NACO E-News

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Lincoln County Commissioner

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Fillmore County Supervisor

Pam Lancaster, Sec./Treasurer
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Jerry McCallum, Past President
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Upcoming Events

NE Wind Energy Conference √
Kearney, November 11-12, 2008

Annual Conference √
Lincoln, December 10-12, 2008

Historical '08 Election Nearly 'in the books'

After what may be considered one of the busiest elections ever, there is still work to do before the books can be closed on this election cycle. Most counties will have convened their canvassing boards and released official results by today. However in some counties, provisional ballots are still being verified and official results will not likely be released until next week. With so much focus on this year's presidential race, many first time voters and registered voters who have not made a trip to the polls in recent years turned out this election day. Based on news reports from around the state, it appears many election offices saw an increase in not only voter turnout, but also in the number of provisional ballots that need verified. The Secretary of State's webpage reports a statewide voter turnout of 68%. That's up considerably from the 53% turnout in the 2006 General Election.

County Boards

According to the unofficial results, of the 170 county board positions on the ballot, only 104 are returning incumbents. Thirty-four of the 66 new board members will fill vacated offices and 32 incoming commissioners or supervisors defeated incumbents in the primary or general election. In January, Hamilton and Otoe counties will begin the process of adding new board members, since voters passed expanding from a three to five member board.

Townships

Buffalo and Fillmore County voters chose to keep their townships, while Phelps County voters overwhelmingly voted to discontinue their townships. Harlan County voters will decide whether or not they want to continue the township form of government in 2010.

Changes abound...

Nearly forty percent of the County Board members elected in 2008 are new

One-third of the Nebraska Legislature is comprised of first-time senators

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Take A Moment To Thank A Veteran
By Joanna Fuchs

When you see someone in uniform,
Someone who serves us all,
Doing military duty,
Answering their country's call, Take
a moment to thank them
For protecting what you hold dear;
Tell them you are proud of them,

Make it very clear.
Just tap them on the shoulder,
Give a smile and say,
"Thanks for what you're doing;
To keep us safe in the USA!"

By Joanna Fuchs

www.poemsource.com/patriotic-poems

The NACO/MIPS Offices will be Closed Tuesday November 11th in observance of Veteran's Day

MIPS Inc.
Technology Services Division of NACO

BlueCross BlueShield of Nebraska

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Jail Bond Issues

The $15,230,000 jail bond issue was passed by a large margin in Lincoln County, while Nemaha and Seward county voters were against using local funds to update their current facilities.

State Senators

The effect of term limits for state senators will be evident when Legislature convenes in January with 16 new senators. Of the 49 legislative seats in the state, 26 were on the ballot. Ten incumbent senators were re-elected and will rejoin the 23 senators that were elected in 2006. Of those, only 12 have held office more than two years. Results for the candidates for legislative races in Lincoln's Districts 21 and 27 are so close that they will not be determined until the provisional ballots are processed.

Unofficial county-level results are posted on the NACO website and will be updated as information is received. Legislative and all other state-wide race results can be viewed on the Secretary of State's Nebraska Election 2008 webpage.

News Across the State...

Links are to outside sources and may not be available indefinitely

Corp of Engineers pays $17 million in damages to...
Norfolk Daily News, 10/24/08

New county building has 'plenty of plumbing'
McCook Daily Gazette, 10/28/08

True test of term limits about to begin
Month later, Justice Center sells bonds
Kearney Hub, 10/29/08

Lincoln Journal Star, 11/04/08
County closes bridge due to deterioration
Seward County Independent, 11/05/08

NACo Technical Assistance Grants for Rural Communities

NACo is now accepting applications for the Rural Health Works Technical Assistance Grant for Rural Communities.

Rural Health Works is strategic planning process that assists counties to evaluate their healthcare system and to generate county-specific data on the relationship between the health care sector and the local economy. The ultimate goal of the project is to strengthen rural economies by improving the local health system.

For additional information and to download the application click here.

Sarpy County moves ahead for probation reporting center
Omaha World Herald, 11/05/08

New jail for Lincoln County
North Platte Telegraph, 11/05/08

Area counties to explore interest in regional jail
West Point News, 11/07/08

County Board will increase to five seats
Aurora News Register, 11/07/08

Cuming, Wayne Counties agree to share full-time emergency manager position
West Point News, 11/07/08

Register for the 114th Annual Conference

Conference registration and tentative agendas for each group are available on the NACO website at www.nacone.org. Registration is $120 on or before November 28th. Registrations received after that date will be $135. The fee for the guest program is $65 and will be limited to 52 people. See the November issue of *CountyLine* for additional information.

Reminder

County Official of the Year Nominations

County Official of the Year nominations must be received by November 14th. The nomination form is available by clicking here or visiting the NACO website at www.nacone.org.

If you are aware of any news that may be of interest, please let us know