

National Conference of Republican County

March 2019

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Greetings fellow Republicans!

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and blessed holiday season and is having a great New Year. I look forward to seeing you at the legislative conference in Washington D.C. in March.

As the political scene continues to heat up, I believe it is as important as ever that we come together and show our unified support for the initiatives of our President. To that end I would like to propose that we consider and vote on a NCRCO resolution in support of border security at our upcoming March 4th NCRCO business meeting.

This meeting will be held in conjunction with the NACo 2019 legislative conference and will occur on March 4th at 5 pm in the Holmead Room of the Washington Hilton in Washington DC. As in the past, the business meeting is open to the public and we encourage anyone interested in the NCRCO to attend.

Please take a moment to review the proposed resolution on the next page of this newsletter as it will be included on the agenda on March 4th for consideration and potential vote.

If you have any suggestions or modifications, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your hard work across this great Country!

MAGA!!!

Darry Stacy

Resolution in Support of Border Security

WHEREAS, the United States of America takes in more legal immigrants than any nation in the world and the legal immigrants have overwhelmingly proven to be assets to the counties in which they settle, and County Commissioners across the country welcome all races, religions, and creeds to our beloved counties who immigrate legally to mix with and to add to our great American melting pot; and

WHEREAS, existing federal immigration laws when ardently and equally enforced honor the rich tradition of immigration and the rule of law upon which the American Republic was founded; and

WHEREAS, it is the duty and responsibility of the federal government to protect national borders and secure the sovereignty of the United States of America as well as to enforce immigration and employment laws for the protection of American citizens; and

WHEREAS, national security and law enforcement agencies repeatedly have identified the entire United States border with Mexico as a major national security concern and a 2018 National Border Patrol Council survey of more than 600 agents in two of the Border Patrol's busiest sectors, resulted in 89 percent of line agents affirming a "wall system in strategic locations is necessary to securing the border"; and

WHEREAS, border agents seized 1.7 million pounds of narcotics at the southern border in 2018, including cocaine, methamphetamine, heroin and fentanyl, the illegal sale and addictive properties of which create spiraling costs to counties in both law enforcement and healthcare; and

WHEREAS, the enforcement of existing federal immigration laws, especially those regarding national security, immigration, and employment are necessary for the preservation of the sovereignty of this nation and the well-being of the American people; and

WHEREAS, strengthening the nation's southern border control infrastructure will also alleviate the hardship experienced in many counties as they combat human trafficking, drug addiction and access to affordable healthcare;

WHEREAS, failure to secure the border constitutes an ongoing clear and immediate emergency to the health and safety of the citizens of counties across the United States;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REPUBLICAN COUNTY OFFICIALS, urges the Congress of the United States and the President to fund border control impediments along with the strengthening of border control infrastructure to ensure compliance with and enforcement of federal immigration laws; and



Please see attached Simplified Financial Report updated through January 23, 2019.

First of all, thank you for your support of NCRCO. I certainly appreciate all who have taken the time to send in your 2019 dues. To all others who plan on attending NACo's Legislative Conference in Washington DC, **please take time to pay dues before the Conference** either online or check to address below. It will really help with the check in table and to help get any New Republican members enrolled.

Also, please make sure to check the Agenda and make time to attend the NCRCO Business Meeting. I am sure there will be discussion on the Summer Reception in Clark County, NV. The off-site reception last summer in Nashville at the Wild Horse Saloon was a wild success with lots of good networking and the interest of new members who were able to attend.

I am sure the Board will have something great planned for this summer as well!

See you soon in DC!

DUES ~ 2019 \$30.00

ONLINE: <http://ncrco.org>

Website: NCRCO.org

Or send check to:

**Mike McGinley – Treasurer
521 S Dakota
Dillon, MT 59725**

Simplified Financial through January 23,2019

Description	2018		2019		Balance
	Revenue	Expenses	Revenue	Expenses	
					\$ 14,474.48
Transfer	\$ 172.89		\$ -		\$ 14,647.37
Dues	\$ 2,303.03		\$ 570.00		\$ 17,520.40
Reception guest Income	\$ 140.00		\$ -		\$ 17,660.40
Donations	\$ 5,000.00		\$ -		\$ 22,660.40
Miscellaneous Sales	\$ 300.00		\$ -		\$ 22,960.40
	\$ 70.00		\$ -		\$ 23,030.40

The NCRCO Business meeting will be held on Monday March 4th at 5pm in the Holmead room (lobby level) of the Washington Hilton. The public is welcome to attend this meeting.

The NCRCO Members only reception will be held at 6pm immediately following the business meeting in the Jay room which is located on the lobby level of the Washington Hilton. Members may purchase a guest ticket on line or at the door for \$20.



A limited number of the **NCRCO “Challenge Coins”** are still available for purchase by our members for the low price of **only \$10**.

Order yours online at NCRCO.org or purchase it at the upcoming NCRCO event.

These high quality metal coins make great Presentation gifts, display pieces and attention grabbers at events.

Just like a famous credit card, Never leave home without your **NCRCO Challenge Coin!**

Do you know other who should be a member of NCRCO or someone who you would like to receive an electronic copy of our newsletters?

If so, please send us their email address!



Immediate Past President.... an accurate term that provides no useful description for an odd job. This is not to say that I have never found myself in this position before, I have. It just always seems a bit weird. It reminds me of a joke I used to tell before portable GPS units existed and before I became a commissioner.

The joke goes like this. Two people are in a hot balloon which has become lost in a dense fog. The occupants of the balloon are becoming increasingly distressed as they have no idea which direction they have been traveling or at what altitude. As the hours march on, they finally reach a break in the clouds and peering down they spot a man in a small boat. The balloonists wave frantically to get the attention of the man in the boat and yell their most pressing question, "Where are we?"

As the clouds close in on them once again, the ballooners hear from below, "You are in a hot air balloon approximately 200 feet in the air." The two people in the balloon look at each other in dismay for a few moments and then one remarks, "just our luck, we had to find a consultant. He answered our question, but the answer provided no actionable information."

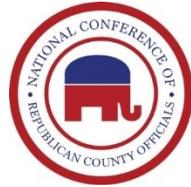
I should probably point out that I made my living as a computer consultant for many years prior to becoming an elected official so I can poke fun at my former profession. Like the answer given to the balloonists in the story, the title of Immediate Past President is technically correct, but also yields no relevant information.

In some organizations, a Past President is held in the same regard as moldy bread or last week's news but here in NCRCO, I am happy to say that Past Presidents continue to be an important part of the leadership team. It is my pleasure and privilege to join such notables as Cindy Bobbitt and Christian Leinbach on the list of currently active Past Presidents of NCRCO. The difference is that as Immediate Past President I have no specific duties to perform for NCRCO.

Christian has stepped back into the role of a regional director and Cindy of course is just always here when we need her to take on any task asked of her. Additionally, both Christian and Cindy represent their NACo regions on the NACo Executive committee as well as serving us here at NCRCO. As for me, I think I will enjoy the latitude that being a Past President affords me. I no longer speak for the organization so I can free lance a bit, like now.....

As an organization NCRCO does not make endorsements in NACo elections however, I think it is important that all our members realize that the same Christian Leinbach who is currently our NCRCO Region 2 Director, a Past President of the NCRCO and the current NACo North Eastern Region representative on the NACo Executive Committee, is running for NACo 2nd Vice President.

NACo is a tremendous organization and each year a very talented group of members enter the race for 2nd VP. Each candidate brings with them a set of skills and attributes that any organizations would be



2019 Legislative Business Meeting Agenda – March 4, 2019

Washington D.C.

5:00 P.M. – Washington Hilton – Room Holmead



Call to Order/Welcome	Darry Stacy (OK), President
Opening Prayer	Christian Leinbach (PA)
Pledge to the Flag	Joe Briggs (MT)
Membership Roll	Please Sign in at Door
Discussion & Possible Action for Approval:	
• Minutes from July 14, 2018	J.D. Clark (IN), Secretary
Financial Reports	Mike McGinley (MT), Treasurer
Committee Reports (information only - no action required)	
Regional Director's Reports (Updates as needed)	Presented in Newsletter
Discussion & Possible Action:	
• Resolution in support of Border Security	Darry Stacy (OK), President
Old Business	
New Business	
Adjourn	

Core Beliefs

“What we have here is--failure to communicate.” This is my favorite line from the movie Cool Hand Luke.

What I have seen so far in the 116th Congress is--failure to communicate. In the House, the impact of the Democrats’ victory will be tempered by the party’s relatively slim majority in the chamber (235 D & 199 R) and, more importantly, continued Republican control of the White House and Senate. The end result is a divided Congress in which both Republican and Democrat parties could struggle to advance their legislative priorities.

The good news is that the GOP’s margin for internal dissent in confirmations of federal judges and cabinet officials has increased (53 R & 47 D); but the party is still several votes short of a filibuster-proof majority.

Infrastructure development has been a priority of both parties and the administration over the last two years, with the President proposing a significant infrastructure package in March 2018. House Democrats are expected to reintroduce their \$1 trillion infrastructure package that was outlined in 2018. Provisions could include stabilizing the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) and providing federal funds to address the national backlog of infrastructure repair. This may be the only likely area for bipartisan action but could also result in greater benefits for counties.

House Democrats are likely to introduce Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) related bills to keep the 2015 rule in place, while the administration and the Senate will continue working to rewrite the 2015 version of the rule. The rewrite of WOTUS 2015 rule is very important for counties!

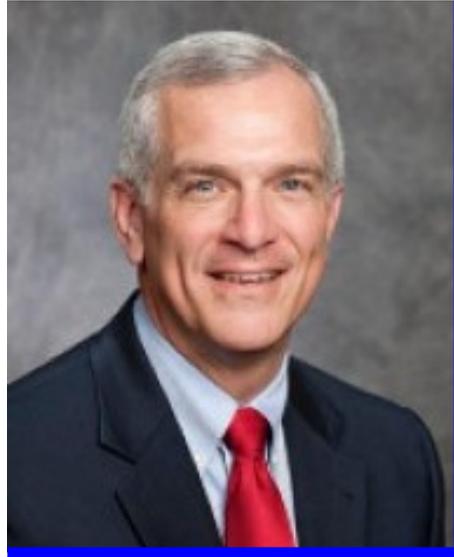
Immigration reform will be one of the most divisive issues of the 116th Congress. Need I say more.

In all we do and say, please remember the Republican Party’s most important core beliefs, as outlined on their national committee website, as follows:

- The best government for the people is one that is closest to the people, and therefore the government should not interfere unless they are needed.
- The strength of the nation lies within the individuals who live in the country, and therefore feel that the individual’s freedom, dignity, and responsibility must come first and foremost in our government.
- Free enterprise and encouraging individual initiative are what has brought the country economic prosperity in the past, and what will continue to bring it prosperity today.
- The government must practice fiscal responsibility, and allow its people to keep the money that they work for.
- America should work to protect national freedom first, while working to spread peace, freedom, and human rights in the world.

These are core beliefs we should all live by!



Region 6 Report—(Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio)

By David Zimmerman
Tazewell County Board Chairman, Illinois

Region 6 provides a snapshot of the battles that are going on nationally for control of our political future. In Illinois, where I reside, the GOP took a major hit from the Democrats.

All statewide offices are in the Democratic column along with supermajorities in both houses. Most counties in Illinois routinely vote for the GOP but Cook County (Chicago) overwhelms the ballot. Under Democratic rule we continue to have higher taxes, more people leaving our State and ever “progressive” policy you can dream up.

Indiana, our neighbors immediately to the East are a solid GOP State with a Governor, two U.S. Senators and a House delegation dominated by Republicans. Because of the solid GOP leadership, the Indiana economy remains strong and is a major reason why Illinois residents are moving to Indiana.

The Michigan GOP also had major losses within the State that mirror our national landscape. They now have a Democratic Governor, two Democratic Senators and congressional districts that are split between the two parties. 2020 in Michigan promises to be a major focal point for presidential politics.

Ohio, with one notable exception remains a solid GOP State. The Governor, one U.S. Senator and a majority of the House delegation are in Republican hands. The one exception is Democratic U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown who is seriously eyeing the White House.

Undergirding all these State and National offices are counties that are majority Republican throughout Region 6. They provide a great “farm team” for our future GOP leaders and ensure that responsible governing starts at the local level. I am proud to represent all of our Republican County officials in the Upper Midwest of Region 6 and NACO.

Region 11 Report—(Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington)

By Ron Wesen
Skagit County Commissioner, Washington

Alaska

New Senate moderate Republican majority of 13 out of 20 members laid out its goals of responsible budgets, prioritizing essential state services, safeguard communities and protect the Permanent Fund, which is Alaskan's share of their oil wealth.

Republicans hold 23 of the 40 house seats but have not organized to select chairs of committees or speaker of the house. Last year two returning house Republicans caucused with the Democratic House majority.

One proposal is for the parties to share power with co-speakers rotating duties and have committee co-chairs.

Republican Governor Dunleavy's budget office forecast a projected budget deficit of \$1.6 billion dollars for the coming fiscal year in a

\$5.4 billion operating budget. Oil prices are projected to remain low which is a major revenue source for the state of Alaska.

Idaho

Brad Little, a Republican, was sworn in as the 33rd Governor of Idaho after serving as lieutenant governor for ten years.

Republicans have majority in Senate and House.

Three key issues being discussed in this year's legislative session are Medicaid Expansion, Public Defense and Raising the Justice Levy. All of these may have budget impacts to local counties depending on the final versions passed and signed into law. Idaho Associations of Counties have their Midwinter Legislative conference in February allowing counties to ask question and hear more about current issues. The results from the Office of Performance Evaluation's study on state mandates and county budgets will also be presented.

Montana

Montana Association of Counties are working several bills in the 66th legislative session. Allowing counties to establish coal trust funds, allow counties to establish County Auditors as Part-time office, allow inflation on Mill Levies, Clarifying County Attorney as Legal Advisor, and many others.

Democrat Governor Steve Bullock emphasized four points, Ensure Fiscal Responsibility, Invest in Education, Protect Healthcare and Rural Communities, and Create Jobs and Build Montana's Infrastructure.

There are 56 counties in Montana and 11 have non-partisan elected officials. HB180 would allow local

Region 11 Report—(Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington) continued**Oregon**

Republican lawmakers are facing supermajority in both chambers of the Oregon Legislators leaving few options to stop Democratic bills except working with moderate Democrats to temper the outcomes. Democrats are able to pass bills without a single Republican vote, but Senate President Peter Courtney has a long standing tradition of seeking republican votes when ever possible. Democratic Governor Kate Brown is pushing for more money for permanent housing for homeless and stabilizing funding for the Oregon Health Plan.

Washington

Washington Association of Counties have several legislative priorities this session. Counties are supporting a coordinated approach to fish barrier removal from state, local, and private barriers to open habitat throughout watersheds. After a lawsuit, the state must replace over 800 state-owned barriers in the Puget Sound area within 14 counties by 2030. The state estimates this will cost over \$2 billion for barriers under state roads.

Counties are requesting greater state funding for public defense. Washington counties pay over 96% of the cost of trial court public defense (\$156M/yr). The state pays less than 4% (\$6M/yr). Washington state is one of the lowest amount nationally to fund public defense. Nationally there are 23 states that fully fund public defense and another 8 states that fund more than 50%.

Other areas looking for funding this session are the Foundation Public Health Services for addition services. Unfunded state mandates are a continual issue such as, Election Cost, Court Cost, Public Safety Regulations, Public Health Services, Building and Servicing ballot drop boxes, and Trial Court Public Defense.

Reminders to NCRCO Members:

Dues for the 2019 Calendar year are now due and payable. This can be done at the NACo conference or on line at www.NCRCO.org. Dues are \$30.

If you would like to bring guest to the members only reception, you can do so by purchasing a guest ticket on line at www.NCRCO.org or at the business meeting for \$20. Members are of course admitted to the reception at no charge.

There are still a limited number of NCRCO Challenge coins available for purchase at \$10 each. These can also be purchased at the business meeting or online at

www.NCRCO.org