ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

COUNTY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2026



Counties Confront Critical Issues

WHAT'S INSIDE

02 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MESSAGE

03 A LOOK AHEAD AT THE 2026 VETO SESSION

06 FARM BILL WITH KEY COUNTY PRIORITIES

08 FEDERAL CHANGES RESHAPE ILLINOIS SNAP

10 PROPERTY TAX SALES & SURPLUS EQUITY LAW

A Message from the Executive Director



By: Joe McCoy, Executive Director

As we head into the final months of 2026, Illinois counties are navigating significant policy developments in Springfield and Washington, D.C. This edition of ISACo's *County Quarterly* highlights several of these issues and, as always, focuses on what they mean for county governments and the communities they serve.

At the state level, attention is already turning toward the Illinois General Assembly's November and December Veto Session. We take a closer look at two proposals expected to receive attention — the POWER Act and the BUILD Act — with particular emphasis on provisions that would impose new mandates or preempt county authority. ISACo will continue monitoring these and other proposals that emerge as the Veto Session approaches.

This issue also examines an important change already enacted into law. Illinois has substantially revised its property tax-sale process in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's decision concerning surplus equity. Our article explains the new system, the claims process for certain former property owners and the potential financial considerations counties should be preparing to address.

Federal policy is equally important to counties. We provide an update on the 2026 Farm Bill and provisions affecting rural infrastructure, health care, childcare, broadband, conservation and access to federal resources. We also examine major federal changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), including new work requirements and funding changes that could have significant implications for the State of Illinois and the communities counties serve.

Along with keeping members informed about public policy, ISACo continues to look for ways to deliver practical value to Illinois counties. This edition introduces our newest corporate partnership with Amazon Prime Business, providing information about resources and opportunities available through the partnership. Building relationships with organizations that can offer useful services and solutions to counties remains an important part of ISACo's mission.

The breadth of topics in this edition illustrates why it is important for counties to have a strong voice at both the state and federal levels. Whether the issue involves local authority, property taxation, human services, rural development or the implementation of new laws, ISACo's role is to help county officials understand what is changing, how those changes may affect their governments and where county interests need to be represented.

Thank you for your continued involvement with ISACo. I hope you find this edition of the *County Quarterly* informative and useful.

Table of Contents

02 Executive Director Message

03 A Look Ahead at the 2026 Veto Session

06 Farm Bill With Key County Priorities

08 Federal Changes Reshape SNAP

10 Property Tax Sales & Surplus Equity



A Look Ahead at the

2026 Veto Session

By: ISACO Staff

The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to convene for its 2026 Veto Session on November 17–19 and December 1–3. This article examines two proposals expected to be part of the discussion: the POWER Act and the BUILD Act. As other bills emerge as possible veto session issues, ISACo will report on their provisions and potential effects on counties.

POWER Act Would Impose New County Mandates and Restrict Local Authority

Illinois counties have a substantial stake in the debate over the POWER Act, a sweeping proposal addressing data center development, energy affordability, water resources and renewable energy. House Bill 5513 (Representative Gabel, D-Evanston), as introduced, combines environmental and consumer protections with provisions that would impose new county responsibilities, limit local permitting discretion and create additional litigation exposure.

The proposal would establish environmental reviews, water-use requirements and community benefits agreements for data centers, while changing how utilities plan for and recover the costs of serving these facilities. These issues matter to counties balancing economic development opportunities with infrastructure capacity, environmental protection and the interests of existing residents and businesses. However, some of the bill's most direct county mandates concern residential solar permitting rather than data centers.

Under Article 10, counties would generally be required to adopt an automated residential solar permitting platform by July 1, 2027. The platform would need to be anticipated to process at least 75 percent of residential solar applications on existing construction. Counties would also face website requirements and would have to offer remote inspections using electronically submitted photographs or recorded video for projects permitted through the platform.

These requirements raise unfunded mandate concerns. Implementing new technology, integrating county systems, training staff and administering remote inspections could require additional county resources. Article 10 does not provide an express county reimbursement mechanism. Although permitting fees would remain possible, the legislation does not guarantee that counties could recover their full implementation and operating costs.

The bill would also restrict county authority over the review and inspection process. Counties could not require manual review of platform-approved systems during permitting or inspection, although inspectors could still examine construction documents. Remote inspections would have to be available at no greater cost or delay than in-person inspections. Counties could require no more than one inspection unless the first inspection failed. These provisions would constrain local decisions about how to review projects and verify compliance.

The legislation includes limited exemptions. A county offering in-person permitting for all residential solar applications within five business days would be exempt from the platform-adoption section. Counties that do not require permits for residential solar and storage systems would be exempt from the remote-inspection section. Neither exemption expressly applies to the entire article, leaving questions about how the remaining requirements would operate.

Counties would also face a new avenue for litigation. Aggrieved persons or entities could sue without exhausting administrative remedies and seek a civil penalty of up to $1,000, other appropriate relief, and attorney fees and costs. Consequently, county exposure would not be limited to the stated penalty. The bill contains no express requirement to give counties notice and an opportunity to correct a violation before litigation.

For data center development, the proposal would prohibit governmental units from entering nondisclosure agreements concerning a facility's siting, planning, construction or operation. This would directly restrict county contracting discretion during economic development discussions. Another provision would establish funding for eligible participants in data center proceedings, expressly including municipalities but not expressly identifying counties.

Other provisions warrant clarification about county responsibilities and funding. A locally led public engagement process associated with cumulative impact reviews could require county staff and legal resources. Counties could also choose to establish advisory boards for community benefits agreements, potentially creating continuing administrative responsibilities. Board formation would be optional, and these potential costs should be distinguished from the bill's direct mandates. The proposal also should not be characterized as a blanket elimination of county data center zoning authority.

For counties, the central questions are whether new responsibilities will come with adequate funding, whether local officials will retain sufficient review and enforcement discretion, and whether compliance requirements will be clear and workable. These concerns deserve attention alongside the proposal's energy, environmental and consumer protection objectives.

While ISACo supports the consumer protections and financial responsibility provisions within the POWER Act, we oppose the unfunded mandates and continued preemptions of local authority.

BUILD Act Would Expand Housing Options While Limiting Local Authority

Illinois needs more housing that people can afford. Governor JB Pritzker's Building Up Illinois Developments, or BUILD, proposal seeks to increase construction by changing where housing may be built and how projects are reviewed. Its legislative package consists of HB 5626, which combines the proposed reforms, and six Senate bills addressing them separately: SB 4060, SB 4061, SB 4062, SB 4063, SB 4064 and SB 4071. The proposals did not pass during the spring legislative session and remain under consideration ahead of the fall veto session.

For county officials, an important distinction runs through the package. Most of BUILD's proposed zoning and development process mandates are directed at municipalities. The provision that directly preempts county authority concerns building codes: HB 5626 and SB 4061 would prevent a county from prohibiting a qualifying residential building of up to six stories from using a single stairway as the exit for all units. That restriction would begin January 1, 2027, if enacted as proposed.

The single stairway provision would replace a local code decision with a statewide standard. A county that adopts a more restrictive requirement could no longer enforce it against a building meeting the conditions in the legislation. ISACo opposes HB 5626 and SB 4061 because they preempt county authority over a building safety standard, and the association has asked to participate in discussions about the proposal. Counties would also need to review their codes and permitting practices if the legislation became law.

The rest of the package would substantially change municipal authority. The middle housing proposal would require municipalities to permit more dwelling units on certain lots in residential districts that allow single-family homes. Depending on lot size, the proposal would allow up to four, six or eight units. A separate provision would require municipalities to allow accessory dwelling units under specified conditions. Together, these measures would limit local decisions about residential density and the types of homes permitted in existing neighborhoods.

Other bills would restrict municipal parking requirements and change how municipalities calculate and disclose residential impact fees. The permit review proposal would give municipalities 15 business days to initially review a complete one- or two-family residential application and 30 business days for certain larger projects. If a required inspection did not occur within two business days, an applicant could use a qualified third-party inspector under the proposed process. Those deadlines and inspection provisions apply to municipalities in the introduced Senate bill; they should not be treated as direct mandates on county permit offices.

Even where a mandate falls on a municipality, county officials have reason to follow its effects. Additional development can increase demand on roads, stormwater systems and other services that cross jurisdictional boundaries. The scale and cost of any such effects would depend on where housing is built and the capacity already available. The bills do not establish a general requirement for counties to fund those potential needs.

Housing supply and local authority are both consequential issues for Illinois counties. ISACo supports efforts to address housing needs, but statewide rules should be developed with the officials responsible for applying building codes and planning for local infrastructure. As BUILD returns to the legislative discussion, ISACo will focus on the proposed county building code preemption and watch for amendments that might extend the other mandates to counties.

ISACo opposes the bills in the BUILD Act package that would prevent a county from prohibiting a qualifying residential building of up to six stories from using a single stairway as the exit for all units.

ISACo's Veto Session Resource Page (www.isacoil.org) includes detailed analyses of both the POWER Act and BUILD Act, including county impacts, mandates and restrictions on local authority. County officials are encouraged to use this resource as they review the proposals and discuss their implications with legislators.

Counties Count! Podcast —

Your Source for the Latest on Illinois County Government

Stay informed on the most important developments affecting Illinois counties with the Counties Count! Podcast, brought to you by the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo). Each episode delivers timely, accessible insights on legislation, policy trends, and issues shaping county government — all designed to fit the busy schedules of county leaders.

Example Episodes Include:

- **Transit Reform in Illinois** — A breakdown of the sweeping transit proposals introduced this General Assembly and what they mean for counties statewide.
- **Highlights from the 2025 Veto Legislative Session** — Key takeaways, county implications, and what to watch moving forward.
- **Breakdown of the Federal Government Shutdown** — breaks down the ongoing federal government shutdown and explains how disruptions to grants, reimbursements, and essential services could significantly impact Illinois counties now and in the long term.
- **Remembers Former Illinois Governor Jim Edgar** — eflect on his journey from Charleston to the Statehouse, his accomplishments in education and government reform, and the enduring lessons of his public service.



Whether you're a county board member, administrator, department leader, or policy follower, Counties Count! is your go-to resource for staying on top of the issues that matter most.

Let's make counties count — together.

Listen & Subscribe
Catch up on the latest episodes anytime at:
www.isacoil.org/counties-count-podcast



Senate Committee Advances

Farm Bill With Key County Priorities

By: ISACo Staff

The U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry advanced its version of the 2026 Farm Bill on September 16, 2026, moving forward legislation that includes several provisions important to counties and rural communities.

The committee approved the Agricultural Act of 2026 on a 12-11 vote. The legislation now moves to the full Senate, although Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman John Boozman (R-Arkansas) has indicated that a floor vote is expected after the November midterm elections. The current extension of the 2018 Farm Bill expires September 30, 2026.

While the Farm Bill is often associated primarily with agriculture and nutrition programs, it also authorizes federal programs that support county priorities including rural infrastructure, economic development, broadband, health care, childcare, conservation and land management.

Rural Infrastructure and Water Systems

The Senate proposal includes provisions supporting rural water and wastewater infrastructure, including assistance for financially distressed rural water systems and cybersecurity assistance for water and wastewater utilities.

These programs are particularly important for smaller and rural counties where aging infrastructure, limited ratepayer bases and the cost of complying with federal requirements can make major infrastructure investments difficult.

Rural Health Care

The legislation also places additional emphasis on rural health care. USDA Community Facilities programs would prioritize health and behavioral health facilities, while the Distance Learning and Telemedicine program would provide additional opportunities to support behavioral health and substance-use services.

The proposal also includes assistance aimed at rural hospitals, an important issue for counties where access to health care can be affected by hospital financial pressures, workforce shortages and long travel distances.

Rural Childcare

Childcare is increasingly recognized as both a family issue and an economic-development issue in rural communities. The Senate Farm Bill would prioritize childcare facilities within USDA Community Facilities programs and provide additional opportunities to support childcare through rural business programs.

Expanding childcare availability can help rural communities attract and retain workers while supporting local employers experiencing workforce shortages.

Broadband and Rural Connectivity

The legislation continues federal efforts to expand broadband connectivity in rural America. It would streamline USDA broadband programs and improve coordination among USDA, state broadband offices and other federal agencies.

The proposal also includes provisions aimed at improving connectivity for agricultural operations and supporting precision agriculture.

Helping Smaller Counties Access Federal Resources

Of particular interest to counties with limited administrative capacity are provisions providing technical assistance to rural communities seeking federal funding.

Smaller counties may qualify for USDA grants and loans but lack the staff or technical expertise necessary to develop projects and navigate complicated federal application processes. Expanded planning and technical assistance could help these communities compete more effectively for federal resources.

Conservation and Watershed Programs

The Senate proposal continues major conservation programs that support soil conservation, water quality, watershed protection and agricultural land stewardship.

These programs can complement county efforts involving flood mitigation, erosion control, water quality and watershed resilience while providing assistance to agricultural producers implementing conservation practices.

Forestry and Wildfire Mitigation

The legislation also expands tools available for forest management and wildfire mitigation. Among other provisions, it expands Good Neighbor Authority, which facilitates partnerships with the U.S. Forest Service on restoration and land-management projects.

While these provisions have greater significance for western and heavily forested counties, they reflect the broader county interest in ensuring local governments can participate in federal land-management decisions.

SNAP Changes Remain an Issue for Counties

The legislation also revisits some of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) cost-sharing changes enacted in 2025.

The Senate proposal would delay implementation of the new SNAP benefit cost share by one year and provide states and counties additional flexibility in determining which payment-error-rate data are used to calculate certain future cost-sharing obligations. However, it would not delay the separate reduction in the federal share of SNAP administrative costs.

The National Association of Counties (NACo) continues to advocate for additional time for states and counties to adjust to these changes, particularly in the ten states where counties directly administer SNAP. Illinois is not a county-administered SNAP state, meaning the direct fiscal implications for Illinois counties differ from those jurisdictions.

What Comes Next

The Senate legislation is not yet law. Following committee approval, it must still pass the full Senate. The House approved its own Farm Bill, the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2026 (H.R. 7567), on April 30 by a vote of 224-200. Differences between the House and Senate versions would ultimately have to be reconciled before legislation could be sent to the President.

For Illinois counties, the Senate proposal contains several provisions worth watching as negotiations continue. Investments and policy changes affecting water and wastewater infrastructure, rural health care, childcare, broadband, conservation and access to USDA assistance could provide meaningful benefits to rural communities.

ISACo will continue monitoring Farm Bill negotiations and providing updates on provisions affecting Illinois counties.

Federal Changes Reshape SNAP Program in Illinois

By: ISACo Staff

Illinois is implementing significant changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) following enactment of the federal budget reconciliation law, Public Law 119-21, in July 2025. While SNAP continues to provide food assistance to eligible Illinois residents, new work requirements, eligibility changes and shifts in federal funding are altering how the program operates and creating substantial new fiscal exposure for the State.

More than 1.8 million Illinois residents receive SNAP benefits, with approximately $4.7 billion in federal food assistance flowing into the state annually, according to the State of Illinois.

Expanded Work Requirements Now in Effect

One of the most immediate changes involves expanded work requirements for certain SNAP recipients.

Beginning February 1, 2026, Illinois implemented new federal requirements affecting able-bodied adults ages 18 through 64 who do not live with a child under age 14 and are physically and mentally able to work.

Individuals subject to the requirement generally must spend at least 80 hours per month working, participating in an approved employment or training program, volunteering with an approved state or community workfare/training program, or engaging in a combination of qualifying activities. Those who do not meet the requirement and do not qualify for an exemption generally may receive SNAP benefits for only three months during a three-year period.

The federal changes significantly expanded the population potentially subject to these requirements. Illinois officials have warned that the changes could reduce SNAP participation or benefits for hundreds of thousands of residents.

State Administrative Costs Increase October 1

Another major change took effect on October 1, 2026, when the federal government's share of SNAP administrative expenses decreases.

Historically, SNAP administrative expenses have generally been divided evenly between the federal government and states. Under the new federal law, the federal match drops from 50 percent to 25 percent. This shifts the burden to the state's General Revenue Fund.

Illinois estimates that the change will increase state costs by approximately $80 million annually. The State's FY2027 budget notes that the additional expense will affect the General Funds budget by reducing federal reimbursement while requiring Illinois to provide more funding to maintain SNAP administration.

Larger State Fiscal Exposure Could Begin in 2027

An even more consequential change is scheduled to begin October 1, 2027.

For the first time, states may be required to pay a portion of SNAP food benefits themselves. The amount will be determined by each state's SNAP payment error rate, or PER.

A payment error rate measures whether SNAP benefits were issued in the correct amount based on federal eligibility and benefit rules. Importantly, an error does not necessarily indicate fraud; errors can result from mistakes by recipients or administering agencies.

Illinois' FY2027 budget identifies this provision as a potentially significant financial risk. For the first year of the new benefit cost-sharing requirement, states will be able to use their federal fiscal year 2025 or 2026 payment error rate.

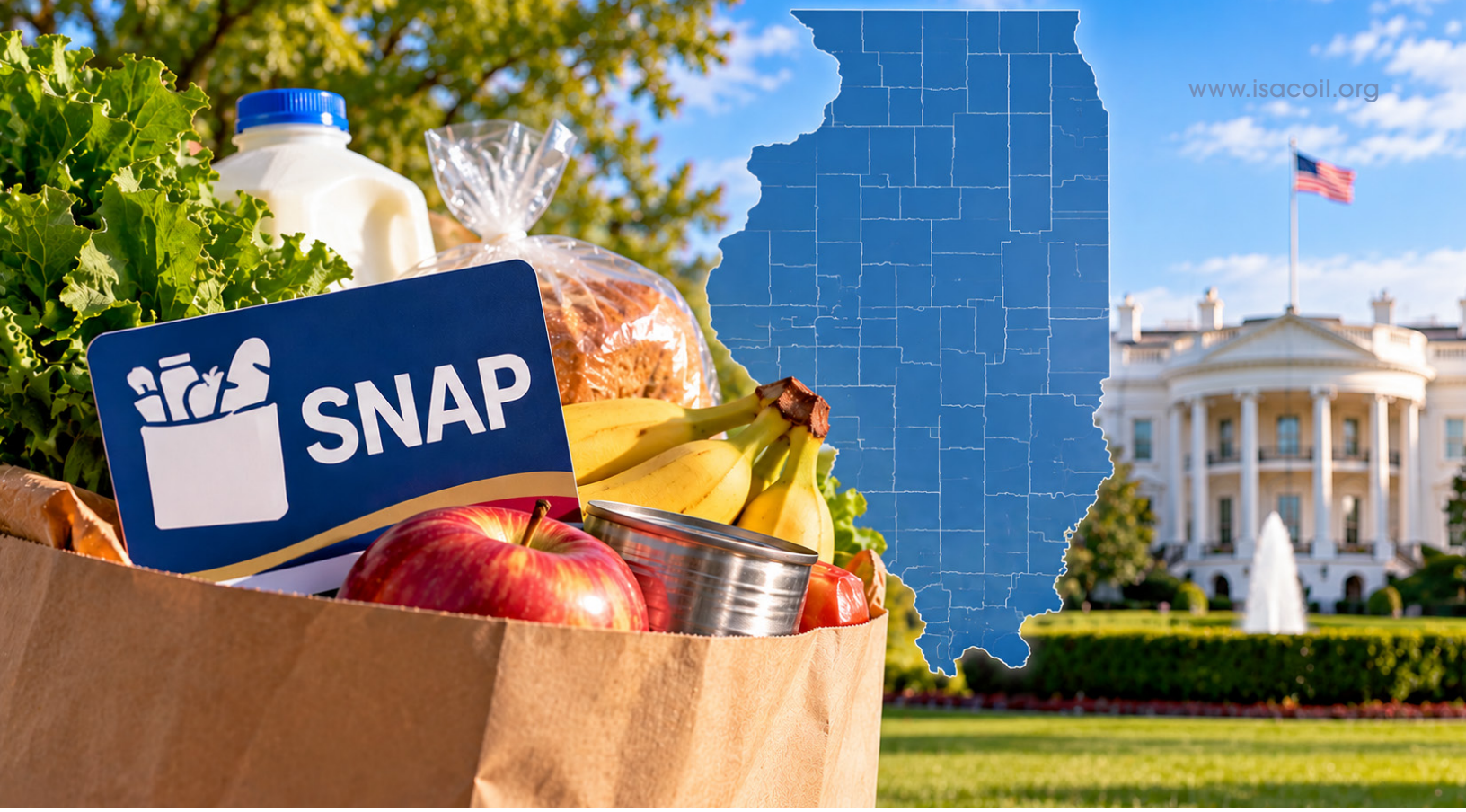
If Illinois were subject to the maximum 15 percent state cost share, the State estimates that it could face approximately $705 million annually in additional SNAP costs, based on roughly $4.7 billion in annual benefits.

Consequently, reducing Illinois' SNAP payment error rate has become an important state fiscal issue as well as an administrative priority.

Illinois Responds to Federal Changes

Illinois has taken several steps to prepare for the new requirements.

The State has directed the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) to analyze the primary causes of its SNAP payment error rate and implement policies intended to reduce errors. IDHS has also been directed to work with community organizations to help SNAP recipients understand and comply with the new work requirements and to pursue appropriate federal waivers where available.



Illinois' FY2027 budget also provides additional resources intended to strengthen SNAP administration as the State prepares for the federal changes.

Why Counties Should Pay Attention

Although SNAP is administered by the State of Illinois rather than county governments, the changes could have implications for counties and the communities they serve.

Reductions in SNAP participation could increase demand on food banks, nonprofit organizations and other local safety-net providers. Because SNAP benefits are spent at grocery stores and other authorized retailers, reductions in benefits could also have economic effects in communities across Illinois.

The fiscal implications for state government are also significant. Beginning October 1, Illinois will assume approximately $80 million in additional annual administrative costs, while the future benefit-sharing requirement could create hundreds of millions of dollars in additional state obligations depending on Illinois' payment error rate.

Those costs will become part of the broader state budget picture and could compete with other state priorities important to counties and local government, including state-shared revenue and grant funding opportunities.

What Comes Next

An important milestone was October 1, 2026, when Illinois' share of SNAP administrative expenses increased to 75 percent.

Attention will then turn increasingly toward the State's payment error rate and preparations for the new benefit cost-sharing requirement scheduled to begin October 1, 2027.

ISACo will continue monitoring implementation of the federal SNAP changes, their impact on Illinois residents and communities, and the potential implications for the State budget and county governments.



New Illinois Law Reshapes Property Tax Sales & Addresses Surplus Equity

By: ISACO Staff

Illinois counties are preparing for significant changes to the property tax sale process following enactment of P.A. 104-0553, legislation intended to bring Illinois law into compliance with the U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 decision in *Tyler v. Hennepin County*.

The new law changes how properties ultimately proceeding to tax deed will be handled, establishes a process for certain former property owners to recover surplus equity and creates new funding mechanisms to help counties manage potential financial exposure.

For counties, understanding why the law was enacted is important. P.A. 104-0553 did not create the underlying financial risk facing counties. That risk emerged following the Supreme Court's decision in *Tyler* and subsequent federal litigation challenging Illinois' existing tax-sale system.

The Constitutional Issue

In Tyler, the Supreme Court considered the case of a Minnesota homeowner who owed approximately $15,000 in property taxes, penalties and interest. The government sold her condominium for $40,000 and retained the entire amount.

The Court unanimously held that while government was entitled to collect the debt it was owed, it could not retain the additional $25,000 in property equity. Doing so constituted a taking of private property requiring just compensation under the Fifth Amendment.

Illinois' system differed from Minnesota's because counties generally did not take ownership of delinquent properties, sell them and retain the surplus proceeds. Instead, counties sold delinquent taxes to private tax purchasers. If the property owner failed to redeem the taxes, the purchaser could eventually obtain a tax deed — potentially acquiring property worth substantially more than the outstanding tax obligation.

Counties argued in subsequent litigation that this distinction mattered because the county did not receive the surplus equity. Federal courts, however, allowed significant constitutional claims against Illinois counties to proceed despite that distinction.

The litigation demonstrated that simply maintaining Illinois' existing system would not insulate counties from potential liability.

Illinois Responds with P.A. 104-0553

The General Assembly responded by approving HB 4537, signed into law as P.A. 104-0553 on July 10, 2026.

The law addresses the surplus-equity issue in two primary ways.

Going forward, it establishes a judicial tax-deed auction process intended to prevent property owners from losing equity exceeding their tax debt. Following expiration of the redemption period and required court proceedings, qualifying properties can be offered through a competitive auction.

The proceeds are used to satisfy the tax-deed judgment and other legally authorized amounts. Any remaining surplus can then be distributed to the former property owner.

Consider a simplified example involving a property worth $250,000 with an $8,000 delinquent tax obligation. If the amount ultimately owed increases to $12,000 and the property sells through the judicial auction for $210,000, the remaining $198,000 represents surplus proceeds that can be preserved for the former owner rather than being lost along with the property.

Addressing Claims from the Previous System

The law must also contend with properties that entered or completed the tax-sale process before the new system took effect.

P.A. 104-0553 establishes a surplus-equity claims process for qualifying tax deeds recorded during the two years preceding the law's July 10, 2026 effective date. Former owners generally have two years from the effective date to pursue these claims.

Counties must also account for outstanding tax certificates issued before July 10, 2026. If one of those certificates subsequently results in a recorded tax deed, the former owner may potentially pursue a surplus-equity claim within two years after the deed is recorded.

This means county exposure is not limited to tax deeds that had already been recorded when the legislation became law. Counties may have a pipeline of earlier tax certificates capable of producing future claims.

The Surplus Equity Fund

To help finance qualifying claims, P.A. 104-0553 creates a Surplus Equity Fund supported by revenues generated through the tax-sale and tax-deed process.

In counties with fewer than 3 million residents, tax purchasers pay a nonrefundable surplus-equity fee established by the county collector of up to $20 for each property purchased at tax sale, along with a similar payment for each year in which the purchaser pays all or part of the subsequent taxes. A different statutory fee structure applies in counties with populations of 3 million or more.

Additional revenues associated with the tax-deed process can also support the fund.

This structure is significant because county general revenues are not automatically the first source of payment for every qualifying surplus-equity award. Instead, the law creates dedicated revenues intended to build resources for these obligations.

Counties with an existing Tort Liability Fund also have an alternative. A county board may adopt an ordinance electing to pay surplus-equity obligations through that fund rather than using the separate Surplus Equity Fund structure.

A Potential Funding Challenge for Counties

One of the most important implementation issues is timing.

The new law permits certain claims involving tax deeds recorded before the Surplus Equity Fund existed, while the dedicated revenues supporting the fund begin accumulating only after enactment. Outstanding pre-July 10 tax certificates can also generate claims later.

Consequently, counties could face qualifying awards before sufficient dedicated revenues have accumulated.

If the Surplus Equity Fund does not contain enough money to satisfy a qualifying court-ordered award, the county must fund the remaining balance within 12 months.

County boards will therefore need to evaluate potential exposure carefully when determining how much money should be maintained in the fund and whether the Tort Liability Fund alternative is appropriate.

Managing a Risk That Already Existed

While P.A. 104-0553 leaves counties as the ultimate financial backstop when dedicated resources are insufficient, the law should not be viewed as creating the constitutional exposure associated with surplus equity.

That exposure existed following *Tyler*. Federal lawsuits were already challenging Illinois' tax-sale system, and courts had allowed significant constitutional claims against counties to proceed.

The new law instead provides mechanisms that did not previously exist: a defined statutory claims process, dedicated revenues for qualifying claims and a prospective judicial-auction system designed to prevent similar uncompensated losses of equity from occurring in the future.

For county officials, implementation will require attention to three categories of property: tax deeds recorded during the statutory two-year lookback period; outstanding tax certificates issued before July 10, 2026, that may later result in tax deeds; and tax certificates governed by the new prospective judicial-auction system.

The most immediate financial concern may be the mismatch between potential claims arising from earlier transactions and the time required for new dedicated revenues to accumulate.

P.A. 104-0553 represents a substantial change to Illinois' longstanding property tax-sale system. It seeks to preserve the ability of local governments and taxing districts to collect delinquent taxes while protecting property owners' constitutional interest in equity exceeding the amounts legally owed.

For counties, the law does not eliminate every potential financial exposure. It does, however, establish a framework for managing existing surplus-equity risk while restructuring the tax-deed process to reduce the likelihood that similar liabilities will continue to accumulate.



News & Views e-Newsletter Subscription

Are you receiving our e-newsletter?

If not, please check your spam folder to make sure our newsletter is not being blocked. Otherwise, please e-mail Tiffani Homer at thomer@isacoil.org with a request to be added.

Don't miss out on these valuable ISACo updates!

Follow ISACo online!

isacoil.org

@isacoil

@ISACOTweetz

I L L I N O I S S T A T E A S S O C I A T I O N O F C O U N T I E S

Join the ISACo Associate Member Program!

ISACo's Associate Member Program was established to provide a forum for companies and organizations to build relationships with county officials while supporting the important work of ISACo.

The program offers five options for corporations and organizations to become associate members of ISACo while receiving benefits for this status.

Build Relationships with county officials

Support counties across Illinois

Gain Visability and grow your business

Learn more or get involved:

Please contact the ISACo Member Services and Communications Manager, Tiffani Homer at thomer@isacoil.org to learn more.



Join an

ISACo Policy Committees

Help shape state policy affecting counties by joining an Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) Policy Committee! Participation is virtual and occurs four times per year unless the members of a committee desire to meet more frequently. These committees play a vital role in shaping the policies that impact our counties. As we navigate the complex landscape of governance and policy, it's crucial to ensure the voices of our county officials and staff are heard and actively shaping decisions that affect counties.

Why Join?

1. **Community Empowerment:** Your county's needs and concerns deserve attention. Joining a Policy Committee allows you to actively contribute to the creation and improvement of policies that impact your operations.
2. **Informed Decision-Making:** Stay at the forefront of policy discussions and decisions. Your participation ensures that policies are crafted with a comprehensive understanding of local realities.
3. **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with like-minded individuals who share a passion for positive change. The committees offer a platform for networking, collaboration, and the exchange of ideas.
4. **Educational Resources:** Stay informed and educated on crucial issues affecting counties. The committees provide access to valuable resources and educational materials to enhance your understanding of policy matters.

Committees Overview:

1. **Justice and Public Safety Policy Committee:** Addresses issues related to justice, law enforcement and public safety within local governments.
2. **Community, Economic and Workforce Development Policy Committee:** Addresses and promotes initiatives and policies that contribute to the well-being and growth of counties and local economies.
3. **Environment, Energy and Land Use Policy Committee:** Addresses and oversees matters related to environmental protection, energy policy and land use planning within local governments.
4. **Agriculture and Rural Affairs Policy Committee:** Addresses and formulates policies related to agriculture and rural development. This includes examining issues such as farming practices, agricultural sustainability, rural infrastructure and the overall well-being of rural communities.
5. **Public Health Policy Committee:** Addresses various health issues that promote and safeguard the health and well-being of residents through the development, evaluation and advocacy of policies.
6. **Transportation Policy Committee:** Focuses on formulating and overseeing transportation policies within counties. This committee addresses aspects such as infrastructure development, traffic management, public transit and sustainability.
7. **Arts and Culture Policy Committee:** Recommends policies related to arts and culture within counties. Its purpose is to provide a platform for discussing, developing and implementing policies that support and promote the arts and cultural activities.
8. **Elections Policy Committe:** Explores issues pertinent to election administration and integrity.

How to Get Involved:

Joining is easy! Visit our website at www.isacoil.org and explore the Policy Committees section. Choose the committee that aligns with your interests and expertise and fill out an application form. Return the form to Legislative Advocacy and Research Manager, Nekya Hall at nhall@isacoil.org.

Your participation matters. Together, we can build a future where policies are reflective of the diverse needs and aspirations of counties. Join an ISACo Policy Committee and be a catalyst for positive change!

ISACo Welcomes New Associate Members

ISACo ASSOCIATE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Public Promise Procurement

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) is pleased to welcome **Public Promise Procurement** as its newest associate member!

Public Promise Procurement focuses on helping local governments navigate the public procurement process by promoting efficient, transparent and cost-effective purchasing practices.

Through its commitment to supporting public-sector purchasing, Public Promise Procurement aims to help counties and other local governments make informed purchasing decisions, maximize taxpayer resources and better serve their communities.

ISACo looks forward to building a strong partnership with Public Promise Procurement and connecting Illinois counties with valuable resources and opportunities.



Efficient. Transparent. Cost-effective purchasing.

ISACo Announces Partnership with Amazon Business

ISACo | amazon business

Helping Illinois Counties Save on Everyday Purchasing and Procurement

The Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) is pleased to announce a new partnership with Amazon Business, providing ISACo member counties with access to valuable purchasing benefits, including complimentary Business Prime membership, a $3,499 annual value.

Through this partnership, participating counties can take advantage of cost-saving opportunities, streamlined purchasing processes and tools designed to help local governments manage their procurement needs more efficiently.

Supporting Smarter County Purchasing

From office supplies and technology to maintenance and operational essentials, this partnership offers counties an opportunity to simplify purchasing while making the most of taxpayer dollars.

ISACo and Amazon Business recently hosted an informational webinar introducing members to the partnership and outlining the steps to activate their complimentary Business Prime benefits.

There is no membership cost or contract required

Exclusive Benefits for ISACo Members

- **Exclusive Savings:** Up to 25% off thousands of essential items.
- **Fast Shipping:** Same-day, one-day and two-day options on eligible purchases.
- **Guided Buying:** Tools to align purchases with organizational policies.
- **Flexible Purchasing:** Pay by Invoice options and automatic tax exemption for eligible purchases.
- **Spend Visibility:** Reporting tools to monitor spending and identify savings.
- **Multi-User Access:** Manage purchasing across employees and departments on one platform.

Interested in Learning More?
For partnership details, eligibility or enrollment, contact:

Tiffani Homer | Member Services & Communications
Illinois State Association of Counties | thomer@isacoil.org

ISACo supports Illinois counties through valuable resources, partnerships and opportunities.

Associate Member Program

Thanks for Your Support!



AT&T



ClearGov®



Comcast



Constellation Telecom



GovText Ascendant App. Inc



IPBC



iPrime™ PMA



Linebarger



Nationwide®



Public Surplus™



Savi



UnitedHealthcare



Wight & Company

Illinois State Association of Counties
427 E. Monroe
Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701

OCTOBER 2026

Counties Count!

County Quarterly Newsletter

CONTACT US

Email jmccoy@isacoil.org

Address 427 E. Monroe
Suite 200
Springfield, IL 62701

Phone (217) 679-3368