



NEWS RELEASE

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Weber County earns national achievement award for Online Property Valuation Appeal System

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Weber County’s new system that allows property owners to file property value appeals online has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that enhance services for residents.

NACo recognized Weber County’s “Online Property Valuation Appeal System” in the Information Technology category. This new approach, the first of its kind in Utah, allows property owners to file an appeal of their assessed property value electronically. The system was spearheaded by Ricky Hatch, the Weber County Clerk/Auditor, and was developed by the Weber County Information Technology department.

“We did not heavily promote the new system when it launched,” said Hatch, “but we still had approximately 13% of appeals filed online in the first year, with significant growth anticipated in future years. We have had positive feedback from people who have used the system and are excited about the benefits we’re already seeing.”

Those benefits include an immediate confirmation to a property owner that their application was received. Applications filed online must include supporting documents, reducing the number of incomplete applications. Processing time for online applications is half of that for paper copies, saving over 17 hours of manual data entry and scanning in the first year alone. In addition, the county reduced data entry errors and eliminated the printing of approximately 8,000 pages.

“This is the latest in many enhancements that Weber County has been working on, and there are several more in the works,” said Hatch. “Countywide, all of the offices are working together to make our world-class citizen services even better.”

NACo President Riki Hokama, council member, Maui County, Hawaii, said, “The National Association of Counties applauds county governments that are embracing innovative and more effective ways to serve their constituents. The Achievement Awards recognize counties’ outstanding efforts to strengthen services and deliver results for residents across the country.”

Nationally, awards are given in 21 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice, county

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administration, environmental protection, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.

The awards will be presented at NACo's 2015 Annual Conference and Exposition July 10–13 in Mecklenburg County, N.C.

Started in 1970, NACo's annual Achievement Award Program is designed to recognize innovative county government programs. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America's 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public's understanding of county government and exercise exemplary leadership in public service. Learn more at www.naco.org

