

HABERSHAM COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SUBJECT: Rejoin the National Association of Counties (NACo)

DATE: March 8, 2021

(X) RECOMMENDATION
() POLICY DISCUSSION
() STATUS REPORT
() OTHER

BUDGET INFORMATION:

ANNUAL- \$773

CAPITAL-

COMMISSION ACTION REQUESTED ON: March 15, 2021

PURPOSE: To seek Commission approval to reinstate the County's membership with the National Association of Counties (NACo).

BACKGROUND / HISTORY: Habersham County has been a member of the National Association of Counties (NACo) in recent years, but discontinued membership several years ago. NACo is an important advocate on national issues that are important to counties throughout the state. We feel it is important to reengage with NACo and reinstate our membership.

FACTS AND ISSUES:

1. The County has been a member of NACo previously.
 2. NACo is an important advocacy group for counties on national issues.
 3. The estimated cost is \$773 a year for dues.
 4. As a member of NACo, the County will benefit from their training opportunities, webinars, grant and scholarship opportunities, as well as other benefits.
 5. In 2020 the Commission considered rejoining NACo but did not approve rejoining NACo.
 6. ACCG sent an email on February 26, 2021 Requesting Habersham County consider joining NACo (Attached), which is why rejoining is being presented again for consideration.
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OPTIONS:

- 1) Approve recommendation to reinstate the County's membership with NACo.
 - 2) Deny recommendation to reinstate the County's membership with NACo.
 - 3) Commission defined alternative
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RECOMMENDED SAMPLE MOTION: I move to approve reinstating Habersham County's membership with the National Association of Counties (NACo).

DEPARTMENT:

Prepared by:

Director:

ADMINISTRATIVE

COMMENTS: _____

_____ **DATE:** _____

County Manager

Archived: Monday, March 1, 2021 9:35:08 AM
From: Wills, Dave
Sent: Fri, 26 Feb 2021 16:27:42
To: Lindsay Underwood
Subject: Importance of NACo Membership
Sensitivity: Normal

[CAUTION: This message originated from outside of the Habersham County email system. -- **Please exercise caution** before clicking links, opening attachments, replying, or providing information to the sender.]

Chair [Dustin Mealor](#),

I am writing today to advocate that your county join as a member of the National Association of Counties (NACo), which has advocated tirelessly for Covid-19 relief funding for counties across America. It was in large part because of NACo's advocacy that Georgia counties received approximately \$259 million in CARES funding in 2020, even though the state allocated just 30% of available funding to local governments. But NACo's staff continued to pursue additional relief, which is now within sight.

In the [2021 Reconciliation Act Bill](#) pending in Congress, \$65.1 billion is allocated for direct federal aid for ALL counties. The counties of Georgia stand to gain nearly \$2.1 billion if the legislation becomes law! To be clear, this funding would be directly available to counties without having to pass through the intermediary of state government. The county by county estimates of funding have been calculated by NACo. In Habersham County, **your estimated funding is \$8,869,414.**

Putting the matter of NACo membership into perspective, the dues for your county would be \$773.00. Compared to the money your county received under the CARES Act and the funding pending in the 2021 Reconciliation Act, dues are a paltry sum for the immense assistance your county has already received and the funding that is pending as we all continue working through the Covid-19 pandemic.

NACo is not unlike ACCG. Just as we work hard every day to serve the counties of Georgia, NACo staff works hard every day to serve all counties of America. From Covid-19 relief, the most pressing issue of our time, to agricultural policy, transportation funding, criminal justice reform, mental health advocacy, and a host of other significant issues, NACo is leading the charge at the federal level to ensure that counties' voices are heard and heeded.

I implore you to join NACo (www.naco.org/what-we-do/naco-membership/how-join-naco) today! Peruse the noted webpage and/or contact Kim Hall at khall@naco.org or 202-942-4221 to join. I cannot think of a better investment of nominal dues fees to reap such dividends as those advocated for by the National Association of Counties.

Dave

Dave Wills
Executive Director
Association County Commissioners of Georgia
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dwills@accg.org

Cc: County Manager/Administrator, County Clerk