Resolution Supporting Federalism, State Authority and County Administration in Elections

Issue: Federal election policy should preserve the constitutional balance among federal, state and local governments by recognizing state authority over election law, county responsibility for election administration, and the need to avoid unfunded federal mandates on county election offices.

Proposed Policy: The National Association of Counties (NACo) urges Congress, the administration and federal agencies to preserve the federalist structure of American election administration by respecting the primary role of states in establishing election law and the essential role of counties in administering secure, accurate and accessible elections.

NACo supports federal policies that strengthen election integrity, voter confidence, cybersecurity, accessibility and election worker safety through practical, voluntary, nonpartisan technical assistance, predictable federal funding and meaningful consultation with county election officials. NACo opposes federal legislation, regulations, executive actions or agency directives that impose unfunded or under-funded mandates, insufficient implementation deadlines, prescriptive technology or procedural requirements or other one-size-fits-all obligations on county election offices without meaningful state and local consultation and full federal funding for implementation.

NACo further urges Congress and federal agencies to refrain from prohibiting states and local governments from adopting election systems or reforms authorized under state law. Federal policy should protect space for local innovation, preserve county access to federal election administration resources and ensure that any federal election-related requirements are administratively feasible across diverse urban, suburban and rural jurisdictions.

Approved | July 20, 2026