



2026 Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the National Municipal Policy



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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

Please note:

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

Policy:

- **Section 1.03 Intergovernmental Relations**
 - N. Census
 - P. Election Administration

Section 1.03 Intergovernmental Relations

N. Census

The U.S. Census is of the utmost importance to America's cities, towns, and villages. The data it provides are essential to local governance, including community planning, redistricting, population estimates and the administration of federal and state funding. NLC supports a fully funded, accurate and equitable census and emphasizes strong federal-local partnerships in census design, outreach and implementation.

1. Decennial Census

Cities are vitally concerned that the decennial census produce the most accurate and timely information possible. Statistics from the census directly impact federal and state resource allocation and are used to guide countless public and private decisions. NLC urges the Census Bureau to make every effort to reduce the time gap between the reference date of census statistics and their use in formulas and programs.

To improve the census process, NLC supports the creation of a bipartisan Commission on the Census, composed of representatives from the executive and legislative branches, as well as state and local officials. This Commission should provide recommendations to ensure the most accurate census feasible. Whether or not such a Commission is convened, the federal government should also establish a separate state and local advisory committee to provide ongoing feedback on census operations and design.

NLC also supports efforts to reduce the differential undercount of underserved populations and encourages the use of proven sampling and statistical methods to overcome nonresponse. If both sampled and non-sampled data are used, both sets of numbers should be made publicly available on the same time schedule and at the smallest possible geography.

2. American Community Survey (ACS)

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an essential complement to the decennial census. Its continuous annual data collection provides cities, towns and villages with timely, detailed demographic, social, economic and housing information that the decennial census alone cannot supply. Local governments rely on the ACS data for planning transportation systems, determining housing needs, crafting economic development strategies and administering federal and state funding programs.

NLC supports robust federal funding for the ACS to ensure statistical reliability and geographic granularity, especially in small and rural communities. Any attempts to reduce the sample size, frequency, or scope of the ACS would jeopardize local governments' ability to plan effectively and equitably serve their residents. NLC also encourages expanded outreach and education by the Census Bureau to increase public understanding and participation in the ACS, helping address privacy concerns and reduce nonresponse bias.

3. Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)

The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program is the only opportunity for local governments to review and improve the Census Bureau's residential address list, which forms the foundation of an accurate population count. Participation in LUCA ensures that all housing units are counted, especially in growing or hard-to-count areas, such as newly developed neighborhoods, informal housing and multifamily units.

NLC urges the Census Bureau to maintain and strengthen the LUCA program, including expanded training, technical assistance and resources for cities and towns of all sizes. The Bureau should improve LUCA's usability through enhanced digital tools, timely data sharing and greater clarity on address confidentiality procedures. Increased participation in LUCA is essential to reducing undercounts and ensuring that cities receive their fair share of representation and funding.

The U.S. Census is of highest importance to America's cities and towns. The vital information provided is critical to many municipal activities such as community planning, redistricting, intercensal population estimates and providing data for federal grant formulas. Statistics produced by the Census drive the allocation of federal and state funds. Census numbers are also frequently used to help make decisions about the allocation of resources.

Cities are therefore vitally concerned that the Census produce the most accurate and timely information possible. Furthermore, the Census Bureau shall make every effort to reduce the gap in time between the reference date of statistics and their use in formulas.

In order to enhance the usefulness of the Census, Congress, working with the Administration, should create a Commission on the Census. This Commission should be composed of members of the executive and legislative branches and state and city officials. The Commission shall make recommendations for the most accurate census feasible. Whether or not such a Commission is convened, the federal government should create a separate state and local advisory committee, to advise and comment on a continuing basis regarding the development and administration of census programs.

NLC supports the ongoing engagement and development of partnership and communications efforts aimed at reducing the differential undercount of underserved segments of the Nation's cities and towns.

To overcome the problem of non-response, NLC encourages the use of proven sampling methods and other processes which will instill confidence by the local population. If numbers are produced both: (1) employing sampling methods; and (2) not employing sampling methods, both sets of numbers should be made publicly available on the same time schedule and at the smallest possible geographic level.

P. Election Administration

Voting is fundamental to democracy in the United States' form of government. Citizen trust in the integrity of this process is essential. Procedures and administration of this process must be completely honest, transparent and impartial. State and local officials are primarily responsible for administering the voting process but all levels of government – federal, state and local should

92 exercise oversight in a balanced and even-handed manner. NLC is opposed to any federal laws
93 that disenfranchise individuals from exercising their most fundamental constitutional right to
94 vote. Moreover, NLC supports equitable voting rights and protections for individuals whose
95 ability to cast a ballot has historically been restricted on the basis of race, sex, disability, age,
96 English proficiency, or housing status.

97
98 ~~NLC does support federal establishment and enforcement of standards for voting for Americans~~
99 ~~overseas, particularly members of the U.S. military and federal government employees and their~~
100 ~~dependents~~ supports Americans' rights overseas to vote, particularly members of the U.S.
101 military and federal government employees and their dependents. The federal government should
102 annually review state laws for any procedural or statutory inconsistencies with applicable federal
103 laws and promptly inform state governments, the state municipal league and the state association
104 of counties in each state of any problems and ways to cure them.

105
106 In addition to supporting voting rights broadly, NLC supports preserving and enhancing access
107 to secure, accessible voting options such as voting by mail. Voting by mail - commonly used
108 interchangeably with absentee voting - has become an increasingly critical tool for maintaining
109 participation in elections, particularly for voters who may face barriers due to work, caregiving,
110 transportation, or health. The option to vote by mail has been shown to increase turnout and is
111 commonly used in modern day elections. Many states have expanded vote-by-mail access or
112 adopted universal vote-by-mail systems for local or statewide elections. While NLC takes no
113 position on individual state election laws, it supports federal efforts to preserve and strengthen
114 systems that allow all eligible voters to safely and securely cast their ballots by mail.

115
116 NLC further urges federal support for proven voter protection measures that expand access to the
117 ballot box, including automatic voter registration, same-day voter registration, and early in-
118 person voting. These policies have been shown to increase voter participation, especially among
119 young voters, voters of color and older adults. At the same time, NLC strongly opposes any
120 unfunded federal mandates or preemptions that would interfere with local governments' ability
121 to administer elections in a way that meets the needs of their communities.

Proposed FAIR 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 2025 resolutions that originated in the FAIR Committee to determine recommendations for 2026. 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 2025 at City Summit with recommendations for 2026 are:

Resolution	FAIR Committee Recommendation
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-1: Support for the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-2: Support for Reforms of Opportunity Zones	Expire
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-3: Support for Housing Finance Legislation	Expire
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-4: Calling to Preserve and Enhance Voting by Mail	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-5: Support for Voter Protections And Promoting Access to the Ballot Box	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-6: Urging Congress to Ensure Accurate Counts for All Municipalities in the 2030 Census	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-7: Support of Legislation to Streamline the Federal Grant Processes	Renew
NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 1: Preserving the Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds	Adopt
NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 2: Calling for the Restoration of the Tax-Exemption on Advance Refunding Bonds	Adopt
NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 3: Promoting Civic Discourse Within and Among Communities Across America	Adopt
NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 4: Urging Federal Engagement with Local Governments On the Development of Cryptocurrency Regulation	Adopt

NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 5: Calling to Resolve the Conflict Between State and Federal Cannabis Laws	Adopt
NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 6: Urging Sustainable Federal Fiscal Policy to Preserve Local Funding Stability	Adopt
NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 7: Supporting the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit To Strengthen Local Economies and Reduce Child Poverty	Adopt

SUPPORT FOR THE JOHN LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT

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

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

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

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

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

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FAIR Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy

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

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

WHEREAS, nearly two-thirds of Americans say the option to vote early or absentee should be available to any voter without requiring a documented reason; and

WHEREAS, due to the pandemic, the number of voters casting ballots by mail rose to 43% in 2020; and

WHEREAS, among voters who were registered but did not vote in the 2022 election, the most common answer given for not voting was, “Too busy, conflicting with school or work,”; and

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

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-5

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3 SUPPORT FOR VOTER PROTECTIONS AND PROMOTING ACCESS TO THE
4 BALLOT BOX

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6 FAIR Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy

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8 WHEREAS, [Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia currently have](#) automatic voter
9 registration policies, covering over a third of Americans, and;

10
11 WHEREAS, automatic voter registration has a [direct correlation to an increase in registered](#)
12 [voters](#) in the cities, states, and territories in which it has been enacted, and;

13
14 WHEREAS, the eight states with [the highest voter turnout](#) in the 2020 general election all had
15 same-day voter registration, and;

16
17 WHEREAS, same-day voter registration has been [shown to significantly increase voter turnout](#)
18 [among Black and Latinx voters](#) in states where it has been implemented, and;

19
20 WHEREAS, same-day voter registration has been shown to [significantly increase voter turnout](#)
21 [among voters aged 18-24](#) in states where it has been implemented, and;

22
23 WHEREAS, states that have restricted access to early in-person voting [have seen decreased](#)
24 [turnout](#), especially among African American voters, and;

25
26 WHEREAS, early voting is [most popular among voters](#) over the age of 65, and;

27
28 WHEREAS, as city leaders we believe that everyone should have access to the ballot box, and;

29
30 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities urges federal
31 support for voter protections and secure elections.

32
33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National League of Cities opposes unfunded mandates
34 or preemptions of local control of the local election process.

URGING CONGRESS TO ENSURE ACCURATE COUNTS FOR ALL MUNICIPALITIES IN THE 2030 CENSUS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census provides critical data that directly impacts federal funding, representation, and resource allocation for cities, towns, and villages across the United States and its territories; and

WHEREAS, many cities, towns, and villages face challenges in ensuring a complete count of residents due to factors such as language barriers, distrust of government, and the transient nature of certain populations, including students, military personnel, and incarcerated individuals; and

WHEREAS, alternative methods, such as utilizing local government data on households and residents, should be explored by the Census Bureau to account for residents who do not respond to the survey; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on Congress to ensure that the U.S. Census Bureau is fully funded and provided with the resources necessary to conduct an accurate and complete count of all residents, including in areas with large transient populations; and

13

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-7

SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO STREAMLINE THE FEDERAL GRANT PROCESSES

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew

WHEREAS, local governments play a critical role in addressing community needs and delivering essential services to residents; and

WHEREAS, federal grants are a key resource for local governments, providing vital funding for infrastructure, public safety, housing, environmental protection, and other essential programs; and

WHEREAS, the current federal grant application and reporting processes are often overly complex, time-consuming, and burdensome for local governments, particularly for smaller municipalities with limited resources; and

WHEREAS, simplifying the grant application and reporting requirements would enhance local governments' ability to access federal funding, reduce administrative burdens, and ensure efficient use of taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, the Streamlining Federal Grants Act has been introduced to improve the federal grant process by reducing duplication, increasing flexibility, and streamlining reporting requirements, thereby allowing local governments more direct access to federal programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges the United States Congress to pass the Streamlining Federal Grants Act and other similar legislation aimed at simplifying federal grant procedures, to ensure that local governments can more easily and effectively access the resources they need to serve their communities.

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NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 1

PRESERVING THE TAX-EXEMPT STATUS OF MUNICIPAL BONDS

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Adopt

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

WHEREAS, tax-exempt bonds issued by state and local governments, and nonprofit entities, have [financed more than three quarters](#) of our nation's infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, if the tax-exempt status of municipal bonds was taken away, research suggests that it would cost local governments more than [\\$820 billion](#) over the next decade to replace the tax-exemption, costing households more than [\\$650 in additional taxes](#) per year; and

WHEREAS, the tax-exemption on municipal bonds allows for market access for small and rural towns. Over the past decade, [over 60,000 bonds issued](#) in the last decade were under \$10 million, which is not a competitive bond on the taxable market; and

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

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

WHEREAS, cities cannot plan, invest or serve their residents while living in uncertainty around the tax-exempt status on municipal bonds.

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

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

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

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NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 2

**CALLING FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE TAX-EXEMPTION ON ADVANCE
REFUNDING BONDS**

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Adopt

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

WHEREAS, advanced refundings represented [27% of municipal bond market activity in 2016 and 19% in 2017](#); and

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

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

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

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

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

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NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 3

PROMOTING CIVIC DISCOURSE WITHIN AND AMONG COMMUNITIES ACROSS AMERICA

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, civic discourse is the format, rules and ways in which public discourse for governmental affairs are conducted, which encompasses the rules of how communication is conducted between local officials during a public meeting, especially between local officials and the general public; and

WHEREAS, local elected officials and municipal employees act as residents' primary connection to their government; and

WHEREAS, local leaders play an essential role in shaping policy and fostering community well-being and dialogue, which involves working alongside constituents or other local leaders with differing political views; and

WHEREAS, in a survey of local officials, [57 percent](#) said they consider political polarization when deciding how to frame communications with their constituents and [more than a third](#) said polarization is impacting relationships among constituents, between constituents and elected leaders, and between elected officials themselves; and

WHEREAS, threats to local elected officials increased by [60% from 2022 to 2024](#) and [73%](#) of local officials reported experiencing harassment in a 2024 National League of Cities survey; and

WHEREAS, mutual respect and the ability to engage across political differences are a foundation to a healthy democracy; and

WHEREAS, local governments are uniquely positioned to model civic discourse and lead efforts to create more respectful, representative and solutions-oriented public engagement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities supports the improvement of civic discourse in communities across the United States; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports federal policies and programs that strengthen civic education, protect public officials and municipal employees from threats and harassment and promote civic discourse as a cornerstone of a healthy democracy.

NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 4

URGING FEDERAL ENGAGEMENT WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRYPTOCURRENCY REGULATION

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, cryptocurrency is a [form of digital currency](#) that operates on decentralized blockchain technology and can be used for internet-based electronic payments, value storage, or programmable financial functions; and

WHEREAS, several U.S. cities have begun enabling residents to pay taxes, fees, and other municipal charges using cryptocurrency; and

WHEREAS, in 2024, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) [approved](#) the first exchange-traded funds (ETFs) that include bitcoin, further integrating cryptocurrency into the traditional financial system; and

WHEREAS, the evolving digital asset landscape presents both opportunities and risks for local governments—including but not limited to financial innovation, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, market volatility, fraud, and the need for clear tax treatment; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities (NLC) supports the inclusion of local government leaders in federal policymaking processes related to cryptocurrency and digital assets.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NLC calls on the federal government to establish clear and consistent regulatory frameworks for digital assets that respect local authority, foster innovation and ensure legal and financial clarity for municipalities.

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NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 5

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

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Adopt

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, twenty-four states, three U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia have legalized; and

WHEREAS, [Forty-seven states, three 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, increase the risks of theft crimes and tax evasion, and deny large groups of business owners the capital needed to enter the market; and

WHEREAS, the Secure And Fair Enforcement Regulation (SAFER) Banking Act, which would allow marijuana-related businesses in states with some form of legalized marijuana and strict regulatory structures to access the banking system, has been repeatedly introduced in Congress since 2015 and has passed the full U.S. House of Representatives in a previous Congress.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that, while it takes no stance on state-by-state efforts to legalize or prohibit any form of cannabis, the National League of Cities urges the federal government to resolve the conflict between state and federal cannabis laws, and to provide guidance to financial institutions that results in the cannabis market having access to the federally regulated banking system.

URGING SUSTAINABLE FEDERAL FISCAL POLICY TO PRESERVE LOCAL FUNDING STABILITY

WHEREAS, the national debt of the United States has surpassed \$36 trillion as of 2025, reflecting persistent structural deficits and long-term fiscal imbalances; and

WHEREAS, in May 2025, [Moody’s downgraded the U.S. sovereign credit rating](#) from “Aaa” to “Aa1” for the first time since 1919, citing growing debt, rising interest burdens and a lack of credible deficit-reduction plans; and

WHEREAS, rising federal interest payments on the debt may reduce available funding for domestic discretionary programs that support critical local services and infrastructure, including transportation, housing, public safety and economic development; and

WHEREAS, drastic and unexpected federal cuts to state funding also have a direct impact on local finances. In 2021, states transferred [\\$621 billion](#) to local governments; and

WHEREAS, long-term federal fiscal sustainability is essential to preserving the nation’s ability to invest in communities, respond to crises and maintain its commitments to local governments;

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NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 7

**SUPPORTING THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT AND CHILD TAX CREDIT TO
STRENGTHEN LOCAL ECONOMIES AND REDUCE CHILD POVERTY**

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) are two of the most effective federal tools for reducing poverty and supporting working families, lifting millions of households above the poverty threshold each year; and

WHEREAS, cities, towns and villages across the country see firsthand the positive impact of the EITC and CTC in reducing financial hardship and supporting children's long-term health and educational outcomes; and

WHEREAS, increased EITC and CTC participation translates directly into local economic activity, as eligible households spend the majority of their dollars in their communities on necessities like rent, food, childcare and transportation. As a result, the expanded CTC generated nearly \$19.3 billion of additional spending in local economies each month and the EITC creates local economic impacts equivalent to at least twice the amount of EITC dollars received; and

WHEREAS, cities often partner with community organizations, IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites and tax preparation programs to promote awareness of these credits and help eligible residents access them; and

WHEREAS, temporary expansions to the EITC and CTC, and CTC monthly payments during the COVID-19 pandemic significantly reduced child poverty, and their expiration in 2022 led to the largest one-year increase in child poverty in American history; and

WHEREAS, strengthening and expanding these credits would support economic mobility, reduce inequality and help local governments address root causes of poverty and instability in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the financial security of residents directly affects the financial health of the municipalities in which they live;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities urges Congress and the Administration to permanently expand the Earned Income Tax Credit, ensure that the Child Tax Credit is accessible to all families, restore advance monthly payment, full refundability and eligibility for low-income families and support local government efforts to promote equitable access to these credits through outreach and technical assistance.

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions
of the*

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

EENR

Proposed Policy Amendments

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

Please note:

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

Policy:

The EENR Committee has proposed no policy amendments for 2026.

Proposed EENR 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 2025 resolutions that originated in the EENR Committee to determine recommendations for 2026. 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 2025 at the City Summit with recommendations for 2026 are:

Resolution	EENR Committee Recommendation
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-8: Supporting Local PACE Programs	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-9: Supporting and Advancing Resilient Communities to Prepare for Changing Climate and Extreme Weather Events	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-10: Supporting Urgent Action to Reduce Carbon Emissions and Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-11: Addressing Lead Contamination and Calling for Nationwide Federal Support for Water Infrastructure	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-12: Increase Federal Investment in Water Infrastructure	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-13: Support for Integrated Planning and New Affordability Consideration for Water	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-14: Calling on the Federal Government to Take Action to Address PFAS Contamination	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-15: Improve the Benefit-Cost Analysis for Federally Funded Flood Control Projects and Support Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Material	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-16: Increase Funding for Border Water Infrastructure Projects	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-17: Support for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program and the Outdoors for All Act	Expire (legislation passed in 2024)

Proposed EENR Resolutions

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-18: Support and Advance Cities Impacted by Federal Facilities and Infrastructure through Community Benefit Programs	Renew with Edits
NEW EENR RESOLUTION 1: Protecting Federal Scientific Data and Resources to Support Local Preparedness to Extreme Weather Events	Adopt

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-8

SUPPORTING LOCAL PACE PROGRAMS

EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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

WHEREAS, the building sector accounts for nearly 37 percent of the nation’s [total energy consumption](#) in 2023, 75 percent of all [electricity](#) used in the U.S. and 31 percent of the nation’s 2022 [indirect greenhouse gas emissions](#), which includes electricity end-use, representing one of the largest, most accessible opportunities for deep emission cuts in the United States; and

WHEREAS, investing in cost-effective [energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements](#) to homes and businesses ~~can~~ saves energy, ~~cuts~~ reduces utility bills, ~~creates~~ creates local jobs, ~~reduces~~ reduces reliance on fossil fuels, and dramatically ~~reduces~~ reduces greenhouse gas emissions; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, 40 states plus the District of Columbia have [passed laws](#) enabling local governments to develop PACE programs; and

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

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

46 **WHEREAS**, the PACE program is an example of a successful ~~achievement of the~~
47 intergovernmental partnership to realize national policy goals, namely, reducing energy
48 consumption, that will positively impact 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 \$29 billion in economic impact, 214,000 job-years created, 14 million metric tons CO2 emissions
57 avoided and 53 billion kWh energy saved; 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, [issued guidance](#) that directed the GSEs not to purchase mortgages with a PACE
62 assessment, which immediately slowed the advancement of PACE residential programs across
63 the country; and
64

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

69 **WHEREAS**, in 2010 the U.S. Department of Energy dedicated \$150 million to assist in the
70 development of local PACE programs and in 2016 issued [Best Practice Guidelines for](#)
71 [Residential PACE Financing Programs](#) to help state and local governments develop and
72 implement programs and recommended protections that PACE programs should put in place for
73 consumers and lenders; and
74

75 **WHEREAS**, in July 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development [released](#)
76 [guidance](#) allowing the Federal Housing Administration to insure mortgages on properties that
77 include PACE assessments, which has since been withdrawn; and
78

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

85 **WHEREAS**, in December 2024, CFPB finalized the rule, which applies existing residential
86 mortgage protections to PACE loans, failing to recognize that locally-administered Residential
87 PACE programs differ from traditional creditor-borrower relationships and should therefore be
88 treated differently.
89

90 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that locally-administered PACE programs
91 operating in accord with state and federal guidelines are a safe and sound investment of public
92 and private funds; and
93

94 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that locally-administered PACE programs represent an
95 essential contribution of local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote
96 renewable energy; and
97

98 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges FHFA to
99 reconsider the 2010 guidance that prohibits government-sponsored entities from purchasing
100 mortgages with a PACE assessment and to work with local governments seeking to establish
101 PACE programs that benefit from the same senior lien status of all other projects that are funded
102 through municipal assessments that improve private property and meet public policy objectives;
103 and
104

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-9

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

EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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

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

WHEREAS, while all regions of the country are impacted by climate change, [approximately 40 percent](#) of the U.S. population—129 million people—live in coastal communities that are threatened by rising sea levels, which could impact economic development, land availability, property values, insurance rates, beaches and tourism, and critical water, transportation and energy infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the [Fifth National Climate Assessment](#) reports that the effects of human-caused climate change are already far-reaching and worsening across every region of the United States, and concludes that without rapid and deep reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions from human activity, the risks of accelerating climate impacts will continue to grow; and

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

WHEREAS, a 2018 report by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) indicates that limiting global warming to 1.5° C is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, however, the [2023 IPCC](#) finds that there is a more than 50 percent chance that global temperature rise will reach or surpass 1.5° C by 2040 or sooner; and

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

WHEREAS, climate change and extreme weather events pose an especially pressing threat to persons with disabilities, economically disadvantaged households, the elderly, Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC), and other vulnerable and underrepresented populations because these populations are often most affected by and least able to prepare in advance, respond to or recover from extreme weather events; and

47
48 **WHEREAS**, the capability of maintaining energy availability is a first order priority in
49 maintaining critical infrastructure and building community resilience; and
50

51 **WHEREAS**, there is currently insufficient information, technical coordination and 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 376403 separate billion-dollar-plus weather and climate
57 disasters from 1980 to 2024, including ~~18 in 2022 and 28 in 2023 and 27 in 2024~~, with a
58 cumulative cost exceeding \$2.918728 trillion (CPI-adjusted) and a total death toll of 16,941350;
59 and
60

61 **WHEREAS**, 2023 set a new annual record with 28 billion-dollar-plus weather or climate events,
62 shattering the previous record of 22 events in 2020; and
63

64 **WHEREAS**, in 2005 Hurricane Katrina led to 1,833 deaths and more than \$200 billion (CPI-
65 adjusted) in losses, ~~and a subsequent \$120 billion in supplemental disaster assistance and in 2012~~
66 Hurricane Sandy led to 159 deaths and more than \$88.5 billion in damages (CPI-adjusted), ~~and a~~
67 ~~subsequent \$60.4 billion in supplemental disaster assistance; and~~
68

69 **WHEREAS**, in 2017 three Category 4 hurricanes—Harvey, Irma and Maria—made landfall in
70 Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, respectively totaling more than \$3396 billion (CPI-adjusted) in
71 damages and a death toll of 3,167, including 2,981 from Hurricane Maria alone; and in 2024
72 Hurricane Helene caused \$78.7 billion (CPI-adjusted) in damages and resulted in 219 deaths; and
73

74 **WHEREAS**, in 2022 historic flooding brought devastating damage to eastern Kentucky and
75 eastern Missouri homes, businesses and infrastructure, resulting in 42 deaths and \$1.6 billion (CPI-
76 adjusted) in economic costs and in 2023 drought and heatwave conditions impacted numerous
77 southern and midwestern states, resulting in 247 deaths and \$14.8 billion (CPI-adjusted) in
78 economic losses; and
79

80 **WHEREAS**, rising temperatures are lengthening the wildfire season and increasing drought
81 risks, causing more radical fire behavior and increasing wildfire risks throughout the United
82 States due to earlier snow melts and forests that are drier longer, the costs of putting out wildfires
83 has increased dramatically, from approximately \$673.4 million in 1985 to over \$3.1 billion in
84 2023 (2023 dollars), and the economic losses associated with wildfire continues to grow, with the
85 2018 western wildfires costing over \$30 billion (CPI-adjusted) and the 2020 western wildfires,
86 the most active fire season on record, costing over \$19.9 billion (CPI-adjusted); and
87

88 **WHEREAS**, Congress approved over \$100 billion in disaster supplemental funding in 2005,
89 over \$50 billion in disaster supplemental funding in 2018, 2020 and 2021 each, and a total of
90 over \$41 billion in disaster relief in FY23 (FY23 dollars); and
91

92 **WHEREAS**, several insurance companies have ~~doubled~~increased existing premiums, cancelled
93 homeowner policies or stopped offering new policies in some states because of rising costs and
94 losses from extreme weather events such as hurricanes and wildfires, which impacts the ability
95 of residents and local governments to recover and rebuild from disasters and increases insurance
96 costs for residents and businesses; and

97
98 **WHEREAS**, the past ten years (2015-2024) are the ten warmest years on record, with 2024³ was
99 being the warmest year on record, followed by 2023 (second warmest) 2016 (third~~second~~
100 warmest), 2020 (~~fourth~~third - warmest), and 2019 (~~fifth~~fourth - warmest) ~~and 2017 (fifth warmest);~~
101 and

102
103 **WHEREAS**, as extreme weather events become more common, local governments in all
104 geographic and climatic regions require resources to assist them in anticipating, preparing for and
105 adapting to these events; and

106
107 **WHEREAS**, ~~a~~ preparedness response programs ~~fund would~~ provide financial assistance to
108 accelerate the development of adaptive success models and provide ~~a~~ far-reaching damage
109 prevention initiatives that would help reduce the ultimate financial pressure on the federal
110 government; and

111
112 **WHEREAS**, local governments are first responders – preparing in advance of emergency
113 situations, offering immediate assistance to those impacted, and identifying strategies, solutions,
114 and partnerships to address situations quickly and efficiently; and

115
116 **WHEREAS**, taking action now to adapt to a changing environment and create community
117 resilience will help save lives, strengthen local economies, save taxpayer dollars and build
118 preparedness for future events; and

119
120 **WHEREAS**, in 2014 the President’s Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience
121 comprised of state, local and tribal leaders, including representatives from the National League of
122 Cities (NLC) made recommendations to the President on ways the federal government can assist
123 local efforts to address and prepare for the impacts of climate change; and

124
125 **WHEREAS**, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 makes significant
126 progress toward strengthening infrastructure and communities against extreme weather events by
127 investing in pre-disaster mitigation and flood, wildfire and drought mitigation and the Inflation
128 Reduction Act of 2022 provides additional funding and incentives for climate and clean energy
129 goals, and ~~-additional~~ federal policies, funding and resources are needed to support local
130 governments.

131
132 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration
133 to partner with local governments and to support local action on climate change mitigation,
134 adaptation and resilience; and

135
136 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress and the Administration to take urgent
137 action to help states and local governments conduct vulnerability assessments, develop and

implement long-term mitigation, adaptation and resiliency action plans relying on forward-looking climate metrics, and identify innovative financing opportunities to implement these assessments and plans in order to prepare, plan for and more quickly recover from extreme weather events; and

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to provide incentives for rebuilding infrastructure and buildings following natural disaster in a manner that will protect communities against future natural disasters; and

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that federal investments in communities must prioritize those communities that have been historically neglected or are economically constrained, which are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change; and

183 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports federal incentives for all generators and
184 owners and operators of transmission systems to develop and expand grid infrastructure,
185 consistent with current environmental regulations and laws and including a short- and long-term
186 assessment of greenhouse gas emissions, so the nation’s national transmission grid remains
187 reliable and resilient; and

188
189 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to develop a national
190 pilot project initiative to conduct detailed assessments and designs for resilient city energy
191 system retrofit and redesign across a range of different regions and city sizes; and

192
193 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal investments in communities must prioritize those~~
194 ~~communities that have been left behind and BIPOC communities, which are disproportionately~~
195 ~~impacted by the effects of climate change.~~

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-10

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

EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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

WHEREAS, the [Fifth National Climate Assessment](#) reports that the effects of human-caused climate change are already far-reaching and worsening across every region of the United States, and concludes that without rapid and deep reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions from human activity, the risks of accelerating climate impacts will continue to grow; and

WHEREAS, a [2018 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) indicates that limiting global warming to 1.5° C is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, however, the [2023 IPCC](#) finds that there is a more than 50 percent chance that global temperature rise will reach or surpass 1.5° C by 2040 or sooner; and

WHEREAS, extreme heat will have more serious health consequences on outdoor workers and those in unairconditioned spaces and people living in low-income communities, communities of color, and tribal communities, and people in these communities are often disproportionately impacted by high rates of underlying health conditions, which can be exacerbated by extreme heat; and

WHEREAS, these same vulnerable populations also face dramatically [higher energy burdens](#)—spending a greater portion of their income on energy bills—than the average household; and

WHEREAS, according to the [American Lung Association’s 2025~~3~~ State of the Air report](#), nearly ~~46~~³⁹ percent or ~~156.13~~^{131.2} million people live in communities with unhealthy levels of ozone or particle pollution; and

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

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

WHEREAS, nuclear power will be a necessary component of the carbon-neutral energy portfolio for the coming decades; and

WHEREAS, improving energy efficiency, increasing energy conservation and deploying renewable energy systems will save taxpayer dollars, boost the national and local economy,

enhance national security, increase our nation’s energy independence and improve environmental quality; and

WHEREAS, technology exists and continues to be developed that will help families, businesses and communities reduce energy use, such as through the Energy Star program, but without standards or incentives to encourage domestic manufacturing or adoption of new technology, many of these ~~technology~~ options will be unavailable or unaffordable; and

WHEREAS, the transportation sector generates the largest share of direct greenhouse gas emissions, 28 percent of 2022 greenhouse gas emissions, in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the building sector accounts for nearly 37 percent of the nation’s total energy consumption in 2023, 75 percent of all electricity used in the U.S. and 31 percent of the nation’s 2022 indirect greenhouse gas emissions, which includes electricity end-use; and

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 makes significant progress toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout the transportation sector and investing in clean energy and energy efficiency and conservation and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 provides additional funding, tax credits and incentives for climate and clean energy goals, and additional federal policies, funding and resources are needed to support local governments; and

93 **WHEREAS**, because of these investments and the decline in capital costs, renewable energy
94 accounted for approximately 90 percent of new installed generation capacity in the U.S. in 2024,
95 bringing the total renewable energy capacity up to 358.9 gigawatts—representing 30 percent of
96 the country’s large-scale power generating capacity and 25 percent of power supply; and the U.S.
97 Energy Information Administration projects that by 2025 approximately 443 gigawatts of
98 renewables capacity will be online, and further, that in the United States the share of renewables
99 in the electricity generation mix will more than triple from 309 gigawatts of renewables capacity
100 in 2022 to 1,163 gigawatts renewables capacity in 2050.

101
102 **WHEREAS**, while renewable electricity generation capacity in the U.S. is projected to grow
103 continuously in the coming decades, the rate is variable depending on market developments; and

104
105 **WHEREAS**, U.S. data center power demand is forecasted to more than double by 2035, rising
106 from almost 35 gigawatts in 2024 to 78 gigawatts and energy consumption growth is project to
107 rise at an even steeper rate, with average hourly electricity demand nearly tripling from 16
108 gigawatt-hours in 2024 to 49 gigawatt hours by 2035.

109
110 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration
111 to partner with local governments, to support local action on climate change mitigation, and to
112 provide essential tools, research, technology development, data and funding, as well as workforce
113 development, job training and community assistance, to help local governments achieve their
114 greenhouse gas reduction targets and transition to a clean energy economy; and

115
116 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal investments in communities must prioritize those
117 communities that have been historically neglected or are economically constrained, which are
118 disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change; and

119
120 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress and the Administration to take urgent
121 action to reduce carbon emissions across a broad sector of the economy and become carbon
122 neutral to mitigate the effects of climate change; and

123
124 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports the U.S.’s engagement in the Paris Climate
125 Agreement and calls on Congress to position the U.S. as a climate leader and adopt nationwide
126 greenhouse gas emission goals and policies that exceed the IPCC 1.5°C targets of 45 percent%
127 emissions reduction from 2010 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050, and to encourage other
128 countries to adopt these same goals; and

129
130 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports efforts to increase the CAFE standards or
131 fuel efficiency for all types of vehicles; and

132
133 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to protect and promote
134 other energy efficient consumer products, such as appliances, through incentives and labeling
135 programs, such as Energy Star; and

136
137 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to pass a national renewable
138 portfolio standard that increases the use of carbon neutral energy and promotes energy efficiency,

with the goal of at least 50 percent carbon neutral energy by 2030 and 100 percent by 2050 or sooner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC encourages the federal government to develop policies that facilitate the necessary deployment of electric infrastructure in an expedited manner to support clean energy goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these federal policies should ensure that the benefits of renewable energy and energy efficiency are shared equitably, with special attention on low-income, disadvantaged and other vulnerable and underrepresented populations, and that the siting of such electric infrastructure should not inequitably burden these populations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the federal government should provide tools, resources, technical assistance and funding to local governments to support streamlining local permitting processes that reduce soft costs and barriers to support local deployment of renewable energy and public and private electric vehicle infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NLC recognizes the need for an effective network of energy grid infrastructure to help the nation achieve a clean energy future and urges the federal government to partner and consult with local governments to encourage policies that address barriers to electric infrastructure development and support an efficient process for infrastructure interconnection, siting and permitting, including a short- and long-term assessment of greenhouse gas emissions; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports long-term extensions of the investment tax credit and the production tax credit for clean energy as an incentive for their development and deployment and urges Congress and the Administration to reinstate the clean energy tax credits available to local governments through the Elective Pay provision of the Inflation Reduction Act.

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal investments in communities must prioritize those communities that have been left behind and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) who are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change.~~

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-11

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

EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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

WHEREAS, the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#) estimates there are 9.2 million lead service lines across the country; and

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

WHEREAS, corrosion control and testing are essential to preventing lead from leaching into drinking water and endangering public health ~~and alerting the public to potential dangers~~; and

WHEREAS, a recent analysis by the [American Water Works Association](#) estimates the average cost for a full replacement of a lead service line is \$12,500, which is significantly higher than EPA's cost estimate of \$6,154 in the Final Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, indicating that the total cost of replacing the nation's 9.2 million lead service lines to be upward of \$100 billion under the requirements from EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Improvements ([LCRI](#)); and

WHEREAS, local governments are already taking action to address lead service lines in their communities and to comply with [EPA's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions](#), finalized in 2021, which requires all community water systems and non-transient non-community water systems, such as schools, to complete an inventory of lead pipes by October 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the [LCRI](#), finalized in 2024, requires public water systems to replace all lead service lines by 2037 with limited exceptions, among other requirements; and

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

WHEREAS, EPA estimates the nation's [clean water and drinking water](#) infrastructure capital needs over the next 20 years to be approximately \$1.255 trillion in total, the [American Society for Civil Engineers](#) estimates that over the next 10 years, \$1 trillion of additional investments are needed to reach a state of good repair for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, and other estimates put the cost at more than \$4 trillion to maintain and build a 21st century water system; and

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

47
48 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on
49 Congress and the Administration to support robust funding for all water infrastructure financing
50 mechanisms, including the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund
51 programs and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA); and
52

53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to support
54 other mechanisms of infrastructure financing, including protecting the tax-exempt status of
55 municipal bonds and reinstating the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds; and
56

57 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to provide
58 direct grants to local governments, as well as school systems and daycare centers, for the
59 replacement of lead service lines, testing, inventories, planning, corrosion control and public
60 education campaigns, and to assist small and disadvantaged communities in complying with the
61 Safe Drinking Water Act; and
62

63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges EPA to provide communities with a longer
64 compliance schedule for meeting the requirements of the LCRI, particularly in cases where system
65 operators employ proper corrosion control to prevent direct human exposure, and to provide
66 additional flexibility for communities to maintain water affordability for residents.-

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-12

INCREASE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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

WHEREAS, with much of our nation’s physical water infrastructure built in the post-World War II period – and some of it more than 100 years old – there are an [estimated](#) ~~240,000~~50,000 to 300,000 water main breaks each year; and

WHEREAS, many urban and rural communities have underserved or unserved areas, with no community water system or private system; and

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

WHEREAS, local governments fund over 98 percent of all capital, operations and maintenance investment in drinking water, wastewater and sewer infrastructure, investing over \$2.38 trillion between 1993-2019 (not adjusted for inflation) and [over \\$150 billion in 2022 alone](#); and

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

WHEREAS, an economic analysis by the [American Society of Civil Engineers](#) shows a water-related infrastructure investment gap of \$1 trillion over 10 years for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater combined; and

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

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

WHEREAS, aside from the IIJA, ~~annual appropriations for federal spending on federal~~ loan and grant assistance to cities and local governments to assist in maintaining and upgrading water infrastructure systems has [continued to decline](#) in real dollars over the past decades; and

47
48 **WHEREAS**, a significant portion of municipal water infrastructure financial resources dedicated
49 to water infrastructure are currently overwhelmingly directed to ~~spent to~~ comply with new
50 complex federal mandates, leaving many and are therefore unavailable for critical maintenance,
51 repair and rehabilitation needs unmet; 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 viable for all communities or all
55 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 private activity bonds, based on population, but historically, most of the tax-
64 exempt private activity bonds are issued to short-term projects such as housing and education
65 loans; and

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

69
70 **WHEREAS**, eliminating the state volume cap for water is estimated to make available up to \$5
71 billion in private capital for water projects, while the cost in foregone revenue to the federal
72 government is nominal.

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

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

83
84 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should provide full appropriation to the Water
85 Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture
86 Rural Development programs for loans and loan guarantees for water infrastructure projects; and

87
88 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should provide direct funding to local
89 governments through grant programs such as for sewer overflow and stormwater management,
90 lead service line replacement, water infrastructure resilience/sustainability to protect and reduce
91 risk to extreme weather events, water recycling and desalinization ~~recycled water~~, new/emerging

92 technologies for cybersecurity improvements and water efficiency, workforce development in the
93 water sector, emerging contaminants and other programs; and

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

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

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

105
106 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congressionally Directed Spending for water
107 infrastructure projects through the State Revolving Funds should be in addition to the baseline
108 amount, rather than off the top; and

109
110 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and the Administration should enact new
111 legislation which provides adequate and reliable long-term funding for municipal water
112 infrastructure needs to help close the funding gap.

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-13

SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATED PLANNING AND NEW AFFORDABILITY
CONSIDERATION FOR WATER

EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew

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

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

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

WHEREAS, a 2017 report from the [National Academy of Public Administration](#) found that EPA’s reliance on two percent of Median Household Income to determine a community’s financial capability puts an unfair and oppressive financial burden on low and middle-income residents, and recommend changes to EPA’s procedure for evaluating ratepayer affordability and utility financial capability; and

WHEREAS, in 2023 EPA issued revised Financial Capability Assessment Guidance to replace the “Combined Sewer Overflows—Guidance for Financial Capability Assessment and Schedule Development” (Feb. 1997), which [leaves](#) the two percent Median Household Income metric in place; and

WHEREAS, taking a [One Water](#) approach to water resource management means that “all water has value and should be managed in a sustainable, inclusive, integrated way” and requires balancing water equity, water access and water affordability; and

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

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

47
48 **WHEREAS**, the current reliance on two percent of median household income for wastewater
49 and combined sewer overflows controls is a misleading indicator of a community's ability to pay,
50 and often places a particularly high burden on residents at the lower end of the economic scale;
51 and

52
53 **WHEREAS**, green infrastructure, such as constructed swales, wetlands, green roofs, infiltration
54 planters, rain gardens, cisterns, and enhanced floodplains and riparian buffers through nature-
55 based solutions, augmented by permeable pavers, rain barrels and trees, is a valuable part of
56 water infrastructure systems and provides a multitude of community benefits such as helping
57 local governments manage runoff, extending the life of local infrastructure, saving the city and
58 taxpayers money, providing outdoor recreation opportunities through parks and green spaces and
59 promoting the joint use of city and school facilities, and serve as an economic development tool;
60 and

61
62 **WHEREAS**, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits are
63 increasingly stringent, the treatment technologies and approaches necessary to meet permit limits
64 have become exceedingly expensive and time-intensive to implement, and project construction
65 timelines for clean water infrastructure projects can extend more than a decade.

66
67 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on
68 EPA to work with local governments to develop local integrated plans through the permit process
69 to comprehensively and collectively manage wastewater and stormwater needs, prioritize
70 investments in wet weather overflows and flooding, incorporate green infrastructure components,
71 and to ease the burden of unfunded mandates; and

72
73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on EPA to share integrated planning best
74 management practices, including those that take a regional watershed approach, from across the
75 country with all communities that are interested in pursuing an integrated planning approach; and

76
77 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to modernize the NPDES
78 permitting process and pass legislation to allow states with delegated authority to administer the
79 NPDES permitting program to issue permits of up to ten years; and

80
81 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on EPA to work with local governments to
82 revise the February 2023 Financial Capability Assessment Guidance to eliminate reliance on
83 median household income as the critical metric for determining investment level and to allow for
84 the consideration of additional information, such as socio-economic factors, consistent with the
85 Agency's 2014 Financial Capability Framework; and

86
87 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to assess the
88 effectiveness and consider extending the Low Income Home Water Assistance program, which
89 provides ratepayer assistance to offset water bills and arrearages of qualifying customers, as a
90 means of addressing water affordability.

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-14

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

EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, in 2021 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a [PFAS Strategic Roadmap](#) that outlines a comprehensive nationwide action plan for addressing PFAS, including identifying both short-term solutions for addressing these chemicals and long-term strategies that will help states, tribes and local communities provide clean and safe drinking water to residents and address PFAS at the source—before it gets into the water; and

WHEREAS, in April 2024, EPA finalized a [National Drinking Water Regulation](#) and set an enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFOA and PFOS of 4 parts per trillion, set a MCL of 10 parts per trillion for three other PFAS chemicals and established a hazard index for four additional PFAS chemicals under the Safe Drinking Water Act; and

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

WHEREAS, the [Environmental Working Group](#) maintains an interactive map of known contamination of communities from PFAS, which as of ~~May 2024~~ [June 2025](#) shows ~~6,189~~ [323](#) locations in 50 states, DC and four territories with known contamination; and

WHEREAS, in ~~July 2023~~ [October 2024](#), the ~~EPA and~~ [United States Geological Survey](#) ~~scientists~~ published results on analysis for ~~3224~~ [3224](#) PFAS compounds in ~~water samples from 7161,238 public drinking water supplies~~ [groundwater samples across every state the continental U.S.](#) that detected PFAS in ~~at least 37 percent of 45 percent of tap~~ [groundwater samples](#), ~~indicating~~ [suggesting](#) that

more than 20 percent of the country’s population may rely on groundwater that contains detectable amounts of PFAS for their drinking water supplies ~~is ubiquitous in our water~~; and

WHEREAS, PFAS chemicals were widely used in firefighting foams, particularly for airports, and were used in frequent training exercises at military air bases, and firefighter turnout gear has been found to contain PFAS chemicals; and

WHEREAS, PFAS chemicals were required in firefighting foams used at airports to meet federal performance standards for extinguishing agents, but in September 2023 the [Federal Aviation Administration](#) announced that fluorine-free foam products had become available that met Military Specification, providing an option for airports to discontinue their use of PFAS-containing aqueous film-forming foam; and

WHEREAS, the [2020 National Defense Authorization Act](#) requires the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to phase out its use of the foam by October 2024, but the DOD exercised a one-year waiver to extend the deadline to October 2025; and

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

WHEREAS, there are significant technical challenges in detecting, measuring and removing PFAS in water and other environmental media at the levels set by EPA, and analytical methodologies are still under development or are not yet generally available; and

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

WHEREAS, in April 2024 EPA [finalized a rulemaking](#) to designate PFOS and PFOA as hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), which will have huge cost and liability implications for local governments, and is undergoing a [separate rulemaking](#) to designate additional PFAS chemicals under CERCLA; and

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

WHEREAS, a number of states have adopted PFAS policies pertaining to prohibiting use, monitoring, notification and reporting, cleanup, health studies, testing, liability provisions and contamination limits; and

91 **WHEREAS**, a number of bills have been introduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives
92 and U.S. Senate to address PFAS contamination by providing new resources at the federal, state and
93 local levels for the detection, reduction, destruction and remediation of PFAS chemicals; and
94

95 **WHEREAS**, local governments are owners and operators of airports, landfills and water utilities
96 and employ firefighters, some of whom may have been exposed to PFAS chemicals on the job
97 through inhalation or skin absorption, and therefore present a pension and liability concern for
98 local budgets.
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 and reduce public health risk, including through
103 nationwide testing, monitoring, mapping, public education and water supply treatment; and
104

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 NLC calls on Congress to pass legislation that provides
113 local governments that did not cause or contribute to PFAS contamination with liability
114 protection under CERCLA; and
115

116 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should incentivize and support
117 research and development for extended producer responsibility programs to prevent pollution of
118 waterways, drinking water and soil contamination and to address the life cycle environmental
119 impacts of PFAS chemicals; and
120

121 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments, including municipal airports and fire
122 departments, were required by federal law to use firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals,
123 and therefore should not be held liable for PFAS contamination or cleanup costs; and
124

125 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments, including drinking water and
126 wastewater utilities and municipal landfills, serve as passive receivers of PFAS chemicals and did
127 not cause or contribute to contamination, and therefore should not be held liable for PFAS
128 contamination or cleanup costs; and
129

130 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to accelerate research
131 and technology development to advance the science needed to understand the health
132 consequences of exposure to PFAS chemicals, detect and measure PFAS chemicals in water and
133 other environmental media, treat water supplies to remove these substances, and find safe
134 substitutes for PFAS chemicals; and
135

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the federal government to provide funding to farms and farmers for PFAS testing and remediation of property, wells, surface water, livestock and crops, as well as liability protection, related to application of biosolids from wastewater treatment operations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the federal government to aggressively prevent further pollution, contamination and exposure to PFAS through multiple means, including promoting and funding the development and use of non-toxic fire retardant alternatives, banning PFAS-containing aqueous film-forming foam and the phasing out the use of PFAS and other long-chain chemicals in products as soon as possible; and

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

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

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-15

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

7 **EENR Committee Recommendation:** Renew with Edits
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 risk 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 than
22 are necessary to fund the significant backlog of projects under their jurisdiction, the benefit-cost
23 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, and the restoration of seasonal and tidal wetlands are
50 considered “engineering with nature” approaches to reductions of local and coastal flooding; and
51

52 **WHEREAS**, the Army Corps has been directed by Congress through the [Water Resources and](#)
53 [Development Act of 2024](#)⁴⁰ codified the Army Corps’ goal of increasing the quantity of dredged
54 materials put to environmentally beneficial use to 70 percent by 2030 and established the
55 Beneficial Use of Dredge Material as a permanent program, ~~to maximize the beneficial reuse of~~
56 ~~dredged material in an environmentally acceptable manner, including consideration of the~~
57 ~~economic and environmental benefits in determining the federal standard; and~~
58

59 **WHEREAS**, the Army Corps is currently authorized to conduct 40 pilot projects on the beneficial
60 reuse of dredged material.
61

62 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on
63 the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the White House Office of Management and Budget to
64 revise the benefit-cost analysis system used for projects to reflect the values of the nation to
65 protect communities from flooding in ways that are environmentally protective and foster social
66 equity; and
67

68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the Army Corps and OMB to add a
69 quantitative indexed value to life and safety to determine the benefit of federal investments in
70 flood control projects; and
71

72 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the Army Corps and OMB to add a
73 quantitative indexed value to agricultural land value and the impacts of crop flooding to
74 determine the benefit of federal investments in flood control projects; and
75

76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the Army Corps and OMB to add a
77 quantitative indexed value to protection of low-income communities and environmental benefits
78 to determine the benefit of federal investments in water resources projects, including projects for
79 flood control; and
80

81 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the Army Corps and OMB to add a
82 quantitative indexed value to potential benefits of projects on federal properties, as well as
83 benefits to military readiness when developing coastal storm risk reduction projects in the
84 adjacent community; and
85

86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports the Army Corps effort to increase the
87 quantity of dredged materials put to environmentally beneficial uses, especially related to marsh
88 restoration and sea level rise protection, to 70 percent by 2030 by establishing a national
89 beneficial reuse policy that allows dredged materials to function as a resource (instead of a waste
90 product) and establishes a realistic economic value of environmentally-suitable dredged material
91 that takes into account its use for [storm or flood risk reduction and habitat restoration](#); and
92

93 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC encourages the Army Corps to seek partnerships,
94 including with local governments, to beneficially reuse dredge materials; and
95

96 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the cost of offshore disposal of dredged materials should
97 include the full future economic value of that sediment that would be lost if it is deposited
98 offshore; and
99

100 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal investments in communities must prioritize those
101 communities that have been historically neglected or are economically constrained, which ~~that~~
102 ~~have been left behind and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) who are~~
103 disproportionately impacted by flood risk.

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-16

INCREASE FUNDING FOR BORDER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administers the STAG and BWIP, and coordinates with the NADB to allocate BWIP grant funds to projects in the border zone; and

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

WHEREAS, the BWIP program was initially funded at \$100 million per year, but, ~~over the last 20 years~~, the program has been significantly reduced to \$36.4 million in FY23 and \$35 million in FY24 and FY25; and

WHEREAS, EPA and the U.S. section of the IWBC identified high-priority wastewater collection and treatment facilities needed in the border area; and

WHEREAS, Mexico has identified multiple priority projects and pledged \$144 million in short-term capital contributions; and

93 **WHEREAS**, a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the United States and Mexico in July
94 2025 sets a timeframe for Mexico to complete all projects by Dec. 31, 2027 and the United
95 States, which has withheld additional funding to projects until Mexico fulfilled their obligations
96 toward other projects, agreed to release BWIP funding to complete the rehabilitation of Pump
97 Station 1 and the Tijuana River collection pipes; and Mexico is proceeding with its proposed
98 new projects to address transboundary sewage flows but is awaiting United States approval and
99 funding of the \$600 million United States infrastructure projects previously identified by both
100 countries to fully address the transboundary pollution in the border states; and

101
102 **WHEREAS**, ~~the United States, has not paid necessary IBWC operating and maintenance costs~~
103 ~~for the last several years, causing the breakdown of existing infrastructure and a backlog of \$150~~
104 ~~million in overdue maintenance at just one project site; and~~

105
106 **WHEREAS**, the pollution from transboundary sewage flows were spread even farther north in
107 the Pacific Ocean by Hurricane Hilary on August 19-20, 2023 because the infrastructure has not
108 been maintained and new needed facilities have not been built; and

109
110 **WHEREAS**, transboundary sewage flows release toxic gases causing unhealthy air quality in
111 South San Diego County where “concentration of hydrogen sulfide...peaked at 4,500 ppb [parts
112 per billion] for at least a minute and up to an average of 2,100 ppb for one hour—the latter
113 exceeding the California Air Resources Board’s one hour standard [of 30 ppb] by nearly 70
114 times;” and

115
116 **WHEREAS**, without federal partnership through the BWIP and state support to address
117 pollution, cities that are impacted by transboundary sewage and toxic waste flows are left with
118 limited resources to address a critical pollution and public health issue and limited legal remedies
119 to address the problem; and

120
121 **WHEREAS**, Mexico benefits from the bi-national funding program and relies on the NADB to
122 assist in funding projects on the Mexico side of the border, which have an immediate and long-
123 term environmental impact along the border in the U.S. due to the upstream, transboundary flows
124 of the major rivers; and

125
126 **WHEREAS**, local governments and the public support the State’s primary objectives in
127 complying with environmental laws including the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act,
128 and their state law analogues, and are supported by substantial public investments at all levels of
129 government to maintain a healthy and sustainable environment for the future.

130
131 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities urges the Federal
132 government to continue to fund the Border Water Infrastructure Program, and to recommit to
133 working bi-nationally to develop and implement long-term solutions to address serious water
134 quality and contamination issues, such as discharges of untreated sewage and polluted sediment
135 and trash-laden transboundary flows originating from Mexico, resulting in significant health,
136 environmental, and safety concerns of affected communities.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-17

2
3 **SUPPORT FOR THE OUTDOOR RECREATION LEGACY PARTNERSHIP**
4 **PROGRAM AND THE OUTDOORS FOR ALL ACT**

5
6 **EENR Committee Recommendation:** Expire
7

8 **WHEREAS**, access to outdoor recreational activities is crucial for the physical and mental well-
9 being of individuals, fostering healthier lifestyles and stronger communities; and
10

11 **WHEREAS**, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program, funded through the
12 Land and Water Conservation Fund, helps communities create and improve parks and other
13 outdoor recreation areas to improve public access, particularly in disadvantaged or low-income
14 communities; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the Outdoors for All Act would codify the ORLP and establish a dedicated,
17 mandatory funding source; and
18

19 **WHEREAS**, the Outdoors for All Act seeks to enhance accessibility to outdoor spaces and
20 activities for all Americans, regardless of age, ability, or background; and
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the Outdoors for All Act aims to invest in outdoor infrastructure, expand
23 recreational opportunities, and protect public lands and waters for future generations; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, the Outdoors for All Act also recognizes the importance of promoting diversity,
26 equity, and inclusion in outdoor spaces, ensuring that all Americans have equal opportunities to
27 enjoy nature and its benefits; and
28

29 **WHEREAS**, the Outdoors for All Act seeks to create jobs and boost local economies through
30 increased outdoor tourism and recreational activities.
31

32 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) supports
33 the Outdoor Recreation and Legacy Partnership program, recognizing its potential to
34 significantly improve access to outdoor spaces and activities for all Americans; and
35

36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress to pass the Outdoors for All Act,
37 ensuring that outdoor recreation is accessible and inclusive for everyone.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-18

2
3 **SUPPORT AND ADVANCE CITIES IMPACTED BY FEDERAL FACILITIES AND**
4 **INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAMS**

5
6 **EENR Committee Recommendation:** Renew with Edits
7

8 **WHEREAS**, across the country local governments experience special impacts to their
9 infrastructure, services and workforce as a result of the location of a large national security
10 laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) facility or transmission infrastructure in the
11 region; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, these special impacts include land use and transportation impediments associated
14 with high-security facilities, as well as local responsibility for providing transportation
15 infrastructure, law enforcement and related public services for complexes that are tax-exempt in
16 many instances; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, in most cases there is no accompanying financial offsets from DOE or transmission
19 developers to help mitigate these special impacts on local communities; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the impacts that communities face also affects the ability of DOE to attain their
22 missions; and
23

24 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has recognized the special impacts their
25 facilities place on communities, which have a negative impact on their mission, by establishing a
26 Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) grant program; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, the DCIP has [provided communities](#) with over \$300 million in grants to alleviate
29 the impacts of its facilities on local infrastructure, services and workforce; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, [DOE](#) and other federal agencies have [previously](#) recognized the potential positive
32 and negative impacts that facility operations have on adjacent communities and have
33 incorporated requirements in federal grant programs to prepare and implement a Community
34 Benefits Plan that includes community stakeholders to ensure local interests are heard, issues are
35 identified, and concerns are addressed to both optimize benefits and minimize negative impacts
36 on the community.
37

38 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on
39 Congress and the Administration to authorize and fund a grant program similar to the DoD DCIP
40 for communities that support DOE facilities or transmission infrastructure to help alleviate the
41 special impacts on local infrastructure, services and workforce, such as through the Energizing Our
42 Communities Act of 2024; and
43

44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to require
45 DOE facilities to prepare a Community Benefits Plan that meets the agency's [previous](#)~~own~~

46 standards and expectations for community engagement, workforce development, diversity,
| 47 Justice40 and issues relating to the environment of impacted communities.

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NEW EENR RESOLUTION 1

**PROTECTING FEDERAL SCIENTIFIC DATA AND RESOURCES TO SUPPORT
LOCAL PREPAREDNESS TO EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS**

EENR Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, protecting the health, safety and well-being of residents is the most important task of all levels of government, with [Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution](#) stating that “Congress shall provide...for the general welfare of the United States;” and

WHEREAS, promoting and protecting public safety, especially during emergencies such as extreme weather events and natural disasters, is essential to providing for the general welfare; and

WHEREAS, while local leaders serve as first responders during extreme weather events and natural disasters, the federal government has the scale and reach to address extreme weather and natural disasters in a comprehensive way; and

WHEREAS, the research, monitoring, reporting and other scientific data, resources and tools are too expensive for any single local government or state to develop individually; and .

WHEREAS, because extreme weather and natural disasters do not respect city or state boundaries and their impacts are often regional, a federal approach is required; and

WHEREAS, the federal government is *the* trusted source of information for extreme weather events and natural disasters, and the availability of trusted information to protect lives, property and infrastructure requires specialized expertise, especially at the federal level; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to keep residents, emergency personnel and news organizations informed of impending disasters because accurate warnings help facilitate disaster preparations, evacuations and pre-positioning of personnel and response assets; and

WHEREAS, agencies such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA, including the National Weather Service), U.S. Geological Survey and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have mandates to protect public safety, not to sell products and services or generate profit, and decades of consistent service during emergencies have built public trust in these institutions and information; and

WHEREAS, the federal government operates large networks of sensors, satellites, stream gauges and radar systems all focused exclusively on disaster prevention and response, which provide real-time, scientifically validated data; and

WHEREAS, although private sources do some of this as well, their reach is not as comprehensive, their data may not be as well trusted, and they lack an underlying mandate to

protect public safety; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of the federal budget dedicated to the agencies involved in extreme weather and natural disaster prediction, prevention, response and mitigation is miniscule. For example, the [annual budget for NOAA](#) represents 0.1% of the federal budget in FY2025, but helps save countless lives and protect billions in property, infrastructure, and crops – thus providing an outsize return on investment; and

WHEREAS, accurate weather and climate data is also essential for food security and our economy. For example, according to a survey by the [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#), in 2023, agriculture, food, and related industries contributed approximately \$1.53 trillion to the US economy and in 2022, [U.S. fisheries](#) generated about \$321 billion in sales; and

WHEREAS, every dollar invested in disaster preparedness and early warning systems saves many more in damages. A study by the [National Institute of Building Sciences](#) found each \$1 invested by FEMA and similar agencies saved \$6 saved in damages from all types of emergencies. A [U.S. Chamber of Commerce](#) study found an even higher cost-benefit ratio, with each \$1 invested in resilience and disaster preparedness saving \$13 in economic impact, damage, and cleanup costs after the event; and

WHEREAS, the more warning people have before extreme events occur, the lower the probability of death, personal injury and damage to property and infrastructure. For example, a [2024 review of 66 studies](#) found expert estimates that roughly 20% of damages can be avoided with a 1-hour warning, rising to approximately 60% with a 12-hour warning; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the critical importance of information during extreme weather events and disasters, federal scientific data and resources provide value every day to communities, local governments and industry. The ability to predict and monitor weather conditions, climate patterns and changes over time is crucial for operations in industries such as agriculture, fishing and aquaculture, aviation, transportation and logistics, tourism, and resource extraction. These services are equally important for public agencies, from transportation planning to public health to utility management; and

WHEREAS, The federal apparatus for researching, modeling, preventing, planning and responding to extreme weather events and natural disasters now faces unprecedented challenges, such as workforce reductions, staff reallocation, budget cuts, reallocation of existing funding and withdrawal of key research and advisory programs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that to meet its obligation to protect the general welfare as described in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress must approve investments to protect and enhance the corps of federal experts and technology to further scientific progress in meteorology, climate science, geological science and disaster prediction, response and mitigation programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to protect the general welfare, Congress must restore and maintain funding to pre-DOGE levels for all federal agencies providing weather and other

scientific data to support extreme weather and natural disaster research and monitoring in a timely and accurate manner, as well as to support other industries and sectors related to agriculture, fishing and aquaculture, aviation, transportation and logistics, tourism, and resource extraction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED to protect the general welfare, federal agencies must restore full staffing to pre-DOGE levels of federal personnel with the knowledge, expertise and experience to respond to extreme weather and natural disaster.

Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

**Community and Economic Development
Federal Advocacy Committee**

CED

Proposed Policy Amendments

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

Please note:

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

Policy:

The CED Committee has proposed no policy amendments for 2026.

Proposed CED 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 2025 resolutions that originated in the CED Committee to determine recommendations for 2026. 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 2025 at City Summit with recommendations for 2026 are:

Resolution	CED Committee Recommendation
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-19: In Support of a Federal Agenda for Local Economic Development, Economic Mobility, and Entrepreneurship	Renew with edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-20: In Support of a National Agenda for U.S. Housing Investment and Opportunity	Renew with edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-21: Urging Congress to Enable Housing Vouchers for Homeownership Opportunities and Local Innovation in Attainable Housing	Renew with edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-22: In Support of Resources for Community Navigators to Assist Local Entrepreneurs in Accessing Credit	Renew with edits
NEW CED RESOLUTION 1: In Support of The Neighborhood Homes Investment Act	Adopt

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-19

IN SUPPORT OF A FEDERAL AGENDA FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
ECONOMIC MOBILITY, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

CED Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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

WHEREAS, National League of Cities (NLC) [State of the Cities 2024-2025](#) Report identifies “~~Economic and Workforce Development~~Economic Development” as the top policy priority identified in ~~2024-2025~~state of the city speeches; and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA); requires the Federal Reserve and other federal banking regulators to encourage financial institutions to help meet the credit needs of the communities in which they do business, including low- and moderate-income (LMI) neighborhoods; ~~a landmark civil rights law passed in 1977 to end discrimination in America’s banking and housing markets, remains a critical tool for both community and economic development that ensures regulated financial institutions have continuing and affirmative obligations to help meet the credit needs of the local communities in which they are chartered;~~ and

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

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

WHEREAS, access to financial services is a cornerstone of financial well-being yet 5.6 million U.S. households are unbanked, and approximately one in six U.S. households do not utilize traditional credit products and, as a result, do not have a credit score resulting in higher barriers to accessing capital; and

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 1.) that NLC urges federal lawmakers to help local entrepreneurs by supporting policies that result in a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurship. To that end, Congress should create an Entrepreneurs Extension Partnership to connect startups with the basic resources needed to create and grow their businesses locally, broaden eligibility for Small Business Administration support to the smallest businesses, and support the credit needs of new and emerging businesses.

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

—**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 2.)** that NLC urges the federal government ~~improve~~ to grow and expand equity and economic opportunity mobility by modernizing the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) to increase public accountability of banks to serve every community by updating CRA assessment areas to include areas with considerable bank lending and deposit gathering outside of bank branch networks, and improving public data around community development lending and investments to provide greater clarity to lenders about what qualifies for CRA. ~~-To that end, federal regulators should:~~

- ~~• Update CRA assessment areas to include areas with considerable bank lending and deposit gathering outside of bank branch networks.~~

- ~~Improve public data around community development lending and investments in order to provide greater clarity to lenders about what qualifies for CRA and to help identify areas around the country in need of greater community development lending and investing.~~
- ~~Federal regulators should not adopt a one ratio or single metric approach to CRA exams and should not adjust bank asset thresholds solely for making exams easier for banks to pass, or otherwise dilute attention to LMI borrowers and communities.~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 3.) ~~that NLC urges federal lawmakers to increase the pace of economic development by continuing on the path of supporting regulatory reforms that reduces barriers to locally-supported development and expidites federal rulings and determinations impacting local projects.~~

~~To that end, Congress should:~~

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED 4.) ~~that NLC urges federal lawmakers make economic mobility a federal priority. To that end, Congress should:~~to support full funding for programs that support local governments economic development efforts including Community Development Block Grants which serve as the first line of defense against local neighborhood decline and has been the bridge for countless families to the middle class, the Economic Development Administration's Partnership Planning, Research and National Technical Assistance, and Public Works programs, and economic development capacity building programs aimed at small and mid-sized cities and towns.

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

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-20

2
3 IN SUPPORT OF A NATIONAL AGENDA FOR U.S. HOUSING INVESTMENT AND
4 OPPORTUNITY

5
6 CED Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

7
8 WHEREAS, America’s cities are the strength of the nation – communities of neighborhoods
9 where people live, work, learn, worship, 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-attainable~~ housing contributes to the economic vitality of our
15 communities and local economic regions as a vehicle for creating jobs and increasing municipal
16 tax bases; and

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

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

24
25 WHEREAS, the demand for ~~affordable-attainable~~ housing far outpaces the supply in the United
26 States, as median home sales prices have grown to approximately five times the median
27 household income ~~wages have not kept pace with rising home values over the period following~~
28 ~~the subprime mortgage crisis~~; and

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

33
34 WHEREAS, three out of four households eligible for federal housing assistance receive none;
35 and

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

40
41 WHEREAS, National League of Cities (NLC) supports the bipartisan coalition “MAYORS
42 AND CEOS FOR US HOUSING INVESTMENT”, and welcomes all city leaders and CEOs to
43 consider joining the coalition as common stakeholders in expanding housing opportunities and
44 ending homelessness; and

45
46 WHEREAS, NLC supports the national, multi-sector housing campaign “OPPORTUNITY

47 STARTS AT HOME”, a long-term, multi-sector campaign to meet the rental housing needs of
48 the nation’s lowest income people.

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

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

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

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-21

URGING CONGRESS TO ENABLE HOUSING VOUCHERS FOR HOMEOWNERSHIP
OPPORTUNITIES AND LOCAL INNOVATION IN ATTAINABLE HOUSING

CED Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

WHEREAS, housing stability is a fundamental human necessity and plays a crucial role in fostering stable and prosperous households and communities; and

WHEREAS, although a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) homeownership program has been authorized to allow families assisted under the HCV program to use voucher funding for downpayment assistance, federal funding has not been appropriated for this purpose and this regulatory provision has never been implemented.

WHEREAS, homeownership has been proven to foster long-term economic stability, wealth accumulation, and a sense of community pride and ownership; and

WHEREAS, allowing Housing Vouchers to be utilized for home ownership supports would empower low-income individuals and families to participate in the housing market, fostering economic mobility and providing them with a stake in their communities; and

WHEREAS, local entities such as municipal governments, housing agencies, land banks, economic development corporations, and other community organizations are well-positioned to effectively manage and administer subsidized and supplemental housing ~~voucher~~ programs for home ownership; and

WHEREAS, ~~underserved and disadvantaged~~ communities underserved by financial institutions often face disproportionately high rates of poverty, limited access to affordable housing and credit, and insufficient economic development opportunities; and

WHEREAS, ~~affordable attainable~~ quality housing initiatives are essential for revitalizing ~~underserved distressed~~ communities, ~~combating systemic inequality~~, and ~~promoting expanding~~ economic ~~growth opportunity~~; and improving financial outcomes at the household level.

WHEREAS, funding for homeownership supports would provide Housing Choice Voucher Program participants with more and better housing choices, and increased ~~funding directly~~ direct funding to local governments would enhance their capacity to address ~~the unique challenges faced by minority-owned businesses involved in the housing markets of underserved communities~~ the unique conditions of their own housing markets, and

WHEREAS, this resolution has the endorsement and support of the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, National League of Cities (NLC) supports authorization and funding for to allow Housing Choice Voucher program participants to choose

47 homeownership, providing low-income individuals and families with an opportunity to build
48 equity and achieve the American dream of homeownership; and
49
50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NLC supports directing additional housing funding to
51 local governments serving underserved and disadvantaged communities.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-22

2
3 IN SUPPORT OF RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY NAVIGATORS TO ASSIST
4 LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS IN ACCESSING CREDIT

5
6 CED Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

7
8 WHEREAS, small businesses play a crucial role in fostering economic growth, creating jobs,
9 and driving innovation within our communities; and

10
11 WHEREAS, access to credit is one of the significant barriers faced by local entrepreneurs,
12 limiting their ability to start, expand, or sustain their businesses; and

13
14 WHEREAS, the Small Business Administration (SBA) provides vital resources and loan
15 programs to support small business owners, including SBA-backed loans, which offer lower
16 interest rates and longer repayment terms; and

17
18 WHEREAS, many local entrepreneurs, especially those from ~~marginalized~~ communities
19 underserved by financial institutions, face challenges in navigating the complex loan application
20 process and lack awareness of available SBA loan programs; and

21
22 WHEREAS, the establishment of community navigators can bridge the information gap by
23 providing guidance, assistance, and support to local entrepreneurs seeking credit from SBA-
24 backed loans; and

25
26 WHEREAS, community navigators, through their expertise and knowledge of the local business
27 ecosystem, can help entrepreneurs understand eligibility criteria, develop business plans, gather
28 required documentation, and prepare loan applications; and

29
30 WHEREAS, supporting community navigators will strengthen the entrepreneurship ecosystem,
31 increase the success rate of loan applications, and stimulate economic development within our
32 community; and

33
34 WHEREAS, this resolution has the endorsement and support of the National Black Caucus of
35 Local Elected Officials.

36
37 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges
38 Congress to allocate resources and funding for the establishment and expansion of community
39 navigator programs aimed at assisting local entrepreneurs in gaining access to credit, including
40 Small Business Administration backed loans.

41
42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC encourages collaboration between federal agencies,
43 financial institutions, and community organizations to develop comprehensive training programs
44 for community navigators, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to
45 effectively assist entrepreneurs with the loan application process.

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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

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 4.02 Children and Learning**
 - A. Early Care and Learning
- **Section 4.03 Poverty Reduction and Income Support**
- **Section 4.04 Employment**
 - A. Workforce Development
- **Section 4.08 Health**
 - B. National Hunger, Nutrition and Health Strategy
 - C. Nutrition
- **Section 4.09 Immigration and Refugees**

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, 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 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;
- Ensure funding for the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) to ensure centers and home based providers can provide nutritious meals and snacks to children;
- 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 (CCDBG) 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 payout based on enrollment rather than attendance, setting payment rates based on the true cost of care rather than a market rate survey, utilizing contracts to build the supply of care, allowing families to be eligible for subsidy if attending an institute of higher

education, and allowing localities to determine eligibility guidelines that can account for regional differences in the cost of living;

- Ensure that early childhood services are comprehensive, incorporating preventive and protective services for child abuse and neglect, ACEs, early and periodic health screenings, nutritional programs, educational enrichment, and appropriate interventions for children with special needs. Effort should be made to promote a diverse early childhood workforce that is trained in trauma-responsive care, culturally appropriate practices and implicit bias;
- Create a local early childhood innovation fund to encourage states, counties, municipal governments and their partners to find new ways to support the expansion and quality of child care and preschool in communities through early childhood workforce preparation programs, facilities enhancements, and strategic partnerships between early childhood programs and city agencies that serve families, so that families have access to nutrition and health services, housing, transportation and employment services;
- Ensure a robust pipeline for the early childcare workforce by supporting and incentivizing recruitment that aligns with the important role these workers play in the economic strength of communities;
- Provide student loan forgiveness for early childcare workers;
- Support & incentivize in-home/community childcare providers; and
- Provide work visas for qualified workers to join the childcare workforce.

NLC also recommends that the federal government:

- Provide tax incentives to businesses to provide child care facilities at worksites and to subsidize the child care costs of their employees;
- Encourage public-private partnerships through matching funds and financial incentives;
- Educate employers on the economic benefits of providing child care;
- Provide support and regulations to ensure child care providers are paid a living wage;
- Improve the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to make it available to more low-and-moderate-income families;
- Urge the Small Business Administration (SBA) to view child care as a legitimate business including providing them operational support and make available low-interest loans to those interested in starting child care businesses; and
- Support USDA Rural Development and their loan programs to help create jobs and support rural economic development through the financing of essential community facilities, including child care, early childhood learning centers; and
- Ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, a comprehensive human rights treaty on children's rights.

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

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

- Increase funding for preschool expansion and encourage states to adopt a mixed-delivery model that supports children's holistic development;
- Increase funding for Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships programs. Preserve the federal-to-local funding structure and encourage more birth-to-five grants to allow for additional flexibility for local programs to structure their operations to best meet local needs. Also, in addition to further supporting State Collaboration Offices, create local collaboration grants for cities, counties or their partners to help align and coordinate federal, state and local early childhood initiatives;
- Provide support for the inclusion of outdoor learning environments and nature play spaces that promote early learning, healthy development, healthy eating, and positive interactions between families and young children within parks, green spaces, and early childhood centers; and
- Supports transition activities to ensure that children entering kindergarten have the support needed to be successful in school.
- Require all federal grants that support the construction of affordable housing include incentives for the provision of childcare facilities.

Section 4.03 Poverty Reduction and Income Support

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

Section 4.04 Employment

A. Workforce Development

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

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

- Allow cities and towns working individually or together to utilize funds in ways that reflect the local workforce, available jobs, and the needs of the business community;
- Ensure that a portion of the funds are targeted to those most in need: persons living in poverty, those who are structurally unemployed and are not likely to return to their previous jobs, formerly incarcerated individuals, and opportunity youth who are at-risk of long-term poverty;
- Establish workforce development areas that are based on regional economies rather than arbitrary measures such as population or political boundaries;

- Prohibit states from diverting all federal funds toward those who are already employed or job ready rather than those in greatest need;
- Ensure that local elected officials play a significant role in the planning, development, and implementation of regionally-based workforce development programs;
- Encourage collaboration between governments, education agencies including community colleges, organized labor, and the private sector to provide job skills training that meets the needs of workers and employers alike;
- Provide two-year base funding so that programs may provide long-term training and services across program years;
- Allow local governments and workforce development programs to use a variety of training approaches including, but not limited to: individual training accounts, classroom training, and on-the-job training;
- Encourage greater use of apprenticeship programs with access to funding for local programs;
- Establish a permanent summer jobs program for young people ages 14 through 24 that is designed to provide youth, including economically disadvantaged and disconnected, youth with paid jobs that provide measurable world-of-work training and job skills development ideally connected to postsecondary skills development opportunities in in-demand career pathways as well as wrap-around supports to engage them in the workforce system and learn the responsibilities and soft-skills that lead to better jobs;
- ~~• Expand the Pell Grant program to cover needed workforce skills training for short-term and certificate training programs;~~
- 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;
- 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
- 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.

Section 4.08 Health

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

NLC believes that the federal government should:

- Control costs and reduce the rate of growth in health care expenditures and coverage costs;
- Ensure universal health care coverage;
- Maintain and improve Medicaid, Medicare, and the State-Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP), SNAP, WIC, and promote school health clinics to expand access and availability of health care;

- Allow cities to apply directly for federal health care funds when a state does not release or apply for available funding opportunities;
- Address disease management and support initiatives such as Food Is Medicine to reduce nutrition-related chronic diseases;
- 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;
- Apply the same laws and rules concerning health care coverage and insurance to cities and town as to any other employer; and
- Support policies and programs that achieve optimal health outcomes recognizing the interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.

In addition, NLC urges the federal government to:

- Combat misinformation on the importance of vaccination to local public health;
- Enhance access to health care by expanding telemedicine and virtual health options, particularly in rural areas;
- Provide funding for outreach and application assistance to uninsured individuals;
- Fund and support increased access to behavioral health programs and services;
- Fund block grant and categorical grant programs for health, such as the Maternal and Child Health Services Program, the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant, funding for community health centers and health programs for Native Americans, Migrants and Refugees;
- Require employers to cover the costs of health insurance for laid off workers and their dependents, as well as the creation of subsidized health insurance pools for workers without employment-based coverage;
- Provide funding for programs which offer transitional care and home health care services;
- Expand preventive health care programs for the poor; and
- Pay the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) premiums for people with catastrophic terminal illnesses who have left their jobs and cannot afford to pay the health insurance premium.

~~B. National Hunger, Nutrition and Health Strategy~~

~~NLC recognizes the significant impact that the National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition and Health will have on the federal-local partnership to improve the health of all Americans and encourages the implementation of programs and strategies that do not result in unfunded mandates. This cross-sector, integrated national strategy identifies priorities for ending hunger and increasing health outcomes by 2030.~~

NLC urges the federal government to:

- ~~Ensure that federal funding is available to local governments and local health departments to play a key role in this work and provide essential services;~~
- ~~Integrate health criteria into federal decision making; and~~
- ~~Use health goals and objectives as benchmarks for existing conditions and as targets for future actions.~~

C. Nutrition

Federal nutrition programs play a critical role in helping low-income families improve their overall nutrition, health, and development.

The federal government should:

- Publish and disseminate annually a report on the food security of households;
- Strengthen federal nutrition program access and supports participation by under-resourced children, ensuring nutrition quality and simplifies program administration and operation; Support state participation in SNAP and reverse SNAP administrative costs to previous levels;
- Support state innovation and provide technical assistance to address SNAP error rate;
- Support and strengthen innovative ways for school districts and states to capture direct certification of students for school meals, given recent SNAP and Medicaid changes ~~Lower area eligibility test to 40 percent to allow more low-income communities to provide summer meals;~~
- Allow the Thrifty Food Plan benefit levels to be updated based on changes to nutritional guidelines and food costs;
- Restore the ability of residents to qualify for the Standard Utility Allowance (SUA) if they receive Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) payments and include internet expenses for the calculation of deductions;
- Support the restoration of the SNAP-Ed program;
- Allow nonprofits and local governments to provide meals year-round seamlessly through the Summer Food Service Program;
- Develop a nationwide implementation plan for universal school breakfasts and lunches in partnership with relevant organizations including the National School Boards Association, National Association of School Superintendents and the U.S. Department of Agriculture;
- Increase school breakfast and school lunch reimbursement rates to address the funding gaps ~~match the recommended rates noted in of~~ the U.S. Department of Agriculture's School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study;
- Expand WIC research in under-resourced communities;
- Extend certification periods to two years for infants, children, breastfeeding women, and postpartum women for those in the WIC program;
- Provide flexibility for SNAP, including the ability to streamline administration and application processes with other social service programs and waiving work requirements to meet the individual needs of residents and ensuring local flexibility to provide access to all residents, including returning citizens between the ages of 55- 65 and those with dependents ages 14 and up;
- Streamline the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) operations to increase the ability of individuals to pre-register for benefits online as soon as possible after a

disaster strikes, support the streamlining of easy-to-administer SNAP waivers that would allow for automatic replacement of benefits for SNAP households, ~~and~~ expand funding to ensure application assistance for individuals to receive D-SNAP quickly and inclusion of local municipalities in advance planning; and

- Support state participation in the Summer EBT (SUN Bucks) program and provide clearer guidance on data management and program operations, and facilitate data sharing across agencies and databases.
- ~~Permanently implement policy improvements for federal nutrition programs that were made in response to COVID-19 including but not limited to creating the Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program and alternative delivery models.~~

Section 4.09 Immigration and Refugees

Immigrants and refugees strengthen the United States by creating economic growth, increasing America's scientific and cultural resources, strengthening our ties with other nations, fulfilling humanitarian commitments, and supporting family ties and that are necessary to build strong communities.

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

The federal government should:

- Strengthen federal-state-local coordination and communication;
- Provide a legal means of immigration, as is determined to be necessary and effective for the United States, for foreign nationals who want to work here temporarily, become legal permanent residents, or gain citizenship;
- Provide local governments with financial and technical assistance so localities can assist new immigrants, including the costs of providing social services, health care, education, language services, refugee resettlement and civic integration;
- Avoid conscription of local personnel, such as police officers, fire inspectors, educators, health personnel and social service personnel into federal service because the federal government has not adequately funded and staffed its immigration enforcement agencies;
- Avoid transferring responsibility for enforcing U.S. immigration laws to local law enforcement;
- Increase federal capacity and infrastructure to provide efficient means for foreign nationals to obtain legal authorization for affordable, temporary visas or legal permanent residency;
- Establish an efficient process whereby undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States may earn legalized status;
- Protect people seeking asylum at the border and through other means and create a humane reception system for migrants and refugees;
- Establish a process whereby once the documentation process has begun, individuals are permitted to obtain a driver's license or other official identification card;
- Establish a process whereby those immigrants who have earned such legal status should also be able to apply for expedited citizenship through additional processes, as appropriate and

practical, if they do not move ahead of applicants with proper documentation waiting to adjust their status or those waiting on lists in their home countries;

- Adopt legislation like the “Dream Act” that can facilitate state efforts to offer in-state tuition to undocumented students and create a pathway to U.S. citizenship and an improved process to eliminate case backlogs that prevent and slow the process;
- Provide an accessible, effective system to ensure that businesses are able to hire foreign workers legally without excessive bureaucratic red tape and that all foreign workers are authorized and documented; and
- Provide same-sex couples with equal rights of immigration sponsorship as opposite-sex couples and amend current law to allow lawful permanent residents to sponsor the permanent partner for legal residence in the United States provided they are over 18 years of age, financially interdependent with the sponsoring individual, not married or in a permanent partnership with anyone other than the sponsoring individual and is not a first, second, or third-degree blood relation;
- Ensure Congressional oversight mechanisms are in place to prohibit discrimination on the basis of religion;
- Restore and provide support for the refugee resettlement program and provide equivalent supports and opportunities for people who came to the U.S. seeking safety through alternative related means, such as humanitarian parole;
- Reopen ports of entry to process asylum seekers in accordance with international law; ~~and~~
- Adopt (1) a definition of “stateless person” in line with international human rights standards, and (2) legal protections for those identified as stateless in the United States through a federal-level Stateless Status Determination procedure based on the United Nation’s High Commissioner for Refugees Handbook on Protection of Stateless People, to ultimately provide stateless people a designated path to lawful status.
- Increase capacity and infrastructure, including the speed of processing, funding levels and number of judges, to enforce the laws and provide efficient means for foreign nationals to obtain legal authorization for visas or legal permanent residency as well as to be processed when making a border crossing;
- Establish a process whereby undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States may earn legalized status through payment of appropriate fees and back taxes, background checks, absence of criminal or gang activity, consistent work history, and meeting civics requirement;
- -Ensure detention policies that do not inflict trauma upon vulnerable children and their families, creating additional financial burdens for mental health, education and family supports in cities across the country;
- Provide access to expedited naturalization to immigrants who have served honorably in the US Armed Forces without prejudice and risk of deportation;
- Ensure all those detained by the Department of Homeland Security are issued an A-Number, a unique seven-, eight- or nine-digit number assigned to ensure all within the system can be tracked;
- Provide language services and a clearly defined appeals process to asylum seekers who are denied entry into the United States; and
- Increase legal immigration by raising the employment-based visa program caps to expand the pool of qualified individuals for hard-to-fill jobs across our nation’s communities.

Proposed HD 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 2025 resolutions that originated in the HD Committee to determine recommendations for 2026. The committee has the following options:

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

The HD resolutions that were approved for 2025 at City Summit with recommendations for 2026 are:

Resolution	HD Committee Recommendation
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-23: In Support of Comprehensive Immigration Policy	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-24: In Support of Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity act and Increased Investment in Workforce Development Programs	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-25: In Support of a National Holiday Commemorating the Accomplishments and Legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez and Dolores Huerta	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-26: In Support of the Equality Act	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-27: In Support of Mothers in the Workforce	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-28: In Support of Equal Pay for Women	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-29: Urging Federal Support for Local Governments Assisting Immigrants and Asylum Seekers	Expire
NEW HD RESOLUTION 1: Advancing Federal Immigration Policy to Empower Economic Growth Across Key Local Industries Including Agriculture, Construction, Hospitality, Health Care, Technology, Science and Entrepreneurship	Adopt

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-23

2
3 IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

4
5 HD Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy

6
7 WHEREAS, historically, the cities and towns of the United States are a cultural mosaic of
8 multiple cultures and nationalities based on our nation's history of welcoming immigrants; and
9

10 WHEREAS, when admitted through a well-regulated, timely and efficient system, immigrants
11 strengthen the United States by creating economic opportunities, increasing America's scientific
12 and cultural resources, strengthening our ties with other nations, fulfilling humanitarian
13 commitments, and supporting family ties and family values that are necessary to build strong
14 communities; and
15

16 WHEREAS, failure on the part of the federal government to simplify immigration procedures,
17 reopen legal ports of entry for asylum seekers to deter illegal entrance, secure the borders, track
18 visa recipients in the interior, or enforce worksite laws allows illegal immigration to thrive, with
19 an estimated 11.3 million residents, 3.5% of the nation's population, living and/or working in the
20 United States without legal authorization or proper documentation; and
21

22 WHEREAS, more than 40 million people living in the United States are foreign-born of which
23 23% are unauthorized immigrants, 27% are lawful permanent residents, and 77% are lawful
24 immigrants; and
25

26 WHEREAS, the worksite enforcement program does not adequately protect work visa holders
27 from employer abuse or deter employers who willingly hire unauthorized workers because they
28 face little likelihood that the federal government will investigate, fine, or criminally prosecute
29 them; and it does not help employers who genuinely want to follow the law because their
30 employee verification efforts are hindered by the extensive use of fraudulent documents; and
31

32 WHEREAS, the lack of infrastructure and capacity at the federal level makes the federal
33 government unable to adequately track visa-holders and permanent resident status, creates
34 unacceptable application backlogs and long delays, which provide strong disincentives for
35 foreign nationals to abide by the legal means to enter or remain in the country, and results in
36 deleterious effects such as children aging out of parents' applications and becoming
37 undocumented, indefinite stagnation of career and life milestones, and inability to move freely
38 across borders; and
39

40 WHEREAS, the United States granted more than 900,000 visas in 2019, of which 300,424 were
41 through temporary, unskilled worker programs (the H2-A and H2-B visas); and
42

43 WHEREAS, output in the economy is higher and grows faster with more immigrants; and
44

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

WHEREAS, roughly two-thirds of undocumented adult immigrants have lived in the United States for ten years or more, 1 million undocumented immigrants are children, and another 4.5 million U.S.-citizen children have at least one undocumented parent; and these families are forced to live “underground,” unable to get drivers’ licenses or car insurance in most states, unlikely to obtain health insurance, and afraid to report crimes to local law enforcement; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

91
92 **WHEREAS**, an increasing number of individuals from multiple countries seeking safety have
93 been admitted to the U. S. in emergency situations as humanitarian parolees; and
94

95 **WHEREAS**, the global refugee crisis the highest in history, with over 100 million forcibly
96 displaced people worldwide, including 27.1 million refugees and 4.6 million asylum-seekers
97 under international law; and
98

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

105 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the federal government should have strong
106 communication and coordination with local governments and provide them with financial and
107 technical assistance to alleviate the local impact of and ensure the success and productivity of
108 new immigrants/refugees/asylees, including the costs of providing social services, housing,
109 health care, education, language services, and civic integration; and
110

111 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the federal government should work to ensure that
112 asylees are granted work authorization while they await formal adjudication, so that that can
113 house and care for themselves and their families and contribute to local economies; and
114

115 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government enforce its current immigration
116 laws equitably, humanely, consistently and timely to adequately staff ports of entry to reduce
117 unauthorized entry at the borders, track visa overstays, working without proper documentation,
118 and employing undocumented workers; and
119

120 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local personnel, such as police officers, fire inspectors,
121 educators, health personnel and social service personnel, should not be conscripted into federal
122 service because the federal government has not adequately funded and staffed its immigration
123 enforcement agencies; and the federal government must not transfer the responsibility of
124 enforcing U.S. immigration laws to local personnel by making undocumented status in the U.S. a
125 criminal offense; and
126

127 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government must strengthen its worksite
128 enforcement capacity, safety programs and wage theft monitoring, as well as provide employers
129 with a universal, reliable, effective, secure, non-discriminatory, and non-counterfeitable
130 employee verification system, using the most up-to-date technology that will minimize fraud;
131 and
132

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-24

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

HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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 WIOA provides a return on investment of \$15 for every \$1 spent, yet funding for WIOA has steadily eroded over the last decade, and inflation has increased the cost of WIOA programs and services; 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 WIOA has been successful in leveraging funds for activities like apprenticeships, summer youth programs, adult and youth career exploration and piloting innovative opportunities for new businesses; and

WHEREAS, the one stop career system is a stable and critical partner to economic development and is recognized as one of the most impactful and remunerative investments Congress has made, and can continue to make, in the years ahead the public workforce system and partner programs to provide a pathway into 21st century jobs new, emerging and in-demand 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, to meet the needs of the changing economy and WIOA allows for greater local control of business outreach and ability to react to business needs; and

~~WHEREAS, the United States invests , 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 federal funding for workforce development has been cut by nearly 40% over the last two decades - the U.S. invests just .1 percent of GDP on active labor market policies, less than any other industrialized country except for Mexico; and~~

~~WHEREAS, in the 118th Congress, WIOA reauthorization was nearly enacted in the form of the A Stronger Workforce for America Act (ASWA)analysis of city expenditures at the two-year anniversary of the American Rescure Plan Act found that larger cities invested more than \$637.3 million in workforce development programs through that program alone; and~~

~~WHEREAS, as cities across America work to strengthen their economic standing and competitiveness and work to implement the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, CHIPS and Science Act and Inflation Reduction Act, we must build strong, equitable workforce development systems that can support the increased demand; and~~

~~WHEREAS, key areas to consider include supporting and scaling pathways to employment, equity and access, and the impact of emerging technologies; and~~

~~WHEREAS, registered apprenticeships have an 80-year history which has been marked by a recent increase in funding and expansion. With additional shifts in prioritizing apprenticeships in WIOA and the increased awareness of these potential pipelines to employment, apprenticeships continue to increase in number and expand into new and emerging industries including health, technology (IT), finance and transportation; and~~

~~WHEREAS, WIOA calls for the prioritization of service for all U.S. Department of Labor-funded job training programs for veterans and eligible spouses, including access to Jobs for Veterans State Grants (JVSF) and the National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWG) program for transitioning service members and their spouses.—~~

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls upon the United States Congress to enact a five-year reauthorization of WIOA that ~~will provide certainty needed to deliver programming~~ incorporates the elements of ASWA that would help modernize our nation’s public workforce development system and further refines language to better support employers, workers, learners, and local communities including:

- Fully and adequately funding the public workforce system and increasing available funding for workforce development activities during the authorization period for a new law so that the system can play an active role in turning unemployed workers into taxpayers;
- Maximizing the availability of training services provided through the public workforce system including 1) internships (or other paid work experience) in the definition of training; 2) the cost of case management and support services while individuals are in training in the definition of training; and 3) allowing Governors to provide waivers to a local area for a given period of time due to economic conditions;
- Preserving locally-driven workforce infrastructure to reflect the communities they were created to serve and provide locally developed solutions;

- Maintaining the current allocation of state and local WIOA funding which has resulted in \$61.6 billion in additional participant earnings in the most recent program year; and
- support the expansion of key definitions in future WIOA legislation, like foundational skills and basic skills deficient, to explicitly include digital literacy skills in recognition of these new realities;
- Providing dedicated funding for the physical infrastructure costs of one-stop centers mandated by WIOA as well as greater flexibility for local boards to expand access to services through using a network of affiliated locations, such as libraries and community colleges, and by allowing for the use of virtual services where appropriate for one-stop service delivery; and
- Flexibility for local governments and workforce boards is crucial as it allows them to tailor workforce development strategies to meet specific needs and respond swiftly to evolving economic conditions and employment challenges.

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

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

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

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

HD Committee Recommendation: Renew

WHEREAS, César Estrada Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona on a family farm and Dolores 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, Dolores Huerta received an associate teaching degree from the University of the Pacific's Delta College in Stockton, CA; 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, Dolores 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 and Dolores Huerta founded the National Farm Workers Association, which eventually became the United Farm Workers of America; and

WHEREAS, under 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, 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

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

47 **WHEREAS**, 10 States and dozens of communities across the United States honor the life and
48 legacy of César Estrada Chávez and Dolores Huerta on March 31st of each year; and
49

50 **WHEREAS**, during his lifetime, César Estrada Chávez was a recipient of the Martin Luther
51 King, Jr. Peace Prize and posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and
52

53 **WHEREAS**, Dolores Huerta received the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award and the
54 Presidential Medal of Freedom; and
55

56 **WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama proclaimed “César Chávez Day” on March 31 of every
57 year as a United States commemorative holiday to support public observance of the contributions
58 of Cesar Chavez to the United States.
59

60 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the National League of Cities calls upon the United
61 States Congress to declare a national holiday celebrating the life and legacy of César Estrada
62 Chávez and Dolores Huerta.

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-26

IN SUPPORT OF THE EQUALITY ACT

HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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

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

WHEREAS, there are 278 states where LGBTQ+ Americans are not fully protected from discrimination, including in credit, education, employment, housing, government funded programs, jury service and public accommodations such as stores, restaurants, and transportation services; and

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

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

WHEREAS, 756% of Americans support a policy of non-discrimination against their LGBTQ+ neighbors; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress and the President to pass The Equality Act and provide full protections for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals regardless of where they live in the United States.

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-27

IN SUPPORT OF ~~MOTHERS~~PARENTS IN THE WORKFORCE

HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2023~~4~~, the labor force participation rate for mothers with children under 18 was 74.0%, ~~a 1.1% increase from 2022~~ and the participation rate for fathers with children under 18 was 93.5%; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Labor Women’s Bureau, 40.5% of all mothers with children under 18 are equal, primary or sole income earners for their family. While 36.4% of White, non-Hispanic mothers and 39.3% of Hispanic mothers are equal, primary or sole breadwinners, the percentage of Black mothers is a staggering 65.9%; and

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

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Labor Women’s Bureau analysis of the American Time Use Survey, employed mothers aged 18-64 today are spending over 40% more time actively caring for their children than their mothers and grandmothers did almost 50 years ago; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Labor’s National Database on Childcare Prices, ~~child care~~childcare expenses are untenable for families throughout the country with price ranges equivalent to between 8.9% and 19.36% of median family income per child in paid care, highlighting the urgent need for greater federal investments; and

WHEREAS, local governments are leveraging returnships, full-time, paid internships designed to help professionals who have been out of the workforce for a year or more return to work; and

WHEREAS, the unprecedented burdens of balancing ~~child care~~childcare and work have strained the mental and emotional health of ~~mothers~~parents and caregivers; and

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

~~**WHEREAS**, 1 in 3 women-owned business is owned by a mother, which translates to near 4.7 million businesses.~~

WHEREAS, a Surgeon General report highlights the stressors that impact the mental health and well-being of parents and caregivers, the critical link between parental mental health and

children's long-term well-being, and the urgent need to better support parents, caregivers, guardians and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National League of Cities calls on Congress to:

- Support paid family leave. NLC recommends 12 weeks.;
 - Invest in programs and policies to support parental mental health;
 - Expand tax credits and other supports for all families including advance monthly payments of the Child Tax Credits and childcare supports;
 - Invest in training and support for the childcare-providers;workforce, as well as facilityfacility enhancements to increase childcare supply, specifically for infants and toddlers;
 - Continue support for the Affordable Care Act programs so that families can continue to provide coverage for themselves and their dependents; and
 - Expanded support to childcare providers to increase capacity for working families.
- ~~recognize, empower, and support mothers who wish to return to the workforce in order to support local economic recovery including support for a minimum of 12 weeks paid maternity leave, the Child Care for Working Families Act and the Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act.~~

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-28

IN SUPPORT OF ~~EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN~~ THE PAYCHECK FAIRNESS ACT

HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

WHEREAS, in 2024, women of all ethnicities who are working full-time, year-round are 84 percent of what a man is paid; and

WHEREAS, the disparities are even greater for Black, Native American, and Hispanic women, who are paid 69 percent, 59 percent, and 58 percent of white men’s wages, respectively; and

WHEREAS, while Asian American women make 830 percent of what white men make, the gap for Asian women varies significantly depending on subpopulation, with some Asian women – for example, Cambodian and Vietnamese Bhutanese, Burmese and Native Hawaiian women – earning among the lowest wages; and

~~**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, the pandemic stalled gains made toward closing the pay gap, and layoffs and a lack of child care have forced many women out of the workforce entirely; and~~

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National League of Cities calls on Congress to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act which works to address ending pay discrimination.

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-29

URGING FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ASSISTING IMMIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

HD Committee Recommendation: Expire

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities (NLC) is dedicated to strengthening and promoting cities as vibrant centers of community and economic activity; and

WHEREAS, local governments across the nation are experiencing increased numbers of immigrants and asylum seekers who require shelter, services, and support; and

WHEREAS, providing adequate assistance to these individuals is essential for their safety, well-being, and successful integration into our communities; and

WHEREAS, the substantial influx of immigrants and asylum seekers into communities is significantly straining local resources due to the increased costs of providing shelter and services; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Shelter and Services Program plays a critical role in offering necessary resources for shelter and services to immigrants and asylum seekers; and

WHEREAS, additional support and funding for the FEMA Shelter and Services Program are necessary to ensure local governments can meet the growing demands for assistance; and

WHEREAS, allowing immigrants and asylum seekers to seek employment opportunities while their cases are pending will promote self-sufficiency, reduce reliance on public assistance, and contribute to the economic vitality of our communities; and

WHEREAS, greater coordination between federal agencies and local governments is essential to ensure effective resettlement and integration processes, and to address the unique challenges faced by each community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls upon the Congress to enact federal legislation that would:

1. Allocate additional financial and technical resources directly to local governments to ensure they have the necessary means to provide shelter and essential services to immigrants and asylum seekers.
2. Allow individuals with pending immigration and asylum cases to seek and obtain employment authorization, fostering their independence and contributing to local economies.

- 47 3. Mandate greater collaboration and communication between federal agencies and local
48 governments to facilitate the resettlement process, address local needs, and ensure
49 efficient use of resources.

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NEW HD RESOLUTION 1

ADVANCING FEDERAL IMMIGRATION POLICY TO EMPOWER ECONOMIC GROWTH ACROSS KEY LOCAL INDUSTRIES INCLUDING AGRICULTURE, CONSTRUCTION, HOSPITALITY, HEALTH CARE, TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

HD Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, excluding those who are Indigenous or whose ancestors were brought to this country as slaves, the United States has, from its very beginning, been a nation of immigrants and their descendants; and

WHEREAS, according to the [American Immigration Council](#), immigrant households made significant contributions to the U.S. economy in 2023:

- Paid \$577.4 billion in taxes (\$373.1 billion federal, \$204.3 billion state and local).
- Held \$1.5 trillion in spending power that supports local businesses and services.
- Paid \$167 billion in rent and held \$6.6 trillion in housing wealth.
- Nearly one in four U.S. entrepreneurs are immigrants, and 46% of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children; and

WHEREAS, between 2000 and 2022, immigrants drove [three-quarters of prime-age labor force](#) growth, and in 2023, they made up [19% of the U.S. workforce](#) across healthcare, construction, agriculture, and technology; and

WHEREAS, from 2018 to 2023, immigration stabilized metro areas with shrinking U.S.-born populations, with [85% seeing immigrant growth](#); and

WHEREAS, the [Congressional Budget Office in 2024](#) estimated immigration could reduce the federal deficit by \$900 billion over the next decade; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, increased immigration enforcement harmed local economies and labor markets across multiple industries, including the agriculture sector, which [lost 155,000](#) workers between March and July 2025; and

WHEREAS, increased federal immigration enforcement has negatively affected local economies by disrupting industries that rely heavily on immigrant labor, including:

- Agriculture, where case studies such as [Oxnard, California](#), show that raids reducing the agricultural workforce by 20–40 percent could cause \$3–7 billion in crop losses and raise produce prices by 5–12 percent;
- Construction, where states with high concentrations of undocumented workers experienced a [0.1 percent decline in employment](#) between June 2024 and June 2025, compounding a national shortage of 200,000–400,000 workers;
- Hospitality counts immigrants as [31 percent of their workforce](#), with a 17 percent growth in immigrant hospitality workers since 2010; and

- Healthcare and long-term care, where immigrants account for [28 percent](#) of the workforce, making federal enforcement actions a direct risk to staffing levels, bed availability, and wait times, particularly in home- and residential-care settings;
- Meatpacking and food processing, where nearly [45 percent](#) of workers are foreign-born, leaving critical food supply chains vulnerable to labor disruptions; and

WHEREAS, [Brookings](#) and [Wharton](#) models project that mass deportations could cut U.S. GDP by up to \$130 billion in 2025, raising labor costs and slowing growth; and

WHEREAS, the inconsistent and disruptive immigration enforcement by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) undermines public safety by fostering fear, discouraging crime reporting and use of essential services, and eroding trust in law enforcement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges Congress and the Administration to:

- **Ensure Lawful Deportation Processes** so that detainments and deportations are done within the rule of law and uphold the rights of citizens and legal immigrants.
- **Strengthen Workforce Participation** by granting work authorization to asylees awaiting adjudication and expanding employment-based visa caps to fill critical workforce gaps.
- **Advance Legal Pathways to Citizenship** for long-term undocumented residents and provide DACA recipients with a permanent pathway to citizenship.
- **Protect Families and Communities** by ending detention practices that traumatize children, ensuring enforcement actions do not undermine public safety or individual rights.
- **Support Military Service Members** by expediting citizenship for immigrants who have served honorably in or assisted the U.S. Armed Forces.
- **Improve Federal–Local Coordination** by working with local governments to mitigate the economic and public safety impacts of the increased federal immigration enforcement.

Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

**Transportation and Infrastructure
Services
Federal Advocacy Committee**

TIS

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

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 5.00 Transportation Authority**
 - A. Local Control

Proposed Policy Amendments

Section 5.00 Transportation Authority

A. Local Control

Fundamental responsibility for overall transportation decision-making is a shared federal, state, and local government responsibility, but ~~emphasis should be~~ federal policy should support affirm and require intergovernmental cooperation while continuing to make targeted federal investments at the local and regional level to improve ~~our~~ outcomes in the full transportation system. NLC supports the ability of states and municipalities to set their own priorities in transportation investment and to have a greater voice in influencing transportation plans that satisfy local needs and objectives.

Where there are overriding national or statewide transportation concerns, federal and state governments have a legitimate role in planning and decision-making, but local governments should never be excluded from those processes. The impact of federally regulated interstate commerce transportation decisions on communities and quality of life must be recognized and considered. Congress should strengthen provisions for local decision-making as a central component of all federal transportation programs, and any funds Congress intends for local and regional use must not be diverted to state governments.

Proposed TIS 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 2025 resolutions that originated in the TIS Committee to determine recommendations for 2026. 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 2025 at City Summit with recommendations for 2026 are:

Resolution	TIS Committee Recommendation
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-30: America's Cities, Towns, and Villages Call on Congress to Partner Directly with Local Governments on Infrastructure Rebuilding for National Results	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-31: Local Leaders Call on Congress to Pass Railway Safety Legislation (S.576 And H.R.8996) to Support America's First Responders and Keep Trains Moving Safely in Communities	Renew with Edits

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-30

AMERICA'S CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES CALL ON CONGRESS TO REBUILD
PARTNER DIRECTLY WITH LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS ON
INFRASTRUCTURE GOVERNMENTS REBUILDING FOR NATIONAL RESULTS

TIS Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

~~WHEREAS, the~~ after five years of increased national infrastructure investment from the
~~bipartisan~~ Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is ~~became law ending in October on~~
~~November 15, 2021,~~ so, America's cities, towns and villages ask and Congress to build on this
momentum to address the backlog of authorized \$1.2 trillion for transportation and water
infrastructure repairs needed with a strong, new historic increase to local government access to
federal grant programs to rebuild and reimagine America's essential infrastructure bill; and

WHEREAS, local governments are substantial owners and major investors in America's full
transportation network – including 77 percent of the nation's road network and more than 50
percent of the nation's bridges – and want to partner with the federal government on
infrastructure rebuilding as well as increasing collaboration with our state partners; and

WHEREAS, locally owned roads make up 43 percent of the federal-aid highway system, yet
only about 16 percent of federal-aid highway program dollars have regional requirements
resulting in nearly 50 percent of locally-owned principal arterials being in poor condition,
compared with just 7 percent of similar state-owned arterials roads; and

~~WHEREAS, the~~ cities, towns and villages of all sizes and states ~~IIJA has~~ were awarded more
than 3,100 direct infrastructure funding opportunities through IIJA programs to make strategic
infrastructure investments that support national goals like reducing road deaths, combatting
congestion, and improving movement of goods and people throughout the road network; and
so far provided \$461 billion to over 60,000 projects including more than 2,500 local
infrastructure projects that have competitively applied and were awarded infrastructure funding
for important local projects that align with federal goals such as the Safe Streets and Roads for
All (Safe Streets) which addresses America's road safety crisis; and

~~WHEREAS, local governments are substantial owners and major investors in America's full~~
~~transportation network—including 77.4% of the nation's highway lane mileage, 50% of the~~
~~nation's bridges, and 46% of urban and rural transit providers—and value the opportunity to~~
~~become an effective infrastructure partner with the federal government while also growing~~
~~regional partnerships with our metropolitan and rural transportation planning organizations as~~
~~well as increasing collaboration with our state partners; and~~

~~WHEREAS, the economic~~ every major sector of the economy ~~potential of the nation's cities,~~
~~towns, and villages~~ relies on a safe and efficient multimodal network of locally owned and
operated roads, bridges, transit, rail, sidewalks, trails, airports and ports that are owned by both
built on strong transportation plans from the local and regional level and intersecting with state
and national systems; and

47
48 **WHEREAS**, while America’s \$3.7 trillion infrastructure funding gap will shrink by the
49 combined federal, state and local infrastructure efforts underway, the U.S. ~~still needs~~should to
50 maintain IIJA investment levels to close the gap into keep up the momentum on poor
51 infrastructure systems and ease ~~ensure~~ the economic drag on American households and major
52 economic sectors from manufacturing to healthcare to agriculture.

53
54 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government ~~federal~~
55 ~~government~~ to prioritize continued infrastructure partnership with America’s cities, towns, and
56 villages through direct, regional and flexible programs that are positioned to meet our shared
57 transportation needs and deliver no less than 25 percent of formula funding to local and regional
58 governments through the flexible Surface Transportation Block Grant program or other
59 programs; and

60
61 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that cities, towns, and villages strongly support continuation of
62 many effective federal grant programs including the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A)
63 program that proactively saves lives of Americans on the nation’s roads as well as the Bridge
64 Investment Program and set-asides that target funding to locally-owned bridges which are twice
65 as likely to be rated in poor condition as state-owned bridges; and

66
67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** ~~that local leaders encourage the U.S. Department of~~
68 ~~Transportation (USDOT) and all regional offices to continue to provide robust technical~~
69 ~~assistance to local governments to navigate the federal programs and provide timely clarity on~~
70 ~~the federal infrastructure process from competition to completion of projects that will serve the~~
71 ~~transportation system as a whole~~; and

72
73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** ~~that NLC calls on our state and regional partners—such as~~
74 ~~state departments of transportation, rural and metropolitan planning organizations, transit, port~~
75 ~~and airport authorities—for greater commitments to infrastructure collaboration with cities,~~
76 ~~towns, and villages on the rebuilding and reimagining necessary to complete thousands of~~
77 ~~projects and to providing sustainable funding structures~~; and

78
79 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the more than 12,000 communities that have railroad
80 tracks strongly urge Congress to use their exclusive authority on railroad issues to both fund the
81 Rail Crossing Elimination program, allow for local investment in rail technology and related
82 bridge and pedestrian infrastrucutre solutions to blocked crossings, and ensure rail safety
83 recommendations from experts at the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) are adopted
84 into law; and

85
86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that America’s local governments continue to urge USDOT
87 and states to expedite and right-size the federal processes for infrastructure projects – especially
88 those projects that are relatively small, supplementary to existing right-of-way, environmentally
89 beneficial, and safety-related to ensure effective delivery of projects that benefit all Americans;
90 and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local government leaders call for ~~federal agencies~~the
USDOT and state governments to improve ~~their~~the transparency and public infrastructure
information on all federally funded transportation programs and projects to encourage efficiency
and performance, enhance community engagement processes for today's busy yet connected
public, and develop greater collaborative partnerships with regional entities on connected
networks to achieve safety and efficiency outcomes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that America's local governments continue to urge USDOT
and states to expedite and right-size the federal processes for infrastructure projects—especially
those projects that are relatively small, supplementary to existing right-of-way, environmentally
beneficial, and safety-related to ensure effective delivery of projects that benefit all Americans;
and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on our state and regional partners – such as
state departments of transportation, rural and metropolitan planning organizations, transit, port
and airport authorities – for greater commitments to infrastructure collaboration with cities,
towns, and villages on the rebuilding and reimagining necessary to complete thousands of
projects and to providing sustainable funding structures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local leaders encourage the U.S. Department of
Transportation (USDOT) and all regional offices to continue to ~~provide robust technical~~
~~assistance~~partner proactively with to local governments as they do with states to ensure effective
navigate the federal programs and provide timely clarity on the federal infrastructure processes
from competition to completion of projects and best practices that will serve the transportation
system as a whole; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local governments support effective oversight of major
federal programs by Congress and independent experts, like the National Transportation Safety
Board, to meet the expectations of American taxpayers who expect a safe, consistent and
competitive infrastructure network; and

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-31

**LOCAL LEADERS CALL ON CONGRESS TO PASS SUPPORT RAILWAY
RAILROAD SAFETY AND ENSURE A PRODUCTIVE AND COMPETITIVE RAIL
NETWORK LEGISLATION (S.576 AND H.R.8996) TO SUPPORT AMERICA'S FIRST
RESPONDERS AND KEEP TRAINS MOVING SAFELY IN COMMUNITIES**

TIS Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

WHEREAS, freight rail policy is primarily overseen by Congress, yet rail safety is increasingly a concern ~~for all levels of~~ at the local government level ~~and residents~~ in more than 12,000 of America's cities, towns and villages across the country living next to the 140,000-mile rail network; and

WHEREAS, more than 4,000 trains have derailed since 2020 with nearly 70 percent of derailments happening in cities, and recent concerning derailments ~~include~~ in communities like Matteson, IL; Niagara Falls, NY, Bethlehem, PA; Adrian, OH; Grants, NM and Holbrook, AZ; Big Lake, MN; Fargo, ND and many others; and

WHEREAS, the Norfolk Southern derailment in East Palestine, OH, in 2023 was among the worst train spills in U.S. history which are consistently occurring including Dunsmuir, CA (1991); Superior, WI (1992); Minot, ND (2002); Paulsboro, NJ (2012); and Custer, WA (2020); and

WHEREAS, derailments have not substantially decreased despite railroads running less but longer trains so trains are more likely to derail carrying hazardous materials that are highly explosive increasing the risk to the communities they pass through; and

~~**WHEREAS**, the Norfolk Southern derailment in East Palestine, OH, in 2023 was among the worst train spills in U.S. history which are consistently occurring including Dunsmuir, CA (1991); Superior, WI (1992); Minot, ND (2002); Paulsboro, NJ (2012); and Custer, WA (2020); and~~

WHEREAS, three times every day America's local first responders may be called on to be the first line of defense for local communities when a train leaves its tracks with potentially devastating consequences, particularly when trains are carrying hazardous materials; and

WHEREAS, local governments employ, train and prepare critical first responders nationally from limited local budgets for all types of emergency response including hazardous material spills from train derailments but also blocked crossing incidents in addition to all the essential community public safety tasks they must perform;

WHEREAS, the ongoing costs to respond to the East Palestine derailment have surpassed \$1.1 billion, but even low-speed train derailments in rail yards create safety issues with over 300 deaths and injuries reported and over a billion dollars in damages reported in the last decade;

47 **WHEREAS**, Congress remains exclusively responsible for rail interstate commerce safety and
48 failure to update and improve rail safety practices is becoming an unnecessary financial burden
49 on local governments who are bearing the costs of emergency response for derailments but also
50 economic losses from extensive blocked crossings;

51
52 **WHEREAS**, America's local governments recognize that rail is an essential public
53 infrastructure that can be a safe method to transport sensitive materials when proper maintenance
54 and training for staff is consistently prioritized and that railroads and their shareholders benefit
55 financially when trains stay on their tracks and continue operating safely.

56
57 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that America's local governments call on
58 Congress to pass bipartisan rail programs and safety reform in the upcoming surface
59 transportation reauthorization to legislation (S.576 and H.R.8996) before Congress recesses this
60 December, and address the impact of train derailments on the lives of America's local first
61 responders, the unnecessary costs being passed along to local government budgets of all sizes,
62 and the safety of communities ~~in their districts~~; and

63
64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Congress should immediately allow the Federal Railroad
65 Administration to collect and act on data provided to them by local officials and members of the
66 public related to blocked crossings which have led to children climbing over blocked trains and
67 ambulances and firefighters being prevented from reaching residents in emergencies costing
68 lives; and

69
70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Congress should immediately enable the Federal Railroad
71 Administration to fulfill the rail safety recommendations provided by the experts from the
72 National Academies' Transportation Research Board Committee report on long trains as well as
73 the National Transportation Safety Board's findings report on East Palestine, OH, and previous
74 train derailments recommendations like expediting the removal of DOT-111 tank cars from use
75 in the U.S. for the safety of the American public among many others; and

76
77 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Congress should continue to seek expert advice from the
78 National Transportation Safety Board on behalf of the American people to continuously respond
79 to transportation safety emergencies, review the data and science behind transportation deaths
80 and incidents objectively, and make appropriate recommendations.

Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

**Public Safety and Crime Prevention
Federal Advocacy Committee**

PSCP

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

Please note:

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

Policy Amendments:

- **Section 6.01 Crime Prevention**
 - Q. Violence Prevention Program
- **Section 6. 02 Public Safety**
 - B. Goals
 - 7. Public Safety Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)
 - 8. Counter UAS (Drone) Technology

Section 6.01 Crime Prevention

Q. Violence Prevention Programs

NLC urges Congress to give local governments direct access to federal funding and technical assistance to recruit, train and retain a diverse violence prevention workforce. That workforce should include law enforcement officers, crisis intervention teams, co-responders, violence interrupters, alternative or unarmed responders, credible messengers, mentors and 911 mental health call takers. NLC also calls on Congress to support community violence intervention programs, reduce court backlogs that delay justice, and help local governments develop data models that go beyond law enforcement metrics to address the root causes of violence.

Section 6.02 Public Safety

B. Goals

7. Public Safety Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS)

NLC urges the federal government to expand the ability of local governments and public safety agencies to use drones as a critical tool for emergency response, disaster assessment and community protection. Drones provide real-time aerial awareness, help first responders reach areas that are difficult to access, and allow faster, safer and more efficient deployment of resources during emergencies. Expanding operational flexibility—including allowing trained public safety operators to pilot more than one drone beyond visual line of sight—will give local governments greater capacity to save lives, protect property and support recovery efforts. At the same time, NLC calls for clear federal guidance on the use of components manufactured by foreign suppliers, as well as on privacy and transparency measures, to ensure public trust and safeguard residents' rights as drones become a more common part of public safety operations.

8. Counter UAS (Drone) Technology

NLC urges the federal government to invest in the research, development and deployment of safe and effective counter-drone technologies that protect communities from unlawful or dangerous UAS activity. Drones are increasingly used in ways that threaten public safety, critical infrastructure and mass gatherings, and local governments need tools to detect and stop these threats. Counter-UAS solutions must be safe, affordable and rapidly deployable, while avoiding interference with public safety communications and cellular services and minimizing risks to people and property. NLC also calls for strong federal collaboration with local governments, law enforcement, and technology developers to ensure that counter-UAS systems protect communities by delegating the authority to interdict drones to state and local agencies while maintaining public trust.

Proposed PSCP 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 2025 resolutions that originated in the PSCP Committee to determine recommendations for 2026. 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 2025 at City Summit with recommendations for 2026 are:

Resolution	PSCP Committee Recommendation
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-32: In Support of Federal Efforts to Recruit and Retain A Diverse Public Safety Workforce	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-33: Urging the Federal Government to Provide Direct Funding and Assistance to Cities, Towns, and Villages to Support Violence Prevention Programs	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-34: On Transforming the Nation’s 9-1-1 System for Enhanced Crisis Response and Support Services	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-35: On Enhancing Public Safety Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Operations Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) and Multiple Uas Deployment	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-36: Urging Federal Investment In Safe and Effective Counter UAS Technologies	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-37: Urging the Federal Government to Support Local Government Efforts to Prevent and Respond to Mass Shootings	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-38: Support of Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder Solutions, Additional Resources for Law Enforcement, and Combating Fentanyl and Xylazine Trafficking	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-39: Urging Congress to Pass Legislation Providing	Renew

Proposed Policy Amendments

Increased Support to Local Governments for Wildfire Prevention, Response, and Recovery Efforts	
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-40: Urging Congress to Pass Legislation to Reform the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program	Renew
NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 1: Urging Federal Action to Expedite Delivery of Fire and Emergency Medical Apparatus	Adopt
NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 2: Calling for Reforms to the Federal Consent Decree Process and the Development of Alternative, Cost-Effective Approaches to Police Reform	Adopt

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PSCP Committee Recommendation: Renew

WHEREAS, municipalities across the country are having a difficult time recruiting and retaining qualified and racially diverse public safety employees; and

WHEREAS, the difficulty in recruiting and retaining public safety employees includes sworn and unsworn law enforcement officers, volunteer and paid firefighters, emergency medical technicians and paramedics, social workers and crises intervention specialists, 9-1-1 call takers, dispatchers, and public safety communications technicians; and

WHEREAS, the reasons why individuals are less likely to seek or stay in a career in public safety may include increased risk of injury or death, risk of civil liability or criminal conviction, lack of political and public support, insufficient income for the level of personal risk, risk of potential for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or other mental and physical issues resulting from in the line of duty; and

WHEREAS, lack of racial, ethnic, and gender diversity in the public safety workforce can also make it difficult to recruit women and minorities; and

WHEREAS, recruiting, training, and retaining the next generation of public safety personnel will require considerable local government resources; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities across America, especially small to medium-size cities, towns and villages, lack sufficient resources to recruit, train, and retain qualified public safety personnel to keep their communities safe.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National League of Cities (NLC) urges Congress and the Administration to:

- Provide expertise, technical and financial support to local governments and public safety training facilities to recruit, train and retain a more racially and gender diverse public safety workforce.
- Provide additional funding for local governments to hire recruiters to help recruit a diverse municipal public safety workforce.
- Establish a national ad campaign to help recruit more women and minorities in the public safety workforce.
- Provide technical assistance to local governments to improve mental health and wellness programs for their public safety employees.
- Increase funding for the COPS hiring grants and allow the funding to be used for hiring co-responders and crisis intervention teams.

- 46 • Enact the Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act,
47 aimed at offering advantageous mortgage terms and conditions to eligible first
48 responders, encompassing law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, and
49 emergency medical technicians (EMTs). This legislation aims to enhance the support
50 local governments provide to their first responders and incentivize qualified individuals
51 to purchase affordable housing and pursue a career in public safety.

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URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE DIRECT FUNDING AND ASSISTANCE TO CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES TO SUPPORT VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAMS

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy

WHEREAS, the rise in violent crime, including gun violence, in communities across the country is putting a considerable strain on local government resources; and

WHEREAS, local governments have leveraged federal funding through the American Rescue Plan Act, and other federal grant programs, but the needs of local governments when addressing violent crime are not met by these funds; and

WHEREAS, the residents in cities, towns, and villages believe local elected officials have the primary responsibility to deal with the violence in their communities; and

WHEREAS, local leaders are looking at recruiting, hiring, training, and retaining a municipal public safety workforce that is bigger than just law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical services to address the rise in violent crime; and

WHEREAS, local leaders recognize the importance of coordinated mental health services in violence prevention, taking on greater responsibility in providing behavioral health services to all their residents experiencing economic, social, mental health, and substance abuse crises, but are restricted by the lack of sufficient funds made available to cities, towns, and villages for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, municipal governments have little or no control over the adjudication of those committing acts of violence and rely on federal, state, and county criminal courts to ensure that they are adequately charged and processed. However, these courts are experiencing unprecedented backlogs that are causing those who are committing acts of violence to be processed through the system slowly and at times released to the community; and

WHEREAS, local government officials cannot rely solely on policing data to get a comprehensive picture of what factors are causing the rise in violence in their communities; and

WHEREAS, the partisan and divisive national political debate over the causes of violence in cities is making it harder for local officials to effectively communicate to their residents on how they are addressing the violence; and

WHEREAS, relaxed state and federal gun laws are increasing the illegal trafficking of guns to criminals in cities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the National League of Cities (NLC) urges Congress to ensure local governments can directly apply for and receive federal funding to help

recruit, hire, train and retain a more racially and gender diverse violence prevention workforce that includes:

- accredited and properly vetted law enforcement officers
- crisis intervention teams
- mental health and substance abuse co-responders
- violence interrupters
- alternative or unarmed responders that can respond to non-violent and non-criminal incidents to reduce the overburden on sworn law enforcement officers
- credible messengers and mentors
- mental health call takers in 9-1-1 centers to appropriately triage mental health calls; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NLC urges the federal government to provide technical assistance to local governments to establish:

- co-responder programs
- community violence interventions including violence interruption programs
- crises intervention teams
- alternative or unarmed responder programs
- credible messenger/mentor programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NLC urges Congress to provide additional funding to address the backlog of criminal cases in the federal, state, and county courts to ensure those committing acts of violence are not released back to the communities before they are fully adjudicated for their crimes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NLC urges Congress to provide technical assistance to local governments to develop new analytical models that don't rely solely on law enforcement data to identify and address the root causes of violence in their communities.

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-34

ON TRANSFORMING THE NATION'S 9-1-1 SYSTEM FOR ENHANCED CRISIS
RESPONSE AND SUPPORT SERVICES

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

WHEREAS, the current 9-1-1 emergency response system plays a critical role in addressing a wide range of emergencies and crises; and

WHEREAS, the estimated proportion of mental health, substance abuse, and other behavioral health-related 9-1-1 calls stands at approximately 20 percent; however, this figure may be substantially underreported due to the misclassification of these calls as disturbances or other incidents to necessitate a law enforcement response; and

WHEREAS, the existing 9-1-1 system often relies on law enforcement as the default response to such calls, which may not always be the most appropriate or effective solution for individuals experiencing mental health crises; and

WHEREAS, police responses to mental health, substance abuse, and other behavioral health-related emergencies can lead to unintended consequences, such as arrests and confrontations, which can exacerbate the distress and vulnerability of individuals in crisis; and

WHEREAS, the current system's reliance on law enforcement intervention fails to address the specific needs of individuals experiencing mental health crises, thereby hindering the potential for positive outcomes; and

WHEREAS, there is a growing recognition of the need for specialized crisis response teams to address situations involving mental health crises, substance abuse, homelessness, and other non-violent emergencies; and

WHEREAS, individuals experiencing mental health crises and related challenges often require a more empathetic and supportive approach that involves mental health professionals, rather than traditional law enforcement responses; and

WHEREAS, equipping public safety answering points (PSAP) with professionals trained in mental health crises will enable them to recognize and appropriately respond to the nuances of mental health crises, fostering more compassionate and informed interventions; and

WHEREAS, community-based resources, such as mental health clinics, crisis centers, and social services organizations, can play a vital role in providing ongoing support to individuals in crisis, helping to prevent escalation and improve outcomes; and

WHEREAS, coordination between emergency services and community-based resources can lead to more holistic and comprehensive responses that address the underlying causes of crises and better connect individuals with the appropriate support networks; and

47
48 **WHEREAS**, local governments have begun implementing programs and initiatives aimed at
49 enhancing crisis response through specialized teams, mental health training, and coordination
50 with community resources; and

51
52 **WHEREAS**, these local efforts require additional federal support and resources to be fully
53 effective and scalable.

54
55 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the National League of Cities (NLC) recognizes
56 the urgent need for a comprehensive transformation of the 9-1-1 system to address the needs of
57 individuals experiencing mental health crises and behavioral health challenges and the
58 importance of establishing and supporting specialized crisis response teams within local
59 communities to respond to non-violent emergencies, such as mental health crises, substance
60 abuse incidents, and homelessness; and

61
62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC calls on the federal government to:

- 63
- 64 • Allocate funding and resources to establish standards for mental health triage response
65 and -enhance mental health training programs for 9-1-1 call takers, dispatchers, and first
66 responders, ensuring that they are equipped with the skills to de-escalate situations,
67 communicate effectively, and provide appropriate support.
 - 68 • Provide financial support and technical assistance to local governments seeking to
69 implement and expand specialized crisis response teams, mental health training
70 programs, and coordination efforts with community-based resources.
 - 71 • Facilitate and incentivize coordination between emergency services and community-
72 based resources, including mental health clinics, crisis centers, social services agencies,
73 and non-profit organizations, to ensure a seamless continuum of care for individuals in
74 crisis.
 - 75 • Collaborate with local governments to develop inclusive policies, practices, and training
76 programs within the 9-1-1 system that ensure everyone has equitable access to the
77 appropriate emergency services; and
- 78

79 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC calls on Congress to pass the 9-1-1 Supporting Accurate
80 Views of Emergency Services (SAVES) Act that would require the Office of Management and
81 Budget to categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under
82 the Standard Occupational Classification System.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-35

2
3 ON ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS)
4 OPERATIONS BEYOND VISUAL LINE OF SIGHT (BVLOS) AND MULTIPLE UAS
5 DEPLOYMENT
6

7 PSCP Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy
8

9 WHEREAS, public safety agencies are increasingly relying on unmanned aircraft systems
10 (UAS) for efficient emergency response, search and rescue missions, disaster assessment, and
11 other critical operations; and
12

13 WHEREAS, the ability to operate UAS beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) would
14 significantly enhance the effectiveness of public safety agencies in responding to emergencies
15 and conducting operations over large areas; and
16

17 WHEREAS, to support public UAS operators acting in an active first responder capacity, the
18 FAA may approve “First Responder Tactical Beyond Visual Line of Sight” (TBVLOS) waivers
19 to 14 CFR 91.113(b), the 1,500 feet distance limitations on the waiver may be too restrictive; and
20

21 WHEREAS, advancements in UAS technology, including reliable communication systems,
22 sense-and-avoid capabilities, and remote piloting systems, have made BVLOS operations safer
23 and more feasible; and
24

25 WHEREAS, existing regulations presently confine operators to the management of a single
26 UAS per flight, necessitating public safety agencies to employ numerous operators for the
27 simultaneous control of multiple UAS; and
28

29 WHEREAS, technological advancements enable public safety operators to command more than
30 one UAS within a single flight effectively; and
31

32 WHEREAS, granting permission for public safety operators to manage multiple UAS during
33 emergency incidents would significantly bolster their capacity for situational awareness,
34 response effectiveness, and operational efficiency; and
35

36 WHEREAS, local governments have a paramount responsibility to protect their communities,
37 residents, and businesses from various threats, including natural disasters, hazardous incidents,
38 and public safety emergencies; and
39

40 WHEREAS, UAS technology has proven to be an invaluable asset for local governments in
41 disaster response, recovery, and overall public safety management; providing real-time aerial
42 surveillance, rapid situational assessment, and data collection capabilities that aid decision-
43 making and resource allocation; and
44

45 **WHEREAS**, BVLOS operations would empower local governments to extend the reach of UAS
46 surveillance and response, allowing them to efficiently cover vast areas, navigate challenging
47 terrains, and access remote locations that may be inaccessible through conventional means; and
48

49 **WHEREAS**, the deployment of multiple UAS during emergency incidents enables local
50 governments to gather diverse streams of information, assess evolving situations from multiple
51 perspectives, and facilitate seamless communication among response teams; and
52

53 **WHEREAS**, the use of UAS by public safety agencies must prioritize the protection of the
54 privacy rights of local residents and businesses, ensuring that surveillance and data collection
55 activities are conducted in compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and
56

57 **WHEREAS**, transparency requirements regarding the usage of UAS are essential to maintain
58 the public's trust and confidence, and to provide a clear understanding of how UAS are utilized
59 for public safety purposes; and
60

61 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has a unique role in ensuring law
62 enforcement and public safety agencies in adhering to legal and ethical standards, including
63 privacy protections and transparency.
64

65 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is
66 urged to take the following actions to enhance public safety UAS operations:
67

- 68 • The FAA is urged to establish clear and reasonable guidelines, standards, and
69 procedures that enable qualified public safety agencies to conduct UAS operations
70 beyond visual line of sight. This should include requirements for advanced
71 communication systems, collision avoidance technology, remote piloting expertise, and
72 comprehensive risk assessment strategies.
- 73 • The FAA is urged to permit public safety agencies to operate multiple UAS
74 simultaneously during emergency incidents, provided that these agencies adhere to
75 established safety protocols and demonstrate the ability to manage such operations
76 effectively. This capability will allow for enhanced coverage, data collection, and
77 coordination during critical situations.
- 78 • The FAA is encouraged to collaborate with public safety agencies to develop
79 specialized training and certification programs that equip UAS operators with the
80 necessary skills to conduct BVLOS operations and manage multiple UAS deployments
81 safely. These programs should focus on communication protocols, emergency
82 procedures, and the integration of new technologies.
- 83 • The FAA should review and potentially revise the distance limitations on the “First
84 Responder Tactical BVLOS” (TBVLOS) waivers to 14 CFR 91.113(b) to ensure that
85 they provide sufficient flexibility for first responder UAS operations in active
86 emergency scenarios.
- 87 • The FAA should foster collaboration between public safety agencies and UAS
88 manufacturers, technology developers, and airspace stakeholders to ensure the
89 continuous improvement of BVLOS capabilities, safety standards, privacy protections,

90 waiver flexibility, and transparency efforts. Additionally, the FAA should promote the
91 sharing of best practices and lessons learned among public safety agencies.
92

93 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Department of Justice (DOJ) is urged to take the
94 following actions for privacy protections and transparency of public safety UAS operations:
95

- 96 • In collaboration with local governments, the DOJ should develop standard guidelines
97 local governments can implement to ensure their public safety UAS operations respect
98 residents' privacy rights.
- 99 • The DOJ should develop standard practices public safety agencies can implement to
100 maintain transparent records of UAS usage, outlining how UAS are deployed, the
101 purpose of each mission, and the data collected.

URGING FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN SAFE AND EFFECTIVE COUNTER UAS TECHNOLOGIES

WHEREAS, the increasing prevalence of unmanned/uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS or drones) has led to local safety and security concerns, including potential misuse by criminal organizations and terrorists; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has issued warnings about the rising risk of domestic drone attacks targeting critical infrastructure, landmarks, and mass gatherings; and

WHEREAS, the development of counter-UAS, including both drone detection and mitigation technologies, is crucial to addressing these evolving security challenges; and

WHEREAS, it is essential to balance the deployment of counter-UAS technologies with the protection of public safety communication systems, cellular services, and the prevention of collateral damage; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of flight advisories and limitations to prevent UAS systems from entering restricted, sensitive or populated areas is a valuable tool for maintaining security.

- **Non-interference:** Counter UAS technologies must not interfere with or jam public safety communications systems, ensuring that emergency responders can effectively

communicate during critical situations and local security and technology systems are not interrupted.

- Cellular Services: The development of counter-UAS solutions should not disrupt cellular services, thereby preserving the ability of residents to use their cellular devices to call for help.
- Mitigation of Damage: Counter-UAS technologies should be designed to limit potential damage from errant projectiles or falling drones to ensure the safety of bystanders and property.
- Rapid Deployment: The developed technologies should be quickly and easily deployed either by local governments or at their request to address emerging threats promptly.
- Affordability: The federal government should prioritize the affordability of counter-UAS technologies, enabling local governments with varying resources to access and implement these solutions.
- Enforce Limitations: Counter drone solutions must be effective and reliable to enforce strict boundaries for prevent UAS systems from entering restricted or sensitive areas but also allowing approved operators to continue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NLC calls upon the federal government to collaborate with industry experts, law enforcement agencies, technology developers, and local governments to ensure the timely development and implementation of effective, safe, and responsible counter-UAS technologies.

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WHEREAS, the safety and security of our nation's communities are of paramount importance to the National League of Cities and its member municipalities; and

WHEREAS, mass shootings continue to pose a recurring and alarming threat to our cities and towns, resulting in immeasurable loss of life, physical and emotional trauma, and a profound impact on our social fabric; and

WHEREAS, addressing the multifaceted challenges posed by mass shootings requires comprehensive and collaborative action at all levels of government to effectively prevent, respond to, and recover from such incidents; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that our society takes a comprehensive approach to address mass shootings, encompassing prevention, response, recovery, and support for victims and survivors; and

WHEREAS, strengthening background checks, enhancing mental health initiatives, improving coordination and information sharing, increasing funding for community policing, and implementing comprehensive emergency response planning are key measures to prevent and respond to mass shootings; and

WHEREAS, victim and survivor support, research, data collection, and public awareness and education campaigns are essential components of addressing the multifaceted aspects of mass shootings; and

WHEREAS, the potential obstacles to the submission of mental health records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) reporting, as stipulated by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), should be evaluated and potentially amended to ensure effective information sharing.

- Recognize the urgent need for comprehensive action to provide substantial and sustained support to local governments in their efforts to prevent, respond to, and recover from mass shootings.

- Strengthen background checks, improve coordination and information sharing among law enforcement agencies, enhance mental health initiatives, increase funding for community policing, and the development of comprehensive emergency response plans to mitigate the risk and impact of mass shootings.
- Provide assistance to local governments in their endeavors to enhance victim and survivor support, conduct research, gather data, and launch public awareness and education campaigns; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NLC urges Congress to:

- Amend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to remove any obstacles to the submission of mental health records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) reporting, ensuring effective sharing of relevant information such as individual's current mental health diagnosis, risk assessments, adjudication records, history of violent behavior or threats, and pertinent demographic information to enhance the accuracy and effectiveness of background checks for firearm purchases.
- Provide increased funding for mental health initiatives, recognizing that effective mental health services and support can play a critical role in preventing individuals from resorting to violence.
- Provide increased funding in the annual federal budget to help federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies stop the illegal trafficking of guns and weapons into cities, hold straw purchasers criminally liable, and permanently shut down “bad apple” gun dealers.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-38

2
3 **SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SOLUTIONS,**
4 **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND COMBATING**
5 **FENTANYL AND XYLAZINE TRAFFICKING**
6

7 **PSCP Committee Recommendation:** Renew
8

9 **WHEREAS**, the NLC recognizes the pressing need to address the ongoing challenges posed by
10 substance use disorder within our communities; and
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the NLC acknowledges the importance of supporting programs that provide access
13 to essential treatment, prevention, and recovery support services; and
14

15 **WHEREAS**, addressing the issue of dangerous substances, often found in illicit opioids and
16 other drugs, remains a priority for our communities; and
17

18 **WHEREAS**, it is vital to eliminate unnecessary barriers to treatment for vulnerable populations
19 and promote sustained access to medication-assisted treatment for those in need; and
20

21 **WHEREAS**, the NLC recognizes the significance of long-term recovery services, including
22 workforce training and peer support services, in facilitating individuals' journey towards
23 recovery; and
24

25 **WHEREAS**, resources and support are needed to assist communities significantly impacted by
26 the overdose epidemic; and
27

28 **WHEREAS**, addressing the substance addiction crisis also requires the active involvement of
29 law enforcement agencies at the federal, state, and local levels; and
30

31 **WHEREAS**, the trafficking of fentanyl, a potent synthetic opioid, poses a severe threat to public
32 health and safety in cities, towns, and villages across the nation; and
33

34 **WHEREAS**, Xylazine, an animal tranquilizer that has increasingly been found in illicit opioids
35 and other drugs, and does not respond to overdose reversal medications, making overdoses
36 involving Xylazine more fatal.
37

38 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities fully supports
39 comprehensive solutions to address substance use disorder in our communities; and
40

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC will actively advocate for the following principles to
42 guide these efforts:
43

- 44 • Allocation of resources and funding mechanisms that ensure local governments receive
45 the necessary support to effectively combat substance use disorder at the community
46 level;

- Integration of technical assistance into substance use disorder programs to guarantee that all communities, regardless of their size or resources, can establish and maintain essential services; and
- Maintenance of flexibility within funding mechanisms to empower cities, towns, and villages to address a wide range of substances impacting their communities according to their unique needs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the National League of Cities calls on Congress to provide federal, state, and local law enforcement with the additional resources and technical assistance needed to address the substance addiction crisis in America's cities, towns, and villages; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NLC recognizes the urgent need to provide support to local governments to help stop the trafficking of fentanyl into cities, towns, and villages, thereby safeguarding the well-being of our residents and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED NLC supports appropriately scheduling Xylazine under the Controlled Substances Act to aid law enforcement in keeping this dangerous substance off the streets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC will continue to collaborate with federal, state, and local stakeholders to comprehensively address substance use disorder, prioritize the well-being of our residents, and promote healthier, more vibrant communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports legislation that would restart benefits for Medicaid-eligible incarcerated individuals 30 days prior to their release, with the following objectives:

- Facilitating Access to Addiction Treatment and Services: By allowing for the provision of effective addiction treatment and services, addressing substance abuse issues and promoting healthier reintegration into society.
- Reducing the Risk of Overdose Deaths: By ensuring access to essential healthcare services, including addiction treatment, before and after release, we aim to reduce the risk of overdose deaths among formerly incarcerated individuals and promote their long-term wellbeing.
- Maintaining Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility: Facilitating a smooth transition back into the community for individuals who are already eligible, thereby enhancing their access to essential healthcare services.

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**URGING CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION PROVIDING INCREASED SUPPORT
TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR WILDFIRE PREVENTION, RESPONSE, AND
RECOVERY EFFORTS**

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Renew

WHEREAS, wildfires pose a significant and escalating threat to communities across the United States, endangering lives, property, and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, many cities, towns, and villages are situated near federal and state forest lands that have not been adequately maintained, increasing the vulnerability of these communities to wildfire threats due to accumulated vegetation and other hazardous fuels; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of wildfires are extensive, requiring sustained efforts in prevention, response, and recovery, which place considerable strain on local government resources; and

WHEREAS, local governments are on the front lines of addressing wildfire risks, making it imperative that they receive adequate support and resources to manage these challenges effectively; and

WHEREAS, enhanced federal support and innovative funding mechanisms are necessary to enable local governments to implement sustainable land management and forest restoration projects efficiently; and

WHEREAS, collaboration among federal, state, local, and tribal governments is crucial for coordinated wildfire management and for tailoring efforts to the specific needs of impacted communities; and

WHEREAS, investment in critical infrastructure improvements, such as the development of microgrids and resilient clean energy projects, is essential for reducing the risk of power outages, maintaining crucial services during wildfire emergencies, and reducing liability; and

WHEREAS, supporting workforce development in sustainable forestry and wildfire resilience practices is vital for creating jobs and building local capacity to manage wildfire risks; and

WHEREAS, special attention is required for low-income and vulnerable communities to ensure that the benefits of improved wildfire resilience are equitably distributed and accessible to all.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the National League of Cities (NLC) hereby urges Congress to pass comprehensive legislation that provides robust support to local governments for wildfire prevention, response, and recovery; and

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC commits to fostering collaborative efforts with federal,
46 state, and tribal partners to ensure that any new legislation is implemented effectively and that
47 best practices in wildfire management are widely disseminated and adopted; and
48

49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC recognizes the importance of critical energy
50 infrastructure in preventing wildfires and urges the federal government to collaborate with local
51 stakeholders and electric utility providers to enhance energy infrastructure resilience, reduce
52 wildfire risks, and support a sustainable, clean energy grid.

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PSCP Committee Recommendation: Renew

WHEREAS, the program currently lacks permanent authorization, which leads to delays in the disbursement of funds, thereby extending recovery timelines, stagnating local economies, and exacerbating homelessness and migration from disaster-impacted areas; and

WHEREAS, the "Reforming Disaster Recovery Act," a bipartisan legislation seeks to permanently authorize the CDBG-DR program, thus ensuring faster, more equitable, and more accountable distribution of disaster recovery funds; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation includes critical reforms such as ensuring balanced use of funds between infrastructure and housing, improving data transparency and oversight, establishing a CDBG-DR Reserve Fund for rapid initial recovery funding, and promoting disaster mitigation and resilience; and

WHEREAS, millions of disaster survivors across the country face catastrophic and life-threatening conditions due to extreme weather events, and the current ad hoc system of funding significantly delays essential recovery efforts; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities urges Congress to pass the "Reforming Disaster Recovery Act" to provide meaningful relief to disaster survivors and ensure that the CDBG-DR program operates more efficiently and effectively.

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NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 1

**URGING FEDERAL ACTION TO EXPEDITE DELIVERY OF FIRE AND
EMERGENCY MEDICAL APPARATUS**

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, local governments depend on timely access to fire trucks, ambulances, and emergency response vehicles to ensure public safety and effective emergency response; and

WHEREAS, fire departments across the country are facing significant delivery delays due to supply chain disruptions, workforce shortages, and market consolidation in the fire apparatus manufacturing industry; and

WHEREAS, the cost of fire apparatus has more than doubled in recent years placing a heavy burden on municipal budgets and forcing departments to delay replacements or operate aging vehicles; and

WHEREAS, smaller and rural volunteer fire departments—often with limited budgets and staffing—are especially hard hit by equipment delays and price increases, leaving many unable to replace aging apparatus or compete for available resources, further widening the gap in emergency response capabilities across communities; and

WHEREAS, forcing fire departments to operate outdated or unreliable apparatus jeopardizes public safety, drives up maintenance costs, and limits firefighters’ ability to respond effectively to emergencies; and

WHEREAS, these challenges undermine the effectiveness of federal programs such as the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) and the Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program, which require local governments to procure and deploy equipment in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, industry data shows that orders for new apparatus surged following the COVID-19 pandemic, while manufacturing output declined—creating an unprecedented backlog that continues to extend lead times across the country.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities urges Congress and the federal government to:

1. Increase federal funding and technical assistance to help local governments manage cost escalations and delivery delays;
2. Provide greater flexibility in federal grant timelines and disbursements to reflect current manufacturing realities; and
3. Promote policies that support expanded domestic production capacity, fair market competition, and reliable access to safe and affordable emergency response vehicles.

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NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 2

**CALLING FOR REFORMS TO THE FEDERAL CONSENT DECREE PROCESS AND
THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE, COST-EFFECTIVE APPROACHES TO
POLICE REFORM**

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, cities, towns, and villages across the United States are committed to building police departments that are transparent, accountable, community-focused, and committed to constitutional policing; and

WHEREAS, federal consent decrees are often imposed by the U.S. Department of Justice as a mechanism to address patterns of civil rights violations or systemic misconduct in local police departments; and

WHEREAS, while the goals of consent decrees are important, the process as currently implemented often results in costly, open-ended, and resource-intensive mandates that can stretch over many years and require extensive legal, administrative, and staffing investments from local governments; and

WHEREAS, many local police departments in a consent decree struggle to comply with broad and complex decree requirements while also meeting day-to-day operational needs and responding to community concerns; and

WHEREAS, the role of the independent monitor in overseeing consent decrees often lacks consistent standards for accountability, transparency, or efficiency, resulting in unclear progress benchmarks and uncertain timelines for resolution; and

WHEREAS, cities need a reformed consent decree process that includes measurable, transparent, and achievable goals, with clearly defined timelines, cost oversight, and genuine collaboration with local officials and police leadership; and

WHEREAS, alternative approaches such as technical assistance, collaborative reform models, peer-to-peer mentoring, and targeted federal support may offer more cost-effective, timely, and locally responsive pathways to improving police practices and public trust without the burdens of long-term consent decree oversight.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities urges the U.S. Department of Justice, Congress, and relevant federal agencies to reform the federal consent decree process by:

1. Requiring that independent monitors adopt transparent, measurable, and achievable goals with clear benchmarks and timelines for completion;
2. Limiting the scope and duration of consent decrees to reduce unnecessary financial and staffing burdens on local governments;

- 47 3. Establishing cost accountability measures and ensuring that consent decree-related
- 48 expenditures are proportionate and justified;
- 49 4. Involving local officials and community stakeholders in the design, implementation, and
- 50 evaluation of reform plans;
- 51 5. Expanding access to alternative models—such as collaborative reform, technical
- 52 assistance, and federal-local partnerships—to support effective and sustainable police
- 53 reform without triggering formal consent decrees.

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

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
 - 2. Adoption*
 - 3. Affordability*
- **Section 7.01 Local Control and Authority**
 - C. Wireless Communications Providers
 - 7. Spectrum Management*
- **Section 7.02 Public Safety**
 - B. FirstNet
 - G. Cybersecurity
- **Section 7.03 Consumer Protection**
 - A. Abusive Practices
 - 3. Automated Communications*
 - 4. Spoofing and Impersonation*
 - 5. Unsolicited Communications*
 - 8. Digital Deception*
 - D. Privacy
 - 1. Privacy and Consumer Protection*
- **Section 7.04 Emerging Technologies**

Section 7.00 Economic Opportunity and Innovation

B. Access, Adoption, Affordability, and Symmetry of Broadband

2. Adoption

Understanding that access alone is not enough to encourage adoption, NLC also supports proposals that would bridge the digital divide and develop programs that would create opportunities to increase broadband adoption, including funding for digital navigation and digital equity programs within cities. Federal programs to support broadband adoption should also support digital skills development for residents, including digital skills to support workforce development, educational opportunities, healthcare, and civic and social participation. Federal programs to support older residents' ability to age in place and remain connected to family and community should incorporate broadband adoption and digital skills support.

3. Affordability

Federal policies should be designed to maximize the availability of affordable and competitively priced services throughout the country. NLC urges the federal government to make permanent and sustainably fund a broadband subscription subsidy program, such as the Affordable Connectivity Program, to provide households in need with a reliable support for home broadband service.

Section 7.01 Local Control and Authority

C. Wireless Communications Providers

7. Spectrum Management

Radio spectrum, which supports all wireless communication services and devices, is a finite resource in high demand. The federal government has a crucial role to play as the manager of radio frequency allocation, ensuring that sufficient spectrum is available for a wide variety of public and private uses and that interference is minimized. NLC urges the federal government to preserve and protect bands that serve important roles for local governments, including public safety use and transportation systems use, as well as unlicensed bands used by local governments for a host of reasons, including offering public wifi and connecting the sensors and devices that power smart city systems. When band usage is altered, the federal government must ensure that interference or security threats from the overlap of new and old users is prevented.

Section 7.02 Public Safety

B. FirstNet

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), created by the Middle-Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, is the first nationwide public safety wireless broadband data communications network intended to meet the needs and requirements of our nation's first responders. The FirstNet Board of Directors has been tasked with the planning, construction, maintenance, and operation of a network that will allow first responders to achieve better

communication in their day-to-day work as well as during disaster response. Since its establishment, local public safety agencies in all states and territories have adopted use of FirstNet. NLC encourages efforts by FirstNet to work with state and local governments, as well as the first responder community, to identify their needs when it comes to the cost, coverage, and uses of the public safety broadband network. NLC supports continued oversight of FirstNet by the Public Safety Advisory Committee, which ensures the ongoing feedback and direction of state and local public safety officials is prioritized as part of FirstNet's governance. NLC also urges Congress to reauthorize FirstNet beyond its original sunset date of 2027, to avoid disruption to the many current local government users.

G. 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 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 use. NLC additionally supports federal efforts to provide increased resources and technical assistance to local governments for the protection of government systems, data, transactional databases, enterprise files and critical government functions. NLC urges the federal government to preserve and expand federal grant funding for local cybersecurity, including the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program and funding for the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC). NLC opposes the imposition of unfunded mandates on local governments and supports additional resources for localities to address stark cybersecurity workforce and resource needs.

Section 7.03 Consumer Protection

A. Abusive Practices

3. ~~Robo-Calls~~ Automated Communications

NLC supports federal efforts to eliminate automated communications, such as robocalls, except those exempted by the Federal Trade Commission, which are unsolicited telemarketing calls to landline or cellular telephones, and all autodialed or prerecorded calls or text messages to wireless numbers. NLC supports the Do-Not-Call Registry and encourages further efforts to expand the program and close loopholes. However, federal limits on automated communications should not interfere with the ability of local governments to reach residents in a timely fashion to convey critical information about safety or emergency conditions.

4. Spoofing and Impersonation

NLC supports federal efforts to address caller ID spoofing, a practice where callers can deliberately falsify the telephone number and/or name relayed as the caller ID information to disguise the identity of the calling party. NLC also supports federal efforts to eliminate other

forms of impersonation scams, including email phishing, text impersonations of government agencies or other entities, and voice call impersonation, including those that use generative artificial intelligence to perpetrate the impersonation.

5. *Unsolicited Communications*

NLC calls on the federal government to expand efforts to curtail unsolicited communications, including, but not limited to, cell and landline phone calls, texts, faxes, e-mails, pop-up Internet ads and abandoned phone calls, except in situations where an established business relationship exists. In addition to being a nuisance, the costs of such unsolicited communications are often passed on to consumers and businesses.- NLC urges the federal government to enforce consumer protections regarding unsubscribing from mass communications. However, federal actions, such as the national- Do Not Call Registry“do not call” registries, should not preempt or weaken existing state or local laws.

8. *Digital Deception*

The widespread availability of generative artificial intelligence and other technological tools has led to an increase in convincing video, audio, or image depictions of real people, such as deepfakes, being created and used in a variety of contexts. These false depictions can lead to misinformation, disinformation, reduced trust in public institutions, and be used for harassment and to perpetrate scams through a variety of platforms, including phone calls and social media networks. The federal government should require appropriate disclosure of such artificial intelligence-generated depictions and use all appropriate government policies, enforcement mechanisms and technology solutions to prevent and address the harm caused by these digital deceptions.

D. Privacy

1. *Privacy and Consumer Protection*

Federal law must not limit the ability of municipalities to protect consumers from the misuse of personally identifiable information. The exposure and risks to individuals from the use and misuse of personal information and shifting public expectations for information privacy should be at the forefront of federal policy decision-making. The collection, maintenance, use and dissemination of personal information have been facilitated by the vast capabilities of modern information technology. Federal privacy regulations should address the use of personal data for advertising, ensure the security of personal data collected from individuals, limit the unnecessary collection of more data than necessary, and require clear ways for consumers to opt out of data collection.

Section 7.04 Emerging Technologies

The rapid evolution of technology, including but not limited to the development of blockchain, digital currency, smart city and smart street technologies, cloud computing, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, drones, robotics and autonomous vehicles has provided cities, towns and villages with unprecedented opportunities to explore alternative methods of traditional service delivery, resident engagement and operation modernization. Innovation in local government and

support for these emerging technologies can improve the way municipalities work and interact with the public.

Adopting innovative approaches to local administration may present technical, regulatory, implementation, financial or intergovernmental challenges. NLC urges the federal government to act as a convener of best practices, cut federal agency red tape, and provide aid to support advancing local innovation in the use of emerging technologies. Federal policy should balance requirements around security, privacy, safety, and risk mitigation of emerging technologies with flexibility and rapid innovation.

NLC opposes federal preemption of local decisions regarding the use of emerging technologies in their own communities. As incubators of innovation and the level of government closest to the people, cities, towns and villages must retain the authority to make the choices that best serve constituents and protect local public safety, privacy, efficiency, administrative, and other needs, particularly as new technologies and their applications evolve over time. Local leaders must also be empowered with the federal tools and abilities to safely and effectively manage the use of emerging technologies in their communities as needed. This includes resources and assistance to expand the capacity of local governments and their staff to collect, manage, and analyze the large amounts of data generated with the use of these technologies. Local leaders must not be preempted from managing the planning, permitting and siting of infrastructure necessary to support emerging technologies, including but not limited to data centers, water and electrical services, and broadband infrastructure. *(For additional transportation technology policy, please refer to the Transportation and Infrastructure Services (TIS) Chapter of the National Municipal Policy.)*

Proposed ITC 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 2025 resolutions that originated in the ITC Committee to determine recommendations for 2026. 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 2025 at City Summit with recommendations for 2026 are:

Resolution	ITC Committee Recommendation
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-41: Local Government Support of Community/Municipal Broadband Networks	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-42: Federal Investment in Broadband Infrastructure: A Call for Universal Availability, Affordability and World-Class Quality	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-43: Preserving Local Control of Broadband Infrastructure Siting	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-44: Calling for Updated Federal Safety Standards for Radiofrequency Emissions of Wireless Facilities	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-45: In Support of Municipal Data Ownership and Protection	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-46: In Support of Digital Opportunity for American Communities	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-47: Local Principles for the Governance of Generative Artificial Intelligence	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2025-48: Local Principles for Modernization of the Universal Service Fund	Renew with Edits
NEW ITC RESOLUTION 1: Calling for Federal Cybersecurity Investment and Partnership	Adopt

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-41

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

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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 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, less than half of all~~
24 ~~American households have more than one option for wireline broadband service at speeds of~~
25 ~~100/20 Mbps or above; 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; 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
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; 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; 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

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

broadband planning; engage in broadband infrastructure construction, ownership, or operation; collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions; govern the placement and deployment of wireless or other communications infrastructure in their communities; or impose consumer protection or buildout requirements on broadband providers in their jurisdictions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on Congress to pass the Community Broadband Act to supersede state preemption and enable the provision of municipal broadband in every state; ~~and~~

~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on state legislatures to overturn or eliminate preemptive state laws and ensure that local governments are fully able to participate in building a broadband future.~~

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-42

**FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE: A CALL FOR
UNIVERSAL AVAILABILITY, AFFORDABILITY AND WORLD-CLASS QUALITY**

ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

WHEREAS, to compete successfully in an increasingly global environment the United States needs to take advantage of all of the technological solutions that high-speed broadband access offers; and

WHEREAS, universal broadband should be considered essential infrastructure that contributes to economic health, equity, and survival of communities across the United States; and

~~**WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has found that broadband is not being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion, with approximately 24 million Americans lacking access to fixed broadband service of at least 100/20 Mbps; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, there is a disparity between providers' reporting of advertised speeds and actual delivered speeds that has been proven through speed tests in a number of states and municipalities; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, the numbers of individuals with access to broadband is overreported by the FCC and inconsistent with the U. S. Census American Community Survey's findings; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, Congress has recognized this disparity between federal data and on-the-ground experience through passage of the Broadband DATA Act of 2020, which directed the FCC to improve its data collection process and map granularity, and to create a challenge process for states, local governments, and consumers and public interest groups to correct faulty data; and~~

WHEREAS, the success of federally funded broadband infrastructure programs, including those authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, relies upon the accuracy of thesethe Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Map maps, as many programs are required to use FCC map data to prioritize or distribute broadband grant funds; and

~~**WHEREAS**, with the proliferation of devices with Internet access, wireless data traffic has grown significantly, placing a greater demand on both licensed and unlicensed spectrum, and adding additional capacity is essential to support continued innovation and achieve the potential to transform many different areas of the American economy by providing a platform for innovation and is likely to have a substantial impact on jobs, growth and investment; and~~

WHEREAS, the availability and adoption of quality, affordable broadband service can vary dramatically from one neighborhood to another and between single family and multifamily homes, even in heavily populated urban areas, and a substantial number of individuals in poor

and rural communities have limited Internet access and where broadband access is limited, citizens have limited access to information, education and tools for economic independence; and

~~WHEREAS, 15% of households with children in school currently lack a broadband connection, while the majority of teachers assign homework that requires broadband, and roughly a quarter reported challenges accessing broadband at home to complete schoolwork, or were forced to use a cellphone to do schoolwork during the COVID-19 pandemic leaving millions of students behind in modern education; and~~

WHEREAS, current availability and adoption is insufficient to meet present and future needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC asks the federal government to recognize and work through public-private partnerships, municipal broadband providers and municipalities to achieve the goals of equitable broadband access by providing:

- Affordable and competitively priced broadband access; and
- Appropriate standards for symmetrical broadband speed, reliability, and connectivity that allow America to compete in the global economy and open more opportunities to deliver robust services more economically and universally;
- Granular, accurate data on broadband availability, affordability, and adoption available to local officials to assist in planning and local investments; and

~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC applauds the FCC's recent action to increase the threshold for minimum broadband speeds for "served" areas to 100/20 Mbps, better reflecting current needs; and~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC ~~applaud's the FCC's action to establish~~ calls on the FCC to restore rules prohibiting digital discrimination and prevent future digital redlining of historically disadvantaged communities and populations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to include and to incorporate federal investment in broadband in any federal infrastructure proposal, and that physical structures such as conduit, that promote "dig once" policies and the sharing of infrastructure and reduce the cost of broadband deployment by private companies, are eligible expenses in federal grant programs, to strengthen the nation's infrastructure network while promoting economic development and social equity in our communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC urges the federal government to continue to incorporate an effective challenge process for local governments to use in the grant application and award process and in general correction of faulty data or discrepancy with the federal broadband maps; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress must work with state and local governments to fund broadband infrastructure at high performance standards that provides at least 100/20 Mbps service, and ideally 1 Gbps symmetrical service, without harmful data caps, to ensure that federal funds are spent only on broadband that will provide meaningful service for current and future essential applications; and

92
93 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on federal agencies, ~~including the FCC, U.S.~~
94 ~~Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and others~~ to harmonize and
95 coordinate broadband grant programs, expand technical assistance, consider flexible matching
96 fund requirements and the flexible designation of available funds (particularly allowing for the
97 pledge of future funds as a funding source), ensure that both public and private partnership
98 applications are eligible for programs, and simplify program application and compliance
99 processes to ensure that municipalities, particularly smaller municipalities, are able to compete
100 and participate in these opportunities; and

101
102 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to maintain or increase funding for
103 programs that support broadband infrastructure investment, including the U.S. Department of
104 Agriculture’s Community Connect and ReConnect grant and loan programs; the U.S.
105 Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Community Development Block Grants and
106 Choice Neighborhood Grants, and ConnectHome program; and

107
108 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National Telecommunications and Information
109 Administration must prioritize effective administration of the Broadband, Equity, Access and
110 Deployment (BEAD) grant program by ensuring that any projects funded provide adequate value
111 for federal money spent, provide affordable service to residents, are capable of providing
112 adequate service over the full life cycle of the infrastructure and for the anticipated population in
113 the service area, meet statutory requirements, and prioritize consultation and coordination with
114 the local governments in service areas; and

115
116 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to remove state-imposed barriers
117 to broadband investment, such as preemption of municipal broadband networks, broadband
118 networks provided by rural electric cooperatives, and middle mile broadband infrastructure built
119 by investor-owned electric companies; and

120
121 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to reform and update federal~~
122 ~~transportation grant programs such as BUILD to ensure that placement of broadband~~
123 ~~infrastructure through policies such as “dig once” is prioritized in funded projects, and that~~
124 ~~physical structures that reduce the cost of broadband deployment by private companies such as~~
125 ~~dark fiber and conduit are eligible expenses in federal grant programs; and~~

126
127 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to take a leadership
128 role in convening together all interested parties, including, but not limited to, all levels of
129 government (local, state, tribal, and federal), consumer organizations, representatives of
130 underserved communities (rural, urban and suburban), all segments of the communications
131 industry interests, representatives of private sector, and not-for-profit sector organizations, to
132 promote ubiquitous symmetrical broadband access.

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-43

PRESERVING LOCAL CONTROL OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE SITING

ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has enacted regulations that substantially limit the traditionally-held authority of local governments over small cell wireless infrastructure and local governments' ability to assess fair compensation to taxpayers for use of public property, subsidizing wireless providers' development while undermining local efforts to expand equity and broadband access; and

WHEREAS, ~~the FCC has enacted these~~ regulations ~~that~~ challenge local land use authority to govern broadband infrastructure under the auspices of accelerating broadband infrastructure deployment; and

WHEREAS, cities have worked as active partners to site broadband infrastructure in their communities while protecting public safety, neighborhood character, and the integrity of existing infrastructure such as poles, streets, and sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, cities share the FCC's goal of expanding broadband access to all Americans, no matter where they live; and

WHEREAS, cities have a duty to their taxpayers to protect and manage public property and public rights-of-way for the benefit of all users, and must balance the needs and interests of broadband providers with those of other users of the rights-of-way and residents by appropriately reviewing siting requests and assessing appropriate rent for use of public property; and

WHEREAS, NLC and numerous other organizations representing state and local governments, as well as hundreds of individual local governments, had to resort to litigation to protect the health, safety and welfare of residents; and

WHEREAS, in August 2020, the Ninth Circuit Court decided to largely uphold these preemptive regulations, and in June 2021 the Supreme Court declined to take up the case, reinforcing the need for Congress to provide an immediate lasting legislative remedy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that NLC opposes efforts by the FCC and Congress to preempt municipal authority over all broadband infrastructure, wired or wireless, including small cell infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the FCC and Congress to protect local authority over their rights-of-way, municipal authority to protect neighborhood character and public safety, to require collocation, maintain control of aesthetic and undergrounding requirements, and existing authority to assess fair compensation for private use of public assets, including the rights-of-way and other public lands and facilities, which should not be limited to the cost of maintaining the rights-of-way; and

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 and Congress to favor
54 specific technologies through regulation, or adopting regulations that further expand the digital
55 divide by 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 opposes legislation further limiting local
67 oversight, ~~including the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2023~~; and
68

69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the FCC to examine all best practices and
70 potential obstacles to expanded broadband deployment and adoption, including obstacles created
71 by federal or industry practices that stymie local and consumer efforts to expand broadband
72 access.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-44

2
3 CALLING FOR UPDATED FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS FOR
4 RADIOFREQUENCY EMISSIONS OF WIRELESS FACILITIES
5

6 ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits
7

8 WHEREAS, increased usage of wireless communications services has resulted in greater
9 deployment of wireless communications facilities in cities; and
10

11 WHEREAS, states and local governments throughout the United States are preempted by
12 Section 332(c)(7) of the Communications Act of 1934 from taking into consideration the health
13 effects of radio frequency emissions (RF) when regulating the placement of wireless facilities or
14 small wireless facilities with their jurisdictions; and
15

16 WHEREAS, Americans have expressed significant concerns with the health effects of RF
17 emissions associated with wireless facilities, particularly small wireless facilities placed in public
18 rights-of-way often in very close proximity to residents' homes, places of work and where they
19 recreate; and
20

21 WHEREAS, there is limited public-facing information about the safety and health impacts of
22 RF emissions related to infrastructure, versus emissions from personal devices, making it
23 challenging for local governments to provide residents with timely, relevant information from
24 the federal government in response to their concerns; and
25

26 WHEREAS, cities and counties employ methods to avoid providing certain environmental
27 related services near residents with particular sensitivities; and
28

29 WHEREAS, the FCC is required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, among
30 other things, to evaluate the effect of emissions from FCC-regulated transmitters on the quality
31 of the human environment; and
32

33 WHEREAS, the FCC adopted a proceeding in 2013 to reassess RF exposure limits and closed
34 this docket in 2019, reaffirming the safety of personal RF-emitting devices such as cell phones,
35 but declining to address the safety of small wireless infrastructure or to provide local
36 governments with updated resources and guidance on assessing the safety of small wireless
37 structures in their communities or addressing the rising tide of questions and concerns from
38 residents about their safety; and
39

40 WHEREAS, numerous states, local governments and tribes have urged the FCC to revisit and to
41 update FCC standards for RF emissions, with input and support from other federal agencies,
42 including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration; and
43

44 ~~WHEREAS, NLC, the National Association of Counties (NACo), National Association of~~
45 ~~Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM),~~
46 ~~and the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) on behalf of their respective~~

47 ~~constituencies, jointly submitted comments urging that the FCC take action to perform a~~
48 ~~comprehensive review of RF emission standards and guidance for local government officials,~~
49 ~~particularly with respect to small wireless technologies; and~~
50

51 **WHEREAS**, in 2021, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals remanded this decision, finding that the
52 FCC decision failed to meet Administrative Procedure Act and National Environmental Policy
53 Act requirements.
54

55 **WHEREAS**, public concern about 5G and RF emissions has increased exponentially in the wake
56 of this agency inaction, making it more difficult for local governments and wireless providers to
57 site small wireless facilities in communities and leading to vandalism or destruction of structures
58 and threats to telecommunications workers' safety; and
59

60 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to update
61 antiquated standards and to perform a comprehensive review of the standards for RF emissions,
62 particularly in light of the deployment of small wireless technologies in public rights-of-way in
63 close proximity to residents' homes, schools, workplaces, and places of recreation; and
64

65 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should continuously update and
66 refresh these standards, based on changes in technology, spectrum usage, device usage, and
67 infrastructure deployment, to ensure that standards are recent enough to maintain public
68 confidence; and
69

70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the FCC to develop an updated resource for
71 local governments' use in education for residents about these updated RF emissions standards
72 and the safety of commonly deployed wireless equipment, particularly small cell wireless
73 equipment and 5G deployment.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-45

2
3 IN SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL DATA OWNERSHIP AND PROTECTION

4
5 ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

6
7 **WHEREAS**, municipalities require personally identifiable information to provide essential
8 services to residents, such as bill payment, library services, transit, public planning, and public
9 health; and

10
11 **WHEREAS**, municipal governments have a responsibility to protect residents' personal and
12 financial data, of which they are stewards; and

13
14 **WHEREAS**, most municipalities are reliant upon products and services to carry out critical
15 municipal functions, which necessitates the transmission and storage of data regarding residents'
16 finances, identification, travel information, or other sensitive data; and

17
18 **WHEREAS**, residents have a reasonable expectation of privacy in many transactions with their
19 governments and do not expect their data to be shared with third parties except as necessary to
20 perform municipal functions; and

21
22 **WHEREAS**, there is no current federal data privacy law governing the ownership and protection
23 of data by residents or by municipalities on behalf of residents; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, under current law contractors providing these essential products and services may
26 require that this data become the property of the company, not the municipality, allowing
27 companies to either monetize residents' data directly or indirectly by requiring municipalities to
28 purchase it back for local use; and

29
30 **WHEREAS**, local governments have become particularly attractive targets for bad actors, with
31 ~~roughly two thirds of all local governments experiencing a ransomware attack in the past year,~~
32 ~~and most local information technology officers report insufficient budgetary resources to~~
33 adequately protect local government networks.

34
35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities calls on the
36 federal government to establish data privacy principles that prevent the abuse of municipal data
37 by third parties or companies providing products and services to local governments; and

38
39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should institute, expand and
40 promote basic cybersecurity requirements for companies and governments to ensure that
41 residents' data is appropriately protected from breach or theft; and

42
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

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 the federal government should allow and encourage the
56 use of federal grant and loan funds to be used to expand the capacity of local governments and
57 their staff to collect, manage, analyze, and share relevant data to improve local operations,
58 efficiency, and quality of life; and

59
60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal privacy principles should not impinge on the
61 ability of municipal governments to collect and use data to complete critical government
62 functions, such as transportation service, utility operation, public safety, and providing equitable
63 access to these services.

NLC RESOLUTION 2025-46

IN SUPPORT OF DIGITAL ~~EQUITY OPPORTUNITY~~ FOR AMERICAN
COMMUNITIES

ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

WHEREAS, access to fast, affordable broadband and devices in the United States is not evenly distributed across geographic, racial, or socioeconomic lines, disproportionately harming rural communities, low-income communities, and communities of color; and

WHEREAS, ~~24 millions of~~ households in America lack broadband access, ~~including 28% of residents living particularly in rural areas, and 23% of residents living on Tribal lands, lower-income households, and communities of color; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, while 80% of households with incomes above \$100,000 use broadband at home, only 54% of households with incomes below \$25,000 do; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, household broadband access lags for communities of color, with 81% of white residents having in-home broadband service, while only 77% of Black and Hispanic residents do, and white residents have only a 12% dependency on smartphones for access to the Internet, versus 16% Black residents and 25% Hispanic residents solely relying on smartphones; and~~

~~**WHEREAS**, at least 83.3 million Americans can only access broadband through a single provider, with 47 million of those in a monopoly market for a single cable company, while another 33 million can only access broadband through a single DSL provider, leaving many with little or no market or regulatory downward pressure on pricing; and~~

WHEREAS, federal broadband policy has increasingly targeted federal dollars solely to building infrastructure in unserved rural areas, neglecting suburban and urban communities with inadequate or decaying telecommunications infrastructure and ignoring the impact of affordability on broadband access, ~~disproportionately disadvantaging communities of color; and~~

WHEREAS, while mapping improvements will help to improve the accuracy of federal broadband access measurements, the Federal Communications Commission does not track broadband adoption or affordability in its annual assessment of broadband access.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the National League of Cities calls on the federal government to make holistic reforms to federal broadband policy that promote digital equity opportunity and empower local governments to engage in digital inclusion digital opportunity and connectivity work within their own communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC applauds the inclusion of digital equity opportunity as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including the Digital Equity Act to fund and support digital ~~inclusion opportunity and connectivity~~ programs and planning within communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC applauds the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve for updating the Community Reinvestment Act to include broadband and digital ~~inclusion~~ opportunity as eligible community support services under the requirements of the Community Reinvestment Act, ensuring that low to moderate income communities do not go unbanked due to lack of broadband access or low digital literacy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC calls on the Federal Communications Commission, National Telecommunications Commission, and other agencies to prioritize access to digital ~~equity~~ equity-opportunity funding for municipal governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC supports making permanent a broadband affordability benefit within the Universal Service Fund, such as the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act's Affordable Connectivity Program, to ensure that low-income households are not barred from full participation in work, education, and civic life due to broadband subscription prices, and to continue to revisit the program usership and provide necessary flexibility in the program requirements to reach all intended beneficiaries; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that broadband reporting programs, such as the FCC's annual broadband deployment report, broadband infrastructure programs, such as the Connect America Fund or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service funds, should assess affordability when determining whether residents have access to home broadband; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that broadband infrastructure programs should not be limited to rural communities, and should incorporate suburban and urban communities, many of which have been subjected to decades of disinvestment, monopolization, and digital redlining; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and federal agencies should affirmatively uphold and protect the authority of local governments to control their agreements with the cable, wireline, and wireless telecommunications companies operating in their jurisdictions, to ensure their appropriate usage of public resources such as municipal rights-of-way, promote digital ~~equity~~ equity-opportunity, and adequate investment in and contribution to the community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and federal agencies should remove barriers to cooperative and municipal investment in and provision of broadband service, to ensure local governments are empowered to close gaps in communities with inadequate or unaffordable broadband service.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-47

2
3 LOCAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL
4 INTELLIGENCE

5
6 ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits
7

8 **WHEREAS**, generative artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, which are algorithms capable of
9 producing new outputs such as text, images, or other content, based on a set of training data,
10 continue to advance at a rapid pace and are being deployed by federal, state, and local
11 governments and private businesses for a variety of uses; and
12

13 **WHEREAS**, AI technologies have the potential to unlock new efficiencies and service models
14 for local governments and spur local economic growth and activity; and
15

16 **WHEREAS**, AI technologies may also potentially negatively impact local economies and labor
17 markets, government cybersecurity, equity, and resident vulnerability to criminal scams or
18 disinformation; and
19

20 **WHEREAS**, Congress, the Administration, and nongovernmental organizations are currently
21 exploring approaches to governing and regulating the public and private use of AI, including
22 through America's AI Action Plan, ~~the Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy~~
23 ~~Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence~~, the National Institute of Standards and
24 Technology's AI Risk Management Framework, ~~the White House Office of Science and~~
25 ~~Technology Policy's Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights~~, ~~the Senate SAFE Innovation Framework~~,
26 the Bipartisan Senate AI Framework, and statements by the Institute for Electrical and
27 Electronics Engineers; and
28

29 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Congress and the federal government should
30 enact a regulatory framework that promotes innovation and investment in AI technology, while
31 protecting local decision making, civil liberties, digital privacy, security, and transparency; and
32

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that technology solutions vendors should be required to
34 provide full transparency to clients on their sources of training data for all AI-enabled tools, as
35 well as the extent to which municipal client data is used, either jointly with other municipalities
36 or independently, as further training data for AI tools; and
37

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal standards should require vigorous detection and
39 removal of bias within AI tools, as well as strict enforcement of these requirements to ensure
40 human accountability for all decisions made in the development and use of AI; and
41

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should require AI tools to be
43 adequately tested for safety, reliability, performance and security according to valid third-party
44 standards prior to being released for public use; and
45

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a federal regulatory framework should protect public trust and privacy by requiring the disclosure of AI-generated or altered material, protecting the privacy of residents and the safety of children, requiring disclosure when user-generated or submitted content is used to train AI models, and preventing the promotion of mis- or disinformation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a federal regulatory framework must be developed with a focus on social responsibility and the input of all stakeholders, including communities likely to be most impacted by advancements in AI; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local governments must retain the authority to decide on behalf of their own communities the extent to which they adopt artificial intelligence technologies for municipal operations, including piloting innovative new solutions and enacting local prohibitions on the usage of certain technologies by municipal agencies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVE that local governments must not be preempted from managing the planning, permitting and siting of infrastructure necessary to support artificial intelligence, including but not limited to data centers, water and electrical services, and broadband infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the Administration should clearly define the legal rights, liabilities, and responsibilities involved in handling AI reference data, the ownership of reference data, and the requirements for disclosure, transparency, and accountability for AI models between the providers of AI tools and the users, including municipal governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should explore ways to foster regional economic growth, accelerate domestic research and development of AI and expand local government capacity for managing and deploying AI through incentives-based comprehensive funding models, such as that used in the CHIPS Act of 2022; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and federal agencies should proactively explore the impact of artificial intelligence on the employment market and invest in technical assistance and capacity-building, particularly for smaller local governments, assist negatively affected regions, upskill workers for changes in the job market, create an AI education pipeline, and encourage diversity within the AI workforce.

1 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-48**

2
3 **LOCAL PRINCIPLES FOR MODERNIZATION OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE**
4 **FUND**

5
6 **ITC Committee Recommendation:** Renew with Edits

7
8 **WHEREAS**, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Communications Act) created the
9 framework for telecommunications regulation and infrastructure funding that persists to the
10 current day; and

11
12 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Universal Service Fund (USF)
13 has served as a valuable tool for ensuring access to critical communications for millions of
14 households and community institutions since its creation by the Communications Act of 1996;
15 and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, the High Cost, Lifeline, E-rate, and Rural Health Care programs have supported
18 telecommunications and broadband access in numerous communities where it would otherwise
19 be unavailable, and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, despite many large-scale unanticipated changes in technology, the American
22 economy, and society, the major elements of the Communications Act have remained unchanged
23 for more than 20 years; and

24
25 **WHEREAS**, the actions taken by Congress and the FCC in response to the COVID-19
26 pandemic and corresponding connectivity crisis, including temporary expansions in the usage of
27 some USF programs for telehealth and community anchor institution broadband, and the
28 establishment of the Emergency Connectivity Fund, Emergency Broadband Benefit, and
29 Affordable Connectivity Program, have enabled access for millions of households; and

30
31 **WHEREAS**, the shifts in technology and the communications marketplace, including
32 technological convergence between cable, phone, and broadband services, the consumer shift
33 away from traditional copper landline calling services to Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP)
34 and mobile services, the rise of streaming video, and other changes, have left the existing
35 regulatory structure ill-suited to promote fair market competition and fund universal access to
36 both telecommunications and broadband services; and

37
38 **WHEREAS**, while the use of the USF has expanded to address modern technologies, including
39 mobile and fixed broadband and internet access services (BIAS), the current contribution base
40 for the USF has remained limited to wireline and mobile voice (telecommunications) services
41 and has dramatically declined over the years due to market share shifts and provider shifts to
42 bundling of telecommunications and BIAS services; and

43
44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Congress must meet its statutory obligation to
45 reauthorize and modernize certain aspects of the Communications Act, starting with universal
46 service; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any updates to the Communications Act must acknowledge technological convergence and accommodate future advances in communications technology that are as yet unknown; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should use updates to the Communications Act to better empower local governments to help reach universal service by including the Community Broadband Act to enable community broadband; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should broaden the USF's contribution base to reflect a modern critical technology mix and the rapid growth of the fixed and mobile BIAS markets, including fee collection from BIAS and edge services, streaming services and others; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress should build on the successes of the Affordable Connectivity Program, the first universal service program to adapt to the changes in the modern connectivity landscape, and permanently establish a broadband affordability program within the USF, rather than forcing it to rely on inconsistent periodic congressional appropriations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that incorporation of the Affordable Connectivity Program or a comparable broadband affordability program within the USF should not be at the cost of ease of access to the program for beneficiaries or level of benefits allocated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that NLC ~~applauds the FCC's efforts to acknowledge the critical role of secure~~ urges Congress and the FCC to preserve access to off-campus connectivity, including wireless hotspots and school bus service, through clarifying eligibility of these services for theas eligible uses of the E-rate program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the FCC should provide dedicated funding within USF for supportive activities that help beneficiaries access and use connectivity programs, such as the establishment of digital navigator services and technical support for users; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the FCC should address the often-overlooked needs of urban and suburban residents by creating alternative pathways for non-rural healthcare providers to access USF support to assist in connectivity for patient care, regardless of rurality; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Congress and the FCC should seek ways to expand local government engagement in USF programs, including through incorporating local feedback on infrastructure funding needs, encouraging and enabling the participation of local governments as direct funding recipients, and using local governments as partners to ensure the accountability of High Cost Support subsidy recipients in meeting their buildout and service obligations.

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45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress and the Administration to adequately
46 fund and staff CISA, particularly those offices and roles that provide technical cyber assistance
47 and other support to local governments.