



# **ISACo County Platform 2026**

January 1, 2026

## **ABOUT ISACo**

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) was founded in 2018 and serves as a forum to improve county government by identifying needs and solutions.

The purpose of the Illinois State Association of Counties is as follows:

- Provide a united voice for county government by communicating the county perspective to state officials and the public.
- Counsel its members about the implementation of new laws.
- Provide education and training for county board members, countywide officials and their staffs.
- Perform research and develop policy statements in the interest of county government.
- Deliver services and assistance to all Illinois counties.

ISACo seeks to accomplish the following:

- Unite Illinois counties and promote the best practices and policies in the administration of county government for the benefit of the people of Illinois.
- Serve as a central organization for information and research, for the collection, analysis and dissemination of data relating to county government.
- Devise, promote and maintain practical and financially sound policies and programs for the efficient administration of county government.
- Develop and promote legislation fostering efficient administration of county government.
- Cooperate and collaborate with federal, state and local governmental agencies and other organizations in developing, promoting and maintaining efficient and financially sound county government.
- Create official publications on behalf of ISACo as appropriate.
- Engage in activities and contracts to accomplish any one or more of the nonprofit purposes of ISACo.

ISACo always organized exclusively for nonprofit purposes and will operate at all times in the manor contemplated by section 501C4 of the Internal Revenue Code as it now exists or eight successor or by such other provisions of such cold as will accomplish its non-prophet purposes.

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

ISACo strives to be the voice of 102 counties in Illinois. ISACo is a highly visible civic force with a diverse Board of Directors representing all corners of the state, providing leadership and services to ensure fair, effective and efficient government for the good of all counties and all the people of Illinois.

## **CORE TENETS**

- Preserve and Expand Local Control
- Protect County Revenue Sources
- Oppose Unfunded Mandates
- Promote Ethical and Responsive Governance

## **LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENTS**

### **Agriculture and Rural Policy**

- Supports U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (USDA-RD) programs during the federal appropriations process.

### **Community, Economic and Workforce Development**

- Supports restoration of funding for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program to at least \$2.5 billion in FY 2026.
- Support funding the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program at no less than \$4.2 billion in FY 2026.
- Opposes any federal action, administrative or statutory, that would cap Continuum of Care (CoC) funding for permanent housing at levels below 2025 amounts, including the proposed 30 percent limit reportedly under consideration by HUD.

### **County Authority**

- Supports legislation to expand the authority of counties to address local issues.
- Opposes the federal and state abrogation of rights and responsibilities more appropriately vested with counties.
- Opposes state policies mandating that counties purchase specific equipment or software.
- Opposes federal proposals to erode county regulatory authority over agriculture and pesticide product safety.

### **County Officials**

- Opposes legislation imposing term limits on locally elected officials.
- Supports legislation to create a mediation process to constructively resolve funding allocation conflicts between county boards and other countywide offices.

### **County Revenue and Taxation**

- Opposes legislation reducing state-shared revenues received by county governments.

- Supports legislation that facilitates the collection of underpaid taxes.
- Supports the restoration of Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) revenues to a full 10% of the State Income Tax.
- Opposes the continued diversion of Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT) revenue.
- Supports repeal of the 1.5% administrative fee assessed by the state for the collection of locally imposed sales taxes.
- Opposes enactment of property tax exemptions that reduce local revenues.
- Opposes restrictions to county taxation authority.
- Supports the continued federal tax exemption for municipal bonds.
- Supports federal enactment of legislation allowing for the collection of taxes on out-of-state sales transactions.
- Supports legislation authorizing all counties to impose a local Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) for transportation funding purposes.
- Supports exemptions to the Property Tax Cap Extension Limitation Law (PTELL) for funding financial obligations imposed by the State.
- Supports the enactment of legislation to ensure that Illinois' county tax sale and property forfeiture statutes comply fully with the U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 ruling in *Tyler v. Hennepin County*. Legislation supported by ISACo should be drafted in a manner that reflects a general consensus among Illinois counties.

## **Courts**

- Opposes legislation removing or reducing court fees that does not include provisions to make the removal or reduction cost neutral to counties.
- Supports additional state funding for the operation of the Illinois court system.

## **Elections**

- Opposes mandates expanding the duties and responsibilities of local election authorities without the inclusion of funding to offset additional costs created by the mandates.
- Supports legislation that creates efficiency and cost savings for the administration of elections while protecting the right of eligible citizens to vote.
- Opposes legislation imposing recall provisions exclusively on elected county officials while exempting state and other locally elected officials.

## **Environment**

- Supports preservation of county interests in Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) regulations.
- Supports additional federal and state funding for the clean-up and redevelopment of brownfields.
- Supports an appropriate balance between state and local authority over zoning for green energy projects as proposed within ISACo's proposed wind and solar legislation.

## **General Governance**

- Supports changes to the statutes governing the dissolution of townships to provide counties with the authority to accept or reject the absorption of township duties and obligations while addressing essential policy considerations that arise following a county accepting the duties and obligations.
- Supports legislation that empowers county governments to initiate local government consolidation and service sharing arrangements.

## **Health and Human Services**

- Supports legislation to restore Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Benefits (CHIP) for local jail inmates awaiting trial.
- Supports increased state and federal funding of public health departments.
- Supports state funding to advance the goals and objectives of the Birth Equity Blueprint.
- Opposes unfunded mandates requiring counties to collect used or unused pharmaceuticals and supports policies requesting that counties work in cooperation with the state and pharmaceutical companies for safe disposal.
- Supports federal and state policies to allocate additional resources to combat addictive drugs like methamphetamines and opioids.
- Supports full restoration of federal funding for rural hospitals.
- Supports an increase in federal EMS provided reimbursement rates from Medicare, Medicaid and the Department of Veterans Affairs and a permanent implementation of the COVID-19 era reimbursement rates to rural EMS providers for delivering Treatment in Place (TIP) and Transport to Alternative Provide (TAP) services.
- Supports additional federal funding for the Community and Mental Health Services (MHBG) Block Grant.
- Supports additional federal funding for the Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Services (MHBG) Block Grant.
- Supports the enactment of a long-term, substantive reauthorization of the federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.
- Supports the reauthorization and full funding of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) to ensure the program is effectively meeting the current needs of local communities.
- Supports an increase in the funding cap for the Services Block Grant (SSBG) to provide funds for states to serve vulnerable populations, including adults and children at risk of abuse and neglect.

## **Labor and Personnel Benefits**

- Supports local control over county employment matters.
- Opposes legislation that increases public employee benefits or expands eligibility for benefits without providing state money to offset increased costs.

- Supports legislation authorizing county board participation in collective bargaining negotiations when the county board is responsible for appropriating money to fund the wages and benefits agreed to by the parties.
- Supports the continued independence of the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF) from state control over governance and administration.

### **Public Records and Notifications**

- Supports legislation that allows for statutory reporting requirements and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to be fulfilled through the availability of information on a county website.
- Opposes notification requirements that are duplicative and superfluous.
- Opposes legislation that increases penalties and consequences for unintentional violations of FOIA or the Open Meetings Act (OMA).
- Supports legislation authorizing county boards to establish remote meeting participation policies.
- Supports amending the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to provide counties with reasonable tools to manage vexatious requests, including individuals or automated systems that use artificial intelligence to generate repetitive, duplicative, or burdensome FOIA requests.

### **Public Safety**

- Supports state funding and/or expanded local taxation authority to offset costs of state-imposed criminal justice and law enforcement mandates.
- Supports codification of the Public Duty Rule within state law.
- Supports legislation easing the financial and administrative burden imposed on counties for implementation of the SAFE-T Act.
- Supports full funding of the federal Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program to address the prevalence of mental illness in the criminal justice system.
- Supports the reauthorization and increased funding for the federal Second Chance Act to provide resources to states, local governments and nonprofit organizations to improve outcomes for people returning to communities from prisons, jails and juvenile facilities.
- Supports legislation that would allow individuals in custody to continue receiving Medicaid and other federal health benefits until they are convicted, sentenced and incarcerated and allow for comprehensive behavioral health services and the recruitment of health professionals in county jails.

### **Telecommunications and Technology**

- Supports reauthorization of State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) to support state and local cybersecurity planning and implementation efforts.
- Opposes federal policies to restrict state and local regulatory authority over artificial intelligence.

## **Transportation and Infrastructure**

- Supports inclusion of county priorities in federal infrastructure package or surface transportation reauthorization.
- Supports preservation of local zoning authority in the deployment of next generation telecommunications and opposes federal limitations of such authority.
- Supports federal efforts to improve the accuracy of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Broadband Mapping Data.
- Supports reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).
- Supports legislation intended to prevent escalating infrastructure project costs resulting from delays caused by utilities with facilities within the project area that need to be relocated in a timely manner.
- Supports federal and state initiatives that hasten the deployment of high-speed broadband technology in rural counties.
- Support legislation that increases state funding for township bridges.