Perspectives on Critical Water Resource Issues

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What are Counties?
County Responsibilities

- Maintain public records
- Public safety infrastructure
- Law enforcement, jails and courthouses
- Parks
- Solid Waste
- Water and Sewage
Why Counties Matter

- Invest over $482 billion annually & employ more than three million people
- Own 45 percent of America’s road miles
- Invest $70 billion for community health & hospitals annually
- Spend $70 billion in justice & public safety services
- Invest almost $26 billion for economic development efforts
- Fund & oversee 144,000 polling places every two years
Congress by the Numbers

31 262 74
Congress by the Numbers

114th U.S. Congress

Republicans: 54
Democrats: 44
Independents: 2
Vacant: 1

House: 246 Republicans, 188 Democrats
DAY CONGRESS IS SWORN IN.

DAYS CONGRESS IS SWORN AT
Strangest Presidential Vetos

“To provide for the punishment of persons transporting stolen animals in interstate commerce.”
Vetoed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1939

“To safeguard homing pigeons.”
Vetoed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1940

“For the repeal of the daylight-savings law.”
Vetoed by Woodrow Wilson, 1919

“To prohibit the purchase of beer on credit by retailers in the District of Columbia.”
Vetoed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1939

“To improve the navigation of the Wabash River.”
Vetoed by Andrew Jackson, 1834

“For the prevention of the introduction and spread of contagious and infectious diseases into the United States.”
Vetoed by Grover Cleveland, 1897

“Authorizing the sale of burnt timber on public lands.”
Vetoed by William H. Taft, 1912

“To authorize the installation of parking meters on the streets of the District of Columbia.”
Vetoed by Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1939

“To prevent the useless slaughter of buffaloes within the territories of the United States.”
Vetoed by Ulysses S. Grant, 1874
Is It Just Gridlock in DC?
Triple Threat Facing Congress

✓ Finalize a **long-term surface transportation bill** and address the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund

✓ Finish the **FY 2016 appropriations process**

✓ Negotiate a **budget deal** including debt-ceiling plan and federal spending caps/sequestration
Waters of the U.S.
Waters Resources Development Act

Army Corps of Engineers Vegetation Management Policy clarifications

Participation of state and local governments in decision-making processes

Levee safety & invasive species

Full funding for the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF)
Working Together

- Engage in all phases of NACo policy making
- Make it personal… put our policies into context of your county’s roles, capacity and mandates
- Match facts and data with policies
- Offer solutions
- Educate other local and state government officials
Thank you!

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