



## ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Saturday, November 16, 2024, 2:45 – 4:15 PM

Tampa Convention Center

Ballroom C – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

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1924-2024: A CENTURY OF STRENGTHENING CITIES

# 2024 NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

**Tampa Convention Center – Tampa, Florida**

**Date:** November 16, 2024, **Time:** 2:45 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. EST **Room:** TCC, Ballroom C, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

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<b>Welcome and Call to Order</b>	David Sander, Presiding, NLC President, Mayor, Rancho Cordova, California
<b>Report of the Credentials Committee</b>	Dan Kealey, Chair Council Member, Burnsville, Minnesota
<b>Appointment of the Minutes Committee</b>	David Sander, Presiding, NLC President, Mayor, Rancho Cordova, California
<b>NLC State of the Organization Address</b>	Clarence Anthony NLC CEO and Executive Director
<b>Report of the Resolutions Committee</b>	Sharon Weston Broome, NLC 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President, Mayor, Baton Rouge, Louisiana
<b>Presentation of Proposed National Municipal Policy Amendments and Resolutions</b>	
• <b>Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee</b>	Blaine Griffin, Chair Council President, Cleveland, Ohio
• <b>Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee</b>	Ruth Grendahl, Chair Council Member, Apple Valley, Minnesota
• <b>Community and Economic Development Committee</b>	Kristopher Dahir, Chair Council Member, Sparks, Nevada
• <b>Human Development Committee</b>	Adriana Rocha Garcia, Chair Council Member, San Antonio, Texas
• <b>Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee</b>	Dan Kealey, Chair Council Member, Burnsville, Minnesota
• <b>Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee</b>	Dontario Hardy, Vice Chair Mayor, Kinston, North Carolina
• <b>Information Technology and Communications Committee</b>	Kevin Kramer, Chair Council Member, Louisville, Kentucky

**Action on Proposed Amendments and Resolutions**

David Sander, Presiding, NLC President, Mayor,  
Rancho Cordova, California

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

Victoria Woodards, NLC Immediate Past  
President, Mayor, Tacoma, Washington

**Election of NLC Officers and Board Members**

**Incoming NLC President's Remarks**

**Other Business**

**Adjournment**



1924–2024: A CENTURY OF STRENGTHENING CITIES

## 2024 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

### Standing Rules for the Conduct of Business

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1. **CALL TO ORDER** - The President of the National League of Cities shall call the business meeting to order.
2. **PRESIDING OFFICERS** - If the President is absent from the meeting, the call to order shall be made by, in order of succession: a) the first vice president, b) the second vice president, c) a member of the Board of Directors selected by the Board of Directors.
3. **GENERAL RULES**
  - 3.1 **Separation of Floor from Gallery** - The site of the business meeting shall be divided into a floor section and a gallery section. No one shall be given access to the voting delegate section except as provided in these rules.
  - 3.2 **Delegate and Staff Access to the Floor** - Only certified voting delegates or their alternates, members of the Board of Directors and Advisory Council, Executive Directors of State Municipal Leagues, designated staff members, and others granted access at the discretion of the presiding officer will be allowed in the voting delegate section on the floor of the business meeting. To gain access to the floor, voting delegates or their alternates must be wearing a registration badge bearing a “delegate” or “alternate” sticker and must present an official voting card issued by the Credentials Committee. Except as provided in Section 3.4 of these rules, only certified voting delegates or alternates will be recognized to speak by the presiding officer.
  - 3.3 **Press Access to the Floor** - Members of the press will be allowed on the floor at the discretion of the presiding officer.
  - 3.4 **Committee Access to the Floor** – Federal Advocacy Committee, task force or special committee chairpersons or vice-chairpersons not certified to vote may be allowed on the floor and recognized to speak at the discretion of the presiding officer.

- 3.5 **Delegates, Guests, and Observers** - Any delegate will have access to the gallery. Guests and observers may have access to the gallery at the discretion of the presiding officer.
- 3.6 **Quorum** - A quorum shall consist of a majority of the votes certified on the official voting roll for the Annual Business Meeting. The presence of a quorum shall be determined by the certified votes present as indicated in ElectionBuddy.
- 3.7 **Suspension of Rules** - Suspension of these rules shall require a two-thirds vote.
- 3.8 **Rules of Order** – The Current Edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Revised shall govern the conduct of the business meeting unless otherwise specified in the NLC Bylaws or these Official Rules and Procedures.
- 3.9 **Parliamentarian** - A qualified parliamentarian shall be appointed to assist the presiding officer and delegates on matters of procedure at all times during the business meeting.
- 3.10 **Sergeant-at-Arms** - The President shall appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms who will be responsible for enforcing these Official Rules and Procedures. Such additional persons as are necessary to assist the Sergeant-at-Arms in monitoring orderly procedures and efficient vote counting may be appointed by the President.

#### 4. **VOTING**

- 4.1 **Credentials Committee** - Prior to the Annual Business Meeting, the President shall appoint a Credentials Committee of three, at least one of whom shall be a representative of a member city. It shall be the duty of the Credentials Committee to settle any dispute concerning the voting rights of members and their voting delegates and to certify to the President at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each annual meeting a voting roll of qualified voting delegates and alternate voting delegates, the number of votes which may be cast by each member of the National League, the total number of such votes, the number of votes required to constitute a quorum, and the number of votes required to trigger a weighted vote.
- 4.2 **Designation and Certification of Voting Delegates and Alternates** - Prior to the Annual Business Meeting, each member city shall designate one voting delegate and may designate one first alternate and one second alternate to cast the city’s vote or votes at the Annual Business Meeting. The persons so designated by each member city must be officials or employees of the city, with one exception. A newly elected city official who at the time of the meeting has not yet taken office may be designated to cast the city’s vote if appointed for that purpose by the outgoing mayor. No person may serve as a voting delegate or alternate for more than one city.

Each state league shall designate up to twenty (20) voting delegates and twenty (20) alternates, which may include the state league director, of which one (1) shall be designated head of the delegation. On a weighted vote, the head of each state league delegation may tally and report the vote of the delegation. A city

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

All voting delegates must be registered with and certified by the Credentials Committee by 5:00 p.m. the day before the Annual Business Meeting. To cast a vote at the Annual Business Meeting, all voting or alternate delegates must be registered with the Credentials Committee prior to the start of the meeting.

4.3 **Vote Entitlement** - Each state municipal league shall be entitled to twenty (20) votes. The number of votes to which a member city is entitled shall be based upon the U.S. Census population on which dues were calculated for the current year according to the following table:

a. Under 50,000	1 vote
b. 50,000 to 99,999	2 votes
c. 100,000 to 199,999	4 votes
d. 200,000 to 299,999	6 votes
e. 300,000 to 399,999	8 votes
f. 400,000 to 499,999	10 votes
g. 500,000 to 599,999	12 votes
h. 600,000 to 699,999	14 votes
i. 700,000 to 799,999	16 votes
j. 800,000 to 899,999	18 votes
k. 900,000 and above	20 votes

Member cities, but not member leagues, must cast unanimous votes.

4.4 **Voting Method** - Except as specified in Section 6.2 of these rules, voting shall be by voice vote unless a weighted vote is called. There shall be a weighted vote, if a weighted vote is demanded by 10 percent or more of the certified votes present at the Annual Business Meeting. Voting shall be cast using ElectionBuddy. Voting shall be limited to duly certified voting delegates or their alternates. In weighted voting, each certified voting delegate, who votes, shall cast the total number of votes to which he or she is entitled.

4.5 **Proxy Voting** - Proxy voting is expressly prohibited. [Article IV, Section 2, Bylaws of the National League of Cities (Amended as of May 20, 1996)]

4.6 **Vote Required for Official Actions** - A majority of certified votes present, and voting shall be required for election of any officer or board member or for passage of any matter of business voted upon at the Annual Business Meeting, except as follows. A two-thirds vote of certified votes present and voting shall be required to adopt, repeal, or amend National Municipal Policy statements and to adopt separate policy resolutions. A two-thirds majority of certified votes cast is required to amend or repeal any section of the Bylaws. (Note: Notice of any proposed Bylaws amendments to be voted on at the Annual Business Meeting must be made to all members not less than 15 days prior to the annual meeting.)

5. **NATIONAL POLICY STATEMENT**

5.1 **Submission of Amendments to National Municipal Policy and Separate Resolutions** - Amendments to National Municipal Policy and separate policy resolutions may be submitted to the voting delegates by the Board of Directors, by a Resolutions Committee appointed by the Board for that purpose, or by petition of ten (10) certified voting delegates provided that such petition receives a majority vote of the delegates present and voting on a motion to consider the petition. Petitions must carry the printed name, title, city and state, and the signature of sponsoring delegates.

The petition process is not required in cases where the motion is to amend the National Municipal Policy language or separate resolution submitted to voting delegates by NLC's Board of Directors or Resolutions Committee, and where the proposed amendment is germane to the language submitted by the Board or Resolutions Committee. However, a motion to adopt, repeal, or amend National Municipal Policy must be accompanied by a petition if it will amend any paragraph of National Municipal Policy other than those proposed for change by the Board of Directors or Resolutions Committee or if it is not germane to such proposed changes. Separate policy resolutions other than those submitted by the Board of Directors or Resolutions Committee will require a petition.

5.2 **Deadline for Submission of National Policy Statements and Separate Resolutions** - To be considered by delegates at the Annual Business Meeting, all proposed National Municipal Policy Statements or separate policy resolutions must be presented in writing to the NLC Policy Office at the site of the City Summit by 10 a.m. on the day of the Annual Business Meeting.

6. **ELECTIONS**

6.1 **Nominations** - A Nominating Committee of not less than six nor more than fourteen officials of member leagues, state league cities, and member cities and the most immediate past president as chair shall be appointed by the President to present to the annual meeting a slate of qualified candidates for officer positions and seats on the Board of Directors. Such report by the Nominating Committee must be made in writing and posted at the NLC Headquarters Office at the site of the City Summit at least six (6) hours in advance of the scheduled call to order of the Annual Business Meeting.

In addition, nominations may be made by petition, provided that such petition is presented to the annual meeting by ten (10) voting delegates. All such nominating petitions must be presented to the NLC Policy Office at the site of the City Summit by 10 a.m. on the day of the Annual Business Meeting. Such petition will carry the name of the individual proposed for nomination, the position nominated for, as well as the printed name, title, city and state, and the signature of sponsoring delegates.

Nominating and seconding speeches for each nominee for President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President shall be limited to a total of five (5) minutes.



Nominating and seconding speeches for nominees to the Board of Directors are not permitted during the business meeting.

6.2 **Voting and Elections Procedures** - When there are nominations made by petition, the ElectionBuddy voting software shall be used. The electronic ballot shall separate those names presented by the Nominating Committee from those nominated from the floor. A ballot for Board of Director positions shall also distinguish those positions held customarily by state league directors. Nominees by petition shall run against the entire slate for the category in which they are nominated (i.e. officer positions, one-year or two-year seats on the Board of Directors).

A majority vote of the certified votes present at the Annual Business Meeting shall be required for election of any officer or member of the Board of Directors. When more than two persons are nominated for an NLC officer position and no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest vote will be eliminated from the ballot and a new vote taken. To facilitate the elections process, the names of any candidates receiving less than ten (10) percent of the votes cast on any ballot shall be eliminated from subsequent ballots.

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

7. **AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING**

The NLC staff shall annually prepare an agenda for the Annual Business Meeting to be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors at the last meeting of the Board before the Annual Business Meeting.

***\*The standing meeting rules for the 2024 Annual Business Meeting have been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors on November 12, 2024.***



1924-2024: A CENTURY OF STRENGTHENING CITIES

# 2024 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Tampa Convention Center  
Ballroom C – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF POLICY AMENDMENTS AND RESOLUTIONS



## *Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations (FAIR)*

### **Policy:**

- ❖ **Section 1.02 Municipal Administration**
  - A. Employee Relations and Benefits
    - 1. Municipal Pension Plans and Social Security
  - B. Municipal Decision Making
    - 1. Civil Rights/Equal Opportunity

### **Resolutions:**

- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-1:** Support for the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-2:** Support for Reforms of Opportunity Zones
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-3:** Support for Housing Finance Legislation
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-4:** Calling to Preserve and Enhance Voting by Mail
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-5:** Support for Voter Protections and Promoting Access to the Ballot Box
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-6:** Urging Congress to Ensure Accurate Counts for All Municipalities in the 2030 Census
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-7:** Support of Legislation to Streamline the Federal Grant Processes

## *Energy, Environment and Natural Resources (EENR)*

### **Policy:**

- ❖ **Section 2.01 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience**
- ❖ **Section 2.02 Energy**
  - E. Energy Sources
    - 3. Nuclear
- ❖ **Section 2.04 Solid and Hazardous Waste**
  - D. Nuclear Waste Management Policies
    - 1. Local Participation in Site Selection
- ❖ **Section 2.05 Water Quality and Supply**
  - C. Local Control
  - E. Watershed Planning and Management
    - 1. Restructuring
  - G. Drinking Water Policies
    - 7. Safe Harbor Policy

### **Resolutions:**

- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-8:** Supporting Local PACE Programs
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-9:** Supporting and Advancing Resilient Communities to Prepare for Changing Climate and Extreme Weather Events
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-10:** Supporting Urgent Action to Reduce Carbon Emissions and Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-11:** Addressing Lead Contamination and Calling for Nationwide Federal Support for Water Infrastructure
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-12:** Increase Federal Investment in Water Infrastructure
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-13:** Support for Integrated Planning and New Affordability Consideration for Water
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-14:** Calling on the Federal Government to Take Action to Address PFAS Contamination
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-15:** Improve the Benefit-Cost Analysis for Federally Funded Flood Control Projects and Supporting Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Material
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-16:** Increase Funding for Border Water Infrastructure Projects

- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-17:** Support for Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program and the Outdoors for All Act
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-18:** Supporting and Advance Cities Impacted by Federal Facilities and Infrastructure Through Community Benefit Programs

## *Community and Economic Development (CED)*

### **Policy:**

- ❖ **Section 3.00 Introduction**
- ❖ **Section 3.01 Community Development**
  - B. Goals
- ❖ **Section 3.06 Housing**
  - A. Principles
  - B. Goals
  - C. Recommended Federal Actions
    - 5. Legal Services and Supports

### **Resolutions:**

- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-19:** In Support of a Federal Agenda for Local Economic Development, Economic Mobility and Entrepreneurship
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-20:** In Support of a National Agenda for U.S. Housing Investment and Opportunity
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-21:** Urging Congress to Enable Housing Vouchers for Homeownership Opportunities and Local Innovation in Attainable Housing
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-22:** In Support of Resources for Community Navigators to Assist Local Entrepreneurs in Accessing Credit

## *Human Development (HD)*

### **Policy:**

- ❖ **Section 4.02 Children and Learning**
  - A. Early Care and Learning
- ❖ **Section 4.03 Poverty Reduction and Income Support**
  - D. Homelessness
- ❖ **Section 4.04 Employment**
  - B. Job Creation
- ❖ **Section 4.06 Seniors and Social Security**
  - A. Aging in Place
  - B. Social Security
- ❖ **Section 4.07 Individuals with Disabilities**
  - B. Self-Sufficiency
- ❖ **Section 4.08 Health**
  - B. National Health and Wellness Strategy
  - C. School-Based Health Clinics
  - G. Infectious Diseases
  - H. Substance Use
  - J. Mental Health
  - K. Tobacco
  - L. Nutrition
  - N. Racism
  - P. Violence
- ❖ **Section 4.09 Immigration and Refugees**
- ❖ **Section 4.10 Cultural Resources**
- ❖ **Section 4.11 Veterans**
- ❖ **Section 4.12 International, National and Community Service**

### **Resolutions:**

- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-23:** In Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-24:** In Support of Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Increased Investment in Workforce Development Programs
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-25:** In Support of a National Holiday Commemorating the Accomplishments and Legacy of César Estrada Chávez and Dolores Huerta
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-26:** In Support of the Equality Act
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-27:** In Support of Mothers in the Workforce

- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-28:** In Support of Equal Pay for Women
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-29:** Urging Federal Support for Local Governments Assisting Immigrants and Asylum Seekers



## *Transportation and Infrastructure Services (TIS)*

### **Policy:**

- ❖ **Section 5.05 Rail**
  - D. Rail Safety

### **Resolutions:**

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

## *Public Safety and Crime Prevention (PSCP)*

### **Policy:**

- ❖ **Section 6.04 Municipal Fire Policy**  
D. Standard Setting

### **Resolutions:**

- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-32:** In Support of Federal Efforts to Recruit and Retain a Diverse Public Safety Workforce
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-33:** Urging the Federal Government to Provide Direct Funding and Assistance to Cities, Towns and Villages to Support Violence Prevention Programs
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-34:** On Transforming the Nation’s 9-1-1 System for Enhanced Crisis Response and Support Services
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-35:** On Enhancing Public Safety Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Operations Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) and Multiple UAS Deployment
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-36:** Urging Federal Investment in Safe and Effective Counter UAS Technologies
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-37:** Urging the Federal Government to Support Local Government Efforts to Prevent and Respond to Mass Shootings
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-38:** Support of Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder Solutions, Additional Resources for Law Enforcement, and Combating Fentanyl and Xylazine Trafficking
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION: 2025-39:** Urging Congress to Pass Legislation Providing Increased Support to Local Governments for Wildfire Prevention, Response and Recovery Efforts
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-40:** Urging Congress to Pass Legislation to Reform the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

## *Information Technology and Communications (ITC)*

### **Policy:**

#### ❖ **Section 7.01 Local Control and Authority**

- A. Rights-of-Way Management
- B. Municipal Broadband
  - 1. Municipal Broadband Infrastructure
  - 2. Institutional Networks and Other Government-Use Networks
- C. Wireless Communication Providers
  - 1. General
  - 6. Communications Infrastructure Siting
- D. Wireline Communications Providers
  - 4. Rate Regulation, Rate Structure and Service Options
  - 5. Channel Control and Placement
  - 6. Public Access Channels
- E. Broadcasting
  - 4. Rate Regulation on Rate Structure and Service Options
- F. Municipal Liability Exposure
  - 3. Information Technology Vendor Accountability
- G. Satellite Services

#### ❖ **Section 7.02 Public Safety**

- B. FirstNet
- C. Interoperability
- D. Standards
- F. Next Generation 9-1-1
- G. Cybersecurity

#### ❖ **Section 7.03 Consumer Protection**

- A. Abusive Practices
  - 4. Spoofing
- B. Truth in Advertising
- C. Network Neutrality
- D. Privacy
  - 1. Privacy and Consumer Protection

#### ❖ **Section 7.04 Emerging Technologies**

### **Resolutions:**

- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-41:** Local Government Support of Community/Municipal Broadband Networks
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-42:** Federal Investment in Broadband Infrastructure: A Call for Universal Availability, Affordability and World-Class Quality

- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-43:** Preserving Local Control of Broadband Infrastructure Siting
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-44:** Calling for Updated Federal Safety Standards for Radiofrequency Emissions of Wireless Facilities
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-45:** In Support of Municipal Data Ownership and Protection
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-46:** In Support of Digital Equity for American Communities
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-47:** Local Principles for the Governance of Generative Artificial Intelligence
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-48:** Local Principles for Modernization of the Universal Service Fund

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

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

**FAIR**

1 **Section 1.02 Municipal Administration**

2  
3 **A. Employee Relations and Benefits**

4 *1. Municipal Pension Plans and Social Security*

5 a. Municipal Pension Plans: The primary responsibility for regulating municipal pension plans  
6 rests with either state or local government. The federal government should not attempt to  
7 regulate such plans, either by legislation or by regulation. NLC opposes taxation of municipal  
8 pension plans and other employee benefit programs. NLC supports legislation to repeal the  
9 Windfall Elimination Provision of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) that penalizes municipal  
10 workers by reducing social security benefits for workers who have paid social security taxes for  
11 qualified service in the private sector. NLC supports legislation to eliminate the Government  
12 Pension Offset (GPO) against social security benefits for surviving spouses of municipal  
13 workers.

14 b. Social Security System: The Federal Government should not expand mandatory Social  
15 Security requirements for state and local governments and their employees. Imposition of  
16 expanded requirements would create large costs for municipal taxpayers, threaten the solvency  
17 of state and local retirement systems and create irreconcilable conflicts among labor agreements,  
18 pension plans, contracts, state laws and constitutions.

19  
20 **B. Municipal Decision Making**

21 *1. Civil Rights/Equal Opportunity:* Municipal governments support equal employment  
22 opportunities and have a vital and continuing interest in the development, maintenance, and  
23 extension of vigorous and effective civil rights policies. To achieve this goal, cities are  
24 committed to:

25 a. Supporting fully the 1964 Civil Rights Act as amended;

26 b. Removing artificial barriers in the recruitment, selection, hiring, promotion, transfer or  
27 discharge of employees which have no relationship to standards of performance;

28 ~~e. Developing and carrying out a written affirmative action program in the recruitment of~~  
29 ~~minority job candidates, women, veterans and the disabled to maximize employment~~  
30 ~~opportunities for these individuals and to foster career development and advancement, including~~  
31 ~~through the use of technological advances to provide workplace accommodations.~~

32 c. Developing and implementing a written program that promotes inclusion and diversity in the  
33 recruitment of job candidates. Emphasizing the importance of maximizing employment  
34 opportunities for individuals from diverse backgrounds. Utilize technological advances to  
35 provide workplace accommodations for employees with disabilities and creating an inclusive  
36 work environment.

37 d. There shall be an equitable distribution of municipal services or benefits to all city residents.  
38 Federal, state and local governments should all be held equally responsible for achieving  
39 diversity in their own personnel practices. Local governments should be granted any exemptions  
40 to federal discrimination laws, which the federal government now claims for itself.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-1**

**SUPPORT FOR THE JOHN LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-2**

**SUPPORT FOR REFORMS OF OPPORTUNITY ZONES**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, opportunity zones cover 54 percent—more than half—of the country’s pockets of concentrated persistent poverty, meaning census tracts in which at least 40 percent of the population has lived in poverty since at least 1980; and

**WHEREAS**, more adults in qualified opportunity zones lack a high school diploma than have a four-year college degree.

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

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

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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC supports population census tracts with zero population and where it was formerly used for industrial purposes to be eligible for an opportunity zone designation.



1 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-3**

2  
3 **SUPPORT FOR HOUSING FINANCE LEGISLATION**

4  
5 **WHEREAS**, housing is less affordable now than it has been in 15 years; and

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, home prices rose 18.8 percent and rent climbed 17.6 percent in 2021; and

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, in 2021 about half of Americans (49 percent) called the availability of affordable  
10 housing in their local community a major problem. That is more than cited drug addiction (35  
11 percent), COVID-19 economic and health impacts (34 percent and 26 percent), and crime (22  
12 percent), according to Pew Research; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, housing is the single largest cost the average household faces; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, housing costs are not just a casualty of inflation, but also a driver of inflation.  
17 Home prices rose 11 percent in 2020, when overall inflation was 1.4 percent; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, the name Low Income Housing Tax Credit is not reflective of the city residents  
20 who live in these units and can be seen as derogatory toward the residents who reside in these  
21 units.

22  
23 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities will advocate for  
24 bills in Congress that seek to alleviate the housing crisis in America by creating better financing  
25 options for the developers and the cities in which they are building.

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-4**

4 **CALLING TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE VOTING BY MAIL**

5 **WHEREAS**, voting is a constitutionally protected right; and

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, all governments, especially state and local, must ensure an accessible, safe, and  
8 secure method of voting for all citizens; and

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, measures are taken to ensure electoral integrity and prevent fraud when votes are  
11 cast by mail; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, use of the terms “voting by mail” and “absentee voting” varies from state to state,  
14 “voting by mail” is assumed to mean any ballot sent through the mail, including by absentee  
15 voting; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, all states allow voting by mail in certain circumstances; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, nearly two-thirds of Americans say the option to vote early or absentee should be  
20 available to any voter without requiring a documented reason; and

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

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, due to the pandemic, the number of voters casting ballots by mail rose to 43% in  
26 2020; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, one-third of all ballots cast in the 2022 election were cast by mail; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, among voters who were registered but did not vote in the 2022 election, the most  
31 common answer given for not voting was, “Too busy, conflicting with school or work”; and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, numerous states have adopted laws facilitating vote-by-mail options: eight  
34 jurisdictions—California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and  
35 the District of Columbia—conduct all elections entirely by mail. Additionally, Nebraska and  
36 North Dakota allow counties to choose to conduct elections by mail. Nine states—Alaska,  
37 Arizona, Florida, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming—enable  
38 specific small elections to be mail-only. Furthermore, Idaho, Minnesota, New Jersey, and New  
39 Mexico permit predominantly mail-based voting in select small jurisdictions.<sup>1</sup>

40  
41 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that while it takes no stance on individual state  
42 election laws, the National League of Cities supports federal efforts that preserve and enhance  
43 systems that allow for accessible, safe and secure vote by mail options.

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<sup>1</sup> “Voting Outside the Polling Place: Absentee, All-Mail and Other Voting at Home Options,” National Conference of State Legislatures, available at: <https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/table-18-states-with-all-mail-elections>

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-5

2  
3 SUPPORT FOR VOTER PROTECTIONS AND PROMOTING ACCESS TO THE  
4 BALLOT BOX

5  
6 WHEREAS, Twenty-four states and the District of Columbia currently have automatic voter  
7 registration policies, covering over a third of Americans<sup>2</sup>, and;

8  
9 WHEREAS, automatic voter registration has a direct correlation to an increase in registered  
10 voters in the cities, states, and territories in which it has been enacted<sup>3</sup>, and;

11  
12 WHEREAS, the eight states with the highest voter turnout in the 2020 general election all had  
13 same-day voter registration<sup>4</sup>, and

14  
15 WHEREAS, same-day voter registration has been shown to significantly increase voter turnout  
16 among Black and Hispanic voters in states where it has been implemented<sup>5</sup>; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, same-day voter registration has been shown to significantly increase voter turnout  
19 among voters aged 18-24 in states where it has been implemented<sup>6</sup>; and

20  
21 WHEREAS, states that have restricted access to early in-person voting have seen decreased  
22 turnout, especially among Black voters<sup>7</sup>; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, 5% of registered voters plan to vote early in the 2024 general election, up from  
25 34% in the 2018 midterms<sup>8</sup>; and

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<sup>2</sup> "Automatic Voter Registration," National Conference of State Legislatures (Sept. 10, 2024), *available at*:  
<https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/automatic-voter-registration>

<sup>3</sup> "Automatic Voter Registration Works Everywhere It's Been Implemented," Brennan Center for Justice (April 11, 2019), *available at*: <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/analysis-opinion/automatic-voter-registration-works-everywhere-its-been-implemented>

<sup>4</sup> "Voter Turnout Ranking of States: 1996 -2020 Presidential Elections, Based on Vote for Highest Office Divided by Voting Age Population (YAP) AFTER National Voter Registration Act of 1993," New Hampshire Secretary of State (Jan. 12, 2021), *available at*: <https://www.sos.nh.gov/sites/g/files/ehbemt561/files/documents/2022-04/voter-turnout-charts-4-19-21.pdf>; "Same Day Voter Registration," National Conference of State Legislatures (Sept. 10, 2024), *available at*: <https://www.ncsl.org/elections-and-campaigns/same-day-voter-registration>

<sup>5</sup> "Same Day Registration: How Registration Reform Can Boost Turnout Among Black and Latinx Voters," Demos (June 23, 2021), *available at*: <https://www.demos.org/policy-briefs/same-day-registration-how-registration-reform-can-boost-turnout-among-black-and#Findings>

<sup>6</sup> "Rock the Registration: Same Day Registration Increases Turnout of Young Voters," The Journal of Politics, Southern Political Science Association (June 2022), *available at*:  
<https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/714776>

<sup>7</sup> "The Impact of Voter Suppression on Communities of Color," The Brennan Center for Justice (Jan. 10, 2022), *available at*: <https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/impact-voter-suppression-communities-color>

<sup>8</sup> "Half of voters plan to cast ballots early, with a huge partisan split," NBC News (Sept. 24, 2024), *available at*:  
<https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2024-election/half-voters-plan-cast-ballots-early-huge-partisan-split-rcna172253>; "Early Voting Higher Than in Past U.S. Midterms," Gallup (Nov. 2, 2022) *available at*:  
<https://news.gallup.com/poll/404558/early-voting-higher-past-midterms.aspx>

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**WHEREAS**, early voting is most popular among voters over the age of 65<sup>9</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, as city leaders we believe that everyone should have access to the ballot box.

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

**THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities opposes unfunded mandates or preemptions of local control of the local election process.

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<sup>9</sup> “Early Voting Higher Than in Past U.S. Midterms,” Gallup (Nov. 2, 2022) *available at*: <https://news.gallup.com/poll/404558/early-voting-higher-past-midterms.aspx>

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-6**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, 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.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-7**

**SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO STREAMLINE THE FEDERAL GRANT  
PROCESSES**

**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.

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

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

**EENR**

1 **Section 2.01 Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience**

2  
3 A successful national climate protection strategy must focus on mitigating the effects of climate  
4 change and on adaptation measures that are necessary to prepare cities and residents for those  
5 changes that may be unavoidable. The range of adaptation issues must be uniquely addressed by  
6 each local government. The increasing threats related to climate change include, but are not  
7 limited to, sea-level rise, extreme weather events, such as heat waves, wildfires, droughts, floods,  
8 heavy precipitation and strong storms, pest infestations, and disease, all of which can threaten  
9 human health, cause damage to local infrastructure, jeopardize water quality and availability, and  
10 lead to energy and food shortages. The breadth and severity of these threats require the assistance  
11 and resources of the federal government.

12  
13 In order to help communities plan for the impacts of a changing climate and create resilient  
14 communities that are able to adapt in the face of challenges and changing circumstances, NLC  
15 urges the federal government to:

- 16 • Comprehensively study the effects of climate change on the nation’s cities, as well as  
17 different regional climate change impacts, and identify solutions to address current and  
18 future threats;
- 19 • Provide financial and technical assistance to support local government vulnerability  
20 assessments and climate change mitigation and adaptation implementation efforts;
- 21 • Ensure that local governments have the information, resources and tools to adequately  
22 plan for and respond to climate change effects;
- 23 • Establish a national climate service to communicate changes and impacts, and provide  
24 critical time-sensitive information to local governments and the public, as well as long-  
25 term climate change information;
- 26 • Require consideration of climate-related risks and vulnerabilities relying on forward-  
27 looking climate change data and metrics as part of all federal policies, practices,  
28 investments, and regulatory and other programs;
- 29 • Facilitate collaboration among federal, state and local authorities to share best practices  
30 and climate resilient strategies; ~~and~~
- 31 •—Fund a national public service campaign to inform the public about the impacts of climate  
32 change and the need for adaptation and resiliency measures; and
- 33 • Provide funding for urban tree canopies in order to reduce urban heat island effects and to  
34 implement an equity-centered workforce development program to support planting and  
35 maintenance.

36  
37  
38 **Section 2.02 Energy**

39  
40 **E. Energy Sources**

41 *3. Nuclear*

42 Nuclear power will be a necessary component of the carbon-neutral energy portfolio for the  
43 coming decades. The federal government should use its capacities and authorities to maximize



44 the safety and minimize the adverse environmental effects and public costs of nuclear power  
45 production and the nuclear fuel cycle. The federal government should support and encourage the  
46 development and deployment of technical innovations and advanced technology that enhances  
47 safety and efficiency of nuclear power production and reduces the potential for misuse or  
48 diversion of nuclear materials. The federal government should ensure that its licensing and  
49 regulatory procedures for new and existing nuclear power plants and nuclear materials  
50 production and management facilities are appropriate for the potential hazards associated with  
51 their specific technologies and external conditions, including implications of climate change.

52

53 Additionally, Congress should strengthen the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC)  
54 protection of the public – and public confidence in the NRC – by prohibiting “revolving door”  
55 employment between industry and the NRC.

56

57

## 58 **Section 2.04 Solid and Hazardous Waste**

59

### 60 **D. Nuclear Waste Management Policies**

#### 61 *1. Local Participation in Site Selection*

62 Final siting approval of nuclear facilities should be a shared responsibility among federal, state,  
63 ~~and~~ local and Tribal governments, subject to appropriate federal environmental laws and  
64 regulations. Federal policy related to nuclear and radioactive waste disposal should give local  
65 governments the authority to directly participate in selecting the site for permanent repositories  
66 for high-level nuclear and intermediate and low-level radioactive waste. The permanent disposal  
67 or storage of nuclear and radioactive waste, within any populated area, is completely  
68 unacceptable.

69

70 Further, sufficient technical assistance funding from the Nuclear Waste Trust Fund should be  
71 provided to local governments to enable them to conduct technical studies of potential repository  
72 sites, to provide technical comments on federal siting-related documents, and to monitor the site  
73 selection process. This should apply to sites identified on federal property or reservations in  
74 close proximity to a municipal boundary.

75

76

## 77 **Section 2.05 Water Quality and Supply**

78

### 79 **C. Local Control**

80 NLC supports local control of drinking water and wastewater systems. Local planning and  
81 infrastructure decisions should not be preempted and should be made by locally elected leaders  
82 in coordination with state and federal officials. ~~and the ability of~~ Local governments should  
83 maintain the ability to make water infrastructure decisions based on engineering and design or  
84 environmental concerns, not solely based on cost. NLC opposes federal and state policies that

85 mandate, or in any way promote, material preferences or otherwise undermine local autonomy  
86 for local water and wastewater infrastructure systems.

87

## 88 **E. Watershed Planning and Management**

### 89 1. Restructuring

90 NLC supports incentives for distressed or noncompliant drinking water systems to voluntarily  
91 restructure, including through consolidation with neighboring jurisdictions, to ensure the  
92 availability of clean, safe and affordable drinking water services for the community. These  
93 incentives should include liability protection, enforcement relief and direct funding options.

94

## 95 **G. Drinking Water Policies**

### 96 7. Safe Harbor Policy

97 NLC supports a safe harbor policy that encourages non-liable third parties to assist distressed  
98 public water systems by providing operational, technical or material support to help meet the  
99 requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act. Any such third party that provides assistance to a  
100 distressed water system in a time of need should be exempt from liability for violations that  
101 occurred prior to the third-party engagement, and for ongoing violations that continue during  
102 operational or technical support activities, as long as a regulator-approved remediation plan is  
103 followed. The third party should not be exempt from liability for any new violation that is  
104 caused by actions taken outside of a regulator-approved remediation plan or negligent assistance  
105 provided by the third party.

1 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-8**

2  
3 **SUPPORTING LOCAL PACE PROGRAMS**

4  
5 **WHEREAS**, utility bills represent a major part of operating costs for home and business owners;  
6 and

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, the building sector accounts for nearly 37 percent of the nation’s total energy  
9 consumption in 2023,<sup>1</sup> 75 percent of all electricity used in the U.S.<sup>2</sup> and 31 percent of the  
10 nation’s 2022 indirect greenhouse gas emissions, which includes electricity end-use,<sup>3</sup>  
11 representing one of the largest, most accessible opportunities for deep emission cuts in the United  
12 States; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, investing in cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements  
15 to homes and businesses can save energy, cut utility bills, create local jobs, reduce reliance on  
16 fossil fuels, and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, a 2013 study that found default risks are on average 32 percent lower in energy  
19 efficient homes and recommends that the lower risks associated with energy efficiency should be  
20 taken into consideration when underwriting mortgages;<sup>4</sup> and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing programs are an innovative  
23 local government solution to help property owners finance energy efficiency and renewable  
24 energy improvements – such as energy efficient HVAC systems, upgraded insulation, new  
25 windows, solar installations, etc. – to their homes and businesses; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, PACE programs can also be used for other types of projects that provide public and  
28 community benefits, such as improving community resilience to hurricanes and wildfires and  
29 managing stormwater and tidal flooding; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, the PACE program removes many of the barriers of energy efficiency and  
32 renewable energy retrofits that otherwise exist for residential homeowners and businesses,  
33 particularly the high upfront cost of making such an investment and the long-term ability to reap  
34 the benefits of cost savings; and

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

<sup>2</sup> NREL Researchers Reveal How Buildings Across United States Do—and Could—Use Energy (Sept. 14, 2023); available at: <https://www.nrel.gov/news/features/2023/nrel-researchers-reveal-how-buildings-across-the-united-states-do-and-could-use-energy.html>

<sup>3</sup> Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; available at: <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

<sup>4</sup> *Home Energy Efficiency and Mortgage Risk*, UNC Center for Community Capital and Institute for Market Transformation, (March 2013); available at: <https://imt.org/resources/home-energy-efficiency-and-mortgage-risks/>

35  
36 **WHEREAS**, 40 states plus the District of Columbia have passed laws enabling local  
37 governments to develop PACE programs<sup>5</sup>; and  
38  
39 **WHEREAS**, locally-administered PACE programs are an exercise of the traditional authority of  
40 local governments to utilize the tax code for public benefit; and  
41  
42 **WHEREAS**, PACE programs can help local governments meet a core obligation to their citizens  
43 to maintain housing stock and improve housing opportunities for all citizens; and  
44  
45 **WHEREAS**, the PACE program is an achievement of the intergovernmental partnership to  
46 realize national policy goals, namely, reducing energy consumption, that will positively impact  
47 the fiscal conditions of every level of government; and  
48  
49 **WHEREAS**, PACE holds the potential to unlock private capital and jumpstart economic growth  
50 backed by the marketplace certainty of the federal government; and  
51  
52 **WHEREAS**, in communities that have enabled PACE, investments have had significant effects  
53 on local job creation and economic activity, energy savings and carbon abatement. Over the  
54 lifetime of the measures installed to date, estimates show that those PACE projects will result in  
55 \$29 billion in economic impact, 214,000 job-years created, 14 million metric tons CO2 emissions  
56 avoided and 53 billion kWh energy saved;<sup>6</sup> and  
57  
58 **WHEREAS**, despite PACE’s great promise, in July 2010 the Federal Housing Finance Agency  
59 (FHFA), as conservator of the government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) following the 2008  
60 financial crisis, issued guidance that directed the GSEs not to purchase mortgages with a PACE  
61 assessment,<sup>7</sup> which immediately slowed the advancement of PACE residential programs across  
62 the country; and  
63  
64 **WHEREAS**, despite the FHFA directive, many commercial and a few residential PACE  
65 programs are operating or are in development in hundreds of municipalities across the country;  
66 and  
67  
68 **WHEREAS**, in 2010 the U.S. Department of Energy dedicated \$150 million to assist in the  
69 development of local PACE programs and in 2016 issued Best Practice Guidelines for

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<sup>5</sup> PACE Programs, PACENation; available at: <https://www.pacenation.org/pace-programs/>

<sup>6</sup> Fact Sheet: What is PACE, PACENation; available at: <https://www.pacenation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/PACENation-What-is-PACE-Factsheet.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Programs: Supervisory Guidance, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (July 6, 2010); available at: <https://www.occ.gov/news-issuances/bulletins/2010/bulletin-2010-25.html>

70 Residential PACE Financing Programs to help state and local governments develop and  
71 implement programs and recommended protections that PACE programs should put in place for  
72 consumers and lenders;<sup>8</sup> and

73  
74 **WHEREAS**, in July 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released  
75 guidance allowing the Federal Housing Administration to insure mortgages on properties that  
76 include PACE assessments,<sup>9</sup> which has since been withdrawn; and

77  
78 **WHEREAS**, in 2018, Congress passed the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer  
79 Protection Act banking reform bill that recognizes PACE as a tax assessment and directs the  
80 Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to develop rules in consultation with state and  
81 local governments that ensure consumers have the ability to pay their residential PACE financing  
82 obligations.

83  
84 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that locally-administered PACE programs  
85 operating in accord with state and federal guidelines are a safe and sound investment of public  
86 and private funds; and

87  
88 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that locally-administered PACE programs represent an  
89 essential contribution of local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote  
90 renewable energy; and

91  
92 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges FHFA to  
93 reconsider the 2010 guidance that prohibits government-sponsored entities from purchasing  
94 mortgages with a PACE assessment and to work with local governments seeking to establish  
95 PACE programs that benefit from the same senior lien status of all other projects that are funded  
96 through municipal assessments that improve private property and meet public policy objectives;  
97 and

98  
99 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the CFPB to work with local governments to  
100 adopt regulations that clearly reaffirm the right of state and local governments to exercise liens or  
101 assess special taxes or other property obligations to protect and improve housing stock for the  
102 public good, including energy efficiency improvements, and establish underwriting standards that  
103 are consistent with guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Energy for PACE financing  
104 programs or by implementing any other appropriate measure.

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<sup>8</sup> *Best Practice Guidelines for Residential PACE Financing Programs*, U.S. Department of Energy (Nov. 18, 2016); available at: <https://energy.gov/eere/slsc/downloads/updated-guidelines-residential-pace-financing-programs>

<sup>9</sup> “FHA to Insure Mortgages on Certain Properties with PACE Assessments,” U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (July 19, 2016); available at: <https://archives.hud.gov/news/2016/pr16-110.cfm>

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-9

2  
3 **SUPPORTING AND ADVANCING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES TO PREPARE FOR**  
4 **CHANGING CLIMATE AND EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS**

5  
6 **WHEREAS**, across the country local governments are seeing the devastating effects associated  
7 with a changing climate and extreme weather events, such as heat waves, droughts, heavy  
8 downpours, floods, hurricanes, and changes in other storms bring attention to the need for cities,  
9 towns and villages to anticipate, prepare for and adapt to these events; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, these challenges are larger than individual communities can address on their own,  
12 making it beneficial to coordinate regionally and across levels of government; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, while all regions of the country are impacted by climate change, approximately 40  
15 percent of the U.S. population—129 million people<sup>1</sup>—live in coastal communities that are  
16 threatened by rising sea levels, which could impact economic development, land availability,  
17 property values, insurance rates, beaches and tourism, and critical water, transportation and  
18 energy infrastructure; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, the Fifth National Climate Assessment reports that the effects of human-caused  
21 climate change are already far-reaching and worsening across every region of the United States,  
22 and concludes that without rapid and deep reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions from  
23 human activity, the risks of accelerating climate impacts will continue to grow;<sup>2</sup> and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, the effects of a changing climate are a national security issue with growing impacts  
26 to the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) strategies, plans, capabilities, missions, equipment and  
27 installations and the DoD must be able to adapt to current and future operations to address the  
28 impacts of a variety of threats and conditions, including those from weather and natural events;<sup>3</sup>  
29 and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, a 2018 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicates  
32 that limiting global warming to 1.5° C is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate

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<sup>1</sup> Economics and Demographics, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; *available at:*  
*<https://coast.noaa.gov/states/fast-facts/economics-and-demographics.html>*

<sup>2</sup> National Climate Assessment (November 2023); *available at:* *<https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/>*

<sup>3</sup> Department of Defense Climate Risk Analysis. Report Submitted to National Security Council (October 2021);  
*available at:* *<https://media.defense.gov/2021/Oct/21/2002877353/-1/-1/0/DOD-CLIMATE-RISK-ANALYSIS-FINAL.PDF>*

33 change;,<sup>4</sup> however, the 2023 IPCC finds that there is a more than 50 percent chance that global  
34 temperature rise will reach or surpass 1.5° C by 2040 or sooner;<sup>5</sup> and

35

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

39

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

45

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

48

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

53

54 **WHEREAS**, the United States has seen 376 separate billion-dollar-plus weather and climate  
55 disasters from 1980 to 2023, including 18 in 2022 and 28 in 2023, with a cumulative cost  
56 exceeding \$2.728 trillion (CPI-adjusted) and a total death toll of 16,350;<sup>6</sup> and

57

58 **WHEREAS**, 2023 set a new annual record with 28 billion-dollar-plus weather or climate events,  
59 shattering the previous record of 22 events in 2020;<sup>7</sup> and

60

61 **WHEREAS**, in 2005 Hurricane Katrina led to 1,833 deaths and more than \$200 billion (CPI-  
62 adjusted) in losses, and a subsequent \$120 billion in supplemental disaster assistance and in 2012  
63 Hurricane Sandy led to 159 deaths and more than \$88.5 billion in damages (CPI-adjusted), and a  
64 subsequent \$60.4 billion in supplemental disaster assistance;<sup>8</sup> and

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<sup>4</sup> “Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C,” Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (Oct. 2018);  
available at: <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>

<sup>5</sup> “10 Big Findings from the 2023 IPC Report on Climate Change,” World Resources Institute; available at:  
<https://www.wri.org/insights/2023-ipcc-ar6-synthesis-report-climate-change-findings>

<sup>6</sup> National Climate Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; available at:  
<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/summary-stats>

<sup>7</sup> “Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters: Overview,” National Climate Data Center, National Oceanic and  
Atmospheric Administration; available at: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/overview>

<sup>8</sup> National Climate Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; available at:  
<https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events>

65  
66 **WHEREAS**, in 2017 three Category 4 hurricanes—Harvey, Irma and Maria—made landfall in  
67 Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, respectively totaling more than \$336 billion (CPI-adjusted) in  
68 damages and a death toll of 3,167, including 2,981 from Hurricane Maria alone;<sup>9</sup> and  
69  
70 **WHEREAS**, in 2022 historic flooding brought devastating damage to eastern Kentucky and  
71 eastern Missouri homes, businesses and infrastructure, resulting in 42 deaths and \$1.6 billion (CPI-  
72 adjusted) in economic costs<sup>10</sup> and in 2023 drought and heatwave conditions impacted numerous  
73 southern and midwestern states, resulting in 247 deaths and \$14.8 billion (CPI-adjusted) in  
74 economic losses;<sup>11</sup> and  
75  
76 **WHEREAS**, rising temperatures are lengthening the wildfire season and increasing drought  
77 risks, causing more radical fire behavior and increasing wildfire risks throughout the United  
78 States due to earlier snow melts and forests that are drier longer,<sup>12</sup> the costs of putting out  
79 wildfires has increased dramatically, from approximately \$673.4 million in 1985 to over \$3.1  
80 billion in 2023<sup>13</sup> (2023 dollars),<sup>14</sup> and the economic losses associated with wildfire continues to  
81 grow, with the 2018 western wildfires costing over \$30 billion (CPI-adjusted) and the 2020  
82 western wildfires, the most active fire season on record, costing over \$19.9 billion (CPI-  
83 adjusted);<sup>15</sup> and  
84  
85 **WHEREAS**, Congress approved over \$41 billion in disaster relief in FY23;<sup>16</sup> and  
86  
87 **WHEREAS**, several insurance companies have doubled existing premiums, cancelled  
88 homeowner policies or stopped offering new policies in some states because of rising costs and  
89 losses from extreme weather events such as hurricanes and wildfires, which impacts the ability  
90 of residents and local governments to recover and rebuild from disasters and increases insurance  
91 costs for residents and businesses; and

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<sup>9</sup> National Climate Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; *available at:*  
[https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events/US/2017?disasters\[\]=tropical-cyclone](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events/US/2017?disasters[]=tropical-cyclone)

<sup>10</sup> National Climate Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; *available at:*  
[https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events/US/2022?disasters\[\]=flooding](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events/US/2022?disasters[]=flooding)

<sup>11</sup> National Climate Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; *available at:*  
[https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events/US/2023?disasters\[\]=all-disasters](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events/US/2023?disasters[]=all-disasters)

<sup>12</sup> Infographic: Western Wildfires and Climate Change, Union of Concerned Scientists; *available at:*  
[http://www.ucsusa.org/global\\_warming/science\\_and\\_impacts/impacts/infographic-wildfires-climate-change.html](http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/science_and_impacts/impacts/infographic-wildfires-climate-change.html)

<sup>13</sup> Federal Firefighting Costs (Suppression Only), National Interagency Fire Center; *available at:*  
<https://www.nifc.gov/fire-information/statistics/suppression-costs>

<sup>14</sup> CPI Inflation Calculator, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor; *available at:*  
[http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation\\_calculator.htm](http://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm)

<sup>15</sup> “Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters,” National Climate Data Center, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; *available at:* [https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events/US/2018-2023?disasters\[\]=wildfire](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events/US/2018-2023?disasters[]=wildfire)

<sup>16</sup> The Disaster Relief Fund: Overview and Issues, Congressional Research Service (Jan. 20, 2022); *available at:*  
<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R45484>



92  
93 **WHEREAS**, 2023 was the warmest year on record, followed by 2016 (second warmest), 2020  
94 (third warmest), 2019 (fourth warmest) and 2017 (fifth warmest); and <sup>17</sup>

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

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

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

107  
108 **WHEREAS**, taking action now to adapt to a changing environment and create community  
109 resilience will help save lives, strengthen local economies, save taxpayer dollars and build  
110 preparedness for future events; and

111  
112 **WHEREAS**, in 2014 the President’s Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience  
113 comprised of state, local and tribal leaders, including representatives from the National League of  
114 Cities (NLC) made recommendations to the President on ways the federal government can assist  
115 local efforts to address and prepare for the impacts of climate change; and

116  
117 **WHEREAS**, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 makes significant  
118 progress toward strengthening infrastructure and communities against extreme weather events by  
119 investing in pre-disaster mitigation and flood, wildfire and drought mitigation and the Inflation  
120 Reduction Act provides additional funding and incentives for climate and clean energy goals, and  
121 additional federal policies, funding and resources are needed to support local governments.

122  
123 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration  
124 to partner with local governments and to support local action on climate change mitigation,  
125 adaptation and resilience; and

126  
127 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress and the Administration to take urgent  
128 action to help states and local governments conduct vulnerability assessments, develop and

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<sup>17</sup> Climate Change: Global Temperature, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Jan. 18, 2024);available at: <https://www.noaa.gov/news/2023-was-worlds-warmest-year-on-record-by-far>

129 implement long-term mitigation, adaptation and resiliency action plans relying on forward-  
130 looking climate metrics, and identify innovative financing opportunities to implement these  
131 assessments and plans in order to prepare, plan for and more quickly recover from extreme  
132 weather events; and  
133

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

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

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

149 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to provide incentives  
150 for rebuilding infrastructure and buildings following natural disaster in a manner that will protect  
151 communities against future natural disasters; and  
152

153 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to outline strategies  
154 and actions to reduce the vulnerability of federal programs to the impacts of climate change and  
155 extreme weather; and  
156

157 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to better align  
158 federal funding with local preparedness and resilience-building efforts; and  
159

160 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to fully fund grant programs that  
161 help local governments prepare, respond and recover from climate change and extreme weather  
162 events and establish a preparedness and response fund to support local governments that are at  
163 the forefront of developing adaptive solutions; and  
164

165 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to develop grant and  
166 technical assistance programs to enable communities to develop community energy transition  
167 plans that ensure the capability of cities to maintain critical energy and infrastructure during  
168 disruptions to local, regional or national energy infrastructure; and  
169

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

175  
176 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to develop a national  
177 pilot project initiative to conduct detailed assessments and designs for resilient city energy  
178 system retrofit and redesign across a range of different regions and city sizes; and

179  
180 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal investments in communities must prioritize those  
181 communities that have been left behind and BIPOC communities, which are disproportionately  
182 impacted by the effects of climate change.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-10

2  
3 SUPPORTING URGENT ACTION TO REDUCE CARBON EMISSIONS AND  
4 MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE  
5

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

8 WHEREAS, the Fifth National Climate Assessment reports that the effects of human-caused  
9 climate change are already far-reaching and worsening across every region of the United States,  
10 and concludes that without rapid and deep reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions from  
11 human activity, the risks of accelerating climate impacts will continue to grow<sup>1</sup> and  
12

13 WHEREAS, a 2018 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicates  
14 that limiting global warming to 1.5° C is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change,<sup>2</sup>  
15 however, the 2023 IPCC finds that there is a more than 50 percent chance that global  
16 temperature rise will reach or surpass 1.5° C by 2040 or sooner;<sup>3</sup> and  
17

18 WHEREAS, extreme heat will have more serious health consequences on outdoor workers and  
19 those in unairconditioned spaces and people living in low-income communities, communities of  
20 color, and tribal communities, and people in these communities are disproportionately impacted  
21 by high rates of underlying health conditions, which can be exacerbated by extreme heat; and  
22

23 WHEREAS, these same vulnerable populations also face dramatically higher energy burdens—  
24 spending a greater portion of their income on energy bills—than the average household;<sup>4</sup> and  
25

26 WHEREAS, according to the American Lung Association’s 2023 State of the Air report, nearly  
27 39 percent or 131.2 million people live in communities with unhealthy levels of ozone or particle  
28 pollution;<sup>5</sup> and  
29

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

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<sup>1</sup> National Climate Assessment (November 2023); available at: <https://nca2023.globalchange.gov>

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

<sup>3</sup> “10 Big Findings from the 2023 IPC Report on Climate Change,” World Resources Institute; available at: <https://www.wri.org/insights/2023-ipcc-ar6-synthesis-report-climate-change-findings>

<sup>4</sup> Energy Burden Report, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (2020); available at: <https://www.aceee.org/energy-burden>

<sup>5</sup> “State of the Air,” American Lung Association (2023); available at: <https://www.lung.org/research/sota/key-findings>

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, in order to meet the carbon emissions reductions goals necessary to help mitigate  
35 the effects of climate change on communities, improving energy efficiency, increasing energy  
36 conservation and deploying carbon-free and renewable energy systems will be essential at the  
37 local, state and federal levels; and  
38  
39 **WHEREAS**, nuclear power will be a necessary component of the carbon-neutral energy  
40 portfolio for the coming decades; and  
41  
42 **WHEREAS**, improving energy efficiency, increasing energy conservation and deploying  
43 renewable energy systems will save taxpayer dollars, boost the national and local economy,  
44 enhance national security, increase our nation’s energy independence and improve environmental  
45 quality; and  
46  
47 **WHEREAS**, technology exists and continues to be developed that will help families, businesses  
48 and communities reduce energy use, but without standards to encourage adoption of new  
49 technology, many of these technology options will be unavailable or unaffordable; and  
50  
51 **WHEREAS**, the transportation sector generates the largest share of direct greenhouse gas  
52 emissions, 28 percent of 2022 greenhouse gas emissions, in the United States;<sup>6</sup> and  
53  
54 **WHEREAS**, the building sector accounts for nearly 37 percent of the nation’s total energy  
55 consumption in 2023,<sup>7</sup> 75 percent of all electricity used in the U.S.<sup>8</sup> and 31 percent of the  
56 nation’s 2022 indirect greenhouse gas emissions, which includes electricity end-use;<sup>9</sup> and  
57  
58 **WHEREAS**, indoor and outdoor lighting account for 6 percent of electricity consumed in the  
59 nation,<sup>10</sup> and rapid conversion to efficient lighting would result in significant greenhouse gas  
60 reductions as well as a decrease in base load energy needs; and  
61  
62 **WHEREAS**, communities large and small nationwide are laboratories of innovation and are  
63 taking action on climate mitigation, including adopting greenhouse gas reduction goals,

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<sup>6</sup> Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; *available at:*  
<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration; *available at:* <http://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=86&t=1>

<sup>8</sup> NREL Researchers Reveal How Buildings Across United States Do—and Could—Use Energy (Sept. 14, 2023);  
*available at:* <https://www.nrel.gov/news/features/2023/nrel-researchers-reveal-how-buildings-across-the-united-states-do-and-could-use-energy.html>

<sup>9</sup> Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; *available at:*  
<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

<sup>10</sup> FAQ: How much electricity is used for lighting in the United States, U.S. Energy Information Administration;  
*available at:* <https://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.php?id=99&t=3>

64 successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy solutions, and pursuing  
65 local strategies that create jobs, save energy and taxpayer dollars, and promote renewable  
66 sources; and

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

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

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

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

87  
88 **WHEREAS**, because of these investments and the decline in capital costs, the U.S. Energy  
89 Information Administration projects that by 2025 approximately 443 gigawatts of renewables  
90 capacity will be online, and further, that in the United States the share of renewables in the  
91 electricity generation mix will more than triple from 309 gigawatts of renewables capacity in  
92 2022 to 1,163 gigawatts renewables capacity in 2050.<sup>11</sup>

93  
94 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration  
95 to partner with local governments, to support local action on climate change mitigation, and to  
96 provide essential tools, research, technology development, data and funding, as well as workforce  
97 development, job training and community assistance, to help local governments achieve their  
98 greenhouse gas reduction targets and transition to a clean energy economy; and

99

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<sup>11</sup> “U.S. electric capacity mix shifts from fossil fuels to renewables in AEO2023,” U.S. Energy Information Administration (April 13, 2023); available at: <https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=56160>

100 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress and the Administration to take urgent  
101 action to reduce carbon emissions across a broad sector of the economy and become carbon  
102 neutral to mitigate the effects of climate change; and  
103

104 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports the U.S.'s engagement in the Paris Climate  
105 Agreement and calls on Congress to position the U.S. as a climate leader and adopt nationwide  
106 greenhouse gas emission goals and policies that exceed the IPCC 1.5°C targets of 45% emissions  
107 reduction from 2010 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050, and to encourage other countries to  
108 adopt these same goals; and  
109

110 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports efforts to increase the CAFE standards or  
111 fuel efficiency for all types of vehicles; and  
112

113 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to pass a national renewable  
114 portfolio standard that increases the use of carbon neutral energy and promotes energy efficiency,  
115 with the goal of at least 50 percent carbon neutral energy by 2030 and 100 percent by  
116 2050 or sooner; and  
117

118 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC encourages the federal government to develop  
119 policies that facilitate the necessary deployment of electric infrastructure in an expedited manner  
120 to support clean energy goals; and  
121

122 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that these federal policies should ensure that the benefits of  
123 renewable energy and energy efficiency are shared equitably, with special attention on low-  
124 income, disadvantaged and other vulnerable and underrepresented populations, and that the  
125 siting of such electric infrastructure should not inequitably burden these populations; and  
126

127 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the federal government should provide tools, resources,  
128 technical assistance and funding to local governments to support streamlining local permitting  
129 processes that reduce soft costs and barriers to support local deployment of renewable energy  
130 and public and private electric vehicle infrastructure; and  
131

132 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLC recognizes the need for an effective network of  
133 energy grid infrastructure to help the nation achieve a clean energy future and urges the federal  
134 government to partner and consult with local governments to encourage policies that address  
135 barriers to electric infrastructure development and support an efficient process for infrastructure  
136 interconnection, siting and permitting, including a short- and long-term assessment of  
137 greenhouse gas emissions; and  
138

139 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to reauthorize and fully fund the  
140 EECBG or other funding structure at the U.S. Department of Energy to further incentivize clean  
141 energy at the local level; and  
142

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



1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-11**

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

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

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates there are 9.2 million  
10 lead service lines across the country;<sup>1</sup> and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, lead has negative and long-term neurological effects, particularly in infants and  
13 children; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, corrosion control and testing are essential to preventing lead leaching and alerting  
16 the public to potential dangers; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, a recent analysis by the American Water Works Association estimates the average  
19 cost for a full replacement of a lead service line is \$12,500, which is significantly higher than  
20 EPA’s cost estimate of \$6,154 in the Final Lead and Copper Rule Revisions,<sup>2</sup> indicating that the  
21 total cost of replacing the nation’s 9.2 million lead service lines to be upward of \$100 billion  
22 under the requirements from EPA’s Lead and Copper Rule Improvements; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, local governments are already taking action to address lead service lines in their  
25 communities and to comply with EPA’s Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, finalized in 2021,  
26 which requires all community water systems and non-transient non-community water systems,  
27 such as schools, to complete an inventory of lead pipes by October 16, 2024<sup>3</sup>; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to invest in our aging water infrastructure nationwide and a failure to  
30 do so can have negative public health consequences; and  
31

---

<sup>1</sup> Fact Sheet: 7<sup>th</sup> Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (April 2023); available at: [https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-04/Final\\_DWINSAs%20Public%20Factsheet%204.4.23.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-04/Final_DWINSAs%20Public%20Factsheet%204.4.23.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> “Considerations when Costing Lead Service Line Identification and Replacement,” CDM Smith (November 2022); available at: <https://www.awwa.org/wp-content/uploads/CDM-Considerations-when-costing-lead-service-line-ident-replacement.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Revised Lead and Copper Rule, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; available at: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/revised-lead-and-copper-rule>

32 **WHEREAS**, EPA estimates the nation’s water infrastructure capital needs over the next 20 years  
33 to be approximately \$1.255 trillion in total,<sup>4</sup> the American Society for Civil Engineers estimates  
34 that over the next 10 years, \$1 trillion of additional investments are needed to reach a state of  
35 good repair for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure,<sup>5</sup> and other estimates put  
36 the cost at more than \$4 trillion to maintain and build a 21<sup>st</sup> century water system; and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 provided federal  
39 funding for lead service line replacement projects, and additional federal funding is needed to  
40 fully replace all lead service lines in the country.

41  
42 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on  
43 Congress and the Administration to support robust funding for all water infrastructure financing  
44 mechanisms, including the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund  
45 programs and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA); and

46  
47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to support  
48 other mechanisms of infrastructure financing, including protecting the tax-exempt status of  
49 municipal bonds and reinstating the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds; and

50  
51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to provide  
52 direct grants to local governments, as well as school systems and daycare centers, for the  
53 replacement of lead service lines, testing, inventories, planning, corrosion control and public  
54 education campaigns, and to assist small and disadvantaged communities in complying with the  
55 Safe Drinking Water Act.

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<sup>4</sup> “Clean Watershed Needs Survey,” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (April 2024); *available at:* <https://www.epa.gov/cwns> and “7th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment,” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (April 2023); *available at:* <https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf>

<sup>5</sup> “Bridging the Gap: Economic Impacts of National Infrastructure Investment, 2024-2043,” American Society of Civil Engineers (May 2024); *available at:* <https://bridgingthegap.infrastructurereportcard.org/>

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-12

2  
3 INCREASE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

4  
5 **WHEREAS**, the nation’s water infrastructure systems, both built and natural, are significant  
6 assets that protect public health and the nation’s water resources and well-maintained systems are  
7 essential to the general welfare of communities and residents and the nation’s prosperity; and  
8

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

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

18 **WHEREAS**, local governments fund over 98 percent of all capital, operations and maintenance  
19 investment in drinking water, wastewater and sewer infrastructure, investing over \$2.38 trillion  
20 between 1993-2019 (not adjusted for inflation) and over \$150 billion in 2022 alone;<sup>3</sup> and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, tax-exempt municipal bonds are the primary funding mechanism for state and local  
23 government infrastructure projects with three-quarters of the total United States investment in  
24 infrastructure being accomplished with tax-exempt financing; and  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, an economic analysis by the American Society of Civil Engineers shows a water-  
27 related infrastructure investment gap of \$1 trillion over 10 years for drinking water, wastewater  
28 and stormwater combined;<sup>4</sup> and  
29

30 **WHEREAS**, this funding gap does not include anticipated expenditures to comply with new  
31 Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, consent decrees, new responsibilities

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

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

<sup>3</sup> 2022 Annual Surveys of State and Local Government Finances, U.S. Census Bureau (October 2024); *available at*:  
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/gov-finances.html>

<sup>4</sup> ” Bridging the Gap: Economic Impacts of National Infrastructure Investment, 2024-2043”, American Society of Civil Engineers (May 2024); *available at*:  
<https://bridgingthegap.infrastructurereportcard.org/>

32 and costs relating to water security and source water protection, additional needs for re-use of  
33 treated effluent, or impacts due to climate change; and

34

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

38

39 **WHEREAS**, aside from the IIJA, annual appropriations for federal loan and grant assistance to  
40 cities and local governments to assist in maintaining and upgrading water infrastructure systems  
41 has continued to decline in real dollars over the past decades;<sup>5</sup> and

42

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

46

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

50

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

55

56 **WHEREAS**, Congress provides to states a capped annual allocation (“volume cap”) of tax-  
57 exempt bonds private activity bonds, based on population, but historically, most of the tax-  
58 exempt private activity bonds are issued to short-term projects such as housing and education  
59 loans;<sup>6</sup> and

60

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

63

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<sup>5</sup> Federal Investment, 1962-2018, Congressional Budget Office (June 2019); *available at:*  
[https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2019-06/55375-Federal\\_Investment.pdf](https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2019-06/55375-Federal_Investment.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> “CDFA Annual Volume Cap Report,” Council of Development Finance Agencies (March 2021); *available at:*  
<https://www.cdfa.net/cdfa/cdfaweb.nsf/ordredirect.html?open&id=VolumeCapReport-2019-2020.html>

64 **WHEREAS**, eliminating the state volume cap for water is estimated to make available up to \$5  
65 billion in private capital for water projects, while the cost in foregone revenue to the federal  
66 government is nominal.<sup>7</sup>  
67

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

74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to support  
75 robust funding for water infrastructure financing through the Clean Water and Drinking Water  
76 State Revolving Loan Fund programs; and  
77

78 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should provide full appropriation to the Water  
79 Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) for loans and loan guarantees for water  
80 infrastructure projects; and  
81

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

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

93 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports legislation removing the federal volume cap  
94 on tax-exempt private activity bonds for water and wastewater infrastructure projects; and  
95

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

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<sup>7</sup> Testimony of Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, before the Senate Appropriations Committee, March 4, 2008; *available at: <https://www.congress.gov/event/110th-congress/senate-event/LC7251/text>*

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

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-13

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

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

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, in 2014 EPA issued its *Financial Capability Assessment Framework for Municipal*  
13 *Clean Water Act Requirements* (“Financial Capability Framework”), which allows the  
14 consideration of additional information, such as socio-economic factors, in determining the  
15 financial capability of residents and a community when developing compliance schedules for  
16 municipal projects necessary to meet CWA obligations; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, these two policy frameworks demonstrate an awareness by EPA of the challenges  
19 local governments face in meeting CWA requirements, as well as the conflicts they face in  
20 balancing environmental protection with economic feasibility; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, a 2017 report from the National Academy of Public Administration found that  
23 EPA’s reliance on two percent of Median Household Income to determine a community’s  
24 financial capability puts an unfair and oppressive financial burden on low and middle-income  
25 residents, and recommend changes to EPA’s procedure for evaluating ratepayer affordability and  
26 utility financial capability;<sup>1</sup> and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, in 2023 EPA issued revised Financial Capability Assessment Guidance to replace  
29 the “Combined Sewer Overflows—Guidance for Financial Capability Assessment and Schedule  
30 Development” (Feb. 1997), which leaves the two percent Median Household Income metric in  
31 place;<sup>2</sup> and  
32

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<sup>1</sup> “Developing a New Framework for Community Affordability of Clean Water Services,” National Academy of Public Administration (Oct. 2017); available at: <https://napawash.org/academy-studies/developing-a-new-framework-for-community-affordability-of-clean-water-servi>

<sup>2</sup> “Understanding the New EPA Financial Capability Assessment Guidance,” National League of Cities (March 9, 2023); available at: <https://www.nlc.org/article/2023/03/09/understanding-the-new-epa-financial-capability-assessment-guidance/>

33 **WHEREAS**, taking a One Water approach to water resource management means that “all water  
34 has value and should be managed in a sustainable, inclusive, integrated way” and requires  
35 balancing water equity, water access and water affordability;<sup>3</sup> and  
36

37 **WHEREAS**, at a time where local financial resources are increasingly limited and the ability of  
38 local governments to raise revenue is also limited, local governments are facing costly unfunded  
39 federal and state regulatory requirements forcing them to make tough decisions about the services  
40 and maintenance that they can afford; and  
41

42 **WHEREAS**, local water and sewer rates and stormwater fees are rapidly becoming unaffordable  
43 for many fixed- and low-income citizens, placing a disproportionate financial burden on these  
44 vulnerable populations who live at or below the poverty level; and  
45

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

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

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

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

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<sup>3</sup> “One Water Roadmap: The Sustainable Management of Life’s Most Essential Resource,” US Water Alliance (2016); *available at*: <https://uswateralliance.org/resources/one-water-roadmap-the-sustainable-management-of-lifes-most-essential-resource/>



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

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

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

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

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-14

2  
3 CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION TO ADDRESS  
4 PFAS CONTAMINATION  
5

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

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

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

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

22 **WHEREAS**, in 2021 EPA announced a PFAS Strategic Roadmap that outlines a comprehensive  
23 nationwide action plan for addressing PFAS, including identifying both short-term solutions for  
24 addressing these chemicals and long-term strategies that will help states, tribes and local  
25 communities provide clean and safe drinking water to residents and address PFAS at the source –  
26 before it gets into the water;<sup>2</sup> and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, in April 2024, EPA finalized a National Drinking Water Regulation and set an  
29 enforceable Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for PFOA and PFOS of 4 parts per trillion, set  
30 a MCL of 10 parts per trillion for three other PFAS chemicals and established a hazard index for  
31 four additional PFAS chemicals under the Safe Drinking Water Act<sup>3</sup>; and  
32

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

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<sup>1</sup> Fact Sheet: PFOA & PFOS Drinking Water Health Advisories, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Nov. 2016); available at: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-06/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories\\_pfoa\\_pfos\\_updated\\_5.31.16.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2016-06/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories_pfoa_pfos_updated_5.31.16.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> PFAS Strategic Roadmap: EPA’s Commitments to Action 2021-2024, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Oct. 2021); available at: <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/pfas-strategic-roadmap-epas-commitments-action-2021-2024>

<sup>3</sup> Final PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; available at: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

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**WHEREAS**, the Environmental Working Group maintains an interactive map of known contamination of communities from PFAS, which as of May 2024 shows 6,189 locations in 50 states, DC and four territories with known contamination;<sup>4</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, in July 2023, EPA and United States Geological Survey scientists published results on analysis for 32 PFAS compounds in water samples from 716 public drinking water supplies across every state that detected PFAS in at least 45 percent of tap water samples, suggesting that PFAS is ubiquitous in our water;<sup>5</sup> and

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

**WHEREAS**, PFAS chemicals were required in firefighting foams used at airports to meet federal performance standards for extinguishing agents, but in September 2023 the Federal Aviation Administration announced that fluorine-free foam products had become available that met Military Specification,<sup>6</sup> 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 to phase out its use of the foam by October 2024;<sup>7</sup> 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

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<sup>4</sup> PFAS Contamination in the U.S., Environmental Working Group; *available at*: [https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/pfas\\_contamination/](https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/pfas_contamination/)

<sup>5</sup> “Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in United States tapwater: Comparison of underserved private-well and public-supply exposures and associated health implications,” ScienceDirect Environment International, Volume 168 (August 2023); *available at*: <https://www.usgs.gov/news/national-news-release/tap-water-study-detects-pfas-forever-chemicals-across-us>

<sup>6</sup> National Part 139 CertAlert, Federal Aviation Administration; *available at*: [https://www.faa.gov/sites/faa.gov/files/part\\_139\\_cert\\_alert\\_23\\_07\\_F3\\_Release.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/sites/faa.gov/files/part_139_cert_alert_23_07_F3_Release.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Insight: Congress Confronts PFAS in National Defense Authorization Act – What You Need to Know, Bloomberg Law (March 20, 2020); *available at*: <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/environment-and-energy/insight-congress-confronts-pfas-in-national-defense-authorization-act-what-you-need-to-know>

67 water treatment plants, so removing these PFAS chemicals from water could require costly  
68 investments by local governments and other local water suppliers, which would be passed onto  
69 ratepayers; and

70

71 **WHEREAS**, in April 2024 EPA finalized a rulemaking to designate PFOS and PFOA as  
72 hazardous substances under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and  
73 Liability Act (CERCLA)<sup>8</sup>, which will have huge cost and liability implications for local  
74 governments, and is undergoing a separate rulemaking to designate additional PFAS chemicals  
75 under CERCLA;<sup>9</sup> and

76

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

80

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

84

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

88

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

93

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

98

99 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to ensure that the  
100 parties responsible for PFAS contamination, including the federal government but excluding  
101 local governments, are held fully liable for costs of cleanup and mitigation and to ensure that

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<sup>8</sup> Designation of PFOA and PFOS as CERCLA Hazardous Substances, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; available at: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/designation-perfluorooctanoic-acid-pfoa-and-perfluorooctanesulfonic-acid-pfos-cercla>

<sup>9</sup> Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Potential Future Designations of PFAS as CERCLA Hazardous Substances, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; available at: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/advanced-notice-proposed-rulemaking-potential-future-designations-and-polyfluoroalkyl>

102 sites are cleaned up in a timely manner and to standards sufficiently stringent to permit reuse of  
103 the site and to obviate the need for additional cleanup and mitigation costs by affected local  
104 governments; and

105

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

109

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

114

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

118

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

123

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

129

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

134

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

139

140 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to aggressively  
141 prevent further pollution, contamination and exposure to PFAS through multiple means, including  
142 promoting and funding the development and use of non-toxic fire retardant alternatives, banning

143 PFAS-containing aqueous film-forming foam and the phasing out the use of PFAS and other  
144 long-chain chemicals in products as soon as possible; and

145

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

149

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

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-15

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

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

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) works with the Army  
13 Corps to determine what water resource projects are funded with the budget allocation for the  
14 Army Corps enacted by Congress each year; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, the Army Corps and OMB rely heavily on a benefit-cost analysis to determine  
17 which projects receive federal funding each year; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, since Congress traditionally provides the Army Corps with far fewer resources than  
20 are necessary to fund the significant backlog of projects under their jurisdiction, the benefit-cost  
21 analysis has become a de facto filter for the Army Corps and OMB; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, as a result, projects that have a benefit-cost ratio below a certain level are often not  
24 considered for funding at all; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, the current system used by the Army Corps for determining benefit-cost ratios is  
27 narrowly focused on traditional economic and financial costs and benefits, largely overlooking  
28 environmental costs and benefits, social equity and potential for secondary benefits of interest to  
29 local communities; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, the current system used by the Army Corps for determining benefit-cost ratios does  
32 not effectively reflect the potential value of projects for low-income communities, including the  
33 benefits of replacement of structures that protect low-income, low-cost of living communities;  
34 and

35  
36 **WHEREAS**, the current system used by the Army Corps for determining benefit-cost ratios does  
37 not adequately consider the impacts of the loss of a community's livelihood associated with  
38 agricultural land; and  
39

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

42

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

45

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

49

50 **WHEREAS**, the Army Corps has been directed by Congress through the Water Resources and  
51 Development Act of 2020 to maximize the beneficial reuse of dredged material in an  
52 environmentally acceptable manner, including consideration of the economic and environmental  
53 benefits in determining the federal standard; and

54

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

57

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

63

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

67

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

71

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

76

77 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the Army Corps and OMB to add a



78 quantitative indexed value to potential benefits of projects on federal properties, as well as  
79 benefits to military readiness when developing coastal storm risk reduction projects in the  
80 adjacent community; and

81  
82 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports the Army Corps effort to increase the  
83 quantity of dredged materials put to environmentally beneficial uses, especially related to marsh  
84 restoration and sea level rise protection, to 70 percent by 2030 by establishing a national  
85 beneficial reuse policy that allows dredged materials to function as a resource (instead of a waste  
86 product) and establishes a realistic economic value of environmentally-suitable dredged material  
87 that takes into account its use for storm or flood risk reduction and habitat restoration;<sup>1</sup> and

88  
89 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC encourages the Army Corps to seek partnerships,  
90 including with local governments, to beneficially reuse dredge materials; and

91  
92 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the cost of offshore disposal of dredged materials should  
93 include the full future economic value of that sediment that would be lost if it is deposited  
94 offshore; and

95  
96 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal investments in communities must prioritize those  
97 communities that have been left behind and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) who  
98 are disproportionately impacted by flood risk.

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<sup>1</sup> Beneficial Uses of Dredged Sediment, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; *available at:*  
<https://budm.el.erdc.dren.mil/index.html>

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-16

2  
3 INCREASE FUNDING FOR BORDER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

4  
5 WHEREAS, international transboundary rivers on the southern border of the United States are a  
6 major source of sewage, trash, chemicals, heavy metals and toxins; and

7  
8 WHEREAS, transboundary flows threaten the health of 18 million residents in the United States  
9 and Mexico, harm important estuarine land and water of international significance, force closure  
10 of beaches, damage farmland, compromise border security, and directly affect U.S. military  
11 readiness;<sup>1</sup> and

12  
13 WHEREAS, a significant amount of untreated sewage, sediment, hazardous chemicals and trash  
14 have entered United States waters, via the Tijuana and New Rivers in southern California, the  
15 Santa Cruz and San Pedro Rivers in Arizona and the Rio Grande in Texas, eventually draining  
16 into coastal waterways, waterbodies and inland waters, such as the Salton Sea; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, the presence of pollution on state and federal public lands is creating unsafe  
19 conditions for visitors and residents—these lands are taxpayer supported and intended to be  
20 managed for recreation, resource conservation and the enjoyment by the public, and

21  
22 WHEREAS, the current insufficient and degrading infrastructure in the border zone poses a  
23 significant risk to the public health and safety of residents and the environment on both sides of  
24 the border, and places the economic stress on cities that are struggling to mitigate the negative  
25 impacts of pollution; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, the 1944 treaty between the United States and Mexico regarding *Utilization of*  
28 *Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande* allocates flows on transborder  
29 rivers between Mexico and the United States, and provides that the nations, through their  
30 respective sections of the International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC) shall give control  
31 of sanitation in cross border flows the highest priority; and

32  
33 WHEREAS, in 1993, the United States and Mexico entered into the *Agreement Between the*  
34 *Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States*  
35 *Concerning the Establishment of a North American Development Bank* which created the North  
36 American Development Bank (NADB) to certify and fund environmental infrastructure projects  
37 in border-area communities; and

38  

---

<sup>1</sup> Memorandum, “Tijuana River Pollution Crisis in San Diego County,” California Coastal Commission (Sept. 29, 2023); available at: <https://documents.coastal.ca.gov/reports/2023/10/W6b/W6b-10-2023-appendix.pdf>

39 **WHEREAS**, on November 30, 2018 the United States, Mexico and Canada entered into the  
40 *Agreement Between The United States of America, The United Mexican States, And Canada* to  
41 replace the *North American Free Trade Agreement*, and on December 10, 2019 the United States,  
42 Mexico and Canada agreed to a protocol of amendment to the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement  
43 (USMCA), which became effective in the United States on January 29, 2020; and  
44

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

50 **WHEREAS**, the increase in commerce and traffic across the border has resulted in economic  
51 benefits for both the U.S. and Mexico; and  
52

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

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

61 **WHEREAS**, the adverse environmental impact will worsen existing environmental issues and  
62 the strain on aging infrastructure, while also creating new environmental issues in the future; and  
63

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

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

73 **WHEREAS**, the EPA administers the STAG and BWIP, and coordinates with the NADB to  
74 allocate BWIP grant funds to projects in the border zone; and  
75

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

80 **WHEREAS**, the BWIP program was initially funded at \$100 million per year, but, over the last  
81 20 years, the program has been significantly reduced to \$36.4 million in FY23 and \$35 million in  
82 FY24;<sup>2</sup> and

83  
84 **WHEREAS**, EPA and the U.S. section of the IWBC identified high-priority wastewater collection  
85 and treatment facilities needed in the border area;<sup>3</sup> and

86  
87 **WHEREAS**, Mexico has identified multiple priority projects and pledged \$144 million in short-  
88 term capital contributions;<sup>4</sup> and

89  
90 **WHEREAS**, Mexico is proceeding with its proposed new projects to address transboundary  
91 sewage flows but is awaiting United States approval and funding of the \$600 million United  
92 States infrastructure projects previously identified by both countries to fully address the  
93 transboundary pollution in the border states; and

94  
95 **WHEREAS**, the United States, has not paid necessary IBWC operating and maintenance costs  
96 for the last several years, causing the breakdown of existing infrastructure and a backlog of \$150  
97 million in overdue maintenance at just one project site;<sup>5</sup> and

98  
99 **WHEREAS**, the pollution from transboundary sewage flows were spread even farther north in  
100 the Pacific Ocean by Hurricane Hilary on August 19-20, 2023 because the infrastructure has not  
101 been maintained and new needed facilities have not been built;<sup>6</sup> and

102  
103 **WHEREAS**, without federal partnership through the BWIP and state support to address  
104 pollution, cities that are impacted by transboundary sewage and toxic waste flows are left with  
105 limited resources to address a critical pollution and public health issue and limited legal remedies  
106 to address the problem; and

107

---

<sup>2</sup> “U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Infrastructure Programs and FY2024 Appropriations,” Congressional Research Service (March 22, 2024); *available at*: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF12617>

<sup>3</sup> “Final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement,” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and International Boundary and Water Commission (Nov. 2, 2022); *available at*: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-11/Programmatic%20Environmental%20Impact%20Statement.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> “Statement of Intent and Minute 328,” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; *available at*: <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-10/Summary%20of%20Agreements.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> “More Funding Needed to Address Tijuana Sewage; Lawmakers Appeal to Biden and Mexico for Support,” The Coronado Times (June 29, 2023); *available at*: <https://coronadotimes.com/news/2023/06/29/more-funding-needed-to-address-tijuana-sewage-lawmakers-appeal-to-biden-and-mexico-for-support/>

<sup>6</sup> “Pump Failure Pushes 20,000 Gallons of Tijuana River Valley Sewage into South Bay Streets,” The Coronado Times (Aug. 31, 2023); *available at*: <https://coronadotimes.com/news/2023/08/31/pump-failure-pushes-20000-gallons-of-tijuana-river-valley-sewage-into-south-bay-streets/>

108 **WHEREAS**, Mexico benefits from the bi-national funding program and relies on the NADB to  
109 assist in funding projects on the Mexico side of the border, which have an immediate and long-  
110 term environmental impact along the border in the U.S. due to the upstream, transboundary flows  
111 of the major rivers; and  
112

113 **WHEREAS**, local governments and the public support the State’s primary objectives in  
114 complying with environmental laws including the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act,  
115 and their state law analogues, and are supported by substantial public investments at all levels of  
116 government to maintain a healthy and sustainable environment for the future.  
117

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

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-17**

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

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

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) program, funded through the  
10 Land and Water Conservation Fund, helps communities create and improve parks and other  
11 outdoor recreation areas to improve public access, particularly in disadvantaged or low-income  
12 communities; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, the Outdoors for All Act would codify the ORLP and establish a dedicated,  
15 mandatory funding source; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, the Outdoors for All Act seeks to enhance accessibility to outdoor spaces and  
18 activities for all Americans, regardless of age, ability, or background; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, the Outdoors for All Act aims to invest in outdoor infrastructure, expand  
21 recreational opportunities, and protect public lands and waters for future generations; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the Outdoors for All Act also recognizes the importance of promoting diversity,  
24 equity, and inclusion in outdoor spaces, ensuring that all Americans have equal opportunities to  
25 enjoy nature and its benefits; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, the Outdoors for All Act seeks to create jobs and boost local economies through  
28 increased outdoor tourism and recreational activities.

29  
30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) supports  
31 the Outdoor Recreation and Legacy Partnership program, recognizing its potential to  
32 significantly improve access to outdoor spaces and activities for all Americans; and

33  
34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress to pass the Outdoors for All Act,  
35 ensuring that outdoor recreation is accessible and inclusive for everyone.

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-18**

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

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

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, these special impacts include land use and transportation impediments associated  
12 with high-security facilities, as well as local responsibility for providing transportation  
13 infrastructure, law enforcement and related public services for complexes that are tax-exempt in  
14 many instances; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, in most cases there is no accompanying financial offsets from DOE or transmission  
17 developers to help mitigate these special impacts on local communities; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, the impacts that communities face also affects the ability of DOE to attain their  
20 missions; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) has recognized the special impacts their  
23 facilities place on communities, which have a negative impact on their mission, by establishing a  
24 Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) grant program; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, the DCIP has provided communities with over \$300 million in grants to alleviate  
27 the impacts of its facilities on local infrastructure, services and workforce;<sup>1</sup> and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, DOE and other federal agencies have recognized the potential positive and  
30 negative impacts that facility operations have on adjacent communities and have incorporated  
31 requirements in federal grant programs to prepare and implement a Community Benefits Plan  
32 that includes community stakeholders to ensure local interests are heard, issues are identified,  
33 and concerns are addressed to both optimize benefits and minimize negative impacts on the  
34 community.<sup>2</sup>

35  

---

<sup>1</sup> Defense Community Infrastructure Program, U.S. Department of Defense; *available at: <https://oldcc.gov/defense-community-infrastructure-program-dcip>*

<sup>2</sup> About Community Benefit Plans, U.S. Department of Energy; *available at: <https://www.energy.gov/infrastructure/about-community-benefits-plans>*

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

41  
42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to require  
43 DOE facilities to prepare a Community Benefits Plan that meets the agency’s own standards and  
44 expectations for community engagement, workforce development, diversity, Justice40 and issues  
45 relating to the environment of impacted communities.



*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Community and Economic Development  
Federal Advocacy Committee**

**CED**

1 **Section 3.00 Introduction**

2 America’s cities are the strength of the nation – communities of neighborhoods where people  
3 live, work, learn, and play. When this principle is supported at the local, state, and federal levels,  
4 we can preserve the qualities that make each city unique and share better futures for all people.  
5

6 Municipal governments exercise authority closest to the people, and local elected officials are  
7 best positioned to address evolving challenges impacting everyday life. The federal government  
8 should support the efforts of local governments to meet community needs related to housing,  
9 community improvement, and economic opportunity. Outside of extraordinary circumstances,  
10 the federal government should not directly intervene in local government operations and services  
11 through mandates or preemptions that may be ill-suited to the unique conditions present in the  
12 fabric of every city, town, and village.  
13

14 It is imperative that the federal government ~~immediately reinvest in~~ continue supporting  
15 America’s cities, —our infrastructure, our communities, and our people towns, and villages with  
16 opportunities for direct federal funding to local governments; and resources for capacity building  
17 to improve operations, services, and community and economic development outcomes. The  
18 federal funding must be consistent, stable, and reliable. With sufficient federal funds leveraging  
19 new investment, cities can show a significant return on that investment that has been proven in  
20 the short-term and for the future of our nation.  
21

22 The Administration and Congress must also continue to work with city officials on reversing or  
23 minimizing the negative effects of federal policies and programs on municipalities and while  
24 developing and implementing constructive federal-municipal partnerships.  
25

26 Through policy recommendations and legislative action, the federal government must:

- 27 • ~~Address~~ Provide resources to meet community development needs that improve social  
28 conditions and economic opportunities that a community affords its residents;
- 29 • Encourage the active and productive participation of the financial industry, since private  
30 financial institutions play a critical role in community development;
- 31 • Maintain and enhance the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and other federal  
32 programs for local governments and streamline the federal application process to help local  
33 jurisdictions access federal assistance and maintain local control;
- 34 • Assist communities in all regions of the country in pursuing economic development and  
35 vitality;
- 36 • Commit to developing sound international and national trade policies balanced with effective  
37 local autonomy;
- 38 • Support ~~diverse~~ local government efforts to improve housing opportunities that are diverse,  
39 attainable, and equitable. in suitable living environments;
- 40 • Assure that legislation that affects land use is anchored by the principles of responsible  
41 federal stewardship, social responsibility, growth management and sustainable development,  
42 and respect for local authority; and
- 43 • Create an environment in which cities can provide needed community recreational services  
44 and facilities.  
45  
46

47 **Section 3.01 Community Development**

48

49 **B. Goals**

50 The goal of community development is to conserve and improve the physical, economic, cultural  
51 and social conditions and opportunities a community affords its residents. NLC urges the federal  
52 government to work with state and local governments as full partners to achieve this goal.

53 Federal involvement in the development of local communities must:

- 54 • Strengthen municipal efforts to provide comprehensive community development;
- 55 • Provide a coordinated national approach that allows flexibility for local communities and  
56 economic regions to determine their own priorities;
- 57 • Encourage regional collaborations across municipal boundaries;
- 58 • Encourage efficient land use management that conserves limited resources and promotes  
59 sustainable development; and
- 60 • Support partnerships among the public, private, and non-profit sectors.
- 61 • Respect the value of self-determination and home rule; and take into serious consideration  
62 the outcomes of local democratic processes.

63

64

65 **Section 3.06 Housing**

66

67 **A. Principles**

68 NLC strongly supports federal housing policies that encourage ~~affordable~~-attainable  
69 homeownership, promote affordable rental housing, and provide special needs housing and  
70 transitional housing for the homeless. NLC urges the federal government to fully fund federal  
71 housing programs at current or increased levels.

72

73 Every American deserves a decent home in a suitable living environment with adequate financial  
74 stability to maintain it. The federal government must give priority, whether directly or through  
75 provisions in the federal tax code, to meeting the housing needs of people who cannot otherwise  
76 obtain decent, attainable ~~affordable~~-housing.

77

78 There is an irreplaceable role for the federal government in addressing our nation’s housing  
79 needs. Attainable ~~Affordable~~-housing is critical to lower-income families throughout the nation.  
80 In addition, development of attainable ~~affordable~~-housing contributes to the economic vitality of  
81 our communities and local economic regions as a vehicle for creating jobs and increasing  
82 municipal tax bases. Furthermore, the development of mixed-income communities with  
83 appropriate support services, workforce development, and education is the most effective  
84 approach to addressing concentrated poverty.

85

86 Housing goals cannot be siloed from other community priorities. Housing, economic  
87 development, job security, and infrastructure are interconnected and inseparable. To improve  
88 outcomes in any one of these policy areas, all of these policy areas must be addressed. Federal  
89 support for housing supply that is diverse, attainable, and equitable must be coupled with support  
90 for infrastructure, economic growth, and job security.

91

92 **B. Goals**

93 So local communities may support ~~affordable~~ homeownership and ~~affordable~~ rental housing,  
94 NLC supports:

- 95 • A permanent dedicated revenue stream to subsidize the production and preserve  
96 preservation of affordable housing supply that is attainable at all income levels;
- 97 • Full funding for current affordable housing programs, such as the HOME ~~Partnerships~~  
98 ~~Investment~~ Investment Partnerships-Program, Section 8 vouchers Housing Choice Voucher  
99 Program, rural housing programs, and public housing;
- 100 • Federal tax incentives that encourage private investors to build and rehabilitate affordable  
101 housing;
- 102 • Federal programs to promote homeownership; and
- 103 • A balance between national fair housing priorities and local zoning authority.

### 104 105 **C. Recommended Federal Actions**

#### 106 5. Emergency and Legal Services

107 NLC supports federal programs and regulatory changes that promote fair and equitable outcomes  
108 for renters and homeowners in the legal system.

109  
110 a. The federal Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERA) was enacted to stabilize housing for  
111 households facing economic uncertainty related to the coronavirus pandemic. Under the program,  
112 cities nationwide have created local emergency rental assistance (ERA) programs to provide  
113 financial and legal assistance to renters in need.

114  
115 Congress should recognize the success of the ERA program in preventing millions of evictions as  
116 documented by the U.S. Department of Treasury, and authorize a long-term, annual ERA-type  
117 program. An annual program should include direct grants to local governments to support local  
118 eviction mitigation programs and services including payment of rent, rental arrears, utilities and  
119 home energy costs, utilities and home energy costs arrears, tenant protections, and legal assistance.

120  
121 b. Heirs' property is real estate passed between generations but government records indicate is  
122 owned by someone who is deceased and for which no clear or legally binding instructions for  
123 inheritance, such as through a will, exist. Heirs' property can be an issue for anyone, but is  
124 particularly prevalent in historically marginalized communities<sup>1</sup>. Generational wealth disparities,  
125 stemming from historical injustices such as discriminatory policies and systemic racism, have left  
126 many historically marginalized families with complex heirs' property issues. For cities, heirs'  
127 properties uncertain legal status can be an obstacle to maintenance and repair, creating the  
128 appearance of vacant or abandoned property within a community.

129  
130 NLC urges support for federal programs that provide funding for legal assistance for heirs'  
131 property owners to clear titles, and that would permit alternative forms of ownership  
132 documentation from heirs' property owners applying for federal aid related to homeownership,  
133 including federal emergency funds available to homeowners impacted by natural disasters.

134  
135 c. A Contract for Deed is a seller finance method to purchase a home where the seller

---

<sup>1</sup> Bailey, Conner; Zabawa, Robert, Dyer, Janice; Barlow, Becky; Baharanyi, Ntam. 2019. Heirs' Property and Persistent Poverty among African Americans in the Southeastern United States. U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Southern Research Station: 9-19.

136 retains the legal title to the property until the homebuyer finishes paying all principal payments  
137 and interest owed under the contract. Contracts for Deeds are principally used by low-income  
138 homebuyers who are unable to obtain a traditional mortgage or financing because of poor credit  
139 ratings, inadequate income or other issues.

140

141 NLC urges the federal government to enact regulations and safeguards against abusive and  
142 predatory practices that take advantage of vulnerabilities in Contracts for Deeds, including  
143 manipulation and exploitation of contract terms for the purpose of forfeiture allowing the seller  
144 to repossess the home and evict the buyer, and retain all accumulated equity and payments,  
145 including the buyer's downpayment and improvements made to the property.

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-19**

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

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

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, National League of Cities (NLC) State of the Cities 2024 Report identifies  
12 “Economic and Workforce Development” as the top policy priority identified in 2024 state of the  
13 city speeches<sup>2</sup>; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, following years of stewarding turbulent local economies, local governments are  
16 using a wide range of policies and programs to increase their city’s economic resiliency,  
17 maintain commercial competitiveness and lift up the members of their communities most  
18 negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, the federal government has an essential role to play – in cooperation with local  
21 leaders – to help address the social, economic, and fiscal challenges weighing on the nation’s  
22 cities; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, local entrepreneurs and small businesses lead a majority of economic growth and  
25 are essential stakeholders in the success of neighborhoods, help create a community’s sense of  
26 place, and serve as a vital link to connect communities to the larger, global economy; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, successful neighborhood revitalization requires effective plans for both community  
29 development and economic development; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), a landmark civil rights law passed in  
32 1977 to end discrimination in America’s banking and housing markets, remains a critical tool for  
33 both community and economic development that ensures regulated financial institutions have  
34 continuing and affirmative obligations to help meet the credit needs of the local communities in  
35 which they are chartered; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, working with Congress, the President has an opportunity to partner with local  
38 officials to renew and reinvigorate federal economic development policies and programs that  
39 local entrepreneurs have increasingly been unable to access; and

40  
41 **WHEREAS**, high federal regulatory barriers to accessing capitol in both public programs and  
42 the private market are one reason why racial and ethnic wealth gaps have grown since the great  
43 recession.<sup>3</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Farhad Kaab Omeyr et al. *State of the Cities 2024* (2024), page 7.

<sup>3</sup> Rakesh Kochhar et al. *Wealth inequality has widened along racial, ethnic lines since end of Great Recession* (2014), <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2014/12/12/racial-wealth-gaps-great-recession/>.

44  
45 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC urges federal investment and support for  
46 economic mobility and opportunity, regional economic development, local entrepreneurship,  
47 community banking and community development financial institutions, and direct federal  
48 investment in distressed and underserved communities; and

49  
50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports the bipartisan House Entrepreneurship  
51 Caucuses and urges growth in their membership; and

52  
53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government can make an immediate and  
54 enormously positive impact on local economies by acting on the following four areas:

55  
56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** 1.) that NLC urges federal lawmakers to help local  
57 entrepreneurs by supporting policies that result in a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurship.  
58 To that end, Congress should:

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

66  
67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** 2.) that NLC urges the federal government improve equity and  
68 economic mobility by modernizing the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) to increase public  
69 accountability of banks to serve every community. To that end, federal regulators should:

- 70 • Update CRA assessment areas to include areas with considerable bank lending and  
71 deposit gathering outside of bank branch networks.
- 72 • Improve public data around community development lending and investments in  
73 order to provide greater clarity to lenders about what qualifies for CRA and to help  
74 identify areas around the country in need of greater community development lending  
75 and investing.
- 76 • Federal regulators should not adopt a one-ratio or single-metric approach to CRA  
77 exams and should not adjust bank asset thresholds solely for making exams easier for  
78 banks to pass, or otherwise dilute attention to LMI borrowers and communities.

79  
80 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** 3.) that NLC urges federal lawmakers to increase the pace of  
81 economic development by continuing on the path of regulatory reform that reduces barriers to  
82 development. To that end, Congress should:

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

89

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

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



1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-20**

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

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

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, every American deserves a decent home in a suitable living environment with  
10 adequate financial stability to maintain it; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, affordable housing contributes to the economic vitality of our communities and  
13 local economic regions as a vehicle for creating jobs and increasing municipal tax bases; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, there is an irreplaceable role for the federal government in addressing our nation’s  
16 housing needs; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, research demonstrates that inadequate housing is linked to issues including  
19 unemployment, rising health care costs, public safety challenges, and poor academic  
20 performance; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, the demand for affordable housing far outpaces the supply in the United States, as  
23 wages have not kept pace with rising home values over the period following the subprime  
24 mortgage crisis; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, data shows that in no state, metropolitan area, or county can a worker earning the  
27 federal minimum wage or prevailing state minimum wage afford a two-bedroom rental home at  
28 fair market rent by working a standard 40-hour week<sup>1</sup>; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, three out of four households eligible for federal housing assistance receive none;  
31 and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, on any given night, there are in excess of 560,000 Americans experiencing  
34 homelessness, meaning they are sleeping outside, in an emergency shelter, or in a transitional  
35 housing program; and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, National League of Cities (NLC) supports the bipartisan coalition “MAYORS  
38 AND CEOS FOR US HOUSING INVESTMENT”<sup>2</sup>, and welcomes all city leaders and CEOs to  
39 consider joining the coalition as common stakeholders in expanding housing opportunities and  
40 ending homelessness; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, NLC supports the national, multi-sector housing campaign “OPPORTUNITY

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<sup>1</sup> Andrew Aurand et al. *Out of Reach, The High Cost of Housing* (2023), page 3.

<sup>2</sup> <https://housinginvestment.org/>

43 STARTS AT HOME”<sup>3</sup>, a long-term, multi-sector campaign to meet the rental housing needs of  
44 the nation’s lowest income people.

45  
46 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC urges the President and Congress to  
47 work with city leaders to end homelessness and ensure that the lowest-income and most  
48 vulnerable households have the opportunity for safe, decent, affordable housing; and

49  
50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress to bridge the funding gap between  
51 rents and income for extremely low-income households through rental assistance programs,  
52 including supporting a mechanism to address the acceptance of federal rental assistance  
53 vouchers; and

54  
55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to work with local  
56 governments to expand the stock of affordable housing and workforce housing; and

57  
58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress to restore and improve funding for  
59 neighborhood and household stabilization to provide emergency assistance to avert housing  
60 instability, homelessness, and neighborhood decline.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.opportunityhome.org/>

1  
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3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-21**

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

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

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, although a Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) homeownership program has been  
10 authorized to allow families assisted under the HCV program to use voucher funding for  
11 downpayment assistance, federal funding has not been appropriated for this purpose and this  
12 regulatory provision has never been implemented; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, homeownership has been proven to foster long-term economic stability, wealth  
15 accumulation, and a sense of community pride and ownership; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, allowing Housing Vouchers to be utilized for home ownership supports would  
18 empower low-income individuals and families to participate in the housing market, fostering  
19 economic mobility and providing them with a stake in their communities; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, local entities such as municipal governments, housing agencies, land banks,  
22 economic development corporations, and other community organizations are well-positioned to  
23 effectively manage and administer housing voucher programs for home ownership; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, underserved and disadvantaged communities often face disproportionately high  
26 rates of poverty, limited access to affordable housing and credit, and insufficient economic  
27 development opportunities; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, affordable quality housing initiatives are essential for revitalizing underserved  
30 communities, combating systemic inequality, and promoting economic growth; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, funding for homeownership supports would provide Housing Choice Voucher  
33 Program participants with more and better housing choices, and increased funding directly to  
34 local governments would enhance their capacity to address the unique challenges faced by  
35 minority-owned businesses involved in the housing markets of underserved communities, and

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, this resolution has the endorsement and support of the National Black Caucus of  
38 Local Elected Officials.

39  
40 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, National League of Cities (NLC) supports  
41 authorization and funding for to allow Housing Choice Voucher program participants to choose  
42 homeownership, providing low-income individuals and families with an opportunity to build  
43 equity and achieve the American dream of homeownership; and

44  
45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that NLC supports directing additional housing funding to  
46 local governments serving underserved and disadvantaged communities.

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-22**

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

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

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, access to credit is one of the significant barriers faced by local entrepreneurs,  
10 limiting their ability to start, expand, or sustain their businesses; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, the Small Business Administration (SBA) provides vital resources and loan  
13 programs to support small business owners, including SBA-backed loans, which offer lower  
14 interest rates and longer repayment terms; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, many local entrepreneurs, especially those from marginalized communities, face  
17 challenges in navigating the complex loan application process and lack awareness of available  
18 SBA loan programs; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, the establishment of community navigators can bridge the information gap by  
21 providing guidance, assistance, and support to local entrepreneurs seeking credit from SBA-  
22 backed loans; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, community navigators, through their expertise and knowledge of the local business  
25 ecosystem, can help entrepreneurs understand eligibility criteria, develop business plans, gather  
26 required documentation, and prepare loan applications; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, supporting community navigators will strengthen the entrepreneurship ecosystem,  
29 increase the success rate of loan applications, and stimulate economic development within our  
30 community; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, this resolution has the endorsement and support of the National Black Caucus of  
33 Local Elected Officials.

34  
35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges  
36 Congress to allocate resources and funding for the establishment and expansion of community  
37 navigator programs aimed at assisting local entrepreneurs in gaining access to credit, including  
38 Small Business Administration backed loans.

39  
40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC encourages collaboration between federal agencies,  
41 financial institutions, and community organizations to develop comprehensive training programs  
42 for community navigators, equipping them with the necessary knowledge and skills to  
43 effectively assist entrepreneurs with the loan application process.

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Human Development  
Federal Advocacy Committee**

**HD**

1 **Section 4.02 Children and Learning**

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

7  
8 NLC supports all efforts to create effective and comprehensive early childhood development  
9 programs and high-quality education systems that ultimately provide individuals with the skills  
10 needed to secure meaningful employment and long-term prosperity.

11  
12 NLC believes that the federal government, through funding and program support, should work  
13 with states and local communities to improve education in the United States. To ensure school  
14 readiness for all students, the federal government should ensure that local communities have  
15 sufficient resources to support families, and children and youth.

16  
17 Working with local leaders and schools, the federal government should:

- 18 • Establish and implement a national policy on children and youth, which is coordinated,  
19 holistic, proactive, and includes a focus on social determinants of health including Adverse  
20 Childhood Experiences (ACE);
- 21 • Invest in education, including early childhood education as well as comprehensive  
22 afterschool and summer enrichment programs to ensure the reduction of dropout rates,  
23 increase graduation rates, address the achievement gap, promote postsecondary education,  
24 and to ensure that all children obtain the best education possible;
- 25 • Provide a comprehensive array of services that foster appropriate early childhood  
26 development;
- 27 • Ensure that high-quality, safe, and affordable child care is available to all children who need  
28 it;
- 29 • Ensure all children obtain nutritious meals while attending child care or school;
- 30 • Invest in early child care education programs as a whole and adequately fund Head Start and  
31 Early Head Start;
- 32 • Fully fund all federally-mandated education acts; and
- 33 • Provide resources to local communities to help individual students meet performance  
34 standards;
- 35 • Provide resources for innovative pilot programs to more effectively involve parents,  
36 strengthen families, and bring communities into our schools;\_-
- 37 • Provide resources for green schoolyards, early childhood outdoor learning environments, and  
38 nature play spaces to support outcomes in health, education, sustainability, the environment,  
39 community cohesion, and park access;\_-
- 40 • Support partnerships between school districts, local nonprofit organizations and public land  
41 agencies at every level for conducting school learning outdoors, prioritizing communities that  
42 disproportionately lack access to quality outdoor spaces.

43  
44 **A. Early Care and Learning**

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

- 48 • Support for social and emotional health and well-being, routine health screenings, physical  
49 fitness activities, and nutrition for proper development;
- 50 • Training and support for families to support their child’s development at home and to help  
51 them effectively advocate for their child at school;
- 52 • Developmentally appropriate early learning experiences grounded in evidence-based  
53 curricula that incorporate play-based learning which develops a child’s intelligence through  
54 experimentation and fosters collaboration with others.
- 55 • Learning environments that are safe, academically enriching, culturally appropriate and  
56 provide access to nature; and
- 57 • Early childhood educators that have the training, skills, and ongoing professional  
58 development to provide high-quality teacher/child interactions, including trauma-informed  
59 care, and are appropriately compensated according to their education and experience.

60  
61 To achieve this, NLC urges the federal government to provide increased funding and  
62 programmatic flexibility, and technical assistance and policies that support collaboration and  
63 participation across the federal, state and local levels so that local governments are able to provide  
64 for early childhood education for all children. This funding should be used for pre- and post-natal  
65 health and social services, nutritional assistance, family support services, and education programs  
66 so that all children have the skills and support needed to enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

67  
68 NLC urges the federal government to provide direct funding to cities to support early childhood  
69 programs in their communities.

70  
71 Furthermore, NLC urges the federal government to:

- 72 • Continue efforts to modernize and expand the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for  
73 Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program;
- 74 • Support increased funding for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting  
75 (MIECHV) Program, and encourage greater coordination and alignment between federal,  
76 state, and locally funded home visiting models;
- 77 • Increase funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant (CCDBG) to ensure that all  
78 families can find high-quality, accessible and affordable child care. Incentivize states to  
79 adopt payment and eligibility practices that better meet the needs of families and child care  
80 providers such as payout based on enrollment rather than attendance, setting payment rates  
81 based on the true cost of care rather than a market rate survey, utilizing contracts to build the  
82 supply of care, allowing families to be eligible for subsidy if attending an institute of higher  
83 education, and allowing localities to determine eligibility guidelines that can account for  
84 regional differences in the cost of living;
- 85 • Ensure that ~~the~~ early childhood services are comprehensive, incorporating preventive and  
86 protective services for child abuse and neglect, ACEs, early and periodic health screenings,  
87 nutritional programs, educational enrichment, and appropriate interventions for children with  
88 special needs. Effort should be made to promote a diverse early childhood workforce that is  
89 trained in trauma-responsive care, culturally appropriate practices and implicit bias; and

- 90 • Create a local early childhood innovation fund to encourage states, counties, ~~local~~ municipal
- 91 governments and their partners to find new ways to support the expansion and quality of
- 92 child care and preschool in communities through early childhood workforce preparation
- 93 programs, facilities enhancements, and strategic partnerships between early childhood
- 94 programs and city agencies that serve families, so that families have access to nutrition and
- 95 health services, housing, transportation and employment services;
- 96 • Ensure a robust pipeline for the early childcare workforce by supporting and incentivizing
- 97 recruitment that aligns with the important role these workers play in the economic strength of
- 98 communities;
- 99 • Provide student loan forgiveness for early childcare workers;
- 100 • Support & incentivize in-home/community childcare providers; and
- 101 • Provide work visas for qualified workers to join the childcare workforce.

102

103 NLC also recommends that the federal government:

- 104 • Provide tax incentives to businesses to provide child care facilities at worksites and to
- 105 subsidize the child care costs of their employees;
- 106 • Encourage public-private partnerships through matching funds and financial incentives;
- 107 • Educate employers on the economic benefits of providing child care;
- 108 • Provide support and regulations to ensure child care providers are paid a living wage;
- 109 • Improve the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to make it available to more low-and-
- 110 moderate-income families;
- 111 • Urge the Small Business Administration (SBA) to view child care as a legitimate business
- 112 including providing them operational support and make available low-interest loans to those
- 113 interested in starting child care businesses; and
- 114 • Ratify the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, a comprehensive human
- 115 rights treaty on children’s rights.

116

117 Further, NLC urges the federal government to strengthen child care and early learning systems by

118 bridging gaps between child care and early learning providers and supporting policies within Head

119 Start that foster collaboration with early education programs and child care.

120

121 NLC strongly supports quality, early childhood learning programs for all children, including

122 federally-subsidized, quality, early childhood learning programs for at-risk and low-income

123 children. NLC urges the federal government to:

- 124 • Increase funding for preschool expansion and encourage states to adopt a mixed-delivery
- 125 model that supports children's holistic development.;
- 126 • Increase funding for Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Early Head Start Child Care
- 127 Partnerships programs. Preserve the federal-to-local funding structure and encourage more
- 128 birth-to-five grants to allow for additional flexibility for local programs to structure their
- 129 operations to best meet local needs. Also, in addition to further supporting State
- 130 Collaboration Offices, create local collaboration grants for cities, counties or their partners to
- 131 help align and coordinate federal, state and local early childhood initiatives;
- 132 • Provide support for the inclusion of outdoor learning environments and nature play spaces
- 133 that promote early learning, healthy development, healthy eating, and positive interactions
- 134 between families and young children within parks, green spaces, and early childhood centers;



- 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 4.03 Poverty Reduction and Income Support**

**D. Homelessness**

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

- Expand the emergency and transitional food and shelter programs, keeping permanent the recent increase in service age for Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP) to age 24;
- Expand programs that provide emergency health services;
- Expand access to additional mental health services;
- Fund social services, especially outreach and counseling services;
- Provide transportation, life skills, education, job training, career counseling, job placement services, access to identification, and connection with financial services;
- Expand federal funding for programs such as HOME and CDBG and, where able, allocate federal funds directly to cities;
- Improve access to federal assistance programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, etc.;
- Focus on and expand programs, services and funding to youth aging out of the foster care system;
- ~~Develop a unique set of~~ Continue funding services and programs to aid and assist homeless veterans; and
- Recognize that there are other highly impacted populations and to support communities in identifying their homelessness needs through their local resources;
- Ensure federal funding supports a prevention first, humane approach by addressing root causes of homelessness and wrap-around services; and
- Increase federal funding for housing stabilization and eviction prevention;
- In the case homelessness isn't able to be prevented, the federal government should support permanent supportive housing models, which includes housing and case management services; and
- Create stronger connections with the local school districts' McKinney-Vento liaisons to ensure that children experiencing homelessness are supported in their educational needs.

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

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## **Section 4.04 Employment**

### **B. Job Creation**

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

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

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

*See also CED section 3.04 (B4a) Economic Development.*

## **Section 4.06 Seniors and Social Security**

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

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

NLC believes that the federal government must support local government in enforcing access to these programs and services.

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

NLC believes that the federal government should take the lead in planning, research, and development of a universal and comprehensive approach to aging in America that includes culturally relevant programs that will enable seniors to “age in place” and enjoy their elderly years in the comfort, safety, dignity and familiarity of their own homes and/or communities. NLC supports seniors in our communities to have affordable opportunities and support to age in a place of their choice that meets their needs. In support of this effort, NLC urges the federal government to enact tax policies that take into account costs associated with aging in place, elder care, and

226 senior homesteading and establish programs that reduce homecare costs, increase the quality of  
227 care, reduce reliance on nursing homes, address mental capacity and mobility, provide  
228 transportation and accessibility services, create a continuum of housing options, support home  
229 repairs and accessibility renovations, ensure access to healthy foods, and increase access to  
230 broadband and internet services to improve healthcare and social networking. Further, the federal  
231 government should prioritize action within the Domains of Livability, identified by AARP and the  
232 World Health Organization:

- 233 1. Outdoor spaces and buildings
- 234 2. Transportation
- 235 3. Housing
- 236 4. Social participation
- 237 5. Respect and social inclusion
- 238 6. Work and civic engagement
- 239 7. Communication and information
- 240 8. Community and health services
- 241 9. Public safety and emergency preparedness
- 242 10. Alzheimer's and other dementias

243  
244 -NLC believes that the federal government should fund and support Natural Occurring Retirement  
245 Communities (NORC) in partnership with local communities.

246  
247 NLC opposes an increase to the federal minimum retirement age. NLC encourages the federal  
248 government to protect Social Security and other federal funding that supports seniors.

## 249 **B. Social Security**

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

254  
255 NLC urges the federal government to maintain the current benefits structure and the current  
256 method of establishing cost-of-living adjustments (COLA). Should changes in any aspect of the  
257 Social Security system be necessary, those changes should be phased in over time and should be  
258 designed so that they do not impact those who currently are receiving benefits or are likely to  
259 receive benefits within a five-year window.

260  
261 NLC also believes that the federal government should take into account the number and types of  
262 non-traditional families that are emerging and ensure that these families receive the same types of  
263 retirement benefits as traditional families, particularly with regard to dependents and survivors.

264  
265 NLC believes that the federal government should update survivor benefits to ensure that surviving  
266 spouses are able to retain their own benefits as well as that of their deceased spouse.

267  
268 NLC also believes that the federal government should initiate programs of enforcement and  
269 education for employers and employees so that domestic workers and others who may have  
270 traditionally worked in the cash economy are not disadvantaged or disqualified from receiving  
271 Social Security benefits.

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#### **Section 4.07 Individuals with Disabilities**

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

The federal government should:

- Adopt clear rules for cities to follow regarding accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- Provide financial resources directly to cities to help with the costs of compliance and serving the needs of individuals with disabilities including transit and housing options;
- Provide funding to local communities to implement inclusion programs and build local staffing capacity to serve residents with disabilities;
- Increase postsecondary opportunities and success for students and youth with disabilities;
- Allow individuals with disabilities to marry or remain married without penalty or loss to their disability benefits;
- Increase its support to allow persons with disabilities to achieve the maximum degree of self-sufficiency; and
- Fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and reauthorize and fully fund the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

#### **B. Self-Sufficiency**

The federal government should increase funding for workforce development, social services, public transportation and housing programs, including permanent, affordable supportive housing for persons with disabilities.

#### **Section 4.08 Health**

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

NLC believes that the federal government should:

- Control costs and reduce the rate of growth in health care expenditures and coverage costs;
- Ensure universal health care coverage;
- Maintain and improve Medicaid, Medicare, and the State-Children’s Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP), SNAP, WIC, and promote school health clinics to expand access and availability of health care;
- Allow cities to apply directly for federal health care funds when a state does not release or apply for available funding opportunities;
- Address disease management;
- Reimburse localities fully for the costs of services provided to Medicare, Medicaid, Tri-Care and Veterans Administration patients;

- 317 • Adequately fund a federal block grant program to enhance our public health planning,  
318 capacity building, and disaster response systems;
- 319 • Assist local public health departments to better address infectious diseases such as  
320 HIV/AIDS and influenza, and increase the number of health services personnel employed;
- 321 • Adequately fund community health centers, which play a critical role in providing uninsured  
322 and underinsured individuals with health care services;
- 323 • Apply the same laws and rules concerning health care coverage and insurance to cities and  
324 town as to any other employer; and
- 325 • Support policies and programs that achieve optimal health outcomes recognizing the  
326 interconnection between people, animals, plants, and their shared environment.

327  
328 In addition, NLC urges the federal government to:

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

346  
347 **B. National Hunger, Nutrition and Health and Wellness Strategy**

348 NLC recognizes the significant impact that the National Strategy on Hunger, Nutrition and Health  
349 will have on the federal-local partnership ~~urges the federal government to partner with cities and~~  
350 ~~towns to improve the health of all Americans and encourages the implementation of programs and~~  
351 ~~strategies that, but do not result in unfunded mandates. This should be done by developing a~~  
352 ~~cross-sector, integrated national strategy that identifies priorities for ending hunger and increasing~~  
353 ~~health outcomes by 2030. improving the health of Americans and provides to cities and towns~~  
354 ~~the support that is needed to create healthy and safe communities, expand clinical and community-~~  
355 ~~based preventive services, empower people to make healthy choices, and eliminate health~~  
356 ~~disparities. Examples of this include Let's Move and Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Cities~~  
357 ~~which have as their goal reducing obesity and improving the overall health and wellness of city~~  
358 ~~and town residents and employees.~~

359  
360 Specifically, NLC urges the federal government to:

- 361 • -Ensure that federal funding is available to local governments and local health departments  
362 to play a key role in this work and provide essential services;

- ~~address the significant problems faced in maintaining clean air, water, and land, and to focus on designing and promoting affordable, accessible, safe and healthy housing and food systems; strengthening local health departments so that they can provide essential services; i~~Integrating health criteria into federal decision making; and
- ~~using~~Use health goals and objectives as benchmarks for existing conditions and as targets for future actions.

### C. School-Based Health Clinics

NLC supports the use ~~and~~ growth and access of school-based clinics, which often help both students and local community members obtain a comprehensive array of individualized services that address physical, emotional, and social needs. The federal government should ensure funding to support school-based clinics and evidence-based programs to support the health and well-being of school communities.

### G. Infectious Diseases

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

Specific attention should also be placed on the transmission of zoonotic diseases, such as COVID-19, which are transmitted from animals to humans and that researchers now believe contributes to no fewer than 2.27 million deaths each year worldwide, on average. As we have experienced with COVID-19, which has resulted in 6.527.067 million deaths worldwide as of September 20242, these diseases are an increasingly serious problem resulting from environmental change and increased travel within and between nations.

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

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

### H. Substance Abuse

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

409  
410 According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH, ~~2014~~2023), 48.5 million  
411 people aged 12 or older (or 17.1%) had a substance use disorder (SUD) in the past year. 21.2  
412 million Americans needed treatment for a substance use disorder. Among people aged 12 or older  
413 in 2023 who were classified as needing substance use treatment in the past year, about 1 in 4  
414 (23.6% or 12.8 million people) received substance use treatment in the past year. <sup>1</sup>~~However, only~~  
415 ~~about 2.5 million people received the specialized treatment they needed.~~ The federal government  
416 should take steps to improve access to substance use treatment, including medication-assisted  
417 treatment and ensure that Naloxone and Suboxone dosage guidelines keep pace with the changing  
418 needs on the ground, especially the increasing prevalence of fentanyl and other synthetic  
419 substances that are driving the increase in overdose rates. Harm reduction efforts such as syringe  
420 exchange programs the use a fentanyl test strips should be scaled in coordination with state and  
421 local partners.

422  
423 Additionally, the federal government should provide education and support services for families  
424 involved in the recovery process including culturally sensitive community supports and adequate  
425 resources to mitigate the impact of intergenerational trauma caused by substance abuse in the  
426 home.

427  
428 Resources should include:

- 429 • Accessible, affordable detoxification centers that facilitates entry into long-term treatment  
430 and recovery;
- 431 • Education and support for family members impacted by the dysfunction associated with  
432 substance use, including how adverse childhood experiences increase risk for substance use  
433 and access to trauma-informed modalities of treatment; and
- 434 • Community supports, including assistance with basic needs, that ensure individuals and  
435 families have the necessary resources to mitigate the stress that can lead to relapse.

## 436 437 **J. Mental Health**

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

443  
444 NLC supports mental health parity and the provision of comprehensive services to address mental  
445 health needs for persons with general mental health conditions, serious mental health diagnoses,  
446 and substance use disorders. Whether at the federal, state or local levels, there should be effective  
447 plans for preventing, diagnosing, and treating mental health conditions and substance use disorders  
448 that reflect the parity between mental and physical health. Mental health and substance use disorder  
449 services should be accessible and equal to physical health services. These services should also  
450 provide support and stabilization to family systems.

451  
452 The Federal government should:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH%202023%20Annual%20Release/2023-nsduh-main-highlights.pdf>

- 453 • Embed behavioral health supports in existing community centers to promote integrated
- 454 systems of health care and stress reduction;
- 455 • Coordinate with state, county, and local officials on the implementation of the 988 mental
- 456 health line, to ensure coordinated access to service providers;
- 457 • Recognize trauma as a major public health threat and offer mandated trauma-awareness
- 458 trainings for all entities receiving federal funding;
- 459 • Incentivize screenings for social determinants of health including Adverse Childhood
- 460 Experiences (ACE) screenings understanding that adversity in childhood impacts healthy
- 461 brain development and increases risk for disease and early death; and
- 462 • Acknowledge the significant return on investment in early childhood programs and supports
- 463 for children and families including home visitation, parenting education, and affordable,
- 464 high-quality childcare and preschool. These programs allow service providers to identify
- 465 environmental risks that can lead to substance use disorders and mental health conditions;
- 466 and-
- 467 • Ensure that trauma-informed modalities are included in treatment that is covered.

468

469 **K. Tobacco and Vaping**

470 Any revenues raised by increasing federal excise taxes should be earmarked for health services,  
 471 and tobacco and/or vaping control activities and public education campaigns on the health effects  
 472 of tobacco and/or vaping. Any federal legislation on tobacco and/or vaping should not preempt  
 473 stronger state and local tobacco control laws or remedies.

474

475 **L. Nutrition**

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

478

479 The federal government should:

- 480 • Strengthen federal nutrition program access and supports participation by under-resourced
- 481 children, ensuring nutrition quality and simplifies program administration and operation;
- 482 • Lower area eligibility test to 40 percent to allow more low-income communities to provide
- 483 summer meals;
- 484 • Allow nonprofits and local governments to provide meals year-round seamlessly through the
- 485 Summer Food Service Program;
- 486 • Develop a nationwide implementation plan for universal school lunches in partnership with
- 487 relevant organizations including the National School Boards Association, National Association
- 488 of School Superintendents and the U.S. Department of Agriculture;
- 489 • Increase school breakfast and school lunch reimbursement rates to match the recommended
- 490 rates of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s School Nutrition and Meal Cost Study;
- 491 • Expand WIC research in under-resourced communities;
- 492 • Extend certification periods to two years for infants and postpartum women for those in the
- 493 WIC program;
- 494 • Provide flexibility for SNAP, including the ability to streamline administration and application
- 495 processes with other social service programs and waiving work requirements to meet the
- 496 individual needs of residents and ensuring local flexibility to provide access to all residents,
- 497 including returning citizens;



- 498 • Streamline the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) operations to  
499 increase the ability of individuals to pre-register for benefits as soon as possible after a disaster  
500 strikes, support the streamlining of easy-to-administer SNAP waivers that would allow for  
501 automatic replacement of benefits for SNAP households, and expand funding to ensure  
502 application assistance for individuals to receive D-SNAP quickly; and  
503 • Permanently implement policy improvements for federal nutrition programs that were made in  
504 response to COVID-19 including but not limited to creating the Pandemic Electronic Benefit  
505 Transfer (P-EBT) program and alternative delivery models.

## 506 **N. Racism**

508 Racism results in disproportionate impacts on the lives of Black, Indigenous, Hispanic, Asian and  
509 other People of Color and is a driving force of social determinants of health, such as housing,  
510 education, neighborhood conditions, environmental conditions, and employment, and is a barrier  
511 to health equity.

512 The federal government should:

- 513 • Recognize racism as a public health crisis;  
514 • Provide funding and technical assistance for municipalities for disparity studies;  
515 • Recognize and support deradicalization programs to help local communities move individuals  
516 away from violent extremism;  
517 • Appropriate significant resources towards policy, programs and practices (i.e. Housing,  
518 Education, Nutritious Food, Transportation, Employment, Legal system, etc.) that work to  
519 address social determinants of health and end racism in our country, so race is no longer the  
520 strongest predictor of one's success; and  
521 • Continue to invest in federal research and programs that address the health outcomes of racism,  
522 such as stress and other mental health challenges;  
523 • Support trauma-informed modalities in grant funding across federal agencies;  
524 • Recognize the essential role of building community power to eliminate inequities;  
525 • Provide funding opportunities to localities with a focus on building trust between cities and  
526 residents; and  
527 • Ensure that disaggregated data by race is made available to provide a clear and accurate picture  
528 of disparate effects and outcomes to BIPOC communities.  
529

## 530 **P. Violence**

532 As communities across the country continue to address the impact of violence, including homicide,  
533 suicide, intimate partner violence, youth violence and other acts of violence against oneself and  
534 other, NLC calls on the federal government to:

- 535 • Continue to direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor, detect  
536 and prevent violence in America;  
537 • Support the CDC to invest in holistic interventions designed to address the health-related  
538 aspects and implications of violence;  
539 • Continue to direct the CDC to collect data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, sexual  
540 orientation, religion, and gender identity and support prevention strategies that are tailored  
541 to impacted communities; and  
542

- 543 • Invest in intergenerational approaches to addressing trauma;
- 544 • Support the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to
- 545 continue to invest in early intervention models, including trauma-informed care and
- 546 violence interrupter groups, and in studying and addressing the intersection between
- 547 community violence/mental health/substance use in local communities; and
- 548 • Increase funding for the CDC in the federal budget to support data and indicators that will
- 549 inform local strategy in cities and towns across our country as they address the issue of
- 550 violence in their communities.

551  
552

#### 553 **Section 4.09 Immigration and Refugees**

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

558

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

562

563 The federal government should:

- 564 • Strengthen federal-state-local coordination and communication;
- 565 • Provide a legal means of immigration, as is determined to be necessary and effective for the
- 566 United States, for foreign nationals who want to work here temporarily, become legal
- 567 permanent residents, or gain citizenship;
- 568 • Provide local governments with financial and technical assistance so localities can assist new
- 569 immigrants, including the costs of providing social services, health care, education, language
- 570 services, refugee resettlement and civic integration;
- 571 • Avoid conscription of local personnel, such as police officers, fire inspectors, educators,
- 572 health personnel and social service personnel into federal service because the federal
- 573 government has not adequately funded and staffed its immigration enforcement agencies;
- 574 • Avoid transferring responsibility for enforcing U.S. immigration laws to local law
- 575 enforcement;
- 576 • Increase federal capacity and infrastructure to provide efficient means for foreign nationals
- 577 to obtain legal authorization for temporary visas or legal permanent residency;
- 578 • Establish an efficient process whereby undocumented immigrants currently living in the
- 579 United States may earn legalized status;
- 580 • Protect people seeking asylum at the border and through other means and create a humane
- 581 reception system for migrants and refugees;
- 582 • Establish a process whereby once the documentation process has begun, individuals are
- 583 permitted to obtain a driver’s license or other official identification card;
- 584 • Establish a process whereby those immigrants who have earned such legal status should also
- 585 be able to apply for expedited citizenship through additional processes, as appropriate and
- 586 practical, if they do not move ahead of applicants with proper documentation waiting to
- 587 adjust their status or those waiting on lists in their home countries;

- 588 • Adopt legislation like the “Dream Act” that can facilitate state efforts to offer in-state tuition  
589 to undocumented students and create a pathway to U.S. citizenship and an improved process  
590 to eliminate case backlogs that prevent and slow the process;
- 591 • Provide an accessible, effective system to ensure that businesses are able to hire foreign  
592 workers legally without excessive bureaucratic red tape and that all foreign workers are  
593 authorized and documented; and
- 594 • Provide same-sex couples with equal rights of immigration sponsorship as opposite-sex  
595 couples and amend current law to allow lawful permanent residents to sponsor the permanent  
596 partner for legal residence in the United States provided they are over 18 years of age,  
597 financially interdependent with the sponsoring individual, not married or in a permanent  
598 partnership with anyone other than the sponsoring individual and is not a first, second, or  
599 third-degree blood relation;
- 600 • Ensure Congressional oversight mechanisms are in place to prohibit discrimination on the  
601 basis of religion;
- 602 • Restore and provide support for the refugee resettlement program and provide equivalent  
603 supports and opportunities for people who came to the U.S. seeking safety through  
604 alternative related means, such as humanitarian parole;
- 605 • Reopen ports of entry to process asylum seekers in accordance with international law; and
- 606 • Adopt (1) a definition of “stateless person” in line with international human rights standards,  
607 and (2) legal protections for those identified as stateless in the United States through a  
608 federal-level Stateless Status Determination procedure based on the United Nation’s High  
609 Commissioner for Refugees Handbook on Protection of Stateless People, to ultimately  
610 provide stateless people a designated path to lawful status.

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613 **Section 4.10 Arts and Cultural Resources**

614 NLC urges the federal government to:

- 615 • Increase direct federal funding for cultural resources; and
- 616 • Make funding opportunities available for cultural workers through every federal agency;
- 617 • Support cross-sector workforce development initiatives for artists and cultural workers;
- 618 • Provide resources to support artists and local governments of all sizes in complying with  
619 federal funding requirements; and
- 620 • Review tax laws to facilitate indirect financial support of the arts.

621  
622 In addition, federal funds should be available to cities to:

- 623 • Develop public lands and facilities use of the arts for arts and cultural uses;
- 624 • Provide employment in cultural services at the local level; and
- 625 • Promote the use and practice of arts and culture as a means of improving individual and  
626 community health and well-being;
- 627 • Promote workforce development opportunities for artists and cultural workers across sectors  
628 and industries;
- 629 • Employ artists and cultural workers as designers and facilitators of community engagement  
630 initiatives;
- 631 • Expand the municipal workforce through artist-in-residence-in-government programs; and
- 632 • Promote the use of the arts as a stimulus to economic development.

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#### **Section 4.11 Veterans**

NLC believes that all levels of government have an obligation to support members of the armed services who ~~have made sacrifices to~~ preserve the freedom of the American people.

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

- Increase funding for the Veterans Administration;
- Provide access to effective veterans' health care by strengthening partnerships with non-federal healthcare providers and the continuum of care;
- Support partnership to provide comprehensive services that support our veterans;
- Support and honor Gold Star families;
- Honor the unique experiences of veterans that served and acknowledge their sacrifice;
- Learn from past wars and ensure that we honor the service of those who serve our country including prisoners of war (POWs) and those missing in action (MIAs);
- Formally acknowledge the historic wrongs experienced by veterans of foreign wars including discrimination and exclusion from communities and federal policies;
- Formally acknowledge discriminatory practices of the armed services particularly towards women, people of color and the LGBTQ+ community;
- Support trauma-informed modalities in grant funding across federal agencies;
- Support programs that provide veterans experiencing homelessness with safe, affordable, and permanent housing and fund programs to eliminate root causes of veterans' homelessness, including research, treatment, and support programs;
- Ensure that comprehensive mental health services are available to veterans and their families including adequate resources to veterans who are considering suicide, struggle with PTSD or are experiencing traumatic brain injury, etc.;
- Provide veterans with the employment and education resources needed to succeed in the 21st century workforce;
- Ensure that National Guard and Reservists have access to support services when they return from active duty; and
- Focus on the unique needs of women veterans, especially the unique health care needs of women and those women veterans who reside in rural areas.

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

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

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

- 677 • Ensure a range of ways for municipalities to engage with international, national and  
678 community service programs, including as project sponsors, hosts of individual placement  
679 and crew-based programs, and participants on State Service Commissions;
- 680 • Provide support for engagement of the full range of city, town and village residents in full-  
681 time or part-time stipend international, national and community service activities, with post-  
682 service scholarship awards, and with special emphasis on involvement of ~~disconnected~~  
683 opportunity youth and young adults, seniors, and veterans;
- 684 • Ensure leadership opportunities for city and town elected officials on national Days of  
685 Service; and
- 686 • Provide ongoing reporting on the impact of international, national and community service on  
687 cities, towns and villages, and about the contributions of our communities towards advancing  
688 international, national and community service.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-23**

**IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

136 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government must update its policies to provide  
137 an appropriate, streamlined legal means of immigration and change status according to life  
138 milestones, as is determined to be necessary and effective for the United States, for



139 undocumented immigrants, non-immigrant foreign nationals that want to visit or work here  
140 temporarily, or immigrant foreign nationals that want to become legal permanent residents, or  
141 gain citizenship, as well as clearly define penalties and consider impacts to students and families  
142 for harsh penalty policies for visas overstays; and

143  
144 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should reexamine its policies  
145 regarding seasonal workers given its impact on local business and the economic vitality of cities  
146 and towns across America; and

147  
148 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports establishment of a process whereby  
149 undocumented immigrants currently living in the United States may earn legalized status through  
150 payment of appropriate fees and back taxes, background checks, absence of criminal or gang  
151 activity, consistent work history, and meeting civics requirements; and that the immigrants who  
152 have earned such legal status should also be able to apply for citizenship through additional  
153 processes, as appropriate and practical, as long as they do not move ahead of applicants with  
154 proper documentation waiting to adjust their status or those waiting on lists in their home  
155 countries; and

156  
157 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should consider the negative  
158 impact of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids on local economies and  
159 communities, including public safety and social services resources; and

160  
161 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should ensure detention policies  
162 that do not inflict trauma upon vulnerable children and their families, creating additional  
163 financial burdens for mental health, education and family supports in cities across the country;  
164 and

165  
166 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports federal legislation like the “Dream Act”  
167 that can facilitate state efforts to offer in-state tuition to undocumented students and provide  
168 Dreamers with a path to U.S. citizenship; and

169  
170 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that documented immigrants who have served honorably in the  
171 US Armed Forces should be given the ability to expedite their naturalization process without  
172 prejudice and should not be put at risk of being deported; and

173  
174 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should adopt (1) a definition of  
175 “stateless person” in line with international human rights standards, and (2) legal protections for  
176 those identified as stateless in the United States through a federal-level Stateless Status  
177 Determination procedure based on the United Nation’s High Commissioner for Refugees  
178 Handbook on Protection of Stateless People, to ultimately provide stateless people a designated  
179 path to lawful status; and

180  
181 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should be trained to provide  
182 language services and a clearly defined appeals process to asylum seekers who are denied entry  
183 into the United States; and

184

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

187

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

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3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-24**

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

7 **WHEREAS**, in 2014 Congress signed into law the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act  
8 (WIOA) with overwhelming bipartisan support, the largest single source of federal funding for  
9 workforce development activities; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, WIOA reauthorizes the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which replaced the Job  
12 Training Partnership Act (JTPA), and established the system of one-stop career centers for  
13 access to training and employment services for a full range of workers, including youth, to help  
14 them access good jobs of the 21st century in local and regional industries; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, WIOA allows for the greater use of sector partnerships, career pathway models and  
17 higher levels of accountability; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, WIOA reflects the growing recognition that in order to adequately address the  
20 skills needs of workers, jobseekers, and employers, we must do a better job of coordinating  
21 across multiple education, training, and supportive service programs; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, ongoing state and local implementation of WIOA (29 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.)  
24 provides unprecedented opportunities to develop the skills of workers in the United States  
25 through access to effective workforce education and training, including the development and  
26 delivery of proven strategies such as sector partnerships, career pathways, integrated education  
27 and training, work-based learning and paid internships; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, the public workforce system and partner programs provide a pathway into 21st  
30 century jobs that support families while ensuring that businesses in the United States find the  
31 skilled workforce needed to compete in the global economy; and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, businesses need skilled workers — people trained for jobs in growing industries  
34 like healthcare, medical technology, IT and software, and advanced manufacturing – as well as  
35 plumbers and electricians, and WIOA allows for greater local control of business outreach and  
36 ability to react to business needs; and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, the United States invests less than all other developed countries, except Mexico, in  
39 workforce development, and over the past two decades has cut investments by 40%, and does not  
40 support local workforce development at the levels necessary to ensure cities across the country  
41 can prepare workers for the impact of automation, technology and AI on the workplace; and

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, analysis of city expenditures<sup>2</sup> at the two-year anniversary of the American Rescue  
44 Plan Act found that larger cities invested more than \$637.3 million in workforce development

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nlc.org/resource/unlocking-possibilities-how-cities-are-using-arpas-state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds-after-two-years/>

45 programs through that program alone; and

46

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

51

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

54

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

60

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

65

66 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls  
67 upon the United States Congress to enact a five-year reauthorization of WIOA that will provide  
68 certainty needed to deliver programming; and

69

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

73

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

78

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

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-25**

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

**WHEREAS**, César Estrada Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona on a family farm and Dolores Huerta was born on April 10, 1930 in Dawson, New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, at the age of 10, César Estrada Chávez joined the thousands of migrant farm workers laboring in fields and vineyards throughout the Southwest after a bank foreclosure resulted in the loss of the family farm and ultimately left school to work full-time as a farm worker to help support his family; and

**WHEREAS**, Dolores Huerta received an associate teaching degree from the University of the Pacific’s Delta College in Stockton, CA; and

**WHEREAS**, at the age of 17, César Estrada Chávez entered the United States Navy and served the United States with distinction for 2 years; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1952, César Estrada Chávez joined the Community Service Organization, a prominent Latino civil rights group, and worked with the organization to coordinate voter registration drives and conduct campaigns against discrimination in east Los Angeles. He later served as their national director; and

**WHEREAS**, Dolores Huerta began her career as an activist when she co-founded the Stockton chapter of the Community Service Organization and later founded the Agricultural Workers Association; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1962, César Estrada Chávez and Dolores Huerta founded the National Farm Workers Association, which eventually became the United Farm Workers of America; and

**WHEREAS**, under their leadership, the United Farm Workers of America organized thousands of migrant farm workers to fight for fair wages, health care coverage, pension benefits, livable housing, and respect; and

**WHEREAS**, the union’s efforts brought about the passage of the landmark 1975 California Agricultural Labor Relations Act, which sought justice and guaranteed certain protections for farm workers; and

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

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

47  
48 **WHEREAS**, during his lifetime, César Estrada Chávez was a recipient of the Martin Luther  
49 King, Jr. Peace Prize and posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom; and

50  
51 **WHEREAS**, Dolores Huerta received the Eleanor Roosevelt Human Rights Award and the  
52 Presidential Medal of Freedom; and

53  
54 **WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama proclaimed “César Chávez Day” on March 31 of every  
55 year as a United States commemorative holiday to support public observance of the contributions  
56 of Cesar Chavez to the United States.

57  
58 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the National League of Cities calls upon the United  
59 States Congress to declare a national holiday celebrating the life and legacy of César Estrada  
60 Chávez and Dolores Huerta.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-26**

**IN SUPPORT OF THE EQUALITY ACT**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, there are 28 states where LGBTQ+ Americans are not fully protected from discrimination, including in credit, education, employment, housing, government funded programs, jury service and public accommodations such as stores, restaurants, and transportation services; and

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

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

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

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

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

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-27**

**IN SUPPORT OF MOTHERS IN THE WORKFORCE**

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, according to the U.S. Department of Labor’s National Database on Childcare Prices child care expenses are untenable for families throughout the country with price ranges equivalent to between 8% and 19.3% of median family income per child in paid care, highlighting the urgent need for greater federal investments; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the unprecedented burdens of balancing child care and work have strained the mental and emotional health of mothers; and

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

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

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



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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-28**

**IN SUPPORT OF EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, while Asian American women make 80 percent of what white men make, the gap for Asian women varies significantly depending on subpopulation, with some Asian women – for example, Cambodian and Vietnamese women – earning among the lowest wages; and

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

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

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

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3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-29**

4 **URGING FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ASSISTING**  
5 **IMMIGRANTS AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**

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

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, local governments across the nation are experiencing increased numbers of  
10 immigrants and asylum seekers who require shelter, services, and support; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, providing adequate assistance to these individuals is essential for their safety, well-  
13 being, and successful integration into our communities; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, the substantial influx of immigrants and asylum seekers into communities is  
16 significantly straining local resources due to the increased costs of providing shelter and  
17 services; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Shelter and Services  
20 Program plays a critical role in offering necessary resources for shelter and services to  
21 immigrants and asylum seekers; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, additional support and funding for the FEMA Shelter and Services Program are  
24 necessary to ensure local governments can meet the growing demands for assistance; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, allowing immigrants and asylum seekers to seek employment opportunities while  
27 their cases are pending will promote self-sufficiency, reduce reliance on public assistance, and  
28 contribute to the economic vitality of our communities; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, greater coordination between federal agencies and local governments is essential to  
31 ensure effective resettlement and integration processes, and to address the unique challenges  
32 faced by each community.

33  
34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls  
35 upon the Congress to enact federal legislation that would:

- 36  
37 1. Allocate additional financial and technical resources directly to local governments to  
38 ensure they have the necessary means to provide shelter and essential services to  
39 immigrants and asylum seekers.  
40  
41 2. Allow individuals with pending immigration and asylum cases to seek and obtain  
42 employment authorization, fostering their independence and contributing to local  
43 economies.  
44

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

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Transportation and Infrastructure  
Services  
Federal Advocacy Committee**

**TIS**

1 **Section 5.05 Rail**

2  
3 **D. Rail Safety**

4 American deaths and serious injuries by rail have plateaued despite efforts by FRA and railroad  
5 operators. NLC calls on FRA and the Surface Transportation Board to continue to regulate safety  
6 using existing structures and legal options to follow through on modern safety practices and  
7 using policy tools, including incentives and penalties.

8 NLC urges the FRA to redouble its attention to the safety and mobility challenges that result  
9 from capital and operational decisions such as the running of longer trains. The FRA should be  
10 allowed to conduct outreach and receive information regarding blocked crossings and act on that  
11 information. The federal government should require rail operators to introduce technology  
12 solutions where train length and frequency impair the safety, mobility or pedestrian connectivity  
13 of communities on the project corridor.

14 NLC urges Congress to review the following rail safety issues:

- 15 1. *Pedestrian Safety:* Increased attention is needed for pedestrian fatalities at rail crossings and  
16 reasons for trespassing along railroad right of way so that solutions can be identified;
- 17 2. *Local Access:* Requirements to close multiple rail crossings to receive agreement for support  
18 on isolated new investments in safe overpasses, underpasses, pedestrian bridges is unnecessary  
19 and unsafe;
- 20 3. *Blocked Crossings:* The increasing length of freight trains poses a safety hazard to communities  
21 which lack grade separations for emergency responders and other vehicular traffic, and safety  
22 standards should be established for the maximum length of time and reoccurrence of blocked  
23 crossing with appropriate consequences for failure;
- 24 4. *Technology for Prevention:* NLC supports the continued implementation of advanced rail  
25 safety systems and FRA should review the effectiveness of a new range of warning devices  
26 and strategies as well as work with FHWA on intelligent crossings that combine highway  
27 warning systems with railroad systems to ensure safety on rail lines;
- 28 5. *Communication:* NLC urges the federal government to direct the FRA to establish direct and  
29 transparent channels of communication between host railroads, operators and local  
30 governments through which to address safety issues and incidents and pursue productive  
31 collaboration between railroads and operators as needed to reduce conflicts, as well as deaths  
32 and fatalities related to rail lines. For example, local first responders must have clarity on the  
33 train consist when responding to an emergency derailments especially with toxic substances.
- 34 6. *Maintenance:* Lack of railroad maintenance jeopardizes safety. The closure of poorly  
35 maintained crossings, rail cars and infrastructure cause congestion on remaining crossings and  
36 derailments putting operators and passengers of motor vehicles at a greater risk;
- 37 7. *Hazardous Goods Movement and Local Response Capabilities:* The proximity, switching and  
38 storage of railroad cars containing volatile and hazardous materials in and through urban and  
39 residential neighborhoods is concerning, and more support and collaboration is needed for  
40 local first responders to receive hazardous materials response training along all train routes;
- 41 8. *Crew size:* The hazard of reduced crews undermines the safe and efficient movement of trains  
42 and puts local first responders in unsafe situations during rail incidents and accidents.

44 American deaths and serious injuries by rail have plateaued despite efforts by FRA and railroad  
45 operators. NLC calls on FRA and the Surface Transportation Board to continue to regulate safety  
46 using existing structures and legal options to follow through on modern safety practices and  
47 using policy tools, including incentives and penalties.

48 NLC urges the FRA to redouble its attention to the safety and mobility challenges that result  
49 from capital and operational decisions such as the running of longer trains. The FRA should  
50 conduct a study including local impact data from rail. The federal government require rail  
51 operators to introduce technology solutions where train length and/or frequency impair the  
52 safety, mobility and/or pedestrian connectivity of communities on the project corridor.

53 NLC urges Congress to review the following rail safety issues:

- 54 • ~~Local Access:~~ Requirements to close multiple rail crossings to receive agreement for  
55 support on isolated new investments in safe overpasses, underpasses, pedestrian bridges is  
56 unnecessary and unsafe;
- 57 • ~~Blocked Crossings:~~ The increasing length of freight trains poses a safety hazard to  
58 communities which lack grade separations for emergency responders and other vehicular  
59 traffic, and safety standards should be established for the maximum length of time and  
60 reoccurrence of blocked crossing with appropriate consequences for failure;
- 61 • ~~Technology for Prevention:~~ NLC supports the continued implementation of rail safety  
62 systems, such as positive train control (PTC) systems, to ensure safety on passenger rail  
63 lines to limit injuries and derailments;
- 64 • ~~Communication:~~ NLC urges the federal government to direct the FRA to establish direct  
65 and transparent channels of communication between host railroads, operators and local  
66 governments through which to address safety issues and incidents and pursue productive  
67 collaboration between railroads and operators as needed to reduce conflicts, as well as  
68 deaths and fatalities related to rail lines. For example, local first responders must have  
69 clarity on the train consist when responding to an emergency derailments especially with  
70 toxic substances.
- 71 • ~~Maintenance:~~ Lack of railroad maintenance jeopardizes safety. The closure of poorly  
72 maintained crossings, rail cars and infrastructure cause congestion on remaining crossings  
73 and derailments putting operators and passengers of motor vehicles at a greater risk;
- 74 • ~~Hazardous goods:~~ The proximity, switching and storage of railroad cars containing volatile  
75 and hazardous materials in and through urban and residential neighborhoods;
- 76 • ~~Crew size:~~ The hazard of reduced crews undermines the safe and efficient movement of  
77 trains and puts local first responders in unsafe situations during rail incidents and accidents.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-30**

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

**WHEREAS**, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) became law on November 15, 2021, and Congress authorized \$1.2 trillion for transportation and infrastructure with a historic increase to local government access to federal grant programs to rebuild and reimagine America’s essential infrastructure; and

**WHEREAS**, the IIJA has so far provided \$461 billion to over 60,000 projects including more than 2,500 local infrastructure projects that have competitively applied and were awarded infrastructure funding for important local projects that align with federal goals such as the Safe Streets and Roads for All (Safe Streets) which addresses America’s road safety crisis; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the economic potential of the nation’s cities, towns, and villages relies on a safe and efficient multimodal network of locally owned and operated roads, bridges, transit, rail, sidewalks, trails, airports and ports built on strong transportation plans from the local and regional level and intersecting with state and national systems; and

**WHEREAS**, while America’s \$3.7 trillion infrastructure funding gap will shrink by the combined federal, state and local infrastructure efforts underway, the U.S. still needs to maintain IIJA levels to close the gap in poor infrastructure systems and ease the economic drag on American households and major economic sectors from manufacturing to agriculture.

**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 transportation needs; and

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

47 and airport authorities – for greater commitments to infrastructure collaboration with cities,  
48 towns, and villages on the rebuilding and reimagining necessary to complete thousands of  
49 projects and to providing sustainable funding structures; and

50

51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local government leaders call for federal agencies and  
52 state governments to improve their public infrastructure information on all programs and  
53 projects, enhance community engagement processes for today’s busy yet connected public, and  
54 develop greater collaborative partnerships with regional entities on connected networks to  
55 achieve safety and efficiency outcomes; and

56

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

62

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

67

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



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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-31**

**LOCAL LEADERS CALL ON CONGRESS TO PASS RAILWAY SAFETY  
LEGISLATION (S.576 AND H.R.8996) TO SUPPORT AMERICA’S FIRST  
RESPONDERS AND KEEP TRAINS MOVING SAFELY IN COMMUNITIES**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Congress remains 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;

**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.

47  
48 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that America’s local governments call on  
49 Congress to pass bipartisan rail safety legislation (S.576 and H.R.8996) before Congress recesses  
50 this December, and address the impact of train derailments on the lives of America’s local first  
51 responders, the unnecessary costs being passed along to local government budgets of all sizes,  
52 and the safety of communities in their districts; and

53  
54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Congress should immediately allow the Federal Railroad  
55 Administration to collect and act on data provided to them by local officials and members of the  
56 public related to blocked crossings which have led to children climbing over blocked trains and  
57 ambulances and firefighters being prevented from reaching residents in emergencies costing  
58 lives; and

59  
60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Congress should immediately enable the Federal Railroad  
61 Administration to fulfill the rail safety recommendations provided by the experts from the  
62 National Academies’ Transportation Research Board Committee report on long trains as well as  
63 the National Transportation Safety Board’s findings report on East Palestine, OH, and previous  
64 train derailments recommendations like expediting the removal of DOT-111 tank cars from use  
65 in the U.S. for the safety of the American public among many others; and

66  
67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Congress should continue to seek expert advice from the  
68 National Transportation Safety Board on behalf of the American people to continuously respond  
69 to transportation safety emergencies, review the data and science behind transportation deaths  
70 and incidents objectively, and make appropriate recommendations.

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

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

**PSCP**

1 **Section 6.04 Municipal Fire Policy**

2  
3 **D. Standard Setting**

4 The federal government should refrain from adopting or giving other status to fire standards developed by  
5 bodies not having adequate representation by elected officials.

6  
7 NLC urges that national committees constituted to develop fire service standards include significant  
8 representation of elected municipal officials and municipal fire protection professionals. Mandatory  
9 involvement of municipal officials will help to ensure that the resulting standards consider the implications  
10 of the proposed standards on local jurisdictions.

11  
12 NLC believes the Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) should  
13 fully evaluate the financial, legal, and liability considerations on local governments before mandating new  
14 regulations for emergency response services, including volunteer and paid fire departments. Any new  
15 regulation proposed by OSHA should specify the available federal funding to help local governments  
16 comply with these regulations. Additionally, OSHA should refrain from adopting new regulations for  
17 emergency response services that are an unfunded mandate on local governments.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-32**

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the reasons why 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
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48 local governments provide to their first responders and incentivize qualified individuals  
49 to purchase affordable housing and pursue a career in public safety.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-33**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the National League of Cities (NLC) urges Congress to ensure local governments can directly apply for and receive federal funding to help recruit, hire, train and retain a more racially and gender diverse violence prevention workforce that includes:

- accredited and properly vetted law enforcement officers

- 48 • crisis intervention teams
- 49 • mental health and substance abuse co-responders
- 50 • violence interrupters
- 51 • alternative or unarmed responders that can respond to non-violent and non-criminal
- 52 incidents to reduce the overburden on sworn law enforcement officers
- 53 • credible messengers and mentors
- 54 • mental health call takers in 9-1-1 centers to appropriately triage mental health calls

55  
56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC urges the federal government to provide technical  
57 assistance to local governments to establish:

- 58 • co-responder programs
- 59 • community violence interventions including violence interruption programs
- 60 • crises intervention teams
- 61 • alternative or unarmed responder programs
- 62 • credible messenger/mentor programs

63  
64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC urges Congress to provide additional funding to address  
65 the backlog of criminal cases in the federal, state, and county courts to ensure those committing  
66 acts of violence are not released back to the communities before they are fully adjudicated for  
67 their crimes; and

68  
69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC urges Congress to provide technical assistance to local  
70 governments to develop new analytical models that don't rely solely on law enforcement data to  
71 identify and address the root causes of violence in their communities.



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3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-34**

4 **ON TRANSFORMING THE NATION’S 9-1-1 SYSTEM FOR ENHANCED CRISIS**  
5 **RESPONSE AND SUPPORT SERVICES**

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

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, the estimated proportion of mental health, substance abuse, and other behavioral  
10 health-related 9-1-1 calls stands at approximately 20 percent; however, this figure may be  
11 substantially underreported due to the misclassification of these calls as disturbances or other  
12 incidents to necessitate a law enforcement response; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, the existing 9-1-1 system often relies on law enforcement as the default response to  
15 such calls, which may not always be the most appropriate or effective solution for individuals  
16 experiencing mental health crises; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, police responses to mental health, substance abuse, and other behavioral health-  
19 related emergencies can lead to unintended consequences, such as arrests and confrontations,  
20 which can exacerbate the distress and vulnerability of individuals in crisis; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, the current system's reliance on law enforcement intervention fails to address the  
23 specific needs of individuals experiencing mental health crises, thereby hindering the potential  
24 for positive outcomes; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, there is a growing recognition of the need for specialized crisis response teams to  
27 address situations involving mental health crises, substance abuse, homelessness, and other non-  
28 violent emergencies; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, individuals experiencing mental health crises and related challenges often require a  
31 more empathetic and supportive approach that involves mental health professionals, rather than  
32 traditional law enforcement responses; and

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, equipping public safety answering points (PSAP) with professionals trained in  
35 mental health crises will enable them to recognize and appropriately respond to the nuances of  
36 mental health crises, fostering more compassionate and informed interventions; and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, community-based resources, such as mental health clinics, crisis centers, and social  
39 services organizations, can play a vital role in providing ongoing support to individuals in crisis,  
40 helping to prevent escalation and improve outcomes; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, coordination between emergency services and community-based resources can  
43 lead to more holistic and comprehensive responses that address the underlying causes of crises  
44 and better connect individuals with the appropriate support networks; and

45  
46 **WHEREAS**, local governments have begun implementing programs and initiatives aimed at  
47 enhancing crisis response through specialized teams, mental health training, and coordination

48 with community resources; and

49  
50 **WHEREAS**, these local efforts require additional federal support and resources to be fully  
51 effective and scalable.

52  
53 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the National League of Cities (NLC) recognizes  
54 the urgent need for a comprehensive transformation of the 9-1-1 system to address the needs of  
55 individuals experiencing mental health crises and behavioral health challenges and the  
56 importance of establishing and supporting specialized crisis response teams within local  
57 communities to respond to non-violent emergencies, such as mental health crises, substance  
58 abuse incidents, and homelessness; and

59  
60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC calls on the federal government to:

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

74  
75 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC calls on Congress to pass the 9-1-1 Supporting Accurate  
76 Views of Emergency Services (SAVES) Act that would require the Office of Management and  
77 Budget to categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under  
78 the Standard Occupational Classification System.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-35**

**ON ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS)  
OPERATIONS BEYOND VISUAL LINE OF SIGHT (BVLOS) AND MULTIPLE UAS  
DEPLOYMENT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the deployment of multiple UAS during emergency incidents enables local

48 governments to gather diverse streams of information, assess evolving situations from multiple  
49 perspectives, and facilitate seamless communication among response teams; and

50  
51 **WHEREAS**, the use of UAS by public safety agencies must prioritize the protection of the  
52 privacy rights of local residents and businesses, ensuring that surveillance and data collection  
53 activities are conducted in compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and

54  
55 **WHEREAS**, transparency requirements regarding the usage of UAS are essential to maintain  
56 the public's trust and confidence, and to provide a clear understanding of how UAS are utilized  
57 for public safety purposes; and

58  
59 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has a unique role in ensuring law  
60 enforcement and public safety agencies in adhering to legal and ethical standards, including  
61 privacy protections and transparency.

62  
63 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is  
64 urged to take the following actions to enhance public safety UAS operations:

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

89  
90 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Department of Justice (DOJ) is urged to take the  
91 following actions for privacy protections and transparency of public safety UAS operations:

- 92  
93 • In collaboration with local governments, the DOJ should develop standard guidelines  
94 local governments can implement to ensure their public safety UAS operations respect

- 95 residents' privacy rights.
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- The DOJ should develop standard practices public safety agencies can implement to maintain transparent records of UAS usage, outlining how UAS are deployed, the purpose of each mission, and the data collected.

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3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-36**

4 **URGING FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN SAFE AND EFFECTIVE COUNTER UAS**  
5 **TECHNOLOGIES**

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

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, the irresponsible operation of drones and their potential use for illegal activities  
11 such as drug smuggling, contraband delivery, and industrial espionage pose serious threats to  
12 public safety, security, and critical infrastructure; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has issued warnings about the rising risk  
15 of domestic drone attacks targeting critical infrastructure, landmarks, and mass gatherings; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, local governments play a pivotal role in ensuring public safety and protecting their  
18 communities from emerging threats; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, the development of counter-UAS, including both drone detection and mitigation  
21 technologies, is crucial to addressing these evolving security challenges; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, any counter-UAS solutions must adhere to certain criteria to ensure effectiveness,  
24 safety, and compatibility with existing communication systems; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, it is essential to balance the deployment of counter-UAS technologies with the  
27 protection of public safety communication systems, cellular services, and the prevention of  
28 collateral damage; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, the ability to deploy counter-UAS technologies swiftly and at an affordable cost is  
31 of utmost importance to local governments; and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, the establishment of flight advisories and limitations to prevent UAS systems from  
34 entering restricted, sensitive or populated areas is a valuable tool for maintaining security.

35  
36 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the National League of Cities (NLC)  
37 acknowledges the serious incidents involving UAS in unlawful activities such as drug trafficking  
38 and the potential for domestic drone attacks on critical infrastructure facilities, landmarks, and  
39 mass gatherings, and we urge the Federal Government to invest in the research, development,  
40 and deployment of counter-UAS technologies that meet the following criteria:

- 41 • **Non-interference:** Counter UAS technologies must not interfere with or jam public safety  
42 communications systems, ensuring that emergency responders can effectively  
43 communicate during critical situations and local security and technology systems are not  
44 interrupted.
- 45 • **Cellular Services:** The development of counter-UAS solutions should not disrupt cellular  
46 services, thereby preserving the ability of residents to use their cellular devices to call for  
47 help.

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- Mitigation of Damage: Counter-UAS technologies should be designed to limit potential damage from errant projectiles or falling drones to ensure the safety of bystanders and property.
  - Rapid Deployment: The developed technologies should be quickly and easily deployed either by local governments or at their request to address emerging threats promptly.
  - Affordability: The federal government should prioritize the affordability of counter-UAS technologies, enabling local governments with varying resources to access and implement these solutions.
  - Enforce Limitations: Counter drone solutions must be effective and reliable to enforce strict boundaries for prevent UAS systems from entering restricted or sensitive areas but also allowing approved operators to continue.

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

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-37**

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, 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**, the National League of Cities (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



48 survivor support, conduct research, gather data, and launch public awareness and  
49 education campaigns.

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51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC urges Congress to:

52 • Amend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) to remove any  
53 obstacles to the submission of mental health records to the National Instant Criminal  
54 Background Check System (NICS) reporting, ensuring effective sharing of relevant  
55 information such as individual's current mental health diagnosis, risk assessments,  
56 adjudication records, history of violent behavior or threats, and pertinent demographic  
57 information to enhance the accuracy and effectiveness of background checks for firearm  
58 purchases.

59 • Provide increased funding for mental health initiatives, recognizing that effective mental  
60 health services and support can play a critical role in preventing individuals from  
61 resorting to violence.

62 • Provide increased funding in the annual federal budget to help federal, state, and local  
63 law enforcement agencies stop the illegal trafficking of guns and weapons into cities,  
64 hold straw purchasers criminally liable, and permanently shut down “bad apple” gun  
65 dealers.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-38**

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

**WHEREAS**, the 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;

**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 National League of Cities 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; and
- Maintenance of flexibility within funding mechanisms to empower cities, towns, and

48 villages to address a wide range of substances impacting their communities according to  
49 their unique needs.

50  
51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities calls on Congress to provide  
52 federal, state, and local law enforcement with the additional resources and technical assistance  
53 needed to address the substance addiction crisis in America’s cities, towns, and villages; and

54  
55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the NLC recognizes the urgent need to provide support to  
56 local governments to help stop the trafficking of fentanyl into cities, towns, and villages, thereby  
57 safeguarding the well-being of our residents and communities.

58  
59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** NLC supports appropriately scheduling Xylazine under the  
60 Controlled Substances Act to aid law enforcement in keeping this dangerous substance off the  
61 streets.

62  
63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC will continue to collaborate with federal, state, and  
64 local stakeholders to comprehensively address substance use disorder, prioritize the well-being  
65 of our residents, and promote healthier, more vibrant communities.

66  
67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports legislation that would restart benefits for  
68 Medicaid-eligible incarcerated individuals 30 days prior to their release, with the following  
69 objectives:

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

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-39**

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

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

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, many cities, towns, and villages are situated near federal and state forest lands that have not  
11 been adequately maintained, increasing the vulnerability of these communities to wildfire threats due to  
12 accumulated vegetation and other hazardous fuels; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, the impacts of wildfires are extensive, requiring sustained efforts in prevention, response,  
15 and recovery, which place considerable strain on local government resources; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, local governments are on the front lines of addressing wildfire risks, making it imperative  
18 that they receive adequate support and resources to manage these challenges effectively; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, enhanced federal support and innovative funding mechanisms are necessary to enable local  
21 governments to implement sustainable land management and forest restoration projects efficiently; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, collaboration among federal, state, local, and tribal governments is crucial for coordinated  
24 wildfire management and for tailoring efforts to the specific needs of impacted communities; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, investment in critical infrastructure improvements, such as the development of microgrids  
27 and resilient clean energy projects, is essential for reducing the risk of power outages, maintaining crucial  
28 services during wildfire emergencies, and reducing liability; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, supporting workforce development in sustainable forestry and wildfire resilience practices  
31 is vital for creating jobs and building local capacity to manage wildfire risks; and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, special attention is required for low-income and vulnerable communities to ensure that the  
34 benefits of improved wildfire resilience are equitably distributed and accessible to all.

35  
36 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the National League of Cities (NLC) hereby urges  
37 Congress to pass comprehensive legislation that provides robust support to local governments for wildfire  
38 prevention, response, and recovery; and

39  
40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC commits to fostering collaborative efforts with federal, state, and  
41 tribal partners to ensure that any new legislation is implemented effectively and that best practices in  
42 wildfire management are widely disseminated and adopted; and

43  
44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC recognizes the importance of critical energy infrastructure in  
45 preventing wildfires and urges the federal government to collaborate with local stakeholders and electric  
46 utility providers to enhance energy infrastructure resilience, reduce wildfire risks, and support a  
47 sustainable, clean energy grid.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-40**

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

**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.

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Information Technology and  
Communications  
Federal Advocacy Committee**

**ITC**

1 **Section 7.01 Local Control and Authority**

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

11  
12 **A. Rights of Way Management**

13 Public rights-of-way are properties owned by the citizens of a municipality that are managed by  
14 local governments for the benefit of those citizens. Proper management is essential for the  
15 transportation of people, goods and services and for utilities including power, clean water,  
16 stormwater, sanitary sewer and communications. Municipal governments engage in a variety of  
17 activities related to rights-of-way to protect the public safety and welfare, to minimize service  
18 disruptions to the public, to protect public investments in rights-of-way, to assure the proper  
19 placement of service lines, to regulate the placement of service facilities and to realize the value  
20 of this public asset. Underlying these municipal roles and control is the fact that the use of  
21 publicly-owned rights-of-way is a privilege, not a right. Use of municipal rights-of-way is not an  
22 entitlement flowing from the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Local governments are legally  
23 and ethically obligated to control and charge for the use of rights-of-way. Moreover, the federal  
24 government must not mandate to local governments that the various users of rights-of-way be  
25 treated in precisely the same fashion, given that these industries place dissimilar demands and risks  
26 on the rights-of-way.

27  
28 Municipalities, authorized to manage and receive compensation for commercial use of the public  
29 rights of way, may conduct a number of activities to achieve their management goals, including,  
30 but not limited to, the granting of franchises and licenses, the promulgation of construction,  
31 restoration and maintenance standards, the levying of taxes, the charging of fees, the levying of  
32 rental charges and the issuance of permits. The federal government should take no actions which  
33 restrict the authority of municipalities in these areas.

34  
35 As communications and other services (that utilize public rights-of-way) are offered by different  
36 providers, and as services are bundled together or separated (segmented) in different ways, cities  
37 need the ability to adjust their regulations to the new provider environment. The federal  
38 government should remove federal barriers to this adjustment process by municipalities. Federal  
39 law should not preempt municipal regulations which require advance notification to the  
40 municipality of the offering of new services (using the rights-of-way) or when the use of existing  
41 facilities within the rights-of-way are converted to new uses. In addition service providers should  
42 be encouraged to deploy new technologies and not withhold implementation to the detriment of a  
43 community.

45 Municipalities, which are already limited in many ways by state law in their ability to collect  
46 revenue that supports public services, must have the authority to assess fees reflective of just and  
47 reasonable compensation for the use of public rights-of-way. There should be no federal limitation  
48 on the ability of a franchising authority to impose appropriate franchise fees for the provision of  
49 non-cable services or the provision of service by any provider of communications services and its  
50 affiliates, or multi-channel video programming distributors using public property or public rights-  
51 of-ways. Moreover, franchising authorities should be able to assess a franchise fee on all  
52 operations of the service provider, or any other provider of cable or any other communications  
53 system capacity, as any such use constitutes a valuable right for which a city should receive fair  
54 compensation.

55  
56 Municipal requirements for users of the rights-of-way including but not necessarily limited to the  
57 following should be clearly recognized in federal law as appropriate exercises of municipal  
58 authority:

- 59 • Complying with emergency orders issued by a municipality for public safety in exercise of  
60 police powers
- 61 • Posting bonds as determined necessary to ensure compliance;
- 62 • Indemnification;
- 63 • Notifying the municipality of excavations;
- 64 • Notifying the municipality of time, place, and manner of entry into rights-of-way;
- 65 • Complying with municipality requirements regarding excavation methods;
- 66 • Complying with municipality requirements regarding maintenance of traffic, pedestrian, or  
67 bicycle infrastructure;
- 68 • Complying with municipality requirements regarding aesthetics and undergrounding;
- 69 • Participating in the costs of street reconstruction;
- 70 • Coordinating with other providers and utilities to minimize rights-of-way disruption;
- 71 • Qualification requirements for contractors and subcontractors;
- 72 • Demonstrating ability to guarantee the quality of restoration work as using the same surface  
73 material or restoring landscaping to previous condition;
- 74 • Submitting as-built documentation and other information for entry into GIS systems;
- 75 • Provisions for abandonment of equipment
- 76 • Complying with regulations specifying the frequency of when right-of-way can be excavated,  
77 including dig-once policies; or
- 78 • Being subject to special assessments for street paving.

79  
80 The type of requirements listed above should never be classified under federal law as illegally  
81 discriminatory practices or as barriers to market entry.

82  
83 NLC believes that the rare and justified use of moratoria is a critical rights-of-way and zoning  
84 management tool for municipalities and that the use of this tool should not be preempted by State  
85 or Federal policy or law. A moratorium is a temporary pause on development orders including  
86 permits imposed by a local government. In the context of advanced telecommunications  
87 deployment it may be used for the purposes of project planning and coordination, providing time  
88 to develop appropriate regulations to implement new state and federal law and address new  
89 technology, and to address significant public safety and welfare issues.



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**B. Municipal Broadband**

NLC advocates for all levels of government (local, state, and federal) to facilitate the deployment of broadband networks and services through policies and regulations that favor government and private sector investments to further encourage deployment.

NLC supports federal proposals that preempt state barriers and preserve the authority of local governments to act in the interest of their citizens by offering internet access through community/municipal broadband initiatives.

*1. Municipal Broadband Infrastructure*

Municipalities must not be prevented from installing and operating municipally owned wireline/fiber or wireless communications systems, regardless of whether the intended use is governmental and/or private. NLC supports federal policies that facilitate the development of multiple, competitive wireline communications providers and that protect the use of spectrum for public Wi-Fi networks.

*2. Institutional Networks and Other Government-Use Networks*

Communications policies on the national levels should encourage and support municipalities in the development and operation of Institutional Networks (“I-Nets”) or other networks used for governmental services such as transportation and utilities management and public safety. These networks are an integral part of the local communications infrastructure, providing valuable alternative video, voice, and data services to local governments, schools, hospitals, other public institutions, and the public. Furthermore, they can serve as a critical gateway to other communications networks. The creation of innovative services on I-Nets can be a catalyst for the broader deployment of advanced communications services within the community.

**A.C. ~~Land Use and Zoning~~ Wireless Communications Providers**

*1. General*

The Federal Government must not preempt or restrict zoning authority and other local land use laws or requirements applied in a non-discriminatory and timely manner that regulate the location, placement, size, appearance, screening or siting of transmission and receiving facilities and any other communications facilities such as satellite dishes, radio towers, broadcast facilities, microwave facilities, equipment housing, small wireless facilities, and similar facilities. *(See related policy under the Community and Economic Development Chapter, Section 3.07 (A) Land Use.)*

*2. Interference with Public Safety Communications*

Local governments must have the authority under federal law to enforce zero-tolerance standards for interference with public safety communications. *(See additional related policy in Section 7.03 (D) Standards.)*

***6. Communications Infrastructure Siting***

Municipalities process and deploy the vast majority of wireless broadband infrastructure projects in a timely manner, respecting not only the needs of providers, but also the needs of the communities they serve. Local governments have the right and obligation to ensure wireless siting

136 requests comply with current health, safety, building, engineering, and electrical requirements, as  
137 well as comply with tower fall zones and set-back ordinances.

138  
139 NLC opposes efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to preempt local authority over  
140 wireless ~~infrastructure, and~~infrastructure and supports legislative and judicial remedies to this  
141 preemption.

142  
143 **C.A. Rights of Way Management**

144 ~~Public rights of way are properties owned by the citizens of a municipality that are managed by~~  
145 ~~local governments for the benefit of those citizens. Proper management is essential for the~~  
146 ~~transportation of people, goods and services and for utilities including power, clean water,~~  
147 ~~stormwater, sanitary sewer and communications. Municipal governments engage in a variety of~~  
148 ~~activities related to rights of way to protect the public safety and welfare, to minimize service~~  
149 ~~disruptions to the public, to protect public investments in rights of way, to assure the proper~~  
150 ~~placement of service lines, to regulate the placement of service facilities and to realize the value~~  
151 ~~of this public asset. Underlying these municipal roles and control is the fact that the use of~~  
152 ~~publicly owned rights of way is a privilege, not a right. Use of municipal rights of way is not an~~  
153 ~~entitlement flowing from the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Local governments are legally~~  
154 ~~and ethically obligated to control and charge for the use of rights of way. Moreover, the federal~~  
155 ~~government must not mandate to local governments that the various users of rights of way be~~  
156 ~~treated in precisely the same fashion, given that these industries place dissimilar demands and risks~~  
157 ~~on the rights of way.~~

158  
159 ~~Municipalities, authorized to manage and receive compensation for commercial use of the public~~  
160 ~~rights of way, may conduct a number of activities to achieve their management goals, including,~~  
161 ~~but not limited to, the granting of franchises and licenses, the promulgation of construction,~~  
162 ~~restoration and maintenance standards, the levying of taxes, the charging of fees, the levying of~~  
163 ~~rental charges and the issuance of permits. The federal government should take no actions which~~  
164 ~~restrict the authority of municipalities in these areas.~~

165 ~~As communications and other services (that utilize public rights of way) are offered by different~~  
166 ~~providers, and as services are bundled together or separated (segmented) in different ways, cities~~  
167 ~~need the ability to adjust their regulations to the new provider environment. The federal~~  
168 ~~government should remove federal barriers to this adjustment process by municipalities. Federal~~  
169 ~~law should not preempt municipal regulations which require advance notification to the~~  
170 ~~municipality of the offering of new services (using the rights of way) or when the use of existing~~  
171 ~~facilities within the rights of way are converted to new uses. In addition service providers should~~  
172 ~~be encouraged to deploy new technologies and not withhold implementation to the detriment of a~~  
173 ~~community.~~

174  
175 ~~Municipalities must have the authority to assess fees reflective of just and reasonable~~  
176 ~~compensation for the use of public rights of way. There should be no federal limitation on the~~  
177 ~~ability of a franchising authority to impose appropriate franchise fees for the provision of non-~~  
178 ~~cable services or the provision of service by any provider of communications services and its~~  
179 ~~affiliates, or multi-channel video programming distributors using public property or public rights-~~  
180 ~~of ways. Moreover, franchising authorities should be able to assess a franchise fee on all~~  
181 ~~operations of the service provider, or any other provider of cable or any other communications~~

182 system capacity, as any such use constitutes a valuable right for which a city should receive fair  
183 compensation.

184  
185 Municipal requirements for users of the rights of way including but not necessarily limited to the  
186 following should be clearly recognized in federal law as appropriate exercises of municipal  
187 authority:

- 188 • ~~Complying with emergency orders issued by a municipality for public safety in exercise of~~  
189 ~~police powers~~
- 190 • ~~Posting bonds as determined necessary to ensure compliance;~~
- 191 • ~~Indemnification;~~
- 192 • ~~Notifying the municipality of excavations;~~
- 193 • ~~Notifying the municipality of time, place, and manner of entry into rights of way;~~
- 194 • ~~Complying with municipality requirements regarding excavation methods;~~
- 195 • ~~Complying with municipality requirements regarding maintenance of traffic, pedestrian, or~~  
196 ~~bicycle infrastructure;~~
- 197 • ~~Complying with municipality requirements regarding aesthetics and undergrounding;~~
- 198 • ~~Participating in the costs of street reconstruction;~~
- 199 • ~~Coordinating with other providers and utilities to minimize rights of way disruption;~~
- 200 • ~~Qualification requirements for contractors and subcontractors;~~
- 201 • ~~Demonstrating ability to guarantee the quality of restoration work as using the same surface~~  
202 ~~material or restoring landscaping to previous condition;~~
- 203 • ~~Submitting as built documentation and other information for entry into GIS systems;~~
- 204 • ~~Provisions for abandonment of equipment~~
- 205 • ~~Complying with regulations specifying the frequency of when right of way can be excavated,~~  
206 ~~including dig-once policies; or~~
- 207 • ~~Being subject to special assessments for street paving.~~

208  
209 The type of requirements listed above should never be classified under federal law as illegally  
210 discriminatory practices or as barriers to market entry.

211  
212 NLC believes that the rare and justified use of moratoria is a critical rights of way and zoning  
213 management tool for municipalities and that the use of this tool should not be preempted by State  
214 or Federal policy or law. A moratorium is a temporary pause on development orders including  
215 permits imposed by a local government. In the context of advanced telecommunications  
216 deployment it may be used for the purposes of project planning and coordination, providing time  
217 to develop appropriate regulations to implement new state and federal law and address new  
218 technology, and to address significant public safety and welfare issues.

#### 219 220 **D.A. Municipal Broadband**

221 NLC advocates for all levels of government (local, state, and federal) to facilitate the deployment  
222 of broadband networks and services through policies and regulations that favor government and  
223 private sector investments to further encourage deployment.

225 NLC supports federal proposals that preempt state barriers and preserve the authority of local  
226 governments to act in the interest of their citizens by offering internet access through  
227 community/municipal broadband initiatives.

228 *1. Municipal Broadband Infrastructure*

229 Municipalities must not be prevented from installing and operating municipally owned  
230 wireline/fiber or wireless communications systems, regardless of whether the intended use is  
231 governmental and/or private. NLC supports federal policies that facilitate the development of  
232 multiple, competitive wireline communications providers and that protect the use of spectrum for  
233 public Wi-Fi networks.

234

235 *2.1. Institutional Networks and Other Government-Use Networks*

236 Communications policies on the national levels should encourage and support municipalities in  
237 the development and operation of Institutional Networks (“I-Nets”) or other networks used for  
238 governmental services such as transportation and utilities management and public safety. These  
239 networks are an integral part of the local communications infrastructure, providing valuable  
240 alternative video, voice, and data services to local governments, schools, hospitals, other public  
241 institutions, and the public. Furthermore, they can serve as a critical gateway to other  
242 communications networks. The creation of innovative services on I-Nets can be a catalyst for the  
243 broader deployment of advanced communications services within the community.

244

245 **E.D. Wireline Communications Providers**

246 *Within this section, the phrase “communications providers” is intended to cover wireline*  
247 *telecommunication providers that historically provided telephony and/or television services, as*  
248 *well as those providing broadband service over wireline infrastructure such as cable or fiber. The*  
249 *phrase “municipalities” is intended to cover both municipalities and franchise authorities, other*  
250 *than municipalities, where applicable.*

251

252 *4. Rate Regulation, Rate Structure, and Service Options*

253 All traditional cable video services (including charges for installation, equipment, and other related  
254 services), should be regulated except for programming offered on a per-channel or per-program  
255 basis that is not supported by revenues from advertisements.

256

257 Federal law should allow a municipality to require a uniform rate structure throughout a franchise  
258 area on a nondiscriminatory basis. Uniform rates help ensure the availability of a minimum level  
259 of service to low-income, disabled and elderly persons.

260

261 Federal law should allow a municipality to require video operators to provide lifeline service at  
262 regulated rates or to offer discounts on its services to low-income, disabled and elderly persons.

263

264 *5. Channel Control and Placement*

265 *a. Local Authority over Channels*

266 Municipalities should be permitted under federal law to enforce programming and programming-  
267 related requirements contained in franchise agreements, including, for example, the number of  
268 channels that must be carried on any tier, requirements for PEG channel capacity, and a lifeline  
269 service tier requirement.

270

271 *b. Must Carry Requirements*

272 NLC feels that federal “must-carry” requirements serve important goals, such as promoting the  
273 viewership of public broadcasting systems and preserving the nation’s system of free over-the-air  
274 broadcast service.

275  
276 NLC supports federal law that prohibits broadcasters from using available PEG channels to  
277 transmit must-carry signals without a municipality’s approval. Such approval should be obtained  
278 in advance of the use of unused PEG channels and such use of PEG channels should be temporary.

279  
280 *c. Channel Placement and Numbering for Cable*

281 Municipalities should not be precluded by federal law or regulation from regulating the placement  
282 and numbering of access channels to better protect consumers. Municipalities should also be  
283 authorized to prohibit any changes in channel assignments on tiers subject to rate regulation unless  
284 approved by the municipality.

285  
286 Changes in alignment for services not subject to rate regulation (e.g., pay-per-view and premium  
287 programming) should be preceded by reasonable notice to the municipality and subscribers.

288  
289 *6. Public Access Channels*

290 Federal law should require communications providers offering channel-based programming,  
291 regardless of the means of distribution, to meet PEG access obligations as determined by  
292 municipalities.

293  
294 Federal law should: (a) authorize municipalities to require communications providers to provide  
295 both operating and capital support for access facilities, equipment, staffing, and maintenance at  
296 levels sufficient to ensure the viability of access without any limitations or credits against franchise  
297 fees; (b) not limit franchising authorities ability to designate entities to provide access services;  
298 and (c) provide liability protection wherever a municipality, access entity, or communications  
299 provider does not exercise editorial control over content.

300  
301 **F.E. Broadcasting**

302 **1.A. Rate Regulation, Rate Structure, and Service Options**

303 All traditional cable video services (including charges for installation, equipment, and other related  
304 services), should be regulated except for programming offered on a per channel or per program  
305 basis that is not supported by revenues from advertisements.

306 Federal law should allow a municipality to require a uniform rate structure throughout a franchise  
307 area on a nondiscriminatory basis. Uniform rates help ensure the availability of a minimum level  
308 of service to low income, disabled and elderly persons.

309  
310 Federal law should allow a municipality to require video operators to provide lifeline service at  
311 regulated rates or to offer discounts on its services to low income, disabled and elderly persons.

312  
313 **G.F. Municipal Liability Exposure and Franchise Administration**

314 **3. Information Technology Vendor Accountability**

315 The software underpinning many municipal functions has become increasingly complex and  
316 connected in recent years. While local governments must conduct due diligence in the procurement

317 of information technology products and services, they should be protected from abusive practices  
318 by vendors and shielded from inappropriate liability. Software and service vendors must be held  
319 accountable to claims made regarding compliance with standards and regulations regarding health  
320 information protection, cybersecurity, data portability, accessibility and other crucial functions.  
321 Vendors, not municipal clients, should be held liable when failures or bad actions on the part of  
322 the vendor lead to harms.

## 323

### 324 **H.A. Channel Control and Placement**

#### 325 **1.A. Local Authority over Channels**

326 ~~Municipalities should be permitted under federal law to enforce programming and programming-~~  
327 ~~related requirements contained in franchise agreements, including, for example, the number of~~  
328 ~~channels that must be carried on any tier, requirements for PEG channel capacity, and a lifeline~~  
329 ~~service tier requirement.~~

#### 330

#### 331 **2.A. Must Carry Requirements**

332 ~~NLC feels that federal “must-carry” requirements serve important goals, such as promoting the~~  
333 ~~viewership of public broadcasting systems and preserving the nation’s system of free over-the-air~~  
334 ~~broadcast service.~~

335

336 ~~NLC supports federal law that prohibits broadcasters from using available PEG channels to~~  
337 ~~transmit must-carry signals without a municipality’s approval. Such approval should be obtained~~  
338 ~~in advance of the use of unused PEG channels and such use of PEG channels should be temporary.~~

#### 339

#### 340 **3.A. Channel Placement and Numbering for Cable**

341 ~~Municipalities should not be precluded by federal law or regulation from regulating the placement~~  
342 ~~and numbering of access channels to better protect consumers. Municipalities should also be~~  
343 ~~authorized to prohibit any changes in channel assignments on tiers subject to rate regulation unless~~  
344 ~~approved by the municipality.~~

345

346 ~~Changes in alignment for services not subject to rate regulation (e.g., pay per-view and premium~~  
347 ~~programming) should be preceded by reasonable notice to the municipality and subscribers.~~

#### 348

#### 349 **I.A. Public Access Channels**

350 ~~Federal law should require communications providers offering channel-based programming,~~  
351 ~~regardless of the means of distribution, to meet PEG access obligations as determined by~~  
352 ~~municipalities.~~

353

354 ~~Federal law should: (a) authorize municipalities to require communications providers to provide~~  
355 ~~both operating and capital support for access facilities, equipment, staffing, and maintenance at~~  
356 ~~levels sufficient to ensure the viability of access without any limitations or credits against franchise~~  
357 ~~fees; (b) not limit franchising authorities ability to designate entities to provide access services;~~  
358 ~~and (c) provide liability protection wherever a municipality, access entity, or communications~~  
359 ~~provider does not exercise editorial control over content.~~

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#### 361 **J.G. Satellite Services**

362 [No Changes]

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## **Section 7.02 Public Safety**

Ensuring dependable, robust, and resilient communications systems for public safety needs is an important priority of municipal government. Preserving the local government role in public safety communications systems can help local governments take advantage of technological innovation and result in improved communications efforts and practices.

*This section will focus primarily on the communications-related aspects of public safety. For additional public safety policy, please refer to the Public Safety and Crime Prevention (PSCP) Chapter of the National Municipal Policy.*

### **B. FirstNet**

The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet), created by The passage of the Middle-Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012, provided spectrum and \$7 billion in funding to create as the first nationwide public safety wireless broadband data communications network in the hopes of meeting intended to meet the needs and requirements of our nation’s first responders. The First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet) Board of Directors has been tasked with the planning, construction, maintenance, and operation of a nationwide public safety wireless broadband network that will allow first responders to achieve better communication in their day-to-day work as well as during disaster response. Since its establishment, local public safety agencies in all states and territories have adopted use of FirstNet. NLC encourages efforts by FirstNet to work with state and local governments, as well as the first responder community, to identify their needs when it comes to the cost, coverage, and uses of the public safety broadband network. NLC also urges Congress to reauthorize FirstNet beyond its original sunset date of 2027, to avoid disruption to the many current local government users.

### **C. Interoperability**

Having the capability to transmit vital information to different emergency response personnel among all levels of government without interference and delay is key to communications for public safety. 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. *(See related policy under PSCP Section 6.02(C) Public Safety Technology and Intelligence.)*

### **D. Standards**

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

409 personnel and training. *(See related policy under PSCP Section 6.02(C) Public Safety Technology*  
410 *and Intelligence.)*

411  
412 **F. Next Generation 9-1-1**  
413 NLC urges the federal government to ensure that all communities have timely access to Next  
414 Generation 9-1-1 technologies, which allow public safety answering centers, first responders and  
415 residents to share text, photo, and video information for safer, timelier emergency response.  
416 Congress and the Administration should dedicate additional ongoing grant funding and technical  
417 assistance to ensure all communities can upgrade to modern 9-1-1 technologies. *(See related*  
418 *policy under PSCP section 6.02(C) Public Safety Technology and Intelligence.)*

419  
420 **G. Cybersecurity**  
421 NLC supports federal efforts in cybersecurity related to national security, protection of sensitive  
422 information and intellectual property, and the availability and continuity of infrastructure. The  
423 increasing presence of the Internet of Things throughout cities and the increased attempts to  
424 interfere with election processes presents an increased threat to city residents and necessitates  
425 increased federal action. Another recognized risk is the sharing of data that may be hosted with  
426 software companies that provide technology solutions or services to local governments and the  
427 government data may be subject to a loss or breach through an attack on the private company.  
428 Local governments are responsible for the protection of large amounts of personally identifiable  
429 data, the breach of which could lead to criminal activity or unauthorized use. NLC additionally  
430 supports federal efforts to provide increased resources and technical assistance to local  
431 governments for the protection of government systems, data, transactional databases, enterprise  
432 files and critical government functions. NLC opposes the imposition of unfunded mandates on  
433 local governments and supports additional resources for localities to address stark cybersecurity  
434 workforce and resource needs. *(See related policy under PSCP Section 6.03(I) Protect Against*  
435 *and Respond to Cyber Threats.)*

436  
437  
438 **Section 7.03 Consumer Protection**  
439

440 Municipalities have a fundamental responsibility to protect the public health, welfare and safety  
441 through the exercise of police powers vested in them by action of their residents or the operation  
442 of state law. Through such mechanisms as: direct provision of services, franchising, permitting,  
443 and licensing, municipal governments have and maintain oversight over multiple communication  
444 systems, which are essential to this objective. Federal law should allow municipalities to enact  
445 and enforce more rigorous customer service standards than federal standards.

446  
447 **A. Abusive Practices**

448 **4. Spoofing FCC Language**

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

452  
453 **B. Truth in Advertising**



454 NLC supports federal proposals which encourage regulators to develop and enforce strict  
455 guidelines to govern advertising and public disclosure of broadband services, including  
456 standardized consumer-facing broadband information labels.-

457  
458 Providers should be required to disclose at the point-of-sale upload and download speeds,  
459 network performance metrics, contract termination fees, installation costs, and promotional  
460 discounts. Providers should be discouraged from advertising speed and availability to markets  
461 where that service is unavailable or only available to a small percentage of marketing recipients.  
462 Federal regulators should be capable of enforcing these consumer protection measures through a  
463 variety of mechanisms, including but not limited to fines.

464  
465 Of special interest should be:

- 466  
467 ● ~~Broadband providers currently use download speed as their primary flagship, while~~  
468 ~~minimizing the disclosure of upload speed, which is the most variable component of current~~  
469 ~~broadband delivery technologies. Providers should be required to advertise upload/download~~  
470 ~~speeds on an equal basis.~~
- 471 ● ~~Providers heavily advertise their download speeds as rated inside their own networks,~~  
472 ~~without any common measurement indexes that would allow consumers a basis for fair~~  
473 ~~comparison of products between providers. Providers should be required to ensure all~~  
474 ~~broadband advertising that includes bandwidth claims to use a common system for speed~~  
475 ~~measurement across the entire Internet.~~
- 476 ● ~~Providers are not currently required to report other network metrics, such as latency,~~  
477 ~~resilience, resolution metrics, or uptime/downtime performance. Providers should be required~~  
478 ~~to disclose these metrics regarding the reliability of their service.~~
- 479 ● ~~Providers currently contract consumers to multi-year agreements with exit costs that are not~~  
480 ~~indicative of the installation costs or associated discounts for the services provided. Providers~~  
481 ~~should be required to disclose/contrast termination fees in all advertising that ‘headlines’ a~~  
482 ~~discounted rate based on said contractual agreement.~~
- 483 ● ~~Providers currently contract groups of consumers to lengthy multiyear exclusive contracts to~~  
484 ~~pre-empt the expansion of city/municipality owned networks. To counter this, there should~~  
485 ~~be support for the expansion of municipal broadband by discouraging or legislating against~~  
486 ~~these practices.~~
- 487 ● ~~Providers currently ‘package’ other services with their broadband services to force market~~  
488 ~~these products to consumers that have limited/no options in the broadband market. The use of~~  
489 ~~‘slam packaging’ in markets with exclusive/limited broadband service options should be~~  
490 ~~banned.~~
- 491 ● ~~Providers currently advertise speed and availability to markets where the service and speed~~  
492 ~~are unavailable, or only available to a small percentage of the citizens receiving the~~  
493 ~~advertising. NLC encourages the federal government to provide oversight of these practices,~~  
494 ~~particularly for participants in the Affordable Connectivity Program.~~

#### 495 496 **C.A. Cybersecurity**

497 NLC supports federal efforts in cybersecurity related to national security, protection of sensitive  
498 information and intellectual property, and the availability and continuity of infrastructure. The  
499 increasing presence of the Internet of Things throughout cities and the increased attempts to

500 ~~interfere with election processes presents an increased threat to city residents and necessitates~~  
501 ~~increased federal action. Another recognized risk is the sharing of data that may be hosted with~~  
502 ~~software companies that provide technology solutions or services to local governments and the~~  
503 ~~government data may be subject to a loss or breach through an attack on the private company.~~  
504 ~~Local governments are responsible for the protection of large amounts of personally identifiable~~  
505 ~~data, the breach of which could lead to criminal activity or unauthorized use. NLC additionally~~  
506 ~~supports federal efforts to provide increased resources and technical assistance to local~~  
507 ~~governments for the protection of government systems, data, transactional databases, enterprise~~  
508 ~~files and critical government functions. NLC opposes the imposition of unfunded mandates on~~  
509 ~~local governments and supports additional resources for localities to address stark cybersecurity~~  
510 ~~workforce and resource needs. (See related policy under PSCP Section 6.03(I) Protect Against~~  
511 ~~and Respond to Cyber Threats.)~~

512  
513 **D.E. Network Neutrality**

514 The federal government should mandate compliance with the following principles by all  
515 companies owning networks or offering Internet access, regardless of technology they employ:

- 516 • Internet users and creators of services should have unrestricted access to and use of their choice  
517 of lawful Internet content, applications, and services;
- 518 • Internet users are entitled to connect their choice of legal devices to the network;
- 519 • Internet service providers should not engage in prioritization or throttling of content unrelated  
520 to public safety needs; and
- 521 • While network owners define the cost and technical limits of their service, consumers must  
522 receive meaningful information regarding their service plans, including but not limited to  
523 information about anticipated upload and download speeds.

524  
525 Each of these principles should apply regardless of an Internet user’s income, race, geographic  
526 location, or disability.

527  
528 Enforcement of these principles and similar principles are essential to ensure that the public  
529 receives the maximum diversity of information and the maximum competition among  
530 providers of services, equipment, content, and Internet access. Municipal broadband networks  
531 represent an important alternative to communities that find privately owned networks are  
532 unable to comply with these principles.

533  
534  
535 **Section 7.04 Emerging Technologies**

536 The rapid evolution of technology, such as including but not limited to the development of  
537 blockchain, digital currency, smart city and smart street technologies, cloud computing, quantum  
538 computing, artificial intelligence and autonomous vehicles has provided cities, towns and  
539 villages with unprecedented opportunities to explore alternative methods of traditional service  
540 delivery, resident engagement and operation modernization. Innovation in local government and  
541 support for these emerging technologies can improve the way municipalities work and interact  
542 with the public.

543  
544 Adopting innovative approaches to local administration may present technical, regulatory,  
545 implementation, financial or intergovernmental challenges. NLC urges the federal government to

546 act as a convener of best practices, cut federal agency red tape, and provide aid to support  
547 advancing local innovation in the use of emerging technologies.

548  
549 NLC opposes federal preemption of local decisions regarding the use of emerging technologies in  
550 their own communities. As incubators of innovation and the level of government closest to the  
551 people, cities, towns and villages must retain the authority to make the choices that best serve  
552 constituents and protect local public safety, privacy, efficiency, administrative, and other needs,  
553 particularly as new technologies and their applications evolve over time. Local leaders must also  
554 be empowered with the federal tools and abilities to safely and effectively manage the use of  
555 emerging technologies in their communities as needed. This includes resources and assistance to  
556 expand the capacity of local governments and their staff to collect, manage, and analyze the large  
557 amounts of data generated with the use of these technologies. (See related policy under TIS Section  
558 5.02(E) Intelligent Transportation Systems and 5.04(F) Unmanned Aircraft Systems.) (For  
559 additional transportation technology policy, please refer to the Transportation and Infrastructure  
560 Services (TIS) Chapter of the National Municipal Policy.)

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2025-41

2  
3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY/MUNICIPAL  
4 BROADBAND NETWORKS  
5

6 **WHEREAS**, the universal availability of affordable broadband access for all citizens has been  
7 identified as a national priority; and  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, community/municipal broadband networks are an essential option for education,  
10 healthcare, market competition, consumer choice, economic development, and universal,  
11 affordable Internet access nationwide; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, historically, local governments have ensured access to essential services and  
14 utilities by banding together to provide those services and utilities that were not offered by the  
15 private sector at a reasonable and competitive cost. This involvement has included electrification,  
16 public libraries, and other important public needs; and  
17

18 **WHEREAS**, local governments may be able to build and operate broadband infrastructure to  
19 serve the public interest; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, according to the Federal Communications Commission, less than half of all  
22 American households have more than one option for wireline broadband service at speeds of  
23 100/20 Mbps or above; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, publicly owned broadband infrastructure, including open-access and conduit  
26 networks, has served an important role in increasing broadband market competition among  
27 private providers by reducing the cost of entry to those communities, particularly for smaller  
28 broadband providers; and  
29

30 **WHEREAS**, the economic health of municipalities depends on public and private investment to  
31 connect their communities; and  
32

33 **WHEREAS**, municipal governments consider broadband to be a critical form of infrastructure,  
34 and more than 900 communities have therefore made significant investments in publicly-owned  
35 broadband infrastructure<sup>1</sup>; and  
36

37 **WHEREAS**, attempts continue to be made to limit or stop further local government deployment  
38 of municipal broadband services, which has the potential of reducing the ability of local  
39 government to provide important information and services to their citizens in a timely, efficient,  
40 and cost-effective manner; and  
41

42 **WHEREAS**, opponents of community and municipally provided broadband have proposed  
43 various administrative procedures that they claim are designed to protect citizens and consumers

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<sup>1</sup> [Institute for Local Self-Reliance, "Community Network Map," September 2021.](#)

44 from unwieldy local governments; however, these safeguards really place over-burdensome  
45 requirements on municipalities and act as unnecessary barriers<sup>2</sup>; and

46  
47 **WHEREAS**, a majority of American consumers, across the political spectrum, feel municipal  
48 broadband services should be allowed to help ensure that all Americans have equal access to the  
49 Internet<sup>3</sup>; and

50  
51 **WHEREAS**, federal and state broadband infrastructure funds will be unnecessarily limited in  
52 effectiveness by the number of states with anticompetitive, preemptive laws in place by  
53 prohibiting communities from making the best choice for their own connectivity needs; and

54  
55 **WHEREAS**, in the vast majority of community/municipal broadband networks built to date, the  
56 private sector has been involved in helping design, build, and operate the network – creating new  
57 business opportunities and jobs in the process; and

58  
59 **WHEREAS**, local governments should not be preempted by states from being able to offer  
60 broadband services, high speed Internet, and other communications services and/or infrastructure  
61 which could advance the deployment of broadband throughout our nation.

62  
63 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges the  
64 federal government to encourage deployment of broadband networks in a competitive manner  
65 via a variety of conduits (satellite, wireless, and wireline); and

66  
67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC opposes any actions that seek to burden cities  
68 through unnecessary procedural requirements and safeguards that duplicate the democratic  
69 process by which cities govern themselves; and

70  
71 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC embraces local governments’ ability to work  
72 cooperatively with the private sector to offer broadband services and does not believe such  
73 public/private partnerships are incompatible with private sector competition; and

74  
75 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports federal proposals that promote  
76 community/municipal broadband, that preserve the authority of local governments to act in the  
77 interest of their citizens by constructing, owning and operating broadband infrastructure, directly  
78 offering high speed Internet and other communications services, and/or participating in public-  
79 private partnerships for the purposes of offering competitive broadband and communications  
80 services; and

81  
82 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in order to maximize the value of federal grant  
83 expenditures, federal agencies should protect and prioritize access to federal funding sources for  
84 municipal broadband through key federal infrastructure programs, particularly the Broadband  
85 Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) grant program; and

86

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<sup>2</sup> [National League of Cities, “Removing Barriers to Expanding Broadband in American Communities,” June 27, 2023.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Consumer Reports, “Broadband: A Nationally Representative Multi-Mode Survey,” July 2021.](#)

87 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should preempt state laws that restrict  
88 municipalities from providing community broadband networks and further ensure that no new  
89 broadband legislation should preempt the authority of local governments to conduct their own  
90 broadband planning; engage in broadband infrastructure construction, ownership, or operation;  
91 collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions; govern the placement and deployment of wireless or  
92 other communications infrastructure in their communities; or impose consumer protection or  
93 buildout requirements on broadband providers in their jurisdictions; and  
94

95 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to pass the Community Broadband  
96 Act to supersede state preemption and enable the provision of municipal broadband in every  
97 state; and  
98

99 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on state legislatures to overturn or eliminate  
100 preemptive state laws and ensure that local governments are fully able to participate in building a  
101 broadband future.

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-42**

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

6 **WHEREAS**, to compete successfully in an increasingly global environment the United States  
7 needs to take advantage of all of the technological solutions that high-speed broadband access  
8 offers; and

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, universal broadband should be considered essential infrastructure that contributes  
11 to economic health, equity, and survival of communities across the United States; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has found that broadband is not  
14 being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion, with approximately 24 million Americans  
15 lacking access to fixed broadband service of at least 100/20 Mbps;<sup>4</sup> and <sup>5</sup>

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, there is a disparity between providers' reporting of advertised speeds and actual  
18 delivered speeds that has been proven through speed tests in a number of states and  
19 municipalities; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, the numbers of individuals with access to broadband is overreported by the FCC  
22 and inconsistent with the U. S. Census American Community Survey's findings; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, Congress has recognized this disparity between federal data and on-the-ground  
25 experience through passage of the Broadband DATA Act of 2020, which directed the FCC to  
26 improve its data collection process and map granularity, and to create a challenge process for  
27 states, local governments, and consumers and public interest groups to correct faulty data; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, the success of broadband infrastructure programs authorized by the Infrastructure  
30 Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 relies upon the accuracy of these maps, as many programs are  
31 required to use FCC map data to prioritize or distribute broadband grant funds; and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, with the proliferation of devices with Internet access, wireless data traffic has  
34 grown significantly, placing a greater demand on both licensed and unlicensed spectrum, and  
35 adding additional capacity is essential to support continued innovation and achieve the potential  
36 to transform many different areas of the American economy by providing a platform for  
37 innovation and is likely to have a substantial impact on jobs, growth and investment; and

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, the availability and adoption of quality, affordable broadband service can vary  
40 dramatically from one neighborhood to another and between single family and multifamily  
41 homes, even in heavily populated urban areas, and a substantial number of individuals in poor  
42 and rural communities have limited Internet access and where broadband access is limited,

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<sup>4</sup> [Federal Communications Commission, "2024 Section 706 Report," March 18, 2024.](#)

43 citizens have limited access to information, education and tools for economic independence<sup>6</sup>;  
44 and

45  
46 **WHEREAS**, 15% of households with children in school currently lack a broadband connection,  
47 while the majority of teachers assign homework that requires broadband, and roughly a quarter  
48 reported challenges accessing broadband at home to complete schoolwork, or were forced to use  
49 a cellphone to do schoolwork during the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>7</sup> leaving millions of students  
50 behind in modern education; and

51  
52 **WHEREAS**, current availability and adoption is insufficient to meet present and future needs.

53  
54 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC asks the federal government to recognize  
55 and work through public-private partnerships, municipal broadband providers and municipalities  
56 to achieve the goals of equitable broadband access by providing:

- 57
- 58 • Affordable and competitively priced broadband access; and
  - 59 • Appropriate standards for symmetrical broadband speed, reliability, and connectivity that  
60 allow America to compete in the global economy and open more opportunities to deliver  
61 robust services more economically and universally;
  - 62 • Granular, accurate data on broadband availability, affordability, and adoption available to  
63 local officials to assist in planning and local investments; and

64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC applauds the FCC’s recent action to increase the  
65 threshold for minimum broadband speeds for “served” areas to 100/20 Mbps, better reflecting  
66 current needs;<sup>8</sup> and

67  
68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC applaud’s the FCC’s action to establish rules  
69 prohibiting digital discrimination and prevent future digital redlining of historically  
70 disadvantaged communities and populations;<sup>9</sup> and

71  
72 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to include and to  
73 incorporate federal investment in broadband in any federal infrastructure proposal, to strengthen  
74 the nation’s infrastructure network while promoting economic development and social equity in  
75 our communities; and

76  
77 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to continue to  
78 incorporate an effective challenge process for local governments to use in the grant application  
79 and award process and in general correction of faulty data or discrepancy with the federal  
80 broadband maps; and

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<sup>6</sup> [Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program, “Broadband subscriptions are up, but too many households are still disconnected,” September 28, 2018.](#)

<sup>7</sup> [Pew Research Center, “What we know about online learning and the homework gap amid the pandemic,” October 1, 2021.](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Federal Communications Commission, “2024 Section 706 Report,” March 18, 2024.](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Federal Communications Commission, “Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Implementing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act: Prevention and Elimination of Digital Discrimination,” GN Docket No. 22-69, November 20, 2023.](#)



81  
82 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress must work with state and local governments to  
83 fund broadband infrastructure at high performance standards that provides at least 100/20 Mbps  
84 service, and ideally 1 Gbps symmetrical service, without harmful data caps, to ensure that federal  
85 funds are spent only on broadband that will provide meaningful service for current and future  
86 essential applications; and

87  
88 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on federal agencies, including the FCC, U.S.  
89 Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and others to harmonize and  
90 coordinate broadband grant programs, expand technical assistance, consider flexible matching  
91 fund requirements and the flexible designation of available funds (particularly allowing for the  
92 pledge of future funds as a funding source), ensure that both public and private partnership  
93 applications are eligible for programs, and simplify program application and compliance  
94 processes to ensure that municipalities, particularly smaller municipalities, are able to compete  
95 and participate in these opportunities; and

96  
97 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to maintain or increase funding for  
98 programs that support broadband infrastructure investment, including the U.S. Department of  
99 Agriculture’s Community Connect and ReConnect grant and loan programs; the U.S.  
100 Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Community Development Block Grants and  
101 Choice Neighborhood Grants, and ConnectHome program; and

102  
103 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to remove state-imposed barriers  
104 to broadband investment, such as preemption of municipal broadband networks, broadband  
105 networks provided by rural electric cooperatives, and middle mile broadband infrastructure built  
106 by investor-owned electric companies; and

107  
108 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to reform and update federal  
109 transportation grant programs such as BUILD to ensure that placement of broadband  
110 infrastructure through policies such as “dig once” is prioritized in funded projects, and that  
111 physical structures that reduce the cost of broadband deployment by private companies such as  
112 dark fiber and conduit are eligible expenses in federal grant programs; and

113  
114 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to take a leadership  
115 role in convening together all interested parties, including, but not limited to, all levels of  
116 government (local, state, tribal, and federal), consumer organizations, representatives of  
117 underserved communities (rural, urban and suburban), all segments of the communications  
118 industry interests, representatives of private sector, and not-for-profit sector organizations, to  
119 promote ubiquitous symmetrical broadband access.

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-43**

4 **PRESERVING LOCAL CONTROL OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE SITING**

5 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has enacted regulations that  
6 substantially limit the traditionally-held authority of local governments over small cell wireless  
7 infrastructure and local governments’ ability to assess fair compensation to taxpayers for use of  
8 public property, subsidizing wireless providers’ development while undermining local efforts to  
9 expand equity and broadband access; and<sup>1</sup>

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, the FCC has enacted regulations that challenge local land use authority to govern  
12 broadband infrastructure under the auspices of accelerating broadband infrastructure  
13 deployment<sup>2</sup>; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, cities have worked as active partners to site broadband infrastructure in their  
16 communities while protecting public safety, neighborhood character, and the integrity of existing  
17 infrastructure such as poles, streets, and sidewalks; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, cities share the FCC’s goal of expanding broadband access to all Americans, no  
20 matter where they live; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, cities have a duty to their taxpayers to protect and manage public property and  
23 public rights-of-way for the benefit of all users, and must balance the needs and interests of  
24 broadband providers with those of other users of the rights-of-way and residents by appropriately  
25 reviewing siting requests and assessing appropriate rent for use of public property; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, NLC and numerous other organizations representing state and local governments,  
28 as well as hundreds of individual local governments, had to resort to litigation to protect the  
29 health, safety and welfare of residents;<sup>3</sup> and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, in August 2020, the Ninth Circuit Court decided to largely uphold these  
32 preemptive regulations,<sup>4</sup> and in June 2021 the Supreme Court declined to take up the case,<sup>5</sup>  
33 reinforcing the need for Congress to provide an immediate lasting legislative remedy.

34  
35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC opposes efforts by the FCC and  
36 Congress to preempt municipal authority over all broadband infrastructure, wired or wireless,  
37 including small cell infrastructure; and

---

<sup>1</sup> [Federal Communications Commission, Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WT Docket No. 17-79 and Accelerating Wireline Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment, WC Docket No. 17-84, Declaratory ruling and Third Report and Order \(rel. Sep. 27, 2018\).](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Federal Communications Commission, Updating the Commission’s Rule for Over-the-Air Reception Devices, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket No. 19-71 \(rel. March 22, 2019\).](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Brief of Local Government Intervenors in Support of Respondents, Sprint Corporation v. Federal Communications Commission \(nos. 19-70123, 19-70124, 19-70125, and 19-70326\).](#)

<sup>4</sup> [City of Portland v. USA, Case No. 18-72689, 9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2020.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [City of Portland v. USA, Case No. 20-1254, Supreme Court of the United States 2021.](#)

38  
39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the FCC and Congress to protect local  
40 authority over their rights-of-way, municipal authority to protect neighborhood character and  
41 public safety, to require collocation, maintain control of aesthetic and undergrounding  
42 requirements, and existing authority to assess fair compensation for private use of public assets,  
43 including the rights-of-way and other public lands and facilities, which should not be limited to  
44 the cost of maintaining the rights-of-way; and

45  
46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the FCC to overturn its 2018 small cell  
47 rulemaking and identify effective collaborative solutions and effective administrative practices  
48 for the siting of wireless infrastructure, including increased local representation on advisory  
49 committees, instead of implementing a one-size-fits-all preemptive regulatory approach; and

50  
51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC opposes efforts by the FCC and Congress to favor  
52 specific technologies through regulation, or adopting regulations that further expand the digital  
53 divide by preempting local governance; and

54  
55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC opposes any efforts by the FCC to implement the  
56 digital discrimination prevention provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in a  
57 way that would limit or recommend limiting local authority over infrastructure siting or  
58 permitting, or otherwise limit the ability of local governments to exercise local control over  
59 franchises or rights-of-way management, which are critical tools for preventing digital  
60 discrimination; and

61  
62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports legislation to overturn the FCC preemption  
63 of local authority and affirm the authority of local governments to determine usage of and  
64 appropriate fees for usage of local rights-of-way and opposes legislation further limiting local  
65 oversight, including the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2023; and

66  
67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the FCC to examine all best practices and  
68 potential obstacles to expanded broadband deployment and adoption, including obstacles created  
69 by federal or industry practices that stymie local and consumer efforts to expand broadband  
70 access.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2025-44**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the FCC adopted a proceeding in 2013 to reassess RF exposure limits<sup>1</sup> 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;<sup>2</sup> and

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

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<sup>1</sup> [Federal Communications Commission, Reassessment of Federal Communications Commission Radiofrequency Exposure Limits and Policies; Proposed Changes in the Commission's Rules Regarding Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields, First Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Notice of Inquiry, ET Docket 13-84 \(rel. March 29, 2013\).](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Federal Communications Commission, Proposed Changes in the Commission's Rules Regarding Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields; Reassessment of Federal Communications Commission Radiofrequency Exposure Limits and Policies, ET Dockets 03-137 and 13-84, Released December 4, 2019.](#)

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, NLC, the National Association of Counties (NACo), National Association of  
43 Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM),  
44 and the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) on behalf of their respective  
45 constituencies, jointly submitted comments urging that the FCC take action to perform a  
46 comprehensive review of RF emission standards and guidance for local government officials,  
47 particularly with respect to small wireless technologies;<sup>3</sup> and  
48

49 **WHEREAS**, in 2021, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals remanded this decision, finding that the  
50 FCC decision failed to meet Administrative Procedure Act and National Environmental Policy  
51 Act requirements.<sup>4</sup>  
52

53 **WHEREAS**, public concern about 5G and RF emissions has increased exponentially in the wake  
54 of this agency inaction, making it more difficult for local governments and wireless providers to  
55 site small wireless facilities in communities and leading to vandalism or destruction of structures  
56 and threats to telecommunications workers' safety.  
57

58 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to update  
59 antiquated standards and to perform a comprehensive review of the standards for RF emissions,  
60 particularly in light of the deployment of small wireless technologies in public rights-of-way in  
61 close proximity to residents' homes, schools, workplaces, and places of recreation; and  
62

63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should continuously update and  
64 refresh these standards, based on changes in technology, spectrum usage, device usage, and  
65 infrastructure deployment, to ensure that standards are recent enough to maintain public  
66 confidence; and  
67

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

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<sup>3</sup> [Letter from the National League of Cities, National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, National Association of Counties, The United States Conference of Mayors, and the National Association of Towns and Townships to the FCC, July 20, 2020.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Environmental Health Trust, et. al., v. FCC, Case No. 20-1025, DC Cir. 2021.](#)

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3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-45**

4 **IN SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL DATA OWNERSHIP AND PROTECTION**

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

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, municipal governments have a responsibility to protect residents’ personal and  
10 financial data, of which they are stewards; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, most municipalities are reliant upon products and services to carry out critical  
13 municipal functions, which necessitates the transmission and storage of data regarding residents’  
14 finances, identification, travel information, or other sensitive data; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, residents have a reasonable expectation of privacy in many transactions with their  
17 governments and do not expect their data to be shared with third parties except as necessary to  
18 perform municipal functions; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, there is no current federal data privacy law governing the ownership and protection  
21 of data by residents or by municipalities on behalf of residents; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, under current law contractors providing these essential products and services may  
24 require that this data become the property of the company, not the municipality, allowing  
25 companies to either monetize residents’ data directly or indirectly by requiring municipalities to  
26 purchase it back for local use; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, local governments have become particularly attractive targets for bad actors, with  
29 roughly two thirds of all local governments experiencing a ransomware attack in the past year,<sup>1</sup>  
30 and most local information technology officers report insufficient budgetary resources to  
31 adequately protect local government networks.<sup>2</sup>

32  
33 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities calls on the  
34 federal government to establish data privacy principles that prevent the abuse of municipal data  
35 by third parties or companies providing products and services to local governments; and

36  
37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should institute, expand and  
38 promote basic cybersecurity requirements for companies and governments to ensure that  
39 residents’ data is appropriately protected from breach or theft; and

40  
41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should establish robust, dedicated  
42 grant and technical assistance programs to assist municipalities of all sizes in preventing,  
43 preparing for, and recovering from cyberattacks; and

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<sup>1</sup> [Sophos, “The State of Ransomware in State and Local Government 2023,” August 1, 2023.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Public Technology Institute, “PTI/CompTIA 2022 Local Government Cybersecurity Survey, December 8, 2022.](#)

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**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.

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3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-46**

4 **IN SUPPORT OF DIGITAL EQUITY FOR AMERICAN COMMUNITIES**

5 **WHEREAS**, access to fast, affordable broadband and devices in the United States is not evenly  
6 distributed across geographic, racial, or socioeconomic lines, disproportionately harming rural  
7 communities, low-income communities, and communities of color; and

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, 24 million households in America lack broadband access, including 28% of  
10 residents living in rural areas and 23% of residents living on Tribal lands; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, while 80% of households with incomes above \$100,000 use broadband at home,  
13 only 54% of households with incomes below \$25,000 do;<sup>1</sup> and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, household broadband access lags for communities of color, with 81% of white  
16 residents having in-home broadband service, while only 77% of Black and Hispanic residents  
17 do<sup>2</sup>,and white residents have only a 12% dependency on smartphones for access to the Internet,  
18 versus 16% Black residents and 25% Hispanic residents solely relying on smartphones. <sup>3</sup> and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, at least 83.3 million Americans can only access broadband through a single  
21 provider, with 47 million of those in a monopoly market for a single cable company, while  
22 another 33 million can only access broadband through a single DSL provider, leaving many with  
23 little or no market or regulatory downward pressure on pricing;<sup>4</sup> and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, federal broadband policy has increasingly targeted federal dollars solely to  
26 building infrastructure in unserved rural areas, neglecting communities with inadequate or  
27 decaying telecommunications infrastructure and ignoring the impact of affordability on  
28 broadband access, disproportionately disadvantaging communities of color;<sup>5</sup> and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, while mapping improvements will help to improve the accuracy of federal  
31 broadband access measurements, the Federal Communications Commission does not track  
32 broadband adoption or affordability in its annual assessment of broadband access.

33  
34 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities calls on the  
35 federal government to make holistic reforms to federal broadband policy that promote digital  
36 equity and empower local governments to engage in digital inclusion work within their own  
37 communities; and

38  

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<sup>1</sup> [National Telecommunications and Information Administration, "New NTIA Data Show 13 Million More Internet Users in the U.S. in 2023 than 2021," June 6, 2024.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA Internet Use Survey, "Internet Use by Race or Ethnicity, Percent of Age 3+ Persons, 1998-20," June 6, 2024.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [National Telecommunications and Information Administration, "New NTIA Data Show 13 Million More Internet Users in the U.S. in 2023 than 2021," June 6, 2024.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Institute for Local Self-Reliance, "Profiles of Monopoly: Big Cable and Telecom," August 2020.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [National Digital Inclusion Alliance, "Limiting Broadband Investment to "Rural Only" Discriminates Against Black Americans and Other Communities of Color," June 2020.](#)



39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC applauds the inclusion of digital equity as part of the  
40 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including the Digital Equity Act to fund and support  
41 digital inclusion programs and planning within communities; and  
42

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC applauds the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve for  
44 updating the Community Reinvestment Act to include broadband and digital inclusion as eligible  
45 community support services under the requirements of the Community Reinvestment Act,  
46 ensuring that low to moderate income communities do not go unbanked due to lack of broadband  
47 access or low digital literacy; and  
48

49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the Federal Communications Commission,  
50 National Telecommunications Commission, and other agencies to prioritize access to digital  
51 equity funding for municipal governments; and  
52

53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports making permanent a broadband  
54 affordability benefit within the Universal Service Fund, such as the Infrastructure Investment and  
55 Jobs Act's Affordable Connectivity Program, to ensure that low-income households are not  
56 barred from full participation in work, education, and civic life due to broadband subscription  
57 prices, and to continue to revisit the program usership and provide necessary flexibility in the  
58 progra4 requirements to reach all intended beneficiaries; and  
59

60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that broadband reporting programs, such as the FCC's annual  
61 broadband deployment report, broadband infrastructure programs, such as the Connect America  
62 Fund or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service funds, should assess  
63 affordability when determining whether residents have access to home broadband; and  
64

65 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that broadband infrastructure programs should not be limited  
66 to rural communities, and should incorporate suburban and urban communities, many of which  
67 have been subjected to decades of disinvestment, monopolization, and digital redlining; and  
68

69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and federal agencies should affirmatively  
70 uphold and protect the authority of local governments to control their agreements with the cable,  
71 wireline, and wireless telecommunications companies operating in their jurisdictions, to ensure  
72 their appropriate usage of public resources such as municipal rights-of-way, promote digital  
73 equity, and adequate investment in and contribution to the community; and  
74

75 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and federal agencies should remove barriers to  
76 cooperative and municipal investment in and provision of broadband service, to ensure local  
77 governments are empowered to close gaps in communities with inadequate or unaffordable  
78 broadband service.

1  
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3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-47**

4 **LOCAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL**  
5 **INTELLIGENCE**

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

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, AI technologies have the potential to unlock new efficiencies and service models  
12 for local governments and spur local economic growth and activity; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, AI technologies may also potentially negatively impact local economies and labor  
15 markets, government cybersecurity, equity, and resident vulnerability to criminal scams or  
16 disinformation; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, Congress, the Administration, and nongovernmental organizations are currently  
19 exploring approaches to governing and regulating the public and private use of AI, including  
20 through the Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of  
21 Artificial Intelligence,<sup>1</sup> the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s AI Risk  
22 Management Framework,<sup>2</sup> the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy’s  
23 Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights,<sup>3</sup> the Senate SAFE Innovation Framework,<sup>4</sup> and statements by  
24 the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers.<sup>5</sup>

25  
26 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Congress and the federal government should  
27 enact a regulatory framework that promotes innovation and investment in AI technology, while  
28 protecting local decision making, civil liberties, digital privacy, security, and transparency; and

29  
30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that technology solutions vendors should be required to  
31 provide full transparency to clients on their sources of training data for all AI-enabled tools, as  
32 well as the extent to which municipal client data is used, either jointly with other municipalities  
33 or independently, as further training data for AI tools; and

34  
35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal standards should require vigorous detection and  
36 removal of bias within AI tools, as well as strict enforcement of these requirements to ensure  
37 human accountability for all decisions made in the development and use of AI; and  
38

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<sup>1</sup> [The White House, “Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of Artificial Intelligence,” October 30, 2023.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [National Institute of Standards and Technology, “AI Risk Management Framework,” January 26, 2023.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [The White House, “Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights: Making Automated Systems Work for the American People,” October 2022.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Press release, “Majority Leader Schumer Delivers Remarks To Launch SAFE Innovation Framework For Artificial Intelligence At CSIS,” June 21, 2023.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [IEE-USA, “Effective Governance of Artificial Intelligence,” June 25, 2021.](#)

39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should require AI tools to be  
40 adequately tested for safety, reliability, performance and security according to valid third-party  
41 standards prior to being released for public use; and  
42

43 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a federal regulatory framework should protect public trust  
44 and privacy by requiring the disclosure of AI-generated or altered material, protecting the  
45 privacy of residents and the safety of children, and preventing the promotion of mis- or  
46 disinformation; and  
47

48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a federal regulatory framework must be developed with a  
49 focus on social responsibility and the input of all stakeholders, including communities likely to  
50 be most impacted by advancements in AI; and  
51

52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments must retain the authority to decide on  
53 behalf of their own communities the extent to which they adopt artificial intelligence  
54 technologies for municipal operations, including piloting innovative new solutions and enacting  
55 local prohibitions on the usage of certain technologies; and  
56

57 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and the Administration should clearly define the  
58 legal rights, liabilities, and responsibilities involved in handling AI reference data, the ownership  
59 of reference data, and the requirements for disclosure, transparency, and accountability for AI  
60 models between the providers of AI tools and the users, including municipal governments; and  
61

62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should explore ways to foster regional economic  
63 growth, accelerate domestic research and development of AI and expand local government  
64 capacity for managing and deploying AI through incentives-based comprehensive funding  
65 models, such as that used in the CHIPS Act of 2022; and  
66

67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and federal agencies should proactively explore  
68 the impact of artificial intelligence on the employment market and invest in technical assistance  
69 and capacity-building, particularly for smaller local governments, assist negatively affected  
70 regions, upskill workers for changes in the job market, create an AI education pipeline, and  
71 encourage diversity within the AI workforce.

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3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2025-48**

4 **LOCAL PRINCIPLES FOR MODERNIZATION OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE**  
5 **FUND**

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

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Universal Service Fund (USF)  
11 has served as a valuable tool for ensuring access to critical communications for millions of  
12 households and community institutions since its creation by the Communications Act of 1996;  
13 and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, the High Cost Support, Lifeline, E-rate, and Rural Health Care programs have  
16 supported telecommunications and broadband access in numerous communities where it would  
17 otherwise be unavailable, and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, despite many large-scale unanticipated changes in technology, the American  
20 economy, and society, the major elements of the Communications Act have remained unchanged  
21 for more than 20 years; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the actions taken by Congress and the FCC in response to the COVID-19  
24 pandemic and corresponding connectivity crisis, including temporary expansions in the usage of  
25 some USF programs for telehealth and community anchor institution broadband, and the  
26 establishment of the Emergency Connectivity Fund, Emergency Broadband Benefit, and  
27 Affordable Connectivity Program, have enabled access for millions of households;<sup>1</sup> and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, the shifts in technology and the communications marketplace, including  
30 technological convergence between cable, phone, and broadband services, the consumer shift  
31 away from traditional copper landline calling services to Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP)  
32 and mobile services, the rise of streaming video, and other changes, have left the existing  
33 regulatory structure ill-suited to promote fair market competition and fund universal access to  
34 both telecommunications and broadband services;<sup>2</sup> and

35  
36 **WHEREAS**, while the use of the USF has expanded to address modern technologies, including  
37 mobile and fixed broadband and internet access services (BIAS), the current contribution base  
38 for the USF has remained limited to wireline and mobile voice (telecommunications) services  
39 and has dramatically declined over the years due to market share shifts and provider shifts to  
40 bundling of telecommunications and BIAS services.<sup>3</sup>

41  

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<sup>1</sup> [Federal Communications Commission, “FCC Announces That More Than 20 Million Households Enrolled In Affordable Connectivity Program,” August 14, 2023.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [INCOMPAS, NTCA, SHLB, “FCC Must Reform USF Contributions Now: An Analysis of the Options,” September 2021.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Congressional Research Service, “The Future of the Universal Service Fund and Related Broadband Programs,” July 11, 2023.](#)

42 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Congress must meet its statutory obligation to  
43 reauthorize and modernize certain aspects of the Communications Act, starting with universal  
44 service; and

45  
46 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any updates to the Communications Act must  
47 acknowledge technological convergence and accommodate future advances in communications  
48 technology that are as yet unknown; and

49  
50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should use updates to the Communications Act  
51 to better empower local governments help reach universal service by including the Community  
52 Broadband Act to enable community broadband; and

53  
54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should broaden the USF’s contribution base to  
55 reflect a modern critical technology mix and the rapid growth of the fixed and mobile BIAS  
56 markets, including fee collection from BIAS and edge services; and

57  
58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should build on the successes of the Affordable  
59 Connectivity Program, the first universal service program to adapt to the changes in the modern  
60 connectivity landscape, and permanently establish a broadband affordability program within the  
61 USF, rather than forcing it to rely on inconsistent periodic congressional appropriations; and

62  
63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that incorporation of the Affordable Connectivity Program or a  
64 comparable broadband affordability program within the USF should not be at the cost of ease of  
65 access to the program for beneficiaries or level of benefits allocated; and

66  
67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC applauds the FCC’s efforts to acknowledge the  
68 critical role of secure off-campus connectivity, including wireless hotspots and schoolbus  
69 service, through clarifying eligibility of these services for the E-rate program;<sup>4</sup> and

70  
71 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and the FCC should provide dedicated funding  
72 within USF for supportive activities that help beneficiaries access and use connectivity  
73 programs, such as the establishment of digital navigator services and technical support for users;  
74 and

75  
76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and the FCC should address the often-  
77 overlooked needs of urban and suburban residents by creating alternative pathways for non-rural  
78 healthcare providers to access USF support to assist in connectivity for patient care, regardless of  
79 rurality; and

80  
81 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and the FCC should seek ways to expand local  
82 government engagement in USF programs, including through incorporating local feedback on  
83 infrastructure funding needs, encouraging and enabling the participation of local governments as  
84 direct funding recipients, and using local governments as partners to ensure the accountability of  
85 High Cost Support subsidy recipients in meeting their buildout and service obligations.

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<sup>4</sup> [Federal Communications Commission, “Declaratory Ruling: In the Matter of Modernizing the E-Rate Program for Schools and Libraries,” WC Docket No. 13-184, October 25, 2023.](#)