

# Intergovernmental Issues in Indiana 2014



A Survey  
Administered by  
the Indiana Advisory  
Commission on  
Intergovernmental  
Relations



**T**his survey is administered by the Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (IACIR) on a periodic basis to gather information on current issues affecting the relationships between governments in the state. The IACIR seeks your opinions on the issues presented in the survey. The survey must be completed by a person holding elective office with the exception of appointed school board members. Please feel free to consult others within your local government if you are unsure about the correct response to particular questions.

Completion of the questionnaire is voluntary. Respondents have the option to complete the survey online at [www.iacir.spea.iupui.edu](http://www.iacir.spea.iupui.edu) or to return the printed questionnaire in the enclosed postage paid envelope. Online participants will need the identification number printed on the cover letter and on the back of the questionnaire in the lower right-hand corner.

# 1

**What elected office do you hold?**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County council member | <input type="checkbox"/> Town council member                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County commissioner   | <input type="checkbox"/> Township trustee or trustee-assessor                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor                 | <input type="checkbox"/> School board member (elected or appointed position) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City council member   | <input type="checkbox"/> Other ( <i>specify</i> ) _____                      |

# 2

**What local government do you represent?**

\_\_\_\_\_

# 3

**In which county(ies) is your local government located?**

\_\_\_\_\_

# 4

**How long have you held your current elected (or appointed) position?**

Years \_\_\_\_\_

# 5

**How many years have you held any elected positions with this local government (current and past)?**

Years \_\_\_\_\_

# 6

How do you feel about the general direction in which your community is heading?

- Very optimistic
- Mildly optimistic
- Neither optimistic nor pessimistic
- Mildly pessimistic
- Very pessimistic

# 7

For the following conditions, please indicate (A) the extent to which each is currently a problem in your community, if at all; and (B) how each of the following conditions has changed in your community during the last 12 months. *Circle the appropriate number.*

	(A) CURRENT STATUS OF CONDITION			(B) CHANGE IN CONDITION OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS		
	Major problem	Moderate problem	Minor or no problem	Improved	Worsened	No change
<b>HEALTH</b>						
a1. Availability of health services	2	1	0	2	1	0
a2. Cost of health services	2	1	0	2	1	0
a3. Availability of health insurance	2	1	0	2	1	0
a4. Cost of health insurance	2	1	0	2	1	0
a5. Availability and cost of dental health services	2	1	0	2	1	0
a6. Availability and cost of mental health services	2	1	0	2	1	0
a7. Availability and cost of services for people with disabilities	2	1	0	2	1	0
a8. Care for the elderly	2	1	0	2	1	0
a9. Drug and alcohol abuse	2	1	0	2	1	0
a10. Smoking	2	1	0	2	1	0
a11. Obesity	2	1	0	2	1	0
a12. Chronic disease (heart disease, diabetes, etc.)	2	1	0	2	1	0
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>						
b1. Police/sheriff services	2	1	0	2	1	0
b2. Police-community relations	2	1	0	2	1	0
b3. Fire services	2	1	0	2	1	0
b4. Emergency medical services	2	1	0	2	1	0
b5. Emergency dispatch	2	1	0	2	1	0
b6. Violent crime	2	1	0	2	1	0
b7. Drug crime	2	1	0	2	1	0
b8. Youth crime	2	1	0	2	1	0
b9. Family/domestic violence	2	1	0	2	1	0
b10. Homeland security	2	1	0	2	1	0
b11. Jail facilities	2	1	0	2	1	0
b12. Youth detention facilities	2	1	0	2	1	0
b13. Disaster response	2	1	0	2	1	0
b14. Emergency warning sirens	2	1	0	2	1	0

	(A) CURRENT STATUS OF CONDITION			(B) CHANGE IN CONDITION OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS		
	Major problem	Moderate problem	Minor or no problem	Improved	Worsened	No change
<b>ECONOMICS</b>						
c1. Overall economic conditions	2	1	0	2	1	0
c2. Job loss/unemployment	2	1	0	2	1	0
c3. Job quality	2	1	0	2	1	0
c4. Workforce readiness	2	1	0	2	1	0
c5. Workforce training and retraining	2	1	0	2	1	0
c6. Business attraction and retention	2	1	0	2	1	0
c7. Shovel-ready properties	2	1	0	2	1	0
<b>LOCAL SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE</b>						
d1. K-12 education	2	1	0	2	1	0
d2. Drinking water	2	1	0	2	1	0
d3. Sanitary sewers	2	1	0	2	1	0
d4. Storm sewers	2	1	0	2	1	0
d5. Combined sewer overflows (CSOs)	2	1	0	2	1	0
d6. Local roads, streets, and highways	2	1	0	2	1	0
d7. Sidewalks and trails	2	1	0	2	1	0
d8. Bridges	2	1	0	2	1	0
d9. Public transit	2	1	0	2	1	0
d10. Parks and recreation	2	1	0	2	1	0
d11. Solid waste management	2	1	0	2	1	0
d12. Telephone	2	1	0	2	1	0
d13. Cellular telephone	2	1	0	2	1	0
d14. Cable TV	2	1	0	2	1	0
d15. Electric service	2	1	0	2	1	0
d16. Natural gas service	2	1	0	2	1	0
d17. Lack of high-speed internet/broadband	2	1	0	2	1	0
<b>LAND USE</b>						
e1. Quality of development	2	1	0	2	1	0
e2. Increased amount of development	2	1	0	2	1	0
e3. Lack of development	2	1	0	2	1	0
e4. Quality affordable housing	2	1	0	2	1	0
e5. Balanced mix of housing types and prices	2	1	0	2	1	0
e6. Balanced mix of residential and non-residential development	2	1	0	2	1	0
e7. Code enforcement	2	1	0	2	1	0
e8. Private property maintenance	2	1	0	2	1	0
e9. Foreclosures	2	1	0	2	1	0
e10. Abandoned properties	2	1	0	2	1	0
e11. Open space/green space	2	1	0	2	1	0
e12. Farmland conversion and loss	2	1	0	2	1	0
e13. Brownfields	2	1	0	2	1	0

PLEASE CONTINUE 

	(A) CURRENT STATUS OF CONDITION			(B) CHANGE IN CONDITION OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS		
	Major problem	Moderate problem	Minor or no problem	Improved	Worsened	No change
<b>COMMUNITY QUALITY OF LIFE</b>						
f1. Air quality	2	1	0	2	1	0
f2. Water quality	2	1	0	2	1	0
f3. Traffic congestion	2	1	0	2	1	0
f4. Poverty	2	1	0	2	1	0
f5. Vitality of neighborhoods	2	1	0	2	1	0
f6. Vitality of downtown	2	1	0	2	1	0
f7. Arts and cultural resources	2	1	0	2	1	0
f8. Community involvement	2	1	0	2	1	0
f9. Race-ethnic relations	2	1	0	2	1	0
f10. Immigration	2	1	0	2	1	0
f11. Childcare	2	1	0	2	1	0
f12. Truancy and other school behavior problems	2	1	0	2	1	0

**8** Of the conditions listed in question 7, which three have improved most in your community during the PAST YEAR? *Please fill in the complete phrase or the corresponding letter/number from Question 7.*

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**9** Of the conditions listed in question 7, which three have deteriorated most in your community during the PAST YEAR? *Please fill in the complete phrase or the corresponding letter/number from Question 7.*

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

**10** Of the conditions listed in question 7, which three are the most important to address during the NEXT TWO YEARS? *Please fill in the complete phrase or the corresponding letter/number from Question 7.*

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

# 11

**Local governments are making hard choices to address declining revenues from property taxes, local income taxes, and gas taxes, and rising costs for employee health insurance, fuel, and other supplies. Please indicate if your local government made any of the following changes prior to 2012 and in 2012 and 2013.**

	PRIOR to 2012		2012-2013	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
My local government or county has passed a new or additional local option income tax.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has increased fees and charges for local services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government laid off employees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has stopped hiring.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has frozen or reduced employee wages/salaries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced employee benefits and/or raised employee contributions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has cut or reduced spending on training and travel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government increased its reliance on volunteers to assist in providing local services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has made internal operational changes (e.g., mowing less frequently).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has cut or reduced services (e.g., reduced hours for swimming pool, fewer parks programs).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has cut or delayed capital expenditures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced spending on parks and recreation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced spending on sheriff/police.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced spending on fire services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced spending on roads and streets.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced spending on sanitary sewers, storm sewers, and drinking water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced spending on solid waste management.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced spending on _____(please identify).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has adjusted the terms for contracted services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has privatized capital assets or local government functions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has established alternate service arrangements with local nonprofit organizations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has implemented cooperative service arrangements, such as interlocal agreements, with other local governments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has engaged in joint purchasing with other local governments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has pursued consolidation with another unit of government.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PLEASE CONTINUE 

# 12

**SEA 1 (PL 80-2014) allows county income tax councils two options for exempting business personal property from property taxes within each county. An “exemption ordinance” for 1) a blanket exemption of business personal property (excluding utility owned property) within the county and/or (2) an exemption of taxes for businesses with less than \$20,000 in equipment acquisition cost may be adopted for Assess 2016 Pay 2017 or a later assessment year. Counties, cities, and towns also will be able to offer extended tax abatements for business personal property beginning on July 1, 2015.**

**Please indicate your opinion about the appropriateness of each of the business personal property exemption or abatement options in your county.**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Undecided/ Don't Know</u>
I believe that the exemption for businesses that own less than \$20,000 of business personal property from property taxes makes sense in my county.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I believe that the exemption of all business personal property from property taxes makes sense in my county.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
I believe that offering extended abatements to individual businesses on new business personal property for up to 20 years makes sense in my county.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# 13

**The Indiana University Public Policy Institute and the School of Public and Environmental Affairs have developed a set of fiscal indicators that provide basic information about public finances and fiscal health for counties, townships, and cities and towns for 2011 and 2012. PL 84-2014 (SEA 106) requires the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) to develop a system of indicators for schools and other local governments. The law requires DLGF to display indicators in a web-based dashboard format.**

**What information would be most useful to you? *Please choose your top three with “1” being the most useful.***

- \_\_\_\_\_ Annual and trend data for my unit of local government
- \_\_\_\_\_ Annual and trend data for peer units grouped by type (counties, townships, cities and towns, schools, special districts)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Annual and trend data for peer units grouped by type of unit and by measures such as population, assessed value, average household income, etc.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Benchmarks (targets) that define fiscal health
- \_\_\_\_\_ Best practices for local government finance
- \_\_\_\_\_ Best practices for local government business practices
- \_\_\_\_\_ Best practices for local government service operations
- \_\_\_\_\_ Best practices for local government public information and transparency
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

# 14

Government and nonprofit organizations that own property are exempt from paying property taxes. Local services (e.g., fire suppression, police protection, and other services) are provided to these properties.

Would you be in favor of **REQUIRING** any of the following types of organizations in your community that own real property to (A) make annual payments in lieu of property taxes and/or (B) provide services below cost to local government in lieu of property taxes?

	(A) Do you favor requiring payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) from:		(B) Do you favor requiring the provision of reduced cost services in lieu of taxes (SILOT) from:		(C) These entities own property within my local government boundaries	
	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
Nonprofit hospital	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private university or school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Arts and culture nonprofit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Human services nonprofit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Church or other religious nonprofits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other nonprofits (please identify _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unit of federal government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unit of state government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unit of other local government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# 15

Please indicate how important each of these issues are to you when you think about requiring PILOTs (payments in lieu of taxes) from nonprofits.

	Very important	Fairly important	Moderately important	Not important	Don't know
My community needs more tax revenue.	4	3	2	1	9
Nonprofits should pay for their use of municipal services (roads, police, fire protection, etc.).	4	3	2	1	9
Nonprofits have the financial ability to pay taxes (e.g., sales/fee income, valuable properties, endowments, etc.).	4	3	2	1	9
Nonprofits provide valuable low cost or free services to local residents.	4	3	2	1	9
PILOTs would place an additional financial burden on nonprofits.	4	3	2	1	9
The property tax exemption is a way local governments can support nonprofits.	4	3	2	1	9
What my constituency thinks about PILOTs.	4	3	2	1	9
The costs and logistics of implementing PILOTs.	4	3	2	1	9
The tax exemption for nonprofits increases the tax burden for other property owners in their neighborhoods.	4	3	2	1	9
The exemption gives nonprofits an unfair advantage over for-profit businesses.	4	3	2	1	9

PLEASE CONTINUE 

# 16

Please indicate the arrangement(s) used to provide each type of service. Check ALL of the box(es) corresponding to the option(s) for each service. *Answer only for the local government you represent as an elected (or appointed) official.*

	My local government provides this service with internal resources	My local government provides this service through an agreement or contract with another local government	My local government provides this service through a contract with a private for-profit firm	My local government provides this service through a contract with a nonprofit organization	My local government does not provide this service
Jail	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Juvenile detention	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roads and streets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks and recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drinking water utility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Solid waste services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sewer utility	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency medical services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency dispatch	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning/plan commission	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vocational education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Special education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Property assessment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (specify)_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# 17

Joint purchasing is one type of cooperative arrangement that can be accomplished using a number of mechanisms including the interlocal agreement statute, State of Indiana Quantity Purchasing Agreements (QPA), and U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Cooperative ([www.uscommunities.org](http://www.uscommunities.org)).

Has your local government purchased goods cooperatively in the LAST YEAR?

- Yes
- No



# 18

**How would you characterize the current working relationship between your local government and other governments and service provider organizations?**

	<b>Very positive</b>	<b>Somewhat positive</b>	<b>Neither positive nor negative</b>	<b>Somewhat negative</b>	<b>Very negative</b>	<b>No relationship</b>	<b>Not applicable</b>
Federal government	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
State government	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
County government(s)	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
City governments	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
Town governments	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
Township governments	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
School districts	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
Library districts	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
Other special districts	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
Local businesses	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
Local charities and other nonprofits	5	4	3	2	1	0	9

# 19

**Below is a list of statements about the relationship between government and nonprofit organizations. Please indicate how much you agree with each statement.**

	<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>Somewhat agree</b>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<b>Somewhat disagree</b>	<b>Strongly disagree</b>
It is natural that nonprofit organizations participate actively in solving local problems.	5	4	3	2	1
It is important that local government can control how nonprofit organizations use government funding.	5	4	3	2	1
Local government should have an influence on the activities of local nonprofit organizations.	5	4	3	2	1
Nonprofit organizations should adjust their activities to the needs and preferences of government to get economic support.	5	4	3	2	1
It is important that nonprofit organizations participate in local government decision-making.	5	4	3	2	1
Nonprofit organizations should primarily represent the public's interests on local issues.	5	4	3	2	1
Nonprofits should support government programs through grants, fundraising, and other methods.	5	4	3	2	1
Nonprofits should help government analyze and identify areas of need within the community.	5	4	3	2	1

PLEASE CONTINUE 

# 20

How often do you trust the following types of organizations to do the right thing? *Circle the number that corresponds to your response.*

	<u>Almost always</u>	<u>Most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Almost never</u>
Federal government	5	4	2	1
State government	5	4	2	1
Local government	5	4	2	1
Local businesses	5	4	2	1
Local charities and other nonprofits	5	4	2	1

# 21

**Local elected officials often participate in local nonprofits and charities in their communities.**

**a. Please indicate your involvement with nonprofit or charitable organizations in your community.**

*Check all that apply.*

- Current active leader (i.e., board member or executive director)
- Leader active in the past
- Current member
- Member active in the past
- Not involved with any nonprofit organizations currently or in the past

**b. How many nonprofits and charities are you active in currently? \_\_\_\_\_**

**c. How many hours do you volunteer currently per month with nonprofit or charitable organizations? \_\_\_\_\_**

# 22

**MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY OFFICIALS ONLY: Please indicate below whether your local government has used tax increment financing or tax abatement.**

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>My local government did not use 2012-2013</u>
Tax increment financing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax abatement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# 23

**Does your local government currently provide pensions or retirement contributions for elected officials, full-time employees, and/or part-time employees?**

	<b>Yes, my local government provides pension or retirement benefits to ALL persons in these categories:</b>	<b>Yes, my local government provides pension or retirement benefits to SOME persons in these categories</b>	<b>No, my local government does not provide pension or retirement benefits to ANY persons in these categories:</b>
Elected officials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part-time employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# 24

**Does your local government provide health insurance for elected officials, full-time employees, and/or part-time employees?**

	<b>Yes, my local government provides health insurance benefits to ALL persons in these categories:</b>	<b>Yes, my local government provides health insurance benefits to SOME persons in these categories</b>	<b>No, my local government does not provide health insurance benefits to ANY persons in these categories:</b>
Elected officials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part-time employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# 25

**Have health insurance costs increased for your local government over the LAST TWO YEARS?**

- Yes
- No → SKIP TO QUESTION 27
- My local government doesn't provide health insurance → SKIP TO QUESTION 27

# 26

**What actions, if any, has your local government taken in the recent past to combat the rising cost of providing health insurance to elected officials and employees? *Check all that apply.***

	<b>PRIOR TO 2012</b>		<b>2012-2013</b>	
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Increased elected official and employee health insurance contributions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduced health insurance coverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduced health insurance eligibility for officials and employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Entered into a cooperative purchasing arrangement with the state of Indiana or another local government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Changed insurance vendors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adopted a self-insurance arrangement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Operated a health clinic for employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduced non-insurance expenditures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No actions taken	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

# 27

**Do you think your community, through public or private sources, over invests, adequately invests, or under invests in the types of infrastructure listed below?**

	<b>Too much investment</b>	<b>Adequate investment</b>	<b>Not enough investment</b>
Highways	3	2	1
Local roads and streets	3	2	1
Bridges	3	2	1
Parks	3	2	1
Sidewalks and trails	3	2	1
Public school classroom and other instruction facilities	3	2	1
Public school performance and athletic facilities	3	2	1
Public library facilities	3	2	1
Drinking water	3	2	1
Sanitary sewers	3	2	1
Storm sewers	3	2	1
Telephone	3	2	1
Cellular phone	3	2	1
High-speed internet	3	2	1
Electricity	3	2	1
Natural gas	3	2	1
Other (Please specify) _____	3	2	1

# 28

**Federal and state gasoline taxes are primary sources of revenue used to fund roads. Tax collections have declined over time as a result of a decline in vehicle miles traveled and increase in the fuel efficiency of the current fleet. Federal and state officials across the country are considering ways to combat reduced revenues available to fund road maintenance and construction. In the last two legislative sessions, the Indiana General Assembly has removed the Indiana State Police and Bureau of Motor Vehicles from the Motor Vehicle Highway Account and dedicates some general revenues to local government infrastructure needs.**

**Please indicate your support or opposition to the adoption of the following options for increasing LONG-TERM the funding available for the construction and maintenance of Indiana’s state and local road infrastructure. *Circle the appropriate number.***

	<b>Strongly support</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Neither support nor oppose</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Strongly oppose</b>
Increase state fuel taxes	5	4	3	2	1
Replace fuel taxes with mileage-based user fees	5	4	3	2	1
Expand the use of public-private partnerships	5	4	3	2	1
Adopt tolls on additional public roads	5	4	3	2	1
Increase vehicle excise taxes and dedicate to road infrastructure	5	4	3	2	1
Expand local funding options	5	4	3	2	1
Other (please specify) _____	5	4	3	2	1

29

In the first year you held your current office, did you attend training specifically to learn about your duties as an elected official?

- Yes
- No

30

As a local elected official, have you received adequate training on issues facing your local government in the last 12 months?

- I received adequate training.
- I received some training, but would like to participate in additional opportunities.
- I have not received any training.

31

Which of the following information sources do you consult typically when considering the implementation of management practices or programs?

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
State agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University departments and centers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National trade associations (NACO, NLC, ICMA, NAT&T, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State trade associations (AIC, IACT, ITA, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional institutions (MPO, COG, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private consultants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local government peers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

32

Does your local government have a website that is used to communicate with residents?

- Yes
- No

33

Does your local government have formal policies and procedures that govern communications on your local government website?

- Yes
- No

# 34

**Do your local government or local government departments use social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to communicate with residents?**

- Yes
- No

# 35

**Does your local government have formal policies and procedures that govern communications via social media ON BEHALF OF your local government?**

- Yes
- No

# 36

**Planning for an aging population has received increasing attention throughout Indiana communities as well as throughout the nation. Indiana’s population is aging. By 2030, there will be nearly 600,000 more seniors in Indiana than there were in 2010. By 2040, 80 of 92 counties are projected to have more than 20 percent of their populations aged 65 or older. An aging population is likely to increase the need for certain types of public services, impact revenues derived from local option income taxes, and require updates to land use and building codes to ensure aging seniors can continue to live in their local communities.**

**Please indicate your level of understanding of these issues and the degree to which your local government is planning for these changes. *Check only one option.***

- I am not familiar with the aging trend.
- I am familiar with the aging trend, but do not understand how it will impact the local community.
- I am familiar with the aging trend and how it will impact the local communities, but do not understand what local policies and programs will better prepare my community for this change.
- I am familiar with the aging trend, its likely effects, and potential policies and plans that might better prepare my community for this change. I would like to pursue local policies and plans to address this issue.
- I am actively working on policies or plans that will better prepare my community for this trend.

37

2-1-1 is a service that allows people in need to dial “2-1-1” on the telephone to find out where to get help with health and human services issues. 2-1-1 services provide referrals to a variety of organizations, including community, faith-based, and government agencies. Awareness and usage of 2-1-1 vary across the state. *Select one option for each question.*

**a. Is the 2-1-1 service available in your community?**

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

**b. How familiar are you with the 2-1-1 service?**

- I have participated in planning or promoting the 2-1-1 service locally
- I am familiar with 2-1-1 service and generally understand how it operates
- I am somewhat familiar with 2-1-1 service, but don't know many details
- I am not familiar with 2-1-1 service

**c. How useful do you think 2-1-1 service is to residents in your community?**

- Very useful
- Somewhat useful
- Neither useful or not useful
- Not very useful
- Not at all useful
- I don't know

**d. What is 2-1-1's most important (or most valued) contribution to your community? *Choose only one.***

- Providing 24/7 access to human service information and referrals to government, community and faith-based services
- Relieving 911 for non-emergency needs
- Providing reports about local residents' needs, resources available and gaps in services
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_
- I don't know

38

2-1-1 service in Indiana is primarily supported by private donations, but needs public funding (estimated at \$3 million) to meet the full annual cost (estimated at \$6-\$9 million) to operate and maintain the system statewide. Would you support an increase in the amount of public funding for 2-1-1 in order to ensure that this service continues?

- \_\_\_ Yes
- \_\_\_ No
- \_\_\_ I don't know

PLEASE CONTINUE 

39

Please use this space or attach additional pages to make any other comments about the issues affecting your local government and intergovernmental relations in Indiana.

Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated.  
If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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*Please complete the questionnaire online at [www.iacir.spea.iupui.edu](http://www.iacir.spea.iupui.edu) or return the completed questionnaire in the enclosed postage paid envelope.*