MAC
MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

2020 Federal Priorities

The following list for 2020 represents many of the policy and funding issues MAC and the National Association of Counties (NACo) are pursuing. It is not an exhaustive list of the issues we advocate for on behalf of Michigan's 83 counties.

Promote County Infrastructure Priorities in a Comprehensive Infrastructure Package

- **MAC and NACo support efforts by the administration and Congress to increase our nation's infrastructure investments to help promote economic development, public safety and overall mobility.**
- Any federal infrastructure package should reflect county priorities, such as: allocating more federal seed capital and matching funds for locally owned infrastructure, increasing local decision-making authority and flexibility, and streamlining and shortening the federal permitting process while still requiring robust public participation and world-class environmental stewardship.

Promote Mental Health, Treatment for Substance Use Disorders and Criminal Justice Reform

- **MAC and NACo support sensible measures that promote and advance the overall safety of the public.**
- Within this context, we also support new policies and approaches that would enhance the ability of county officials and our partners to prevent and treat mental health and substance use disorders, both in the community and within the confines of the criminal justice system.
- Furthermore, MAC and NACo support policies and programs that divert non-violent individuals struggling with mental illness and/or substance use disorders from local jails into more appropriate treatment programs.
- MAC and NACo also support legislation requiring states to suspend, rather than terminate, an individual's eligibility for certain federal health benefits upon arrest, including Medicaid and veterans' benefits.

Boost Broadband Deployment and Accessibility While Preserving Local Zoning Authority

- **MAC and NACo support the deployment and availability of emerging technologies, such as small cell 5G, to all areas of the nation to ensure equitable economic and educational opportunities for all.**
- By preserving the long-standing, existing local zoning authorities of counties and other local governments in the deployment process, counties can ensure that the public interest is being served by communications providers regardless of the delivery platform.
- MAC and NACo urge Congress and federal agencies to recognize counties as co-regulators, providers and partners in extending the benefits of advanced telecommunications and broadband technology — including improvements to county emergency preparedness and response systems — to all Americans.

Quick Facts

- Counties own and manage 73 percent of Michigan's road miles

- Local road agencies control 6,000 of Michigan's 10,000 bridge miles

- The American Society of Civil Engineers gave Michigan's roads a D- on its 2018 Report Card for Michigan's Infrastructure

- More than 70 percent of counties nationally invest in storm sewer systems, sewage disposal, solid waste management and water utilities

- In 2017, there were 2,033 overdose deaths involving opioids in Michigan — a rate of 21.2 deaths per 100,000 persons, higher than the national rate of 14.6 *(NIDA)*

- About 14 percent of Michigan's residents are underserved for broadband

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2020 Federal Priorities

Restore the Balance of Federalism and Optimize Intergovernmental Partnerships

- **MAC and NACo support the passage of the Restore the Partnership Act (H.R. 3883), which would establish the Commission on Intergovernmental Relations of the United States by convening federal, state, tribal and local parties.**
- The commission would consider common problems requiring intergovernmental cooperation, share best practices, encourage discussion on emerging problems and recommend appropriate allocation of governmental functional among levels of government.
- **MAC and NACo support the passage of the Unfunded Mandates Information and Transparency Act (H.R. 300), which would mandate federal agencies to study effects of regulatory actions on state, local and tribal governments before they go into effect.**

Support Full Funding for Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)

- **MAC and NACo support restoring full mandatory funding for the Payments in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) program, which compensates counties for untaxable federal land.**
- The Permanently Authorizing PILT Act (H.R. 3043) would permanently authorize the PILT program.
- H.R. 3043 would add boilerplate to U.S. code to permanently and automatically fund PILT.
- The PILT Reauthorization Act (S. 2480) would authorize federal PILT for 10 years.

Enhance Community Resilience Through Regional and Local Disaster Preparedness

- **MAC and NACo urge Congress and the administration to provide increased federal resources to counties for disaster planning, mitigation and recovery.**
- Record high water levels in the Great Lakes are causing significant damage to public and private property. Shoreline erosion and homes and roads being washed into the lake top the immediate concerns. High water tables and high inland lake levels are threatening the viability of septic systems and combined stormwater and sewer systems.
- Disaster declaration processes do not adequately address the problems we are facing because it is not a one-time event but a rapidly growing problem that will continue to plague Michigan throughout 2020 and beyond.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers predicts the water level in Lake Michigan will rise another 12 to 18 inches by July 2020.

Quick Facts

- Michigan has 12 federally recognized tribes

- Michigan has 1,856 local government units, the seventh-largest number in the U.S. (*Governing magazine*)

- Michigan is second only to Florida in the amount of federal land among states east of the Mississippi River

- Michigan received nearly $5.2 million in PILT in FY19

- Between 2009 and 2016, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development program leveraged more than $187 billion in loans and grants for rural development

- Michigan has had 38 disasters declared since 1953, with the most common (12) being flooding *(FEMA)*

www.naco.org