



ISACo ANNUAL REPORT

Overview of ISACo Activities - 2022

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The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACO) completed its fourth full year of operation in 2022.

The General Assembly inched closer to holding a pre-pandemic legislative session, although the House and Senate adjourned almost two months earlier than normal. Much of the legislative activity was hybrid in nature with legislators convening in Springfield on sessions days while committee hearings allowed for both remote and in-person participation. Information about ISACO's legislative activity is included within this report.

The Association will see some leadership changes following the new year. ISACO's first President, Commissioner Deborah Sims (Cook County), retired in November after serving on the Cook County Board of Commissioners for 28 years and as ISACO's President since 2018. Commissioner Sims

had announced during 2021 that she would not seek an eighth term as County Commissioner.

The ISACO Board of Directors will elect a successor to serve as President. This will be the first time the Association will choose a new President.

Per an amendment to our by-laws approved by the membership in 2021, ISACO added two additional seats to the Board of Directors. These seats are intended to increase representation outside of Cook and the Collar Counties.

ISACO will conduct a first-ever complete review of 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. Proposed changes to the by-laws will be submitted to the Board of Directors

followed by the entire membership for review and approval.

It was rewarding to see Will County Board Member Denise Winfrey elected President of the National Association of Counties (NACo) during the 2022 NACo Annual Conference in Adams County, Colorado. President Winfrey had been a member of ISACO's Board of Directors since the inception of the organization in 2018. As NACo President, Winfrey hosted the NACo Board of Directors Meeting and Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC) Symposium in Will County from November 30 - December 3.

ISACO's financial condition remains stellar and we will continue to be good stewards of the financial resources entrusted to us by our member counties and corporate partners.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

The General Assembly held an abbreviated legislation session in 2022 and adjourned on April 9. The early adjournment, almost two months prior to the usual May 31 adjournment date, permitted legislators to focus on their re-election campaigns ahead of the June 28 primary election.

During the 2022 spring legislative session, over 2,600 bills were filed compared to the over 7,000 bills filed in 2021. This excludes resolutions and proposed constitutional amendments. Several bills introduced in 2021 were also considered during the spring. ISACO took official positions of support or opposition on legislation 115 times during the 2022 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 of the individual income tax was increased from 6.06 percent to 6.16 percent for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2023.

ISACO will continue to embrace this collaborative model on issues that are significant to both counties and municipalities.

The legislative session resulted in the passage of several ISACO-supported bills that included the exemption of transportation project funds from the Grant Accountability and Transparency Act (GATA), creation of the County Design-Build Authorization Act and an exemption from the Parking Excise Tax for local governments.

ISACO sent letters to Governor JB Pritzker requesting specific actions on four bills approved by the General Assembly. The Governor supported ISACO's position on each issue.

County Quarterly Newsletter

In April, ISACo sent a letter to the Surface Transportation Board (STB) raising concerns about how the proposed Canadian Pacific-Kansas City Southern Merger would impact Illinois counties. ISACo urged the STB to consider and minimize all potential negative impacts from such a merger.

In August, ISACo wrote a letter to the Supreme Court Statutory Task Force with comments on the Task Force's *Draft Report on Implementation of 2016 Task Force Recommendations and Additional Proposed Measures for Addressing Barriers to Access to Justice and Excessive Financial Burdens Associated with Fees and Costs in Illinois Court Proceedings*. ISACo expressed concerns with increasing financial burdens imposed upon counties for funding the state court system combined with restrictions on local funding options. We asked that the state to provide greater funding assistance for the court system.

ISACo convened meetings with county officials and staff concerned about anticipated problems with SAFE-T Act compliance. This working group shared updates and best practices with each other and developed policy recommendations that would enhance compliance for counties. Working with this group of county officials and staff, ISACo identified and submitted several implementation issues to the General Assembly and Governor with a request for rectification.

Another significant issue that came before ISACo concerned a law that made changes to the relationship between county boards and Veterans Assistance Commissions. ISACo listened to the concerns of member counties and drafted legislative language to be considered in a trailer bill. Several, but not all,

of ISACo's proposals were included within a trailer bill filed in November.

ISACo's Legislative Committee held meetings to develop the Association's 2023 *Illinois County Action Program (ICAP)* and consider amendments to the 2023 *ISACo County Platform*. ISACo will continue our robust legislative advocacy program in 2023.

ISACo COMMUNICATIONS

ISACo published 43 *News and Views* e-newsletters. Each of these e-newsletters are available on ISACo's website.

We also published four *County Quarterly* newsletters in 2022. The *County Quarterly* is mailed to county officials and interested parties throughout Illinois. It is also available on ISACo's website.

In 2022, ISACo published a compendium of Attorney General opinions relevant to counties. This information is available on ISACo's website. We also added a page with county job listings and a page that includes a list of Illinois county officials and staff who represent Illinois in NACo leadership and on NACo committees.

ISACo continued its commitment to making resources available to Illinois counties. In 2022 we added resource pages on the SAFE-T Act and Clean Energy Jobs Act.

PARTNERSHIPS

ISACo continued our relationships with 6 corporate partners and entered into a relationship with another company in 2020. The association now has 7 corporate partners helping to advance the mission of the Association.

EVENTS AND MEETINGS



ISACo held four meetings of the Board of Directors in 2022. Three were held remotely and one was in-person.



ISACo's Legislative Committee met twice during the summer and fall to consider and formally recommend issues to the Board of Directors for inclusion within the 2023 *Illinois County Action Program (ICAP)*. ISACo will pursue introduction of Board-approved issues during the General Assembly's 2023 legislative session.



ISACo convened a working group of county officials and staff to share information and best practices ahead of the January 1, 2023, implementation of the SAFE-T Act. This group met remotely on three occasions.



Executive Director Joe McCoy was invited to provide presentations to the Kane, Lake and McHenry County Legislative Committees during the year.



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 Adams County, Colorado. Both dinners were attended by Illinois county officials and staff in attendance at the NACo conferences. ISACo is appreciative of our corporate partner Nationwide for its generous sponsorship of one of these dinners.



ISACo held our Annual Luncheon in Cook County on December 9, 2022. We appreciate the assistance of Cook County Commissioner and ISACo Board Member Stanley Moore in selecting the venue.



ISACo staff joined Illinois county officials at the NACo Western Interstate Regional (WIR) and Rural Action Caucus (RAC) meetings held from May 18-20 in Anchorage, Alaska. A summary of this event along with resources for counties was included within the June 2022 *County Quarterly* newsletter. Staff also participated in NACo's Large Urban County Caucus (LUCC) from November 30-December 2 in Will and DuPage Counties.