

# **Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations**

**Monday, September 16, 1996**

## **MINUTES**

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Sue W. Scholer called the meeting to order at approximately 3:00 P.M. and thanked members for their attendance (attendance sheet attached). Representative Scholer explained that the meeting would focus on the local government survey presentation as noted on the agenda. Due to time limitations, the meeting was immediately turned over to staff.

### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT SURVEY**

Mr. Krauss explained that staff had put together a Power Point presentation of the survey results. He started by reminding members that the 25-question survey was mailed to 1,025 elected officials. A total of 375 officials responded, resulting in a 36.6% return rate. Mr. Krauss stated that a 36.6% return rate was quite good for a survey. It was reinforced that this was not a random sample, therefore the results reflect only the attitudes of the officials responding to the survey. Mr. Krauss proceeded in highlighting the [results of the survey](#).

### **FURTHER SURVEY DISCUSSION**

After the presentation, members continued to discuss the survey results. Representative Scholer encouraged the public's participation.

Representative Bailey, Commissioner Gentry, and Councilor Gillespie explained that although school board officials are elected in most jurisdictions, people do not view them as elected officials. The members concurred with the assertion that, while school taxes make up the majority of the property tax base, few people attend hearings. Conversely, when county or city budget issues are discussed, town hall or council chambers are overflowing with concerned citizens. Increased citizen education and participation were determined to be key elements in resolving this mis-conception.

Mike Davis, executive director of the Association of Indiana Counties, interjected that there is common agreement among counties and cities regarding many of the issues discussed in the survey. AIC's 1997 legislative platform advocates the elimination of school funding from the property tax.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Representative Scholer notified the commission that she had sent a letter to the majority leaders addressing the IACIR's interest in assisting the Committee of Real Property Tax Assessment Practices in the study of Indiana's assessment practices and fair market value. The chair ensured the commission she will send a letter to the minority as well.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled in conjunction with the Association of Indiana Counties Annual Conference. The meeting will be at 9:00 A.M., Monday, September 30, 1996, at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 P.M.