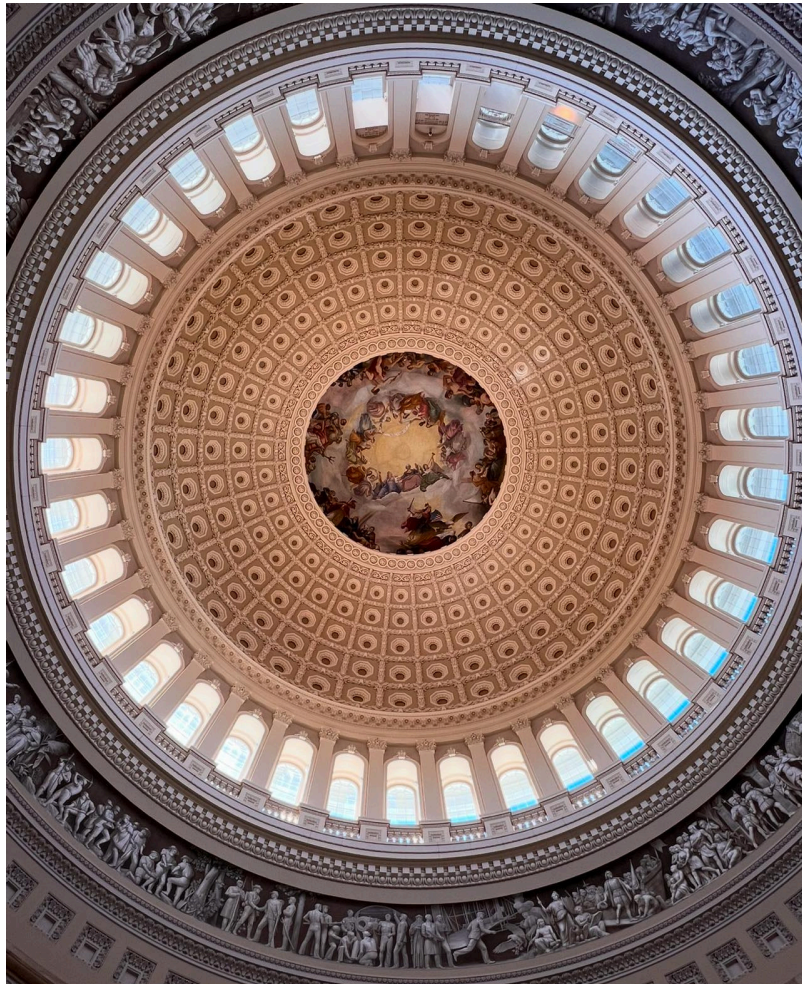




# ISACo ANNUAL REPORT



# 2024

Overview of ISACo Activities - 2024

[www.isacoil.org](http://www.isacoil.org)

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## 2024 Annual Report: Reflecting on Progress, Planning for the Future

By: Joe McCoy,  
Executive Director

ISACo's bylaws mandate the creation of an annual report—a vital tradition that allows us to spotlight the achievements, milestones, and advancements of the past year. This report serves as a comprehensive record, showcasing our programs, events, financial health and exciting new developments.

Each annual report is more than just a document—it's a testament to the collaboration and dedication of our team and member counties.

We extend our gratitude to our member counties for their partnership and support. ISACo remains steadfast in our mission to empower Illinois counties and elevate their role in shaping the state's future.

### 2024: A Year of Progress and Reflection

This year marked ISACo's sixth full year of operation, a milestone underscored by both progress and poignant loss. We mourned the passing of Vice President Dennis Deer, Cook County Commissioner, whose dedication and leadership profoundly impacted his community and counties across Illinois. Commissioner Deer's legacy of public service and compassion continues to inspire us.

In September, the ISACo Board of Directors appointed Cook County Commissioner Stanley Moore to complete the remainder of Commissioner Deer's term, ensuring continuity in leadership.

By year's end, ISACo proudly represented 31 member counties, reflecting steady growth and increasing influence.

ISACo's financial condition remains robust, empowering future growth and accomplishments.





## Legislative Advocacy: Building Influence and Addressing Challenges

The General Assembly convened in January and adjourned on May 29 after initially scheduling adjournment for May 24, 2024.

During the 2024 spring legislative session, almost 3,000 bills were filed. ISACo tracked almost 800 of these bills. This excludes resolutions and constitutional amendments. ISACo took official positions of support or opposition on legislation more than 200 times during the 2024 spring session.

One major focus was the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF). Partnering with a coalition of municipal organizations, ISACo advocated for increased LGDF revenue. Although the local share remained at 6.47% of total state income tax collections for State Fiscal Year 2025, our collective efforts have yielded modest gains in recent years, showcasing the power of collaboration.

The legislative session resulted in the passage of several ISACo-supported bills that included but were not limited to, county public health department authority to distribute fentanyl test strips at no fee, county authority to use transportation funds to assist people with rides to attend problem-solving courts, grant money for counties to restore forests, wetlands and prairies and a new law creating the opportunity for counties to access state loans to finance the acquisition, construction or improvement of new or existing clean energy infrastructure.

Several ISACo policy committees continued to gain new participants and met frequently to discuss issues and hear from guest presenters about topics of interest. ISACo has the following policy committees:



- **Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee**
- **Community, Economic and Workforce Development Committee**
- **Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee**
  - **Public Health Committee**
  - **Justice and Public Safety Committee**
  - **Transportation Policy Committee**
  - **Arts and Culture Committee**





In 2023, ISACo created a Wind and Solar Facility Task Force to identify and discuss policies to make the law more palatable for counties and their residents. This Task Force met several times in 2024 to consider and develop proposals for future legislation. Those proposals were drafted into legislative form and approved by the Task Force and ISACo’s Board of Directors for introduction in 2025.

As with previous years, ISACo published a complete report with all new Public Acts that either affect or are of interest to counties. For the sixth consecutive year, ISACo also published a report on new Public Acts that imposed unfunded mandates on counties. Both reports are available on ISACo’s website.

In preparation for 2025, ISACo’s Legislative Committee met to develop the Association’s 2025 legislative agenda and consider amendments to the 2025 ISACo County Platform.

Federal advocacy partnerships are critical as well, and ISACo actively maintains a strong collaboration with the National Association of Counties (NACo). As a partner with NACo, ISACo appoints Illinois county officials and staff to a plethora of NACo standing and policy committees. These appointments ensure that Illinois has a powerful voice in shaping critical federal policies that impact counties.

There are currently six county officials and staff members on NACo’s Board of Directors along with the dozens of Illinois county officials and staff who are active participants on NACo committees.

## Events and Meetings: Collaborating for Success



ISACo held four meetings of the Board of Directors in 2024. Each was held remotely.

ISACo policy committees met throughout the year to discuss issues and participated in formulating ISACo’s 2025 legislative agenda. Several meetings of ISACo’s Wind and Solar Facilities Task Force also occurred and resulted in policy recommendations to improve the wind and solar facilities law.

ISACo’s Legislative Committee met in November to consider and formally recommend issues to the Board of Directors for inclusion within the 2025 legislative agenda. ISACo will pursue introduction of Board-approved proposals during the General Assembly’s 2025 legislative session.

On April 10, 2024, ISACo and the United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI) launched the first Illinois County Lobby Day in Springfield—a powerful platform for county officials to champion their needs. The day began with a dynamic legislative briefing at the historic Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, featuring insightful presentations from Illinois’ legislative leaders including House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch, Senate President Don Harmon, House Republican Leader Tony McCombie and Senate Republican Leader John Curran.



## Events and Meetings: Collaborating for Success

Attendees then engaged directly with lawmakers at the Illinois Statehouse, advocating for county priorities. The evening concluded with a vibrant networking reception, fostering connections between officials from across the state.

ISACo and UCCI further collaborated with two dinner events.

The Associations co-hosted a dinner during the February National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. ISACo also co-hosted a dinner with UCCI during the July NACo Annual Conference held in Hillsborough County, Florida. Both dinners were well-attended by Illinois county officials and staff in attendance at the NACo conferences. ISACo is appreciative of our corporate partner Nationwide for their generous sponsorship of the July dinner.

ISACo will benefit from the continued partnership with UCCI in 2025.

ISACo held its Annual Luncheon in Cook County on December 13, 2024, at the Union League Club of Chicago. We appreciate the assistance of former Kendall County Board Chair Scott Gryder in making the venue available for county officials and staff to build relationships with each other.



## Communications and Resources: Connecting, Informing, and Empowering

In 2024, ISACo strengthened its role as a leading voice for Illinois counties by expanding our communications and resources:

*Staying Connected:* We published nearly 50 editions of our *News and Views* e-newsletters, along with four *County Quarterly* newsletters, ensuring our members were always informed of the latest developments.

*Exploring New Frontiers: The Counties Count! Podcast* continued to share news and perspectives with audiences, while we laid the foundation for an exciting new venture—informative video content production on our YouTube channel.

*Resource Expansion:* We launched the *Transit Reform Resource Page*, consolidating vital information for Cook and Collar Counties' transit systems. Additionally, our *Paid Leave for All Workers Act Resource Page* provided crucial compliance guidance for counties navigating this new law.

ISACo's active social media presence, particularly on Facebook and X, kept members engaged and informed in real time. As we look ahead to 2025, we're committed to leveraging these platforms even further to strengthen our connection with member counties and stakeholders across Illinois.



## Building Bridges: Strengthening Partnerships

In 2024, ISACo welcomed five new corporate partners to our growing network: The Illinois Funds, Constellation Telcom, Intergovernmental Personnel Benefit Cooperative, Linebarger Attorneys at Law, and ClearGov. By year's end, our partnership roster expanded to include 11 valued collaborators whose generosity and excellent service continue to drive our mission forward.

Together, these partnerships empower ISACo to innovate, expand and provide even greater support to counties across Illinois. We are excited to build on this momentum in the years to come!