programs, Congress can help support proper sharps disposal by:

- Funding public disposal and collection sites at both public and private facilities including entertainment venues, airports, restaurants, hotels, etc.;
- Working with sharps manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies to develop sharps product stewardship programs and distribution of biohazard containers;
- Creating convenient sharps disposal sites such as pharmacy chains, hospitals, etc.;
- Providing funding for public health organizations to develop disposal sites and distribution of biohazard containers; and
- Supporting public outreach and education.

D. Nuclear Waste Management Policies

1. Local Participation in Site Selection

Final siting approval of nuclear facilities should be a shared responsibility among federal, state and local governments, subject to appropriate federal environmental laws and regulations. Federal policy related to nuclear and radioactive waste disposal should be amended to give local governments the authority to directly participate in selecting the site for permanent repositories for high-level nuclear and intermediate and low-level radioactive waste. The permanent disposal or storage of nuclear and radioactive waste, within any populated area, is completely unacceptable. Further, sufficient technical assistance funding from the Nuclear Waste Trust Fund should be provided to local governments to enable them to conduct technical studies of potential
repository sites, to provide technical comments on federal siting-related documents, and to monitor the site selection process. This should apply to sites identified on federal property or reservations in close proximity to a municipal boundary.

Section 2.10 Security of Critical Infrastructure

C. Federal Policies

3. Nuclear Facilities Protection

NLC supports a federal regulatory system that protects nuclear facilities from direct attack or extreme events, including natural or human-caused disasters. Federal agencies and/or state agencies with delegated authority that provide review of emergency preparedness, response and evacuation plans must include cities in the development and review of the plans. These plans should include a protocol for educating communities, particularly those who reside within the evacuation zone, on radioactivity and radiological hazards before an incident occurs. Federal funding should be available to local governments as first responders for emergency preparedness, training and response for nuclear events. (Specific policies for disaster preparedness and response are contained in Section 6.03 of the Public Safety and Crime Prevention chapter.)

NLC opposes any attempts by the federal government to federalize nuclear plant security teams or to provide the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with authority to summon any branch of the military.

NLC urges the federal government to increase funding available to local governments to train first responders in the event of a nuclear emergency.

Section 2.11 Health-Focused Local Food Systems

NLC urges Congress and the Administration to:

- Support policies and programs that reduce the prevalence of obesity and improve the overall health and wellness of those in our communities;
- Ensure that all people have access to food that is healthy, affordable and, where practicable, locally grown food;
- Support efforts to establish, promote and expand local farmers markets and school and community gardens;
- Provide incentives for local farms to sell fresh produce at farmers markets and to schools;
- Support educational programming, outreach efforts and policies to reduce food loss and waste;
Encourage farmland conservation and sustainable regenerative agricultural practices, such as water conservation, organic fertilizers, crop rotation and the use of living covers using less water and fertilizer and rotating crops, by providing incentives to small, local farms in urban and rural areas;

- Improve the quality of food in schools by supporting and promoting the purchase of unprocessed and minimally processed, locally grown and locally raised agriculture products, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, in schools;

- Expand and strengthen the Healthy Food Financing Initiative to meet the growing demand of healthy food access in underserved urban and rural communities;

- Maintain the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program as a federal grant program;

- Establish and maintain a national set of uniform, integrated food system metrics to help evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs and to plan innovative initiatives; and

- Enable an interagency partnership among the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Department of Agriculture to protect and improve human, animal, and environmental health as an integrated system, including food safety and production.
Proposed EENR Resolutions

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #09: Supporting Local Pace Programs

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #10: Supporting and Advancing Resilient Communities to Prepare For Changing Climate and Extreme Weather Events

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #11: Supporting Urgent Action to Reduce Carbon Emissions and Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #12: Addressing Lead Contamination and Calling for Nationwide Federal Support for Water Infrastructure

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #13: Increase Federal Investment in Water Infrastructure

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #14: Support for Integrated Planning and New Affordability Consideration for Water

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #15: Calling on the Federal Government to Take Action to Address PFAS Contamination

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #16: Improve the Benefit-Cost Analysis for Federally Funded Flood Control Projects and Supporting Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Material

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #17: Increase Funding for Border Water Infrastructure Projects

❖ NLC RESOLUTION #18: Supporting Local Control of Water Infrastructure Projects
NLC RESOLUTION #09

SUPPORTING LOCAL PACE PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, utility bills represent a major part of operating costs for home and business owners; and

WHEREAS, the building sector accounts for 39 percent of the nation’s energy use, 72 percent of its electricity use, one third of all global greenhouse gas emissions and represents the single largest, most accessible opportunity for deep emission cuts in the United States; and

WHEREAS, investing in cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements to homes and businesses can save energy, cut utility bills up to $140 billion per year, create thousands of local jobs, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, a 2013 study that found default risks are on average 32 percent lower in energy efficient homes and recommends that the lower risks associated with energy efficiency should be taken into consideration when underwriting mortgages;¹ and

WHEREAS, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing programs are an innovative local government solution to help property owners finance energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements – such as energy efficient HVAC systems, upgraded insulation, new windows, solar installations, etc. – to their homes and businesses; and

WHEREAS, PACE programs can also be used for other types of projects that provide public and community benefits, such as improving community resilience to hurricanes and wildfires and managing stormwater and tidal flooding; and

WHEREAS, the PACE program removes many of the barriers of energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits that otherwise exist for residential homeowners and businesses, particularly the high upfront cost of making such an investment and the long-term ability to reap the benefits of cost savings; and

WHEREAS, 37 states plus the District of Columbia have passed laws enabling local governments to develop PACE programs; and

WHEREAS, locally-administered PACE programs are an exercise of the traditional authority of local governments to utilize the tax code for public benefit; and

WHEREAS, PACE programs help local governments meet a core obligation to their citizens to maintain housing stock and improve housing opportunities for all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the PACE program is an achievement of the intergovernmental partnership to
realize national policy goals, namely, reducing energy consumption, that will positively impact
the fiscal conditions of every level of government; and

WHEREAS, PACE holds the potential to unlock private capital and jumpstart economic growth
backed by the marketplace certainty of the federal government; and

WHEREAS, despite PACE’s great promise, in July 2010 the Federal Housing Finance Agency
(FHFA) and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency issued statements that immediately
forced existing PACE residential programs to halt operations and froze the development of
dozens of other residential PACE programs nationwide; and

WHEREAS, despite the FHFA directive, many commercial and a few residential PACE
programs are operating or are in development in hundreds of municipalities across the country;
and

WHEREAS, in 2010 the U.S. Department of Energy dedicated $150 million to assist in the
development of local PACE programs and in 2016 issued Best Practice Guidelines for
Residential PACE Financing Programs to help state and local governments develop and
implement programs and recommended protections that PACE programs should put in place for
consumers and lenders;¹ and

WHEREAS, in July 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released
guidance allowing the Federal Housing Administration to insure mortgages on properties that
include PACE assessments,² which has since been withdrawn; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Congress passed the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer
Protection Act banking reform bill that recognizes PACE as a tax assessment and directs the
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to develop rules in consultation with state and
local governments that ensure consumers have the ability to pay their residential PACE financing
obligations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that locally-administered PACE programs
operating in accord with state and federal guidelines are a safe and sound investment of public
and private funds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that locally-administered PACE programs represent an
essential contribution of local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote
renewable energy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges FHFA to work with local governments seeking to establish PACE programs that benefit from the same senior lien status of all other projects that are funded through municipal assessments that improve private property and meet public policy objectives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the CFPB to work with local governments to adopt regulations that clearly reaffirms the right of state and local governments to exercise liens or assess special taxes or other property obligations to protect and improve housing stock for the public good, including energy efficiency improvements, and establishes underwriting standards that are consistent with guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Energy for PACE financing programs or by implementing any other appropriate measure.
NLC RESOLUTION #10

SUPPORTING AND ADVANCING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR CHANGING CLIMATE AND EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

WHEREAS, across the country local governments are seeing the devastating effects associated with a changing climate and recent extreme weather events, such as heat waves, droughts, heavy downpours, floods, hurricanes, and changes in other storms have brought renewed attention to the need for cities to anticipate, prepare for and adapt to these events; and

WHEREAS, these challenges are larger than individual communities can address on their own, making it beneficial to coordinate regionally and across levels of government; and

WHEREAS, while all regions of the country are impacted by climate change, approximately one third of the U.S. population – more than 100 million people – live in coastal communities that are threatened by rising sea levels, which could impact economic development, land availability, property values, insurance rates, beaches and tourism, and critical water, transportation and energy infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Fourth National Climate Assessment reports that current evidence of climate change appears in every region and impacts are currently visible in every state, and concludes that the evidence of human-induced climate change continues to strengthen;¹ and

WHEREAS, the effects of a changing climate are a national security issue with potential impacts to the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) missions, operations plans and installations and the DoD must be able to adapt to current and future operations to address the impacts of a variety of threats and conditions, including those from weather and natural events²; and

WHEREAS, a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that limiting global warming to 1.5° C is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change;³ and

WHEREAS, climate change and extreme weather events can have severe impacts on local and regional infrastructure, economies, public safety, national security, public health, population migration, natural landscapes, water resources, and environmental quality; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events pose an especially pressing threat to persons with disabilities, economically disadvantaged households, the elderly, Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), and other vulnerable and underrepresented populations; and

WHEREAS, as local governments continue to recover from the coronavirus pandemic, hurricanes, wildfires, floods and other disasters continue to threaten communities across the U.S. and present new challenges for communities in protecting residents, particularly those that are most affected and least able to prepare or respond; and

WHEREAS, the capability of maintaining energy availability is a critical first order priority in maintaining critical infrastructure and building community resilience; and

WHEREAS, there is currently insufficient information, technical coordination or financial assessment of the costs and mechanisms to rapidly retrofit and redesign local energy systems to enable them to be more resilient to a range of potential disruptive events, such as extreme weather, terrorism, and energy price escalation; and

WHEREAS, the United States has seen 290 separate billion-dollar-plus weather and climate disasters since 1980, including 14 in 2019 and 22 in 2020, with a cumulative cost exceeding $1.9 trillion (CPI-adjusted) and a total death toll of 14,492; and

WHEREAS, in 2005 Hurricane Katrina led to 1,833 deaths and more than $167.5 billion (CPI-adjusted) in losses, and a subsequent $120 billion in supplemental disaster assistance and in 2012 Hurricane Sandy led to 159 deaths and more than $73.5 billion in damages (CPI-adjusted), and a subsequent $60.4 billion in supplemental disaster assistance; and

WHEREAS, in 2017 three Category 4 hurricanes made landfall in the U.S. totaling more than $275 billion (CPI-adjusted) in damages and a death toll of 3,167, including 2,981 from Hurricane Maria, which made landfall in Puerto Rico; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 historic flooding hit the Midwest and southern plains significantly affecting agriculture, roads, bridges, levees, dams and other infrastructure, assets and industries, resulting in 12 deaths and $20.3 billion (CPI-adjusted) in economic costs; and

WHEREAS, 2020 sets the new annual record of 22 billion-dollar-plus weather or climate events – shattering the previous annual record of 16 events that occurred in 2011 and 2017, and is the sixth consecutive year (2015-2020) in which 10 or more billion-dollar weather and climate disaster events have impacted the United States; and

WHEREAS, rising temperatures are lengthening the wildfire season, causing more radical fire behavior and increasing wildfire risks throughout the Western United States due to earlier snow

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7 National Climate Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, available at: https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/events/US/2019
melts and forests that are drier longer, the costs of putting out wildfires has increased dramatically, from $571 million in 1985 to over $2.2 billion in 2020 (2020 dollars), and the economic losses associated with wildfire continues to grow, with the 2018 western wildfires costing over $24.5 billion (CPI-adjusted) and the 2020 western wildfires, the most active fire season on record, costing over $16.6 billion (CPI-adjusted); and

WHEREAS, Congress approved over $62 billion in disaster relief in FY20; and

WHEREAS, 2020 was the second warmest year on record behind 2016 (warmest), followed by 2019 (third warmest), 2015 (fourth warmest), 2017 (fifth warmest) and 2018 (sixth warmest); and

WHEREAS, as extreme weather events become more common, local governments in all geographic and climatic regions require resources to assist them in anticipating, preparing for and adapting to these events; and

WHEREAS, a preparedness response fund would provide financial assistance to accelerate the development of adaptive success models and provide a far-reaching damage prevention initiative that would help reduce the ultimate financial pressure on the federal government; and

WHEREAS, local governments are first responders – preparing in advance of emergency situations, offering immediate assistance to those impacted, and identifying strategies, solutions, and partnerships to address situations quickly and efficiently; and

WHEREAS, firefighters and other local essential personnel, who risk their lives responding to natural disasters and extreme weather events, are put at even greater risk of contracting coronavirus as they respond to emergency situations; and

WHEREAS, taking action now to adapt to a changing environment and create community resilience will help save lives, strengthen local economies, save taxpayer dollars and build preparedness for future events; and

10 Federal Firefighting Costs (Suppression Only), National Interagency Fire Center, available at: https://www.nifc.gov/fire-information/statistics/suppression-costs
WHEREAS, in 2014 the President’s Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, comprised of state, local and tribal leaders, including representatives from the National League of Cities (NLC) made recommendations to the President on ways the federal government can assist local efforts to address and prepare for the impacts of climate change.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to partner with local governments and to support local action on climate change adaptation and resilience; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges Congress and the Administration to take urgent action to help states and local governments conduct vulnerability assessments, develop and implement long-term mitigation, adaptation and resiliency action plans, and identify innovative financing opportunities to implement these assessments and plans in order to prepare, plan for and more quickly recover from extreme weather events; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to recognize the unique risks and opportunities communities face and to offer customized tools and incentives to local governments to encourage communities to plan for and rapidly respond to the effects of climate change and extreme weather; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to develop a national strategy to assist communities in integrating the risks of climate change and extreme weather events into emergency management planning and responses to identify and quantify the economic value of regional infrastructure at risk under different scenarios; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to work with state and local governments, the insurance industry, and other stakeholders to develop an incentive-based disaster insurance and mitigation system that would encourage property owners to retrofit existing structures to reduce future losses from natural disasters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that returning to the status quo is not sufficient in meeting the challenges of climate change and inequities in our society; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the federal government to outline strategies and actions to reduce the vulnerability of federal programs to the impacts of climate change and extreme weather; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the federal government to better align federal funding with local preparedness and resilience-building efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress to fully fund grant programs that help local governments prepare, respond and recover from climate change and extreme weather events and establish a preparedness and response fund to support local governments that are at the forefront of developing adaptive solutions; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to develop grant and technical assistance programs to enable communities to develop community energy transition plans that ensure the capability of cities to maintain critical energy and infrastructure during disruptions to local, regional or national energy infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to develop a national pilot project initiative to conduct detailed assessments and designs for resilient city energy system retrofit and redesign across a range of different regions and city sizes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal investments in communities must prioritize those communities that have been left behind and BIPOC communities, which have been disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change and COVID-19.
NLC RESOLUTION #11

SUPPORTING URGENT ACTION TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS AND
MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, climate change mitigation is a global problem that demands a global solution; and

WHEREAS, the Fourth National Climate Assessment reports that current evidence of climate change appears in every region and impacts are currently visible in every state, and concludes that the evidence of human-induced climate change continues to strengthen;\(^1\) and

WHEREAS, a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicates that limiting global warming to 1.5° C is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change;\(^2\) and

WHEREAS, extreme heat will have more serious health consequences on people living in low-income communities, communities of color, and tribal communities, and people in these communities have been disproportionately impacted by coronavirus and high rates of underlying health conditions, both of which can be exacerbated by extreme heat; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Lung Association’s 2021 State of the Air report, more than 40 percent or 135 million people live in counties with unhealthy air, which is especially concerning as research shows that people with long-term exposure to air pollution are more likely to die from COVID-19;\(^3\) and

WHEREAS, while some impacts of climate change are inevitable, sharp reductions in greenhouse gas emissions will reduce the severity of the impacts and limit the rate of climate change; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet the carbon emissions reductions goals necessary to help mitigate the effects of climate change on communities, improving energy efficiency, increasing energy conservation and deploying renewable energy systems will be essential at the local, state and federal levels; and

WHEREAS, improving energy efficiency, increasing energy conservation and deploying renewable energy systems will save taxpayer dollars, boost the national and local economy, enhance national security, increase our nation’s energy independence, and improve environmental quality; and

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\(^1\) National Climate Assessment (Volume I, 2017; Volume II, 2018), available at: https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/


\(^3\) “State of the Air,” American Lung Association (2021), available at: https://www.lung.org/research/sota/key-findings
WHEREAS, technology exists and continues to be developed that will help families, businesses and communities reduce energy use, but without standards to encourage adoption of new technology, many of these technology options will be unavailable or unaffordable; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector generates the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions, 29 percent of 2019 greenhouse gas emissions, in the United States;⁴ and

WHEREAS, buildings account for nearly 40 percent of the nation’s energy consumption⁵ and more than 70 percent of its electricity use,⁶ and electricity production represents the second largest share of greenhouse gas emissions, 25 percent of 2019 greenhouse gas emissions, in the United States;⁷ and

WHEREAS, indoor and outdoor lighting account for 6 percent of electricity consumed in the nation,⁸ and rapid conversion to efficient lighting would result in significant greenhouse gas reductions as well as a decrease in base load energy needs; and

WHEREAS, communities large and small nationwide are laboratories of innovation and are taking action on climate mitigation, including adopting greenhouse gas reduction goals, successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy solutions, and pursuing local strategies that create jobs, save energy and taxpayer dollars, and promote renewable sources; and

WHEREAS, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) helped local governments undertake projects to reduce energy use, diversify energy supplies and improve air quality and the environment; and

WHEREAS, all levels of government must work to become more resilient by achieving greater energy independence based on a multi-pronged strategy of aggressively expanding renewable energy, significantly increasing energy efficiency portfolio standards, and creating new financing mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 the President’s Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience, comprised of state, local and tribal leaders, including representatives from the National League of Cities (NLC), made recommendations to the President on ways the federal government can assist local efforts to address and prepare for the impacts of climate change; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to partner with local governments, to support local action on climate change mitigation, and to

⁵ U.S. Energy Information Administration, available at: http://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=86&t=1
provide essential tools, research, technology development, data, and funding, as well as workforce development, job training and community assistance, to help local governments achieve their greenhouse gas reduction targets and transition to a clean energy economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges Congress and the Administration to take urgent action to reduce carbon emissions across a broad sector of the economy and become carbon neutral to mitigate the effects of climate change; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress to position the U.S. as a climate leader and adopt nationwide greenhouse gas emission goals and policies that exceed the IPCC 1.5°C targets of 45% emissions reduction from 2010 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports the U.S.’s reengagement in the Paris Climate Agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports efforts to increase the CAFE standards or fuel efficiency for all types of vehicles; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress to pass energy efficiency and conservation legislation to incentivize energy efficiency improvements in residential and commercial buildings, schools and federal buildings located in communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress to pass a national renewable portfolio standard that increases the use of carbon neutral energy and promotes energy efficiency, with the goal of at least 50 percent carbon neutral energy by 2030 and 100 percent by 2050 or sooner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress to pass a long-term extension of the investment tax credit and the production tax credit for renewable energy as an incentive for their development and deployment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress to reauthorize and fully fund the EECBG or other funding structure at the U.S. Department of Energy to further incentivize clean energy at the local level; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal investments in communities must prioritize those communities that have been left behind and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) who have been disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change and COVID-19.
NLC RESOLUTION #12

ADDRESSING LEAD CONTAMINATION AND CALLING FOR NATIONWIDE FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

WHEREAS, access to clean drinking water is fundamental to the health and well-being of America’s communities and families; and

WHEREAS, Flint, Michigan, and Sebring, Ohio, are two recent examples of cities where high levels of lead have been found in the city’s drinking water; and

WHEREAS, in the early 2000s, the District of Columbia experienced a similar crisis, as have many other cities; and

WHEREAS, lead has negative and long-term neurological effects, particularly in infants and children; and

WHEREAS, in Flint, the elevated blood lead level was discovered in children after the city’s water source was switched to the Flint River by the state-appointed emergency manager, a decision made without coordination or consultation with local officials; and

WHEREAS, a contributing factor to the Flint, Michigan, drinking water crisis was the city’s aging infrastructure and the lack of investment in infrastructure and the community; and

WHEREAS, incidents like these can undermine citizens’ confidence in the safety and quality of the drinking water supply and water infrastructure of every community; and

WHEREAS, in January 2016, President Obama signed an emergency declaration in the State of Michigan, ordering federal aid to supplement state and local response efforts due to the emergency conditions caused by lead-contaminated water; and

WHEREAS, corrosion control and testing are essential to preventing lead leaching and alerting the public to potential dangers; and

WHEREAS, recent analysis by the National Resources Defense Council found that over 5,300 water systems nationwide have elevated levels of lead\(^1\) and a recent analysis by the American Water Works Association estimates 6.1 million lead service lines remain in U.S. communities, at an estimated $30 billion to replace;\(^2\) and

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WHEREAS, there is a need to invest in our aging water infrastructure nationwide and a failure to do so can have negative public health consequences; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates the nation’s water infrastructure capital needs over the next 20 years to be approximately $743 billion in total, the American Society for Civil Engineers estimates that over the next 20 years, the cumulative water and wastewater capital investment need will soar to $3.27 trillion and the cumulative capital investment gap will total $2.2 trillion, and other estimates put the cost at more than $4 trillion to maintain and build a 21st century water system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that local planning and infrastructure decisions, including those related to clean drinking water, should not be preempted and should be made by locally elected leaders in coordination with state and federal officials; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on Congress to provide direct assistance to the City of Flint, Michigan, and for EPA and the federal government to work directly with local officials, for as long as necessary, to resolve the drinking water crisis through the provision of safe drinking water and to support economic recovery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to provide long-term support for the families affected by lead drinking water contamination in Flint and nationwide, including in the areas of education and mental health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to support robust funding for all water infrastructure financing mechanisms, including the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund programs and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to support other mechanisms of infrastructure financing, including protecting the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds and reinstating the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to support grants to local governments, as well as school systems and daycare centers, for the replacement of lead service lines, testing, planning, corrosion control, and public education campaigns, and to assist small and disadvantaged communities in complying with the Safe Drinking Water Act.


WHEREAS, the nation’s water infrastructure systems, both built and natural, are significant assets that protect public health and the nation’s water resources and well-maintained systems are essential to our citizens’ general welfare and the nation’s prosperity; and

WHEREAS, with much of our nation’s physical water infrastructure built in the post-World War II period – and some of it more than 100 years old – there are an estimated 240,000 water main breaks each year;¹ and

WHEREAS, cities and towns nationwide are finding that decentralized water solutions such as water use efficiency measures and green stormwater installations can effectively and affordably serve many of the same functions as conventional water infrastructure and can supplement and extend their existing centralized systems;² and

WHEREAS, federal loan and grant assistance to cities and local governments to assist in maintaining and upgrading water infrastructure systems has continued to decline in real dollars over the past decades³; and

WHEREAS, local governments are responsible for the vast majority of investment in water and sewer infrastructure, investing over $1.7 trillion between 1956-2010⁴ (not adjusted for inflation) and over $134 billion in 2019 alone;⁵ and

WHEREAS, tax-exempt municipal bonds are the primary funding mechanism for state and local government infrastructure projects with three-quarters of the total United States investment in infrastructure being accomplished with tax-exempt financing; and

WHEREAS, an economic analysis by the American Society of Civil Engineers shows a water-related infrastructure investment gap of $434 billion over 10 years for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater combined;⁶ and

¹ 2019 Infrastructure Report Card, American Society of Civil Engineers, available at: https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/cat-item/drinking-water/
⁵ 2019 Annual Surveys of State and Local Government Finances, U.S. Census Bureau (October, 2021), available at: https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/gov-finances.html
WHEREAS, this funding gap does not include anticipated expenditures to comply with new Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, consent decrees, new responsibilities and costs relating to water security and source water protection, additional needs for re-use of treated effluent, or impacts due to climate change; and

WHEREAS, municipal resources dedicated to water infrastructure are currently overwhelmingly directed to comply with new complex federal mandates and are therefore unavailable for critical maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation needs; and

WHEREAS, public-private partnerships can provide options for communities to access sources of private capital to meet water infrastructure needs, but are not a viable for all communities or all types of projects; and

WHEREAS, private activity bonds or tax-exempt facility bonds are a form of tax-exempt financing that can be used for water infrastructure projects that utilize private capital instead of public debt and shift the risk and long-term obligation from the municipality to the private equity partner; and

WHEREAS, Congress provides to states a capped annual allocation (“volume cap”) of tax-exempt bonds, based on population, but historically, most of the tax-exempt bonds are issued to short-term projects such as housing and education loans; and

WHEREAS, Congress has previously enacted legislation eliminating the state volume cap for such municipal infrastructure projects such as airports, landfills, and ports; and

WHEREAS, eliminating the state volume cap is estimated to make available $5-6 billion in private capital for water projects, while the cost in foregone revenue to the federal government is nominal.7

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) continues to urge Congress and the Administration to reverse the decline in federal financial participation in funding municipal water infrastructure needs by developing a financial option that strikes the right balance between local responsibility and federal assistance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to support robust funding for water infrastructure financing through the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund programs and to reauthorize the programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should provide full appropriation to the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) for loans and loan guarantees for water infrastructure projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should provide funding to local governments through grant programs such as for sewer overflow and stormwater management, lead pipe

replacement, water infrastructure resilience/sustainability to protect and reduce risk to extreme
weather events, new/emerging technologies for cybersecurity improvements and water
efficiency, workforce development in the water sector, and other programs; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should exempt from federal taxation rebates
issued to consumers by local governments to pay for consumer-installed decentralized water
infrastructure that benefits their communities; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports legislation removing the federal volume
cap on tax-exempt bonds for water and wastewater infrastructure projects; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to support
other mechanisms of infrastructure financing, including protecting the tax-exempt status of
municipal bonds and reinstating the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the Administration should enact new
legislation which provides adequate and reliable long-term funding for municipal water
infrastructure needs to help close the funding gap.
NLC RESOLUTION #14

SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATED PLANNING AND NEW AFFORDABILITY CONSIDERATION FOR WATER

WHEREAS, in 2012 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework (“Integrated Planning Framework”), which was intended to help local governments seek more efficient and affordable solutions to stormwater and wastewater issues and meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act (CWA) in a more flexible, affordable, and cost-effective manner; and

WHEREAS, in 2014 EPA issued its Financial Capability Assessment Framework for Municipal Clean Water Act Requirements (“Financial Capability Framework”), which allows the consideration of additional information, such as socio-economic factors, in determining the financial capability of residents and a community when developing compliance schedules for municipal projects necessary to meet CWA obligations; and

WHEREAS, these two policy frameworks demonstrate an awareness by EPA of the challenges local governments face in meeting CWA requirements, as well as the conflicts they face in balancing environmental protection with economic feasibility; and

WHEREAS, at a time where local financial resources are increasingly limited and the ability of local governments to raise revenue is also limited, local governments are facing costly unfunded federal and state regulatory requirements forcing them to make tough decisions about the services and maintenance that they can afford; and

WHEREAS, proposed federal budget cuts to critical local programs would further reduce the ability of cities and towns to meet the everyday needs of their community; and

WHEREAS, local water and sewer rates and stormwater fees are rapidly becoming unaffordable for many fixed- and low-income citizens, placing a disproportionate financial burden on these vulnerable populations who live at or below the poverty level; and

WHEREAS, the current reliance on two percent of median household income for wastewater and combined sewer overflows controls is a misleading indicator of a community’s ability to pay, and often places a particularly high burden on residents at the lower end of the economic scale; and

WHEREAS, green infrastructure, such as constructed swales, wetlands, green roofs, infiltration planters, rain gardens, cisterns, and enhanced floodplains and riparian buffers, augmented by permeable pavers, rain barrels, and trees, is a valuable part of water infrastructure systems and provides a multitude of community benefits such as helping local governments manage runoff, extending the life of local infrastructure, saving the city and taxpayers money, providing outdoor recreation opportunities through parks and green spaces and promoting the joint use of city and school facilities, and serve as an economic development tool; and
WHEREAS, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits are increasingly stringent, the treatment technologies and approaches necessary to meet permit limits have become exceedingly expensive and time-intensive to implement, and project construction timelines for clean water infrastructure projects can extend more than a decade.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on EPA to work with local governments to develop local integrated plans through the permit process to comprehensively and collectively manage wastewater and stormwater needs, prioritize investments in wet weather overflows and flooding, incorporate green infrastructure components, and to ease the burden of unfunded mandates; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on EPA to share integrated planning best management practices, including those that take a regional watershed approach, from across the country with all communities that are interested in pursuing an integrated planning approach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress to modernize the NPDES permitting process to approve legislation to allow states with delegated authority to administer the NPDES permitting program to issue permits of up to ten years; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on EPA to work with local governments to revise the “Combined Sewer Overflows—Guidance for Financial Capability Assessment and Schedule Development” (Feb. 1997) to eliminate reliance on median household income as the critical metric for determining investment level and to allow for the consideration of additional information, such as socio-economic factors, consistent with the Agency’s 2014 Financial Capability Framework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the federal government to explore options for providing ratepayer assistance, such as through a consumer assistance program modeled on the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.
NLC RESOLUTION #15

CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION TO ADDRESS PFAS CONTAMINATION

WHEREAS, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of nearly 5,000 man-made chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, PFBS and GenX manufactured and used in a variety of industries; and

WHEREAS, PFAS chemicals are known as “forever” chemicals because they are persistent in the environment and in the human body; and

WHEREAS, PFAS chemicals have been known to cause adverse health outcomes in humans including effects on prenatal development, low infant birth weights, early onset of puberty, negative effect on the immune system, cancer, liver damage, and thyroid disruption; and

WHEREAS, while science predicts that the entire class of PFAS chemical may be associated with adverse health effects and many such chemicals are in industrial and commercial use, only a small fraction of these chemicals have been investigated sufficiently to establish quantitative measures of toxicity; and

WHEREAS, in 2016 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a lifetime exposure health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion for the combined concentration of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry released a draft report warning that PFAS chemicals could pose a health risk at levels lower than currently recommended by the EPA; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 EPA announced a comprehensive nationwide action plan for addressing PFAS, including identifying both short-term solutions for addressing these chemicals and long-term strategies that will help states, tribes and local communities provide clean and safe drinking water to residents and address PFAS at the source – before it gets into the water; and

WHEREAS, in February 2020 EPA issued a proposed regulatory determination to regulate PFOS and PFOA, the first step in the regulatory process of setting a Maximum Contaminant Level under the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

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1 Fact Sheet: PFOA & PFOS Drinking Water Health Advisories, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Nov. 2016); available at: https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories_pfoa_pfos_updated_5.31.16.pdf
2 Ibid
WHEREAS, there are significant technical challenges in detecting and measuring PFAS in water and other environmental media at the levels where health effects can occur, and analytical methodologies are still under development or are not yet generally available; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Working Group and the Social Science Environmental Health Research Institute at Northeastern University updated an interactive map of known contamination of communities from PFAS; and

WHEREAS, as of March 2019, the interactive map shows at least 610 locations in 43 states are known to be contaminated, including drinking water systems serving an estimated 19 million people;⁵ and

WHEREAS, in February 2019, EPA and United States Geological Survey scientists published results on analysis for 17 PFAS compounds in water samples from 25 public drinking water supplies in 24 states (locations confidential) that detected PFAS in every sample tested, suggesting that PFAS is ubiquitous in our water;⁶ and

WHEREAS, PFAS chemicals were widely used in firefighting foams, particularly for airports, and were used in frequent training exercises at military air bases; and

WHEREAS, PFAS chemicals were required in firefighting foams used at airports to meet federal performance standards for extinguishing agents, but currently the Federal Aviation Administration is updating its standards to allow for a non-fluorinated option for airports; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Defense has ended its use of the foam in training exercises; and

WHEREAS, PFAS contamination is found at and around military bases, airports, manufacturing sites, landfills, and in local water supplies obtained from both rivers and groundwater; and

WHEREAS, local governments are responsible for protecting the health, safety and welfare of residents, including providing clean and safe water; and

WHEREAS, while treatment technology for removing PFAS from water is not well-developed, the more effective methods use technologies that are not conventionally available in existing water treatment plants, so removing these PFAS chemicals from water could require costly investments by local governments and other local water suppliers, which would be passed onto ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, local governments are owners and operators of airports and landfills and employ firefighters, some of whom may have been exposed to PFAS chemicals on the job through

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⁵ EWG: PFAS Chemicals Must be Regulated as a Class, Not One by One (May 6, 2019), available at: https://www.ewg.org/release/mapping-pfas-contamination-crisis-new-data-show-610-sites-43-states

inhalation or skin absorption, and therefore present a pension and liability concern for local
budgets; and

WHEREAS, PFAS contamination not only poses health risks, but also economic impacts on
communities, including in the agriculture and fishing industries by contamination of food
sources; and

WHEREAS, a number of states have adopted PFAS policies pertaining to prohibiting use,
monitoring and reporting, cleanup, health studies, testing, liability provisions, and contamination
limits, including Michigan, New Jersey and Vermont that have set maximum contamination
levels lower than EPA health advisory levels;⁷ and

WHEREAS, a number of bills have been introduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives
and U.S. Senate to survey, regulate, mitigate and phaseout the use of PFAS.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on
Congress and the Administration to holistically examine PFAS contamination and to take
comprehensive action to address the problem, including through nationwide testing, monitoring,
mapping, public education, and water supply treatment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the federal government to ensure that the
parties responsible for PFAS contamination, including the federal government but excluding
local governments, are held fully liable for costs of cleanup and mitigation and to ensure that
sites are cleaned up in a timely manner and to standards sufficiently stringent to permit reuse of
the site and to obviate the need for additional cleanup and mitigation costs by affected local
governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local governments, including municipal airports and fire
departments, were required by federal law to use firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals,
and therefore should not be held liable for PFAS contamination or cleanup costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local governments, including drinking water and
wastewater utilities and municipal landfills, serve as receivers of PFAS chemicals and did not
cause or contribute to contamination, and therefore should not be held liable for PFAS
contamination or cleanup costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the federal government to accelerate
research and technology development to advance the science needed to understand the health
consequences of exposure to PFAS chemicals, detect and measure PFAS chemicals in water and
other environmental media, treat water supplies to remove these substances, and find safe
substitutes for PFAS chemicals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the federal government to set drinking water
standards, including for PFAS chemicals, based on sound science, public health protection,

⁷ States Forge Ahead with PFAS Regulations, PoliticoPro Datapoint on Energy (Feb. 28, 2019)
occurrence of the contaminant in drinking water supplies at levels of public health concern, risk
reduction and cost; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls for the federal government to avoid passing
costs onto local ratepayers and to provide financial and technical assistance to communities for
testing, monitoring, mapping, public education, water supply treatment, and pursuit of alternative
water supplies if necessary; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the federal government to prevent further
exposure to PFAS through multiple means, including promoting and funding the development
and use of firefighting alternatives and the phasing out the use of PFAS; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government should thoroughly study and test
alternative PFAS and other long-chain chemicals before they are put into circulation to make
sure they are safe; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC should update the “Assessing the State Firefighter
Cancer Presumption Laws and Current Cancer Firefighter Cancer Research” that it conducted in
2009 to determine what linkages there are between firefighting and an elevated incidence of
cancer.
NLC RESOLUTION #16

IMPROVE THE BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS AND SUPPORTING BENEFICIAL REUSE OF DREDGED MATERIAL

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) at the U.S. Department of Defense has responsibilities for development and maintenance of waterways and harbors and for other water resource projects across the nation, and is the primary federal agency associated with the design and construction of flood damage reduction projects across the country; and

WHEREAS, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) works with the Army Corps to determine what water resource projects are funded with the budget allocation for the Army Corps enacted by Congress each year; and

WHEREAS, the Army Corps and OMB rely heavily on a benefit-cost analysis to determine which projects receive federal funding each year; and

WHEREAS, since Congress traditionally provides the Army Corps with far fewer resources than are necessary to fund the significant backlog of projects under their jurisdiction, the benefit-cost analysis has become a de facto filter for the Army Corps and OMB; and

WHEREAS, as a result, projects that have a benefit-cost ratio below a certain level are often not considered for funding at all; and

WHEREAS, the current system used by the Army Corps for determining benefit-cost ratios is narrowly focused on traditional economic and financial costs and benefits, largely overlooking environmental costs and benefits, social equity and potential for secondary benefits of interest to local communities; and

WHEREAS, the current system used by the Army Corps for determining benefit-cost ratios does not effectively reflect the potential value of projects for low-income communities, including the benefits of replacement of structures that protect low-income, low-cost of living communities; and

WHEREAS, the current system used by the Army Corps for determining benefit-cost ratios does not adequately consider the impacts of the loss of a community’s livelihood associated with agricultural land; and

WHEREAS, the current system used by the Army Corps for determining benefit-cost ratio at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not consider the value of federal lands; and

WHEREAS, dredged materials produced from Army Corps waterway and harbor maintenance activities may be suitable for beneficial reuse, but often are disposed as waste; and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of sediment available for the habitat restoration and flood protection needed along our coasts and waterways.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the White House Office of Management and Budget to revise the benefit-cost analysis system used for projects to reflect the values of the nation to protect communities from flooding in ways that are environmentally protective and foster social equity;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the Army Corps and OMB to add a quantitative indexed value to life and safety to determine the benefit of federal investments in flood control projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the Army Corps and OMB to add a quantitative indexed value to agricultural land value and the impacts of crop flooding to determine the benefit of federal investments in flood control projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the Army Corps and OMB to add a quantitative indexed value to protection of low-income communities and environmental benefits to determine the benefit of federal investments in water resources projects, including projects for flood control; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the Army Corps and OMB to add a quantitative indexed value to potential benefits of projects on federal properties, as well as benefits to military readiness when developing coastal storm protection projects in the adjacent community;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the Army Corps to increase the quantity of dredged materials put to environmentally beneficial uses, especially related to marsh restoration and sea level rise protection, by allowing a national beneficial reuse policy that considers dredged materials to be a potential resource (instead of a waste product) and establishes a realistic economic value of environmentally-suitable dredged material that takes into account its use for storm or flood risk reduction and habitat restoration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cost of offshore disposal of dredged materials should include the full future economic value of that sediment that would be lost if it is deposited offshore.
NLC RESOLUTION #17

INCREASE FUNDING FOR BORDER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

WHEREAS, international transboundary rivers on the southern border of the United States are a major source of sewage, trash, chemicals, heavy metals and toxins; and

WHEREAS, transboundary flows threaten the health of 18 million residents in the United States and Mexico, harm important estuarine land and water of international significance, force closure of beaches, damage farmland, compromise border security, and directly affect U.S. military readiness; and

WHEREAS, a significant amount of untreated sewage, sediment, hazardous chemicals and trash have entered United States waters, via the Tijuana and New Rivers in southern California, the Santa Cruz and San Pedro Rivers in Arizona and the Rio Grande in Texas, eventually draining into coastal waterways, waterbodies and inland waters, such as the Salton Sea; and

WHEREAS, the presence of pollution on state and federal public lands is creating unsafe conditions for visitors and residents—these lands are taxpayer supported and intended to be managed for recreation, resource conservation and the enjoyment by the public, and

WHEREAS, the current insufficient and degrading infrastructure in the border zone poses a significant risk to the public health and safety of residents and the environment on both sides of the border, and places the economic stress on cities that are struggling to mitigate the negative impacts of pollution; and

WHEREAS, the 1944 treaty between the United States and Mexico regarding Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande allocates flows on transborder rivers between Mexico and the United States, and provides that the nations, through their respective sections of the International Boundary Water Commission shall give control of sanitation in cross border flows the highest priority; and

WHEREAS, in 1993, the United States and Mexico entered into the Agreement Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States Concerning the Establishment of a North American Development Bank which created the North American Development Bank (NADB) to certify and fund environmental infrastructure projects in border-area communities; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2018 the United States, Mexico and Canada entered into the Agreement Between The United States of America, The United Mexican States, And Canada to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement, and on December 10, 2019 the United States, Mexico and Canada agreed to a protocol of amendment to the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which became effective in the United States on January 29, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the implementing language of USMCA authorizes and allocates funding for grants under the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP), the Trade Enforcement Trust Fund and recapitalization of the NADB; and
WHEREAS, the funding package included $300 million to be available to address the problem of toxic sewage flowing from the Tijuana River watershed; and

WHEREAS, the increase in commerce and traffic across the border has resulted in economic benefits for both the U.S. and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the ease of trade and commerce has resulted in increased vehicle and factory emissions, which negatively impact the water quality, land quality and air quality of the areas along the southern border; and

WHEREAS, border communities need modernized and innovative water infrastructure to provide clean and sanitary drinking water to improve the quality of living and support the expanding communities; and

WHEREAS, the adverse environmental impact will worsen existing environmental issues and the strain on aging infrastructure, while also creating new environmental issues in the future; and

WHEREAS, the widespread threat to public health and safety, damage to fish and wildlife resources and degradation to the environment caused by transboundary pollution in the border states requires urgent action by the federal and state governments; and

WHEREAS, Congress authorized funding under the Safe Drinking Water Act and established the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) program for the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program in 1996 to provide grants for high-priority water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure projects within 100 kilometers of the southern border; and

WHEREAS, the EPA administers the STAG and BWIP, and coordinates with the NADB to allocate BWIP grant funds to projects in the border zone; and

WHEREAS, since its inception, the BWIP has provided funding for projects in California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas that would not have been constructed without the grant program; and

WHEREAS, the BWIP program was initially funded at $100 million per year, but, over the last 20 years, the program has been significantly reduced to $15 million in FY19 and $25 million in FY20; and

WHEREAS, in its FY 2021 Budget Request, the Administration proposed to eliminate the BWIP program and recommends that state revolving funds be used as a source of infrastructure funding; and

WHEREAS, officials from EPA Region 6 and 9 identified a multitude of BWIP-eligible projects along the southern border totaling over $300 million; and

WHEREAS, Mexico has identified multiple projects totaling hundreds of millions of dollars that would benefit from BWIP funding; and
WHEREAS, without federal partnership through the BWIP and state support to address pollution, cities that are impacted by transboundary sewage and toxic waste flows are left with limited resources to address a critical pollution and public health issue and limited legal remedies to address the problem; and

WHEREAS, Mexico benefits from the bi-national funding program and relies on the North American Development Bank to assist in funding projects on the Mexico side of the border, which have an immediate and long-term environmental impact along the border in the U.S. due to the upstream, transboundary flows of the major rivers; and

WHEREAS, local governments and the public support the State’s primary objectives in complying with environmental laws including the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act, and their state law analogues, and are supported by substantial public investments at all levels of government to maintain a healthy and sustainable environment for the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities urges the Federal government to continue to fund the Border Water Infrastructure Program, and to recommit to working bi-nationally to develop and implement long-term solutions to address serious water quality and contamination issues, such as discharges of untreated sewage and polluted sediment and trash-laden transboundary flows originating from Mexico, that result in significant health, environmental, and safety concerns of affected communities.
NLC RESOLUTION #18

SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

WHEREAS, local leaders have a strong commitment to ensuring that our citizens have access to clean and reliable drinking water and wastewater systems; and

WHEREAS, local leaders have an obligation to protect public health, to use limited public resources in the most efficient manner possible, and to promote economic development; and

WHEREAS, local public and private engineers and water professionals also have an obligation to protect public health, to use limited public resources in the most efficient manner possible, and to promote economic development; and

WHEREAS, there are efforts at the federal level and in various states that would undermine these goals, supersede engineering judgment and impose new mandates on local communities; and

WHEREAS, the design of drinking water and wastewater systems is an inherently local process and local communities are in the best position to select infrastructure materials, as each community’s needs are unique; and

WHEREAS, infrastructure materials all have different service lives, durability, reliability, economic, health and safety characteristics and engineers and communities need to retain local control to select infrastructure materials based on factors important to the local community; and

WHEREAS, communities should remain free to adopt system-wide best management practices and uniform design specifications in the development and maintenance of their water systems to maximize efficiency and control costs; and

WHEREAS, restricting local control increases costs, interferes with sound engineering judgment, limits the ability of communities to manage their systems as efficiently as possible and delays projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) supports local control of drinking water and wastewater systems and the ability of local governments to make water infrastructure decisions based on engineering and design, not solely based on cost; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC opposes federal and state policies that mandate, or in any way promote, material preferences or otherwise undermine local autonomy for local water and wastewater infrastructure systems.
Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

Community and Economic Development Federal Advocacy Committee

CED
Proposed Policy Amendments

Only sections of the *NLC National Municipal Policy (NMP)* where modifications are proposed are reproduced in this report. The complete text of the current *NMP*, divided into seven policy chapters, can be found at [nlc.org/national-municipal-policy](http://nlc.org/national-municipal-policy)

Please note:
- Proposed new language is underlined;
- Proposed language for deletion is struck out; and
- Existing, unchanged language is shown as plain text.

**POLICY:**

- **Section 3.04 Economic Development**
  - C. Recommended Federal Actions
- **Section 3.06 Housing**
  - C. Recommended Federal Actions
Section 3.04 Economic Development

C. Recommended Federal Actions

1. Overarching Themes Regarding Economic Development

[no change]

2. Federal Economic Development Programs and Tools

NLC supports federal economic development tools as critical investments necessary for local and regional economic growth and increased employment. The strategy’s intended outcome is to create economic growth, income, and security for all.

The federal government must provide financial assistance to promote local economic development. It must facilitate, but not unilaterally initiate, successful economic development activities at the state, regional, or local levels. Federal programs to promote economic development must satisfy the following criteria:

- Federal funds must be distributed directly to cities in a reliable and timely manner and made available for a project’s reasonable duration;
- Local governments must be able to use the federal funds in a flexible manner, accommodating unique regional and local circumstances;
- Federal application and reporting procedures must not be burdensome to local governments. The federal government must streamline the process, harmonize conflicting rules, and standardize eligibility and application requirements across programs and agencies; Programs must focus on attracting, retaining, and growing local business; and
- Economic development tools must be carefully designed to ensure that they achieve productive results and are not mere windfalls.

NLC supports long-term, direct federal funding to cities provided through various programs, such as:

- Community Development Block Grant;
- HOME Investment Partnerships Program;
- Workforce Investment Act (WIA);
- Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century (TEA-21);
- Economic Development Initiative (EDI);
- Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works program; and
- Renewal Communities, Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities program (RZ/EZ/EC).

Section 3.06 Housing

C. Recommended Federal Actions

1. Overarching Themes and Definitions

[no change]

2. Funding Streams

d. Tax Policies to Promote Affordable Housing
Proposed Policy Amendments

ii. Tax Reform Act of 1986

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 reduced the incentives for creating and rehabilitating affordable housing, and it also disrupted a number of agreements for existing low-income housing. NLC supports:

- Repeal of all retroactive provisions pertaining to low-income housing which have a negative impact on such housing; and
- Reestablishment of pre-1986 accelerated depreciation measures for low-income housing.
NLC RESOLUTION #19: Supporting a Federal Agenda for Local Economic Development, Economic Mobility, and Entrepreneurship

NLC RESOLUTION #20: Urging the Development of Criteria for Neighborhood Preference as an Anti-Displacement Tool

NLC RESOLUTION #21: Urging the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to Enact Safeguards Against Abuses in Contracts for Deeds

NLC RESOLUTION #22: Supporting the Need for Public Transparency Surrounding Installation Scoring from Past Rounds of Base Realignment and Closure

NLC RESOLUTION #23: Supporting a National Agenda for U.S. Housing Investment and Opportunity

NLC RESOLUTION #24: Endorsing the Recommendations of NLC’s National Housing Task Force Report “Homeward Bound, The Road to Affordable Housing”
NLC RESOLUTION #19

SUPPORTING A FEDERAL AGENDA FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC MOBILITY, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

WHEREAS, cities are the engine of our nation’s economy. From infrastructure like roads and water to parks and libraries, to workforce development centers and business support, to law enforcement and emergency services; cities create the conditions that drive new business, spur innovation, and attract talent and investment; and

WHEREAS, NLC’s indicates America’s cities and towns are prioritizing economic recovery and addressing declines related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has an essential role to play – in cooperation with local leaders – to help address the social, economic and fiscal challenges weighing on the nation’s cities; and

WHEREAS, local entrepreneurs and small businesses lead a majority of economic growth and are essential stakeholders in the success of neighborhoods, help create a community’s sense of place, and serve as a vital link to connect communities to the larger, global economy; and

WHEREAS, successful neighborhood revitalization requires effective plans for both community development and economic development; and

WHEREAS, the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), a landmark civil rights law passed in 1977 to end discrimination in America’s banking and housing markets, remains a critical tool for both community and economic development that ensures regulated financial institutions have continuing and affirmative obligations to help meet the credit needs of the local communities in which they are chartered; and

WHEREAS, working with Congress, the President has an opportunity to partner with local officials to renew and reinvigorate federal economic development policies and programs that local entrepreneurs have increasingly been unable to access; and

WHEREAS, in many cases federal programs and policies created in response to the great recession have remained static and increasingly inaccessible or irrelevant to small businesses and local entrepreneurs at the center of today’s urban growth and revitalization; and

WHEREAS, high federal regulatory barriers to accessing capital in both public programs and the private market are one reason why racial and ethnic wealth gaps have grown since the great recession (Pew); and

WHEREAS, NLC supported the formation of the bipartisan House Entrepreneurship Caucus, which will serve as a forum for policy discussions and collaboration to address the most pressing issues facing entrepreneurs throughout the country. The caucus will seek to analyze new business
formation trends and form a wide-ranging strategy to boost entrepreneurship growth, ensuring new business ventures continue to create jobs and drive innovation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC urges federal investment and support for economic mobility and opportunity, regional economic development, local entrepreneurship, community banking and community development financial institutions, and direct federal investment in distressed and underserved communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports the bipartisan House and Senate Entrepreneurship Caucuses and urges growth in their membership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government can make an immediate and enormously positive impact on local economies by acting on the following five areas:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 1.) that NLC urges federal lawmakers to help local entrepreneurs by supporting policies that result in a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurship. To that end, Congress should:
- Create an Entrepreneurs Extension Partnership to connect startups with the basic resources needed to create and grow their businesses locally.
- Establish an Office of Entrepreneurship within the Small Business Administration to broaden eligibility for SBA support beyond the types of businesses traditionally supported.
- Launch a network of non-equity based, “revenue first” accelerators for new businesses that fall within a grey area where they are too risky for traditional banks and not risky enough for venture capitalists.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 2.) that NLC urges the federal government improve equity and economic mobility by modernizing the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) to increase public accountability of banks to serve every community. To that end, federal regulators should:
- Update CRA assessment areas to include areas with considerable bank lending and deposit gathering outside of bank branch networks.
- Improve public data around community development lending and investments in order to provide greater clarity to lenders about what qualifies for CRA and to help identify areas around the country in need of greater community development lending and investing.
- Federal regulators should not adopt a one-ratio or single-metric approach to CRA exams and should not adjust bank asset thresholds solely for making exams easier for banks to pass, or otherwise dilute attention to LMI borrowers and communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 3.) that NLC urges federal lawmakers to increase the pace of economic development by continuing on the path of regulatory reform that reduces barriers to development. To that end, Congress should:
- Establish a shot-clock on federal agencies making rulings and determinations on local governments to expedite the federal decision-making processes; and to provide for the certainty that project partners and project finance require; and
- Appoint an independent Intergovernmental Ombudsman at each cabinet level agency to serve as point of contact for state and local elected officials and serve as a facilitator at
times of intergovernmental impasse; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 4.) that NLC urges federal lawmakers make economic mobility a federal priority. To that end, Congress should:

- Restore full funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program, which serves as the first line of defense against local neighborhood decline and has been the bridge for countless families to the middle class; and
- Authorize significant annual increases in funding for economic development grants for cities and towns through the U.S. Economic Development Administration; and
- Enact the broadest possible definition of economic development to permit EDA grant funding for innovative programs at the intersection of economic development and education, workforce, and infrastructure; and
- Elevate the office of Economic Development Integration at U.S. EDA to fill the role of central integrator of all federal economic development programs across federal agencies to streamline and simplify city access to those programs; and
- Support greater offerings of technical assistance and capacity building at federal agencies tasked with economic development, including HUD, EDA, and USDA, for small and mid-sized cities and towns to create and fill economic development positions within municipal governments – or to support NGO partners assisting local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 5.) that NLC urges federal lawmakers remain focused on workforce development. Specifically, Congress should:

- Create a workforce planning and development grant jointly administered by the U.S. Departments of Commerce, HUD, and Labor to help cities create a streamlined workforce plan to foster economic mobility by focusing on the education, apprenticeship, and housing needs of those seeking to move up the income ladder; and
- Support federal programs and efforts, such as ban the box initiatives, that assist with reintegration of ex-offenders into the workforce, and that ensure applicants with a criminal history have a fair opportunity to compete for Federal jobs.
NLC RESOLUTION #20

URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PREFERENCE AS AN ANTI-DISPLACEMENT TOOL

WHEREAS, federal Fair Housing Act does not allow for any lender, landlord, or housing provider to institute policies or practices that could negatively affect a protected class (race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, and familial status); and

WHEREAS, many cities have the affirmative duty to further the Fair Housing Act which includes but not limited to anti-displacement mechanisms; and

WHEREAS, many cities have communities with diverse population of many races, colors, and national origin who have often chosen to live in communities that are like their own race, color, or national origin; and

WHEREAS, in many cities, certain communities, primarily communities of color, are facing gentrification leading to displacement of longtime residents to less desirable areas of the city or displaced entirely from the community; and

WHEREAS, in many communities facing gentrification by market and unaffordable housing, the only source of new housing affordable to the low-income residents is government subsidized housing; and

WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act does not allow any preference to be given to residents of gentrifying communities being displaced upon the construction of a new housing affordable to low-income residents of that community; and

WHEREAS, if the residents could have preference to these better and safer affordable housing structures recently developed in their communities, the residents would be able to vacate the deteriorating structures which are the only ones they can afford, allowing for the redevelopment of the properties; and

WHEREAS, cities have a legitimate interest in protecting long-term residents as long-term residents are often engaged positively in the community, provide community stability, and stability often lends to less crime; and

WHEREAS, neighborhood/community preference is a very powerful anti-displacement tool which operation (interpretation) of the Fair Housing Act has taken away from municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC urges the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) to give municipalities guidance as to how a Fair Housing marketing plan can be set up with a neighborhood preference that will be acceptable to the department; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that such guidance can include demographic parameters such as percentage of minorities in a neighborhood, percentage of displacement over the last five years, fair market rent as a percentage of low-income residents and a percentage limit of the local preference.
NLC RESOLUTION #21

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)
TO ENACT SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ABUSES IN CONTRACTS FOR DEEDS

WHEREAS, the subprime home mortgage crisis damaged housing affordability across the
country and caused disproportionate harm in African-American communities, resulting in the
loss of forty percent of non-home-equity wealth. Moreover, home-equity wealth, which dropped
nineteen percent during the crisis, has declined by an additional thirteen percent in the years
since the crisis; and

WHEREAS, over three million families have entered into a Contract for Deed to purchase a
home due to the inaccessibility of the traditional mortgage market; and

WHEREAS, a Contract for Deed is a seller finance method to purchase a home where the seller
retains the legal title to the property until the homebuyer finishes paying all principal payments
and interest owed under the contract. Contracts for Deeds are principally used by low-income
homebuyers who are unable to obtain a traditional mortgage or financing because of poor credit
ratings, inadequate income or other issues; and

WHEREAS, bad actors can abuse Contracts for Deeds to allow the seller to avoid health and
safety regulations, and crucial repairs to the property, while transferring the burden of property
taxes, property insurance, and repairs to the homebuyer; and

WHEREAS, in comparison to renting, the homebuyer must pay more per month for the property
under Contracts for Deeds, make a larger upfront payment, and take better care of the premises,
because the homebuyer is working toward ownership. However, sellers that abuse Contract for
Deeds rarely end up transferring the title to the prospective homebuyer; and

WHEREAS, Contracts for Deeds are often consummated between the homebuyer and the seller
without the benefit of a title search and title insurance, government regulatory protections and
standardized legal documents in many states including Texas, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota,
West Virginia, South Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, and Florida; and

WHEREAS, the proliferation and abuse of Contracts for Deeds presents the risk of creating yet
another large drain on African-American wealth comparable in impact to the housing finance
abuses that brought about the 2007-2009 subprime crisis; and

WHEREAS, the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, a constituency group of the
National League of Cities, has endorsed this resolution; and also, strongly condemns the use of
Contracts for Deeds to exploit low-income homebuyers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities urges the U.S.
Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and
the Rural Housing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to enact regulations and
safeguards against predatory uses of Contracts for Deeds, and to protect consumers from the practice of using Contracts for Deeds to unjustly evict families from their homes.
NLC RESOLUTION #22

SUPPORTING THE NEED FOR PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY SURROUNDING INSTALLATION SCORING FROM PAST ROUNDS OF BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE

WHEREAS, the strength of the United States Armed Services is a matter of critical national security; and

WHEREAS, the communities surrounding the military installations throughout the United States have a symbiotic relationship with the installations; and

WHEREAS, communities are engaging in efforts to build collaborative networks to support the needs of active duty and transitioning military personnel, their families, Veterans, and members of the reserve and National Guard through Community Veteran Engagement Boards (CVEBs), Points of Light Foundation’s Community Blueprint program, and the U.S. Department of Defense’s Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program; and

WHEREAS, realignment and closure of those installations will have a significant economic effect upon the communities surrounding the installations; and

WHEREAS, previous rounds of base realignment and closure resulted in installations and the surrounding communities being scored on specific criteria; and

WHEREAS, providing communities surrounding military installations with scoring criteria and prioritization from previous rounds of base realignment and closure will assist them in making necessary changes to better prepare their communities against potential closure of an adjacent installation; and

WHEREAS, 52 cities that are a part of NLC’s Military Communities Council (MCC) represent the communities adjacent to military installations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges Congress and the Department of Defense to provide the criteria and scoring of installations and surrounding communities from previous rounds of base realignment and closure to allow communities to better prepare themselves against potential closure of the installation and to work closely with the installations to improve low scoring criteria.
SUPPORTING A NATIONAL AGENDA FOR U.S. HOUSING INVESTMENT AND OPPORTUNITY

WHEREAS, America’s cities are the strength of the nation – communities of neighborhoods where people live, work, learn, and play; and

WHEREAS, every American deserves a decent home in a suitable living environment with adequate financial stability to maintain it; and

WHEREAS, affordable housing contributes to the economic vitality of our communities and local economic regions as a vehicle for creating jobs and increasing municipal tax bases; and

WHEREAS, there is an irreplaceable role for the federal government in addressing our nation’s housing needs; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that inadequate housing is linked to issues including unemployment, rising health care costs, public safety challenges, and poor academic performance; and

WHEREAS, the demand for affordable housing far outpaces the supply in the United States, as wages have not kept pace with rising home values over the period following the subprime mortgage crisis; and

WHEREAS, data shows that in no state, metropolitan area, or county can a worker earning the federal minimum wage or prevailing state minimum wage afford a two-bedroom rental home at fair market rent by working a standard 40-hour week; and

WHEREAS, three out of four households eligible for federal housing assistance receive none; and

WHEREAS, on any given night, there are in excess of 560,000 Americans experiencing homelessness, meaning they are sleeping outside, in an emergency shelter, or in a transitional housing program; and

WHEREAS, NLC supports the bipartisan coalition “MAYORS AND CEOS FOR US HOUSING INVESTMENT”, and welcomes all city leaders and CEOs to consider joining the coalition as common stakeholders in expanding housing opportunities and ending homelessness; and

WHEREAS, NLC supports the national, multi-sector housing campaign “OPPORTUNITY STARTS AT HOME”, a long-term, multi-sector campaign to meet the rental housing needs of the nation’s lowest income people.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC urges the President and Congress to work with city leaders to end homelessness and ensure that the lowest-income and most vulnerable households have the opportunity for safe, decent, affordable housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges Congress to bridge the funding gap between rents and income for extremely low-income households through rental assistance programs, including supporting a mechanism to address the acceptance of federal rental assistance vouchers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to work with local governments to expand the stock of affordable housing and workforce housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges Congress to restore and improve funding for neighborhood and household stabilization to provide emergency assistance to avert housing instability, homelessness, and neighborhood decline.
ENDORSING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF NLC’S NATIONAL HOUSING TASK FORCE REPORT “HOMeward Bound, THE Road TO AFFORDable HOUSING”

WHEREAS, in cities, towns, and villages across the country, demand for affordable housing is far outpacing supply. According to property data provider Attom Data, home prices are rising faster than wages in 80% of U.S. markets. And according to the National Low Income Housing Coalitions annual report on housing affordability, Out of Reach, there is no county in America where a renter working 40 hours a week, and earning minimum wage, can afford a two-bedroom apartment without spending more than 30% of their income on housing; and

WHEREAS, unmet demand for safe, healthy, affordable housing is reaching crisis levels for local governments in both urban and rural areas. According to the Housing Assistance Council, of the nation’s most rural counties, none with towns of more than 10,000 residents, approximately one quarter have seen a sizeable increase in the number of households this decade spending at least half their income on housing; and

WHEREAS, in response to the housing crisis, former Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, Gary, Indiana, announced the formation of the National Housing Task Force in November 2018, under the leadership of chair Muriel Bowser, mayor of Washington, D.C.; and

WHEREAS, the National Housing Task Force was comprised of 18 local elected officials representing a diversity of city sizes, geography, and market types - plus the executive directors of two state municipal leagues. The task force was charged to develop a set of policy recommendations for local governments and the federal government; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Task Force developed a federal/local housing platform consisting of five policy recommendations for the federal government, and five policy recommendations for local governments; and

WHEREAS, the National Housing Task Force Housing released the report Homeward Bound: The Road to Affordable Housing. The report is a call for action on the ten federal/local policy recommendations based on evidence that housing stability is a prerequisite for economic mobility, job security, and health and well-being.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities congratulates and applauds the members of the National Housing Task Force for their work and participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National League of Cities endorses the findings and recommendations of NLC’s National Housing Task Force Report “Homeward Bound, the Road to Affordable Housing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National League of Cities urges federal lawmakers to advance the following five priorities:

1. Immediately stabilize and stem the loss of public and affordable housing.
2. Enact a long-term housing bill that provides ten years of funding certainty for pilot programs advancing housing for all.

3. Support innovation and modernization of land-use and planning at the local and regional level.

4. Fix inequities in housing development and the housing finance system.

5. Support scalable innovation and financing for cities, towns and villages.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National League of Cities makes the following five recommendations to local governments:

1. Establish local programs by combining funding and financing streams to support housing goals.

2. Modernize local land use policies, including zoning and permitting, to rebalance housing supply and demand.

3. Identify and engage broadly with local stakeholders; and coordinate across municipal boundaries, to develop a plan to provide housing opportunities for all.

4. Support the needs of distinct sub-populations including the homeless, seniors and persons with conviction histories.

5. Prioritize equitable outcomes in housing decision as it is an essential component for success.
Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

Human Development Federal Advocacy Committee

HD
Only sections of the *NLC National Municipal Policy (NMP)* where modifications are proposed are reproduced in this report. The complete text of the current *NMP*, divided into seven policy chapters, can be found at [nlc.org/national-municipal-policy](http://nlc.org/national-municipal-policy)

Please note:
- Proposed new language is underlined;
- Proposed language for deletion is struck out; and
- Existing, unchanged language is shown as plain text.

POLICY:

- Section 4.00 Introduction
- Section 4.01 Social Services
- Section 4.02 Children and Learning
- Section 4.03 Poverty Reduction and Income Support
- Section 4.04 Employment
- Section 4.06 Seniors and Social Security
- Section 4.07 Individuals with Disabilities
- Section 4.08 Health
- Section 4.09 Immigration and Refugees
Proposed Policy Amendments

4.00 Introduction

The National League of Cities (NLC) believes that the cornerstone of the federal government’s comprehensive human development strategy should be the self-sufficiency of every individual. Through policy recommendations and legislative action, the federal government should:

- Establish a coordinated system of social services;
- Establish and implement a national policy on children and youth, from early childhood through opportunity youth;
- Fully fund federally-mandated programs;
- Fund services designed to prevent unwed teenage pregnancy and eliminate poverty;
- Promote full employment;
- Promote equal opportunity efforts in education, employment, and social services;
- Provide a floor of financial support for seniors and persons with disabilities through Social Security;
- Provide assistance to individuals with disabilities;
- Ensure that all Americans have access to adequate physical and mental health care;
- Establish a federal block grant program to enhance our public health system;
- Implement comprehensive immigration reform, build a humane, just and dignified asylum system, and restore the refugee resettlement program to historic norms; and
- Support efforts to ensure that cultural resources are accessible to all citizens residents.

4.01 Social Services

NLC believes that the federal government should give special emphasis to social service funds for the nation’s most vulnerable populations. Within this framework, the federal government should allow state and local governments to determine the types of services most appropriate to meet each community’s needs. The federal government should:

- Increase funding for the Social Services Block Grant and other federal block grants that help local communities provide social services;
- Provide coordination, flexibility, and oversight, in full partnership with local officials;
- Ensure that all community-based organizations, including faith-based, that receive federal funds comply with all legal and constitutional civil rights requirements; and
- Focus on assisting senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, children and youth, immigrants and refugees, and homeless individuals experiencing homelessness.

A. Funding

The federal government should provide sufficient and flexible federal funding to local communities for quality and responsive human services programs. This includes adequate funding of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), which helps serve many of the needs of special populations, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which was designed to reduce poverty.

B. Coordination
The federal government should create a coordinated system of administration and delivery of human services to avoid fragmenting services at the local level where public and private services are delivered. The federal government should include local officials in the planning, monitoring, evaluating, and decision-making on federal policies and programs. Federal regulations governing social services should be sufficiently flexible so that local government can ensure that programs meet local needs.

C. Program Evaluation
Social services programs should be evaluated on the basis of well-defined performance standards that relate to program administration and participant development, as well as on the basis of the numbers served or placed in programs.

D. Faith-Based Organizations
NLC believes that any faith-based organization or system of assistance and service delivery should be required to maintain critical safe guards to ensure the separation of church and state and adhere to all civil rights statutes and constitutional protections when hiring employees and providing services to clients. In addition, faith-based organizations should be required to meet the same accountability standards as any other service provider.

E. Special Populations
NLC supports federal efforts to focus funding and program services on special populations including:

- Senior Citizens (see also HD Section 4.06, Seniors and Social Security);
- Individuals with Disabilities (see also HD Section 4.07, Individuals with Disabilities);
- Children (see also HD Section 4.02, Children and Learning);
- Immigrants and Refugees (see also HD Section 4.09, Immigration and Refugees); and
- Individuals Experiencing Homelessness (NLC Resolution #2016-13).

4.02 Children and Learning
Cities and their elected leaders play a critical role in education and child care. While local elected officials rarely control their local education agencies, local elected officials have a huge stake in educational outcomes and the impact those outcomes have on the local economy, workforce, and civic strength. In addition, local elected officials have significant influence and can mobilize important resources to the benefit of local education systems.

NLC supports all efforts to create effective and comprehensive early childhood development programs and high-quality education systems that ultimately provide individuals with the skills needed to secure meaningful employment and lifelong skills, long-term prosperity.

NLC believes that the federal government, through funding and program support, should work with states and local communities to improve education in the United States. To ensure school readiness for all students, the federal government should ensure that local communities have sufficient resources to support families, and children and youth from ages zero to 18 years.
Proposed Policy Amendments

Working with local leaders and schools, the federal government should:

- Establish and implement a national policy on children and youth, which is coordinated, holistic, proactive, and focused on prevention includes a focus on social determinants of health including Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE);
- Invest in education, including early childhood education as well as comprehensive afterschool and summer enrichment programs, to ensure the reduction of dropout rates, increase graduation rates, and address the achievement gap, promote postsecondary education, and to ensure that all children obtain the best education possible;
- Provide a comprehensive array of services that foster appropriate early childhood development;
- Ensure that high-quality, safe, and affordable child care is available to all children who need it;
- Ensure all children obtain nutritious meals while attending child care or school;
- Invest in early child care education programs as a whole and adequately fund Head Start and Early Head Start;
- Fully fund all federally-mandated education acts; and
- Provide resources to local communities to help individual students meet performance standards. and
- Provide resources for innovative pilot programs to more effectively involve parents, strengthen families, and bring communities into our schools.

Include resources for green schoolyards, early childhood outdoor learning environments, and nature play spaces in comprehensive municipal and community plans as spaces that can achieve to support outcomes in health, education, sustainability, the environment, community cohesion, and park access.

- Support partnerships between school districts, local nonprofit organizations and public land agencies at every level for conducting school outdoors, prioritizing communities that disproportionately lack access to quality outdoor spaces.

A. Early Childhood Development Care and Learning

NLC supports early childhood development programs that address the holistic needs of children including their physical, social and emotional health and wellbeing and prepare them for long-term success in school and life, have the greatest potential for enriching a young child’s life in the long term. Such programs should include:

- Support for social and emotional health and well-being, routine health screenings, health, physical fitness activities, and nutrition for proper development;
- Training Parent training and support for families to support their child’s development at home and to help them effectively advocate for their child at school, including flexible child care arrangements; and
- Developmentally appropriate early learning experiences grounded in research-backed curricula that focus incorporate on-play-based learning, which develops a child’s intelligence through experimentation and fosters collaboration with others.
- Learning environments that are safe, academically enriching, culturally appropriate and provide access to nature; and
Proposed Policy Amendments

- Early childhood educators that have the training, skills, and ongoing professional development to provide high-quality teacher/child interactions and are appropriately compensated according to their education and experience.

To achieve this, NLC urges the federal government to provide increased funding and programmatic flexibility, and technical assistance and policies that support collaboration and participation across the federal, state, and local levels so that local governments are able to provide for early childhood education for all children. This funding should be used for pre- and post-natal health and social services, family support services, and education programs so that all children ages zero to six develop properly, and parenting skills programs for mothers, fathers, and other caregivers have the skills and support needed to enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

NLC urges the federal government to provide direct funding to cities for parenting programs in their communities to support early childhood programs in their communities.

Furthermore, NLC urges the federal government to:

- Continue efforts to modernize and expand the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program;
- Support increased funding for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, and encourage greater coordination and alignment between federal, state, and locally funded home visiting models.
- Increase funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant to ensure that all families can find high-quality, accessible and affordable child care. Incentivize states to adopt payment and eligibility practices that better meet the needs of families and child care providers such as paying based on enrollment rather than attendance, setting payment rates based on the true cost of care rather than a market rate survey, utilizing contracts to build the supply of care, allowing families to be eligible for subsidy if attending an institute of higher education, and allowing localities to determine eligibility guidelines that can account for regional differences in the cost of living;
- Ensure that the child care and early childhood services are comprehensive, incorporating preventive and protective services for child abuse and neglect, early and periodic health screenings, nutritional programs, educational enrichment, and appropriate interventions for children with special needs. Effort should be made to promote a diverse early childhood workforce that is trained in trauma-responsive care, culturally appropriate practices; and implicit bias;
- Create a local early childhood innovation fund to encourage states, counties, local governments and their partners to find new ways to support the expansion and quality of child care and preschool in communities through early childhood workforce preparation programs, facilities enhancements, and strategic partnerships between early childhood programs and city agencies that serve families, so that families have access to nutrition and health services, housing, transportation and employment services.
- Create minimum federal standards for high-quality, safe and affordable child care;
- Provide supplemental funds to states to improve the quality of their child care providers;
- Support research on best practices and effective service delivery; and
Proposed Policy Amendments

- Provide incentives such as training grants, professional development, small business loans and capital improvement funds, liability protection, direct support to participate in CACFP, etc., to encourage support home care providers, family child care providers to come into compliance with existing or new regulations and provide nutritious meals to early learners in delivery high-quality care to children.

NLC also recommends that the federal government:

- Provide tax incentives to businesses to provide child care facilities at worksites and to subsidize the child care costs of their employees;
- Encourage public-private partnerships through matching funds and financial incentives;
- Educate employers on the economic benefits of providing child care;
- Provide support and regulations to ensure child care providers are paid a living wage;
- Improve the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to make it available to more low-and-middle-income families; and
- Urge the Small Business Administration (SBA) to view child care as a legitimate business including providing them operational support and make available low-interest loans to those interested in starting day care businesses.

Further, NLC urges the federal government to strengthen child care and early learning systems by bridging gaps between child care and early learning providers and supporting policies within Head Start that foster collaboration with early education programs and child care.

B. Early Childhood Learning

NLC strongly supports quality, early childhood learning programs for all children, including federally-subsidized, quality, early childhood learning programs for at-risk and low-income children. NLC urges the federal government to:

- Increase funding for preschool expansion and encourage states to adopt a mixed-delivery model that supports children's holistic development; for the expansion of early childhood learning programs;
- Increase funding for Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships programs. Preserve the federal-to-local funding structure and encourage more birth-to-five grants to allow for additional flexibility for local programs to structure their operations to best meet local needs. Also, in addition to further supporting State Collaboration Offices, create local collaboration grants for cities, counties or their partners to help align and coordinate federal, state and local early childhood initiatives; and
- Provide incentives to the private sector to become more involved in early childhood and early learning activities;
- Provide support for development and evaluation of education approaches for pre-school children; and
- Preserve the federal-to-local Head Start funding structure that empowers local collaboration and decision making;
- Provide support for the inclusion of outdoor learning environments and nature play spaces that promote early learning, healthy development, healthy eating, and positive
Proposed Policy Amendments

interactions between families and young children within parks, green spaces, and early childhood centers; and:

- Supports transition activities to ensure that children entering kindergarten have the support needed to be successful in school.

C.B. School-Age Children

NLC supports comprehensive programs to raise student achievement and support positive whole child development. NLC supports Title I of the ESEA, which enables schools serving under-resourced children to meet their unique educational needs. NLC also supports federal efforts around after-school, summer and year-round youth employment, and vocational programs that are linked to staying in school, school and summer learning through the expansion and full funding of the 21st Century Community Learning Center grants at its authorized levels, summer or year-round youth employment, service-learning programs, financial inclusion through financial education and vocational/career technical/education that may include apprenticeship programs that are linked to staying in school, higher school attendance, improved grades and behavior.

The federal government should increase funding for programs that support students who have dropped out, disengaged from school so they can return to school, receive an alternative education, and easily or move into the employment sector effectively. In addition, for students who are not actively pursuing education beyond high school, NLC supports continued federal investment in research and local programs, including vocational/career and technical education programs that help students to transition from school to work.

NLC also supports the long-term success of immigrant students through English language education. Therefore, NLC urges the federal government to:

- Provide sufficient funding to assist local communities help Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and English Language Learners (ELL) students through bilingual teachers, appropriate lessons, and other needed services investments in high-quality educator preparation programs, multicultural lessons inside and outside of school, multigenerational programs, and other needed services;
- Continue to implement flexible policies based on different communities’ needs; and
- Continue to allow states to give some school districts time-limited waivers regarding assessments of students who are new immigrants; and
- Provide support that helps mixed-status immigrant youth and families navigate the postsecondary education application process.

D.C. Family and Community Education Programs

NLC supports federal initiatives that encourage and reinforce family involvement in school programs, such as the Communities in Schools program, which makes comprehensive human services like healthcare, food access, family literacy, mentoring, and family counseling programs available at neighborhood schools. Cities play an important role in the success of federal programs like the Summer Food Service Program, and NLC supports continued federal investments in these critical programs that meet students’ basic needs.

E.D. Safe Schools
Proposed Policy Amendments

NLC also believes that widespread bullying and harassment—including bullying based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, culture, sexual orientation and/or gender identity—result in poor grades, lower academic achievement, high rates of absenteeism, and a lack of safety within schools, that lead to poor individual and school scores, higher dropout rates, and student suicides. Therefore, NLC urges Congress and the Administration to pass and sign into law legislation that would address the problem of bullying and harassment in America’s schools. —The legislation should require that local school districts and their schools:

- Adopt comprehensive and effective student conduct policies that include clear prohibitions regarding all bullying and harassment, including bullying and harassment based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, culture, sexual orientation and gender identity;
- Create effective prevention strategies and professional development programs designed to help school personnel meaningfully address issues associated with bullying and harassment; and
- Implement procedures to maintain and report data regarding incidents of bullying and harassment in order to inform the development of effective federal, state, and local policies that address these issues.
- Improve access to social emotional learning programs for youth and adults that have links to promoting positive school climate;
- Invest in high-quality educator preparation and training, including peer-to-peer learning, that promotes equitable social and emotional learning models, and create collaborations between in-school counselor staff and out-of-school external mental health and wellness providers;
- Address the impact of structural racism on BIPOC students, including disparities in punishment/enforcement.

E. Green Schoolyards

NLC supports federal funding in support of all-inclusive infrastructure and design to ensure that green schoolyards and outdoor learning are seen as important, cost-effective assets for student learning and become fully integrated into school infrastructure, green infrastructure planning processes funding mechanisms, and state education standards. These installations:

- Support a healthy school environment, both indoors and outside, to ensure the health and wellbeing of children, teachers, and staff;
- Reduce the carbon footprint and urban heat island effects of thousands of school buildings and grounds;
- Ensure buildings and grounds that are adaptable and resilient to address climate change impacts such as increasing extreme weather events; and
- Provide locations for wrap-around services and joint uses such as for school-based health clinics, adult and youth education, and civic and recreational centers.

F. Post-Secondary Education

In order to adequately prepare young people to enter the world of work, it may be necessary for some to obtain a post-secondary school degree. To ensure a smooth transition from high school to post-secondary school, NLC supports those college preparation programs, authorized by the Higher Education Act, that help to bridge the transition from high school to college. For example,
GEAR UP, Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, and Educational Opportunity Centers are all good examples of federal programs that are exclusively targeted at providing college awareness for underserved middle- and high school students. These programs provide critical information about college admissions and student financial aid to disadvantaged students, and their funding should be increased. Education and training beyond high school is increasingly required to ensure access to the jobs of the future and upward economic mobility. Without high-quality postsecondary education that develops a skilled and trained workforce, the nation’s cities, towns and villages will face serious challenges when it comes to attracting and retaining businesses and staying economically competitive. NLC urges Congress to support strategies and investments that improve postsecondary access, completion, and long-term success in the labor market including those that:

- Ensure a smooth transition from high school to postsecondary education and work, NLC supports those college preparation programs, authorized by the Higher Education Act, that help to bridge the transition from high school to college (such as Gear Up, Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, and Educational Opportunity Centers).

- Support work-based and career-connected learning, like programs funded under the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and Registered Apprenticeship Programs and continue to ensure such programs are responsive to local labor market needs;

- Support career readiness programs, including English language and technology literacy programs as well as soft skills training;

- Elevate the central role that community colleges play in providing non-degree credentials, rapid upskilling and job training, and work to align federal support staff and technical assistance for community colleges at the U.S. Departments of Education and Labor;

- Incentivize state re-investment in higher education;

- Provide technical assistance and guidance to postsecondary institutions on strategies to improve career guidance, industry credential attainment, competency-based education, and other evidence-based practices.

- Make it easier for people receiving food assistance or welfare social services to access postsecondary education. Work requirements in programs like TANF & SNAP can prevent youth and adults from gaining the education and skills they need to access economic opportunity; and

- Promote transparency in postsecondary data – including labor market outcome data – to enable local policymakers to make effective decisions that support education attainment and address equity issues.

G. Public Libraries

Finally, NLC believes that public libraries are educational institutions that provide critical education services to the community. Therefore, NLC urges the federal government to designate
Proposed Policy Amendments

public libraries as educational institutions able to qualify for broader sources of funding to improve:

- Broadband and computer access to low-income households;
- Provide tech-support and digital literacy programs for residents of all ages;
- Collaboration with local elected officials, community-based organizations, schools, and workforce boards to improve access to learning and skills development programs;
- Integration and advancement of financial empowerment services;
- Accessibility for residents of all abilities;
- Access to programs and resources in various languages including American Sign Language;
- Access to afterschool and summer enrichment programs and healthy meals; and
- Needs assessment within communities that are marginalized and underserved.

4.03 Poverty Reduction and Income Support

NLC believes that all levels of government should work to eliminate poverty, ensure a basic quality of life for all Americans, and promote self-sufficiency. To achieve this, the federal government should provide comprehensive and coordinated services to families in need that take into account regional and local differences. In addition, all programs should be administered in an effective and cost-efficient manner that incorporates the capacities of all levels of government.

A. Poverty Reduction

NLC supports federal efforts to encourage employment that reduces dependence on welfare social services. However, NLC urges Congress to review and improve the 1996 welfare reform law by:

- Changing the central focus of TANF from welfare caseload reduction to poverty reduction;
- Eliminating unfunded mandates;
- Eliminating arbitrary time limits for necessary work supports, such as transportation, child care, and housing supplements;
- Including in the definition of work participation in support services, work study, and the pursuit of educational attainment;
- Providing incentives for strong workable contingency plans that would be implemented during recessions; and
- Allowing legal immigrants to receive welfare benefits.

B. Education and Skills Development

NLC urges Congress to permit individuals to use their welfare grants for education and skills training. Allowable activities should include basic and remedial education, with an emphasis on literacy; vocational, technical, and higher education; English language training; work experience; job search and placement assistance; affordable child care; health insurance; substance abuse and rehabilitation treatment; entrepreneurial opportunities; and transportation.

The federal government should provide adequate funding to help individuals make the transition from welfare to work by:
Proposed Policy Amendments

- Meeting the diverse and often complex needs of families and children;
- Providing families and children with choices of avenues with pathways to self-sufficiency; and
- Recognizing that some families have multiple barriers to employment and providing realistic time frames based on assessments.

Therefore NLC urges Congress to:

- Facilitate better coordination of services offered under existing federally supported financial aid programs for the disadvantaged with the educational needs of citizens qualifying for TANF;
- Invest in workforce development programs, especially for communities of color, LGBTQ+ people, and women;
- Direct federal investments to address the digital literacy gap facing the 48 million Americans with limited or no digital literacy skills;
- Target low-income workers for job training and transitional jobs, if appropriate; and
- Recognize that some individuals who suffer from physical disabilities, health limitations, or mental health disorders may not be able to work under any circumstance and should receive sufficient financial support to maintain an adequate standard of living.

As part of the federal government’s efforts to reduce poverty and lower welfare caseloads, the federal government should require states to use whatever mechanisms that are legal and necessary, including Social Security numbers and state tax records, to track people leaving welfare to determine how many have jobs paying enough to sustain self-sufficiency. This information can be used to help improve program design and outcomes for participants.

The federal government must increase the EITC to relieve more low-income workers of tax obligations and/or to provide larger refunds to those that qualify. The federal government should make permanent the expansions of the EITC for those without children and the Child Tax Credit made possible with the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act. In addition, the federal government should support working families by increasing the minimum wage.

C. Supportive Services

The federal government should provide sufficient funding so that essential supportive services can be continued for a period of time after job placement and until wages increase to a family-sustaining level.

D. Homelessness

NLC believes that the rate of homelessness in America reflects fundamental deficiencies in our ability to meet basic human needs. To respond to this, NLC calls upon the federal government to fund and support a seamless, comprehensive system of services designed to prevent homelessness and to provide housing to those individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness. When necessary, the federal government should fund a comprehensive array of services for sheltered and unsheltered people experiencing homelessness as well as families in need of emergency or transitional services. The federal government should:
Proposed Policy Amendments

- Expand the emergency and transitional food and shelter programs, keeping permanent the recent increase in service age for Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP) to age 24;
- Expand programs that provide emergency health services;
- Expand access to additional mental health services;
- Fund social services, especially outreach and counseling services;
- Provide transportation, life skills, education, job training, career counseling, job placement services, access to identification, and connection with financial services;
- Expand federal funding for programs such as HOME and CDBG and, where able, allocate federal funds directly to cities;
- Improve access to federal assistance programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, etc.; and
- Develop a unique set of services and programs to aid and assist homeless veterans; and
- Creating stronger connections with the local schools districts’ McKinney-Vento liaisons to ensure that children experiencing homelessness are supported in their educational needs.

See also CED section 3.06 Housing (C)(7), Providing Transitional Housing and Comprehensive Services for the Homeless

E. Change the Federal Poverty Level

NLC calls upon the federal government to create new federal poverty guidelines that accurately reflect the regional costs of goods and services and the spending needs of individuals and families. The current poverty guidelines were created in the early nineteen-sixties, are outdated, and too low, and do not accurately account for all Americans living in actual poverty. NLC encourages updates that are in line with the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), published by the U.S. Census Bureau since 2011, which extends the official poverty measure by taking into account government programs that assist low-income families that are not included in the official poverty measure.

4.04 Employment

NLC believes that the federal government should maintain an economic environment that promotes job creation and job access. To support America’s workers and employers, the federal government should:
- Create incentives for meaningful jobs in areas of high unemployment;
- Make work pay by setting the minimum wage and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) at levels that in combination allow families to support themselves above the poverty level;
- Protect the financial integrity of the Unemployment Insurance program and maintain the Employment Service, which is responsible for distributing unemployment checks and providing job placement services;
- Continue efforts to expand Short-Time Compensation program adoption by states and employers to avert layoffs; and
Proposed Policy Amendments

• Increase access to critical technology infrastructure such as high-speed broadband necessary for jobs now and in the future, including to support telework opportunities where feasible.

A. Workforce Development

The federal government should provide resources for a range of services; including basic educational and job skills training for welfare recipients, structurally unemployed individuals, dislocated workers, and at-risk youth, and job placement services for all Americans to ensure that all Americans have access to higher paying and higher skills jobs.

To ensure that these goals and objectives are met, Congress should fully fund workforce development programs like the Workforce Innovation and Opportunities Act (WIOA) and should, in addition:

• Allow cities and towns working individually or together to utilize funds in ways that reflect the local workforce, available jobs, and the needs of the business community;

• Ensure that a portion of the funds are targeted to those most in need: persons living in poverty, those who are structurally unemployed and are not likely to return to their previous jobs, ex-offenders, and disconnected opportunity youth who are at-risk of long-term poverty;

• Establish workforce development areas that are based on regional economies rather than arbitrary measures such as population or political boundaries;

• Prohibit states from diverting all federal funds toward those who are already employed or job ready rather than those in greatest need;

• Ensure that local elected officials play a significant role in the planning, development, and implementation of regionally-based workforce development programs;

• Encourage collaboration between governments, education agencies including community colleges, organized labor, and the private sector to provide job skills training that meets the needs of workers and employers alike;

• Provide two-year base funding so that programs may provide long-term training and services across program years; and

• Allow local governments and workforce development programs to use a variety of training approaches including, but not limited to: individual training accounts, classroom training, and on-the-job training.

• Encourage greater use of apprenticeship programs with access to funding for local programs.

• Establish a permanent summer jobs program for young people ages 14 through 24 that is designed to provide youth, including economically disadvantaged and disconnected, youth with paid jobs that provide measurable world-of-work training and job skills development ideally connected to postsecondary skills development opportunities in in-demand career pathways as well as wrap-around supports to engage them in the workforce system and learn the responsibilities and soft-skills that lead to better jobs;

• Expand the Pell Grant program to cover needed workforce skills training for short-term and certificate training programs;
Proposed Policy Amendments

- More generally promote streamlining of state occupational licensure procedures that reduce economic and geographic mobility for millions of Americans, including veterans, healthcare professionals, and others in in-demand industries;
- Provide streamlined pathways to licensing and certification for immigrants and refugees who come to the U.S. with existing experience, degrees, and qualifications from other countries; and
- Ensure access to affordable, high-quality child care and portable benefits system to ensure all those able to engage in the workforce are able, including supporting an intra-DOL taskforce/study group on the gig economy and worker classification.

When the federal government closes military bases or major federal facilities, the federal government should provide direct assistance to ensure that individuals receive the retraining and job placement assistance they need.

B. Job Creation
To reduce poverty, the federal government should provide resources to help local communities address the shortage of living wage jobs.

In addition, the federal government should assist in areas of high unemployment to promote job creation, including tax credits and other incentives to business and industry to locate new jobs in those areas, promote business growth and entrepreneurship and generate new employment opportunities in those areas. NLC also supports local hire initiatives and encourages the federal government to allow and support these programs to ensure that local workers have access to local jobs.

NLC also supports transitional jobs, or public sector jobs that are designed to provide individuals with temporary employment that will lead to full-time permanent employment after a period of classroom, on-the-job, and other types of training consistent with permanent, full-time employment. The President and Congress should establish a national infrastructure program with the goal of stimulating job growth, retraining the workforce, and boosting local economies.

C. Job Elimination
When employers downsize, relocate or close businesses they should be required to give advance notice to employees and the local government in which the business resides so that appropriate preparations may be made to meet the needs of the dislocated workers.

Therefore, NLC supports the Worker adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act and other federal laws that ensure advance notice in cases of closing and mass layoffs and requires private businesses to federal laws that require public and private sector employers to:
- Provide 60 days advance notice of relocations, reductions in workforce or business closings for businesses with 100 or more employees;
- Consult with local municipal officials so that the individuals and communities affected can plan for needed adjustments; and
Proposed Policy Amendments

- Create incentives for individuals to be re-skilled/re-trained to obtain further employment within the local community; and
- Make supplemental financial contributions to support the unemployment insurance fund to assist in worker transition; and
- Support Short-Term Compensation (STC) programs, also known as “work sharing”, as a layoff aversion tactic under a state-approved plan to reduce the hours for a group of workers who in turn also receive a reduced unemployment benefit payment.

D. Wages and Benefits

NLC urges the federal government to increase the minimum wage and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to levels that, in combination, allow families to support themselves above the poverty level. NLC opposes a federal sub-minimum wage for youth and supports a minimum wage for all workers regardless of age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, race or job classification.

NLC urges the federal government to review the impact of any wage and overtime rule on cities and towns and to adjust the implementation as is necessary so as not to have an unintended impact on municipal budgets.

NLC opposes any wage and overtime rules that would have automatic updates without purposeful Congressional or Administrative study and action.

E. Family and Medical Leave

NLC supports a minimum of 12 weeks paid leave in the event of one’s own illness, a family illness or other life changing event requiring the employee to be away from his/her/their workplace. Such events include caring for a family member (child, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or registered domestic partner), after birth, or to bond with a new child entering the family through birth, adoption, or foster care placement.

4.05 Equal Opportunity

NLC believes that the federal government should uphold fundamental principles of equality and the rule of law, and address, by enforcing the laws, acts of bias, bigotry, racism, xenophobia, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism, and ableism.

To ensure equal opportunity for all, the federal government should:

- Enforce civil rights laws and eliminate discrimination with regard to race, color, religion, national origin, immigration status, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender/identity expression or any social barriers or physical disadvantage;
- Promote and encourage efforts in employment, education, delivery of services, and health care to ensure that every person is considered only with regard to individual need; and
- Take current action to remedy past discrimination.
- Develop and disseminate legal standards that will provide clear guidance on the use of mechanisms to address present or past racial discrimination;
- Promote diversity;
- Explicitly include women and sexual/gender minorities in the Constitution;
Proposed Policy Amendments

- Provide all employers with information on how to adopt and carry out effective affirmative action programs; and
- Expand opportunities in federal and local procurement for people of color, women, LGBTQ+ and individuals with disabilities.

4.06 Seniors and Social Security

NLC believes that the federal government should ensure that all seniors have:
- A floor of financial support which would provide an adequate standard of living;
- An opportunity for employment free from discriminatory practices because of age;
- Suitable housing;
- An appropriate level of physical and mental health services;
- Ready access to effective social services;
- Appropriate institutional care when required;
- A life and death with dignity;
- Information about available supportive services; and
- Supportive services that enable seniors to age in place.

A. Aging in Place

NLC believes that the federal government should take the lead in planning, research, and development of a universal and comprehensive approach to aging in America that includes culturally relevant programs that will enable senior citizens to “age in place” and enjoy their elderly years in the comfort, safety, dignity and familiarity of their own homes and/or communities. NLC supports seniors in our communities to have affordable opportunities and support to age in a place of their choice that meets their needs. In support of this effort, NLC urges the federal government to enact tax policies that take into account costs associated with aging in place, elder care, and senior homesteading and establish programs that reduce homecare costs, increase the quality of care, reduce reliance on nursing homes, address mental capacity and mobility, provide transportation and accessibility services, create a continuum of housing options, support home repairs and accessibility renovations, ensure access to healthy foods, and increase access to broadband and internet services to improve healthcare and social networking. Further, the federal government should prioritize action within the Domains of Livability, identified by AARP and the World Health Organization:
1. Outdoor spaces and buildings
2. Transportation
3. Housing
4. Social participation
5. Respect and social inclusion
6. Work and civic engagement
7. Communication and information
8. Community and health services
9. Public safety and emergency preparedness
10. Alzheimer’s and other dementias

B. Social Security
Proposed Policy Amendments

The Social Security system should provide participants with a floor of financial support upon retirement or disability which should be supplemented the participants’ private savings, pension and other federal and state programs based on eligibility.

NLC urges the federal government to maintain the current benefits structure and the current method of establishing cost-of-living adjustments (COLA). Should changes in any aspect of the Social Security system be necessary, those changes should be phased in over time and should be designed so that they do not impact those who currently are receiving benefits or are likely to receive benefits within a five-year window.

NLC also believes that the federal government should take into account the number and types of non-traditional families that are emerging and ensure that these families receive the same types of retirement benefits as traditional families, particularly with regard to dependents and survivors.

NLC also believes that the federal government should initiate programs of enforcement and education for employers and employers so that domestic workers and others who may have traditionally worked in the cash economy are not disadvantaged or disqualified from receiving Social Security benefits.

4.07 Individuals with Disabilities

The federal government should address the range of needs of individuals with physical and intellectual/developmental disabilities and mental illness so that they may live productive, fulfilling lives and fully integrate into society. However, any local assistance mandated by the federal government should be reasonable in its requirements and expectations, and when possible, fully funded by the federal government.

The federal government should:

- Adopt clear rules for cities to follow regarding accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- Provide financial resources directly to cities to help with the costs of compliance and serving the needs of individuals with disabilities including transit and housing options;
- Provide funding to local communities to implement inclusion programs and build local staffing capacity to serve students, residents with disabilities;
- Increase postsecondary opportunities and success for students and youth with disabilities;
- Increase its support to allow persons with disabilities to achieve the maximum degree of self-sufficiency; and
- Fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and reauthorize and fully fund the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

A. City Liability

Federal law should recommend that individuals with grievances should first follow the local and state grievance procedures prior to requesting a hearing process with the federal government.

B. Self-Sufficiency
Proposed Policy Amendments

The federal government should increase funding for workforce development, social services and housing programs, including permanent, affordable supportive housing for persons with disabilities. These efforts should include financial incentives for self-sufficiency.

The federal government should recognize the needs of persons with mental illness and provide the necessary support for treatment, employment, social services and housing programs.

C. Education

NLC fully supports the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its implementation; and urges the federal government to fully fund the commitment it made in 1975 to fund 40 percent of the per-pupil cost of services required by this Act.

4.08 Health

NLC supports universal access to health care. Universal access will improve standard health indicators such as infant mortality, life expectancy, and immunization rates of the young against preventable diseases. It can also eliminate disparities in treatment.

NLC believes that the federal government should:

- Control costs and reduce the rate of growth in health care expenditures and coverage costs;
- Ensure universal health care coverage;
- Maintain and improve Medicaid, Medicare, and the State-Children’s Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP), SNAP, WIC, and promote school health clinics to expand access and availability of health care;
- Address disease management;
- Reimburse localities fully for the costs of services provided to Medicare, Medicaid, TriCare and Veterans Administration patients;
- Adequately fund a federal block grant program to enhance our public health planning, capacity building, and disaster response systems;
- Assist local public health departments to better address infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and influenza, and increase the number of health services personnel employed;
- Adequately fund community health centers, which play a critical role in providing uninsured and underinsured individuals with health care services; and
- Apply the same laws and rules concerning health care coverage and insurance to cities and town as to any other employer.

In addition, NLC urges the federal government to:

- Enhance access to health care by expanding telemedicine and virtual health options, particularly in rural areas;
- Provide funding for outreach and application assistance to uninsured individuals;
- Fund and support increased access to behavioral health programs and services;
- Fund block grant and categorical grant programs for health, such as the Maternal and Child Health Services Program, the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant,
Proposed Policy Amendments

funding for community health centers and health programs for Native Americans,
Migrants and Refugees;

• Require employers to cover the costs of health insurance for laid off workers and their
dependents, as well as the creation of subsidized health insurance pools for workers
without employment-based coverage;

• Provide funding for programs which offer transitional care and home health care services;

• Expand preventive health care programs for the poor; and

• Pay the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) premiums for
people with catastrophic terminal illnesses who have left their jobs and cannot afford to
pay the health insurance premium.

A. Elimination of Disparities
NLC urges Congress and the Administration to address the disparities in health care access and
treatment between racial and ethnic minority population groups and Caucasians by following the
recommendations of the National Institutes of Medicine, the National Healthcare Disparities
Report and the President’s New Freedom Commission report. In addition, Congress should adopt
legislation and the Administration should develop an administrative initiatives and education
campaign that addresses and increases the awareness of the general public, health care providers,
insurance companies, and policymakers about physical and mental health disparities based on race
and ethnicity, including but not limited to the C:\W:\ Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program so
that it remains the single point of access for patients who require matching adult donors and
umbilical cord blood.

B. National Health and Wellness Strategy
NLC urges the federal government to partner with cities and towns to improve the health of all
Americans, but not to result in unfunded mandates. This should be done by developing a cross-
sector, integrated national strategy that identifies priorities for improving the health of Americans
and provides to cities and towns the support that is needed to create healthy and safe communities,
expand clinical and community-based preventive services, empower people to make healthy
choices, and eliminate health disparities. Examples of this include Let’s Move and Healthy Eating
Active Living (HEAL) Cities which have as their goal reducing obesity and improving the overall
health and wellness of city and town residents and employees. Specifically, NLC urges the federal
government to address the significant problems faced in maintaining clean air, water, and land,
and to focus on designing and promoting affordable, accessible, safe and healthy housing and food
systems; strengthening local health departments so that they are able to provide essential
services; integrating health criteria into decision making; and using health goals and objectives as
benchmarks for existing conditions and as targets for future actions.

C. School-Based Health Clinics
NLC supports the use and growth of school-based clinics, which often help both students and local
community members obtain a comprehensive array of individualized services that address
physical, emotional, and social needs.

D. Local Official Involvement
Proposed Policy Amendments

NLC urges the federal government to recognize that local officials should be involved in the assessment and design of an economic and comprehensive public and personal health services delivery system. Any federal effort to aid states in implementing disaster planning should include a requirement that the states include local officials in the planning process. The federal government should encourage city officials to actively participate in projecting and certifying the need for facilities and in evaluating the performance of existing facilities in meeting city health needs. After a public health threat, terrorist attack, or natural disaster, the federal government should communicate quickly and effectively with local governments about public health activities and requirements.

E. Metropolitan Medical Response System

NLC supports the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) program and urges Congress to reauthorize, increase funding, and expand MMRS to work with additional cities and cover broader geographic areas. This would ensure that all cities have a coordinated response system in place with the necessary equipment and training to respond to bioterrorist events and other disasters.

F. Vaccination Stockpiles

The federal government should accelerate development and procurement of all vaccines and those pharmaceuticals needed to control and treat biological threats, such as smallpox and anthrax. Local health officials should have the ability to quickly access appropriate medical supplies and vaccines through the National Pharmaceutical Stockpile Program of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

G. Infectious Diseases

A pandemic of any type would cause serious problems worldwide and overwhelm the public safety, health and medical infrastructure, education facilities, public institutions, and private businesses of American cities and towns and villages. The federal government, in coordination with the international community, should further develop and coordinate a comprehensive research and containment strategy that involves commitments of federal funding, supplies, equipment, training, expertise, personnel, countermeasures, and public health measures.

Specific attention should also be placed on the transmission of zoonotic diseases, such as COVID-19, which are transmitted from animals to humans, which researchers now believe contributes to no fewer than 2.2 million deaths each year on average. As we have experienced with COVID-19, which has resulted in 4.93 million deaths worldwide as of October 2021, and is becoming these diseases are an increasingly serious problem resulting from environmental change and increased travel among and between nations.

NLC urges the federal government to put in place effective methods for controlling the spread of zoonotic diseases and to invest in education and training and infrastructure so that city public health officials are prepared to address such outbreaks with a focus on equitable coordination with state and local governments and best practice sharing among communities. NLC also calls on the federal government to continue to recognize the financial impact of these diseases on local economies and to work with local leaders to understand revenue loss and impacts.
Proposed Policy Amendments

H. Substance Abuse
The federal government should maintain the definition of substance use disorders as illnesses and should ensure that there are enough facilities for those who need substance use disorder treatment, including children and infants who are born with prenatal substance exposure. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH, 2014), 21.2 million Americans needed treatment for a substance use disorder. However, only about 2.5 million people received the specialized treatment they needed. The federal government should take steps to improve access to medication-assisted treatment and ensure that Naloxone dosage guidelines keep pace with the changing needs on the ground, especially the increasing prevalence of fentanyl. Harm reduction efforts such as syringe exchange programs should be scaled in coordination with state and local partners.

Additionally, the federal government should provide education and support services for families involved in the recovery process including culturally sensitive community supports and adequate resources to mitigate the impact of intergenerational trauma caused by substance abuse in the home. Resources should include:

- Accessible, affordable detoxification centers that facilitate entry into long-term treatment and recovery.
- Education and support for family members impacted by the dysfunction associated with substance use, including how adverse childhood experiences increase risk for substance use.
- Community supports, including assistance with basic needs, that ensure individuals and families have the necessary resources to mitigate the stress that can lead to relapse.

I. Protecting the Nation’s Blood Supply
NLC remains deeply concerned about the potential for local, regional and national blood shortages that can occur when certain types of men are prohibited from donating blood. Therefore, NLC joins with the American Red Cross, the American Association of Blood Banks and America’s blood centers in asking that the Food and Drug Administration address the potential for blood shortages by issuing guidelines that ensure that anyone who is healthy enough to give blood is able to do so regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

J. Mental Health
The federal government should ensure that the civil and constitutional rights of persons with mental health conditions and substance use disorders are protected. In addition, the federal government should provide trauma-informed funding and support to local communities to increase protective factors that promote resilience in children and families without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity, ability or gender identity.

NLC supports mental health parity and the provision of comprehensive services to address mental health needs for persons with general mental health conditions, serious mental health diagnoses, and substance use disorders. Whether at the federal, state or local levels, there should be effective
Proposed Policy Amendments

plans for preventing, diagnosing, and treating mental health conditions and substance use disorders that reflect the parity between mental and physical health. Mental health and substance use disorder services should be accessible and equal to physical health services. These services should also provide support and stabilization to family systems.

The Federal government should:

- Embed behavioral health supports in existing community centers to promote integrated systems of health care and stress reduction;
- Coordinate with state, county, and local officials on the implementation of the mental health line, to ensure coordinated access to service providers;
- Recognize trauma as a major public health threat and offer mandated trauma-awareness trainings for all entities receiving federal funding;
- Incentivize screenings for social determinants of health including Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) screenings understanding that adversity in childhood impacts healthy brain development and increases risk for disease and early death;
- Acknowledge the significant return on investment in early childhood programs and supports for children and families including home visitation, parenting education, and affordable, high quality preschool. These programs allow service providers to identify environmental risks that can lead to substance use disorders and mental health conditions.

K. Tobacco

Any revenues raised by increasing federal excise taxes should be earmarked for health services and tobacco control activities. Any federal legislation on tobacco should not preempt stronger state and local tobacco control laws or remedies.

4.09 Immigration and Refugees

When admitted through a well-regulated system, immigrants and refugees strengthen the United States by creating economic growth, increasing America’s scientific and cultural resources, strengthening our ties with other nations, fulfilling humanitarian commitments, and supporting family ties and that are necessary to build strong communities.

The federal government should take immediate responsibility for decisions made regarding the influx and settlement of immigrants into the United States. Immigration and refugee policy are set at the national level, and our entire nation feels the effects of federal immigration policy.

The federal government should:

- Provide an appropriate, legal means of immigration, as is determined to be necessary and effective for the United States, for foreign nationals who want to work here temporarily, become legal permanent residents, or gain citizenship;
- Provide local governments with financial and technical assistance so localities can assist new immigrants, including the costs of providing social services, health care, education, language services, refugee resettlement and civic integration;
Proposed Policy Amendments

- Avoid conscription of local personnel, such as police officers, fire inspectors, educators, health personnel and social service personnel into federal service because the federal government has not adequately funded and staffed its immigration enforcement agencies;
- Avoid transferring responsibility for enforcing U.S. immigration laws to local law enforcement;
- Increase federal capacity and infrastructure to enforce the laws and provide efficient means for foreign nationals to obtain legal authorization for temporary visas or legal permanent residency;
- Establish an affordable process whereby undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States may earn legalized status through payment of appropriate fees and back taxes, background checks, absence of criminal or gang activity, consistent work history, and meeting English and civics requirements;
- Protect people seeking asylum at the border, create a humane reception system for migrants and refugees;
- Establish a process whereby once the documentation process has begun, individuals are permitted to obtain a driver’s license or other official identification card;
- Establish a process whereby those immigrants who have earned such legal status should also be able to apply for expedited citizenship through additional processes, as appropriate and practical, if they do not move ahead of applicants with proper documentation waiting to adjust their status or those waiting on lists in their home countries;
- Adopt legislation like the “Dream Act” that can facilitate state efforts to offer in-state tuition to undocumented students and provide certain students with a pathway to U.S. citizenship and an improved process to eliminate case backlogs that prevent and slow the process;
- Provide an accessible, effective system to ensure that businesses are able to hire foreign workers legally without excessive bureaucratic red tape and that all foreign workers are authorized and documented; and
- Provide same-sex couples with equal rights of immigration sponsorship as opposite-sex couples and amend current law to allow lawful permanent residents to sponsor the permanent partner for legal residence in the United States provided they are over 18 years of age, financially interdependent with the sponsoring individual, not married or in a permanent partnership with anyone other than the sponsoring individual and is not a first, second, or third-degree blood relation;
- Ensure Congressional oversight mechanisms are in place to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion;
- Restore the refugee resettlement program by increasing the annual admission allotment for refugee resettlement to at least the annual average since program inception (95,000);
- Reopen ports of entry to process asylum seekers in accordance with international law; and
- Adopt (1) a definition of “stateless person” in line with international human rights standards, and (2) legal protections for those identified as stateless in the United States through a federal-level Stateless Status Determination procedure based on the United Nation’s High Commissioner for Refugees Handbook on Protection of Stateless People, to ultimately provide stateless people a designated path to lawful status.
Proposed Policy Amendments

4.10 Cultural Resources

NLC urges the federal government to:

- Increase direct federal funding for cultural resources; and
- Review tax laws to facilitate indirect financial support of the arts.

In addition, federal funds should be available to cities to:

- Develop public lands and facilities use of the arts;
- Provide employment in cultural services; and
- Promote the use of the arts as a stimulus to economic development.

4.11 Veterans

NLC believes that all levels of government have an obligation to support the men and women of the armed services who have made sacrifices to preserve the freedom of the American people. In order to meet the diverse needs of veterans and their families, NLC believes the federal government should:

- Provide effective veterans’ health care;
- Support programs that provide homeless veterans with safe, affordable, and permanent housing and fund programs to eliminate root causes of veterans’ homelessness, including research, treatment, and support programs;
- Ensure that comprehensive mental health services are available to veterans and their families;
- Provide veterans with the employment and education resources needed to succeed in the 21st century workforce;
- Ensure that National Guard and Reservists have access to support services when they return from active duty; and
- Focus on the unique needs of women veterans, especially the unique health care needs of women and those women veterans who reside in rural areas.

4.12 International, National and Community Service

NLC believes that federal investment in international, national and community service is an important way to help cities, towns and villages meet pressing needs in areas such as neighborhood revitalization and healthy, affordable housing; conservation and the environment including climate resilience and adaptation; human services; public safety and public health; and education and child/youth development.

In order to support communities towards this end, NLC believes that the federal government should:

- Ensure a range of ways for municipalities to engage with international, national and community service programs, including as project sponsors, hosts of individual placement and crew-based programs, and participants on State Service Commissions.
Proposed Policy Amendments

- Provide support for engagement of the full range of city, town and village residents in full-time or part-time stipend international, national and community service activities, with post-service scholarship awards, and with special emphasis on involvement of disconnected youth and young adults, seniors, and veterans.

- Ensure leadership opportunities for city and town elected officials on national Days of Service.

- Provide ongoing reporting on the impact of international, national and community service on cities, towns and villages, and about the contributions of our communities towards advancing international, national and community service.
Proposed HD Resolutions

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #25**: In Support of Action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to Study and Address Violence in America

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #26**: In Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #27**: In Support of Efforts to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #28**: In Support of Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Increased Investment in Workforce Development Programs

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #29**: Addressing Systemic Racism as a Public Health Crisis

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #30**: In Support of Actions by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) And Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to Address Coronavirus Health Disparities through Resources and Data

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #31**: In Support of the One Health Initiative

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #32**: In Support of Child Nutrition Reauthorization

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #33**: In Support of a National Holiday Commemorating the Accomplishments and Legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #34**: In Support of The Equality Act

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #35**: In Support of Mothers in The Workforce

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #36**: In Support of Equal Pay for Women
NLC RESOLUTION #25

IN SUPPORT OF ACTION BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) TO STUDY AND ADDRESS VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

WHEREAS, young men, generally, and African-American males, specifically, are dying at an alarming rate due to homicides, 13 times higher than non-Hispanic white youth[1], and is the number one cause of death for 15-24-year-old African American males[2], and

WHEREAS, every month, an average of 53 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, nearly 1 million women alive today report being shot or shot at by intimate partners, and 4.5 million woman have reported being threatened with a gun[3]; and

WHEREAS, studies show that LGBTQ+ people, especially youth, are at a higher risk of attempting suicide and 17 percent of gay and lesbian youth, 9 percent of bisexual youth, and 21 percent of transgender youth have been threatened with a weapon on school property[4]; and

WHEREAS, youth violence is an adverse childhood experience (ACE) and can hand a long-term impact on health and wellbeing[5].

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities calls upon the United States Congress to direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), whose primary responsibilities are to monitor public health, detect and investigate health problems, foster safe and healthy environments, and implement prevention strategies, to monitor, detect, and prevent violence in America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CDC develop a holistic intervention designed to address the health-related aspects and implications of violence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the CDC continue collecting data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, religion, and gender identity and support prevention strategies that are tailored to impacted communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the President increase funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the federal budget to support data and indicators that will inform local strategy in cities and towns across our country as they address the issue of violence in their communities.
NLC RESOLUTION #26

IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

WHEREAS, historically, the cities and towns of the United States are a cultural mosaic of multiple cultures and nationalities based on our nation’s history of welcoming immigrants; and

WHEREAS, when admitted through a well-regulated, timely and efficient system, immigrants strengthen the United States by creating economic opportunities, increasing America’s scientific and cultural resources, strengthening our ties with other nations, fulfilling humanitarian commitments, and supporting family ties and family values that are necessary to build strong communities; and

WHEREAS, failure on the part of the federal government to simplify immigration procedures, reopen legal ports of entry for asylum seekers to deter illegal entrance, secure the borders, track visa recipients in the interior, or enforce worksite laws allows illegal immigration to thrive, with an estimated 11.3 million residents, 3.5% of the nation’s population, living and/or working in the United States without legal authorization or proper documentation; and

WHEREAS, more than 40 million people living in the United States are foreign-born of which 23% are unauthorized immigrants, 27% are lawful permanent residents, and 77% are lawful immigrants; and

WHEREAS, the worksite enforcement program does not adequately protect work visa holders from employer abuse or deter employers who willingly hire unauthorized workers because they face little likelihood that the federal government will investigate, fine, or criminally prosecute them; and it does not help employers who genuinely want to follow the law because their employee verification efforts are hindered by the extensive use of fraudulent documents; and

WHEREAS, the lack of infrastructure and capacity at the federal level makes the federal government unable to adequately track visa-holders and permanent resident status, creates unacceptable application backlogs and long delays, which provide strong disincentives for foreign nationals to abide by the legal means to enter or remain in the country, and results in deleterious effects such as children aging out of parents’ applications and becoming undocumented, indefinite stagnation of career and life milestones, and inability to move freely across borders; and

WHEREAS, the United States granted more than 900,000 visas in 2019, of which 300,424 were through temporary, unskilled worker programs (the H2-A and H2-B visas); and

WHEREAS, output in the economy is higher and grows faster with more immigrants; and

WHEREAS, the current immigration system inadequately addresses the growing numbers of individuals wishing entrance to the United States through a temporary work visa program or as legal permanent residents; and
WHEREAS, roughly two-thirds of undocumented adult immigrants have lived in the United States for ten years or more, 1 million unauthorized immigrants are children, and another 4.5 million U.S.-citizen children have at least one undocumented parent; and these families are forced to live “underground,” unable to get drivers’ licenses or car insurance in most states, unlikely to obtain health insurance, and afraid to report crimes to local law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, since immigrants are barred from most federal public assistance, the burden of providing social services, education, and health care falls to the state and local governments, who are increasingly feeling the fiscal impact of both legal and illegal immigrants living in their communities.

WHEREAS, with the signing on the executive order, “Affording Congress an Opportunity to Address Family Separation”, the President called for modification of the 1997 *Flores v. Reno* court settlement to enable Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to detain families together longer than 20 days, resulting in nearly 2,000 children having been separated from their parents in a six-week time period, many of whom are being sent to cities and facilities across the country; and

WHEREAS, with guidance from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) updating policy for the accrual of unlawful presence of those in student (F nonimmigrant), exchange visitor (J nonimmigrant) or vocational student (M nonimmigrant), visa overstay penalties will include harsher penalties impacting students and families; and

WHEREAS, with a reduced number of visas available through the H-2A program, which allows U.S. employers to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary agricultural jobs, many employers struggling to find qualified workers; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has conducted raids in cities, towns and villages across the country, targeting undocumented immigrants ordered by courts to be removed from the country; and

WHEREAS, there are 511,000 immigrant veterans in the United States of which, 94,000 are waiting to be naturalized and are at risk of deportation; and

WHEREAS, the refugee limit was set in FY21 at the lowest since the passage of the Refugee Act of 1980, with a limit of 18,000, and then increased to 62,500 midyear, a level not able to be met in a short period of time without adequate support in place and still remaining below the historic average; and

WHEREAS, current asylum seekers must first arrive at a U.S. port of entry without advanced approval to be considered as an asylum seekers and risk rejection at the border with no alternative; and

WHEREAS, Title 42 continues to be used to prohibit entry of asylum seekers to the U.S. and expel them to danger in other countries; and
WHEREAS, the global refugee crisis the highest in history, with over 82.4 million forcibly displaced people worldwide, including 26.4 million refugees and 4.1 million asylum-seekers, under international law\(^1\).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the federal government should provide local governments with financial and technical assistance to alleviate the local impact of and ensure the success and productivity of new immigrants, including the costs of providing social services, health care, education, language services, and civic integration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government enforce its current immigration laws equitably, consistently and timely to adequately staff ports of entry to reduce unauthorized entry at the borders, track visa overstays, working without proper documentation, and employing undocumented workers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local personnel, such as police officers, fire inspectors, educators, health personnel and social service personnel, should not be conscripted into federal service because the federal government has not adequately funded and staffed its immigration enforcement agencies; and the federal government must not transfer the responsibility of enforcing U.S. immigration laws to local personnel by making undocumented status in the U.S. a criminal offense; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government must strengthen its worksite enforcement capacity and dramatically increase enforcement efforts at places of employment, as well as providing employers with a universal, reliable, effective, secure, non-discriminatory, and non-counterfeitable employee verification system, using the most up-to-date technology that will minimize fraud; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government must increase its capacity and infrastructure, including the speed of processing, funding levels and number of judges, to enforce the laws and provide efficient means for foreign nationals to obtain legal authorization for visas or legal permanent residency as well as to be processed when making a border crossing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government must update its policies to provide an appropriate, streamlined legal means of immigration and change status according to life milestones, as is determined to be necessary and effective for the United States, for undocumented immigrants, non-immigrant foreign nationals that want to visit or work here temporarily, or immigrant foreign nationals that want to become legal permanent residents, or gain citizenship, as well as clearly define penalties and consider impacts to students and families for harsh penalty policies for visas overstays; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government should reexamine its policies regarding seasonal workers given its impact on local business and the economic vitality of cities and towns across America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports establishment of a process whereby

\(^1\) https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/
undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States may earn legalized status through payment of appropriate fees and back taxes, background checks, absence of criminal or gang activity, consistent work history, and meeting civics requirements; and that the immigrants who have earned such legal status should also be able to apply for citizenship through additional processes, as appropriate and practical, as long as they do not move ahead of applicants with proper documentation waiting to adjust their status or those waiting on lists in their home countries; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should consider the negative impact of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids on local economies and communities, including public safety and social services resources; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should ensure detention policies that do not inflict trauma upon vulnerable children and their families, creating additional financial burdens for mental health, education and family supports in cities across the country; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports federal legislation like the “Dream Act” that can facilitate state efforts to offer in-state tuition to undocumented students and provide Dreamers with a path to U.S. citizenship; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that documented immigrants who have served honorably in the US Armed Forces should be given the ability to expedite their naturalization process without prejudice and should not be put at risk of being deported; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should adopt (1) a definition of “stateless person” in line with international human rights standards, and (2) legal protections for those identified as stateless in the United States through a federal-level Stateless Status Determination procedure based on the United Nation’s High Commissioner for Refugees Handbook on Protection of Stateless People, to ultimately provide stateless people a designated path to lawful status; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should be trained to provide language services and a clearly defined appeals process to asylum seekers who are denied entry into the United States; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should restore and increase the refugee resettlement allotments.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should end Title 42 expulsions of asylum seekers.
NLC RESOLUTION #27

IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO PREVENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT

WHEREAS, according to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men are victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner; 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men are raped in their lifetime; 1 in 5 women report harassment by a boss and 1 in 4 were harassed by a coworker; 1 in 6 women and 1 in 19 men were stalked in their lifetime; 81% of women experienced verbal harassment; and 25% say they have received lewd texts or emails[13]; and

WHEREAS, approximately 3 out of every 4 employees who experience harassment never report it, and 75% of employees who spoke out against workplace mistreatment suffered some form of retaliation[14]; and

WHEREAS, the groundbreaking anti-assault and women’s empowerment movement #MeToo upended the public conversation around harassment issues across the world; and

WHEREAS, the United States Congress has recognized the importance and impact of this movement, evidenced by the introduction of 194 bills related to sexual harassment during the 115th Congress; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate passed S. 2952, and the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 4924, both of which call for the amendment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to establish protections against congressional sexual harassment and discrimination, taking clear action for harassment experienced within the halls of Congress; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Justice Department has recognized the importance and impact of this movement, evidenced by the announcement of the Sexual Harassment in the Workplace Initiative, focusing on workplace sexual harassment in the public sector[15]; and

WHEREAS, local governments are not immune to the challenges and threats that reports of sexual harassment can pose to workplace safety and culture as well as to the public trust.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls upon the federal government to take meaningful action to prevent sexual harassment for all individuals, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, and to adopt improved reporting practices as an example for cities to follow; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports the intention and vision of the #MeToo movement and calls on Congress to provide support to programs and initiatives that create pathways to healing as well as direct resources towards training, counseling and other appropriate measures that address both prevention efforts and resources for survivors of sexual violence and harassment.
NLC RESOLUTION #28

IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND OPPORTUNITY ACT AND INCREASED INVESTMENT IN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, in 2014 Congress signed into law the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) with overwhelming bipartisan support, the largest single source of federal funding for workforce development activities; and

WHEREAS, WIOA reauthorizes the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which replaced the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA), and established the system of one-stop career centers for access to training and employment services for a full range of workers, including youth, to help them access good jobs of the 21st century in local and regional industries; and

WHEREAS, WIOA allows for the greater use of sector partnerships, career pathway models and higher levels of accountability; and

WHEREAS, WIOA reflects the growing recognition that in order to adequately address the skills needs of workers, jobseekers, and employers, we must do a better job of coordinating across multiple education, training, and supportive service programs; and

WHEREAS, ongoing State and local implementation of WIOA (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.) provides unprecedented opportunities to develop the skills of workers in the United States through access to effective workforce education and training, including the development and delivery of proven strategies such as sector partnerships, career pathways, integrated education and training, work-based learning and paid internships; and

WHEREAS, during these unprecedented times, it is clearer than ever that workers need skills now to access open positions. Out of the nearly 60 million people who have filed for unemployment since March, more than 40 percent have been workers who earn less than $40,000 a year; and

WHEREAS, the global crisis has disproportionately impacted workers without any education past high school, workers who already needed access to skills prior to the pandemic. Workers with a high school degree or less have been displaced at nearly three times the rate as those with a bachelor’s degree; and

WHEREAS, workers of Color, particularly women of color, have shouldered the greatest job losses due to their concentration in low-wage service industries that have been hardest hit by the economic downturn; and

WHEREAS, for local small business, the economic disruption from the first months of the pandemic alone could cause 1.4 million to 2.1 million of them to close for good; and
WHEREAS, minority-owned small businesses, which employ more than 8.7 million workers, are most vulnerable because they are disproportionately represented in sectors that are most likely to see permanent closures, such as storefront retail, bars and restaurants, travel and hospitality; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, programs authorized under WIOA:

1. Served nearly 6,000,000 young people
2. Exceeded employment targets across programs
3. Helped more than 1,500,000 individuals, including English language learners, gain skills and credentials to help the individuals succeed in the labor market

WHEREAS, the public workforce system and partner programs provide a pathway into 21st century jobs that support families while ensuring that businesses in the United States find the skilled workforce needed to compete in the global economy; and

WHEREAS, businesses need skilled workers — people trained for jobs in growing industries like healthcare, medical technology, IT and software, and advanced manufacturing — as well as plumbers and electricians, and WIOA allows for greater local control of business outreach and ability to react to business needs; and

WHEREAS, the United States invests less than all other developed countries, except Mexico, in workforce development, and over the past two decades has cut investments by 40%, and does not support local workforce development at the levels necessary to ensure cities across the country can prepare workers for the impact of automation, technology and AI on the workplace; and

WHEREAS, as cities across America work to strengthen their economic standing and competitiveness and respond and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we must build strong workforce development systems; and

WHEREAS, key areas to consider include supporting and scaling pathways to employment, equity and access, and the impact of emerging technologies; and

WHEREAS, registered apprenticeships have an 80-year history which has been marked by a recent increase in funding and expansion. With additional shifts in prioritizing apprenticeships in WIOA and the increased awareness of these potential pipelines to employment, apprenticeships continue to increase in number and expand into new and emerging industries including health, technology (IT), finance and transportation; and

WHEREAS, WIOA calls for the prioritization of service for all U.S. Department of Labor-funded job training programs for veterans and eligible spouses, including access to Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSG) and the National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWG) program for transitioning service members and their spouses.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls upon the United States Congress to enact a five-year reauthorization of WIOA that will provide certainty needed to deliver programming; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls upon the United States Congress to increase funding to WIOA programs across all titles to ensure a robust investment in skills training, business engagement and increased economic development in communities across America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls upon the United States Congress to immediately invest at least $15 billion in our nation’s workforce development system as a supplemental measure to ensure that our nation’s workforce development system can respond to the increased demands associated with COVID-19; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports clearer guidance on how WIOA can be used locally to support apprenticeship programs, including through the use of industry or sector partnerships and by supporting pre-apprenticeship programs for workers with barriers to employment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports increasing employment opportunities for veterans, transitioning service members and their families, and urges Congress to provide increased funding to WIOA Title I employment and training programs to provide for adequate investment in job training and adult education for this critical population in our cities, towns and villages.
NLC RESOLUTION #29

ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, racism is rooted in the foundation of America, beginning with enslavement of Africans in 1619 and attempted genocide of Indigenous people and including early examples of racism such as the Chinese Exclusion Act and state-sanctioned violence against LatinX people such as the Porvenir massacre. There are numerous examples of racism in the history and present of the United States; much of the Black experience in America has been endured under slavery and Jim Crow which allowed preferential opportunities for white people while subjecting Black, and Indigenous people to hardships and disadvantages in every area of life and Asian and LatinX people have experienced racism and violence, including the forcible relocation and incarceration of Asian Americans in internment camps during World War II, and forced deportation of American citizens with Mexican heritage during the Great Depression; and

WHEREAS, health disparities have existed in America for more than 400 years - we now are witnessing a coronavirus pandemic which is shining a light upon the stark inequities that result from generations of structural and systemic racism. Black, Indigenous, LatinX, Asian, and other People of Color are disproportionately impacted because of long standing racism in every system, unaddressed health disparities and other socioeconomic inequities across class lines; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is killing Indigenous and LatinX people at 2.4 times the rate of white people, and Black people at 2 times the rate of White people. Asian and Pacific Islander communities are experiencing racist violence and treatment due to xenophobic rhetoric related to the virus; and

WHEREAS, racism is a system of power and oppression. A system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks (which is what we call “race”), that unfairly disadvantages People of Color, unfairly advantages white individuals and communities, and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources; and

WHEREAS, there is clear data to illustrate that racism results in disproportionate impacts the lives of Black, Indigenous, LatinX, Asian and other People of Color - the current COVID-19 crisis has helped to highlight now, more than ever, that racism, not race causes disproportionately higher rates of homelessness, incarceration, and economic hardships for African Americans - racism can be seen across systemic, institutional and interpersonal levels - all operating over the course of time and across generations. An increasing number of local leaders are declaring racism as a public health crisis in cities, towns and villages across the country; and

WHEREAS, racism is a driving force of social determinants of health, such as housing, education, neighborhood conditions, environmental conditions, and employment, and is a barrier to health equity. For example, lending practices of the 20th century known as “redlining” and

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the current limitations and access to healthy, nutritious food, reduced life expectancy, increased
rates of lead poisoning, limited access to clean water, and higher rates of infant mortality
demonstrate the current impact of racism; and

WHEREAS, Black people in the United States face higher rates of chronic disease than White
people[23], Black women are nearly four times as likely to die of pregnancy-related causes than
White women[24] and Black people are more likely to die at early ages of all causes[25]; and

WHEREAS, the privileges that white Americans experience inhibits them from fully
understanding how racism impacts Black people in America - for example the performance of
simple tasks like driving while Black, walking in neighborhoods or just going to a park come
with certain risk not experienced by others - life events like getting a job, purchasing a home,
buying a car, or just raising a family come with barriers that other cultures don’t experience; and

WHEREAS, the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Association, the
American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Emergency Physicians have
declared institutional racism as a public health crisis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National league of Cities (NLC)
recognizes racism as a public health crisis and calls on Congress to appropriate significant
resources towards policy, programs and practices (i.e. Housing, Education, Nutritious Food,
Transportation, Employment, Legal system, etc.) that work to address social determinants of
health and end racism in our country, so race is no longer the strongest predictor of one’s
success; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress to ensure that disaggregated data
by race is made available to provide a clear and accurate picture of disparate effects and
outcomes to BIPOC communities.
NLC RESOLUTION #30

IN SUPPORT OF ACTIONS BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS) TO ADDRESS CORONAVIRUS HEALTH DISPARITIES THROUGH RESOURCES AND DATA

WHEREAS, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has revealed deep-seated inequities in health care for communities of color, including LGBTQ+ people and amplified social and economic factors that contribute to poor health outcome; and

WHEREAS, recent reports indicate that the pandemic disproportionately impacts communities of color, compounding longstanding racial disparities; and

WHEREAS, nationally, COVID-19 is killing Indigenous and LatinX people at 2.4 times the rate of white people, and Black people at 2 times the rate of White people; and

WHEREAS, women of color are also disproportionately likely to experience many of the chronic health conditions that heighten the risk of serious illness from COVID-19, such as diabetes and asthma, as a result of structural racism[27]; and

WHEREAS, women are more likely to be on the front lines of coronavirus response and exposure: 52 percent of essential workers are women, and women are the majority of the workers in jobs that the federal government has designated as essential, including the vast majority of hospital workers, home health aides, and grocery store cashiers[28]; and

WHEREAS, in 42 states plus Washington D.C., Latinos make up a greater share of confirmed cases than their share of the population[29]; and

WHEREAS, Puerto Rico, an area with a large Latino population, is at risk for experiencing health disparities due to an already weakened economic and health infrastructure. In addition, territory’s population is now older and more prone to health threats, such as the coronavirus. Many younger Puerto Ricans have moved away, and the median age of residents is forty-five, making Puerto Rico’s one of the oldest populations in the U.S.[30]; and

WHEREAS, while data for tribal populations is harder to come by, where it exists, it also shows glaring disparities. In New Mexico, Native American communities have accounted for 60% of cases but only 9% of the population. Similarly, in Arizona, at least 136 Native American have died from COVID-19, a striking 21% of deaths in a state where just 4% of the population are Native American[31]; and

WHEREAS, in several states Asian Americans have seen a disproportionate share of cases. In South Dakota, for example, they account for only 2% of the population but 12% of cases. But beyond these places, data can be spotty. In Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Oklahoma and Wisconsin, Asian Americans and Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders are counted together, making comparison to census data difficult[32]; and
WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ people also experience health disparities that magnify the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the greater risk of health complications as a result of COVID-19, LGBTQ+ Americans are more likely than the general population to live in poverty and lack access to adequate medical care, paid medical leave, and basic necessities during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, it is unknown how many of the 1.5 million people who have contracted the coronavirus in the U.S. and the 93,000 who have died are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Just one state, Pennsylvania, has begun tracking information on the LGBTQ identities of COVID-19 patients; and

WHEREAS, major holes in the data remain: 48% of cases and 9% of deaths still have no race tied to them. And that can hamper response to the crisis across the U.S., now and in the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to continue collecting data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, religion, and gender identity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the CDC to support data that sheds light on the intersecting forces of racial disparities, underlying conditions, and poverty that affect how the virus spreads and provide resources that address the disproportionate effect of the pandemic on communities of color.
NLC RESOLUTION #31

IN SUPPORT OF THE ONE HEALTH INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, cities depend on the health and vitality of their inhabitants, reliable access to sufficient quantities of wholesome food and clean water, clean air, and the ecosystem services that support them; and

WHEREAS, government plays an important role in coordinating efforts to preserve and maintain those resources; and

WHEREAS, policymakers are challenged to make sense of complex inter-relationships among human health, animal health, and ecological health, and pressed to conform with decision-making models that often isolate those critical connections and shorten planning horizons; and

WHEREAS, cities’ economic, social, and environmental well-being—the “triple bottom line” whereon environmental stewardship, economic prosperity, and social responsibility intersect—depends on our ability to integrate diverse interests through unified long-range planning, and to engage and inform policymakers and practitioners about critical interdependent needs; and

WHEREAS, the One Health Initiative[36] is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary approach—working at the local, regional, national, and global levels—to achieve optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment; and

WHEREAS, leaders in local government are ideally suited as partners in that responsibility; and

WHEREAS, successful adoption and implementation of the One Health Initiative will be predicated on the leadership, communication skills, and cooperation of its advocates; and

WHEREAS, One Health topics that pertain to local government include the costs and organizational structure of public health services; pandemic preparedness; health education; adaptation to climate change; animal control and vaccination requirements; transportation and land use planning affecting public wellness; water quality protection; waste management; energy choices; food safety and regional food systems; ecological protection, restoration, and monitoring; homeland security and bioterrorism; measures of economic trends and workforce preparedness relative to sustainable practices; health, healthcare costs, and absenteeism of personnel; and

WHEREAS, facilitating communication among increasingly specialized experts will improve health outcomes for communities through increased awareness of connections between climate variability, food production, and infectious diseases; cross-species contagion (zoonoses), and human and animal health conditions; and demands on municipal infrastructure and services; and

WHEREAS, climate change will affect energy costs, the frequency and severity of floods, fires, wind events, heat waves, and other extreme weather conditions; coastal development and
building standards; incidence vector-borne illnesses; crop production; habitat loss; endangerment and extinction of species; and human illness; and

WHEREAS, cities can only thrive if they remain attractive and livable, with sufficient quantities of clean water, clean air, efficient, affordable buildings, healthful food choices, healthy food animals, strong public health systems, and leaders who are committed to cooperative long-range planning for a sustainable future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities supports integrated decision-making in the context of the One Health Initiative and calls on the federal government to adopt legislation and practices that address human health, animal health, and ecological health in an integrated fashion and support local efforts to monitor and control public health threats.
NLC RESOLUTION #32

IN SUPPORT OF CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION

WHEREAS, federal nutrition programs play a critical role in helping children in low-income families improve their overall nutrition, health, development, and academic achievement. These programs support the development of our next-generation workforce; and

WHEREAS, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides healthy meals and snacks that support good nutrition and prepares children to learn at school and in high-quality child care settings; and

WHEREAS, the afterschool and summer nutrition programs provide meals and snacks at schools, parks, recreation centers, libraries, nonprofit organizations, and others often provide nutritious food and educational enrichment and physical activities in low-income communities; and

WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program play an essential part in reducing hunger, improving nutrition, and supporting learning for millions of children. School meals will be an important tool as schools work to overcome the learning loss students had due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutritious food and nutrition education to low-income, at-risk pregnant and postpartum mothers, infants, and young children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls upon the United States Congress to strengthen federal nutrition program access and supports participation by under-resourced children, ensuring nutrition quality and simplifies program administration and operation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should lower area eligibility test to 40 percent to allow more low-income communities to provide summer meals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should allow nonprofits and local governments to provide meals year-round seamlessly through the Summer Food Service Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress increase school breakfast and school lunch reimbursement rates to match the recommended rates of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government should expand WIC research in under-resourced communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should extend certification periods to two years for infants and postpartum women for those in the WIC program; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges Congress to permanently implement policy improvements for federal nutrition programs that were made in response to COVID-19 including but not limited to creating the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program and alternative delivery models.
NLC RESOLUTION #33

IN SUPPORT OF A NATIONAL HOLIDAY COMMEMORATING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LEGACY OF CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ

WHEREAS, César Estrada Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona on a family farm; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 10, César Estrada Chávez joined the thousands of migrant farm workers laboring in fields and vineyards throughout the Southwest after a bank foreclosure resulted in the loss of the family farm; and

WHEREAS, César Estrada Chávez left school to work full-time as a farm worker to help support his family; and

WHEREAS, at the age of 17, César Estrada Chávez entered the United States Navy and served the United States with distinction for 2 years; and

WHEREAS, in 1952, César Estrada Chávez joined the Community Service Organization, a prominent Latino civil rights group, and worked with the organization to coordinate voter registration drives and conduct campaigns against discrimination in east Los Angeles. He later served as their national director; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, César Estrada Chávez left the Community Service Organization to found the National Farm Workers Association, which eventually became the United Farm Workers of America; and

WHEREAS, under the leadership of César Estrada Chávez, the United Farm Workers of America organized thousands of migrant farm workers to fight for fair wages, health care coverage, pension benefits, livable housing, and respect; and

WHEREAS, his union’s efforts brought about the passage of the landmark 1975 California Agricultural Labor Relations Act, which sought justice and guaranteed certain protections for farm workers; and

WHEREAS, through his commitment to nonviolence, César Estrada Chávez brought dignity and respect to the organized farm workers and became an inspiration to and a resource for individuals engaged in human rights struggles throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, the influence of César Estrada Chávez extends far beyond agriculture and provides inspiration for those working to better human rights, empower workers, and advance the American Dream; and

WHEREAS, 10 States and dozens of communities across the United States honor the life and legacy of César Estrada Chávez on March 31st of each year; and
WHEREAS, during his lifetime, César Estrada Chávez was a recipient of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Prize and posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and

WHEREAS, President Barack Obama proclaimed “César Chávez Day” on March 31 of every year as a United States commemorative holiday to support public observance of the contributions of Cesar Chavez to the United States.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National League of Cities calls upon the United States Congress to declare a national holiday celebrating the life and legacy of César Estrada Chávez.
NLC RESOLUTION #34

IN SUPPORT OF THE EQUALITY ACT

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities (NLC) opposes discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and sex; and

WHEREAS, the member cities of NLC respect the fundamental dignity of all people and want to see all members of our communities able to participate fully in society; and

WHEREAS, there are 29 states where LGBTQ+ Americans are not fully protected from discrimination, including in credit, education, employment, housing, government funded programs, jury service and public accommodations such as stores, restaurants, and transportation services; and

WHEREAS, the current state and local patchwork of laws about non-discrimination creates uncertainty and unpredictability for businesses operating across multiple states; and

WHEREAS, the member cities of NLC agree that as Americans, everyone should have the freedom and opportunity to work hard, earn a living, provide for their families, and contribute to their communities; and

WHEREAS, 76% of Americans support a policy of non-discrimination against their LGBTQ+ neighbors; and

WHEREAS, The Equality Act requires our nation’s civil rights laws to work in support of prohibiting discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system and defines and includes sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress and the President to pass S. 393/H.R. 5, The Equality Act, and provide full protections for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals regardless of where they live in the United States.
NLC RESOLUTION #35

IN SUPPORT OF MOTHERS IN THE WORKFORCE

WHEREAS, any relief and long-term recovery from the economic fallout of the COVID–19 pandemic must recognize, rebuild, and support mothers who wish to return to the workforce; and

WHEREAS, women, and especially working mothers, are bearing the brunt of the economic fallout from the COVID–19 pandemic as a result of existing social barriers and policy failures such as the lack of a child care infrastructure, national paid leave policy and gender and racial pay inequity; and

WHEREAS, prior to the pandemic, women comprised the majority of the workforce for the first time in almost a decade; and

WHEREAS, 2,300,000 women have left the labor force since the beginning of the COVID–19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, mothers in the prime of their working lives have paid an especially high price, with those ages 25 to 54 experiencing a 5.7-percentage point decline in employment since the COVID–19 pandemic began, compared to a 3.1 percentage-point decline for fathers in the same age group; and

WHEREAS, work interruptions caused by school closures and child care closures have disproportionately impacted women, forcing women to reduce work hours, take a leave of absence, or permanently leave the workforce; and

WHEREAS, the unprecedented burdens of child care, work, and remote learning have strained the mental and emotional health of mothers; and

WHEREAS, access to paid leave during the COVID–19 pandemic has been linked to a reduction in the spread of COVID–19 by as many as 15,000 new cases per day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National League of Cities calls on Congress to recognize, rebuild, and support mothers who wish to return to the workforce in order to support local economic recovery including support for a minimum of 12 weeks paid leave, the Child Care for Working Families Act and the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021.
NLC RESOLUTION #36

IN SUPPORT OF EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN

WHEREAS, women of all ethnicities who are working full-time, year-round are paid an average of 82 percent of what a man is paid; and

WHEREAS, the disparities are even greater for Black, Native American, and Hispanic women, who are paid 63 percent, 60 percent, and 55 percent of white men’s wages, respectively; and

WHEREAS, while Asian American women make 87 percent of what white men make, the gap for Asian women varies significantly depending on subpopulation, with some Asian women – for example, Cambodian and Vietnamese women – earning among the lowest wages; and

WHEREAS, since the COVID-19 pandemic began, we have seen women, particularly women of color, disproportionately working on the frontlines, caring for our loved ones, and working to combat the virus, and women bore the brunt of the child care crisis due to COVID-19 impacts on child care and school, with women leaving the workforce due to child care needs at a date of more than four times men during the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, while the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was signed into law in 2009, which amends Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and states that the 180-day statute of limitations for filing an equal-pay lawsuit regarding pay discrimination resets with each new paycheck affected by that discriminatory action, we must go farther.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National League of Cities calls on Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act, which works to address ending pay discrimination.
Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

Transportation and Infrastructure Services Federal Advocacy Committee

TIS
Proposed Policy Amendments

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**POLICY:**

- 5.00 Transportation Principles
- 5.04 Air Transportation
- 5.05 Rail
Proposed Policy Amendments

5.00 Transportation Principles

A. Local Control

Fundamental responsibility for overall transportation decision-making is a shared federal, state, and local government responsibility but emphasis should be at the local and regional level to improve our transportation system. NLC supports the ability of states and municipalities to set their own priorities in transportation investment and to have a greater voice in influencing transportation plans that satisfy local needs and objectives.

Where there are overriding national or statewide transportation concerns, federal and state governments have a legitimate role in planning and decision-making, but local governments should never be excluded from those processes. The impact of federally regulated interstate commerce transportation decisions on communities and quality of life must be recognized and considered. Congress should strengthen provisions for local decision-making as a central component of any federal transportation program, and any funds intended for local use must not be diverted to state governments.

B. Transportation Finance and Administration

f. Manuals for Advising

The federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) must be modernized as a trusted resource for federal, state and cities’ transportation staff to select appropriate road safety devices for all road types. MUTCD must not be used to create preferential treatment among modes, supersede local professional judgement or block cities from using innovative new technologies. Appropriate research funding and resources should be provided by USDOT for communities to further the experimentation process for new devices, particularly to reduce risk for all road users. USDOT must weigh the economic cost of their recommended changes which can be prohibitive to upgrading local infrastructure.

5.04 Air Transportation

A. Airport Noise and Pollution

NLC urgently requests Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) intensify and accelerate efforts to deliver rapid relief to residents of cities impacted by airports and aircraft overflights and their heightened and increasingly unacceptable levels of aircraft noise and pollution. The federal government Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must intensify its efforts to provide prompt relief to residents of cities located close to airports from unacceptable levels of aircraft noise and aircraft pollution. The FAA should also address the impact of burned jet fuel residue which impact the quality of life for residents in affected areas. Where it is possible, NLC encourages the FAA to revise flight paths away from residential areas. In that effort, FAA policy should be extended to provide for the funding and implementation of measures to address the negative impacts of aircraft on affected communities. FAA should enforce adherence to “Fly-Quiet programs”, as well as residential-compatible runway usage, flight paths, and curfews established by local jurisdictions and approved by FAA. The NLC further requests FAA to revise flight paths, to the extent compatible with aviation safety, away from sensitive receptors and residential areas, and complete and implement the findings of the study of alternatives to
the currently applicable 65 Db DNL (or CNEL in California) noise metric upon which FAA relies in its evaluation of noise impacts. FAA must adhere scrupulously to the requirements of NEPA. In doing so, it must not only conduct complete environmental impact studies rather than relying on Categorical Exclusions from environmental review of operations over affected communities but must also use a noise standard that accurately reflects the impacts of flight path changes and NextGen routing over established communities. The NLC encourages the appropriation of Federal funds to provide the resources required by affected communities to plan for compatible zoning regulations proactively in areas near airports and that are subject to substantial aircraft overflight. Finally, included in its complete environmental review should be a thorough study of the health impacts of burned jet-fuel residue on the health and quality of life of residents in affected areas, as well as on the environment. To effectuate these goals efficiently and expeditiously, increased, collaborative FAA/citizen participation in the planning, design, and implementation of NextGen routing process is also essential. (See clarifications at EENR Section 2.09, Noise Control, and CED Section 3.06, Land Use)

C. This should be tied to encouraging changes in local zoning regulations to restrict noise sensitive property development.

D. The Federal Aviation Administration should require adherence to fly quiet programs, preferred runway usage, preferred flight paths, and local curfews as established by local governments and authorities.

E. NLC encourages the appropriation of funds to cities and towns that adjoin an airport but do not operate the facility for compatible land use and noise mitigation planning purposes.

F. J-B. Federal Role in Air Traffic Control

The federal government should provide funding for and ensure all airports and aircraft, including horizontal space delivery vehicles, are participants in a national air navigation system which provides for safe aircraft operation such as the conversion of radar-based guidance systems to GPS. Additionally, the federal government should continue to provide for the safe integration of new aviation entrants into the national airspace and engage with local governments in the creation of new structures and technology to manage airspace such as the Low Altitude Authorization and Notification Capability system. NLC encourages FAA to consider how to advance a more responsive system for temporary notices and flight restrictions.

5 Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Local governments and our agencies remain one of the most significant authorized user groups of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS or drones), and cities are poised to benefit from the entry of new advanced urban air mobility (UAM or AAM) vehicles and UAS. Congress and the Federal Aviation Administration must not preempt respect and uphold the existing authorities of local governments over land use, zoning, privacy, trespass, transportation, and law enforcement operations and work proactively with communities to seamlessly integrate and optimize drone operations. Further, FAA should not create unfunded mandates for local communities by the UAS
Proposed Policy Amendments

and UAM structures they create nor allow for unsafe conditions to be created on the ground for communities from flights.

It is unacceptable for local safety and emergency personnel to be burdened by managing the careless, clueless and criminal operators without appropriate tools and support. Congress must consider granting provisional or cooperative counterdrone authority for local law enforcement before FAA further opens UAS operations as it increases safety risks to communities. Authority of local governments to create and enforce regulations with regard to the use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems as it relates to land use, zoning, privacy, trespass, noise, and law enforcement operations.

Congress should establish a ground-to-air transportation planning program to begin to align UAM integration planning into existing long-term transportation plans with capital funding to develop and test operational concepts and development of heliport guidance should be appropriate to urban, suburban and rural environments and cost-effective for development where air carriers have abandoned essential air service.

USDOT and FAA must include local government representation to all federal stakeholder groups and advisory committees that will impact local skies.

The Federal Aviation Administration should establish a transit zone for privately owned and commercially operated Unmanned Aviation Systems that is sufficiently high enough above ground level that it prevents disturbances to landowners while also protecting navigable airspace.

5.05 Rail

1. Rail Principles

NLC encourages the federal government and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to establish forward-looking and comprehensive visions, plans and regulations for passenger and freight rail that serves the development and renewal of safe and efficient freight movement through and to cities and connected and effective passenger rail including long-distance, inter-city regional and commuter service that provides significant mobility options to Americans.

The rail system in the U.S. should be modernized and renewed to supply:

1. Freight movement that delivers goods, supports economic activity, operates safely and efficiently and works with cities towns and villages to reduce noise, blockages, emergency service disruptions and other impacts.
2. Long-distance inter-city passenger rail service traveling at least daily between myriad city pairs that is safe and convenient, is a proven economic catalyst for cities and regions, widens access to regional employment, education and medical care and opens the flow of tourist revenue for the communities it serves.
3. Regional and commuter rail service that travels frequently between city centers, outer suburbs, and commuter towns connecting people to jobs, educational opportunities, medical facilities, and centers of art and tourism, unlocking opportunities and aiding city towns and villages work toward equity, quality of life and sustainability.

NLC encourages the federal government and FRA to prioritize federal investment in rail projects that meet the following principles:
Proposed Policy Amendments

A. Local input: accord with the recommendations of local governments to state compacts and state and federal rail plans;

B. Rail Infrastructure: use of existing rail infrastructure, introduce improvements to benefit unimpeded freight and passenger traffic on the same corridor;

C. Service Equity: introduce or enhance passenger rail service to underserved communities and/or regions unserved with rail transportation options;

D. Expand Connectivity: by increasing service, city pairs, and new lines of service in a wider rail network and coordinating with “last mile” transit options;

E. Reduce GHG Emissions: shift travel and freight demand to the significantly more energy-efficient option of rail to reduce the percentage of transportation related emissions.

2. Passenger Rail

A. Passenger Rail Planning

NLC believes substantive engagement of local communities in passenger rail planning is essential to achieving a national network that meets the needs of the American people. NLC urges Congress and the Administration to develop a long-range vision and plans for a coordinated national network of long-distance and state supported passenger rail service serving growth in America’s regions and providing service to underserved areas. Plans should draw on state and intra-state rail plans and prioritization.

Ensure that plans are informed by and reflect the needs and priorities of local communities:

1. FRA, Amtrak and other operators should substantively include local governments in all their planning activities. The federal government should require states to do the same in state rail planning efforts required and supported under federal law.

2. NLC supports the authority to form multi-state and regional rail compacts to engage in corridor recommendations, coordination and project prioritization and development of multi-state regional rail, plans and maps and implementation of rail projects based on the local and state input received.

3. NLC further urges that states, regions and localities be provided sufficient resources in planning and implementing regional and commuter services.

NLC supports the investment in high-speed rail development as an important part of our national transportation network. Networks should be developed only after detailed analysis of their operational and financial feasibility and with local consent.

B. Passenger Rail Financing

NLC encourages the federal government to enact policies and programs that would expand public and private investment in both passenger and freight rail mobility. NLC supports creation of a rail trust fund or similar mechanism to ensure continued investment and appropriate expansion to meet the rail visions adopted which include:

A. Increased funding: for existing programs such as Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program (CRISI) and Restoration & Enhancement Grant Program and creation of new programs as needed to adequately fund rail infrastructure acquisitions, improvements, and rights-of-way and operating costs;
Proposed Policy Amendments

B. Increased passenger specific funding: federal sources specifically designated for passenger
and commuter rail, including a set aside to ensure equity for undeserved regions and
populations;
C. Flex funding: allowing state, regional, and local government entities the option to flex a
portion of their federal transportation allocation on intercity rail; and
D. Bonding: Allowing federal and state governments to issue tax-exempt or tax-credit bonds
for financing rail improvements;
E. Competition: Support open competitive bidding on all contracts related to passenger rail
development.

C. Rail Safety

American deaths and serious injuries by rail have plateaued despite efforts by FRA and railroad
operators. NLC calls on FRA and the Surface Transportation Board to continue to regulate safety
using existing structures and legal options to follow through on modern safety practices and
using policy tools, including incentives and penalties.
NLC urges the FRA to redouble its attention to the safety and mobility challenges that result
from capital and operational decisions such as the running of longer trains. The FRA should
conduct a study including local impact data from rail. The federal government require rail
operators to introduce state-of-the-art solutions where train length and/or frequency impair the
safety, mobility and/or pedestrian connectivity of communities on the project corridor.
NLC urges Congress to review the following rail safety issues:
1. Local Access: Requirements to close multiple rail crossings to receive agreement for
   support on isolated new investments in safe overpasses, underpasses, pedestrian bridges
   is unnecessary and unsafe;
2. Blocked Crossings: The increasing length of freight trains poses a safety hazard to
   communities which lack grade separations for emergency responders and other vehicular
   traffic, and safety standards should be established for the maximum length of time and
   reoccurrence of blocked crossing with appropriate consequences for failure;
3. Technology for Prevention: NLC supports the continued implementation of rail safety
   systems, such as positive train control (PTC) systems, to ensure safety on passenger rail
   lines to limit injuries and derailments;
4. Communication: NLC urges the federal government to direct the FRA to establish direct
   and transparent channels of communication between host railroads, operators and local
   governments through which to address safety issues and incidents and pursue productive
   collaboration between railroads and operators as needed to reduce conflicts, as well as
   deaths and fatalities related to rail lines.
5. Maintenance: Lack of railroad maintenance jeopardizes safety. The closure of poorly
   maintained crossings and infrastructure cause congestion on remaining crossings putting
   operators and passengers of motor vehicles at a greater risk;
6. Hazardous goods: The proximity, switching and storage of railroad cars containing
   volatile and hazardous materials in and through urban and residential neighborhoods;
7. Crew size: The hazard of reduced crews undermines the safe and efficient movement of
   trains and puts local first responders in unsafe situations during rail incidents and
   accidents.
D. Freight and Passenger Rail Oversight

NLC urges Congress and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to ensure that the expectation set in the Rail Passengers Service Act of 1970 (RPSA) for reasonable cooperation between Amtrak intercity passenger rail providers and railroad companies owners is upheld. Adjustments to existing passenger rail providers and rail service should not be subjected to unreasonable compensation demands or unjustifiable access delays. The FRA should utilize its authority to achieve the intent of the law.

Rail owners must be disincentivized by the federal government from uncompetitive practices by the federal government to price gouge other entities seeking to reasonably access the network. Rail operations should be competitive, and market driven.

Congress and FRA must improve on-time passenger interstate rail service by ensuring the Surface Transportation Board is able to effectively measure it and report it publicly by having access to freight and passenger data from rail owners and operators.

NLC believes that no federal railroad advisory committee on rail is complete without local and regional representation. NLC recommends Amtrak’s board include at least one local elected official and regional planning leader to appropriately represent the communities it serves.

E. Rail Operations and Maintenance

Continued maintenance is the individual responsibility of the rail owner. NLC urges the federal government to review and update rail track standards for dual freight and intercity passenger rail uses through appropriate rail improvements and clarify responsibility and funding mechanisms for dual use tracks. Congress and the public and private sectors must cooperate to provide for the efficient movement of freight and passengers, especially with regards to the management, relocation of rail lines, sidings, and increased rail traffic within metropolitan areas, to maximize benefits while reducing safety hazard and disruptions to municipal functions.

F. Rail Environmental and Noise Impacts

Federal law regulating railroad activity should not preempt local, state, or federal environmental review and requirements for permitting and mitigation of railroad activities. The environmental impacts of railway activities and facilities, including pollution, poor air quality, land use, vibration, light pollution, and noise, should not be exempt from local environmental, public health, safety, or welfare-based regulations.

Railroads should be subject to light pollution and noise constraints. FRA’s Train Horn rules must be modernized to utilize technology to affordably and safely make rail notifications in communities. FRA should work with communities to develop, test and adopt modern noise and light standards using new tools and methods to reduce community harm and disruption while continuing operations. Also, the impact of the increasing weight of freight trains along with increasing length must be evaluated in terms of impact on noise and vibration levels experienced in surrounding communities. Rail yard lighting standards and types need to be established that minimize lighting impact on neighboring communities.

G. Rail Line Abandonment

Congress must protect national, state, and local government interest in alternative public transportation regarding the use of abandoned rail corridors. Congress should:
Proposed Policy Amendments

A. Require railroads to provide specific information concerning traffic trends, profitability, and rail line conditions to federal authorities, rail users, and state and local governments six months prior to the filing of the abandonment application.

B. Require a railroad to transfer an abandoned rail corridor to a state or local agency for no more than the constitutional minimum valuation, for alternative public uses including walking and biking, and public-private transportation initiatives. Public interest in alternative use of rights-of-way should be fully considered during rail merger proceedings.

C. Provide federal financial assistance for the purpose of converting existing rail terminals into intermodal/multimodal facilities.

D. Ensure that active but unused rail lines are not allowed to deteriorate beyond the condition that would allow public use if the line were abandoned and transferred to public ownership.

E. Specify how the federal government should balance the impact on shippers and the community of losing rail service against the burden upon the railroad of continued service and the potential use of the corridor for public transportation, including biking and hiking. Alternative means of freight and passenger conveyance should be considered.

H. Rail Mergers

NLC calls on USDOT and FRA to increase their safety oversight under all existing laws and regulations to reevaluate railroad incentives and penalties, address noise issues in communities, decrease barriers for local communities that perpetuate inequities, while ensuring safety at at-grade rail crossings. Freight rail mergers in the United States must be in the best interest of the country and a competitive marketplace. The Surface Transportation Board should be required to consider the impact on cities, towns and villages and their resident’s quality of life and all aspects of a railroad’s safety record as two of the key criteria for approving railroad mergers or expansions. Because of the potential impact mergers can have on local municipalities, federal law should ensure that local governments have police, zoning, and land use authority for the protection of the environment and public safety.
Proposed TIS Resolutions

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #37**: Partner with Cities, Towns, and Villages on Flexible Programs to Meet Every Community’s Transportation Needs and Vision

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #38**: Advancing Safety for All to Reach Vision Zero with Policies that Achieve Safe, Healthy and Equitable Mobility for All
PARTNER WITH CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES ON FLEXIBLE PROGRAMS TO MEET EVERY COMMUNITY’S TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND VISION

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities (NLC) applauds Congress, the President, and the Administration for advancing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), a historic national infrastructure package that will allow us to rebuild and reimagine America’s transportation and essential infrastructure together; and

WHEREAS, the economic potential of our cities, towns and villages relies on a safe and efficient multimodal network of locally owned and operated roads, bridges, transit, rail, sidewalks, trails, airports and ports built on strong transportation plans starting at the local and regional level and intersecting with state and national systems; and

WHEREAS, local governmental agencies own 74.8% of the nation’s highway lane mileage¹ and 50% of the nation’s 617,000 bridges² while 845 urban and 1,684 rural transit providers are directly owned by local governments and make up 46% of the nation’s transit providers;³ and

WHEREAS, as the level of government closest to America’s communities, cities, towns and villages continues to be responsive to emerging and obstinate challenges while also being nimble, innovative and welcoming to new creative ideas and processes that deserve further recognition; and

WHEREAS, local governments are prioritizing the full transportation network as a critical instrument for reaching community goals including quality of life for residents, economic opportunity for workers and businesses, health outcomes for children, equity for disadvantaged people and neighborhoods and so many more, but we share ownership and responsibility for the transportation network with federal and state authorities whose decisions can impact what is possible in our own areas, such as with the limitations from the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to prioritize infrastructure partnership with America’s cities, towns and villages as a national priority through direct and flexible programs that are positioned to meet every community’s transportation needs and vision as they carry out the programs and policy in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local governments expect that the USDOT will support the full transportation network of the U.S. and align available programs, investments, research, and support more appropriately to reflect the demands of the full system and work with all infrastructure owners productively;

¹ https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/23cpr/chap1.cfm
³ https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R44459
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC asks for federal, state and regional commitments to collaboration with cities, towns and villages on the rebuilding and reimagining necessary for transportation, including renewing a long-term comprehensive transportation vision and completing thousands of projects in the next decade; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC recommends that the federal funding process and administration be guided and streamlined so that cities, towns and villages are empowered to manage and utilize federal transportation investments efficiently and effectively without fear of unnecessary burden or surprise costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that America’s local governments fully support a more equitable approach in the distribution and competition for federal resources across the full transportation network and prioritizing projects based on their local and regional impact; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local governments call on the federal government to support local initiatives to modernize and improve transportation planning and community engagement, including partnerships with community leaders and community-based organizations to ensure a greater and more equitable role for impacted communities in transportation planning; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that America’s local governments support both traditional and emerging transportation modes including regional and intercity rail connections, safe biking and walking infrastructure, transit and micromobility of all forms including autonomous vehicles, modern buses, scooters and e-bikes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports continuing to move toward a outcome-based transportation structure where the goals of the programs align with the region’s goals for economic development, sustainability, safety, innovation, equity, and regional connectivity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local governments call on the federal government to address the nation’s congestion points in collaboration with our communities and actively consider the essential urban and rural connections between ports, rail, freight and highways and the implications on the nation’s energy use, economy, public health, and environment.
WHEREAS, every traffic death in the U.S. is unacceptable and preventable, yet each year more
than 40,000 people are killed and thousands more are injured on American streets and every 7
minutes a pedestrian is injured; and

WHEREAS, while everyone is affected by collisions, collisions do not affect everyone
equally; and

WHEREAS, preventable deaths and serious injuries disproportionately impact disadvantaged
and vulnerable communities that include, but are not limited to: children, older adults,
individuals experiencing homelessness, individuals who rely on streets, bike lanes, and sidewalks
for income, individuals with a disability, and individuals who have historically been profiled
by law enforcement; and

WHEREAS, as the primary owners and managers of the road network in the U.S., America’s
local governments are leading safety efforts across the country on the roads, rails and sidewalks
they own and operate by implementing road design and technology solutions that allow us to
reach a goal of zero fatalities – Vision Zero; and

WHEREAS, the United National has proclaimed a Decade of Action for Road Safety from
2021-2030, to target a reduction of road traffic deaths and injuries by 50% by 2030 using a Safe
Systems approach and Senator Blumenthal of Connecticut and Representative Schankowsky of
Illinois have introduced a bi-cameral resolution expressing a desire to reduce traffic fatalities to
zero by 2050; and

WHEREAS, communities of all sizes can aid in preventing the deaths of our residents, neighbors
and families by taking a proactive, preventative “Safe Systems” approach that acknowledges
humans make mistakes and uses a holistic safety approach of the road system; and

WHEREAS, communities across the country are engaged in planning and constructing
connected networks of safe trails and active transportation infrastructure that enable people to, in
the safest way possible, walk or bike to their daily destinations, including their schools,
workplaces, and commercial centers; and

WHEREAS, road collisions also have an economic cost to the injured and even to those who are
not immediately impacted, since communities share responsibility for the increased costs of
medical services, legal and court fees, emergency service response, insurance administration,
congestion, property damage, and decreased workplace productivity from incidents.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that America’s city leaders urge the President,
Congress, USDOT and all federal agencies to commit federal leadership and support to cities
prioritizing safety for all residents through safety efforts, implementing Safe Systems in roadway
design and guidance recognizing that design is more effective than enforcement, honing proven
countermeasures and interventions that prioritize transportation safety for all, investing in safe and connected trail and greenway networks, and working with cities toward the “Vision Zero” goal of zero deaths on roads in the U.S.; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that to design safe, healthy, equitable multi-modal mobility for all and utilize the strength of cities as the laboratories of innovation, we urge Congress to authorize and appropriate sufficient safety and infrastructure funding to cities to implement Safe System local plans that provide a path of actions to “Vision Zero” and provide safer streets for all users and invest in safe and connected on- and off-road active transportation networks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, cities, towns, and villages call on USDOT to ensure that safety data is widely available and accessible, methodologies for showcasing safety outcomes are developed in collaboration with communities, and that the value for investments in safety are demonstrated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that USDOT should encourage state departments of transportation to improve data gathering and technical assistance for local government on safety as well and tracking of traffic crashes and other issues related to transportation safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC encourages the USDOT to update design standards and manuals, such as the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and guidelines for road speeds with a focus to put safety first for all users and shift away from constructs like level-of-service in lieu of improved performance standards; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that given the inequitable impacts to disadvantaged communities of unsafe roadway design and lack of access to safe and connected networks for walking and bicycling, achieving equity in safety should be a priority to repair the disparity in access to safe transportation options; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that public education is not achieved through advertising alone so we urge the use of more effective education strategies with USDOT resources such as demonstration projects, tactical urbanism projects, local community engagement, local road safety audits, and other effective strategies to address safety and capture interest.
Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

Public Safety and Crime Prevention
Federal Advocacy Committee

PSCP
Proposed Policy Amendments

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POLICY:

- **Section 6.01 Crime Prevention**
  - C. Weapons and Ammunition Control
  - D. Youth Oriented Crime Prevention
    - 1. Youth Crime and Violence
    - 3. Corrections
    - 4. School Safety
C. Weapons and Ammunition Control

The growing illegal use of firearms in cities and towns throughout this nation is the common denominator for most violent deaths. Firearms do not kill and maim without someone pulling a trigger. Controlling weapons and ammunition is just part of a more comprehensive effort necessary to reduce violent acts. NLC urges all levels of government to adopt statutory, regulatory, and policy actions to confront, curb, and eventually eliminate firearms violence in America. Specifically, NLC asks the federal government to:

- Provide funding and resources to the ATF to help facilitate efforts of states and localities to register guns;
- Provide additional resources to ATF to help local and state governments establish programs that would make it more difficult for criminals to access weapons and ammunition;
- Continue to enact initiatives and strengthen laws imposing enhanced sentences for the use of a firearm in the commission of any federal, state, or local crime;
- Strongly support enhanced programs to arrest gun traffickers and shut down the illegal sale and distribution of firearms;
- Regulate, in a manner consistent with the Constitution, Internet facilitated firearms commerce and provide the same oversight as other types of commerce involving the sale and/or transfer of ownership of firearms; grant authority to the appropriate Federal agency to regulate and otherwise oversee the design, safety, and responsible marketing and sales of firearms;
- Support flexible federal funding for local programs that address gun violence and promote gun safety education and training in safe effective handling and secured storage of legal firearms;
- Continue the federal ban on all manufacture, sale, importation or use of armor-piercing bullets that can penetrate bullet-proof vests except for legitimate use by the military and police officers.\(^1\)
- Support passage of federal, state, and local laws imposing substantial mandatory sentences, with no possibility of parole, probation, or suspended sentence for the use of armor-piercing bullets in the commission of any crime;
- Ban the manufacture, sale, importation, or transfer of all automatic and semi-automatic assault type weapons except for legitimate use as authorized by the National Firearms Act (NFA) and by the military or law enforcement;
- Apply a waiting period of up to 30 days for the purchase or transfer of all guns so that local police agencies may check the criminal and mental health status of purchasers.
- Expand and enhance the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) to ensure every state’s criminal records are easily entered and updated and to require anyone who is selling or transferring a gun to check appropriate records through and authorized federal firearms licensee (FFL) to ensure the person acquiring the firearm is not a prohibited person;
- Provide increased funding and assistance to state and local governments to upload standardized real-time data to NICS.

\(^1\) Armor-piercing ammunition, sometimes referred to as metal-piercing ammunition, is ammunition that is designed primarily to penetrate metal or armor, including body armor commonly worn by police officers. Under federal law, armor-piercing ammunition is defined as any projectile or projectile core that may be used in a handgun and that is constructed entirely from one or a combination of tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, or depleted uranium. (18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(17); 27 C.F.R. § 478.11) In addition, armor-piercing ammunition is defined as a full jacketed projectile “larger than .22 caliber designed and intended for use in a handgun and whose jacket has a weight of more than 25 percent of the total weight of the projectile.” 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(17)(B). 18 U.S.C. § 923(k)
Proposed Policy Amendments

- Require federal licensing of gun dealers. Applicants for Federal Firearms Dealer licenses should be required to show proof of compliance with state and local laws to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) before the agency issues a gun dealer license. The ATF must be required to provide each general purpose government with a list of that jurisdiction’s Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers annually;

- Require the Department of Justice to work closely with State and local law enforcement to aggressively target and hold accountable licensed and unlicensed individuals who break the law by knowingly selling or transferring firearms or ammunition to prohibited persons, gun traffickers or straw purchasers.

- Require that the background of an individual who acquires a weapon from a pawnshop, gun show or online seller shall be subject to the same scrutiny as an individual who purchases a firearm from a federal firearms licensee;

- Enact federal legislation that would allow states and/or local governments to adopt stricter standards and rules regarding purchase, storage and possession of firearms; and

- Enact federal legislation to prohibit an individual under the age of 21 from purchasing or possessing an assault rifle and handgun.

- Urge firearm manufacturers to be responsible corporate citizens by:
  1) including safety devices with their products and developing new technologies to make guns safer;
  2) selling only to authorized dealers and distributors, and allow their authorized distributors to sell only to authorized dealers;
  3) allowing no firearm sales at gun shows or similar events unless all background checks are completed;
  4) not selling firearms that can readily be converted into fully automatic weapons or that are resistant to fingerprints;
  5) not selling large (more than 10 rounds) capacity ammunition clips;
  6) maintaining an electronic inventory tracking plan; and
  7) forgoing firearms sales to licensed dealers known to be under indictment.

- Enact federal legislation that would prohibit any person from knowingly transferring, purchasing, or attempting or conspiring to purchase or transfer, any firearm or ammunition from licensed or an unlicensed person on behalf of or at the request or demand of a prohibited person, known or unknown.

- Enact legislation that requires a fully federally funded and completed background check within a reasonable time frame consistent with state and local laws for all gun sales or transfers, and requires that all unlicensed or private sellers use an FFL or participating law enforcement agency to facilitate a firearms background check through NICS on the purchase or transfer of any firearm to anyone.

- Congress should provide sufficient funding to the Center for Disease Control to conduct comprehensive research to identify the underlying causes that lead to gun violence and mass shooting in communities.

- Support federal efforts to study what impact firearms owners who habitually report their weapons have been stolen or lost have on illegal gun trafficking and criminal access to guns.

- Establish a national commission that consists of federal, state, and local officials, gun rights advocates, survivors of gun violence, law enforcement officials, and medical and mental health
Proposed Policy Amendments

providers to recommend legislative solutions aimed at reducing gun violence in the United States.

D. Youth Oriented Crime Prevention
It is essential that all levels of government, community leaders, the business community, and residents work together to create and sustain environments in which violence is not a pervading presence in the everyday lives of our nation’s children.

1. Youth and Gang Crime and Violence
Federal juvenile justice efforts within the Department of Justice have not had enough resources devoted to them to address the full range of problems in the area of youth victimization and youth crime.
Youth crime has been associated with increased gang activity across the nation. Many schools and public facilities have become battle grounds for youth gang members. As gang activities have become increasingly mobile in crossing geographical boundaries, NLC urges the federal government to continue its work toward placing increased penalties on gang-related crimes, such as prosecuting offenders under organized crime statutes.

The federal government must prioritize establishing and maintaining effective juvenile crime and gang prevention youth-oriented crime prevention programs on the local level by directly funding city, town, and multi-jurisdictional initiatives. Federal partnership and collaboration with cities and towns is the best way to take advantage of local leadership on this issue while encouraging innovative thinking and cooperation across jurisdictions and levels of government.

The federal role in juvenile justice should also focus on support services for state and local governments and information gathering and dissemination in the areas of rehabilitation of juveniles and progressive sanctions.

NLC supports:

• Federal assistance for the establishment and operation of youth courts to ensure swift and appropriate sanctions for certain juvenile offenses;
• Direct, flexible funding to municipalities for local juvenile justice and delinquency prevention initiatives with strict limitations on the amount of federal funds that can be used for administrative costs to ensure that a high percentage of the funds go to the local level; and
• Continued federal technical assistance to train local governments on how to apply for federal funds administered through states and units of local governments.

2. Sentencing
NLC believes that, except in cases of federal crimes, the federal government should not be involved in juvenile sentencing – this is a state and local function.

3. Corrections
The federal government should provide funding for mandates imposed on state and local governments that call for more accountability in punishing juvenile offenders. Currently not enough juvenile holding facilities are available to adequately meet the demands of the justice
Proposed Policy Amendments

system. Overcrowding and the high costs of implementing specific separation requirements are problems that severely hinder rehabilitation efforts. More flexibility is needed in all areas of juvenile corrections, including juvenile alternatives to detention facilities and the education of juvenile offenders. NLC urges the federal government to provide sufficient funding for all phases of all juvenile justice mandates to achieve desired results.

4. School Safety

The federal government must provide increased federal funding to augment local efforts aimed at improving school safety, such as School Resource Officers. Funding should emphasize effective and equitable school discipline policies, positive safety measures, restorative justice, de-escalation, conflict resolution, violence prevention and intervention, and the root causes of violent or disruptive behavior. Specific examples may include better racial bias training for School Resource Officers and or funding for social and psychological resources/supports for students who have suffered trauma and resources to analyze the impact of discretionary school discipline policies on students of color.

The long-term effectiveness of programs that help to improve school safety, address the root causes of violence, and reduce the unnecessary expulsion of students from school can succeed with continued investments by federal, state, and local governments. The federal government must provide funding for the implementation of effective intergovernmental partnerships to truly achieve the goal of developing a comprehensive approach to school safety, including comprehensive mental health treatment and counseling for all youth and their families, sensitivity and trauma-informed training programs, and other services that help prevent students from becoming perpetrators or victims of crime and violence.

The federal government should increase flexible funding for Title V, juvenile justice programs and innovative approaches to school safety that can be replicated by communities across the nation. The federal government must work with state and local authorities to establish more uniform guidelines and recommend mandatory reporting for crime and violent incidents in schools, including the impact of discretionary policies on BIPOC students. School districts should be required to provide the U.S. Department of Education and other federal agencies, as well as state education agencies and state and local law enforcement agencies, with school incident reports. The school districts should also provide these agencies with an analysis of incidents and intervention techniques to create a national database of school crime and violence incidents and “best practices” for intervention. Additionally, using this data, the Department of Education should proactively investigate whether local agencies may have violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act through their application of discipline policies.

This responsibility to report creates a difficult task of defining what a violent incident is. Intergovernmental cooperation, to establish reporting standards and criteria for federal, state, and local education and law enforcement agencies, would establish benchmarks for consistent guidelines on reporting school crime and violence.

NLC calls for a consistent commitment among all levels of government, school systems, businesses, and community groups to ensure that public safety contributes to a good quality-of-life in all communities.
Proposed PSCP Resolutions

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #39**: In Support of Legislation to Reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to Ensure Property Owners Are Able to Afford Insurance for Other Natural Disasters Such as Wildland Fires and Earthquakes

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #40**: In Support of Federal Efforts to Ensure State and Local Governments Have the Authority to Regulate the Manufacturing, Distribution and Sale of Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #41**: In Support of Federal Efforts to Prevent and Treat First Responder Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #42**: On the Use of Force by Municipal Law Enforcement Officers

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #43**: In Support of Federal Efforts to Recruit and Retain a Diverse Public Safety Workforce

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #44**: In Support of Federal Efforts to Ensure Local Governments Can Hold Law Enforcement Officers Accountable
NLC RESOLUTION #39

IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO REAUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP) AND TO ENSURE PROPERTY OWNERS ARE ABLE TO AFFORD INSURANCE FOR OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS SUCH AS WILDLAND FIRES AND EARTHQUAKES

WHEREAS, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1968 to make affordable flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners in exchange for using Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) generated and specified Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) for floodplain management by a participating community; and

WHEREAS, the Flood Disaster Act of 1973 requires the purchase of flood insurance as a condition of receiving any form of federal or federal-related financial assistance for acquisition or construction purposes with respect to the insurance buildings; and

WHEREAS, the NFIP provides affordable flood insurance to property owners by encouraging local governments to adopt and enforce floodplain and water management regulations, best practices and techniques; and

WHEREAS, these mitigation efforts reduce and prevent flooding on new and improved structures, thereby saving lives and reducing injuries, reducing economic losses, maintaining and protecting critical infrastructure, and reducing the liability borne by local governments and elected officials; and

WHEREAS, in July 2012, the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12) was enacted (PL 112-141) to extend the authorization of the NFIP through September 30, 2017; and

WHEREAS, there is still no viable private market for homeowners and businesses to acquire sufficient flood insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent upon all of us to have a long-term, sustainable and viable NFIP with rates that are affordable; and

WHEREAS, accurate mapping is fundamental for local governments to assess and communicate risk to their communities and homeowners; and

WHEREAS, the current mapping process often results in local governments having to fight inaccurate maps that do not take into account locally built flood protection features and communities building off of outdated mapping, which results in artificially inflated risk. Further, many areas of the country are not mapped or mapped accurately, which results in communities who are at risk of flooding unaware of the risk; and

WHEREAS, unless Congress reauthorizes the NFIP, millions of home-owners and businesses will lose their flood insurance coverage and could default on their loans; and
WHEREAS, in addition to flooding, many cities, towns and villages are impacted by the increasing severity of wildland fires; and

WHEREAS, the residents in these cities, towns and villages that have been hit hard by the wildland fires are finding it harder to get insurance for their properties for fire related damages; and

WHEREAS, private insurance for wildland fires and other natural disasters could quickly become unaffordable or unavailable, which will have a significant impact on local real estate markets and the economy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges Congress to reauthorize the NFIP and to keep flood insurance rates affordable for primary, non-primary and business properties while balancing the fiscal solvency of the program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges Congress to consider legislation that would guarantee property owners have access to affordable fire, flood, and other natural disaster insurance programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to work with state and local governments, the insurance industry, and other stakeholders to develop an incentive-based disaster insurance and mitigation system that would encourage property owners to retrofit existing structures to reduce future losses from natural disasters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to encourage lending institutions to incorporate mitigation provisions as conditions for loans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in order for local governments to help their communities and homeowners to adequately prepare for risk, Congress should provide additional resources to FEMA to utilize the best technology and methods available to improve the mapping process, including seeking the input from local government officials prior to approving any flood map that could impact local zoning rules.
NLC RESOLUTION #40

IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL EFFORTS TO ENSURE STATE AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO REGULATE THE
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF MEDICAL AND ADULT-
USE CANNABIS

WHEREAS, in 1970, President Nixon signed the Controlled Substance Act (CSA) and listed
“marijuana (cannabis)” in the most restrictive category, Schedule I, which was designated for
substances that “have no currently accepted medical use in the United States, a lack of accepted
safety for use under medical supervision, and a high potential for abuse;” and

WHEREAS, the listing of cannabis as a Schedule I substance was supposed to be temporary
pending a federal review by the newly formed National Commission on Marijuana and Drug
Policy (more commonly known as the Shafer Commission); and

WHEREAS, despite the Shafer Commission’s 1972 report concluded that "neither the marijuana
user nor the drug itself can be said to constitute a danger to public safety," and recommended
that cannabis possession for personal use no longer be considered a criminal offense, cannabis
remains as a Schedule I substance today; and

WHEREAS, throughout the 1980s, because cannabis was listed as a Schedule I substance,
federal and state criminal penalties for cannabis became stricter and mandatory-minimum
sentences were established; and

WHEREAS, two-thirds of Americans say the use of marijuana should be legal, according to a
new Pew Research Center survey; and

WHEREAS, since 1996, 33 states and the District of Columbia have legalized the medical use
of cannabis and since 2012, 11 states and the District of Columbia have also legalized the adult-
use of cannabis; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. marijuana industry is expected to generate $85 billion in sales annually by
2030; and

WHEREAS, the millions of dollars in tax revenues that have been collected in states that have
legalized medical and adult-use cannabis provide funding to local police, drug treatment and
mental health centers, housing programs, and school program; and

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2 National Commission on Marihuana and Drug Abuse & Raymond P. Shafer, Marihuana: A Signal of
Misunderstanding, 1972
4 Andrew Daniller, “Two-thirds of Americans support marijuana legalization,” PEW Research Center, Nov. 14,
5 Deborah Dsouza, “The Future of the Marijuana Industry in America,” Investopedia,
https://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/111015/future-marijuana-industry-america.asp, Jan. 15, 2020,
6 Josh Hamilton, "The Economic and Social Benefits of Taxing Marijuana,” medium.com, Sep. 26, 2017
WHEREAS, the legal cannabis industry in the U.S. employed more than 211,000 full-time workers in 2019 plus an additional 90,000 indirect full-time jobs, totaling more than 300,000 workers; and

WHEREAS, the rising concerns about the conflict between federal and state laws on cannabis use led to a 2013 memo by Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole stated “that so long as states had good regulations, then the federal government would hold off on challenging marijuana legalization”; and

WHEREAS, the roll back of Department of Justice’s 2013 Cole memo in 2018 by Attorney General Jeff Sessions is raising new questions about whether the federal government will crack down on states that legalized medical and adult-use of cannabis by instructing federal prosecutors to determine for themselves when to prosecute marijuana activities; and

WHEREAS, the threat of increased federal enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act has resulted in uncertainty of states and local government’s ability to regulate the manufacturing, distribution and retail sale of cannabis for the safety and health of its residents; and

WHEREAS, rescheduling of cannabis would allow greater federal, state and local regulation of the industry to ensure the cannabis people are buying is not covered with mold, fungus, pesticides, or other harmful substances; and

WHEREAS, rescheduling of cannabis would allow the federal, state and local governments to set rules and regulations that would restrict driving under the influence, set age restrictions on buyers and regulate the entire supply chain of cannabis, including growers, distributors, retailers, and testing laboratories; and

WHEREAS, rescheduling of cannabis should also allow local governments to establish zoning restrictions on the manufacturing, distribution and retail sales of cannabis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on the White House, U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to reschedule cannabis by removing it from the list of Schedule I substances under the CSA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NLC urges Congress to pass legislation that would ensure states and local governments have the ability to establish laws and regulations on the manufacturing, distribution, and sale of medical and adult-use cannabis within the state; and

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7 Kevin Murphy, “Cannabis Is Becoming A Huge Job Creator,” Forbes, May 20, 2019
8 Department of Justice, "Justice Department Announces Update to Marijuana Enforcement Policy," justice.gov, Aug. 29, 2013
9 American Public Health Association (APHA), "Regulating Commercially Legalized Marijuana as a Public Health Priority," Nov. 18, 2014
10 Bureau of Cannabis Control, "Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation," bcc.ca.gov
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, calls on the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Drug Enforcement Administration, and the United States Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration to establish federal regulations for the manufacturing, distribution and sale of legal medical and adult-use cannabis.
NLC RESOLUTION #41

IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND TREAT FIRST RESPONDER POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)

WHEREAS, protecting residents’ life and property is a vital part of ensuring the safety and security cities, towns and villages; and

WHEREAS, first responders, who are charged with protecting life and property, may experience a broad range of health and mental wellness consequences as a result of work-related exposures to traumatic incidents that include violent acts, death and destruction; and

WHEREAS, for the purposes of this resolution, the term “first responders” refers to municipal law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical employees who are responsible for the protection and preservation of life and property, and municipal emergency responders and public safety telecommunicators and dispatchers that provide immediate support services during traumatic incident that causes physical, emotional, or psychological harm to themselves or others.

WHEREAS, constant exposure to traumatic incidents involving death, dismemberment, abuse, violence, and destruction may exert a psychological toll on first responders, resulting in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance abuse, depression, and even suicide; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a strong prevention and early intervention systems that include crisis hotlines, routine mental health checks, and peer and family support programs can be key components of first responder mental health and wellness programs, provided they are appropriately researched and resourced; and

WHEREAS, while first responders may have access to support services to help reduce the risk of post-traumatic stress, studies have shown that they are less likely to seek because they are concerned about how they would be viewed at work if they had sought support; and

WHEREAS, studies have shown that concerns over the stigma and scrutiny from others about contemplating or attempting suicide is one of the primary reasons that prevents first responders from seeking help; and

WHEREAS, many first responders have military experience, and therefore their experiences as first responders pile onto a career that is already rife with trauma; and

WHEREAS, when first responders know and recognize the indicators or warning signs of an impending crisis and have the skills to talk to someone with mental illness, they are more likely to be comfortable confronting or breaking down the stigma about saying something to a peer or recognizing the warning signs for a self-referral; and

WHEREAS, the beneficial effects of peer counseling have been documented and key to the success of any peer support program is providing appropriate training and ongoing support and supervision for the peers.
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National League of Cities (NLC) urges Congress to establish a federal program, similar to the Department of Veterans Affairs’ National Center for PTSD program, within the Department of Health and Human Services that would:

- develop resources and training programs for community-based clinicians who interact with first responders and their families to help them better understand the unique risks facing their clients and what health and wellness programs may be available to them as members of the first responder community,
- provide technical assistance to support the development of model policies and implementation guidance for public safety agencies to make substantial efforts to reduce first responder PTSD and suicide,
- establish a national crisis hotline for first responders,
- conduct research to determine the efficacy of regular mental health checks, establish which approaches are most effective, and provide resources that move public safety agencies toward best practices to reduce mental health issues among first responders,
- establish remote access or regional mental health check programs to help first responders in small cities, towns and villages,
- assist local public safety agencies to implement peer support programs to ensure all first responders have access to this important wellness service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NLC urges Congress to improve legislative privacy protections for first responders seeking assistance from peer crisis lines and other peer-support programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NLC calls on Congress to create a public service campaign around first responder mental health and wellness in conjunction with National Mental Health Month.
NLC RESOLUTION #42

ON THE USE OF FORCE BY MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

WHEREAS, the police officer-involved killings of Black people and people of color have exposed racially divisive issues in the relationships between local police and the communities they are sworn to protect and serve, especially in communities of color; and

WHEREAS, Black Americans face a higher risk of being targeted and killed by police as compared to White Americans;¹ and

WHEREAS, 235 African Americans were shot to death by police in 2019 alone,² who are disproportionately subjected to police shootings; and

WHEREAS, NLC believes that trust between law enforcement officers and the people they serve and protect is essential to a municipality’s stability, the integrity of our criminal justice system, and the safe and effective delivery of policing services; and

WHEREAS, every person has a right to equal and fair treatment by law enforcement officers; and

WHEREAS, when it comes to governing a municipality, nothing is more important for local officials than protecting the public's safety; and

WHEREAS, in our civil society, local elected officials bear the responsibility of managing a municipality's public safety programs, including its police department; and

WHEREAS, the goal of managing law enforcement efforts by municipal governments must be to provide a safe, healthy environment in which ALL residents can live free from violence, fear, harassment, discrimination, and intimidation; and

WHEREAS, our country has a long history of disparate treatment of Black, Indigenous, Latino, and Asian Americans, especially Black and Latino people in our criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, the excessive use of force by law enforcement has shown that discriminatory enforcement of criminal laws has a corrosive effect that undermines the community's confidence in law enforcement and interferes with our efforts to keep all members of the community safe; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of local elected leaders to hold law enforcement officials accountable for unjustified, unnecessary actions that result in an abuse of power; and

¹ https://www.pnas.org/content/116/34/16793
WHEREAS, local elected officials work closely together with their municipality’s law
enforcement officials and residents to ensure police officers have the support, resources, and
training they need to serve their communities with honor, integrity, moral character, and courage.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC’s Public Safety and Crime Prevention
Federal Advocacy Committee requests that NLC develop recommendations for how municipal
leaders can ensure their law enforcement agencies “use of force policies” are appropriate. These
recommendations should be published and distributed to the NLC membership and the board.
Specifically, NLC should propose recommendations relative to:

- complying with the U.S. Department of Justice’s Use of Force Continuum;
- prohibiting maneuvers such as chokeholds that are intended to limit person’s ability to
  breathe or restrict person’s blood flow;
- authorizing the use of “lethal” or “less lethal” force when there is imminent danger to
  the officer or to another individual;
- requiring officers to use de-escalation techniques when there is no imminent danger to
  life and property;
- requiring other officers that are at the scene of the incident to intervene and stop the use
  of force by officer(s), including using their arresting authority, if they believe the actions
  are unwarranted, unnecessary, or are an abuse of power by the officer(s);
- requiring the law enforcement agency to log all use of lethal or less lethal force by
  officers to a national database that is searchable and available to the public;
- requiring officers, who use force when it is not necessary, to be relieved of duty;
- requiring officers equipped with body worn cameras to make sure the cameras are in
  recording mode anytime the officer is engaged in a potential incident that might require
  the use of force;
- prohibiting officers from restricting witnesses to video record the use of force by
  officer(s);
- ensure the public is able to call 9-1-1 or use an online reporting system when they believe
  an officer’s use of force is unwarranted or is in violation of an individual’s civil rights;
- ensure law enforcement officers and other public safety employees are provided
  whistleblower protections when they report an officer use of force violation; and
- requiring that all lethal and less lethal use of force actions be thoroughly investigated to
  ensure the incident warranted the use of force; and
- requiring law enforcement executives to take immediate disciplinary action against an
  officer who used lethal or less lethal force, if it is determined that the use of force was
  unwarranted, unnecessary, excessive or was an abuse of power; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the U.S. Department of Justice to update the
Use of Force Continuum to ensure that the continuum fully addresses structural and institutional
racism on how the use of force is employed by local, state and federal law enforcement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress to:

3 As defined in the DOJ’s Use of Force Continuum
4 https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/use-force-continuum
• establish a federal technical assistance and grant program that help local governments to
establish violence interrupter programs\(^5\) and initiatives that employ community members
with expertise, and reduce the overburden on law enforcement to respond to calls; and
• provide additional funding for the community oriented policing grant program to help
local law enforcement agencies implement and improve racial bias and de-escalation
training; and
• prioritize the awarding of the above funding to targeted municipalities that have
repeatedly been cited for lethal or less lethal use of force violations, civil rights
violations, or abuse of power by officers; and
• provide additional federal funding and technical assistance to local governments to help
administer mental health and wellness services to law enforcement officers; and
• establish a National Database of Decertified Officers that local governments can use to
vet officers who have been dismissed for such issues as unnecessary or excessive use of
force, abuse of power, racial discrimination, and violation of individual’s civil rights; and
• provide technical and grant assistance to local governments to establish transparent
civilian oversight boards to investigate officer use of force violations.

\(^5\) Violence Interrupters cruise the streets of the toughest neighborhoods to identify and intervene in gang-related conflicts before they intensify. If a shooting has occurred, they seek out the victim's friends and relatives and try to prevent a retaliatory shooting.
IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL EFFORTS TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN A DIVERSE
PUBLIC SAFETY WORKFORCE

WHEREAS, municipalities across the country are having a difficult time recruiting and
retaining qualified and racially diverse public safety employees; and

WHEREAS, the difficulty in recruiting and retaining public safety employees includes sworn
and unsworn law enforcement officers, volunteer and paid firefighters, emergency medical
technicians and paramedics, social workers and crises intervention specialists, 9-1-1 call takers,
dispatchers, and public safety communications technicians; and

WHEREAS, the reasons why and individuals are less likely to seek or stay in a career in public
safety may include increased risk of injury or death, risk of civil liability or criminal conviction,
lack of political and public support, insufficient income for the level of personal risk, risk of
potential for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other mental and physical issues resulting
from in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, lack of racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in the public safety workforce can also
make it difficult to recruit women and minorities; and

WHEREAS, recruiting, training, and retaining the next generation of public safety personnel
will require considerable local government resources; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities across America, especially small to medium-size cities, towns
and villages, lack sufficient resources to recruit, train, and retain qualified public safety
personnel to keep their communities safe.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National League of Cities (NLC) urges
Congress and the Administration to:

• Provide technical and financial support to local governments to recruit, train and retain a
more racially and gender diverse public safety workforce.
• Provide additional funding for local government to establish co-responder programs.
• Provide additional funding for local governments to hire recruiters to help recruit a
diverse municipal public safety workforce.
• Conduct research on the feasibility of employing unarmed responders for mental health
and substance use calls for help.
• Provide technical assistance to local governments to establish violence interrupter
programs.
• Establish a national ad campaign to help recruit more women and minorities in the public
safety workforce.
• Provide technical assistance to local governments to improve mental health and wellness
programs for their public safety employees.
• Increase funding for the COPS hiring grants and allow the funding to be used for hiring
co-responders and crisis intervention teams.
IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL EFFORTS TO ENSURE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CAN HOLD LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ACCOUNTABLE

WHEREAS, holding municipal employees, including law enforcement officers, accountable is the primary responsibility of local government officials; and

WHEREAS, state laws and labor union contracts may limit the ability of local governments to hold law enforcement officers accountable; and

WHEREAS, local governments are statutorily required to indemnify law enforcement officers acting within the course and scope of their duties unless the officer acts in bad faith or with malice;¹

WHEREAS, 42 U.S.C. Section 1983 in 1871 subjects state and local government officials to lawsuits for monetary damages for violating federal constitutional and statutory rights, and

WHEREAS, qualified immunity is a legal doctrine established by the U.S. Supreme Court that grants government officials, including municipal law enforcement officers, immunity from money damages for civil rights violations as long as the official did not violate a "clearly established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would have known"²; and

WHEREAS, qualified immunity also safeguards local governments from having to pay money damages for actions of municipal employees, including law enforcement officers, which were not yet deemed unconstitutional by a court when they occurred; and

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities (NLC) joined court cases supporting qualified immunity for government officials, including municipal law enforcement officers.³

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, while NLC opposes federal legislation that would eliminate qualified immunity for law enforcement officers, NLC does believe that Congress and the courts should consider changes to the doctrine of qualified immunity for law enforcement officers to ensure greater accountability; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NLC supports federal efforts to strengthen local government’s ability to hold law enforcement officers accountable for discrimination, criminal misconduct, or excessive use of force violation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in cases where local government officials determine that the actions of a law enforcement officer or officers discriminated against an individual’s civil rights,

¹ See e.g.: Ohio Rev. Code 2744.07; Calif. Govt. Code 825; Missouri Rev. Stat. 105.711; Dallas Ord. 31A-5.
resulted in criminal misconduct, or violated the law enforcement agency’s use of force policies, the local government:

- should have full authority to immediately terminate the employment of a law enforcement officer or officers, and the termination of the law enforcement officer or officers should not be subject to state laws or labor union contracts, including requirements for arbitration of disputes related to disciplinary penalties or termination.
- can register the law enforcement officer with the national database on law enforcement officer misconduct; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, law enforcement agencies should be required to search the national database on law enforcement officer misconduct before hiring a sworn law enforcement officer who must carry a firearm, has arresting powers, and carries a badge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, individuals registered in the national misconduct database should not be eligible for sworn duties such as carrying a firearm, arresting power, and carry a badge.
Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

Information Technology and Communications Federal Advocacy Committee

ITC
Only sections of the *NLC National Municipal Policy (NMP)* where modifications are proposed are reproduced in this report. The complete text of the current *NMP*, divided into seven policy chapters, can be found at [nlc.org/national-municipal-policy](http://nlc.org/national-municipal-policy).

Please note:
- Proposed new language is underlined;
- Proposed language for deletion is struck out; and
- Existing, unchanged language is shown as plain text.

**POLICY**: There are no proposed amendments to existing policy.
Proposed ITC Resolutions

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #45**: Local Government Support of Community/Municipal Broadband Networks

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #46**: Federal Investment in Broadband Access: A Call For Universal Availability, Affordability And World-Class Quality

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #47**: Local Government Support for Fairness and Truth in Advertising for Internet Service Providers

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #48**: Preserving Local Control of Broadband Infrastructure Siting

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #49**: Calling for Updated Federal Safety Standards for Radiofrequency Emissions of Wireless Facilities

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #50**: In Support of Municipal Data Ownership and Protection

❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #51**: In Support of Digital Equity for American Communities
NLC RESOLUTION #45

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY/MUNICIPAL BROADBAND NETWORKS

WHEREAS, the universal availability of affordable broadband access for all citizens has been identified as a national priority; and

WHEREAS, community/municipal broadband networks are an essential option for education, healthcare, market competition, consumer choice, economic development, and universal, affordable Internet access nationwide; and

WHEREAS, historically, local governments have ensured access to essential services by banding together to provide those services that were not offered by the private sector at a reasonable and competitive cost. This involvement has included electrification, public libraries, and other important services; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Communications Commission, half of American homes only have two options of Internet service providers for basic broadband and for faster speeds, a majority of households only have one choice\(^1\); and

WHEREAS, the economic health of municipalities depends on public and private investment to connect their communities; and

WHEREAS, municipal governments consider broadband to be a critical form of infrastructure, and more than 900 communities have therefore made significant investments in publicly-owned broadband infrastructure\(^2\); and

WHEREAS, attempts continue to be made to limit or stop further local government deployment of municipal broadband services, which has the potential of reducing the ability of local government to provide important information and services to their citizens in a timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner; and

WHEREAS, opponents of community and municipally provided broadband have proposed various administrative procedures that they claim are designed to protect citizens and consumers from unwieldy local governments; however, these safeguards really place over-burdensome requirements on municipalities and act as unnecessary barriers\(^3\); and

WHEREAS, a majority of American consumers, across the political spectrum, feel municipal broadband services should be allowed to help ensure that all Americans have equal access to the Internet\(^4\); and

WHEREAS, federal and state broadband infrastructure funds will be unnecessarily limited in effectiveness by the number of states with anticompetitive, preemptive laws in place by prohibiting communities from making the best choice for their own connectivity needs; and

WHEREAS, in the vast majority of community/municipal broadband networks built to date, the private sector has been involved in helping design, build, and operate the network – creating new business opportunities and jobs in the process; and

WHEREAS, local governments should not be preempted by states from being able to offer broadband services, high speed Internet, and other communications services and/or infrastructure which could advance the deployment of broadband throughout our nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges the federal government to encourage deployment of broadband networks in a competitive manner via a variety of conduits (satellite, wireless, and wireline); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC opposes any actions that seek to burden cities through unnecessary procedural requirements and safeguards that duplicate the democratic process by which cities govern themselves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC embraces local governments’ ability to work cooperatively with the private sector to offer broadband services and does not believe such public/private partnerships are incompatible with private sector competition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports federal proposals that promote community/municipal broadband, that preserve the authority of local governments to act in the interest of their citizens by constructing, owning and operating broadband infrastructure, directly offering high speed Internet and other communications services, and/or participating in public-private partnerships for the purposes of offering competitive broadband and communications services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should preempt state laws that restrict municipalities from providing community broadband networks and further ensure that no new broadband legislation should preempt the authority of local governments to conduct their own broadband planning; engage in broadband infrastructure construction, ownership, or operation; collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions; govern the placement and deployment of wireless or other communications infrastructure in their communities; or impose consumer protection or buildout requirements on broadband providers in their jurisdictions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress to pass the Community Broadband Act (H.R. 1631/S. 1460) to supersede state preemption and enable the provision of municipal broadband in every state; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on state legislatures to overturn or eliminate preemptive state laws and ensure that local governments are fully able to participate in building a broadband future.
NLC RESOLUTION #46

FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN BROADBAND ACCESS: A CALL FOR UNIVERSAL
AVAILABILITY, AFFORDABILITY AND WORLD-CLASS QUALITY

WHEREAS, to compete successfully in an increasingly global environment the United States
needs to take advantage of all of the technological solutions that high-speed broadband access
offers; and

WHEREAS, universal broadband should be considered essential infrastructure that contributes
to economic health, equity, and survival of communities across the United States; and

WHEREAS, despite the findings of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 2020
Broadband Deployment Report¹ that 18.25 million Americans lacked access to fixed terrestrial
broadband networks, the FCC concludes that “broadband is being deployed in a reasonable and
timely fashion;” and

WHEREAS, there is a disparity between providers’ reporting of advertised speeds and actual
delivered speeds that has been proven through speed tests in a number of states and
municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the numbers of individuals with access to broadband is overreported by the FCC
and inconsistent with the U. S. Census American Community Survey’s findings; and

WHEREAS, the federal standard for broadband (25 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and
3 Mbps upload), which has been in effect since 2015, is insufficient for multiple household
members to simultaneously access vital bandwidth-intensive services such as video chat or VPN
simultaneously; and

WHEREAS, with the proliferation of devices with Internet access, wireless data traffic has
grown significantly, placing a greater demand on both licensed and unlicensed spectrum, and
adding additional capacity is essential to support continued innovation and achieve the potential
to transform many different areas of the American economy by providing a platform for
innovation and is likely to have a substantial impact on jobs, growth and investment; and

WHEREAS, the availability and adoption of quality, affordable broadband service can vary
dramatically from one neighborhood to another and between single family and multifamily
homes, even in heavily populated urban areas, and a substantial number of individuals in poor
and rural communities have limited Internet access and where broadband access is limited,
citizens have limited access to information, education and tools for economic independence²; and

² Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program, “Broadband subscriptions are up, but too many households are still
WHEREAS, 15% of households with children in school currently lack a broadband connection, while the majority of teachers assign homework that requires broadband, leaving millions of students behind in modern education; and

WHEREAS, current availability and adoption is insufficient to meet present and future needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC asks the federal government to recognize and work through public-private partnerships or municipal broadband providers to achieve the goals of equitable broadband access by providing:

- Affordable and competitively priced broadband access; and
- Appropriate standards for symmetrical broadband speed, reliability, and connectivity that allow America to compete in the global economy and open more opportunities to deliver robust services more economically and universally; and
- Funding, such as that proposed in the Digital Equity Act, to support digital inclusion programs throughout the United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to include and to incorporate federal investment in broadband in any federal infrastructure proposal, to strengthen the nation’s infrastructure network while promoting economic development and social equity in our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports the FCC revisiting the benchmarks for broadband speeds on a more frequent basis because of the evolving nature of technology and the needs of communities for faster and symmetrical speeds; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress must work with state and local governments to fund broadband infrastructure at high performance standards that provides at least 100/20 Mbps service, and ideally 1 Gbps symmetrical service, without harmful data caps, to ensure that federal funds are spent only on broadband that will provide meaningful service for current and future essential applications; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC encourages the FCC to close the “homework gap” in low-income households through the support of low-cost plans, including access provided by local governments, and subsidized access to computing devices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC opposes any efforts by the FCC to reverse modernization of the critically important E-Rate and Lifeline programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports expansion of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utility Service Broadband program beyond loan guarantees to include grants, and an increased population threshold for eligible areas to at least 20,000 so that more areas may take advantage of this financing; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress to increase funding for Community Development Block Grants and Choice Neighborhood Grants, which allow local governments to fund broadband planning and deployment alongside affordable housing and neighborhood improvement projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to expand its ConnectHome program, to ensure that a growing number of HUD-assisted households and schoolchildren will have access to in-home broadband; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress to remove state-imposed barriers to broadband investment, such as preemption of municipal broadband networks, broadband networks provided by rural electric cooperatives, and middle mile broadband infrastructure built by investor-owned electric companies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress to reform and update federal transportation grant programs such as BUILD to ensure that placement of broadband infrastructure through policies such as “dig once” is prioritized in funded projects, and that physical structures that reduce the cost of broadband deployment by private companies such as dark fiber and conduit are eligible expenses in federal grant programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to take a leadership role in convening together all interested parties, including, but not limited to, all levels of government (local, state, tribal, and federal), consumer organizations, representatives of underserved communities (rural, urban and suburban), all segments of the communications industry interests, representatives of private sector, and not-for-profit sector organizations, to promote ubiquitous symmetrical broadband access.
NLC RESOLUTION #47

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR FAIRNESS AND TRUTH IN ADVERTISING FOR INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

WHEREAS, the universal availability of affordable, reliable high-speed Internet broadband access for all citizens is a national priority; and

WHEREAS, Internet access is a necessity for citizens to enable access to their workplaces, educational opportunities, telemedicine, social media, and community involvement; and

WHEREAS, the federal standard for broadband (25Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload) is insufficient for multiple household members to simultaneously access vital bandwidth-intensive services such as video chat and/or VPN necessary for modern educational needs simultaneously; and

WHEREAS, advertising practices in the Internet/broadband industry are generally unmonitored; and

WHEREAS, broadband providers currently do not consistently advertise the speed consumers are likely to experience, but the highest possible speed consumers may experience; and

WHEREAS, some broadband providers currently advertise speed and availability, including the availability of next-generation mobile services, to markets where the service and speed are unavailable, or only available to a small percentage of the citizens receiving the advertising, violating basic concepts of truth in advertising; and

WHEREAS, Internet providers that do not meet the FCC standards for broadband use the term ‘broadband’ for their advertised service with no disclosure of their failure to meet the standard.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) supports the imposition of a standard for broadband measurement to be required in broadband advertising, allowing the public a fair basis for comparison when purchasing broadband services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this advertising standard should require providers to advertise upload/download speeds on an equal basis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this advertising standard should require providers to advertise only actual delivered speed and availability averages (50th percentile) for the area being advertised to; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to explore and enact requirements that promote fair and explicit advertising in the broadband industry, such as a standardized “Broadband Nutrition Label,” which include standards based on measurements of
broadband speed from a nationally available source and allows consumers to compare cost and service across providers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the “Broadband Nutrition Label” should include, at a minimum, items such as: the actual delivered upload and download speeds, all fees assessed, costs of any associated rental equipment or installation charges, data limits or speed throttling, and termination or cancellation costs.
NLC RESOLUTION #48

PRESERVING LOCAL CONTROL OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE SITING

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has enacted regulations that substantially limit the traditionally-held authority of local governments over small cell wireless infrastructure and local governments’ ability to assess fair compensation to taxpayers for use of public property, subsidizing wireless providers’ development while undermining local efforts to expand equity and broadband access; and

WHEREAS, the FCC has enacted regulations that challenge local land use authority to govern broadband infrastructure under the auspices of accelerating broadband infrastructure deployment; and

WHEREAS, cities have worked as active partners to site broadband infrastructure in their communities while protecting public safety, neighborhood character, and the integrity of existing infrastructure such as poles, streets, and sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, cities share the FCC’s goal of expanding broadband access to all Americans, no matter where they live; and

WHEREAS, cities have a duty to their taxpayers to protect and manage public property and public rights-of-way for the benefit of all users, and must balance the needs and interests of broadband providers with those of other users of the rights-of-way and residents by appropriately reviewing siting requests and assessing appropriate rent for use of public property; and

WHEREAS, NLC and numerous other organizations representing state and local governments, as well as hundreds of individual local governments, had to resort to litigation to protect the health, safety and welfare of residents; and

WHEREAS, in August 2020, the Ninth Circuit Court decided to largely uphold these preemptive regulations, and in June 2021 the Supreme Court declined to take up the case, reinforcing the need for Congress to provide an immediate lasting legislative remedy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC opposes efforts by the FCC and Congress to preempt municipal authority over all broadband infrastructure, wired or wireless, including small cell infrastructure; and

4 City of Portland v. USA, Case No. 18-72689, 9th Cir. 2020.
5 City of Portland v. USA, Case No. 20-1254, Supreme Court of the United States 2021.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the FCC and Congress to protect local authority over their rights-of-way, municipal authority to protect neighborhood character and public safety, to require collocation, maintain control of aesthetic and undergrounding requirements, and existing authority to assess fair compensation for private use of public assets, including the rights-of-way and other public lands and facilities, which should not be limited to the cost of maintaining the rights of way; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the FCC to overturn its 2018 small cell rulemaking and identify effective collaborative solutions and effective administrative practices for the siting of wireless infrastructure, including increased local representation on advisory committees, instead of implementing a one-size-fits-all preemptive regulatory approach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC opposes efforts by the FCC to favor specific technologies through regulation, or adopting regulations that further expand the digital divide by preempting local governance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports legislation to overturn the FCC preemption of local authority and affirm the authority of local governments to determine usage of and appropriate fees for usage of local rights-of-way; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the FCC to examine all best practices and potential obstacles to expanded broadband deployment and adoption, including obstacles created by federal or industry practices that stymie local and consumer efforts to expand broadband access.
NLC RESOLUTION #49

CALLING FOR UPDATED FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS FOR RADIOFREQUENCY EMISSIONS OF WIRELESS FACILITIES

WHEREAS, increased usage of wireless communications services has resulted in greater deployment of wireless communications facilities in cities; and

WHEREAS, Congress and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) are considering legislation and regulations, respectively, addressing the deployment of small wireless communications infrastructure in public rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, states and local governments throughout the United States are preempted by Section 332(c)(7) of the Communications Act of 1934 from taking into consideration the health effects of radio frequency emissions (RF) when regulating the placement of wireless facilities or small wireless facilities with their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Americans have expressed significant concerns with the health effects of RF emissions associated with wireless facilities, particularly small wireless facilities placed in public rights-of-way often in very close proximity to residents’ homes, places of work and where they recreate; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties employ methods to avoid providing certain environmental related services near residents with particular sensitivities; and

WHEREAS, the FCC is required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, among other things, to evaluate the effect of emissions from FCC-regulated transmitters on the quality of the human environment; and

WHEREAS, the FCC adopted a proceeding in 2013 to reassess RF exposure limits;¹ and

WHEREAS, numerous states, local governments and tribes have urged the FCC to revisit and to update FCC standards for RF emissions, with input and support from other federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration; and

WHEREAS, NLC, the National Association of Counties (NACo), National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), and the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) on behalf of their respective constituencies, jointly submitted comments urging that the FCC take action to perform a

comprehensive review of RF emission standards and guidance for local government officials, particularly with respect to small wireless technologies;\(^2\) and

WHEREAS, the FCC closed its RF exposure docket in 2019, reaffirming the safety of personal RF-emitting devices such as cell phones, but declining to address the safety of small wireless infrastructure or to provide local governments with updated resources and guidance on assessing the safety of small wireless structures in their communities or addressing the rising tide of questions and concerns from residents about their safety;\(^3\) and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals remanded this decision, finding that the FCC decision failed to meet Administrative Procedure Act and National Environmental Policy Act requirements.\(^4\)

WHEREAS, public concern about 5G and RF emissions has increased exponentially in the wake of this agency inaction, making it more difficult for local governments and wireless providers to site small wireless facilities in communities and leading to vandalism or destruction of structures and threats to telecommunications workers’ safety; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to update antiquated standards and to perform a comprehensive review of the standards for RF emissions, particularly in light of the deployment of small wireless technologies in public rights-of-way in close proximity to residents’ homes, schools, workplaces, and places of recreation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government should continuously update and refresh these standards, based on changes in technology, spectrum usage, device usage, and infrastructure deployment, to ensure that standards are recent enough to maintain public confidence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the FCC to develop an updated resource for local governments’ use in education for residents about these updated RF emissions standards and the safety of commonly deployed wireless equipment, particularly small cell wireless equipment and 5G deployment.


\(^4\) Environmental Health Trust, et. al., v. FCC, Case No. 20-1025, DC Cir. 2021.
NLC RESOLUTION #50

IN SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL DATA OWNERSHIP AND PROTECTION

WHEREAS, municipalities require personally identifiable information to provide essential services to residents, such as bill payment, transit, public planning, and public health; and

WHEREAS, municipal governments have a responsibility to protect residents’ personal and financial data, of which they are stewards; and

WHEREAS, most municipalities are reliant upon products and services to carry out critical municipal functions, which necessitates the transmission and storage of data regarding residents’ finances, identification, travel information, or other sensitive data; and

WHEREAS, residents have a reasonable expectation of privacy in many transactions with their governments and do not expect their data to be shared with third parties except as necessary to perform municipal functions; and

WHEREAS, there is no current federal data privacy law governing the ownership and protection of data by residents or by municipalities on behalf of residents; and

WHEREAS, under current law contractors providing these essential products and services may require that this data become the property of the company, not the municipality, allowing companies to either monetize residents’ data directly or indirectly by requiring municipalities to purchase it back for local use; and

WHEREAS, local governments have become particularly attractive targets for bad actors, with two-thirds of all ransomware attacks targeted at local governments,¹ and most local information technology officers report insufficient budgetary resources to adequately protect local government networks.²

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities calls on the federal government to establish data privacy principles that prevent the abuse of municipal data by companies providing products and services to local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government should institute, expand and promote basic cybersecurity requirements for companies and governments to ensure that residents’ data is appropriately protected from breach or theft; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the federal government should establish robust, dedicated grant and technical assistance programs to assist municipalities of all sizes in preventing, preparing for, and recovering from cyberattacks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal data privacy policy should require companies to enable municipalities to export their data on demand, and should not require municipalities to pay again to access or export their own data; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal privacy principles should not impinge on the ability of municipal governments to collect and use data to complete critical government functions, such as transportation service, utility operation, public safety, and providing equitable access to these services.
NLC RESOLUTION #51

IN SUPPORT OF DIGITAL EQUITY FOR AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, access to fast, affordable broadband and devices in the United States is not evenly distributed across geographic, racial, or socioeconomic lines, disproportionately harming rural communities, low-income communities, and communities of color; and

WHEREAS, 18 million households in America lack broadband access, including 14 million households in urban areas and 4 million households in rural areas, reflecting an enormous un- and underserved urban and suburban population; and

WHEREAS, while 82% of households with incomes above $100,000 use broadband at home, only 57% of households with incomes below $25,000 do;¹ and

WHEREAS, household broadband access lags for communities of color, with 77% of white residents having in-home broadband service, while only 67% of Black and Hispanic residents do,² and twice as many Black and Hispanic residents as white reporting relying solely on smartphones for access to the Internet;³ and

WHEREAS, at least 83.3 million Americans can only access broadband through a single provider, with 47 million of those in a monopoly market for a single cable company, while another 33 million can only access broadband through a single DSL provider, leaving many with little or no market or regulatory downward pressure on pricing;⁴ and

WHEREAS, federal broadband policy has increasingly targeted federal dollars solely to building infrastructure in unserved rural areas, neglecting communities with inadequate or decaying telecommunications infrastructure and ignoring the impact of affordability on broadband access, disproportionately disadvantaging communities of color;⁵ and

WHEREAS, no dedicated federal subsidy for household broadband exists, while the Lifeline combined phone and broadband program has been weakened through federal policy changes and faces an uncertain financial future due to the current funding structure for the Universal Service Fund and its reliance on landline phone bill surcharges, and

WHEREAS, while mapping improvements will help to improve the accuracy of federal broadband access measurements, the Federal Communications Commission does not track broadband adoption or affordability in its annual assessment of broadband access.

¹ National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Digital Nation Data Explorer, “Internet Use at Home,” June 10, 2020.
² Ibid.
³ Pew Research Foundation, Internet/Broadband Fact Sheet, June 12, 2019.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities calls on the federal government to make holistic reforms to federal broadband policy that promote digital equity and empower local governments to engage in digital inclusion work within their own communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should enact legislation to fund and support digital inclusion programs and planning within communities, such as the Digital Equity Act; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports the establishment of the short-term Emergency Broadband Benefit and Affordable Connectivity Program and calls on Congress to establish a permanent, dedicated and sustainably funded federal broadband benefit, to ensure that low-income households are not barred from full participation in work, education, and civic life due to broadband subscription prices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that broadband reporting programs, such as the FCC’s annual broadband deployment report, broadband infrastructure programs, such as the Connect America Fund or the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service funds, should assess affordability when determining whether residents have access to home broadband; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that broadband infrastructure programs should not be limited to rural communities, and should incorporate suburban and urban communities, many of which have been subjected to decades of disinvestment, monopolization, and digital redlining; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the U.S. Treasury should allow digital inclusion as an eligible community support service under the requirements of the Community Reinvestment Act, ensuring that low to moderate income communities do not go unbanked due to lack of broadband access or low digital literacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should affirmatively uphold and protect the authority of local governments to control their agreements with the cable, wireline, and wireless telecommunications companies operating in their jurisdictions, to ensure their appropriate usage of public resources such as municipal rights-of-way, promote digital equity, and adequate investment in and contribution to the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should remove barriers to cooperative and municipal investment in and provision of broadband service, to ensure local governments are empowered to close gaps in communities with inadequate or unaffordable broadband service.