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May 27, 2025

The White House welcomed CCAO members and Ohio legislators to its State Leadership Conference. Commissioners and executives discussed key policy issues with White House leaders and cabinet secretaries. Attendees pictured in Vice President JD Vance's office at the Executive Office Building.

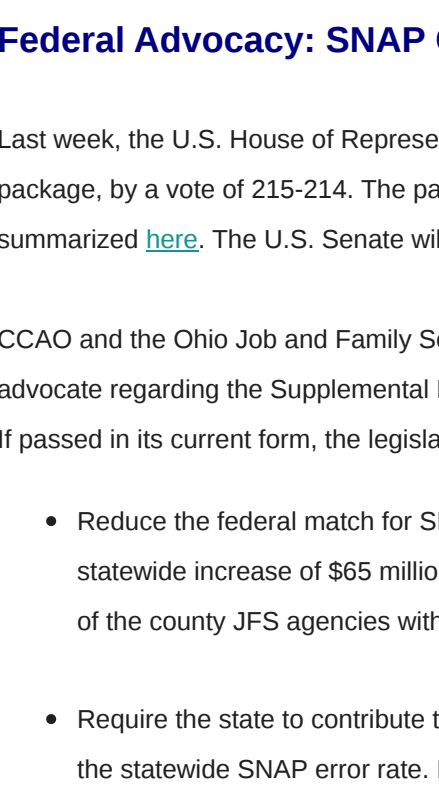
[Association and Member News](#) | [State and Federal News](#) | [Education and Grants](#) | [County News](#) | [Job Postings](#)

[Statehouse Report and Counties Current Archive](#) | [Dates to Remember](#)

ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER NEWS

[Back to Top](#)

Former Licking County Commissioner passes away



Former Licking County Commissioner Doug Smith passed away earlier this month at the age of 81.

Doug served in the US Air Force during the Vietnam War and served in the public realm for many years afterwards. He served as a member and chair of the Ohio Auctioneers Commission for 15 years, as a Harrison Township Trustee for 26 years, and as a Licking County Commissioner for 10 years.

Doug was also a member of the Ohio National Road Association, the Licking County Historical Society, Mensa International, and wrote for the Pataskala Standard.

You can read Doug's [full obituary here](#).

Federal Advocacy: SNAP Changes in Reconciliation Package

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed H.R. 1, the federal reconciliation budget package, by a vote of 215-214. The package includes several policy changes, which are summarized [here](#). The U.S. Senate will now consider the bill and likely make several changes.

CCAO and the Ohio Job and Family Services Directors Association (OJFSDA) have partnered to advocate regarding the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) provisions of the bill. If passed in its current form, the legislation would:

- Reduce the federal match for SNAP administration from 50% to 25%, resulting in a statewide increase of \$65 million, up to \$40 million of which could fall to the responsibility of the county JFS agencies without an additional revenue source.
- Require the state to contribute to the cost of SNAP benefits on a sliding scale, based on the statewide SNAP error rate. In Ohio, this could be up to \$800 million in each fiscal year.

The [National Association of Counties \(NACo\)](#) and the National Association of County Human Services Administrators (NACHSA) sent letters to House leadership prior to the vote expressing concerns over the changes. CCAO also shared information with Ohio's congressional delegation regarding the proposal's specific impact on Ohio budgets.

Our advocacy now turns toward the U.S. Senate. [CCAO sent a letter](#) to Senator Jon Husted and Senator Bernie Moreno to share our concerns about the impact of the SNAP provisions on county administration and budgets. We urge our members to share information about the local impact your county will feel if these changes become law. Below are some statewide talking points that might be useful in your conversations:

SNAP federal match reduction

- H.R. 1 would reduce the federal match for SNAP administration from 50% to 25%.
- If no other administrative factors changed, Ohio's portion of the costs would increase by \$65 million per fiscal year.
- In Ohio, the state and counties share the cost of administration. This shift could increase administrative costs by up to \$40 million per fiscal year for counties.
- County budgets are already tight, and this would put a strain on an already underfunded system.

SNAP state benefit cost share

- H.R. 1 would require states to contribute to the cost of SNAP benefits beginning in Federal Fiscal Year 2028, which is State Fiscal Year 2028. The required state share increases if a state has a higher error rate.
- Ohio would likely need to contribute at least \$640 million per state fiscal year, but depending on Ohio's error rate, this amount could rise to \$800 million per state fiscal year.
- H.R. 1 also reduces the tolerance level for SNAP errors from \$37 in 2014 dollars (\$57 in 2024) to \$0, meaning all states' error rates would likely increase. If Ohio's error rate increases, the state would pay a higher cost-share percentage.

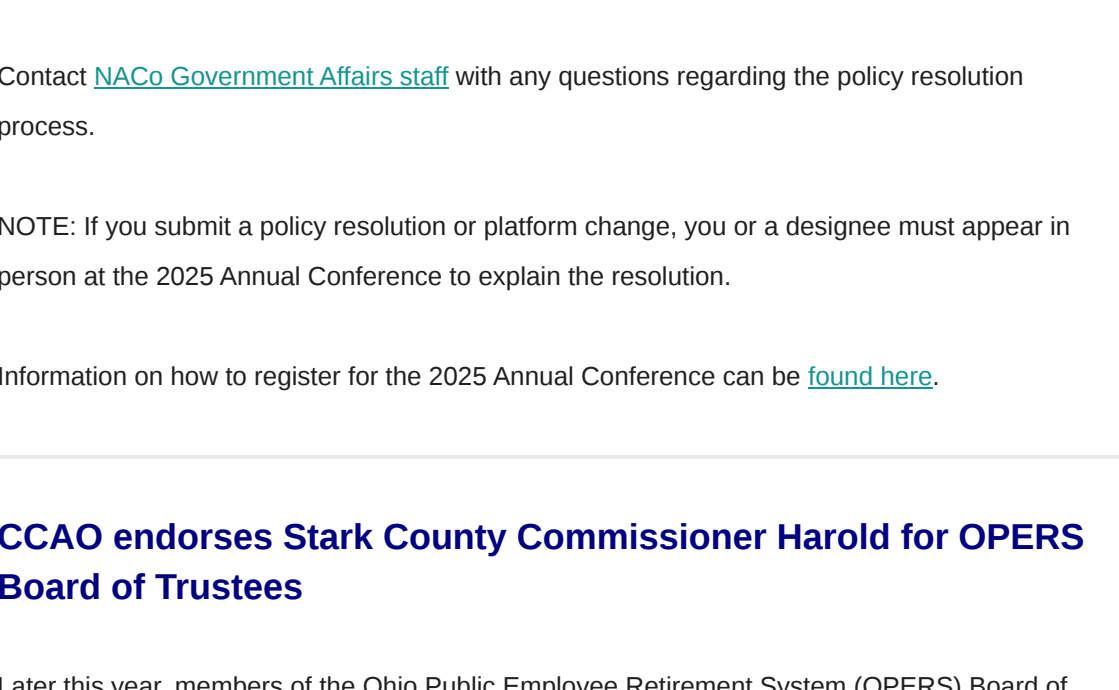
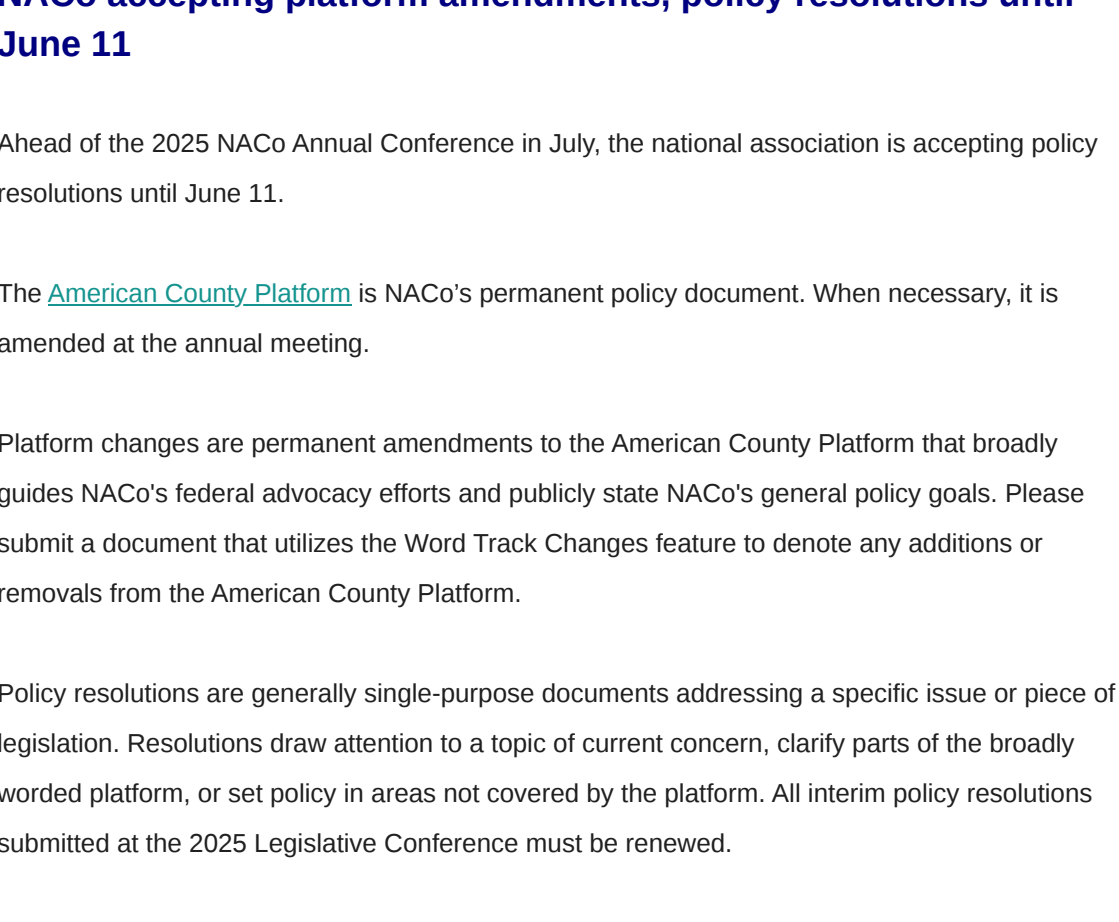
If you have questions about SNAP provisions, please contact Rachel Reedy at ready@ccao.org. If you have questions about other provisions of H.R. 1, please contact policy@ccao.org.

Two upcoming CCAO events to be held in August

In August, CCAO will be hosting the 2025 iteration of two events: the County Classic Golf Outing and the Summer Symposium.

Registration is currently open for the 2025 County Classic Golf Outing, which will take place at the Safari Golf Club in Powell on August 8. Proceeds from the event will support the CCAO Research and Education Foundation Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships for graduating high school students who plan to pursue work in the public sector. You can register for the event or donate to the fund [through the event page](#).

Later in the month, the Association will hold its 2025 Summer Symposium at the Hocking Hills Lodge and Conference Center. The event will be held from August 24 - 26, Sunday to Tuesday. Registration and room reservations will open on June 6.



A Special Thanks to our Pinnacle Partner

STATE AND FEDERAL NEWS

[Back to Top](#)

NACo accepting platform amendments, policy resolutions until June 11

Ahead of the 2025 NACo Annual Conference in July, the national association is accepting policy resolutions until June 11.

The [American County Platform](#) is NACo's permanent policy document. When necessary, it is amended at the annual meeting.

Platform changes are permanent amendments to the American County Platform that broadly guides NACo's federal advocacy efforts and publicly state NACo's general policy goals. Please submit a document that utilizes the Word Track Changes feature to denote any additions or removals from the American County Platform.

Policy resolutions are generally single-purpose documents addressing a specific issue or piece of legislation. Resolutions draw attention to a topic of current concern, clarify parts of the broadly worded platform, or set policy in areas not covered by the platform. All interim policy resolutions submitted at the 2025 Legislative Conference must be renewed.

You can submit [platform amendments and policy resolutions here](#).

Contact [NACo Government Affairs staff](#) with any questions regarding the policy resolution process.

NOTE: If you submit a policy resolution or platform change, you or a designee must appear in person at the 2025 Annual Conference to explain the resolution.

Information on how to register for the 2025 Annual Conference can be [found here](#).

CCAO endorses Stark County Commissioner Harold for OPERS Board of Trustees

Later this year, members of the Ohio Public Employee Retirement System (OPERS) Board of Trustees will be hosting an election for three seats:

- County Employees - Those working at a county job.
- Miscellaneous Employees - Those working at jobs for other governmental groups, such as townships, public libraries, health districts, and conservancy districts.
- Retirees - Those who have retired, including re-employed retirees.

At CCAO's May Board of Directors meeting, **the board formally endorsed Stark County Commissioner Alan Harold for the county employee seat**.

For a member seeking an employee seat to be on the ballot, they must obtain 500 signatures from active members of their employee group, with at least 20 signatures from 10 counties.

Completed petitions with signatures must be submitted by August 4. Voting information will be sent to qualified voters on August 26, and votes must be cast by midnight of October 3.

If you have questions concerning the OPERS Board of Trustees election, you can contact OPERS outreach staff at either 888-400-0965 or operveter outreach@opers.org.

EDUCATION AND GRANTS

[Back to Top](#)

Visit the [Grants and Funding Opportunities](#) page on the CCAO website for a detailed listing of open grant programs.

THURSDAY: NACo hosting Inside Washington webinar to discuss county impacts of federal actions

Building off CCAO's First 100 Days webinar series, their biweekly Inside Washington series provides timely updates and analysis on key developments from the White House and Congress. Each session focuses on policies and actions that directly impact counties — from federal funding and regulatory changes to intergovernmental partnerships.

NACo will be hosting the second Inside Washington webinar this Thursday at 3:30 p.m. You can register, as well as access the future schedule and recordings of past sessions [here](#).

Federal grants on transportation, domestic violence, and agriculture available

Five federal grants across different policy areas are available for applications, with the deadlines coming in late June and early July. These grants are listed below in order of when applications close.

Safe Streets and Roads Program

- Close Date: June 26
- Purpose: To support planning, infrastructure, and behavioral and operation initiatives to prevent fatalities and serious injuries on roads for all users (drivers, public transportation, cyclists, pedestrians, etc.).
- Funding available: \$580 million for implementation grants, \$402 million for planning grants.
- Eligible entities: Political subdivisions (among others).

Farmers Market Promotion Program

- Close Date: June 27
- Purpose: To support direct-to-consumer sales of farm products
- Funding available: \$11 million
- Eligible entities: Local governments (among others).

Regional Food System Partnerships Program

- Close Date: June 27
- Purpose: To support regional coalitions working to coordinate food systems.
- Funding available: \$4.5 million
- Eligible entities: Local governments (among others). Must be in partnership with another eligible entity.

Local Food Promotion Program

- Close Date: June 27
- Purpose: To support intermediaries (aggregators, distributors, processors) in local and regional food chains.
- Funding available: \$11 million
- Eligible entities: Local governments (among others).

Prevention and Response to Violence Program

- Close Date: June 30
- Purpose: To support comprehensive, community-based efforts to develop and expand prevention, intervention, treatment, and response strategies to address the needs of children and youth impacted by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or sex trafficking.
- Funding available: \$9.5 million
- Eligible entities: Local governments (among others).

COUNTY NEWS

[Back to Top](#)

Each week Counties Current highlights the happenings in our counties in the words of their local media. One story from each of the [CCAO's five districts](#) is highlighted, and on occasion other stories may be highlighted as well.

Northwest District

<https://rb.in/asagbl>

WTOU, May 23, 2025

Lucas County Commissioners announced the 27 people selected to serve on the Lucas County Child Protection Task Force, a project that was announced in March with aims to reestablish public trust in the agency and "to look at the necessary supports, partnerships, and services our families need to protect our children."

According to a press release from the commissioners office Thursday, individuals were selected for the task force based on their qualifications. This included persons with "lived experience in the system, professionals in the system, safety or criminal justice professionals, mandatory reporters, and community leaders."

They were also subject to background checks, commissioners said.

Northeast District

[Commissioners worry federal funding cuts will impact Trumbull County, Ohio residents](#)

WKBN, May 21, 2025

Trumbull County commissioners are worried about what proposed budget cuts at the federal level could mean for the county.

Commissioners plan to send a letter to Congressman Dave Joyce and Senators Jon Husted and Bernie Moreno, expressing their concerns about the proposal to eliminate several programs.

Funding that could be impacted includes the Community Development Block Grants, HOME Investment Partnerships program and Economic Development Administration grants, as well as funding from the EPA, to name a few.

The county has received upwards of \$50 million just in CDBG funding over the last 40 years.

Officials are worried about the negative effects these cuts would have on the county and what it could mean for planned public infrastructure projects and those currently under construction.

"It would be devastating to the county, to put it in short-term devastation for our county, to not be able to receive these funds," Commissioner Rick Hernandez said.

Central District

<https://rb.ov/us6c90>

Knox Pages, May 24, 2025

Knox County Transit will debut four new, fixed routes within the city on June 2. All of the routes are free to ride.

The routes run from 7 to 11 a.m. and noon to 5 p.m. Drivers take a lunch break from 11 a.m. to noon.

Transit Director Bethany Celnar told the county commissioners that summer is a good time to launch these routes because KCT has fewer trips in the summer.

"There are four different lines. They run on a half-hour loop," she explained.

"They all intersect and they will be fare free so that folks will have an easier access to get from one end of the city to another."

Southwest District

[Commissioners approve HCSO software upgrades, hear update on MAPCS ratings](#)

Highland County Press, May 24, 2025

One week after debating a proposal to convert the Highland County Sheriff's Office's software system into the cloud and discussing concerns about the costs involved, Highland County commissioners Brad Roades, Terry Britton and David Daniels agreed Wednesday, May 21 to proceed.

The county currently contracts with CentralSquare for their \$11 system. Commissioners, along with Highland County Sheriff Randy Sanders and county 911 coordinator Scott Miller, met with representatives of the company at both their May 14 and May 21 meetings.

The issue of primary focus for commissioners May 14 was the cost, including whether it was of better value than upgrading the current hardware system at the justice center and whether the sheriff's office, or the county, could cover the costs in this year's budget. That also seemed to be a driving factor in choosing to move forward, after CentralSquare agreed to delay invoicing until next year, as discussed by their sales director Randy McCloskey via teleconference Wednesday.

"Understanding where you're at with your budget year, we wanted to be able to offer having you sign for the cloud now and not have to have you pay anything until 2026, so that you can put it in your budget for 2025," McCloskey said. "This cloud is something that takes you into the future. It's not a matter of if, it's a matter of when. It's advantageous for both of us to be able to do this now, and that is part of the reasoning why we're offering what we're offering."

Daniels said the county's current contract with CentralSquare expires in March 2026, as the company presented this proposal last week due to a current promotional offer. McCloskey confirmed Daniels' statement that "payment would not be due until our current contract with you expires, and then it would be an extension into next year."

Southeast District

[Commissioners approve \\$2.19K in grant funds for recreation](#)

Herald Star, May 24, 2025

A little more than \$213,000 in recreation grants was distributed to cities, villages and townships across Jefferson County this week, just about half of what those communities had requested.

Commissioners said it wasn't easy.

"I think we had a little less money this year," Commissioner Eric Timmons said. "There were some good requests, some large requests. We had to do the best we could, try to get as much spread around this county as possible."

Commissioner Tony Morelli said the recreation requests for 2025 totaled \$482,856 — that's about \$250,000 more than available funding. He said just over \$230,000 was always, but they like to hold a little in reserve.

"It's not unusual," Morelli said. "The five years I've been here you always get bigger asks than what you can give out, but a lot of good things for the residents come out of it... pickleball courts, mowers, baseball fields, baseball equipment. It's one of the things I like to do the most, recreation (grants) — I wish we had some more (to give out)."

DATES TO REMEMBER

Please view the [CCAO Calendar](#) for a comprehensive list of events to note.

[Back to Top](#)

MAY 30

Montgomery County Regional Legislative Briefing

JUNE 6

Central District Meeting

Registration for the 2025 CCAO Summer Symposium Opens

JUNE 19

Juneteenth - Holiday

JUNE 27

CEBCO Board of Directors Meeting

AUGUST 24 - 26

2025 CCAO Summer Symposium