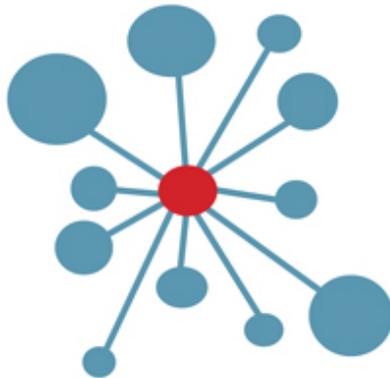




NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS



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**2017 executive directors conference  
october 22 - october 24  
san antonio, tx**

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### **Sticking Around After the Executive Directors Conference in San Antonio?**

If so, ICMA has invited you to their U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) session following the close of NARC's conference on Tuesday afternoon. If you are interested, please reach out to Sarah Reed, [sarah@narc.org](mailto:sarah@narc.org), to confirm your participation and submit topics in advance of the conversation.

Energy Innovation: A Local and Federal Dialogue

Tuesday, October 24 2:00 PM - 3:10 PM

DOE wants to hear from you about opportunities and needs in key areas of community-scale energy innovation. What are effective strategies, tools, and resources that could support you as leaders in energy planning? Do you have feedback on current DOE projects? A key topic DOE will be prepared to discuss is how local governments can finance energy initiatives and the return on investment.

## **NEWS FROM WASHINGTON**

*Congress is in session.*

### **This Week**

The House and Senate have a number of pressing items to tackle this week, including healthcare replacement, a short-term fix to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), tax legislation, and Senate committee nominations.

For Senate Republicans, this week offers the last chance to dramatically change Obamacare without the threat of filibusters. Senators have until September 30 to pass healthcare legislation with just 51 votes. After that time, the budget resolution for FY 2017 (**S. Con. Res. 3**) will no longer govern reconciliation bills. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) plans to bring to the floor legislation by Bill Cassidy (R-LA) and Lindsey Graham (R-SC), but without Senator John McCain's (R-AZ) support, this proposal is unlikely to make it through the Senate. However, the bill's sponsors made some changes over the weekend to entice Republicans that appear to be on the fence, such as Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). Cassidy, Graham, Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT), and Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) will participate in a **CNN healthcare debate** tonight.

This week both the House and Senate need to authorize a short-term patch to continue funding FAA before the September 30th deadline. Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee Chairman John Thune (R-SD) stated last week that he is encouraging his House counterparts to extend FAA's authorization through March 31, 2018. However, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) is attempting to block such an extension because the bill now attaches a variety of provisions without Democratic backing, including language dealing with the federal flood insurance program and tax credits for hurricane victims.

On Wednesday, House Republicans will hold a retreat to discuss tax-overhaul options, and the Senate Budget Committee will convene on the same subject this week. Senators Bob Corker (R-TN) and Pat Toomey (R-PA) agreed to write a budget resolution that would make it procedurally easier to pass tax-cut legislation, but have not yet identified which taxes or tax breaks they intend to target.

Senate committees will review nominations for DOE and the U.S. Department of Labor this week. On Tuesday, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee plans a hearing on DOE nominees Bruce Walker for assistant secretary for electricity delivery and energy reliability, and Steven Winbert for assistant secretary for fossil energy. On Wednesday, the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee will consider the nomination of Patrick Pizzella for deputy Labor secretary.

### **Senate Passes OPEN Government Data Act**

Last week, the Senate quietly passed the *Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary* (OPEN) *Government Data Act* (**S. 760**), which was incorporated in a series of amendments to the FY 2018 *National Defense Authorization Act* (NDAA; **H.R. 2810**). The *OPEN Government Data Act* would require federal agencies to publish their information as open data in machine-readable formats with open licenses. Since the House version of the bill did not include this legislation, the two chambers will have to reconcile the bills before it can be sent to the president's desk. Due to the bipartisan support of the act being included in NDAA in the Senate, it is likely to be kept in the final version.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **Local Governments Prepare for a Fight Over SALT Deduction**

As the Trump administration and GOP leaders plan to release details of sweeping tax reform, local governments anticipate that the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction may be on the chopping block. This elimination would make it more difficult for states and localities to raise their taxes. It would also lead to double taxation on income, which would not be a popular action with taxpayers. To fight double taxation, the National Association of Counties (NACo), National League of Cities (NLC), and U.S. Conference of Mayors created the Americans Against Double Taxation to advocate for the SALT deduction. National Governors Association (NGA) Executive Director/CEO Scott Peterson also **said** that governors and state executives are supportive of making sure the SALT deduction is preserved through the upcoming tax reform process.

### **NLC, NACo, and NGA Talk About New Agenda for State and Local Governments**

The executive directors from NLC, NACo, and NGA sat down with *Route Fifty* earlier last week to discuss what the Trump administration agenda means for state and local governments. The leaders focused on a variety of topics important to localities, including intergovernmental relations, the SALT deduction and municipal bonds, the infrastructure package, the opioid crisis, healthcare, and Medicaid.

### **Administration's Stance on Paris Agreement Allows Localities to Lead Charge on Local Climate Action**

While the Trump administration reaffirmed its hard stance against the Paris Agreement **last Monday**, many state and local leaders are still challenging themselves to meet the agreement's goals. **In a series of panels hosted by C40 Cities on Monday**, many of the speakers felt that Trump's inaction on climate change has allowed for local government leaders to take faster, sharper political action on this front. The We Are Still In coalition – comprised of 227 cities and counties, 9 states, and 1,650 businesses dedicated to fulfilling the Paris Agreement's targets for the U.S. – highlights not only how many local leaders have stood up to reduce greenhouse emissions,

but the fact that they are willing to work with their colleagues to accomplish this.

### **F4F Instrumental in New Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Category at National Joint Powers Alliance**

Fleets for the Future (F4F) worked with the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) to help develop a new, successful nationwide competitive solicitation category: Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment and Related Services. This combined effort offers public fleet managers across the country more access to review and purchase alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) and related infrastructure, one of the primary goals of the F4F national procurement initiative. As NJPA put in their **recent news release**, public fleet managers that become NJPA members “can [now] find everything they need to provide charging solutions for any size project or program, from just one vehicle to public parking spaces and ramps, up to a full fleet of vehicles.”

## **REGION SPOTLIGHT**

### **Texas Joins FirstNet after Hurricane Harvey**

Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced last Tuesday that the state will be opting into the FirstNet wireless broadband network for first responders. He said that the devastating effects of Hurricane Harvey were a key factor in deciding to opt in, saying that “the safety and security of Texas communities is [his] number one priority, and [he wants] to provide [Texas] first responders with the best technology possible.” Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar is optimistic about the decision, saying “the support [emergency responders] received from AT&T and FirstNet during our response [to Hurricane Harvey] was incredible, and with this partnership, it will only get better.” With the addition of Texas, twenty-one states and two territories have now decided to join the FirstNet network.

### **Court Approves VW Trust Agreement**

The U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California approved the trust agreement for the Volkswagen (VW) Environmental Mitigation Trust and are sending it back to VW and California for a final signature. Once signed, the Trust Effective Date (TED) will be established. TED gives states 60 days to apply for beneficiary status for VW settlement funds from the Environmental Mitigation Trust. The next step in the timeline would be for the trustees to designate beneficiaries within the first 120 days. To learn more about the VW settlement and gain access to resources for state and local government offices to develop plans and implement projects under the Environmental Mitigation Trust, visit the **NASEO and NACAA VW Settlement Clearinghouse website**.

## **FEATURED JOBS**

***View full list of jobs!***

### **RFP for Signal Timing Optimization Program**

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, Cleveland, OH

### **Principal Planner, Transportation Planning**

Puget Sound Regional Council, Seattle, WA

### **Economic Development Planner**

Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization, Akron, OH

## **FUNDING**

***View full list of grants!***

### **Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Assessment and Clean Up Grants**

Applications Due: November 16

The *Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act* requires the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to publish guidance to assist applicants in preparing proposals for grants to assess and clean up brownfield sites. EPA’s Brownfields Program provides funds to empower states, communities, tribes, and nonprofits to prevent, inventory, assess, clean up, and reuse brownfield sites. EPA provides brownfields funding for three types of grants; the FY2018 guidelines and the RFPs are now open for the **Brownfields Assessment Grants**, **Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) Grants**, and **Brownfields Cleanup Grants**.

## **AmeriCorps State and National Grants FY 2018**

AmeriCorps grants are awarded to eligible organizations proposing to engage AmeriCorps members in evidence-based or evidence-informed interventions to strengthen communities. An AmeriCorps member is an individual who engages in community service through an approved national service position. Members may receive a living allowance and other benefits while serving. Upon successful completion of their service, members earn a Segal AmeriCorps Education Award from the National Service Trust that members can use to pay for higher education expenses or apply to qualified student loans.

In the FY 2018 AmeriCorps competition, the Corporation for National and Community Service seeks to prioritize the investment of national service resources in: disaster services; economic opportunity; education; healthy futures; veterans and military families; government and mayor initiatives; rural intermediaries; safer communities; evidence-based intervention planning grants; and programs that engage Americans age 55 and older.

## **EVENTS**

*[View full list of events!](#)*

### **NARC Webinar! Learn About Exclusive Deals on Alt-Fuel Vehicles Through F4F**

**September 26, 1:00-2:00 PM ET**

**October 4, 1:00-2:00 PM ET**

Please join Fleets for the Future (F4F), the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA), Zenith Motors, and National Auto Fleet Group (NAFG) to learn about the available clean vehicles provided through NJPA, a leading national purchasing cooperative with over 50,000 members. Vehicles range from plug-in hybrid sedans to propane and natural gas trucks to full electric shuttle buses and cargo vans. Electric vehicle charging infrastructure and associated services are also newly available. In October only, Zenith and NAFG will offer an additional discount on vehicles through F4F. Join the webinar to learn more about how you can transform your fleet while saving thousands of dollars in the process. There will be a live Q&A session following the presentations where participants can ask vendors questions directly.

### **Leveraging New Tools & Resources to Build the Arts in Your County**

**September 26, 2:00-3:30 PM ET**

Join NACo for an interactive discussion that will highlight innovative ways that counties can leverage their arts and culture assets to improve their local economies and build thriving communities. National arts management and advocacy professionals will discuss national trends and the results of recent studies that have generated new county-level data on arts and culture programs. The newly launched NACo Creative Counties Placemaking Challenge will also be featured. This educational session will offer local elected officials and staff a comprehensive overview of the many arts-and-culture-related resources available to them as well as practical tips on how to leverage existing resources to formulate successful arts-based economic and workforce development initiatives.

### **The Foundation for Modernization: Apps to Support Your Tribe's Needs**

**September 28, 1:00-2:00 PM ET**

Learn what is needed to set the foundation that will make your organization successful on its path to modernization. This foundation will get your organization prepared to automate workflows that will help increase organizational collaboration all within a secure environment. This foundation will help you to implement applications for your organization that will help to streamline processes, improve communication and coordination, and save money and time. With the proper foundation in place, you will be able to ensure that your data is consistent, reliable, and easy to share. This comes in handy when working with other agencies, like the Census when participating in the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Operation.

### **How to Attract and Retain the Incoming Generation of Government Employees**

**September 27, 2:00-3:00 PM ET**

Mobile devices, social media, and video permeate the lives of the next generation of workers and they expect these tools to extend to their jobs. To stay competitive, governments need to transform how they attract and retain this tech-savvy generation. During this webinar, *Government Technology* will cover:

- Talent management strategies to help make the government workplace more flexible, engaging and personalized
- How to boost and tailor recruitment efforts to attract skilled workers
- The role technology will play in improving talent management

### **REMI Webinar: The Economic Impacts of Hurricanes**

September 29, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

After a hurricane has swept through a region, government agencies focus on assessing damage and recovery. Evaluating a natural disaster's aftermath inevitably includes totaling the economic consequences. Dynamic economic impact analysis is critical in understanding how storms can impact economies through damage to infrastructure and disruption of normal activities.

For this presentation, REMI will review past hurricane impact studies that used REMI's modeling software, including projects for impacts on Hillsborough County, Florida produced by Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council, an analysis of Superstorm Sandy by Empire State Development, and Department of Homeland Security's application in evaluating hurricanes Katrina and Rita. They will demonstrate approaches for analyzing regional economic impacts of storms. Following the presentation, you will have an opportunity to engage in a Q&A.

### **Innovation in Public Safety: How FirstNet Creates an Ecosystem for the Future**

October 3, 2:00-3:00 PM ET

FirstNet has been a topic in state, local and federal public safety and emergency management organizations for the past five years. Now, as states make their decision to participate, the discussion is focused on the need for interoperable communications brought in sharper focus with the events in Texas.

FirstNet will also bring an ecosystem to spur innovation for those organizations and companies who develop and implement solutions that provide the data and information for public safety and emergency management. The discussion will be considering the following questions:

- What types of applications will we see?
- How easy will it be to introduce those applications to all the customers of FirstNet?
- How is NIST helping to spur innovative applications?
- What is the FirstNet ecosystem for innovative applications?
- How easy will it be to use?
- How will FirstNet ensure security, priority and preemption for those applications?
- How will FirstNet customers access those applications?
- How will NIST and PSCR spur innovation through grants?
- What awards were made in the first grant program?

## **CONTACT US**

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