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*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Finance, Administration, and  
Intergovernmental Relations  
Federal Advocacy Committee**

**FAIR**

# *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 1.01 Finance**
  - A. Municipal Finance Mechanisms
- **Section 1.03 Intergovernmental Relations**
  - Q. Election Administration

1 **Section 1.01**

2 **C. Municipal Finance Mechanisms**

3  
4 The ability for local municipalities to retain maximum flexibility and control over their funding  
5 and financing mechanisms is of utmost importance. To preserve and promote that condition, the  
6 tax exempt status of municipal debt obligations should be preserved and not altered in any fashion,  
7 ~~particularly as to public buildings, spaces, infrastructure and utilities.~~ Rules relating to issuance,  
8 deductibility, refunding, credit enhancements and market advisors should be unambiguous and  
9 consistent, offering cities the ability to act in their best financial interest.

10  
11 The advanced refunding of municipal debt helps save cities, towns and villages money that can be  
12 reinvested into communities nationwide. The provision, repealed by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act,  
13 should be reversed and municipalities should once again have access to this tool. Advance

14  
15 Modernization of the small borrower’s exemption (bank qualified debt) is critical for smaller  
16 communities nationwide. NLC believes that the small borrower’s exemption should be raised to  
17 \$30 million and indexed to inflation for each calendar year.

18  
19 Municipal revenue generation capability should be protected, and preference for municipal tax  
20 liens in private bankruptcy proceedings should be retained.

21 All financing options should be available to cities, including sale and leaseback arrangements,  
22 equipment leases, and industrial development bonds, to allow for maximum flexibility in funding  
23 the various operations in which a city engages.

24  
1 **Section 1.03**

2 **Q. Election Administration**

3  
4 Voting is fundamental to democracy in the United States’ form of government. Citizen trust in  
5 the integrity of this process is essential. Procedures and administration of this process must be  
6 completely honest, transparent and impartial. State and local officials are primarily responsible  
7 for administering the voting process but all levels of government – federal, state and local should  
8 exercise oversight in a balanced and even-handed manner. NLC is opposed to any federal laws  
9 that disenfranchise individuals from exercising their most fundamental constitutional right to vote.  
10 Additionally, NLC supports the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act being enacted into  
11 law. ~~Moreover~~Finally, NLC supports equitable voting rights and protections for individuals whose  
12 ability to cast a ballot has historically been restricted on the basis of race, sex, disability, age,  
13 English proficiency, or housing status.

14 NLC does support federal establishment and enforcement of standards for voting for Americans  
15 overseas, particularly members of the U.S. military and federal government employees and their  
16 dependents. The federal government should annually review state laws for any procedural or  
17 statutory inconsistencies with applicable federal laws and promptly inform state governments,  
18 the state municipal league and the state association of counties in each state of any problems and  
19 ways to cure them.

NLC Resolutions are annual statements of position that sunset at the end of the calendar year unless action is taken. The committee must review each of the 2022 resolutions that originated in the FAIR Committee to determine recommendations for 2023. The committee has the following options:

1. Renew the resolution for the coming year (with or without edits)
2. Incorporate the resolution into permanent policy; or
3. Let the resolution expire.

The FAIR resolutions that were approved for 2022 at City Summit with recommendations for 2023 are:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>FAIR Committee Recommendation</b>
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-1:</b> Calling to Resolve the Conflict Between State and Federal Cannabis Laws	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-2:</b> Preserving the Tax Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-3:</b> Calling for the Restoration of Tax Exemption of Advance Refunding Bonds	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-4:</b> Calling for the Modernization of Small Borrower’s Exemption (Bank Qualified Debt)	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-5:</b> Support for Reforming the Earned Income Tax Credit for Childless Workers	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-6:</b> Exempts from Taxation Income from Loan Modification, Forgiveness or Cancellation for Small Businesses	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-7:</b> Calling to Preserve and Enhance Voting by Mail	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-8:</b> Support for the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act	Expire, Incorporate into Policy

<b>NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 1:</b> Support for Reforms of Opportunity Zones	Adopt
<b>NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 2:</b> Calling for a More Robust Low-Income Housing Tax Credit to Help Ease the Nation's Housing Crisis	Adopt

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2022-1**

**CALLING TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL  
CANNABIS LAWS**

**FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew**

**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.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-2

2  
3 PRESERVING THE TAX EXEMPT STATUS OF MUNICIPAL BONDS

4  
5 FAIR Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy

6  
7 ~~WHEREAS, the federal tax exemption for municipal bonds has been in place since the federal~~  
8 ~~income tax was instituted in 1913; and~~

9  
10 ~~WHEREAS, tax exempt municipal bonds are the primary funding mechanism for state and local~~  
11 ~~government infrastructure projects with three quarters of the total United States investment in~~  
12 ~~infrastructure being accomplished with tax exempt financing from over 50,000 state and local~~  
13 ~~governments and authorities; and~~

14  
15 ~~WHEREAS, the tax exemption for municipal bonds was granted to ensure affordable access to~~  
16 ~~credit for municipal projects that, among other things, provide for public health and well-being,~~  
17 ~~and as a result, local governments have saved taxpayers an average of 20 to 25 percent on~~  
18 ~~interest costs with tax exempt municipal bonds as compared to taxable bonds; and~~

19  
20 ~~WHEREAS, a cap or elimination of the federal tax exemption for municipal bonds would place~~  
21 ~~federal, state, and local governments at cross purposes because any savings realized by the~~  
22 ~~federal government as a result of tampering with the tax exemption would be more than offset by~~  
23 ~~economic losses at the state and local level due to higher credit costs, canceled infrastructure~~  
24 ~~projects, fewer job opportunities, and a greater burden on local taxpayers; and~~

25  
26 ~~WHEREAS, stability in the municipal bond market rests on the tax exemption for municipal~~  
27 ~~bonds, and market stability is essential to local and national economic recovery.~~

28  
29 ~~NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED~~ that the National League of Cities calls on  
30 members of Congress and the Administration to state their support for maintaining the tax  
31 exemption for municipal bonds to promote employment and investment in our nation's cities and  
32 towns; and

33  
34 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that NLC opposes any attempt to eliminate or limit the federal  
35 tax exemption for municipal bonds as a part of a federal deficit reduction plan, pension reform  
36 legislation or as a consequence of efforts to advance comprehensive tax reform; and

37  
38 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that NLC supports maintaining the tax exemption for qualified  
39 private activity bonds (PABs) to finance critical infrastructure, affordable housing projects and  
40 other local services; and

41  
42 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that NLC supports efforts to reduce the cost and redundant  
43 burdens of issuance and administration by eliminating redundant rules on arbitrage and private  
44 use; and



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~~**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~~

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-3

2  
3 CALLING FOR THE RESTORATION OF TAX EXEMPTION OF ADVANCE  
4 REFUNDING BONDS

5  
6 FAIR Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy

7  
8 ~~WHEREAS, prior to January 1, 2018, municipal governments could issue tax exempt securities~~  
9 ~~know as advance refunding bonds; and~~

10  
11 ~~WHEREAS, advanced refundings represented 27% of municipal bond market activity in 2016~~  
12 ~~and 19% in 2017; and~~

13  
14 ~~WHEREAS, such single use bonds allowed municipalities to refinance outstanding debt and~~  
15 ~~achieve interest rate reductions prior to the original bond's call date; and~~

16  
17 ~~WHEREAS, lower borrowing costs allowed issuers to save at least \$12 billion of local tax~~  
18 ~~dollars per year in debt servicing costs and free up capital to invest in additional infrastructure~~  
19 ~~improvements, better balance budgets and lower local tax rates; and~~

20  
21 ~~WHEREAS, advance refunding bonds provided municipalities with a tool to better weather~~  
22 ~~recessions by allowing them to reduce otherwise fixed costs as tax receipts fall; and~~

23  
24 ~~WHEREAS, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 eliminated the ability of municipalities to issue~~  
25 ~~single use tax exempt advance refunding bonds; and~~

26  
27 ~~WHEREAS, in the 116th Congress (the prior Congress) bills to reinstate tax exempt advanced~~  
28 ~~refunding was introduced in both chambers of Congress, as well as incorporated into H.R. 2., the~~  
29 ~~Moving Forward Act. Legislation to reinstate tax exempt advanced refundings was again~~  
30 ~~introduced in the 117th (the current Congress).~~

31  
32 ~~NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED~~ that the National League of Cities supports the full  
33 ~~reinstatement of the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds or a substantial equivalent.~~

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-4

2  
3 CALLING FOR THE MODERIZATION OF SMALL BORROWER’S EXEMPTION  
4 (BANK QUALIFIED DEBT)

5  
6 FAIR Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy  
7

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

10  
11 ~~WHEREAS, local and community banks are typically disincentivized from purchasing and~~  
12 ~~holding municipal securities due to their inability to deduct the associated carrying costs from~~  
13 ~~their federal income tax returns; and~~

14  
15 ~~WHEREAS, governments issuing \$10 million or less in bonds per calendar year are able to have~~  
16 ~~their bonds designated as bank qualified; and~~

17  
18 ~~WHEREAS, banks are able to deduct most of the carrying costs associated with holding bank-~~  
19 ~~qualified bonds and are therefore incentivized to buy directly from small municipalities; and~~

20  
21 ~~WHEREAS, these small municipalities are able to bypass the traditional underwriting process~~  
22 ~~by selling their bank qualified bonds directly to local banks at a substantial cost savings to local~~  
23 ~~taxpayers; and~~

24  
25 ~~WHEREAS, more than three decades of inflation has reduced the utility of the \$10 million~~  
26 ~~threshold since it was set in 1986, creating a situation whereby small municipalities are not able~~  
27 ~~to leverage bank qualified debt to the degree they did 30 years prior; and~~

28  
29 ~~WHEREAS, the threshold was temporarily increased to \$30 million from 2009 to 2010, which~~  
30 ~~created a market for thousands of small borrowings for small municipalities during the Great~~  
31 ~~Recession.~~

32  
33 ~~NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED~~ that the National League of Cities supports the  
34 modernization of the small borrower’s exemption to allow more small municipalities, struggling  
35 to finance critical projects through the traditional bond underwriting process, to issue bank-  
36 qualified debt; and

37  
38 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that the small borrower’s exemption threshold should be  
39 permanently raised to \$30 million and indexed to inflation for all future calendar years;

40  
41 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that the small borrower’s exemption should be modified to  
42 apply to governmental issuers and the borrowing organizations separately regardless of the issuer  
43 and permit 501(c)(3) organizations to provide the designation

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2022-5**

**SUPPORT FOR REFORMING THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT FOR  
CHILDLESS WORKERS**

**FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew**

**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.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2022-6**

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

**FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew**

**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 for 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.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-7

2  
3 CALLING TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE VOTING BY MAIL

4  
5 FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew

6  
7 WHEREAS, voting is a constitutionally protected right; and

8  
9 WHEREAS, all governments, especially state and local, must ensure an accessible, safe and  
10 secure method of voting for all citizens; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, measures are taken to ensure electoral integrity and prevent fraud when votes are  
13 cast by mail; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, use of the terms “voting by mail” and “absentee voting” varies from state to state,  
16 “voting by mail” is assumed to mean any ballot sent through the mail, including by absentee  
17 voting; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, all states allow voting by mail in certain circumstances; and

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

23  
24 WHEREAS, in 2016, nearly ¼ of all U.S. votes were cast by mail. Due to the pandemic the  
25 number of voters casting ballots on Election day in 2020 rose to 46%; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, opinion polls consistently find that a majority of American support having an  
28 option to vote by mail; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, COVID-19 has pushed states to expand options for voting by mail due to limited  
31 election facilities and poll workers, increased sanitation costs, the nature of COVID-19 being  
32 spread through person-to-person contact, and the need to ensure all citizens have equal access to  
33 exercise their right to vote.

34  
35 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that while it takes no stance on individual state  
36 election laws, the National League of Cities supports federal efforts that preserve and enhance  
37 systems that allow for accessible, safe and secure vote by mail options.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-8

2  
3 ~~SUPPORT FOR THE JOHN LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT~~

4  
5 **FAIR Committee Recommendation:** Expire, Incorporate into Policy

6  
7 ~~WHEREAS, voting is fundamental to democracy in the United States’ form of government; and~~

8  
9 ~~WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed to ensure that millions of Black, Latinx,~~  
10 ~~Asian American and Native American citizens who were previously denied suffrage have an~~  
11 ~~equal opportunity to cast their ballot; and~~

12  
13 ~~WHEREAS, in the 2013 Shelby County v. Holder decision, the United States Supreme Court~~  
14 ~~upheld Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, requiring jurisdictions with a history of~~  
15 ~~discrimination to submit any proposed changes in voting procedures to the U.S. Department of~~  
16 ~~Justice or a federal district court in Washington, D.C. to ensure the change would not harm~~  
17 ~~minority voters (known as “preclearance”); and~~

18  
19 ~~WHEREAS, in the Shelby County V. Holder decision, the United States Supreme Court struck~~  
20 ~~down Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which contained the coverage formula used~~  
21 ~~to determine which jurisdictions are covered by Section 5 of the Act; and~~

22  
23 ~~WHEREAS, Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is practically defunct; and~~

24  
25 ~~WHEREAS, following the 2013 Shelby County V. Holder decision, several states enacted new~~  
26 ~~voting restrictions that, prior to the 2013 decision, would have been subject to preclearance under~~  
27 ~~Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and~~

28  
29 ~~WHEREAS, the United States House of Representatives, in a report entitled Voting Rights and~~  
30 ~~Election Administration in the United States of America concluded that “without federal~~  
31 ~~protections, new and old barriers to voting have emerged” that “disproportionately impact~~  
32 ~~minority voters;” and~~

33  
34 ~~WHEREAS, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act creates a new coverage formula~~  
35 ~~that applies to all states; and~~

36  
37 ~~WHEREAS, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act establishes a targeted process for~~  
38 ~~reviewing voting changes in jurisdictions nationwide, that utilizes measures that have historically~~  
39 ~~been used to disenfranchise minority voters; and~~

40  
41 ~~WHEREAS, the National League of Cities is opposed to any federal laws that restricts~~  
42 ~~American citizens from exercising their most fundamental constitutional right to vote.~~

44 ~~NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED~~ that the National League of Cities supports the  
45 John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and urges its enactment into law.



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**NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 1**

**SUPPORT FOR REFORMS OF OPPORTUNITY ZONES**

**FAIR Committee Recommendation: Adopt**

WHEREAS, the 8,764 census tracts designated as qualified opportunity zones span across all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and 5 Territories and overwhelmingly represent communities that have been economically left behind as the American economy has surged forward.

WHEREAS, the average poverty rate of qualified opportunity zone residents is 26.4 percent, nearly double the national average.

WHEREAS, Opportunity Zones cover 54 percent—more than half—of the country’s pockets of concentrated persistent poverty, meaning census tracts in which at least 40 percent of the population has lived in poverty since at least 1980.

WHEREAS, more adults in qualified Opportunity Zones lack a high school diploma than have a four-year college degree.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the National League of Cities (NLC) supports reforms to Opportunity Zones (1) bring them in line with the original intent of the legislation, (2) support a fund technical assistance and capacity building, (3) allows for zero population census tracts to be eligible for Opportunity Zones designation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NLC supports proposals to sunset to Opportunity Zone designation for census tracts with high median family income (MFI), which is one that exceeds 130 percent of the national MFI.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NLC supports proposals to provide technical assistance and capacity building to help drive capital and projects in underserved communities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NLC support population census tracts with zero population and where it was formerly used for industrial purposes to be eligible for an Opportunity Zone designation.

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**NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 2**

**CALLING FOR A MORE ROBUST LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDIT TO  
HELP EASE THE NATION’S HOUSING CRISIS**

**Committee Recommendation: Adopt**

WHEREAS, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (“LIHTC”) was created by the *Tax Reform Act of 1986* and is designed to encourage the private sector investment in the new construction, acquisition, and rehabilitation of rental housing affordable to low-income households; and,

WHEREAS, since President Ronald Reagan signed LIHTC into law in 1986, it has financed the construction and preservation of more than 3.6 million affordable homes nationwide, at a rate of more than 120,000 per year; and,

WHEREAS, today LIHTC produces virtually all new affordable rental housing and is our primary tool for preserving existing affordable housing; and,

WHEREAS, LIHTC offers a dollar-for-dollar reduction in a taxpayer’s income tax liability in return for making a long-term investment in affordable rental housing; and,

WHEREAS, state agencies award LIHTC to developers who engage private investors in the property’s ownership; and,

WHEREAS, the investors provide upfront equity capital to fund the construction and rehabilitation of affordable housing, allowing developers to borrow less money and pass through the savings in lower rents for low-income tenants. Investors, in turn, receive a 10-year stream of tax credits based on the cost of constructing or rehabilitating apartments that must be rented to low-income households; and,

WHEREAS, LIHTC credit is allocated to each state based on the state’s population. In 2021, the state Credit cap is \$2.81 times the state’s population, with a state minimum of \$3,245,625; and,

WHEREAS, the LIHTC program generally serves low-income working households earning 60 percent of area median income (“AMI”) or less; and,

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) data on LIHTC resident demographics, nearly 45 percent of all households living in LIHTC apartments are extremely low income (“ELI”), meaning they earn 30 percent of AMI or less. Another 34 percent were very low income, earning between 30 and 50 percent of AMI, and the remaining 21.5 percent earn more than 50 percent of AMI.

WHEREAS, according to HUD’s most recent *Worst-Case Housing Needs* report, 7.72 million very low-income renter households had worst-case housing needs in 2017, meaning they did not

45 receive government housing assistance and paid more than half of their incomes for rent, lived in  
46 severely inadequate conditions, or both; and,

47

48 **WHEREAS,** there is a shortage of more than 7 million affordable rental units for extremely low-  
49 income renters, with only 37 affordable and available units for every 100 ELI renter households  
50 nationwide, and 70 percent of ELI renters are spending more than half of their incomes on  
51 housing. Low-income renters who are unable to find affordable apartments are forced to pay a  
52 significant portion of their incomes for housing — leaving little money left over for other  
53 necessities like food, transportation, childcare, healthcare, and utilities; and,

54

55 **WHEREAS,** LIHTC accounts for the vast majority of the country’s new and substantially  
56 rehabilitated rental housing affordable to low-income people, creating affordable housing  
57 opportunities for the millions of families in our country today who otherwise pay an excessive  
58 portion of their incomes for housing, live in substandard and overcrowded conditions, or face  
59 homelessness. Our nation also relies on the LIHTC more and more to preserve the existing  
60 affordable rental housing stock that is often desperately in need of recapitalization; and,

61

62 **WHEREAS,** The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 enacted an 50 percent increase in  
63 LIHTC allocation for four years (2018-2021), up to 12.5 percent, which is estimated to finance  
64 an additional 28,000 affordable rental homes; and,

65

66 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** the National League of Cities (“NLC”) calls for an  
67 increase in LITHC allocation by 50 percent over current levels, back to the 12.5 percent level,  
68 phased in over two years.

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Energy, Environment and Natural  
Resources Federal Advocacy  
Committee**

**EENR**

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 2.02 Energy**
  - A. Goals
  - E. Energy Sources
    - 2. Fossil Fuels

## 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 to protect the environment; benefit communities, and support the local economy by creating jobs and reducing carbon pollution;
- Improve public health outcomes, particularly for people with disabilities, economically disadvantaged households, the elderly, Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), and other vulnerable and underrepresented populations who are most affected by pollution and least able to prepare in advance or recover from climate change and extreme weather events;
- 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 as an increasing share of a diversified energy portfolio; ~~while~~
- Implementing measures to minimize the environmental impact of fossil fuels, while transitioning toward net-zero emissions and decarbonization;
- Protect our economic and national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil, improving the resilience of energy infrastructure, and minimizing the environmental impact of the domestic production of energy sources;
- Ensure a national energy supply that decreases 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 sources and utility scale generation of renewable energy as a component of energy infrastructure to help communities withstand impacts from disruptions in regional supply systems;
- 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 and businesses do not face unaffordable costs related to the transition away from fossil fuels, particularly for low-income or energy-burdened households.

1 **E. Energy Sources**

2  
3 *2. Fossil Fuels*

4 NLC supports the transition toward a clean energy and decarbonized economy that increases the  
5 use of carbon neutral energy and promotes energy efficiency. During this transition, the federal  
6 government should ensure that:

- 7 • Fossil fuel use minimally impacts the environment;
- 8 • Communities with a reliance on the fossil fuel industry are supported with job training  
9 and workforce development;
- 10 • Households and businesses do not face unaffordable energy costs, particularly low-  
11 income or energy-burdened households;
- 12 • Priority is given to research and development into technologies to reduce greenhouse gas  
13 emissions from continued fossil energy use, including carbon capture and sequestration,  
14 hydrogen production and others; and
- 15 • Nature-based carbon removal approaches, such as increasing and maintaining forests and  
16 trees, wetland preservation and restoration, and changes in farming practices that increase  
17 soil carbon capture, are utilized.

18  
19 a. Coal

20 ~~The use of clean coal technology (as defined by DOE standards) will help NLC supports use of~~  
21 measures to decrease emissions from coal utilization while helping cities affected by such  
22 emissions to reach and maintain attainment of air quality standards. Therefore, NLC urges the  
23 federal government to:

- 24 • Minimize environmental impacts and harm from production and use of coal, including  
25 supporting any needed research and development;
- 26 • Prohibit disposal of mining spoils in streams and watersheds to protect water quality and  
27 water sources and to limit pollution and flooding;
- 28 • Support and enhance efforts to minimize ongoing harm to environmental quality and  
29 threats to public safety associated with abandoned coal mines and to achieve  
30 economically beneficial reuse of former mine sites, particularly for clean energy  
31 technology; and
- 32 • Provide appropriate guidance and standards for the safe management of coal combustion  
33 ash.
- 34 • ~~Support research programs to develop the most efficient, environmentally responsible~~  
35 ~~methods to extract, transport, and utilize coal for energy production;~~
- 36 • ~~Streamline requirements for development and retention of leases for coal reserves on~~  
37 ~~federal land in an environmentally responsible manner;~~
- 38 • ~~Research the use and storage of coal byproducts, such as methane, as a future energy~~  
39 ~~source;~~
- 40 • ~~Develop incentives for the use of clean coal technology and Best Available Control~~  
41 ~~Technologies for new and existing plants; and~~
- 42 • ~~Increase research and development for carbon capture and storage technology and fund~~  
43 ~~large scale integrated demonstration projects for carbon capture, transportation and~~  
44 ~~storage that reduce emissions from existing coal plants.~~

46 b. Natural Gas

47 The federal government should ~~encourage~~ensure the domestic production of natural gas occurs  
48 in an environmentally responsible manner that minimizes environmental impacts and harm.

49 ~~Therefore,~~The federal government should:

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

58  
59 c. Petroleum

60 While the nation continues to rely on petroleum as an energy source, ~~The~~ federal government  
61 should ~~promote the~~ ensure domestic production occurs in a manner that minimizes  
62 environmental impacts and harm. ~~of domestic petroleum in an environmentally responsible~~  
63 manner.

64  
65 In the event of a supply disruption, there should be no action by the federal government that  
66 causes the depletion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve simply to mitigate oil prices. The federal  
67 government should not reinstate price controls on domestically produced crude oil.



NLC resolutions are annual statements of position that sunset at the end of the calendar year unless action is taken. The committee must review each of the 2022 resolutions that originated in the EENR Committee to determine recommendations for 2023. The committee has the following options:

1. Renew the resolution for the coming year (with or without edits)
2. Incorporate the resolution into permanent policy; or
3. Let the resolution expire.

The EENR resolutions that were approved for 2022 at City Summit with recommendations for 2023 are:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>EENR Committee Recommendation</b>
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-9:</b> Supporting Local PACE Programs	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-10:</b> Supporting and Advancing Resilient Communities to Prepare for Changing Climate and Extreme Weather Events	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-11:</b> Supporting Urgent Action to Reduce Carbon Emissions and Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-12:</b> Addressing Lead Contamination and Calling for Nationwide Federal Support for Water Infrastructure	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-13:</b> Increase Federal Investment in Water Infrastructure	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-14:</b> Support for Integrated Planning and New Affordability Consideration for Water	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-15:</b> Calling on the Federal Government to Take Action to Address PFAS Contamination	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-16:</b> Improve the Benefit-Cost Analysis for Federally Funded Flood Control Projects and Supporting Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Material	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-17:</b> Increase Funding for Border Water Infrastructure Projects	Renew with edits

<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-18:</b> Supporting Local Control of Water Infrastructure Projects	Renew with edits
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1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-9

2  
3 SUPPORTING LOCAL PACE PROGRAMS

4  
5 EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, utility bills represent a major part of operating costs for home and business owners;  
8 and

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, the building sector accounts for 39 percent of the nation’s energy use, 72 percent  
11 of its electricity use, one third of all global greenhouse gas emissions and represents the single  
12 largest, most accessible opportunity for deep emission cuts in the United States; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, investing in cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements  
15 to homes and businesses can save energy, cut utility bills up to \$140 billion per year, create  
16 thousands of local jobs, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas  
17 emissions; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, a 2013 study that found default risks are on average 32 percent lower in energy  
20 efficient homes and recommends that the lower risks associated with energy efficiency should be  
21 taken into consideration when underwriting mortgages;<sup>1</sup> and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing programs are an innovative  
24 local government solution to help property owners finance energy efficiency and renewable  
25 energy improvements – such as energy efficient HVAC systems, upgraded insulation, new  
26 windows, solar installations, etc. – to their homes and businesses; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, PACE programs can also be used for other types of projects that provide public  
29 and community benefits, such as improving community resilience to hurricanes and wildfires  
30 and managing stormwater and tidal flooding; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, the PACE program removes many of the barriers of energy efficiency and  
33 renewable energy retrofits that otherwise exist for residential homeowners and businesses,  
34 particularly the high upfront cost of making such an investment and the long-term ability to reap  
35 the benefits of cost savings; and

36  
<sup>1</sup> *Home Energy Efficiency and Mortgage Risk*, UNC Center for Community Capital and Institute for Market Transformation, (March 2013), available at: <http://www.imt.org/resources/detail/home-energy-efficiency-and-mortgage-risks>

37 **WHEREAS**, 387 states plus the District of Columbia have passed laws enabling local  
38 governments to develop PACE programs; and

39  
40 **WHEREAS**, locally-administered PACE programs are an exercise of the traditional authority of  
41 local governments to utilize the tax code for public benefit; and

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, PACE programs help local governments meet a core obligation to their citizens to  
44 maintain housing stock and improve housing opportunities for all citizens; and

45  
46 **WHEREAS**, the PACE program is an achievement of the intergovernmental partnership to  
47 realize national policy goals, namely, reducing energy consumption, that will positively impact  
48 the fiscal conditions of every level of government; and

49  
50 **WHEREAS**, PACE holds the potential to unlock private capital and jumpstart economic growth  
51 backed by the marketplace certainty of the federal government; and

52  
53 WHEREAS, in communities that have enabled PACE, investments have had significant effects  
54 on local job creation and economic activity, energy savings and carbon abatement. Over the  
55 lifetime of the measures installed to date, estimates show that those PACE projects will result in  
56 \$19 billion in economic impact, 152,000 job-years created, 11 million metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>  
57 emissions avoided and 36 billion kWh energy saved;<sup>2</sup> and

58  
59 **WHEREAS**, despite PACE's great promise, in July 2010 the Federal Housing Finance Agency  
60 (FHFA), as conservator of the government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) following the 2008  
61 financial crisis, and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency issued guidance that directed  
62 the GSEs not to purchase mortgages with a PACE assessment, which statements that  
63 immediately slowed the advancement of forced-existing PACE residential programs to halt  
64 operations and froze the development of dozens of other residential PACE programs  
65 nationwide across the country; and

66  
67 **WHEREAS**, despite the FHFA directive, many commercial and a few residential PACE  
68 programs are operating or are in development in hundreds of municipalities across the country;  
69 and

70  
71 **WHEREAS**, in 2010 the U.S. Department of Energy dedicated \$150 million to assist in the  
72 development of local PACE programs and in 2016 issued Best Practice Guidelines for  
73 Residential PACE Financing Programs to help state and local governments develop and

<sup>2</sup> A PACE Enabled World, PACENation, (Jan. 2022), available at: <https://paceenabledworld.pacenation.org/#top>

74 implement programs and recommended protections that PACE programs should put in place for  
75 consumers and lenders;<sup>3</sup> and

76

77 **WHEREAS**, in July 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released  
78 guidance allowing the Federal Housing Administration to insure mortgages on properties that  
79 include PACE assessments,<sup>4</sup> which has since been withdrawn; and

80

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

86

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

90

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

94

95 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges FHFA to  
96 reconsider the 2010 guidance that prohibits government-sponsored entities from purchasing  
97 mortgages with a PACE assessment and to work with local governments seeking to establish  
98 PACE programs that benefit from the same senior lien status of all other projects that are funded  
99 through municipal assessments that improve private property and meet public policy objectives;  
100 and

101

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

<sup>3</sup> *Best Practice Guidelines for Residential PACE Financing Programs*, U.S. Department of Energy, (Nov. 18, 2016), available at: <https://energy.gov/eere/slsc/downloads/updated-guidelines-residential-pace-financing-programs>

<sup>4</sup> “FHA to Insure Mortgages on Certain Properties with PACE Assessments,” U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, (July 19, 2016), available at: [https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2016/HUDNo\\_16-110](https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2016/HUDNo_16-110)

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2022-10**

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

6 **EENR Committee Recommendation:** Renew with edits  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, across the country local governments are seeing the devastating effects associated  
9 with a changing climate and recent extreme weather events, such as heat waves, droughts, heavy  
10 downpours, floods, hurricanes, and changes in other storms have brought renewed attention to  
11 the need for cities, towns and villages to anticipate, prepare for and adapt to these events; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, these challenges are larger than individual communities can address on their own,  
14 making it beneficial to coordinate regionally and across levels of government; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, while all regions of the country are impacted by climate change, approximately  
17 one third of the U.S. population – more than 100 million people – live in coastal communities  
18 that are threatened by rising sea levels, which could impact economic development, land  
19 availability, property values, insurance rates, beaches and tourism, and critical water,  
20 transportation and energy infrastructure; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the Fourth National Climate Assessment reports that current evidence of climate  
23 change appears in every region and impacts are currently visible in every state, and concludes  
24 that the evidence of human-induced climate change continues to strengthen;<sup>1</sup> and  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, the effects of a changing climate are a national security issue with potential  
27 impacts to the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) missions, operations plans and installations  
28 and the DoD must be able to adapt to current and future operations to address the impacts of a  
29 variety of threats and conditions, including those from weather and natural events<sup>2</sup>; and  
30

31 **WHEREAS**, a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change indicates that limiting  
32 global warming to 1.5° C is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change;<sup>3</sup> and  
33

<sup>1</sup> National Climate Assessment (Volume I, 2017; Volume II, 2018), *available at:* <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>

<sup>2</sup> Report on Effects of a Changing Climate to the Department of Defense, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment (Jan. 2019), *available at:* [https://partner-mco-archive.s3.amazonaws.com/client\\_files/1547826612.pdf](https://partner-mco-archive.s3.amazonaws.com/client_files/1547826612.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> “Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C,” Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, (Oct. 2018), *available at:* <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

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

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, the impacts of climate change and extreme weather events pose an especially  
39 pressing threat to persons with disabilities, economically disadvantaged households, the elderly,  
40 Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), and other vulnerable and underrepresented  
41 populations; and

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, as local governments continue to recover from the coronavirus pandemic,  
44 hurricanes, wildfires, drought, floods and other disasters continue to threaten communities across  
45 the U.S. and present new challenges for communities in protecting residents, particularly those  
46 that are most affected and least able to prepare, ~~or~~ respond or recover; and

47  
48 **WHEREAS**, the capability of maintaining energy availability is a critical first order priority in  
49 maintaining critical infrastructure and building community resilience; and

50  
51 **WHEREAS**, there is currently insufficient information, technical coordination or financial  
52 assessment of the costs and mechanisms to rapidly retrofit and redesign local energy systems to  
53 enable them to be more resilient to a range of potential disruptive events, such as extreme  
54 weather, terrorism, and energy price escalation; and

55  
56 **WHEREAS**, the United States has seen ~~290-323~~ separate billion-dollar-plus weather and climate  
57 disasters since 1980, including ~~14-22~~ in ~~2019-2020~~ and ~~22-20~~ in ~~2020~~2021, with a cumulative  
58 cost exceeding \$~~1.92.195~~ trillion (CPI-adjusted) and a total death toll of ~~14,492~~15,347;<sup>4</sup> and

59  
60 **WHEREAS**, in 2005 Hurricane Katrina led to 1,833 deaths and more than \$167.5 billion (CPI-  
61 adjusted) in losses, and a subsequent \$120 billion in supplemental disaster assistance and in 2012  
62 Hurricane Sandy led to 159 deaths and more than \$73.5 billion in damages (CPI-adjusted), and a  
63 subsequent \$60.4 billion in supplemental disaster assistance;<sup>5</sup> and

64  
65 **WHEREAS**, in 2017 three Category 4 hurricanes—Harvey, Irma and Maria—made landfall in  
66 ~~the U.S.~~ Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, respectively totaling more than \$275 billion (CPI-

<sup>4</sup> National Climate Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *available at*:  
<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/events/US/1980-2020>  
<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events/US/1980-2021>

<sup>5</sup> National Climate Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *available at*:  
<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/events/US/1980-2018>

67 adjusted) in damages and a death toll of 3,167, including 2,981 in Puerto Rico from Hurricane  
68 Maria, ~~which made landfall in Puerto Rico~~;<sup>6</sup> and

69  
70 **WHEREAS**, in 2019 historic flooding hit the Midwest and southern plains significantly  
71 affecting agriculture, roads, bridges, levees, dams and other infrastructure, assets and industries,  
72 resulting in 12 deaths and \$20.3 billion (CPI-adjusted) in economic costs;<sup>7</sup> and

73  
74 **WHEREAS**, 2020 sets ~~the~~ a new annual record of 22 billion-dollar-plus weather or climate  
75 events – shattering the previous annual record of 16 events that occurred in 2011 and 2017, and  
76 ~~is was~~ the sixth consecutive year (2015-2020) in which 10 or more billion-dollar weather and  
77 climate disaster events have impacted the United States;<sup>8</sup> and

78  
79 **WHEREAS**, rising temperatures are lengthening the wildfire season and increasing drought  
80 risks, causing more radical fire behavior and increasing wildfire risks throughout the Western  
81 United States due to earlier snow melts and forests that are drier longer,<sup>9</sup> the costs of putting out  
82 wildfires has increased dramatically, from ~~\$571-612~~ million in 1985 to ~~over-nearly~~ \$4.42-2  
83 billion in 2021<sup>10</sup> (2021<sup>10</sup> dollars<sup>11</sup>), and the economic losses associated with wildfire continues  
84 to grow, with the 2018 western wildfires costing over \$24.5 billion (CPI-adjusted)<sup>12</sup> and the  
85 2020 western wildfires, the most active fire season on record, costing over \$16.6 billion (CPI-  
86 adjusted);<sup>13</sup> and

87  
88 **WHEREAS**, Congress approved over ~~\$692~~ billion in disaster relief in FY21<sup>14</sup>; and

89

<sup>6</sup> National Climate Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *available at:*  
<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/events/US/1980-2018>

<sup>7</sup> National Climate Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *available at:*  
<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/events/US/2019>

<sup>8</sup> “Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters: Overview,” National Climate Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *available at:* <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/overview>

<sup>9</sup> Infographic: Western Wildfires and Climate Change, Union of Concerned Scientists, *available at:*  
[http://www.ucsusa.org/global\\_warming/science\\_and\\_impacts/impacts/infographic-wildfires-climate-change.html](http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/science_and_impacts/impacts/infographic-wildfires-climate-change.html)

<sup>10</sup> Federal Firefighting Costs (Suppression Only), National Interagency Fire Center, *available at:*  
<https://www.nifc.gov/fire-information/statistics/suppression-costs>

<sup>11</sup> CPI Inflation Calculator, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *available at:*  
[http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation\\_calculator.htm](http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm)

<sup>12</sup> “Assessing the U.S. Climate in 2018,” National Centers for Environmental Information, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *available at:* <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/news/national-climate-201812>

<sup>13</sup> “Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters: Overview,” National Climate Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, *available at:* <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events/US/2020>  
~~<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/overview>~~

<sup>14</sup> The Disaster Relief Fund: Overview and Issues, Congressional Research Service (Nov. 13, 2020), *available at:*  
<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/homesec/R45484.pdf>



90 **WHEREAS**, 2020 was the second warmest year on record behind 2016 (warmest), followed by  
91 2019 (third warmest), 2015 (fourth warmest), 2017 (fifth warmest) and ~~2018-2021~~ (sixth  
92 warmest);<sup>15</sup> and

93  
94 **WHEREAS**, as extreme weather events become more common, local governments in all  
95 geographic and climatic regions require resources to assist them in anticipating, preparing for  
96 and adapting to these events; and

97  
98 **WHEREAS**, a preparedness response fund would provide financial assistance to accelerate the  
99 development of adaptive success models and provide a far-reaching damage prevention initiative  
100 that would help reduce the ultimate financial pressure on the federal government; and

101  
102 **WHEREAS**, local governments are first responders – preparing in advance of emergency  
103 situations, offering immediate assistance to those impacted, and identifying strategies, solutions,  
104 and partnerships to address situations quickly and efficiently; and

105  
106 **WHEREAS**, firefighters and other local essential personnel, who risk their lives responding to  
107 natural disasters and extreme weather events, are put at even greater risk of contracting  
108 coronavirus as they respond to emergency situations; and

109  
110 **WHEREAS**, taking action now to adapt to a changing environment and create community  
111 resilience will help save lives, strengthen local economies, save taxpayer dollars and build  
112 preparedness for future events; and

113  
114 **WHEREAS**, in 2014 the President’s Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience,  
115 comprised of state, local and tribal leaders, including representatives from the National League  
116 of Cities (NLC) made recommendations to the President on ways the federal government can  
117 assist local efforts to address and prepare for the impacts of climate change; and.

118  
119 **WHEREAS**, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 makes significant  
120 progress toward strengthening infrastructure and communities against extreme weather events by  
121 investing in pre-disaster mitigation and flood, wildfire and drought mitigation and the Inflation  
122 Reduction Act provides additional funding and incentives for climate and clean energy goals, but  
123 additional federal policies and local government support is needed.

124  
<sup>15</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Jan. 13, 2021), *available at*:  
<https://www.noaa.gov/news/2020-was-earth-s-2nd-hottest-year-just-behind-2016>  
<https://www.noaa.gov/news/2021-was-worlds-6th-warmest-year-on-record>

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

128  
129 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress and the Administration to take  
130 urgent action to help states and local governments conduct vulnerability assessments, develop  
131 and implement long-term mitigation, adaptation and resiliency action plans, and identify  
132 innovative financing opportunities to implement these assessments and plans in order to prepare,  
133 plan for and more quickly recover from extreme weather events; and

134  
135 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to  
136 recognize the unique risks and opportunities communities face and to offer customized tools and  
137 incentives to local governments to encourage communities to plan for and rapidly respond to the  
138 effects of climate change and extreme weather; and

139  
140 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to develop a national  
141 strategy to assist communities in integrating the risks of climate change and extreme weather  
142 events into emergency management planning and responses to identify and quantify the  
143 economic value of regional infrastructure at risk under different scenarios; and

144  
145 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to work with state and  
146 local governments, the insurance industry, and other stakeholders to develop an incentive-based  
147 disaster insurance and mitigation system that would encourage property owners to retrofit  
148 existing structures to reduce future losses from natural disasters; and

149  
150 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that returning to the status quo is not sufficient in meeting the  
151 challenges of climate change and inequities in our society; and

152  
153 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to outline strategies  
154 and actions to reduce the vulnerability of federal programs to the impacts of climate change and  
155 extreme weather; and

156  
157 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to better align  
158 federal funding with local preparedness and resilience-building efforts; and

159  
160 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to fully fund grant programs that  
161 help local governments prepare, respond and recover from climate change and extreme weather  
162 events and establish a preparedness and response fund to support local governments that are at  
163 the forefront of developing adaptive solutions; and

164

165 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to develop grant and  
166 technical assistance programs to enable communities to develop community energy transition  
167 plans that ensure the capability of cities to maintain critical energy and infrastructure during  
168 disruptions to local, regional or national energy infrastructure; and

169  
170 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to develop a national  
171 pilot project initiative to conduct detailed assessments and designs for resilient city energy  
172 system retrofit and redesign across a range of different regions and city sizes; and

173  
174 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal investments in communities must prioritize those  
175 communities that have been left behind and BIPOC communities, which have been  
176 disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change and COVID-19.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-11

2  
3 SUPPORTING URGENT ACTION TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS AND  
4 MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

5  
6 EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

7  
8 WHEREAS, climate change mitigation is a global problem that demands a global solution; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, the Fourth National Climate Assessment reports that current evidence of climate  
11 change appears in every region and impacts are currently visible in every state, and concludes  
12 that the evidence of human-induced climate change continues to strengthen;<sup>1</sup> and

13  
14 WHEREAS, a report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicates that  
15 limiting global warming to 1.5° C is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change;<sup>2</sup>  
16 and

17  
18 WHEREAS, extreme heat will have more serious health consequences on people living in low-  
19 income communities, communities of color, and tribal communities, and people in these  
20 communities have been disproportionately impacted by coronavirus and high rates of underlying  
21 health conditions, both of which can be exacerbated by extreme heat; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, these same vulnerable populations also face dramatically higher energy burdens—  
24 spending a greater portion of their income on energy bills—than the average household<sup>3</sup>; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, according to the American Lung Association’s 2022~~1~~ State of the Air report, more  
27 than 40 percent or 137~~5~~ million people live in counties with unhealthy air, which is especially  
28 concerning as research shows that people with long-term exposure to air pollution are more  
29 likely to die from COVID-19<sup>4</sup>; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, while some impacts of climate change are inevitable, sharp reductions in  
32 greenhouse gas emissions will reduce the severity of the impacts and limit the rate of climate  
33 change; and

34  
<sup>1</sup> National Climate Assessment (Volume I, 2017; Volume II, 2018), *available at:* <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>

<sup>2</sup> “Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C,” Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, (Oct. 2018),  
*available at:* <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

<sup>3</sup> Energy Burden Report, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (2020), *available at:*  
<https://www.aceee.org/energy-burden>

<sup>4</sup> “State of the Air,” American Lung Association (2021), *available at:* [https://www.lung.org/research/sota/key-  
findings](https://www.lung.org/research/sota/key-findings)

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

39

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

44

45 **WHEREAS**, technology exists and continues to be developed that will help families, businesses  
46 and communities reduce energy use, but without standards to encourage adoption of new  
47 technology, many of these technology options will be unavailable or unaffordable; and

48

49 **WHEREAS**, the transportation sector generates the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions,  
50 279 percent of 2019-2020 greenhouse gas emissions, in the United States;<sup>5</sup> and

51

52 **WHEREAS**, buildings account for nearly 40 percent of the nation’s energy consumption<sup>6</sup> and  
53 more than 70 percent of its electricity use,<sup>7</sup> and electricity production represents the second  
54 largest share of greenhouse gas emissions, 25 percent of 2020+9 greenhouse gas emissions, in  
55 the United States;<sup>8</sup> and

56

57 **WHEREAS**, indoor and outdoor lighting account for 56 percent of electricity consumed in the  
58 nation,<sup>9</sup> and rapid conversion to efficient lighting would result in significant greenhouse gas  
59 reductions as well as a decrease in base load energy needs; and

60

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

66

<sup>5</sup> Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *available at*:  
<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration, *available at*: <http://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=86&t=1>

<sup>7</sup> Environmental and Energy Study Institute, Buildings and Climate Change, *available at*:  
<http://www.eesi.org/files/climate.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *available at*:  
<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

<sup>9</sup> FAQ: How much electricity is used for lighting in the United States, U.S. Energy Information Administration,  
*available at*: <https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=99&t=3>

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

70  
71 **WHEREAS**, all levels of government must work to become more resilient by achieving greater  
72 energy independence based on a multi-pronged strategy of aggressively expanding renewable  
73 energy, significantly increasing energy efficiency portfolio standards, and creating new financing  
74 mechanisms; and

75  
76 **WHEREAS**, in 2014 the President’s Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience,  
77 comprised of state, local and tribal leaders, including representatives from the National League  
78 of Cities (NLC), made recommendations to the President on ways the federal government can  
79 assist local efforts to address and prepare for the impacts of climate change; and

80  
81 **WHEREAS**, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 makes significant  
82 progress toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout the transportation sector and  
83 investing in clean energy and energy efficiency and conservation and the Inflation Reduction Act  
84 provides additional funding and incentives for climate and clean energy goals, but additional  
85 federal policies, funding and resources are needed to support local governments.

86  
87 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration  
88 to partner with local governments, to support local action on climate change mitigation, and to  
89 provide essential tools, research, technology development, data, and funding, as well as  
90 workforce development, job training and community assistance, to help local governments  
91 achieve their greenhouse gas reduction targets and transition to a clean energy economy; and

92  
93 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress and the Administration to take  
94 urgent action to reduce carbon emissions across a broad sector of the economy and become  
95 carbon neutral to mitigate the effects of climate change; and

96  
97 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports the U.S.’s engagement in the Paris Climate  
98 Agreement and calls on Congress to position the U.S. as a climate leader and adopt nationwide  
99 greenhouse gas emission goals and policies that exceed the IPCC 1.5°C targets of 45% emissions  
100 reduction from 2010 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050; and

101  
102 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports the U.S.’s reengagement in the Paris~~  
103 ~~Climate Agreement; and~~

104  
105 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports efforts to increase the CAFE standards or  
106 fuel efficiency for all types of vehicles; and

107  
108 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to pass energy efficiency and  
109 conservation legislation to incentivize energy efficiency improvements in residential and  
110 commercial buildings, schools and federal buildings located in communities; and  
111  
112 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to pass a national renewable  
113 portfolio standard that increases the use of carbon neutral energy and promotes energy  
114 efficiency, with the goal of at least 50 percent carbon neutral energy by 2030 and 100 percent by  
115 2050 or sooner; and  
116  
117 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to pass a long-term extension of  
118 the investment tax credit and the production tax credit for renewable energy as an incentive for  
119 their development and deployment; and  
120  
121 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to reauthorize and fully fund the  
122 EECBG or other funding structure at the U.S. Department of Energy to further incentivize clean  
123 energy at the local level; and  
124  
125 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal investments in communities must prioritize those  
126 communities that have been left behind and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)  
127 who have been disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change and COVID-19.

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2022-12**

4 **ADDRESSING LEAD CONTAMINATION AND CALLING FOR NATIONWIDE**  
5 **FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**

6 **EENR Committee Recommendation:** Renew with edits  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, access to clean drinking water is fundamental to the health and well-being of  
9 America’s communities and families; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Flint, Michigan, and Sebring, Ohio, are two recent examples of cities where high  
12 levels of lead have been found in the city’s drinking water; and  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, in the early 2000s, the District of Columbia experienced a similar crisis, as have  
15 many other cities; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, lead has negative and long-term neurological effects, particularly in infants and  
18 children; and  
19

20 **WHEREAS**, in Flint, the elevated blood lead level was discovered in children after the city’s  
21 water source was switched to the Flint River by the state-appointed emergency manager, a  
22 decision made without coordination or consultation with local officials; and  
23

24 **WHEREAS**, a contributing factor to the Flint, Michigan, drinking water crisis was the city’s  
25 aging infrastructure and the lack of investment in infrastructure and the community; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, incidents like these can undermine citizens’ confidence in the safety and quality of  
28 the drinking water supply and water infrastructure of every community; and  
29

30 **WHEREAS**, in January 2016, President Obama signed an emergency declaration in the State of  
31 Michigan, ordering federal aid to supplement state and local response efforts due to the  
32 emergency conditions caused by lead-contaminated water; and  
33

34 **WHEREAS**, corrosion control and testing are essential to preventing lead leaching and alerting  
35 the public to potential dangers; and  
36

37 **WHEREAS**, recent analysis by the National Resources Defense Council found that over 5,300  
38 water systems nationwide have elevated levels of lead<sup>1</sup> and a recent analysis by the American

<sup>1</sup> “What’s in your Water? Flint and Beyond,” National Resource Defense Council (June 2016), *available at:*  
<https://www.nrdc.org/sites/default/files/whats-in-your-water-flint-beyond-report.pdf>



39 Water Works Association estimates 6.1 million lead service lines remain in U.S. communities, at  
40 an estimated \$30 billion to replace;<sup>2</sup> and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to invest in our aging water infrastructure nationwide and a failure  
43 to do so can have negative public health consequences; and

44  
45 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates the nation’s water  
46 infrastructure capital needs over the next 20 years to be approximately \$743 billion in total,<sup>3</sup> the  
47 American Society for Civil Engineers estimates that over the next 20 years, the cumulative water  
48 and wastewater capital investment need will soar to \$3.27 trillion and the cumulative capital  
49 investment gap will total \$2.2 trillion,<sup>4</sup> and other estimates put the cost at more than \$4 trillion to  
50 maintain and build a 21<sup>st</sup> century water system; and-

51  
52 WHEREAS, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 provided federal  
53 funding for lead service line replacement projects, but additional federal funding is needed to  
54 fully replace all lead service lines in the country.

55  
56 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that local planning and infrastructure decisions,  
57 including those related to clean drinking water, should not be preempted and should be made by  
58 locally elected leaders in coordination with state and federal officials; and

59  
60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on Congress to  
61 provide direct assistance to the City of Flint, Michigan, and for EPA and the federal government  
62 to work directly with local officials, for as long as necessary, to resolve the drinking water crisis  
63 through the provision of safe drinking water and to support economic recovery; and

64  
65 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to provide  
66 long-term support for the families affected by lead drinking water contamination in Flint and  
67 nationwide, including in the areas of education and mental health; and

68

<sup>2</sup> “National Survey of Lead Service Line Occurrence,” American Water Works Association (March 10, 2016),  
*available at:* [http://www.awwa.org/resources-tools/public-affairs/press-room/press-release/articleid/4074/lead-  
service-line-analysis-examines-scope-of-challenge.aspx](http://www.awwa.org/resources-tools/public-affairs/press-room/press-release/articleid/4074/lead-service-line-analysis-examines-scope-of-challenge.aspx)

<sup>3</sup> “Clean Watershed Needs Survey,” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (Jan. 2016), *available at:*  
<https://www.epa.gov/cwns> and “Drinking Water Needs Survey,” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (March  
2018), *available at:* [https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/epas-6th-drinking-water-infrastructure-needs-survey-and-  
assessment](https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf/epas-6th-drinking-water-infrastructure-needs-survey-and-assessment)

<sup>4</sup> “The Economic Benefits of Investing in Water Infrastructure,” Value of Water Campaign and American Society of  
Civil Engineers (Nov. 2020), *available at:*  
[http://www.uswateralliance.org/sites/uswateralliance.org/files/publications/The%20Economic%20Benefits%20of%20  
Investing%20in%20Water%20Infrastructure%20final.pdf](http://www.uswateralliance.org/sites/uswateralliance.org/files/publications/The%20Economic%20Benefits%20of%20Investing%20in%20Water%20Infrastructure%20final.pdf)

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

73

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

77

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

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-13

2  
3 INCREASE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

4  
5 EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

6  
7 WHEREAS, the nation’s water infrastructure systems, both built and natural, are significant  
8 assets that protect public health and the nation’s water resources and well-maintained systems  
9 are essential to our citizens’ general welfare and the nation’s prosperity; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, with much of our nation’s physical water infrastructure built in the post-World  
12 War II period – and some of it more than 100 years old – there are an estimated ~~240,000~~ 250,000  
13 to 300,000 water main breaks each year;<sup>1</sup> and

14  
15 WHEREAS, cities, ~~and towns~~ and villages nationwide are finding that decentralized water  
16 solutions such as water use efficiency measures and green stormwater installations can  
17 effectively and affordably serve many of the same functions as conventional water infrastructure  
18 and can supplement and extend their existing centralized systems;<sup>2</sup> and

19  
20 ~~WHEREAS, federal loan and grant assistance to cities and local governments to assist in~~  
21 ~~maintaining and upgrading water infrastructure systems has continued to decline in real dollars~~  
22 ~~over the past decades<sup>3</sup>; and~~

23  
24 WHEREAS, local governments are responsible for the vast majority of investment in water and  
25 sewer infrastructure, investing over \$1.7 trillion ~~between 1956-2010~~<sup>4</sup> 2.38 trillion between 1993-  
26 2019 (not adjusted for inflation) and over \$~~134-142~~ billion in ~~2020~~<sup>5</sup> 2019 alone;<sup>5</sup> and

27  
28 WHEREAS, tax-exempt municipal bonds are the primary funding mechanism for state and local  
29 government infrastructure projects with three-quarters of the total United States investment in  
30 infrastructure being accomplished with tax-exempt financing; and

31  
<sup>1</sup> ~~2019-2021~~ *Infrastructure Report Card*, American Society of Civil Engineers, available at:  
<https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/cat-item/drinking-water/>

<sup>2</sup> Koehler, Cynthia and Caroline Koch, *Public Water Utilities Deploy 21<sup>st</sup> Century Water Infrastructure to Build a Resilient Future* (2019), available at: <https://tapin.waternow.org/resources/innovation-in-action-21st-century-water-infrastructure-solutions/>

<sup>3</sup> *Federal Investment, 1962-2018*, Congressional Budget Office (June 2019), available at:

<sup>4</sup> Anderson, Richard F., *Growth in Local Government Spending on Public Water and Wastewater—But How Much Progress Can American Households Afford?* The U.S. Conference of Mayors (April, 2013), available at:  
[http://www.cireleofblue.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/USMayors\\_Growth-in-Local-Government-Spending-on-Water-and-Wastewater.pdf](http://www.cireleofblue.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/USMayors_Growth-in-Local-Government-Spending-on-Water-and-Wastewater.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> ~~2020~~ *Annual Surveys of State and Local Government Finances*, U.S. Census Bureau (October, 202~~1~~), available at: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/gov-finances.html>

32 **WHEREAS**, an economic analysis by the American Society of Civil Engineers shows a water-  
33 related infrastructure investment gap of \$434 billion over 10 years for drinking water,  
34 wastewater, and stormwater combined;<sup>6</sup> and  
35

36 **WHEREAS**, this funding gap does not include anticipated expenditures to comply with new  
37 Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, consent decrees, new responsibilities  
38 and costs relating to water security and source water protection, additional needs for re-use of  
39 treated effluent, or impacts due to climate change; and  
40

41 WHEREAS, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA) provided a  
42 significant boost in federal funding for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, but not  
43 enough to close the needs gap; and  
44

45 WHEREAS, aside from the IIJA, annual appropriations for federal loan and grant assistance to  
46 cities and local governments to assist in maintaining and upgrading water infrastructure systems  
47 has continued to decline in real dollars over the past decades<sup>7</sup>; and  
48

49 **WHEREAS**, municipal resources dedicated to water infrastructure are currently overwhelmingly  
50 directed to comply with new complex federal mandates and are therefore unavailable for critical  
51 maintenance, repair, and rehabilitation needs; and  
52

53 **WHEREAS**, public-private partnerships can provide options for communities to access sources  
54 of private capital to meet water infrastructure needs, but are not-a viable for all communities or  
55 all types of projects; and  
56

57 **WHEREAS**, private activity bonds or tax-exempt facility bonds are a form of tax-exempt  
58 financing that can be used for water infrastructure projects that utilize private capital instead of  
59 public debt and shift the risk and long-term obligation from the municipality to the private equity  
60 partner; and  
61

62 **WHEREAS**, Congress provides to states a capped annual allocation (“volume cap”) of tax-  
63 exempt bonds, based on population, but historically, most of the tax-exempt bonds are issued to  
64 short-term projects such as housing and education loans; and  
65

66 **WHEREAS**, Congress has previously enacted legislation eliminating the state volume cap for  
67 such municipal infrastructure projects such as airports, landfills, and ports; and  
68

<sup>6</sup> 2019~~21~~ *Infrastructure Report Card*, American Society of Civil Engineers, available at:  
<https://infrastructurereportcard.org/cat-item/stormwater/http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/>

<sup>7</sup> *Federal Investment, 1962-2018*, Congressional Budget Office (June 2019), available at:  
[https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2019-06/55375-Federal\\_Investment.pdf](https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2019-06/55375-Federal_Investment.pdf)

69 **WHEREAS**, eliminating the state volume cap is estimated to make available \$5-6 billion in  
70 private capital for water projects, while the cost in foregone revenue to the federal government is  
71 nominal.<sup>8</sup>

72  
73 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) continues  
74 to urge Congress and the Administration to reverse the decline in federal financial participation  
75 in funding municipal water infrastructure needs, particularly in disadvantaged communities that  
76 have historically been under-invested in, by developing a financial option that strikes the right  
77 balance between local responsibility and federal assistance; and

78  
79 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to support  
80 robust funding for water infrastructure financing through the Clean Water and Drinking Water  
81 State Revolving Loan Fund programs ~~and to reauthorize the programs~~; and

82  
83 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should provide full appropriation to the Water  
84 Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) for loans and loan guarantees for water  
85 infrastructure projects; and

86  
87 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should provide funding to local governments  
88 through grant programs such as for sewer overflow and stormwater management, lead pipe  
89 replacement, water infrastructure resilience/sustainability to protect and reduce risk to extreme  
90 weather events, new/emerging technologies for cybersecurity improvements and water  
91 efficiency, workforce development in the water sector, and other programs; and

92  
93 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should exempt from federal taxation rebates  
94 issued to consumers by local governments to pay for consumer-installed decentralized water  
95 infrastructure that benefits their communities; and

96  
97 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports legislation removing the federal volume  
98 cap on tax-exempt bonds for water and wastewater infrastructure projects; and

99  
100 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to support  
101 other mechanisms of infrastructure financing, including protecting the tax-exempt status of  
102 municipal bonds and reinstating the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds; and

103  
104 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and the Administration should enact new  
105 legislation which provides adequate and reliable long-term funding for municipal water  
106 infrastructure needs to help close the funding gap.

<sup>8</sup> Testimony of Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, before the Senate Appropriations Committee, March 4, 2008.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-14

2  
3 SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATED PLANNING AND NEW AFFORDABILITY  
4 CONSIDERATION FOR WATER  
5

6 EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits  
7

8 WHEREAS, in 2012 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued its *Integrated*  
9 *Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Planning Approach Framework* (“Integrated Planning  
10 Framework”), which was intended to help local governments seek more efficient and affordable  
11 solutions to stormwater and wastewater issues and meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act  
12 (CWA) in a more flexible, affordable, and cost-effective manner; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, in 2014 EPA issued its *Financial Capability Assessment Framework for Municipal*  
15 *Clean Water Act Requirements* (“Financial Capability Framework”), which allows the  
16 consideration of additional information, such as socio-economic factors, in determining the  
17 financial capability of residents and a community when developing compliance schedules for  
18 municipal projects necessary to meet CWA obligations; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, these two policy frameworks demonstrate an awareness by EPA of the challenges  
21 local governments face in meeting CWA requirements, as well as the conflicts they face in  
22 balancing environmental protection with economic feasibility; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, taking a One Water approach to water resource management means that “all water  
25 has value and should be managed in a sustainable, inclusive, integrated way” and requires  
26 balancing water equity, water access and water affordability;<sup>1</sup> and  
27

28 WHEREAS, at a time where local financial resources are increasingly limited and the ability of  
29 local governments to raise revenue is also limited, local governments are facing costly unfunded  
30 federal and state regulatory requirements forcing them to make tough decisions about the  
31 services and maintenance that they can afford; and  
32

33 ~~WHEREAS, proposed federal budget cuts to critical local programs would further reduce the~~  
34 ~~ability of cities and towns to meet the everyday needs of their community; and~~  
35

<sup>1</sup> “One Water Roadmap: The Sustainable Management of Life’s Most Essential Resource.” US Water Alliance (2016); available at: <http://www.uswateralliance.org/sites/uswateralliance.org/files/publications/Roadmap%20FINAL.pdf>

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

39

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

44

45 **WHEREAS**, green infrastructure, such as constructed swales, wetlands, green roofs, infiltration  
46 planters, rain gardens, cisterns, and enhanced floodplains and riparian buffers, augmented by  
47 permeable pavers, rain barrels, and trees, is a valuable part of water infrastructure systems and  
48 provides a multitude of community benefits such as helping local governments manage runoff,  
49 extending the life of local infrastructure, saving the city and taxpayers money, providing outdoor  
50 recreation opportunities through parks and green spaces and promoting the joint use of city and  
51 school facilities, and serve as an economic development tool; and

52

53 **WHEREAS**, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits are  
54 increasingly stringent, the treatment technologies and approaches necessary to meet permit limits  
55 have become exceedingly expensive and time-intensive to implement, and project construction  
56 timelines for clean water infrastructure projects can extend more than a decade.

57

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

63

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

67

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

71

72 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on EPA to work with local governments to  
73 revise the “Combined Sewer Overflows—Guidance for Financial Capability Assessment and  
74 Schedule Development” (Feb. 1997) to eliminate reliance on median household income as the  
75 critical metric for determining investment level and to allow for the consideration of additional

76 information, such as socio-economic factors, consistent with the Agency's 2014 Financial  
77 Capability Framework; and

78

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



1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-15

2  
3 CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION TO ADDRESS  
4 PFAS CONTAMINATION

5  
6 EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

7  
8 WHEREAS, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of nearly 5,000 man-made  
9 chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, PFBS and GenX manufactured and used in a variety of  
10 industries; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, PFAS chemicals are known as “forever” chemicals because they are persistent in  
13 the environment and in the human body; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, PFAS chemicals have been known to cause adverse health outcomes in humans  
16 including effects on prenatal development, low infant birth weights, early onset of puberty,  
17 negative effect on the immune system, cancer, liver damage, and thyroid disruption<sup>1</sup>; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, while science predicts that the entire class of PFAS chemical may be associated  
20 with adverse health effects and many such chemicals are in industrial and commercial use, only a  
21 small fraction of these chemicals have been investigated sufficiently to establish quantitative  
22 measures of toxicity; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, in ~~2016-2022~~ the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lowered the  
25 established a lifetime exposure health advisory level for PFOA and PFOS from 70 parts per  
26 trillion to near zero and established new health advisories for GenX and PFBS for the combined  
27 concentration of PFOA and PFOS in drinking water;<sup>2</sup> and

28  
29 ~~WHEREAS, in 2018 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic~~  
30 ~~Substances and Disease Registry released a draft report warning that PFAS chemicals could pose~~  
31 ~~a health risk at levels lower than currently recommended by the EPA;~~<sup>3</sup> and

32  
33 WHEREAS, in ~~2019-2021~~ EPA announced a PFAS Strategic Roadmap that outlines a  
34 comprehensive nationwide action plan for addressing PFAS, including identifying both short-  
35 term solutions for addressing these chemicals and long-term strategies that will help states, tribes

<sup>1</sup> 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](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories_pfoa_pfos_updated_5.31.16.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Drinking Water Health Advisories, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (June 2022); available at: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/drinking-water-health-advisories-has>

<sup>3</sup> Toxicological Profile for Perfluoroalkyls, Draft for Public Comment, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (June 2018); available at: <https://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/toxprofiles/tp200.pdf>

36 and local communities provide clean and safe drinking water to residents and address PFAS at  
37 the source – before it gets into the water;<sup>4</sup> and

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, in February 2020 EPA issued a proposed regulatory determination to regulate  
40 PFOS and PFOA, is currently undergoing a rulemaking process to the first step in the regulatory  
41 process of setting a propose a National Drinking Water Regulation and set a Maximum  
42 Contaminant Level for PFOA and PFOS under the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

43  
44 **WHEREAS**, there are significant technical challenges in detecting, ~~and measuring~~ and  
45 removing PFAS in water and other environmental media at the levels where health effects can  
46 occur, and analytical methodologies are still under development or are not yet generally  
47 available; and

48  
49 **WHEREAS**, the Environmental Working Group ~~and the Social Science Environmental Health~~  
50 ~~Research Institute at Northeastern University updated~~ maintains an interactive map of known  
51 contamination of communities from PFAS, which; and **WHEREAS**, as of ~~March 2019~~ June  
52 2022, the interactive map shows 2,858 at least 610 locations in 43-50 states and two territories  
53 with known contamination are known to be contaminated, including drinking water systems  
54 serving an estimated 19 million people;<sup>5</sup> and

55  
56 **WHEREAS**, in February 2019, EPA and United States Geological Survey scientists published  
57 results on analysis for 17 PFAS compounds in water samples from 25 public drinking water  
58 supplies in 24 states (locations confidential) that detected PFAS in every sample tested,  
59 suggesting that PFAS is ubiquitous in our water;<sup>6</sup> and

60  
61 **WHEREAS**, PFAS chemicals were widely used in firefighting foams, particularly for airports,  
62 and were used in frequent training exercises at military air bases; and

63  
64 **WHEREAS**, PFAS chemicals were required in firefighting foams used at airports to meet  
65 federal performance standards for extinguishing agents, but currently the Federal Aviation  
66 Administration is updating its standards to allow for a non-fluorinated option for airports; and

<sup>4</sup> ~~EPA's Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Action Plan, PFAS Strategic Roadmap: EPA's Commitments to Action 2021-2024, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Feb. 2019/Oct. 2021); available at: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-strategic-roadmap-epas-commitments-action-2021-2024>[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-02/documents/pfas\\_action\\_plan\\_021319\\_508compliant\\_1.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-02/documents/pfas_action_plan_021319_508compliant_1.pdf)~~

<sup>5</sup> EWG: PFAS Chemicals Must be Regulated as a Class, Not One by One PFAS Contamination in the U.S., Environmental Working Group (May 6, 2019), available at: [https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/pfas\\_contamination/?\\_ga=2.126851653.953206521.1656102607-517534629.1656102607](https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/pfas_contamination/?_ga=2.126851653.953206521.1656102607-517534629.1656102607)~~https://www.ewg.org/release/mapping-pfas-contamination-crisis-new-data-show-610-sites-43-states~~

<sup>6</sup> “Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances in source and treated drinking waters of the United States,” Science of the Total Environment, Volume 653 (February 25, 2019), pages 359-369, available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S004896971834141X>

67  
68 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Defense has ended its use of the foam in training exercises;  
69 and

70  
71 **WHEREAS**, PFAS contamination is found at and around military bases, airports, manufacturing  
72 sites, landfills, and in local water supplies obtained from both rivers and groundwater; and

73  
74 **WHEREAS**, local governments are responsible for protecting the health, safety and welfare of  
75 residents, including providing clean and safe water; and

76  
77 **WHEREAS**, while treatment technology for removing PFAS from water is not well-developed,  
78 the more effective methods use technologies that are not conventionally available in existing  
79 water treatment plants, so removing these PFAS chemicals from water could require costly  
80 investments by local governments and other local water suppliers, which would be passed onto  
81 ratepayers; and

82  
83 **WHEREAS**, local governments are owners and operators of airports and landfills and employ  
84 firefighters, some of whom may have been exposed to PFAS chemicals on the job through  
85 inhalation or skin absorption, and therefore present a pension and liability concern for local  
86 budgets; and

87  
88 **WHEREAS**, PFAS contamination not only poses health risks, but also economic impacts on  
89 communities, including in the agriculture and fishing industries by contamination of food  
90 sources; and

91  
92 **WHEREAS**, a number of states have adopted PFAS policies pertaining to prohibiting use,  
93 monitoring, notification and reporting, cleanup, health studies, testing, liability provisions, and  
94 contamination limits, ~~including Michigan, New Jersey and Vermont that have set maximum~~  
95 ~~contamination levels lower than EPA health advisory levels;~~<sup>7</sup> and

96  
97 **WHEREAS**, a number of bills have been introduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives  
98 and U.S. Senate to survey, regulate, mitigate and phaseout the use of PFAS.

99  
100 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on  
101 Congress and the Administration to holistically examine PFAS contamination and to take  
102 comprehensive action to address the problem, including through nationwide testing, monitoring,  
103 mapping, public education, and water supply treatment; and

104

<sup>7</sup> ~~States Forge Ahead with PFAS Regulations, PoliticoPro Datapoint on Energy (Feb. 28, 2019)~~

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

111  
112 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should incentivize and support  
113 research and development for extended producer responsibility programs to prevent pollution of  
114 waterways, drinking water and soil contamination and to address the life cycle environmental  
115 impacts of PFAS chemicals; and

116  
117 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments, including municipal airports and fire  
118 departments, were required by federal law to use firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals,  
119 and therefore should not be held liable for PFAS contamination or cleanup costs; and

120  
121 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments, including drinking water and  
122 wastewater utilities and municipal landfills, serve as receivers of PFAS chemicals and did not  
123 cause or contribute to contamination, and therefore should not be held liable for PFAS  
124 contamination or cleanup costs; and

125  
126 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to accelerate  
127 research and technology development to advance the science needed to understand the health  
128 consequences of exposure to PFAS chemicals, detect and measure PFAS chemicals in water and  
129 other environmental media, treat water supplies to remove these substances, and find safe  
130 substitutes for PFAS chemicals; and

131  
132 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to set drinking water  
133 standards, including for PFAS chemicals, based on sound science, public health protection,  
134 occurrence of the contaminant in drinking water supplies at levels of public health concern, risk  
135 reduction and cost; and

136  
137 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls for the federal government to avoid passing  
138 costs onto local ratepayers and to provide financial and technical assistance to communities for  
139 testing, monitoring, mapping, public education, water supply treatment, and pursuit of alternative  
140 water supplies if necessary; and

141  
142 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to prevent further  
143 exposure to PFAS through multiple means, including promoting and funding the development  
144 and use of firefighting alternatives and the phasing out the use of PFAS; and

145

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

149

150 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC should update the “Assessing the State Firefighter  
151 Cancer Presumption Laws and Current Cancer Firefighter Cancer Research” that it conducted in  
152 2009 to determine what linkages there are between firefighting and an elevated incidence of  
153 cancer.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-16

2  
3 **IMPROVE THE BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS FOR FEDERALLY FUNDED FLOOD**  
4 **CONTROL PROJECTS AND SUPPORTING BENEFICIAL REUSE OF DREDGED**  
5 **MATERIAL**  
6

7 **EENR Committee Recommendation:** Renew

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Army Corps) at the U.S. Department of  
10 Defense has responsibilities for development and maintenance of waterways and harbors and for  
11 other water resource projects across the nation, and is the primary federal agency associated with  
12 the design and construction of flood damage reduction projects across the country; and  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) works with the Army  
15 Corps to determine what water resource projects are funded with the budget allocation for the  
16 Army Corps enacted by Congress each year; and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the Army Corps and OMB rely heavily on a benefit-cost analysis to determine  
19 which projects receive federal funding each year; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, since Congress traditionally provides the Army Corps with far fewer resources  
22 than are necessary to fund the significant backlog of projects under their jurisdiction, the benefit-  
23 cost analysis has become a de facto filter for the Army Corps and OMB; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, as a result, projects that have a benefit-cost ratio below a certain level are often not  
26 considered for funding at all; and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, the current system used by the Army Corps for determining benefit-cost ratios is  
29 narrowly focused on traditional economic and financial costs and benefits, largely overlooking  
30 environmental costs and benefits, social equity and potential for secondary benefits of interest to  
31 local communities; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, the current system used by the Army Corps for determining benefit-cost ratios does  
34 not effectively reflect the potential value of projects for low-income communities, including the  
35 benefits of replacement of structures that protect low-income, low-cost of living communities;  
36 and  
37

38 **WHEREAS**, the current system used by the Army Corps for determining benefit-cost ratios does  
39 not adequately consider the impacts of the loss of a community's livelihood associated with  
40 agricultural land; and  
41

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

44

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

47

48 **WHEREAS**, there is a lack of sediment available for the habitat restoration and flood protection  
49 needed along our coasts and waterways.

50

51 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on  
52 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the White House Office of Management and Budget to  
53 revise the benefit-cost analysis system used for projects to reflect the values of the nation to  
54 protect communities from flooding in ways that are environmentally protective and foster social  
55 equity;

56

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

60

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

64

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

69

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

74

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

81

82 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the cost of offshore disposal of dredged materials should  
83 include the full future economic value of that sediment that would be lost if it is deposited  
84 offshore.



1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-17

2  
3 INCREASE FUNDING FOR BORDER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

4  
5 EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

6  
7 WHEREAS, international transboundary rivers on the southern border of the United States are a  
8 major source of sewage, trash, chemicals, heavy metals and toxins; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, transboundary flows threaten the health of 18 million residents in the United States  
11 and Mexico, harm important estuarine land and water of international significance, force closure  
12 of beaches, damage farmland, compromise border security, and directly affect U.S. military  
13 readiness; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, a significant amount of untreated sewage, sediment, hazardous chemicals and trash  
16 have entered United States waters, via the Tijuana and New Rivers in southern California, the  
17 Santa Cruz and San Pedro Rivers in Arizona and the Rio Grande in Texas, eventually draining  
18 into coastal waterways, waterbodies and inland waters, such as the Salton Sea; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, the presence of pollution on state and federal public lands is creating unsafe  
21 conditions for visitors and residents—these lands are taxpayer supported and intended to be  
22 managed for recreation, resource conservation and the enjoyment by the public, and

23  
24 WHEREAS, the current insufficient and degrading infrastructure in the border zone poses a  
25 significant risk to the public health and safety of residents and the environment on both sides of  
26 the border, and places the economic stress on cities that are struggling to mitigate the negative  
27 impacts of pollution; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, the 1944 treaty between the United States and Mexico regarding *Utilization of*  
30 *Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande* allocates flows on transborder  
31 rivers between Mexico and the United States, and provides that the nations, through their  
32 respective sections of the International Boundary Water Commission shall give control of  
33 sanitation in cross border flows the highest priority; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, in 1993, the United States and Mexico entered into the *Agreement Between the*  
36 *Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States*  
37 *Concerning the Establishment of a North American Development Bank* which created the North  
38 American Development Bank (NADB) to certify and fund environmental infrastructure projects  
39 in border-area communities; and

40  
41 WHEREAS, on November 30, 2018 the United States, Mexico and Canada entered into the  
42 *Agreement Between The United States of America, The United Mexican States, And Canada to*

43 replace the *North American Free Trade Agreement*, and on December 10, 2019 the United  
44 States, Mexico and Canada agreed to a protocol of amendment to the U.S.-Mexico-Canada  
45 Agreement (USMCA), which became effective in the United States on January 29, 2020; and  
46

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

51 ~~**WHEREAS**, the funding package included \$300 million to be available to address the problem~~  
52 ~~of toxic sewage flowing from the Tijuana River watershed; and~~

53  
54 **WHEREAS**, the increase in commerce and traffic across the border has resulted in economic  
55 benefits for both the U.S. and Mexico; and

56  
57 **WHEREAS**, the ease of trade and commerce has resulted in increased vehicle and factory  
58 emissions, which negatively impact the water quality, land quality and air quality of the areas  
59 along the southern border; and

60  
61 **WHEREAS**, border communities need modernized and innovative water infrastructure to  
62 provide clean and sanitary drinking water to improve the quality of living and support the  
63 expanding communities; and

64  
65 **WHEREAS**, the adverse environmental impact will worsen existing environmental issues and  
66 the strain on aging infrastructure, while also creating new environmental issues in the future; and

67  
68 **WHEREAS**, the widespread threat to public health and safety, damage to fish and wildlife  
69 resources and degradation to the environment caused by transboundary pollution in the border  
70 states requires urgent action by the federal and state governments; and

71  
72 **WHEREAS**, Congress authorized funding under the Safe Drinking Water Act and established  
73 the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) program for the U.S.-Mexico Border Water  
74 Infrastructure Program in 1996 to provide grants for high-priority water, wastewater, and  
75 stormwater infrastructure projects within 100 kilometers of the southern border; and

76  
77 **WHEREAS**, the EPA administers the STAG and BWIP, and coordinates with the NADB to  
78 allocate BWIP grant funds to projects in the border zone; and

79  
80 **WHEREAS**, since its inception, the BWIP has provided funding for projects in California,  
81 Arizona, New Mexico and Texas that would not have been constructed without the grant  
82 program; and

83

84 **WHEREAS**, the BWIP program was initially funded at \$100 million per year, but, over the last  
85 20 years, the program has been significantly reduced to ~~\$15-30~~ million in ~~FY19-FY21~~ and ~~\$25~~  
86 ~~32~~ million in ~~FY20FY22~~; and

87  
88 ~~**WHEREAS**, in its FY 2021 Budget Request, the Administration proposed to eliminate the~~  
89 ~~BWIP program and recommends that state revolving funds be used as a source of infrastructure~~  
90 ~~funding; and~~

91  
92 **WHEREAS**, officials from EPA Region 6 and 9 identified a multitude of BWIP-eligible projects  
93 along the southern border totaling over \$300 million; and

94  
95 **WHEREAS**, Mexico has identified multiple projects totaling hundreds of millions of dollars that  
96 would benefit from BWIP funding; and

97  
98 **WHEREAS**, without federal partnership through the BWIP and state support to address  
99 pollution, cities that are impacted by transboundary sewage and toxic waste flows are left with  
100 limited resources to address a critical pollution and public health issue and limited legal remedies  
101 to address the problem; and

102  
103 **WHEREAS**, Mexico benefits from the bi-national funding program and relies on the North  
104 American Development Bank to assist in funding projects on the Mexico side of the border,  
105 which have an immediate and long-term environmental impact along the border in the U.S. due  
106 to the upstream, transboundary flows of the major rivers; and

107  
108 **WHEREAS**, local governments and the public support the State's primary objectives in  
109 complying with environmental laws including the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act,  
110 and their state law analogues, and are supported by substantial public investments at all levels of  
111 government to maintain a healthy and sustainable environment for the future.

112  
113 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities urges the  
114 Federal government to continue to fund the Border Water Infrastructure Program, and to  
115 recommit to working bi-nationally to develop and implement long-term solutions to address  
116 serious water quality and contamination issues, such as discharges of untreated sewage and  
117 polluted sediment and trash-laden transboundary flows originating from Mexico, that result in  
118 significant health, environmental, and safety concerns of affected communities.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-18

2  
3 SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

4  
5 EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, local leaders have a strong commitment to ensuring that ~~our citizens~~their residents  
8 have access to clean and reliable drinking water and wastewater systems; and

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, local leaders have an obligation to protect public health, to use limited public  
11 resources in the most efficient manner possible, and to promote economic development; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, local public and private engineers and water professionals also have an obligation  
14 to protect public health, to use limited public resources in the most efficient manner possible, and  
15 to promote economic development; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, there are efforts at the federal level and in various states that would undermine  
18 these goals, supersede engineering judgment and impose new mandates on local communities;  
19 and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, the design of drinking water and wastewater systems is an inherently local process  
22 and local communities are in the best position to select infrastructure materials, as each  
23 community's needs are unique; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, infrastructure materials all have different service lives, durability, reliability,  
26 economic, health and safety characteristics and engineers and communities need to retain local  
27 control to select infrastructure materials based on factors important to the local community; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, communities should remain free to adopt system-wide best management practices  
30 and uniform design specifications in the development and maintenance of their water systems to  
31 maximize efficiency and control costs; and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, restricting local control increases costs, interferes with sound engineering  
34 judgment, limits the ability of communities to manage their systems as efficiently as possible and  
35 delays projects.

36  
37 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) supports  
38 local control of drinking water and wastewater systems and the ability of local governments to  
39 make water infrastructure decisions based on engineering and design, not solely based on cost;  
40 and

41

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC opposes federal and state policies that mandate, or in

43 any way promote, material preferences or otherwise undermine local autonomy for local water

| 44 and wastewater infrastructure systems.

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Community and Economic  
Development  
Federal Advocacy Committee**

**CED**

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 Resolutions*

NLC Resolutions are annual statements of position that sunset at the end of the calendar year unless action is taken. The committee must review each of the 2022 resolutions that originated in the CED Committee to determine recommendations for 2023. The committee has the following options:

1. Renew the resolution for the coming year (with or without edits)
2. Incorporate the resolution into permanent policy; or
3. Let the resolution expire.

The CED resolutions that were approved for 2022 at City Summit with recommendations for 2023 are:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>CED Committee Recommendation</b>
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-19:</b> Supporting A Federal Agenda for Local Economic Development, Economic Mobility, and Entrepreneurship	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-20:</b> Urging the Development of Criteria for Neighborhood Preference as an Anti-Displacement Tool	Expire (HUD now supports carefully structured local anti-displacement preferences)
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-21:</b> Urging the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to Enact Safeguards Against Abuses in Contracts for Deeds	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-22:</b> Supporting the Need for Public Transparency Surrounding Installation Scoring from Past Rounds of Base Realignment and Closure	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-23:</b> Supporting A National Agenda for U.S. Housing Investment and Opportunity	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-24:</b> Endorsing the Recommendations of NLC’s National Housing Task Force Report “Homeward Bound, The Road to Affordable Housing”	Renew



1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-19

2  
3 SUPPORTING A FEDERAL AGENDA FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,  
4 ECONOMIC MOBILITY, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

5  
6 CED Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

7  
8 WHEREAS, cities are the engine of our nation’s economy. From infrastructure like roads and  
9 water to parks and libraries, to workforce development centers and business support, to law  
10 enforcement and emergency services; cities create the conditions that drive new business, spur  
11 innovation, and attract talent and investment; and

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

14  
15 WHEREAS, NLC’s State of the Cities 2022 Report identifies “Economic Development” as the  
16 second most-covered policy issue in 2022 state of the city speeches; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, following two years of stewarding turbulent local economies, local governments  
19 are using a wide range of policies and programs to increase their city’s economic resiliency,  
20 maintain commercial competitiveness and lift up the members of their communities most  
21 negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, the federal government has an essential role to play – in cooperation with local  
24 leaders – to help address the social, economic, and fiscal challenges weighing on the nation’s  
25 cities; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, local entrepreneurs and small businesses lead a majority of economic growth and  
28 are essential stakeholders in the success of neighborhoods, help create a community’s sense of  
29 place, and serve as a vital link to connect communities to the larger, global economy; and

30  
31 WHEREAS, successful neighborhood revitalization requires effective plans for both community  
32 development and economic development; and

33  
34 WHEREAS, the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), a landmark civil rights law passed in  
35 1977 to end discrimination in America’s banking and housing markets, remains a critical tool for  
36 both community and economic development that ensures regulated financial institutions have  
37 continuing and affirmative obligations to help meet the credit needs of the local communities in  
38 which they are chartered; and

39  
40 WHEREAS, working with Congress, the President has an opportunity to partner with local  
41 officials to renew and reinvigorate federal economic development policies and programs that  
42 local entrepreneurs have increasingly been unable to access; and

43  
44 ~~WHEREAS, in many cases federal programs and policies created in response to the great~~  
45 ~~recession have remained static and increasingly inaccessible or irrelevant to small businesses and~~  
46 ~~local entrepreneurs at the center of today’s urban growth and revitalization; and~~

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

50  
51 ~~**WHEREAS**, NLC supported the formation of the bipartisan House Entrepreneurship Caucus,~~  
52 ~~which will serve as a forum for policy discussions and collaboration to address the most pressing~~  
53 ~~issues facing entrepreneurs throughout the country. The caucus will seek to analyze new business~~  
54 ~~formation trends and form a wide-ranging strategy to boost entrepreneurship growth, ensuring~~  
55 ~~new business ventures continue to create jobs and drive innovation.~~

56  
57 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC urges federal investment and support for  
58 economic mobility and opportunity, regional economic development, local entrepreneurship,  
59 community banking and community development financial institutions, and direct federal  
60 investment in distressed and underserved communities; and

61  
62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports the bipartisan House and Senate  
63 Entrepreneurship Caucuses and urges growth in their membership; and

64  
65 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government can make an immediate and  
66 enormously positive impact on local economies by acting on the following ~~five~~four areas:

67  
68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 1.)** that NLC urges federal lawmakers to help local  
69 entrepreneurs by supporting policies that result in a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurship.  
70 To that end, Congress should:

- 71 • Create an Entrepreneurs Extension Partnership to connect startups with the basic  
72 resources needed to create and grow their businesses locally.
- 73 • Establish an Office of Entrepreneurship within the Small Business Administration to  
74 broaden eligibility for SBA support ~~beyond the types of businesses traditionally~~  
75 ~~supported for the smallest businesses.~~
- 76 • Launch a network of non-equity based, “revenue first” accelerators for new  
77 businesses that fall within a grey area where they are too risky for traditional banks  
78 and not risky enough for venture capitalists.

79  
80 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 2.)** that NLC urges the federal government improve equity and  
81 economic mobility by modernizing the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) to increase public  
82 accountability of banks to serve every community. To that end, federal regulators should:

- 83 • Update CRA assessment areas to include areas with considerable bank lending and  
84 deposit gathering outside of bank branch networks.
- 85 • Improve public data around community development lending and investments in  
86 order to provide greater clarity to lenders about what qualifies for CRA and to help  
87 identify areas around the country in need of greater community development lending  
88 and investing.
- 89 • Federal regulators should not adopt a one-ratio or single-metric approach to CRA  
90 exams and should not adjust bank asset thresholds solely for making exams easier for  
91 banks to pass, or otherwise dilute attention to LMI borrowers and communities.

92

93 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 3.)** that NLC urges federal lawmakers to increase the pace of  
94 economic development by continuing on the path of regulatory reform that reduces barriers to  
95 development. To that end, Congress should:

- 96 • Establish a shot-clock on federal agencies making rulings and determinations on local  
97 governments to expedite the federal decision-making processes; and to provide for  
98 the certainty that project partners and project finance require; and
- 99 • Appoint an independent Intergovernmental Ombudsman at each cabinet level agency  
100 to serve as point of contact for state and local elected officials and serve as a  
101 facilitator at times of intergovernmental impasse; and

102  
103 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 4.)** that NLC urges federal lawmakers make economic  
104 mobility a federal priority. To that end, Congress should:

- 105 • Restore full funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program, which  
106 serves as the first line of defense against local neighborhood decline and has been the  
107 bridge for countless families to the middle class; and
- 108 • ~~Authorize significant annual increases in funding for economic development grants~~  
109 ~~for cities and towns through the U.S. Economic Development Administration~~Increase  
110 EDA funding for Partnership Planning, Research and National Technical Assistance,  
111 and Public Works, and enhance the scope of related activities; and
- 112 • Enact the broadest possible definition of economic development to permit EDA grant  
113 funding for innovative programs at the intersection of economic development and  
114 education, workforce, and infrastructure; and
- 115 • Elevate the office of Economic Development Integration at U.S. EDA to fill the role  
116 of central integrator of all federal economic development programs across federal  
117 agencies to streamline and simplify city access to those programs; and
- 118 • Support greater offerings of technical assistance and capacity building at federal  
119 agencies tasked with economic development, including HUD, EDA, and USDA, for  
120 small and mid-sized cities and towns to create and fill economic development  
121 positions within municipal governments – or to support NGO partners assisting local  
122 governments; and

123  
124 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 5.)** that NLC urges federal lawmakers remain focused on  
125 workforce development. Specifically, Congress should:

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

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-20

2  
3 ~~URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA FOR NEIGHBORHOOD~~  
4 ~~PREFERENCE AS AN ANTI-DISPLACEMENT TOOL~~

5  
6 **CED Committee Recommendation: Expire**  
7 (HUD now supports carefully structured local anti-displacement preferences)

8 -  
9 ~~WHEREAS, federal Fair Housing Act does not allow for any lender, landlord, or housing~~  
10 ~~provider to institute policies or practices that could negatively affect a protected class (race,~~  
11 ~~color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, and familial status); and~~

12 -  
13 ~~WHEREAS, many cities have the affirmative duty to further the Fair Housing Act which~~  
14 ~~includes but not limited to anti-displacement mechanisms; and~~

15 -  
16 ~~WHEREAS, many cities have communities with diverse population of many races, colors, and~~  
17 ~~national origin who have often chosen to live in communities that are like their own race, color,~~  
18 ~~or national origin; and~~

19 -  
20 ~~WHEREAS, in many cities, certain communities, primarily communities of color, are facing~~  
21 ~~gentrification leading to displacement of longtime residents to less desirable areas of the city or~~  
22 ~~displaced entirely from the community; and~~

23 -  
24 ~~WHEREAS, in many communities facing gentrification by market and unaffordable housing,~~  
25 ~~the only source of new housing affordable to the low-income residents is government subsidized~~  
26 ~~housing; and~~

27 -  
28 ~~WHEREAS, the Fair Housing Act does not allow any preference to be given to residents of~~  
29 ~~gentrifying communities being displaced upon the construction of a new housing affordable to~~  
30 ~~low-income residents of that community; and~~

31 -  
32 ~~WHEREAS, if the residents could have preference to these better and safer affordable housing~~  
33 ~~structures recently developed in their communities, the residents would be able to vacate the~~  
34 ~~deteriorating structures which are the only ones they can afford, allowing for the redevelopment~~  
35 ~~of the properties; and~~

36 -  
37 ~~WHEREAS, cities have a legitimate interest in protecting long-term residents as long-term~~  
38 ~~residents are often engaged positively in the community, provide community stability, and~~  
39 ~~stability often leads to less crime; and~~

40 -  
41 ~~WHEREAS, neighborhood/community preference is a very powerful anti-displacement tool~~  
42 ~~which operation (interpretation) of the Fair Housing Act has taken away from municipalities.~~

43 -  
44 ~~NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED~~ that NLC urges the Secretary of the Department of  
45 Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) give municipalities guidance as to how a Fair

46 ~~Housing marketing plan can be set up with a neighborhood preference that will be acceptable to~~  
47 ~~the department; and~~

48 ~~–~~

49 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that such guidance can include demographic parameters such~~  
50 ~~as percentage of minorities in a neighborhood, percentage of displacement over the last five~~  
51 ~~years, fair market rent as a percentage of low-income residents and a percentage limit of the local~~  
52 ~~preference.~~

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3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2022-21**

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

6 **CED Committee Recommendation: Renew**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, the subprime home mortgage crisis damaged housing affordability across the  
9 country and caused disproportionate harm in African-American communities, resulting in the  
10 loss of forty percent of non-home-equity wealth. Moreover, home-equity wealth, which dropped  
11 nineteen percent during the crisis, has declined by an additional thirteen percent in the years  
12 since the crisis; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, over three million families have entered into a Contract for Deed to purchase a  
15 home due to the inaccessibility of the traditional mortgage market; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, a Contract for Deed is a seller finance method to purchase a home where the seller  
18 retains the legal title to the property until the homebuyer finishes paying all principal payments  
19 and interest owed under the contract. Contracts for Deeds are principally used by low-income  
20 homebuyers who are unable to obtain a traditional mortgage or financing because of poor credit  
21 ratings, inadequate income or other issues; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, bad actors can abuse Contracts for Deeds to allow the seller to avoid health and  
24 safety regulations, and crucial repairs to the property, while transferring the burden of property  
25 taxes, property insurance, and repairs to the homebuyer; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, in comparison to renting, the homebuyer must pay more per month for the property  
28 under Contracts for Deeds, make a larger upfront payment, and take better care of the premises,  
29 because the homebuyer is working toward ownership. However, sellers that abuse Contract for  
30 Deeds rarely end up transferring the title to the prospective homebuyer; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, Contracts for Deeds are often consummated between the homebuyer and the seller  
33 without the benefit of a title search and title insurance, government regulatory protections and  
34 standardized legal documents in many states including Texas, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota,  
35 West Virginia, South Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, and Florida; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, the proliferation and abuse of Contracts for Deeds presents the risk of creating yet  
38 another large drain on African-American wealth comparable in impact to the housing finance  
39 abuses that brought about the 2007-2009 subprime crisis; and

40  
41 **WHEREAS**, the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, a constituency group of the  
42 National League of Cities, has endorsed this resolution; and also, strongly condemns the use of  
43 Contracts for Deeds to exploit low-income homebuyers.

44  
45 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities urges the U.S.  
46 Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and

47 the Rural Housing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to enact regulations and  
48 safeguards against predatory uses of Contracts for Deeds, and to protect consumers from the  
49 practice of using Contracts for Deeds to unjustly evict families from their homes.

1 **NLC RESOLUTION 2022-22**

2  
3 **SUPPORTING THE NEED FOR PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY SURROUNDING**  
4 **INSTALLATION SCORING FROM PAST ROUNDS OF BASE REALIGNMENT AND**  
5 **CLOSURE**

6  
7 **CED Committee Recommendation: Renew**

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, the strength of the United States Armed Services is a matter of critical national  
10 security; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, the communities surrounding the military installations throughout the United  
13 States have a symbiotic relationship with the installations; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, communities are engaging in efforts to build collaborative networks to support the  
16 needs of active duty and transitioning military personnel, their families, Veterans, and members  
17 of the reserve and National Guard through Community Veteran Engagement Boards (CVEBs),  
18 Points of Light Foundation’s Community Blueprint program, and the U.S. Department of  
19 Defense’s Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, realignment and closure of those installations will have a significant economic  
22 effect upon the communities surrounding the installations; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, previous rounds of base realignment and closure resulted in installations and the  
25 surrounding communities being scored on specific criteria; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, providing communities surrounding military installations with scoring criteria and  
28 prioritization from previous rounds of base realignment and closure will assist them in making  
29 necessary changes to better prepare their communities against potential closure of an adjacent  
30 installation; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, 52 cities that are a part of NLC’s Military Communities Council (MCC) represent  
33 the communities adjacent to military installations.

34  
35 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges  
36 Congress and the Department of Defense to provide the criteria and scoring of installations and  
37 surrounding communities from previous rounds of base realignment and closure to allow  
38 communities to better prepare themselves against potential closure of the installation and to work  
39 closely with the installations to improve low scoring criteria.



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2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2022-23**

4 **SUPPORTING A NATIONAL AGENDA FOR U.S. HOUSING INVESTMENT AND**  
5 **OPPORTUNITY**

6 **CED Committee Recommendation: Renew**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, America’s cities are the strength of the nation – communities of neighborhoods  
9 where people live, work, learn, and play; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, every American deserves a decent home in a suitable living environment with  
12 adequate financial stability to maintain it; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, affordable housing contributes to the economic vitality of our communities and  
15 local economic regions as a vehicle for creating jobs and increasing municipal tax bases; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, there is an irreplaceable role for the federal government in addressing our nation’s  
18 housing needs; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, research demonstrates that inadequate housing is linked to issues including  
21 unemployment, rising health care costs, public safety challenges, and poor academic  
22 performance; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, the demand for affordable housing far outpaces the supply in the United States, as  
25 wages have not kept pace with rising home values over the period following the subprime  
26 mortgage crisis; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, data shows that in no state, metropolitan area, or county can a worker earning the  
29 federal minimum wage or prevailing state minimum wage afford a two-bedroom rental home at  
30 fair market rent by working a standard 40-hour week; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, three out of four households eligible for federal housing assistance receive none;  
33 and

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, on any given night, there are in excess of 560,000 Americans experiencing  
36 homelessness, meaning they are sleeping outside, in an emergency shelter, or in a transitional  
37 housing program; and

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, NLC supports the bipartisan coalition “MAYORS AND CEOS FOR US  
40 HOUSING INVESTMENT”, and welcomes all city leaders and CEOs to consider joining the  
41 coalition as common stakeholders in expanding housing opportunities and ending homelessness;  
42 and

43  
44 **WHEREAS**, NLC supports the national, multi-sector housing campaign “OPPORTUNITY  
45 STARTS AT HOME”, a long-term, multi-sector campaign to meet the rental housing needs of  
46 the nation’s lowest income people.  
47

48 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC urges the President and Congress to  
49 work with city leaders to end homelessness and ensure that the lowest-income and most  
50 vulnerable households have the opportunity for safe, decent, affordable housing; and

51  
52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress to bridge the funding gap between  
53 rents and income for extremely low-income households through rental assistance programs,  
54 including supporting a mechanism to address the acceptance of federal rental assistance  
55 vouchers; and

56  
57 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to work with local  
58 governments to expand the stock of affordable housing and workforce housing; and

59  
60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress to restore and improve funding for  
61 neighborhood and household stabilization to provide emergency assistance to avert housing  
62 instability, homelessness, and neighborhood decline.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2022-24**

**ENDORING THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF NLC’S NATIONAL HOUSING TASK  
FORCE REPORT “HOMEWARD BOUND, THE ROAD TO AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING”**

**CED Committee Recommendation: Renew**

**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

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

- 49 1. Immediately stabilize and stem the loss of public and affordable housing.
- 50 2. Enact a long-term housing bill that provides ten years of funding certainty for pilot  
51 programs advancing housing for all.
- 52 3. Support innovation and modernization of land-use and planning at the local and  
53 regional level.
- 54 4. Fix inequities in housing development and the housing finance system.
- 55 5. Support scalable innovation and financing for cities, towns and villages.

56  
57 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities makes the following five  
58 recommendations to local governments:

- 59 1. Establish local programs by combining funding and financing streams to support  
60 housing goals.
- 61 2. Modernize local land use policies, including zoning and permitting, to rebalance  
62 housing supply and demand.
- 63 3. Identify and engage broadly with local stakeholders; and coordinate across municipal  
64 boundaries, to develop a plan to provide housing opportunities for all.
- 65 4. Support the needs of distinct sub-populations including the homeless, seniors and  
66 persons with conviction histories.
- 67 5. Prioritize equitable outcomes in housing decision as it is an essential component for  
68 success.

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Human Development  
Federal Advocacy Committee**

**HD**

# *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 4.00 Introduction**
- **Section 4.01 Social Services**
  - E. Special Populations
- **Section 4.02 Children and Learning**
  - A. Early Care and Learning
  - B. School-Age Children
  - D. Safe Schools
  - E. Green Schoolyards
  - F. Postsecondary Education
- **Section 4.03 Poverty Reduction and Income Support**
  - B. Education and Skills Development
- **Section 4.04 Employment**
  - A. Workforce Development
  - B. Job Creation
  - C. Job Elimination
- **Section 4.05 Equal Opportunity**
- **Section 4.06 Seniors and Social Security**
  - A. Aging in Place
- **Section 4.07 Individuals with Disabilities**
  - B. Self-Sufficiency
- **Section 4.08 Health**
  - F. Vaccination Stockpiles
  - G. Infectious Diseases
  - H. Substance Abuse
  - J. Mental Health
- **Section 4.09 Immigration and Refugees**
- **Section 4.11 Veterans**
- **Section 4.12 International, National and Community Service**

1 **Section 4.00 Introduction**

2  
3 The National League of Cities (NLC) believes that the cornerstone of the federal government’s  
4 comprehensive human development strategy should be the self-sufficiency and well-being of every  
5 individual. Through policy recommendations, financial investments, staffing commitments and  
6 legislative action, the federal government should:

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

24  
1 **Section 4.01 Social Services**

2  
3 NLC believes that the federal government should give special emphasis to social service funds for  
4 the nation’s most vulnerable populations. Within this framework, the federal government should  
5 allow state and local governments to determine the types of services most appropriate to meet each  
6 community’s needs. The federal government should:

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

15  
16 ~~**E. Special Populations**~~

17 ~~NLC supports federal efforts to focus funding and program services on special populations~~  
18 ~~including:~~

- 19 ~~• Senior Citizens (see also HD Section 4.06, Seniors and Social Security);~~
- 20 ~~• Individuals with Disabilities (see also HD Section 4.07, Individuals with~~  
21 ~~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~~

## Section 4.02 Children and Learning

### A. Early Care and Learning

NLC supports early childhood development programs that address the holistic needs of children including their physical, social and emotional health and well-being and prepare them for long-term success in school and life. Such programs should include:

- Support for social and emotional health and well-being, routine health screenings, ~~a~~, physical fitness activities, and nutrition for proper development;
- Training and support for families to support their child’s development at home and to help them effectively advocate for their child at school;
- Developmentally appropriate early learning experiences grounded in ~~research-~~evidence-based curricula that incorporate 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
- Early childhood educators that have the training, skills, and ongoing professional development to provide high-quality teacher/child interactions, including trauma-informed care, 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, nutritional assistance, family support services, and education programs so that all children have the skills and support needed to enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

NLC urges the federal government to provide direct funding to cities 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 (MIECHV) 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-payout based on enrollment rather than attendance, setting payment rates based on the true cost of care rather than a market



42 rate survey, utilizing contracts to build the supply of care, allowing families to be  
43 eligible for subsidy if attending an institute of higher education, and allowing  
44 localities to determine eligibility guidelines that can account for regional differences  
45 in the cost of living;

- 46 • Ensure that the early childhood services are comprehensive, incorporating preventive  
47 and protective services for child abuse and neglect, early and periodic health  
48 screenings, nutritional programs, educational enrichment, and appropriate  
49 interventions for children with special needs. Effort should be made to promote a  
50 diverse early childhood workforce that is trained in trauma-responsive care, culturally  
51 appropriate practices; and implicit bias; and
- 52 • Create a local early childhood innovation fund to encourage states, counties, local  
53 governments and their partners to find new ways to support the expansion and quality  
54 of child care and preschool in communities through early childhood workforce  
55 preparation programs, facilities enhancements, and strategic partnerships between  
56 early childhood programs and city agencies that serve families, so that families have  
57 access to nutrition and health services, housing, transportation and employment  
58 services.

59  
60 NLC also recommends that the federal government:

- 61 • Provide tax incentives to businesses to provide child care facilities at worksites and to  
62 subsidize the child care costs of their employees;
- 63 • Encourage public-private partnerships through matching funds and financial  
64 incentives;
- 65 • Educate employers on the economic benefits of providing child care;
- 66 • Provide support and regulations to ensure child care providers are paid a living wage;
- 67 • Improve the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to make it available to more low-  
68 and-moderate-income families; ~~and~~
- 69 • Urge the Small Business Administration (SBA) to view child care as a legitimate  
70 business including providing them operational support and make available low-  
71 interest loans to those interested in starting child care businesses; and
- 72 • Ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, a comprehensive  
73 human rights treaty on children’s rights.

74  
75 Further, NLC urges the federal government to strengthen child care and early learning systems by  
76 bridging gaps between child care and early learning providers and supporting policies within Head  
77 Start that foster collaboration with early education programs and child care.

78  
79 NLC strongly supports quality, early childhood learning programs for all children, including  
80 federally-subsidized, quality, early childhood learning programs for at-risk and low-income  
81 children. NLC urges the federal government to:

- 82 • Increase funding for preschool expansion and encourage states to adopt a mixed-  
83 delivery model that supports children's holistic development.;
- 84 • Increase funding for Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Early Head Start Child  
85 Care Partnerships programs. Preserve the federal-to-local funding structure and  
86 encourage more birth-to-five grants to allow for additional flexibility for local  
87 programs to structure their operations to best meet local needs. Also, in addition to

88 further supporting State Collaboration Offices, create local collaboration grants for  
89 cities, counties or their partners to help align and coordinate federal, state and local  
90 early childhood initiatives; ~~and~~

- 91 • Provide support for the inclusion of outdoor learning environments and nature play  
92 spaces that promote early learning, healthy development, healthy eating, and positive  
93 interactions between families and young children within parks, green spaces, and  
94 early childhood centers; and
- 95 • Supports transition activities to ensure that children entering kindergarten have the  
96 support needed to be successful in school.

#### 97 98 **B. School-Age Children**

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

108  
109 The federal government should increase funding for programs that support opportunity youth,  
110 students who have disengaged from school, so they can return to school, receive an alternative  
111 education, and easily move into the employment sector effectively. In addition, for students who  
112 are not actively pursuing education beyond high school, NLC supports continued federal  
113 investment in research and local programs, including career and technical education programs that  
114 help students to transition from school to work.

115  
116 NLC also supports the long-term success of immigrant students through English language  
117 education. Therefore, NLC urges the federal government to:

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

#### 128 129 **D. Safe Schools**

130 NLC also believes that ~~widespread~~ bullying and harassment—including bullying based on race,  
131 ethnicity, nationality, religion, culture, sexual orientation and/or gender identity—result in poor  
132 grades, lower academic achievement, high rates of absenteeism, and a lack of safety within  
133 schools, that lead to poor individual and school scores, higher dropout rates, and student suicides.

134 Therefore, NLC urges Congress and the Administration to pass and sign into law legislation that  
135 would address the problem of bullying and harassment in America’s schools. The legislation  
136 should require that local school districts and their schools :

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

#### 156 E. **Green Schoolyards**

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

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

#### 170 F. **Post-Secondary Education**

171 Education and training beyond high school is increasingly required to ensure access to the jobs of  
172 the future and upward economic mobility. Without high-quality postsecondary education that  
173 develops a skilled and trained workforce, the nation’s cities, towns and villages will face serious  
174 challenges when it comes to attracting and retaining businesses and staying economically  
175 competitive. NLC urges Congress to support strategies and investments that improve  
176 postsecondary access, completion, and long-term success in the labor market including those that:

- 177 • Ensure a smooth transition from high school to postsecondary education and work.  
178 NLC supports those college preparation programs, authorized by the Higher  
179 Education Act, that help to bridge the transition from high school to college (such as

- 180 Gear Up, Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, and Educational  
 181 Opportunity Centers). NLC also supports dual and concurrent enrollment programs,  
 182 and college-in high school models like P-TECH;
- 183 • Promote a culture of postsecondary engagement and, support the expansion of  
 184 dedicated savings vehicles for post-secondary education such as children’s savings  
 185 accounts or other programs operated by towns, cities, and villages;
  - 186 • Support work-based and career-connected learning, like programs funded under the  
 187 Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and Registered Apprenticeship  
 188 Programs and continue to ensure such programs are responsive to local labor market  
 189 needs;
  - 190 • Support career readiness programs, including English language and technology  
 191 literacy programs as well as soft skills training;
  - 192 • Elevate the central role that community colleges play in providing non-degree  
 193 credentials, rapid upskilling and job training, and work to align federal support staff  
 194 and technical assistance for community colleges at the U.S. Departments of  
 195 Education and Labor;
  - 196 • Incentivize state re-investment in higher education;
  - 197 • Provide technical assistance and guidance to postsecondary institutions on strategies  
 198 to improve career guidance, industry credential attainment, competency-based  
 199 education, and other evidence-based practices;
  - 200 • Make it easier for people receiving food assistance or social services to access  
 201 postsecondary education. Work requirements in programs like TANF & SNAP can  
 202 prevent youth and adults from gaining the education and skills they need to access  
 203 economic opportunity; ~~and~~
  - 204 • Promote transparency in postsecondary data – including labor market outcome data –  
 205 to enable local policymakers to make effective decisions that support education  
 206 attainment and address equity issues; ~~and~~
  - 207 • Address the impact that increased student loan payments have on the financial  
 208 security and economic mobility on the residents of our nation’s cities.

209  
 1 **Section 4.03 Poverty Reduction and Income Support**

2  
 3 **B. Education and Skills Development**

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

9  
 10 The federal government should provide adequate funding to help individuals make the transition  
 11 from welfare to work by:

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

17 Therefore NLC urges Congress to:

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

31  
32 As part of the federal government’s efforts to reduce poverty and lower welfare caseloads, the  
33 federal government should require states to use whatever mechanisms that are legal and necessary,  
34 including Social Security numbers and state tax records, to track people leaving welfare to  
35 determine how many have jobs paying enough to sustain self-sufficiency. This information can be  
36 used to help improve program design and outcomes for participants.

37  
38 The federal government must increase the EITC to relieve more low-income workers of tax  
39 obligations and/or to provide larger refunds to those that qualify. The federal government should  
40 make permanent the expansions of the EITC for those without children and the Child Tax Credit  
41 made possible with the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act. In addition, the federal  
42 government should support working families by increasing the minimum wage.

## 43 **Section 4.04 Employment**

### 44 **A. Workforce Development**

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

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

- 52 • Allow cities and towns working individually or together to utilize funds in ways that  
53 reflect the local workforce, available jobs, and the needs of the business community;
- 54 • Ensure that a portion of the funds are targeted to those most in need: persons living in  
55 poverty, those who are structurally unemployed and are not likely to return to their  
56 previous jobs, ~~ex-offenders~~ formerly incarcerated individuals, and opportunity youth  
57 who are at-risk of long-term poverty;
- 58 • Establish workforce development areas that are based on regional economies rather  
59 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; ~~and~~
- Encourage greater use of apprenticeship programs with access to funding for local programs; ~~and~~
- 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;
- 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; and
- ~~When the federal government closes military bases or major federal facilities, the federal government should provide~~ Provide direct assistance to ensure that individuals receive the retraining and job placement assistance they need when the federal government closes military bases or major federal facilities.

## B. Job Creation

To reduce poverty, the federal government should provide resources to help local communities address the shortage and maintenance 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 that will 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.

66  
67 NLC also supports transitional jobs, or public sector jobs that are designed to provide individuals  
68 with temporary employment that will lead to full-time permanent employment after a period of  
69 classroom, on-the-job, and other types of training consistent with permanent, full-time  
70 employment. The President and Congress should establish a national infrastructure program with  
71 the goal of stimulating job growth, retraining the workforce, and boosting local economies.

72  
73 See also CED section 3.04 (B4a) Economic Development.

### 74 75 **C. Job Elimination**

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

79  
80 Therefore, NLC supports the Worker adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act and  
81 other federal laws that ensure advance notice in cases of closing and mass layoffs and requires  
82 private businesses to :

- 83 • Provide 60 days advance notice of relocations, reductions in workforce or  
84 business closings for businesses with 100 or more employees;
- 85 • Consult with local municipal officials so that the individuals and communities  
86 affected can plan for needed adjustments; ~~and~~
- 87 • Create incentives for individuals to be re-skilled/re-trained to obtain further  
88 employment within the local community;
- 89 • Make supplemental financial contributions to support the unemployment  
90 insurance fund to assist in worker transition; and
- 91 • Support Short-Term Compensation (STC) programs, also known as “work  
92 sharing”, as a layoff aversion tactic under a state-approved plan to reduce the hours  
93 for a group of workers who in turn also receive a reduced unemployment benefit  
94 payment.

### 95 1 **Section 4.05 Equal Opportunity**

2  
3 NLC believes that the federal government should uphold fundamental principles of equality and  
4 the rule of law, and address, by enforcing the laws, acts of bias, bigotry, racism, xenophobia,  
5 sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ageism, and ableism.

6  
7 To ensure equal opportunity for all, the federal government should:

- 8 • Enforce civil rights laws and eliminate discrimination with regard to race, color,  
9 ethnicity, religion, national origin, immigration status, age, sex, sexual orientation,  
10 gender/identity expression or any social barriers ~~or~~ disabilities or physical  
11 disadvantage;
- 12 • Promote and encourage equitable efforts in employment, education, delivery of  
13 services, and health care ~~to ensure that every person is considered only with regard to~~  
14 individual need; ~~and~~
- 15 • Take current action to remedy past discrimination;

- 16 • Develop and disseminate legal standards that will provide clear guidance on the use
- 17 of mechanisms to address present or past racial discrimination;
- 18 • Promote diversity;
- 19 • Explicitly include women and sexual/gender minorities in the Constitution;
- 20 • Provide statutory authority for same-sex and interracial marriages; and
- 21 • Provide all employers with information on how to adopt and carry out effective
- 22 affirmative action programs; and
- 23 • Expand opportunities in federal and local procurement for people of color, women,
- 24 LGBTQ+ and individuals with disabilities.

25

## 1 **Section 4.06 Sections and Social Security**

2

3 NLC believes that the federal government should ensure that all seniors have:

- 4 • A floor of financial support which would provide an adequate standard of living;
- 5 • An opportunity for employment free from discriminatory practices because of age;
- 6 • Suitable housing;
- 7 • Access to healthy foods;
- 8 • An appropriate level of physical and mental health services;
- 9 • Ready access to effective social services;
- 10 • Appropriate institutional care when required;
- 11 • A life and death with dignity;
- 12 • Information about available supportive services; and
- 13 • Supportive services that enable seniors to age in place.

14

### 15 **A. Aging in Place**

16 NLC believes that the federal government should take the lead in planning, research, and  
 17 development of a universal and comprehensive approach to aging in America that includes  
 18 culturally relevant programs that will enable seniors ~~citizens~~ to “age in place” and enjoy their  
 19 elderly years in the comfort, safety, dignity and familiarity of their own homes and/or  
 20 communities. NLC supports seniors in our communities to have affordable opportunities and  
 21 support to age in a place of their choice that meets their needs. In support of this effort, NLC urges  
 22 the federal government to enact tax policies that take into account costs associated with aging in  
 23 place, elder care, and senior homesteading and establish programs that reduce homecare costs,  
 24 increase the quality of care, reduce reliance on nursing homes, address mental capacity and  
 25 mobility, provide transportation and accessibility services, create a continuum of housing options,  
 26 support home repairs and accessibility renovations, ensure access to healthy foods, and increase  
 27 access to broadband and internet services to improve healthcare and social networking. Further,  
 28 the federal government should prioritize action within the Domains of Livability, identified by  
 29 AARP and the World Health Organization:

- 30 1. Outdoor spaces and buildings
- 31 2. Transportation
- 32 3. Housing
- 33 4. Social participation
- 34 5. Respect and social inclusion
- 35 6. Work and civic engagement



- 36 7. Communication and information
- 37 8. Community and health services
- 38 9. Public safety and emergency preparedness
- 39 10. Alzheimer’s and other dementias

40

1 **Section 4.07 Individuals with Disabilities**

2

3 **B. Self-Sufficiency**

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

7

1 **Section 4.08 Health**

2

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

6

7 NLC believes that the federal government should:

8

- 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, Tri-Care 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.

26

27 In addition, NLC urges the federal government to:

28

- 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

33

- 34 Grant, funding for community health centers and health programs for Native  
35 Americans, Migrants and Refugees;
- 36 • Require employers to cover the costs of health insurance for laid off workers and their  
37 dependents, as well as the creation of subsidized health insurance pools for workers  
38 without employment-based coverage;
  - 39 • Provide funding for programs which offer transitional care and home health care  
40 services;
  - 41 • Expand preventive health care programs for the poor; and
  - 42 • Pay the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) premiums for  
43 people with catastrophic terminal illnesses who have left their jobs and cannot afford  
44 to pay the health insurance premium.

45

#### 46 **F. Vaccination Stockpiles**

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

52

#### 53 **G. Infectious Diseases**

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

60

61 Specific attention should also be placed on the transmission of zoonotic diseases, such as COVID-  
62 19, which are transmitted from animals to humans and that researchers now believe contributes to  
63 no fewer than 2.2 million deaths each year on average. As we have experienced with COVID-19,  
64 which has resulted in 4.936.52 million deaths worldwide as of ~~October 2021~~September 2022,  
65 these diseases are an increasingly serious problem resulting from environmental change and  
66 increased travel ~~among~~within and between nations.

67

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

74

75 NLC urges the federal government to continue collecting data disaggregated by race, ethnicity,  
76 sex, sexual orientation, religion, and gender identity and to support data that sheds light on the  
77 intersecting forces of racial disparities, underlying conditions, and poverty that affect how an  
78 infectious disease spreads and provide resources that address the disproportionate effect on  
79 impacted communities. 5

80

## 81 **H. Substance Abuse**

82 The federal government should maintain the definition of substance use disorders as illnesses and  
83 should ensure that there are enough facilities for those who need substance use disorder treatment,  
84 including children and infants who are born with prenatal substance exposure.

85 According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH, 2014), 21.2 million  
86 Americans needed treatment for a substance use disorder. However, only about 2.5 million people  
87 received the specialized treatment they needed. The federal government should take steps to  
88 improve access to medication-assisted treatment and ensure that Naloxone dosage guidelines keep  
89 pace with the changing needs on the ground, especially the increasing prevalence of fentanyl. Harm  
90 reduction efforts such as syringe exchange programs should be scaled in coordination with state  
91 and local partners.

92

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

97

98 Resources should include:

99

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

107

## 108 **J. Mental Health**

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

114

115 NLC supports mental health parity and the provision of comprehensive services to address mental  
116 health needs for persons with general mental health conditions, serious mental health diagnoses,  
117 and substance use disorders. Whether at the federal, state or local levels, there should be effective  
118 plans for preventing, diagnosing, and treating mental health conditions and substance use disorders  
119 that reflect the parity between mental and physical health. Mental health and substance use disorder  
120 services should be accessible and equal to physical health services. These services should also  
121 provide support and stabilization to family systems.

122

123 The Federal government should:

124

- 125 • Embed behavioral health supports in existing community centers to promote  
integrated systems of health care and stress reduction;

- 126 • Coordinate with state, county, and local officials on the implementation of the 988  
127 mental health line, to ensure coordinated access to service providers;
- 128 • Recognize trauma as a major public health threat and offer mandated trauma-  
129 awareness trainings for all entities receiving federal funding;
- 130 • Incentivize screenings for social determinants of health including Adverse Childhood  
131 Experiences (ACE) screenings understanding that adversity in childhood impacts  
132 healthy brain development and increases risk for disease and early death; and
- 133 • Acknowledge the significant return on investment in early childhood programs and  
134 supports for children and families including home visitation, parenting education, and  
135 affordable, high quality preschool. These programs allow service providers to identify  
136 environmental risks that can lead to substance use disorders and mental health  
137 conditions.

138

## 1 Section 4.09 Immigration and Refugees

2

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

7

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

11

12 The federal government should:

- 13 • Provide ~~an appropriate,~~ legal means of immigration, as is determined to be necessary  
14 and effective for the United States, for foreign nationals who want to work here  
15 temporarily, become legal permanent residents, or gain citizenship;
- 16 • Provide local governments with financial and technical assistance so localities can  
17 assist new immigrants, including the costs of providing social services, health care,  
18 education, language services, refugee resettlement and civic integration;
- 19 • Avoid conscription of local personnel, such as police officers, fire inspectors,  
20 educators, health personnel and social service personnel into federal service because  
21 the federal government has not adequately funded and staffed its immigration  
22 enforcement agencies;
- 23 • Avoid transferring responsibility for enforcing U.S. immigration laws to local law  
24 enforcement;
- 25 • Increase federal capacity and infrastructure to provide efficient means for foreign  
26 nationals to obtain legal authorization for temporary visas or legal permanent  
27 residency;
- 28 • Establish an ~~affordable-efficient~~ process whereby undocumented immigrants  
29 currently living in the United States may earn legalized status;
- 30 • Protect people seeking asylum at the border ~~and through other means,~~ and create a  
31 humane reception system for migrants and refugees;
- 32 • Establish a process whereby once the documentation process has begun, individuals  
33 are permitted to obtain a driver’s license or other official identification card;

- 34 • Establish a process whereby those immigrants who have earned such legal status  
35 should also be able to apply for expedited citizenship through additional processes, as  
36 appropriate and practical, if they do not move ahead of applicants with proper  
37 documentation waiting to adjust their status or those waiting on lists in their home  
38 countries;
- 39 • Adopt legislation like the “Dream Act” that can facilitate state efforts to offer in-state  
40 tuition to undocumented students and create a pathway to U.S. citizenship and an  
41 improved process to eliminate case backlogs that prevent and slow the process;
- 42 • Provide an accessible, effective system to ensure that businesses are able to hire  
43 foreign workers legally without excessive bureaucratic red tape and that all foreign  
44 workers are authorized and documented; and
- 45 • Provide same-sex couples with equal rights of immigration sponsorship as opposite-  
46 sex couples and amend current law to allow lawful permanent residents to sponsor the  
47 permanent partner for legal residence in the United States provided they are over 18  
48 years of age, financially interdependent with the sponsoring individual, not married or  
49 in a permanent partnership with anyone other than the sponsoring individual and is  
50 not a first, second, or third-degree blood relation;
- 51 • Ensure Congressional oversight mechanisms are in place to prohibit discrimination on  
52 the basis of religion;
- 53 • Restore and provide support for the refugee resettlement program and provide  
54 equivalent supports and opportunities for people who came to the U.S. seeking safety  
55 through alternative related means, such as humanitarian parole~~Restore the refugee~~  
56 ~~resettlement program by increasing the annual admission allotment for refugee~~  
57 ~~resettlement to at least the annual average since program inception (95,000);~~
- 58 • Reopen ports of entry to process asylum seekers in accordance with international law;  
59 and
- 60 • Adopt (1) a definition of “stateless person” in line with international human rights  
61 standards, and (2) legal protections for those identified as stateless in the United  
62 States through a federal-level Stateless Status Determination procedure based on the  
63 United Nation’s High Commissioner for Refugees Handbook on Protection of  
64 Stateless People, to ultimately provide stateless people a designated path to lawful  
65 status.

66  
1 **Section 4.11 Veterans**

2  
3 NLC believes that all levels of government have an obligation to support ~~the men and~~  
4 ~~women~~members of the armed services who have made sacrifices to preserve the freedom of the  
5 American people.

6  
7 In order to meet the diverse needs of veterans and their families, NLC believes the federal  
8 government should:

- 9 • Provide effective veterans’ health care;
- 10 • Support programs that provide veterans experiencing homelessness ~~veterans~~ with  
11 safe, affordable, and permanent housing and fund programs to eliminate root causes  
12 of veterans’ homelessness, including research, treatment, and support programs;

- 13 • Ensure that comprehensive mental health services are available to veterans and their  
14 families;
- 15 • Provide veterans with the employment and education resources needed to succeed in  
16 the 21st century workforce;
- 17 • Ensure that National Guard and Reservists have access to support services when they  
18 return from active duty; and
- 19 • Focus on the unique needs of women veterans, especially the unique health care  
20 needs of women and those women veterans who reside in rural areas.

21

#### 1 **Section 4.12 International, National and Community Service**

2

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

8

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

- 11 • Ensure a range of ways for municipalities to engage with international, national and  
12 community service programs, including as project sponsors, hosts of individual  
13 placement and crew-based programs, and participants on State Service  
14 Commissions;
- 15 • Provide support for engagement of the full range of city, town and village residents in  
16 full-time or part-time stipend international, national and community service activities,  
17 with post-service scholarship awards, and with special emphasis on involvement of  
18 disconnected youth and young adults, seniors, and veterans;
- 19 • Ensure leadership opportunities for city and town elected officials on national Days of  
20 Service; and
- 21 • Provide ongoing reporting on the impact of international, national and community  
22 service on cities, towns and villages, and about the contributions of our communities  
23 towards advancing international, national and community service.

NLC Resolutions are annual statements of position that sunset at the end of the calendar year unless action is taken. The committee must review each of the 2022 resolutions that originated in the [Committee Abbr.] Committee to determine recommendations for 2023. The committee has the following options:

1. Renew the resolution for the coming year (with or without edits)
2. Incorporate the resolution into permanent policy; or
3. Let the resolution expire.

The HD resolutions that were approved for 2022 at City Summit with recommendations for 2023 are:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>HD Committee Recommendation</b>
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-25:</b> In Support of Action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to Study and Address Violence in America	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-26:</b> In Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-27:</b> In Support of Efforts to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-28:</b> In Support of Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Increased Investment in Workforce Development Programs	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-29:</b> Addressing Systemic Racism as a Public Health Crisis	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-30:</b> 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	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-31:</b> In Support of the One Health Initiative	Renew with edits

<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-32:</b> In Support of Child Nutrition Reauthorization	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-33:</b> In Support of a National Holiday Commemorating the Accomplishments and Legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-34:</b> In Support of the Equality Act	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-35:</b> In Support of Mothers in the Workforce	Renew with Edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-36:</b> In Support of Equal Pay for Women	Renew with Edits



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**NLC RESOLUTION 2022-25**

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

**HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits**

**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<sup>[1]</sup>, and is the number one cause of death for 15-24-year-old African American males<sup>[2]</sup>, and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 1 in 4 women and nearly 1 in 10 men have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime and reported some form of intimate partner violence (IPV)-related impact, and over 43 million women and 38 million men have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner in their lifetime;

**WHEREAS**, family and domestic violence affects an estimated 10 million people every year and 1 in 15 children is exposed to domestic violence and intimate partner violence each year; 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<sup>[3]</sup>; 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<sup>[4]</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, youth violence is an adverse childhood experience (ACE) and can have a long-term impact on health and well-being<sup>[5]</sup>.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities is declaring violent crimes a public health crisis and 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

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
46 Administration (SAMHSA) continue to invest in early intervention models, including trauma-  
47 informed care, and in studying and addressing the intersection between community  
48 violence/mental health/substance use in local communities; and

49  
50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and the President increase funding for the  
51 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the federal budget to support data and indicators  
52 that will inform local strategy in cities and towns across our country as they address the issue of  
53 violence in their communities.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2022-26**

**IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM**

**HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits**

**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<sup>[6]</sup>; 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<sup>[7]</sup>; 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<sup>[8]</sup>; and

45 **WHEREAS**, the current immigration system inadequately addresses the growing numbers of  
46 individuals wishing entrance to the United States through a temporary work visa program or as  
47 legal permanent residents; and

48  
49 **WHEREAS**, roughly two-thirds of undocumented adult immigrants have lived in the United  
50 States for ten years or more, 1 million ~~unauthorized~~ undocumented immigrants are children, and  
51 another 4.5 million U.S.-citizen children have at least one undocumented parent<sup>[9]</sup>; and these  
52 families are forced to live “underground,” unable to get drivers’ licenses or car insurance in most  
53 states, unlikely to obtain health insurance, and afraid to report crimes to local law enforcement;  
54 and

55  
56 **WHEREAS**, since immigrants are barred from most federal public assistance, the burden of  
57 providing social services, education, and health care falls to the state and local governments, who  
58 are increasingly feeling the fiscal impact of both ~~legal and illegal~~ documented and undocumented  
59 immigrants living in their communities.

60  
61 **WHEREAS**, with the signing on the executive order, “Affording Congress an Opportunity to  
62 Address Family Separation”, the President called for modification of the 1997 *Flores v. Reno*  
63 court settlement to enable Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to detain families  
64 together longer than 20 days, resulting in nearly 2,000 children having been separated from their  
65 parents in a six-week time period, many of whom are being sent to cities and facilities across the  
66 country<sup>[10]</sup>; and

67  
68 **WHEREAS**, with guidance from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)  
69 updating policy for the accrual of unlawful presence of those in student (F nonimmigrant),  
70 exchange visitor (J nonimmigrant) or vocational student (M nonimmigrant), visa overstay  
71 penalties will include harsher penalties impacting students and families<sup>[11]</sup>; and

72  
73 **WHEREAS**, with a reduced number of visas available through the H-2A program, which allows  
74 U.S. employers to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary agricultural jobs,  
75 many employers struggling to find qualified workers; and

76  
77 **WHEREAS**, the federal government has conducted raids in cities, towns and villages across the  
78 country, targeting undocumented immigrants ordered by courts to be removed from the country;  
79 and

80  
81 **WHEREAS**, there are 511,000 immigrant veterans in the United States of which, 94,000 are  
82 waiting to be naturalized and are at risk of deportation; and

83  
84 **WHEREAS**, the refugee ~~limit~~ resettlement goal was set in FY21 at the lowest since the passage  
85 of the Refugee Act of 1980, with a ~~limit~~ goal of 18,000, and then increased to 62,500 midyear, a  
86 level not able to be met in a short period of time without adequate support in place and still  
87 remaining below the historic average; and

88

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

92  
93 WHEREAS, an increasing number of individuals from multiple countries seeking safety have  
94 been admitted to the U. S. in emergency situations as humanitarian parolees; and

95  
96 **WHEREAS**, Title 42 continues to be used to prohibit entry of asylum seekers to the U.S. and  
97 expel them to danger in other countries; and

98  
99 **WHEREAS**, the global refugee crisis the highest in history, with over 82.4100-million forcibly  
100 displaced people worldwide, including 276.41 million refugees and 4.61 million asylum-seekers  
101 under international law<sup>1</sup>; and

102  
103 WHEREAS, with the passage of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, there is a pressing  
104 need to fill positions within the sectors that will build and maintain our nation’s roads, bridges,  
105 water systems and broadband networks. But, hiring for infrastructure jobs is a significant  
106 challenge -- the median infrastructure job takes 20% more time to fill than a non-infrastructure  
107 job.;

108  
109 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the federal government should provide local  
110 governments with financial and technical assistance to alleviate the local impact of and ensure  
111 the success and productivity of new immigrants, including the costs of providing social services,  
112 health care, education, language services, and civic integration; and

113  
114 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government enforce its current immigration  
115 laws equitably, consistently and timely to adequately staff ports of entry to reduce unauthorized  
116 entry at the borders, track visa overstays, working without proper documentation, and employing  
117 undocumented workers; and

118  
119 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local personnel, such as police officers, fire inspectors,  
120 educators, health personnel and social service personnel, should not be conscripted into federal  
121 service because the federal government has not adequately funded and staffed its immigration  
122 enforcement agencies; and the federal government must not transfer the responsibility of  
123 enforcing U.S. immigration laws to local personnel by making undocumented status in the U.S. a  
124 criminal offense; and

125  
126 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government must strengthen its worksite  
127 enforcement capacity and dramatically increase enforcement efforts at places of employment, as  
128 well as providing employers with a universal, reliable, effective, secure, non-discriminatory, and  
129 non-counterfeitable employee verification system, using the most up-to-date technology that will  
130 minimize fraud; and

131  
132 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government must increase its capacity and  
133 infrastructure, including the speed of processing, funding levels and number of judges, to enforce

134 the laws and provide efficient means for foreign nationals to obtain legal authorization for visas  
135 or legal permanent residency as well as to be processed when making a border crossing; and  
136

137 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government must update its policies to provide  
138 an appropriate, streamlined legal means of immigration and change status according to life  
139 milestones, as is determined to be necessary and effective for the United States, for  
140 undocumented immigrants, non-immigrant foreign nationals that want to visit or work here  
141 temporarily, or immigrant foreign nationals that want to become legal permanent residents, or  
142 gain citizenship, as well as clearly define penalties and consider impacts to students and families  
143 for harsh penalty policies for visas overstays; and  
144

145 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should reexamine its policies  
146 regarding seasonal workers given its impact on local business and the economic vitality of cities  
147 and towns across America; and  
148

149 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports establishment of a process whereby  
150 undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States may earn legalized status through  
151 payment of appropriate fees and back taxes, background checks, absence of criminal or gang  
152 activity, consistent work history, and meeting civics requirements; and that the immigrants who  
153 have earned such legal status should also be able to apply for citizenship through additional  
154 processes, as appropriate and practical, as long as they do not move ahead of applicants with  
155 proper documentation waiting to adjust their status or those waiting on lists in their home  
156 countries; and  
157

158 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should consider the negative  
159 impact of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids on local economies and  
160 communities, including public safety and social services resources; and  
161

162 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should ensure detention policies  
163 that do not inflict trauma upon vulnerable children and their families, creating additional  
164 financial burdens for mental health, education and family supports in cities across the country;  
165 and  
166

167 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports federal legislation like the “Dream Act”  
168 that can facilitate state efforts to offer in-state tuition to undocumented students and provide  
169 Dreamers with a path to U.S. citizenship; and  
170

171 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that documented immigrants who have served honorably in the  
172 US Armed Forces should be given the ability to expedite their naturalization process without  
173 prejudice and should not be put at risk of being deported; and  
174

175 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should adopt (1) a definition of  
176 “stateless person” in line with international human rights standards, and (2) legal protections for  
177 those identified as stateless in the United States through a federal-level Stateless Status  
178 Determination procedure based on the United Nation’s High Commissioner for Refugees

179 Handbook on Protection of Stateless People, to ultimately provide stateless people a designated  
180 path to lawful status; and

181  
182 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should be trained to provide  
183 language services and a clearly defined appeals process to asylum seekers who are denied entry  
184 into the United States; and

185  
186 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should restore and increase the  
187 refugee resettlement allotments; and.

188  
189 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should end Title 42 expulsions of  
190 asylum seekers; and

191  
192 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress must act to increase legal immigration by  
193 raising the employment-based visa program caps to expand the pool of qualified individuals for  
194 hard-to-fill jobs across our nation's communities - from truck drivers and heavy equipment  
195 operators to agricultural workers, nurses, and engineers, and other positions.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-27

2  
3 IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO PREVENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT  
4 REFORM

5  
6 HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

7  
8 WHEREAS, according to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Centers for  
9 Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men are victims of severe physical  
10 violence by an intimate partner; 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men are raped in their lifetime; 1 in 5  
11 women report harassment by a boss and 1 in 4 were harassed by a coworker; 1 in 6 women and 1  
12 in 19 men were stalked in their lifetime; 81% of women experienced verbal harassment; ~~and~~  
13 25% say they have received lewd texts or emails<sup>[13]</sup>; lesbian, gay and bisexual people experience  
14 sexual violence at similar or higher rates than their heterosexual; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, according to the Department of Justice, one in two transgender individuals are  
17 sexually abused or assaulted at some point in their lives; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, approximately 3 out of every 4 employees who experience harassment never report  
20 it, and 75% of employees who spoke out against workplace mistreatment suffered some form of  
21 retaliation<sup>[14]</sup>; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, the groundbreaking anti-assault and women’s empowerment movement #MeToo  
24 upended the public conversation around harassment issues across the world; and

25  
26 WHEREAS, the United States Congress has recognized the importance and impact of this  
27 movement, evidenced by the introduction of 194 bills related to sexual harassment during the  
28 115th Congress; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, the U.S. Senate passed S. 2952, and the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R.  
31 4924, both of which call for the amendment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to  
32 establish protections against congressional sexual harassment and discrimination, taking clear  
33 action for harassment experienced within the halls of Congress; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, the U.S. Justice Department has recognized the importance and impact of this  
36 movement, evidenced by the announcement of the Sexual Harassment in the Workplace  
37 Initiative, focusing on workplace sexual harassment in the public sector<sup>[15]</sup>; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, local governments are not immune to the challenges and threats that reports of  
40 sexual harassment can pose to workplace safety and culture as well as to the public trust.

41  
42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls  
43 upon the federal government to take meaningful action to prevent sexual harassment for all  
44 individuals, regardless of gender or sexual orientation, and to adopt improved reporting practices  
45 as an example for cities to follow; and



47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports the intention and vision of the #MeToo  
48 movement and calls on Congress to provide support to programs and initiatives that create  
49 pathways to healing as well as direct resources towards training, counseling and other  
50 appropriate measures that address both prevention efforts and resources for survivors of sexual  
51 violence and harassment

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2022-28**

**IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND  
OPPORTUNITY ACT AND INCREASED INVESTMENT IN WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

**HD Committee Recommendation: Renew**

**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<sup>[16]</sup> 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<sup>[17]</sup> 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<sup>[18]</sup> 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<sup>[19]</sup>; and

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**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<sup>[20]</sup>; 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

93 certainty needed to deliver programming; and

94

95 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls upon the United States Congress to increase  
96 funding to WIOA programs across all titles to ensure a robust investment in skills training,  
97 business engagement and increased economic development in communities across America; and

98

99 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls upon the United States Congress to  
100 immediately invest at least \$15 billion in our nation’s workforce development system as a  
101 supplemental measure to ensure that our nation’s workforce development system can respond to  
102 the increased demands associated with COVID-19; and

103

104 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports clearer guidance on how WIOA can be  
105 used locally to support apprenticeship programs, including through the use of industry or sector  
106 partnerships and by supporting pre-apprenticeship programs for workers with barriers to  
107 employment; and

108

109 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports increasing employment opportunities for  
110 veterans, transitioning service members and their families, and urges Congress to provide  
111 increased funding to WIOA Title I employment and training programs to provide for adequate  
112 investment in job training and adult education for this critical population in our cities, towns and  
113 villages.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2022-29**

**ADDRESSING SYSTEMIC RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

**HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits**

**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<sup>2</sup>. 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 on 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—and that~~ 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<sup>[21]</sup>; 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<sup>[22]</sup> For example, lending practices of the 20th century known as “redlining” and

47 the current limitations and access to healthy, nutritious food, reduced life expectancy, increased  
48 rates of lead poisoning, limited access to clean water, and higher rates of infant mortality  
49 demonstrate the current impact of racism; and  
50

51 **WHEREAS**, Black people in the United States face higher rates of chronic disease than White  
52 people<sup>[23]</sup>, Black women are nearly four times as likely to die of pregnancy-related causes than  
53 White women<sup>[24]</sup> and Black people are more likely to die at early ages of all causes<sup>[25]</sup>; and  
54

55 **WHEREAS**, the privileges that white Americans experience inhibits them from fully  
56 understanding how racism impacts ~~Black~~ BIPOC people in America - for example the  
57 performance of simple tasks like driving while Black, walking in neighborhoods or just going to  
58 a park come with certain risk not experienced by others - life events like getting a job,  
59 purchasing a home, buying a car, or just raising a family come with barriers that other cultures  
60 don't experience; and  
61

62 **WHEREAS**, the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Association, the  
63 American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Academy of Emergency Physicians have  
64 declared institutional racism as a public health crisis.  
65

66 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National league of Cities (NLC)  
67 recognizes racism as a public health crisis and calls on Congress to appropriate significant  
68 resources towards policy, programs and practices (i.e. Housing, Education, Nutritious Food,  
69 Transportation, Employment, Legal system, etc.) that work to address social determinants of  
70 health and end racism in our country, so race is no longer the strongest predictor of one's  
71 success; and  
72

73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to ensure that disaggregated data  
74 by race is made available to provide a clear and accurate picture of disparate effects and  
75 outcomes to BIPOC communities.

NLC RESOLUTION 2022-30

IN SUPPORT OF ACTIONS BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTRAOL AND PREVENTION (CDC) AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS) TO ADDRESS CORONAVIRUS HEALTH DISPARTITIES THROUGH RESEARCH AND DATA

HD Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy

~~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<sup>[27]</sup>; 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<sup>[28]</sup>; and~~

~~WHEREAS, in 42 states plus Washington D.C., Latinos make up a greater share of confirmed cases than their share of the population<sup>[29]</sup>; 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.<sup>[30]</sup>; 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<sup>[31]</sup>; 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,~~

47 Asian Americans and Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders are counted together, making comparison  
48 to census data difficult<sup>[32]</sup>; and

49 –  
50 ~~WHEREAS, LGBTQ+ people also experience health disparities that magnify the impact of the~~  
51 ~~COVID-19 pandemic; and~~

52 –  
53 ~~WHEREAS, in addition to the greater risk of health complications as a result of COVID-19,~~  
54 ~~LGBTQ+ Americans are more likely than the general population to live in poverty and lack~~  
55 ~~access to adequate medical care, paid medical leave, and basic necessities during the~~  
56 ~~pandemic<sup>[33]</sup>; and~~

57 –  
58 ~~WHEREAS, it is unknown how many of the 1.5 million people who have contracted the~~  
59 ~~coronavirus in the U.S. and the 93,000 who have died are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.~~  
60 ~~Just one state, Pennsylvania, has begun tracking information on the LGBTQ identities of~~  
61 ~~COVID-19 patients<sup>[34]</sup>; and~~

62 –  
63 ~~WHEREAS, major holes in the data remain: 48% of cases and 9% of deaths still have no race~~  
64 ~~tied to them. And that can hamper response to the crisis across the U.S., now and in the~~  
65 ~~future<sup>[35]</sup>.~~

66 –  
67 ~~NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED~~ that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges the  
68 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to continue collecting data disaggregated by  
69 race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, religion, and gender identity; and—

70 –  
71 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that NLC urges the CDC to support data that sheds light on the  
72 intersecting forces of racial disparities, underlying conditions, and poverty that affect how the  
73 virus spreads and provide resources that address the disproportionate effect of the pandemic on  
74 communities of color.



1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-31

2  
3 IN SUPPORT OF THE ONE HEALTH INITIATIVE

4  
5 HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, cities depend on the health and vitality of their inhabitants, reliable access to  
8 sufficient quantities of wholesome food and clean water, clean air, and the ecosystem services  
9 that support them; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, government plays an important role in coordinating efforts to preserve and  
12 maintain those resources; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, policymakers are challenged to make sense of complex inter-relationships among  
15 human health, animal health, and ecological health, and pressed to conform with decision-  
16 making models that often isolate those critical connections and shorten planning horizons; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, cities’ economic, social, and environmental well-being—the “triple bottom line”  
19 whereon environmental stewardship, economic prosperity, and social responsibility intersect—  
20 depends on our ability to integrate diverse interests through unified long-range planning, and to  
21 engage and inform policymakers and practitioners about critical interdependent needs; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the *One Health Initiative*<sup>36</sup> is a collaborative, multisectoral, and transdisciplinary  
24 approach—working at the local, regional, national, and global levels—to achieve optimal health  
25 outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared  
26 environment; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, leaders in local government are ideally suited as partners in that responsibility;  
29 and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, successful adoption and implementation of the *One Health Initiative* will be  
32 predicated on the leadership, communication skills, and cooperation of its advocates; and

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, *One Health* topics that pertain to local government include the costs and  
35 organizational structure of public health services; pandemic preparedness; health education;  
36 adaptation to climate change; animal control and vaccination requirements; transportation and  
37 land use planning affecting public wellness; water quality protection; waste management; energy  
38 choices; food safety and regional food systems; ecological protection, restoration, and  
39 monitoring; homeland security and bioterrorism; measures of economic trends and workforce  
40 preparedness relative to sustainable practices; health, healthcare costs; investments in telehealth  
41 and the digital divide; and absenteeism of personnel; and

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, facilitating communication among increasingly specialized experts will improve  
44 health outcomes for communities through increased awareness of connections between climate  
45 variability, food production, and infectious diseases; cross-species contagion (zoonoses), and  
46 human and animal health conditions; and demands on municipal infrastructure and services; and

47  
48 **WHEREAS**, climate change will affect energy costs, the frequency and severity of floods, fires,  
49 wind events, heat waves, and other extreme weather conditions; coastal development and  
50 building standards; incidence vector-borne illnesses; crop production; habitat loss; endangerment  
51 and extinction of species; and human illness; and

52  
53 **WHEREAS**, cities can only thrive if they remain attractive and livable, with sufficient quantities  
54 of clean water, clean air, efficient, affordable buildings, healthful food choices, healthy food  
55 animals, strong public health systems, and leaders who are committed to cooperative long-range  
56 planning for a sustainable future.

57  
58 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities supports  
59 integrated decision-making in the context of the *One Health Initiative* and calls on the federal  
60 government to adopt legislation and practices that address human health, animal health, and  
61 ecological health in an integrated fashion and support local efforts to monitor and control public  
62 health threats.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2022-32**

**IN SUPPORT OF ~~CHILD-NUTRITION~~ AND FOOD SECURITY REAUTHORIZATION PROGRAMS**

**HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits**

**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 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of low-income families so they can purchase healthy food and combat nutrition insecurity while moving towards self-sufficiency; 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<sup>[1]</sup>; and

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress increase school breakfast and school lunch  
46 reimbursement rates to match the recommended rates of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s  
47 School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study<sup>[iii]</sup>; and

48  
49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should expand WIC research in  
50 under-resourced communities; and

51  
52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should extend certification periods to two years  
53 for infants and postpartum women for those in the WIC program; and

54  
55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should continue to provide flexibility for SNAP,  
56 including the ability to streamline administration and application processes with other social  
57 service programs and waiving work requirements to meet the individual needs of residents and  
58 ensuring local flexibility to provide access to all residents, including returning citizens; and

59  
60 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should help streamline the Disaster Supplemental  
61 Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) operations to increase the ability of individuals to pre-  
62 register for benefits as soon as possible after a disaster strikes, support the streamlining of easy-  
63 to-administer SNAP waivers that would allow for automatic replacement of benefits for SNAP  
64 households, and expand funding to ensure application assistance for individuals to receive D-  
65 SNAP quickly; and

66  
67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress to permanently implement policy  
68 improvements for federal nutrition programs that were made in response to COVID-19 including  
69 but not limited to creating the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program and  
70 alternative delivery models.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2022-33**

**IN SUPPORT OF A NATIONAL HOLIDAY COMMEMORATING THE  
ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LEGACY OF CESAR ESTRADA CHAVEZ AND  
DELORES HUERTA**

**HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits**

**WHEREAS**, César Estrada Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona on a family farm and Delores Huerta was born on April 10, 1930 in Dawson, New Mexico; 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 ultimately left school to work full-time as a farm worker to help support his family; and

~~**WHEREAS**, César Estrada Chávez left school to work full-time as a farm worker to help support his family; and~~

**WHEREAS**, Delores Huerta received an associate teaching degree from the University of the Pacific's Delta College; 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**, Delores Huerta began her career as an activist when she co-founded the Stockton chapter of the Community Service Organization and later founded the Agricultural Workers Association; and

~~**WHEREAS**, in 1962, César Estrada Chávez left the Community Service Organization and Delores Huerta co-founded~~ the National Farm Workers Association, which eventually became the United Farm Workers of America; and

~~**WHEREAS**, under the leadership of César Estrada Chávez~~ their leadership, 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~~ the 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

47 ~~WHEREAS, through his commitment to nonviolence, César Estrada Chávez brought dignity~~  
48 ~~and respect to the organized farm workers and became an inspiration to and a resource for~~  
49 ~~individuals engaged in human rights struggles throughout the world; and~~  
50

51 **WHEREAS**, the influence of César Estrada Chávez and Delores Huerta extends far beyond  
52 agriculture and provides inspiration for those working to better human rights, empower workers,  
53 and advance the American Dream; and  
54

55 **WHEREAS**, 10 States and dozens of communities across the United States honor the life and  
56 legacy of César Estrada Chávez and Delores Huerta on March 31st of each year; and  
57

58 **WHEREAS**, during his lifetime, César Estrada Chávez was a recipient of the Martin Luther  
59 King, Jr. Peace Prize and posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and  
60

61 **WHEREAS**, Delores Huerta received the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award and the  
62 Presidential Medal of Freedom; and  
63

64 **WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama proclaimed “César Chávez Day” on March 31 of every  
65 year as a United States commemorative holiday to support public observance of the contributions  
66 of Cesar Chavez to the United States.  
67

68 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the National League of Cities calls upon the United  
69 States Congress to declare a national holiday celebrating the life and legacy of César Estrada  
70 Chávez and Delores Huerta.

1 **NLC RESOLUTION 2022-34**

2  
3 **IN SUPPORT OF THE EQUALITY ACT**

4  
5 **HD Committee Recommendation: Renew**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the National League of Cities (NLC) opposes discrimination on the basis of race,  
8 color, religion, national origin, ancestry, disability, age, sexual orientation, gender identity and  
9 sex; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, the member cities of NLC respect the fundamental dignity of all people and want  
12 to see all members of our communities able to participate fully in society; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, there are 29 states where LGBTQ+ Americans are not fully protected from  
15 discrimination, including in credit, education, employment, housing, government funded  
16 programs, jury service and public accommodations such as stores, restaurants, and transportation  
17 services; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, the current state and local patchwork of laws about non-discrimination creates  
20 uncertainty and unpredictability for businesses operating across multiple states; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, the member cities of NLC agree that as Americans, everyone should have the  
23 freedom and opportunity to work hard, earn a living, provide for their families, and contribute to  
24 their communities; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, 76% of Americans support a policy of non-discrimination against their LGBTQ+  
27 neighbors; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, The Equality Act requires our nation’s civil rights laws to work in support of  
30 prohibiting discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in areas  
31 including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment,  
32 housing, credit, and the jury system and defines and includes sex, sexual orientation, and gender  
33 identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation.

34  
35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the President to  
36 pass S. 393/H.R. 5, The Equality Act, and provide full protections for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual  
37 and Transgender individuals regardless of where they live in the United States.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-35

2  
3 IN SUPPORT OF MOTHERS IN THE WORKFORCE

4  
5 HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2018 American Community Survey,  
8 working mothers make up a significant portion of the labor force, accounting for nearly one-third  
9 of all employed women; and any relief and long-term recovery from the economic fallout of the  
10 COVID-19 pandemic must recognize, rebuild, and support mothers who wish to return to the  
11 workforce; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, according to the Center for American Progress, 64 percent of mothers are the  
14 primary breadwinners or co-breadwinners in their households and Women of color, and Black  
15 women in particular, are especially likely to play this role for their families. More than 8 in 10—  
16 84.4 percent—of Black mothers are breadwinners or co-breadwinners, as are 6 in 10—60.3  
17 percent—of Latinx mothers; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, women, and especially working mothers, are bearing the brunt of the  
20 economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of existing social barriers and policy  
21 failures such as the lack of a child care infrastructure, national paid leave policy and gender and  
22 racial pay inequity; and

23  
24 ~~**WHEREAS**, prior to the pandemic, women comprised the majority of the workforce for the first~~  
25 ~~time in almost a decade; and~~

26 -  
27 **WHEREAS**, ~~2,300,000 women have left the labor force since the beginning of the COVID-19~~  
28 ~~pandemic; and~~ according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, both men and women suffered a 3%  
29 drop in labor force participation at the height of the pandemic. But more than two years later,  
30 men have returned to work at a higher rate than women. Today, women’s labor force  
31 participation is still a full percentage point lower than it was pre-pandemic, meaning an  
32 estimated one million women are missing from the labor force; and

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, mothers in the prime of their working lives have paid an especially high price, with  
35 those ages 25 to 54 experiencing a 5.7-percentage point decline in employment since the  
36 COVID-19 pandemic began, compared to a 3.1 percentage-point decline for fathers in the same  
37 age group; and

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, work interruptions caused by school closures and child care closures have  
40 disproportionately impacted women, forcing women to reduce work hours, take a leave of  
41 absence, or permanently leave the workforce; and

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, the unprecedented burdens of balancing child care and ; work, ~~and remote learning~~  
44 have strained the mental and emotional health of mothers; and



46 WHEREAS, except for the United States, OECD countries offer a minimum of 6 weeks paid  
47 maternity leave and the average time off (regardless of pay equivalent) in approximately 18  
48 weeks; and

49  
50 WHEREAS 1 in 3 women-owned business is owned by a mother, which translates to near 4.7  
51 million businesses; and

52  
53 ~~WHEREAS, access to paid leave during the COVID-19 pandemic has been linked to a~~  
54 ~~reduction in the spread of COVID-19 by as many as 15,000 new cases per day.~~

55  
56 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the National League of Cities calls on Congress to  
57 recognize, rebuild, and support mothers who wish to return to the workforce in order to support  
58 local economic recovery including support for a minimum of 12 weeks paid maternity leave, the  
59 Child Care for Working Families Act and the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act of 2021.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-36

2  
3 IN SUPPORT OF EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN

4  
5 HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

6  
7 WHEREAS, women of all ethnicities who are working full-time, year-round are paid an average  
8 of 82 percent of what a man is paid; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, the disparities are even greater for Black, Native American, and Hispanic women,  
11 who are paid 63 percent, 60 percent, and 55 percent of white men’s wages, respectively; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, while Asian American women make 87 percent of what white men make, the gap  
14 for Asian women varies significantly depending on subpopulation, with some Asian women – for  
15 example, Cambodian and Vietnamese women – earning among the lowest wages; and

16  
17 ~~WHEREAS, since the COVID-19 pandemic began, we have seen women, particularly women~~  
18 ~~of color, disproportionately working on the frontlines, caring for our loved ones, and working to~~  
19 ~~combat the virus, and women bore the brunt of the child care crisis due to COVID-19 impacts on~~  
20 ~~child care and school, with women leaving the workforce due to child care needs at a date of~~  
21 ~~more than four times men during the pandemic according to the U.S. Department of Labor, the~~  
22 ~~pandemic stalled gains made toward closing the pay gap, and layoffs and a lack of child care~~  
23 ~~have forced many women out of the workforce entirely; and~~

24  
25 WHEREAS, while the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was signed into law in 2009, which amends  
26 Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and states that the 180-day statute of limitations for  
27 filing an equal-pay lawsuit regarding pay discrimination resets with each new paycheck affected  
28 by that discriminatory action, we must go farther.

29  
30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National League of Cities calls on Congress to  
31 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**

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 5.01 Transportation Policies**
  - B. Transportation Finance and Administration
    - 1. The Federal Role
    - b. Credit Assistance

1 **Section 5.01 Transportation Policies**

2  
3 **B. Transportation Finance and Administration**

4  
5 **1. The Federal Role**

6 b. Financing and Credit Assistance

7  
8 Credit assistance, tax incentives and other transportation finance tools have been effective tools in  
9 expanding the available revenue for transportation investments. NLC supports federal direct (low interest)  
10 loans, loan guarantees and credit line assistance with favorable terms through programs like Infrastructure  
11 Banks and the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA). NLC supports the  
12 application of objective approval criteria for credit assistance. Approval factors should include, but not  
13 be limited to, threshold cost requirements, consistency with long-range regional and state transportation  
14 plans, generation of economic benefits, goods movement, and congestion relief improvements, leveraged  
15 private capital, and the promotion of innovative technologies.

16  
17 ~~While TIFIA has provided flexible funding for major transportation projects and helped local~~  
18 ~~governments leverage private and other non-federal investments, limited budget authority and delays in~~  
19 ~~the approval process can result in cost increases. NLC supports an increase in the available funding for~~  
20 ~~the TIFIA program and greater flexibility for U.S. Department of Transportation in approving projects~~  
21 ~~that can take advantage of favorable financing.~~

22  
23 While infrastructure financing programs provide flexible funding for major transportation projects and  
24 help local governments leverage private and other non-federal investments, limited budget capacity,  
25 authority and delays in the federal approval process limit the effectiveness of these programs, particularly  
26 to disadvantaged communities. NLC supports greater technical support at the USDOT Build America  
27 Bureau and flexibility for their approving multimodal and jurisdictional projects that can take advantage  
28 of favorable federal financing. NLC also recommends raising the federal population threshold for  
29 communities accessing the best available borrowing rates to ensure growing communities can  
30 appropriately utilize financing options.

NLC Resolutions are annual statements of position that sunset at the end of the calendar year unless action is taken. The committee must review each of the 2022 resolutions that originated in the TIS Committee to determine recommendations for 2023. The committee has the following options:

1. Renew the resolution for the coming year (with or without edits)
2. Incorporate the resolution into permanent policy; or
3. Let the resolution expire.

The TIS resolutions that were approved for 2022 at City Summit with recommendations for 2023 are:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>TIS Committee Recommendation</b>
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-37:</b> Partner with Cities, Towns, and Villages on Flexible Programs to Meet Every Community’s Transportation Needs and Vision	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-38:</b> Advancing Safety for All to Reach Vision Zero with Policies that Achieve Safe, Healthy and Equitable Mobility for All	Renew with edits

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-37

2  
3 ~~PARTNER WITH CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES ON FLEXIBLE PROGRAMS TO~~  
4 ~~MEET EVERY COMMUNITY'S TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND VISION~~

5 CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES CALL ON CONGRESS TO ADVANCE FEDERAL-  
6 LOCAL PARTNERSHIP ON INFRASTRUCTURE

7 TIS Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

8  
9 ~~WHEREAS~~, the National League of Cities (NLC) applauds Congress, the President, and the  
10 Administration for advancing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), a historic  
11 national infrastructure package that will allow us to rebuild and reimagine America's  
12 transportation and essential infrastructure together; and

13  
14 ~~WHEREAS~~, the economic potential of our cities, towns and villages relies on a safe and  
15 efficient multimodal network of locally owned and operated roads, bridges, transit, rail,  
16 sidewalks, trails, airports and ports built on strong transportation plans starting at the local and  
17 regional level and intersecting with state and national systems; and

18  
19 ~~WHEREAS~~, local governmental agencies own 74.8% of the nation's highway lane mileage<sup>1</sup> and  
20 50% of the nation's 617,000 bridges<sup>2</sup> while 845 urban and 1,684 rural transit providers are  
21 directly owned by local governments and make up 46% of the nation's transit providers;<sup>3</sup> and

22  
23 ~~WHEREAS~~, as the level of government closest to America's communities, cities, towns and  
24 villages continues to be responsive to emerging and obstinate challenges while also being  
25 nimble, innovative and welcoming to new creative ideas and processes that deserve further  
26 recognition; and

27  
28 ~~WHEREAS~~, local governments are prioritizing the full transportation network as a critical  
29 instrument for reaching community goals including quality of life for residents, economic  
30 opportunity for workers and businesses, health outcomes for children, equity for disadvantaged  
31 people and neighborhoods and so many more, but we share ownership and responsibility for the  
32 transportation network with federal and state authorities whose decisions can impact what is  
33 possible in our own areas, such as with the limitations from the Manual on Uniform Traffic  
34 Control Devices.

35  
36 ~~NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED~~ that NLC urges the federal government to  
37 *prioritize infrastructure partnership* with America's cities, towns and villages as a national  
38 priority through direct and flexible programs that are positioned to meet every community's

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/23cpr/chap1.cfm>

<sup>2</sup> <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R44459>

<sup>3</sup> <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R44459>

39 transportation needs and vision as they carry out the programs and policy in the Infrastructure  
40 Investment and Jobs Act; and

41  
42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments expect that the USDOT will *support*  
43 *the full transportation network* of the U.S. and align available programs, investments, research,  
44 and support more appropriately to reflect the demands of the full system and work with all  
45 infrastructure owners productively;

46  
47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC asks for federal, state and regional *commitments to*  
48 *collaboration* with cities, towns and villages on the rebuilding and reimagining necessary for  
49 transportation, including renewing a long-term comprehensive transportation vision and  
50 completing thousands of projects in the next decade; and

51  
52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC recommends that the *federal funding process and*  
53 *administration be guided and streamlined* so that cities, towns and villages are empowered to  
54 manage and utilize federal transportation investments efficiently and effectively without fear of  
55 unnecessary burden or surprise costs; and

56  
57 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that America's local governments fully support a more  
58 *equitable approach in the distribution and competition for federal resources* across the full  
59 transportation network and prioritizing projects based on their local and regional impact; and

60  
61 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments call on the federal government to  
62 support local initiatives to *modernize and improve transportation planning and community*  
63 *engagement*, including partnerships with community leaders and community-based organizations  
64 to ensure a greater and more equitable role for impacted communities in transportation planning;  
65 and

66  
67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that America's local governments support both *traditional and*  
68 *emerging transportation modes* including regional and intercity rail connections, safe biking and  
69 walking infrastructure, transit and micromobility of all forms including autonomous vehicles,  
70 modern buses, scooters and e-bikes; and

71  
72 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports continuing to move toward a *outcome-*  
73 *based transportation structure* where the goals of the programs align with the region's goals for  
74 economic development, sustainability, safety, innovation, equity, and regional connectivity; and

75  
76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments call on the federal government to  
77 address the nation's congestion points in collaboration with our communities and actively  
78 consider the essential urban and rural connections between ports, rail, freight and highways and  
79 the implications on the nation's energy use, economy, public health, and environment.

80



81 WHEREAS, the National League of Cities (NLC) applauds Congress and the President for  
82 passing the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in 2021, which is a historic  
83 infrastructure package that provides opportunities for local communities to rebuild and reimagine  
84 America’s transportation and essential infrastructure together; and

85  
86 WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has been diligently rolling out  
87 new IIJA transportation programs – including several that cities can directly access and also  
88 programs that are dedicated to local issues like the “Safe Street and Roads for All” program; and

89  
90 WHEREAS, Congress has provided USDOT \$25 million for a new local technical assistance  
91 Thriving Communities program to ensure that all communities can access the historic  
92 infrastructure investment – especially disadvantaged communities adversely or  
93 disproportionately affected by environmental, climate, and human health policy outcomes; and

94  
95 WHEREAS, most of the nation’s 19,000 local governments represent small to mid-sized  
96 communities while our largest cities rival the size of some states, yet all communities value the  
97 opportunity for a direct, productive relationship with the federal government on infrastructure  
98 while also building regional partnerships with our metropolitan and rural planning organizations,  
99 transportation service providers including transit, aviation, and shared micromobility, and our  
100 state partners; and

101  
102 WHEREAS, the economic potential of our cities, towns and villages relies on a safe and  
103 efficient multimodal network of locally owned and operated roads, bridges, transit, rail,  
104 sidewalks, trails, airports and ports built on strong transportation plans starting at the local and  
105 regional level and intersecting with state and national systems; and

106  
107 WHEREAS, local governmental agencies own 74.8% of the nation’s highway lane mileage<sup>4</sup> and  
108 50% of the nation’s 617,000 bridges while 845 urban and 1,684 rural transit providers are  
109 directly owned by local governments and make up 46% of the nation’s transit providers;<sup>5</sup> and

110  
111 WHEREAS, America’s \$2.5 trillion infrastructure funding gap<sup>6</sup> will be substantially reduced by  
112 the combined federal, state and local efforts underway from the IIJA, but unfortunately, the  
113 estimated needs for preservation of infrastructure assets and modernization still outpace available  
114 funds, especially with recent inflation challenges; and

115  
116 WHEREAS, as the level of government closest to America’s communities, local governments  
117 continue to be responsive to obstinate infrastructure challenges as well as prioritizing emerging  
118 community needs that deserve investment attention, balancing the tools of prioritization with  
119 being responsive and nimble to welcome innovative opportunities; and

<sup>4</sup> [www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/23cpr/chap1.cfm](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/policy/23cpr/chap1.cfm)

<sup>5</sup> [www.crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R44459](http://www.crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R44459)

<sup>6</sup> [www.infrastructurereportcard.org/resources/investment-gap-2020-2029](http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/resources/investment-gap-2020-2029)

120  
121 WHEREAS, local governments are prioritizing the full transportation network as a critical  
122 instrument for reaching community goals including quality of life for residents, economic  
123 opportunity for workers and businesses, health outcomes for children, equity for disadvantaged  
124 people and neighborhoods and so many more, but we share ownership and responsibility for the  
125 transportation network with federal and state authorities whose decisions can impact what cities  
126 can do on their own to build and fix our own areas.

127  
128 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to  
129 prioritize infrastructure partnership with America’s cities, towns and villages through direct,  
130 regional and flexible programs that are positioned to meet every community’s transportation  
131 needs and vision as they carry out the programs and policy provided by the IJA; and

132  
133 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local leaders encourage USDOT to provide robust  
134 engagement with local governments to navigate the various transportation programs and provide  
135 clarity on the federal infrastructure process from competition to completion of projects that can  
136 serve the transportation system as a whole; and

137  
138 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress and USDOT to ensure that all  
139 federal programs come complete with essential, corresponding local technical assistance  
140 programs, like the Thriving Communities Program, which ensures a more fair and transparent  
141 process for all eligible applicants of all sizes across the country; and

142  
143 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on our state and regional partners – such as  
144 state departments of transportation, rural and metropolitan planning organizations, transit, port  
145 and airport authorities – for greater commitments to infrastructure collaboration with cities,  
146 towns and villages on the rebuilding and reimagining necessary for completing thousands of  
147 projects in the next decade that will touch our communities and be in place for decades; and

148  
149 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges our state legislatures and state departments of  
150 transportation to ensure that appropriate funds are set aside to fully match Congress’ IJA  
151 programs at the state and local level so that more infrastructure can be updated in each state and  
152 that all administrative changes – such as reporting on Surface Transportation Block Grant  
153 spending and setting aside planning funds for multimodal – are put in place so that the full  
154 impact of the rebuilding is clear and every dollar is able to be well spent; and

155  
156 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC recommends that the federal infrastructure processes  
157 be continuously improved so that cities, towns and villages are empowered to advance bold plans  
158 and accept federal transportation investments with clear expectations; and

159  
160 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local city leaders call for federal and state government to  
161 review their community engagement processes for improvements, including partnerships with

162 community leaders and community-based organizations, to ensure a greater and more equitable  
163 role for all communities in transportation planning; and

164  
165 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that America's local governments continue to urge USDOT  
166 and states to embrace both traditional and emerging transportation modes including regional and  
167 intercity rail connections, safe biking and walking infrastructure, transit and micromobility of all  
168 forms including autonomous vehicles, modern buses, scooters and e-bikes; and

169  
170 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the active participation and role of oversight bodies, like  
171 the Surface Transportation Board, which can improve the safety and competitiveness of the  
172 nation's core transportation networks and must be respected; and

173  
174 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments support the active participation and  
175 role of oversight bodies, like the Surface Transportation Board, which can improve the safety  
176 and competitiveness of the nation's core transportation networks and must be respected; and

177  
178 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports continuing to move toward an outcome-  
179 based transportation structure where the goals of the programs align with each region's goals for  
180 economic development, sustainability, safety, innovation, equity, and regional connectivity  
181 which serve America's residents and economic vitality.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-38

2  
3 ~~ADVANCING SAFETY FOR ALL TO REACH VISION ZERO WITH POLICIES~~  
4 ~~THAT ACHIEVE SAFE, HEALTHY AND EQUITABLE MOBILITY FOR ALL~~  
5 AMERICA'S COMMUNITIES CALL FOR ADVANCING SAFE STREETS AND  
6 ROADS FOR ALL TO REACH ZERO ROAD DEATHS IN THE U.S.

7 TIS Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

8 ~~WHEREAS, every traffic death in the U.S. is unacceptable and preventable, yet each year more~~  
9 ~~than 40,000 people are killed and thousands more are injured on American streets and every 7~~  
10 ~~minutes a pedestrian is injured; and-~~

11 -

12 ~~WHEREAS, while everyone is affected by collisions, collisions do not affect everyone~~  
13 ~~equally; and-~~

14 -

15 ~~WHEREAS, preventable deaths and serious injuries disproportionately impact disadvantaged~~  
16 ~~and vulnerable communities that include, but are not limited to: children, older adults,~~  
17 ~~individuals experiencing homelessness, individuals who rely on streets, bike lanes, and sidewalks~~  
18 ~~for income, individuals with a disability, and individuals who have historically been profiled~~  
19 ~~by law enforcement; and-~~

20  
21 ~~WHEREAS, as the primary owners and managers of the road network in the U.S., America's~~  
22 ~~local governments are leading safety efforts across the country on the roads, rails and sidewalks~~  
23 ~~they own and operate by implementing road design and technology solutions that allow us to~~  
24 ~~reach a goal of zero fatalities—Vision Zero; and~~

25 -

26 ~~WHEREAS, the United National has proclaimed a Decade of Action for Road Safety from~~  
27 ~~2021-2030, to target a reduction of road traffic deaths and injuries by 50% by 2030 using a Safe~~  
28 ~~Systems approach and Senator Blumenthal of Connecticut and Representative Schankowsky of~~  
29 ~~Illinois have introduced a bi-cameral resolution expressing a desire to reduce traffic fatalities to~~  
30 ~~zero by 2050; and~~

31  
32 ~~WHEREAS, communities of all sizes can aid in preventing the deaths of our residents,~~  
33 ~~neighbors and families by taking a proactive, preventative "Safe~~  
34 ~~Systems" approach that acknowledges humans make mistakes and uses a holistic safety~~  
35 ~~approach of the road system; and-~~

36  
37 ~~WHEREAS, communities across the country are engaged in planning and constructing~~  
38 ~~connected networks of safe trails and active transportation infrastructure that enable people to, in~~  
39 ~~the safest way possible, walk or bike to their daily destinations, including their schools,~~  
40 ~~workplaces, and commercial centers; and~~

41  
42 ~~WHEREAS, road collisions also have an economic cost to the injured and even to those who are~~  
43 ~~not immediately impacted, since communities share responsibility for the increased costs of~~  
44 ~~medical services, legal and court fees, emergency service response, insurance administration,~~  
45 ~~congestion, property damage, and decreased workplace productivity from incidents.~~

46  
47 ~~NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED~~ that America’s city leaders urge the President,  
48 Congress, USDOT and all federal agencies to commit federal leadership and support to cities  
49 prioritizing safety for all residents through safety efforts, implementing Safe Systems in roadway  
50 design and guidance recognizing that design is more effective than enforcement, honing proven  
51 countermeasures and interventions that prioritize transportation safety for all, investing in safe  
52 and connected trail and greenway networks, and working with cities toward the “Vision Zero”  
53 goal of zero deaths on roads in the U.S.; and

54 -  
55 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that to design safe, healthy, equitable multi-modal mobility for  
56 all and utilize the strength of cities as the laboratories of innovation, we urge Congress to  
57 authorize and appropriate sufficient safety and infrastructure funding to cities to implement Safe  
58 System local plans that provide a path of actions to “Vision Zero” and provide safer streets for  
59 all users and invest in safe and connected on- and off-road active transportation networks; and

60  
61 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~, cities, towns, and villages call on USDOT to ensure that  
62 safety data is widely available and accessible, methodologies for showcasing safety outcomes are  
63 developed in collaboration with communities, and that the value for investments in safety are  
64 demonstrated; and

65  
66 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that USDOT should encourage state departments of  
67 transportation to improve data gathering and technical assistance for local government on safety  
68 as well and tracking of traffic crashes and other issues related to transportation safety; and

69  
70 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that NLC encourages the USDOT to update design standards  
71 and manuals, such as the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and guidelines  
72 for road speeds with a focus to put safety first for all users and shift away from constructs like  
73 level of service in lieu of improved performance standards; and

74  
75 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that given the inequitable impacts to disadvantaged  
76 communities of unsafe roadway design and lack of access to safe and connected networks for  
77 walking and bicycling, achieving equity in safety should be a priority to repair the disparity in  
78 access to safe transportation options; and

79  
80 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that public education is not achieved through advertising alone  
81 so we urge the use of more effective education strategies with USDOT resources such as  
82 demonstration projects, tactical urbanism projects, local community engagement, local road  
83 safety audits, and other effective strategies to address safety and capture interest.

84  
85 WHEREAS, in the United States each year more than 40,000 people are killed and thousands  
86 more are injured on American streets, and every 7 minutes a pedestrian is injured on our shared  
87 transportation system; and

88 -  
89 WHEREAS, while everyone is affected by collisions, collisions do not affect everyone equally;  
90 and road deaths and serious injuries disproportionately impact disadvantaged and vulnerable  
91 communities that include but are not limited to: children, older adults, individuals experiencing  
92 homelessness, individuals who rely on streets, bike lanes, and sidewalks for income, individuals  
93 with a disability, and individuals who have historically been profiled by law enforcement; and

94  
95 WHEREAS, as the primary owners and managers of the road network in the U.S., America’s  
96 local governments are leading safety efforts across the country on the roads, rails and sidewalks  
97 they own and operate by implementing road design and technology solutions that allow us to  
98 reach a goal of zero fatalities – Vision Zero; and

99 -  
100 WHEREAS, the United Nations has proclaimed a Decade of Action for Road Safety from 2021-  
101 2030, to target a reduction of road traffic deaths and injuries by 50% by 2030 using a Safe  
102 Systems approach and Congress has introduced a bicameral resolution expressing a desire to  
103 reduce traffic fatalities to zero by 2050; and

104  
105 WHEREAS, communities of all sizes can aid in preventing the deaths of our residents,  
106 neighbors, and families by taking a proactive, preventative “Safe Systems” approach  
107 that acknowledges humans make mistakes and uses a holistic safety approach of the road  
108 system; and

109  
110 WHEREAS, communities across the country are engaged in planning and constructing  
111 connected networks of safe trails and active transportation infrastructure that enable people to, in  
112 the safest way possible, walk or bike to their daily destinations, including their schools,  
113 workplaces, and commercial centers; and

114  
115 WHEREAS, road deaths and collisions also have an economic cost both directly and indirectly  
116 since communities share responsibility for the increased costs of medical services, emergency  
117 service response, insurance administration, legal and court actions, property damage, and more.

118  
119 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that America’s city leaders urge the President,  
120 Administration, Congress, State Governors, and state departments of transportation to commit  
121 federal and state leadership to support cities that are prioritizing safety for all residents by  
122 implementing Safe Systems in roadway design and guidance, recognize that design is more  
123 effective than enforcement, hone proven countermeasures and interventions that prioritize  
124 transportation safety for all, invest in safe and connected pedestrian and trail networks,  
125 and join with cities working toward the “Vision Zero” goal of zero deaths on roads in the U.S.;  
126 and

127 -  
128 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that to design safe, healthy, equitable multi-modal mobility for  
129 all and utilize the strength of cities as the laboratories of innovation, NLC applauds Congress for  
130 funding the new “Safe Streets for All” local road safety program and USDOT for quickly  
131 opening up grant opportunities for both safety planning and project implementation to more  
132 quickly put in safety upgrades that will increase safe journeys on the nation’s full transportation  
133 network; and

134  
135 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that cities, towns, and villages call on USDOT to ensure that  
136 the states and cities have current safety data is widely available and accessible, methodologies  
137 for showcasing safety outcomes are developed in collaboration with communities, and that the  
138 value for investments in safety are demonstrated; and

139  
140 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that USDOT should encourage state departments of  
141 transportation to improve data gathering and technical assistance for local government on safety  
142 as well and tracking of traffic crashes and other issues related to transportation safety; and

143  
144 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC encourages the USDOT to update design standards  
145 and manuals, such as the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and guidelines  
146 for road speeds with a focus to put safety first for all users and shift away from constructs like  
147 level-of-service in lieu of improved performance standards; and

148  
149 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that given the inequitable impacts to disadvantaged  
150 communities of unsafe roadway design and lack of access to safe and connected networks for  
151 walking and bicycling, achieving equity in safety should be a priority to repair the disparity in  
152 access to safe transportation options; and

153  
154 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that public education is not achieved through advertising alone  
155 so we urge the use of more effective education strategies with USDOT resources such as  
156 demonstration projects, tactical urbanism projects, local community engagement, local road safety  
157 audits, and other effective strategies to address safety in our nation.

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Public Safety and Crime Prevention  
Federal Advocacy Committee**

**PSCP**



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 6.01 – Crime Prevention**
  - O. Law Enforcement Training and Accountability
    - 1. Problem Statement
    - 2. Goals
  - P. Qualified Immunity for Law Enforcement Officers
- **Section 6.02 – Public Safety**
  - C. Public Safety Technology and Intelligence
    - 6. Less-lethal Technology
  - E. Mental Health and Public Safety
    - 1. First Responder PTSD
  - F. Medical and Adult-use of Cannabis
- **Section 6.03 – Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and Response**
  - K. Disaster Insurance
    - 1. National Flood Insurance Program
    - 2. Other Natural Disaster Insurance
    - 3. Mitigation
    - 4. Disaster Mapping

1 **Section 6.01 – Crime Prevention**

2  
3 **O. Law Enforcement Training and Accountability**

4  
5 *1. Problem Statement*

6  
7 The police officer-involved killings of Black people and people of color continue to expose racially  
8 divisive issues in the relationships between local police and the communities they are sworn to  
9 protect and serve, especially in communities of color. NLC believes that trust between law  
10 enforcement officers and the people they serve and protect is essential to a municipality’s stability,  
11 the integrity of our criminal justice system, and the safe and effective delivery of policing services.

12  
13 When governing a municipality, nothing is more important for local officials than protecting the  
14 public's safety. In our civil society, local elected officials are responsible for managing a  
15 municipality's public safety programs, including its police department. The goal of managing law  
16 enforcement efforts by municipal governments must be to provide a safe, healthy environment in  
17 which all residents can live free from violence, fear, harassment, discrimination, and intimidation.

18  
19 Unfortunately, our country has a long history of disparate treatment of Black, Indigenous, Latino,  
20 and Asian Americans, especially Black and Latino people in our criminal justice system. The  
21 excessive use of force by law enforcement has shown that discriminatory enforcement of criminal  
22 laws has a corrosive effect that undermines the community's confidence in law enforcement and  
23 interferes with our efforts to keep all members of the community safe.

24  
25 *2. Goals*

26  
27 Local elected leaders must hold law enforcement officials accountable for unjustified, unnecessary  
28 actions that result in an abuse of power. Holding municipal employees, including law enforcement  
29 officers, accountable is the primary responsibility of local government officials. However, some  
30 state laws and labor union contracts limit the ability of local governments to hold law enforcement  
31 officers accountable.

32  
33 Local elected officials should work closely with their municipality's law enforcement executives  
34 and residents to ensure police officers have the support, resources, and training they need to serve  
35 their communities with honor, integrity, moral character, and courage.

36  
37 NLC believes the federal government should provide financial and technical assistance to local  
38 governments to help them implement policies that would:

- 39 • ensure the law enforcement agency complies with the U.S. Department of Justice’s Use of  
40 Force Continuum;
- 41 • prohibit maneuvers such as chokeholds that are intended to limit a person’s ability to  
42 breathe or restrict a person’s blood flow;
- 43 • authorize the use of “lethal” or “less lethal” force when the officer has probable cause to  
44 believe that the person has committed or intends to commit a felony involving serious

45 bodily injury or death, and the officer reasonably believes that there is an imminent<sup>1</sup> risk  
46 of serious bodily injury or death to the officer or another if the subject is not immediately  
47 apprehended;

- 48 • require officers to use de-escalation techniques when there is no imminent danger to life  
49 and property;
- 50 • require other officers that are at the scene of the incident to intervene and stop the use of  
51 force by the officer(s), including using their arresting authority, if they believe the actions  
52 are unwarranted, unnecessary, or are an abuse of power by the officer(s);
- 53 • ensure the law enforcement agency can log all use of lethal or less lethal force by officers  
54 to a national database that is searchable and available to the public;
- 55 • require officers who use force when it is not necessary to be relieved of duty;
- 56 • require officers equipped with body-worn cameras to make sure the cameras are in  
57 recording mode anytime the officer is engaged in a potential incident that might require the  
58 use of force;
- 59 • prohibit officers from restricting witnesses to video record the use of force by an officer(s);
- 60 • ensure the public can call 9-1-1 or use an online reporting system when they believe an  
61 officer's use of force is unwarranted or is in violation of an individual's civil rights;
- 62 • ensure law enforcement officers and other public safety employees are provided  
63 whistleblower protections when they report an officer use of force violation; and
- 64 • require that all lethal and less lethal use of force actions be thoroughly investigated to  
65 ensure the incident warranted the use of force; and
- 66 • requiring law enforcement executives to take immediate disciplinary action against an  
67 officer who used lethal or less lethal force if it is determined that the use of force was  
68 unwarranted, unnecessary, excessive, or was an abuse of power.

69  
70 NLC supports federal efforts to strengthen the local government's ability to hold law enforcement  
71 officers accountable for discrimination, criminal misconduct, or excessive use of force violations.  
72 In cases where it has been determined that the actions of a law enforcement officer or officers  
73 discriminated against an individual's civil rights, resulted in criminal misconduct, or violated the  
74 law enforcement agency's use of force policies, the local government should have full authority to  
75 terminate the employment of a law enforcement officer or officers in accordance with established  
76 due process rules and principles to safeguard against wrongful termination.

77  
78 NLC calls on Congress to:

- 79 • provide additional funding for the community-oriented policing grant program to help local  
80 law enforcement agencies implement and improve racial bias and de-escalation training;  
81 and

<sup>1</sup> An immediate, or imminent threat can be described as danger from an individual whose apparent intent is to inflict serious bodily injury or death and the individual has the ability and opportunity to realize this intention. (source: [https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/National\\_Consensus\\_Policy\\_On\\_Use\\_Of\\_Force%2007102020%20v3.pdf](https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/2020-07/National_Consensus_Policy_On_Use_Of_Force%2007102020%20v3.pdf))

- 82 • prioritize the awarding of the above funding to target municipalities that have repeatedly  
83 been cited for lethal or less lethal use of force violations, civil rights violations, or abuse  
84 of power by officers; and
- 85 • provide additional federal funding and technical assistance to local governments to help  
86 administer mental health and wellness services to law enforcement officers; and
- 87 • establish a National Database of Decertified Officers that **ONLY** law enforcement agencies  
88 and state and local governments can access to vet officers who have been dismissed for  
89 such issues as unnecessary or excessive use of force, abuse of power, racial discrimination,  
90 and violation of individual's civil rights; and
- 91 • provide technical and grant assistance to local governments to establish transparent civilian  
92 oversight boards to investigate officer use of force violations.

#### 93

#### 94 **P. Qualified Immunity for Law Enforcement Officers**

#### 95

96 Qualified immunity is a legal doctrine established by the U.S. Supreme Court that grants  
97 government officials, including municipal law enforcement officers, immunity from money  
98 damages for civil rights violations as long as the official did not violate a "clearly established  
99 statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would have known. While NLC  
100 opposes federal legislation that would eliminate qualified immunity for law enforcement officers,  
101 NLC does believe that Congress and the courts should consider changes to the doctrine of qualified  
102 immunity for law enforcement officers to ensure greater accountability. NLC supports federal  
103 efforts to strengthen local government's ability to hold law enforcement officers accountable for  
104 discrimination, criminal misconduct, or excessive use of force violation.

1 **Section 6.02 – Public Safety**

2  
3 **C. Public Safety Technology and Intelligence**

4  
5 6. Less-lethal Technology

6  
7 Currently, less-lethal projectile devices for law enforcement are defined as a “firearm” under the  
8 Gun Control Act (GCA) of 1968, since there is no federal definition for less-lethal technology.  
9 The development of more effective, less-lethal projectile devices that can be used in lieu of lethal  
10 force are being stifled by the arbitrary application of the GCA.

11  
12 The National League of Cities supports the Federal adoption of a definition for less-lethal  
13 projectile devices that would not classify them as firearm. NLC urges the federal government to  
14 support industry-wide research and development into less-lethal technology, better de-escalation  
15 training, and to support efforts to reduce fatal officer-involved shootings.

16  
17 **E. Mental Health and Public Safety (Incorporated Resolution)**

18  
19 1. First Responder PTSD

20 First responders charged with protecting life and property may experience a broad range of health  
21 and mental wellness consequences due to work-related exposures to traumatic incidents that  
22 include violent acts, death, and destruction. These “first responders” include municipal law  
23 enforcement, fire, and emergency medical employees who are responsible for the protection and  
24 preservation of life and property, and municipal emergency responders and public safety  
25 telecommunicators and dispatchers that provide immediate support services during a traumatic  
26 incident that causes physical, emotional, or psychological harm to themselves or others. Constant  
27 exposure to traumatic incidents involving death, dismemberment, abuse, violence, and destruction  
28 may exert a psychological toll on first responders, resulting in post-traumatic stress disorder  
29 (PTSD), substance abuse, depression, and even suicide.

30  
31 Establishing robust prevention and early intervention systems that include crisis hotlines, routine  
32 mental health checks, and peer and family support programs can be critical components of first  
33 responder mental health and wellness programs, provided they are appropriately researched and  
34 resourced.

35  
36 While first responders may have access to support services to help reduce the risk of post-traumatic  
37 stress, studies have shown that they are less likely to seek because they are concerned about how  
38 they would be viewed at work if they had sought support. Studies have shown that concerns over  
39 the stigma and scrutiny from others about contemplating or attempting suicide is one of the primary  
40 reasons that prevents first responders from seeking help. When first responders know and  
41 recognize the indicators or warning signs of an impending crisis and have the skills to talk to  
42 someone with mental illness, they are more likely to be comfortable confronting or breaking down  
43 the stigma about saying something to a peer or recognizing the warning signs for a self-referral.

45 NLC urges Congress to establish a federal program, similar to the Department of Veterans Affairs  
46 National Center for PTSD program, within the Department of Health and Human Services that  
47 would:

- 48 • develop resources and training programs for community-based clinicians who interact with  
49 first responders and their families to help them better understand the unique risks facing  
50 their clients and what health and wellness programs may be available to them as members  
51 of the first responder community
- 52 • provide technical assistance to support the development of model policies and  
53 implementation guidance for public safety agencies to make substantial efforts to reduce  
54 the first responder PTSD and suicide
- 55 • establish a national crisis hotline for first responders
- 56 • conduct research to determine the efficacy of regular mental health checks, establish which  
57 approaches are most effective, and provide resources that move public safety agencies  
58 toward best practices to reduce mental health issues among first responders
- 59 • establish remote access or regional mental health check programs to help first responders  
60 in small cities, towns and villages
- 61 • assist local public safety agencies in implementing peer support programs to ensure all first  
62 responders have access to this important wellness service

63  
64 Congress should also improve the legislative privacy protections for first responders seeking  
65 assistance from peer crisis lines and other peer-support programs.  
66

## 67 2. Resident Impacted by Crime and Emergency

68 Major criminal incidents and emergencies have a significant impact on the psyche of citizens and  
69 first responders alike. Immediate support after traumatic incidents can ensure that witnesses  
70 provide first responders with more lucid descriptions of the event and prevent significant long-  
71 term mental health concerns. ~~First responders to traumatic events also require psychological~~  
72 ~~support. In both cases, psychological conditions, post-traumatic stress disorder, or substance~~  
73 ~~abuse may develop or worsen if not addressed.~~  
74

75 Psychological first aid, crisis counseling, and response worker support are all key to mitigating  
76 these issues. The federal government should assist with resources and the coordination of non-  
77 profit entities and state and local governments to ensure a continuum of care is available to  
78 victims of crimes and disasters—particularly after major emergencies and incidents. These  
79 efforts must include awareness and education of access to behavioral health treatment to prevent  
80 negative effects following a devastating event.

## 81 82 F. Medical and Adult-use of Cannabis (Incorporated Resolution)

83  
84 Since 1996, a significant majority of states have legalized the medical use of cannabis and an  
85 increasing number of states, and the District of Columbia have or are considering legalizing the  
86 adult use of cannabis.  
87

88 To allow for greater regulation of the growing cannabis industry, the federal government should  
89 consider rescheduling cannabis by removing it from Schedule I substances under the Controlled  
90 Substances Act. After rescheduling cannabis, the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Alcohol,  
91 Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Drug Enforcement Administration, and the United  
92 States Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration should establish  
93 federal regulations for the manufacturing, distribution and sale of legal medical and adult-use  
94 cannabis.

95  
96 As states legalize the medical and adult recreational use of cannabis, Congress must also ensure  
97 local governments can establish laws and regulations on the manufacturing, distribution, and sale  
98 of medical and adult-use cannabis within their jurisdiction.

99  
100 States and local governments that collect tax revenues from legalized medical and adult-use  
101 cannabis should also be able to use the funding for local public safety programs, drug treatment  
102 and mental health centers, housing programs, and after-school programs.

1 **Section 6.03 – Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and Response**  
2

3 **K. Disaster Insurance**  
4

5 The increase in floods, wildfires, earthquakes and other natural disasters makes it more complex  
6 and expensive for homeowners and businesses to purchase private insurance to recover after a  
7 natural disaster hits a community. Private insurance for natural disasters such as wildfires and  
8 earthquakes is quickly becoming unaffordable or unavailable, significantly impacting local real  
9 estate markets and the economy.  
10

11 *1. National Flood Insurance Program*

- 12 • Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1968 to make affordable  
13 flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners in exchange for  
14 using Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) generated and specified Flood  
15 Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) for floodplain management by a participating community.
- 16 • The NFIP provides affordable flood insurance to property owners by encouraging local  
17 governments to adopt and enforce floodplain and water management regulations, best  
18 practices, and techniques.
- 19 • These mitigation efforts reduce and prevent flooding on new and improved structures,  
20 thereby saving lives and reducing injuries, reducing economic losses, maintaining and  
21 protecting critical infrastructure, and reducing the liability borne by local governments and  
22 elected officials.
- 23 • Congress must provide a long-term reauthorization of the NFIP to keep flood insurance  
24 rates affordable for primary, non-primary, and business properties while balancing the  
25 program’s fiscal solvency.  
26

27 *2. Other Natural Disaster Insurances*

28 Congress needs to ensure that the federal government can guarantee property owners have access  
29 to affordable insurance rates to cover losses from wildfires, earthquakes, tornadoes, and other  
30 natural disasters.  
31

32 *3. Mitigation*

33 The federal government should work with state and local governments, the insurance industry, and  
34 other stakeholders to develop an incentive-based disaster insurance and mitigation system that  
35 would encourage property owners to retrofit existing structures to reduce future losses from natural  
36 disasters. The federal government should also encourage lending institutions to incorporate  
37 mitigation provisions as conditions for loans.  
38

39 *4. Disaster Mapping*

40 For local governments to help their communities and homeowners adequately prepare for risk,  
41 Congress should provide additional resources to FEMA to utilize the best technology and  
42 methods available to improve the mapping process, including seeking input from local  
43 government officials before approving any flood, wildfire or disaster-related map that could  
44 impact local zoning rules.



NLC Resolutions are annual statements of position that sunset at the end of the calendar year unless action is taken. The committee must review each of the 2022 resolutions that originated in the PSCP Committee to determine recommendations for 2023. The committee has the following options:

1. Renew the resolution for the coming year (with or without edits)
2. Incorporate the resolution into permanent policy; or
3. Let the resolution expire.

The PSCP resolutions that were approved for 2022 at City Summit with recommendations for 2023 are:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>PSCP Committee Recommendation</b>
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-39:</b> 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	Expire, Incorporate into Standing Policy – See Section 6.03.K
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-40:</b> 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	Expire, Incorporate into Standing Policy – See Section 6.02.F
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-41:</b> In Support of Federal Efforts to Prevent and Treat First Responder Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)	Expire, Incorporate into Standing Policy – See Section 6.02.E
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-42:</b> On the Use of Force by Municipal Law Enforcement Officers	Expire, Incorporate into Standing Policy – See Section 6.01.O
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-43:</b> In Support of Federal Efforts to Recruit and Retain a Diverse Public Safety Workforce	Renew with amendments
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-44:</b> In Support of Federal Efforts to Ensure Local Governments Can Hold Law Enforcement Officers Accountable	Expire, Incorporate into Standing Policy – See Section 6.01.O and 6.01.P

<p><b>NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 1:</b> Urging the Federal Government to Provide Direct Funding and Assistance to Cities, Towns, and Villages to Support Violence Prevention Programs</p>	<p>Adopt</p>
<p><b>NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 2:</b> Local Governments Need Direct and Sustainable Federal Funding to Help Residents Who Call the 988 Suicide &amp; Crisis Lifeline in Time of Crises</p>	<p>Adopt</p>
<p><b>NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 3:</b> In Support of Federal, State and Local Efforts to Stop the Illegal Trafficking of Fentanyl</p>	<p>Pending</p>

1 **NLC RESOLUTION 2022-43**

2  
3 **IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL EFFORTS TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN A DIVERSE**  
4 **PUBLIC SAFETY WORKFORCE**

5  
6 **PSCP Committee Recommendation:** Renew with edits

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, municipalities across the country are having a difficult time recruiting and  
9 retaining qualified and racially diverse public safety employees; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, the difficulty in recruiting and retaining public safety employees includes sworn  
12 and unsworn law enforcement officers, volunteer and paid firefighters, emergency medical  
13 technicians and paramedics, social workers and crises intervention specialists, 9-1-1 call takers,  
14 dispatchers, and public safety communications technicians; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, the reasons why individuals are less likely to seek or stay in a career in public  
17 safety may include increased risk of injury or death, risk of civil liability or criminal conviction,  
18 lack of political and public support, insufficient income for the level of personal risk, risk of  
19 potential for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other mental and physical issues resulting  
20 from in the line of duty; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, lack of racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in the public safety workforce can also  
23 make it difficult to recruit women and minorities; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, recruiting, training, and retaining the next generation of public safety personnel  
26 will require considerable local government resources; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, many municipalities across America, especially small to medium-size cities, towns  
29 and villages, lack sufficient resources to recruit, train, and retain qualified public safety  
30 personnel to keep their communities safe.

31  
32 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the National League of Cities (NLC) urges  
33 Congress and the Administration to:

- 34
- 35 • Provide technical and financial support to local governments to recruit, train and retain a  
36 more racially and gender diverse public safety workforce.
  - 37 ~~• Provide additional funding for local government to establish co-responder programs.~~
  - 38 • Provide additional funding for local governments to hire recruiters to help recruit a  
39 diverse municipal public safety workforce.
  - 40 ~~• Conduct research on the feasibility of employing unarmed responders for mental health  
41 and substance use calls for help.~~
  - 42 ~~• Provide technical assistance to local governments to establish violence interrupter  
43 programs.~~
  - 44 • Establish a national ad campaign to help recruit more women and minorities in the public  
45 safety workforce.
  - 46 • Provide technical assistance to local governments to improve mental health and wellness  
programs for their public safety employees.

- 47      •      Increase funding for the COPS hiring grants and allow the funding to be used for hiring  
48              co-responders and crisis intervention teams.

1 **NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 1**

2  
3 **URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE DIRECT FUNDING AND**  
4 **ASSISTANCE TO CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES TO SUPPORT VIOLENCE**  
5 **PREVENTION PROGRAMS**  
6

7 **PSCP Committee Recommendation: Adopt**

8  
9 WHEREAS, the rise in violent crime, including gun violence, in communities across the country  
10 is putting a considerable strain on local government resources; and  
11

12 WHEREAS, local governments have leveraged federal funding through the American Rescue  
13 Plan Act, and other federal grant programs, but the needs of local governments when addressing  
14 violent crime are not met by these funds; and  
15

16 WHEREAS, the residents in cities, towns, and villages believe local elected officials have the  
17 primary responsibility to deal with the violence in their communities; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, local leaders are looking at recruiting, hiring, training, and retaining a municipal  
20 public safety workforce that is bigger than just law enforcement officers, firefighters, and  
21 emergency medical services to address the rise in violent crime; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, local leaders recognize the importance of coordinated mental health services in  
24 violence prevention, taking on greater responsibility in providing behavioral health services to all  
25 their residents experiencing economic, social, mental health, and substance abuse crises, but are  
26 restricted by the lack of sufficient funds made available to cities, towns, and villages for this  
27 purpose; and  
28

29 WHEREAS, municipal governments have little or no control over the adjudication of those  
30 committing acts of violence and rely on federal, state, and county criminal courts to ensure that  
31 they are adequately charged and processed. However, these courts are experiencing  
32 unprecedented backlogs that are causing those that are committing acts of violence to be  
33 processed through the system slowly and at times released to the community; and  
34

35 WHEREAS, local government officials cannot rely solely on policing data to get a  
36 comprehensive picture of what factors are causing the rise in violence in their communities; and  
37

38 WHEREAS, the partisan and divisive national political debate over the causes of violence in  
39 cities is making it harder for local officials to effectively communicate to their residents on how  
40 they are addressing the violence; and  
41

42 WHEREAS, relaxed state and federal gun laws are increasing the illegal trafficking of guns to  
43 criminals in cities.

44  
45 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the National League of Cities (NLC) urges Congress  
46 to ensure local governments can directly apply for and receive federal funding to help recruit,  
47 hire, train and retain a more racially and gender diverse violence prevention workforce that  
48 includes:

- 49 • accredited and properly vetted law enforcement officers
- 50 • crisis intervention teams
- 51 • mental health and substance abuse co-responders
- 52 • violence interrupters
- 53 • alternative or unarmed responders that can respond to non-violent and non-criminal  
54 incidents to reduce the overburden on sworn law enforcement officers
- 55 • credible messengers and mentors
- 56 • mental health call takers in 9-1-1 centers to appropriately triage mental health calls

57  
58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED NLC urges the federal government to provide technical  
59 assistance to local governments to establish:

- 60 • co-responder programs
- 61 • community violence interventions including violence interruption programs
- 62 • crises intervention teams
- 63 • alternative or unarmed responder programs
- 64 • credible messenger/mentor programs

65  
66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED NLC urges Congress to provide additional funding to address  
67 the backlog of criminal cases in the federal, state, and county courts to ensure those committing  
68 acts of violence are not released back to the communities before they are fully adjudicated for  
69 their crimes; and

70  
71 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED NLC urges Congress to provide technical assistance to local  
72 governments to develop new analytical models that don't rely solely on law enforcement data to  
73 identify and address the root causes of violence in their communities; and

74  
75 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED Congress must provide increased funding in the annual federal  
76 budget to help federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies stop the illegal trafficking of  
77 guns and weapons into cities, hold straw purchasers criminally liable, and permanently shut  
78 down "bad apple" gun dealers.

1 **NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 2**

2  
3 **LOCAL GOVERNMENTS NEED DIRECT AND SUSTAINABLE FEDERAL FUNDING**  
4 **TO HELP RESIDENTS WHO CALL THE 988 SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE IN**  
5 **TIMES OF CRISIS**  
6

7 **PSCP Committee Recommendation: Adopt**  
8

9 WHEREAS, in 2020, Congress designated the new 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, formerly  
10 known as the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, for reaching trained crisis counselors who  
11 can help with suicide, mental health, and substance use-related crises, and the number went live  
12 nationally on July 16, 2022; and  
13

14 WHEREAS, the new 3-digit 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is intended to be a network of state  
15 and local call centers supported by the U.S. Health and Human Services Department (HHS)  
16 through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); and  
17

18 WHEREAS, the Biden-Harris Administration increased federal investments in the 988 Suicide  
19 & Crisis Lifeline from \$24 million to \$432 million -- to scale up crisis centers and backup center  
20 capacity and to provide special services, including a sub-network for Spanish language speakers;  
21 and  
22

23 WHEREAS, the \$432 million included \$105 million in grant funding to states and territories,  
24 provided by the American Rescue Plan, to improve response rates, increase capacity to meet  
25 future demand, and ensure calls initiated in their states or territories are first routed to local,  
26 regional, or state crisis call centers; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline was established to improve access to crisis  
29 services to meet our country’s growing suicide and mental health-related crisis care needs.  
30

31 WHEREAS, the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is intended to provide easier access to the  
32 national Lifeline network and related crisis resources, which are distinct from the public safety  
33 purposes of 911 (where the focus is on dispatching Emergency Medical Services, fire, and police  
34 as needed); and  
35

36 WHEREAS, crisis care services do not exist in all areas of the country, especially in racially and  
37 economically disadvantaged communities and rural cities, towns, and villages; and  
38

39 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED NLC is concerned that currently, there isn’t  
40 sufficient federal and state funding to quickly build out crisis care services in all areas of the  
41 country to help people that call 988, and  
42

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** NLC urges Congress to ensure that, in addition to the funding  
44 provided to the states, there will be sustained, direct federal support to local governments to  
45 quickly expand crisis care systems to help racially and economically disadvantaged communities  
46 and rural cities, towns, and villages;  
47

48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** Congress must also provide direct funding to local  
49 governments to create crisis intervention teams, co-responders, and alternative unarmed  
50 behavioral health response programs to help people that call the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline in  
51 their communities.



1 **NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 3**

2  
3 **IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL, STATE AND LOCAL EFFORTS TO STOP THE**  
4 **ILLEGAL TRAFFICKING OF FENTANYL**

5  
6 **PSCP Committee Recommendation: Pending**

7  
8 WHEREAS drug traffickers are mass-producing fake or counterfeit pills and falsely marketing  
9 them as legitimate prescription pills to deceive the people of the United States; and

10  
11 WHEREAS many fake or counterfeit pills are made to look like prescription name-brand  
12 opioids or stimulants; and

13  
14 WHEREAS drug traffickers are using fake or counterfeit pills to exploit the opioid crisis and  
15 prescription drug misuse; and

16  
17 WHEREAS the Drug Enforcement Agency (referred to in this preamble as the “DEA”) has  
18 observed a dramatic rise in the number of counterfeit pills containing not less than 2 mg of  
19 fentanyl, which is considered a deadly dose; and

20  
21 WHEREAS 4 out of every 10 pills with fentanyl tested by the DEA contain a potentially lethal  
22 dose; and

23  
24 WHEREAS counterfeit pills may also contain fentanyl-related substances and  
25 methamphetamine; and

26  
27 WHEREAS the number of counterfeit pills with fentanyl seized by law enforcement agencies  
28 has increased by nearly 502 percent since 2019; and

29  
30 WHEREAS more than 9,500,000 counterfeit pills were seized within the last year, which  
31 exceeds the total number of seizures for the previous 2 years combined; and

32  
33 WHEREAS fake or counterfeit pills have been identified in all 50 States and the District of  
34 Columbia; and

35  
36 WHEREAS illicit fentanyl has also been detected in street drugs such as heroin and cocaine;  
37 and

38  
39 WHEREAS for the 12-month period ending in October 2021, more than 105,000 individuals in  
40 the United States died of drug-induced deaths, and 69,000 of those deaths involved illicit  
41 fentanyl; and

42

43 WHEREAS over the last 20 years, drug-induced deaths among individuals aged 15 to 35 has  
44 increased 6-fold, largely driven by the increase in illicit fentanyl drugs; and

45  
46 WHEREAS for the 12-month period ending in April 2021, the leading cause of death for  
47 individuals in the United States aged 18 to 45 was illicit fentanyl; and

48  
49 WHEREAS fake counterfeit pills are easily accessible and often sold on social media and e-  
50 commerce platforms, making them accessible to teens and youth; and

51  
52 WHEREAS illicit fentanyl is involved in more deaths of youths than all other drug types  
53 combined; and

54  
55 WHEREAS, in 2020, drug overdose and poisoning deaths for individuals aged 14 to 18 grew by  
56 94 percent, which was more than 3 times as fast as the national rate and faster than any other 5-  
57 year age group; and

58  
59 WHEREAS, in 2020, fentanyl involvement in drug overdose and poisoning deaths for  
60 individuals aged 14 to 18 grew by 169 percent, which was more than 3 times as fast as the  
61 national rate and faster than any other 5-year age group; and

62  
63 WHEREAS, in 2020, there were 56,516 reported overdose deaths due to synthetic opioids.

64  
65 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** NLC urges Congress to pass legislation to classify  
66 fentanyl analogs under Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) due to the high  
67 potential for abuse; and

68  
69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that NLC calls on Congress to provide federal, state and local  
70 law enforcement additional resources and technical assistance needed to address the substance  
71 addiction crisis in America's cities, towns and villages.

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Information Technology and  
Communications  
Federal Advocacy Committee**

**ITC**

# *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 7.00 Economic Opportunity and Innovation**
  - B. Access, Adoption, Affordability, and Symmetry of Broadband
- **Section 7.03 Consumer Protection**
  - B. Truth in Advertising
  - E. Cybersecurity
  - G. Emerging Technologies

1 **Section 7.00 Economic Opportunity and Innovation**

2  
3 **B. Access, Adoption, Affordability, and Symmetry of Broadband**

4 Broadband access and adoption help promote economic development and social equity while  
5 enhancing public health, public safety, and educational opportunities for Americans around the  
6 country. Therefore, the Federal government should ensure that broadband access is universal,  
7 affordable, and addresses the nation’s digital equity issues. The Federal government should also  
8 ensure that future deployments are developed so as not to decrease digital equity.

9  
10 *1. Access*

11 NLC supports action by the federal government to provide matching grants, technology grants,  
12 tax credits, subsidies and other types of aid that would increase broadband deployment and  
13 affordability. NLC also supports sustained funding of programs such as eE-rateRate, ReConnect,  
14 and other programs that support the buildout of broadband infrastructure. NLC urges the federal  
15 government to ensure that these and other broadband grant programs are accessible to all  
16 communities, whether large or small, rural or urban, as well as municipal broadband network  
17 owners and operators.

18  
19 *2. Adoption*

20 Understanding that access alone is not enough to encourage adoption, NLC also supports  
21 proposals that would bridge the digital divide and develop programs that would create  
22 opportunities to increase broadband adoption, including funding for digital navigation and digital  
23 equity programs within cities.

24  
25 *3. Affordability*

26 Federal policies should be designed to maximize the availability of affordable and competitively  
27 priced services throughout the country. NLC urges the federal government to make permanent  
28 and sustainably fund the Affordable Connectivity Program, to provide households in need with a  
29 reliable support for home broadband service.

30  
31 *4. Upload/Download Symmetry and Network Performance*

32 Recognizing that broadband download capability is critical for access to content, upload speed is  
33 similarly critical for economic development and labor market participation. Federal definitions of  
34 "broadband service" and programs to enhance access, adoption, and affordability should also  
35 seek to encourage upload/download bandwidth symmetry, minimize latency, and maximize  
36 network resilience, redundancy, and uptime.

37  
1 **Section 7.03 Consumer Protection**

2  
3 **B. Truth in Advertising**

4 NLC supports federal proposals which encourage regulators to develop and enforce strict  
5 guidelines to govern advertising and public disclosure of broadband services.

6  
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48

Of special interest should be:

- Broadband providers currently use download speed as their primary flagship, while minimizing the disclosure of upload speed, which is the most variable component of current broadband delivery technologies. Providers should be required to advertise upload/download speeds on an equal basis.
- Providers heavily advertise their download speeds as rated inside their own networks, without any common measurement indexes that would allow consumers a basis for fair comparison of products between providers. Providers should be required to ensure all broadband advertising that includes bandwidth claims to use a common system for speed measurement across the entire Internet.
- Providers are not currently required to report other network metrics, such as latency, resilience, resolution metrics, or uptime/downtime performance. Providers should be required to disclose these metrics regarding the reliability of their service.
- Providers currently contract consumers to multi-year agreements with exit costs that are not indicative of the installation costs or associated discounts for the services provided. Providers should be required to disclose/contrast termination fees in all advertising that ‘headlines’ a discounted rate based on said contractual agreement.
- Providers currently contract groups of consumers to lengthy multiyear exclusive contracts to pre-empt the expansion of city/municipality owned networks. To counter this, there should be support for the expansion of municipal broadband by discouraging or legislating against these practices.
- Providers currently ‘package’ other services with their broadband services to force market these products to consumers that have limited/no options in the broadband market. The use of ‘slam packaging’ in markets with exclusive/limited broadband service options should be banned.
- Providers currently advertise speed and availability to markets where the service and speed are unavailable, or only available to a small percentage of the citizens receiving the advertising. NLC encourages the federal government to provide oversight of these practices, particularly for participants in the Affordable Connectivity Program.

**E. Cybersecurity**

NLC supports federal efforts in cybersecurity related to national security, protection of sensitive information and intellectual property, and the availability and continuity of infrastructure. The increasing presence of the Internet of Things throughout cities and the increased attempts to interfere with election processes presents an increased threat to city residents and necessitates increased federal action. Another recognized risk is the sharing of data that may be hosted with software companies that provide technology solutions or services to local governments and the government data may be subject to a loss or breach through an attack on the private local company. Local governments are responsible for the protection of large amounts of personally identifiable data, the breach of which could lead to criminal activity or unauthorized

49 use. NLC additionally supports federal efforts to provide increased resources and technical  
50 assistance to local governments for the protection of government systems, data, transactional  
51 databases, enterprise files and critical government functions. NLC opposes the imposition of  
52 unfunded mandates on local governments –and supports additional ~~grant funding~~resources for  
53 localities to address stark cybersecurity workforce and resource needs. (See related policy under  
54 PSCP Section 6.03(I) Protect Against and Respond to Cyber Threats.)

55

### 56 **G. Emerging Technologies**

57

58 The rapid evolution of technology, such as the development of blockchain, digital currency, and  
59 autonomous vehicles has provided cities, towns and villages with unprecedented opportunities to  
60 explore alternative methods of traditional service delivery and operation modernization.  
61 Innovation in local government and support for these emerging technologies can improve the  
62 way municipalities work and interact with the public.

63 Adopting innovative approaches to local administration may present technical, regulatory,  
64 implementation, financial or intergovernmental challenges. NLC urges the federal government to  
65 act as a convener of best practices, cut federal agency red tape, and provide aid to support  
66 advancing local innovation in the use of emerging technologies.

67 NLC opposes federal preemption of local decisions regarding the use of emerging technologies  
68 in their own communities. As incubators of innovation and the level of government closest to the  
69 people, cities, towns and villages must retain the authority to make the choices that best serve  
70 constituents and protect local public safety, privacy, efficiency, administrative, and other needs,  
71 particularly as new technologies and their applications evolve over time. Local leaders must also  
72 be empowered with the federal tools and abilities to safely and effectively ~~police~~manage the use  
73 of emerging technologies in their communities as needed. (See related policy under TIS Section  
74 5.02(E) Intelligent Transportation Systems and 5.04(F) Unmanned Aircraft Systems.)

NLC Resolutions are annual statements of position that sunset at the end of the calendar year unless action is taken. The committee must review each of the 2022 resolutions that originated in the ITC Committee to determine recommendations for 2023. The committee has the following options:

1. Renew the resolution for the coming year (with or without edits)
2. Incorporate the resolution into permanent policy; or
3. Let the resolution expire.

The ITC resolutions that were approved for 2022 at City Summit with recommendations for 2023 are:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>ITC Committee Recommendation</b>
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-45:</b> Local Government Support of Community/Municipal Broadband Networks	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-46:</b> Federal Investment in Broadband Access: A Call for Universal Availability, Affordability and World-Class Quality	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-47:</b> Local Government Support for Fairness and Truth in Advertising for Internet Service Providers	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-48:</b> Preserving Local Control of Broadband Infrastructure Siting	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-49:</b> Calling for Updated Federal Safety Standards for Radiofrequency Emissions of Wireless Facilities	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-50:</b> In Support of Municipal Data Ownership and Protection	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2022-51:</b> In Support of Digital Equity for American Communities	Renew with edits



1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-45

2  
3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY/MUNICIPAL  
4 BROADBAND NETWORKS

5  
6 ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

7  
8 WHEREAS, the universal availability of affordable broadband access for all citizens has been  
9 identified as a national priority; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, community/municipal broadband networks are an essential option for education,  
12 healthcare, market competition, consumer choice, economic development, and universal,  
13 affordable Internet access nationwide; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, historically, local governments have ensured access to essential services and  
16 utilities by banding together to provide those services and utilities that were not offered by the  
17 private sector at a reasonable and competitive cost. This involvement has included electrification,  
18 public libraries, and other important ~~services~~public needs; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, local governments may be able to build and operate broadband infrastructure to  
21 serve the public interest; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, according to the Federal Communications Commission, ~~half of~~most American  
24 homes only have two options of Internet service providers for basic broadband and for faster  
25 speeds, a majority of households only have one choice, or none at all<sup>1</sup>; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, publicly owned broadband infrastructure, including open-access and conduit  
28 networks, has served an important role in increasing broadband market competition among  
29 private providers by reducing the cost of entry to those communities, particularly for smaller  
30 broadband providers; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, the economic health of municipalities depends on public and private investment to  
33 connect their communities; and

34  
35 WHEREAS, municipal governments consider broadband to be a critical form of infrastructure,  
36 and more than 900 communities have therefore made significant investments in publicly-owned  
37 broadband infrastructure<sup>2</sup>; and

38  
39 WHEREAS, attempts continue to be made to limit or stop further local government deployment  
40 of municipal broadband services, which has the potential of reducing the ability of local  
41 government to provide important information and services to their citizens in a timely, efficient,  
42 and cost-effective manner; and

43  
<sup>1</sup> Federal Communications Commission, Internet Access Services: Status as of June 30, ~~2017~~2019, ~~November~~  
~~2018~~March 2022.

<sup>2</sup> Institute for Local Self-Reliance, "Community Network Map," ~~January 2020~~September 2021.

44 **WHEREAS**, opponents of community and municipally provided broadband have proposed  
45 various administrative procedures that they claim are designed to protect citizens and consumers  
46 from unwieldy local governments; however, these safeguards really place over-burdensome  
47 requirements on municipalities and act as unnecessary barriers<sup>3</sup>; and

48  
49 **WHEREAS**, a majority of American consumers, across the political spectrum, feel municipal  
50 broadband services should be allowed to help ensure that all Americans have equal access to the  
51 Internet<sup>4</sup>; and

52  
53 **WHEREAS**, federal and state broadband infrastructure funds will be unnecessarily limited in  
54 effectiveness by the number of states with anticompetitive, preemptive laws in place by  
55 prohibiting communities from making the best choice for their own connectivity needs; and

56  
57 **WHEREAS**, in the vast majority of community/municipal broadband networks built to date, the  
58 private sector has been involved in helping design, build, and operate the network – creating new  
59 business opportunities and jobs in the process; and

60  
61 **WHEREAS**, local governments should not be preempted by states from being able to offer  
62 broadband services, high speed Internet, and other communications services and/or infrastructure  
63 which could advance the deployment of broadband throughout our nation.

64  
65 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges the  
66 federal government to encourage deployment of broadband networks in a competitive manner  
67 via a variety of conduits (satellite, wireless, and wireline); and

68  
69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC opposes any actions that seek to burden cities  
70 through unnecessary procedural requirements and safeguards that duplicate the democratic  
71 process by which cities govern themselves; and

72  
73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC embraces local governments’ ability to work  
74 cooperatively with the private sector to offer broadband services and does not believe such  
75 public/private partnerships are incompatible with private sector competition; and

76  
77 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports federal proposals that promote  
78 community/municipal broadband, that preserve the authority of local governments to act in the  
79 interest of their citizens by constructing, owning and operating broadband infrastructure, directly  
80 offering high speed Internet and other communications services, and/or participating in public-  
81 private partnerships for the purposes of offering competitive broadband and communications  
82 services; and

83  
84 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in order to maximize the value of federal grant  
85 expenditures, federal agencies should protect and prioritize access to federal funding sources for  
86 municipal broadband through key federal infrastructure programs, particularly the Broadband  
87 Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) grant program; and

<sup>3</sup> National League of Cities, “City Rights in an Era of Preemption: A State-by-State Analysis,” April 2, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Consumer Reports, “Broadband: A Nationally Representative Multi-Mode Survey,” July 2021.

88  
89 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should preempt state laws that restrict  
90 municipalities from providing community broadband networks and further ensure that no new  
91 broadband legislation should preempt the authority of local governments to conduct their own  
92 broadband planning; engage in broadband infrastructure construction, ownership, or operation;  
93 collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions; govern the placement and deployment of wireless or  
94 other communications infrastructure in their communities; or impose consumer protection or  
95 buildout requirements on broadband providers in their jurisdictions; and

96  
97 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to pass the Community Broadband  
98 Act (~~H.R. 1631/S. 1460~~) to supersede state preemption and enable the provision of municipal  
99 broadband in every state; and

100  
101 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on state legislatures to overturn or eliminate  
102 preemptive state laws and ensure that local governments are fully able to participate in building a  
103 broadband future.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-46

2  
3 **FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN BROADBAND ACCESS: A CALL FOR UNIVERSAL**  
4 **AVAILABILITY, AFFORDABILITY AND WORLD-CLASS QUALITY**

5  
6 **ITC Committee Recommendation:** Renew with edits

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, to compete successfully in an increasingly global environment the United States  
9 needs to take advantage of all of the technological solutions that high-speed broadband access  
10 offers; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, universal broadband should be considered essential infrastructure that contributes  
13 to economic health, equity, and survival of communities across the United States; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, despite the findings of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) 2020  
16 Fourteenth Broadband Deployment Report<sup>5</sup> that ~~18.25~~14.5 million Americans lacked access to  
17 fixed terrestrial broadband networks, the FCC concludes that "broadband is being deployed in a  
18 reasonable and timely fashion;" and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, there is a disparity between providers' reporting of advertised speeds and actual  
21 delivered speeds that has been proven through speed tests in a number of states and  
22 municipalities; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, the numbers of individuals with access to broadband is overreported by the FCC  
25 and inconsistent with the U. S. Census American Community Survey's findings; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, Congress has recognized this disparity between federal data and on-the-ground  
28 experience through passage of the Broadband DATA Act of 2020, which directed the FCC to  
29 improve its data collection process and map granularity, and to create as well as creating a  
30 challenge process for states, local governments, and consumers and public interest groups to  
31 correct faulty data; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, the success of broadband infrastructure programs authorized by the Infrastructure  
34 Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 relies upon the accuracy of these maps, as many programs are  
35 required to use FCC map data to prioritize or distribute broadband grant funds; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, the ~~federal-current~~ FCC standard for broadband (25 Megabits per second (Mbps)  
38 download and 3 Mbps upload), which has been in effect since 2015, is insufficient for multiple  
39 household members to simultaneously access vital bandwidth-intensive services such as video  
40 chat or VPN simultaneously; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, with the proliferation of devices with Internet access, wireless data traffic has  
43 grown significantly, placing a greater demand on both licensed and unlicensed spectrum, and  
44 adding additional capacity is essential to support continued innovation and achieve the potential

<sup>5</sup> Federal Communications Commission, 2020-Fourteenth Broadband Deployment Report, April 24, 2020-January 13, 2021.

45 to transform many different areas of the American economy by providing a platform for  
46 innovation and is likely to have a substantial impact on jobs, growth and investment; and  
47

48 **WHEREAS**, the availability and adoption of quality, affordable broadband service can vary  
49 dramatically from one neighborhood to another and between single family and multifamily  
50 homes, even in heavily populated urban areas, and a substantial number of individuals in poor  
51 and rural communities have limited Internet access and where broadband access is limited,  
52 citizens have limited access to information, education and tools for economic independence<sup>6</sup>;  
53 and  
54

55 **WHEREAS**, 15% of households with children in school currently lack a broadband connection,  
56 while the majority of teachers assign homework that requires broadband, and leaving millions of  
57 students behind in modern education roughly a quarter reported challenges accessing broadband  
58 at home to complete schoolwork, or were forced to use a cellphone to do schoolwork during the  
59 COVID-19 pandemic<sup>7</sup> leaving millions of students behind in modern education; and  
60

61 **WHEREAS**, current availability and adoption is insufficient to meet present and future needs.  
62

63 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC asks the federal government to recognize  
64 and work through public-private partnerships, ~~of~~ municipal broadband providers and  
65 municipalities to achieve the goals of equitable broadband access by providing:

- 66 • Affordable and competitively priced broadband access; and
- 67 • Appropriate standards for symmetrical broadband speed, reliability, and connectivity that  
68 allow America to compete in the global economy and open more opportunities to deliver  
69 robust services more economically and universally;
- 70 • Granular, accurate data on broadband availability, affordability, and adoption available to  
71 local officials to assist in planning and local investments; and
- 72 • Funding, including federal, state and local dollars, such as that proposed included in the  
73 Digital Equity Act and the Affordable Connectivity Program, to support digital inclusion  
74 programs and home broadband adoption throughout the United States.  
75

76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to include and to  
77 incorporate federal investment in broadband in any federal infrastructure proposal, to strengthen  
78 the nation’s infrastructure network while promoting economic development and social equity in  
79 our communities; and  
80

81 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to continue to  
82 incorporate an effective challenge process for local governments to use in the grant application  
83 and award process and in general correction of faulty data or discrepancy with the federal  
84 broadband maps.  
85

<sup>6</sup> Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program, “Broadband subscriptions are up, but too many households are still disconnected,” September 28, 2018.

<sup>7</sup> Pew Research Center, “What we know about online learning and the homework gap amid the pandemic,” October 1, 2021.

86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports the FCC revisiting the benchmarks for  
87 broadband speeds on a more frequent basis because of the evolving nature of technology and the  
88 needs of communities for faster and symmetrical speeds; and

89  
90 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress must work with state and local governments to  
91 fund broadband infrastructure at high performance standards that provides at least 100/20 Mbps  
92 service, and ideally 1 Gbps symmetrical service, without harmful data caps, to ensure that federal  
93 funds are spent only on broadband that will provide meaningful service for current and future  
94 essential applications; and

95  
96 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC encourages the FCC to close the “homework gap” in  
97 low-income households through the Affordable Connectivity Program, which supports ~~of~~ low-  
98 cost plans, including access provided by local governments, and subsidized access to computing  
99 devices; and

100  
101 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC opposes any efforts by the FCC to reverse  
102 modernization of the critically important E-Rate and Lifeline programs; and

103  
104 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports expansion of the U.S. Department of  
105 Agriculture’s ~~Rural Utility Service Broadband program beyond loan guarantees to include~~  
106 ~~grants, and an increased population threshold for eligible areas to at least 20,000 so that more~~  
107 ~~areas may take advantage of this financing~~ Community Connect and ReConnect broadband grant  
108 and loan programs and encourages the federal government to expand access to the programs for  
109 municipalities; and

110  
111 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on federal agencies, including the FCC, U.S.  
112 Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and others to harmonize and  
113 coordinate broadband grant programs, expand technical assistance, consider flexible matching  
114 fund requirements and the flexible designation of available funds (particularly allowing for the  
115 pledge of future funds as a funding source), ensure that both public and private partnership  
116 applications are eligible for programs, and simplify program application and compliance  
117 processes to ensure that municipalities, particularly smaller municipalities, are able to compete  
118 and participate in these opportunities; and

119  
120 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to increase funding for  
121 Community Development Block Grants and Choice Neighborhood Grants, which allow local  
122 governments to fund broadband planning and deployment alongside affordable housing and  
123 neighborhood improvement projects; and

124  
125 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
126 Development to expand its ConnectHome program, to ensure that a growing number of HUD-  
127 assisted households and schoolchildren will have access to in-home broadband; and

128  
129 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to remove state-imposed barriers  
130 to broadband investment, such as preemption of municipal broadband networks, broadband

131 networks provided by rural electric cooperatives, and middle mile broadband infrastructure built  
132 by investor-owned electric companies; and

133

134 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to reform and update federal  
135 transportation grant programs such as BUILD to ensure that placement of broadband  
136 infrastructure through policies such as “dig once” is prioritized in funded projects, and that  
137 physical structures that reduce the cost of broadband deployment by private companies such as  
138 dark fiber and conduit are eligible expenses in federal grant programs; and

139

140 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to take a leadership  
141 role in convening together all interested parties, including, but not limited to, all levels of  
142 government (local, state, tribal, and federal), consumer organizations, representatives of  
143 underserved communities (rural, urban and suburban), all segments of the communications  
144 industry interests, representatives of private sector, and not-for-profit sector organizations, to  
145 promote ubiquitous symmetrical broadband access.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-47

2  
3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR FAIRNESS AND TRUTH IN ADVERTISING  
4 FOR INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS

5  
6 ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

7  
8 WHEREAS, the universal availability of affordable, reliable high-speed Internet broadband  
9 access for all citizens is a national priority; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, Internet access is a necessity for citizens to enable access to their workplaces,  
12 educational opportunities, telemedicine, social media, and community involvement; and

13  
14 WHEREAS, the ~~federal~~ Federal Communications Commission's standard for broadband  
15 (25Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload) is insufficient for multiple household members to  
16 simultaneously access vital bandwidth-intensive services such as video chat and/or VPN  
17 necessary for modern educational needs simultaneously; and

18  
19 WHEREAS, advertising practices in the Internet/broadband industry are generally unmonitored;  
20 and

21  
22 WHEREAS, broadband providers currently do not consistently advertise the speed consumers  
23 are likely to experience, but the highest possible speed consumers may experience, and do not  
24 consistently report ~~make transparent~~ issues such as high latency or network reliability and  
25 downtime; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, some internet providers do not provide a transparent advertisement of their full  
28 program offerings, including eligibility information for customers through the Affordable  
29 Connectivity Program<sup>8</sup> or through other subsidized internet or broadband programs on their  
30 websites, informational guides or in their advertisement's; and

31  
32 WHEREAS, some broadband providers currently advertise speed and availability, including the  
33 availability of next-generation mobile services, to markets where the service and speed are  
34 unavailable, or only available to a small percentage of the citizens receiving the advertising,  
35 violating basic concepts of truth in advertising; and

36  
37 WHEREAS, Internet providers that do not meet the FCC standards for broadband use the term  
38 'broadband' for their advertised service with no disclosure of their failure to meet the standard;  
39 and-

40  
41 WHEREAS, the need for equity in provider performance is demonstrated by the fact that  
42 providers do not always address network downtime outages in an equitable manner, and the FCC  
43 has appointed members to a new Digital Empowerment and Inclusion Working Group<sup>9</sup> to

<sup>8</sup> Federal Communications Commission, "Affordable Connectivity Program", Updated February 2022.

<sup>9</sup> Federal Communications Commission, Implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Prevention and Elimination of Digital Discrimination, GN Docket No. 22-69, Notice of Inquiry (rel. March 17, 2022).



44 address “digital redlining” which speaks to inequities in network performance from a provider;  
45 and

46  
47 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) supports  
48 the imposition of a standard for broadband measurement to be required in broadband advertising,  
49 allowing the public a fair basis for comparison when purchasing broadband services; and

50  
51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this advertising standard should require providers to  
52 advertise upload/download speeds on an equal basis; and

53  
54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this advertising standard should require providers to  
55 advertise only actual delivered speed and availability averages (50<sup>th</sup> percentile) for the area being  
56 advertised to; and

57  
58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to ~~explore and~~ enact  
59 timely regulations consistent with the requirements in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act  
60 that promote fair and explicit advertising in the broadband industry, through the use of  
61 “Broadband Consumer Labels”<sup>10</sup>, such as a standardized “Broadband Nutrition Label,” which  
62 include standards based on measurements of broadband speed from a nationally available source  
63 and allows consumers to compare cost and service across providers; and

64  
65 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the “Broadband ~~Nutrition~~ Consumer Label” should  
66 include, at a minimum, items such as: the actual delivered upload and download speeds, all fees  
67 assessed, costs of any associated rental equipment or installation charges, network latency and  
68 downtime/outage reporting, data limits or speed throttling, and termination or cancellation costs.

<sup>10</sup> Federal Communications Commission, Empowering Broadband Consumers Through Transparency, CG Docket No. 22-2, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, (rel. Jan. 27, 2022).

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2022-48**

4 **PRESERVING LOCAL CONTROL OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE SITING**

5 **ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has enacted regulations that  
8 substantially limit the traditionally-held authority of local governments over small cell wireless  
9 infrastructure and local governments’ ability to assess fair compensation to taxpayers for use of  
10 public property, subsidizing wireless providers’ development while undermining local efforts to  
11 expand equity and broadband access; and<sup>11</sup>

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, the FCC has enacted regulations that challenge local land use authority to govern  
14 broadband infrastructure under the auspices of accelerating broadband infrastructure  
15 deployment<sup>12</sup>; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, cities have worked as active partners to site broadband infrastructure in their  
18 communities while protecting public safety, neighborhood character, and the integrity of existing  
19 infrastructure such as poles, streets, and sidewalks; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, cities share the FCC’s goal of expanding broadband access to all Americans, no  
22 matter where they live; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, cities have a duty to their taxpayers to protect and manage public property and  
25 public rights-of-way for the benefit of all users, and must balance the needs and interests of  
26 broadband providers with those of other users of the rights-of-way and residents by appropriately  
27 reviewing siting requests and assessing appropriate rent for use of public property; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, NLC and numerous other organizations representing state and local governments,  
30 as well as hundreds of individual local governments, had to resort to litigation to protect the  
31 health, safety and welfare of residents;<sup>13</sup> and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, in August 2020, the Ninth Circuit Court decided to largely uphold these  
34 preemptive regulations,<sup>14</sup> and in June 2021 the Supreme Court declined to take up the case,<sup>15</sup>  
35 reinforcing the need for Congress to provide an immediate lasting legislative remedy.  
36

<sup>11</sup> Federal Communications Commission, Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WT Docket No. 17-79 and Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WC Docket No. 17-84, Declaratory ruling and Third Report and Order (rel. Sep. 27, 2018).

<sup>12</sup> Federal Communications Commission, Updating the Commission’s Rule for Over-the-Air Reception Devices, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket No. 19-71 (rel. March 22, 2019).

<sup>13</sup> Brief of Local Government Intervenors in Support of Respondents, Sprint Corporation v. Federal Communications Commission (nos. 19-70123, 19-70124, 19-70125, and 19-70326).

<sup>14</sup> City of Portland v. USA, Case No. 18-72689, 9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2020.

<sup>15</sup> City of Portland v. USA, Case No. 20-1254, Supreme Court of the United States 2021.

37 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC opposes efforts by the FCC and  
38 Congress to preempt municipal authority over all broadband infrastructure, wired or wireless,  
39 including small cell infrastructure; and  
40

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the FCC and Congress to protect local  
42 authority over their rights-of-way, municipal authority to protect neighborhood character and  
43 public safety, to require collocation, maintain control of aesthetic and undergrounding  
44 requirements, and existing authority to assess fair compensation for private use of public assets,  
45 including the rights-of-way and other public lands and facilities, which should not be limited to  
46 the cost of maintaining the rights of way; and  
47

48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the FCC to overturn its 2018 small cell  
49 rulemaking and identify effective collaborative solutions and effective administrative practices  
50 for the siting of wireless infrastructure, including increased local representation on advisory  
51 committees, instead of implementing a one-size-fits-all preemptive regulatory approach; and  
52

53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC opposes efforts by the FCC to favor specific  
54 technologies through regulation, or adopting regulations that further expand the digital divide by  
55 preempting local governance; and  
56

57 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC opposes any efforts by the FCC to implement the  
58 digital discrimination prevention provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in a  
59 way that would limit or recommend limiting local authority over infrastructure siting or  
60 permitting, or otherwise limit the ability of local governments to exercise local control over  
61 franchises or rights of way management, which are critical tools for preventing digital  
62 discrimination; and  
63

64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports legislation to overturn the FCC preemption  
65 of local authority and affirm the authority of local governments to determine usage of and  
66 appropriate fees for usage of local rights-of-way; and  
67

68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the FCC to examine all best practices and  
69 potential obstacles to expanded broadband deployment and adoption, including obstacles created  
70 by federal or industry practices that stymie local and consumer efforts to expand broadband  
71 access.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2022-49**

**CALLING FOR UPDATED FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS FOR  
RADIOFREQUENCY EMISSIONS OF WIRELESS FACILITIES**

**ITC Committee Recommendation:** Renew with edits

**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**, there is limited public-facing information about the safety and health impacts of RF emissions related to infrastructure, versus emissions from personal devices, making it challenging for local governments to provide residents with timely, relevant information from the federal government in response to their concerns; 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;<sup>16</sup> 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

<sup>16</sup> Federal Communications Commission, Reassessment of Federal Communications Commission Radiofrequency Exposure Limits and Policies: Proposed Changes in the Commission's Rules Regarding Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields, First Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Notice of Inquiry, ET Docket 13-84 (rel. March 29, 2013).

43 **WHEREAS**, NLC, the National Association of Counties (NACo), National Association of  
44 Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM),  
45 and the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) on behalf of their respective  
46 constituencies, jointly submitted comments urging that the FCC take action to perform a  
47 comprehensive review of RF emission standards and guidance for local government officials,  
48 particularly with respect to small wireless technologies;<sup>17</sup> and

49  
50 **WHEREAS**, the FCC closed its RF exposure docket in 2019, reaffirming the safety of personal  
51 RF-emitting devices such as cell phones, but declining to address the safety of small wireless  
52 infrastructure or to provide local governments with updated resources and guidance on assessing  
53 the safety of small wireless structures in their communities or addressing the rising tide of  
54 questions and concerns from residents about their safety;<sup>18</sup> and

55  
56 **WHEREAS**, in 2021, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals remanded this decision, finding that the  
57 FCC decision failed to meet Administrative Procedure Act and National Environmental Policy  
58 Act requirements.<sup>19</sup>

59  
60 **WHEREAS**, public concern about 5G and RF emissions has increased exponentially in the wake  
61 of this agency inaction, making it more difficult for local governments and wireless providers to  
62 site small wireless facilities in communities and leading to vandalism or destruction of structures  
63 and threats to telecommunications workers' safety; and

64  
65 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to update  
66 antiquated standards and to perform a comprehensive review of the standards for RF emissions,  
67 particularly in light of the deployment of small wireless technologies in public rights-of-way in  
68 close proximity to residents' homes, schools, workplaces, and places of recreation; and

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70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should continuously update and  
71 refresh these standards, based on changes in technology, spectrum usage, device usage, and  
72 infrastructure deployment, to ensure that standards are recent enough to maintain public  
73 confidence; and

74  
75 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the FCC to develop an updated resource for  
76 local governments' use in education for residents about these updated RF emissions standards  
77 and the safety of commonly deployed wireless equipment, particularly small cell wireless  
78 equipment and 5G deployment.

<sup>17</sup> Letter from the National League of Cities, National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, National Association of Counties, The United States Conference of Mayors, and the National Association of Towns and Townships to the FCC, July 20, 2020.

<sup>18</sup> Federal Communications Commission, Proposed Changes in the Commission's Rules Regarding Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields; Reassessment of Federal Communications Commission Radiofrequency Exposure Limits and Policies. ET Dockets 03-137 and 13-84, Released December 4, 2019.

<sup>19</sup> Environmental Health Trust, et. al., v. FCC, Case No. 20-1025, DC Cir. 2021.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2022-50**

**IN SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL DATA OWNERSHIP AND PROTECTION**

**ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits**

**WHEREAS**, municipalities require personally identifiable information to provide essential services to residents, such as bill payment, library services, 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~~ almost half of all ransomware attacks targeted at local governments,<sup>20</sup> and most local information technology officers report insufficient budgetary resources to adequately protect local government networks.<sup>21</sup>

**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 third parties or 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

<sup>20</sup> StateScoop, "Report: Two thirds of ransomware attacks in 2019 targeted state and local governments," August 20, 2019. Think Digital Partners, "Local governments biggest target of ransomware attacks in 2020," August 28, 2020.

<sup>21</sup> Public Technology Institute, "PTI/CompTIA 2020 National Survey of Local Government Cybersecurity Programs," 2020.

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43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should establish robust, dedicated  
44 grant and technical assistance programs to assist municipalities of all sizes in preventing,  
45 preparing for, and recovering from cyberattacks; and

46  
47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should acknowledge the resource  
48 limitations facing municipalities and not impose new unfunded mandates around cybersecurity;  
49 and

50  
51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal data privacy policy should require companies to  
52 enable municipalities to export their data on demand, and should not require municipalities to  
53 pay again to access or export their own data; and

54  
55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal privacy principles should not impinge on the  
56 ability of municipal governments to collect and use data to complete critical government  
57 functions, such as transportation service, utility operation, public safety, and providing equitable  
58 access to these services.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2022-51

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3 IN SUPPORT OF DIGITAL EQUITY FOR AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

4  
5 ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

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7 **WHEREAS**, access to fast, affordable broadband and devices in the United States is not evenly  
8 distributed across geographic, racial, or socioeconomic lines, disproportionately harming rural  
9 communities, low-income communities, and communities of color; and

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11 **WHEREAS**, 18 million households in America lack broadband access, including 14 million  
12 households in urban areas and 4 million households in rural areas, reflecting an enormous un-  
13 and underserved urban and suburban population; and

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15 **WHEREAS**, while 80~~2~~% of households with incomes above \$100,000 use broadband at home,  
16 only 50~~7~~% of households with incomes below \$25,000 do;<sup>22</sup> and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, household broadband access lags for communities of color, with 82~~77~~% of white  
19 residents having in-home broadband service, while only 77~~67~~% of Black and Hispanic residents  
20 do;<sup>23</sup> and only 67% of tribal lands in the Continental U.S. have access to broadband internet<sup>24</sup>,  
21 and white residents have only a 12% dependency on smartphones for access to the Internet,  
22 versus 17% Black residents and 25% Hispanic residents solely relying on smartphones. ~~twice as~~  
23 ~~many Black and Hispanic residents as white reporting relying solely on smartphones for access~~  
24 ~~to the Internet;~~<sup>25</sup> and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, at least 83.3 million Americans can only access broadband through a single  
27 provider, with 47 million of those in a monopoly market for a single cable company, while  
28 another 33 million can only access broadband through a single DSL provider, leaving many with  
29 little or no market or regulatory downward pressure on pricing;<sup>26</sup> and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, federal broadband policy has increasingly targeted federal dollars solely to  
32 building infrastructure in unserved rural areas, neglecting communities with inadequate or  
33 decaying telecommunications infrastructure and ignoring the impact of affordability on  
34 broadband access, disproportionately disadvantaging communities of color;<sup>27</sup> and

35  
<sup>22</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA Internet Use Survey, “Fixed + Mobile Internet in Household by Family Income, Percent of Age 3+ Persons, 2017-2021,” May 11, 2022.

<sup>23</sup> National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA Internet Use Survey, “Internet Use by Race or Ethnicity, Percent of Age 3+ Persons, 1998-2001,” May 11, 2022. *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> Rutgers New Jersey Policy Lab, “Bridging the Digital Divide in Native American Communities,” January 13, 2022.

<sup>25</sup> ~~Pew Research Foundation, Internet/Broadband Fact Sheet, June 12, 2019~~ Pew Research Foundation, Internet/Broadband Fact Sheet, “% of U.S. adults who say they do not use broadband at home but own smartphones, by race/ethnicity, April 7, 2021” June 12, 2019.

<sup>26</sup> Institute for Local Self-Reliance, “Profiles of Monopoly: Big Cable and Telecom,” August 2020.

<sup>27</sup> National Digital Inclusion Alliance, “Limiting Broadband Investment to “Rural Only” Discriminates Against Black Americans and Other Communities of Color,” June 2020.



36 ~~WHEREAS, no dedicated federal subsidy for household broadband exists, while the Lifeline~~  
37 ~~combined phone and broadband program has been weakened through federal policy changes and~~  
38 ~~faces an uncertain financial future due to the current funding structure for the Universal Service~~  
39 ~~Fund and its reliance on landline phone bill surcharges, and~~

40  
41 WHEREAS, the number of individuals with access to broadband is overreported by the FCC  
42 and inconsistent with the U. S. Census American Community Survey’s findings, and particularly  
43 fails to reflect limited broadband access in multifamily housing; and

44  
45 WHEREAS, Congress has recognized this disparity between federal data and on-the-ground  
46 experience through passage of the Broadband DATA Act of 2020, which directs the FCC to  
47 improve its data collection process and map granularity, as well as creating a challenge process  
48 for states, local governments, and consumers and public interest groups to correct faulty data;  
49 and

50  
51 WHEREAS, the success of broadband infrastructure programs authorized by the Infrastructure  
52 Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 relies upon the accuracy of these maps, as many programs are  
53 required to use FCC map data to prioritize or distribute broadband grant funds; and

54  
55 **WHEREAS,** while mapping improvements will help to improve the accuracy of federal  
56 broadband access measurements, the Federal Communications Commission does not track  
57 broadband adoption or affordability in its annual assessment of broadband access.

58  
59 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities calls on the  
60 federal government to make holistic reforms to federal broadband policy that promote digital  
61 equity and empower local governments to engage in digital inclusion work within their own  
62 communities; and

63  
64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ~~Congress should enact legislation~~ NLC applauds the  
65 inclusion of digital equity as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including the  
66 Digital Equity Act to fund and support digital inclusion programs and planning within  
67 communities, such as the Digital Equity Act; and

68  
69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the Federal Communications Commission,  
70 National Telecommunications Commission, and other agencies to prioritize access to digital  
71 equity funding for municipal governments; and

72  
73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that ~~NLC supports the establishment of the short-term~~  
74 ~~Emergency Broadband Benefit and~~ making permanent the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs  
75 Act’s Affordable Connectivity Program and calls on Congress to establish a permanent,  
76 ~~dedicated and sustainably funded~~ this federal broadband benefit, to ensure that low-income  
77 households are not barred from full participation in work, education, and civic life due to  
78 broadband subscription prices, and to continue to revisit the program usership and provide  
79 necessary flexibility in the ACP requirements to reach all intended beneficiaries; and

81 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that broadband reporting programs, such as the FCC’s annual  
82 broadband deployment report, broadband infrastructure programs, such as the Connect America  
83 Fund or the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service funds, should assess  
84 affordability when determining whether residents have access to home broadband; and

85  
86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that broadband infrastructure programs should not be limited  
87 to rural communities, and should incorporate suburban and urban communities, many of which  
88 have been subjected to decades of disinvestment, monopolization, and digital redlining; and

89  
90 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. Treasury should allow digital inclusion as an  
91 eligible community support service under the requirements of the Community Reinvestment Act,  
92 ensuring that low to moderate income communities do not go unbanked due to lack of broadband  
93 access or low digital literacy; and

94  
95 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and federal agencies should affirmatively  
96 uphold and protect the authority of local governments to control their agreements with the cable,  
97 wireline, and wireless telecommunications companies operating in their jurisdictions, to ensure  
98 their appropriate usage of public resources such as municipal rights-of-way, promote digital  
99 equity, and adequate investment in and contribution to the community; and

100  
101 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and federal agencies should remove barriers to  
102 cooperative and municipal investment in and provision of broadband service, to ensure local  
103 governments are empowered to close gaps in communities with inadequate or unaffordable  
104 broadband service.