

MACo Fall Symposium

October 23, 2025 – Crowne Plaza Annapolis

Counties Navigating Federal Crosscurrents

(Registration Instructions on Page 3)

Counties sit at the crossroads of federal policy and local impact. When Washington makes decisions on funding, regulations, or enforcement, those choices don't stay in DC — they ripple directly through county budgets, services, and communities. From Medicaid and healthcare to disaster relief, housing, and energy, states and county governments often carry the load of federal shifts while keeping residents safe and services stable.

The 2025 Fall Symposium will bring together experts and local leaders to examine the biggest federal-local flashpoints of the moment. Sessions will explore how federal changes in funding, emergency management, climate and energy, and support for marginalized communities shape county decision-making on the ground. Through candid discussion and practical insights, participants will better understand how to advocate for county priorities and build stronger partnerships across all levels of government.

9:30 am – 9:45 am **Check-in and Coffee – Coffee and Beverages**

9:45 am – 10:00 am **Welcome and Introductions**

10:00 am – 11:00 am **Emergency Management in Transition: Counties on the Front Line**

Counties are always first in and last out when disaster strikes, but federal support for emergency management is shifting. From FEMA reimbursements to disaster relief funding, counties face new uncertainties that complicate planning, response, and recovery. This session will take a close look at how changes at the federal level affect local emergency operations, what counties need to know about navigating federal rules and reimbursements, and how local leaders can position themselves to secure resources when it matters most. Panelists will share lessons learned and discuss how counties can push for a stronger federal-local partnership to keep communities safe and resilient.

Speakers:

- Preeti Emrick, Director, Anne Arundel County Office of Emergency Management
- Ben Yelin, Director for Public Policy & External Affairs, University of Maryland Center for Health and Homeland Security
- Chaz Eby, Deputy Secretary, MD Department of Emergency Management (MDEM)

11:00 am – 11:15am **Break**

11:15 am – 12:15 pm **Budget Battles in Washington, Fallout in Maryland**

Federal budget and policy decisions don't just happen in Washington, their impact lands squarely on county budgets and services. From changes to the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction, to rising Medicaid and healthcare obligations, to shifts in federal education and public safety support, counties are left making tough choices when federal commitments shrink or change. This session will highlight how these federal shifts directly affect county operations, examine real impacts across Maryland, and explore strategies for local leaders to advocate for stronger federal-county partnerships that keep essential services funded and sustainable.

Speaker: Robert Rehrmann, Director, Bureau of Revenue Estimates, Office of the Maryland Comptroller (invited)

12:15 pm – 1:00 pm	Working Lunch – Roundtable Discussions
1:00 pm – 1:15 pm	Break
1:15 pm – 2:15pm	<p><i>Climate, Energy, and the Feds: Local Impacts of National Policy</i></p> <p>Federal climate and energy policies are reshaping how counties plan, build, and regulate. From clean energy incentives and funding streams to new rules on emissions, permitting, and grid projects, counties must balance federal direction with their own land-use authority, community priorities, and State climate goals. At the same time, federal preemption can limit local decision-making, even as counties are expected to lead on siting renewable energy projects. This session will look at where federal rules align with or complicate Maryland’s state and local climate commitments, and how counties can keep their voices at the table while working toward a sustainable energy future.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jason Stanek, Executive Director of Governmental Services, PJM Interconnection• Mark Ritacco, Chief Govt Affairs Officer, National Association of Counties (NACo)• Ian Ullman, Senior Energy Advisor, MD Energy Administration• Ted Davis, Deputy General Counsel, Public Service Commission
2:15 pm – 3:00 pm	<p><i>Federal Policy and Marginalized Communities: County Roles and Responsibilities</i></p> <p>Federal decisions on immigration, housing, healthcare, and civil rights frequently land hardest on marginalized and minority communities; and by extension, on the counties that serve them directly. Policy shifts in Washington can change funding streams, alter enforcement priorities, or introduce new compliance requirements with little warning, leaving counties to bridge the gap between federal intent and community impact. Counties are often on the front line of this work, delivering services like housing assistance, public health programs, workforce development, and legal protections. Missteps or misunderstandings carry serious consequences — for residents, for community trust, and for county liability.</p> <p>This session will examine how counties in Maryland are navigating the intersection of federal policy and local service delivery, with a focus on ensuring equity, protecting vulnerable populations, and maintaining compliance with rapidly evolving federal rules. Panelists will share perspectives from community advocates and county officials on what’s working, where the gaps are, and what counties should be watching next.</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CASA• National Association of Counties (NACo) (invited)
3:00 pm	Adjournment

Please see registration instructions on next page.

REGISTRATION DETAILS & INSTRUCTIONS:

Registration Fee: \$0 per person, includes lunch – MACo Members Only

(MACo Members = County Executives, County Commissioners, County Council Members and employees of Maryland's 24 county jurisdictions, including Baltimore City)

If seats remain available, the event will open to NonMembers. NonMembers should join the waitlist by contacting kfrock@mdcounties.org.

Registration Deadline: October 21, 2025

Registration Process:

We are excited to use our new registration system through Engagifii for your event this year! Registration link here:

www.mdcounties.org/Sym25Registration

A few notes about the new registration system:

- You will need to activate your account to access the registration form – if you don't see an email from Engagifii or Virginia White inviting you to access your account, please email sofiapa@mdcounties.org so she can send you your activation link.
- You will need to log in to access the registration form – after you've activated your account and logged in, you can go to Events, then click the Fall Symposium "Register" button; or [click the registration link](#)
- Step 1 asks you to review event info
- Step 2 asks you to choose participants – select yourself and/or any colleagues joining you
- Step 3 asks you to update your profile info
- Step 4 asks for your registration option – there is only 1
 - if you selected multiple people, you will need to select registration options for each person
- Step 5 asks for your dietary needs
 - If you selected multiple people, you will need to click on each person's name to access the dietary needs questions for each person
- Step 6 asks you to review and submit your registration
 - If you selected multiple people, you will need to click on each person's name to review
- Step 7 asks for your payment info – *even though this is a free event, the following info must be filled in:*
 - under the "Who should be billed" question, type your organization name, then click on Organization, then click on your organization
- Step 8 shows your registered status