NLC CITYSUMMIT
NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES NASHVILLE | NOVEMBER 19–21, 2026

2026 Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the National Municipal Policy

CITY SUMMIT

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

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Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations

Federal Advocacy Committee

FAIR

Proposed FAIR 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:

- **Introduction**
- **Section 1.03 Intergovernmental Relations**
    - I. Grant Reform and Administration

Introduction

a. Intergovernmental Relations and Federalism

Each governmental entity has a responsibility to provide services, solve problems, and answer to the needs of its citizens. Local government, through federalism, needs partnership with County, State, and Federal partners. Partnership involves cooperative behavior with give and take and sharing of duties and responsibilities. The Federal Government should avoid using its significant financial powers to the detriment of local government, and it should not use the bureaucracy of complex regulations, policies, and federal departmentalization to stunt, delay, impede, or control local governmental decisions regarding how to provide for the needs of its citizens. Federal overreach through mandates, failure to act on E-Fairness, interference with collection of local taxes, restrictions on local authority under Takings actions, preemption of municipal regulatory authority, and restriction on municipal annexation are all examples of Federal power influencing and interfering with local government responsibly responding to the needs of its citizens.

Intergovernmental partnership must be strengthened through all levels of government, including Federal Government flexibility in working with local governments when local governments are providing necessary services, solving day-to-day problems, and responding to the needs of citizens. Federalism requires acknowledgment of respective roles, duties, and responsibilities for each level of government, while still recognizing that governance is a joint effort. Federalism is promoted when boundaries of authority and responsibility are identified, delineated, and respected by all the partners of government. Even as distinct boundaries of authority are respected, Federal, state and local governments should exercise their shared power and civic responsibilities in coordination as partners in public service.

Section 1.03 Intergovernmental Relations

I. Grant Reform and Administration

Federal grants to local governments should be used to provide fiscal support, initiate new programs or approaches to solving ~~urban~~ local problems, increase socio-economic equity, and achieve national objectives. The following administrative and legislative measures would increase the effectiveness of this indispensable form of assistance to local governments.

- The conflicting administrative and eligibility requirements accompanying federal assistance must be simplified and standardized.
- Municipal governments could utilize federal assistance more flexibly and efficiently if some of the narrow categorical programs were consolidated into broader categorical or block grants.
- The municipal role in the federal system should be strengthened by mandating the right of city governments to review and comment on all federal assistance programs which affect their jurisdictions, and by guaranteeing the right of city governments to participate in the agency rule-making process.
- City governments should receive reimbursement for indirect costs associated with grant administration.
- In order to increase the fairness and effectiveness of the distribution of federal funds, the federal government should make uniform use of population, employment, and other data and should improve the accuracy and timeliness of all data.

- Federal legislation should be enacted to provide for the recovery from the federal government of legal, technical, and operating costs associated with reviewing and commenting on any proposed and/or final federal audit report and/or the costs of appealing adverse grant eligibility determinations arising from such an audit report, which were incurred by a municipality, provided that the municipality substantially prevails against the recommendations of the audit report.
- Federal grants should be awarded through a merit-based process and administered in a nonpartisan, nonpolitical manner.
- Once awarded, federal grants should be terminated only for well-documented, compliance-related reasons, and only after an established review and reconsideration process has been made available to the affected municipality.

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 2026 resolutions that originated in the FAIR Committee to determine recommendations for 2027. 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 2026 at City Summit with recommendations for 2027 are:

Resolution	FAIR Committee Recommendation
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-01: Support for the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-02: Urging Congress to Ensure Accurate Counts for All Municipalities in the 2030 Census	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-03: Support of Legislation to Streamline the Federal Grant Processes	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-04: Preserving the Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds	Expire
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-05: Calling for the Restoration of the Tax-Exemption on Advance Refunding Bonds	Expire
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-06: Promoting Civic Discourse Within and Among Communities Across America	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-07: Urging Federal Engagement with Local Governments on the Development of Cryptocurrency Regulation	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-08: Calling to Resolve the Conflict Between State and Federal Cannabis Laws	Renew with Edits

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-09: Urging Sustainable Federal Fiscal Policy to Preserve Local Funding Stability	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-10: Supporting the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit to Strengthen Local Economies and Reduce Child Poverty	Renew

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-01

SUPPORT FOR THE JOHN LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, 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 John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act creates a new coverage formula that applies to all states and would modernize and revitalize the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

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

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

WHEREAS, NLC is opposed to voting changes that may adversely affect voters and encourages state and federal officials to publicly announce all voting changes at least 180 days before an election.

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-02

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

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew

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, an accurate and complete count of all residents, including those in traditionally undercounted populations, is essential to ensuring fair representation and equitable distribution of federal resources to local governments; 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, municipalities are often best positioned to understand their local populations and can provide valuable data and resources to aid in achieving a full and accurate census count; 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

WHEREAS, cities, towns, and villages with large transient populations, such as those with colleges, universities, military bases, and prisons, require accurate population counts to ensure access to federal resources that reflect their true needs.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should require the Census Bureau to work directly with municipal governments to ensure that all residents and households are counted, even if they do not complete the survey, and to utilize alternative methods, including local government data, to account for these individuals.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-03

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.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-04

PRESERVING THE TAX-EXEMPT STATUS OF MUNICIPAL BONDS

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Expire

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 (NLC) 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, towns and villages; 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.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-05

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

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Expire

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-06

PROMOTING CIVIC DISCOURSE WITHIN AND AMONG COMMUNITIES ACROSS AMERICA

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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, 51% of officials reported being insulted during the first quarter of 2026, 39% reported harassment, 17% reported threats, and 1% reported physical attacks; 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 (NLC) 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.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-07

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

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew

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.

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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-08

CALLING TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT BETWEEN STATE AND FEDERAL CANNABIS LAWS

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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

WHEREAS, forty-seven states, 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 an ~~Schedule I~~ illicit substance on the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) and the CSA's coupling with the Bank Secrecy Act have created a condition under which the cannabis industry has severely limited access to the federally regulated banking industry; and

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

WHEREAS, the 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.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-09

URGING SUSTAINABLE FEDERAL FISCAL POLICY TO PRESERVE LOCAL FUNDING STABILITY

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

WHEREAS, the national debt of the United States has surpassed ~~$36 trillion~~ $40 trillion as of September 202~~5~~6, reflecting persistent structural deficits and long-term fiscal imbalances; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has spent over ~~$1.36 trillion~~ $1.9 trillion more than it has collected in fiscal year (FY) 202~~5~~6; 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, Moody's was the last of the three major credit agencies to downgrade the U.S.' credit rating; 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, sudden fiscal tightening or across-the-board spending cuts in response to debt pressures may disproportionately affect cities, towns and villages that rely on predictable federal funding and partnerships; 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, uncertainty surrounding the federal budget and debt ceiling negotiations can destabilize local planning efforts, delay federal grant disbursements and reduce confidence in intergovernmental collaboration; 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities urges Congress and the Administration to pursue a balanced and sustainable approach to managing the national debt that protects essential federal investments in local communities and avoids cuts to domestic programs, ensuring certainty and stability among local governments.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-10

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

FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew

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 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 payments, 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 EENR 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:

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Policy:

- **(New) Section 2.06 Toxic Substances Policies Section**

(New) Section 2.06 Toxic Substance Policies

NLC supports provisions in the 2016 amendments to the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) which mandates review and monitoring of toxic chemicals both before and after they enter the market. TSCA gives the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the authority and responsibility to monitor, test, report, evaluate and regulate industrial and commercial chemicals that cause harm to human health and the environment, including PFAS chemicals. TSCA pertains to chemicals already being manufactured and used, as well as newly developed chemicals awaiting review before manufacture starts. Recent rules have banned or restricted cancer-causing chemicals such as trichloroethylene, methylene chloride, and asbestos—protecting millions of workers and families.

NLC supports EPA's authority to collect fees from chemical manufacturers and processors to support the costs of TSCA implementation. Congress should ensure that the authority to collect fees to support implementation is continuously authorized.

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 2026 resolutions that originated in the EENR Committee to determine recommendations for 2027. 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 2026 at the City Summit with recommendations for 2027 are:

Resolution	EENR Committee Recommendation
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-11: Supporting Local PACE Programs	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-12: Supporting and Advancing Resilient Communities to Prepare for Changing Climate and Extreme Weather Events	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-13: Supporting Urgent Action to Reduce Carbon Emissions and Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-14: Addressing Lead Contamination and Calling for Nationwide Federal Support for Water Infrastructure	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-15: Increase Federal Investment in Water Infrastructure	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-16: Support for Integrated Planning and New Affordability Consideration for Water	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-17: Calling on the Federal Government to Take Action to Address PFAS Contamination	Renew with Edits

Proposed EENR Resolutions

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-18: Improve the Benefit-Cost Analysis for Federally Funded Flood Control Projects and Support Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Material	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-19: Increase Funding for Border Water Infrastructure Projects	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-20: Support and Advance Cities Impacted by Federal Facilities and Infrastructure through Community Benefit Programs	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-21: Protecting Federal Scientific Data and Resources to Support Local Preparedness to Extreme Weather Events	Renew with Edits

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-11

SUPPORTING LOCAL PACE PROGRAMS

EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

WHEREAS, ~~utility bills represent a major part of operating~~ high energy costs and affordability concerns are becoming an increasing burden for residents and businesses ~~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 saves energy, cuts utility bills, creates local jobs, reduces reliance on fossil fuels, and dramatically 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

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

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

WHEREAS, in communities that have enabled PACE, investments have had significant effects on local job creation and economic activity, energy savings and carbon abatement. Over the lifetime of the measures installed to date, estimates show that those PACE projects will result in $29 billion in economic impact, 214,000 job-years created, 14 million metric tons CO2 emissions avoided and 53 billion kWh energy saved; and

WHEREAS, despite PACE's great promise, in July 2010 the Federal Housing Finance Agency (FHFA), as conservator of the government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) following the 2008 financial crisis, issued guidance that directed the GSEs not to purchase mortgages with a PACE assessment, which immediately slowed the advancement of PACE residential programs across the country; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-12

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 experiencing the devastating effects associated with a changing climate and extreme weather events, such as heat waves, droughts, heavy downpours, floods, hurricanes, wildfires 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 2023 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 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

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

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

WHEREAS, municipal water treatment and distribution infrastructure in communities represent critical public health infrastructure that is acutely vulnerable to the effects of flooding, storm surge, sea level rise, drought and extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, digital-twin modeling platforms, which create real-time virtual replicas of water distribution and treatment systems to enable predictive failure analysis, emergency scenario planning and continuous operational monitoring, represent a critical by under-recognized category of climate resilience infrastructure for municipal water systems; and

WHEREAS, the United States has seen 42603 separate billion-dollar-plus weather and climate disasters from 1980 to 20254, including 238 in 20253 and 27 in 2024, with a cumulative cost ofexceeding $3.12.918 trillion (CPI-adjusted) and a total death toll of 16,94117,194; and

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

WHEREAS, in 2005 Hurricane Katrina led to 1,833 deaths and more than $2070 billion (CPI-adjusted) in losses and in 2012 Hurricane Sandy led to 159 deaths and more than $9188.5 billion in damages (CPI-adjusted); and

WHEREAS, in 2017 three Category 4 hurricanes—Harvey, Irma and Maria—made landfall in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, respectively totaling more than $339 billion (CPI-adjusted) in damages and a death toll of 3,167, including 2,981 from Hurricane Maria alone and in 2024 Hurricane Helene caused $81.978.7 billion (CPI-adjusted) in damages and resulted in 219 deaths; and

WHEREAS, in 2022 historic flooding brought devastating damage to eastern Kentucky and eastern Missouri homes, businesses and infrastructure, resulting in 42 deaths and $1.6 billion (CPI-adjusted) in economic costs and in 2023 drought and heatwave conditions impacted numerous southern and midwestern states, resulting in 247 deaths and $14.815.3 billion (CPI-adjusted) in economic losses; and

WHEREAS, rising temperatures are lengthening the wildfire season and increasing drought risks, causing more radical fire behavior and increasing wildfire risks throughout the United States due to earlier snow melts and forests that are drier longer, the costs of putting out wildfires has increased dramatically, from approximately $673.4 million in 1985 to over $3.1 billion in 2023 (2023 dollars), and the economic losses associated with wildfire continues to grow, with the

2018 western wildfires costing over $310 billion (CPI-adjusted), ~~and~~ the 2020 western wildfires, the most active fire season on record, costing over $2019.9 billion (CPI-adjusted), and the 2025 Los Angeles wildfire costing over $61 billion (CPI-adjusted); and

WHEREAS, Congress approved over $100 billion in disaster supplemental funding in 2005, over $50 billion in disaster supplemental funding in 2018, 2020 and 2021 each, and ~~a total of over~~approximately $3041 billion in disaster relief in FY2523 ~~(FY23 dollars)~~; and

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

WHEREAS, the past ten years (20165-20254) are the ten warmest years on record, with 2024 being the warmest year on record, followed by 2023 (second warmest) 202516 (third warmest)~~, 2020 (fourth warmest), and 2019 (fifth warmest)~~; and

WHEREAS, heat-related deaths have nearly doubled over the past 25 years, rising from approximately 1,069 in 1999 to 2,394 in 2024; and

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

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

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

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

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 madekes significant progress toward strengthening infrastructure and communities against extreme weather events by investing in pre-disaster mitigation and flood, wildfire and drought mitigation and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 provides additional funding and incentives for climate and clean energy

goals, and additional federal policies, funding and resources are needed to support local governments.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC urges Congress and the Administration to take urgent action to help states and local governments conduct vulnerability assessments, develop and implement long-term mitigation, adaptation and resiliency action plans 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~~ ensure that federal programs and grants include climate resilience strategies and action as key components or eligible uses, including the FEMA BRIC program, which should explicitly recognize municipal water utility infrastructure as an eligible resilience investment; 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 preparedness and response programs 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 and ~~,~~ which are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change; and

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

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-13

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 2023 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 2026~~5~~ State of the Air report, ~~nearly~~ 4~~4~~6 percent or 152.3~~6.1~~ 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 is expected to ~~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 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 helped local governments make~~s~~ significant progress toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout the transportation sector and invest~~ing~~ in clean energy and energy efficiency and conservation and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 provided~~s~~ additional funding, tax credits and incentives for climate and clean energy goals, ~~and~~ but additional federal policies, funding and resources are needed to support local governments; and

WHEREAS, because of these investments and the decline in capital costs, ~~renewable energy~~clean energy installations accounted for approximately 90 percent of new installed generation capacity in the U.S. in 2025~~4~~, accounting for nearly 56 gigawatts of added solar, wind and battery storage, with 26 percent of all electricity generation coming from renewable sources; ~~bringing the total renewable energy capacity up to 358.9 gigawatts – representing 30 percent of the country's large-scale power generating capacity and 25 percent of power supply;~~ and

WHEREAS, while renewable electricity generation capacity in the U.S. is projected to grow continuously in the coming decades, market and other economic and political conditions may impact the rate at which renewable electricity generation comes online~~is variable depending on market developments~~; and

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC 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.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-14

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~~ 4 million lead service lines across the country, not including lead connectors or goosenecks; and

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

WHEREAS, corrosion control and testing are essential to prevent lead from leaching into drinking water and endangering public health; 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~~ 4 million lead service lines to be ~~upward of $100~~approximately $50 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 required 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~~ Value of Water Campaign estimates ~~put~~ the cost at more than $3.44 trillion over the next 20 years to ~~maintain~~ repair and build a 21st century water system; and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, which expires on Sept. 30, 2026, 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.

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

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

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

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-15

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 water main breaks each year; and

WHEREAS, many urban and rural communities have underserved or unserved areas, with no community water system or private systems that are feasible to upgrade, replace or integrate into existing utilities; 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~~approximately~~ $183.47~~.1~~ billion in 2024~~3~~ alone in ratepayer funds and municipal bonds; 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 the Value of Water Campaign estimates that at current spending levels, the country will face a capital investment gap of $1.8 trillion by 2044—an annual shortfall of $88 billion; 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, small municipal water systems are particularly constrained in their financial and staff capacity, which impacts their ability to comply with federal regulations and fund water infrastructure projects, and small systems—including those that provide regional water service to

significantly larger populations—face structural barriers to accessing federal water infrastructure financing programs; and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA), which expired on Sept. 30, 2026, 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, federal spending on loan and grant assistance to local governments to assist in maintaining and upgrading water infrastructure systems has continued to decline in real dollars over the past decades; and

WHEREAS, a significant portion of municipal water infrastructure financial resources are spent to comply with new complex federal mandates, leaving many critical ~~maintenance, repair and rehabilitation~~long-term capital project needs unmet; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls on Congress to ensure that federal water infrastructure financing programs, such as the State Revolving Funds and WIFIA, provide meaningful access to small water systems, including those that serve populations significantly larger than their jurisdictional boundaries, through subsidized loans, principal forgiveness or target grants; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should provide direct funding to local governments through grant programs such as for sewer overflow and stormwater management, lead service line replacement, water infrastructure resilience/sustainability to protect and reduce risk to extreme weather events, water recycling and desalinization, new/emerging technologies for cybersecurity improvements and water efficiency, workforce development in the water sector, emerging contaminants and other programs; and

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

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

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

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

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-16

SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATED PLANNING AND NEW AFFORDABILITY CONSIDERATION FOR WATER

EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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's ~~issued~~ revised Financial Capability Assessment Guidance (finalized in 2023 and revised in 2024) ~~to~~ replaces the "Combined Sewer Overflows—Guidance for Financial Capability Assessment and Schedule Development" (Feb. 1997), but~~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 long-term maintenance and capital projects that they can afford; and

WHEREAS, water utilities rely on a ratepayer funding model, and local water and sewer rates and stormwater fees are rapidly becoming unaffordable for many fixed- and low-income citizens,

placing a disproportionate financial burden on these vulnerable populations who live at or below the poverty level; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls on EPA to work with local governments to revise the ~~February~~ 2024~~3~~ Financial Capability Assessment Guidance to eliminate reliance on median household income as the critical metric for determining investment level and to allow for the consideration of additional information, such as socio-economic factors, consistent with the Agency's 2014 Financial Capability Framework; and

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-17

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 found in many consumer products; 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 effects 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 Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) 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 ~~June 2025~~March 2026 shows ~~9,323~~9,728 locations in 50 states, DC and four territories with known contamination; and

WHEREAS, in October 2024, the United States Geological Survey published results on analysis for 24 PFAS compounds from 1,238 groundwater samples across the continental U.S. that detected PFAS in 37 percent of groundwater samples, indicating 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; 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 has~~exercised a one-year waiver to~~ extended the deadline to October 2026~~5~~; 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 will~~could~~ require costly investments by local governments and other local water suppliers, which would be passed onto ratepayers; and

WHEREAS, small municipal water systems—generally those serving fewer than 60,000 residents but often providing water to significantly larger populations—face a structurally disproportional burden under the NPDWR for PFAS because their limited ratepayer base and constrained capital access make full-scale PFAS treatment compliance (estimated at $200-250 million for a single aging regional treatment facility) economically unsustainable without targeted federal intervention; 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

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

WHEREAS, local governments are owners and operators of airports, landfills and water utilities and employ firefighters, some of whom may have been exposed to PFAS chemicals on the job through inhalation or skin absorption, and therefore present a pension and liability concern for local budgets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on Congress and the Administration to holistically examine PFAS contamination and to take comprehensive action to address the problem and reduce public health risk, by providing new resources for federal, state and local governments for the detection, reduction, destruction and remediation of PFAS chemicals, including through nationwide testing, monitoring, mapping, public education and water supply treatment; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls on Congress to pass legislation that provides local governments that did not cause or contribute to PFAS contamination with liability protection under CERCLA; and

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls 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 Congress and the Administration to establish a federal grant program to support small and mid-sized municipal water systems in implementing full-scale PFAS advanced treatment infrastructure and source water protection measures; 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 and/or reuse water 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, particularly consumer 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.~~

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-18

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

EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, there is a lack of sediment available for ~~the~~ habitat restoration and flood protection needed along our coasts and waterways, and the restoration of seasonal and tidal wetlands are considered "engineering with nature" approaches to reductions of local and coastal flooding; and

WHEREAS, the Water Resources and Development Act of 2024 codified the Army Corps' goal of increasing the quantity of dredged materials put to environmentally beneficial use to 70 percent by 2030 and established the Beneficial Use of Dredge Material as a permanent program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the cost of offshore disposal of dredged materials should include the full future economic value of that sediment that would be lost if it is deposited offshore.~~; 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 flood risk.~~

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-19

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 economic stress on communities 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, 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 strain 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 the program has been significantly reduced to $35 million in FY245 and FY256; 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

WHEREAS, a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the United States and Mexico in July 2025 sets a timeframe for Mexico to complete all projects by Dec. 31, 2027 and the United States, which has withheld additional funding to projects until Mexico fulfilled their obligations toward other projects, agreed to release BWIP funding to complete the rehabilitation of Pump Station 1 and the Tijuana River collection pipes; and

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

~~**WHEREAS,** transboundary sewage flows release toxic gases causing unhealthy air quality in South San Diego County where "concentration of hydrogen sulfide…peaked at 4,500 ppb [parts per billion] for at least a minute and up to an average of 2,100 ppb for one hour – the latter exceeding the California Air Resources Board's one hour standard [of 30 ppb] by nearly 70 times;" and~~

WHEREAS, the IBWC Minute Order 333 recognizes the long-term issue of untreated sewage and commits to planning for operations and maintenance of critical systems to account for future population growth in Tijuana; and

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

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

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

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-20

SUPPORT AND ADVANCE CITIES IMPACTED BY FEDERAL FACILITIES ~~AND INFRASTRUCTURE~~ THROUGH DIRECT FUNDING AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT PROGRAMS

EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the DCIP has provided communities with over $300 million in grants to alleviate the impacts of its facilities on local infrastructure, services and workforce; and

WHEREAS, DOE and other federal agencies have previously recognized the potential positive and negative impacts that facility operations have on host and adjacent communities and have incorporated requirements in federal grant programs to prepare and implement a Community Benefits Plan that includes community stakeholders to ensure local interests are heard, issues are identified, and concerns are addressed to both optimize benefits and minimize negative impacts on the community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on Congress and the Administration to authorize and fund a ~~grant~~ program similar to the DoD DCIP to ~~for communities that~~ support DOE host and adjacent communities' ~~facilities or transmission~~ infrastructure, services and workforce to help alleviate the special impacts ~~on local infrastructure, services and workforce~~borne by these communities, such as through the Energizing Our Communities Act of 2025~~4~~; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to require DOE facilities to prepare a Community Benefits Plan that meets the agency's previous standards and expectations for community engagement, workforce development, diversity, and issues relating to the environment of impacted communities.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-21

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

EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

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~~should provide 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~~should ensure that federal agencies have sufficient funding to provide timely,

accurate, scientifically reliable weather and other data, as well as climate, geological and disaster-monitoring services ~~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~~, and ~~s 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 should ~~must restore~~maintain ~~full~~ sufficient staffing ~~to pre-DOGE levels~~ of federal personnel with the knowledge, expertise and experience to respond to extreme weather and natural disasters.

Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

Community and Economic Development Federal Advocacy Committee

CED

Proposed CED 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 2027.

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 2026 resolutions that originated in the CED Committee to determine recommendations for 2027. 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 2026 at City Summit with recommendations for 2027 are:

Resolution	CED Committee Recommendation
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-22: In Support of a Federal Agenda for Local Economic Development, Economic Mobility, and Entrepreneurship	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-23: In Support of a National Agenda for U.S. Housing Investment and Opportunity	Expire
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-24: Urging Congress to Enable Housing Vouchers for Homeownership Opportunities and Local Innovation in Attainable Housing	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-25: In Support of Resources for Community Navigators to Assist Local Entrepreneurs in Accessing Credit	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-26: In Support of The Neighborhood Homes Investment Act	Renew
NEW CED RESOLUTION 1: In Support of Expanding Community Development Financial Institutions	Adopt
NEW CED RESOLUTION 2: Urging Congress to Preserve Local Flexibility in Housing Programs to Reduce Homelessness	Adopt

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-22

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 ~~2025~~ 2026 Report identifies "Economic Development" as the top policy priority identified in ~~2025~~ 2026 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

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 spur 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; 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, 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 which reduces their access to capital because they do not have a credit score.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC urges the federal government to grow and expand economic opportunity 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; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC urges federal lawmakers to increase the pace of economic development by supporting regulatory reforms that reduce barriers to locally-supported development and expedite federal rulings and determinations impacting local projects; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC urges federal lawmakers to support full funding for programs that support the economic development efforts of local government, 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, as well as economic development capacity building programs aimed at small and mid-sized cities and towns.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-23

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

CED Committee Recommendation: Expire

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

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

WHEREAS, attainable housing contributes to the economic vitality of our communities and local economic regions, serves to create jobs and increase municipal tax bases; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has an irreplaceable role in addressing our nation's housing needs; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates that inadequate housing contributes to issues such as unemployment, rising health care costs, public safety challenges, and poor academic performance; and

WHEREAS, the demand for attainable housing far outpaces the supply in the United States, as the median price of a home sale has grown to approximately five times the median household income; and

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

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

WHEREAS, on any given night, more than 560,000 Americans experience homelessness, meaning they are sleeping outside, in an emergency shelter, or in transitional housing; and

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities (NLC) supports the bipartisan coalition "MAYORS AND CEOS FOR US HOUSING INVESTMENT", and encourages all city leaders and CEOs to join the coalition as common stakeholders in expanding housing opportunities and ending homelessness; and

WHEREAS, NLC supports the national, multi-sector housing campaign "OPPORTUNITY STARTS AT HOME", a long-term, multi-sector campaign to meet the rental housing needs of the nation's lowest income people.

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC urges Congress to bridge the funding gap between rents and income for extremely low-income households through rental assistance programs, including supporting mechanisms that incent wider landlord participation in federal rental assistance programs; and

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

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-24

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

CED Committee Recommendation: Renew

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

WHEREAS, although the federal government has authorized the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) homeownership program 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; and

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

WHEREAS, allowing Housing Vouchers to be used for home ownership would empower low-income individuals and families to participate in the housing market, and in turn foster economic mobility and greater participation in community life; 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 programs for home ownership; and

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

WHEREAS, initiatives that improve the availability of attainable, quality housing are essential for revitalizing distressed communities, expanding economic opportunity; and improving financial outcomes at the household level; and

WHEREAS, funding for homeownership-support programs would provide HCV Program participants with more and better housing choices, while increasing the amount of direct funding to local governments would enhance local capacity to address 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, that the National League of Cities (NLC) supports authorization and funding to allow Housing Choice Voucher program participants to choose

homeownership, providing low-income individuals and families with an opportunity to build equity and achieve the American dream of homeownership; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC supports directing additional housing funding to local governments serving underserved and disadvantaged communities.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-25

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

CED Committee Recommendation: Renew

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

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

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

WHEREAS, many local entrepreneurs, especially those in communities underserved by financial institutions, are unaware of available SBA loan programs and face challenges in navigating complex loan application processes; and

WHEREAS, community navigators can bridge this information gap by providing guidance, assistance, and support to local entrepreneurs seeking credit through SBA-backed loans; and

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges Congress to allocate resources and funding for the establishment and expansion of community navigator programs, which will help local entrepreneurs to access credit, including SBA-backed loans; and

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-26

IN SUPPORT OF THE NEIGHBORHOOD HOMES INVESTMENT ACT

CED Committee Recommendation: Renew

WHEREAS, it is particularly difficult to develop and rehabilitate homes in communities where construction costs exceed home values; and

WHEREAS, federal incentives can reduce the gap between housing construction, rehabilitation, and preservation and home values in large and small communities; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Homes Investment Act would expand homeownership supply and revitalize communities in need; and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Homes Investment Act would establish a new tax credit that would help bridge the funding gap by covering up to 40% of the cost to build a new home and up to 50% of the cost to rehabilitate an owner-occupied home, thereby making homeownership more attainable; and

WHEREAS, the projected 10-year impact of an average Neighborhood Homes Tax Credit of $60,000 would be an additional 500,000 homes built or substantially rehabilitated; an additional $151 billion in total development activity; an additional 1.1 million jobs in construction and related industries and $102.7 billion in related wages and salaries; and an additional $45.6 billion in federal, state and local tax and fee revenues.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities urges Members of Congress to support the bipartisan Neighborhood Homes Investment Act.

NEW CED RESOLUTION 1

IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (CDFI)

CED Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (Pub. L. 103-325) established the CDFI Fund in 1994 and, since then, it has awarded more than $8 billion to CDFIs, community development organizations, and financial institutions through its funding programs, allocated $91 billion in tax credits through the New Markets Tax Credit Program, and guaranteed nearly $3 billion in bonds through the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program; and

WHEREAS, Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) provide capital to strengthen communities that are experiencing economic distress or are underserved by mainstream lenders; and

WHEREAS, through its unique public-private partnership model, the CDFI Fund's award recipients successfully leverage billions in private-sector investment to create jobs, build affordable housing and essential community facilities, and invest in neighborhood revitalization initiatives; and

WHEREAS, CDFIs turn every public dollar into roughly eight dollars of private investment, using a small federal investment to deliver billions in private capital and affordable financial services to underinvested communities; and

WHEREAS, since 2010, recipients of CDFI Program Financial Assistance awards have originated nearly $300 billion in loans and investments, all in communities lacking access to traditional lending or banking institutions or experiencing widespread disinvestment; and

WHEREAS, these resources have financed over 1.3 million businesses and supported the development of over 550,000 units of affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, CDFI activity is not distributed equally across the country, even among economically comparable places, with 27 percent of counties nationally recording no CDFI lending activity; and

WHEREAS, CDFI's have demonstrated that they can serve distressed communities, but they must expand their work to cover all areas in need across the nation; and

WHEREAS, to expand its reach into underserved communities where it has yet to establish a strong presence, the CDFI industry needs further supports.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities urges Members of Congress to strengthen the CDFI Fund's role in improving capital access and economic

development in rural, tribal and other underserved communities throughout the nation by enabling smaller CDFIs to participate in the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program and reauthorizing the CDFI liquidity enhancement program.

NEW CED RESOLUTION 2

URGING CONGRESS TO PRESERVE LOCAL FLEXIBILITY IN HOUSING PROGRAMS TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS

CED Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, the Continuum of Care (CoC) Program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), originally authorized under the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and later codified and consolidated under the *Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act of 2009*, is the primary program of the federal government designed to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness by facilitating a community-wide commitment to ending homelessness through coordinated housing and supportive services; and

WHEREAS, the CoC Program provides critical funding to local governments, nonprofit service providers, faith-based organizations, and community partners to quickly rehouse individuals and families experiencing homelessness, while minimizing trauma and promoting long-term housing stability and self-sufficiency; and

WHEREAS, previous homeless assistance efforts were often fragmented with minimal coordination among programs and service providers, and the creation of the CoC Program helped to establish an integrated approach aligning resources and improving intergovernmental coordination across federal, state, local, and community partners to deliver more effective and efficient responses to homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the CoC Program is the largest federal source of funding for homelessness assistance, providing approximately $3.5 to $4.1 billion annually to support communities nationwide; and

WHEREAS, the CoC Program has historically empowered cities to design locally driven, data-informed responses to homelessness, resulting in more coordinated systems of care and improved housing outcomes for vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS, communities utilize CoC funding to support a range of evidence-based interventions, including permanent supportive housing, rapid rehousing, transitional housing, and supportive services; and

WHEREAS, local grantees determine the percentage of CoC funding allocated to eligible expenditure categories and currently, up to 87 percent of CoC funding has been directed by localities toward permanent housing to reduce and end homelessness; and

WHEREAS, funding delays and disruptions to CoC funding undermines local planning efforts, delays project delivery, destabilizes service providers, and places vulnerable individuals and families at risk of housing loss; and

WHEREAS, rigid federal mandates in place of locally-determined spending allocations would reduce program flexibility and local authority to tailor homeless assistance programs to local conditions and needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities supports the Continuum of Care Program as authorized under the *McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act*; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC supports existing program flexibilities that allow localities to determine the amount of grant funds allocated to eligible expenditures including permanent housing, transitional housing, supportive services, Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS), and homelessness prevention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls on Congress to ensure ongoing CoC funding certainty by including contingency language in appropriations legislation for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that directs HUD to continue funding existing CoC programs whenever federal statutory program deadlines are jeopardized by litigation or otherwise.

Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

Human Development
Federal Advocacy Committee

HD

Proposed HD 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 4.05 Equal Opportunity**
- **Section 4.13 National Holidays**

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 postnatal 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;
- Invest in programs and policies to support parental mental health including but not limited to, the National Maternal Mental Health Hotline and the Maternal Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders Program (MMH-SUD);
- 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, including provisions such as advance monthly payments, and ~~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;
- 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; and~~.~~
- Require all federal grants that support the construction of affordable housing include incentives for the provision of childcare facilities.

Section 4.05 Equal Opportunity

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

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

- Enforce civil rights laws and eliminate discrimination with regard to race, color, ethnicity, religion, national origin, immigration status, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender/identity expression or any social barriers, disabilities or physical disadvantage;
- Promote and encourage equitable efforts in employment, education, delivery of services, and health care;
- Pass the Paycheck Fairness Act which works to address ending pay discrimination;
- Take current action to remedy past discrimination;
- Develop and disseminate legal standards that will provide clear guidance on the use of mechanisms to address present or past racial discrimination;
- Promote diversity;
- Explicitly include women and sexual/gender minorities in the Constitution;
- ~~Provide~~ Maintain statutory authority for same-sex and interracial marriages and require states to issue marriage licenses to these couples; ~~and~~
- Provide all employers with information on how to adopt and carry out effective affirmative action programs; ~~and~~
- Expand opportunities in federal and local procurement for people of color, women, LGBTQ+ and individuals with disabilities; and

- Pass The Equality Act and provide full protections for LGBTQ+ individuals regardless of where they live in the United States.

Section 4.13 National Holidays

The National League of Cities calls upon the United States Congress to declare a national holiday within the month of March celebrating the contributions of the farmworkers' movement that organized thousands of migrant farm workers to fight for fair wages, health care coverage, pension benefits, livable housing and respect.

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 2026 resolutions that originated in the HD Committee to determine recommendations for 2027. The committee has the following options:

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

The HD resolutions that were approved for 2026 at City Summit with recommendations for 2027 are:

Resolution	HD Committee Recommendation
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-27: In Support of Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Increased Investment in Workforce Development Programs	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-28: In Support of a National Holiday Commemorating the Accomplishments and Legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez and Dolores Huerta	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-29: In Support of the Equality Act	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-30: In Support of Parents in the Workforce	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-31: In Support of the Paycheck Fairness Act	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-32: Advancing Federal Immigration Policy to Empower Economic Growth Across Key Local Industries Including Agriculture, Construction, Hospitality, Health Care, Technology, Science, and Entrepreneurship	Renew with Edits
NEW HD RESOLUTION 1: In Support of Protecting and Strengthening the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	Adopt

NEW HD RESOLUTION 2: In Support of Strengthening Medicaid Funding and Access	Adopt

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-27

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 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 is a demand-driven program that engages two million American workers annually to meet the business needs and hiring demands of businesses in cities, towns and villages across the country; 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, WIOA has been successful in leveraging funds and providing an ecosystem for ~~activities~~ skills-based programs like apprenticeships, summer youth programs, adult and youth career exploration and piloting innovative work-based learning 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 to provide a pathway into 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 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, 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); and

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 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.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-32

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: Renew with Edits

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 on cities 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, which counts immigrants as 31 percent of their workforce, with a 17 percent growth in immigrant hospitality workers since 2010;

- 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 and Humane Detainment and Deportation Processes** so that detainments and deportations are done within the rule of law and uphold the rights of citizens and legal immigrants, including:
  - The issuance of an A-number at intake and an advising of your *Miranda* rights for criminal detainment; and
  - Administered with minimum required security for low-risk detainees (i.e. ankle monitors over in-facility detention), to allow continued employment, education, and presence with the community while their case is being adjudicated; and
  - If in-person/in-facility detention is required, the federal government should ensure that the detainee can remain in their primary or home state and, if deported, returned to their country of origin, if deemed safe to do so; and
  - Ensure facilities used for detention are open for inspection, adhere to national, state and county health standards and prohibit cruel and degrading treatment; and
  - Ensure deportation of detainees follow safety standards for the transport of humans including seatbelts, seats, bathroom access, etc.
- **Strengthen Workforce Participation** by granting work authorization to ~~asylees~~ asylum seekers 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 and Their Families** 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, infrastructure and public safety impacts of the increased federal immigration enforcement.

NEW HD RESOLUTION 1

IN SUPPORT OF PROTECTING AND STRENGTHENING THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

HD Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) brings essential support to the residents of cities, towns and villages across America; and

WHEREAS, SNAP is the most effective anti-hunger program in the United States and serves as a critical link to food and nutrition assistance for more than 40 million eligible Americans, 88 percent of whom of are children, seniors and individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, 15.5 million children, or 1 in 5 U.S. children participate in SNAP, and nearly 40 percent of all SNAP households contain children; and

WHEREAS, eligibility for SNAP is limited to households with a gross income under 130 percent of the federal poverty guidelines, which is about $43,000 for a family of four; and

WHEREAS, 84 percent of SNAP households had one or more people working in the last year and the average annual SNAP household income is less than $12,500; and

WHEREAS, SNAP increases access to nutritious food, and is linked to approximately 25 percent lower health care costs; and

WHEREAS, food prices have risen about 24 percent since 2020, and 43 percent of all families in the United States struggle to afford basic needs; and

WHEREAS, SNAP brings modest but vital support to their residents in urban, suburban, and rural communities facing the devastating effects of hunger and poverty; and

WHEREAS, in July 2025, Congress cut SNAP funding by nearly $187 billion, about 20 percent, the largest cut in the program's history, shifting millions of dollars in costs to states by reducing the administrative cost federal match in half to 25 percent; and

WHEREAS, Congress fundamentally restructured the program by requiring states to cover a percentage of benefit costs based on their state payment error rates, which are not an accurate measurement of fraud; and

WHEREAS, changes to the program allow states with the worst error rates to delay the cost shift; and

WHEREAS, if fully implemented, an estimated 2.4 million people will lose SNAP in an average month, including 600,000 veterans, people experiencing homelessness, former foster youth, and parents of older children.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities urges Congress to roll back the harmful and historic cuts to SNAP and fully fund the program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities urges Congress to:

- **Delay the SNAP benefit and administrative cost shares for all states until FY 2030, using FY 2027 Quality Control (QC) data** to support successful implementation of new federal policy changes, provide states and counties adequate time to reduce Payment Error Rates, and preserve investments in staffing, training, and systems essential to program integrity; and
- **Exclude October and November 2025 from the FY 2026 QC sample and extend hold harmless for changes related to the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (H.R. 1) through January 31, 2026,** allowing states and counties to complete H.R. 1 implementation based on full federal guidance without being penalized for unavoidable transition errors and ensure accountability reflects a period of stable operations rather than disruption.

NEW HD RESOLUTION 2

IN SUPPORT OF STRENGTHENING MEDICAID FUNDING AND ACCESS

HD Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, as of June 2026, there were approximately 66 million individuals enrolled in Medicaid across all 50 states and the District of Columbia; and

WHEREAS, to support all who qualify but are not enrolled, Medicaid would need to expand enrollment by adding 6.4 million people; and

WHEREAS, according to KFF, "in 2023, nearly two-thirds of adults ages 19-64 covered by Medicaid were working and nearly three in ten were not working because of caregiving responsibilities, illness or disability, or due to school attendance, reasons that counted as qualifying exemptions from the work requirements under previous policies."; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Census Bureau, overall Medicaid coverage declined between 2024 and 2025 for the second consecutive year due to changes in policy, known as Medicaid unwinding, after the expiration of COVID-19 pandemic related measures that required states to provide continuous coverage for Medicaid enrollees; and

WHEREAS, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act **(**H.R. 1) enacted significant policy and financing changes to Medicaid including work requirements for non-exempt adults, more frequent eligibility renewals and coverage restrictions for immigrant populations; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that H.R. 1 will cut federal Medicaid spending by $911 billion over 10 years and will increase the number of people who are uninsured by 10 million in 2034; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid helps to strengthen local economies by increasing access to affordable health services and medications that improve public health, reduce costs to the health care system, generate jobs, stabilize rural hospitals, improve academic performance, increase school attendance and strengthen the overall economy.

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

- **Fully Fund Medicaid** to ensure coverage for all who qualify; and
- **Repeal the Work Requirement** to ensure coverage is not lost due to complex paperwork rather than ineligibility; and
- **Improve Patient Navigation** to reduce administrative and other barriers to care and enhance health outcomes.

Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

Transportation and Infrastructure Services Federal Advocacy Committee

TIS

Proposed TIS 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 TIS Committee has proposed no policy amendments for 2027.

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 2026 resolutions that originated in the TIS Committee to determine recommendations for 2027. 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 2026 at City Summit with recommendations for 2027 are:

Resolution	TIS Committee Recommendation
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-33: America's Cities, Towns, and Villages Call on Congress to Rebuild with Local and Regional Governments for National Results	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-34: Local Leaders Call on Congress to Support Railroad Safety and Ensure a Productive and Competitive Rail Network	Renew with Edits

NLC RESOLUTION TIS 2026-33

AMERICA'S CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES CALL ON CONGRESS TO REBUILD TRANSPORTATION NETWORK WITH LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS FOR NATIONAL RESULTS

TIS Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

WHEREAS, after five years of increased national infrastructure ~~investment~~partnership, ~~the~~ Congress failed to renew the federal programs from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and is now allowing $36.8 billion in automatic cuts to in-demand transportation programs until new legislation is passed; and ~~is ending in October 2026, so~~

WHEREAS, the House's Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed a bipartisan reauthorization proposal in May of 2026 - H.R.8870 - Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for America's 250th Act (BUILD America 250 Act) that proposes $580 billion renewal proposal in roads, bridges, transit, rail and safety programs during America's 250th anniversary and continues several key grant programs for local governments, incorporates rail safety fixes, and increases investment in locally owned bridges; and ~~America's cities, towns and villages ask Congress to build on this momentum to address the backlog of transportation and water infrastructure repairs needed with a strong, new 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 by miles and more than 50 percent of the nation's bridges – and will~~want to~~ continue 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, cities, towns and villages of all sizes and in all 50 states were awarded more than ~~3~~5,~~41~~00 direct infrastructure funding opportunities through IIJA programs to make strategic ~~infrastructure~~ investments that support national goals like reducing road deaths and injuries, improving reliability, ~~combatting congestion,~~ and improving movement of ~~goods and~~ people and commerce throughout the ~~road~~transportation network; and

WHEREAS, from manufacturing to healthcare to agriculture, every major industry and sector of the U.S. economy relies on a safe and efficient multimodal network of roads, bridges, transit, rail, sidewalks, trails, airports, waterways and ports that are owned at both the local and regional level and intersecting with state and national systems; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. should keep up the momentum on infrastructure ~~maintain IIJA investment levels~~rebuilding to protect American families from paying more for essential transportation and

services when reliable maintenance and targeted investments can ~~keep up the momentum on infrastructure and~~ limit the economic ~~drag~~ hit ~~on~~ to American households ~~-~~and to major U.S. economic sectors. ~~from manufacturing to healthcare to agricultur~~

~~e.~~

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that cities, towns, and villages strongly support continuation of many effective and in-demand federal grant programs including:

- Prevent road deaths and injuries with Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A);
- Fix poor condition local bridges with targeted bridge investments;
- Deliver multimodal projects with Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD also known as STAG in H.R.8870);
- Fix blocked and unsafe rail crossings with the Rail Crossing Elimination (RCE) program that also keeps trains moving; and
- Adopting innovation with programs like the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation (SMART); and
- ~~the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) program that proactively saves lives of Americans on the nation's roads as well as the Bridge Investment Program and set-asides that target funding to locally-owned bridges which are twice as likely to be rated in poor condition as state-owned bridges; and~~

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the more than 12,000 communities that have railroad tracks strongly urge Congress to use their ~~exclusive~~ authority on railroad issues to ~~both~~ pass rail safety legislation as it was included in H.R.8870 into law while funding ~~fund the r~~Rail c~~C~~rossing ~~Elimination~~ programs to deconflict rail and road traffic, ~~allow for~~provide local investment in rail crossing technology and related bridge and pedestrian infrastructure solutions to blocked crossings, and ensure rail safety recommendations from experts at the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) are adopted into law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that America's local governments continue to urge the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) ~~USDOT~~ and states to expedite and right-size the ~~federal~~ approval and permitting processes for local 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 local government leaders call for the USDOT and state governments to improve the timely processing, transparency and updated public information on all ~~federally funded~~ transportation programs and projects to encourage ~~efficiecy~~efficiency and performance as local governments work to deliver projects their communities need; 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 provide sustainable funding structures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that local leaders encourage the ~~U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)~~ USDOT and all regional offices to continue to partner proactively with local governments as they do with states to ensure effective federal programs and provide timely clarity on the federal infrastructure processes and best practices that will serve the transportation system as a whole; 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 TIS 2026-34

LOCAL LEADERS CALL ON CONGRESS TO SUPPORT RAILROAD SAFETY LEGISLATION AND ENSURE A PRODUCTIVE AND COMPETITIVE RAIL NETWORK

TIS Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

WHEREAS, ~~freight~~ rail policy is primarily overseen by Congress, yet rail safety is ~~increasingly~~ a concern at the local government level 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 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 and they have also occurred in Dunsmuir, CA (1991); Superior, WI (1992); Minot, ND (2002); Paulsboro, NJ (2012); and Custer, WA (2020); and

WHEREAS, the House's Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed a bipartisan reauthorization proposal in May of 2026 - H.R.8870 - Building Unrivaled Infrastructure and Long-term Development for America's 250th Act (BUILD America 250 Act) that proposes $580 billion in transportation renewal and incorporates important provisions on rail safety and rail funding; and

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

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; and

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that America's local governments call on Congress to pass rail programs and safety reform in the upcoming surface transportation reauthorization to address the impact of train derailments on the lives of America's local first responders, the unnecessary costs being passed along to local government budgets of all sizes, and the safety of communities; and

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

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

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

Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

Public Safety and Crime Prevention Federal Advocacy Committee

PSCP

Proposed PSCP 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:

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Policy:

- **Section 6.01 Crime Prevention**
  - E. Substance Abuse
    - Enforcement
  - R. Mass Shooting Prevention and Response
  - S. Federal Consent Decrees and Police Reform
- **Section 6.02 Public Safety**
  - C. Public Safety Technology and Intelligence
    - 2. Emergency Communications
  - E. Mental Health and Public Safety
    - 4. Triaging 9-1-1 Behavioral Health Calls for Help
  - G. Public Safety Recruitment and Retention
- **Section 6.03 Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and Response**
  - D. Disaster Response and Recovery
  - L. Wildfire Prevention
- **Section 6.04 Municipal Fire Policy**
  - G. Fire and Emergency Medical Apparatus

Section 6.01. Crime Prevention

R. Mass Shooting Prevention and Response

NLC urges the federal government to provide sustained funding, technical assistance, research, and resources to help local governments prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from mass shootings. Federal support should help local governments establish and strengthen multidisciplinary behavioral threat-assessment and intervention programs to identify, evaluate, and appropriately assist individuals who may pose a risk of committing mass violence. Federal action should also strengthen lawful background checks and NICS reporting; improve interagency coordination and information sharing; expand mental health services and emergency response planning; and support public education and services for victims, survivors, first responders, and affected communities.

S. Federal Consent Decrees and Police Reform

NLC believes the federal consent decree process should maintain the goal of constitutional policing while establishing transparent, measurable, and achievable requirements; clear benchmarks and timelines; appropriate limits on scope and duration; and accountability for monitoring and compliance costs. Local officials, police leadership, and community stakeholders should be meaningfully involved in developing, implementing, and evaluating reform plans. NLC also urges the federal government to expand access to cost-effective alternatives, including collaborative reform, technical assistance, peer-to-peer mentoring, and federal-local partnerships, to help local governments improve police practices, accountability, and public trust.

E. Substance Abuse

2. Enforcement

Current enforcement efforts have simply not been effective in controlling the manufacturing, sale, distribution and use of illicit drugs. NLC believes that better definitions in state and federal laws related to illicit drug and alcohol use will enhance enforcement efforts.
To improve this situation, sufficient federal resources must be committed to ensure that enforcement strategies are realistic and are coordinated with efforts in education, prevention, treatment and research.

NLC supports:

- The maintenance of adequate funding for local, federal and state law enforcement agencies to deal with drug-related problems;
- An increased focus on enforcement against those involved in cases that are determined as high-level manufacturing, sales and distribution of illicit drugs, especially those selling or furnishing illegal drugs to minors;
- Prosecution to the fullest extent of the law for those involved in violent crime related to illegal drug use;
- Increased penalties for those convicted of drug offenses where firearms are possessed by the offender;
- Increasing the use of federal law enforcement in the interdiction, arrest, search, and seizure of illicit use and sale of drugs;

- Federal assistance in the arrest and prosecution of those responsible for the death or injury of public safety and law enforcement personnel involving official investigations of illegal drug operations;
- The utilization of extradition as a key tool in combating international trafficking;
- The immediate deportation of illegal immigrants convicted of offenses related to the illicit sale of drugs after the court's disposition has been fulfilled;
- The aggressive pursuit and prosecution of medical personnel illicitly prescribing, selling, administering, dispensing, mixing or otherwise preparing any prescription drug, including any controlled substance under state or federal law; and
- Federal funding and assistance to every state to establish and maintain Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) and to ensure these programs achieve data uniformity and implement information sharing across all state PDMPs. The federal government should also require healthcare providers utilize the PDMP prior to prescribing medications to patients.
- Restore Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) benefits for eligible incarcerated individuals at least 30 days before their release. Restoring coverage before release would facilitate continuity of care, improve access to substance use disorder treatment and other essential health services, reduce the risk of overdose and death following reentry, and support a successful transition back into the community;
- Federal efforts to appropriately schedule fentanyl and xylazine under the Controlled Substances Act, strengthening law enforcement's ability to combat its illicit distribution while preserving legitimate medical and veterinary uses;
- Federal law enforcement efforts and resources to help local governments prevent the trafficking of fentanyl, xylazine, and other dangerous substances into cities, towns, and villages and protect the health and safety of their communities.

Section 6.02. Public Safety

C. Public Safety Technology and Intelligence

2. Emergency Communications

Having the capability to transmit vital information to different emergency response personnel among all levels of government without interference and delay is key to disaster preparedness and emergency response. No man, woman, or child should lose his/her life because public safety officials cannot communicate with one another.

- The federal government should take immediate action to provide local governments with the broadcast channels needed to enhance their communications capabilities. Reliable and interoperable wireless communications are essential to public safety's mission to protect life and property.
- The federal government should encourage regional planning for public safety communication needs and address the current shortage of spectrum channels with a long-term plan that ensures sufficient and appropriate spectrum to meet future public safety needs across the nation, communications equipment with open standards, and funding for the necessary building, operation, and maintenance of a national interoperable emergency communications system. If federal reallocation of radio spectrum forces a municipality

to change radio frequencies and/or channels to preserve its public safety and emergency communications services, there should be prompt and fair compensation made for transfer costs, such as new equipment and additional personnel and training. (NLC's policies on public safety communications are detailed further in the ITC Chapter of the National Municipal Policy.)

- The federal government should also link all emergency warning systems across the nation, supplying all areas with appropriate equipment so that no area is left unprotected. Emergency alert systems should be used to ensure that any presidentially declared emergency, homeland security, and National Weather Services alerts are timely and accurate and provide direction on recommended protective measures local governments should take when the threat level is increased. Local governments should be reimbursed for any costs associated with heightened alerts.
- NLC urges the federal government to ensure that all areas of the country have access to modernized 9-1-1 technology for emergency use. Currently, cities and towns that do not have timely emergency response services usually have not implemented a 9-1-1 system or their systems are antiquated. NLC also urges the federal government, in particular the Department of Justice and the Federal Communications Commission, to continue its efforts to improve the wireless 9-1-1 or E 9-1-1 services by working in partnership with state and local land use authorities, public safety officials, and the telecommunications industry. The telecommunications industry must fully develop and fund wireless emergency locater services and tracking systems and lead efforts to resolve interoperability problems that affect emergency communications systems throughout the nation. These efforts must continue to respect the premise of local autonomy, avoid burdensome mandates, and reflect the need for greater funding in underserved jurisdictions.
- NLC believes that 9-1-1 call takers, police and fire dispatchers, and public safety telecommunicators should be classified as protective service professionals under the federal Standard Occupational Classification system.

E. Mental Health and Public Safety

4. Triaging 9-1-1 Behavioral Health Calls for Help

NLC urges the federal government to provide funding and technical assistance to help local governments establish mental health triage standards; train 9-1-1 telecommunicators and first responders in de-escalation and crisis response; develop specialized crisis response teams; and strengthen coordination between emergency services and community-based mental health, crisis, and social service providers. Federal agencies should collaborate with local governments to ensure equitable access to appropriate emergency services and a coordinated continuum of care for individuals in crisis.

G. Public Safety Recruitment and Retention

NLC urges the federal government to provide direct, flexible funding and technical assistance to help local governments recruit, train, retain, and support a qualified and diverse public safety workforce. This support should address law enforcement, fire and emergency medical services, 9-1-1 telecommunications, crisis intervention, co-responder, and other public safety personnel.

Federal assistance should also help local governments expand employee mental health and wellness services, develop effective recruitment and retention strategies, and provide affordable housing and homeownership opportunities for first responders.

Section 6.03. Homeland Security, Disaster Preparedness and Response

D. Disaster Response and Recovery

Federal programs should be structured to support municipal governments with adequate funding and authority to immediately and effectively prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all types of disasters, including disasters authorized by the Stafford Act as well as extreme heat, wildfires, public health emergencies, cyber incidents, and other emerging threats. This support should include training and equipping first responders and the public and private medical community.

In addition, NLC supports the permanent authorization of the Community Development Block Grant–Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program to accelerate the allocation of recovery funds, balance investments in housing and infrastructure, and improve transparency, oversight, and accountability. Congress should establish a reserve fund for rapid initial assistance and support long-term disaster mitigation and resilience. The program should continue to provide direct, flexible assistance to local governments and disaster survivors, particularly in low-income and disproportionately affected communities.

The federal government must increase funding to local governments for response, including processes to resolve equity issues in disaster relief efforts. The federal government must review all regulations dealing with disaster relief that raise equity issues, and based on such a review, propose corrective action. Specifically, when multiple cities have been damaged by a disaster, a formula or waiver process should be available to resolve disaster-related damage in a fair manner. The federal government also should allow municipalities to request their municipality be declared a disaster independently of other local government entities Accidents or terrorist acts involving nuclear, biological or chemical (NBC) materials represent a special subset of disasters. The federal government must ensure that local governments and their first responders have the resources and capacity to address and respond to NBC incidents. The federal government should coordinate with state and local governments for public education regarding NBC incidents.

Additionally, the federal government should assist in the establishment and training of interdisciplinary, multi-jurisdictional search and rescue teams in each state to respond to and recover from natural and manufactured disasters.

When a city is asked by the federal government to provide services to citizens from jurisdictions outside their own in times of a declared state of emergency, it is the right of that city to recoup reimbursement from the federal government for expenses. Federal agencies must reimburse cities outside the declared state of emergency for costs related to disaster evacuation and sheltering, including straight time for city employees and the use of city-owned sheltering facilities at the direction of the federal government.

L. Wildfire Prevention

NLC supports comprehensive federal legislation and sustained funding to assist local governments with wildfire prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. Federal policies should support hazardous-fuel reduction, sustainable land management, forest restoration, intergovernmental coordination, workforce development, and the dissemination of wildfire-management best practices. NLC also supports collaboration among federal, state, local, and tribal governments, electric utilities, and other stakeholders to strengthen critical energy infrastructure, develop microgrids and resilient clean-energy systems, reduce wildfire risks, and maintain essential services during emergencies.

Section 6.04. Municipal Fire Policy

G. Fire and Emergency Medical Apparatus

NLC urges the federal government to support expanded domestic production of fire and emergency medical apparatus to reduce manufacturing backlogs, shorten delivery times, promote market competition, and ensure local governments have timely access to safe, reliable, and affordable emergency response vehicles. Federal grant programs should also provide sufficient flexibility to accommodate extended manufacturing and delivery timelines.

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 2026 resolutions that originated in the PSCP Committee to determine recommendations for 2027. 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 2026 at City Summit with recommendations for 2027 are:

Resolution	PSCP Committee Recommendation
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-35: In Support Of Federal Efforts to Recruit and Retain a Diverse Public Safety Workforce	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-36: On Transforming the Nation's 9-1-1 System for Enhanced Crisis Response and Support Services	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-37: Urging the Federal Government to Support Local Government Efforts to Prevent and Respond to Mass Shootings	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-38: Support of Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder Solutions, Additional Resources for Law Enforcement, and Combating Fentanyl and Xylazine Trafficking	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-39: Urging Congress to Pass Legislation Providing Increased Support to Local Governments for Wildfire Prevention, Response, and Recovery Efforts	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-40: Urging Congress to Pass Legislation to Reform the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program	Expire, Incorporate into Policy

Proposed PSCP Resolutions

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-41: Urging Federal Action to Expedite Delivery of Fire and Emergency Medical Apparatus	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-42: Calling for Reforms to the Federal Consent Decree Process and the Development of Alternative, Cost-Effective Approaches to Police Reform	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 1: Supporting Responsible Federal Action on Artificial Intelligence (AI) to Help Local Governments Keep Residents Safe	Adopt
NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 2: Supporting Federal Resources for Comprehensive School Safety and School Resource Officer Programs	Adopt
NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 3: Supporting Federal Resources for Youth Community Centers and Programs	Adopt
NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 4: Protecting Medicaid Reimbursement for Municipal Fire-Based Emergency Medical Services	Adopt

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-35

IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL EFFORTS TO RECRUIT AND RETAIN A DIVERSE PUBLIC SAFETY WORKFORCE

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Expire**,** Incorporate into Policy

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-36

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

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-37

URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO MASS SHOOTINGS

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy

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

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

WHEREAS, local governments are on the front lines of preventing and responding to mass shootings, requiring comprehensive strategies and resources to address this issue effectively; 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.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, NLC calls on the federal government to:

- 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.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-38

SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SOLUTIONS, ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND COMBATING FENTANYL AND XYLAZINE TRAFFICKING

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy

WHEREAS, the National League of Cities (NLC) recognizes the pressing need to address the ongoing challenges posed by substance use disorder within our communities; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NLC fully supports comprehensive solutions to address substance use disorder in our communities; and

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

- Allocation of resources and funding mechanisms that ensure local governments receive the necessary support to effectively combat substance use disorder at the community 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.
- 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.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-39

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

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy

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

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

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-40

URGING CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION TO REFORM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT - DISASTER RECOVERY (CDBG-DR) PROGRAM

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy

WHEREAS, the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program is crucial in providing flexible grants to help cities, counties, and states recover from Presidentially declared disasters, rebuild affordable housing, and restore infrastructure, especially in low-income areas; and

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.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-41

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

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy

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:

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-42

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

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Expire, Incorporate into Policy

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:

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

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

NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 1

SUPPORTING RESPONSIBLE FEDERAL ACTION ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) TO HELP LOCAL GOVERNMENTS KEEP RESIDENTS SAFE

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, cities, towns and villages are increasingly integrating artificial intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies into public safety operations, including policing, emergency management, fire and emergency medical services, and administrative functions; and

WHEREAS, while the National League of Cities (NLC) has adopted broad principles for the governance of artificial intelligence in the Information Technology and Communications section of the National Municipal Policy, the use of AI and emerging technologies in public safety presents distinct operational, legal and ethical considerations. These include impacts on emergency response, policing, emergency management, fire and EMS operations, civil rights, due process and public trust, which warrant additional policy guidance specific to public safety applications; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order (EO) 13960, Promoting the Use of Trustworthy Artificial Intelligence in the Federal Government (Dec. 3, 2020); and OMB Memorandum M-25-21, Accelerating Federal Use of AI through Innovation, Governance, and Public Trust (Apr. 3, 2025) required federal agencies to report on their use of AI by conducting an annual inventory of their AI use cases. Each federal agency must: (1) inventory its AI use cases; (2) submit an agency inventory to Office of Management and Budget (OMB); and (3) post the publicly releasable AI uses on the agency's website.

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Justice's inventory of artificial intelligence use cases demonstrates that AI-enabled tools may improve emergency response, increase situational awareness, support human decision-making, enhance investigative and analytical capabilities, and increase efficiency across public safety operations and systems; and

WHEREAS, the use of AI in public safety raises important considerations related to transparency and accountability; and

WHEREAS, local governments are responsible for ensuring that public safety technologies are deployed in ways that build community trust and reflect local values and legal obligations; and

WHEREAS, challenges related to procurement, governance, data quality, algorithmic bias, and workforce impacts require thoughtful planning, oversight, and resources at the local level; and

WHEREAS, federal policies, funding, and guidance play a critical role in shaping how AI technologies are developed, procured, and implemented by local governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NLC urges Congress to ensure local governments have the authority to determine the appropriate adoption and use of AI technologies within their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC urges the federal government to require technology companies that develop and deploy AI-enabled public safety systems to establish and implement safeguards throughout the design, development, deployment and ongoing operation of these systems, in consultation with local governments, public safety users and community stakeholders to promote transparency, accountability, civil rights, civil liberties, due process, cybersecurity, responsible oversight, meaningful human accountability and public trust; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls on the federal government to ensure local governments, public safety practitioners and relevant stakeholders are included in development of standards and best practices to support the responsible procurement, use and oversight of AI enabled technologies by law enforcement, emergency management, fire services, EMS and public safety administration; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC urges Congress to provide dedicated funding, grants, technical assistance, research, pilot programs and model frameworks to help local governments responsibly evaluate, procure, adopt and manage AI technologies used in public safety, including policing, emergency management, fire services, EMS, emergency communications and public safety administration, with guidance on data quality, bias mitigation, workforce impacts, governance practices and community safety outcomes: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC urges Congress and federal agencies to establish clear standards for transparency regarding AI training data, municipal data ownership and use, and the legal responsibilities of technology providers to ensure local governments can responsibly procure and manage AI-enabled public safety technologies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC opposes federal legislation or regulations that impose prohibitions on the use of federal funds for local governments to acquire or responsibly operate AI-enabled public safety technologies, condition continued federal funding on discontinuing their responsible use, or otherwise preempt or restrict local authority to determine their appropriate adoption and use, provided that such technologies are subject to safeguards protecting civil rights, civil liberties, privacy, due process and meaningful human accountability.

NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 2

SUPPORTING FEDERAL RESOURCES FOR COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY AND SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAMS

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, local governments have a shared responsibility with schools, law enforcement, families, and community partners to provide safe, secure, and supportive learning environments where students can thrive; and

WHEREAS, School Resource Officers (SROs) serve an important role in enhancing school safety through prevention, emergency preparedness and response, relationship-building, mentoring, problem-solving, and collaboration with school administrators, educators, students, families, and behavioral health professionals; and

WHEREAS, effective SRO programs are grounded in community policing principles, clearly defined roles and responsibilities, specialized training, and strong partnerships that promote both school safety and positive youth engagement; and

WHEREAS, many local governments, particularly small, rural, and fiscally constrained communities, lack the financial resources necessary to establish, expand, or sustain effective SRO programs and related school safety initiatives; and

WHEREAS, federal investments through programs such as the U.S. Department of Justice's COPS Hiring Program, School Violence Prevention Program, and STOP School Violence Program have helped communities strengthen school safety, improve coordination among schools and public safety agencies, and implement evidence-based violence prevention strategies; and

WHEREAS, sustained federal support is essential to ensure local governments have the resources, training, technology, and technical assistance needed to address evolving school safety threats while fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and youth.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges Congress and the Administration to provide robust, sustained federal funding and technical assistance to help local governments establish, strengthen, and sustain comprehensive school safety initiatives, including School Resource Officer programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal investments should support the recruitment, hiring, retention, and specialized training of School Resource Officers; encourage evidence-based practices and clearly defined program standards; and strengthen collaboration among local governments, schools, law enforcement, behavioral health providers, and community organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC supports continued investment in federal school safety grant programs, including those administered by the U.S. Department of Justice, and encourages Congress to expand flexible funding opportunities that enable local governments to address the unique school safety needs of their communities.

NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 3

SUPPORTING FEDERAL RESOURCES FOR YOUTH COMMUNITY CENTERS AND PROGRAMS

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, local governments recognize that investing in young people through safe, accessible, and enriching community spaces is a proven strategy for strengthening neighborhoods, improving public safety, and expanding opportunities for youth; and

WHEREAS, youth community centers provide a central location for after-school and summer programs, mentoring, tutoring, workforce development, recreation, behavioral health services, arts and cultural activities, and other evidence-based programs that foster positive youth development and resilience; and

WHEREAS, communities with strong youth engagement and prevention programs are better positioned to reduce youth violence, improve educational and health outcomes, strengthen family and community connections, and promote long-term economic mobility; and

WHEREAS, many municipalities, particularly small, rural, and economically distressed communities, lack the financial resources to establish, modernize, expand, and sustain youth community centers that meet the growing needs of children, youth, and families; and

WHEREAS, federal investments through programs such as the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG) Program, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, and the U.S. Department of Education's 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program have helped communities expand youth services, improve neighborhood facilities, and strengthen community-based prevention efforts; and

WHEREAS, increased and sustained federal investment in youth-centered infrastructure and prevention and intervention programming would enable local governments to expand access to prevention services, address disparities in underserved communities, and improve outcomes for youth and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges Congress and the Administration to increase federal funding and technical assistance to help local governments establish, renovate, expand, and sustain youth community centers that provide safe spaces, promote positive youth development, and strengthen community-based prevention efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal investments should support flexible, locally driven programs that expand access to mentoring, after-school and summer programming, workforce

development, behavioral health services, recreation, digital learning opportunities, and other evidence-based services that meet the unique needs of youth and families.

NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 4

PROTECTING MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT FOR MUNICIPAL FIRE-BASED EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

PSCP Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, municipal fire departments are essential providers of emergency medical services (EMS), ambulance transportation, and care delivered by emergency medical technicians and paramedics; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid reimbursement frequently falls below the actual cost incurred by municipal fire departments in providing these lifesaving services; and

WHEREAS, Ground Emergency Medical Transportation (GEMT) programs help close this funding gap by allowing states to provide supplemental, cost-based Medicaid reimbursement to eligible public fire and EMS agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) proposed rule, *Medicaid Program; Medicaid Managed Care State Directed Payments and Medicaid Fee-for-Service Targeted Medicaid Practitioner Payments* (CMS-2449-P), could limit certain GEMT reimbursements to Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule rates, potentially shifting substantial costs to municipalities and local taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, fire service leaders have raised concerns that the proposed rule could reduce GEMT reimbursements for municipal fire-based EMS agencies, widen the gap between reimbursement and the actual cost of providing ambulance services, and adversely affect staffing, equipment, emergency response capacity, and the availability of EMS in local communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges CMS to preserve the ability of states to provide municipal fire departments and other governmental EMS agencies with Medicaid reimbursement based on the actual and reasonable costs of providing emergency medical care and transportation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that CMS should clearly exempt public, cost-based GEMT programs from reimbursement caps tied to the Medicare Ambulance Fee Schedule and provide states with sufficient flexibility to maintain and improve these programs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress and the Administration should prevent federal Medicaid policies from creating unfunded financial burdens for municipalities or reducing the availability and quality of fire-based EMS.

Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the

Information Technology and Communications

Federal Advocacy Committee

ITC

Proposed ITC 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 7.01 Local Control and Authority**

Section 7.01 Local Control and Authority

~~NLC supports a balanced approach to communications policy that allows new technologies to flourish while preserving traditional local regulatory authority. In particular, federal policies should not undermine the ability of municipal officials to protect the health, safety and welfare of their residents by diminishing local authority to manage public rights-of-way, to zone, to collect just and fair compensation for the use of public assets, or to work cooperatively with the private sector to offer broadband services. Regulation and oversight of basic telecommunication services are important prerogatives for local officials to advance community interests, including the provision of high-quality basic services that meet local needs and are available at affordable rates to all consumers.~~

NLC supports a balanced approach to information technology and communications policy that allows new technologies to flourish while preserving traditional local regulatory authority. Federal policies should not undermine the ability of municipal officials to exercise their lawful authority to plan for and manage the development and use of their communities, including the protection of public health, safety and welfare; economic development and competitiveness; workforce development; technological innovation; infrastructure capacity and resiliency; environmental resources; community character; historic preservation; and other legitimate local interests. In particular, federal policies should not diminish local authority to manage public rights-of-way and other public assets; establish and administer zoning, land-use regulations, comprehensive plans, overlays, development standards, design and site requirements, setbacks, buffers, conditional-use or special-use requirements, and other locally appropriate development regulations; establish reasonable permitting and inspection requirements; ensure adequate infrastructure capacity and mitigate impacts associated with new development; collect just and fair compensation for the use of public assets; and enter into lawful agreements or partnerships with the private sector to advance community priorities and/or offer broadband services. Regulation and oversight of basic and emerging communications technologies and digital infrastructure are important prerogatives of local officials seeking to advance community interests, including the provision of high-quality, reliable, resilient, and affordable services that meet local needs. Local governments should retain meaningful authority to determine where and under what reasonable conditions communications and digital infrastructure may be located, developed, expanded, and operated within their jurisdictions, while avoiding unnecessary barriers to innovation and deployment.

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 2026 resolutions that originated in the ITC Committee to determine recommendations for 2027. 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 2026 at City Summit with recommendations for 2027 are:

Resolution	ITC Committee Recommendation
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-43: Local Government Support of Community/ Municipal Broadband Networks	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-44: Federal Investment in Broadband Infrastructure: A Call for Universal Availability, Affordability and World-Class Quality	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-45: Preserving Local Control of Broadband Infrastructure Siting	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-46: Calling for Updated Federal Safety Standards for Radiofrequency Emissions of Wireless Facilities	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-47: In Support of Municipal Data Ownership and Protection	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-48: In Support of Digital Opportunity for American Communities	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-49: Local Principles for the Governance of Generative Artificial Intelligence	Renew with Edits
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-50: Local Principles for Modernization of the Universal Service Fund	Renew
NLC RESOLUTION 2026-51: Calling for Federal Cybersecurity Investment and Partnership	Renew

NEW ITC RESOLUTION 1: Preserving Local Authority Over Data Center Development	Adopt

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-43

LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY/MUNICIPAL BROADBAND NETWORKS

ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew

WHEREAS, the universal availability of affordable broadband access for all citizens has been identified as a national priority; and

WHEREAS, community/municipal broadband networks are an essential option for education, healthcare, market competition, consumer choice, economic development, and universal, affordable Internet access nationwide; and

WHEREAS, historically, local governments have ensured access to essential services and utilities by banding together to provide those services and utilities that were not offered by the private sector at a reasonable and competitive cost. This involvement has included electrification, public libraries, and other important public needs; and

WHEREAS, local governments may be able to build and operate broadband infrastructure to serve the public interest; and

WHEREAS, publicly owned broadband infrastructure, including open-access and conduit networks, has served an important role in increasing broadband market competition among private providers by reducing the cost of entry to those communities, particularly for smaller broadband providers; and

WHEREAS, the economic health of municipalities depends on public and private investment to connect their communities; and

WHEREAS, attempts continue to be made to limit or stop further local government deployment of municipal broadband services, which has the potential of reducing the ability of local government to provide important information and services to their citizens in a timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner; and

WHEREAS, federal and state broadband infrastructure funds will be unnecessarily limited in effectiveness by the number of states with anticompetitive, preemptive laws in place by prohibiting communities from making the best choice for their own connectivity needs; and

WHEREAS, in the vast majority of community/municipal broadband networks built to date, the private sector has been involved in helping design, build, and operate the network – creating new business opportunities and jobs in the process; and

WHEREAS, local governments should not be preempted by states from being able to offer broadband services, high speed Internet, and other communications services and/or infrastructure which could advance the deployment of broadband throughout our nation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges the federal government to encourage deployment of broadband networks in a competitive manner via a variety of conduits (satellite, wireless, and wireline); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC opposes any actions that seek to burden cities through unnecessary procedural requirements and safeguards that duplicate the democratic process by which cities govern themselves; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC embraces local governments' ability to work cooperatively with the private sector to offer broadband services and does not believe such public/private partnerships are incompatible with private sector competition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC supports federal proposals that promote community/municipal broadband, that preserve the authority of local governments to act in the interest of their citizens by constructing, owning and operating broadband infrastructure, directly offering high speed Internet and other communications services, and/or participating in public-private partnerships for the purposes of offering competitive broadband and communications services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in order to maximize the value of federal grant expenditures, federal agencies should protect and prioritize access to federal funding sources for municipal broadband through key federal infrastructure programs, particularly the Broadband Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) grant program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress should preempt state laws that restrict municipalities from providing community broadband networks and further ensure that no new broadband legislation should preempt the authority of local governments to conduct their own broadband planning; engage in broadband infrastructure construction, ownership, or operation; collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions; govern the placement and deployment of wireless or other communications infrastructure in their communities; or impose consumer protection or buildout requirements on broadband providers in their jurisdictions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls on Congress to pass the Community Broadband Act to supersede state preemption and enable the provision of municipal broadband in every state.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-44

FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE: A CALL FOR UNIVERSAL AVAILABILITY, AFFORDABILITY AND WORLD-CLASS QUALITY

ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew

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 success of federally funded broadband infrastructure programs, including those authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021, relies upon the accuracy of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Map, as many programs are required to use FCC map data to prioritize or distribute broadband grant funds; 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, 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; and
- 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 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls on federal agencies to harmonize and coordinate broadband grant programs, expand technical assistance, consider flexible matching fund requirements and the flexible designation of available funds (particularly allowing for the pledge of future funds as a funding source), ensure that both public and private partnership applications are eligible for programs, and simplify program application and compliance processes to ensure that municipalities, particularly smaller municipalities, are able to compete and participate in these opportunities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls on Congress to maintain or increase funding for programs that support broadband infrastructure investment, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Community Connect and ReConnect grant and loan programs; the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grants and Choice Neighborhood Grants, and ConnectHome program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the National Telecommunications and Information Administration must prioritize effective administration of the Broadband, Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) grant program by ensuring that any projects funded provide adequate value for federal money spent, provide affordable service to residents, are capable of providing adequate service over the full life cycle of the infrastructure and for the anticipated population in the service area, meet statutory requirements, and prioritize consultation and coordination with the local governments in service areas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls on Congress to remove state-imposed barriers to broadband investment, such as preemption of municipal broadband networks, broadband networks provided by rural electric cooperatives, and middle mile broadband infrastructure built by investor-owned electric companies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC urges the federal government to take a leadership role in convening together all interested parties, including, but not limited to, all levels of government (local, state, tribal, and federal), consumer organizations, representatives of underserved communities (rural, urban and suburban), all segments of the communications

industry interests, representatives of private sector, and not-for-profit sector organizations, to promote ubiquitous symmetrical broadband access.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-45

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, in 2026, the FCC initiated its *Build America: Eliminating Barriers to Wireline Deployments* rulemaking, proposing new federal requirements that could substantially limit state and local governments' longstanding authority to manage public rights-of-way and oversee wireline broadband deployment, including through federally mandated permitting timelines and restrictions on local application requirements, fees, construction conditions, and other processes necessary to protect public property, infrastructure, public safety, residents, and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, these regulations 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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls on the FCC to overturn its 2018 small cell rulemaking and identify effective collaborative solutions and effective administrative practices for the siting of wireless infrastructure, including increased local representation on advisory committees, instead of implementing a one-size-fits-all preemptive regulatory approach; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC opposes provisions proposed in the FCC's *Build America: Eliminating Barriers to Wireline Deployments* rulemaking that would preempt or unnecessarily restrict state and local authority to manage public rights-of-way and public property, including federal mandates governing permitting timelines, application requirements and processes, fees and fair compensation, construction standards and conditions, and the management of abandoned or unused infrastructure; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC urges the FCC to recognize local governments as essential partners in broadband deployment and to pursue collaborative solutions that accelerate the deployment of wireline and wireless broadband infrastructure while preserving local governments' ability to protect public safety, coordinate competing uses of public rights-of-way, safeguard public infrastructure, recover appropriate costs and compensation associated with private use of public assets, and address the unique needs and circumstances of their communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC opposes efforts by the FCC and Congress to favor specific technologies through regulation, or adopting regulations that further expand the digital divide by preempting local governance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC opposes any efforts by the FCC to implement the digital discrimination prevention provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in a way that would limit or recommend limiting local authority over infrastructure siting or permitting, or otherwise limit the ability of local governments to exercise local control over franchises or rights-of-way management, which are critical tools for preventing digital discrimination; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC supports legislation to overturn the FCC preemption of local authority and affirm the authority of local governments to determine usage of and appropriate fees for usage of local rights-of-way and opposes legislation further limiting local oversight; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls on the FCC to examine all best practices and potential obstacles to expanded broadband deployment and adoption, including obstacles created

by federal or industry practices that stymie local and consumer efforts to expand broadband access.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-46

CALLING FOR UPDATED FEDERAL SAFETY STANDARDS FOR RADIOFREQUENCY EMISSIONS OF WIRELESS FACILITIES

ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew

WHEREAS, increased usage of wireless communications services has resulted in greater deployment of wireless communications facilities in cities; and

WHEREAS, states and local governments throughout the United States are preempted by Section 332(c)(7) of the Communications Act of 1934 from taking into consideration the health effects of radio frequency emissions (RF) when regulating the placement of wireless facilities or small wireless facilities with their jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Americans have expressed significant concerns with the health effects of RF emissions associated with wireless facilities, particularly small wireless facilities placed in public rights-of-way often in very close proximity to residents' homes, places of work and where they recreate; and

WHEREAS, there is limited public-facing information about the safety and health impacts of RF emissions related to infrastructure, versus emissions from personal devices, making it challenging for local governments to provide residents with timely, relevant information from the federal government in response to their concerns; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties employ methods to avoid providing certain environmental related services near residents with particular sensitivities; and

WHEREAS, the FCC is required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, among other things, to evaluate the effect of emissions from FCC-regulated transmitters on the quality of the human environment; and

WHEREAS, the FCC adopted a proceeding in 2013 to reassess RF exposure limits and closed this docket in 2019, reaffirming the safety of personal RF-emitting devices such as cell phones, but declining to address the safety of small wireless infrastructure or to provide local governments with updated resources and guidance on assessing the safety of small wireless structures in their communities or addressing the rising tide of questions and concerns from residents about their safety; and

WHEREAS, numerous states, local governments and tribes have urged the FCC to revisit and update FCC standards for RF emissions, with input and support from other federal agencies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals remanded this decision, finding that the FCC decision failed to meet Administrative Procedure Act and National Environmental Policy Act requirements; and

WHEREAS, public concern about 5G and RF emissions has increased exponentially in the wake of this agency inaction, making it more difficult for local governments and wireless providers to site small wireless facilities in communities and leading to vandalism or destruction of structures and threats to telecommunications workers' safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NLC urges the federal government to update antiquated standards and to perform a comprehensive review of the standards for RF emissions, particularly in light of the deployment of small wireless technologies in public rights-of-way in close proximity to residents' homes, schools, workplaces, and places of recreation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government should continuously update and refresh these standards, based on changes in technology, spectrum usage, device usage, and infrastructure deployment, to ensure that standards are recent enough to maintain public confidence; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls on the FCC to develop an updated resource for local governments' use in education for residents about these updated RF emissions standards and the safety of commonly deployed wireless equipment, particularly small cell wireless equipment and 5G deployment.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-47

IN SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL DATA OWNERSHIP AND PROTECTION

ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

WHEREAS, municipalities require personally identifiable information to provide essential services to residents, such as bill payment, library services, transit, public planning, and public health; and

WHEREAS, municipal governments have a responsibility to protect residents' personal and financial data, of which they are stewards; and

WHEREAS, most municipalities are reliant upon products and services to carry out critical municipal functions, which necessitates the transmission and storage of data regarding residents' finances, identification, travel information, or other sensitive data; and

WHEREAS, residents have a reasonable expectation of privacy in many transactions with their governments and do not expect their data to be shared with third parties except as necessary to perform municipal functions; and

WHEREAS, existing federal laws establish protections for certain categories of personal, health, education, and criminal justice information but do not provide comprehensive, technology-neutral standards governing private companies' secondary use of nonpublic municipal data; and

WHEREAS, there is no current federal data privacy law governing the ownership and protection of data by residents or by municipalities on behalf of residents; and

WHEREAS, private companies increasingly receive, collect, generate, and process non-public municipal data through contracts with local governments, but local officials may lack sufficient information about whether that data is subsequently shared or used for commercial analytics, product development, model training, dataset augmentation, or other purposes beyond the services specified in the contract; and

WHEREAS, under current law contractors providing these essential products and services may require that this data become the property of the company, not the municipality, allowing companies to either monetize residents' data directly or indirectly by requiring municipalities to purchase it back for local use; and

WHEREAS, local governments have become particularly attractive targets for bad actors, with insufficient budgetary resources to adequately protect local government networks.

WHEREAS, because private companies may combine municipal data from multiple jurisdictions to develop products and services offered nationally, the federal government has an appropriate role in establishing baseline transparency, accountability, and data-security

requirements while preserving state and local authority to adopt stronger safeguards and determine how their data may be used;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities calls on the federal government to establish data privacy principles that prevent the abuse of municipal data by third parties or companies providing products and services to local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC affirms the authority of local governments to determine how municipal data may be accessed, used, retained, shared, transferred, combined, or repurposed by private entities, including whether such data may be used to train, test, develop, validate, or improve products or services used within or outside the jurisdiction; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the federal government should not preempt, restrict, or otherwise impair the authority of local governments to establish and enforce appropriate safeguards governing the use of municipal data through contracts, procurement requirements, ordinances, and other lawful means, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government should institute, expand and promote basic cybersecurity requirements for companies and governments to ensure that residents' data is appropriately protected from breach or theft; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government should establish robust, dedicated grant and technical assistance programs to assist municipalities of all sizes in preventing, preparing for, and recovering from cyberattacks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government should acknowledge the resource limitations facing municipalities and not impose new unfunded mandates around cybersecurity; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal data privacy policy should require companies to enable municipalities to export their data on demand, and should not require municipalities to pay again to access or export their own data; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government should allow and encourage the use of federal grant and loan funds to be used to expand the capacity of local governments and their staff to collect, manage, analyze, and share relevant data to improve local operations, efficiency, and quality of life; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal privacy principles should not impinge on the ability of municipal governments to collect and use data to complete critical government functions, such as transportation service, utility operation, public safety, and providing equitable access to these services.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-48

IN SUPPORT OF DIGITAL OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew

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, millions of households in America lack broadband access, particularly in rural areas, Tribal lands, lower-income households, and communities of color; 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; 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 opportunity and empower local governments to engage in digital opportunity and connectivity work within their own communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC applauds the inclusion of digital opportunity as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including the Digital Equity Act to fund and support digital 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 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 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 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.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-49

LOCAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

WHEREAS, generative artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, which are algorithms capable of producing new outputs such as text, images, or other content, based on a set of training data, continue to advance at a rapid pace and are being deployed by federal, state, and local governments and private businesses for a variety of uses; and

WHEREAS, AI technologies have the potential to unlock new efficiencies and service models for local governments and spur local economic growth and activity; and

WHEREAS, AI technologies without meaningful human oversight, accountability and transparency may also potentially negatively impact public safety, critical infrastructure, local economies and labor markets, government cybersecurity, equity, and resident vulnerability to malicious actions, criminal scams or disinformation; and

WHEREAS, meaningful human oversight requires more than the presence of a person in an automated process and should include clearly assigned responsibility, appropriate qualifications, sufficient information and authority to evaluate and override an artificial intelligence system's output, and documented review for consequential decisions; and

WHEREAS, responsibility for artificial intelligence systems should be allocated among developers, vendors, deploying organizations, and users according to their respective control over the system, without shifting the burden of identifying inaccurate, discriminatory, unsafe, or misleading outputs primarily to consumers; and

WHEREAS, Congress, the Administration, and nongovernmental organizations are currently exploring approaches to governing and regulating the public and private use of AI, including through America's AI Action Plan, the National Institute of Standards and Technology's AI Risk Management Framework, the Bipartisan Senate AI Framework, and statements by the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NLC is concerned about the deployment of artificial intelligence systems without reasonable testing, safeguards, documentation, transparency, security, autonomous AI controls, and meaningful human oversight appropriate to the risks presented by the system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC recognizes the need for clearer and appropriately allocated responsibility among the organizations that develop, provide, and deploy artificial intelligence systems, particularly when those systems may affect health, safety, civil rights, financial security, public services, or other consequential decisions, while avoiding federal requirements that impose unreasonable liability or unfunded mandates on local governments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Congress and the federal government should enact a regulatory framework that promotes innovation and investment in AI technology, while protecting local decision making, civil liberties, digital privacy, security, and transparency; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that technology solutions vendors should be required to provide full transparency to clients on their sources of training data for all AI-enabled tools, as well as the extent to which municipal client data is used, either jointly with other municipalities or independently, as further training data for AI tools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal standards should require vigorous detection and removal of bias within AI tools, as well as strict enforcement of these requirements to ensure human accountability for all decisions made in the development and use of AI; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the federal government should require AI tools to be adequately tested for safety, reliability, performance and security according to valid third-party standards prior to being released for public use; and

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 RESOLVED, 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.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-50

LOCAL PRINCIPLES FOR MODERNIZATION OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew

WHEREAS, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (Communications Act) created the framework for telecommunications regulation and infrastructure funding that persists to the current day; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Universal Service Fund (USF) has served as a valuable tool for ensuring access to critical communications for millions of households and community institutions since its creation by the Communications Act of 1996; and

WHEREAS, the High Cost, Lifeline, E-rate, and Rural Health Care programs have supported telecommunications and broadband access in numerous communities where it would otherwise be unavailable, and

WHEREAS, despite many large-scale unanticipated changes in technology, the American economy, and society, the major elements of the Communications Act have remained unchanged for more than 20 years; and

WHEREAS, the actions taken by Congress and the FCC in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding connectivity crisis, including temporary expansions in the usage of some USF programs for telehealth and community anchor institution broadband, and the establishment of the Emergency Connectivity Fund, Emergency Broadband Benefit, and Affordable Connectivity Program, have enabled access for millions of households; and

WHEREAS, the shifts in technology and the communications marketplace, including technological convergence between cable, phone, and broadband services, the consumer shift away from traditional copper landline calling services to Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) and mobile services, the rise of streaming video, and other changes, have left the existing regulatory structure ill-suited to promote fair market competition and fund universal access to both telecommunications and broadband services; and

WHEREAS, while the use of the USF has expanded to address modern technologies, including mobile and fixed broadband and internet access services (BIAS), the current contribution base for the USF has remained limited to wireline and mobile voice (telecommunications) services and has dramatically declined over the years due to market share shifts and provider shifts to bundling of telecommunications and BIAS services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Congress must meet its statutory obligation to reauthorize and modernize certain aspects of the Communications Act, starting with universal 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 urges Congress and the FCC to preserve access to off-campus connectivity, including wireless hotspots and school bus service, as 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.

NLC RESOLUTION 2026-51

CALLING FOR FEDERAL CYBERSECURITY INVESTMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew

WHEREAS, cities, towns and villages have become increasingly reliant upon connected technologies to operate and maintain infrastructure, provide resident services, conduct transactions, and complete other essential government functions; and

WHEREAS, cyberattacks on municipal networks and infrastructure represent a major and growing threat to the financial stability, functionality, and safety and security of communities; and

WHEREAS, local governments face a wide range of sophisticated cyber attacks from both nongovernmental criminal entities as well as state-sponsored attacks and intrusions into their networks, posing a serious threat to national security; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of local governments do not have the internal resources to adequately prevent, defend against, and recover from cyberattacks without additional partnership and support from regional, state, or federal partners; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of these needs, in 2021, Congress created the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, creating the nation's first federal grant program dedicated solely to defending local governments and state partners from cyberthreats; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Congress also created the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) within the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to protect the nation's critical infrastructure, including governmental infrastructure, from physical and cyber threats through coordination and collaboration among government and private sector organizations; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the vital role the nongovernmental Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC) plays in protecting state, local, and tribal territorial governments from cyber threats, the federal government has collaborated in close partnership with and contributed funding to support MS-ISAC's operations since 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that NLC calls on Congress to reauthorize and adequately fund the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to restore and sustain federal support for MS-ISAC as a critical resource to support local governments against cyber threats; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC urges Congress and the Administration to adequately fund and staff CISA, particularly those offices and roles that provide technical cyber assistance and other support to local governments.

NEW ITC RESOLUTION 1

PRESERVING LOCAL AUTHORITY OVER DATA CENTER DEVELOPMENT

ITC Committee Recommendation: Adopt

WHEREAS, data centers can support technological innovation, economic development, workforce opportunities and digital services, but may also place significant demands on land, energy, water, transportation and other local infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, municipal officials are best positioned to evaluate proposed data center developments and balance their potential benefits with impacts on public health and safety, infrastructure capacity and resiliency, environmental resources, community character and other local priorities; and

WHEREAS, data centers can have significant environmental impacts, including substantial energy and water consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, electronic waste, noise and increased demands on local natural resources and utility systems; and

WHEREAS, federal policies that preempt local zoning, permitting, land-use or development authority could prevent municipalities from effectively managing these impacts and protecting residents and taxpayers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the National League of Cities urges the federal government to preserve local authority to determine where and under what reasonable conditions data centers may be developed, expanded and operated; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that federal policies and incentives related to data centers should require meaningful consultation and coordination with affected local governments, promote transparency regarding infrastructure and resource demands, support workforce development and training opportunities that respond to local needs, and provide technical assistance to help communities plan for and mitigate development impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the costs of infrastructure upgrades and public services necessary to support data centers should not be shifted to local governments, residents or other utility customers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC urges the federal government to support environmentally responsible data center development by promoting energy and water efficiency, clean and reliable energy use, emissions reductions, responsible waste management and transparent reporting of resource consumption and environmental impacts, while preserving local authority to establish reasonable environmental protections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC urges the federal government to ensure that the costs of preventing, mitigating and remediating the environmental impacts of data centers are

borne by data center owners and operators and are not shifted to local governments, taxpayers, residents or other utility customers.