



2020 Policy Resolutions

December 18, 2020

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Resolution Urging the General Assembly and Governor to Honor State-Shared Partnership Revenue

WHEREAS, counties provide fundamental and important services to their residents including, but not limited to, justice and public safety services, transportation infrastructure, community health services, human services, parks and recreation opportunities and election administration; and

WHEREAS, the state of Illinois has a long-standing tradition of helping to support these local services through the collection and distribution of tax revenues on behalf of counties; and

WHEREAS, counties rely on these shared revenues in order to invest in services that residents cannot, nor should not, do without; and

WHEREAS, these shared revenues are the result of a good faith historical partnership between the state and county governments in Illinois.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACO) urges the General Assembly and the Governor to take any necessary action to protect and preserve Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) revenue, Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT) revenue, local sales tax revenue, Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) revenue and any other state-collected government revenues that enable counties to provide appropriate levels of service to their residents.

Adopted Friday, December 18, 2020

Deborah Sims, President
Illinois State Association of Counties



Resolution in Support of Expanding the Ability of Counties to Pursue and Perfect Self-Governance

WHEREAS, the framers of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 recognized that a fundamental challenge facing local governments was a lack of authority to craft local solutions for local problems; and

WHEREAS, the framers also believed local government, being closer to the citizens, would be more responsive to the needs of residents and should therefore be strengthened to free the General Assembly from having to consider a host of bills and issues for which the General Assembly had less knowledge than local officials; and

WHEREAS, the mechanism chosen by the framers and endorsed by voters for strengthening local government was the introduction of home rule authority within Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970; and

WHEREAS, home rule authority is available to many cities, villages and towns but was only conferred to one Illinois county; and

WHEREAS, the problems confronting Illinois counties have grown significantly since the adoption of the Constitution of 1970; and

WHEREAS, democratically-elected county boards and officials, acting on behalf of their residents, should have access to the tools necessary to address the unique challenges and needs that confront their counties.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo), urges the General Assembly and Governor to support legislation and policies that have the effect of providing the 101 Illinois counties without home rule authority with the tools and opportunities available to a county operating under home rule.

Adopted Friday, December 18, 2020

Deborah Sims, President
Illinois State Association of Counties



Resolution Urging the General Assembly and Governor to Repeal the Administrative Fee on Local Sales Tax Collections

WHEREAS, counties are responsible for funding local programs and services for their residents; and

WHEREAS, funding these programs and services requires sufficient revenues; and

WHEREAS, counties have the option of imposing a local sales tax; and

WHEREAS, the state collects these locally-imposed sales taxes on behalf of counties; and

WHEREAS, the State Fiscal Year 2021 budget imposed a 1.5% administrative fee on locally-imposed sales taxes collected by the state, with the money being transferred to the Tax Compliance and Administration Fund; and

WHEREAS, the administrative fee represents a burdensome and objectionable diversion of local tax revenues raised by counties that adopted the tax by vote of the corporate authorities and/or following the approval of local voters.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Association of Counties urges the General Assembly and the Governor to repeal the 1.5% administrative fee on locally-imposed sales taxes and restore these critical funds to county governments for the direct funding of programs and services for their residents.

Adopted Friday, December 18, 2020

Deborah Sims, President
Illinois State Association of Counties



Resolution Urging the General Assembly and Governor to Enact Automatic Appropriation Authority for All State-Collected Local Funds

WHEREAS, the state of Illinois partners with local governments by collecting several essential revenue sources and remitting the funds to local governments; and

WHEREAS, these critical revenue sources include the Local Government Distribution Fund, Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax, Sales Tax, Motor Fuel Tax (MFT), video and casino gaming revenue, Use Tax and 9-1-1 revenues; and

WHEREAS, of these taxes collected and remitted to local governments, MFT, video and casino gaming revenues, the Use Tax and 9-1-1 revenues require annual appropriation authority prior to being distributed to local governments; and

WHEREAS, the inability of the state to always authorize the release of these funds in a timely manner endangers local budgets and services to residents, including basic services such as public safety, road maintenance and repair and other basic infrastructure services upon which residents rely.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Association of Counties urges the General Assembly and the Governor to support legislation that creates automatic appropriation authority for MFT revenues, video and casino gaming revenues, Use Tax revenues and 9-1-1 revenues each year.

Adopted Friday, December 18, 2020

Deborah Sims, President
Illinois State Association of Counties



Resolution Urging the General Assembly and Governor to Establish Transportation Funding Fairness

WHEREAS, the General Assembly and the Governor enacted a \$45.6 billion infrastructure package in 2019; and

WHEREAS, much of this revenue will fund critical transportation infrastructure projects that will improve the safety and efficiency of Illinois' network of roads and bridges; and

WHEREAS, one of the funding sources for the investment in Illinois' transportation network is an increase in the state's Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) from 0.19 cents per gallon to 0.38 cents per gallon; and

WHEREAS, the non-home rule counties of DuPage, Kane, Lake, McHenry and Will have special statutory authority to impose a county MFT not to exceed eight cents per gallon following passage of an ordinance or resolution by the county board; and

WHEREAS, the other 96 non-home rule counties do not have statutory authority to raise additional revenue locally through the MFT to fund their critical transportation needs; and

WHEREAS, this inequity in funding opportunities creates a public policy that suggests the transportation infrastructure needs of some counties are less important than the transportation infrastructure needs of other counties.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) urges the General Assembly and the Governor to correct this transportation funding inequity by enacting legislation permitting all non-home rule counties to impose a county MFT not to exceed eight cents per gallon following passage of an ordinance or resolution by the county board.

Adopted Friday, December 18, 2020

Deborah Sims, President
Illinois State Association of Counties



Resolution Urging the Illinois Congressional Delegation to Support an Extension of Federal Medicaid Payments to Detainees in County Jails Who Are Awaiting Trial

WHEREAS, counties nationwide invest \$176 billion annually in community health systems and justice and public safety services, including the entire cost of medical care for all arrested and detained individuals; and

WHEREAS, current federal law prohibits the use of federal funds and services, such as Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), for health care provided to inmates of a public institution; and

WHEREAS, public institutions include local jails operated by counties; and

WHEREAS, the federal fund prohibition has cut off federal health benefits to local jail inmates who are presumed innocent while awaiting trial; and

WHEREAS, the cost to provide inmates in county jails with health care leaves counties responsible for the full cost of inmates' health care rather than the traditional federal, state and local partnership for safety-net services; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid inmate exclusion policy has resulted in making county jails some of the largest behavioral health care funders and providers in our communities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACO) urges the Illinois Congressional Delegation and United States Congress to support federal legislation to require the federal Medicaid Program to contribute the federal Medicaid match for health and mental health care that is provided while a detainee is incarcerated and awaiting trial.

Adopted Friday, December 18, 2020

Deborah Sims, President
Illinois State Association of Counties



Resolution Urging the Illinois Congressional Delegation to Support Rural Broadband Deployment

WHEREAS, access to affordable high-speed internet has been widely recognized as essential to an individual's ability to compete in today's economy; and

WHEREAS, connectivity issues continue to plague counties across the United States, including Illinois; and

WHEREAS, according to the Federal Communication Commission (FCC), approximately 19 million Americans representing 6 percent of the population lack access to even basic broadband services; and

WHEREAS, connectivity is imperative for economic competitiveness in the 21st century and affects county residents' ability to engage in e-commerce and the gig economy, distance learning and tele-health facilities; and

WHEREAS, counties lacking access to even basic broadband infrastructure are at a competitive disadvantage, exacerbating the economic divide between rural and urban areas.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) urges the Illinois Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to work with local officials when drafting legislation that would encourage the use of state or county owned land, including public rights-of-way, to build new wireless infrastructure including fifth (5G) wireless networks, to expand service to rural areas, or to promote digital equity. ISACo supports universal access to reliable wireline and wireless high-speed broadband service and believes expansion of the service to be crucial for education, employment and economic development.

Adopted Friday, December 18, 2020

Deborah Sims, President
Illinois State Association of Counties



Resolution Urging the Illinois Congressional Delegation to Preserve Local Zoning Authority in Deployment of Next Generation Telecommunications

WHEREAS, on September 26, 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) approved a new rule on 5G wireless network deployment that significantly restricts local authority; and

WHEREAS, the FCC action limits fees and constrains the time period to 60 days by which local governments must evaluate applications from wireless companies to attach 5G small cells to existing structures and 90 days to review applications for equipment on entirely new structures; and

WHEREAS, by narrowing the window for evaluating 5G deployment applications, the FCC rule would prevent local governments from properly assessing and mitigating the impact broadcasting facilities may have on the public health, safety and welfare of the community; and

WHEREAS, 5G's reliance on a large network of small cell sites will place a considerable administrative strain on local governments' ability to process the exponential increase in applications for small cells from service providers; and

WHEREAS, legislation known as the STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act has been introduced in Congress to essentially codify the FCC rule and place limits on the authority of local governments to regulate the deployment of wireless communications infrastructure within county jurisdictions.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACO) urges the Illinois Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to oppose efforts to abridge local authority over small cell regulation and deployment via legislation or administrative rules.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the General Assembly and Governor support counties when considering the repeal or extension of the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act and protect local authority to manage public rights-of-way and telecommunications infrastructure on behalf of county residents.

Adopted Friday, December 18, 2020

Deborah Sims, President
Illinois State Association of Counties



Resolution Urging the Illinois Congressional Delegation to Support County Priorities in Any New Federal Infrastructure Package or Surface Transportation Reauthorization

WHEREAS, counties play a critical role in the nation's transportation system, owning 45 percent of all public roads and buildings and maintaining 38 percent of the National Bridge Inventory; and

WHEREAS, counties operate 78 percent of all public transit agencies and 34 percent of public airports that connect residents, communities and business with the global economy; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that federal policy makers recognize counties as major owners of infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, reliable federal investments through a new, long-term infrastructure package or surface transportation authorization, developed in consultation with federal, state and local partners, would allow counties to pursue much-needed infrastructure improvements and transformative surface transportation projects.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACO) urges the Illinois Congressional Delegation and the United States Congress to work in a bi-partisan manner within a strong federal-state-local partnership framework to update the nation's infrastructure based upon reliable funding mechanisms and local flexibility to use additional financing tools. Be it further resolved that any new federal infrastructure package include a robust rural infrastructure component and a sufficient funding match.

Adopted Friday, December 18, 2020

Deborah Sims, President
Illinois State Association of Counties



Resolution Urging the President and Congress to Approve Additional COVID-19 Funding for Local Governments

WHEREAS, local governments are on the frontlines of the emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, counties across the country are responsible for operating and supporting over 1,900 local public health departments and 1,000 public hospitals and critical access clinics; and

WHEREAS, counties are responsible for additional services and duties in support of emergency operations centers, public safety, seniors and veterans; and

WHEREAS, the county emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in growing budgetary and economic challenges both nationally and in Illinois.

WHEREAS, research conducted by the National Association of Counties (NACo) found that counties nationwide can expect a combined \$144 billion loss from their budgets through FY2020. NACo also found that an additional \$54 billion in property tax revenue is at risk in states where counties have not yet collected any or all property taxes. These budgetary problems present an ever greater threat for small counties who, in total, may see a 24 percent reduction in overall budgets.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACO) joins NACo in urging the President and Congress to support a new round of direct, flexible financial funding for local governments of all sizes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that local governments be able to use these funds to offset lost revenues caused by the economic shutdown imposed to curtail the spread of the pandemic.

Adopted Friday, December 18, 2020

Deborah Sims, President
Illinois State Association of Counties



Resolution Congratulating Will County Board Member Denise Winfrey Upon Her Election as NACo Second Vice President

WHEREAS, Will County Board Member Denise Winfrey has been a resident of Will County, Illinois, since childhood; and

WHEREAS, in 2018, Denise Winfrey was elected as the first African American woman to serve as the Will County Board Speaker and in 2020 was selected by her peers to become the first African American woman to serve as Will County Executive; and

WHEREAS, Denise Winfrey has served on the Will County Board since 2009; and

WHEREAS, while a member of the Will County Board, Denise Winfrey chaired a significant county building campaign that includes a new courthouse, a county health department, a public safety complex, emergency management garage and an animal control facility; and

WHEREAS, Denise Winfrey is a founding Board member of the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo); and

WHEREAS, Denise Winfrey has been active within the National Association of Counties (NACo) since 2009; and

WHEREAS, Denise Winfrey has served in multiple leadership roles during that time, including service on the NACo Board of Directors, as NACo Ambassador, Vice Chair of Community, Economic and Workforce Development and a member of the Healthy Counties Advisory Committee, among other roles; and

WHEREAS, Denise Winfrey was elected to the role of NACo Second Vice President on July 20, 2020, on a platform of inclusion and making certain everyone has a seat at the table of influence within NACo; and

WHEREAS, Denise Winfrey will become NACo President in 2022 where she will continue to lend her leadership talents and vision to the overall progress and betterment of NACo.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Association of Counties congratulates Will County Board Member Denise Winfrey on her dedication to public service, her fellow county officials and her election as NACo Second Vice President.

Adopted Friday, December 18, 2020

Deborah Sims, President
Illinois State Association of Counties



Resolution Congratulating Jim Healy on His Retirement from the DuPage County Board

WHEREAS, Jim Healy served as a member of the DuPage County Board from 1998 to 2020; and

WHEREAS, prior to his county board service, Jim Healy served as a Des Plaines Village Trustee from 1987 to 1993 and also served on the Aurora Economic Development Committee, the Naperville Development Partnership Board of Directors, the DuPage County Forest Preserve District and the Northeast Illinois Planning Commission; and

WHEREAS, Jim Healy dedicated his time and talents to the National Association of Counties (NACo) where he served on the Board of Directors and as chairman of the following committees: Transportation Steering Committee, Highway Subcommittee, Rail Subcommittee, Ports Subcommittee, Aviation Subcommittee and Federal Transportation Reauthorization Committee; and

WHEREAS, Jim Healy served on NACo's Defined Benefit Committee, Membership Committee, Large Urban County Caucus, Resilient Counties Advisory Board and as NACo's representative to the National Association of Regional Councils; and

WHEREAS, along with other county officials, Jim Healy shared and pursued a vision to create an association that would bring all 102 Illinois counties together to work on common issues in a spirit of cooperation and harmony; and

WHEREAS, the groundwork for this vision was laid in 2018 with the creation of the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACO); and

WHEREAS, from 2018 until his retirement in 2020, Jim Healy served on the ISACO Board of Directors as the Association's first Vice President and as Chair of the Legislative Committee where he oversaw the development of ISACO's first legislative agenda; and

WHEREAS, despite his retirement from county board service in 2020, Jim Healy will continue to leverage his experience and boundless enthusiasm to contribute to the betterment of Illinois

county government through ISACo and counties generally through NACo.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Illinois State Association of Counties congratulates Jim Healy on his retirement from the DuPage County Board following a long tenure of honorable and distinguished service on behalf of the residents of DuPage County, counties throughout Illinois and counties beyond our state's borders.

Adopted Friday, December 18, 2020

Deborah Sims, President
Illinois State Association of Counties