



COUNTY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2023

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Counties Count!

A Message from the President



By: Matt Prochaska, Kendall County Circuit Clerk

The 2023 spring legislative session adjourned on May 27. It was my first spring legislative session as President of the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo).

The significant number of introduced bills that either affected or were of interest to counties only serves to underscore the breadth of the mission and importance of county government. An astonishing 15 percent of the almost 6,700 bills introduced were relevant to counties in some manner.

The authority vested within the state to affect county operations and policies should serve as a call for increased unity, cooperation and collaboration among county officials to actively engage in the legislative process to offer expertise, shape outcomes and improve public policy.

Illinois is a diverse state, with varying needs and priorities across its many counties. From the bustling urban centers to the tony suburbs to the quiet rural communities, our counties face unique circumstances that require focused solutions. On a wide range of issues, however, the interests of our counties intersect, necessitating a coordinated effort to advocate for the best outcomes for all. Galvanizing this effort is the mission of ISACo.

The role of county officials and their staffs in shaping state legislation cannot be understated. The impact of state policies manifests acutely at the county level. Regardless of whether they concern healthcare, roads and bridges, law enforcement, courts or economic development, the decisions made by state government have far-reaching consequences for the lives of our constituents and the dollars in our budgets. It is imperative that we continue the progress we have made in working together to ensure our voices are heard and the interests of our counties are well-represented.

The challenges we face as county officials are complex and multi-faceted. By constantly seeking closer coordination and cooperation, county officials can harness their collective expertise, experiences and resources to promote policies that address shared challenges. By advocating before the General Assembly for policies that reflect the needs of our counties and county offices, we can build a stronger Illinois that benefits all its residents. ISACo looks forward to answering this call to action and working cooperatively for the betterment of Illinois.

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A Message from the Executive Director

By: Joe McCoy, Executive Director

What a difference a few years can make.

It was on March 9, 2020, that Governor Pritzker issued the initial emergency proclamation as the nation stood at the precipice of an unprecedented global public health emergency. The COVID-19 pandemic went on to last more than three years, resulting in more than 4 million cases and 36,000 deaths in Illinois.

The public health emergency was finally allowed to expire after May 11, 2023. Governor Pritzker very appropriately declared that date as "Illinois Public Health and Healthcare Hero Day."

COVID-19 will remain with us, but with case rates remaining at low levels in recent months, the tools provided by the public health emergency were no longer necessary to fight the virus.

I recently revisited our Spring 2020 *County Quarterly Newsletter*. This was the first *County Quarterly* published following the onset of the pandemic and declaration of a public health emergency.

In that *County Quarterly* I referred to the COVID-19 pandemic as a "black swan" event. Such events are characterized by their unpredictable nature, extreme rarity, severe impact and the widespread insistence they were obvious in hindsight. I concluded my comments with the following thoughts:

As the global COVID-19 pandemic subsides, and it will, county leaders will have a unique opportunity to evaluate the lessons of the emergency response. What worked? What didn't? What didn't they have the foresight to consider? What laws or regulations need to be re-examined and amended to improve the ability of counties to more effectively respond to another pandemic or similar emergency? How can local governments work more seamlessly with state and federal partners to better serve the needs of communities during an emergency? How can counties more effectively cooperate amongst themselves and other units of local government during an emergency response? How do counties cope with the loss of revenue caused by the harm inflicted to the economy by closure directives intended to slow the spread of the virus?

We have reached this stage of our pandemic experience. County leaders played an important role in coordinating the emergency response while keeping essential government services operational. The last few years have been draining for everyone, particularly first responders, health care workers and local officials responsible for the emergency response and critical services. COVID fatigue is real and we are all understandably celebrating the

end of the public health emergency.

As we slip back into normalcy, county leaders must not ignore the need to critically assess their county's pandemic response and learn its lessons to identify what went right and what went wrong. This should not be a casual review, but must be undertaken in an organized manner guided by a rigorous analysis intended to produce a battle-tested plan that can be the blueprint used in response to future pandemics.

To quote William Shakespeare, "What's past is prologue." Now it's time to write a script for the future.



As always, please feel welcome to contact me at (217) 679-3368 or jmccoy@isacoil.org if I can be of assistance. It is an honor to serve you. Thanks.



2023 Spring

Legislative Session Summary

By: ISACo Staff

The 103rd Illinois General Assembly completed its work for the spring on Saturday, May 27, 2023. The scheduled adjournment date was May 19, but a few additional days were required to reach a budget agreement between the Governor's Office and both legislative chambers.

During the 2023 spring legislative session, almost 6,700 bills were filed. This excludes resolutions and proposed constitutional amendments.

In total, 566 bills were approved by both chambers. Put another way, 8.4% of introduced House and Senate bills made it to the Governor's desk.

ISACo tracked almost 1,000 bills and took official positions of support or opposition on legislation 125 times during the 2023 spring session.

This report provides a general overview of the more consequential and relevant legislation approved during the first year of the 103rd General Assembly.

Our more comprehensive report of legislation approved by both chambers that affects or is of interest to counties is available on our website (www.isacoil.org) in our *Bills Approved by Both Chambers: Legislation of Interest to Counties in 2023* report.

State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024 Budget

The SFY 2024 state budget appropriates \$50.6 billion in spending and anticipates revenue collections of \$50.7 billion. The bills are as follows:

- SB 250 is the appropriations bill (P.A. 103-0006).
- HB 3817 is the Budget Implementation (BIMP) bill (P.A. 103-0008).
- The new state fiscal year begins on July 1, 2023.

State Shared Revenues

Counties Receive LGDF Increase - ISACo Priority Issue!

The county share of Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) revenue as a percentage of state income tax collections will increase from 6.16 percent of state income tax collections to 6.47 percent for SFY 2024. This is a win for counties and municipalities!

The increase will yield an estimated \$112 million distributed on a per capita basis. For counties, the population is predicated on the number of residents in unincorporated areas. While we did not see a return to the 10 percent share received prior to 2011, ISACo and our municipal association partners are appreciative of the General Assembly and Governor for allocating additional LGDF revenue to counties and municipalities in SFY 2024.

We would like to recognize our coalition partners and express appreciation for their collective effort in successfully advocating for the LGDF increase. The coalition partners are listed below:

Who Is Supporting This Effort?



ISACo will continue to work with our coalition partners to advocate for a restoration of LGDF distributions to the full 10% received by counties and municipalities prior to 2011.

KEY OMNIBUS LEGISLATION

The Generally Assembly considered and approved several sweeping omnibus bills during the final days of the spring session. Those of interest to counties are included below.

- SB 1963 is the omnibus revenue bill (P.A. 103-0009).
- SB 2123 is the omnibus elections bill.
- HB 2507 is the omnibus property tax bill.
- HB 2518 is the omnibus Tax Increment Financing (TIF) bill.
- HB 3445 is the energy omnibus bill. (Includes changes to wind and solar siting policy).

An omnibus cannabis bill (SB 1559) still awaits consideration in the House.

HIGHLIGHTED BILLS OF INTEREST TO COUNTIES

The following noteworthy bills were approved by both chambers and will next be considered by the Governor.

Responsible Bidder Factors (P.A. 103-0014)

HB 1236 (Representative Vella, D-Rockford/Senator Stadelman, D-Rockford) provides that, in determining the lowest responsible bidder, a county board of a county with fewer than 2 million inhabitants may take into consideration the bidder's active participation in an applicable apprenticeship program (rather than an apprenticeship program) registered with the United States Department of Labor. (No Position)

Automated Traffic Enforcement System - Ethics Reforms

HB 3903 (Representative Rita, D-Blue Island/Senator Murphy, D-Des Plaines) amends the Election Code to prohibit any contractor that provides equipment and services for automated law enforcement, automated speed enforcement or automated railroad grade crossing enforcement systems to municipalities or counties, as well as any political action committee created by such a contractor, from making a campaign contribution to any political committee established to promote the candidacy of a candidate or public official. Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that an automated speed enforcement system or automated traffic law ordinance adopted by a municipality or county shall require that the determination to issue a citation be vested solely with the municipality or county and that such authority may not be delegated to any contractor retained by the municipality or county. Prohibits any officer or employee of a municipality or county from knowingly accepting employment

or receiving compensation or fees for services from a contractor that provides automated law enforcement system equipment or services to municipalities or counties. Requires the statistical analyses of the safety impacts of automated traffic law enforcement systems and automated speed enforcement systems to be conducted every 2 years. Provides that, if a county or municipality changes the vendor it uses for its automated traffic law enforcement system or automated speed enforcement system and must, as a consequence, apply for a permit, approval, or other authorization from the Department of Transportation for reinstallation of one or more of the components of that system and if, at the time of the application, the new vendor operates such a system for any other county or municipality in the State, then the Department of Transportation shall approve or deny the county or municipality's application for the permit, approval, or other authorization within 90 days after its receipt. Provides that, if an automated traffic law enforcement system is removed or rendered inoperable due to construction, then the Department shall authorize the reinstallation or use of the automated traffic law enforcement system within 30 days after the construction is complete. Makes other changes. Effective immediately. **(No Position)**

Bid Exemptions for Patrol Vehicles

HB 1727 (Representative Jacobs, R-Marion/Senator Fowler, R-Harrisburg) provides that a contract in excess of \$30,000 may be let without advertising for bids in the case of the expedited replacement of a disabled, inoperable or damaged patrol vehicle of the sheriff's department if authorized by the county board in a county with fewer than 2 million inhabitants. Effective immediately. **(Support)**

Coroner and Medical Examiner Fees (P.A. 103-0029)

HB 2332 (Representative Smith, D-Chicago/Senator Lightford, D-Maywood) amends the Counties Code to provide that the fee for a coroner's or medical examiner's permit to cremate a human body is \$100 (rather than \$50). Effective July 1, 2023. **(Support)**

Department of Corrections Prisoner Transfers to Sheriff

HB 3755 (Representative Hanson, D-Batavia/Senator Holmes, D-Aurora) provides that if the county jail located in the county where the committed person was residing immediately before his or her conviction for the offense for which he or she is serving sentence in the Department of Corrections has a reentry program for committed persons, the Department may transfer the custody of the committed person to the sheriff of the county where the reentry program is located for up to 12 months before the committed person's release date for participation in the reentry program. **(Support)**

Local Deflection Programs

HB 3819 (Representative Hanson, D-Batavia/Senator Faraci, D-Champaign) amends the Community-Law Enforcement and Other First Responder Partnership for Deflection and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Act. Provides that a law enforcement agency, other first responder entity, or local government agency may establish a deflection program in partnership with one or more licensed providers of substance use disorder treatment services and one or more community members or organizations. **(Support)**

Drone Surveillance (P.A. 103-0101)

HB 3902 (Representative B. Hernandez, D-Aurora/Senator Holmes, D-Aurora) authorizes law enforcement agencies to utilize drone surveillance on parades, races and special events hosted by local governments. **(No Position)**

Public-Private Partnership Projects/Local Retainage Policy

HB 2878 (Representative Hoffman, D-Belleville/Senator Castro, D-Elgin) is a procurement bill that includes multiple provisions. Of relevance to counties are a provision granting additional authority to local governments pursuing public-private partnerships and a provision imposing limitations on local government retainage policies for construction projects. ISACo **opposed** this retainage provision.

Local Authority to Lease Farmland

HB 1076 (Representative Yednock, D-Ottawa/Senator Plummer, R-Edwardsville) provides that, upon three-fourths vote by the full county board, the county board may lease farmland acquired or held by the county for any term not exceeding 5 years. The bill provides that the lease may be made via a cash lease, crop-sharing arrangement or custom farming arrangement. The bill adds requirements relating to the bid process for farmland leases and provides that counties shall not acquire farmland for the sole purpose of entering into a cash lease, crop-sharing arrangement or custom farming arrangement or other speculative purpose. **(No Position)**

Over the coming weeks, ISACo will publish additional information about legislation approved by both chambers. We will also continuously update our *Bills Approved by Both Chambers: Legislation of Interest to Counties in 2023* report to reflect actions taken by the Governor. Please feel welcome to direct any questions to info@isacoil.org.

Counties In The Capitol

ISACo welcomed Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Commissioners and staff to Springfield during the County's Lobby Day on May 4.

The County held a breakfast at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel followed by a day of meetings with legislators. ISACo hosted a luncheon for attendees and would like to recognize and thank our friends and partners at the United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI) for assisting us in arranging a venue for the luncheon.

A long day of constructive and focused advocacy concluded with a reception at ISACo's office.

Please contact ISACo at info@isacoil.org if your county is planning a trip to Springfield. It would be our pleasure to be of service in assisting your advocacy.





MENTAL HEALTH

Awareness Month

Commission on Mental Health & Wellbeing Advocates for

Policy Solutions at White House, on Capitol Hill

By: NACo Staff

During a Mental Health Awareness Month fly-in in Washington this week, the National Association of Counties (NACo) Commission on Mental Health and Wellbeing released new research highlighting county perspectives on addressing the mental health crisis.

In addition to the report, county leaders joined the White House State and Local Partners Forum on Mental Health and Wellbeing and met on Capitol Hill with the Bipartisan Mental Health Caucus and the Bipartisan Addiction Task Force.

"If people do not have mental health, they do not have health," said NACo President Denise Winfrey. "With our vast responsibilities in public health, safety, human services, emergency response and more, county governments see the full picture when it comes to mental health. This new data underscores the need for stronger intergovernmental partnerships and outcomes."

The survey draws data from a representative sample of 232 U.S. counties of varying population sizes from every region of the country. Based on that data, the report presents five key takeaways:

- **The nation is facing an acute escalation of the mental and behavioral health crisis.** Seventy-five percent of counties reported an increase in incidence of behavioral

health conditions in the last year, and 89 percent reported an increase compared to five years ago.

- **Youth behavioral health needs are at the forefront of the crisis.** Two-thirds (67 percent) of counties reported that youth behavioral health conditions are "definitely a problem" or "very prevalent and/or severe."
- **Limited access to services inhibits county residents from receiving the help they need.** Seventy-four percent of counties cited financial costs as a barrier to expanding access to behavioral health services, and 71 percent cited lack of direct service providers.
- **The crisis is exacerbated by a lack of behavioral health workers.** Nearly three-quarters (72 percent) of counties consider the shortage of behavioral health workers in their county to be "definitely a problem" or "a severe problem."
- **The financial and human costs of behavioral health are compounding across all county systems.** Eighty percent of counties indicated that they incurred associated costs in the legal system (courts and jails), 77 percent indicated associated costs in law enforcement, and 54 percent indicated associated costs in the health system and hospitals.

The report pairs key findings with associated policy objectives, including:

- Amending detrimental policies under Medicaid, like the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy (MIEP) and the Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion
- Obtaining direct and flexible resources to support the recruitment, training and retention of a sufficient behavioral health workforce
- Enhancing the intergovernmental partnership for the development and modernization of local crisis response systems and infrastructure, and
- Enforcing policies that ensure equitable coverage for treatment of mental illness and addiction.

Visit ISACo's website at www.isacoil.org



for information about NACo's Commission on Mental Health and Wellbeing and links to its research and other mental health resources.

"We are committed to advocating for solutions that alleviate suffering, address workforce shortages, remedy systemic failures, and produce better results for all," said Winfrey.



LEADING ON PURPOSE

As humans, we are motivated by purpose; and as leaders, purpose holds a unique importance due to our responsibility to positively influence members of our team, impact our organization's culture, and transform the communities in which we live. As humans, when our actions are aligned to purpose, we have a sense of belonging (a sense of being); and as leaders, actions aligned to purpose help shape strategy, increase employee engagement, provide greater care for customers, inspire others in our communities, and navigate complexity in time of great change and moments of truth. To create such purpose, we must ensure we are Leading On Purpose. That is the focus of this 8-week fully facilitated training; establishing a sense of purpose and fulfilling the meaning of who we are, in what we do, and why. Intentionally designed from scientific evidence and proven practices of great leaders, Leading On Purpose will help existing and emerging leaders alike reappraise any longstanding purpose or uncover one for the first time with the use of self-assessments, interactive exercises, online and real-time peer discussions, cohort-based webinars, and self-reflection. The outcome from the training will be increased clarity in your role as a leader and increased confidence in your ability to lead on purpose.

Module 1: The Power of Purpose

Assessing your purpose and knowing its importance.

Module 2: Human Motivation

From basic needs, to belonging, to contributing value.

Module 3: The Theory of Work

It's people serving people, then mission, vision, values.

Module 4: Followership First

Providing great leadership from exemplary followership.

Module 5: The Decisions We Make

Aligning awareness, decisions, and actions for success.

Module 6: Touch-Point Possibilities

Realizing the opportunity in every point of connection.

Module 7: Facing the Giants

Living with the perpetual need to do more with less.

Module 8: From Purpose to Impact

Measuring leadership (and life) on impact not intention.

KICKOFF WEBINAR: October 16th

MODULE 1: October 16th – October 20th

MODULE 2: October 23rd – October 27th

MODULE 3: October 30th – November 3rd

MODULE 4: November 6th – November 10th

MODULE 5: November 13th – November 17th

BREAK WEEK: November 20th – November 24th

MODULE 6: November 27th – December 1st

MODULE 7: December 4th – December 8th

MODULE 8: December 11th – December 15th

GRADUATION: December 15th



"A leader's role is not to merely preside over a team, but to inspire a sense of purpose."
– General Colin Powell (1937-2021)



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Investment Planning – IPRIME Can Help

We have all heard the saying “failing to plan is planning to fail,” but what does that really mean and how can we apply it to today’s world? With today’s current economic and market events (such as inflation, market volatility, Fed actions, U.S. Debt Ceiling, etc.) having a disciplined investment plan is an efficient way to offer structure and a sense of certainty in an uncertain and ever-changing world.

The first step is recognizing the county needs an investment plan. Next, it makes sense to look at where county funds are held, how much is needed, and when funds are needed. After that, asking the question how long funds can be invested for, and what type of risk versus return is the county willing to accept. All of this can be accomplished by working with PMA and IPRIME to prepare a cash flow analysis.

There is more to money management than simply shopping for investments. An accurate cash flow plan allows one to intelligently build an investment schedule that capitalizes on the yield curve benefits of longer-term investing, even during current times given the inverted yield curve. During times of an inverted yield curve, longer-term investment options do earn less interest than shorter term investments.

However, other benefits of a laddered investment approach continue to apply. A laddered investment strategy diversifies maturities, which helps mitigate reinvestment risk. In addition, longer-term reserves are matched with longer

investments. PMA's cash flow analysis seeks to identify future liabilities and match them with an investment maturity including the goal of maximizing interest income. A cash flow analysis also helps counties plan for cash shortfalls and identify long-term investment potential. This valuable service is free of charge for IPRIME participants.

Upon completion of a cash flow analysis, whether independently or with the help of IPRIME, a county can start to review investment strategies and execute products to build an investment portfolio. Remember: One size does not fit all when it comes to investing.

Once an investment portfolio is built using a combination of solutions, it is important to remember that the plan should be revisited to make sure it is meeting the needs of the county and adjustments are made along the way, if necessary. Remember that adjusting the county’s investment plan does not mean starting over. Needs and objectives will change over time and the investment plan should evolve with these changes.

Finally, it is important to have a way to measure the plan’s success. What good is it to have a plan if it is not designed to accomplish the county’s goals? Contact PMA/IPRIME to discuss creating a cash flow analysis, implementing a disciplined investment plan, and reviewing investment strategies and solutions. We are happy to help!

ISACo Corporate Partners Thanks for Your Support!



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Nationwide



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Burke, Warren, MacKay
& Serritella, P.C.



Mahoney, Silverman
& Cross, LLC



Harbour

Become an ISACo Corporate Partner!

ISACo's Corporate Partner Program was established to provide a forum for companies and organizations to build relationships with county officials while supporting the important work of ISACo.

The program offers five options for corporations and organizations to become associate members of ISACo while receiving benefits for this status.

Contact us for additional information about how your company or organization can become a part of ISACo.

News & Views e-Newsletter Subscription



Are you receiving our
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If not, please check your spam folder to make sure our newsletter is not being blocked. Otherwise, please e-mail Brena Metrow at bmetrow@isacoil.org with a request to be added.

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on these valuable
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