

2022 »

ILLINOIS COUNTY ACTION PROGRAM

(ICAP)



Counties COUNT!

January 6, 2022

www.isacoil.org
217-679-3368

About ISACo

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) is a statewide association whose mission is to empower county officials to provide excellent service to their residents. ISACo member counties are comprised of forward-thinking public servants who recognize that the challenges confronting county governments require new and innovative ideas, collaborative solutions and collective advocacy at the state and federal levels of government.

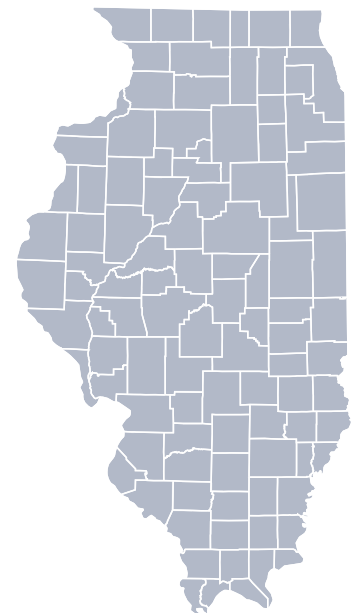
ISACo provides education and training opportunities, peer-to-peer networking, shared resources and robust representation before policymakers at various levels of government. ISACo creates and connects county officials to these opportunities and successfully equips them to make counties ideal places to live, work and play.

ISACo is organized exclusively for nonprofit purposes and will operate at all times in the manner contemplated by section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code or by such other provisions of the Code that will assist ISACo to accomplish its non-profit purposes. ISACo is committed to the highest standard of ethical conduct and transparency in the pursuit of our mission.



Core Tenents

- ▶ Preserve and Expand Local Control
- ▶ Protect County Revenue Sources
- ▶ Oppose Unfunded Mandates
- ▶ Promote Ethical and Responsive Governance



Counties COUNT!

The following legislative proposals have been approved for introduction and pursuit in 2022 by the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) Board of Directors. The document will be updated to reflect bill numbers and sponsors when the information becomes available.

ELECTION OF COUNTY BOARD CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON

PROBLEM

In counties where the position of chairperson and vice chairperson are elected by county board members and not voters, each position is elected by a majority or plurality of those present at the time of the vote. If there is a vacancy in the office of county board chairperson, the vice-chairperson is permitted to serve as chairperson for the duration of the departed chairperson's two-year term.

PROPOSAL

Require the chairperson and vice-chairperson to be elected by a majority of those elected to the board instead of among those present at the meeting during which the election is held. Permit the vice-chairperson to fill a vacancy left by a departed chairperson only until a new chairperson is elected and not automatically for the remainder of a two-year term.

COLLECTING UNPAID TAXES RESULTING FROM ERRONEOUS HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS

PROBLEM

The Illinois Revenue Code creates homestead exemptions and establishes a mechanism for erroneously granted homestead exemptions to be recouped by counties for distribution to the various taxing bodies within the counties. Cook County has a stronger enforcement mechanism than the other 101 counties as a result of being able to look at prior years' property tax payments to determine if an erroneous homestead exemption led to underpayments. These unpaid taxes are collected and interest payments are permissible.

PROPOSAL

Authorize all counties to review the past 3 years of property taxes paid by a taxpayer when the taxpayer is found to have improperly claimed a homestead exemption. Unpaid taxes would be collected and the county may impose interest on the amount of the unpaid taxes.

EXPAND ELIGIBLE USE FOR STATE FUNDING OF BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN WAYS

PROBLEM

A new law enacted in 2021 (P.A. 102-0660) provides that, in or within one mile of a municipality with a population of over 1,000 people, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) shall establish and solely fund bicycle and pedestrian ways in conjunction with the construction, reconstruction or other change of any State transportation facility. The new law does not allow for some unincorporated areas within counties to benefit from state funding for eligible bicycle and pedestrian ways.

PROPOSAL

Amend the statute to allow the expenditure of state funds on eligible bicycle and pedestrian ways within one mile of an urban area (rather than within one mile of a municipality with a population of over 1,000 people). This will allow counties to benefit from state funding of projects in certain unincorporated areas.

CLARIFY THAT NON-HOME RULE COUNTIES MAY ESTABLISH CERTAIN PROCUREMENT CRITERIA

PROBLEM

State law is unclear as to whether counties have the authority to establish procurement processes that could favor contracting with women and minorities, small disadvantaged, veteran or persons with disabilities-owned businesses and the use of business enterprise programs.

PROPOSAL

Amend state law to clearly state that counties may establish procurement processes that could favor contracting with women and minorities, small disadvantaged, veteran or persons with disabilities-owned businesses and the use of business enterprise programs.

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