



ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

COUNTY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2019



Counties Count!

05

ISACo
ATTENDS
LOCAL OFFICIALS
DAY AT IL STATE
FAIR

06

ISACo JOINS
IL COUNTY OFFICIALS
AT WHITE HOUSE
CONFERENCE

08

IL COUNTY
OFFICIALS AT
2019 NACo ANNUAL
CONFERENCE

9

LARGE
COUNTY
BOARD
CAUCUS UPDATE



A Message from the President



By: Deborah Sims, Cook County Commissioner

One of the most rewarding experiences I've had as a county official has been my involvement with the National Association of Counties (NACo).

I'm a big believer that participation in NACo events over the years has made me a wiser and more effective county official. This not only helps me perform my job to the best of my abilities but what I'm able to learn from my peers benefits my constituents as well.

Continuing education is important across a number of professions. This includes public service. Perhaps the most useful and impactful opportunity for a county official to burnish their knowledge and skills is NACo's Annual Conference. The Conference is held each summer in a different location. The 2019 Conference was hosted in July in Clark County, Nevada.

Dozens of Illinois county officials attended the conference and came away with increased knowledge and new contacts. One of the social highlights of the conference was a dinner for Illinois attendees hosted by the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) and Nationwide. Part of ISACo's mission is "bringing counties together." Events like the dinner in Clark County connect county officials with different backgrounds and experiences and allow them to form friendships and learn from each other to the benefit of their residents.

I strongly encourage your county to become active within NACo. ISACo can facilitate this involvement by recommending interested county officials for appointment to NACo Policy Steering Committees. If you or another official in your county is interested in serving on a NACo Policy Steering Committee, please contact ISACo Executive Director Joe McCoy at jmccoy@isacoil.org or 217/679-3368.

Table of Contents

02 A Message from the President

05 ISACo Attends Local Officials Day
Corporate Sponsors

09 Large County Board Caucus Update
Join ISACo Today!

03 A Message from the Executive Director

06 ISACo Joins IL County Officials at White House Conference

10 Census Bureau Toolkit for State & Local Officials

04 ISACo Hosts Legislative Breakfast
2019 Fall Veto Session

08 IL County Officials at 2019 NACo Annual Conference

11 Counties Count!
Ogle County Board Chairman Gouker Passes Away

A Message from the Executive Director



By: Joe McCoy, Executive Director

The arrival of fall presents an opportunity to look back on what has been a busy and productive summer for the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo).

As you will see in this edition of the County Quarterly, ISACo spent the summer months actively engaged in several events and meetings involving policy creation and networking among federal, state and county officials. It excites me to see ISACo growing in stature and relevance as evidenced by the high demand for our weekly e-newsletters (over 40 published to date), frequent phone calls with questions about legislative and policy issues, an increase in the number of followers of our social media feeds and greater involvement from Illinois county officials in the National Association of Counties (NACo). Three Illinois county officials currently serve

on NACo's Board of Directors and numerous Illinois county officials are working to influence federal policy by serving on various NACo steering committees.

It's incredible to think that just one short year ago I began my service to Illinois counties by walking into an unfurnished office without a computer. We've accomplished a lot during the past year, but we're only getting started. There's so much work to be done!

ISACo's Legislative Committee and caucuses are currently meeting to develop our 2020 legislative agenda and we will be very active and aggressive in advocating on behalf of counties during the 2019 Fall Veto Session (October 28-30 and November 12-14) and 2020 Spring Session. We are also planning educational opportunities for county officials and staff and the publication

of a growing array of materials for use by county officials for legislative advocacy purposes.

All of ISACo's efforts are guided by one simple premise: counties COUNT and ISACo relishes the opportunity to clearly communicate why counties are so important to the lives of everyday Illinoisans. Illinois county officials deserve a bigger seat at the table with our state and federal policymakers. ISACo looks forward to making that happen.



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.



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ISACo Hosts

Legislative Breakfast

in Tazewell County

ISACo and Tazewell County Board Chairman (and ISACo Board Member) David Zimmerman hosted a legislative breakfast for area county chairmen in East Peoria on Tuesday, August 27, 2019.

The meeting was attended by Congressman Darin LaHood (R-IL18) and State Senator David Koehler (D-Peoria) who provided federal and state legislative updates respectively.

ISACo is committed to bringing county officials and their state and federal legislators together to dialogue about issues of concern to counties and their residents.



ISACo Executive Director Joe McCoy, State Senator David Koehler, Congressman Darin LaHood and Tazewell County Board Chairman David Zimmerman

2019 Fall Veto Session

This year's scheduled Veto Session dates are October 28-30 and November 12-14.

The primary purpose of the annual Veto Session is to provide the General Assembly with an opportunity to override gubernatorial vetoes. Other

issues can be considered as well. Governor Pritzker issued total vetoes on seven bills and an amendatory veto on one bill. ISACo will be looking after county interests during the Veto Session.

ISACo Attends Local Officials Day at Illinois State Fair

On Saturday, August 17, 2019, State Treasurer Michael Frerichs hosted Local Officials Day on the Director's Lawn of the Illinois State Fairgrounds. The event is an opportunity to express appreciation for the work done by Illinois local government officials.

ISACo Executive Director Joe McCoy attended the event. One of the event speakers was Kendall County Board Member Matt Prochaska. Prochaska serves on both the ISACo and United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI) Boards of Directors. ISACo is appreciative of the constructive partnership and spirit of friendship between ISACo and UCCI in support of Illinois' counties.



ISACo Executive Director Joe McCoy, State Treasurer Michael Frerichs and Kendall County Board Member Matt Prochaska



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ISACo Joins Illinois County Officials at White House Conference

ISACo joined county officials from Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota and Wisconsin at a White House Conference for local government leaders on Tuesday, August 20, 2019.

The event offered Illinois county officials a unique opportunity to hear from administration officials about a myriad of topics including economic development, opportunity zones, trade, broadband, cybersecurity, disaster mitigation and recovery and other issues of importance to local governments and local economies.

Vice President Mike Pence made a surprise appearance and discussed policy issues with attendees.

Earlier that morning, several Illinois county officials attended a federal issues briefing and breakfast hosted by the National Association of Counties (NACo). Illinois county officials were invited to the briefing by ISACo. NACo Executive Director Matt Chase and his staff discussed issues being worked on by NACo and previewed topics likely to be raised by White House officials.



Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota and Wisconsin White House Conference August 20, 2019



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e-newsletter?

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

Don't miss out on these valuable ISACo updates!



Illinois County Officials at 2019 NACo Annual Conference

»» Clark County, Nevada



Large County Board Caucus

Update

ISACo’s Large County Board Caucus (LCBC) met on Friday, August 16, 2019, in the DuPage County Administrative Building in Wheaton, Illinois. The Caucus convenes on a quarterly basis but can meet more frequently if necessary. The LCBC consists of counties with 100,000 or more residents.

During the meeting, the LCBC adopted the Caucus’ By-Laws, received a report on actions taken by the Governor on legislation of interest to counties, discussed next steps toward addressing the unwillingness of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) Board of Trustees to reconsider an actuarial change that would prevent increased costs to local governments and their taxpayers, approved Caucus support for already introduced legislation allowing county boards in counties with 275,000 or fewer residents to locally define the scope of county auditor duties and offered proposals for consideration by ISACo’s Legislative Committee for possible inclusion within ISACo’s 2020 Legislative Agenda.

ISACo’s By-Laws establish three different caucuses to enhance the involvement of counties within ISACo and to ensure that counties of varying sizes have a forum where their issues can be addressed. ISACo Caucuses also benefit from their own lobbyists. In addition to the LCBC, there is a Cook and Collar County Caucus (CCCC) and a Rural Action Caucus (RAC).



Lake County Chairwoman Sandy Hart was selected by her peers to chair ISACo’s Large County Board Caucus.

Join ISACo Today!

ISACo is a statewide association whose mission is to empower county officials to provide excellent service to their residents.



collaboration

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.



connection

Members of the association will benefit from 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.



contact us

If your county is interested in discussing membership in ISACo, please contact Executive Director Joe McCoy at (217) 679-3368 or jmccoy@isacoil.org. Thank you for your consideration.

Census Bureau Releases Toolkit for State & Local Officials

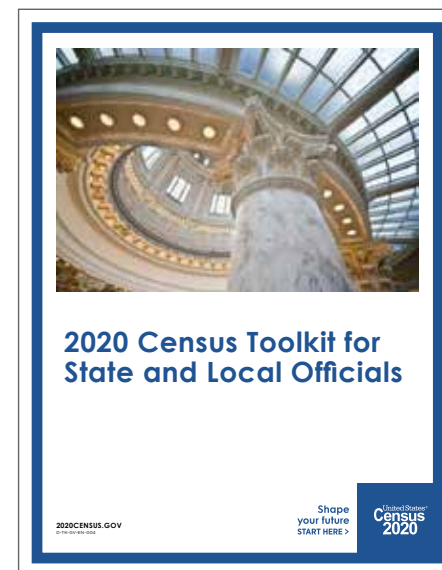
On August 26, 2019, the U.S. Census Bureau released the 2020 Census Toolkit for State and Local Officials. The toolkit provides local leaders with resources to help increase response rates to the Census, create public advertising campaigns, access "hard to count" communities and respond to constituent inquiries.

With \$900 billion in annual federal funding directed by decennial census results, an accurate and complete count is crucial to ensure that federal support for counties reflects the

full population of each jurisdiction. Counties are encouraged to take steps to prepare for the Census by organizing outreach efforts and utilizing resources like the toolkit to ensure an accurate count.

The toolkit is available online at the following address:

<https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/resources/toolkits/toolkit-state-local-officials.pdf>



Counties Count!

Counties invest over **\$554 billion** annually and employ more than **3.6 million** with more than **19,000** elected county board members and elected county executives.

Health



Counties invest **\$83 billion** for community health and hospitals annually supporting over **900** hospitals and more than **100,000** hospital beds.

Justice and Public Safety



Counties invest **\$93 billion** in justice and public safety services, spending almost **\$26 billion** on correctional facilities. Counties invest **\$35 billion** on **3,041** police and sheriff departments. Counties operate **91%** of all local jails.

Economic Development



Counties invest **\$11 billion** for housing and community development and almost **\$18 billion** on parks and recreation facilities, libraries and community centers.

Transportation and Infrastructure



Counties build and maintain **46%** of America's road miles and more than **38%** of bridges. Counties own or support **34%** of public airports and **78%** of public transit systems. Counties annually invest more than **\$122 billion** total in building infrastructure and maintaining and operating public works and almost **\$22 billion** in sewage and solid waste management.

Data provided by the National Association of Counties

ISACo's Board of Directors met on June 14, 2019, and were graciously hosted by Kane County Board Chairman Chris Lauzen (pictured standing) at the Kane County Government Center in Geneva, Illinois.



Ogle County Board Chairman Gouker Passes Away

ISACo is saddened to announce that Ogle County Board Chairman Kim Gouker passed away on Tuesday, September 10, 2019.

Chairman Gouker was a member of the ISACo Board of Directors and a friend. He will be missed.

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Counties Count!



County Quarterly Newsletter

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