



MAC prepares for the 2018 legislative session

MAC's Annual Conference

The 46th Annual Conference at Tan-Tar-A was a success, marking another year with a high attendance and excellent participation from MAC members. There was a great group of speakers, and the presentations were informative and rousing. Once again, we had strong support from our sponsors and exhibitors, which helped defray the costs of the conference. Due to the generosity of our platinum, gold, silver, and bronze sponsors, we were able to keep MAC registration fees at a very reasonable rate. Please extend your appreciation to them when you have a chance! Company names are posted on our website at www.mocounties.com.

Meet your new Executive Committee

At conference, the following people were elected to serve as executive officers for the coming year:

- President and Dallas County Treasurer Becky Schofield
- President-Elect and Cape Girardeau County Presiding Commissioner Clint Tracy
- 2nd Vice President and Andrew County Collector Phil Rogers
- 3rd Vice President and Atchison County Clerk Susette Taylor
- Treasurer and Audrain County Presiding Commissioner Steve Hobbs
- Past President and Warren County Assessor Wendy Nordwald

This dedicated group will lead MAC, along with the board of directors, through 2018.

MAC legislative services for 2018

With the Missouri General Assembly convening on Jan. 3, the MAC staff will utilize a number of legislative tools to keep you informed of what is going on in Jefferson City. Weekly bulletins (including bill numbers, brief summaries and dates of importance) will be sent out to help you track county legislation. Urgent messages will be sent out by broadcast fax and/or email. Our website, www.mocounties.com, is also a great tool for tracking legislation and keeping informed of governmental changes. The website is linked to the state government website and allows you to easily access the Missouri Senate and House websites.

2018 Missouri county government platform

The membership adopted the following five resolutions during the annual business meeting on Monday, Nov. 20. *(These resolutions are in no particular order and will be given the same attention.)*

Upgrade Missouri's 911 wireless emergency services: Since Missouri is the only state in the nation without a state wireless recovery fee, the system is behind and outdated. MAC will support legislation to design a complete and detailed plan for upgrading the system. The life of 911 service equipment is seven years, many of which are already outdated. Without the recovery fee, Missouri will never attain statewide enhanced 911 services.

Support fully funding state mandates on county government: MAC respectfully requests that the Missouri General Assembly and the governor include in the state's Fiscal Year 2018 budget: (1) an increase in the appropriation for prisoner per diem reimbursement authorized under Sec. 221.105 RSMo.; (2) an appropriation to fully fund state assessment maintenance reimbursements; (3) an appropriation to fully fund any new obligations placed on the election officials of this state including state payment of a proportional share of primary and general election costs; (4) both an appropriation to fully fund the reimbursement for the detention and care of neglected and/or delinquent juveniles and the salaries of

juvenile court personnel in single-county circuits; (5) an appropriation that would relieve counties of the cost of providing office space and certain utility expenses for the various state public defenders' offices; (6) an appropriation that would relieve counties from salary and retirement contribution increases for county prosecuting attorneys; and (7) also request that the General Assembly continue to refrain from implementing the requirements of SB 711 relating to property tax enacted in 2008 until full state funding for the same is authorized.

Additionally, recognizing the difficult budgetary constraints that the state of Missouri is experiencing and the dim prospects for additional state appropriations for these programs and, as a partner with the state in the delivery of these services, MAC requests the governor and the Missouri General Assembly hold county governments harmless from any further state budget cuts in these areas.

Support a transportation funding package that will address the state's dire infrastructure needs: Missouri's agricultural industry, a strong economy factor for the state, heavily relies on the state's roads and bridges to transport livestock and crops. However, there is no new state funding besides the current system, and federal funding is expected to diminish soon. MAC will respectfully request the General Assembly support a new funding package that will address Missouri's dire infrastructure needs without the conveyance of any state-owned lettered highway or route to county government.

Oppose pre-emption of local authority: Missouri's county officials have expressed their opposition to the erosion of local authority, allowing counties greater flexibility to deal with local issues and problems. County officials believe in protecting the citizens they represent from large scale developments that infringe on their lives and oppose the weakening or repeal of Section 229.100 RSMo., which requires county commission approval of utility easements through, across or under public roads or highways in any county. MAC respectfully opposes the pre-emption of local authority, but does support the repeal of Missouri's prevailing-wage law.

Oppose legislation that erodes the local tax base and calls on the General Assembly to address Missouri's antiquated tax structure: In response to annual increases for the cost of county services, MAC will be calling upon the General Assembly to limit legislation that would have a negative budgetary effect on local governments without guaranteed replacement revenue. Additionally, MAC will request the General Assembly to address Missouri's antiquated tax code, especially as it relates to sales tax, so that both state and local governments are well-positioned in the future to meet the increasing service needs of their citizens. Local governments are losing billions of dollars because of the lack of enforcement for "use" tax collections for online, telephone and catalog sales, which also puts local businesses at a competitive disadvantage.

Consider joining MAC's Prepaid Legal Services Program

Take advantage of the Prepaid Legal Services Program managed by Travis Elliott, the association's general counsel and a partner with Ellis, Ellis, Hammons & Johnson PC. Participating counties pay an annual fee, based on their assessed valuations. Counties interested in the program should contact MAC Finance and Operations Manager Cindy Wells at 573-634-2120 for an application form.

MAC Trust Online University

The MAC Trust Online University will start its fourth year in 2018. Hundreds of online courses are available at no cost to MAC Trust Members. For more information, please contact MAC Trust Risk Manager Sean McGonigle at 573-634-2120 or SMcGonigle@mocounties.com.

Your state (MAC) and national (NACo) membership service fees are due

For budgeting purposes, you have already received the formula for estimating your member service fees for 2018 and you may compute the calculation, as long as you obtain the exact figure that your county assessor submitted to the State Tax Commission for your 2017 assessed valuation.

MAC will also do the calculations as soon as we receive the current assessed valuations from the Tax Commission the first week in January. Immediately after receiving the figures, we will send out the invoices for MAC member service fees. Please wait for your invoice before submitting your payment.

Current members of NACo should have received a dues invoice from NACo in October. If you have not already paid your NACo dues, please mail your check directly to NACo at P.O. Box 79007, Baltimore, MD 21279-0007. Non-member counties wishing to join NACo may call 202-942-4221 to find out the amount for 2018 dues.

On behalf of the MAC Board of Directors and staff ... Have a happy new year!