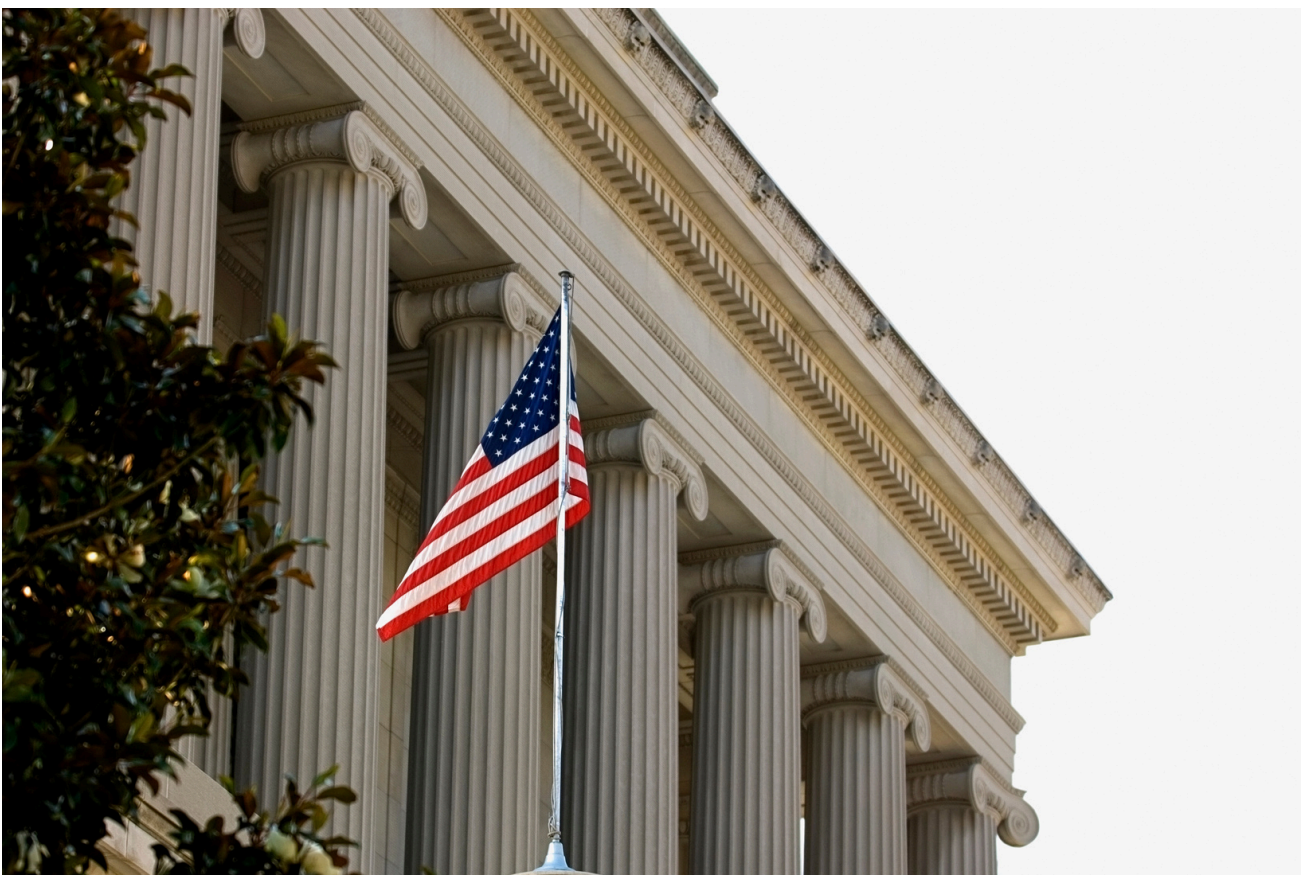




ISACo ANNUAL REPORT

Overview of ISACo Activities - 2023

2023



www.isacoil.org

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**By: Joe McCoy,
Executive Director**

ISACo's Bylaws require the preparation of an annual report to provide a record of the work conducted by the Association during the previous year. We view this report as a positive opportunity to transparently communicate information about ISACo's programs, events, financial status and growth. Each annual report is available on ISACo's website at www.isacoi.org. With deep appreciation, we thank our member counties for their support of our mission and look forward to building relationships with all Illinois counties.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) completed its fifth full year of operation in 2023.

The Association witnessed its first presidential succession with Kendall County Circuit Clerk Matthew Prochaska being elected by the Board of Directors to replace retired Cook County Commissioner Deborah Sims for the 2023-2024 term. A new Vice President was elected by the Board, with Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer getting the nod for the leadership post. Secretary David Meyer (Washington County Chairman) and Treasurer Bill Crowley (Winnebago County Auditor) were re-elected by the Board to continue their leadership roles in 2023-2024.

ISACo began the process of reviewing its by-laws during 2023 and will consider amendments intended to ensure the by-laws are drafted in a manner that best serves our membership and mission. The membership will have an opportunity to review any proposed changes in 2024.

Speaking of membership, ISACo added two new member counties in 2023 (Carrol and Monroe) and now has 31 members. The Association is also pleased to have reached an affiliation agreement with the Illinois Association of Court Clerks to work together on issues of mutual interest.

ISACo's financial condition remains strong and positions the Association for a period of growth in personnel and services.





Legislative Program

The General Assembly held a full session in 2023 (January-May) and adjourned on May 27, after initially scheduling adjournment for May 19.

During the 2023 spring legislative session, almost 6,700 bills were filed. ISACo tracked almost 1,000 bills. This excludes resolutions and proposed constitutional amendments. ISACo took official positions of support or opposition on legislation 125 times during the 2023 spring session.

ISACo joined a coalition of organizations representing municipalities to advocate for an increase in Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) revenue. While the coalition has not yet achieved restoring the county and municipal share of state income tax collections to the full 10 percent received back in January 2011, we did influence a modest increase. The local share was increased from 6.16 percent to 6.47 percent for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2024. This generated an additional estimated \$112 million to be distributed to counties and municipalities on a per capita basis.

ISACo will continue to benefit from this collaborative model on issues that are significant to counties and municipalities. Another issue that saw similar collaboration in 2023 involved advocacy in support of exemptions for counties, municipalities and townships from the “Paid Leave for All Workers Act.”

The legislative session resulted in the passage of several ISACo-supported bills that included, but were not limited to, bid exemptions for patrol vehicles, increased coroner and medical examiner fees and expanded local deflection programs.

In October, ISACo sent a letter to Governor JB Pritzker, House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch and Senate President Don Harmon requesting state funding for offsetting costs to counties resulting from the SAFE-T Act. ISACo will continue to advocate for this funding in 2024.

The ISACo Board of Directors authorized the creation of several policy committees to assist with policy development and advocacy. These committees are as follows:

- ◆ Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee
- ◆ Community, Economic and Workforce Development Committee
- ◆ Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee
- ◆ Public Health Committee
- ◆ Justice and Public Safety Committee
- ◆ Transportation Policy Committee
- ◆ Arts and Culture Committee

In response to concerns following the enactment of an ISACo-opposed law preempting county zoning authority over the siting of wind and solar facilities, ISACo created a Wind and Solar Facility Task Force to identify and discuss policies to make the law more palatable for counties and their residents.

As with previous years, ISACo published a complete report with all new Public Acts that either affect or are of interest to counties. And for the fifth consecutive year, ISACo published a report on new Public Acts that imposed unfunded mandates on counties. Both reports are available on ISACo's website.

In preparation for 2024, ISACo's Legislative Committee held meetings to develop the Association's 2024 Illinois County Action Program (ICAP) and consider amendments to the 2024 ISACo County Platform.

Events and Meetings



ISACo held four meetings of the Board of Directors in 2023. Three were held remotely and two offered a hybrid participation option.

ISACo's Legislative Committee met twice during the fall to consider and formally recommend issues to the Board of Directors for inclusion within the 2024 Illinois County Action Program (ICAP). ISACo will pursue introduction of Board-approved issues during the General Assembly's 2024 legislative session.

Executive Director Joe McCoy was invited to provide presentations to the Will County Legislative Committee in 2023.

ISACo and the United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI) co-hosted a dinner during the spring National Association of Counties (NACo) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. We also co-hosted a dinner with UCCI during the NACo Annual Conference held during July in Travis County, Texas. Both dinners were attended by Illinois county officials and staff in attendance at the NACo conferences. ISACo is appreciative of our corporate partner PMA-IPRIME and Nationwide for their generous sponsorship of these dinners. The Association will also benefit from the growing partnership with UCCI on other events and issues beginning in 2024.

ISACo held our Annual Luncheon in Cook County on December 8, 2023, at the Union League Club of Chicago. We were pleased with the attendance and appreciate the assistance of former Kendall County Board Chair Scott Gryder in making the venue available.

ISACo Communications and Information



ISACo published more than 40 News and Views e-newsletters in 2023. Each of these e-newsletters are available on ISACo's website.

We also published four County Quarterly newsletters in 2023. The County Quarterly is mailed to county officials and interested parties throughout Illinois. It is also available on ISACo's website.

In 2023, ISACo launched the Counties Count! Podcast to provide another medium by which county officials and interested parties can stay up to date on what's happening in the General Assembly, Washington, DC and Illinois counties.

ISACo continued its commitment to making resources available to Illinois counties. In 2023 we added resource pages on the wind and solar facility siting law and the SAFE-T Act.

ISACo dedicated a webpage to make available information and data about Illinois counties. This information includes, but is not limited to, infrastructure and bridges, housing affordability, Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).



Staff Expansion

ISACo expanded its staff with the hiring of Nekya Hall as Legislative Advocacy and Research Manager and Tiffani Homer as Member Services and Communications Manager. Both positions were necessary to provide additional services, capabilities and expertise for the benefit of member counties.

Partnerships

ISACo added two new corporate partners in 2023 (UnitedHealthCare and Public Surplus). ISACo had seven corporate partners at the conclusion of 2023 and appreciates their generosity and support of our mission.