



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS  
eREGIONS

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## NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

*Congress will return in mid-November.*

### Government Shutdown Averted

Congress passed a continuing resolution (CR) to avoid a government shutdown shortly before the fiscal year ended last week. The measure extends current funding levels through December 9 and provides \$1.1 billion to fight the Zika virus, a full year of funding for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and military construction projects, and money for states recently affected by floods. Democrats had said they would not support a funding package that omitted aid to Flint, MI but an agreement was reached when leadership on both sides agreed to include it in the *Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)*. The Senate passed the CR by a 72-26 vote and the House approved it by a 342-85 vote late last night before heading home to campaign.

### House Passes WRDA

Last Wednesday, the House overwhelmingly passed WRDA in a 399-25 vote. Several amendments were adopted including a bipartisan compromise for up to \$170 million for the Flint, MI water crisis, which also allowed the short-term funding measure to pass. The Senate version includes a \$220 million Flint package to help communities dealing with lead-contaminated water. The bill will now have to be conferenced with the Senate version after the election.

### Two Lawsuits Challenge New Overtime Rules

The U.S. Department of Labor's (DOL) new salary test for exempt employees is set to take effect December 1, raising the salary level to qualify for certain white collar overtime exemptions from \$455 per week to \$913 per week. However, two lawsuits filed on September 20 might delay or even stop the rules from taking effect.

Ohio joined Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Utah, and Wisconsin in a **lawsuit** against the U.S. Department of Labor, its secretary, and other federal officials seeking to halt the new overtime rules. Separately, but in the same court, a coalition of more than 50 business groups, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, the National Retail Federation, National Automobile Dealers Association, and the National Federation of Independent Business, **also filed a similar lawsuit**. Now it is up to a federal judge in Sherman, Texas to decide whether and when the new salary threshold will take effect.

### 2015 ACS Data Released

The Census Bureau released the 2015 one-year ACS statistics on September 15, offering a wealth of demographic and socio-economic data on more than 40 topics for communities with populations of 65,000 or more, including all states, large cities, and counties. The bureau will release the 2011-2015 five-year statistics for areas as small as census tracts and block groups on December 8. The five-year estimates average data collected over the relevant time period from an annual sample of

roughly 3.5 million addresses, to ensure acceptable levels of statistical reliability for data on neighborhoods, sparsely populated areas (such as rural counties), and numerically small population groups (such as veterans, persons with disabilities, and race and ethnic subgroups).

### **FEMA Releases Second Version of Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide for Public Comment**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) *Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide* (PAPPG) is a comprehensive, consolidated program and policy document that outlines the Public Assistance Program into a user-friendly guide. PAPPG incorporates and supersedes language from PA Program publications and the majority of previous policies. The first version of the PAPPG was published for disasters declared on or after January 1, 2016. Some of these changes include language clarification and the addition of references to other federal programs that intersect with FEMA's Public Assistance program. In accordance with the planned annual revision schedule, FEMA posted draft revisions to the PAPPG to the **Federal Register** on September 23, 2016. A summary of changes can be found on the Federal Register along with the actual language changes. All comments must be received through the **Federal Register** by October 24, 2016. If you have any questions, please contact FEMA's Intergovernmental Affairs Division at (202) 646-3444 or at [FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov).

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

Did you know that domestic violence is an alarming and pervasive problem in our country? The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey data reports that on average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the US. Over the course of a year, that equals more than 12 million women and men.

Recognizing domestic violence is critical for taking action to address and prevent it. The #ThisIsDV campaign elevates the voices of survivors to help validate and name their experiences and raise awareness about the multifaceted nature of domestic violence. This October, the Domestic Violence Awareness Project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence is building upon conversations from 2015 around Awareness + Action = Social Change by offering key awareness activities and action steps. Follow @NationalDVAM, #ThisIsDV, and #DVAM2016 to participate in the awareness campaign and learn more!

Additionally, if your region is participating in the campaign or works on programs related to domestic violence, please share details with Anna Rosenbaum at [anna@narc.org](mailto:anna@narc.org) so we can learn more about it.

### **Brookings: Redefining Global Cities**

A new report from the Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program has identified seven types of global metro economies that reveal each one's distinct competitive advantages. The report, a part of the Global Cities Initiative, also assesses the opportunities and challenges that metro areas confront for powering the next wave of global economic growth. The seven types of global cities used to categorize the 123 metro economies studied are Global Giants, Asian Anchors, Emerging Gateways, Factory China, Knowledge Capitals, American Middleweights, and International Middleweights. These categories are meant to help decision makers in metro areas understand local assets, benchmark their performance, and identify ways to promote local growth.

### **Smart Cities are the Next Transportation Revolution**

In opening remarks at the final day of Smart Cities Week, Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said the potential around smart cities could be as revolutionary as the Interstate Highway System was in the mid-1950s. "When we think about how we're planning cities, we should be looking at these trends going forward and not be so nostalgic about how we planned 50 years ago," Foxx said. "Our transportation business models, our funding models, are nostalgic." Foxx felt that data is the one asset that communities have to help them address rising technological and citizen demand challenges. Cities have the opportunity to become smart from the ground up, Foxx said, and with that opportunity comes the responsibility to ensure that smart cities are inclusive to citizens whether they have access to advanced technology or not. The opportunity, in reality, is to include inclusion from the beginning.

Last week, the U.S. Department of Transportation **released** its first autonomous vehicle policy to establish a foundation for the integration of driverless cars into daily life, which Foxx called “the first, most comprehensive policy any nation has ever produced.”

“You’re building a new architecture for the world one city a time,” Foxx said. “Don’t get so fascinated with the flash bang pop of technology and just remember that it’s got to be technology that’s relevant to the societies that use it.”

## REGION SPOTLIGHT

### **The 50 Best Bike Cities of 2016**

Every two years *Bicycling Magazine* rounds up a list of the 50 most bike-friendly cities in the country. They look at everything from miles of bike lanes to the percentage of cycling commuters who are female—a key indicator of safe bike infrastructure—to the number of cyclist-friendly bars. Chicago tops this year’s list for building 100 miles of protected bike lanes (to be completed in spring 2017) coupled with the Loop Link transit project, which will make Chicago the first major U.S. city with a downtown network of protected bike lanes. The city is also subsidizing their bike-share memberships for low-income residents and building a bridge to connect the traditionally African-American community of Bronzeville to the Lakefront Trail making cycling more accessible to all.

## FEATURED JOBS

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

### **Community and Economic Development Manager**

Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, Omaha, NE

### **Alamo Local Authority Lead Crisis Intervention Assessor**

Alamo Area Council of Governments, San Antonio, TX

## FUNDING

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

### **FACT SHEET: \$80 million in New Federal Investment and a Doubling of Participating Communities in the White House Smart Cities Initiative**

Last year, the White House launched the Smart Cities Initiative to provide an avenue for cities, federal agencies, universities, and the private sector to work together to test new technologies and improve our cities. The administration has recently announced the expansion of this initiative with over \$80 million in new Federal investments and a doubling in participating cities and communities. The new investments will focus on climate, transportation, public safety, and transforming city services with additional grants and partnerships for several projects. On October 13 in Pittsburgh, the White House Frontiers Conference will bring together leading innovators to further advance this initiative.

### **Every Body Walk! 2016 Micro Grants**

Applications Due: November 18 at 5:00 PM ET

America Walks and the Every Body Walk! Collaborative announce their second year of Micro Grant Funding. This program will award grantees up to \$1,500.00 for projects related to increasing walking and walkability. Walkable communities encourage broad involvement by all in the design and planning process, and are places where safe, accessible, and delightful opportunities to be physically active are available to everyone. Most importantly, walking and walkability can help to bridge community divides and overcome existing disparities. Funded projects will increase walking and benefits of walkability in communities, work to develop the walking movement by growing the number and diversity of people and organizations pushing for more walkability, and they should make walking safe, easy, and enjoyable for all community members.

## EVENTS

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

### **Supreme Court Preview Webinar**

October 13, 12:00 PM ET

Despite being down a Justice, the Supreme Court has already agreed to decide many cases of interest to state and local government during its 2016-2017 term. Join Misha Tseytlin, Wisconsin Solicitor General, who will argue a takings case this term, Deepak Gupta, Gupta Wessler, who will write an amicus brief for the State and Local Legal Center in a fair housing case, and Amy Howe, reporter, SCOTUSblog, in a discussion of the most interesting and important cases for state and local government granted so far.

### **Community Revitalization Approaches in Gary and Detroit**

November 15, 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET

This webinar is a part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Sustainable and Healthy Communities Seminar Series and will focus on EPA Region 5 and community revitalization in Gary, IN and Detroit, MI.

## **CONTACT US**

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