

# Intergovernmental Issues in Indiana 1999

This survey is administered by the Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations on an annual basis to gather information on current issues affecting the relationship between governments in the state. The IACIR seeks your opinions on the issues presented in the survey. Please feel free to consult others within your local government if you are unsure about the correct response to particular questions.

1. What office do you hold?

- Senator
- Representative
- County Council President
- County Commission President
- Mayor
- Town Council President
- Township Trustee
- School Board President
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

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

- Very optimistic
- Mildly optimistic
- Neither optimistic or pessimistic
- Mildly pessimistic
- Very pessimistic

3. Please indicate how each of the following conditions has changed in your community during the last 12 months.

	Condition	Improved	Worsened	No Change
Health	AIDS			
	Healthcare			
	Substance Abuse			
	Teen Pregnancy			
Public Safety	Gangs			
	Police-Community Relations			
	Violent Crime			
	Youth Crime			
	School Violence			
Economics	Corporate Responsibility			
	Economic Conditions			
	Labor Responsibility			
	Unemployment			
	Workforce Development			
Local Services	Cable TV Rates			
	Infrastructure			
	Solid Waste Management			
Community Quality of Life	Race-Ethnic Relations			
	Air Quality			
	Water Quality			
	Poverty			
	Vitality of Neighborhoods			
	Educational Quality			
	Affordable Housing			
	Parks and Open Space			

4. Of the conditions listed in question 3, which three **deteriorated** most in your community during the past five years?

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

5. Of the conditions listed in question 3, which three **improved** the most in your community during the past five years?

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

6. Of the conditions listed in question 3, which three will be the **most important** to address during the next two years?

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

7. Compared to your community's needs, overall, how would you rate the current levels of local government services?

- Very Good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

8. A good friend has just called to inquire about the prospects of a young person finding a job and beginning a career in your community. How would you describe the employment opportunities in your community to the prospective newcomer?

- Very good
- Good
- Fair
- Poor

9. Within your community, are adequate resources being dedicated (public and private) to workforce development (that is, preparing youth and training adults for jobs) and the performance of the local economy? (Check one for both work training and work retraining.)

Work Training	Adequate	Inadequate	Unsure
Work Retraining	Adequate	Inadequate	Unsure

10. Which of the following are most likely to be effective in your community in preparing people for and moving them into good jobs? (Please rank top 3 measures—1 being the highest ranking.)

- Linked financial and tax incentives for businesses
- Trade and technical schools
- Improved job search support networks
- Summer job programs
- Work-mentoring for students
- Collaboration between local government and schools
- Employer-sponsored job training and mentoring
- Union and professional programs
- Linkages between training institutions and the business community
- Improved public schools
- Adult education programs
- School-to-work programs
- Business partnerships with local schools
- Jobs that pay a living wage
- Better libraries
- Information services that alert people to training and jobs

11. How optimistic are you about the ability of local government and schools in your area to work together to address local needs?

- Very optimistic
- Somewhat optimistic
- Neither optimistic nor pessimistic
- Somewhat pessimistic
- Very pessimistic

12. Which local government finance reform would be most effective in advancing the well-being of your community? (Please rank top 3 measures ? 1 being the most effective.)

- Eliminate property tax
- Eliminate school funding from property tax
- Eliminate inventory tax
- Allow local government to enact a local gas tax
- Allow local government to enact a local sales tax
- Reform assessment practices
- Remove all restrictions on local income tax
- Reform personal property tax
- Remove cap on local option income tax
- Remove property tax levy limits
- Transfer welfare from local to state funding
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

13. Should local government be allowed to continue using Tax Increment Financing (TIF) or granting property tax abatement?

Tax Increment Financing	Yes	No
Tax Abatement	Yes	No

14. Should state or local government have primary responsibility for the following services or should responsibility be shared?

Condition	Primary Responsibility to State Government	Primary Responsibility to Local Government	Shared
Corrections			
Courts			
Drinking water			
Economic development			
EMS			
Healthcare for the indigent			
Information services			
Police and fire			
Property tax assessments			
Public education			
Solid waste disposal or handling			
Streets and roads			
Tax collection			
Waste water treatment			
Welfare			
Workforce development			

15. Which mandates/responsibilities most significantly affect your local government's ability to meet the needs of your community? (Rank from 1 to 3 with 1 being the greatest impact to 3 being the least impact.)

State	Federal
<input type="checkbox"/> Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental
<input type="checkbox"/> Pension	<input type="checkbox"/> Health and safety (OSHA)
<input type="checkbox"/> Tax controls	<input type="checkbox"/> ADA
<input type="checkbox"/> Welfare funding	<input type="checkbox"/> Welfare
<input type="checkbox"/> Court funding	<input type="checkbox"/> Federal court mandates
<input type="checkbox"/> Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Highways
<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____

16. Citizens and local governments currently can call the State Information Center switchboard for information. As an outgrowth of Jobs Council, the Lt. Governor's office is studying options to better serve citizens and local governments that contact state agencies with questions or problems. One proposal is to expand the current switchboard function to a centralized case management center. This new system would be staffed by information specialists and allow for more substantive assistance. The goal of this augmented system would be to ensure that callers make contact with the appropriate office more quickly and that problems are addressed in a timely manner.

Over the past 12 months, have you contacted a state agency or office for information?

- No ? Go to Question 17
- Yes

If yes, please rate your satisfaction in getting the needed information in a timely manner via each following methods of contact. Rate only those methods you have used (circle number).

	Have not Used Method	Very Dissatisfied	Dissatisfied	Neither Satisfied nor Unsatisfied	Satisfied	Very Satisfied
Direct phone call to appropriate agency or office						
Referral from another state agency or office						
Referral from the state information center						
World Wide Web						
E-mail						

17. In cases when you are unsure of the appropriate agency or office to contact, which of the following methods of contact would you prefer?

- Switchboard
- Information specialist
- World wide web
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

18. Which of the following would be most effective in improving the current system for assessment/reassessment?
- Require basic and continuing education for assessors
  - Move to annual assessments
  - Eliminate elected assessors for townships under 10,000 population; administer assessment through county assessor
  - Move responsibility for assessment of real property for major industrial facilities to the Indiana State Board of Tax Commissioners (ISBTC)
  - Restructure ISBTC to better provide educational and technical support

19. Has your local government completed Y2K (Year 2000) assessment and made the necessary fixes to ensure that computers and embedded micro-chips will function when the date changes to January 1, 2000?

- Yes ? Go to Question 20
- No

If no, what percentage of vulnerable equipment has been fixed?

- 10% complete
- 25% complete
- 50% complete
- 75% complete
- 90% complete

20. Does your local government have a contingency plan to respond in the event of Y2K disruption of critical government operations?

- Yes
- No

21. MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS ONLY: Annexations generally are prohibited from becoming effective during the year preceding a decennial census. This does not preclude city and town councils from passing annexations and designating them as effective with the three years following passage. HEA 1983 (PL 217-1999) does allow annexations in the year preceding a decennial census under very limited circumstances.

Did your community pass local legislation to annex territory in 1998?

- Yes
- No

Has your community passed local legislation to annex territory in 1999?

- Yes
- No

22. COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS ONLY:  
What type of plan commission does local planning and zoning operate under in your community?

- Municipal advisory plan commission
- Municipal advisory plan commission with extraterritorial (2-mile fringe) jurisdiction
- County advisory plan commission
- County area plan commission
- Metropolitan plan commission
- County or municipality does not have a plan commission

23. The Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) is the mechanism by which the U.S. Bureau of Census obtains information regarding incorporations, annexations, and other boundary changes. The BAS is mailed to all counties, minor civil divisions (townships in Indiana), and incorporated places in the three years following the decennial census.

Did your county, township, city, or town complete and return the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) maps sent to you in early 1999 by the U.S. Bureau of Census?

- Yes ? Go to Question 24
- No

If you answered No, please indicate why not.

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24. A complete count of the population in April 2000 will ensure that Indiana and its communities get their fair share of state and federal funds. The U.S. Bureau of Census recommends that each community create a Complete Count Committee to develop and implement a Census 2000 campaign, that will influence every member of the jurisdiction to complete the Census questionnaire in a timely and accurate manner.

Has your community formed a Complete Count Committee for the 2000 Census?

- Yes
- No

25. Which of the following best describes your own comfort level with information technology?

- Very comfortable
- Moderately comfortable
- Neither comfortable or uncomfortable
- Somewhat uncomfortable
- Not comfortable

26. When it comes to **computers** and **telecommunications**—also known as information technology (IT)—how successful do you feel your community has been in each of the following?

	Not Successful	Generally Unsuccessful	Neither Successful or Unsuccessful	Somewhat Successful	Very Successful
Overall integration of IT into local government					
Using IT to improve government management and service delivery					
Using IT to connect citizens with government					
Creating IT infrastructure to improve economic development					
Using IT to promote equity in access to information					
Using IT to improve education					
Ensuring IT skills in the workforce					
Working with the telecommunications industry					

27. Please use this space or attach additional pages to make any other comments about issues affecting intergovernmental relations in Indiana.

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

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**PLEASE RETURN THE  
 COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE  
 IN THE ENCLOSED POSTAGE  
 PAID ENVELOPE**

