



**CITY SUMMIT**  
NOVEMBER 12, 15 - 19 2021

# ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

2021 City Summit  
**Virtual**

Friday, November 19, 2021  
3:15-5:15 PM Eastern Time

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# 2021 National League of Cities Annual Business Meeting Agenda

**Date:** November 19, 2021

**Time:** 3:15 p.m. to 5:15 p.m. EST

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<b>Welcome and Call to Order</b>	Kathy Maness, Presiding, NLC President Councilmember, Lexington, South Carolina
<b>Report of the Credentials Committee</b>	Mary Dennis Mayor, Live Oak, Texas
<b>Appointment of the Minutes Committee</b>	Kathy Maness, Presiding, NLC President Councilmember, Lexington, South Carolina
<b>NLC State of the Organization Address</b>	Clarence Anthony NLC CEO and Executive Director
<b>Report of the Resolutions Committee</b>	Vince Williams NLC First Vice President Mayor, Union City, Georgia
<b>Presentation of Proposed National Municipal Policy Amendments and Resolutions</b>	
• <b>Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee</b>	Matt Orlando, Vice Chair Councilmember, Chandler, Arizona
• <b>Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee</b>	Ellen Smith, Chair Councilmember, Oak Ridge, Tennessee
• <b>Community and Economic Development Committee</b>	Jesse Matthews, Chair Councilmember, Bessemer, Alabama
• <b>Human Development Committee</b>	Elizabeth Carr-Hurst, Chair Mayor, Fairburn, Georgia
• <b>Transportation Infrastructure and Services Committee</b>	David Sander, Chair Councilmember, Rancho Cordova, California
• <b>Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee</b>	Alan Wapner, Chair Mayor Pro Tem, Ontario, California
• <b>Information Technology and Communications Committee</b>	John Fogle, Chair Councilor, Loveland, Colorado
<b>Action on Proposed Amendments and Resolutions</b>	

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**Report of the Nominating Committee**

Joe Buscaino, NLC Immediate Past President  
Councilmember, Los Angeles, California

**Election of NLC Officers and Board Members**

**Incoming NLC President's Remarks and**

**Call to Action**

**Other Business**

**Adjournment**

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# Annual Business Meeting

## 2021 Special Rules for the Conduct of Business

### 1. Call to Order:

- a. The President of the National League of Cities shall call the business meeting to order. If the President is absent from the meeting, the call to order shall be made by, in order of succession: a) the first vice president, b) the second vice president, c) a member of the Board of Directors selected by the Board of Directors.

### 2. Presiding Officers:

- a. The presiding officer of the Annual Business Meeting shall be the President, or her successor as defined in Rule 1 or the Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, or any member of the Board of Directors or Nominating Committee recognized by the President as presiding officer for the purpose of conducting business.

### 3. Rules of Order:

#### a. **Parliamentarian:**

- i. A qualified parliamentarian shall be appointed to assist the presiding officer and delegates on matters of procedure at all times during the Annual Business Meeting.

#### b. **Adoption of Rules:**

- i. These standing rules were adopted at the last Board of Directors Meeting prior to the Annual Business Meeting.
- ii. These rules shall be used for the 2021 Annual Business Meeting and expire with the adjournment of that meeting

#### c. **Agenda:**

- i. The Annual Business Meeting shall be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors at the last meeting of the Board before the Annual Business Meeting.

#### d. **Governing Conduct:**

- i. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the conduct of the business meeting unless otherwise specified in the NLC Bylaws or these standing rules

### 4. Certification of Voting Delegates

#### a. **Designating and Certifying Voting Delegates:**

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- i. All voting delegates must be registered with and certified by the Credentials Committee by 5:00 PM ET the day before the Annual Business Meeting.
  - ii. To certify as voting delegate, member cities shall complete the [Request for Voting Credentials 2021 form](#) and follow the subsequent instructions from the Credentials Committee.
  - iii. On a weighted vote, the head of each state league delegation may tally and report the vote of the delegation.
  - iv. A city official serving as the voting delegate or alternate for a city may also serve as a voting delegate or alternate for the state league.

**b. Credentials Committee:**

- i. The President in advance of or at the beginning of any such meeting shall appoint a credentials committee of three persons, at least one of whom shall be a representative of a member city
- ii. The Credentials Committee shall settle any dispute concerning the voting rights of voting delegates.

**5. Quorum:**

**a. Establishing a Quorum:**

- i. The presence of a quorum shall be determined by the certified votes present as indicated in Election Buddy, our electronic voting software.

**b. Access to the Meeting:**

- i. The virtual meeting shall be divided between a private Zoom meeting and a livestream for observers.
- ii. Only certified voting delegates or their alternates, members of the Board of Directors, the Advisory Council, Executive Directors of State Municipal Leagues, Federal Advocacy Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs, and designated staff members will be allowed in the private Zoom meeting.

**c. Signing in:**

- i. Voting delegates shall display their name upon entry to the private Zoom meeting, and
  1. shall maintain video and audio connectivity throughout the meeting whenever present, but
  2. shall sign out upon any departure before adjournment.
- ii. Voting delegates shall keep their microphone on mute when not speaking, and

**6. Discussion**

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**a. Seeking Recognition:**

- i. Only voting delegates, NLC support personnel, Federal Advocacy Committee Chairs, and the parliamentarian may be recognized to speak at the meeting.
- ii. To seek recognition by the presiding officer, voting delegates shall click on the Raise Hand icon and use the Chat Box to indicate:
  1. the purpose for which recognition is being sought, or
  2. the intention to speak for or against the motion.
- iii. NLC support personnel will determine and keep track of the speaking order.

**b. Limits of Debate:**

- i. Voting delegates may speak no longer than **one minute**.
- ii. No voting delegate can speak more than once on the same question.
- iii. The presiding officer may cause or direct the muting of a voting delegate's microphone if that delegate does not adhere to the time limit when notified by the presiding officer, if someone speaks without being recognized, or if there is feedback from an unmuted mic.

**c. Making a Motion:**

- i. Only voting delegates may make motions.
- ii. A voting delegate intending to make a main motion, or an amendment, shall, before being recognized, post the motion in the Chat Box preceded by the delegate's name, title, and city.
  1. Motions are not made until voting delegates a) are recognized and b) state their motion.
- iii. A voting delegate who intends to make a motion or a request that under the rules may interrupt a speaker shall click on the Raise Hand icon for so indicating, and
  1. Shall thereafter wait a reasonable time for the presiding officer's instructions.
- iv. Motions shall not be discussed until they are seconded by another voting delegate, which shall be indicated by saying "Second" in the Chat Box.

**d. Nominations:**

- i. Nominating and seconding speeches for each nominee for President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President shall be limited to **one minute**.
- ii. Nominating and seconding speeches for nominees to the Board of Directors are not permitted during the business meeting.

**e. Informal Discussion:**

- i. The Chat Box shall only be used for official business.
- ii. Any debate or messages in the chat will be considered informal discussion.

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- iii. The presiding officer may cause or direct the removal of voting delegates if they are excessively using the chat for informal discussion.

## **7. Voting:**

### **a. Voting on Official Actions:**

- i. Only voting delegates can vote during the Annual Business Meeting.
- ii. A majority of certified votes present shall be required for election of any officer or board member or for passage of any matter of business voted upon at the Annual Business Meeting, except as follows
  - 1. A two-thirds vote of certified votes present and voting shall be required to adopt, repeal, or amend National Municipal Policy statements and to adopt separate policy resolutions.

### **b. Method of Voting:**

- i. Voting shall first be by voice vote.
- ii. If 10% of the certified votes present decide otherwise, there shall be a weighted voted using Election Buddy, our electronic voting software.
- iii. In weighted voting, each certified voting delegate, who votes, shall cast the total number of votes to which he or she is entitled.

### **c. Resolutions and Amendments:**

- i. Resolutions for and amendments to the National Municipal Policy will be considered in bulk for each chapter and voted unless one is set aside.
- ii. Voting delegates may set aside any amendment or resolution for independent discussion and votes by saying “Set aside” and indicating the proposal title, resolution or section number, page number, and line number in the Chat Box.
- iii. Grammatical corrections that do not substantively change the policy or resolution may be incorporated without amendment.
- iv. Proposals that are not submitted to voting delegates by the Board of Directors or Resolutions Committee shall be accompanied by a petition of 10 voting delegates and submitted by no later than 10:00 AM ET on the day of the Annual Business Meeting. Voting delegates pursuing the special petition process must email [advocacy@nlc.org](mailto:advocacy@nlc.org) to receive the petition packet.

### **d. Nominations:**

- i. The Nominating Committee shall present to the annual meeting a slate of qualified candidates for officer positions and seats on the Board of Directors.
- ii. The report from the Nominating Committee should be posted on the virtual event site at least 6 hours before the scheduled Call to Order at the Annual Business Meeting.



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- iii. Nominations may be made by petition, provided that such petition is presented to the annual meeting by 10 voting delegates. All such nominating petitions must be submitted by 10:00 AM ET on the day of the Annual Business Meeting. Voting delegates pursuing the special petition process must email [smith@nlc.org](mailto:smith@nlc.org).
    - 1. Such petition will carry the name of the individual proposed for nomination, the position nominated for, as well as the printed name, title, city and state, and the signature of sponsoring delegates.
  - iv. An electronic ballot shall separate those names presented by the Nominating Committee from those nominated from the floor.
    - 1. A ballot for Board of Director positions shall also distinguish those positions held customarily by state league directors.
    - 2. Nominees by petition shall run against the entire slate for the category in which they are nominated (i.e., officer positions, one-year or two-year seats on the Board of Directors).
  - v. A majority vote of the certified votes present at the Annual Business Meeting shall be required for election of any officer or member of the Board of Directors.
  - vi. When more than two persons are nominated for an NLC officer position and no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest vote will be eliminated from the ballot and a new vote taken. To facilitate the elections process, the names of any candidates receiving less than 10 percent of the votes cast on any ballot may be eliminated from subsequent ballots.
  - vii. When more persons are nominated for election to the Board of Directors than vacancies exist, those persons receiving a majority vote on the first ballot will be declared elected. The name receiving the least number of votes, and any names receiving less than 10 percent of the votes cast on the previous ballot, shall then be eliminated and a new vote taken. This process will be repeated until all vacant positions are filled.
  - viii. Member cities must cast unanimous votes. Member leagues may cast votes unanimously, or split, however the league wishes.

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# ***Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions***

## **Executive Summary**

### *Finance, Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee*

- ❖ **Section 1.03 Intergovernmental Relations**
  - Q. Election Administration
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #01:** Calling to Resolve the Conflict Between State and Federal Cannabis Laws
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #02:** Preserving the Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #03:** Calling for the Restoration of the Tax-Exemption on Advance Refunding Bonds
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #04:** Calling for The Modernization of The Small Borrower's Exemption (Bank Qualified Debt)
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #05:** Support for Reforming the Earned Income Tax Credit for Childless Workers
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #06:** Exempts from Taxation Income from Loan Modification, Forgiveness or Cancellation for Small Businesses
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #07:** Calling to Preserve and Enhance Voting By Mail
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #08:** Support for The John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

### *Energy, Environment and Natural Resources Committee*

- ❖ **Section 2.00 Environmental Quality**
  - D. Principles
- ❖ **Section 2.02 Energy**
  - A. Goals
  - E. Renewable Energy
  - F. Conventional Energy Sources
  - G. Electricity
  - H. Transportation and Energy
- ❖ **Section 2.04 Solid and Hazardous Waste**

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- A. Problem
  - B. Goals
  - C. Solid Waste Policies
  - D. Nuclear Waste Management Policies
- ❖ **Section 2.10 Security of Critical Infrastructure**
    - C. Federal Policies
  - ❖ **Section 2.11 Health-Focused Local Food Systems**
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #09:** Supporting Local Pace Programs
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #10:** Supporting and Advancing Resilient Communities to Prepare for Changing Climate and Extreme Weather Events
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #11:** Supporting Urgent Action to Reduce Carbon Emissions and Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #12:** Addressing Lead Contamination and Calling for Nationwide Federal Support for Water Infrastructure
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #13:** Increase Federal Investment in Water Infrastructure
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #14:** Support for Integrated Planning and New Affordability Consideration for Water
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #15:** Calling on the Federal Government to Take Action to Address PFAS Contamination
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #16:** Improve the Benefit-Cost Analysis for Federally Funded Flood Control Projects and Supporting Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Material
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #17:** Increase Funding for Border Water Infrastructure Projects
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #18:** Supporting Local Control of Water Infrastructure Projects

*Community and Economic Development Committee*

- ❖ **Section 3.04 Economic Development**
  - C. Recommended Federal Actions
- ❖ **Section 3.06 Housing**
  - C. Recommended Federal Actions

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- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #19:** Supporting a Federal Agenda for Local Economic Development, Economic Mobility, and Entrepreneurship
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #20:** Urging the Development of Criteria for Neighborhood Preference as an Anti-Displacement Tool
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #21:** Urging the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to Enact Safeguards Against Abuses in Contracts for Deeds
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #22:** Supporting the Need for Public Transparency Surrounding Installation Scoring from Past Rounds of Base Realignment and Closure
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #23:** Supporting a National Agenda for U.S. Housing Investment and Opportunity
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #24:** Endorsing the Recommendations of NLC’s National Housing Task Force Report “Homeward Bound, The Road to Affordable Housing”

### *Human Development Committee*

- ❖ **Section 4.00 Introduction**
- ❖ **Section 4.01 Social Services**
- ❖ **Section 4.02 Children and Learning**
- ❖ **Section 4.03 Poverty Reduction and Income Support**
- ❖ **Section 4.04 Employment**
- ❖ **Section 4.06 Seniors and Social Security**
- ❖ **Section 4.07 Individuals with Disabilities**
- ❖ **Section 4.08 Health**
- ❖ **Section 4.09 Immigration and Refugees**
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #25:** In Support of Action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to Study and Address Violence in America
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #26:** In Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #27:** In Support of Efforts to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault

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- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #28:** In Support of Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Increased Investment in Workforce Development Programs
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #29:** Addressing Systemic Racism as a Public Health Crisis
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #30:** In Support of Actions by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) And Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to Address Coronavirus Health Disparities through Resources and Data
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #31:** In Support of the One Health Initiative
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #32:** In Support of Child Nutrition Reauthorization
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #33:** In Support of a National Holiday Commemorating the Accomplishments and Legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #34:** In Support of The Equality Act
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #35:** In Support of Mothers in The Workforce
  - ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #36:** In Support of Equal Pay for Women

### *Transportation and Infrastructure Services Committee*

- ❖ **5.00 Transportation Principles**
- ❖ **5.04 Air Transportation**
- ❖ **5.05 Rail**
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #37:** Partner with Cities, Towns, and Villages on Flexible Programs to Meet Every Community's Transportation Needs and Vision
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #38:** Advancing Safety for All to Reach Vision Zero with Policies that Achieve Safe, Healthy and Equitable Mobility for All

### *Public Safety and Crime Prevention Committee*

- ❖ **Section 6.01 Crime Prevention**
  - C. Weapons and Ammunition Control
  - D. Youth Oriented Crime Prevention
    - 1. Youth Crime and Violence
    - 3. Corrections

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- 4. School Safety

- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #39:** In Support of Legislation to Reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to Ensure Property Owners Are Able to Afford Insurance for Other Natural Disasters Such as Wildland Fires and Earthquakes
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #40:** In Support of Federal Efforts to Ensure State and Local Governments Have the Authority to Regulate the Manufacturing, Distribution and Sale of Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #41:** In Support of Federal Efforts to Prevent and Treat First Responder Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #42:** On the Use of Force by Municipal Law Enforcement Officers
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #43:** In Support of Federal Efforts to Recruit and Retain a Diverse Public Safety Workforce
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #44:** In Support of Federal Efforts to Ensure Local Governments Can Hold Law Enforcement Officers Accountable

*Information Technology and Communications Committee*

- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #45:** Local Government Support of Community/Municipal Broadband Networks
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #46:** Federal Investment in Broadband Access: A Call For Universal Availability, Affordability And World-Class Quality
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #47:** Local Government Support for Fairness and Truth in Advertising for Internet Service Providers
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #48:** Preserving Local Control of Broadband Infrastructure Siting
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #49:** Calling for Updated Federal Safety Standards for Radiofrequency Emissions of Wireless Facilities
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #50:** In Support of Municipal Data Ownership and Protection
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #51:** In Support of Digital Equity for American Communities

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*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

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

**FAIR**

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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

Please note:

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

## **POLICY:**

- **Section 1.03 Intergovernmental Relations**
  - Q. Election Administration



# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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## **Q. Election Administration**

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

# *Proposed FAIR Resolutions*

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- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #01:** Calling to Resolve the Conflict Between State and Federal Cannabis Laws
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #02:** Preserving the Tax-Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #03:** Calling for the Restoration of the Tax-Exemption on Advance Refunding Bonds
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**NLC RESOLUTION #01**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, forty-seven states, four U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia – representing 97.7 % of the U.S. population – have legalized some form of recreational or medical marijuana; and

**WHEREAS**, cannabis’ status as a Schedule I illicit substance on the Controlled Substances Act (CSA) and the CSA’s coupling with the Bank Secrecy Act have created a condition under which the cannabis industry has severely limited access to the federally regulated banking industry; and

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

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Justice has rescinded guidance that previously provided a minimal level of confidence for financial institutions looking to provide services to this growing industry, causing Congress to introduce and pass legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives to try to tackle this issue; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 19, 2021, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1996, the Secure and Fair Enforcement (SAFE) Banking Act of 2021. The bill would allow marijuana-related businesses in states with some form of legalized marijuana and strict regulatory structures to access the banking system. The bill passed with overwhelming, bipartisan support by a vote of 321 to 101, including 106 Republicans; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 23, 2021, Senators Jeff Merkley (D-Ore) and Steve Daines (R-Mont.) introduced the SAFE Banking Act in the Senate with nearly a third of the chamber supporting the bill.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities urges the federal government to remove cannabis from Schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act and provide guidance to financial institutions that results in the cannabis market having access to the federally regulated banking system, such guidance to include the United States Senate to pass the SAFE Banking Act and the President of the United States of America to sign the bill into law.

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2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION #02**

4 **PRESERVING THE TAX-EXEMPT STATUS OF MUNICIPAL BONDS**

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

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, tax-exempt municipal bonds are the primary funding mechanism for state and local  
9 government infrastructure projects with three-quarters of the total United States investment in  
10 infrastructure being accomplished with tax-exempt financing from over 50,000 state and local  
11 governments and authorities; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, the tax-exemption for municipal bonds was granted to ensure affordable access to  
14 credit for municipal projects that, among other things, provide for public health and well-being,  
15 and as a result, local governments have saved taxpayers an average of 20 to 25 percent on  
16 interest costs with tax-exempt municipal bonds as compared to taxable bonds; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, a cap or elimination of the federal tax exemption for municipal bonds would place  
19 federal, state, and local governments at cross-purposes because any savings realized by the  
20 federal government as a result of tampering with the tax exemption would be more than offset by  
21 economic losses at the state and local level due to higher credit costs, canceled infrastructure  
22 projects, fewer job opportunities, and a greater burden on local taxpayers; and

23  
24 **WHEREAS**, stability in the municipal bond market rests on the tax exemption for municipal  
25 bonds, and market stability is essential to local and national economic recovery.

26  
27 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities calls on  
28 members of Congress and the Administration to state their support for maintaining the tax  
29 exemption for municipal bonds to promote employment and investment in our nation’s cities and  
30 towns; and

31  
32 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC opposes any attempt to eliminate or limit the federal  
33 tax exemption for municipal bonds as a part of a federal deficit reduction plan, pension reform  
34 legislation or as a consequence of efforts to advance comprehensive tax reform; and

35  
36 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports maintaining the tax exemption for qualified  
37 private activity bonds (PABs) to finance critical infrastructure, affordable housing projects and  
38 other local services; and

39  
40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports efforts to reduce the cost and redundant  
41 burdens of issuance and administration by eliminating redundant rules on arbitrage and private  
42 use; and

43  
44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports Congress and the Administration providing  
45 certainty to municipal issuers of tax credit and other federally subsidized bonds by exempting  
46 subsidies from sequestration rules.

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3 **NLC RESOLUTION #03**

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

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

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, advanced refundings represented 27% of municipal bond market activity in 2016  
10 and 19% in 2017; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, such single use bonds allowed municipalities to refinance outstanding debt and  
13 achieve interest rate reductions prior to the original bond’s call date; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, lower borrowing costs allowed issuers to save at least \$12 billion of local tax  
16 dollars per year in debt servicing costs and free up capital to invest in additional infrastructure  
17 improvements, better balance budgets and lower local tax rates; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, advance refunding bonds provided municipalities with a tool to better-weather  
20 recessions by allowing them to reduce otherwise fixed costs as tax receipts fall; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 eliminated the ability of municipalities to issue  
23 single use tax exempt advance refunding bonds; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, in the 116th Congress (the prior Congress) bills to reinstate tax-exempt advanced  
26 refunding was introduced in both chambers of Congress, as well as incorporated into H.R. 2., the  
27 Moving Forward Act. Legislation to reinstate tax-exempt advanced refundings was again  
28 introduced in the 117th (the current Congress).

29  
30 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities supports the full  
31 reinstatement of the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds or a substantial equivalent.

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**NLC RESOLUTION #04**

**CALLING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE SMALL BORROWER'S  
EXEMPTION (BANK QUALIFIED DEBT)**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the small borrower's exemption should be modified to apply to governmental issuers and the borrowing organizations separately regardless of the issuer and permit 501(c)(3) organizations to provide the designation.

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**NLC RESOLUTION #2021-05**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a refundable credit to eligible workers. Even if a worker does not owe any federal tax, the worker may benefit from it; and

**WHEREAS**, the EITC is the nation's largest cash antipoverty program, with a tax year 2016 (returns filed in 2017) total of \$66.7 billion claimed on 27.4 million tax returns. Most of the claimed EITC dollars—\$64.7 billion, or 97% of total EITC dollars—were for taxpayers with children compared to \$2.1 billion in claimed EITC for taxpayers with no qualifying children; and

**WHEREAS**, the EITC is so small for childless workers, it effectively does not lift them out of poverty because the EITC for this group is much too small (and for some, isn't available at all) that it does not offset the income taxes and employee share of payroll taxes that they must pay; and

**WHEREAS**, this affects 5 million childless adults aged 21 through 66; and

**WHEREAS**, the maximum credit in 2018 is more than 10 times as much for a taxpayer with a child than a childless taxpayer; and

**WHEREAS**, recipients without children must be at least 25 years old—there are no age restrictions for parents; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to 2021 the maximum amount that a childless taxpayer could receive though the EITC was \$538; and

**WHEREAS**, as part of the American Rescue Plan Act, a childless taxpayer will be able to receive just more than \$1,500 from the EITC; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC will support Congress making the EITC for childless workers permanent as a way to help reduce poverty in cities.

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**NLC RESOLUTION #06**

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

**WHEREAS**, for this resolution a “small business” or “small businesses” is defined as a business having fewer than 50 full-time employees; and

**WHEREAS**, the recent economic downturn and lockdowns forced many businesses for forgo significant amounts of revenue; and

**WHEREAS**, prior to the pandemic, struggling small businesses would have been able to refinance debt or extend lending terms on the original agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, today, many small businesses are fighting for survival, and creditors face a choice of demanding payment under the original terms outlined in the agreement or engage in loan modification, forgiveness or cancellation; and

**WHEREAS**, the viability of many small businesses in the coming months to stay afloat will rely on loan modifications, forgiveness, or cancellation to stay in business; and

**WHEREAS**, the modification, forgiveness and cancellation of debt comes with its own burdens; and

**WHEREAS**, Internal Revenue Code (“IRC”) general rule considers cancellation of debt (“COD”) ordinary income under Sec. 61(a)(12); and

**WHEREAS**, for example, XYZ business has a loan with a bank with a balance of \$500,000, and modifies the loan to cancel 50 percent of the balance – \$250,000. The business will receive a 1099-C stating it had income of \$250,000 for that tax year. The business might not have the corresponding cashflow to pay the taxes on the cancelled portion of the loan when the tax bill comes due and may have to close despite altering is loan terms to try to stay afloat.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities will advocate for small businesses as defined herein this resolution to be exempt from taxation on income from loan modification, forgiveness or cancellation to help maintain healthy thriving cities.



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**NLC RESOLUTION #07**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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3 **NLC RESOLUTION #08**

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

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

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed to ensure that millions of Black, Latinx,  
8 Asian American and Native American citizens who were previously denied suffrage have an  
9 equal opportunity to cast their ballot; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, in the 2013 Shelby County v. Holder decision, the United States Supreme Court  
12 upheld Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act, requiring jurisdictions with a history of  
13 discrimination to submit any proposed changes in voting procedures to the U.S. Department of  
14 Justice or a federal district court in Washington, D.C. to ensure the change would not harm  
15 minority voters (known as “preclearance”); and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, in the Shelby County V. Holder decision, the United States Supreme Court struck  
18 down Section 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which contained the coverage formula used  
19 to determine which jurisdictions are covered by Section 5 of the Act; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is practically defunct; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, following the 2013 Shelby County V. Holder decision, several states enacted new  
24 voting restrictions that, prior to the 2013 decision, would have been subject to preclearance under  
25 Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, the United States House of Representatives, in a report entitled Voting Rights and  
28 Election Administration in the United States of America concluded that “without federal  
29 protections, new and old barriers to voting have emerged” that “disproportionately impact  
30 minority voters;” and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act creates a new coverage formula  
33 that applies to all states; and

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act establishes a targeted process for  
36 reviewing voting changes in jurisdictions nationwide, that utilizes measures that have historically  
37 been used to disenfranchise minority voters; and

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, the National League of Cities is opposed to any federal laws that restricts  
40 American citizens from exercising their most fundamental constitutional right to vote.

41  
42 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities supports the  
43 John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and urges its enactment into law.

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*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

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

**EENR**

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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

Please note:

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

## **POLICY:**

- **Section 2.00 Environmental Quality**
  - D. Principles
- **Section 2.02 Energy**
  - A. Goals
  - E. Renewable Energy
  - F. Conventional Energy Sources
  - G. Electricity
  - H. Transportation and Energy
- **Section 2.04 Solid and Hazardous Waste**
  - A. Problem
  - B. Goals
  - C. Solid Waste Policies
  - D. Nuclear Waste Management Policies
- **Section 2.10 Security of Critical Infrastructure**
  - C. Federal Policies
- **Section 2.11 Health-Focused Local Food Systems**

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## 1 Section 2.00 Environmental Quality

### 3 D. Principles

#### 4 1. Regional Approaches

5 [no change]

#### 7 2. Sustainability

8 NLC is committed to the concept of sustainability, that as a society we must find ways to meet  
9 the needs of the present population without compromising the ability of future generations to  
10 meet their needs. Adopting sustainable solutions offers the potential of multiple, significant  
11 benefits to individuals, communities and society, including economic prosperity, environmental  
12 protection, environmental justice, social well-being, public health and national security.

14 A wide array of issues should be viewed through the sustainability lens, including energy,  
15 water, transportation, land use and economic development, housing, and public health. (*See also*  
16 *the Community and Economic Development (CED) and Transportation Infrastructure and*  
17 *Services policy chapters.*)

19 NLC supports the Interagency Partnership for Sustainable Communities formed by the U.S.  
20 Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Transportation, and the  
21 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate housing, community development,  
22 transportation, energy, and environmental policies that will help local communities create better  
23 and more affordable places to live, work and raise families. NLC urges Congress to pass  
24 legislation to officially authorize the partnership and to continue funding.

26 From a municipal perspective, protecting and rebuilding existing communities are vital  
27 components of a national environmental protection program. Restoring and strengthening  
28 existing communities contributes toward ensuring a sustainable future. (*For more details on*  
29 *sustainable development, see CED Section 3.07 (C) (4) (c), Land Use, Promoting Sustainable*  
30 *Communities.*)

32 America's cities can benefit from the exchange of experiences and engagement with local  
33 governments in other countries, and must join in international cooperation and collaboration  
34 efforts to mount meaningful actions to achieve goals and reduce the impacts of climate change.

#### 36 3. Environmental Justice

37 The impacts of pollution fall disproportionately on various communities, including people with  
38 disabilities, economically disadvantaged households, the elderly, Black, Indigenous and People  
39 of Color (BIPOC), and other vulnerable and underrepresented populations~~poor and minority~~  
40 ~~communities~~, an issue of special concern to the nation's cities, and towns and villages. To  
41 mitigate these unacceptable impacts, the federal government should:

- 42 • Identify those areas with the largest concentrations of toxic chemicals in air, land, and  
43 water;
- 44 • Assess the human health in the areas of highest impact;
- 45 • Provide opportunities and resources that will allow them to participate in determining  
46 adverse health effects and economic impacts;

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- Identify activities that have significant effects on human health and develop plans that will result in net reductions in pollution;
  - Include environmental justice as an integral component of all federal planning, programs, and statutes; and
  - Enhance opportunities for early public and local government participation, including access to accurate, objective information about the consequences of permit issuance; and
  - Prioritize equitable access to nature and natural spaces.

55 NLC opposes any federal regulations that place restrictions on state and local government

56 actions regulating private property or that require additional compensation beyond current

57 interpretations of the Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

## 1 2.02 Energy

### 2 A. Goals

3 NLC urges the federal government to work with local governments to develop and implement a

4 sustainable energy policy that is reliable, equitable, environmentally responsible and evidence-

5 based and that will:

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- Continue to assess the future of our nation’s energy requirements to ensure that our energy policy adequately addresses the future needs of the country;
  - Promote the most efficient and affordable use of renewable and sustainable energy sources ~~to~~while protecting the environment;
  - Encourage the transition to a clean energy economy that increases the use of carbon neutral energy and promotes energy efficiency, with a goal of at least 50 percent carbon neutral energy by 2030 and 100 percent by 2050 or sooner;
  - Protect the supply of energy by promoting the use of renewable energy sources ~~and alternative fuels~~, while implementing measures ~~developing techniques~~ to reduce ~~minimize~~ the environmental impact of ~~the use of conventional~~ fossil fuels;
  - Protect our economic and national security by reducing our dependence on foreign oil and minimizing the environmental impact of the ~~encouraging environmentally responsible~~ domestic production of ~~conventional and renewable~~ energy sources;
  - Ensure a national energy supply which will ~~that~~ decreases greenhouse gas emissions;
  - Encourage conservation and increased energy efficiency across the country and sectors of the economy;
  - Encourage the widespread use and deployment of both distributed energy sources and utility scale generation of renewable energy as a component of energy infrastructure to help communities withstand impacts from disruptions in regional supply systems; ~~and~~
  - Promote community resilience by strengthening and modernizing energy infrastructure to reduce vulnerability to disruptions and withstand the impacts of climate change;
  - Support local economies with job training and workforce development as the nation transitions to clean energy; and
  - Ensure that low-income households do not face unaffordable costs related to the transition away from fossil fuels.

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## **B. Climate Change Mitigation**

[no change]

## **C. Federal Policies**

[no change]

## **D. Energy Efficiency**

[no change]

## **E. Renewable Energy Sources**

### *1. ~~Alternative and Renewable Energy~~*

Federal tax policies should promote the development and use of ~~alternative and~~ renewable energy. NLC supports long-term extensions of the investment tax credit and the production tax credit for renewable energy as an incentive for their development and deployment. NLC supports policies and financial mechanisms that lower the cost and eliminate financial, regulatory and market barriers to development, procurement and implementation of ~~alternative and~~ renewable energy sources by residential, commercial and municipal entities, as well as producers. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) should continue to offer grants to cities for the procurement of ~~these non-conventional~~ renewable energy sources for use in municipal buildings.

To promote the use and development of renewable energy such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, tidal and hydro power, the federal government should:

- Increase funding for research and development to implement the use of renewable energy sources;
- Create a renewable portfolio standard that increases the share of electricity from renewable sources;
- Create standards for and evaluate the effectiveness of renewable energy products;
- Promote and support improvements to the electrical grid, including capabilities and incentives for smart metering, support for large scale distributed generation and storage capacity, and construction of long-distance renewable energy transmission capabilities; and
- Increase funding to research and develop innovative alternative energy technology for energy production, storage and transmission.

### *2. ~~Demand Management~~*

~~NLC urges the federal government to establish tax incentives promoting demand-side management of energy in such areas as distributed generation systems and electricity production to reduce base load demand.~~

### *3. ~~Distributed Generation~~*

~~The federal government should develop a comprehensive research and development program to improve storage capacity and affordability of distributed energy systems, as well as promote their implementation.~~

### *4. ~~Renewable Energy Sources~~*

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78 a. Hydroelectric

79 The use of hydroelectric power should be done in a manner that minimizes environmental  
80 impact. The pricing of hydroelectric power generated at federal projects should be as low as  
81 possible, while ensuring that all costs to the federal government are fully recovered including the  
82 cost of federal capital. The federal government should continue to own and operate the federal  
83 power marketing agencies and should not sell, transfer, exchange or otherwise dispose of them.  
84 NLC supports the protection of municipal utility purchases of hydroelectric power through  
85 federal contracts.

86  
87 b. Solar

88 The federal government should support research programs to develop innovative and practical  
89 solar technology. Additionally, the federal government should promote financing mechanisms  
90 that stimulate and incentivize the adoption and installation of solar technologies for residential,  
91 commercial and municipal use.

92  
93 c. Wind

94 The federal government should support research programs to develop wind technology for  
95 commercial and residential use, clarify regulations related to its implementation, and provide  
96 incentives to promote its use.

97  
98 d. Additional Energy Sources

99 The federal government should support research and development and use of additional energy  
100 sources such as geothermal and bioenergy, including waste-to-energy and landfill gas recovery  
101 projects, that help meet goals of an efficient, economical, and environmentally responsible  
102 energy supply. NLC urges the federal government to support technical assistance and incentives  
103 for local- and regional-scale efforts to obtain biogas from waste materials and biological  
104 feedstocks.

105  
106 **~~F. Conventional Energy Sources~~**

107 2. Fossil Fuels

108 NLC supports the transition away from fossil fuels as energy sources toward a clean energy  
109 economy that increases the use of carbon neutral energy and promotes energy efficiency. During  
110 this transition, the federal government must ensure that:

- 111 • Fossil fuel use minimally impacts the environment;
- 112 • Communities with a reliance on the fossil fuel industry are supported with job training  
113 and workforce development;
- 114 • Low-income households do not face unaffordable energy costs;
- 115 • Carbon capture technologies are deployed to minimize environmental impacts and harm  
116 and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The federal government should support research  
117 and development for technologies that have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas  
118 emissions, such as carbon sequestration and hydrogen production; and
- 119 • No new leases for fossil fuel development on federal land are granted and that existing  
120 permits are phased out.

121  
122 While carbon sequestration has the potential to cut greenhouse gas emissions, it should not be  
123 used to extend the life of coal or natural gas plants, nor should it be a substitute for transitioning



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124 to clean energy sources. The federal government should support nature-based carbon removal  
125 approaches, such as increasing and maintaining forests and trees, wetland preservation and  
126 restoration, and changes in farming practices that can increase soil carbon capture.

127  
128 4.a. Coal

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

- 133 ~~• Support research programs to develop the most efficient, environmentally responsible~~  
134 ~~methods to extract, transport, and utilize coal for energy production~~Expediently  
135 minimize environmental impacts and harm from production and use of coal as the nation  
136 transitions to renewable and sustainable energy;
- 137 • Eliminate the practice of mountain top removal mining and prohibit disposal of spoils in  
138 watersheds to protect water quality and water sources;
- 139 • Continue to support and enhance efforts to minimize ongoing harm to environmental  
140 quality and threats to public safety associated with abandoned coal mines; and
- 141 ~~• Streamline requirements for development and retention of leases for coal reserves on~~  
142 ~~federal land in an environmentally responsible manner;~~
- 143 ~~• Research the use and storage of coal byproducts, such as methane, as a future energy~~  
144 ~~source;~~
- 145 • Provide appropriate guidance and standards for the safe management of coal combustion  
146 ash.
- 147 ~~• Develop incentives for the use of clean coal technology and Best Available Control~~  
148 ~~Technologies for new and existing plants; and~~
- 149 ~~• Increase research and development for carbon capture and storage technology and fund~~  
150 ~~large-scale integrated demonstration projects for carbon capture, transportation and~~  
151 ~~storage that reduce emissions from existing coal plants.~~

152  
153 4.b. Natural Gas

154 ~~The federal government should encourage~~ ensure the domestic production of natural gas occurs  
155 in a manner that minimizes environmental impacts and harm ~~in an environmentally responsible~~  
156 ~~manner. Therefore, the federal government should:~~

- 157 • Promote measures to avoid leakage and other accidental release of methane during  
158 production and transport of natural gas and support development of new technologies for  
159 leak detection;
- 160 • Ensure that water quality and water resources are protected;
- 161 • Require the disclosure of chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing; and
- 162 • Study the relationship of the oil and natural gas production and extraction process on  
163 drinking water resources and air quality, the impacts on land and aquatic ecosystems,  
164 seismic risks and public safety.

165  
166 4.c. Petroleum

167 While the nation continues to rely on petroleum as an energy source, t~~The federal government~~  
168 should promote the ensure domestic production occurs in a manner that minimizes

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169 environmental impacts and harm. of domestic petroleum in an environmentally responsible  
170 manner.

171  
172 In the event of a supply disruption, there should be no action by the federal government that  
173 causes the depletion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve simply to mitigate oil prices. The federal  
174 government should not reinstate price controls on domestically produced crude oil.

### 175 176 *3. Nuclear*

177 Nuclear power will be a necessary component of the carbon-neutral energy portfolio for the  
178 coming decades. The federal government should use its capacities and authorities to maximize  
179 the safety and minimize the adverse environmental effects and public costs of nuclear power  
180 production and the nuclear fuel cycle. The federal government should support and encourage the  
181 development and deployment of technical innovations and advanced technology that enhances  
182 safety and efficiency of nuclear power production and reduces the potential for misuse or  
183 diversion of nuclear materials. In the exploration of nuclear power options, the federal  
184 government should require the development of design and safety features that will maximize the  
185 safety of nuclear energy. The federal government should ensure that its improve existing  
186 licensing and regulatory procedures for new and existing nuclear power plants are appropriate  
187 for the potential hazards associated with their specific technologies and external conditions,  
188 including implications of climate change. In particular,

189  
190 Additionally, Congress should strengthen the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (NRC)  
191 protection of the public – and public confidence in the NRC – by prohibiting “revolving door”  
192 employment between industry and the NRC. Final siting approval of nuclear facilities should be  
193 a shared responsibility among federal, state and local governments, subject to appropriate federal  
194 environmental laws and regulations.

195  
196 Federal agencies providing review of emergency preparedness, response and evacuation plans  
197 must include cities in the development and review of the plans. These plans should include a  
198 protocol for educating communities, particularly those who reside within the evacuation zone, on  
199 radioactivity and radiological hazards before an incident occurs. Federal funding should be  
200 available to local governments as first responders for emergency preparedness and response for  
201 nuclear events. (Specific policies for disaster preparedness and response are contained in Section  
202 6.03 of the Public Safety and Crime Prevention chapter.)

### 203 204 *4. Petroleum*

205 The federal government should promote the production of domestic petroleum in an  
206 environmentally responsible manner. In the event of a supply disruption, there should be no  
207 action by the federal government that causes the depletion of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve  
208 simply to mitigate oil prices. The federal government should not reinstate price controls on  
209 domestically produced crude oil.

## 210 211 **G.F. Electricity**

### 212 *1. Infrastructure*

213 NLC supports federal incentives for all generators and transmission grid owners to create new  
214 infrastructure, consistent with current environmental regulations and laws. To ensure that the

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215 nation has an adequate and reliable national transmission grid, the federal government should  
216 coordinate with state and local governments. NLC opposes any attempts to preempt local  
217 authority in siting energy producing facilities or transmission grids.  
218

## 219 *2. Smart Grid*

220 Smart grid technology will increase the capacity, quality and reliability of the electric power  
221 grid, increase the grid's energy and operational efficiencies, and enable significant increases in  
222 distributed renewable and stored energy. NLC supports federal programs that:

- 223 • Conduct research into smart grid technology and help promote its commercialization;
- 224 • Create standards for interoperability and security;
- 225 • Fund pilot programs to study techniques that reduce energy demand by giving customers  
226 more direct and automated control over their energy use, evaluate rate structures that  
227 more accurately reflect energy costs, and investigate the integration of renewable energy  
228 sources onto the local grid;
- 229 • Provide consumer education and workforce training; and
- 230 • Facilitate an accelerated implementation of smart grid technology across the distribution  
231 and transmission networks.

## 232 *2. Demand Management*

233 NLC urges the federal government to establish tax incentives promoting demand-side  
234 management of energy in such areas as distributed generation systems and electricity production  
235 to reduce base load demand.  
236

## 237 *3. Distributed Generation*

238 The federal government should develop a comprehensive research and development program to  
239 improve storage capacity and affordability of distributed energy systems, as well as promote  
240 their implementation. The federal government should incentivize the buildout and deployment of  
241 microgrids, which can provide backup power during emergencies.  
242

## 243 **H.G. Transportation and Energy**

244 NLC supports federal programs that:

- 245 • Reduce dependence on fossil fuels used for transportation, including through the support  
246 and promotion of transportation alternatives such as public transportation, multi-modal  
247 transportation systems and safe and connected networks for walking and bicycling to  
248 employment, education and commercial centers ~~routes to schools~~;
- 249 • Increase funding for federal research and development of alternative sources of energy  
250 for transportation;
- 251 • Pursue a national distribution system for alternative fuels for transportation use;
- 252 • Encourage national standards for electric vehicle infrastructure to ensure compatibility  
253 with all brands of vehicles;
- 254 • Offer incentives for acquisition of zero- or low- emission vehicles, ~~such as natural gas~~  
255 ~~or electric vehicles.~~ Incentives should be available for cities to purchase these vehicles for  
256 use in public transportation systems, ~~and~~ municipal fleets and school buses, and to public  
257 and private entities to install electric vehicle infrastructure;
- 258 • Minimize environmental harm associated with the extraction, processing, and disposal of  
259 metals used in electric vehicle batteries, and encourage development of alternatives; and  
260

- 
- 261 • Ensure that the air quality benefits of using zero and low emission vehicles are quantified  
262 and credited toward meeting national air quality goals.

263  
264 NLC opposes a federally mandated phase-in of a fixed number of alternative fueled vehicles for  
265 fleets, in the absence of federal funding for this purpose. *(See also the Transportation*  
266 *Infrastructure and Services policy chapter).*

## 1 **2.04 Solid and Hazardous Waste**

2

### 3 **A. Problem**

4 Disposing of solid and hazardous wastes and conserving resources are two of the most  
5 challenging issues facing local governments. The Chinese National Sword Policy has had ripple  
6 effects on community recycling programs and recycling markets across the country and  
7 necessitates finding new solutions to waste management and recycling in the United States.

8

9 Improper disposal of hazardous wastes, including nuclear and radioactive waste, and spills of  
10 chemicals, oils, and other hazardous substances, can endanger public health and pollute our  
11 nation’s air, water and land resources.

12

### 13 **B. Goals**

14 Waste management must be addressed aggressively through source reduction, volume reduction  
15 and resource recovery. The federal government should invest in and develop sustainable  
16 domestic capacity for recovering resources and returning them to economically beneficial use.  
17 These actions must be compatible with protecting the environment.

18

19 The Chinese National Sword Policy presents an opportunity to reimagine and strengthen U.S.  
20 waste management and recycling infrastructure and programs. Investments in domestic  
21 infrastructure, support for local and regional recycling programs and education efforts, and  
22 policy changes will ensure recycling remains environmentally and economically sustainable  
23 throughout the country.

24

### 25 **C. Solid Waste Policies**

26 Solid waste management is primarily a local matter issue, but the nature and quantity of waste  
27 that must be managed is largely dictated by national and multinational decisions and trends. The  
28 federal government should support local and regional programs by developing a national solid  
29 waste management policy that takes an integrated approach to best meet local needs.

30

#### 31 *I. Source Reduction*

32 To help relieve local governments and tax-payers of the financial burden of product and  
33 packaging management and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the federal government should:

- 34 • Develop and implement policies that promote product stewardship and create incentives  
35 inducements for manufacturers and marketers to design and produce products and  
36 packaging created with less energy, materials and toxins;

- 
- Support the creation of effective producer-led reduction, reuse and recycling programs to address a product’s life cycle environmental impacts;
  - Create incentives for local governments and producers to develop systems to collect, compost, reuse and recycle products;
  - Promote material exchange and secondary markets;
  - Support research and development on conversion technology, packaging materials, biodegradability and techniques to minimize solid waste, facilitate recycling and reuse, and provide safe and cost-effective methods to convert nonrecyclable wastes to energy;
  - Support public participation and education programs to provide a better understanding of source reduction (reduce, reuse, recycle) and disposal options; and
  - Promote the recycling of materials for federally-funded projects.

## 2. *Electronic Waste*

NLC supports federal efforts to educate the public on minimizing electronic waste and associated risks to health and the environment. NLC urges Congress to develop a system to maximize the reuse and responsible recycling of used electronics and create a viable financing mechanism. Congress should investigate the use of appropriate incentives to:

- Design products that facilitate source reduction, reduce environmental impact, and encourage reuse, recycling, product take-back, and responsible reclamation of components;
- Ensure that used electronics are recycled in a sustainable manner, such as through an accredited third-party certification program;
- Promote green electronics as a source selection preference;
- Reduce toxicity by limiting the use of hazardous materials in electronics manufacture; and
- Increase recycled content and improve efficiencies in development and operation of electronic products.

NLC urges Congress and the Administration to ensure that all exported electronics are handled and disposed of safely in a manner that does not harm public health or the environment.

## 3. *Recycling*

To support municipal recycling initiatives, EPA should develop a clearinghouse to share best practices among cities on delivering efficient recycling programs and to create connections that foster collaboration between waste producers and users.

Congress should encourage development of long-term stable markets for recycled products, hard-to-recycle products (such as plastics) and non-recyclable products. In addition, federal funding should:

- Support research and development and pilot programs to assist local governments in demonstrating of new recycling techniques;
- Fund research and development for conversion technology for recycled materials, including products from tires and batteries; and
- Develop fair and appropriate tax incentives to target problematic waste streams from recycling processing centers.

---

#### 83 4. *Environmental Labeling*

84 NLC supports the development of national programs guidance to ensure that environmental  
85 labels for products and packaging, including labels regarding recyclability, biodegradability,  
86 flushability and suitability for composting or other processing, are based on a set of clear and  
87 verifiable definitions and standards that facilitate the safe and efficient processing of municipal  
88 solid waste and recycled goods and reduce costs to municipalities.

#### 89 5. *Plastics*

90 Plastic waste is found in the planet's land and oceans, in our food streams and in animals and  
91 human bodies. Plastics in our environment do not biodegrade, nor are all plastics are recyclable.  
92 For these reasons, NLC supports federal efforts to:

- 93 • reduce plastic use, including incentives to reduce the use of single-serve plastics that are  
94 not recyclable;
- 95 • incentivize and support research and development to reuse plastic waste through  
96 extended producer responsibility or other programs; and
- 97 • increase plastic recycling through public education and outreach and clear and verifiable  
98 definitions and labeling.

#### 99 6. *Organic Material*

100 NLC supports the diversion and reduction of compostable materials from landfills. NLC  
101 encourages development of reliable technical guidance to assist municipalities in establishing  
102 successful arrangements, including composting programs or other bioprocessing operations, that  
103 will convert organic waste materials into useful products or energy sources, rather than sending  
104 these materials to landfills.

105 Organic material, such as food waste, breaks down anaerobically and produces methane, which  
106 is a short-lived climate pollutant. Collected food waste can be composted into nutrient rich soil  
107 or renewable natural gas and lessen the impact on landfills and the environment.

108 Organic waste diversion and reduction are costly to implement. Barriers for organic waste  
109 collection are the requirements to sort into its own designated recycling bin with its own  
110 collection, public education and outreach, and the lack of technology and infrastructure by solid  
111 waste providers to process and convert organic waste. Additional barriers are individual  
112 environmental approvals for recycling facilities, as well as the need for regional recycling sites.

113 To support the proliferation of organic material diversion and reduction from landfills, Congress  
114 should consider:

- 115 • Funding to support the procurement organic waste infrastructure, including technological  
116 advancements in organic waste processing;
  - 117 • Support for environmental approvals to establish anaerobic recycling facilities;
  - 118 • Funding for public education and outreach to support and comply with organic waste  
119 collection; and
  - 120 • Incentives for waste haulers or processors.
- 121  
122  
123  
124  
125  
126

---

127 A byproduct of organic waste collection is food waste prevention. Markets, restaurants, farmers,  
128 and institutions (hospitals and schools) contribute to the organic waste stream by disposing  
129 edible food products. Congress can incentivize unnecessary food waste by:

- 130 • Supporting the redistribution or donation of edible food sources to local charities, food  
131 pantries or homeless shelters;
- 132 • Supporting the redistribution of edible food sources to animal feed processors; and
- 133 • Creating tax incentives and liability protections for donations.

### 134

#### 135 7. Medical Sharps and Pharmaceuticals

136 NLC supports medical sharps and pharmaceutical collection in order to protect public health, the  
137 environment and water quality. Improper disposal of expired or unused pharmaceuticals and  
138 medical sharps, such as needles and syringes, can endanger municipal workers and the public, as  
139 well as impose a cost-burden on local governments.

140

141 Extended producer responsibility through pharmaceutical and drug take-back programs will help  
142 prevent pollution of waterways, drinking water and soil contamination. Although pharmacy  
143 chains are working with drug manufacturers to create greater resources for drug disposal, the  
144 federal government should continue to work with drug manufacturer and local communities on  
145 public education and outreach and to further develop and expand product stewardship and take-  
146 back programs.

147

148 Product stewardship and collection centers are also important in sharps disposal. Sharps have  
149 been comingled in regular and public trash cans (such restrooms, hotels) leading to injury and  
150 harm to children, maintenance workers, and others. Sharps could contaminate trash, recycling  
151 bins and landfills, which impacts sanitation workers, recycling workers and water treatment  
152 facilities. While hospitals and pharmaceutical chains have participated in collection programs,  
153 Congress can help support proper sharps disposal by:

- 154 • Funding public disposal and collection sites at both public and private facilities including  
155 entertainment venues, airports, restaurants, hotels, etc.;
- 156 • Working with sharps manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies to develop sharps  
157 product stewardship programs and distribution of biohazard containers;
- 158 • Creating convenient sharps disposal sites such as pharmacy chains, hospitals, etc.;
- 159 • Providing funding for public health organizations to develop disposal sites and  
160 distribution of biohazard containers; and
- 161 • Supporting public outreach and education.

## 162

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

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

165 Final siting approval of nuclear facilities should be a shared responsibility among federal, state  
166 and local governments, subject to appropriate federal environmental laws and regulations.

167 Federal policy related to nuclear and radioactive waste disposal should be amended to give local  
168 governments the authority to directly participate in selecting the site for permanent repositories  
169 for high-level nuclear and intermediate and low-level radioactive waste. The permanent disposal  
170 or storage of nuclear and radioactive waste, within any populated area, is completely  
171 unacceptable. Further, sufficient technical assistance funding from the Nuclear Waste Trust Fund  
172 should be provided to local governments to enable them to conduct technical studies of potential

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173 repository sites, to provide technical comments on federal siting-related documents, and to  
174 monitor the site selection process. This should apply to sites identified on federal property or  
175 reservations in close proximity to a municipal boundary.

## 1 **Section 2.10 Security of Critical Infrastructure**

### 2 3 **C. Federal Policies**

#### 4 5 *3. Nuclear Facilities Protection*

6 NLC supports a federal regulatory system that protects nuclear facilities from direct attack or  
7 extreme events, including natural or human-caused disasters. Federal agencies and/or state agencies  
8 with delegated authority that provide review of emergency preparedness, response and  
9 evacuation plans must include cities in the development and review of the plans. These plans  
10 should include a protocol for educating communities, particularly those who reside within the  
11 evacuation zone, on radioactivity and radiological hazards before an incident occurs. Federal  
12 funding should be available to local governments as first responders for emergency  
13 preparedness, training and response for nuclear events. (*Specific policies for disaster*  
14 *preparedness and response are contained in Section 6.03 of the Public Safety and Crime*  
15 *Prevention chapter.*)

16  
17 NLC opposes any attempts by the federal government to federalize nuclear plant security teams or to  
18 provide the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with authority to summon any branch of the  
19 military.

20  
21 ~~NLC urges the federal government to increase funding available to local governments to train first~~  
22 ~~responders in the event of a nuclear emergency.~~

## 1 **Section 2.11 Health-Focused Local Food Systems**

2  
3 NLC urges Congress and the Administration to:

- 4 • Support policies and programs that reduce the prevalence of obesity and improve the  
5 overall health and wellness of those in our communities;
- 6 • Ensure that all people have access to food that is healthy, affordable and, where  
7 practicable, locally grown food;
- 8 • Support efforts to establish, promote and expand local farmers markets and school  
9 and community gardens;
- 10 • Provide incentives for local farms to sell fresh produce at ~~to~~ farmers markets and to  
11 schools;
- 12 • Support educational programming, outreach efforts and policies to reduce food loss and  
13 waste;



- 
- 14 • Encourage farmland conservation and ~~sustainable-regenerative agricultural practices~~  
15 ~~farming~~, such as water conservation, organic fertilizers, crop rotation and the use of  
16 living covers using less water and fertilizer and rotating crops, by providing incentives to  
17 small, local farms in urban and rural areas;
- 18 • Improve the quality of food in schools by supporting and promoting the purchase of  
19 unprocessed and minimally processed, locally grown and locally raised agriculture  
20 products, such as fresh fruits and vegetables, in schools;
- 21 • Expand and strengthen the Healthy Food Financing Initiative to meet the growing  
22 demand of healthy food access in underserved urban and rural communities;
- 23 • Maintain the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program as a federal grant program;
- 24 • Establish and maintain a national set of uniform, integrated food system metrics to help  
25 evaluate the effectiveness of existing programs and to plan innovative initiatives; and
- 26 • Enable an interagency partnership among the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency,  
27 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Department of Agriculture to  
28 protect and improve human, animal, and environmental health as an integrated system,  
29 including food safety and production.

# *Proposed EENR Resolutions*

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- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #09:** Supporting Local Pace Programs
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #10:** Supporting and Advancing Resilient Communities to Prepare For Changing Climate and Extreme Weather Events
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #11:** Supporting Urgent Action to Reduce Carbon Emissions and Mitigate the Effects of Climate Change
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #12:** Addressing Lead Contamination and Calling for Nationwide Federal Support for Water Infrastructure
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #13:** Increase Federal Investment in Water Infrastructure
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #14:** Support for Integrated Planning and New Affordability Consideration for Water
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #15:** Calling on the Federal Government to Take Action to Address PFAS Contamination
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #16:** Improve the Benefit-Cost Analysis for Federally Funded Flood Control Projects and Supporting Beneficial Reuse of Dredged Material
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #17:** Increase Funding for Border Water Infrastructure Projects
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #18:** Supporting Local Control of Water Infrastructure Projects

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1 **NLC RESOLUTION #09**

2 **SUPPORTING LOCAL PACE PROGRAMS**

3  
4  
5 **WHEREAS**, utility bills represent a major part of operating costs for home and business owners;  
6 and

7  
8 **WHEREAS**, the building sector accounts for 39 percent of the nation’s energy use, 72 percent  
9 of its electricity use, one third of all global greenhouse gas emissions and represents the single  
10 largest, most accessible opportunity for deep emission cuts in the United States; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, investing in cost-effective energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements  
13 to homes and businesses can save energy, cut utility bills up to \$140 billion per year, create  
14 thousands of local jobs, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and dramatically reduce greenhouse gas  
15 emissions; and

16  
17 **WHEREAS**, a 2013 study that found default risks are on average 32 percent lower in energy  
18 efficient homes and recommends that the lower risks associated with energy efficiency should be  
19 taken into consideration when underwriting mortgages;<sup>1</sup> and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing programs are an innovative  
22 local government solution to help property owners finance energy efficiency and renewable  
23 energy improvements – such as energy efficient HVAC systems, upgraded insulation, new  
24 windows, solar installations, etc. – to their homes and businesses; and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, PACE programs can also be used for other types of projects that provide public  
27 and community benefits, such as improving community resilience to hurricanes and wildfires  
28 and managing stormwater and tidal flooding; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, the PACE program removes many of the barriers of energy efficiency and  
31 renewable energy retrofits that otherwise exist for residential homeowners and businesses,  
32 particularly the high upfront cost of making such an investment and the long-term ability to reap  
33 the benefits of cost savings; and

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, 37 states plus the District of Columbia have passed laws enabling local  
36 governments to develop PACE programs; and

37  
38 **WHEREAS**, locally-administered PACE programs are an exercise of the traditional authority of  
39 local governments to utilize the tax code for public benefit; and

40  
41 **WHEREAS**, PACE programs help local governments meet a core obligation to their citizens to  
42 maintain housing stock and improve housing opportunities for all citizens; and

43  

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

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

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

51 **WHEREAS**, despite PACE’s great promise, in July 2010 the Federal Housing Finance Agency  
52 (FHFA) and the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency issued statements that immediately  
53 forced existing PACE residential programs to halt operations and froze the development of  
54 dozens of other residential PACE programs nationwide; and  
55

56 **WHEREAS**, despite the FHFA directive, many commercial and a few residential PACE  
57 programs are operating or are in development in hundreds of municipalities across the country;  
58 and  
59

60 **WHEREAS**, in 2010 the U.S. Department of Energy dedicated \$150 million to assist in the  
61 development of local PACE programs and in 2016 issued Best Practice Guidelines for  
62 Residential PACE Financing Programs to help state and local governments develop and  
63 implement programs and recommended protections that PACE programs should put in place for  
64 consumers and lenders;<sup>2</sup> and  
65

66 **WHEREAS**, in July 2016, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released  
67 guidance allowing the Federal Housing Administration to insure mortgages on properties that  
68 include PACE assessments,<sup>3</sup> which has since been withdrawn; and  
69

70 **WHEREAS**, in 2018, Congress passed the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer  
71 Protection Act banking reform bill that recognizes PACE as a tax assessment and directs the  
72 Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to develop rules in consultation with state and  
73 local governments that ensure consumers have the ability to pay their residential PACE financing  
74 obligations.  
75

76 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that locally-administered PACE programs  
77 operating in accord with state and federal guidelines are a safe and sound investment of public  
78 and private funds; and  
79

80 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that locally-administered PACE programs represent an  
81 essential contribution of local governments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote  
82 renewable energy; and  
83

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<sup>2</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>3</sup> “FHA to Insure Mortgages on Certain Properties with PACE Assessments,” U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, (July 19, 2016), available at: [https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press\\_releases\\_media\\_advisories/2016/HUDNo\\_16-110](https://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/press/press_releases_media_advisories/2016/HUDNo_16-110)

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84 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges FHFA to work  
85 with local governments seeking to establish PACE programs that benefit from the same senior  
86 lien status of all other projects that are funded through municipal assessments that improve  
87 private property and meet public policy objectives; and

88  
89 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the CFPB to work with local governments to  
90 adopt regulations that clearly reaffirms the right of state and local governments to exercise liens  
91 or assess special taxes or other property obligations to protect and improve housing stock for the  
92 public good, including energy efficiency improvements, and establishes underwriting standards  
93 that are consistent with guidelines issued by the U.S. Department of Energy for PACE financing  
94 programs or by implementing any other appropriate measure.

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**NLC RESOLUTION #10**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, climate change and extreme weather events can have severe impacts on local and regional infrastructure, economies, 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; and

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

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

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

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

45  
46 **WHEREAS**, the capability of maintaining energy availability is a critical first order priority in  
47 maintaining critical infrastructure and building community resilience; and

48  
49 **WHEREAS**, there is currently insufficient information, technical coordination or financial  
50 assessment of the costs and mechanisms to rapidly retrofit and redesign local energy systems to  
51 enable them to be more resilient to a range of potential disruptive events, such as extreme  
52 weather, terrorism, and energy price escalation; and

53  
54 **WHEREAS**, the United States has seen 290 separate billion-dollar-plus weather and climate  
55 disasters since 1980, including 14 in 2019 and 22 in 2020, with a cumulative cost exceeding \$1.9  
56 trillion (CPI-adjusted) and a total death toll of 14,492;<sup>4</sup> and

57  
58 **WHEREAS**, in 2005 Hurricane Katrina led to 1,833 deaths and more than \$167.5 billion (CPI-  
59 adjusted) in losses, and a subsequent \$120 billion in supplemental disaster assistance and in 2012  
60 Hurricane Sandy led to 159 deaths and more than \$73.5 billion in damages (CPI-adjusted), and a  
61 subsequent \$60.4 billion in supplemental disaster assistance;<sup>5</sup> and

62  
63 **WHEREAS**, in 2017 three Category 4 hurricanes made landfall in the U.S. totaling more than  
64 \$275 billion (CPI-adjusted) in damages and a death toll of 3,167, including 2,981 from Hurricane  
65 Maria, which made landfall in Puerto Rico;<sup>6</sup> and

66  
67 **WHEREAS**, in 2019 historic flooding hit the Midwest and southern plains significantly  
68 affecting agriculture, roads, bridges, levees, dams and other infrastructure, assets and industries,  
69 resulting in 12 deaths and \$20.3 billion (CPI-adjusted) in economic costs;<sup>7</sup> and

70  
71 **WHEREAS**, 2020 sets the new annual record of 22 billion-dollar-plus weather or climate events  
72 – shattering the previous annual record of 16 events that occurred in 2011 and 2017, and is the  
73 sixth consecutive year (2015-2020) in which 10 or more billion-dollar weather and climate  
74 disaster events have impacted the United States;<sup>8</sup> and

75  
76 **WHEREAS**, rising temperatures are lengthening the wildfire season, causing more radical fire  
77 behavior and increasing wildfire risks throughout the Western United States due to earlier snow

---

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

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

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

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

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

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78 melts and forests that are drier longer,<sup>9</sup> the costs of putting out wildfires has increased  
79 dramatically, from \$571 million in 1985 to over \$2.2 billion in 2020<sup>10</sup> (2020 dollars<sup>11</sup>), and the  
80 economic losses associated with wildfire continues to grow, with the 2018 western wildfires  
81 costing over \$24.5 billion (CPI-adjusted)<sup>12</sup> and the 2020 western wildfires, the most active fire  
82 season on record, costing over \$16.6 billion (CPI-adjusted);<sup>13</sup> and

83  
84 **WHEREAS**, Congress approved over \$62 billion in disaster relief in FY20;<sup>14</sup> and

85  
86 **WHEREAS**, 2020 was the second warmest year on record behind 2016 (warmest), followed by  
87 2019 (third warmest), 2015 (fourth warmest), 2017 (fifth warmest) and 2018 (sixth warmest);<sup>15</sup>  
88 and

89  
90 **WHEREAS**, as extreme weather events become more common, local governments in all  
91 geographic and climatic regions require resources to assist them in anticipating, preparing for  
92 and adapting to these events; and

93  
94 **WHEREAS**, a preparedness response fund would provide financial assistance to accelerate the  
95 development of adaptive success models and provide a far-reaching damage prevention initiative  
96 that would help reduce the ultimate financial pressure on the federal government; and

97  
98 **WHEREAS**, local governments are first responders – preparing in advance of emergency  
99 situations, offering immediate assistance to those impacted, and identifying strategies, solutions,  
100 and partnerships to address situations quickly and efficiently; and

101  
102 **WHEREAS**, firefighters and other local essential personnel, who risk their lives responding to  
103 natural disasters and extreme weather events, are put at even greater risk of contracting  
104 coronavirus as they respond to emergency situations; and

105  
106 **WHEREAS**, taking action now to adapt to a changing environment and create community  
107 resilience will help save lives, strengthen local economies, save taxpayer dollars and build  
108 preparedness for future events; and

109

---

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

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>15</sup> National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (Jan. 14, 2021), *available at:*  
<https://www.noaa.gov/news/2020-was-earth-s-2nd-hottest-year-just-behind-2016>



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

115 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration  
116 to partner with local governments and to support local action on climate change adaptation and  
117 resilience; and  
118

119 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress and the Administration to take  
120 urgent action to help states and local governments conduct vulnerability assessments, develop  
121 and implement long-term mitigation, adaptation and resiliency action plans, and identify  
122 innovative financing opportunities to implement these assessments and plans in order to prepare,  
123 plan for and more quickly recover from extreme weather events; and  
124

125 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to  
126 recognize the unique risks and opportunities communities face and to offer customized tools and  
127 incentives to local governments to encourage communities to plan for and rapidly respond to the  
128 effects of climate change and extreme weather; and  
129

130 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to develop a national  
131 strategy to assist communities in integrating the risks of climate change and extreme weather  
132 events into emergency management planning and responses to identify and quantify the  
133 economic value of regional infrastructure at risk under different scenarios; and  
134

135 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to work with state and  
136 local governments, the insurance industry, and other stakeholders to develop an incentive-based  
137 disaster insurance and mitigation system that would encourage property owners to retrofit  
138 existing structures to reduce future losses from natural disasters; and  
139

140 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that returning to the status quo is not sufficient in meeting the  
141 challenges of climate change and inequities in our society; and  
142

143 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to outline strategies  
144 and actions to reduce the vulnerability of federal programs to the impacts of climate change and  
145 extreme weather; and  
146

147 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to better align  
148 federal funding with local preparedness and resilience-building efforts; and  
149

150 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to fully fund grant programs that  
151 help local governments prepare, respond and recover from climate change and extreme weather  
152 events and establish a preparedness and response fund to support local governments that are at  
153 the forefront of developing adaptive solutions; and  
154

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

159  
160 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to develop a national  
161 pilot project initiative to conduct detailed assessments and designs for resilient city energy  
162 system retrofit and redesign across a range of different regions and city sizes; and

163  
164 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal investments in communities must prioritize those  
165 communities that have been left behind and BIPOC communities, which have been  
166 disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change and COVID-19.

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**NLC RESOLUTION #11**

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, a 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>2</sup> and

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

**WHEREAS**, according to the American Lung Association’s 2021 State of the Air report, more than 40 percent or 135 million people live in counties with unhealthy air, which is especially concerning as research shows that people with long-term exposure to air pollution are more likely to die from COVID-19<sup>3</sup>; and

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

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

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

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

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

<sup>3</sup> “State of the Air,” American Lung Association (2021), *available at*: <https://www.lung.org/research/sota/key-findings>

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40 **WHEREAS**, technology exists and continues to be developed that will help families, businesses  
41 and communities reduce energy use, but without standards to encourage adoption of new  
42 technology, many of these technology options will be unavailable or unaffordable; and  
43

44 **WHEREAS**, the transportation sector generates the largest share of greenhouse gas emissions,  
45 29 percent of 2019 greenhouse gas emissions, in the United States;<sup>4</sup> and  
46

47 **WHEREAS**, buildings account for nearly 40 percent of the nation’s energy consumption<sup>5</sup> and  
48 more than 70 percent of its electricity use,<sup>6</sup> and electricity production represents the second  
49 largest share of greenhouse gas emissions, 25 percent of 2019 greenhouse gas emissions, in the  
50 United States;<sup>7</sup> and  
51

52 **WHEREAS**, indoor and outdoor lighting account for 6 percent of electricity consumed in the  
53 nation,<sup>8</sup> and rapid conversion to efficient lighting would result in significant greenhouse gas  
54 reductions as well as a decrease in base load energy needs; and  
55

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

62 **WHEREAS**, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) helped local  
63 governments undertake projects to reduce energy use, diversify energy supplies and improve air  
64 quality and the environment; and  
65

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

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

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

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<sup>4</sup> Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *available at*:  
<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration, *available at*: <http://www.eia.gov/tools/faqs/faq.cfm?id=86&t=1>

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

<sup>7</sup> Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, *available at*:  
<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/sources-greenhouse-gas-emissions>

<sup>8</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>

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78 provide essential tools, research, technology development, data, and funding, as well as  
79 workforce development, job training and community assistance, to help local governments  
80 achieve their greenhouse gas reduction targets and transition to a clean energy economy; and  
81

82 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress and the Administration to take  
83 urgent action to reduce carbon emissions across a broad sector of the economy and become  
84 carbon neutral to mitigate the effects of climate change; and  
85

86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to position the U.S. as a climate  
87 leader and adopt nationwide greenhouse gas emission goals and policies that exceed the IPCC  
88 1.5°C targets of 45% emissions reduction from 2010 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050; and  
89

90 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports the U.S.’s reengagement in the Paris  
91 Climate Agreement; and  
92

93 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports efforts to increase the CAFE standards or  
94 fuel efficiency for all types of vehicles; and  
95

96 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to pass energy efficiency and  
97 conservation legislation to incentivize energy efficiency improvements in residential and  
98 commercial buildings, schools and federal buildings located in communities; and  
99

100 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to pass a national renewable  
101 portfolio standard that increases the use of carbon neutral energy and promotes energy  
102 efficiency, with the goal of at least 50 percent carbon neutral energy by 2030 and 100 percent by  
103 2050 or sooner; and  
104

105 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to pass a long-term extension of  
106 the investment tax credit and the production tax credit for renewable energy as an incentive for  
107 their development and deployment; and  
108

109 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to reauthorize and fully fund the  
110 EECBG or other funding structure at the U.S. Department of Energy to further incentivize clean  
111 energy at the local level; and  
112

113 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal investments in communities must prioritize those  
114 communities that have been left behind and Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC)  
115 who have been disproportionately impacted by the effects of climate change and COVID-19.



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

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates the nation’s water  
44 infrastructure capital needs over the next 20 years to be approximately \$743 billion in total,<sup>3</sup> the  
45 American Society for Civil Engineers estimates that over the next 20 years, the cumulative water  
46 and wastewater capital investment need will soar to \$3.27 trillion and the cumulative capital  
47 investment gap will total \$2.2 trillion,<sup>4</sup> and other estimates put the cost at more than \$4 trillion to  
48 maintain and build a 21<sup>st</sup> century water system.

49  
50 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that local planning and infrastructure decisions,  
51 including those related to clean drinking water, should not be preempted and should be made by  
52 locally elected leaders in coordination with state and federal officials; and

53  
54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on Congress to  
55 provide direct assistance to the City of Flint, Michigan, and for EPA and the federal government  
56 to work directly with local officials, for as long as necessary, to resolve the drinking water crisis  
57 through the provision of safe drinking water and to support economic recovery; and

58  
59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to provide  
60 long-term support for the families affected by lead drinking water contamination in Flint and  
61 nationwide, including in the areas of education and mental health; and

62  
63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to support  
64 robust funding for all water infrastructure financing mechanisms, including the Clean Water and  
65 Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund programs and the Water Infrastructure Finance and  
66 Innovation Act (WIFIA); and

67  
68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to support  
69 other mechanisms of infrastructure financing, including protecting the tax-exempt status of  
70 municipal bonds and reinstating the tax exemption for advance refunding bonds; and

71  
72 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to support  
73 grants to local governments, as well as school systems and daycare centers, for the replacement  
74 of lead service lines, testing, planning, corrosion control, and public education campaigns, and to  
75 assist small and disadvantaged communities in complying with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

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

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

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1 **NLC RESOLUTION #13**

2 **INCREASE FEDERAL INVESTMENT IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**

3  
4  
5 **WHEREAS**, the nation’s water infrastructure systems, both built and natural, are significant  
6 assets that protect public health and the nation’s water resources and well-maintained systems  
7 are essential to our citizens’ general welfare and the nation’s prosperity; and  
8

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

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

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

22 **WHEREAS**, local governments are responsible for the vast majority of investment in water and  
23 sewer infrastructure, investing over \$1.7 trillion between 1956-2010<sup>4</sup> (not adjusted for inflation)  
24 and over \$134 billion in 2019 alone;<sup>5</sup> 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 \$434 billion over 10 years for drinking water,  
32 wastewater, and stormwater combined;<sup>6</sup> and  
33

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

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

<sup>3</sup> *Federal Investment, 1962-2018*, Congressional Budget Office (June 2019), available at:  
[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>4</sup> Anderson, Richard F., *Growth in Local Government Spending on Public Water and Wastewater – But How Much Progress Can American Households Afford?* The U.S. Conference of Mayors (April. 2013), available at:  
[http://www.circleofblue.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/USMayors\\_Growth-in-Local-Government-Spending-on-Water-and-Wastewater.pdf](http://www.circleofblue.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/USMayors_Growth-in-Local-Government-Spending-on-Water-and-Wastewater.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> *2019 Annual Surveys of State and Local Government Finances*, U.S. Census Bureau (October, 2021), available at:  
<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/gov-finances.html>

<sup>6</sup> 2019 *Infrastructure Report Card*, American Society of Civil Engineers, available at:  
<http://www.infrastructurereportcard.org/>



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

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, public-private partnerships can provide options for communities to access sources  
44 of private capital to meet water infrastructure needs, but are not a viable for all communities or  
45 all types of projects; and

46  
47 **WHEREAS**, private activity bonds or tax-exempt facility bonds are a form of tax-exempt  
48 financing that can be used for water infrastructure projects that utilize private capital instead of  
49 public debt and shift the risk and long-term obligation from the municipality to the private equity  
50 partner; and

51  
52 **WHEREAS**, Congress provides to states a capped annual allocation (“volume cap”) of tax-  
53 exempt bonds, based on population, but historically, most of the tax-exempt bonds are issued to  
54 short-term projects such as housing and education loans; and

55  
56 **WHEREAS**, Congress has previously enacted legislation eliminating the state volume cap for  
57 such municipal infrastructure projects such as airports, landfills, and ports; and

58  
59 **WHEREAS**, eliminating the state volume cap is estimated to make available \$5-6 billion in  
60 private capital for water projects, while the cost in foregone revenue to the federal government is  
61 nominal.<sup>7</sup>

62  
63 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) continues  
64 to urge Congress and the Administration to reverse the decline in federal financial participation  
65 in funding municipal water infrastructure needs by developing a financial option that strikes the  
66 right balance between local responsibility and federal assistance; and

67  
68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress and the Administration to support  
69 robust funding for water infrastructure financing through the Clean Water and Drinking Water  
70 State Revolving Loan Fund programs and to reauthorize the programs; and

71  
72 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should provide full appropriation to the Water  
73 Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) for loans and loan guarantees for water  
74 infrastructure projects; and

75  
76 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should provide funding to local governments  
77 through grant programs such as for sewer overflow and stormwater management, lead pipe

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<sup>7</sup> Testimony of Stephen L. Johnson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, before the Senate Appropriations Committee, March 4, 2008.

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78 replacement, water infrastructure resilience/sustainability to protect and reduce risk to extreme  
79 weather events, new/emerging technologies for cybersecurity improvements and water  
80 efficiency, workforce development in the water sector, and other programs; and

81  
82 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should exempt from federal taxation rebates  
83 issued to consumers by local governments to pay for consumer-installed decentralized water  
84 infrastructure that benefits their communities; and

85  
86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports legislation removing the federal volume  
87 cap on tax-exempt bonds for water and wastewater infrastructure projects; and

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

92  
93 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress and the Administration should enact new  
94 legislation which provides adequate and reliable long-term funding for municipal water  
95 infrastructure needs to help close the funding gap.

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**NLC RESOLUTION #14**

**SUPPORT FOR INTEGRATED PLANNING AND NEW AFFORDABILITY  
CONSIDERATION FOR WATER**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

51  
52 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on  
53 EPA to work with local governments to develop local integrated plans through the permit  
54 process to comprehensively and collectively manage wastewater and stormwater needs, prioritize  
55 investments in wet weather overflows and flooding, incorporate green infrastructure components,  
56 and to ease the burden of unfunded mandates; and

57  
58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on EPA to share integrated planning best  
59 management practices, including those that take a regional watershed approach, from across the  
60 country with all communities that are interested in pursuing an integrated planning approach; and

61  
62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to modernize the NPDES  
63 permitting process to approve legislation to allow states with delegated authority to administer  
64 the NPDES permitting program to issue permits of up to ten years; and

65  
66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on EPA to work with local governments to  
67 revise the “Combined Sewer Overflows—Guidance for Financial Capability Assessment and  
68 Schedule Development” (Feb. 1997) to eliminate reliance on median household income as the  
69 critical metric for determining investment level and to allow for the consideration of additional  
70 information, such as socio-economic factors, consistent with the Agency’s 2014 Financial  
71 Capability Framework; and

72  
73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to explore options  
74 for providing ratepayer assistance, such as through a consumer assistance program modeled on  
75 the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program.

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION #15**  
4

5  
6 **CALLING ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO TAKE ACTION TO ADDRESS**  
7 **PFAS CONTAMINATION**  
8

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

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

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

22 **WHEREAS**, in 2016 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established a lifetime  
23 exposure health advisory level of 70 parts per trillion for the combined concentration of PFOA  
24 and PFOS in drinking water;<sup>2</sup> and

25  
26 **WHEREAS**, in 2018 the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Agency for Toxic  
27 Substances and Disease Registry released a draft report warning that PFAS chemicals could pose  
28 a health risk at levels lower than currently recommended by the EPA;<sup>3</sup> and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, in 2019 EPA announced a comprehensive nationwide action plan for addressing  
31 PFAS, including identifying both short-term solutions for addressing these chemicals and long-  
32 term strategies that will help states, tribes and local communities provide clean and safe drinking  
33 water to residents and address PFAS at the source – before it gets into the water;<sup>4</sup> and

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, in February 2020 EPA issued a proposed regulatory determination to regulate  
36 PFOS and PFOA, the first step in the regulatory process of setting a Maximum Contaminant  
37 Level under the Safe Drinking Water Act; and  
38

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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/production/files/2016-06/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories\\_pfoa\\_pfos\\_updated\\_5.31.16.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-06/documents/drinkingwaterhealthadvisories_pfoa_pfos_updated_5.31.16.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid*

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

<sup>4</sup> EPA’s Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Action Plan, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Feb. 2019); *available at*: [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-02/documents/pfas\\_action\\_plan\\_021319\\_508compliant\\_1.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2019-02/documents/pfas_action_plan_021319_508compliant_1.pdf)

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

43 **WHEREAS**, the Environmental Working Group and the Social Science Environmental Health  
44 Research Institute at Northeastern University updated an interactive map of known  
45 contamination of communities from PFAS; and  
46

47 **WHEREAS**, as of March 2019, the interactive map shows at least 610 locations in 43 states are  
48 known to be contaminated, including drinking water systems serving an estimated 19 million  
49 people;<sup>5</sup> and  
50

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

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

59 **WHEREAS**, PFAS chemicals were required in firefighting foams used at airports to meet  
60 federal performance standards for extinguishing agents, but currently the Federal Aviation  
61 Administration is updating its standards to allow for a non-fluorinated option for airports; and  
62

63 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Department of Defense has ended its use of the foam in training exercises;  
64 and  
65

66 **WHEREAS**, PFAS contamination is found at and around military bases, airports, manufacturing  
67 sites, landfills, and in local water supplies obtained from both rivers and groundwater; and  
68

69 **WHEREAS**, local governments are responsible for protecting the health, safety and welfare of  
70 residents, including providing clean and safe water; and  
71

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

78 **WHEREAS**, local governments are owners and operators of airports and landfills and employ  
79 firefighters, some of whom may have been exposed to PFAS chemicals on the job through

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<sup>5</sup> EWG: *PFAS Chemicals Must be Regulated as a Class, Not One by One* (May 6, 2019), available at:  
<https://www.ewg.org/release/mapping-pfas-contamination-crisis-new-data-show-610-sites-43-states>

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

80 inhalation or skin absorption, and therefore present a pension and liability concern for local  
81 budgets; and

82  
83 **WHEREAS**, PFAS contamination not only poses health risks, but also economic impacts on  
84 communities, including in the agriculture and fishing industries by contamination of food  
85 sources; and

86  
87 **WHEREAS**, a number of states have adopted PFAS policies pertaining to prohibiting use,  
88 monitoring and reporting, cleanup, health studies, testing, liability provisions, and contamination  
89 limits, including Michigan, New Jersey and Vermont that have set maximum contamination  
90 levels lower than EPA health advisory levels;<sup>7</sup> and

91  
92 **WHEREAS**, a number of bills have been introduced in both the U.S. House of Representatives  
93 and U.S. Senate to survey, regulate, mitigate and phaseout the use of PFAS.

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

99  
100 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to ensure that the  
101 parties responsible for PFAS contamination, including the federal government but excluding  
102 local governments, are held fully liable for costs of cleanup and mitigation and to ensure that  
103 sites are cleaned up in a timely manner and to standards sufficiently stringent to permit reuse of  
104 the site and to obviate the need for additional cleanup and mitigation costs by affected local  
105 governments; and

106  
107 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments, including municipal airports and fire  
108 departments, were required by federal law to use firefighting foam containing PFAS chemicals,  
109 and therefore should not be held liable for PFAS contamination or cleanup costs; and

110  
111 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments, including drinking water and  
112 wastewater utilities and municipal landfills, serve as receivers of PFAS chemicals and did not  
113 cause or contribute to contamination, and therefore should not be held liable for PFAS  
114 contamination or cleanup costs; and

115  
116 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to accelerate  
117 research and technology development to advance the science needed to understand the health  
118 consequences of exposure to PFAS chemicals, detect and measure PFAS chemicals in water and  
119 other environmental media, treat water supplies to remove these substances, and find safe  
120 substitutes for PFAS chemicals; and

121  
122 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to set drinking water  
123 standards, including for PFAS chemicals, based on sound science, public health protection,

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

124 occurrence of the contaminant in drinking water supplies at levels of public health concern, risk  
125 reduction and cost; and

126  
127 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls for the federal government to avoid passing  
128 costs onto local ratepayers and to provide financial and technical assistance to communities for  
129 testing, monitoring, mapping, public education, water supply treatment, and pursuit of alternative  
130 water supplies if necessary; and

131  
132 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the federal government to prevent further  
133 exposure to PFAS through multiple means, including promoting and funding the development  
134 and use of firefighting alternatives and the phasing out the use of PFAS; and

135  
136 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should thoroughly study and test  
137 alternative PFAS and other long-chain chemicals before they are put into circulation to make  
138 sure they are safe; and

139  
140 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC should update the “Assessing the State Firefighter  
141 Cancer Presumption Laws and Current Cancer Firefighter Cancer Research” that it conducted in  
142 2009 to determine what linkages there are between firefighting and an elevated incidence of  
143 cancer.



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**NLC RESOLUTION #16**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

54  
55 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the Army Corps and OMB to add a  
56 quantitative indexed value to life and safety to determine the benefit of federal investments in  
57 flood control projects; and

58  
59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the Army Corps and OMB to add a  
60 quantitative indexed value to agricultural land value and the impacts of crop flooding to  
61 determine the benefit of federal investments in flood control projects; and

62  
63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the Army Corps and OMB to add a  
64 quantitative indexed value to protection of low-income communities and environmental benefits  
65 to determine the benefit of federal investments in water resources projects, including projects for  
66 flood control; and

67  
68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the Army Corps and OMB to add a  
69 quantitative indexed value to potential benefits of projects on federal properties, as well as  
70 benefits to military readiness when developing coastal storm protection projects in the adjacent  
71 community;

72  
73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the Army Corps to increase the quantity of  
74 dredged materials put to environmentally beneficial uses, especially related to marsh restoration  
75 and sea level rise protection, by allowing a national beneficial reuse policy that considers  
76 dredged materials to be a potential resource (instead of a waste product) and establishes a  
77 realistic economic value of environmentally-suitable dredged material that takes into account its  
78 use for storm or flood risk reduction and habitat restoration; and

79  
80 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the cost of offshore disposal of dredged materials should  
81 include the full future economic value of that sediment that would be lost if it is deposited  
82 offshore.

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3 **NLC RESOLUTION #17**

4 **INCREASE FUNDING FOR BORDER WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, on November 30, 2018 the United States, Mexico and Canada entered into the  
40 *Agreement Between The United States of America, The United Mexican States, And Canada* to  
41 replace the *North American Free Trade Agreement*, and on December 10, 2019 the United  
42 States, Mexico and Canada agreed to a protocol of amendment to the U.S.-Mexico-Canada  
43 Agreement (USMCA), which became effective in the United States on January 29, 2020; and

44  
45 **WHEREAS**, the implementing language of USMCA authorizes and allocates funding for grants  
46 under the U.S.-Mexico Border Water Infrastructure Program (BWIP), the Trade Enforcement  
47 Trust Fund and recapitalization of the NADB; and

49 **WHEREAS**, the funding package included \$300 million to be available to address the problem  
50 of 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 \$15 million in FY19 and \$25 million in  
84 FY20; and

85  
86 **WHEREAS**, in its FY 2021 Budget Request, the Administration proposed to eliminate the  
87 BWIP program and recommends that state revolving funds be used as a source of infrastructure  
88 funding; and

89  
90 **WHEREAS**, officials from EPA Region 6 and 9 identified a multitude of BWIP-eligible projects  
91 along the southern border totaling over \$300 million; and

92  
93 **WHEREAS**, Mexico has identified multiple projects totaling hundreds of millions of dollars that  
94 would benefit from BWIP funding; and

95

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

100

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

105

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

110

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

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3 **NLC RESOLUTION #18**

4 **SUPPORTING LOCAL CONTROL OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC opposes federal and state policies that mandate, or in  
41 any way promote, material preferences or otherwise undermine local autonomy for local water  
42 and wastewater infrastructure systems.

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*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Community and Economic  
Development Federal Advocacy  
Committee**

**CED**

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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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 3.04 Economic Development**
  - C. Recommended Federal Actions
- **Section 3.06 Housing**
  - C. Recommended Federal Actions



# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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## **Section 3.04 Economic Development**

### **C. Recommended Federal Actions**

#### *1. Overarching Themes Regarding Economic Development*

[no change]

#### *2. Federal Economic Development Programs and Tools*

NLC supports federal economic development tools as critical investments necessary for local and regional economic growth and increased employment. The strategy's intended outcome is to create economic growth, income, and security for all.

The federal government must provide financial assistance to promote local economic development. It must facilitate, but not unilaterally initiate, successful economic development activities at the state, regional, or local levels. Federal programs to promote economic development must satisfy the following criteria:

- Federal funds must be distributed directly to cities in a reliable and timely manner and made available for a project's reasonable duration;
- Local governments must be able to use the federal funds in a flexible manner, accommodating unique regional and local circumstances;
- Federal application and reporting procedures must not be burdensome to local governments. The federal government must streamline the process, harmonize conflicting rules, and standardize eligibility and application requirements across programs and agencies; Programs must focus on attracting, retaining, and growing local business; and
- Economic development tools must be carefully designed to ensure that they achieve productive results and are not mere windfalls.

~~NLC supports long-term, direct federal funding to cities provided through various programs, such as:~~

- ~~• Community Development Block Grant;~~
- ~~• HOME Investment Partnerships Program;~~
- ~~• Workforce Investment Act (WIA);~~
- ~~• Transportation Equity Act of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (TEA-21);~~
- ~~• Economic Development Initiative (EDI);~~
- ~~• Economic Development Administration (EDA) Public Works program; and~~
- ~~• Renewal Communities, Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities program (RZ/EZ/EC).~~

## **Section 3.06 Housing**

### **C. Recommended Federal Actions**

#### *1. Overarching Themes and Definitions*

[no change]

#### *2. Funding Streams*

#### **d. Tax Policies to Promote Affordable Housing**

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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46 *ii. Tax Reform Act of 1986*

47 ~~The Tax Reform Act of 1986 reduced the incentives for creating and rehabilitating affordable~~  
48 ~~housing, and it also disrupted a number of agreements for existing low income housing. NLC~~  
49 ~~supports:~~

50 ~~Repeal of all retroactive provisions pertaining to low income housing which have a negative~~  
51 ~~impact on such housing; and~~

52 ~~Reestablishment of pre 1986 accelerated depreciation measures for low income housing.~~

53

54

## *Proposed CED Resolutions*

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- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #19:** Supporting a Federal Agenda for Local Economic Development, Economic Mobility, and Entrepreneurship
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #20:** Urging the Development of Criteria for Neighborhood Preference as an Anti-Displacement Tool
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #21:** Urging the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to Enact Safeguards Against Abuses in Contracts for Deeds
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #22:** Supporting the Need for Public Transparency Surrounding Installation Scoring from Past Rounds of Base Realignment and Closure
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #23:** Supporting a National Agenda for U.S. Housing Investment and Opportunity
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #24:** Endorsing the Recommendations of NLC’s National Housing Task Force Report “Homeward Bound, The Road to Affordable Housing”

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3 **NLC RESOLUTION #19**

4 **SUPPORTING A FEDERAL AGENDA FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,**  
5 **ECONOMIC MOBILITY, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

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

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, NLC’s indicates America’s cities and towns are prioritizing economic recovery  
12 and addressing declines related to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

13  
14 **WHEREAS**, the federal government has an essential role to play – in cooperation with local  
15 leaders – to help address the social, economic and fiscal challenges weighing on the nation’s  
16 cities; and

17  
18 **WHEREAS**, local entrepreneurs and small businesses lead a majority of economic growth and  
19 are essential stakeholders in the success of neighborhoods, help create a community’s sense of  
20 place, and serve as a vital link to connect communities to the larger, global economy; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, successful neighborhood revitalization requires effective plans for both community  
23 development and economic development; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA), a landmark civil rights law passed in  
26 1977 to end discrimination in America’s banking and housing markets, remains a critical tool for  
27 both community and economic development that ensures regulated financial institutions have  
28 continuing and affirmative obligations to help meet the credit needs of the local communities in  
29 which they are chartered; and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, working with Congress, the President has an opportunity to partner with local  
32 officials to renew and reinvigorate federal economic development policies and programs that  
33 local entrepreneurs have increasingly been unable to access; and

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, in many cases federal programs and policies created in response to the great  
36 recession have remained static and increasingly inaccessible or irrelevant to small businesses and  
37 local entrepreneurs at the center of today’s urban growth and revitalization; and

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, high federal regulatory barriers to accessing capitol in both public programs and  
40 the private market are one reason why racial and ethnic wealth gaps have grown since the great  
41 recession (Pew); and

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, NLC supported the formation of the bipartisan House Entrepreneurship Caucus,  
44 which will serve as a forum for policy discussions and collaboration to address the most pressing  
45 issues facing entrepreneurs throughout the country. The caucus will seek to analyze new business

46 formation trends and form a wide-ranging strategy to boost entrepreneurship growth, ensuring  
47 new business ventures continue to create jobs and drive innovation.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

92 times of intergovernmental impasse; and

93

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

- 96 • Restore full funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program, which  
97 serves as the first line of defense against local neighborhood decline and has been the  
98 bridge for countless families to the middle class; and
- 99 • Authorize significant annual increases in funding for economic development grants for  
100 cities and towns through the U.S. Economic Development Administration; and
- 101 • Enact the broadest possible definition of economic development to permit EDA grant  
102 funding for innovative programs at the intersection of economic development and  
103 education, workforce, and infrastructure; and
- 104 • Elevate the office of Economic Development Integration at U.S. EDA to fill the role of  
105 central integrator of all federal economic development programs across federal agencies  
106 to streamline and simplify city access to those programs; and
- 107 • Support greater offerings of technical assistance and capacity building at federal agencies  
108 tasked with economic development, including HUD, EDA, and USDA, for small and  
109 mid-sized cities and towns to create and fill economic development positions within  
110 municipal governments – or to support NGO partners assisting local governments; and

111

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

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

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**NLC RESOLUTION #20**

**URGING THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA FOR NEIGHBORHOOD PREFERENCE AS AN ANTI-DISPLACEMENT TOOL**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, cities have a legitimate interest in protecting long-term residents as long-term residents are often engaged positively in the community, provide community stability, and stability often lends to less crime; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC urges the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (“HUD”) give municipalities guidance as to how a Fair Housing marketing plan can be set up with a neighborhood preference that will be acceptable to the department; and

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



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3 **NLC RESOLUTION #21**

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

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

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, over three million families have entered into a Contract for Deed to purchase a  
13 home due to the inaccessibility of the traditional mortgage market; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, a Contract for Deed is a seller finance method to purchase a home where the seller  
16 retains the legal title to the property until the homebuyer finishes paying all principal payments  
17 and interest owed under the contract. Contracts for Deeds are principally used by low-income  
18 homebuyers who are unable to obtain a traditional mortgage or financing because of poor credit  
19 ratings, inadequate income or other issues; and

20  
21 **WHEREAS**, bad actors can abuse Contracts for Deeds to allow the seller to avoid health and  
22 safety regulations, and crucial repairs to the property, while transferring the burden of property  
23 taxes, property insurance, and repairs to the homebuyer; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, in comparison to renting, the homebuyer must pay more per month for the property  
26 under Contracts for Deeds, make a larger upfront payment, and take better care of the premises,  
27 because the homebuyer is working toward ownership. However, sellers that abuse Contract for  
28 Deeds rarely end up transferring the title to the prospective homebuyer; and

29  
30 **WHEREAS**, Contracts for Deeds are often consummated between the homebuyer and the seller  
31 without the benefit of a title search and title insurance, government regulatory protections and  
32 standardized legal documents in many states including Texas, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota,  
33 West Virginia, South Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, and Florida; and

34  
35 **WHEREAS**, the proliferation and abuse of Contracts for Deeds presents the risk of creating yet  
36 another large drain on African-American wealth comparable in impact to the housing finance  
37 abuses that brought about the 2007-2009 subprime crisis; and

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, a constituency group of the  
40 National League of Cities, has endorsed this resolution; and also, strongly condemns the use of  
41 Contracts for Deeds to exploit low-income homebuyers.

42  
43 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities urges the U.S.  
44 Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and  
45 the Rural Housing Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to enact regulations and

46 safeguards against predatory uses of Contracts for Deeds, and to protect consumers from the  
47 practice of using Contracts for Deeds to unjustly evict families from their homes.

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**NLC RESOLUTION #22**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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3 **NLC RESOLUTION #23**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

36  
37 **WHEREAS**, NLC supports the bipartisan coalition “[MAYORS AND CEOS FOR US](#)  
38 [HOUSING INVESTMENT](#)”, and welcomes all city leaders and CEOs to consider joining the  
39 coalition as common stakeholders in expanding housing opportunities and ending homelessness;  
40 and

41  
42 **WHEREAS**, NLC supports the national, multi-sector housing campaign “[OPPORTUNITY](#)  
43 [STARTS AT HOME](#)”, a long-term, multi-sector campaign to meet the rental housing needs of  
44 the nation’s lowest income people.  
45

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

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

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

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

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3 **NLC RESOLUTION #24**

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

6 **WHEREAS**, in cities, towns, and villages across the country, demand for affordable housing is  
7 far outpacing supply. According to property data provider Attom Data, home prices are rising  
8 faster than wages in 80% of U.S. markets. And according to the National Low Income Housing  
9 Coalitions annual report on housing affordability, Out of Reach, there is no county in America  
10 where a renter working 40 hours a week, and earning minimum wage, can afford a two-bedroom  
11 apartment without spending more than 30% of their income on housing; and

12  
13 **WHEREAS**, unmet demand for safe, healthy, affordable housing is reaching crisis levels for  
14 local governments in both urban and rural areas. According to the Housing Assistance Council,  
15 of the nation’s most rural counties, none with towns of more than 10,000 residents,  
16 approximately one quarter have seen a sizeable increase in the number of households this decade  
17 spending at least half their income on housing; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, in response to the housing crisis, former Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, Gary,  
20 Indiana, announced the formation of the National Housing Task Force in November 2018, under  
21 the leadership of chair Muriel Bowser, mayor of Washington, D.C.; and

22  
23 **WHEREAS**, the National Housing Task Force was comprised of 18 local elected officials  
24 representing a diversity of city sizes, geography, and market types - plus the executive directors  
25 of two state municipal leagues. The task force was charged to develop a set of policy  
26 recommendations for local governments and the federal government; and

27  
28 **WHEREAS**, the Housing Task Force developed a federal/local housing platform consisting of  
29 five policy recommendations for the federal government, and five policy recommendations for  
30 local governments; and

31  
32 **WHEREAS**, the National Housing Task Force Housing released the report [Homeward Bound:](#)  
33 [The Road to Affordable Housing](#). The report is a call for action on the ten federal/local policy  
34 recommendations based on evidence that housing stability is a prerequisite for economic  
35 mobility, job security, and health and well-being.

36  
37 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities congratulates and  
38 applauds the members of the National Housing Task Force for their work and participation; and

39  
40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities endorses the findings and  
41 recommendations of NLC’s National Housing Task Force Report “Homeward Bound, the Road  
42 to Affordable Housing; and

43  
44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities urges federal lawmakers to  
45 advance the following five priorities:

- 46 1. Immediately stabilize and stem the loss of public and affordable housing.

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

54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities makes the following five  
55 recommendations to local governments:

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

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*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Human Development Federal  
Advocacy Committee**

**HD**



# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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

Please note:

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

## **POLICY:**

- **Section 4.00 Introduction**
- **Section 4.01 Social Services**
- **Section 4.02 Children and Learning**
- **Section 4.03 Poverty Reduction and Income Support**
- **Section 4.04 Employment**
- **Section 4.06 Seniors and Social Security**
- **Section 4.07 Individuals with Disabilities**
- **Section 4.08 Health**
- **Section 4.09 Immigration and Refugees**

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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## **4.00 Introduction**

The National League of Cities (NLC) believes that the cornerstone of the federal government’s comprehensive human development strategy should be the self-sufficiency of every individual. Through policy recommendations and legislative action, the federal government should:

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

## **4.01 Social Services**

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

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

### **A. Funding**

The federal government should provide sufficient and flexible federal funding to local communities for quality and responsive human services programs. This includes adequate funding of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), which helps serve many of the needs of special populations, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which was designed to reduce poverty.

### **B. Coordination**

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

44 The federal government should create a coordinated system of administration and delivery of  
45 human services to avoid fragmenting services at the local level where public and private services  
46 are delivered. The federal government should include local officials in the planning, monitoring,  
47 evaluating, and decision-making on federal policies and programs. Federal regulations governing  
48 social services should be sufficiently flexible so that local government can ensure that programs  
49 meet local needs.

50

## **C. Program Evaluation**

51 Social services programs should be evaluated on the basis of well-defined performance standards  
52 that relate to program administration and participant development, as well as on the basis of the  
53 numbers served or placed in programs.

54

## **D. Faith-Based Organizations**

55  
56 NLC believes that any faith-based organization or system of assistance and service delivery should  
57 be required to maintain critical safe guards to ensure the separation of church and state and adhere  
58 to all civil rights statutes and constitutional protections when hiring employees and providing  
59 services to clients. In addition, faith-based organizations should be required to meet the same  
60 accountability standards as any other service provider.

61

## **E. Special Populations**

62  
63 NLC supports federal efforts to focus funding and program services on special populations  
64 including:

- 65 • Senior Citizens (*see also HD Section 4.06, Seniors and Social Security*);
- 66 • Individuals with Disabilities (*see also HD Section 4.07, Individuals with Disabilities*);
- 67 • Children (*see also HD Section 4.02, Children and Learning*);
- 68 • Immigrants and Refugees (*see also HD Section 4.09, Immigration and Refugees*); and
- 69 • Individuals Experiencing Homelessness ~~Individuals (NLC Resolution #2016-13)~~.

70

### **4.02 Children and Learning**

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72  
73  
74 Cities and their elected leaders play a critical role in education and child care. -While local elected  
75 officials rarely control their local education agencies, local elected officials have a huge stake in  
76 educational outcomes and the impact those outcomes have on the local economy, ~~and~~ workforce,  
77 and civic strength. -In addition, local elected officials have significant influence and can mobilize  
78 important resources to the benefit of local education~~school~~ systems.

79

80 NLC supports all efforts to create effective and comprehensive early childhood development  
81 programs and high-quality education systems that ultimately provide individuals with the skills  
82 needed to secure meaningful employment and ~~lifetime skills~~long-term prosperity.

83

84 NLC believes that the federal government, through funding and program support, should work  
85 ~~the~~with states and local communities to improve education in the United States. -To ensure school  
86 readiness for all students, the federal government should ensure that local communities have  
87 sufficient resources to support families, and children and youth ~~from ages zero to 18 years~~.

88

# Proposed Policy Amendments

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

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

## **A. Early Childhood Development ~~Care and Learning~~**

NLC supports early childhood development programs that address the holistic needs of children including their physical, social and emotional health and wellbeing and prepare them for long-term success in school and life. ~~have the greatest potential for enriching a young child's life in the long term.~~ Such programs should include:

- Support for social and emotional health and well-being, routine health screenings, ~~a~~Health, physical fitness activities, and nutrition for proper development;
- Training ~~Parent training~~ and support for families to support their child's development at home and to help them effectively advocate for their child at school, including flexible child care arrangements; and
- Developmentally ~~a~~Appropriate early learning experiences grounded in research-backed curricula that ~~focus~~ incorporate on play-based learning, which develops a child's intelligence through experimentation and fosters collaboration with others.
- Learning environments that are safe, academically enriching, culturally appropriate and provide access to nature; ~~and~~

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

- 
- Early childhood educators that have the training, skills, and ongoing professional development to provide high-quality teacher/child interactions and are appropriately compensated according to their education and experience.

To achieve this, NLC urges the federal government to provide increased funding and programmatic flexibility, and technical assistance and policies that support collaboration and participation across the federal, state and local levels so that local governments are able to provide for early childhood education for all children. This funding should be used for pre- and post-natal health and social services, ~~and~~ nutritional assistance, family support services, and education programs -so that all children ages zero to six develop properly, and parenting skills programs for mothers, fathers, and other caregivers have the skills and support needed to enter kindergarten ready to succeed.

NLC urges the federal government to provide direct funding to cities ~~for parenting programs in their~~ to support early childhood programs in their communities.

Furthermore, NLC urges the federal government to:

- Continue efforts to modernize and expand the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program;
- Support increased funding for the Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, and encourage greater coordination and alignment between federal, state, and locally funded home visiting models.
- Increase funding for the Child Care Development Block Grant to ensure that all families can find high-quality, accessible and affordable child care. Incentivize states to adopt payment and eligibility practices that better meet the needs of families and child care providers such as paying based on enrollment rather than attendance, setting payment rates based on the true cost of care rather than a market rate survey, utilizing contracts to build the supply of care, allowing families to be eligible for subsidy if attending an institute of higher education, and allowing localities to determine eligibility guidelines that can account for regional differences in the cost of living;
- Ensure that the ~~childcare~~ early childhood services are comprehensive, incorporating preventive and protective services for child abuse and neglect, early and periodic health screenings, nutritional programs, educational enrichment, and appropriate interventions for children with special needs. Effort should be made to promote a diverse early childhood workforce that is trained in trauma-responsive care, culturally appropriate practices; and implicit bias;
- Create a local early childhood innovation fund to encourage states, counties, local governments and their partners to find new ways to support the expansion and quality of child care and preschool in communities through early childhood workforce preparation programs, facilities enhancements, and strategic partnerships between early childhood programs and city agencies that serve families, so that families have access to nutrition and health services, housing, transportation and employment services.
- ~~Create minimum federal standards for high-quality, safe and affordable childcare;~~
- ~~Provide supplemental funds to states to improve the quality of their childcare providers;~~
- ~~Support research on best practices and effective service delivery; and~~

# Proposed Policy Amendments

- ~~• Provide incentives such as training grants, professional development, small business loans and capital improvement funds, liability protection, direct support to participate in CACFP, etc., to encourage support home care providers, family child care providers to come into compliance with existing or new regulations and provide nutritious meals to early learners in delivery high quality care to children.~~

NLC also recommends that the federal government:

- Provide tax incentives to businesses to provide child care facilities at worksites and to subsidize the child care costs of their employees;
- Encourage public-private partnerships through matching funds and financial incentives;
- Educate employers on the economic benefits of providing child care;
- Provide support and regulations to ensure child care providers are paid a living wage;
- Improve the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit to make it available to more low-and-moderate-income families; and
- Urge the Small Business Administration (SBA) to view child care as a legitimate business including providing them operational support and make available low-interest loans to those interested in starting day child care businesses services.

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

## **~~B. Early Childhood Learning~~**

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

- Increase funding for preschool expansion and encourage states to adopt a mixed-delivery model that supports a children's children's holistic development.;s for the expansion of early childhood learning programs;
- Increase funding for Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Early Head Start Child Care Partnerships programs. Preserve the federal-to-local funding structure and encourage more birth-to-five grants to allow for additional flexibility for local programs to structure their operations to best meet local needs. Also, in addition to further supporting State Collaboration Offices, create local collaboration grants for cities, counties or their partners to help align and coordinate federal, state and local early childhood initiatives; and
- ~~• Provide incentives to the private sector to become more involved in early childhood and early learning activities;~~
- ~~• Provide support for development and evaluation of education approaches for pre-school children; and~~
- ~~— Preserve the federal to local Head Start funding structure that empowers local collaboration and decision-making.~~
- Provide support for the inclusion of outdoor learning environments and nature play spaces that promote early learning, healthy development, healthy eating, and positive

# Proposed Policy Amendments

interactions between families and young children within parks, green spaces, and early childhood centers; and-

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

## **C.B. School-Age Children**

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

The federal government should increase funding for programs that support students who have ~~dropped out~~ disengaged from school so they can return to school, receive an alternative education, and easily or move into the employment sector effectively. -In addition, for students who are not actively pursuing education beyond high school, NLC supports continued federal investment in research and local programs, including ~~vocational~~ career and technical education programs that help students to transition from school to work.

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

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

## **D.C. Family and Community Education Programs**

NLC supports federal initiatives that encourage and reinforce family involvement in school programs, such as the Communities in Schools program, which makes comprehensive human services like healthcare, food access, family literacy, mentoring, and family counseling programs available at neighborhood schools. Cities play an important role in the success of federal programs like the Summer Food Service Program, and NLC supports continued federal investments in these critical programs that meet students' basic needs.

## **E.D. Safe Schools**

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NLC also believes that widespread bullying and harassment—including bullying based on race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, culture, sexual orientation and/or gender identity—result in poor grades, lower academic achievement, high rates of absenteeism, and a lack of safety within schools, that lead to poor individual and school scores, higher dropout rates, and student suicides. Therefore, NLC urges Congress and the Administration to pass and sign into law legislation that would address the problem of bullying and harassment in America’s schools. –The legislation should require that local school districts and their schools to:

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

## **E. Green Schoolyards**

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

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

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

~~In order to adequately prepare young people to enter the world of work, it may be necessary for some to obtain a post secondary school degree. To ensure a smooth transition from high school to post secondary school, NLC supports those college preparation programs, authorized by the Higher Education Act, that help to bridge the transition from high school to college. For example,~~



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311 ~~GEAR UP, Upward Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, and Educational Opportunity~~  
312 ~~Centers are all good examples of federal programs that are exclusively targeted at providing~~  
313 ~~college awareness for underserved middle and high school students. These programs provide~~  
314 ~~critical information about college admissions and student financial aid to disadvantaged students,~~  
315 ~~and their funding should be increased. Education and training beyond high school is increasingly~~  
316 ~~required to ensure access to the jobs of the future and upward economic mobility. Without high-~~  
317 ~~quality postsecondary education that develops a skilled and trained workforce, the nation's cities,~~  
318 ~~towns and villages will face serious challenges when it comes to attracting and retaining businesses~~  
319 ~~and staying economically competitive. NLC urges Congress to support strategies and investments~~  
320 ~~that improve postsecondary access, completion, and long-term success in the labor market~~  
321 ~~including those that:~~

- 322 • Ensure a smooth transition from high school to postsecondary education and work. NLC  
323 supports those college preparation programs, authorized by the Higher Education Act,  
324 that help to bridge the transition from high school to college (such as Gear Up, Upward  
325 Bound, Talent Search, Student Support Services, and Educational Opportunity Centers).  
326 NLC also supports dual and concurrent enrollment programs, and college-in high school  
327 models like P-TECH;
- 328 • PTo promote a culture of postsecondary engagement, support the expansion of dedicated  
329 savings vehicles for post-secondary education such as children's savings accounts or  
330 other programs operated by towns, cities, and villages;
- 331 • Support work-based and career-connected learning, like programs funded under the Carl  
332 D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act and Registered Apprenticeship Programs  
333 and continue to ensure such programs are responsive to local labor market needs;
- 334 • Support career readiness programs, including English language and technology literacy  
335 programs as well as soft skills training;
- 336 • Elevate the central role that community colleges play in providing non-degree  
337 credentials, rapid upskilling and job training, and work to align federal support staff and  
338 technical assistance for community colleges at the U.S. Departments of Education and  
339 Labor;
- 340 • Incentivize state re-investment in higher education;
- 341 • Provide technical assistance and guidance to postsecondary institutions on strategies to  
342 improve career guidance, industry credential attainment, competency-based education,  
343 and other evidence-based practices.
- 344 • Make it easier for people receiving food assistance or welfare social services to access  
345 postsecondary education. Work requirements in programs like TANF & SNAP can  
346 prevent youth and adults from gaining the education and skills they need to access  
347 economic opportunity; and
- 348 • Promote transparency in postsecondary data – including labor market outcome data – to  
349 enable local policymakers to make effective decisions that support education attainment  
350 and address equity issues.

## **G. Public Libraries**

351  
352 ~~Finally,~~NLC believes that public libraries are educational institutions that provide critical  
353 education services to the community. Therefore, NLC urges the federal government to designate  
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public libraries as educational institutions able to qualify for broader sources of funding to improve:

- Broadband and computer access to low-income households;
- Provide tech-support and digital literacy programs for residents of all ages;
- Collaboration with local elected officials, community-based organizations, schools, and workforce boards to improve access to learning and skills development programs;
- Integration and advancement of financial empowerment services;
- Accessibility for residents of all abilities;
- Access to programs and resources in various languages including American Sign Language;
- Access to afterschool and summer enrichment programs and healthy meals; and
- Needs assessment within communities that are marginalized and underserved-resourced.

## 4.03 Poverty Reduction and Income Support

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

### A. Poverty Reduction

NLC supports federal efforts to encourage employment that reduces dependence on ~~welfare~~ social services. However, NLC urges Congress to review and improve the 1996 welfare reform law by:

- Changing the central focus of TANF from welfare caseload reduction to poverty reduction;
- Eliminating unfunded mandates;
- Eliminating arbitrary time limits for necessary work supports, such as transportation, child care, and housing supplements;
- Including in the definition of work participation in support services, work study, and the pursuit of educational attainment;
- Providing incentives for strong workable contingency plans that would be implemented during recessions; and
- Allowing ~~legal~~ immigrants to receive welfare benefits.

### B. Education and Skills Development

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

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

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

Therefore NLC urges Congress to:

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

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

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

## **C. Supportive Services**

The federal government should provide sufficient funding so that essential supportive services can be continued for a period ~~of time~~ after job placement and until wages increase to a family-sustaining level.

## **D. Homelessness**

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

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- 444 • Expand the emergency and transitional food and shelter programs, keeping
- 445 permanent; the recent increase in service age for Child and Adult Food Care Program
- 446 (CACFP) to age 24;
- 447 • Expand programs that provide emergency health services;
- 448 • Expand access to additional mental health services;
- 449 • Fund social services, especially outreach and counseling services;
- 450 • Provide transportation, life skills, education, job training, career counseling, job
- 451 placement services, access to identification, and connection with financial services-;
- 452 • Expand federal funding for programs such as HOME and CDBG and, where able,
- 453 allocate federal funds directly to cities;
- 454 • Improve access to federal assistance programs such as Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition
- 455 Assistance Program, etc.; and
- 456 • Develop a unique set of services and programs to aid and assist homeless veterans; and-
- 457 • Create stronger connections with the local schools districts' McKinney-Vento liaisons
- 458 to ensure that children experiencing homelessness are supported in their educational
- 459 needs.

460  
461 *See also CED section 3.06 Housing (C)(7), Providing Transitional Housing and Comprehensive*

462 *Services for the Homeless*

## **E. Change the Federal Poverty Level**

465 NLC calls upon the federal government to create new federal poverty guidelines that accurately

466 reflect the regional costs of goods and services and the spending needs of individuals and families.

467 The current poverty guidelines were created in the early nineteen-sixties, are outdated, and too

468 low, and do not accurately account for all Americans living in actual poverty. NLC encourages

469 updates that are in line with the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), published by the U.S.

470 Census Bureau since 2011, which extends the official poverty measure by taking into account

471 government programs that assist low-income families that are not included in the official poverty

472 measure.

## **4.04 Employment**

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476 NLC believes that the federal government should maintain an economic environment that

477 promotes job creation and job access. To support America's workers and employers, the federal

478 government should:

- 479 • Create incentives for meaningful jobs in areas of high unemployment;
- 480 • Make work pay by setting the minimum wage and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) at
- 481 levels that in combination allow families to support themselves above the poverty level;
- 482 • Protect the financial integrity of the Unemployment Insurance program and maintain the
- 483 Employment Service, which is responsible for distributing unemployment checks and
- 484 providing job placement services;
- 485 • Continue efforts to expand Short-Time Compensation program adoption by states and
- 486 employers to avert layoffs; and

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- 487       • Increase access to critical technology infrastructure such as high-speed broadband  
488       necessary for jobs now and in the future, including to support telework opportunities  
489       where feasible.

490

## **A. Workforce Development**

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

496

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

500

- 501       • Allow cities and towns working individually or together to utilize funds in ways that  
502       reflect the local workforce, available jobs, and the needs of the business community;
- 503       • Ensure that a portion of the funds are targeted to those most in need: persons living in  
504       poverty, those who are structurally unemployed and are not likely to return to their  
505       previous jobs, ex-offenders, and ~~disconnected~~ opportunity youth who are at-risk of long-  
506       term poverty;
- 507       • Establish workforce development areas that are based on regional economies rather than  
508       arbitrary measures such as population or political boundaries;
- 509       • Prohibit states from diverting all federal funds toward those who are already employed or  
510       job ready rather than those in greatest need;
- 511       • Ensure that local elected officials play a significant role in the planning, development,  
512       and implementation of regionally-based workforce development programs;
- 513       • Encourage collaboration between governments, education agencies including community  
514       colleges, organized labor, and the private sector to provide job skills training that meets  
515       the needs of workers and employers alike;
- 516       • Provide two-year base funding so that programs may provide long-term training and  
517       services across program years; and
- 518       • Allow local governments and workforce development programs to use a variety of  
519       training approaches including, but not limited to: individual training accounts, classroom  
520       training, and on-the-job training.
- 521       • Encourage greater use of apprenticeship programs with access to funding for local  
522       programs.
- 523       • Establish a permanent summer jobs program for young people ages 14 through 24 that is  
524       designed to provide youth, including economically disadvantaged and disconnected,  
525       youth with paid jobs that provide measurable world-of-work training and job skills  
526       development ideally connected to postsecondary skills development opportunities in in-  
527       demand career pathways as well as wrap-around supports to engage them in the  
528       workforce system and learn the responsibilities and soft-skills that lead to better jobs;
- 529       • Expand the Pell Grant program to cover needed workforce skills training for short-term  
      and certificate training programs;

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- More generally promote streamlining of state occupational licensure procedures that reduce economic and geographic mobility for millions of Americans, including veterans, healthcare professionals, and others in in-demand industries;-
- —
- Provide streamlined pathways to licensing and certification for immigrants and refugees who come to the U.S. with existing experience, degrees, and qualifications from other countries; and
- —Ensure access to affordable, high-quality child care and portable benefits system to ensure all those able to engage in the workforce are able, including - supporting an intra-DOL taskforce/study group on the gig economy and worker classification.

When the federal government closes military bases or major federal facilities, the federal government should provide direct assistance to ensure that individuals receive the retraining and job placement assistance they need.

## **B. Job Creation**

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

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

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

## **C. Job Elimination**

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

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

- Provide 60 days advance notice of relocations, reductions in workforce or business closings for businesses with 100 or more employees;
- Consult with local municipal officials so that the individuals and communities affected can plan for needed adjustments; and

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- Create incentives for individuals to be re-skilled/re-trained to obtain further employment within the local community; ~~and~~
- Make supplemental financial contributions to support the unemployment insurance fund to assist in worker transition; and
- Support Short-Term Compensation (STC) programs, also known as “work sharing”, as a layoff aversion tactic under a state-approved plan to reduce the hours for a group of workers who in turn also receive a reduced unemployment benefit payment.-

## **D. Wages and ~~Benefits~~Income**

NLC urges the federal government to increase the minimum wage and Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) to levels that, in combination, allow families to support themselves above the poverty level. NLC opposes a federal sub-minimum wage for youth and supports a minimum wage for all workers regardless of age, sex, sexual orientation, religion, race or job classification.

NLC urges the federal government to review the impact of any wage and overtime rule on cities and towns and to adjust the implementation as is necessary so as not to have an unintended impact on municipal budgets.

NLC opposes any wage and overtime rules that would have automatic updates without purposeful Congressional or Administrative study and action.

## **E. Family and Medical Leave**

NLC supports a minimum of 12 weeks paid leave in the event of one’s own illness, a family illness or other life changing event requiring the employee to be away from his/her/their workplace. Such events include caring for a family member (child, parent, parent-in-law, grandparent, grandchild, sibling, spouse, or registered domestic partner), after birth, -or to bond with a new child entering the family through birth, adoption, or foster care placement.

## **4.05 Equal Opportunity**

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

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

- Enforce civil rights laws and eliminate discrimination with regard to race, color, religion, national origin, immigration status, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender/identity expression or any social barriers or physical disadvantage;
- Promote and encourage efforts in employment, education, delivery of services, and health care to ensure that every person is considered only with regard to individual need; and
- Take current action to remedy past discrimination.
- Develop and disseminate legal standards that will provide clear guidance on the use of mechanisms to address present or past racial discrimination;
- Promote diversity;
- Explicitly include women and sexual/gender minorities in the Constitution;

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- 619
- Provide all employers with information on how to adopt and carry out effective affirmative action programs; and
  - Expand opportunities in federal and local procurement for people of color, women, LGBTQ+ and individuals with disabilities.
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## **4.06 Seniors and Social Security**

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

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

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

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings
  2. Transportation
  3. Housing
  4. Social participation
  5. Respect and social inclusion
  6. Work and civic engagement
  7. Communication and information
  8. Community and health services
  9. Public safety and emergency preparedness
  10. Alzheimer’s and other dementias
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### **B. Social Security**



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

667  
668 NLC urges the federal government to maintain the current benefits structure and the current  
669 method of establishing cost-of-living adjustments (COLA). Should changes in any aspect of the  
670 Social Security system be necessary, those changes should be phased in over time and should be  
671 designed so that they do not impact those who currently are receiving benefits or are likely to  
672 receive benefits within a five-year window.

673  
674 NLC also believes that the federal government should take into account the number and types of  
675 non-traditional families that are emerging and ensure that these families receive the same types of  
676 retirement benefits as traditional families, particularly with regard to dependents and survivors.

677  
678 NLC also believes that the federal government should initiate programs of enforcement and  
679 education for employers and employers so that domestic workers and others who may have  
680 traditionally worked in the cash economy are not disadvantaged or disqualified from receiving  
681 Social Security benefits.

## 682 683 **4.07 Individuals with Disabilities**

684  
685 The federal government should address the range of needs of individuals with physical ad  
686 intellectual/developmental disabilities and mental illness so that they may live productive,  
687 fulfilling lives and fully integrate into society. However, any local assistance mandated by the  
688 federal government should be reasonable in its requirements and expectations, and when possible,  
689 fully funded by the federal government.

690  
691 The federal government should:

- 692 • Adopt clear rules for cities to follow regarding accessibility for persons with disabilities;
- 693 • Provide financial resources directly to cities to help with the costs of compliance and  
694 servicing the needs of individuals with disabilities including transit and housing options;
- 695 • Provide funding to local communities to implement inclusion programs and build local  
696 staffing capacity to serve ~~students~~ residents with disabilities;
- 697 • Increase postsecondary opportunities and success for students and youth with disabilities;
- 698 • Increase its support to allow persons with disabilities to achieve the maximum degree of  
699 self-sufficiency; and
- 700 • Fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and reauthorize and  
701 fully fund the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

702  
703 **A. City Liability**

704 Federal law should recommend that individuals with grievances should first follow the local and  
705 state grievance procedures prior to requesting a hearing process with the federal government.

706  
707 **B. Self-Sufficiency**

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

711  
712 The federal government should recognize the needs of persons with mental illness and provide the  
713 necessary support for treatment, employment, social services and housing programs.

## 714 715 **C. Education**

716 NLC fully supports the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and its  
717 implementation; and urges the federal government to fully fund the commitment it made in 1975  
718 to fund 40 percent of the per-pupil cost of services required by this Act.

## 719 720 **4.08 Health**

721  
722 NLC supports universal access to health care. Universal access will improve standard health  
723 indicators such as infant mortality, life expectancy, and immunization rates of the young against  
724 preventable diseases. It can also eliminate disparities in treatment.

725  
726 NLC believes that the federal government should:

- 727 • Control costs and reduce the rate of growth in health care expenditures and coverage  
728 costs;
- 729 • Ensure universal health care coverage;
- 730 • Maintain and improve Medicaid, Medicare, and the State-Children’s Health Insurance  
731 Program (S-CHIP), SNAP, WIC, and promote school health clinics to expand access and  
732 availability of health care;
- 733 • Address disease management;
- 734 • Reimburse localities fully for the costs of services provided to Medicare, Medicaid, Tri-  
735 Care and Veterans Administration patients;
- 736 • Adequately fund a federal block grant program to enhance our public health planning,  
737 capacity building, and disaster response systems;
- 738 • Assist local public health departments to better address infectious diseases such as  
739 HIV/AIDS and influenza, and increase the number of health services personnel  
740 employed;
- 741 • Adequately fund community health centers, which play a critical role in providing  
742 uninsured and underinsured individuals with health care services; and
- 743 • Apply the same laws and rules concerning health care coverage and insurance to cities  
744 and town as to any other employer.

745  
746 In addition, NLC urges the federal government to:

- 747 • Enhance access to health care by expanding telemedicine and virtual health options,  
748 particularly in rural areas;
- 749 • Provide funding for outreach and application assistance to uninsured individuals;-
- 750 • Fund and support increased access to behavioral health programs and services;-
- 751 • Fund block grant and categorical grant programs for health, such as the Maternal and  
752 Child Health Services Program, the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant,

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- 753 funding for community health centers and health programs for Native Americans,  
754 Migrants and Refugees;
- 755 • Require employers to cover the costs of health insurance for laid off workers and their  
756 dependents, as well as the creation of subsidized health insurance pools for workers  
757 without employment-based coverage;
  - 758 • Provide funding for programs which offer transitional care and home health care services;
  - 759 • Expand preventive health care programs for the poor; and
  - 760 • Pay the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) premiums for  
761 people with catastrophic terminal illnesses who have left their jobs and cannot afford to  
762 pay the health insurance premium.
- 763

## **A. Elimination of Disparities**

764 NLC urges Congress and the Administration to address the disparities in health care access and  
765 treatment between racial and ethnic minority population groups and Caucasians by following the  
766 recommendations of the National Institutes of Medicine, the National Healthcare Disparities  
767 Report and the President’s New Freedom Commission report. In addition, Congress should adopt  
768 legislation and the Administration should develop an administrative initiatives and education  
769 campaign that addresses and increases the awareness of the general public, health care providers,  
770 insurance companies, and policymakers about physical and mental health disparities based on race  
771 and ethnicity, including but not limited to the C<sub>2</sub>-W<sub>2</sub> Bill Young Cell Transplantation Program so  
772 that it remains the single point of access for patients who require matching adult donors and  
773 umbilical cord blood.

774

## **B. National Health and Wellness Strategy**

775  
776 NLC urges the federal government to partner with cities and towns to improve the health of all  
777 Americans, but not to result in unfunded mandates. This should be done by developing a cross-  
778 sector, integrated national strategy that identifies priorities for improving the health of Americans  
779 and provides to cities and towns the support that is needed to create healthy and safe communities,  
780 expand clinical and community-based preventive services, empower people to make healthy  
781 choices, and eliminate health disparities. Examples of this include Let’s Move and Healthy Eating  
782 Active Living (HEAL) Cities which have as their goal reducing obesity and improving the overall  
783 health and wellness of city and town residents and employees. Specifically, NLC urges the federal  
784 government to address the significant problems faced in maintaining clean air, water, and land,  
785 and to focus on designing and promoting affordable, accessible, safe and healthy housing and food  
786 systems; strengthening local health departments so that they ~~are able to~~ can provide essential  
787 services; integrating health criteria into decision making; and using health goals and objectives as  
788 benchmarks for existing conditions and as targets for future actions.

789

## **C. School-Based Health Clinics**

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791 NLC supports the use and growth of school-based clinics, which often help both students and local  
792 community members obtain a comprehensive array of individualized services that address  
793 physical, emotional, and social needs.

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## **D. Local Official Involvement**

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797 NLC urges the federal government to recognize that local officials should be involved in the  
798 assessment and design of an economic and comprehensive public and personal health services  
799 delivery system. Any federal effort to aid states in implementing disaster planning should include  
800 a requirement that the states include local officials in the planning process.

801 The federal government should encourage city officials to actively participate in projecting and  
802 certifying the need for facilities and in evaluating the performance of existing facilities in meeting  
803 city health needs. After a public health threat, terrorist attack, or natural disaster, the federal  
804 government should communicate quickly and effectively with local governments about public  
805 health activities and requirements.

806

## **E. Metropolitan Medical Response System**

808 NLC supports the Metropolitan Medical Response System (MMRS) program and urges Congress  
809 to reauthorize, increase funding, and expand MMRS to work with additional cities and cover  
810 broader geographic areas. This would ensure that all cities have a coordinated response system in  
811 place with the necessary equipment and training to respond to bioterrorist events and other  
812 disasters.

813

## **F. Vaccination Stockpiles**

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

820

## **G. Infectious Diseases**

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

828

829 Specific attention should also be placed on the transmission of zoonotic diseases, such as COVID-  
830 19, ~~those that~~which are transmitted from animals to humans, ~~which and that~~ researchers now  
831 believe contributes to no fewer than 2.2 million deaths each year on average. As we have  
832 experienced with COVID-19, which has resulted in 4.93 million deaths worldwide as of October  
833 2021, ~~and is becoming~~these diseases are an increasingly serious problem resulting from  
834 environmental change and increased travel among and between nations.

835

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

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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## **H. Substance Abuse**

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

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

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

Resources should include:

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

## **I. Protecting the Nation’s Blood Supply**

NLC remains deeply concerned about the potential for local, regional and national blood shortages that can occur when certain types of men are prohibited from donating blood. Therefore, NLC joins with the American Red Cross, the American Association of Blood Banks and America’s blood centers in asking that the Food and Drug Administration address the potential for blood shortages by issuing guidelines that ensure that anyone who is healthy enough to give blood is able to do so regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

## **J. Mental Health**

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

NLC supports mental health parity and the provision of comprehensive services to address mental health needs for persons with general mental health conditions, serious mental health diagnoses, and substance use disorders. Whether at the federal, state or local levels, there should be effective

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

887 plans for preventing, diagnosing, and treating mental health conditions and substance use disorders  
888 that reflect the parity between mental and physical health. Mental health and substance use disorder  
889 services should be accessible and equal to physical health services. These services should also  
890 provide support and stabilization to family systems.

891  
892 The Federal government should:

- 893 • Embed behavioral health supports in existing community centers to promote integrated  
894 systems of health care and stress reduction;
- 895 • Coordinate with state, county, and local officials on the implementation of the 988 mental  
896 health line, to ensure coordinated access to service providers;
- 897 • Recognize trauma as a major public health threat and offer mandated trauma-awareness  
898 trainings for all entities receiving federal funding;
- 899 • Incentivize screenings for social determinants of health including Adverse Childhood  
900 Experiences (ACE) screenings understanding that adversity in childhood impacts healthy  
901 brain development and increases risk for disease and early death;
- 902 • Acknowledge the significant return on investment in early childhood programs and  
903 supports for children and families including home visitation, parenting education, and  
904 affordable, high quality preschool. These programs allow service providers to identify  
905 environmental risks that can lead to substance use disorders and mental health conditions.

## 907 **K. Tobacco**

908 Any revenues raised by increasing federal excise taxes should be earmarked for health services  
909 and tobacco control activities. Any federal legislation on tobacco should not preempt stronger state  
910 and local tobacco control laws or remedies.

## 911 912 **4.09 Immigration and Refugees**

913  
914 When admitted through a well-regulated system, immigrants and refugees strengthen the United  
915 States by creating economic growth, increasing America’s scientific and cultural resources,  
916 strengthening our ties with other nations, fulfilling humanitarian commitments, and supporting  
917 family ties and that are necessary to build strong communities.

918  
919 The federal government should take immediate responsibility for decisions made regarding the  
920 influx and settlement of immigrants into the United States. Immigration and refugee policy are set  
921 at the national level, and our entire nation feels the effects of federal immigration policy.

922  
923 The federal government should:

- 924 • Provide an appropriate, legal means of immigration, as is determined to be necessary and  
925 effective for the United States, for foreign nationals who want to work here temporarily,  
926 become legal permanent residents, or gain citizenship;
- 927 • Provide local governments with financial and technical assistance so localities can assist  
928 new immigrants, including the costs of providing social services, health care, education,  
929 language services, refugee resettlement and civic integration;

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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- 930 • Avoid conscription of local personnel, such as police officers, fire inspectors, educators,  
931 health personnel and social service personnel into federal service because the federal  
932 government has not adequately funded and staffed its immigration enforcement agencies;
- 933 • Avoid transferring responsibility for enforcing U.S. immigration laws to local law  
934 enforcement;
- 935 • Increase federal capacity and infrastructure to ~~enforce the laws and~~ provide efficient  
936 means for foreign nationals to obtain legal authorization for temporary visas or legal  
937 permanent residency;
- 938 • Establish an affordable process whereby undocumented immigrants currently living in  
939 the United States may earn legalized status ~~through payment of appropriate fees and back~~  
940 ~~taxes, background checks, absence of criminal or gang activity, consistent work history,~~  
941 ~~and meeting English and civics requirements;~~
- 942 • Protect people seeking asylum at the border, create a humane reception system for  
943 migrants and refugees;
- 944 • Establish a process whereby once the documentation process has begun, individuals are  
945 permitted to obtain a driver’s license or other official identification card;
- 946 • Establish a process whereby those immigrants who have earned such legal status should  
947 also be able to apply for expedited citizenship through additional processes, as  
948 appropriate and practical, if they do not move ahead of applicants with proper  
949 documentation waiting to adjust their status or those waiting on lists in their home  
950 countries;
- 951 • Adopt legislation like the “Dream Act” that can facilitate state efforts to offer in-state  
952 tuition to undocumented students and ~~provide certain students with~~ acreate a pathway to  
953 U.S. citizenship and an improved process to eliminate case backlogs that prevent and  
954 slow the process;
- 955 • Provide an accessible, effective system to ensure that businesses are able to hire foreign  
956 workers legally without excessive bureaucratic red tape and that all foreign workers are  
957 authorized and documented; and
- 958 • Provide same-sex couples with equal rights of immigration sponsorship as opposite-sex  
959 couples and amend current law to allow lawful permanent residents to sponsor the  
960 permanent partner for legal residence in the United States provided they are over 18 years  
961 of age, financially interdependent with the sponsoring individual, not married or in a  
962 permanent partnership with anyone other than the sponsoring individual and is not a first,  
963 second, or third-degree blood relation;
- 964 • Ensure Congressional oversight mechanisms are in place to prohibit discrimination on the  
965 basis of religion;
- 966 • Restore the refugee resettlement program by increasing the annual admission allotment  
967 for refugee resettlement to at least the annual average since program inception (95,000);
- 968 • Reopen ports of entry to process asylum seekers in accordance with international law;  
969 and
- 970 • Adopt (1) a definition of “stateless person” in line with international human rights  
971 standards, and (2) legal protections for those identified as stateless in the United States  
972 through a federal-level Stateless Status Determination procedure based on the United  
973 Nation’s High Commissioner for Refugees Handbook on Protection of Stateless People,  
974 to ultimately provide stateless people a designated path to lawful status.

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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## **4.10 Cultural Resources**

NLC urges the federal government to:

- Increase direct federal funding for cultural resources; and
- Review tax laws to facilitate indirect financial support of the arts.

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

- Develop public lands and facilities use of the arts;
- Provide employment in cultural services; and
- Promote the use of the arts as a stimulus to economic development.

## **4.11 Veterans**

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

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

- Provide effective veterans' health care;
- Support programs that provide homeless veterans with safe, affordable, and permanent housing and fund programs to eliminate root causes of veterans' homelessness, including research, treatment, and support programs;
- Ensure that comprehensive mental health services are available to veterans and their families;
- Provide veterans with the employment and education resources needed to succeed in the 21st century workforce;
- Ensure that National Guard and Reservists have access to support services when they return from active duty; and
- Focus on the unique needs of women veterans, especially the unique health care needs of women and those women veterans who reside in rural areas.

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

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

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

- Ensure a range of ways for municipalities to engage with international, national and community service programs, including as project sponsors, hosts of individual placement and crew-based programs, and participants on State Service Commissions.



## *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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- 1019 • Provide support for engagement of the full range of city, town and village residents in  
1020 full-time or part-time stipend international, national and community service activities,  
1021 with post-service scholarship awards, and with special emphasis on involvement of  
1022 disconnected youth and young adults, seniors, and veterans.
- 1023 • Ensure leadership opportunities for city and town elected officials on national Days of  
1024 Service.
- Provide ongoing reporting on the impact of international, national and community service  
on cities, towns and villages, and about the contributions of our communities towards  
advancing international, national and community service.

# *Proposed HD Resolutions*

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- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #25:** In Support of Action by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to Study and Address Violence in America
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #26:** In Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #27:** In Support of Efforts to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #28:** In Support of Reauthorization of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and Increased Investment in Workforce Development Programs
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #29:** Addressing Systemic Racism as a Public Health Crisis
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #30:** In Support of Actions by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) And Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to Address Coronavirus Health Disparities through Resources and Data
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #31:** In Support of the One Health Initiative
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #32:** In Support of Child Nutrition Reauthorization
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #33:** In Support of a National Holiday Commemorating the Accomplishments and Legacy of Cesar Estrada Chavez
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #34:** In Support of The Equality Act
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #35:** In Support of Mothers in The Workforce
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #36:** In Support of Equal Pay for Women

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**NLC RESOLUTION #25**

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

**WHEREAS**, young men, generally, and African-American males, specifically, are dying at an alarming rate due to homicides, 13 times higher than non-Hispanic white youth<sup>[1]</sup>, and is the number one cause of death for 15-24-year-old African American males<sup>[2]</sup>, and

**WHEREAS**, every month, an average of 53 women are shot and killed by an intimate partner, nearly 1 million women alive today report being shot or shot at by intimate partners, and 4.5 million woman have reported being threatened with a gun<sup>[3]</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, studies show that LGBTQ+ people, especially youth, are at a higher risk of attempting suicide and 17 percent of gay and lesbian youth, 9 percent of bisexual youth, and 21 percent of transgender youth have been threatened with a weapon on school property<sup>[4]</sup>; and

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities calls upon the United States Congress to direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), whose primary responsibilities are to monitor public health, detect and investigate health problems, foster safe and healthy environments, and implement prevention strategies, to monitor, detect, and prevent violence in America; and

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

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

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

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**NLC RESOLUTION #26**

**IN SUPPORT OF COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, failure on the part of the federal government to simplify immigration procedures, reopen legal ports of entry for asylum seekers to deter illegal entrance, secure the borders, track visa recipients in the interior, or enforce worksite laws allows illegal immigration to thrive, with an estimated 11.3 million residents, 3.5% of the nation’s population, living and/or working in the United States without legal authorization or proper documentation<sup>[6]</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 40 million people living in the United States are foreign-born of which 23% are unauthorized immigrants, 27% are lawful permanent residents, and 77% are lawful immigrants<sup>[7]</sup>; and

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, output in the economy is higher and grows faster with more immigrants<sup>[8]</sup>; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

90 **WHEREAS**, Title 42 continues to be used to prohibit entry of asylum seekers to the U.S. and  
91 expel them to danger in other countries; and  
92

93 **WHEREAS**, the global refugee crisis the highest in history, with over 82.4 million forcibly  
94 displaced people worldwide, including 26.4 million refugees and 4.1 million asylum-seekers.  
95 under international law<sup>1</sup>.

96  
97 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the federal government should provide local  
98 governments with financial and technical assistance to alleviate the local impact of and ensure  
99 the success and productivity of new immigrants, including the costs of providing social services,  
100 health care, education, language services, and civic integration; and

101  
102 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government enforce its current immigration  
103 laws equitably, consistently and timely to adequately staff ports of entry to reduce unauthorized  
104 entry at the borders, track visa overstays, working without proper documentation, and employing  
105 undocumented workers; and

106  
107 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local personnel, such as police officers, fire inspectors,  
108 educators, health personnel and social service personnel, should not be conscripted into federal  
109 service because the federal government has not adequately funded and staffed its immigration  
110 enforcement agencies; and the federal government must not transfer the responsibility of  
111 enforcing U.S. immigration laws to local personnel by making undocumented status in the U.S. a  
112 criminal offense; and

113  
114 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government must strengthen its worksite  
115 enforcement capacity and dramatically increase enforcement efforts at places of employment, as  
116 well as providing employers with a universal, reliable, effective, secure, non-discriminatory, and  
117 non-counterfeitable employee verification system, using the most up-to-date technology that will  
118 minimize fraud; and

119  
120 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government must increase its capacity and  
121 infrastructure, including the speed of processing, funding levels and number of judges, to enforce  
122 the laws and provide efficient means for foreign nationals to obtain legal authorization for visas  
123 or legal permanent residency as well as to be processed when making a border crossing; and

124  
125 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government must update its policies to provide  
126 an appropriate, streamlined legal means of immigration and change status according to life  
127 milestones, as is determined to be necessary and effective for the United States, for  
128 undocumented immigrants, non-immigrant foreign nationals that want to visit or work here  
129 temporarily, or immigrant foreign nationals that want to become legal permanent residents, or  
130 gain citizenship, as well as clearly define penalties and consider impacts to students and families  
131 for harsh penalty policies for visas overstays; and

132  
133 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should reexamine its policies  
134 regarding seasonal workers given its impact on local business and the economic vitality of cities  
135 and towns across America; and

136  
137 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports establishment of a process whereby

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unhcr.org/refugee-statistics/>

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

145

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

149

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

154

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

158

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

162

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

169

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

173

174 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should restore and increase the  
175 refugee resettlement allotments.

176

177 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should end Title 42 expulsions of  
178 asylum seekers.

NLC RESOLUTION #27

IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO PREVENT SEXUAL HARASSMENT AND ASSAULT

WHEREAS, according to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men are victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner; 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men are raped in their lifetime; 1 in 5 women report harassment by a boss and 1 in 4 were harassed by a coworker; 1 in 6 women and 1 in 19 men were stalked in their lifetime; 81% of women experienced verbal harassment; and 25% say they have received lewd texts or emails<sup>[13]</sup>; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



1 NLC RESOLUTION #28

2  
3 **IN SUPPORT OF REAUTHORIZATION OF THE WORKFORCE INNOVATION AND**  
4 **OPPORTUNITY ACT AND INCREASED INVESTMENT IN WORKFORCE**  
5 **DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**  
6

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

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

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

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

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

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, during these unprecedented times, it is clearer than ever that workers need skills  
30 now to access open positions. Out of the nearly 60 million people who have filed for  
31 unemployment since March, [more than 40 percent<sup>\[16\]</sup>](#) have been workers who earn less than  
32 \$40,000 a year; and

33  
34 **WHEREAS**, the global crisis has disproportionately impacted workers without any education  
35 past high school, workers who already needed access to skills prior to the pandemic. Workers  
36 with a high school degree or less have been displaced at [nearly three times<sup>\[17\]</sup>](#) the rate as those  
37 with a bachelor’s degree; and

38  
39 **WHEREAS**, workers of Color, particularly women of color, have shouldered the greatest job  
40 losses due to their concentration in low-wage service industries that [have been hardest hit<sup>\[18\]</sup>](#) by  
41 the economic downturn; and

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, for local small business, the economic disruption from the first months of the  
44 pandemic alone could cause 1.4 million to 2.1 million of them to close for good<sup>[19]</sup>; and  
45

46 **WHEREAS**, minority-owned small businesses, which employ more than 8.7 million workers,  
47 are most vulnerable because they are disproportionately represented in sectors that are most  
48 likely to see permanent closures, such as storefront retail, bars and restaurants, travel and  
49 hospitality; and

50  
51 **WHEREAS**, in 2018, programs authorized under WIOA:

- 52 1. Served nearly 6,000,000 young people
- 53 2. Exceeded employment targets across programs
- 54 3. Helped more than 1,500,000 individuals, including English language learners, gain skills  
55 and credentials to help the individuals succeed in the labor market

56  
57 **WHEREAS**, the public workforce system and partner programs provide a pathway into 21st  
58 century jobs that support families while ensuring that businesses in the United States find the  
59 skilled workforce needed to compete in the global economy; and

60  
61 **WHEREAS**, businesses need skilled workers — people trained for jobs in growing industries  
62 like healthcare, medical technology, IT and software, and advanced manufacturing – as well as  
63 plumbers and electricians, and WIOA allows for greater local control of business outreach and  
64 ability to react to business needs; and

65  
66 **WHEREAS**, the United States invests less than all other developed countries, except Mexico, in  
67 workforce development, and over the past two decades has cut investments by 40%, and does not  
68 support local workforce development at the levels necessary to ensure cities across the country  
69 can prepare workers for the impact of automation, technology and AI on the workplace; and

70  
71 **WHEREAS**, as cities across America work to strengthen their economic standing and  
72 competitiveness and respond and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, we must build strong  
73 workforce development systems; and

74  
75 **WHEREAS**, key areas to consider include supporting and scaling pathways to employment,  
76 equity and access, and the impact of emerging technologies; and

77  
78 **WHEREAS**, registered apprenticeships have an 80-year history which has been marked by a  
79 recent increase in funding and expansion. With additional shifts in prioritizing apprenticeships in  
80 WIOA and the increased awareness of these potential pipelines to employment, apprenticeships  
81 continue to increase in number and expand into new and emerging industries including health,  
82 technology (IT), finance and transportation<sup>[20]</sup>; and

83  
84 **WHEREAS**, WIOA calls for the prioritization of service for all U.S. Department of Labor-  
85 funded job training programs for veterans and eligible spouses, including access to Jobs for  
86 Veterans State Grants (JVSG) and the National Dislocated Worker Grants (DWG) program for  
87 transitioning service members and their spouses.

88  
89 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls  
90 upon the United States Congress to enact a five-year reauthorization of WIOA that will provide  
91 certainty needed to deliver programming; and

92  
93 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls upon the United States Congress to increase  
94 funding to WIOA programs across all titles to ensure a robust investment in skills training,  
95 business engagement and increased economic development in communities across America; and  
96

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

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

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

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**NLC RESOLUTION #29**

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

**WHEREAS**, racism is rooted in the foundation of America, beginning with enslavement of Africans in 1619 and attempted genocide of Indigenous people and including early examples of racism such as the Chinese Exclusion Act and state-sanctioned violence against LatinX people such as the Porvenir massacre. There are numerous examples of racism in the history and present of the United States; much of the Black experience in America has been endured under slavery and Jim Crow which allowed preferential opportunities for white people while subjecting Black, and Indigenous people to hardships and disadvantages in every area of life and Asian and LatinX people have experienced racism and violence, including the forcible relocation and incarceration of Asian Americans in internment camps during World War II, and forced deportation of American citizens with Mexican heritage during the Great Depression; and

**WHEREAS**, health disparities have existed in America for more than 400 years - we now are witnessing a coronavirus pandemic which is shining a light upon the stark inequities that result from generations of structural and systemic racism. Black, Indigenous, LatinX, Asian, and other People of Color are disproportionately impacted because of long standing racism in every system, unaddressed health disparities and other socioeconomic inequities across class lines; and

**WHEREAS**, COVID-19 is killing Indigenous and LatinX people at 2.4 times the rate of white people, and Black people at 2 times the rate of White people<sup>1</sup>. Asian and Pacific Islander communities are experiencing racist violence and treatment due to xenophobic rhetoric related to the virus; and

**WHEREAS**, racism is a system of power and oppression. A system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks (which is what we call “race”), that unfairly disadvantages People of Color, unfairly advantages white individuals and communities, and saps the strength of the whole society through the waste of human resources; and

**WHEREAS**, there is clear data to illustrate that racism results in disproportionate impacts the lives of Black, Indigenous, LatinX, Asian and other People of Color - the current COVID-19 crisis has helped to highlight now, more than ever, that racism, not race causes disproportionately higher rates of homelessness, incarceration, and economic hardships for African Americans - racism can be seen across systemic, institutional and interpersonal levels - all operating over the course of time and across generations. An increasing number of local leaders are declaring racism as a public health crisis in cities, towns and villages across the country<sup>[21]</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, racism is a driving force of social determinants of health, such as housing, education, neighborhood conditions, environmental conditions, and employment, and is a barrier to health equity<sup>[22]</sup> For example, lending practices of the 20th century known as “redlining” and

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-race-ethnicity.html>

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

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

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

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

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

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

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**NLC RESOLUTION #30**

**IN SUPPORT OF ACTIONS BY THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION (CDC) AND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS) TO ADDRESS CORONAVIRUS HEALTH DISPARITIES THROUGH RESOURCES AND DATA**

**WHEREAS**, the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has revealed deep-seated inequities in health care for communities of color, including LGBTQ+ people and amplified social and economic factors that contribute to poor health outcome; and

**WHEREAS**, recent reports indicate that the pandemic disproportionately impacts communities of color, compounding longstanding racial disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, nationally, COVID-19 is killing Indigenous and LatinX people at 2.4 times the rate of white people, and Black people at 2 times the rate of White people; and

**WHEREAS**, women of color are also disproportionately likely to experience many of the chronic health conditions that heighten the risk of serious illness from COVID-19, such as diabetes and asthma, as a result of structural racism<sup>[27]</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, women are more likely to be on the front lines of coronavirus response and exposure: 52 percent of essential workers are women, and women are the majority of the workers in jobs that the federal government has designated as essential, including the vast majority of hospital workers, home health aides, and grocery store cashiers<sup>[28]</sup>; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Puerto Rico, an area with a large Latino population, is at risk for experiencing health disparities due to an already weakened economic and health infrastructure. In addition, territory’s population is now older and more prone to health threats, such as the coronavirus. Many younger Puerto Ricans have moved away, and the median age of residents is forty-five, making Puerto Rico’s one of the oldest populations in the U.S.<sup>[30]</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, while data for tribal populations is harder to come by, where it exists, it also shows glaring disparities. In New Mexico, Native American communities have accounted for 60% of cases but only 9% of the population. Similarly, in Arizona, at least 136 Native American have died from COVID-19, a striking 21% of deaths in a state where just 4% of the population are Native American<sup>[31]</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, in several states Asian Americans have seen a disproportionate share of cases. In South Dakota, for example, they account for only 2% of the population but 12% of cases. But beyond these places, data can be spotty. In Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Oklahoma and Wisconsin, Asian Americans and Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders are counted together, making comparison to census data difficult<sup>[32]</sup>; and

47  
48 **WHEREAS**, LGBTQ+ people also experience health disparities that magnify the impact of the  
49 COVID-19 pandemic; and

50  
51 **WHEREAS**, in addition to the greater risk of health complications as a result of COVID-19,  
52 LGBTQ+ Americans are more likely than the general population to live in poverty and lack  
53 access to adequate medical care, paid medical leave, and basic necessities during the  
54 pandemic<sup>[33]</sup>; and

55  
56 **WHEREAS**, it is unknown how many of the 1.5 million people who have contracted the  
57 coronavirus in the U.S. and the 93,000 who have died are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.  
58 Just one state, Pennsylvania, has begun tracking information on the LGBTQ identities of  
59 COVID-19 patients<sup>[34]</sup>; and

60  
61 **WHEREAS**, major holes in the data remain: 48% of cases and 9% of deaths still have no race  
62 tied to them. And that can hamper response to the crisis across the U.S., now and in the future<sup>[35]</sup>.

63  
64 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges the  
65 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), to continue collecting data disaggregated by  
66 race, ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, religion, and gender identity; and

67  
68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the CDC to support data that sheds light on the  
69 intersecting forces of racial disparities, underlying conditions, and poverty that affect how the  
70 virus spreads and provide resources that address the disproportionate effect of the pandemic on  
71 communities of color.

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**NLC RESOLUTION #31**

**IN SUPPORT OF THE ONE HEALTH INITIATIVE**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, climate change will affect energy costs, the frequency and severity of floods, fires, wind events, heat waves, and other extreme weather conditions; coastal development and



47 building standards; incidence vector-borne illnesses; crop production; habitat loss; endangerment  
48 and extinction of species; and human illness; and

49  
50 **WHEREAS**, cities can only thrive if they remain attractive and livable, with sufficient quantities  
51 of clean water, clean air, efficient, affordable buildings, healthful food choices, healthy food  
52 animals, strong public health systems, and leaders who are committed to cooperative long-range  
53 planning for a sustainable future.

54  
55 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities supports  
56 integrated decision-making in the context of the *One Health Initiative* and calls on the federal  
57 government to adopt legislation and practices that address human health, animal health, and  
58 ecological health in an integrated fashion and support local efforts to monitor and control public  
59 health threats.

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**NLC RESOLUTION #32**

**IN SUPPORT OF CHILD NUTRITION REAUTHORIZATION**

**WHEREAS**, federal nutrition programs play a critical role in helping children in low-income families improve their overall nutrition, health, development, and academic achievement. These programs support the development of our next-generation workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) provides healthy meals and snacks that support good nutrition and prepares children to learn at school and in high-quality child care settings; and

**WHEREAS**, the afterschool and summer nutrition programs provide meals and snacks at schools, parks, recreation centers, libraries, nonprofit organizations, and others often provide nutritious food and educational enrichment and physical activities in low-income communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program play an essential part in reducing hunger, improving nutrition, and supporting learning for millions of children. School meals will be an important tool as schools work to overcome the learning loss students had due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides nutritious food and nutrition education to low-income, at-risk pregnant and postpartum mothers, infants, and young children.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls upon the United States Congress to strengthen federal nutrition program access and supports participation by under-resourced children, ensuring nutrition quality and simplifies program administration and operation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should lower area eligibility test to 40 percent to allow more low-income communities to provide summer meals; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should allow nonprofits and local governments to provide meals year-round seamlessly through the Summer Food Service Program<sup>[i]</sup>; and

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

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

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

47

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

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**NLC RESOLUTION #33**

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

**WHEREAS**, César Estrada Chávez was born on March 31, 1927, near Yuma, Arizona on a family farm; 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

**WHEREAS**, César Estrada Chávez left school to work full-time as a farm worker to help support his family; 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**, in 1962, César Estrada Chávez left the Community Service Organization to found the National Farm Workers Association, which eventually became the United Farm Workers of America; and

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

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

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

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

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

49 **WHEREAS**, President Barack Obama proclaimed “César Chávez Day” on March 31 of every  
50 year as a United States commemorative holiday to support public observance of the contributions  
51 of Cesar Chavez to the United States.  
52

53 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** the National League of Cities calls upon the United  
54 States Congress to declare a national holiday celebrating the life and legacy of César Estrada  
55 Chávez.

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**NLC RESOLUTION #34**

**IN SUPPORT OF THE EQUALITY ACT**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, there are 29 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. 393/H.R. 5, The Equality Act, and provide full protections for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender individuals regardless of where they live in the United States.

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**NLC RESOLUTION #35**

**IN SUPPORT OF MOTHERS IN THE WORKFORCE**

**WHEREAS**, any relief and long-term recovery from the economic fallout of the COVID–19 pandemic must recognize, rebuild, and support mothers who wish to return to the workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, women, and especially working mothers, are bearing 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**, prior to the pandemic, women comprised the majority of the workforce for the first time in almost a decade; and

**WHEREAS**, 2,300,000 women have left the labor force since the beginning of the COVID–19 pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, 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

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

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

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

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**NLC RESOLUTION #36**

**IN SUPPORT OF EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN**

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, since the COVID-19 pandemic began, we have seen women, particularly women of color, disproportionately working on the frontlines, caring for our loved ones, and working to combat the virus, and women bore the brunt of the child care crisis due to COVID-19 impacts on child care and school, with women leaving the workforce due to child care needs at a date of more than four times men during the pandemic; and

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

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



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*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Transportation and Infrastructure  
Services Federal Advocacy Committee**

**TIS**

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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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:**

- **5.00 Transportation Principles**
- **5.04 Air Transportation**
- **5.05 Rail**

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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## **5.00 Transportation Principles**

### **A. Local Control**

Fundamental responsibility for overall transportation decision-making is a shared federal, state, and local government responsibility but emphasis should be at the local and regional level to improve our transportation system. NLC supports the ability of states and municipalities to set their own priorities in transportation investment and to have a greater voice in influencing transportation plans that satisfy local needs and objectives.

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

### **B. Transportation Finance and Administration**

#### **f. Manuals for Advising**

The federal Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) must be modernized as a trusted resource for federal, state and cities' transportation staff to select appropriate road safety devices for all road types. MUTCD must not be used to create preferential treatment among modes, supersede local professional judgement or block cities from using innovative new technologies. Appropriate research funding and resources should be provided by USDOT for communities to further the experimentation process for new devices, particularly to reduce risk for all road users. USDOT must weigh the economic cost of their recommended changes which can be prohibitive to upgrading local infrastructure.

## **5.04 Air Transportation**

### **A. Airport Noise and Pollution**

~~**B.**~~ NLC urgently requests Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) intensify and accelerate efforts to deliver rapid relief to residents of cities impacted by airports and aircraft overflights and their heightened and increasingly unacceptable levels of aircraft noise and pollution. The federal government Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) must intensify its efforts to provide prompt relief to residents of cities located close to airports from unacceptable levels of aircraft noise and aircraft pollution. The FAA should also address the impact of burned jet fuel residue which impact the quality of life for residents in affected areas. Where it is possible, NLC encourages the FAA to revise flight paths away from residential areas. In that effort, FAA policy should be extended to provide for the funding and implementation of measures to address the negative impacts of aircraft on affected communities. FAA should enforce adherence to "Fly-Quiet programs", as well as residential-compatible runway usage, flight paths, and curfews established by local jurisdictions and approved by FAA. The NLC further requests FAA to revise flight paths, to the extent compatible with aviation safety, away from sensitive receptors and residential areas, and complete and implement the findings of the study of alternatives to

# Proposed Policy Amendments

46 the currently applicable 65 Db DNL (or CNEL in California) noise metric upon which  
47 FAA relies in its evaluation of noise impacts. FAA must adhere scrupulously to the  
48 requirements of NEPA. In doing so, it must not only conduct complete environmental  
49 impact studies rather than relying on Categorical Exclusions from environmental review  
50 of operations over affected communities but must also use a noise standard that  
51 accurately reflects the impacts of flight path changes and NextGen routing over  
52 established communities. The NLC encourages the appropriation of Federal funds to  
53 provide the resources required by affected communities to plan for compatible zoning  
54 regulations proactively in areas near airports and that are subject to substantial aircraft  
55 overflight. Finally, included in its complete environmental review should be a thorough  
56 study of the health impacts of burned jet-fuel residue on the health and quality of life of  
57 residents in affected areas, as well as on the environment. To effectuate these goals  
58 efficiently and expeditiously, increased, collaborative FAA/citizen participation in the  
59 planning, design, and implementation of NextGen routing process is also essential. (See  
60 clarifications at EENR Section 2.09, Noise Control, and CED Section 3.06, Land Use)

61 ~~C.—~~

62 ~~D. This should be tied to encouraging changes in local zoning regulations to restrict noise~~  
63 ~~sensitive property development.~~

64 ~~E.—~~

65 ~~F. The Federal Aviation Administration should require adherence to fly quiet programs,~~  
66 ~~preferred runway usage, preferred flight paths, and local curfews as established by local~~  
67 ~~governments and authorities.~~

68 ~~G.—~~

69 ~~H. NLC encourages the appropriation of funds to cities and towns that adjoin an airport but~~  
70 ~~do not operate the facility for compatible land use and noise mitigation planning purposes.~~

71 ~~I.—~~

## 72 ~~J.B.~~ **Federal Role in Air Traffic Control**

73 The federal government should provide funding for and ensure all airports and aircraft, including  
74 horizontal space delivery vehicles, are participants in a national air navigation system which  
75 provides for safe aircraft operation such as the conversion of radar based guidance systems to GPS.  
76 Additionally, the federal government should continue to provide for the safe integration of new  
77 aviation entrants into the national airspace and engage with local governments in the creation of  
78 new structures and technology to manage airspace such as the Low Altitude Authorization and  
79 Notification Capability system. NLC encourages FAA to consider how to advance a more  
80 responsive system for temporary notices and flight restrictions.

## 81 **5 Unmanned Aircraft Systems**

83 Local governments and our agencies remain one of the most significant authorized user groups of  
84 unmanned aircraft systems (UAS or drones), and cities are poised to benefit from the entry of new  
85 advanced urban air mobility (UAM or AAM) vehicles and UAS. Congress and the Federal  
86 Aviation Administration FAA must not preempt respect and uphold the existing authorities of local  
87 governments over land use, zoning, privacy, trespass, transportation, and law enforcement  
88 operations and work proactively with communities to seamlessly integrate and optimize drone  
89 operations. Further, FAA should not create unfunded mandates for local communities by the UAS

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

90 and UAM structures they create nor allow for unsafe conditions to be created on the ground for  
91 communities from flights.

92  
93 It is unacceptable for local safety and emergency personnel to be burdened by managing the  
94 careless, clueless and criminal operators without appropriate tools and support. Congress must  
95 consider granting provisional or cooperative counterdrone authority for local law enforcement  
96 before FAA further opens UAS operations as it increases safety risks to communities. authority of  
97 local governments to create and enforce regulations with regard to the use of Unmanned Aircraft  
98 Systems as it relates to land use, zoning, privacy, trespass, noise, and law enforcement operations.  
99

100  
101 Congress should establish a ground-to-air transportation planning program to begin to align UAM  
102 integration planning into existing long-term transportation plans with capital funding to develop  
103 and test operational concepts and development of heliport guidance should be appropriate to urban,  
104 suburban and rural environments and cost-effective for development where air carriers have  
105 abandoned essential air service.

106  
107 USDOT and FAA must include local government representation to all federal stakeholder groups  
108 and advisory committees that will impact local skies.

109 The Federal Aviation Administration should establish a transit zone for privately owned and  
110 commercially operated Unmanned Aviation Systems that is sufficiently high enough above  
111 ground level that it prevents disturbances to landowners while also protecting navigable airspace.  
112

## **5.05 Rail**

### **1. Rail Principles**

116 NLC encourages the federal government and Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to establish  
117 forward-looking and comprehensive visions, plans and regulations for passenger and freight rail  
118 that serves the development and renewal of safe and efficient freight movement through and to  
119 cities and connected and effective passenger rail including long-distance, inter-city regional and  
120 commuter service that provides significant mobility options to Americans.

121 The rail system in the U.S. should be modernized and renewed to supply:

- 122 1. Freight movement that delivers goods, supports economic activity, operates safely and  
123 efficiently and works with cities towns and villages to reduce noise, blockages, emergency  
124 service disruptions and other impacts.
- 125 2. Long-distance inter-city passenger rail service traveling at least daily between myriad city  
126 pairs that is safe and convenient, is a proven economic catalyst for cities and regions,  
127 widens access to regional employment, education and medical care and opens the flow of  
128 tourist revenue for the communities it serves.
- 129 3. Regional and commuter rail service that travels frequently between city centers, outer  
130 suburbs, and commuter towns connecting people to jobs, educational opportunities,  
131 medical facilities, and centers of art and tourism, unlocking opportunities and aiding city  
132 towns and villages work toward equity, quality of life and sustainability.

133 NLC encourages the federal government and FRA to prioritize federal investment in rail projects  
134 that meet the following principles:

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

- A. Local input: accord with the recommendations of local governments to state compacts and state and federal rail plans;
- B. Rail Infrastructure: use of existing rail infrastructure, introduce improvements to benefit unimpeded freight and passenger traffic on the same corridor;
- C. Service Equity: introduce or enhance passenger rail service to underserved communities and/or regions unserved with rail transportation options;
- D. Expand Connectivity: by increasing service, city pairs, and new lines of service in a wider rail network and coordinating with “last mile” transit options;
- E. Reduce GHG Emissions: shift travel and freight demand to the significantly more energy-efficient option of rail to reduce the percentage of transportation related emissions.

## **2. Passenger Rail**

### **A. Passenger Rail Planning**

NLC believes substantive engagement of local communities in passenger rail planning is essential to achieving a national network that meets the needs of the American people. NLC urges Congress and the Administration to develop a long-range vision and plans for a coordinated national network of long-distance and state supported passenger rail service serving growth in America’s regions and providing service to underserved areas. Plans should draw on state and intra-state rail plans and prioritization.

Ensure that plans are informed by and reflect the needs and priorities of local communities:

1. FRA, Amtrak and other operators should substantively include local governments in all their planning activities. The federal government should require states to do the same in state rail planning efforts required and supported under federal law.
2. NLC supports the authority to form multi-state and regional rail compacts to engage in corridor recommendations, coordination and project prioritization and development of multi-state regional rail, plans and maps and implementation of rail projects based on the local and state input received.
3. NLC further urges that states, regions and localities be provided sufficient resources in planning and implementing regional and commuter services.

NLC supports the investment in high-speed rail development as an important part of our national transportation network. Networks should be developed only after detailed analysis of their operational and financial feasibility and with local consent.

### **B. Passenger Rail Financing**

NLC encourages the federal government to enact policies and programs that would expand public and private investment in both passenger and freight rail mobility. NLC supports creation of a rail trust fund or similar mechanism to ensure continued investment and appropriate expansion to meet the rail visions adopted which include:

- A. Increased funding: for existing programs such as Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements Program (CRISI) and Restoration & Enhancement Grant Program and creation of new programs as needed to adequately fund rail infrastructure acquisitions, improvements, and rights-of-way and operating costs;

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

- 
- 180 B. *Increased passenger specific funding*: federal sources specifically designated for passenger  
181 and commuter rail, including a set aside to ensure equity for undeserved regions and  
182 populations;  
183 C. *Flex funding*: allowing state, regional, and local government entities the option to flex a  
184 portion of their federal transportation allocation on intercity rail; and  
185 D. *Bonding*: Allowing federal and state governments to issue tax-exempt or tax-credit bonds  
186 for financing rail improvements;  
187 E. *Competition*: Support open competitive bidding on all contracts related to passenger rail  
188 development.

## **C. Rail Safety**

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

195 NLC urges the FRA to redouble its attention to the safety and mobility challenges that result  
196 from capital and operational decisions such as the running of longer trains. The FRA should  
197 conduct a study including local impact data from rail. The federal government require rail  
198 operators to introduce state-of-the-art solutions where train length and/or frequency impair the  
199 safety, mobility and/or pedestrian connectivity of communities on the project corridor.

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

- 201 1. *Local Access*: Requirements to close multiple rail crossings to receive agreement for  
202 support on isolated new investments in safe overpasses, underpasses, pedestrian bridges  
203 is unnecessary and unsafe;
  - 204 2. *Blocked Crossings*: The increasing length of freight trains poses a safety hazard to  
205 communities which lack grade separations for emergency responders and other vehicular  
206 traffic, and safety standards should be established for the maximum length of time and  
207 reoccurrence of blocked crossing with appropriate consequences for failure;
  - 208 3. *Technology for Prevention*: NLC supports the continued implementation of rail safety  
209 systems, such as positive train control (PTC) systems, to ensure safety on passenger rail  
210 lines to limit injuries and derailments;
  - 211 4. *Communication*: NLC urges the federal government to direct the FRA to establish direct  
212 and transparent channels of communication between host railroads, operators and local  
213 governments through which to address safety issues and incidents and pursue productive  
214 collaboration between railroads and operators as needed to reduce conflicts, as well as  
215 deaths and fatalities related to rail lines.
  - 216 5. *Maintenance*: Lack of railroad maintenance jeopardizes safety. The closure of poorly  
217 maintained crossings and infrastructure cause congestion on remaining crossings putting  
218 operators and passengers of motor vehicles at a greater risk;
  - 219 6. *Hazardous goods*: The proximity, switching and storage of railroad cars containing  
220 volatile and hazardous materials in and through urban and residential neighborhoods;  
221 7. *Crew size*: The hazard of reduced crews undermines the safe and efficient movement of  
222 trains and puts local first responders in unsafe situations during rail incidents and  
223 accidents.
- 224

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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## **D. Freight and Passenger Rail Oversight**

NLC urges Congress and the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) to ensure that the expectation set in the Rail Passengers Service Act of 1970 (RPSA) for reasonable cooperation between Amtrak intercity passenger rail providers and railroad companies owners is upheld. Adjustments to existing passenger rail providers and rail service should not be subjected to unreasonable compensation demands or unjustifiable access delays. The FRA should utilize its authority to achieve the intent of the law.

Rail owners must be disincentivized by the federal government from uncompetitive practices by the federal government to price gouge other entities seeking to reasonably access the network. Rail operations should be competitive, and market driven.

Congress and FRA must improve on-time passenger interstate rail service by ensuring the Surface Transportation Board is able to effectively measure it and report it publicly by having access to freight and passenger data from rail owners and operators.

NLC believes that no federal rail advisory committee on rail is complete without local and regional representation. NLC recommends Amtrak's board include at least one local elected official and regional planning leader to appropriately represent the communities it serves.

## **E. Rail Operations and Maintenance**

Continued maintenance is the individual responsibility of the rail owner. NLC urges the federal government to review and update rail track standards for dual freight and intercity passenger rail uses through appropriate rail improvements and clarify responsibility and funding mechanisms for dual use tracks. Congress and the public and private sectors must cooperate to provide for the efficient movement of freight and passengers, especially with regards to the management, relocation of rail lines, sidings, and increased rail traffic within metropolitan areas, to maximize benefits while reducing safety hazard and disruptions to municipal functions.

## **F. Rail Environmental and Noise Impacts**

Federal law regulating railroad activity should not preempt local, state, or federal environmental review and requirements for permitting and mitigation of railroad activities. The environmental impacts of railway activities and facilities, including pollution, poor air quality, land use, vibration, light pollution, and noise, should not be exempt from local environmental, public health, safety, or welfare-based regulations.

Railroads should be subject to light pollution and noise constraints. FRA's Train Horn rules must be modernized to utilize technology to affordably and safely make rail notifications in communities. FRA should work with communities to develop, test and adopt modern noise and light standards using new tools and methods to reduce community harm and disruption while continuing operations. Also, the impact of the increasing weight of freight trains along with increasing length must be evaluated in terms of impact on noise and vibration levels experienced in surrounding communities. Rail yard lighting standards and types need to be established that minimize lighting impact on neighboring communities.

## **G. Rail Line Abandonment**

Congress must protect national, state, and local government interest in alternative public transportation regarding the use of abandoned rail corridors. Congress should:



# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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- 269 A. Require railroads to provide specific information concerning traffic trends,  
270 profitability, and rail line conditions to federal authorities, rail users, and state and  
271 local governments six months prior to the filing of the abandonment application.  
272 B. Require a railroad to transfer an abandoned rail corridor to a state or local agency for  
273 no more than the constitutional minimum valuation, for alternative public uses  
274 including walking and biking, and public-private transportation initiatives. Public  
275 interest in alternative use of rights-of-way should be fully considered during rail  
276 merger proceedings.  
277 C. Provide federal financial assistance for the purpose of converting existing rail  
278 terminals into intermodal/ multimodal facilities.  
279 D. Ensure that active but unused rail lines are not allowed to deteriorate beyond the  
280 condition that would allow public use if the line were abandoned and transferred to  
281 public ownership.  
282 E. Specify how the federal government should balance the impact on shippers and the  
283 community of losing rail service against the burden upon the railroad of continued  
284 service and the potential use of the corridor for public transportation, including biking  
285 and hiking. Alternative means of freight and passenger conveyance should be  
286 considered.

## **H. Rail Mergers**

289 NLC calls on USDOT and FRA to increase their safety oversight under all existing laws and  
290 regulations to reevaluate railroad incentives and penalties, address noise issues in communities,  
291 decrease barriers for local communities that perpetuate inequities, while ensuring safety at at-grade  
292 rail crossings. Freight rail mergers in the United States must be in the best interest of the country  
293 and a competitive marketplace. The Surface Transportation Board should be required to consider  
294 the impact on cities, towns and villages and their resident's quality of life and all aspects of a  
295 railroad's safety record as two of the key criteria for approving railroad mergers or expansions.  
296 Because of the potential impact mergers can have on local municipalities, federal law should  
297 ensure that local governments have police, zoning, and land use authority for the protection of the  
298 environment and public safety.

# *Proposed TIS Resolutions*

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- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #37:** Partner with Cities, Towns, and Villages on Flexible Programs to Meet Every Community's Transportation Needs and Vision
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #38:** Advancing Safety for All to Reach Vision Zero with Policies that Achieve Safe, Healthy and Equitable Mobility for All

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2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION #37**

4 **PARTNER WITH CITIES, TOWNS, AND VILLAGES ON FLEXIBLE PROGRAMS TO**  
5 **MEET EVERY COMMUNITY’S TRANSPORTATION NEEDS AND VISION**

6 **WHEREAS**, the National League of Cities (NLC) applauds Congress, the President, and the  
7 Administration for advancing the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), a historic  
8 national infrastructure package that will allows us to rebuild and reimagine America’s  
9 transportation and essential infrastructure together; and

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, the economic potential of our cities, towns and villages relies on a safe and  
12 efficient multimodal network of locally owned and operated roads, bridges, transit, rail,  
13 sidewalks, trails, airports and ports built on strong transportation plans starting at the local and  
14 regional level and intersecting with state and national systems; and

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, local governmental agencies own 74.8% of the nation’s highway lane mileage<sup>1</sup> and  
17 50% of the nation’s 617,000 bridges<sup>2</sup> while 845 urban and 1,684 rural transit providers are  
18 directly owned by local governments and make up 46% of the nation’s transit providers;<sup>3</sup> and

19  
20 **WHEREAS**, as the level of government closest to America’s communities, cities, towns and  
21 villages continues to be responsive to emerging and obstinate challenges while also being  
22 nimble, innovative and welcoming to new creative ideas and processes that deserve further  
23 recognition; and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, local governments are prioritizing the full transportation network as a critical  
26 instrument for reaching community goals including quality of life for residents, economic  
27 opportunity for workers and businesses, health outcomes for children, equity for disadvantaged  
28 people and neighborhoods and so many more, but we share ownership and responsibility for the  
29 transportation network with federal and state authorities whose decisions can impact what is  
30 possible in our own areas, such as with the limitations from the Manual on Uniform Traffic  
31 Control Devices.

32  
33 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to  
34 *prioritize infrastructure partnership* with America’s cities, towns and villages as a national  
35 priority through direct and flexible programs that are positioned to meet every community’s  
36 transportation needs and vision as they carry out the programs and policy in the Infrastructure  
37 Investment and Jobs Act; and

38  
39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments expect that the USDOT will *support*  
40 *the full transportation network* of the U.S. and align available programs, investments, research,  
41 and support more appropriately to reflect the demands of the full system and work with all  
42 infrastructure owners productively;

43  

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

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

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

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

48  
49 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC recommends that the *federal funding process and*  
50 *administration be guided and streamlined* so that cities, towns and villages are empowered to  
51 manage and utilize federal transportation investments efficiently and effectively without fear of  
52 unnecessary burden or surprise costs; and

53  
54 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that America’s local governments fully support a more  
55 *equitable approach in the distribution and competition for federal resources* across the full  
56 transportation network and prioritizing projects based on their local and regional impact; and

57  
58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments call on the federal government to  
59 support local initiatives to *modernize and improve transportation planning and community*  
60 *engagement*, including partnerships with community leaders and community-based organizations  
61 to ensure a greater and more equitable role for impacted communities in transportation planning;  
62 and

63  
64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that America’s local governments support both *traditional and*  
65 *emerging transportation modes* including regional and intercity rail connections, safe biking and  
66 walking infrastructure, transit and micromobility of all forms including autonomous vehicles,  
67 modern buses, scooters and e-bikes; and

68  
69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports continuing to move toward a *outcome-*  
70 *based transportation structure* where the goals of the programs align with the region’s goals for  
71 economic development, sustainability, safety, innovation, equity, and regional connectivity; and

72  
73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that local governments call on the federal government to  
74 address the nation’s congestion points in collaboration with our communities and actively  
75 consider the essential urban and rural connections between ports, rail, freight and highways and  
76 the implications on the nation’s energy use, economy, public health, and environment.

NLC RESOLUTION #38

**ADVANCING SAFETY FOR ALL TO REACH VISION ZERO WITH POLICIES THAT ACHIEVE SAFE, HEALTHY AND EQUITABLE MOBILITY FOR ALL**

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

**WHEREAS**, while everyone is affected by collisions, collisions do not affect everyone equally; and

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, communities of all sizes can aid in preventing the deaths of our residents, neighbors and families by taking a proactive, preventative [“Safe Systems” approach](#) that acknowledges humans make mistakes and uses a holistic safety approach of the road system; and

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

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

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that America’s city leaders urge the President, Congress, USDOT and all federal agencies to commit federal leadership and support to cities prioritizing safety for all residents through safety efforts, implementing Safe Systems in roadway design and guidance recognizing that design is more effective than enforcement, honing proven

48 countermeasures and interventions that prioritize transportation safety for all, investing in safe and  
49 connected trail and greenway networks, and working with cities toward the “Vision Zero” goal of  
50 zero deaths on roads in the U.S.; and

51  
52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that to design safe, healthy, equitable multi-modal mobility for  
53 all and utilize the strength of cities as the laboratories of innovation, we urge Congress to  
54 authorize and appropriate sufficient safety and infrastructure funding to cities to implement Safe  
55 System local plans that provide a path of actions to “Vision Zero” and provide safer streets for  
56 all users and invest in safe and connected on- and off-road active transportation networks; and

57  
58 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, cities, towns, and villages call on USDOT to ensure that  
59 safety data is widely available and accessible, methodologies for showcasing safety outcomes are  
60 developed in collaboration with communities, and that the value for investments in safety are  
61 demonstrated; and

62  
63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that USDOT should encourage state departments of  
64 transportation to improve data gathering and technical assistance for local government on safety  
65 as well and tracking of traffic crashes and other issues related to transportation safety; and

66  
67 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC encourages the USDOT to update design standards  
68 and manuals, such as the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), and guidelines  
69 for road speeds with a focus to put safety first for all users and shift away from constructs like  
70 level-of-service in lieu of improved performance standards; and

71  
72 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that given the inequitable impacts to disadvantaged  
73 communities of unsafe roadway design and lack of access to safe and connected networks for  
74 walking and bicycling, achieving equity in safety should be a priority to repair the disparity in  
75 access to safe transportation options; and

76  
77 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that public education is not achieved through advertising alone  
78 so we urge the use of more effective education strategies with USDOT resources such as  
79 demonstration projects, tactical urbanism projects, local community engagement, local road  
80 safety audits, and other effective strategies to address safety and capture interest.

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*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

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

**PSCP**

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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

Please note:

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

## **POLICY:**

- **Section 6.01 Crime Prevention**
  - C. Weapons and Ammunition Control
  - D. Youth Oriented Crime Prevention
    - 1. Youth Crime and Violence
    - 3. Corrections
    - 4. School Safety



# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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## **C. Weapons and Ammunition Control**

The growing illegal use of firearms in cities and towns throughout this nation is the common denominator for most violent deaths. Firearms do not kill and maim without someone pulling a trigger. Controlling weapons and ammunition is just part of a more comprehensive effort necessary to reduce violent acts. NLC urges all levels of government to adopt statutory, regulatory, and policy actions to confront, curb, and eventually eliminate firearms violence in America. Specifically, NLC asks the federal government to:

- Provide funding and resources to the ATF to help facilitate efforts of states and localities to register guns;
- Provide additional resources to ATF to help local and state governments establish programs that would make it more difficult for criminals to access weapons and ammunition.
- Continue to enact initiatives and strengthen laws imposing enhanced sentences for the use of a firearm in the commission of any federal, state, or local crime;
- Strongly support enhanced programs to arrest gun traffickers and shut down the illegal sale and distribution of firearms;
- Regulate, in a manner consistent with the Constitution, Internet facilitated firearms commerce and provide the same oversight as other types of commerce involving the sale and/or transfer of ownership of firearms; grant authority to the appropriate Federal agency to regulate and otherwise oversee the design, safety, and responsible marketing and sales of firearms;
- Support flexible federal funding for local programs that address gun violence and promote gun safety education and training in safe effective handling and secured storage of legal firearms;
- Continue the federal ban on all manufacture, sale, importation or use of armor-piercing bullets that can penetrate bullet-proof vests except for legitimate use by the military and police officers.<sup>1</sup>
- Support passage of federal, state, and local laws imposing substantial mandatory sentences, with no possibility of parole, probation, or suspended sentence for the use of armor-piercing bullets in the commission of any crime;
- Ban the manufacture, sale, importation, or transfer of all automatic and semi-automatic assault type weapons except for legitimate use as authorized by the National Firearms Act (NFA) and by the military or law enforcement;
- Apply a waiting period of up to 30 days for the purchase or transfer of all guns so that local police agencies may check the criminal and mental health status of purchasers.
- Expand and enhance the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) to ensure every state's criminal records are easily entered and updated and to require anyone who is selling or transferring a gun to check appropriate records through and authorized federal firearms licensee (FFL) to ensure the person acquiring the firearm is not a prohibited person;
- Provide increased funding and assistance to state and local governments to upload standardized real-time data to NICS.

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<sup>1</sup> Armor-piercing ammunition, sometimes referred to as metal-piercing ammunition, is ammunition that is designed primarily to penetrate metal or armor, including body armor commonly worn by police officers. Under federal law, armor-piercing ammunition is defined as any projectile or projectile core that may be used in a handgun and that is constructed entirely from one or a combination of tungsten alloys, steel, iron, brass, bronze, beryllium copper, or depleted uranium. (18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(17); 27 C.F.R. § 478.11) In addition, armor-piercing ammunition is defined as a full jacketed projectile “larger than .22 caliber designed and intended for use in a handgun and whose jacket has a weight of more than 25 percent of the total weight of the projectile.” 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(17)(B). 18 U.S.C. § 923(k)

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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- 39 • Require federal licensing of gun dealers. Applicants for Federal Firearms Dealer licenses  
40 should be required to show proof of compliance with state and local laws to the Bureau of  
41 Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) before the agency issues a gun dealer license. The ATF  
42 must be required to provide each general purpose government with a list of that jurisdiction's  
43 Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers annually;
- 44 • Require the Department of Justice to work closely with State and local law enforcement to  
45 aggressively target and hold accountable licensed and unlicensed individuals who break the  
46 law by knowingly selling or transferring firearms or ammunition to prohibited persons, gun  
47 traffickers or straw purchasers.
- 48 • Require that the background of an individual who acquires a weapon from a pawnshop, gun  
49 show or online seller shall be subject to the same scrutiny as an individual who purchases a  
50 firearm from a federal firearms licensee;
- 51 • Enact federal legislation that would allow states and/or local governments to adopt stricter  
52 standards and rules regarding purchase, storage and possession of firearms; and
- 53 • Enact federal legislation to prohibit an individual under the age of 21 from purchasing or  
54 possessing an assault rifle and or handgun.
- 55 • Urge firearm manufacturers to be responsible corporate citizens by:  
56 1) including safety devices with their products and developing new technologies to make guns  
57 safer;
- 58 2) selling only to authorized dealers and distributors, and allow their authorized distributors  
59 to sell only to authorized dealers;
- 60 3) allowing no firearm sales at gun shows or similar events unless all background checks are  
61 completed;
- 62 4) not selling firearms that can readily be converted into fully automatic weapons or that are  
63 resistant to fingerprints;
- 64 5) not selling large (more than 10 rounds) capacity ammunition clips;
- 65 6) maintaining an electronic inventory tracking plan; and
- 66 7) forgoing firearms sales to licensed dealers known to be under indictment.
- 67 • Enact federal legislation that would prohibit any person from knowingly transferring,  
68 purchasing, or attempting or conspiring to purchase or transfer, any firearm or ammunition  
69 from licensed or an unlicensed person on behalf of or at the request or demand of a prohibited  
70 person, known or unknown.
- 71 • Enact legislation that requires a fully federally funded and completed background check within  
72 a reasonable time frame consistent with state and local laws for all gun sales or transfers, and  
73 requires that all unlicensed or private sellers use an FFL or participating law enforcement  
74 agency to facilitate a firearms background check through NICS on the purchase or transfer of  
75 any firearm to anyone.
- 76 • Congress should provide sufficient funding to the Center for Disease Control to conduct  
77 comprehensive research to identify the underlying causes that lead to gun violence and mass  
78 shooting in communities.
- 79 • Support federal efforts to study what impact firearms owners who habitually report their  
80 weapons have been stolen or lost have on illegal gun trafficking and criminal access to guns.
- 81 • Establish a national commission that consists of federal, state, and local officials, gun rights  
82 advocates, survivors of gun violence, law enforcement officials, and medical and mental health

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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83 providers to recommend legislative solutions aimed at reducing gun violence in the United  
84 States.

## **D. Youth Oriented Crime Prevention**

87 It is essential that all levels of government, community leaders, the business community, and  
88 residents work together to create and sustain environments in which violence is not a pervading  
89 presence in the everyday lives of our nation's children.

### **1. Youth ~~and Gang~~ Crime and Violence**

92 Federal juvenile justice efforts within the Department of Justice have not had enough resources  
93 devoted to them to address the full range of problems in the area of youth victimization and youth  
94 crime.

95 ~~Youth crime has been associated with increased gang activity across the nation. Many schools  
96 and public facilities have become battle grounds for youth gang members. As gang activities have  
97 become increasingly mobile in crossing geographical boundaries, NLC urges the federal  
98 government to continue its work toward placing increased penalties on gang-related crimes, such  
99 as prosecuting offenders under organized crime statutes.~~

101 The federal government must prioritize establishing and maintaining effective ~~juvenile crime and  
102 gang prevention~~ youth-oriented crime prevention programs on the local level by directly funding  
103 city, town, and multi-jurisdictional initiatives. Federal partnership and collaboration with cities  
104 and towns is the best way to take advantage of local leadership on this issue while encouraging  
105 innovative thinking and cooperation across jurisdictions and levels of government.

107 The federal role in juvenile justice should also focus on support services for state and local  
108 governments and information gathering and dissemination in the areas alternatives to incarceration  
109 and the -of rehabilitation of juveniles and progressive sanctions.

110 NLC supports:

- 112 • Federal assistance for the establishment and operation of youth courts to ensure swift and  
113 appropriate sanctions for certain juvenile offenses;
- 114 • Direct, flexible funding to municipalities for local juvenile justice and delinquency prevention  
115 initiatives with strict limitations on the amount of federal funds that can be used for  
116 administrative costs to ensure that a high percentage of the funds go to the local level; and
- 117 • Continued federal technical assistance to train local governments on how to apply for federal  
118 funds administered through states and units of local governments.

### **2. Sentencing**

121 NLC believes that, except in cases of federal crimes, the federal government should not be  
122 involved in juvenile sentencing – this is a state and local function.

### **3. Corrections**

125 The federal government should provide funding for mandates imposed on state and local  
126 governments that call for more accountability in punishing juvenile offenders. Currently not  
127 enough juvenile holding facilities are available to adequately meet the demands of the justice

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

128 system. Overcrowding and the high costs of implementing specific separation requirements are  
129 problems that severely hinder rehabilitation efforts. More flexibility is needed in all areas of  
130 juvenile corrections, including juvenile alternatives to detention facilities and the education of  
131 juvenile offenders. NLC urges the federal government to provide sufficient funding for all phases  
132 of all juvenile justice mandates to achieve desired results.

## **4. School Safety**

134 The federal government must provide increased federal funding to augment local efforts aimed at  
135 improving school safety, ~~such as School Resource Officers.~~ Funding should emphasize effective  
136 and equitable school discipline policies, positive safety measures, restorative justice, de-escalation,  
137 conflict resolution, violence prevention and intervention, and the root causes of violent or  
138 disruptive behavior. Specific examples may include better racial bias training for School Resource  
139 Officers and or funding for social and psychological resources/supports for students who have  
140 suffered trauma and resources to analyze the impact of discretionary school discipline policies on  
141 students of color.

142  
143  
144 The long-term effectiveness of programs that help to improve school safety, address the root causes  
145 of violence, and reduce the unnecessary expulsion of students from school can succeed with  
146 continued investments by federal, state, and local governments. The federal government must  
147 provide funding for the implementation of effective intergovernmental partnerships to truly  
148 achieve the goal of developing a comprehensive approach to school safety, including  
149 comprehensive mental health treatment and counseling for all youth and their families, sensitivity  
150 and trauma-informed training programs, and other services that help prevent students from  
151 becoming perpetrators or victims of crime and violence.

152  
153 The federal government should increase flexible funding for Title V, juvenile justice programs and  
154 innovative approaches to school safety that can be replicated by communities across the nation.  
155 The federal government must work with state and local authorities to establish more uniform  
156 guidelines and recommend mandatory reporting for crime and violent incidents in schools,  
157 including the impact of discretionary policies on BIPOC students. School districts should be  
158 required to provide the U.S. Department of Education and other federal agencies, as well as state  
159 education agencies and state and local law enforcement agencies, with school incident reports. The  
160 school districts should also provide these agencies with an analysis of incidents and intervention  
161 techniques to create a national database of school crime and violence incidents and “best practices”  
162 for intervention. Additionally, using this data, the Department of Education should proactively  
163 investigate whether local agencies may have violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act through their  
164 application of discipline policies.

165  
166 This responsibility to report creates a difficult task of defining what a violent incident is.  
167 Intergovernmental cooperation, to establish reporting standards and criteria for federal, state, and  
168 local education and law enforcement agencies, would establish benchmarks for consistent  
169 guidelines on reporting school crime and violence.

170 NLC calls for a consistent commitment among all levels of government, school systems,  
171 businesses, and community groups to ensure that public safety contributes to a good quality-of-  
172 life in all communities.

# *Proposed PSCP Resolutions*

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- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #39:** In Support of Legislation to Reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to Ensure Property Owners Are Able to Afford Insurance for Other Natural Disasters Such as Wildland Fires and Earthquakes
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #40:** In Support of Federal Efforts to Ensure State and Local Governments Have the Authority to Regulate the Manufacturing, Distribution and Sale of Medical and Adult-Use Cannabis
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #41:** In Support of Federal Efforts to Prevent and Treat First Responder Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #42:** On the Use of Force by Municipal Law Enforcement Officers
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #43:** In Support of Federal Efforts to Recruit and Retain a Diverse Public Safety Workforce
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #44:** In Support of Federal Efforts to Ensure Local Governments Can Hold Law Enforcement Officers Accountable

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**NLC RESOLUTION #39**

**IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO REAUTHORIZE THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM (NFIP) AND TO ENSURE PROPERTY OWNERS ARE ABLE TO AFFORD INSURANCE FOR OTHER NATURAL DISASTERS SUCH AS WILDLAND FIRES AND EARTHQUAKES**

**WHEREAS**, Congress created the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) in 1968 to make affordable flood insurance available to homeowners, renters, and business owners in exchange for using Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) generated and specified Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMS) for floodplain management by a participating community; and

**WHEREAS**, the Flood Disaster Act of 1973 requires the purchase of flood insurance as a condition of receiving any form of federal or federal-related financial assistance for acquisition or construction purposes with respect to the insurance buildings; and

**WHEREAS**, the NFIP provides affordable flood insurance to property owners by encouraging local governments to adopt and enforce floodplain and water management regulations, best practices and techniques; and

**WHEREAS**, these mitigation efforts reduce and prevent flooding on new and improved structures, thereby saving lives and reducing injuries, reducing economic losses, maintaining and protecting critical infrastructure, and reducing the liability borne by local governments and elected officials; and

**WHEREAS**, in July 2012, the Biggert-Waters Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2012 (BW-12) was enacted (PL 112-141) to extend the authorization of the NFIP through September 30, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, there is still no viable private market for homeowners and businesses to acquire sufficient flood insurance coverage; and

**WHEREAS**, it is incumbent upon all of us to have a long-term, sustainable and viable NFIP with rates that are affordable; and

**WHEREAS**, accurate mapping is fundamental for local governments to assess and communicate risk to their communities and homeowners; and

**WHEREAS**, the current mapping process often results in local governments having to fight inaccurate maps that do not take into account locally built flood protection features and communities building off of outdated mapping, which results in artificially inflated risk. Further, many areas of the country are not mapped or mapped accurately, which results in communities who are at risk of flooding unaware of the risk; and

**WHEREAS**, unless Congress reauthorizes the NFIP, millions of home-owners and businesses will lose their flood insurance coverage and could default on their loans; and

47 **WHEREAS**, in addition to flooding, many cities, towns and villages are impacted by the  
48 increasing severity of wildland fires; and

49  
50 **WHEREAS**, the residents in these cities, towns and villages that have been hit hard by the  
51 wildland fires are finding it harder to get insurance for their properties for fire related damages;  
52 and

53  
54 **WHEREAS**, private insurance for wildland fires and other natural disasters could quickly  
55 become unaffordable or unavailable, which will have a significant impact on local real estate  
56 markets and the economy.

57  
58 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) urges  
59 Congress to reauthorize the NFIP and to keep flood insurance rates affordable for primary, non-  
60 primary and business properties while balancing the fiscal solvency of the program; and

61  
62 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges Congress to consider legislation that would  
63 guarantee property owners have access to affordable fire, flood, and other natural disaster  
64 insurance programs; and

65  
66 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to work with state and  
67 local governments, the insurance industry, and other stakeholders to develop an incentive-based  
68 disaster insurance and mitigation system that would encourage property owners to retrofit  
69 existing structures to reduce future losses from natural disasters; and

70  
71 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to encourage lending  
72 institutions to incorporate mitigation provisions as conditions for loans; and

73  
74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in order for local governments to help their communities  
75 and homeowners to adequately prepare for risk, Congress should provide additional resources to  
76 FEMA to utilize the best technology and methods available to improve the mapping process,  
77 including seeking the input from local government officials prior to approving any flood map  
78 that could impact local zoning rules.

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**NLC RESOLUTION #40**

**IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL EFFORTS TO ENSURE STATE AND LOCAL  
GOVERNMENTS HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO REGULATE THE  
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF MEDICAL AND ADULT-  
USE CANNABIS**

**WHEREAS**, in 1970, President Nixon signed the Controlled Substance Act (CSA) and listed “marijuana (cannabis)” in the most restrictive category, Schedule I, which was designated for substances that “have no currently accepted medical use in the United States, a lack of accepted safety for use under medical supervision, and a high potential for abuse;” and

**WHEREAS**, the listing of cannabis as a Schedule I substance was supposed to be temporary pending a federal review by the newly formed National Commission on Marijuana and Drug Policy (more commonly known as the Shafer Commission)<sup>1</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the Shafer Commission's 1972 report concluded that "neither the marijuana user nor the drug itself can be said to constitute a danger to public safety," and recommended that cannabis possession for personal use no longer be considered a criminal offense<sup>2</sup>, cannabis remains as a Schedule I substance today; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout the 1980s, because cannabis was listed as a Schedule I substance, federal and state criminal penalties for cannabis became stricter and mandatory-minimum sentences were established<sup>3</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, two-thirds of Americans say the use of marijuana should be legal, according to a new Pew Research Center survey<sup>4</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1996, 33 states and the District of Columbia have legalized the medical use of cannabis and since 2012, 11 states and the District of Columbia have also legalized the adult-use of cannabis; and

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. marijuana industry is expected to generate \$85 billion in sales annually by 2030<sup>5</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the millions of dollars in tax revenues that have been collected in states that have legalized medical and adult-use cannabis provide funding to local police, drug treatment and mental health centers, housing programs, and school program<sup>6</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> Amy Nordrum, "Why Is Marijuana A Schedule I Drug?," *ibtimes.com*, Feb. 19, 2015

<sup>2</sup> National Commission on Marihuana and Drug Abuse & Raymond P. Shafer, *Marihuana: A Signal of Misunderstanding*, 1972

<sup>3</sup> Eric Schlosser, "Marijuana and the Law," *The Atlantic*, Sep. 1994

<sup>4</sup> Andrew Daniller, "Two-thirds of Americans support marijuana legalization," *PEW Research Center*, Nov. 14, 2019, <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/11/14/americans-support-marijuana-legalization/>

<sup>5</sup> Deborah Dsouza, "The Future of the Marijuana Industry in America," *Investopedia*, <https://www.investopedia.com/articles/investing/111015/future-marijuana-industry-america.asp>, Jan. 15, 2020,

<sup>6</sup> Josh Hamilton, "The Economic and Social Benefits of Taxing Marijuana," *medium.com*, Sep. 26, 2017



39  
40 **WHEREAS**, the legal cannabis industry in the U.S. employed more than 211,000 full-time  
41 workers in 2019 plus an additional 90,000 indirect full-time jobs, totaling more than 300,000  
42 workers<sup>7</sup>; and  
43  
44 **WHEREAS**, the rising concerns about the conflict between federal and state laws on cannabis  
45 use led to a 2013 memo by Deputy Attorney General James M. Cole stated “that so long as states  
46 had good regulations, then the federal government would hold off on challenging marijuana  
47 legalization”<sup>8</sup>; and  
48  
49 **WHEREAS**, the roll back of Department of Justice’s 2013 Cole memo in 2018 by Attorney  
50 General Jeff Sessions is raising new questions about whether the federal government will crack  
51 down on states that legalized medical and adult-use of cannabis by instructing federal  
52 prosecutors to determine for themselves when to prosecute marijuana activities; and  
53  
54 **WHEREAS**, the threat of increased federal enforcement of the Controlled Substances Act has  
55 resulted in uncertainty of states and local government’s ability to regulate the manufacturing,  
56 distribution and retail sale of cannabis for the safety and health of its residents; and  
57  
58 **WHEREAS**, rescheduling of cannabis would allow greater federal, state and local regulation of  
59 the industry to ensure the cannabis people are buying is not covered with mold, fungus,  
60 pesticides, or other harmful substances<sup>9</sup>; and  
61  
62 **WHEREAS**, rescheduling of cannabis would allow the federal, state and local governments to  
63 set rules and regulations that would restrict driving under the influence, set age restrictions on  
64 buyers and regulate the entire supply chain of cannabis, including growers, distributors, retailers,  
65 and testing laboratories<sup>10</sup>; and  
66  
67 **WHEREAS**, rescheduling of cannabis should also allow local governments to establish zoning  
68 restrictions on the manufacturing, distribution and retail sales of cannabis.  
69  
70 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) calls on  
71 the White House, U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to  
72 reschedule cannabis by removing it from the list of Schedule I substances under the CSA; and  
73  
74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC urges Congress to pass legislation that would ensure  
75 states and local governments have the ability to establish laws and regulations on the  
76 manufacturing, distribution, and sale of medical and adult-use cannabis within the state; and  
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<sup>7</sup> Kevin Murphy, “Cannabis Is Becoming A Huge Job Creator,” Forbes, May 20, 2019

<sup>8</sup> Department of Justice, "Justice Department Announces Update to Marijuana Enforcement Policy," justice.gov, Aug. 29, 2013

<sup>9</sup> American Public Health Association (APHA), "Regulating Commercially Legalized Marijuana as a Public Health Priority," Nov. 18, 2014

<sup>10</sup> Bureau of Cannabis Control, "Medicinal and Adult-Use Cannabis Regulation," bcc.ca.gov

78 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, calls on the U.S. Department of Justice’s Bureau of Alcohol,  
79 Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Drug Enforcement Administration, and the United  
80 States Department of Health and Human Services Food and Drug Administration to establish  
81 federal regulations for the manufacturing, distribution and sale of legal medical and adult-use  
82 cannabis.

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**NLC RESOLUTION #41**

**IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL EFFORTS TO PREVENT AND TREAT FIRST RESPONDER POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER (PTSD)**

**WHEREAS**, protecting residents’ life and property is a vital part of ensuring the safety and security cities, towns and villages; and

**WHEREAS**, first responders, who are charged with protecting life and property, may experience a broad range of health and mental wellness consequences as a result of work-related exposures to traumatic incidents that include violent acts, death and destruction; and

**WHEREAS**, for the purposes of this resolution, the term “first responders” refers to municipal law enforcement, fire, and emergency medical employees who are responsible for the protection and preservation of life and property, and municipal emergency responders and public safety telecommunicators and dispatchers that provide immediate support services during traumatic incident that causes physical, emotional, or psychological harm to themselves or others.

**WHEREAS**, constant exposure to traumatic incidents involving death, dismemberment, abuse, violence, and destruction may exert a psychological toll on first responders, resulting in post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance abuse, depression, and even suicide; and

**WHEREAS**, the establishment of a strong prevention and early intervention systems that include crisis hotlines, routine mental health checks, and peer and family support programs can be key components of first responder mental health and wellness programs, provided they are appropriately researched and resourced; and

**WHEREAS**, while first responders may have access to support services to help reduce the risk of post-traumatic stress, studies have shown that they are less likely to seek because they are concerned about how they would be viewed at work if they had sought support; and

**WHEREAS**, studies have shown that concerns over the stigma and scrutiny from others about contemplating or attempting suicide is one of the primary reasons that prevents first responders from seeking help; and

**WHEREAS**, many first responders have military experience, and therefore their experiences as first responders pile onto a career that is already rife with trauma; and

**WHEREAS**, when first responders know and recognize the indicators or warning signs of an impending crisis and have the skills to talk to someone with mental illness, they are more likely to be comfortable confronting or breaking down the stigma about saying something to a peer or recognizing the warning signs for a self-referral; and

**WHEREAS**, the beneficial effects of peer counseling have been documented and key to the success of any peer support program is providing appropriate training and ongoing support and supervision for the peers.

47  
48 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the National League of Cities (NLC) urges  
49 Congress to establish a federal program, similar to the Department of Veterans Affairs' National  
50 Center for PTSD program, within the Department of Health and Human Services that would:

- 51
- 52 • develop resources and training programs for community-based clinicians who interact  
53 with first responders and their families to help them better understand the unique risks  
54 facing their clients and what health and wellness programs may be available to them as  
55 members of the first responder community,
  - 56 • provide technical assistance to support the development of model policies and  
57 implementation guidance for public safety agencies to make substantial efforts to reduce  
58 first responder PTSD and suicide,
  - 59 • establish a national crisis hotline for first responders,
  - 60 • conduct research to determine the efficacy of regular mental health checks, establish  
61 which approaches are most effective, and provide resources that move public safety  
62 agencies toward best practices to reduce mental health issues among first responders,
  - 63 • establish remote access or regional mental health check programs to help first responders  
64 in small cities, towns and villages,
  - 65 • assist local public safety agencies to implement peer support programs to ensure all first  
66 responders have access to this important wellness service; and

67  
68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC urges Congress to improve legislative privacy  
69 protections for first responders seeking assistance from peer crisis lines and other peer-support  
70 programs; and

71  
72 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC calls on Congress to create a public service campaign  
73 around first responder mental health and wellness in conjunction with National Mental Health  
74 Month.

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION #42**

4 **ON THE USE OF FORCE BY MUNICIPAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS**

5 **WHEREAS**, the police officer-involved killings of Black people and people of color have  
6 exposed racially divisive issues in the relationships between local police and the communities  
7 they are sworn to protect and serve, especially in communities of color; and  
8

9 **WHEREAS**, Black Americans face a higher risk of being targeted and killed by police as  
10 compared to White Americans;<sup>1</sup> and  
11

12 **WHEREAS**, 235 African Americans were shot to death by police in 2019 alone,<sup>2</sup> who are  
13 disproportionately subjected to police shootings; and  
14

15 **WHEREAS**, NLC believes that trust between law enforcement officers and the people they  
16 serve and protect is essential to a municipality's stability, the integrity of our criminal justice  
17 system, and the safe and effective delivery of policing services; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, every person has a right to equal and fair treatment by law enforcement officers;  
20 and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, when it comes to governing a municipality, nothing is more important for local  
23 officials than protecting the public's safety; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, in our civil society, local elected officials bear the responsibility of managing a  
26 municipality's public safety programs, including its police department; and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, the goal of managing law enforcement efforts by municipal governments must be  
29 to provide a safe, healthy environment in which ALL residents can live free from violence, fear,  
30 harassment, discrimination, and intimidation; and  
31

32 **WHEREAS**, our country has a long history of disparate treatment of Black, Indigenous, Latino,  
33 and Asian Americans, especially Black and Latino people in our criminal justice system; and  
34

35 **WHEREAS**, the excessive use of force by law enforcement has shown that discriminatory  
36 enforcement of criminal laws has a corrosive effect that undermines the community's confidence  
37 in law enforcement and interferes with our efforts to keep all members of the community safe;  
38 and  
39

40 **WHEREAS**, it is the responsibility of local elected leaders to hold law enforcement officials  
41 accountable for unjustified, unnecessary actions that result in an abuse of power; and  
42

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pnas.org/content/116/34/16793>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.statista.com/statistics/585152/people-shot-to-death-by-us-police-by-race/>

43 **WHEREAS**, local elected officials work closely together with their municipality's law  
44 enforcement officials and residents to ensure police officers have the support, resources, and  
45 training they need to serve their communities with honor, integrity, moral character, and courage.  
46

47 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC's Public Safety and Crime Prevention  
48 Federal Advocacy Committee requests that NLC develop recommendations for how municipal  
49 leaders can ensure their law enforcement agencies "use of force policies" are appropriate. These  
50 recommendations should be published and distributed to the NLC membership and the board.  
51 Specifically, NLC should propose recommendations relative to:  
52

- 53 • complying with the U.S. Department of Justice's Use of Force Continuum;
- 54 • prohibiting maneuvers such as chokeholds that are intended to limit person's ability to  
55 breathe or restrict person's blood flow;
- 56 • authorizing the use of "lethal" or "less lethal" force<sup>3</sup> when there is imminent danger to  
57 the officer or to another individual;
- 58 • requiring officers to use de-escalation techniques when there is no imminent danger to  
59 life and property;
- 60 • requiring other officers that are at the scene of the incident to intervene and stop the use  
61 of force by officer(s), including using their arresting authority, if they believe the actions  
62 are unwarranted, unnecessary, or are an abuse of power by the officer(s);
- 63 • requiring the law enforcement agency to log all use of lethal or less lethal force by  
64 officers to a national database that is searchable and available to the public;
- 65 • requiring officers, who use force when it is not necessary, to be relieved of duty;
- 66 • requiring officers equipped with body worn cameras to make sure the cameras are in  
67 recording mode anytime the officer is engaged in a potential incident that might require  
68 the use of force;
- 69 • prohibiting officers from restricting witnesses to video record the use of force by  
70 officer(s);
- 71 • ensure the public is able to call 9-1-1 or use an online reporting system when they believe  
72 an officer's use of force is unwarranted or is in violation of an individual's civil rights;
- 73 • ensure law enforcement officers and other public safety employees are provided  
74 whistleblower protections when they report an officer use of force violation; and
- 75 • requiring that all lethal and less lethal use of force actions be thoroughly investigated to  
76 ensure the incident warranted the use of force; and
- 77 • requiring law enforcement executives to take immediate disciplinary action against an  
78 officer who used lethal or less lethal force, if it is determined that the use of force was  
79 unwarranted, unnecessary, excessive or was an abuse of power; and  
80

81 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the U.S. Department of Justice to update the  
82 Use of Force Continuum<sup>4</sup> to ensure that the continuum fully addresses structural and institutional  
83 racism on how the use of force is employed by local, state and federal law enforcement; and  
84

85 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to:

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<sup>3</sup> As defined in the DOJ's Use of Force Continuum

<sup>4</sup> <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/use-force-continuum>

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- establish a federal technical assistance and grant program that help local governments to establish violence interrupter programs<sup>5</sup> and initiatives that employ community members with expertise, and reduce the overburden on law enforcement to respond to calls; and
  - provide additional funding for the community oriented policing grant program to help local law enforcement agencies implement and improve racial bias and de-escalation training; and
  - prioritize the awarding of the above funding to targeted municipalities that have repeatedly been cited for lethal or less lethal use of force violations, civil rights violations, or abuse of power by officers; and
  - provide additional federal funding and technical assistance to local governments to help administer mental health and wellness services to law enforcement officers; and
  - establish a National Database of Decertified Officers that local governments can use to vet officers who have been dismissed for such issues as unnecessary or excessive use of force, abuse of power, racial discrimination, and violation of individual’s civil rights; and
  - provide technical and grant assistance to local governments to establish transparent civilian oversight boards to investigate officer use of force violations.

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<sup>5</sup> Violence Interrupters cruise the streets of the toughest neighborhoods to identify and intervene in gang-related conflicts before they intensify. If a shooting has occurred, they seek out the victim's friends and relatives and try to prevent a retaliatory shooting.

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**NLC RESOLUTION #43**

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the reasons why and 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 technical and financial support to local governments to recruit, train and retain a more racially and gender diverse public safety workforce.
- Provide additional funding for local government to establish co-responder programs.
- Provide additional funding for local governments to hire recruiters to help recruit a diverse municipal public safety workforce.
- Conduct research on the feasibility of employing unarmed responders for mental health and substance use calls for help.
- Provide technical assistance to local governments to establish violence interrupter programs.
- 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.



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3 **NLC RESOLUTION #44**

4 **IN SUPPORT OF FEDERAL EFFORTS TO ENSURE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS CAN**  
5 **HOLD LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ACCOUNTABLE**

6 **WHEREAS**, holding municipal employees, including law enforcement officers, accountable is  
7 the primary responsibility of local government officials; and

8  
9 **WHEREAS**, state laws and labor union contracts may limit the ability of local governments to  
10 hold law enforcement officers accountable; and

11  
12 **WHEREAS**, local governments are statutorily required to indemnify law enforcement officers  
13 acting within the course and scope of their duties unless the officer acts in bad faith or with  
14 malice;<sup>1</sup>

15  
16 **WHEREAS**, 42 U.S.C. Section 1983 in 1871 subjects state and local government officials to  
17 lawsuits for monetary damages for violating federal constitutional and statutory rights, and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, qualified immunity is a legal doctrine established by the U.S. Supreme Court that  
20 grants government officials, including municipal law enforcement officers, immunity from  
21 money damages for civil rights violations as long as the official did not violate a "clearly  
22 established statutory or constitutional rights of which a reasonable person would have known"<sup>2</sup>;  
23 and

24  
25 **WHEREAS**, qualified immunity also safeguards local governments from having to pay money  
26 damages for actions of municipal employees, including law enforcement officers, which were  
27 not yet deemed unconstitutional by a court when they occurred; and

28  
29 **WHEREAS**, the National League of Cities (NLC) joined court cases supporting qualified  
30 immunity for government officials, including municipal law enforcement officers.<sup>3</sup>

31  
32 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, while NLC opposes federal legislation that would  
33 eliminate qualified immunity for law enforcement officers, NLC does believe that Congress and  
34 the courts should consider changes to the doctrine of qualified immunity for law enforcement  
35 officers to ensure greater accountability; and

36  
37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, NLC supports federal efforts to strengthen local government's  
38 ability to hold law enforcement officers accountable for discrimination, criminal misconduct, or  
39 excessive use of force violation; and

40  
41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, in cases where local government officials determine that the  
42 actions of a law enforcement officer or officers discriminated against an individual's civil rights,

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<sup>1</sup> See e.g.: Ohio Rev. Code 2744.07; Calif. Govt. Code 825; Missouri Rev. Stat. 105.711; Dallas Ord. 31A-5.

<sup>2</sup> Harlow v. Fitzgerald, 457 U.S. 800, 818 (1982).

<sup>3</sup> Wood v. Moss 572 U.S. 744 (2014), Reichle v. Howards 566 U.S. 658 (2012), Filarsky v. Delia 132 S.Ct. 1657 (2012)

43 resulted in criminal misconduct, or violated the law enforcement agency's use of force policies,  
44 the local government:

- 45
- 46 • should have full authority to immediately terminate the employment of a law  
47 enforcement officer or officers, and the termination of the law enforcement officer or  
48 officers should not be subject to state laws or labor union contracts, including  
49 requirements for arbitration of disputes related to disciplinary penalties or termination.
- 50 • can register the law enforcement officer with the national database on law enforcement  
51 officer misconduct; and

52 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, law enforcement agencies should be required to search the  
53 national database on law enforcement officer misconduct before hiring a sworn law enforcement  
54 officer who must carry a firearm, has arresting powers, and carries a badge.

55

56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, individuals registered in the national misconduct database  
57 should not be eligible for sworn duties such as carrying a firearm, arresting power, and carry a  
58 badge.

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*Proposed Policy Amendments and Resolutions of the*

**Information Technology and  
Communications Federal Advocacy  
Committee**

**ITC**

# *Proposed Policy Amendments*

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

Please note:

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

**POLICY:** There are no proposed amendments to existing policy.

# *Proposed ITC Resolutions*

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- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #45:** Local Government Support of Community/Municipal Broadband Networks
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #46:** Federal Investment in Broadband Access: A Call For Universal Availability, Affordability And World-Class Quality
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #47:** Local Government Support for Fairness and Truth in Advertising for Internet Service Providers
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #48:** Preserving Local Control of Broadband Infrastructure Siting
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #49:** Calling for Updated Federal Safety Standards for Radiofrequency Emissions of Wireless Facilities
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #50:** In Support of Municipal Data Ownership and Protection
- ❖ **NLC RESOLUTION #51:** In Support of Digital Equity for American Communities

1  
2 **NLC RESOLUTION #45**

3  
4 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY/MUNICIPAL**  
5 **BROADBAND NETWORKS**  
6

7 **WHEREAS**, the universal availability of affordable broadband access for all citizens has been  
8 identified as a national priority; and  
9

10 **WHEREAS**, community/municipal broadband networks are an essential option for education,  
11 healthcare, market competition, consumer choice, economic development, and universal,  
12 affordable Internet access nationwide; and  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, historically, local governments have ensured access to essential services by  
15 banding together to provide those services that were not offered by the private sector at a  
16 reasonable and competitive cost. This involvement has included electrification, public libraries,  
17 and other important services; and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, according to the Federal Communications Commission, half of American homes  
20 only have two options of Internet service providers for basic broadband and for faster speeds, a  
21 majority of households only have one choice<sup>1</sup>; and  
22

23 **WHEREAS**, the economic health of municipalities depends on public and private investment to  
24 connect their communities; and  
25

26 **WHEREAS**, municipal governments consider broadband to be a critical form of infrastructure,  
27 and more than 900 communities have therefore made significant investments in publicly-owned  
28 broadband infrastructure<sup>2</sup>; and  
29

30 **WHEREAS**, attempts continue to be made to limit or stop further local government deployment  
31 of municipal broadband services, which has the potential of reducing the ability of local  
32 government to provide important information and services to their citizens in a timely, efficient,  
33 and cost-effective manner; and  
34

35 **WHEREAS**, opponents of community and municipally provided broadband have proposed  
36 various administrative procedures that they claim are designed to protect citizens and consumers  
37 from unwieldy local governments; however, these safeguards really place over-burdensome  
38 requirements on municipalities and act as unnecessary barriers<sup>3</sup>; and  
39

40 **WHEREAS**, a majority of American consumers, across the political spectrum, feel municipal  
41 broadband services should be allowed to help ensure that all Americans have equal access to the  
42 Internet<sup>4</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> [Federal Communications Commission, Internet Access Services: Status as of June 30, 2017, November 2018.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Institute for Local Self-Reliance, "Community Network Map," January 2020.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [National League of Cities, "City Rights in an Era of Preemption: A State-by-State Analysis," April 2, 2018.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Consumer Reports, "Broadband: A Nationally Representative Multi-Mode Survey," July 2021.](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to pass the Community Broadband Act (H.R. 1631/S. 1460) to supersede state preemption and enable the provision of municipal broadband in every state; and

87 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on state legislatures to overturn or eliminate  
88 preemptive state laws and ensure that local governments are fully able to participate in building a  
89 broadband future.



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**NLC RESOLUTION #46**

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

**WHEREAS**, to compete successfully in an increasingly global environment the United States needs to take advantage of all of the technological solutions that high-speed broadband access offers; and

**WHEREAS**, universal broadband should be considered essential infrastructure that contributes to economic health, equity, and survival of communities across the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, despite the findings of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) 2020 Broadband Deployment Report<sup>1</sup> that 18.25 million Americans lacked access to fixed terrestrial broadband networks, the FCC concludes that “broadband is being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion;” and

**WHEREAS**, there is a disparity between providers’ reporting of advertised speeds and actual delivered speeds that has been proven through speed tests in a number of states and municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, the numbers of individuals with access to broadband is overreported by the FCC and inconsistent with the U. S. Census American Community Survey’s findings; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal standard for broadband (25 Megabits per second (Mbps) download and 3 Mbps upload), which has been in effect since 2015, is insufficient for multiple household members to simultaneously access vital bandwidth-intensive services such as video chat or VPN simultaneously; and

**WHEREAS**, with the proliferation of devices with Internet access, wireless data traffic has grown significantly, placing a greater demand on both licensed and unlicensed spectrum, and adding additional capacity is essential to support continued innovation and achieve the potential to transform many different areas of the American economy by providing a platform for innovation and is likely to have a substantial impact on jobs, growth and investment; and

**WHEREAS**, the availability and adoption of quality, affordable broadband service can vary dramatically from one neighborhood to another and between single family and multifamily homes, even in heavily populated urban areas, and a substantial number of individuals in poor and rural communities have limited Internet access and where broadband access is limited, citizens have limited access to information, education and tools for economic independence<sup>2</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> [Federal Communications Commission, 2020 Broadband Deployment Report, April 24, 2020.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program, “Broadband subscriptions are up, but too many households are still disconnected,” September 28, 2018.](#)

43 **WHEREAS**, 15% of households with children in school currently lack a broadband connection,  
44 while the majority of teachers assign homework that requires broadband, leaving millions of  
45 students behind in modern education<sup>3</sup>; and

46  
47 **WHEREAS**, current availability and adoption is insufficient to meet present and future needs.

48  
49 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC asks the federal government to recognize  
50 and work through public-private partnerships or municipal broadband providers to achieve the  
51 goals of equitable broadband access by providing:

- 52 • Affordable and competitively priced broadband access; and
- 53 • Appropriate standards for symmetrical broadband speed, reliability, and connectivity that  
54 allow America to compete in the global economy and open more opportunities to deliver  
55 robust services more economically and universally; and
- 56 • Funding, such as that proposed in the Digital Equity Act, to support digital inclusion  
57 programs throughout the United States.

58  
59 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to include and to  
60 incorporate federal investment in broadband in any federal infrastructure proposal, to strengthen  
61 the nation’s infrastructure network while promoting economic development and social equity in  
62 our communities; and

63  
64 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports the FCC revisiting the benchmarks for  
65 broadband speeds on a more frequent basis because of the evolving nature of technology and the  
66 needs of communities for faster and symmetrical speeds; and

67  
68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress must work with state and local governments to  
69 fund broadband infrastructure at high performance standards that provides at least 100/20 Mbps  
70 service, and ideally 1 Gbps symmetrical service, without harmful data caps, to ensure that federal  
71 funds are spent only on broadband that will provide meaningful service for current and future  
72 essential applications; and

73  
74 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC encourages the FCC to close the “homework gap” in  
75 low-income households through the support of low-cost plans, including access provided by  
76 local governments, and subsidized access to computing devices; and

77  
78 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC opposes any efforts by the FCC to reverse  
79 modernization of the critically important E-Rate and Lifeline programs; and

80  
81 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports expansion of the U.S. Department of  
82 Agriculture’s Rural Utility Service Broadband program beyond loan guarantees to include  
83 grants, and an increased population threshold for eligible areas to at least 20,000 so that more  
84 areas may take advantage of this financing; and

85

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<sup>3</sup> [Pew Research Center, “Nearly one-in-five teens can’t always finish their homework because of the digital divide.” October 26, 2018.](#)

86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to increase funding for  
87 Community Development Block Grants and Choice Neighborhood Grants, which allow local  
88 governments to fund broadband planning and deployment alongside affordable housing and  
89 neighborhood improvement projects; and

90  
91 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
92 Development to expand its ConnectHome program, to ensure that a growing number of HUD-  
93 assisted households and schoolchildren will have access to in-home broadband; and

94  
95 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to remove state-imposed barriers  
96 to broadband investment, such as preemption of municipal broadband networks, broadband  
97 networks provided by rural electric cooperatives, and middle mile broadband infrastructure built  
98 by investor-owned electric companies; and

99  
100 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on Congress to reform and update federal  
101 transportation grant programs such as BUILD to ensure that placement of broadband  
102 infrastructure through policies such as “dig once” is prioritized in funded projects, and that  
103 physical structures that reduce the cost of broadband deployment by private companies such as  
104 dark fiber and conduit are eligible expenses in federal grant programs; and

105  
106 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to take a leadership  
107 role in convening together all interested parties, including, but not limited to, all levels of  
108 government (local, state, tribal, and federal), consumer organizations, representatives of  
109 underserved communities (rural, urban and suburban), all segments of the communications  
110 industry interests, representatives of private sector, and not-for-profit sector organizations, to  
111 promote ubiquitous symmetrical broadband access.

1  
2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION #47**

4  
5 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FOR FAIRNESS AND TRUTH IN ADVERTISING**  
6 **FOR INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS**  
7

8 **WHEREAS**, the universal availability of affordable, reliable high-speed Internet broadband  
9 access for all citizens is a national priority; and  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, Internet access is a necessity for citizens to enable access to their workplaces,  
12 educational opportunities, telemedicine, social media, and community involvement; and  
13

14 **WHEREAS**, the federal standard for broadband (25Mbps download and 3 Mbps upload) is  
15 insufficient for multiple household members to simultaneously access vital bandwidth-intensive  
16 services such as video chat and/or VPN necessary for modern educational needs simultaneously;  
17 and  
18

19 **WHEREAS**, advertising practices in the Internet/broadband industry are generally unmonitored;  
20 and  
21

22 **WHEREAS**, broadband providers currently do not consistently advertise the speed consumers  
23 are likely to experience, but the highest possible speed consumers may experience; and  
24

25 **WHEREAS**, some broadband providers currently advertise speed and availability, including the  
26 availability of next-generation mobile services, to markets where the service and speed are  
27 unavailable, or only available to a small percentage of the citizens receiving the advertising,  
28 violating basic concepts of truth in advertising; and  
29

30 **WHEREAS**, Internet providers that do not meet the FCC standards for broadband use the term  
31 ‘broadband’ for their advertised service with no disclosure of their failure to meet the standard.  
32

33 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities (NLC) supports  
34 the imposition of a standard for broadband measurement to be required in broadband advertising,  
35 allowing the public a fair basis for comparison when purchasing broadband services; and  
36

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this advertising standard should require providers to  
38 advertise upload/download speeds on an equal basis; and  
39

40 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this advertising standard should require providers to  
41 advertise only actual delivered speed and availability averages (50<sup>th</sup> percentile) for the area being  
42 advertised to; and  
43

44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to explore and enact  
45 requirements that promote fair and explicit advertising in the broadband industry, such as a  
46 standardized “Broadband Nutrition Label,” which include standards based on measurements of

47 broadband speed from a nationally available source and allows consumers to compare cost and  
48 service across providers; and

49

50 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the “Broadband Nutrition Label” should include, at a  
51 minimum, items such as: the actual delivered upload and download speeds, all fees assessed,  
52 costs of any associated rental equipment or installation charges, data limits or speed throttling,  
53 and termination or cancellation costs.

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2  
3 **NLC RESOLUTION #48**

4 **PRESERVING LOCAL CONTROL OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE SITING**

5 **WHEREAS**, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has enacted regulations that  
6 substantially limit the traditionally-held authority of local governments over small cell wireless  
7 infrastructure and local governments’ ability to assess fair compensation to taxpayers for use of  
8 public property, subsidizing wireless providers’ development while undermining local efforts to  
9 expand equity and broadband access; and<sup>1</sup>

10  
11 **WHEREAS**, the FCC has enacted regulations that challenge local land use authority to govern  
12 broadband infrastructure under the auspices of accelerating broadband infrastructure  
13 deployment<sup>2</sup>; and

14  
15 **WHEREAS**, cities have worked as active partners to site broadband infrastructure in their  
16 communities while protecting public safety, neighborhood character, and the integrity of existing  
17 infrastructure such as poles, streets, and sidewalks; and

18  
19 **WHEREAS**, cities share the FCC’s goal of expanding broadband access to all Americans, no  
20 matter where they live; and

21  
22 **WHEREAS**, cities have a duty to their taxpayers to protect and manage public property and  
23 public rights-of-way for the benefit of all users, and must balance the needs and interests of  
24 broadband providers with those of other users of the rights-of-way and residents by appropriately  
25 reviewing siting requests and assessing appropriate rent for use of public property; and

26  
27 **WHEREAS**, NLC and numerous other organizations representing state and local governments,  
28 as well as hundreds of individual local governments, had to resort to litigation to protect the  
29 health, safety and welfare of residents;<sup>3</sup> and

30  
31 **WHEREAS**, in August 2020, the Ninth Circuit Court decided to largely uphold these  
32 preemptive regulations,<sup>4</sup> and in June 2021 the Supreme Court declined to take up the case,<sup>5</sup>  
33 reinforcing the need for Congress to provide an immediate lasting legislative remedy.

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35 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC opposes efforts by the FCC and  
36 Congress to preempt municipal authority over all broadband infrastructure, wired or wireless,  
37 including small cell infrastructure; and

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<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.](#)

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**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the FCC and Congress to protect local authority over their rights-of-way, municipal authority to protect neighborhood character and public safety, to require collocation, maintain control of aesthetic and undergrounding requirements, and existing authority to assess fair compensation for private use of public assets, including the rights-of-way and other public lands and facilities, which should not be limited to the cost of maintaining the rights of way; and

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

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

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

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the FCC to examine all best practices and potential obstacles to expanded broadband deployment and adoption, including obstacles created by federal or industry practices that stymie local and consumer efforts to expand broadband access.

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**NLC RESOLUTION #49**

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

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

**WHEREAS**, Congress and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) are considering legislation and regulations, respectively, addressing the deployment of small wireless communications infrastructure in public rights-of-way; and

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

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

**WHEREAS**, 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

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

**WHEREAS**, NLC, the National Association of Counties (NACo), National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (NATOA) the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), and the National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) on behalf of their respective constituencies, jointly submitted comments urging that the FCC take action to perform a

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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 \(rel. March 29, 2013\).](#)



40 comprehensive review of RF emission standards and guidance for local government officials,  
41 particularly with respect to small wireless technologies;<sup>2</sup> and

42  
43 **WHEREAS**, the FCC closed its RF exposure docket in 2019, reaffirming the safety of personal  
44 RF-emitting devices such as cell phones, but declining to address the safety of small wireless  
45 infrastructure or to provide local governments with updated resources and guidance on assessing  
46 the safety of small wireless structures in their communities or addressing the rising tide of  
47 questions and concerns from residents about their safety;<sup>3</sup> and

48  
49 **WHEREAS**, in 2021, the DC Circuit Court of Appeals remanded this decision, finding that the  
50 FCC decision failed to meet Administrative Procedure Act and National Environmental Policy  
51 Act requirements.<sup>4</sup>

52  
53 **WHEREAS**, public concern about 5G and RF emissions has increased exponentially in the wake  
54 of this agency inaction, making it more difficult for local governments and wireless providers to  
55 site small wireless facilities in communities and leading to vandalism or destruction of structures  
56 and threats to telecommunications workers' safety; and

57  
58 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that NLC urges the federal government to update  
59 antiquated standards and to perform a comprehensive review of the standards for RF emissions,  
60 particularly in light of the deployment of small wireless technologies in public rights-of-way in  
61 close proximity to residents' homes, schools, workplaces, and places of recreation; and

62  
63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should continuously update and  
64 refresh these standards, based on changes in technology, spectrum usage, device usage, and  
65 infrastructure deployment, to ensure that standards are recent enough to maintain public  
66 confidence; and

67  
68 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC calls on the FCC to develop an updated resource for  
69 local governments' use in education for residents about these updated RF emissions standards  
70 and the safety of commonly deployed wireless equipment, particularly small cell wireless  
71 equipment and 5G deployment.

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<sup>2</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>3</sup> [Federal Communications Commission, Proposed Changes in the Commission's Rules Regarding Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields; Reassessment of Federal Communications Commission Radiofrequency Exposure Limits and Policies, ET Dockets 03-137 and 13-84, Released December 4, 2019.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Environmental Health Trust, et. al., v. FCC, Case No. 20-1025, DC Cir. 2021.](#)

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**NLC RESOLUTION #50**

**IN SUPPORT OF MUNICIPAL DATA OWNERSHIP AND PROTECTION**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, local governments have become particularly attractive targets for bad actors, with two-thirds of all ransomware attacks targeted at local governments,<sup>1</sup> and most local information technology officers report insufficient budgetary resources to adequately protect local government networks.<sup>2</sup>

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

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

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<sup>1</sup> [StateScoop, “Report: Two-thirds of ransomware attacks in 2019 targeted state and local governments.” August 20, 2019.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Public Technology Institute, “PTI/CompTIA 2020 National Survey of Local Government Cybersecurity Programs.” 2020.](#)

41 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the federal government should establish robust, dedicated  
42 grant and technical assistance programs to assist municipalities of all sizes in preventing,  
43 preparing for, and recovering from cyberattacks; and  
44

45 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that federal data privacy policy should require companies to  
46 enable municipalities to export their data on demand, and should not require municipalities to  
47 pay again to access or export their own data; and  
48

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

## NLC RESOLUTION #51

### IN SUPPORT OF DIGITAL EQUITY FOR AMERICAN COMMUNITIES

**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 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

**WHEREAS**, while 82% of households with incomes above \$100,000 use broadband at home, only 57% of households with incomes below \$25,000 do;<sup>1</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, household broadband access lags for communities of color, with 77% of white residents having in-home broadband service, while only 67% of Black and Hispanic residents do,<sup>2</sup> and twice as many Black and Hispanic residents as white reporting relying solely on smartphones for access to the Internet;<sup>3</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>4</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>5</sup> and

**WHEREAS**, no dedicated federal subsidy for household broadband exists, while the Lifeline combined phone and broadband program has been weakened through federal policy changes and faces an uncertain financial future due to the current funding structure for the Universal Service Fund and its reliance on landline phone bill surcharges, and

**WHEREAS**, while mapping improvements will help to improve the accuracy of federal broadband access measurements, the Federal Communications Commission does not track broadband adoption or affordability in its annual assessment of broadband access.

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<sup>1</sup> [National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Digital Nation Data Explorer, “Internet Use at Home,” June 10, 2020.](#)

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> [Pew Research Foundation, Internet/Broadband Fact Sheet, June 12, 2019.](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Institute for Local Self-Reliance, “Profiles of Monopoly: Big Cable and Telecom,” August 2020.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [National Digital Inclusion Alliance, “Limiting Broadband Investment to “Rural Only” Discriminates Against Black Americans and Other Communities of Color,” June 2020.](#)

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the National League of Cities calls on the federal government to make holistic reforms to federal broadband policy that promote digital equity and empower local governments to engage in digital inclusion work within their own communities; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should enact legislation to fund and support digital inclusion programs and planning within communities, such as the Digital Equity Act; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NLC supports the establishment of the short-term Emergency Broadband Benefit and Affordable Connectivity Program and calls on Congress to establish a permanent, dedicated and sustainably funded federal broadband benefit, to ensure that low-income households are not barred from full participation in work, education, and civic life due to broadband subscription prices; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that broadband reporting programs, such as the FCC's annual broadband deployment report, broadband infrastructure programs, such as the Connect America Fund or the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service funds, should assess affordability when determining whether residents have access to home broadband; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that broadband infrastructure programs should not be limited to rural communities, and should incorporate suburban and urban communities, many of which have been subjected to decades of disinvestment, monopolization, and digital redlining; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the U.S. Treasury should allow digital inclusion as an eligible community support service under the requirements of the Community Reinvestment Act, ensuring that low to moderate income communities do not go unbanked due to lack of broadband access or low digital literacy; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should affirmatively uphold and protect the authority of local governments to control their agreements with the cable, wireline, and wireless telecommunications companies operating in their jurisdictions, to ensure their appropriate usage of public resources such as municipal rights-of-way, promote digital equity, and adequate investment in and contribution to the community; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Congress should remove barriers to cooperative and municipal investment in and provision of broadband service, to ensure local governments are empowered to close gaps in communities with inadequate or unaffordable broadband service.