

# Table of Contents

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

❖ **Policy Updates** – Page 3

❖ **Resolutions** – Page 5

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

❖ **Policy Updates** – Page 16

❖ **Resolutions** – Page 20

## *Community and Economic Development (CED)*

❖ **Policy Updates** – Page 64

❖ **Resolutions** – Page 69

## *Human Development (HD)*

❖ **Policy Updates** – Page 81

❖ **Resolutions** – Page 98

## *Transportation and Infrastructure Services (TIS)*

❖ **Policy Updates** – Page 117

❖ **Resolutions** – Page 120

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

❖ **Policy Updates** – Page 130

❖ **Resolutions** – Page 132

## *Information Technology and Communication (ITC)*

❖ **Policy Updates** – Page 153

❖ **Resolutions** – Page 167

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

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

**FAIR**

## *Proposed FAIR Policy Amendments*

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

Please note:

- Proposed new language is underlined;
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### **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

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.

# *Proposed FAIR Resolutions*

NLC Resolutions are annual statements of position that sunset at the end of the calendar year unless action is taken. The committee must review each of the 2024 resolutions that originated in the FAIR Committee to determine recommendations for 2025. The committee has the following options:

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

The FAIR resolutions that were approved for 2024 at City Summit with recommendations for 2025 are:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>FAIR Committee Recommendation</b>
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-1:</b> Support for the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-2:</b> Support for Reforms of Opportunity Zones	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-3:</b> Support for Housing Finance Legislation	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-4:</b> Calling to Preserve and Enhance Voting by Mail	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-5:</b> Support for Voter Protections and Promoting Access to the Ballot Box	Renew with edits
<b>NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 1:</b> Urging Congress to Ensure Accurate Counts for All Municipalities in the 2030 Census	Adopt
<b>NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 2:</b> Support of Legislation to Streamline the Federal Grant Processes	Adopt

1 **NLC RESOLUTION 2024-1**

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

4  
5 **FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

43  
44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities supports the  
45 John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and urges its enactment into law.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-2

2  
3 SUPPORT FOR REFORMS OF OPPORTUNITY ZONES

4  
5 FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the 8,764 census tracts designated as qualified opportunity zones span across all 50  
8 States, the District of Columbia, and 5 Territories and overwhelmingly represent communities  
9 that have been economically left behind as the American economy has surged forward; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, the average poverty rate of qualified opportunity zone residents is 26.4 percent,  
12 nearly double the national average; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, opportunity zones cover 54 percent—more than half—of the country’s pockets of  
15 concentrated persistent poverty, meaning census tracts in which at least 40 percent of the  
16 population has lived in poverty since at least 1980; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, more adults in qualified opportunity zones lack a high school diploma than have a  
19 four-year college degree; and

20  
21 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the National League of Cities (NLC) supports  
22 reforms to opportunity zones (1) bring them in line with the original intent of the legislation, (2)  
23 support a fund technical assistance and capacity building, (3) allows for zero population census  
24 tracts to be eligible for opportunity zones designation; and

25  
26 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC supports proposals to sunset to opportunity zone  
27 designation for census tracts with high median family income (MFI), which is one that exceeds  
28 130 percent of the national MFI; and

29  
30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC supports proposals to provide technical assistance and  
31 capacity building to help drive capital and projects in underserved communities; and

32  
33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC supports population census tracts with zero population  
34 and where it was formerly used for industrial purposes to be eligible for an opportunity zone  
35 designation.





1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-4

2  
3 CALLING TO PRESERVE AND ENHANCE VOTING BY MAIL

4  
5 FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

26  
27 WHEREAS, due to the pandemic, the number of voters casting ballots by mail rose to 43% in  
28 2020; and

29  
30 WHEREAS, one-third of all ballots cast in the 2022 election were cast by mail; and,

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

34  
35 ~~WHEREAS, four states currently supply an absentee ballot to every registered voter,~~  
36 ~~including, Washington, Colorado, Hawaii, and Utah. As a COVID-19 related measure,~~  
37 ~~California, Nevada, New Jersey, Vermont, Montana, and the District of Columbia mailed ballots~~  
38 ~~to all registered voters during the 2020 election cycle; and~~

39  
40 WHEREAS, numerous states have adopted laws facilitating vote-by-mail options: eight  
41 jurisdictions—California, Colorado, Hawaii, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Vermont, Washington, and  
42 the District of Columbia—conduct all elections entirely by mail. Additionally, Nebraska and  
43 North Dakota allow counties to choose to conduct elections by mail. Nine states—Alaska,  
44 Arizona, Florida, Kansas, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, New Mexico, and Wyoming—enable

45 specific small elections to be mail-only. Furthermore, Idaho, Minnesota, New Jersey, and New  
46 Mexico permit predominantly mail-based voting in select small jurisdictions.<sup>1</sup>

47  
48 ~~WHEREAS, COVID-19 has pushed states to expand options for voting by mail due to limited~~  
49 ~~election facilities and poll workers, increased sanitation costs, and the need to ensure all citizens~~  
50 ~~have equal access to exercise their right to vote.~~

51  
52 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that while it takes no stance on individual state  
53 election laws, the National League of Cities supports federal efforts that preserve and enhance  
54 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 2024-5

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

5  
6 FAIR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

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

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

13  
14 ~~WHEREAS, the State of Georgia saw a 93.7 percent increase in voter registration rates between~~  
15 ~~2016 and 2017 after the implementation of automatic voter registration in 2016, and;~~

16  
17 ~~WHEREAS, in the District of Columbia during the 2018 general election, the turnout rate for~~  
18 ~~voters who were automatically registered to vote was higher than the overall turnout rate, and;~~

19  
20 ~~WHEREAS, after three years after the implementation of automatic voter registration in~~  
21 ~~Oregon, 90% of eligible voters were registered to vote, and;~~

22  
23 ~~WHEREAS, 65% of Americans support automatically registering all eligible citizens to vote,~~  
24 ~~and;~~

25  
26 ~~WHEREAS, two bills have been introduced in the 118th Congress, H.R. 156, Restoring Faith in~~  
27 ~~Elections Act, and H.R. 1439, Vote At Home Act, which both call for the implementation of~~  
28 ~~automatic voter registration programs, and;~~

29  
30 WHEREAS, the six-eight states with the highest voter turnout in the 2016-2020 general election  
31 all had same-day voter registration<sup>4</sup>, and;

32  
33 ~~WHEREAS, sixteen states and the District of Columbia offer Election Day registration, and;~~

34  
35 ~~WHEREAS, states with same-day voter registration see a voter turnout rate 3 to 7% higher than~~  
36 ~~states without, and;~~

37  

---

<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>

38 **WHEREAS**, same-day voter registration has been shown to significantly increase voter turnout  
39 among Black and Latinx voters in states where it has been implemented<sup>5</sup>, and;

40  
41 **WHEREAS**, same-day voter registration has been shown to significantly increase voter turnout  
42 among voters aged 18-24 in states where it has been implemented<sup>6</sup>, and;

43  
44 ~~**WHEREAS**, 64% of Americans support same-day voter registration, and~~

45  
46 ~~**WHEREAS**, early voting has many key benefits, including reduced stress on the voting system  
47 on Election Day, improved poll worker performance, early identification of voting system  
48 glitches and registration errors, greater access to voting, and increased voter satisfaction, and;~~

49  
50 **WHEREAS**, states that have restricted access to early in-person voting have seen decreased  
51 turnout, especially among African American voters<sup>7</sup>, and;

52  
53 **WHEREAS**, ~~54~~41% of registered voters planned to vote early in the 2024~~2~~ general election, up  
54 from 34% in the 2018 midterms<sup>8</sup>, and;

55  
56 **WHEREAS**, early voting is most popular among voters over the age of 65<sup>9</sup>, and;

57  
58 **WHEREAS**, as city leaders we believe that everyone should have access to the ballot box, and;

59  
60 ~~**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities believes in  
61 protecting the vote for all Americans and will diligently work to ensure burdensome voting  
62 restrictions are not imposed on cities and their residents~~

63  
64 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities urges federal  
65 support for voter protections and secure elections.

66  
67 **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities opposes  
68 unfunded mandates or preemptions of local control of the local election process.

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<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>

<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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NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 1

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

**FAIR Committee Recommendation:** Adopt

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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**NEW FAIR RESOLUTION 2**

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

**FAIR Committee Recommendation:** Adopt

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**

# *Proposed EENR Policy Amendments*

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## **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
    - 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



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.

# *Proposed EENR Resolutions*

NLC resolutions are annual statements of position that sunset at the end of the calendar year unless action is taken. The committee must review each of the 2024 resolutions that originated in the EENR Committee to determine recommendations for 2025. The committee has the following options:

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

The EENR resolutions that were approved for 2024 at the City Summit with recommendations for 2025 are:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>EENR Committee Recommendation</b>
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-6:</b> Supporting Local PACE Programs	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-7:</b> Supporting and Advancing Resilient Communities to Prepare for Changing Climate and Extreme Weather Events	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-8:</b> Supporting Urgent Action to Reduce Carbon Emissions and Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-9:</b> Addressing Lead Contamination and Calling for Nationwide Federal Support for Water Infrastructure	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-10:</b> Increase Federal Investment in Water Infrastructure	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-11:</b> Support for Integrated Planning and New Affordability Consideration for Water	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-12:</b> Calling on the Federal Government to Take Action to Address PFAS Contamination	Renew with edits

<p><b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-13:</b> Improve the Benefit-Cost Analysis for Federally Funded Flood Control Projects and Support Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Material</p>	<p>Renew with edits</p>
<p><b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-14:</b> Increase Funding for Border Water Infrastructure Projects</p>	<p>Renew with edits</p>
<p><b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-15:</b> Support for the Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program and the Outdoors for All Act</p>	<p>Renew with edits</p>
<p><b>NEW EENR RESOLUTION 1:</b> Support and Advance Cities Impacted by Federal Facilities and Infrastructure through Community Benefit Programs</p>	<p>Adopt</p>

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-6

2  
3 SUPPORTING LOCAL PACE PROGRAMS

4  
5 EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

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

9  
10 WHEREAS, the building sector accounts for ~~nearly 37~~<sup>39</sup> percent of the nation’s total energy  
11 ~~use~~<sup>consumption</sup> in 2023,<sup>1</sup> ~~75~~<sup>2</sup> percent of all ~~its~~ electricity used in the U.S.,<sup>2</sup> and 31 percent, ~~one~~  
12 ~~third of all global~~<sup>the nation’s 2022 indirect-</sup> greenhouse gas emissions, which includes electricity  
13 ~~end-use,~~<sup>3</sup> and ~~representing~~<sup>s one of the single-</sup> largest, most accessible opportunities<sup>y</sup> for deep  
14 emission cuts in the United States; and

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

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

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

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

33  

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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>  
<http://www.imt.org/resources/detail/home-energy-efficiency-and-mortgage-risks>

34 **WHEREAS**, the PACE program removes many of the barriers of energy efficiency and  
35 renewable energy retrofits that otherwise exist for residential homeowners and businesses,  
36 particularly the high upfront cost of making such an investment and the long-term ability to reap  
37 the benefits of cost savings; and  
38

39 **WHEREAS**, ~~38-40~~ states plus the District of Columbia have passed laws enabling local  
40 governments to develop PACE programs<sup>5</sup>; and  
41

42 **WHEREAS**, locally-administered PACE programs are an exercise of the traditional authority of  
43 local governments to utilize the tax code for public benefit; and  
44

45 **WHEREAS**, PACE programs can help local governments meet a core obligation to their citizens  
46 to maintain housing stock and improve housing opportunities for all citizens; and  
47

48 **WHEREAS**, the PACE program is an achievement of the intergovernmental partnership to  
49 realize national policy goals, namely, reducing energy consumption, that will positively impact  
50 the fiscal conditions of every level of government; and  
51

52 **WHEREAS**, PACE holds the potential to unlock private capital and jumpstart economic growth  
53 backed by the marketplace certainty of the federal government; and  
54

55 **WHEREAS**, in communities that have enabled PACE, investments have had significant effects  
56 on local job creation and economic activity, energy savings and carbon abatement. Over the  
57 lifetime of the measures installed to date, estimates show that those PACE projects will result in  
58 ~~\$21.629~~ billion in economic impact, ~~170,000-214,000~~ job-years created, 14 million metric tons  
59 CO2 emissions avoided and ~~530~~ billion kWh energy saved;<sup>6</sup> and  
60

61 **WHEREAS**, despite PACE's great promise, in July 2010 the Federal Housing Finance Agency  
62 (FHFA), as conservator of the government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) following the 2008  
63 financial crisis, issued guidance that directed the GSEs not to purchase mortgages with a PACE  
64 assessment,<sup>7</sup> which immediately slowed the advancement of PACE residential programs across  
65 the country; and  
66

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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 ~~PACE Market Data~~, PACENation; available at: <https://www.pacenation.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/PACENation-What-is-PACE-Factsheet.pdf> ~~https://www.pacenation.org/pace-market-data/~~

<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>

67 **WHEREAS**, despite the FHFA directive, many commercial and a few residential PACE  
68 programs are operating or are in development in hundreds of municipalities across the country;  
69 and  
70

71 **WHEREAS**, in 2010 the U.S. Department of Energy dedicated \$150 million to assist in the  
72 development of local PACE programs and in 2016 issued Best Practice Guidelines for  
73 Residential PACE Financing Programs to help state and local governments develop and  
74 implement programs and recommended protections that PACE programs should put in place for  
75 consumers and lenders;<sup>8</sup> and  
76

77 **WHEREAS**, in July 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released  
78 guidance allowing the Federal Housing Administration to insure mortgages on properties that  
79 include PACE assessments,<sup>9</sup> which has since been withdrawn; and  
80

81 **WHEREAS**, in 2018, Congress passed the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer  
82 Protection Act banking reform bill that recognizes PACE as a tax assessment and directs the  
83 Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to develop rules in consultation with state and  
84 local governments that ensure consumers have the ability to pay their residential PACE financing  
85 obligations.  
86

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

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

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

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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>[https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2016/HUDNo\\_16\\_110](https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2016/HUDNo_16_110)



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

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-7

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

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

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

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

16 **WHEREAS**, while all regions of the country are impacted by climate change, approximately ~~one~~  
17 ~~third~~40 percent of the U.S. population—~~more than~~ 129~~00~~ million people<sup>1</sup>—live in coastal  
18 communities that are threatened by rising sea levels, which could impact economic development,  
19 land availability, property values, insurance rates, beaches and tourism, and critical water,  
20 transportation and energy infrastructure; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the ~~Fourth~~Fifth National Climate Assessment reports that ~~current evidence of~~  
23 ~~climate change appears in every region and impacts are currently visible in every state, and~~  
24 ~~concludes that the evidence of human-induced climate change continues to strengthen the effects~~  
25 of human-caused climate change are already far-reaching and worsening across every region of  
26 the United States, and concludes that without rapid and deep reductions in global greenhouse gas  
27 emissions from human activity, the risks of accelerating climate impacts will continue to grow;<sup>2</sup>  
28 and  
29

30 **WHEREAS**, the effects of a changing climate are a national security issue with growing  
31 ~~potential~~ impacts to the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) strategies, plans, capabilities,  
32 ~~missions, operations plan~~equipment and installations and the DoD must be able to adapt to  
33 current and future operations to address the impacts of a variety of threats and conditions,  
34 including those from weather and natural events;<sup>3</sup> and

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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) ~~Volume I, 2017; Volume II, 2018~~; *available at:*  
<https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/>~~<https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>~~

<sup>3</sup> Department of Defense Climate Risk Analysis. Report Submitted to National Security Council ~~Report on Effects~~  
of a Changing Climate to the Department of Defense, Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and

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**WHEREAS**, a 2018 report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) indicates that limiting global warming to 1.5° C is necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change;<sup>4</sup> however, the 2023 IPCC finds that there is a more than 50 percent chance that global temperature rise will reach or surpass 1.5° C by 2040 or sooner;<sup>5</sup> and

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the United States has seen ~~37660~~ separate billion-dollar-plus weather and climate disasters ~~from since 1980 to 2023~~, including ~~20 in 2021 and 18 in 2022 and 28 in 2023~~, with a cumulative cost exceeding \$~~2.728570~~ trillion (CPI-adjusted) and a total death toll of 16,350+5,985;<sup>6</sup> and

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~~Sustainment (October 2021 Jan. 2019); available at: <https://media.defense.gov/2021/Oct/21/2002877353/-1/-1/0/DOD-CLIMATE-RISK-ANALYSIS-FINAL.PDF>[https://partner-meo-archive.s3.amazonaws.com/client\\_files/1547826612.pdf](https://partner-meo-archive.s3.amazonaws.com/client_files/1547826612.pdf)~~

<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>  
[https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events/US/1980-2022?disasters\[\]=all-disasters](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events/US/1980-2022?disasters[]=all-disasters)

64 **WHEREAS**, 2023~~0~~ set a new annual record with 282 billion-dollar-plus weather or climate  
65 events, shattering the previous record of ~~2216~~ events in 20~~2011~~ and 2017;<sup>7</sup> and

67 **WHEREAS**, in 2005 Hurricane Katrina led to 1,833 deaths and more than \$~~200195~~ billion (CPI-  
68 adjusted) in losses, and a subsequent \$120 billion in supplemental disaster assistance and in 2012  
69 Hurricane Sandy led to 159 deaths and more than \$~~88.55.9~~ billion in damages (CPI-adjusted),  
70 and a subsequent \$60.4 billion in supplemental disaster assistance;<sup>8</sup> and

72 **WHEREAS**, in 2017 three Category 4 hurricanes—Harvey, Irma and Maria—made landfall in  
73 Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, respectively totaling more than \$~~33648~~ billion (CPI-adjusted) in  
74 damages and a death toll of 3,167, including 2,981 ~~in Puerto Rico~~ from Hurricane Maria alone;<sup>9</sup>  
75 and

77 **WHEREAS**, in 2022 historic flooding brought devastating damage to eastern Kentucky and  
78 eastern Missouri homes, businesses and infrastructure, resulting in 42 deaths and \$1.6~~5~~ billion  
79 (CPI-adjusted) in economic costs;<sup>10</sup> and in 2023 drought and heatwave conditions impacted  
80 numerous southern and midwestern states, resulting in 247 deaths and \$14.8 billion (CPI-  
81 adjusted) in economic losses;<sup>11</sup> and

83 **WHEREAS**, rising temperatures are lengthening the wildfire season and increasing drought  
84 risks, causing more radical fire behavior and increasing wildfire risks throughout the United  
85 States due to earlier snow melts and forests that are drier longer,<sup>12</sup> the costs of putting out  
86 wildfires has increased dramatically, from approximately \$~~673.454~~ million in 1985 to over ~~nearly~~  
87 \$3.1~~5~~ billion in 202~~32~~<sup>13</sup> (202~~32~~ dollars),<sup>14</sup> and the economic losses associated with wildfire  
88 continues to grow, with the 2018 western wildfires costing over \$~~3029.3~~ billion (CPI-adjusted)

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<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> <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/events/US/1980-2018>

<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) <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/events/US/1980-2018>

<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) [https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events/US/2020-2023?disasters\[\]=flooding](https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/billions/events/US/2020-2023?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)

89 and the 2020 western wildfires, the most active fire season on record, costing over \$19.94 billion  
90 (CPI-adjusted);<sup>15</sup> and

91  
92 **WHEREAS**, Congress approved over \$41.69 billion in disaster relief in FY2021;<sup>16</sup> and

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

99  
100 **WHEREAS**, 2023~~2~~ was the ~~sixth~~-warmest year on record, ~~followed by behind~~ 2016 (second  
101 warmest), 2020 (~~third~~~~second~~ warmest), 2019 (~~fourth~~ ~~third~~-warmest), and 2017~~5~~ (~~fifth~~~~fourth~~  
102 warmest);, and 2017 (fifth warmest)<sup>17</sup> and it is estimated that 2023 is virtually certain to rank  
103 among the five warmest years on record;<sup>18</sup> and

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

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

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

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

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<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>

<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> <https://www.noaa.gov/news/2022-was-worlds-6th-warmest-year-on-record>

<sup>18</sup> “Record Shattering: Earth had its hottest July in 174 years,” National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Aug. 14, 2023), available at: <https://www.noaa.gov/news/record-shattering-earth-had-its-hottest-july-in-174-years>

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

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

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

136  
137 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress and the Administration to take urgent  
138 action to help states and local governments conduct vulnerability assessments, develop and  
139 implement long-term mitigation, adaptation and resiliency action plans relying on forward-  
140 looking climate metrics, and identify innovative financing opportunities to implement these  
141 assessments and plans in order to prepare, plan for and more quickly recover from extreme  
142 weather events; and

143  
144 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to  
145 recognize the unique risks and opportunities communities face and to offer customized tools and  
146 incentives to local governments to encourage communities to plan for and rapidly respond to the  
147 effects of climate change and extreme weather; and

148  
149 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to develop a national  
150 strategy to assist communities in integrating the risks of climate change and extreme weather  
151 events into emergency management planning and responses to identify and quantify the  
152 economic value of regional infrastructure at risk under different scenarios; and

153  
154 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to work with state and  
155 local governments, the insurance industry, and other stakeholders to develop an incentive-based  
156 disaster insurance and mitigation system that would encourage property owners to retrofit  
157 existing structures to reduce future losses from natural disasters; and

158  
159 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to provide incentives  
160 for rebuilding infrastructure and buildings following natural disaster in a manner that will protect

161 ~~communities against future natural disasters; returning to the status quo is not sufficient in meeting~~  
162 ~~the challenges of climate change and inequities in our society; and~~

163

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

167

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

170

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

175

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

180

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

186

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

190

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

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-8

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

5  
6 EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

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

9  
10 WHEREAS, the ~~Fourth~~Fifth National Climate Assessment reports that ~~current evidence of~~  
11 ~~climate change appears in every region and impacts are currently visible in every state, and~~  
12 ~~concludes that the evidence of human-induced climate change continues to strengthen; the effects~~  
13 ~~of human-caused climate change are already far-reaching and worsening across every region of~~  
14 ~~the United States, and concludes that without rapid and deep reductions in global greenhouse gas~~  
15 ~~emissions from human activity, the risks of accelerating climate impacts will continue to grow~~<sup>1</sup>  
16 and

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

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

27  
28 WHEREAS, these same vulnerable populations also face dramatically higher energy burdens—  
29 spending a greater portion of their income on energy bills—than the average household;<sup>4</sup> and  
30

---

<sup>1</sup> National Climate Assessment (November 2023 ~~Volume I, 2017; Volume II, 2018~~); available at:  
~~<https://nca2023.globalchange.gov/>~~~~<https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>~~

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

<sup>3</sup> “10 Big Findings from the 2023 IPCC 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>



31 **WHEREAS**, according to the American Lung Association’s 2023 State of the Air report, nearly  
32 396 percent or 119.6 million people live in communities with unhealthy levels of ozone or  
33 and particle pollution;<sup>5</sup> and

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, while some impacts of climate change are inevitable, sharp reductions in  
36 greenhouse gas emissions will reduce the severity of the impacts and limit the rate of climate  
37 change; and

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

43  
44 **WHEREAS**, nuclear power will be a necessary component of the carbon-neutral energy  
45 portfolio for the coming decades; and

46  
47 **WHEREAS**, improving energy efficiency, increasing energy conservation and deploying  
48 renewable energy systems will save taxpayer dollars, boost the national and local economy,  
49 enhance national security, increase our nation’s energy independence; and improve  
50 environmental quality; and

51  
52 **WHEREAS**, technology exists and continues to be developed that will help families, businesses  
53 and communities reduce energy use, but without standards to encourage adoption of new  
54 technology, many of these technology options will be unavailable or unaffordable; and

55  
56 **WHEREAS**, the transportation sector generates the largest share of direct greenhouse gas  
57 emissions, 28 percent of 2022 greenhouse gas emissions, in the United States;<sup>6</sup> and

58  
59 **WHEREAS**, the building sector accounts for nearly 37 percent of the nation’s total energy  
60 consumption in 2023,<sup>7</sup> and more than 75 percent of all its electricity used in the U.S.;<sup>8</sup> and  
61 electricity production represents the second largest share of greenhouse gas emissions, 24.31

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

<sup>6</sup> Overview 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> Environmental and Energy Study Institute, Buildings and Climate Change; available at: <http://www.eesi.org/files/climate.pdf>

62 percent of the nation's 2022+ indirect greenhouse gas emissions, which includes electricity end-  
63 use in the United States;<sup>9</sup> and

64  
65 **WHEREAS**, indoor and outdoor lighting account for 65 percent of electricity consumed in the  
66 nation,<sup>10</sup> and rapid conversion to efficient lighting would result in significant greenhouse gas  
67 reductions as well as a decrease in base load energy needs; and

68  
69 **WHEREAS**, communities large and small nationwide are laboratories of innovation and are  
70 taking action on climate mitigation, including adopting greenhouse gas reduction goals,  
71 successfully pioneering and demonstrating cost-effective clean energy solutions, and pursuing  
72 local strategies that create jobs, save energy and taxpayer dollars, and promote renewable  
73 sources; and

74  
75 **WHEREAS**, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) helps local  
76 governments undertake projects to reduce energy use, diversify energy supplies and improve air  
77 quality and the environment; and

78  
79 **WHEREAS**, all levels of government must work to become more resilient by achieving greater  
80 energy independence based on a multi-pronged strategy of aggressively expanding renewable  
81 energy, significantly increasing energy efficiency portfolio standards; and creating new financing  
82 mechanisms; and

83  
84 **WHEREAS**, in 2014 the President's Task Force on Climate Preparedness and Resilience,  
85 comprised of state, local and tribal leaders, including representatives from the National League of  
86 Cities (NLC), made recommendations to the President on ways the federal government can assist  
87 local efforts to address and prepare for the impacts of climate change; and

88  
89 **WHEREAS**, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 makes significant  
90 progress toward reducing greenhouse gas emissions throughout the transportation sector and  
91 investing in clean energy and energy efficiency and conservation and the Inflation Reduction Act  
92 provides additional funding and incentives for climate and clean energy goals, ~~but~~ and additional  
93 federal policies, funding and resources are needed to support local governments; and

94  
95 **WHEREAS**, because of these investments and the decline in capital costs, the U.S. Energy  
96 Information Administration projects that by 2025 approximately 443 gigawatts of renewables  
97 capacity will be online, and further, that in the United States the share of renewables in the

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<sup>9</sup> Overview 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>

98 electricity generation mix will more than triple from 309 gigawatts of renewables capacity in  
99 2022 to 1,163 gigawatts renewables capacity in 2050.<sup>11</sup>

100  
101 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration  
102 to partner with local governments, to support local action on climate change mitigation, and to  
103 provide essential tools, research, technology development, data, and funding, as well as  
104 workforce development, job training and community assistance, to help local governments  
105 achieve their greenhouse gas reduction targets and transition to a clean energy economy; and

106  
107 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress and the Administration to take urgent  
108 action to reduce carbon emissions across a broad sector of the economy and become carbon  
109 neutral to mitigate the effects of climate change; and

110  
111 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports the U.S.’s engagement in the Paris Climate  
112 Agreement and calls on Congress to position the U.S. as a climate leader and adopt nationwide  
113 greenhouse gas emission goals and policies that exceed the IPCC 1.5°C targets of 45% emissions  
114 reduction from 2010 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050, and to encourage other countries to  
115 adopt these same goals; and

116  
117 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports efforts to increase the CAFE standards or  
118 fuel efficiency for all types of vehicles; and

119  
120 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to pass a national renewable  
121 portfolio standard that increases the use of carbon neutral energy and promotes energy efficiency,  
122 with the goal of at least 50 percent carbon neutral energy by 2030 and 100 percent by  
123 2050 or sooner; and

124  
125 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC encourages the federal government to develop  
126 policies that facilitate the necessary deployment of electric infrastructure in a timely and expedited  
127 manner to support clean energy goals; and

128  
129 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that these federal policies should ensure that the benefits of  
130 renewable energy and energy efficiency are shared equitably, with special attention on low-  
131 income, disadvantaged and other vulnerable and underrepresented populations, and that the  
132 siting of such electric infrastructure should not inequitably burden these populations; and

133  
134 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the federal government should provide tools, resources,  
135 technical assistance, and funding to local governments to support streamlining local permitting

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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>

136 processes that reduce soft costs and barriers to support local deployment of renewable energy  
137 and public and private electric vehicle infrastructure; and

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

145  
146 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to reauthorize and fully fund the  
147 EECBG or other funding structure at the U.S. Department of Energy to further incentivize clean  
148 energy at the local level; and

149  
150 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal investments in communities must prioritize those  
151 communities that have been left behind and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) who  
152 are disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-9

2  
3 ADDRESSING LEAD CONTAMINATION AND CALLING FOR NATIONWIDE  
4 FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

5  
6 EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

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

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

13  
14 ~~WHEREAS, Flint and Benton Harbor, Michigan, are two recent examples of cities where high~~  
15 ~~levels of lead have been found in the city’s drinking water; and~~

16  
17 ~~WHEREAS, in the early 2000s, the District of Columbia experienced a similar crisis, as have~~  
18 ~~many other cities; and~~

19  
20 WHEREAS, lead has negative and long-term neurological effects, particularly in infants and  
21 children; and

22  
23 ~~WHEREAS, in Flint the city’s water source was switched to the Flint River by the state-~~  
24 ~~appointed emergency manager, a decision made without coordination or consultation with local~~  
25 ~~officials; and~~

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

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

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

36  

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<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\\_DWINSAPublic%20Factsheet%204.4.23.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2023-04/Final_DWINSAPublic%20Factsheet%204.4.23.pdf)

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

39

40 **WHEREAS**, ~~the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates there are 9.2 million~~  
41 ~~lead service lines across the country<sup>2</sup> and a recent analysis by the American Water Works~~  
42 ~~Association estimates the average cost for a full replacement of a lead service line is \$12,500,~~  
43 ~~which is significantly higher than EPA’s cost estimate of \$6,154 in the Final Lead and Copper~~  
44 ~~Rule Revisions,<sup>3</sup> indicating that the total cost of replacing the nation’s 9.2 million lead service~~  
45 ~~se-lines to be upward of ~~to~~ \$100~~99~~ billion under the ~~forthcoming~~ requirements from EPA’s Lead~~  
46 ~~and Copper Rule ImprovementsRevisions; and~~

47

48 **WHEREAS**, local governments are already taking action to address lead service lines in their  
49 communities and to comply with EPA’s Lead and Copper Rule Revisions, finalized in 2021,  
50 which requires all community water systems and non-transient non-community water systems,  
51 such as schools, to complete an inventory of lead pipes by October 16, 2024<sup>4</sup>; and

52

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

55

56 **WHEREAS**, EPA estimates the nation’s water infrastructure capital needs over the next 20 years  
57 to be approximately ~~\$1.255 trillion~~~~896 billion~~ in total,<sup>5</sup> the American Society for Civil Engineers  
58 estimates that over the next ~~210~~ years, \$1 trillion of additional investments are needed to reach a  
59 state of good repair for drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure,~~the cumulative~~  
60 ~~water and wastewater capital investment need will soar to \$3.27 trillion and the cumulative capital~~  
61 ~~investment gap will total \$2.2 trillion,<sup>6</sup> and other estimates put the cost at more than \$4 trillion to~~  
62 maintain and build a 21<sup>st</sup> century water system; and

63

---

<sup>2</sup>-<sup>7</sup><sup>th</sup> Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (April 2023), available at: <https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf>

<sup>3</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>4</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>

<sup>5</sup> “Clean Watershed Needs Survey,” U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; (April 2024Jan. 2016); 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>6</sup> “Bridging the Gap: Economic Impacts of National Infrastructure Investment, 2024-2043The Economic Benefits of Investing in Water Infrastructure,” Value of Water Campaign and American Society of Civil Engineers (May 2024Nov. 2020); available at: [https://bridgingthegap.infrastructurereportcard.org/http://www.uswateralliance.org/sites/uswateralliance.org/files/publications/The%20Economic%20Benefits%20of%20Investing%20in%20Water%20Infrastructure\\_final.pdf](https://bridgingthegap.infrastructurereportcard.org/http://www.uswateralliance.org/sites/uswateralliance.org/files/publications/The%20Economic%20Benefits%20of%20Investing%20in%20Water%20Infrastructure_final.pdf)

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

67  
68 ~~**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**~~ that local planning and infrastructure decisions,  
69 including those related to clean drinking water, should not be preempted and should be made by  
70 locally elected leaders in coordination with state and federal officials; and

71  
72 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**~~ that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on Congress to  
73 provide direct assistance to the City of Flint, Michigan, and for EPA and the federal government  
74 to work directly with local officials, for as long as necessary, to resolve the drinking water crisis  
75 through the provision of safe drinking water and to support economic recovery; and

76  
77 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**~~ that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to provide  
78 long term support for the families affected by lead drinking water contamination in Flint and  
79 nationwide, including in the areas of education and mental health; and

80  
81 ~~**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**~~ that the National League of Cities  
82 (NLC) calls on Congress and the Administration to support robust funding for all water  
83 infrastructure financing mechanisms, including the Clean Water and Drinking Water State  
84 Revolving Loan Fund programs and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act  
85 (WIFIA); and

86  
87 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**~~ that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to support  
88 other mechanisms of infrastructure financing, including protecting the tax-exempt status of  
89 municipal bonds and reinstating the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds; and

90  
91 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**~~ that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to ~~support~~  
92 provide direct grants to local governments, as well as school systems and daycare centers, for the  
93 replacement of lead service lines, testing, inventories, planning, corrosion control, and public  
94 education campaigns, and to assist small and disadvantaged communities in complying with the  
95 Safe Drinking Water Act.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-10

2  
3 INCREASE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

4  
5 EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

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

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

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

20  
21 WHEREAS, local governments fund over 98 percent of all capital, operations and maintenance  
22 investment in drinking water, wastewater and sewer infrastructure, investing over \$2.38 trillion  
23 between 1993-2019 (not adjusted for inflation) and over ~~\$148~~\$150 billion in ~~2021-2022~~ alone;<sup>3</sup>  
24 and

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

29  
30 WHEREAS, an economic analysis by the American Society of Civil Engineers shows a water-  
31 related infrastructure investment gap of ~~\$1 trillion~~434 billion over 10 years for drinking water,  
32 wastewater, and stormwater combined;<sup>4</sup> and

---

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

2 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/](https://tapin.waternow.org/resources/innovation-in-action-21st-century-water-infrastructure-solutions/)

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

4 2021 Infrastructure Report Card” Bridging the Gap: Economic Impacts of National Infrastructure Investment,  
2024-2043”, American Society of Civil Engineers (May 2024); available at:  
<https://bridgingthegap.infrastructurereportcard.org/>~~https://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/cat-item/stormwater/~~



33  
34 **WHEREAS**, this funding gap does not include anticipated expenditures to comply with new  
35 Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act mandates, consent decrees, new responsibilities  
36 and costs relating to water security and source water protection, additional needs for re-use of  
37 treated effluent, or impacts due to climate change; and  
38  
39 **WHEREAS**, the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (IIJA) provided a  
40 significant boost in federal funding for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, but not  
41 enough to close the needs gap; and  
42  
43 **WHEREAS**, aside from the IIJA, annual appropriations for federal loan and grant assistance to  
44 cities and local governments to assist in maintaining and upgrading water infrastructure systems  
45 has continued to decline in real dollars over the past decades;<sup>5</sup> and  
46  
47 **WHEREAS**, municipal resources dedicated to water infrastructure are currently overwhelmingly  
48 directed to comply with new complex federal mandates and are therefore unavailable for critical  
49 maintenance, repair; and rehabilitation needs; and  
50  
51 **WHEREAS**, public-private partnerships can provide options for communities to access sources  
52 of private capital to meet water infrastructure needs, but are not viable for all communities or all  
53 types of projects; and  
54  
55 **WHEREAS**, private activity bonds or tax-exempt facility bonds are a form of tax-exempt  
56 financing that can be used for water infrastructure projects that utilize private capital instead of  
57 public debt and shift the risk and long-term obligation from the municipality to the private equity  
58 partner; and  
59  
60 **WHEREAS**, Congress provides to states a capped annual allocation (“volume cap”) of tax-  
61 exempt bonds private activity bonds, based on population, but historically, most of the tax-  
62 exempt private activity bonds are issued to short-term projects such as housing and education  
63 loans;<sup>6</sup> and  
64  
65 **WHEREAS**, Congress has previously enacted legislation eliminating the state volume cap for  
66 such municipal infrastructure projects such as airports, landfills, and ports; and  
67

---

<sup>5</sup> Federal Investment, 1962-2018, Congressional Budget Office (June 2019);<sup>5</sup> 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>

68 **WHEREAS**, eliminating the state volume cap for water is estimated to make available up to \$5-6  
69 billion in private capital for water projects, while the cost in foregone revenue to the federal  
70 government is nominal.<sup>7</sup>  
71

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

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

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

86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should provide direct funding to local  
87 governments through grant programs such as for sewer overflow and stormwater management,  
88 lead service line replacement, water infrastructure resilience/sustainability to protect and reduce  
89 risk to extreme weather events, recycled water, new/emerging technologies for cybersecurity  
90 improvements and water efficiency, workforce development in the water sector, and other  
91 programs; and  
92

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

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

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

---

<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>

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

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-11

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

5  
6 EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

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

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

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

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

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

34  

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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/>

35 **WHEREAS**, taking a One Water approach to water resource management means that “all water  
36 has value and should be managed in a sustainable, inclusive, integrated way” and requires  
37 balancing water equity, water access and water affordability;<sup>3</sup> and  
38

39 **WHEREAS**, at a time where local financial resources are increasingly limited and the ability of  
40 local governments to raise revenue is also limited, local governments are facing costly unfunded  
41 federal and state regulatory requirements forcing them to make tough decisions about the services  
42 and maintenance that they can afford; and  
43

44 **WHEREAS**, local water and sewer rates and stormwater fees are rapidly becoming unaffordable  
45 for many fixed- and low-income citizens, placing a disproportionate financial burden on these  
46 vulnerable populations who live at or below the poverty level; and  
47

48 **WHEREAS**, the current reliance on two percent of median household income for wastewater  
49 and combined sewer overflows controls is a misleading indicator of a community’s ability to pay,  
50 and often places a particularly high burden on residents at the lower end of the economic scale;  
51 and  
52

53 **WHEREAS**, green infrastructure, such as constructed swales, wetlands, green roofs, infiltration  
54 planters, rain gardens, cisterns, and enhanced floodplains and riparian buffers through nature-  
55 based solutions, augmented by permeable pavers, rain barrels, and trees, is a valuable part of  
56 water infrastructure systems and provides a multitude of community benefits such as helping  
57 local governments manage runoff, extending the life of local infrastructure, saving the city and  
58 taxpayers money, providing outdoor recreation opportunities through parks and green spaces and  
59 promoting the joint use of city and school facilities, and serve as an economic development tool;  
60 and  
61

62 **WHEREAS**, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits are  
63 increasingly stringent, the treatment technologies and approaches necessary to meet permit limits  
64 have become exceedingly expensive and time-intensive to implement, and project construction  
65 timelines for clean water infrastructure projects can extend more than a decade.  
66

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

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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/http://www.uswateralliance.org/sites/uswateralliance.org/files/publications/Roadmap%20FINAL.pdf>

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

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

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

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

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2024-12**

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

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

8 **WHEREAS**, Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a class of nearly 5,000 man-made  
9 chemicals that includes PFOA, PFOS, PFBS and GenX manufactured and used in a variety of  
10 industries; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, PFAS chemicals are known as “forever” chemicals because they are persistent in  
13 the environment and in the human body; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, PFAS chemicals have been known to cause adverse health outcomes in humans  
16 including effects on prenatal development, low infant birth weights, early onset of puberty,  
17 negative effect on the immune system, cancer, liver damage, and thyroid disruption;<sup>1</sup> and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, while science predicts that the entire class of PFAS chemical may be associated  
20 with adverse health effects and many such chemicals are in industrial and commercial use, only a  
21 small fraction of these chemicals have been investigated sufficiently to establish quantitative  
22 measures of toxicity; and  
23

24 ~~**WHEREAS**, in 2022 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) lowered the lifetime~~  
25 ~~exposure health advisory level for PFOA and PFOS from 70 parts per trillion to near zero and~~  
26 ~~established new health advisories for GenX and PFBS for the combined concentration in drinking~~  
27 ~~water;<sup>2</sup> and~~  
28

29 **WHEREAS**, in 2021 EPA announced a PFAS Strategic Roadmap that outlines a comprehensive  
30 nationwide action plan for addressing PFAS, including identifying both short-term solutions for  
31 addressing these chemicals and long-term strategies that will help states, tribes and local  
32 communities provide clean and safe drinking water to residents and address PFAS at the source –  
33 before it gets into the water;<sup>3</sup> and  
34

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

<sup>3</sup> 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>

35 **WHEREAS**, in April 2024, EPA finalized is currently undergoing a rulemaking process to  
36 propose a National Drinking Water Regulation and set an enforceable Maximum Contaminant  
37 Level (MCL) for PFOA and PFOS of 4 parts per trillion, set a MCL of 10 parts per trillion for  
38 three other PFAS chemicals and established a hazard index for four additional PFAS chemicals  
39 under the Safe Drinking Water Act<sup>4</sup>; and

40  
41 ~~**WHEREAS**, there are significant technical challenges in detecting, measuring and removing~~  
42 ~~PFAS in water and other environmental media at the levels where health effects can occur, and~~  
43 ~~analytical methodologies are still under development or are not yet generally available; and~~

44  
45 **WHEREAS**, PFAS contamination is found in local water supplies obtained from both rivers and  
46 groundwater and in soil at and around military bases, airports, manufacturing sites, landfills and  
47 farmland; and

48  
49 **WHEREAS**, the Environmental Working Group maintains an interactive map of known  
50 contamination of communities from PFAS, which as of May 2024~~June 2022~~ shows 6,1892,858  
51 locations in 50 states, DC and four~~two~~ territories with known contamination;<sup>5</sup> and

52  
53 **WHEREAS**, in July 2023, EPA and United States Geological Survey scientists published results  
54 on analysis for 32 PFAS compounds in water samples from 716 public drinking water supplies  
55 across every state that detected PFAS in at least 45 percent of tap water samples, suggesting that  
56 PFAS is ubiquitous in our water;<sup>6</sup> and

57  
58 **WHEREAS**, PFAS chemicals were widely used in firefighting foams, particularly for airports,  
59 and were used in frequent training exercises at military air bases; and

60  
61 **WHEREAS**, PFAS chemicals were required in firefighting foams used at airports to meet federal  
62 performance standards for extinguishing agents, but in September 2023 ~~currently~~ the Federal  
63 Aviation Administration announced that fluorine-free foam products had become available that  
64 met Military Specification<sup>7</sup>, providing an option for airports to discontinue their use of PFAS-  
65 containing aqueous film-forming foams ~~is updating its standards to allow for a non-fluorinated~~  
66 ~~option for airports; and~~

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<sup>4</sup> Final PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; *available at:* <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

<sup>5</sup> PFAS Contamination in the U.S., Environmental Working Group; *available at:* <https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/pfas-contamination/>

<sup>6</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>7</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)



67  
68 **WHEREAS**, the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act requires the U.S. Department of  
69 Defense to phase out ~~has ended~~ its use of the foam by October 2024 in training exercises;<sup>8</sup> and  
70  
71 ~~**WHEREAS**, PFAS contamination is found at and around military bases, airports, manufacturing~~  
72 ~~sites, landfills, and in local water supplies obtained from both rivers and groundwater; and~~  
73  
74 **WHEREAS**, local governments are responsible for protecting the health, safety and welfare of  
75 residents, including providing clean and safe water; and  
76  
77 **WHEREAS**, there are significant technical challenges in detecting, measuring and removing  
78 PFAS in water and other environmental media at the levels set by EPA, and analytical  
79 methodologies are still under development or are not yet generally available; and  
80  
81 **WHEREAS**, while treatment technology for removing PFAS from water is not well-developed,  
82 the more effective methods use technologies that are not conventionally available in existing  
83 water treatment plants, so removing these PFAS chemicals from water could require costly  
84 investments by local governments and other local water suppliers, which would be passed onto  
85 ratepayers; and  
86  
87 ~~**WHEREAS**, local governments are owners and operators of airports and landfills and employ~~  
88 ~~firefighters, some of whom may have been exposed to PFAS chemicals on the job through~~  
89 ~~inhalation or skin absorption, and therefore present a pension and liability concern for local~~  
90 ~~budgets; and~~  
91  
92 **WHEREAS**, in April 2024 EPA finalized a ~~is also undergoing two separate~~ rulemakings to  
93 designate ~~PFOS and PFOA~~ certain PFAS chemicals as hazardous substances under the  
94 Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA)<sup>9</sup>, which  
95 will have huge cost and liability implications for local governments, and is undergoing a separate  
96 rulemaking to designate additional PFAS chemicals under CERCLA<sup>10</sup>; and  
97

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<sup>8</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>

<sup>9</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>10</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>

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

101  
102 **WHEREAS**, a number of states have adopted PFAS policies pertaining to prohibiting use,  
103 monitoring, notification and reporting, cleanup, health studies, testing, liability provisions, and  
104 contamination limits; and

105  
106 **WHEREAS**, a number of bills have been introduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives  
107 and U.S. Senate to address PFAS contamination by providing new resources at the federal, state and  
108 local levels for the detection, reduction, destruction and remediation of PFAS chemicals~~survey,~~  
109 ~~regulate, mitigate and phase out the use of PFAS;~~ and

110  
111 **WHEREAS**, local governments are owners and operators of airports, landfills and water utilities  
112 and employ firefighters, some of whom may have been exposed to PFAS chemicals on the job  
113 through inhalation or skin absorption, and therefore present a pension and liability concern for  
114 local budgets.

115  
116 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on  
117 Congress and the Administration to holistically examine PFAS contamination and to take  
118 comprehensive action to address the problem and reduce public health risk, including through  
119 nationwide testing, monitoring, mapping, public education, and water supply treatment; and

120  
121 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to ensure that the  
122 parties responsible for PFAS contamination, including the federal government but excluding  
123 local governments, are held fully liable for costs of cleanup and mitigation and to ensure that  
124 sites are cleaned up in a timely manner and to standards sufficiently stringent to permit reuse of  
125 the site and to obviate the need for additional cleanup and mitigation costs by affected local  
126 governments; and

127  
128 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to pass legislation that provides  
129 local governments that did not cause or contribute to PFAS contamination with liability  
130 protection under CERCLA; and

131  
132 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should incentivize and support  
133 research and development for extended producer responsibility programs to prevent pollution of  
134 waterways, drinking water and soil contamination and to address the life cycle environmental  
135 impacts of PFAS chemicals; and

136

137 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments, including municipal airports and fire  
138 departments, were required by federal law to use firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals,  
139 and therefore should not be held liable for PFAS contamination or cleanup costs; and  
140

141 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments, including drinking water and  
142 wastewater utilities and municipal landfills, serve as passive receivers of PFAS chemicals and did  
143 not cause or contribute to contamination, and therefore should not be held liable for PFAS  
144 contamination or cleanup costs; and  
145

146 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to accelerate research  
147 and technology development to advance the science needed to understand the health  
148 consequences of exposure to PFAS chemicals, detect and measure PFAS chemicals in water and  
149 other environmental media, treat water supplies to remove these substances, and find safe  
150 substitutes for PFAS chemicals; and  
151

152 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to set drinking water  
153 standards, including for PFAS chemicals, based on sound science, public health protection,  
154 occurrence of the contaminant in drinking water supplies at levels of public health concern, risk  
155 reduction and cost; and~~  
156

157 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls for the federal government to avoid passing  
158 costs onto local ratepayers and to provide ~~financial direct grants~~ and technical assistance to  
159 communities for testing, monitoring, treatment, infrastructure improvements, mapping, public  
160 education, water supply treatment, and pursuit of alternative water supplies if necessary; and  
161

162 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to provide funding  
163 to farms and farmers for PFAS testing and remediation of property, wells, surface water,  
164 livestock and crops, as well as liability protection, related to application of biosolids from  
165 wastewater treatment operations; and  
166

167 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to aggressively  
168 prevent further pollution, contamination and exposure to PFAS through multiple means, including  
169 promoting and funding the development and use of non-toxic fire retardant alternatives, banning  
170 PFAS-containing aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF) and the phasing out the use of PFAS and  
171 other long-chain chemicals in products as soon as possible; and  
172

173 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should thoroughly study and test  
174 current and future alternative PFAS and other long-chain chemicals before they are put into  
175 circulation to make sure they are safe; and  
176

177 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC should update the “Assessing the State Firefighter  
178 Cancer Presumption Laws and Current Cancer Firefighter Cancer Research” that it conducted in  
179 2009 to determine what linkages there are between firefighting and an elevated incidence of  
|180 cancer.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-13

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, the current system used by the Army Corps for determining benefit-cost ratio at the  
43 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not consider the value of federal lands; and  
44

45 **WHEREAS**, dredged materials produced from Army Corps waterway and harbor maintenance  
46 activities may be suitable for beneficial reuse, but often are disposed as waste; and  
47

48 **WHEREAS**, there is a lack of sediment available for the habitat restoration and flood protection  
49 needed along our coasts and waterways, and the restoration of seasonal and tidal wetlands are  
50 considered “engineering with nature” approaches to reductions of local and coastal flooding; and  
51

52 **WHEREAS**, the Army Corps has been directed by Congress through the Water Resources and  
53 Development Act of 2020 to maximize the beneficial reuse of dredged material in an  
54 environmentally acceptable manner, including consideration of the economic and environmental  
55 benefits in determining the federal standard; and  
56

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

97  
98 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal investments in communities must prioritize those  
99 communities that have been left behind and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) who  
100 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 2024-14

2  
3 INCREASE FUNDING FOR BORDER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

4  
5 EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

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

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

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

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

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

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

34  
35 WHEREAS, in 1993, the United States and Mexico entered into the *Agreement Between the*  
36 *Government of the United States of America and the Government of the United Mexican States*  
37 *Concerning the Establishment of a North American Development Bank* which created the North

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<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>



38 American Development Bank (NADB) to certify and fund environmental infrastructure projects  
39 in border-area communities; and

40

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

46

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

51

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

54

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

58

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

62

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

65

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

69

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

74

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

77

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

81  
82 **WHEREAS**, the BWIP program was initially funded at \$100 million per year, but, over the last  
83 20 years, the program has been significantly reduced to ~~\$30 million in FY21, \$32 million in~~  
84 ~~FY22, and \$36.4 million in FY23 and \$35 million in FY24;~~<sup>2</sup> and

85  
86 **WHEREAS**, EPA and the U.S. section of the IWBC identified high-priority wastewater collection  
87 and treatment facilities needed in the border area;<sup>3</sup> ~~officials from EPA Region 6 and 9 identified a~~  
88 ~~multitude of BWIP eligible projects along the southern border totaling over \$300 million;~~ and

89  
90 **WHEREAS**, Mexico has identified multiple priority projects and pledged \$144 million in short-  
91 term capital contributions;<sup>4</sup> ~~totaling hundreds of millions of dollars that would benefit from BWIP~~  
92 ~~funding;~~ and

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

98  
99 **WHEREAS**, the United States, has not paid necessary IBWC operating and maintenance costs  
100 for the last several years, causing the breakdown of existing infrastructure and a backlog of \$150  
101 million in overdue maintenance at just one project site ~~projects;~~<sup>5</sup> and

102  
103 **WHEREAS**, the pollution from transboundary sewage flows were spread even farther north in  
104 the Pacific Ocean by Hurricane Hilary on August 19-20, 2023 because the infrastructure has not  
105 been maintained and new needed facilities have not been built;<sup>6</sup> and

106

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<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/>

107 **WHEREAS**, without federal partnership through the BWIP and state support to address  
108 pollution, cities that are impacted by transboundary sewage and toxic waste flows are left with  
109 limited resources to address a critical pollution and public health issue and limited legal remedies  
110 to address the problem; and  
111

112 **WHEREAS**, Mexico benefits from the bi-national funding program and relies on the NADB to  
113 assist in funding projects on the Mexico side of the border, which have an immediate and long-  
114 term environmental impact along the border in the U.S. due to the upstream, transboundary flows  
115 of the major rivers; and  
116

117 **WHEREAS**, local governments and the public support the State's primary objectives in  
118 complying with environmental laws including the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act,  
119 and their state law analogues, and are supported by substantial public investments at all levels of  
120 government to maintain a healthy and sustainable environment for the future.  
121

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

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-15

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

5  
6 EENR Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

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

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

15  
16 WHEREAS, the Outdoors for All Act would codify the ORLP and establish a dedicated,  
17 mandatory funding source; and

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

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

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

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

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

35  
36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NLC urges Congress ~~stands to prioritize the passage of~~  
37 the Outdoors for All Act, ensuring that outdoor recreation is accessible and inclusive for  
38 everyone.

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NEW EENR RESOLUTION 1

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

**EENR Committee Recommendation: Adopt**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<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>

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

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

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Community and Economic Development  
Federal Advocacy Committee**

**CED**

# *Proposed CED Policy Amendments*

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

Please note:

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

## **Policy:**

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



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

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1 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.

# *Proposed CED Resolutions*

NLC Resolutions are annual statements of position that sunset at the end of the calendar year unless action is taken. The committee must review each of the 2024 resolutions that originated in the CED Committee to determine recommendations for 2025. The committee has the following options:

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

The CED resolutions that were approved for 2024 at City Summit with recommendations for 2025 are:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>CED Committee Recommendation</b>
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-16:</b> In Support of a Federal Agenda for Local Economic Development, Economic Mobility, and Entrepreneurship	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-17:</b> Urging the Department of Housing and Urban Development (Hud) to Enact Safeguards Against Abuses in Contracts for Deeds	Expire, Incorporate into policy
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-18:</b> In Support of a National Agenda for U.S. Housing Investment and Opportunity	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-19:</b> Urging Congress to Enable Housing Vouchers for Homeownership Opportunities and Local Innovation in Attainable Housing	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-20:</b> In Support of Resources for Community Navigators to Assist Local Entrepreneurs in Accessing Credit	Renew

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2024-16**

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

**CED Committee Recommendation:** Renew with edits

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

**WHEREAS**, National League of Cities (NLC) State of the Cities ~~2022-2024~~ Report identifies “Economic and Workforce Development” as ~~the second-most-covered~~ the top policy issue priority identified in 2024~~2~~ state of the city speeches<sup>2</sup>; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<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/> .

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

91

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

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



1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-17

2  
3 ~~URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)~~  
4 ~~TO ENACT SAFEGUARDS AGAINST ABUSES IN CONTRACTS FOR DEEDS~~

5  
6 **CED Committee Recommendation:** Expire, Incorporate into policy  
7

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 **NLC RESOLUTION 2024-18**

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

5  
6 **CED Committee Recommendation: Renew**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

43  
44 **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/>

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

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

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

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

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

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

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2024-19**

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

6 **CED Committee Recommendation: Renew**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

41  
42 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, National League of Cities (NLC) supports  
43 authorization and funding for to allow Housing Choice Voucher program participants to choose  
44 homeownership, providing low-income individuals and families with an opportunity to build  
45 equity and achieve the American dream of homeownership; and  
46

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

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2024-20**

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

**CED Committee Recommendation: Renew**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Human Development  
Federal Advocacy Committee**

**HD**



## *Proposed HD Policy Amendments*

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

Please note:

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

### **Policy:**

- Section 4.02 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

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. and
- 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;  
135 and

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

138 • Require all federal grants that support the construction of affordable housing include  
139 incentives for the provision of childcare facilities.

140

141

## 142 **Section 4.03 Poverty Reduction and Income Support**

143

### 144 **D. Homelessness**

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

152 • Expand the emergency and transitional food and shelter programs, keeping permanent the  
153 recent increase in service age for Child and Adult Food Care Program (CACFP) to age 24;

154 • Expand programs that provide emergency health services;

155 • Expand access to additional mental health services;

156 • Fund social services, especially outreach and counseling services;

157 • Provide transportation, life skills, education, job training, career counseling, job placement  
158 services, access to identification, and connection with financial services;

159 • Expand federal funding for programs such as HOME and CDBG and, where able, allocate  
160 federal funds directly to cities;

161 • Improve access to federal assistance programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition  
162 Assistance Program, etc.;

163 • Focus on and expand programs, services and funding to youth aging out of the foster care  
164 system;

165 • ~~Develop a unique set of~~ Continue funding services and programs to aid and assist homeless  
166 veterans; ~~and~~

167 • Recognize that there are other highly impacted populations and to support communities in  
168 identifying their homelessness needs through their local resources;

169 • Ensure federal funding supports a prevention first, humane approach by addressing root  
170 causes of homelessness and wrap-around services; and

171 • Increase federal funding for housing stabilization and eviction prevention;

172 • In the case homelessness isn't able to be prevented, the federal government should support  
173 permanent supportive housing models, which includes housing and case management  
174 services; and

175 • Create stronger connections with the local school districts' McKinney-Vento liaisons to  
176 ensure that children experiencing homelessness are supported in their educational needs.

177

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

180  
181

## 182 **Section 4.04 Employment**

183  
184

### **B. Job Creation**

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

187

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

193

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

199

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

201

202

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

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

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

215

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

218

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

220 NLC believes that the federal government should take the lead in planning, research, and  
221 development of a universal and comprehensive approach to aging in America that includes  
222 culturally relevant programs that will enable seniors to “age in place” and enjoy their elderly years  
223 in the comfort, safety, dignity and familiarity of their own homes and/or communities. NLC

224 supports seniors in our communities to have affordable opportunities and support to age in a place  
225 of their choice that meets their needs. In support of this effort, NLC urges the federal government  
226 to enact tax policies that take into account costs associated with aging in place, elder care, and  
227 senior homesteading and establish programs that reduce homecare costs, increase the quality of  
228 care, reduce reliance on nursing homes, address mental capacity and mobility, provide  
229 transportation and accessibility services, create a continuum of housing options, support home  
230 repairs and accessibility renovations, ensure access to healthy foods, and increase access to  
231 broadband and internet services to improve healthcare and social networking. Further, the federal  
232 government should prioritize action within the Domains of Livability, identified by AARP and the  
233 World Health Organization:

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

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

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

## 250 251 **B. Social Security**

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

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

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

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

268

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

273  
274

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

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

281

282 The federal government should:

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

295

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

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

300

301

#### 302 **Section 4.08 Health**

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

306

307 NLC believes that the federal government should:

- 308 • Control costs and reduce the rate of growth in health care expenditures and coverage costs;
- 309 • Ensure universal health care coverage;
- 310 • Maintain and improve Medicaid, Medicare, and the State-Children’s Health Insurance  
311 Program (S-CHIP), SNAP, WIC, and promote school health clinics to expand access and  
312 availability of health care;
- 313 • Allow cities to apply directly for federal health care funds when a state does not release or  
314 apply for available funding opportunities;



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

328

329 In addition, NLC urges the federal government to:

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

347

### 348 **B. National Hunger, Nutrition and Health and Wellness Strategy**

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

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Specifically, NLC urges the federal government to:

- Ensure that federal funding is available to local governments and local health departments to play a key role in this work and provide essential services;
- ~~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~~ntegrating 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 2024~~2~~, 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.

406 **H. Substance Abuse**

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

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

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

428  
429 Resources should include:

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

437  
438 **J. Mental Health**

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

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

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

450 services should be accessible and equal to physical health services. These services should also  
451 provide support and stabilization to family systems.

452  
453 The Federal government should:

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

469  
470 **K. Tobacco and Vaping**

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

475  
476 **L. Nutrition**

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

479  
480 The federal government should:

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

- 495 • Provide flexibility for SNAP, including the ability to streamline administration and application  
496 processes with other social service programs and waiving work requirements to meet the  
497 individual needs of residents and ensuring local flexibility to provide access to all residents,  
498 including returning citizens;
- 499 • Streamline the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP) operations to  
500 increase the ability of individuals to pre-register for benefits as soon as possible after a disaster  
501 strikes, support the streamlining of easy-to-administer SNAP waivers that would allow for  
502 automatic replacement of benefits for SNAP households, and expand funding to ensure  
503 application assistance for individuals to receive D-SNAP quickly; and
- 504 • Permanently implement policy improvements for federal nutrition programs that were made in  
505 response to COVID-19 including but not limited to creating the Pandemic Electronic Benefit  
506 Transfer (P-EBT) program and alternative delivery models.

507  
508 **N. Racism**

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

513  
514 The federal government should:

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

531  
532 **P. Violence**

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

- 536  
537 • Continue to direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to monitor, detect  
538 and prevent violence in America;

- 539 • Support the CDC to invest in holistic interventions designed to address the health-related  
540 aspects and implications of violence;
- 541 • Continue to direct the CDC to collect data disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, sexual  
542 orientation, religion, and gender identity and support prevention strategies that are tailored  
543 to impacted communities; and
- 544 • Invest in intergenerational approaches to addressing trauma;
- 545 • Support the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to  
546 continue to invest in early intervention models, including trauma-informed care and  
547 violence interrupter groups, and in studying and addressing the intersection between  
548 community violence/mental health/substance use in local communities; and
- 549 • Increase funding for the CDC in the federal budget to support data and indicators that will  
550 inform local strategy in cities and towns across our country as they address the issue of  
551 violence in their communities.

552  
553

#### 554 **Section 4.09 Immigration and Refugees**

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

559

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

563

564 The federal government should:

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

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

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613

614 **Section 4.10 Arts and Cultural Resources**

615 NLC urges the federal government to:

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

622

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

- 624 • Develop public lands and facilities ~~use of the arts~~ for arts and cultural uses;
- 625 • —Provide employment in cultural services at the local level; and
- 626 • Promote the use and practice of arts and culture as a means of improving individual and  
627 community health and well-being;
- 628 • Promote workforce development opportunities for artists and cultural workers across sectors  
629 and industries;

- 630 • Employ artists and cultural workers as designers and facilitators of community engagement  
631 initiatives;  
632 • Expand the municipal workforce through artist-in-residence-in-government programs; and  
633 • Promote the use of the arts as a stimulus to economic development.

634  
635

#### 636 **Section 4.11 Veterans**

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

639

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

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

667  
668

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

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



675  
676 In order to support communities towards this end, NLC believes that the federal government  
677 should:

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

## *Proposed HD Resolutions*

NLC Resolutions are annual statements of position that sunset at the end of the calendar year unless action is taken. The committee must review each of the 2024 resolutions that originated in the HD Committee to determine recommendations for 2025. The committee has the following options:

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

The HD resolutions that were approved for 2024 at City Summit with recommendations for 2025 are:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>HD Committee Recommendation</b>
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-21:</b> In Support of Action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to Study and Address Violence in America	Expire, Incorporate into Policy
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-22:</b> In Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-23:</b> In Support of Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Increased Investment in Workforce Development Programs	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-24:</b> In Support of a National Holiday Commemorating the Accomplishments and Legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez and Dolores Huerta	Renew with Edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-25:</b> In Support of the Equality Act	Renew with Edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-26:</b> In Support of Mothers in the Workforce	Renew with Edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-27:</b> In Support of Equal Pay for Women	Renew with Edits
<b>NEW HD RESOLUTION 1:</b> Urging Federal Support for Local Governments Assisting Immigrants and Asylum Seekers	Adopt

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-21

2  
3 ~~IN SUPPORT OF ACTION BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND~~  
4 ~~PREVENTION (CDC) TO STUDY AND ADDRESS VIOLENCE IN AMERICA~~

5  
6 **HD Committee Recommendation:** Expire, Incorporate into Policy

7  
8 ~~WHEREAS, in 2020, approximately 71,000 persons died of violence-related injuries in the~~  
9 ~~United States of which the majority (58.4%) were suicides, followed by homicides (31.3%),~~  
10 ~~deaths of undetermined intent (8.2%), legal intervention deaths (1.3%) (i.e., deaths caused by~~  
11 ~~law enforcement and other persons with legal authority to use deadly force acting in the line of~~  
12 ~~duty, excluding legal executions), and unintentional firearm deaths (<1.0%)<sup>2</sup>; and~~

13  
14 ~~WHEREAS, over the last 10 years, domestic terrorism-related investigations have grown by~~  
15 ~~357%<sup>3</sup>; and~~

16  
17 ~~WHEREAS, over half of women and almost 1 in 3 men have experienced sexual violence~~  
18 ~~involving physical contact in their lifetimes<sup>4</sup>; and~~

19  
20 ~~WHEREAS, approximately 1 in 5 women and nearly 1 in 13 men have experienced contact~~  
21 ~~sexual violence, physical violence, and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime~~  
22 ~~and reported some form of intimate partner violence (IPV) related impact, and over 61 million~~  
23 ~~women and 53 million men have experienced psychological aggression by an intimate partner in~~  
24 ~~their lifetime; and~~

25  
26 ~~WHEREAS, family and domestic violence affects an estimated 10 million people every year~~  
27 ~~and 10% of children is exposed to domestic violence and intimate partner violence each year;~~  
28 ~~and~~

29  
30 ~~WHEREAS, studies show that LGBTQ+ people, especially youth, are at a higher risk of~~  
31 ~~attempting suicide and 17 percent of gay and lesbian youth, 9 percent of bisexual youth, and 21~~  
32 ~~percent of transgender youth have been threatened with a weapon on school property; and~~

33  
34 ~~WHEREAS, youth violence is an adverse childhood experience (ACE) and can have a long-~~  
35 ~~term impact on health and well-being. 1 in 5 high school students reported being bullied on~~  
36 ~~school property in the past year and homicide is the third leading cause of death for young~~  
37 ~~people ages 10-24. Each day, approximately 12 young people are victims of homicide and almost~~  
38 ~~1,400 are treated in emergency departments for nonfatal assault-related injuries<sup>5</sup>; and~~

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<sup>2</sup> ~~<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/ss/ss7205a1.htm>~~

<sup>3</sup> ~~<https://www.gao.gov/blog/rising-threat-domestic-terrorism-u.s.-and-federal-efforts-combat-it>~~

<sup>4</sup> ~~<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/sexualviolence/fastfact.html#:~:text=Sexual%20violence%20is%20commo n.&text=One%20in%204%20women%20and.harassment%20in%20a%20public%20place>~~

<sup>5</sup> ~~<https://youth.gov/youth-topics/violence-prevention/federal-data>~~

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

42  
43 ~~NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED~~ that the National League of Cities is declaring  
44 violent crimes a public health crisis and calls upon the United States Congress to direct the  
45 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), whose primary responsibilities are to  
46 monitor public health, detect and investigate health problems, foster safe and healthy  
47 environments, and implement prevention strategies, to monitor, detect, and prevent violence in  
48 America; and-

49 -  
50 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that the CDC develop a holistic intervention designed to  
51 address the health-related aspects and implications of violence; and-

52  
53 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that the CDC continue collecting data disaggregated by race,  
54 ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, religion, and gender identity and support prevention strategies  
55 that are tailored to impacted communities; and-

56  
57 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services  
58 Administration (SAMHSA) continue to invest in early intervention models, including trauma-  
59 informed care and violence interrupter groups, and in studying and addressing the intersection  
60 between community violence/mental health/substance use in local communities; and

61 -  
62 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that Congress and the President increase funding for the  
63 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the federal budget to support data and indicators  
64 that will inform local strategy in cities and towns across our country as they address the issue of  
65 violence in their communities.-

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2024-22**

**IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM**

**HD Committee Recommendation: Renew**

**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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

182



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

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

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

1 **NLC RESOLUTION 2024-23**

2  
3 **IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND**  
4 **OPPORTUNITY ACT AND INCREASED INVESTMENT IN WORKFORCE**  
5 **DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

6  
7 **HD Committee Recommendation: Renew**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

45 **WHEREAS**, analysis of city expenditures<sup>6</sup> at the two-year anniversary of the American Rescue  
46 Plan Act found that larger cities invested more than \$637.3 million in workforce development  
47 programs through that program alone; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.nlc.org/resource/unlocking-possibilities-how-cities-are-using-arpas-state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds-after-two-years/>

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2024-24**

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

**HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2024-25**

**IN SUPPORT OF THE EQUALITY ACT**

**HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, there are 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 ~~S. 5/H.R. 15~~, The Equality Act; and provide full protections for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals regardless of where they live in the United States.

NLC RESOLUTION 2024-26

IN SUPPORT OF MOTHERS IN THE WORKFORCE

HD Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s 2018 American Community Survey, working mothers make up a significant portion of the labor force, accounting for nearly one-third of all employed women; 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 Center for American Progress, 64 percent of mothers are the primary breadwinners or co-breadwinners in their households and Women of color, and Black women in particular, are especially likely to play this role for their families. More than 8 in 10—84.4 percent—of Black mothers are breadwinners or co-breadwinners, as are 6 in 10—60.3 percent—of Latinx mothers; 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. Chamber of Commerce, both men and women suffered a 3% drop in labor force participation at the height of the pandemic. But more than three years later, men have returned to work at a higher rate than women. Today, women’s labor force participation is still a full percentage point lower than it was pre-pandemic, meaning an estimated one million women are missing from the labor force; 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. mothers in the prime of their working lives have paid an especially high price, with those ages 25 to 54 experiencing a 5.7 percentage point decline in employment since the COVID-19 pandemic began, compared to a 3.1 percentage point decline for fathers in the same age group; and

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

47 WHEREAS, local governments are leveraging returnships, full-time, paid internships designed  
48 to help professionals who have been out of the workforce for a year or more return to work;  
49

50 **WHEREAS**, the unprecedented burdens of balancing child care and -work have strained the  
51 mental and emotional health of mothers; and  
52

53 **WHEREAS**, except for the United States, OECD countries offer a minimum of 6 weeks paid  
54 maternity leave and the average time off (regardless of pay equivalent) in approximately 18  
55 weeks; and  
56

57 **WHEREAS**, 1 in 3 women-owned business is owned by a mother, which translates to near 4.7  
58 million businesses; and  
59

60 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the National League of Cities calls on Congress to  
61 recognize, empower, and support mothers who wish to return to the workforce in order to  
62 support local economic recovery including support for a minimum of 12 weeks paid maternity  
63 leave, the Child Care for Working Families Act (~~S. 1354/H.R. 2976~~) and the Black Maternal  
64 Health Momnibus Act (~~S. 1606/H.R. 3305~~)-



1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-27

2  
3 IN SUPPORT OF EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN

4  
5 HD Committee Recommendation: Renew

6  
7 WHEREAS, in 2024, women of all ethnicities who are working full-time, year-round are paid  
8 an average of 82-84 percent of what a man is paid; and

9  
10 WHEREAS, the disparities are even greater for Black, Native American, and Hispanic women,  
11 who are paid 63-9 percent, 60-59 percent, and 55-8 percent of white men’s wages, respectively;  
12 and

13  
14 WHEREAS, while Asian American women make 87-0 percent of what white men make, the gap  
15 for Asian women varies significantly depending on subpopulation, with some Asian women – for  
16 example, Cambodian and Vietnamese women – earning among the lowest wages; and

17  
18 WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Labor, the pandemic stalled gains made  
19 toward closing the pay gap, and layoffs and a lack of child care have forced many women out of  
20 the workforce entirely; and

21  
22 WHEREAS, while the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act was signed into law in 2009, which amends  
23 Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and states that the 180-day statute of limitations for  
24 filing an equal-pay lawsuit regarding pay discrimination resets with each new paycheck affected  
25 by that discriminatory action, we must go farther.

26  
27 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the National League of Cities calls on Congress to  
28 pass the Paycheck Fairness Act (~~S. 728/H.R. 17~~), which works to address ending pay  
29 discrimination.

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**NEW HD RESOLUTION 1**

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

**HD Committee Recommendation: Adopt**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Transportation and Infrastructure  
Services  
Federal Advocacy Committee**

**TIS**

# *Proposed TIS Policy Amendments*

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

Please note:

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

## **Policy:**

- Section 5.05 Rail
  - D. Rail Safety

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 require rail operators to introduce technology solutions  
12 where train length and/or frequency impair the safety, mobility and/or pedestrian connectivity of  
13 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 American deaths and serious injuries by rail have plateaued despite efforts by FRA and railroad  
49 operators. NLC calls on FRA and the Surface Transportation Board to continue to regulate safety  
50 using existing structures and legal options to follow through on modern safety practices and  
51 using policy tools, including incentives and penalties.

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

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

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

# *Proposed TIS Resolutions*

NLC Resolutions are annual statements of position that sunset at the end of the calendar year unless action is taken. The committee must review each of the 2024 resolutions that originated in the TIS Committee to determine recommendations for 2025. The committee has the following options:

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

The TIS resolutions that were approved for 2024 at City Summit with recommendations for 2025 are:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>TIS Committee Recommendation</b>
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-28:</b> Cities, Towns, and Villages Call on Congress to Partner with Local Governments on Infrastructure Rebuilding for National Results	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-29:</b> Local Leaders Call on Congress to Pass the Railway Safety Act (S.576/H.R.1674) to Support America's First Responders and Keep Trains Moving Safely in Communities	Renew with edits



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NLC RESOLUTION 2024-28

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

~~**CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES CALL ON CONGRESS TO PARTNER WITH  
LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON INFRASTRUCTURE REBUILDING FOR NATIONAL  
RESULTS**~~

**TIS Committee Recommendation:** Renew with edits

**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

47 the federal infrastructure process from competition to completion of projects that will serve the  
48 transportation system as a whole; and

49  
50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on our state and regional partners – such as  
51 state departments of transportation, rural and metropolitan planning organizations, transit, port  
52 and airport authorities – for greater commitments to infrastructure collaboration with cities,  
53 towns, and villages on the rebuilding and reimagining necessary to complete thousands of  
54 projects and to providing sustainable funding structures; and

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

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

67  
68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments support effective oversight of major  
69 federal programs by Congress and independent experts, like the National Transportation Safety  
70 Board, to meet the expectations of American taxpayers who expect a safe, consistent and  
71 competitive infrastructure network; and

72  
73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports continuing to move toward an outcome-  
74 based transportation structure where the goals of the federal programs align with each region’s  
75 goals for economic development, sustainability, safety, innovation, equity, and regional  
76 connectivity which serve America’s residents and economic vitality.

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

81 -  
82 ~~**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) has been diligently rolling out~~  
83 ~~new IIJA transportation programs—including several that cities can directly access and also~~  
84 ~~programs that are dedicated to local issues like the Safe Street and Roads for All program; and~~

85 -  
86 ~~**WHEREAS**, Congress has provided USDOT \$25 million for a new local technical assistance~~  
87 ~~Thriving Communities program to ensure that all communities can access the historic~~  
88 ~~infrastructure investment—especially disadvantaged communities adversely or~~  
89 ~~disproportionately affected by environmental, climate, and human health policy outcomes; and~~

90 -  
91 ~~**WHEREAS**, most of the nation’s 19,000 local governments represent small to mid-sized~~  
92 ~~communities while our largest cities rival the size of some states, yet all communities value the~~

93 opportunity for a direct, productive relationship with the federal government on infrastructure  
94 while also building regional partnerships with our metropolitan and rural planning organizations,  
95 transportation service providers including transit, aviation, and shared micromobility, and our  
96 state partners; and—

97 -

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

102 -

103 **WHEREAS**, local governmental agencies own 74.8% of the nation’s highway lane mileage<sup>1</sup> and  
104 50% of the nation’s 617,000 bridges while 845 urban and 1,684 rural transit providers are  
105 directly owned by local governments and make up 46% of the nation’s transit providers;<sup>2</sup> and—

106 -

107 **WHEREAS**, America’s \$2.5 trillion infrastructure funding gap<sup>3</sup> will be substantially reduced by  
108 the combined federal, state and local efforts underway from the IIJA, but unfortunately, the  
109 estimated needs for preservation of infrastructure assets and modernization still outpace available  
110 funds, especially with recent inflation challenges; and—

111 -

112 **WHEREAS**, as the level of government closest to America’s communities, local governments  
113 continue to be responsive to obstinate infrastructure challenges as well as prioritizing emerging  
114 community needs that deserve investment attention, balancing the tools of prioritization while  
115 being responsive and nimble to welcome innovative opportunities; and—

116 -

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

123 -

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

128 -

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

133 -

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

138 -

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

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

152 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that NLC recommends that the federal infrastructure processes  
153 be continuously improved so that cities, towns, and villages are empowered to advance bold  
154 plans and accept federal transportation investments with clear expectations; and—  
155 -

156 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that local city leaders call for federal and state government to  
157 review their community engagement processes for improvements, including partnerships with  
158 community leaders and community based organizations, to ensure a greater and more equitable  
159 role for all communities in transportation planning; and—  
160 -

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

166 ~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~ that local governments support the active participation and  
167 role of oversight bodies, like the Surface Transportation Board, which can improve the safety  
168 and competitiveness of the nation’s core transportation networks and must be respected; and—  
169 -

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

NLC RESOLUTION 2024-29

**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**  
~~**LOCAL LEADERS CALL ON CONGRESS TO PASS THE RAILWAY SAFETY ACT (S.576/H.R.1674) TO SUPPORT AMERICA'S FIRST RESPONDERS AND KEEP TRAINS MOVING SAFELY IN COMMUNITIES**~~

**TIS Committee Recommendation:** Renew with edits

WHEREAS, freight rail policy is primarily overseen by Congress, yet rail safety is 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;

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

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

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

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

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

1  
2 ~~WHEREAS, three times every day America’s local first responders are called on to be the first~~  
3 ~~line of defense for local communities when a train leaves its tracks with potentially devastating~~  
4 ~~consequences, particularly when trains are carrying hazardous materials;~~

5  
6 ~~WHEREAS, the local responders who responded to the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio,~~  
7 ~~in February of 2023, were not able to confirm the contents of the derailed train cars due to~~  
8 ~~failures in the emergency communication chain between railroads, state emergency response,~~  
9 ~~and local first responders leaving them unnecessarily exposed to hazardous chemicals and left~~  
10 ~~them unable to know how to best protect their communities health and safety;~~

11  
12 ~~WHEREAS, more than 1,100 trains derail across the U.S. annually and many communities have~~  
13 ~~experienced multiple concerning derailments and deaths as shown clearly in NLC’s Rail Safety~~  
14 ~~Map;~~

15  
16 ~~WHEREAS, local governments employ, train and prepare critical first responders nationally~~  
17 ~~from limited local budgets for all types of emergency response including hazardous material~~  
18 ~~spills from train derailments but also blocked crossing incidents in addition to all the essential~~  
19 ~~community public safety tasks they must perform;—~~

20  
21 ~~WHEREAS, the ongoing costs to respond to the East Palestine derailment have surpassed \$1.1~~  
22 ~~billion, but even low-speed train derailments in rail yards create safety issues with over 300~~  
23 ~~deaths and injuries reported and over a billion dollars in damages reported in the last decade;~~

24  
25 ~~WHEREAS, Congress remains responsible for rail interstate commerce safety and failure to~~  
26 ~~update and improve rail safety practices and penalties is becoming an unnecessary burden on~~  
27 ~~local governments who are bearing the costs of emergency response for derailments but also~~  
28 ~~economic losses from extensive blocked crossings;~~

29  
30 ~~WHEREAS, America’s local governments recognize that rail is an essential public~~  
31 ~~infrastructure that can be a safe method to transport sensitive materials when proper maintenance~~  
32 ~~is consistently prioritized due to financial incentives and that railroads and their shareholders~~  
33 ~~benefit financially when trains stay on their tracks and continue operating safely.~~

34  
35 ~~**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED,** that America’s local governments call on~~  
36 ~~Congress to pass the bipartisan *Railway Safety Act of 2023 (S.576/H.R.1674)* and address the~~  
37 ~~impact of train derailments on the lives of America’s local first responders, the unnecessary costs~~  
38 ~~being passed along to local governments of all sizes, and the safety of communities in their~~  
39 ~~districts;~~

40  
41 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that Congress should enable the Federal Railroad~~  
42 ~~Administration to fulfill the rail safety recommendations provided by the experts from the~~  
43 ~~National Transportation Safety Board in response to the hazardous material spills that occurred~~  
44 ~~in East Palestine, OH, but also previous train derailments recommendations where hazardous~~  
45 ~~materials were involved such as Paulsboro, NJ, and Maryville, TN, among others;~~

47 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Congress must reauthorize the National Transportation~~  
48 ~~Safety Board on behalf of the American people to continuously respond to transportation safety~~  
49 ~~emergencies, review the data and science behind transportation deaths and incidents objectively,~~  
50 ~~and make appropriate specific recommendations;~~

51  
52 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Congress should fund the National Transportation Safety~~  
53 ~~Board recommendations included within each Presidential transportation budget request as a~~  
54 ~~matter of practice to continue to reduce the cost burden of transportation deaths on communities~~  
55 ~~and the nation by making a safer transportation system;~~

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



*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

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

**PSCP**

# *Proposed PSCP Policy Amendments*

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

Please note:

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

## **Policy:**

- Section 6.04 Municipal Fire Policy
  - D. Standard Setting

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.

## *Proposed PSCP Resolutions*

NLC Resolutions are annual statements of position that sunset at the end of the calendar year unless action is taken. The committee must review each of the 2024 resolutions that originated in the [Committee Abbr.] Committee to determine recommendations for 2025. The committee has the following options:

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

The PSCP resolutions that were approved for 2024 at City Summit with recommendations for 2025 are:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>PSCP Committee Recommendation</b>
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-30:</b> In Support of Federal Efforts to Recruit and Retain a Diverse Public Safety Workforce	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-31:</b> Urging the Federal Government to Provide Direct Funding and Assistance to Cities, Towns, And Villages to Support Violence Prevention Programs	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-32:</b> On Transforming the Nation’s 9-1-1 System for Enhanced Crisis Response and Support Services	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-33:</b> On Enhancing Public Safety Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Operations Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) And Multiple UAS Deployment	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-34:</b> Urging Federal Investment in Safe and Effective Counter UAS Technologies	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-35:</b> Urging the Federal Government to Support Local Government Efforts to Prevent and Respond to Mass Shootings	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-36:</b> Support of Comprehensive Substance Use Disorder Solutions, Additional Resources for Law Enforcement, And Combating Fentanyl and Xylazine Trafficking	Renew
<b>NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 1:</b> Urging Congress to Pass Legislation Providing	Adopt

## *Proposed PSCP Resolutions*

Increased Support to Local Governments for Wildfire Prevention, Response, And Recovery Efforts	
<b>NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 2:</b> Urging Congress to Pass Legislation to Reform the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program	Adopt

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2024-30**

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

**PSCP Committee Recommendation: Renew**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Provide expertise, technical and financial support to local governments and public safety training facilities to recruit, train and retain a more racially and gender diverse public safety workforce.
- Provide additional funding for local governments to hire recruiters to help recruit a diverse municipal public safety workforce.
- Establish a national ad campaign to help recruit more women and minorities in the public safety workforce.
- Provide technical assistance to local governments to improve mental health and wellness programs for their public safety employees.
- Increase funding for the COPS hiring grants and allow the funding to be used for hiring co-responders and crisis intervention teams.
- Enact the Homes for Every Local Protector, Educator, and Responder (HELPER) Act, aimed at offering advantageous mortgage terms and conditions to eligible first

48 responders, encompassing law enforcement officers, firefighters, paramedics, and  
49 emergency medical technicians (EMTs). This legislation aims to enhance the support  
50 local governments provide to their first responders and incentivize qualified individuals  
51 to purchase affordable housing and pursue a career in public safety.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-31

2  
3 **URGING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE DIRECT FUNDING AND**  
4 **ASSISTANCE TO CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES TO SUPPORT VIOLENCE**  
5 **PREVENTION PROGRAMS**

6  
7 **PSCP Committee Recommendation: Renew**

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, the rise in violent crime, including gun violence, in communities across the country  
10 is putting a considerable strain on local government resources; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, local governments have leveraged federal funding through the American Rescue  
13 Plan Act, and other federal grant programs, but the needs of local governments when addressing  
14 violent crime are not met by these funds; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, the residents in cities, towns, and villages believe local elected officials have the  
17 primary responsibility to deal with the violence in their communities; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, local leaders are looking at recruiting, hiring, training, and retaining a municipal  
20 public safety workforce that is bigger than just law enforcement officers, firefighters, and  
21 emergency medical services to address the rise in violent crime; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, local leaders recognize the importance of coordinated mental health services in  
24 violence prevention, taking on greater responsibility in providing behavioral health services to all  
25 their residents experiencing economic, social, mental health, and substance abuse crises, but are  
26 restricted by the lack of sufficient funds made available to cities, towns, and villages for this  
27 purpose; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, municipal governments have little or no control over the adjudication of those  
30 committing acts of violence and rely on federal, state, and county criminal courts to ensure that  
31 they are adequately charged and processed. However, these courts are experiencing  
32 unprecedented backlogs that are causing those who are committing acts of violence to be  
33 processed through the system slowly and at times released to the community; and

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, local government officials cannot rely solely on policing data to get a  
36 comprehensive picture of what factors are causing the rise in violence in their communities; and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, the partisan and divisive national political debate over the causes of violence in  
39 cities is making it harder for local officials to effectively communicate to their residents on how  
40 they are addressing the violence; and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, relaxed state and federal gun laws are increasing the illegal trafficking of guns to  
43 criminals in cities.

44  
45 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the National League of Cities (NLC) urges  
46 Congress to ensure local governments can directly apply for and receive federal funding to help  
47 recruit, hire, train and retain a more racially and gender diverse violence prevention workforce



48 that includes:

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

57  
58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC urges the federal government to provide technical  
59 assistance to local governments to establish:

- 60 • co-responder programs
- 61 • community violence interventions including violence interruption programs
- 62 • crises intervention teams
- 63 • alternative or unarmed responder programs
- 64 • credible messenger/mentor programs

65  
66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC urges Congress to provide additional funding to address  
67 the backlog of criminal cases in the federal, state, and county courts to ensure those committing  
68 acts of violence are not released back to the communities before they are fully adjudicated for  
69 their crimes; and

70  
71 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC urges Congress to provide technical assistance to local  
72 governments to develop new analytical models that don't rely solely on law enforcement data to  
73 identify and address the root causes of violence in their communities.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2024-32**

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

**PCP Committee Recommendation:** Renew with edits

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

76  
77 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC calls on Congress to pass the 9-1-1 Supporting Accurate  
78 Views of Emergency Services (SAVES) Act that would require the Office of Management and  
79 Budget to categorize public safety telecommunicators as a protective service occupation under  
80 the Standard Occupational Classification System.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2024-33**

**ON ENHANCING PUBLIC SAFETY UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS)  
OPERATIONS BEYOND VISUAL LINE OF SIGHT (BVLOS) AND MULTIPLE UAS  
DEPLOYMENT**

**PSCP Committee Recommendation: Renew**

**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

47  
48 **WHEREAS**, the deployment of multiple UAS during emergency incidents enables local  
49 governments to gather diverse streams of information, assess evolving situations from multiple  
50 perspectives, and facilitate seamless communication among response teams; and

51  
52 **WHEREAS**, the use of UAS by public safety agencies must prioritize the protection of the  
53 privacy rights of local residents and businesses, ensuring that surveillance and data collection  
54 activities are conducted in compliance with applicable laws and regulations; and

55  
56 **WHEREAS**, transparency requirements regarding the usage of UAS are essential to maintain  
57 the public's trust and confidence, and to provide a clear understanding of how UAS are utilized  
58 for public safety purposes; and

59  
60 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) has a unique role in ensuring law  
61 enforcement and public safety agencies in adhering to legal and ethical standards, including  
62 privacy protections and transparency.

63  
64 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is  
65 urged to take the following actions to enhance public safety UAS operations:

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

90  
91 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Department of Justice (DOJ) is urged to take the  
92 following actions for privacy protections and transparency of public safety UAS operations:

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- In collaboration with local governments, the DOJ should develop standard guidelines local governments can implement to ensure their public safety UAS operations respect residents' privacy rights.
  - 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 2024-34**

4 **URGING FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN SAFE AND EFFECTIVE COUNTER UAS**  
5 **TECHNOLOGIES**

6 **PSCP Committee Recommendation: Renew**  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the increasing prevalence of unmanned/uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS or  
9 drones) has led to local safety and security concerns, including potential misuse by criminal  
10 organizations and terrorists; and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, the irresponsible operation of drones and their potential use for illegal activities  
13 such as drug smuggling, contraband delivery, and industrial espionage pose serious threats to  
14 public safety, security, and critical infrastructure; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has issued warnings about the rising risk  
17 of domestic drone attacks targeting critical infrastructure, landmarks, and mass gatherings; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, local governments play a pivotal role in ensuring public safety and protecting their  
20 communities from emerging threats; and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, the development of counter-UAS, including both drone detection and mitigation  
23 technologies, is crucial to addressing these evolving security challenges; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, any counter-UAS solutions must adhere to certain criteria to ensure effectiveness,  
26 safety, and compatibility with existing communication systems; and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, it is essential to balance the deployment of counter-UAS technologies with the  
29 protection of public safety communication systems, cellular services, and the prevention of  
30 collateral damage; and  
31

32 **WHEREAS**, the ability to deploy counter-UAS technologies swiftly and at an affordable cost is  
33 of utmost importance to local governments; and  
34

35 **WHEREAS**, the establishment of flight advisories and limitations to prevent UAS systems from  
36 entering restricted, sensitive or populated areas is a valuable tool for maintaining security.  
37

38 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the National League of Cities (NLC)  
39 acknowledges the serious incidents involving UAS in unlawful activities such as drug trafficking  
40 and the potential for domestic drone attacks on critical infrastructure facilities, landmarks, and  
41 mass gatherings, and we urge the Federal Government to invest in the research, development,  
42 and deployment of counter-UAS technologies that meet the following criteria:

- 43 • **Non-interference:** Counter UAS technologies must not interfere with or jam public safety  
44 communications systems, ensuring that emergency responders can effectively  
45 communicate during critical situations and local security and technology systems are not  
46 interrupted.
- 47 • **Cellular Services:** The development of counter-UAS solutions should not disrupt cellular

48 services, thereby preserving the ability of residents to use their cellular devices to call for  
49 help.

- 50 • Mitigation of Damage: Counter-UAS technologies should be designed to limit potential  
51 damage from errant projectiles or falling drones to ensure the safety of bystanders and  
52 property.
- 53 • Rapid Deployment: The developed technologies should be quickly and easily deployed  
54 either by local governments or at their request to address emerging threats promptly.
- 55 • Affordability: The federal government should prioritize the affordability of counter-UAS  
56 technologies, enabling local governments with varying resources to access and  
57 implement these solutions.
- 58 • Enforce Limitations: Counter drone solutions must be effective and reliable to enforce  
59 strict boundaries for prevent UAS systems from entering restricted or sensitive areas but  
60 also allowing approved operators to continue.

61  
62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** NLC calls upon the federal government to collaborate with  
63 industry experts, law enforcement agencies, technology developers, and local governments to  
64 ensure the timely development and implementation of effective, safe, and responsible counter-  
65 UAS technologies.



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**NLC RESOLUTION 2024-35**

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

**PSCP Committee Recommendation: Renew**

**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

- 48 emergency response plans to mitigate the risk and impact of mass shootings.  
49 • Provide assistance to local governments in their endeavors to enhance victim and  
50 survivor support, conduct research, gather data, and launch public awareness and  
51 education campaigns.

52  
53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC urges Congress to:

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

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2024-36**

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

**PSCP Committee Recommendation: Renew**

**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

- 48 essential services; and  
49 • Maintenance of flexibility within funding mechanisms to empower cities, towns, and  
50 villages to address a wide range of substances impacting their communities according to  
51 their unique needs.

52  
53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities calls on Congress to provide  
54 federal, state, and local law enforcement with the additional resources and technical assistance  
55 needed to address the substance addiction crisis in America’s cities, towns, and villages; and  
56

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

60  
61 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** NLC supports appropriately scheduling Xylazine under the  
62 Controlled Substances Act to aid law enforcement in keeping this dangerous substance off the  
63 streets.

64  
65 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC will continue to collaborate with federal, state, and  
66 local stakeholders to comprehensively address substance use disorder, prioritize the well-being  
67 of our residents, and promote healthier, more vibrant communities.

68  
69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports legislation that would restart benefits for  
70 Medicaid-eligible incarcerated individuals 30 days prior to their release, with the following  
71 objectives:

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

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NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 1

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

**PSCP Committee Recommendation: Adopt**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, NLC recognizes the importance of critical energy infrastructure in preventing wildfires and urges the federal government to collaborate with local stakeholders and electric**

48 utility providers to enhance energy infrastructure resilience, reduce wildfire risks, and support a  
49 sustainable, clean energy grid.

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**NEW PSCP RESOLUTION 2**

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

**PSCP Committee Recommendation: Adopt**

**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**



## *Proposed ITC Policy Amendments*

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

Please note:

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

### **Policy:**

- Section 7.01 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
    - 2. Franchise Granting Administration (for municipalities who have local franchises)
    - 4. Rate Regulation, Rate Structure, and Service Options
    - 5. Channel Control and Placement
    - 6. Public Access Channels
  - E. Broadcasting
    - 4. Fairness Doctrine
  - F. Municipal Liability Exposure
    - 3. Information Technology Vendor Accountability
  - G. Satellite Services
- Section 7.02 Public Safety
  - A. Spectrum Allocation
  - 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
  - D. Privacy
    - 1. Privacy and Consumer Protection
  - E. Network Neutrality
- Section 7.04 Emerging Technologies

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.

44  
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.

## 90 **B. Municipal Broadband**

91

92 NLC advocates for all levels of government (local, state, and federal) to facilitate the deployment  
93 of broadband networks and services through policies and regulations that favor government and  
94 private sector investments to further encourage deployment.

96 NLC supports federal proposals that preempt state barriers and preserve the authority of local  
97 governments to act in the interest of their citizens by offering internet access through  
98 community/municipal broadband initiatives.

99 1. *Municipal Broadband Infrastructure*

100 Municipalities must not be prevented from installing and operating municipally owned  
101 wireline/fiber or wireless communications systems, regardless of whether the intended use is  
102 governmental and/or private. NLC supports federal policies that facilitate the development of  
103 multiple, competitive wireline communications providers and that protect the use of spectrum for  
104 public Wi-Fi networks.

106 2. *Institutional Networks and Other Government-Use Networks*

107 Communications policies on the national levels should encourage and support municipalities in  
108 the development and operation of Institutional Networks (“I-Nets”) or other networks used for  
109 governmental services such as transportation and utilities management and public safety. These  
110 networks are an integral part of the local communications infrastructure, providing valuable  
111 alternative video, voice, and data services to local governments, schools, hospitals, other public  
112 institutions, and the public. Furthermore, they can serve as a critical gateway to other  
113 communications networks. The creation of innovative services on I-Nets can be a catalyst for the  
114 broader deployment of advanced communications services within the community.

116 **A.C. *Land Use and Zoning Wireless Communications Providers***

117 1. *General*

118 The Federal Government must not preempt or restrict zoning authority and other local land use  
119 laws or requirements applied in a non-discriminatory and timely manner that regulate the location,  
120 placement, size, appearance, screening or siting of transmission and receiving facilities and any  
121 other communications facilities such as satellite dishes, radio towers, broadcast facilities,  
122 microwave facilities, equipment housing, small wireless facilities, and similar facilities. *(See*  
123 *related policy under the Community and Economic Development Chapter, Section 3.07 (A) Land*  
124 *Use.)*

126 2. *Interference with Public Safety Communications*

127 Local governments must have the authority under federal law to enforce zero-tolerance standards  
128 for interference with public safety communications. *(See additional related policy in Section 7.03*  
129 *(D) Standards.)*

131 **B. *6. Communications Infrastructure Siting***

132 Municipalities process and deploy the vast majority of wireless broadband infrastructure projects  
133 in a timely manner, respecting not only the needs of providers, but also the needs of the  
134 communities they serve. Local governments have the right and obligation to ensure wireless siting  
135 requests comply with current health, safety, building, engineering, and electrical requirements, as  
136 well as comply with tower fall zones and set-back ordinances.

138 NLC opposes efforts by the Federal Communications Commission to preempt local authority over  
139 wireless ~~infrastructure, and~~infrastructure and supports legislative and judicial remedies to this  
140 preemption.

141  
142 **C.A. Rights of Way Management**

143 ~~Public rights of way are properties owned by the citizens of a municipality that are managed by~~  
144 ~~local governments for the benefit of those citizens. Proper management is essential for the~~  
145 ~~transportation of people, goods and services and for utilities including power, clean water,~~  
146 ~~stormwater, sanitary sewer and communications. Municipal governments engage in a variety of~~  
147 ~~activities related to rights of way to protect the public safety and welfare, to minimize service~~  
148 ~~disruptions to the public, to protect public investments in rights of way, to assure the proper~~  
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150 ~~of this public asset. Underlying these municipal roles and control is the fact that the use of~~  
151 ~~publicly owned rights of way is a privilege, not a right. Use of municipal rights of way is not an~~  
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153 ~~and ethically obligated to control and charge for the use of rights of way. Moreover, the federal~~  
154 ~~government must not mandate to local governments that the various users of rights of way be~~  
155 ~~treated in precisely the same fashion, given that these industries place dissimilar demands and risks~~  
156 ~~on the rights of way.~~

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159 ~~rights of way, may conduct a number of activities to achieve their management goals, including,~~  
160 ~~but not limited to, the granting of franchises and licenses, the promulgation of construction,~~  
161 ~~restoration and maintenance standards, the levying of taxes, the charging of fees, the levying of~~  
162 ~~rental charges and the issuance of permits. The federal government should take no actions which~~  
163 ~~restrict the authority of municipalities in these areas.~~

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165 ~~providers, and as services are bundled together or separated (segmented) in different ways, cities~~  
166 ~~need the ability to adjust their regulations to the new provider environment. The federal~~  
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175 ~~compensation for the use of public rights of way. There should be no federal limitation on the~~  
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178 ~~affiliates, or multi-channel video programming distributors using public property or public rights-~~  
179 ~~of ways. Moreover, franchising authorities should be able to assess a franchise fee on all~~  
180 ~~operations of the service provider, or any other provider of cable or any other communications~~  
181 ~~system capacity, as any such use constitutes a valuable right for which a city should receive fair~~  
182 ~~compensation.~~

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186 authority:

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- 193 ● ~~Complying with municipality requirements regarding excavation methods;~~
- 194 ● ~~Complying with municipality requirements regarding maintenance of traffic, pedestrian, or~~  
195 ~~bicycle infrastructure;~~
- 196 ● ~~Complying with municipality requirements regarding aesthetics and undergrounding;~~
- 197 ● ~~Participating in the costs of street reconstruction;~~
- 198 ● ~~Coordinating with other providers and utilities to minimize rights-of-way disruption;~~
- 199 ● ~~Qualification requirements for contractors and subcontractors;~~
- 200 ● ~~Demonstrating ability to guarantee the quality of restoration work as using the same surface~~  
201 ~~material or restoring landscaping to previous condition;~~
- 202 ● ~~Submitting as-built documentation and other information for entry into GIS systems;~~
- 203 ● ~~Provisions for abandonment of equipment~~
- 204 ● ~~Complying with regulations specifying the frequency of when right-of-way can be excavated,~~  
205 ~~including dig-once policies; or~~
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214 permits imposed by a local government. In the context of advanced telecommunications  
215 deployment it may be used for the purposes of project planning and coordination, providing time  
216 to develop appropriate regulations to implement new state and federal law and address new  
217 technology, and to address significant public safety and welfare issues.

#### 218 **D.A. Municipal Broadband**

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220 of broadband networks and services through policies and regulations that favor government and  
221 private sector investments to further encourage deployment.  
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225 governments to act in the interest of their citizens by offering internet access through  
226 community/municipal broadband initiatives.

227 *1. Municipal Broadband Infrastructure*

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232 ~~public Wi-Fi networks.~~

233  
234 *2.1. Institutional Networks and Other Government Use Networks*

235 ~~Communications policies on the national levels should encourage and support municipalities in~~  
236 ~~the development and operation of Institutional Networks (“I-Nets”) or other networks used for~~  
237 ~~governmental services such as transportation and utilities management and public safety. These~~  
238 ~~networks are an integral part of the local communications infrastructure, providing valuable~~  
239 ~~alternative video, voice, and data services to local governments, schools, hospitals, other public~~  
240 ~~institutions, and the public. Furthermore, they can serve as a critical gateway to other~~  
241 ~~communications networks. The creation of innovative services on I-Nets can be a catalyst for the~~  
242 ~~broader deployment of advanced communications services within the community.~~

243  
244 **E.D. Wireline Communications Providers**

245 *Within this section, the phrase “communications providers” is intended to cover wireline*  
246 *telecommunication providers that historically provided telephony and/or television services, as*  
247 *well as those providing broadband service over wireline infrastructure such as cable or fiber. The*  
248 *phrase “municipalities” is intended to cover both municipalities and franchise authorities, other*  
249 *than municipalities, where applicable.*

250 *1. Rate Regulation, Rate Structure, and Service Options*

251 All traditional cable video services (including charges for installation, equipment, and other related  
252 services), should be regulated except for programming offered on a per-channel or per-program  
253 basis that is not supported by revenues from advertisements.

254  
255 Federal law should allow a municipality to require a uniform rate structure throughout a franchise  
256 area on a nondiscriminatory basis. Uniform rates help ensure the availability of a minimum level  
257 of service to low-income, disabled and elderly persons.

258  
259 Federal law should allow a municipality to require video operators to provide lifeline service at  
260 regulated rates or to offer discounts on its services to low-income, disabled and elderly persons.

261  
262 *2. Channel Control and Placement*

263 *a. Local Authority over Channels*

264 Municipalities should be permitted under federal law to enforce programming and programming-  
265 related requirements contained in franchise agreements, including, for example, the number of  
266 channels that must be carried on any tier, requirements for PEG channel capacity, and a lifeline  
267 service tier requirement.

268  
269 *b. Must Carry Requirements*

270 NLC feels that federal “must-carry” requirements serve important goals, such as promoting the  
271 viewership of public broadcasting systems and preserving the nation’s system of free over-the-air  
272 broadcast service.

274 NLC supports federal law that prohibits broadcasters from using available PEG channels to  
275 transmit must-carry signals without a municipality’s approval. Such approval should be obtained  
276 in advance of the use of unused PEG channels and such use of PEG channels should be temporary.  
277

278 *c. Channel Placement and Numbering for Cable*

279 Municipalities should not be precluded by federal law or regulation from regulating the placement  
280 and numbering of access channels to better protect consumers. Municipalities should also be  
281 authorized to prohibit any changes in channel assignments on tiers subject to rate regulation unless  
282 approved by the municipality.  
283

284 Changes in alignment for services not subject to rate regulation (e.g., pay-per-view and premium  
285 programming) should be preceded by reasonable notice to the municipality and subscribers.  
286

287 *3. Public Access Channels*

288 Federal law should require communications providers offering channel-based programming,  
289 regardless of the means of distribution, to meet PEG access obligations as determined by  
290 municipalities.  
291

292 Federal law should: (a) authorize municipalities to require communications providers to provide  
293 both operating and capital support for access facilities, equipment, staffing, and maintenance at  
294 levels sufficient to ensure the viability of access without any limitations or credits against franchise  
295 fees; (b) not limit franchising authorities ability to designate entities to provide access services;  
296 and (c) provide liability protection wherever a municipality, access entity, or communications  
297 provider does not exercise editorial control over content.  
298

299 **F.E. Broadcasting**

300 ~~*1.A. Rate Regulation, Rate Structure, and Service Options*~~

301 ~~All traditional cable video services (including charges for installation, equipment, and other related~~  
302 ~~services), should be regulated except for programming offered on a per channel or per program~~  
303 ~~basis that is not supported by revenues from advertisements.~~

304 ~~Federal law should allow a municipality to require a uniform rate structure throughout a franchise~~  
305 ~~area on a nondiscriminatory basis. Uniform rates help ensure the availability of a minimum level~~  
306 ~~of service to low income, disabled and elderly persons.~~  
307

308 ~~Federal law should allow a municipality to require video operators to provide lifeline service at~~  
309 ~~regulated rates or to offer discounts on its services to low income, disabled and elderly persons.~~  
310

311 **G.F. Municipal Liability Exposure and Franchise Administration**

312 *1. Information Technology Vendor Accountability*

313 The software underpinning many municipal functions has become increasingly complex and  
314 connected in recent years. While local governments must conduct due diligence in the procurement  
315 of information technology products and services, they should be protected from abusive practices  
316 by vendors and shielded from inappropriate liability. Software and service vendors must be held  
317 accountable to claims made regarding compliance with standards and regulations regarding health  
318 information protection, cybersecurity, data portability, accessibility and other crucial functions.



319 Vendors, not municipal clients, should be held liable when failures or bad actions on the part of  
320 the vendor lead to harms.

321

322 **H.A. Channel Control and Placement**

323 **1.A. Local Authority over Channels**

324 ~~Municipalities should be permitted under federal law to enforce programming and programming-~~  
325 ~~related requirements contained in franchise agreements, including, for example, the number of~~  
326 ~~channels that must be carried on any tier, requirements for PEG channel capacity, and a lifeline~~  
327 ~~service tier requirement.~~

328

329 **2.A. Must Carry Requirements**

330 ~~NLC feels that federal “must carry” requirements serve important goals, such as promoting the~~  
331 ~~viewership of public broadcasting systems and preserving the nation’s system of free over-the-air~~  
332 ~~broadcast service.~~

333

334 ~~NLC supports federal law that prohibits broadcasters from using available PEG channels to~~  
335 ~~transmit must carry signals without a municipality’s approval. Such approval should be obtained~~  
336 ~~in advance of the use of unused PEG channels and such use of PEG channels should be temporary.~~

337

338 **3.A. Channel Placement and Numbering for Cable**

339 ~~Municipalities should not be precluded by federal law or regulation from regulating the placement~~  
340 ~~and numbering of access channels to better protect consumers. Municipalities should also be~~  
341 ~~authorized to prohibit any changes in channel assignments on tiers subject to rate regulation unless~~  
342 ~~approved by the municipality.~~

343

344 ~~Changes in alignment for services not subject to rate regulation (e.g., pay per view and premium~~  
345 ~~programming) should be preceded by reasonable notice to the municipality and subscribers.~~

346

347 **I.A. Public Access Channels**

348 ~~Federal law should require communications providers offering channel based programming,~~  
349 ~~regardless of the means of distribution, to meet PEG access obligations as determined by~~  
350 ~~municipalities.~~

351

352 ~~Federal law should: (a) authorize municipalities to require communications providers to provide~~  
353 ~~both operating and capital support for access facilities, equipment, staffing, and maintenance at~~  
354 ~~levels sufficient to ensure the viability of access without any limitations or credits against franchise~~  
355 ~~fees; (b) not limit franchising authorities ability to designate entities to provide access services;~~  
356 ~~and (c) provide liability protection wherever a municipality, access entity, or communications~~  
357 ~~provider does not exercise editorial control over content.~~

358

359 **J.G. Satellite Services**

360 [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.*

### **A. 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  
is 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.

### **B. 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.)*

### **C. 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

407 personnel and training. *(See related policy under PSCP Section 6.02(C) Public Safety Technology*  
408 *and Intelligence.)*

#### 409 410 **D. Next Generation 9-1-1**

411 NLC urges the federal government to ensure that all communities have timely access to Next  
412 Generation 9-1-1 technologies, which allow public safety answering centers, first responders and  
413 residents to share text, photo, and video information for safer, timelier emergency response.  
414 Congress and the Administration should dedicate additional ongoing grant funding and technical  
415 assistance to ensure all communities can upgrade to modern 9-1-1 technologies. *(See related*  
416 *policy under PSCP section 6.02(C) Public Safety Technology and Intelligence.)*

#### 417 418 **E. Cybersecurity**

419 NLC supports federal efforts in cybersecurity related to national security, protection of sensitive  
420 information and intellectual property, and the availability and continuity of infrastructure. The  
421 increasing presence of the Internet of Things throughout cities and the increased attempts to  
422 interfere with election processes presents an increased threat to city residents and necessitates  
423 increased federal action. Another recognized risk is the sharing of data that may be hosted with  
424 software companies that provide technology solutions or services to local governments and the  
425 government data may be subject to a loss or breach through an attack on the private company.  
426 Local governments are responsible for the protection of large amounts of personally identifiable  
427 data, the breach of which could lead to criminal activity or unauthorized use. NLC additionally  
428 supports federal efforts to provide increased resources and technical assistance to local  
429 governments for the protection of government systems, data, transactional databases, enterprise  
430 files and critical government functions. NLC opposes the imposition of unfunded mandates on  
431 local governments and supports additional resources for localities to address stark cybersecurity  
432 workforce and resource needs. *(See related policy under PSCP Section 6.03(I) Protect Against*  
433 *and Respond to Cyber Threats.)*

### 434 435 436 **Section 7.03 Consumer Protection**

437  
438 Municipalities have a fundamental responsibility to protect the public health, welfare and safety  
439 through the exercise of police powers vested in them by action of their residents or the operation  
440 of state law. Through such mechanisms as: direct provision of services, franchising, permitting,  
441 and licensing, municipal governments have and maintain oversight over multiple communication  
442 systems, which are essential to this objective. Federal law should allow municipalities to enact  
443 and enforce more rigorous customer service standards than federal standards.

#### 444 445 **A. Abusive Practices**

##### 446 *1. Spoofing FCC Language*

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

##### 450 451 *2. Unsolicited Communications*

#### 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.C. 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 **G.**

#### 535 536 537 **Section 7.04 Emerging Technologies**

538 The rapid evolution of technology, ~~such as including~~ but not limited to the development of  
539 blockchain, digital currency, smart city and smart street technologies, cloud computing, quantum  
540 computing, artificial intelligence and autonomous vehicles has provided cities, towns and  
541 villages with unprecedented opportunities to explore alternative methods of traditional service  
542 delivery, resident engagement and operation modernization. Innovation in local government and  
543 support for these emerging technologies can improve the way municipalities work and interact  
544 with the public.

545

546 Adopting innovative approaches to local administration may present technical, regulatory,  
547 implementation, financial or intergovernmental challenges. NLC urges the federal government to  
548 act as a convener of best practices, cut federal agency red tape, and provide aid to support  
549 advancing local innovation in the use of emerging technologies.

550  
551 NLC opposes federal preemption of local decisions regarding the use of emerging technologies in  
552 their own communities. As incubators of innovation and the level of government closest to the  
553 people, cities, towns and villages must retain the authority to make the choices that best serve  
554 constituents and protect local public safety, privacy, efficiency, administrative, and other needs,  
555 particularly as new technologies and their applications evolve over time. Local leaders must also  
556 be empowered with the federal tools and abilities to safely and effectively manage the use of  
557 emerging technologies in their communities as needed. This includes resources and assistance to  
558 expand the capacity of local governments and their staff to collect, manage, and analyze the large  
559 amounts of data generated with the use of these technologies. ~~(See related policy under TIS Section~~  
560 ~~5.02(E) Intelligent Transportation Systems and 5.04(F) Unmanned Aircraft Systems.)~~ (For  
561 additional transportation technology policy, please refer to the Transportation and Infrastructure  
562 Services (TIS) Chapter of the National Municipal Policy.)

## *Proposed ITC Resolutions*

NLC Resolutions are annual statements of position that sunset at the end of the calendar year unless action is taken. The committee must review each of the 2024 resolutions that originated in the [Committee Abbr.] Committee to determine recommendations for 2025. The committee has the following options:

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

The ITC resolutions that were approved for 2024 at City Summit with recommendations for 2025 are:

<b>Resolution</b>	<b>ITC Committee Recommendation</b>
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-37:</b> Local Government Support of Community/Municipal Broadband Networks	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-38:</b> Federal Investment in Broadband Access: A Call for Universal Availability, Affordability and World-Class Quality	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-39:</b> Preserving Local Control of Broadband Infrastructure Siting	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-40:</b> Calling for Updated Federal Safety Standards for Radiofrequency Emissions of Wireless Facilities	Renew
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-41:</b> In Support of Municipal Data Ownership and Protection	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-42:</b> In Support of Digital Equity for American Communities	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-43:</b> Local Principles for The Governance of Generative Artificial Intelligence	Renew with edits
<b>NLC RESOLUTION 2024-44:</b> Local Principles for Modernization of The Universal Service Fund	Renew with edits

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-37

2  
3 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY/MUNICIPAL  
4 BROADBAND NETWORKS

5  
6 ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits

7  
8 WHEREAS, the universal availability of affordable broadband access for all citizens has been  
9 identified as a national priority; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, community/municipal broadband networks are an essential option for education,  
12 healthcare, market competition, consumer choice, economic development, and universal,  
13 affordable Internet access nationwide; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, historically, local governments have ensured access to essential services and  
16 utilities by banding together to provide those services and utilities that were not offered by the  
17 private sector at a reasonable and competitive cost. This involvement has included electrification,  
18 public libraries, and other important public needs; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, local governments may be able to build and operate broadband infrastructure to  
21 serve the public interest; and

22  
23 WHEREAS, according to the Federal Communications Commission, ~~most American homes~~  
24 ~~only have two options of Internet service providers for basic broadband and for faster speeds, a~~  
25 ~~majority of households only have one choice, or none at all~~<sup>1</sup>less than half of all American  
26 households have more than one option for wireline broadband service at speeds of 100/20 Mbps  
27 or above; and

28  
29 WHEREAS, publicly owned broadband infrastructure, including open-access and conduit  
30 networks, has served an important role in increasing broadband market competition among  
31 private providers by reducing the cost of entry to those communities, particularly for smaller  
32 broadband providers; and

33  
34 WHEREAS, the economic health of municipalities depends on public and private investment to  
35 connect their communities; and

36  
37 WHEREAS, municipal governments consider broadband to be a critical form of infrastructure,  
38 and more than 900 communities have therefore made significant investments in publicly-owned  
39 broadband infrastructure<sup>2</sup>; and

40  
41 WHEREAS, attempts continue to be made to limit or stop further local government deployment  
42 of municipal broadband services, which has the potential of reducing the ability of local

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<sup>1</sup> Federal Communications Commission, Internet Access Services: Status as of June 30, 2019, March 2022. Federal Communications Commission, FCC National Broadband Map, August 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Institute for Local Self-Reliance, "Community Network Map," September 2021.



43 government to provide important information and services to their citizens in a timely, efficient,  
44 and cost-effective manner; and

45  
46 **WHEREAS**, opponents of community and municipally provided broadband have proposed  
47 various administrative procedures that they claim are designed to protect citizens and consumers  
48 from unwieldy local governments; however, these safeguards really place over-burdensome  
49 requirements on municipalities and act as unnecessary barriers<sup>3</sup>; and

50  
51 **WHEREAS**, a majority of American consumers, across the political spectrum, feel municipal  
52 broadband services should be allowed to help ensure that all Americans have equal access to the  
53 Internet<sup>4</sup>; and

54  
55 **WHEREAS**, federal and state broadband infrastructure funds will be unnecessarily limited in  
56 effectiveness by the number of states with anticompetitive, preemptive laws in place by  
57 prohibiting communities from making the best choice for their own connectivity needs; and

58  
59 **WHEREAS**, in the vast majority of community/municipal broadband networks built to date, the  
60 private sector has been involved in helping design, build, and operate the network – creating new  
61 business opportunities and jobs in the process; and

62  
63 **WHEREAS**, local governments should not be preempted by states from being able to offer  
64 broadband services, high speed Internet, and other communications services and/or infrastructure  
65 which could advance the deployment of broadband throughout our nation.

66  
67 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges the  
68 federal government to encourage deployment of broadband networks in a competitive manner  
69 via a variety of conduits (satellite, wireless, and wireline); and

70  
71 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC opposes any actions that seek to burden cities  
72 through unnecessary procedural requirements and safeguards that duplicate the democratic  
73 process by which cities govern themselves; and

74  
75 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC embraces local governments’ ability to work  
76 cooperatively with the private sector to offer broadband services and does not believe such  
77 public/private partnerships are incompatible with private sector competition; and

78  
79 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports federal proposals that promote  
80 community/municipal broadband, that preserve the authority of local governments to act in the  
81 interest of their citizens by constructing, owning and operating broadband infrastructure, directly  
82 offering high speed Internet and other communications services, and/or participating in public-  
83 private partnerships for the purposes of offering competitive broadband and communications  
84 services; and

85

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<sup>3</sup> [National League of Cities, “Removing Barriers to Expanding Broadband in American Communities,” June 27, 2023.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Consumer Reports, “Broadband: A Nationally Representative Multi-Mode Survey,” July 2021.](#)

86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in order to maximize the value of federal grant  
87 expenditures, federal agencies should protect and prioritize access to federal funding sources for  
88 municipal broadband through key federal infrastructure programs, particularly the Broadband  
89 Equity, Access and Deployment (BEAD) grant program; and  
90

91 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should preempt state laws that restrict  
92 municipalities from providing community broadband networks and further ensure that no new  
93 broadband legislation should preempt the authority of local governments to conduct their own  
94 broadband planning; engage in broadband infrastructure construction, ownership, or operation;  
95 collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions; govern the placement and deployment of wireless or  
96 other communications infrastructure in their communities; or impose consumer protection or  
97 buildout requirements on broadband providers in their jurisdictions; and  
98

99 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to pass the Community Broadband  
100 Act (~~H.R. 2552/S. 1197~~) to supersede state preemption and enable the provision of municipal  
101 broadband in every state; and  
102

103 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on state legislatures to overturn or eliminate  
104 preemptive state laws and ensure that local governments are fully able to participate in building a  
105 broadband future.

1 NLC RESOLUTION 2024-38

2  
3 **FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN BROADBAND ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE: A CALL**  
4 **FOR UNIVERSAL AVAILABILITY, AFFORDABILITY AND WORLD-CLASS**  
5 **QUALITY**  
6

7 **ITC Committee Recommendation:** Renew with edits  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, to compete successfully in an increasingly global environment the United States  
10 needs to take advantage of all of the technological solutions that high-speed broadband access  
11 offers; and  
12

13 **WHEREAS**, universal broadband should be considered essential infrastructure that contributes  
14 to economic health, equity, and survival of communities across the United States; and  
15

16 **WHEREAS**, ~~the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has found that broadband is not~~  
17 ~~being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion, with approximately 24 million Americans~~  
18 ~~lacking access to fixed broadband service of at least 100/20 Mbps;<sup>5</sup> and despite the findings of~~  
19 ~~the Federal Communications Commission’s (FCC) Fourteenth Broadband Deployment Report<sup>6</sup>~~  
20 ~~that 14.5 million Americans lacked access to fixed terrestrial broadband networks, the FCC~~  
21 ~~concludes that “broadband is being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion;” and~~  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, there is a disparity between providers’ reporting of advertised speeds and actual  
24 delivered speeds that has been proven through speed tests in a number of states and  
25 municipalities; and  
26

27 **WHEREAS**, the numbers of individuals with access to broadband is overreported by the FCC  
28 and inconsistent with the U. S. Census American Community Survey’s findings; and  
29

30 **WHEREAS**, Congress has recognized this disparity between federal data and on-the-ground  
31 experience through passage of the Broadband DATA Act of 2020, which directed the FCC to  
32 improve its data collection process and map granularity, and to create a challenge process for  
33 states, local governments, and consumers and public interest groups to correct faulty data; and  
34

35 **WHEREAS**, the success of broadband infrastructure programs authorized by the Infrastructure  
36 Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 relies upon the accuracy of these maps, as many programs are  
37 required to use FCC map data to prioritize or distribute broadband grant funds; and  
38

39 **WHEREAS**, ~~the current FCC standard for broadband (25 Megabits per second (Mbps)~~  
40 ~~download and 3 Mbps upload), which has been in effect since 2015, is insufficient for multiple~~  
41 ~~household members to simultaneously access vital bandwidth-intensive services such as video~~  
42 ~~chat or VPN simultaneously; and~~  
43

<sup>5</sup> Federal Communications Commission, “2024 Section 706 Report,” March 18, 2024.

<sup>6</sup> Federal Communications Commission, Fourteenth Broadband Deployment Report, January 13, 2021.

44 **WHEREAS**, with the proliferation of devices with Internet access, wireless data traffic has  
45 grown significantly, placing a greater demand on both licensed and unlicensed spectrum, and  
46 adding additional capacity is essential to support continued innovation and achieve the potential  
47 to transform many different areas of the American economy by providing a platform for  
48 innovation and is likely to have a substantial impact on jobs, growth and investment; and  
49

50 **WHEREAS**, the availability and adoption of quality, affordable broadband service can vary  
51 dramatically from one neighborhood to another and between single family and multifamily  
52 homes, even in heavily populated urban areas, and a substantial number of individuals in poor  
53 and rural communities have limited Internet access and where broadband access is limited,  
54 citizens have limited access to information, education and tools for economic independence<sup>7</sup>; and  
55

56 **WHEREAS**, 15% of households with children in school currently lack a broadband connection,  
57 while the majority of teachers assign homework that requires broadband, and roughly a quarter  
58 reported challenges accessing broadband at home to complete schoolwork, or were forced to use  
59 a cellphone to do schoolwork during the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>8</sup> leaving millions of students  
60 behind in modern education; and  
61

62 **WHEREAS**, current availability and adoption is insufficient to meet present and future needs.  
63

64 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC asks the federal government to recognize  
65 and work through public-private partnerships, municipal broadband providers and municipalities  
66 to achieve the goals of equitable broadband access by providing:

- 67 • Affordable and competitively priced broadband access; and
- 68 • Appropriate standards for symmetrical broadband speed, reliability, and connectivity that  
69 allow America to compete in the global economy and open more opportunities to deliver  
70 robust services more economically and universally;
- 71 • Granular, accurate data on broadband availability, affordability, and adoption available to  
72 local officials to assist in planning and local investments; and  
73

74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC applauds the FCC’s recent action to increase the  
75 threshold for minimum broadband speeds for “served” areas to 100/20 Mbps, better reflecting  
76 current needs;<sup>9</sup> and  
77

78 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC applaud’s the FCC’s action to establish rules  
79 prohibiting digital discrimination and prevent future digital redlining of historically  
80 disadvantaged communities and populations;<sup>10</sup> and  
81

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<sup>7</sup> [Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program, “Broadband subscriptions are up, but too many households are still disconnected,” September 28, 2018.](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Pew Research Center, “What we know about online learning and the homework gap amid the pandemic,” October 1, 2021.](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Federal Communications Commission, “2024 Section 706 Report,” March 18, 2024.](#)

<sup>10</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.](#)

82 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to include and to  
83 incorporate federal investment in broadband in any federal infrastructure proposal, to strengthen  
84 the nation’s infrastructure network while promoting economic development and social equity in  
85 our communities; and

86  
87 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to continue to  
88 incorporate an effective challenge process for local governments to use in the grant application  
89 and award process and in general correction of faulty data or discrepancy with the federal  
90 broadband maps; and

91  
92 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports the FCC revisiting the benchmarks for  
93 broadband speeds on a more frequent basis because of the evolving nature of technology and the  
94 needs of communities for faster and symmetrical speeds; and~~

95  
96 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress must work with state and local governments to  
97 fund broadband infrastructure at high performance standards that provides at least 100/20 Mbps  
98 service, and ideally 1 Gbps symmetrical service, without harmful data caps, to ensure that federal  
99 funds are spent only on broadband that will provide meaningful service for current and future  
100 essential applications; and

101  
102 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports expansion of the U.S. Department of  
103 Agriculture’s Community Connect and ReConnect broadband grant and loan programs and  
104 encourages the federal government to expand access to the programs for municipalities; and~~

105  
106 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on federal agencies, including the FCC, U.S.  
107 Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and others to harmonize and  
108 coordinate broadband grant programs, expand technical assistance, consider flexible matching  
109 fund requirements and the flexible designation of available funds (particularly allowing for the  
110 pledge of future funds as a funding source), ensure that both public and private partnership  
111 applications are eligible for programs, and simplify program application and compliance  
112 processes to ensure that municipalities, particularly smaller municipalities, are able to compete  
113 and participate in these opportunities; and

114  
115 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to maintain or increase funding for  
116 programs that support broadband infrastructure investment, including the U.S. Department of  
117 Agriculture’s Community Connect and ReConnect grant and loan programs; the U.S.  
118 Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Community Development Block Grants and  
119 Choice Neighborhood Grants, and ConnectHome program; and

120  
121 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to increase funding for~~  
122 ~~Community Development Block Grants and Choice Neighborhood Grants, which allow local~~  
123 ~~governments to fund broadband planning and deployment alongside affordable housing and~~  
124 ~~neighborhood improvement projects; and~~

125

126 ~~**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban~~  
127 ~~Development to expand its ConnectHome program, to ensure that a growing number of HUD-~~  
128 ~~assisted households and schoolchildren will have access to in-home broadband; and~~

129  
130 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to remove state-imposed barriers  
131 to broadband investment, such as preemption of municipal broadband networks, broadband  
132 networks provided by rural electric cooperatives, and middle mile broadband infrastructure built  
133 by investor-owned electric companies; and

134  
135 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to reform and update federal  
136 transportation grant programs such as BUILD to ensure that placement of broadband  
137 infrastructure through policies such as “dig once” is prioritized in funded projects, and that  
138 physical structures that reduce the cost of broadband deployment by private companies such as  
139 dark fiber and conduit are eligible expenses in federal grant programs; and

140  
141 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to take a leadership  
142 role in convening together all interested parties, including, but not limited to, all levels of  
143 government (local, state, tribal, and federal), consumer organizations, representatives of  
144 underserved communities (rural, urban and suburban), all segments of the communications  
145 industry interests, representatives of private sector, and not-for-profit sector organizations, to  
146 promote ubiquitous symmetrical broadband access.

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2024-39**

4 **PRESERVING LOCAL CONTROL OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE SITING**

5 **ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has enacted regulations that  
8 substantially limit the traditionally-held authority of local governments over small cell wireless  
9 infrastructure and local governments’ ability to assess fair compensation to taxpayers for use of  
10 public property, subsidizing wireless providers’ development while undermining local efforts to  
11 expand equity and broadband access; and<sup>1</sup>

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, the FCC has enacted regulations that challenge local land use authority to govern  
14 broadband infrastructure under the auspices of accelerating broadband infrastructure  
15 deployment<sup>2</sup>; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, cities have worked as active partners to site broadband infrastructure in their  
18 communities while protecting public safety, neighborhood character, and the integrity of existing  
19 infrastructure such as poles, streets, and sidewalks; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, cities share the FCC’s goal of expanding broadband access to all Americans, no  
22 matter where they live; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, cities have a duty to their taxpayers to protect and manage public property and  
25 public rights-of-way for the benefit of all users, and must balance the needs and interests of  
26 broadband providers with those of other users of the rights-of-way and residents by appropriately  
27 reviewing siting requests and assessing appropriate rent for use of public property; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, NLC and numerous other organizations representing state and local governments,  
30 as well as hundreds of individual local governments, had to resort to litigation to protect the  
31 health, safety and welfare of residents;<sup>3</sup> and

32  
33 **WHEREAS**, in August 2020, the Ninth Circuit Court decided to largely uphold these  
34 preemptive regulations,<sup>4</sup> and in June 2021 the Supreme Court declined to take up the case,<sup>5</sup>  
35 reinforcing the need for Congress to provide an immediate lasting legislative remedy.  
36

---

<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.](#)

37 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC opposes efforts by the FCC and  
38 Congress to preempt municipal authority over all broadband infrastructure, wired or wireless,  
39 including small cell infrastructure; and  
40

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the FCC and Congress to protect local  
42 authority over their rights-of-way, municipal authority to protect neighborhood character and  
43 public safety, to require collocation, maintain control of aesthetic and undergrounding  
44 requirements, and existing authority to assess fair compensation for private use of public assets,  
45 including the rights-of-way and other public lands and facilities, which should not be limited to  
46 the cost of maintaining the rights-of-way; and  
47

48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the FCC to overturn its 2018 small cell  
49 rulemaking and identify effective collaborative solutions and effective administrative practices  
50 for the siting of wireless infrastructure, including increased local representation on advisory  
51 committees, instead of implementing a one-size-fits-all preemptive regulatory approach; and  
52

53 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC opposes efforts by the FCC and Congress to favor  
54 specific technologies through regulation, or adopting regulations that further expand the digital  
55 divide by preempting local governance; and  
56

57 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC opposes any efforts by the FCC to implement the  
58 digital discrimination prevention provisions of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in a  
59 way that would limit or recommend limiting local authority over infrastructure siting or  
60 permitting, or otherwise limit the ability of local governments to exercise local control over  
61 franchises or rights-of-way management, which are critical tools for preventing digital  
62 discrimination; and  
63

64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports legislation to overturn the FCC preemption  
65 of local authority and affirm the authority of local governments to determine usage of and  
66 appropriate fees for usage of local rights-of-way and opposes legislation further limiting local  
67 oversight, including the American Broadband Deployment Act of 2023 (~~H.R. 3557~~); and  
68

69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the FCC to examine all best practices and  
70 potential obstacles to expanded broadband deployment and adoption, including obstacles created  
71 by federal or industry practices that stymie local and consumer efforts to expand broadband  
72 access.



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**NLC RESOLUTION 2024-40**

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

**ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the FCC adopted a proceeding in 2013 to reassess RF exposure limits<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

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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.](#)

40 **WHEREAS**, numerous states, local governments and tribes have urged the FCC to revisit and to  
41 update FCC standards for RF emissions, with input and support from other federal agencies,  
42 including the Environmental Protection Agency and the Food and Drug Administration; and  
43

44 **WHEREAS**, NLC, the National Association of Counties (NACo), National Association of  
45 Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM),  
46 and the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) on behalf of their respective  
47 constituencies, jointly submitted comments urging that the FCC take action to perform a  
48 comprehensive review of RF emission standards and guidance for local government officials,  
49 particularly with respect to small wireless technologies;<sup>3</sup> and  
50

51 **WHEREAS**, in 2021, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals remanded this decision, finding that the  
52 FCC decision failed to meet Administrative Procedure Act and National Environmental Policy  
53 Act requirements.<sup>4</sup>  
54

55 **WHEREAS**, public concern about 5G and RF emissions has increased exponentially in the wake  
56 of this agency inaction, making it more difficult for local governments and wireless providers to  
57 site small wireless facilities in communities and leading to vandalism or destruction of structures  
58 and threats to telecommunications workers' safety; and  
59

60 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to update  
61 antiquated standards and to perform a comprehensive review of the standards for RF emissions,  
62 particularly in light of the deployment of small wireless technologies in public rights-of-way in  
63 close proximity to residents' homes, schools, workplaces, and places of recreation; and  
64

65 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should continuously update and  
66 refresh these standards, based on changes in technology, spectrum usage, device usage, and  
67 infrastructure deployment, to ensure that standards are recent enough to maintain public  
68 confidence; and  
69

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

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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 2024-41**

4 **IN SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL DATA OWNERSHIP AND PROTECTION**

5 **ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits**

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, municipalities require personally identifiable information to provide essential  
8 services to residents, such as bill payment, library services, transit, public planning, and public  
9 health; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, municipal governments have a responsibility to protect residents’ personal and  
12 financial data, of which they are stewards; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, most municipalities are reliant upon products and services to carry out critical  
15 municipal functions, which necessitates the transmission and storage of data regarding residents’  
16 finances, identification, travel information, or other sensitive data; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, residents have a reasonable expectation of privacy in many transactions with their  
19 governments and do not expect their data to be shared with third parties except as necessary to  
20 perform municipal functions; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, there is no current federal data privacy law governing the ownership and protection  
23 of data by residents or by municipalities on behalf of residents; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, under current law contractors providing these essential products and services may  
26 require that this data become the property of the company, not the municipality, allowing  
27 companies to either monetize residents’ data directly or indirectly by requiring municipalities to  
28 purchase it back for local use; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, local governments have become particularly attractive targets for bad actors, with  
31 roughly two thirds of all local governments experiencing a ransomware attack in the past year,<sup>1</sup>  
32 and most local information technology officers report insufficient budgetary resources to  
33 adequately protect local government networks.<sup>2</sup>

34  
35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities calls on the  
36 federal government to establish data privacy principles that prevent the abuse of municipal data  
37 by third parties or companies providing products and services to local governments; and

38  
39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should institute, expand and  
40 promote basic cybersecurity requirements for companies and governments to ensure that  
41 residents’ data is appropriately protected from breach or theft; and

42  

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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.](#)

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

46  
47 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should acknowledge the resource  
48 limitations facing municipalities and not impose new unfunded mandates around cybersecurity;  
49 and

50  
51 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal data privacy policy should require companies to  
52 enable municipalities to export their data on demand, and should not require municipalities to  
53 pay again to access or export their own data; and

54  
55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should allow and encourage the  
56 use of federal grant and loan funds to be used to expand the capacity of local governments and  
57 their staff to collect, manage, analyze, and share relevant data to improve local operations,  
58 efficiency, and quality of life; and

59  
60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal privacy principles should not impinge on the  
61 ability of municipal governments to collect and use data to complete critical government  
62 functions, such as transportation service, utility operation, public safety, and providing equitable  
63 access to these services.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2024-42**

**IN SUPPORT OF DIGITAL EQUITY FOR AMERICAN COMMUNITIES**

**ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with edits**

**WHEREAS**, access to fast, affordable broadband and devices in the United States is not evenly distributed across geographic, racial, or socioeconomic lines, disproportionately harming rural communities, low-income communities, and communities of color; and

**WHEREAS**, ~~18-24 million households in America lack broadband access, including 14 million households in urban areas and 4 million households in rural areas, reflecting an enormous un- and underserved urban and suburban population; and~~ 28% of residents living in rural areas and 23% of residents living on Tribal lands; and

**WHEREAS**, while 80% of households with incomes above \$100,000 use broadband at home, only ~~54~~0% of households with incomes below \$25,000 do;<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, household broadband access lags for communities of color, with ~~81~~2% of white residents having in-home broadband service, while only 77% of Black and Hispanic residents do<sup>2</sup>; ~~and only 67% of tribal lands in the Continental U.S. have access to broadband internet<sup>3</sup>,~~ and white residents have only a 12% dependency on smartphones for access to the Internet, versus ~~16~~7% Black residents and 25% Hispanic residents solely relying on smartphones.<sup>4</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, at least 83.3 million Americans can only access broadband through a single provider, with 47 million of those in a monopoly market for a single cable company, while another 33 million can only access broadband through a single DSL provider, leaving many with little or no market or regulatory downward pressure on pricing;<sup>5</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, federal broadband policy has increasingly targeted federal dollars solely to building infrastructure in unserved rural areas, neglecting communities with inadequate or decaying telecommunications infrastructure and ignoring the impact of affordability on broadband access, disproportionately disadvantaging communities of color;<sup>6</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> [National Telecommunications and Information Administration, NTIA Internet Use Survey, “Fixed + Mobile Internet in Household by Family Income, Percent of Age 3+ Persons, 2017-2021,” New NTIA Data Show 13 Million More Internet Users in the U.S. in 2023 than 2021,” May 11, 2022](#) 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, 1998-2023”](#), May 11, 2022 June 6, 2024.

<sup>3</sup> [Rutgers New Jersey Policy Lab, “Bridging the Digital Divide in Native American Communities,” January 13, 2022.](#)

<sup>4</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. [Pew Research Foundation, Internet/Broadband Fact Sheet, “% of U.S. adults who say they do not use broadband at home but own smartphones, by race/ethnicity, April 7, 2021.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [Institute for Local Self-Reliance, “Profiles of Monopoly: Big Cable and Telecom,” August 2020.](#)

<sup>6</sup> [National Digital Inclusion Alliance, “Limiting Broadband Investment to “Rural Only” Discriminates Against Black Americans and Other Communities of Color,” June 2020.](#)

35 **WHEREAS**, while mapping improvements will help to improve the accuracy of federal  
36 broadband access measurements, the Federal Communications Commission does not track  
37 broadband adoption or affordability in its annual assessment of broadband access.  
38

39 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities calls on the  
40 federal government to make holistic reforms to federal broadband policy that promote digital  
41 equity and empower local governments to engage in digital inclusion work within their own  
42 communities; and  
43

44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC applauds the inclusion of digital equity as part of the  
45 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including the Digital Equity Act to fund and support  
46 digital inclusion programs and planning within communities; and  
47

48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC applauds the U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve for  
49 updating the Community Reinvestment Act to include broadband and digital inclusion as eligible  
50 community support services under the requirements of the Community Reinvestment Act,  
51 ensuring that low to moderate income communities do not go unbanked due to lack of broadband  
52 access or low digital literacy; and  
53

54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the Federal Communications Commission,  
55 National Telecommunications Commission, and other agencies to prioritize access to digital  
56 equity funding for municipal governments; and  
57

58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports making permanent a broadband  
59 affordability benefit within the Universal Service Fund, such as the Infrastructure Investment and  
60 Jobs Act’s Affordable Connectivity Program and calls on Congress to sustainably fund this  
61 federal broadband benefit, to ensure that low-income households are not barred from full  
62 participation in work, education, and civic life due to broadband subscription prices, and to  
63 continue to revisit the program usership and provide necessary flexibility in the ACP-progra4  
64 requirements to reach all intended beneficiaries; and  
65

66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that broadband reporting programs, such as the FCC’s annual  
67 broadband deployment report, broadband infrastructure programs, such as the Connect America  
68 Fund or the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Rural Utilities Service funds, should assess  
69 affordability when determining whether residents have access to home broadband; and  
70

71 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that broadband infrastructure programs should not be limited  
72 to rural communities, and should incorporate suburban and urban communities, many of which  
73 have been subjected to decades of disinvestment, monopolization, and digital redlining; and  
74

75 **~~BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED~~** that the U.S. Treasury ~~should allow digital inclusion as an~~  
76 ~~eligible community support service under the requirements of the Community Reinvestment Act,~~  
77 ~~ensuring that low to moderate income communities do not go unbanked due to lack of broadband~~  
78 ~~access or low digital literacy; and~~  
79

80 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and federal agencies should affirmatively  
81 uphold and protect the authority of local governments to control their agreements with the cable,  
82 wireline, and wireless telecommunications companies operating in their jurisdictions, to ensure  
83 their appropriate usage of public resources such as municipal rights-of-way, promote digital  
84 equity, and adequate investment in and contribution to the community; and

85

86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and federal agencies should remove barriers to  
87 cooperative and municipal investment in and provision of broadband service, to ensure local  
88 governments are empowered to close gaps in communities with inadequate or unaffordable  
89 broadband service.

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3 **NLC RESOLUTION 2024-43**

4 **LOCAL PRINCIPLES FOR THE GOVERNANCE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL**  
5 **INTELLIGENCE**

6 **ITC Committee Recommendation: Renew with Edits**

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, generative artificial intelligence (AI) technologies, which are algorithms capable of  
9 producing new outputs such as text, images, or other content, based on a set of training data,  
10 continue to advance at a rapid pace and are being deployed by federal, state, and local  
11 governments and private businesses for a variety of uses; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, AI technologies have the potential to unlock new efficiencies and service models  
14 for local governments and spur local economic growth and activity; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, AI technologies may also potentially negatively impact local economies and labor  
17 markets, government cybersecurity, equity, and resident vulnerability to criminal scams or  
18 disinformation; and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, Congress, the Administration, and nongovernmental organizations are currently  
21 exploring approaches to governing and regulating the public and private use of AI, including  
22 through the Executive Order on the Safe, Secure, and Trustworthy Development and Use of  
23 Artificial Intelligence,<sup>1</sup> the National Institute of Standards and Technology’s AI Risk  
24 Management Framework,<sup>2</sup> the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy’s  
25 Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights,<sup>3</sup> the Senate SAFE Innovation Framework,<sup>4</sup> and statements by  
26 the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers;<sup>5</sup> and

27  
28 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Congress and the federal government should  
29 enact a regulatory framework that promotes innovation and investment in AI technology, while  
30 protecting local decision making, civil liberties, digital privacy, security, and transparency; and

31  
32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that technology solutions vendors should be required to  
33 provide full transparency to clients on their sources of training data for all AI-enabled tools, as  
34 well as the extent to which municipal client data is used, either jointly with other municipalities  
35 or independently, as further training data for AI tools; and

36  
37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal standards should require vigorous detection and  
38 removal of bias within AI tools, as well as strict enforcement of these requirements to ensure  
39 human accountability for all decisions made in the development and use of AI; and

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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.



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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a federal regulatory framework should protect public trust and privacy by requiring the disclosure of AI-generated or altered material, protecting the privacy of residents and the safety of children, and preventing the promotion of mis- or disinformation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that a federal regulatory framework must be developed with a focus on social responsibility and the input of all stakeholders, including communities likely to be most impacted by advancements in AI; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments must retain the authority to decide on behalf of their own communities the extent to which they adopt artificial intelligence technologies for municipal operations, including piloting innovative new solutions and enacting local prohibitions on the usage of certain technologies; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and the Administration should clearly define the legal rights, liabilities, and responsibilities involved in handling AI reference data, the ownership of reference data, and the requirements for disclosure, transparency, and accountability for AI models between the providers of AI tools and the users, including municipal governments; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should explore ways to foster regional economic growth, accelerate domestic research and development of AI; and expand local government capacity for managing and deploying AI through incentives-based comprehensive funding models, such as that used in the CHIPS Act of 2022; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and federal agencies should proactively explore the impact of artificial intelligence on the employment market and invest in technical assistance and capacity-building, particularly for smaller local governments, assist negatively affected regions, upskill workers for changes in the job market, create an AI education pipeline, and encourage diversity within the AI workforce.

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**NLC RESOLUTION 2024-44**

**LOCAL PRINCIPLES FOR MODERNIZATION OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE  
FUND**

**ITC Committee Recommendation:** Renew with edits

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the actions taken by Congress and the FCC in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding connectivity crisis, including temporary expansions in the usage of some USF programs for telehealth and community anchor institution broadband, and the establishment of the Emergency Connectivity Fund, Emergency Broadband Benefit, and Affordable Connectivity Program, have enabled access for millions of households;<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, the shifts in technology and the communications marketplace, including technological convergence between cable, phone, and broadband services, the consumer shift away from traditional copper landline calling services to Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) and mobile services, the rise of streaming video, and other changes, have left the existing regulatory structure ill-suited to promote fair market competition and fund universal access to both telecommunications and broadband services;<sup>2</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, while the use of the USF has expanded to address modern technologies, including mobile and fixed broadband and internet access services (BIAS), the current contribution base for the USF has remained limited to wireline and mobile voice (telecommunications) services

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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.](#)

41 and has dramatically declined over the years due to market share shifts and provider shifts to  
42 bundling of telecommunications and BIAS services;<sup>3</sup> and

43  
44 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Congress must meet its statutory obligation to  
45 reauthorize and modernize certain aspects of the Communications Act, starting with universal  
46 service; and

47  
48 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that any updates to the Communications Act must  
49 acknowledge technological convergence and accommodate future advances in communications  
50 technology that are as yet unknown; and

51  
52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should use updates to the Communications Act  
53 to better empower local governments help reach universal service by including the Community  
54 Broadband Act (~~H.R. 2552/S. 1197~~) to enable community broadband; and

55  
56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should broaden the USF’s contribution base to  
57 reflect a modern critical technology mix and the rapid growth of the fixed and mobile BIAS  
58 markets, including fee collection from BIAS and edge services; and

59  
60 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should build on the successes of the Affordable  
61 Connectivity Program, the first universal service program to adapt to the changes in the modern  
62 connectivity landscape, and permanently ~~it as~~ establish a broadband affordability program  
63 within the USF, rather than forcing it to rely on inconsistent periodic congressional  
64 appropriations; and

65  
66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that incorporation of the Affordable Connectivity Program or a  
67 comparable broadband affordability program within the USF should not be at the cost of ease of  
68 access to the program for beneficiaries or level of benefits allocated; and

69  
70 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC applauds the FCC’s efforts to acknowledge the  
71 critical role of secure off-campus connectivity, including wireless hotspots and schoolbus  
72 service, through clarifying eligibility of these services for the E-rate program;<sup>4</sup> and  
73 ~~Congress and the FCC should increase flexibilities in the E-rate program to acknowledge the~~  
74 ~~crucial role of secure off-campus connectivity, including funding wireless connectivity for use~~  
75 ~~where people live and work through solutions such as hotspots and bus-mounted wireless access;~~  
76 and

77  
78 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and the FCC should provide dedicated funding  
79 within USF for supportive activities that help beneficiaries access and use connectivity  
80 programs, such as the establishment of digital navigator services and technical support for users;  
81 and

82

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<sup>3</sup> [Congressional Research Service, “The Future of the Universal Service Fund and Related Broadband Programs,” July 11, 2023.](#)

<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.](#)

83 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and the FCC should address the often-  
84 overlooked needs of urban and suburban residents by creating alternative pathways for non-rural  
85 healthcare providers to access USF support to assist in connectivity for patient care, regardless of  
86 rurality; and

87  
88 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and the FCC should seek ways to expand local  
89 government engagement in USF programs, including through incorporating local feedback on  
90 infrastructure funding needs, encouraging and enabling the participation of local governments as  
91 direct funding recipients, and using local governments as partners to ensure the accountability of  
92 High Cost Support subsidy recipients in meeting their buildout and service obligations.