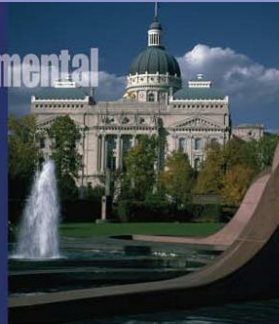


Intergovernmental Issues in Indiana 2014 IACIR Survey

Intergovernmental Issues in Indiana 2014



A Survey
Administered by
the Indiana Advisory
Commission on
Intergovernmental
Relations



This 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.

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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 _____

CONTINUE ►

2014 Topics

- Community conditions
- Responses to fiscal challenges
- Business personal property taxes
- Fiscal benchmarking
- TIF, tax abatement, PILOTs, SILOTs
- Service arrangements, joint purchasing
- Relationships between local governments and other governments, local businesses, and nonprofits

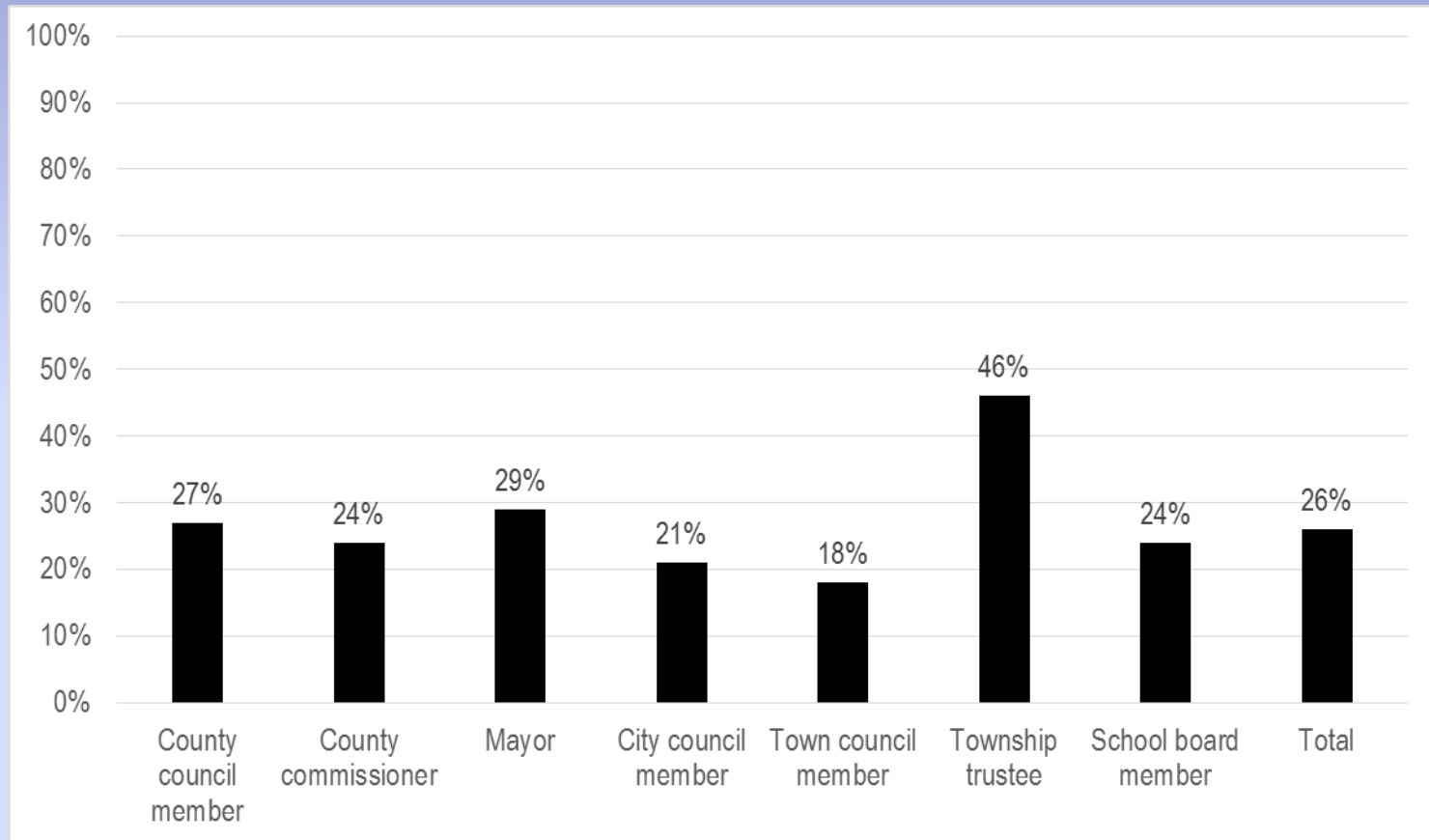
2014 Topics

- Pensions, health insurance, and training
- Infrastructure, road funding
- Communication
- Aging in place

Response Rates

Office	Effective responses	Mailed	Undelivered or excluded	Effective return rate
County council member	50	184	2	27%
County commissioner	43	182	2	24%
Mayor	35	119	-	29%
City council member	25	120	3	21%
Town council member	160	892	15	18%
Township trustee	168	368	5	46%
School board member	137	576	9	24%
Total	618	2,441	36	26%

Response Rates



Response rates

Office	2014	2012	2010	2008	2006	2004	2003	2002	2001
County council member	27%	34%	38%	41%	37%	49%	64%	54%	52%
County commissioner	24%	29%	33%	34%	45%	44%	53%	41%	51%
Mayor	29%	52%	48%	41%	56%	63%	52%	50%	56%
City council member	21%	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Town council member	18%	29%	29%	23%	25%	39%	37%	38%	32%
Township trustee	46%	58%	55%	53%	52%	61%	57%	57%	43%
School board member	24%	29%	21%	29%	31%	28%	44%	34%	47%
Total	26%	35%	35%	41%	36%	41%	47%	41%	40%

Responses by County

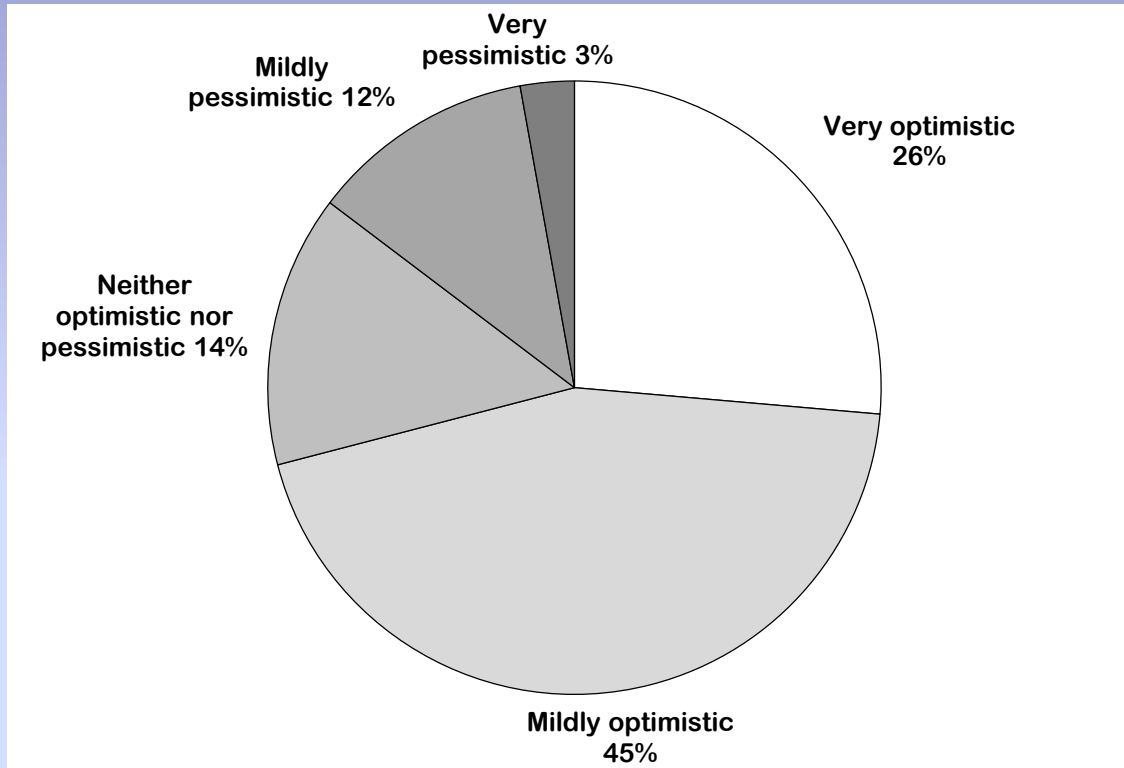
- Began asking to identify local government in 2008
- 2012 :
 - Represent 549 individual local governments (401 in 2012)
 - At least two local governments from every county

Feelings about Community Direction

	Very optimistic	Mildly optimistic	Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	Mildly pessimistic	Very pessimistic
County council member (n=48)	31%	35%	15%	19%	0%
County commissioner (n=40)	35%	50%	8%	8%	0%
Mayor (n=35)	54%	40%	3%	3%	0%
City council member (n=25)	48%	40%	8%	4%	0%
Town council member (n=157)	30%	39%	15%	11%	5%
Township trustee (n=160)	13%	48%	24%	11%	4%
School board member (n=134)	22%	51%	7%	16%	2%

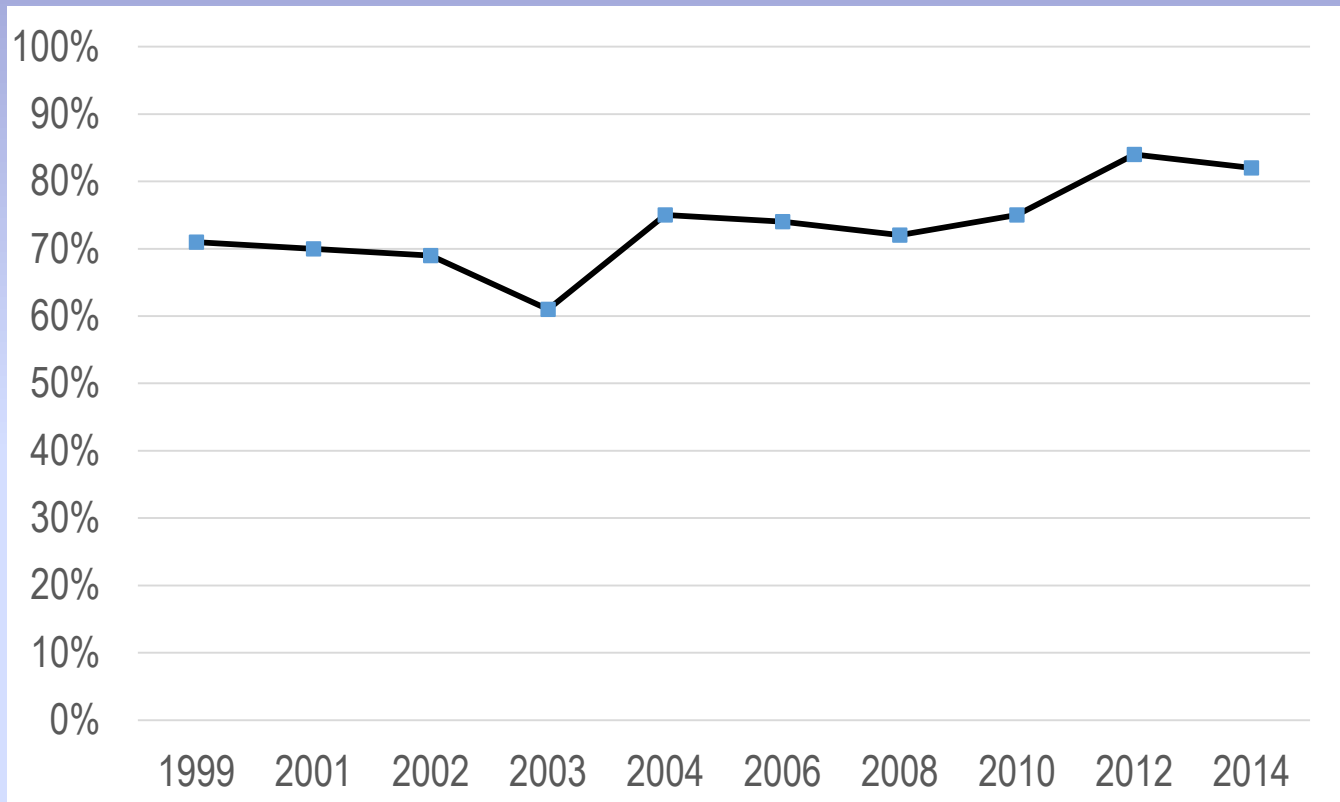
*Some of the totals may be slightly more or less than 100 percent due to rounding.

Feelings about Community Direction



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2014 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Optimism over Time



Community Conditions

- 75 conditions
- Categories
 - Health
 - Economics
 - Public safety
 - Local services and infrastructure
 - Land use
 - Community quality of life

Community Conditions

- Current: Major, moderate, or minor or no problem
- Last year: Improved, worsened, or no change
- Last year: 3 most improved
- Last year: 3 most deteriorated
- Next 2 years: 3 most important to work on

Major or Moderate Problems Health

- Cost of health insurance (88%, 61% major)
- Drug and alcohol abuse (87%, 49% major)
- Obesity (85%)
- Cost of health services (82%)
- Chronic disease (heart disease, diabetes, etc.) (72%)
- Smoking (72%)

Major or Moderate Problems Health (cont.)

- Availability and cost of mental health services (69%)
- Availability of health insurance (67%)
- Availability and cost of dental services (66%)
- Care for the elderly (64%)

Major or Moderate Problems

Economics

- Overall economic conditions (80%)
- Job loss/unemployment (79%)
- Job quality (78%)
- Business attraction/retention (73%)
- Workforce readiness (71%)
- Workforce training and retraining (70%)
- Shovel ready properties (53%)

Major or Moderate Problems

Public Safety

- Drug crime (79%)
- Family/domestic violence (66%)
- Youth crime (64%)

Major or Moderate Problems Local Services and Infrastructure

- Local roads, streets, and highways (71%)
- Sidewalks and trails (54%)

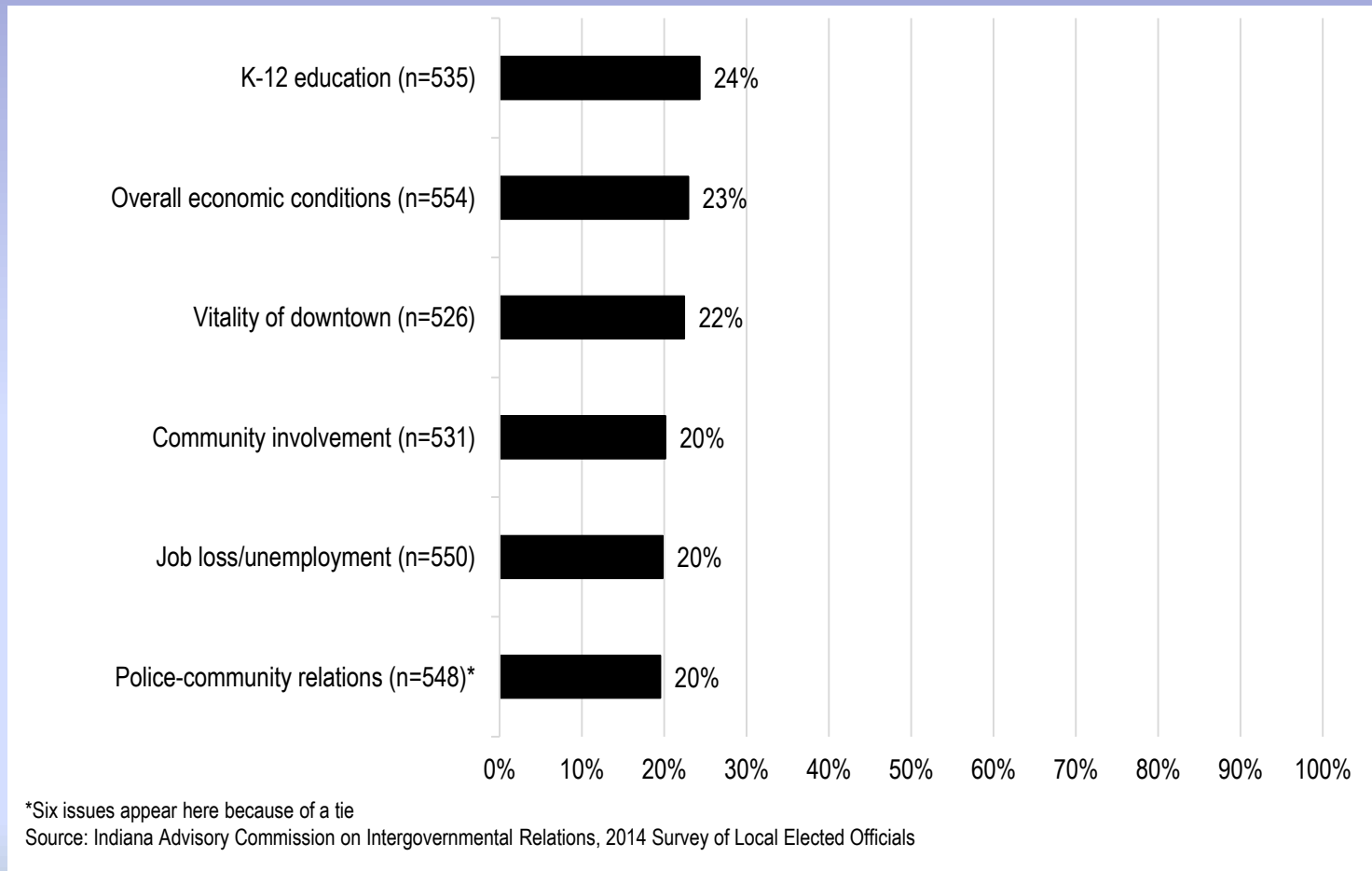
Major or Moderate Problems Land Use

- Abandoned properties (71%)
- Foreclosures (69%)
- Private property maintenance (61%)
- Quality affordable housing (55%)
- Lack of development (54%)

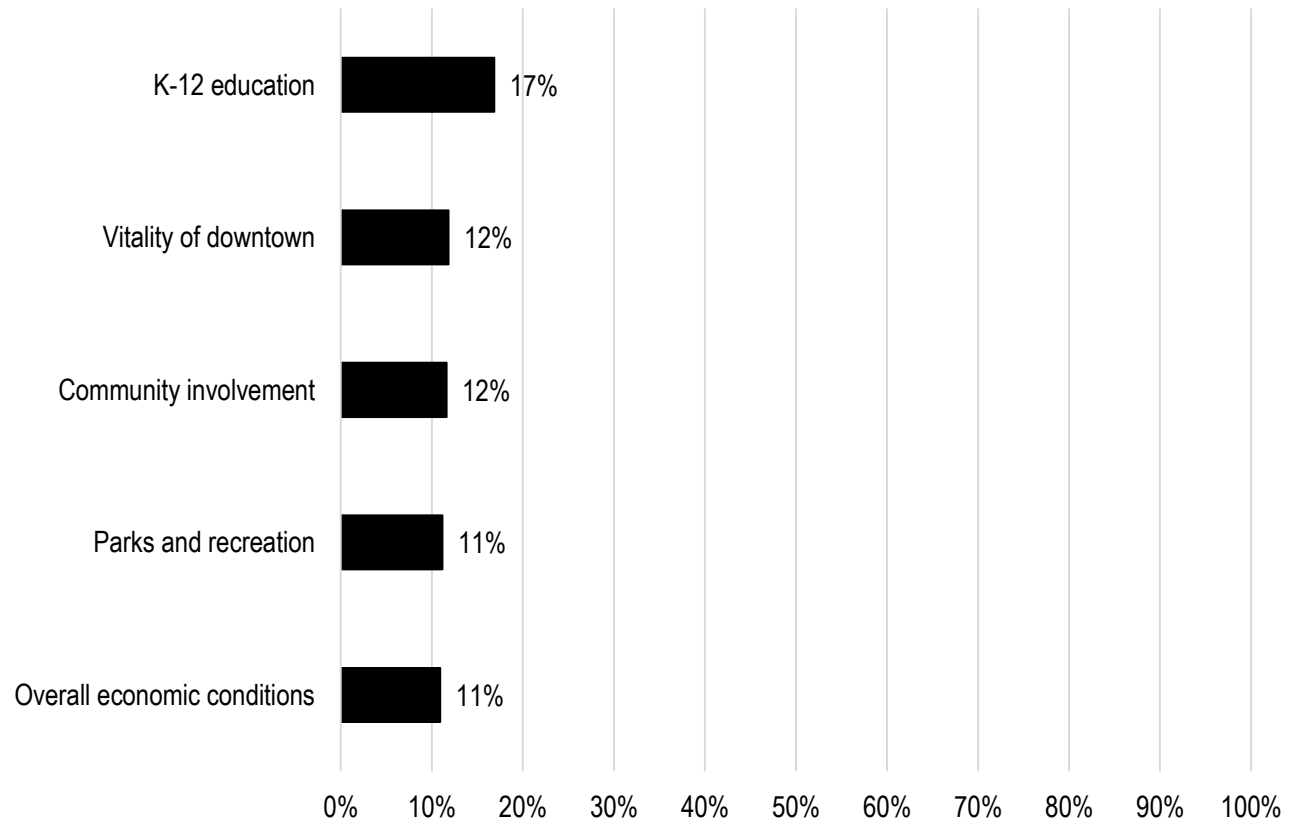
Major or Moderate Problems Land Use & QOL

- Land Use
 - Abandoned properties (71%)
 - Foreclosures (69%)
 - Private property maintenance (61%)
 - Quality affordable housing (55%)
 - Lack of development (54%)
- Quality of Life
 - Vitality of downtown (59%)
 - Vitality of neighborhoods (53%)

Top Five Issues Identified Most Often as Improved Since Last Year

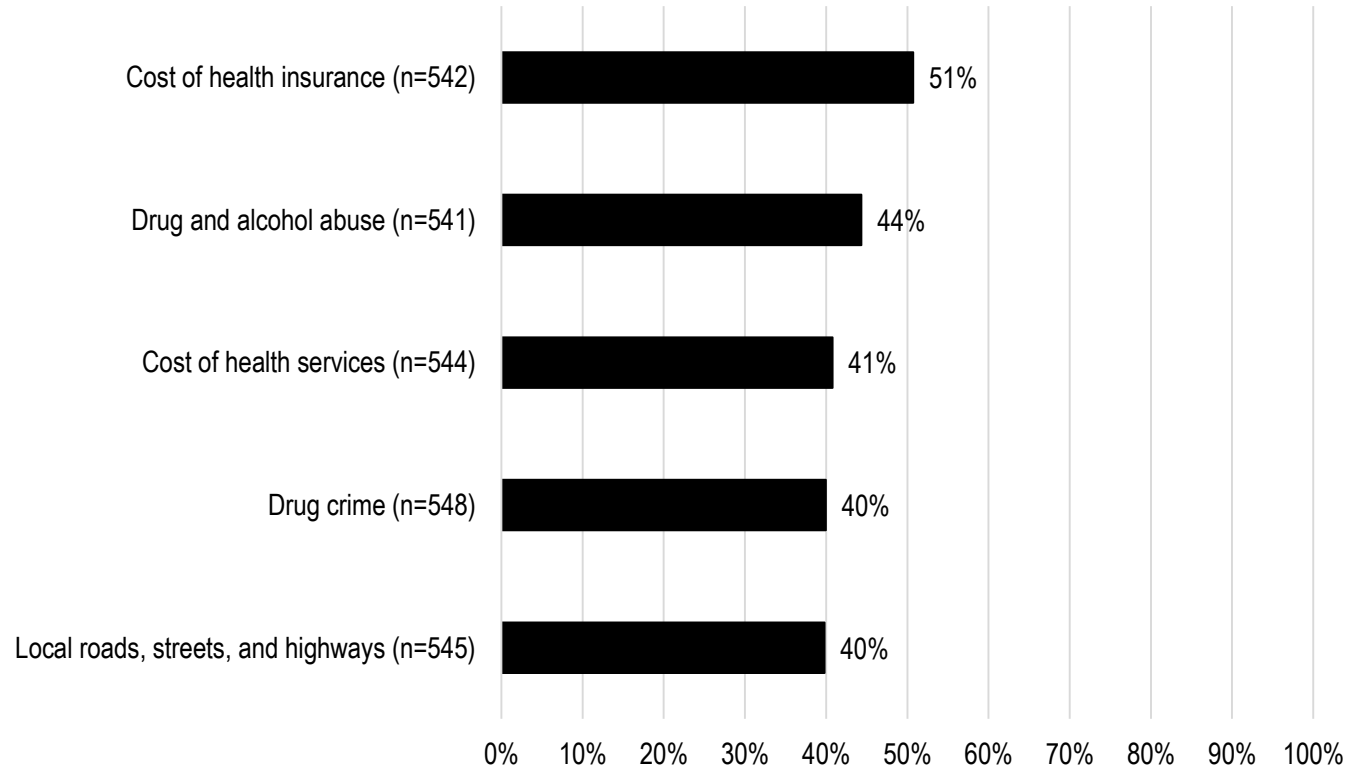


Top Five Issues Ranked as Most Improved During the Past Year



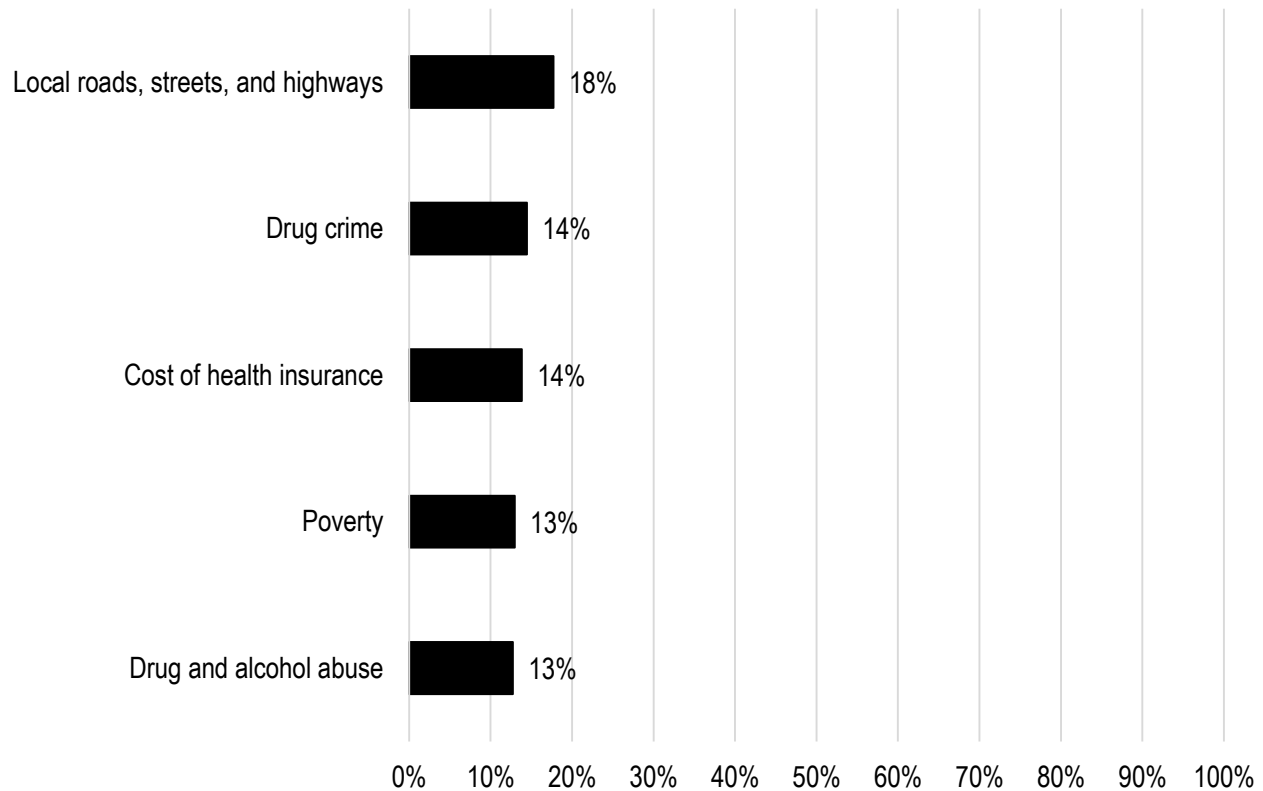
Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2014 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Top Five Issues Identified Most Often as Worsened Since Last Year



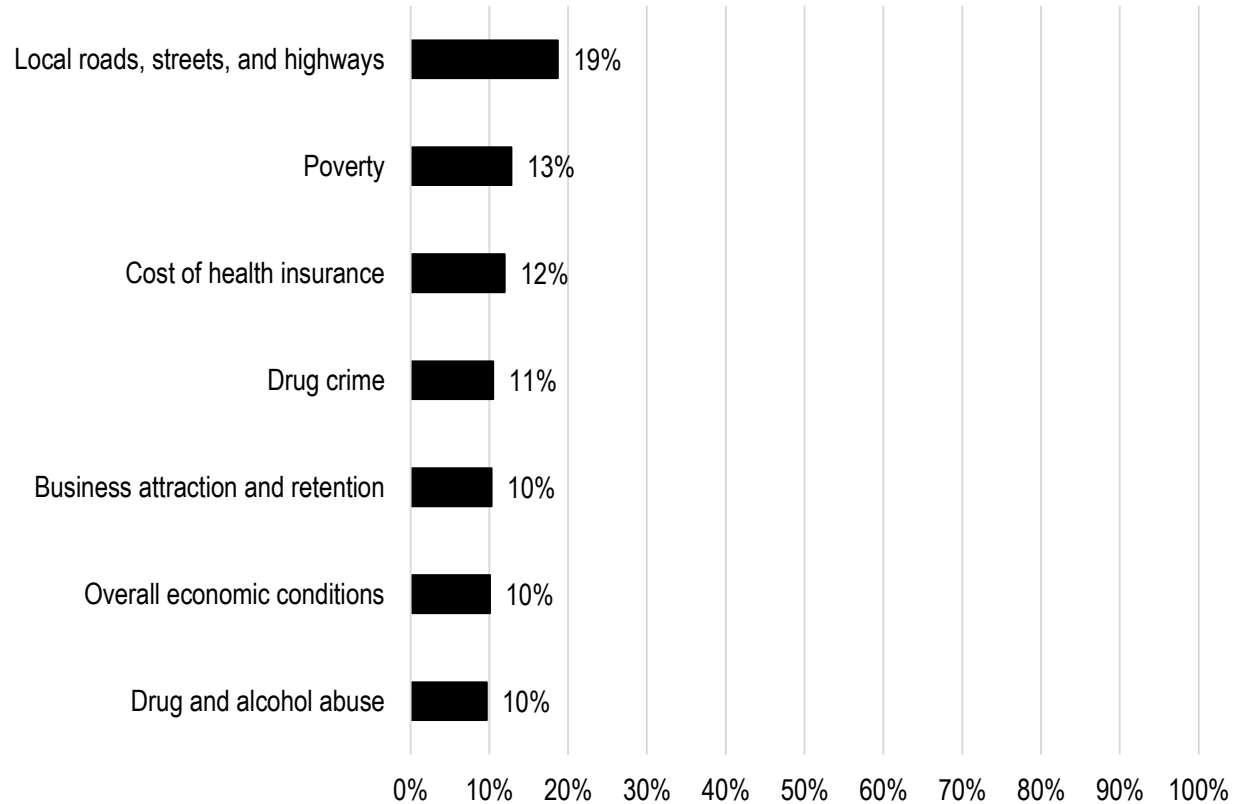
Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2014 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Top Five Issues Ranked as Most Deteriorated During the Past Year



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2014 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Top Five Issues Ranked as Most Important to Work on over the Next Two Years



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2014 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Responses to Fiscal Challenges

Options:

- New revenues
- Changes to workforce
- Cuts or reductions in services
- Changes in service arrangements

Changes Reported Most Frequently

	<u>Before 2012</u>	<u>12-13</u>
Cut or delay in capital expenditures	53%	58%
Internal operation changes	46%	49%
Increased fees and charges	52%	48%
Reduced spending on roads and streets	49%	47%
Reduced employee benefits/increased contributions	42%	46%

Chosen Least Frequently

	<u>Before</u> <u>2012</u>	<u>12-13</u>
Consolidation with another unit	10%	10%
Reduced spending on solid waste mgmt	18%	13%
Privatized capital assets or govt services	14%	14%
Laid off employees	20%	19%

Cooperative Arrangements

Questions asked how local officials:

- Made changes to address fiscal challenges
- Whether particular services were provided through agreements with another local government, a private sector firm, or a nonprofit organization
- Cooperative purchasing
- Amount and character of cooperative activity within each county

Cooperative Arrangements

Responses to Fiscal Challenges:

- Adjusted the terms for contract services
- Implemented cooperative service arrangements with other local governments, and
- Engaged in joint purchasing with other local governments

Cooperative Arrangements Services

- Jail
- Juvenile detention
- Roads and streets
- Parks and recreation
- Drinking water utility
- Solid waste services
- Sewer utility
- Police services
- Fire services
- Emergency medical services
- Emergency dispatch
- Planning/plan commission
- Economic development
- Vocational education
- Special education
- Property assessment

Cooperative Arrangements

Internal Resources:

- The majority of respondents indicated they provided most services with internal resources.
- The two services reported most often that were not provided by internal resources were:

1. Juvenile detention (39%)
2. Special education (38%)

Cooperative Arrangements

Contracts with other local governments:

- Vocation education (48%)
- Solid waste (45%)
- Juvenile detention (39%)
- Special education (38%)

Cooperative Arrangements

Contracts with private firms:

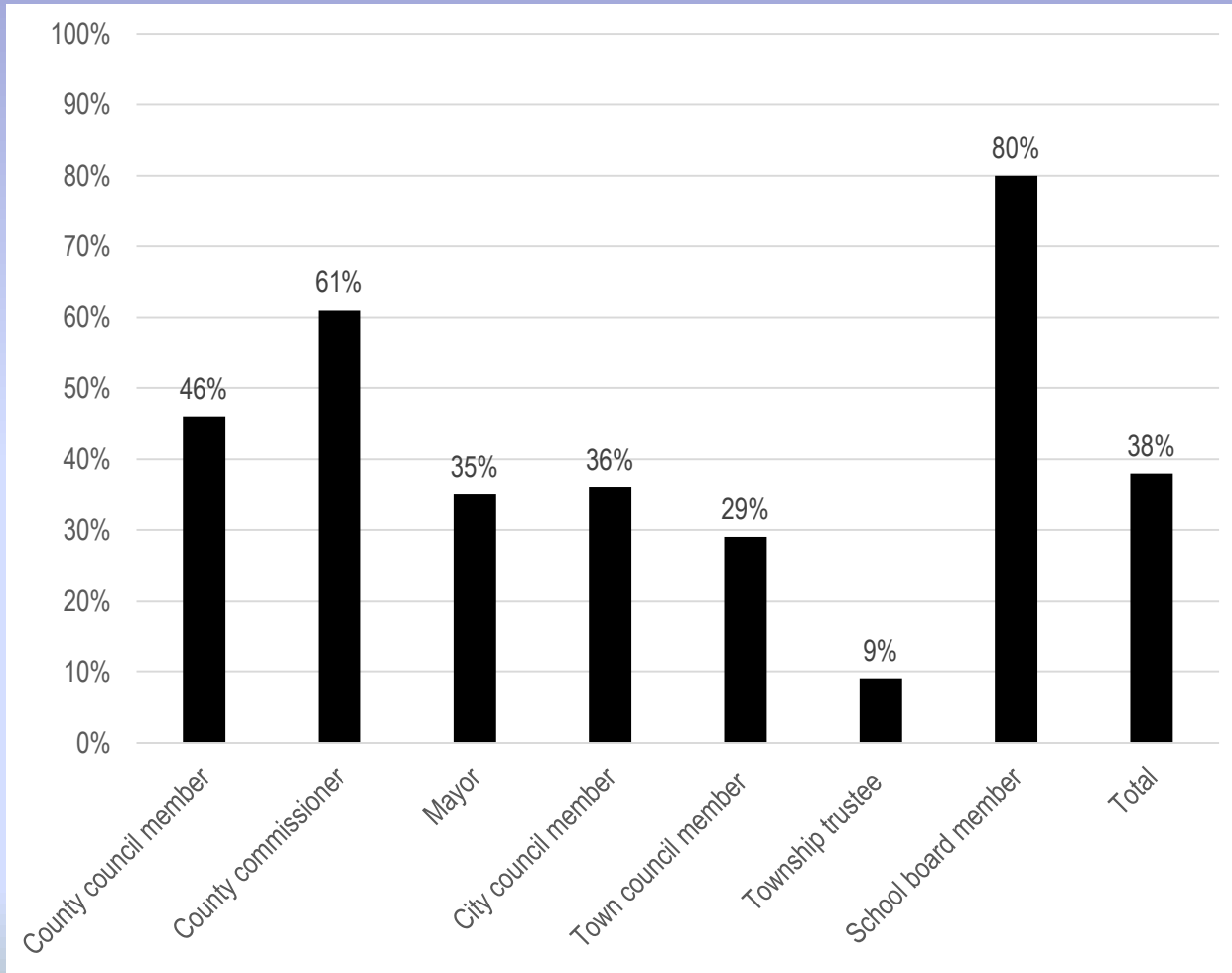
- Property assessment (23%)
- Solid waste (21%)
- Roads and streets (14%)
- Juvenile detention (11%)

Cooperative Arrangements

Contract with a nonprofit organization:

- Economic development (22%)
- Fire services (16%)
- Emergency medical services (15%)
- Vocational education (12%)
- Special education (11%)

Joint Purchasing



Quality of Working Relationship with Other Local Governments

Positive relationship:

County governments	72%
City governments	66%
Town governments	69%
Township governments	71%
School districts	73%
Libraries	67%
Local businesses	80%
Local charities and other non-profits	79%

TIF and Tax Abatement

- Counties and municipalities continue to use TIF and tax abatement (2012 and 2013)
- Generally, reported using tax abatement more than TIF (except towns)
- Strong majorities of county officials and mayors reported using TIF
- Strong majorities of county and city officials reported using tax abatement

Business Personal Property Exemptions

- De minimus exemption (<\$20K)
 - Yes (46%)
 - No (30%)
 - Undecided/don't know (25%)
- Full exemption
 - Yes (14%)
 - No (64%)
 - Undecided/don't know (21%)

Business Personal Property Exemptions

- Extended tax abatements
 - Yes (25%)
 - No (50%)
 - Undecided/don't know (25%)

Payment In Lieu of Taxes for Governments and Nonprofits

- Will present these data at next meeting

Local Government Benefits Pension/Retirement Contributions

- Presented last fall

Infrastructure Investment

- Highways
- Local roads and streets
- Bridges
- Parks
- Public school classrooms
- Public school performance and athletic facilities
- Libraries
- Drinking water
- Sanitary sewers
- Storm sewers
- Telephone
- Cellular telephone
- High-speed internet
- Electricity
- Natural gas
- Other

Infrastructure Investment

- A majority of respondents reported adequate investment in all infrastructure categories, except roads and streets and highways.
- Public school performance and athletics (12%), public library facilities (11%), and public school classrooms (7%) chosen most often for overinvestment

Infrastructure Investment

- Underinvestment:
 - Local roads and streets (69%)
 - Highways (49%)
 - Bridges (43%)
 - Sidewalk and trails (40%)
 - High speed internet (31%)

Funding Options for Roads and Streets

- Expand local funding options (47%)
- Increase vehicle excise tax (32%)
- Expand public private partnerships (30%)
- Increase fuel taxes (29%)

Communications

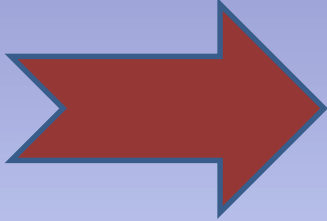
Web Sites and Social Media

	Use Website	Website Policy
County council member	94%	72%
County commissioner	97%	84%
Mayor	91%	66%
City council member	96%	54%
Town council member	64%	39%
Township trustee	19%	23%
School board member	91%	87%
Total	65%	54%

Communications

Web Sites and Social Media

	Use Social Media	Social Media Policy
County council member	20%	38%
County commissioner	50%	49%
Mayor	77%	60%
City council member	80%	48%
Town council member	40%	24%
Township trustee	12%	12%
School board member	71%	78%
Total	42%	38%



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2016



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| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town council member | |

2 What local government do you represent?

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

4 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

CONTINUE 

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