Election Results in New Leadership for County Government in 2011

Although statewide turnout was relatively low - 42 percent - for this mid-term election year, nearly half of the state's counties saw voter turnout of at least 50 percent, according to the Secretary of State's website.

Many Nebraska counties will be seeing a significant turnover of leadership in 2011. According to unofficial results provided by the county election offices, 164 new officials will be sworn-in in January. Half of those will be filling offices in which the incumbent chose not to re-file. Of the 92 new county board members taking office, 51 were successful in un-seating incumbents in the Primary or General Elections, and a quarter of the state's counties will be swearing in a new sheriff.

In other county issues, Harlan County voters chose to keep the township form of government; Boyd, Madison and Stanton counties elected to dissolve their weed boards; Sarpy County voters turned down a 1.5 percent public safety sales tax, and Polk County voted against a 3.5 percent tax levy override.

State senators' term limits, enacted in 2008, did not have much of an impact on the 2011 Legislature. Arnie Stuthman, District 22, was the only term-limited senator. When the Legislature convenes in January, six new senators will be present.

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 Election Results webpage.

NACO's 116th Annual Conference Matters...

Registration and agenda information is available on the NACO website at www.nacone.org. Registration is $120 on or before November 26th. Registrations received after that date will be $135. Detailed conference information is published in the November issue of CountyLine.

Lodging: Please review your lodging requirements and release any unneeded rooms as soon as possible. A waiting list has been established for all those who were unable to acquire lodging at their requested hotels. Friday, November 19th is the last day to make changes to reservations without being penalized.

Voter Confirmation Forms: Due in the NACO office by Friday, December 3rd. The Voter Confirmation form identifies the person casting the ballot for each county on each matter submitted to a vote of the members. Absence of the Voter Confirmation form will only allow the county board chair to cast the ballot in-person for a county.

The NACO 2020 Committee will meet at 8:30 a.m. on Friday, November 19 at the NSEA Building, 605 S. 14th St. in Lincoln.
Take Advantage of NACo’s Web-based Education...

NACo’s Leadership Series: Synergize for Power
Thursday, November 18
1:00 - 2:15 p.m. CST

Practicing leadership can be a lonely task if you take too much of the burden on yourself. Keith Niemann and Lisa Kaslon conclude the 2010 Leadership Series with a strategy for inviting and incorporating diversity of experience, background and opinions for innovative solutions to the challenges you face. This is a NACo member only webinar.

Aligning Counties and Cooperative Extension: Working Together to Serve Our Communities
Tuesday, December 14, 2010
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM CST

Join this program to learn more about Cooperative Extension as a national system and how Extension provides talent, resources and services to counties across the nation. Meet Trudy Rice, current Ralph L. Tabor Extension Fellow, and representatives from NACo and Cooperative Extension as they discuss the benefits and opportunities of this national partnership to NACo members. This is a NACo member only webinar.

Kickstart Your Card: Improve Your Residents’ Awareness and Savings with the NACo Prescription Discount Card
Thursday, December 16, 2010
1:00 PM - 2:15 PM CST

Learn effective ways to promote your county’s NACo Prescription Discount Card Program to help residents save big on their medicine costs. Program experts from NACo, CVS Caremark, and fellow county officials will describe how the free NACo member benefit program has resulted in more than $300 million in savings nationwide. Register today and explore easy and inexpensive strategies your county can implement to make more households aware of the potential savings. The program includes all the support, resources, and media/press materials necessary so you can provide another “tough-times” solution to your residents. This is a NACo member only webinar.

For more information on these, other upcoming and previous webinars, visit the NACo Web-based Education page.

News Across the State...

Links are to outside sources and may not be available indefinitely

Volunteers help Election Day go smoothly
Beatrice Daily Sun, 11/02/10

Counties square off in food drive
North Platte Bulletin, 11/02/10

Redistricting greets newly elected Nebraska lawmakers
Sioux City Journal, 11/02/10

Six Central Nebraska counties now using ICE enhanced identification system
Grand Island Independent, 11/04/10

Nebraska expecting costly highway repairs in future
Journal Star, 11/5/10

County court gets video conferencing
Hastings Tribune, 11/08/10

Efforts under way to end printed public notices
Grand Island Independent, 11/09/10

Will Nebraska roads crumble?
Omaha World Herald, 11/09/10

Hall County officials concerned about prisoner release plan
Grand Island Independent, 11/09/10

Local truancy court praised at state hearing
Grand Island Independent, 11/09/10

County weighs pension cuts
Omaha World Herald, 11/10/10

County to save $6.4 million on jail bond
Grand Island Independent, 11/10/10

Group gathers to set juvenile justice priorities
McCook Daily Gazette, 11/10/10

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

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