



ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

COUNTY

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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A Message from the Executive Director



By: Joe McCoy, Executive Director

One of the great privileges of serving as Executive Director of the Illinois State Association of Counties is having the opportunity to work alongside county officials and county professionals who are deeply committed to serving their communities. Every day, they face the challenge of addressing the needs of today while preserving the institutions, traditions, and local authority that have helped counties serve Illinois residents for generations.

This edition of *County Quarterly* reflects that balance.

The General Assembly has concluded another legislative session, approving a wide range of legislation that affects county government. As always, ISACo will continue to monitor bill enactments, provide timely information to county officials, and advocate for policies that strengthen counties and respect the essential role of local government.

Preserving what matters does not mean resisting change. Counties have consistently demonstrated their ability to adapt and innovate in response to new challenges. But meaningful progress should build upon, rather than undermine, the principles that have long guided local government: accountability, flexibility, and decision-making that remains as close to the people as possible.

This principle is especially important as counties across Illinois confront issues involving land use, economic development,

infrastructure, housing, energy policy, and emerging technologies. While statewide priorities are important, local governments must retain the ability to address local circumstances and make decisions that reflect the unique needs and values of their communities. County government has long provided Illinois residents with a voice in decisions that directly affect their lives. In the face of increasing state preemption of local authority, preserving the tradition of local self-government is every bit as important as embracing the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

The importance of preserving what matters extends beyond policy. Across the Capitol Complex in Springfield, significant renovation projects are underway to modernize facilities and improve accessibility. These improvements represent an investment in the future, but they also demonstrate a commitment to preserving the history and traditions embodied by one of Illinois' most recognizable public spaces. Progress and preservation are not competing ideas; they are partners.

As our nation celebrates the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence in 2026, Americans have an opportunity to reflect on the ideas and institutions that have endured across generations. For nearly two and a half centuries, our country has faced periods of challenge, growth, and change while remaining anchored by the principles of representative government and public service. Counties have been part of that story from the beginning. The semiquincentennial provides an

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opportunity not only to celebrate our nation's history, but also to renew our commitment to preserving the institutions and traditions that strengthen our communities and unite us as Americans.

The same can be said of county government itself. Counties are among the oldest and most enduring institutions in Illinois. For generations, county officials have adapted to changing times while maintaining an unwavering commitment to public service. That commitment continues today.

This edition of *County Quarterly* reflects the theme of preserving what matters while preparing for the future. Inside, readers will find a recap of the 2026 spring legislative session and its impact

on county government, photos from the 2026 NACo Annual Conference in New Orleans, a look at the ongoing transformation of the Illinois Capitol Complex, and information about participating on an ISACo Policy Committee. As we move into the second half of 2026, ISACo remains focused on strengthening counties, advocating for local decision-making, and ensuring that county officials have the information and resources they need to serve their residents effectively.

Thank you for your continued leadership and for all you do to preserve what matters in your communities.

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.

Recent 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** — effect on his journey from Charleston to the Statehouse, his accomplishments in education and government reform, and the enduring lessons of his public service.



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ISACo Participates in Successful

2026 NACo Annual Conference

By: Tiffani Homer

The 2026 National Association of Counties (NACo) Annual Conference & Exposition was held July 17–20 in New Orleans, Louisiana, bringing together county officials and partners from across the country for four days of education, collaboration, and leadership.

Illinois counties were well represented throughout the conference, as county officials participated in policy discussions, educational workshops, committee meetings, and networking opportunities focused on strengthening county government and improving services for residents.

Conference sessions covered a wide range of timely issues impacting counties, including infrastructure, public safety, behavioral health, workforce development, economic development, disaster preparedness, and emerging technologies. Attendees also explored innovative products and services in the conference exposition while exchanging ideas with county leaders from across the nation.

One of the highlights of the conference was the annual Illinois Counties Dinner, proudly co-hosted by the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) and the United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI). Thanks to the generous support of ISACo Associate Member Nationwide, the annual tradition once again brought together Illinois county officials, partners, and guests for an evening of fellowship, networking, and celebrating the partnerships that strengthen county government.

Held at the historic Court of Two Sisters in the heart of New Orleans' French Quarter, the dinner provided attendees with an opportunity to reconnect with colleagues from across Illinois

while enjoying one of the city's most iconic venues. The event continues to serve as a valued tradition that reinforces the strong relationships among Illinois counties.

Throughout the conference, Illinois officials joined colleagues from across the country to exchange ideas, discuss innovative approaches to local governance, and strengthen partnerships that help counties address the evolving needs of their communities. General sessions and policy meetings also provided attendees with updates on NACo's federal advocacy efforts and opportunities for counties to help shape national policy priorities.

ISACo staff were proud to represent Illinois throughout the conference by participating in educational sessions, engaging with county leaders and partners, and promoting collaboration among Illinois counties. The conference provided valuable opportunities to gather new ideas, share best practices, and strengthen relationships that will continue to benefit counties across the state.

ISACo extends its appreciation to the National Association of Counties for hosting another outstanding Annual Conference & Exposition and thanks the many Illinois county officials who represented our state in New Orleans. We also express our sincere gratitude to Nationwide for its continued sponsorship of the Illinois Counties Dinner and its longstanding support of Illinois county government.

The knowledge, partnerships, and collaboration fostered during the conference will continue to strengthen county leadership throughout Illinois as officials return home with new ideas and renewed commitment to serving their communities.

Prochaska's Campaign Reflected the Best of Illinois County Leadership

ISACo congratulates its President, Matthew Prochaska, on an outstanding campaign for Second Vice President of the National Association of Counties (NACo). In a competitive three-candidate field, Matt earned a strong second-place finish after a hard-fought race that took him across the country meeting with county leaders, sharing his vision for NACo, and building relationships with colleagues from every region of the nation. While the outcome was not what we had hoped, his campaign reflected the very best of Illinois county leadership.

Throughout the campaign, Matt represented Illinois with professionalism, integrity, and honor. He demonstrated a genuine commitment to bipartisan collaboration and the

values that unite county officials regardless of party affiliation or geography. ISACo is proud of the campaign he ran and grateful for the countless county officials, state associations, and supporters who stood behind his candidacy. We thank Matt for his dedication to serving counties and for representing Illinois with class, dignity, and distinction on the national stage.



News & Views
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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.

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A New Look for the Capitol Complex

By: ISACo Staff

County officials traveling to Springfield over the past several years have undoubtedly noticed that the area surrounding the Illinois State Capitol looks very different than it once did.

Construction cranes, fencing, temporary entrances, and major building projects have become familiar sights around the Capitol grounds. While some of the work has caused occasional inconvenience, the extensive renovations and improvements represent one of the most significant investments in the Capitol complex in decades.

The Illinois State Capitol, completed in 1888, serves as the center of state government and remains one of Illinois' most recognizable landmarks. Rising 361 feet above Springfield, the Capitol's dome is taller than the dome of the U.S. Capitol and has become a symbol of Illinois government.

The current Capitol is Illinois' sixth statehouse and the second to be located in Springfield. Illinois' first capital was located in Kaskaskia, followed by Vandalia, before the state government moved to Springfield in 1839. The present Capitol replaced the

Old State Capitol, where Abraham Lincoln served in the Illinois House of Representatives and delivered his famous "House Divided" speech in 1858.

Construction on the current Capitol began in 1868 and continued for two decades before the building was completed in 1888. Designed in the French Renaissance style, the structure has served generations of governors, legislators, judges, constitutional officers, and countless citizens who have visited the seat of Illinois government.

Today, state officials are undertaking a comprehensive effort to preserve that history while preparing the Capitol complex to serve future generations.

The most visible project has been the renovation of the Capitol's north wing, including the Senate chamber. According to Capitol officials, the work involved stripping portions of the building to its structural framework before carefully restoring historic features and incorporating modern building systems. Capitol Architect Andrea Aggertt has described the effort as "exposing the bones" of the historic structure before restoring it to its original grandeur.

The overall Capitol renovation and related improvements have represented an investment of approximately \$350 million. As work nears completion, visitors will notice improvements designed to enhance accessibility, safety, and the overall visitor experience.

Additional changes around the Capitol grounds include a new Monroe Street entrance and visitor facilities, as well as the construction of an underground parking garage. Together, these projects are intended to make the Capitol more functional while preserving the building's historic significance.

Many of the projects currently transforming the Capitol complex are entering their final phases. Renovations to the Capitol's north wing, including the Senate chamber, new visitor facilities, and underground parking garage, were substantially completed during 2025, with finishing work continuing into 2026.

Meanwhile, the renovation of the historic Illinois State Armory is also approaching completion, while plans continue to move forward for a new Legislative Office Building that will shape the future of the Capitol campus for years to come.

What County Officials Will Notice

County officials who regularly travel to Springfield are likely to see significant changes throughout the Capitol complex in the coming months and years.

Visitors will notice restored areas of the Capitol's north wing, including the Senate chamber, along with new entrances and upgraded security screening areas. The addition of underground parking and visitor facilities is intended to improve accessibility and enhance the experience for those conducting business at the Capitol.

Beyond the Capitol building itself, the ongoing renovation of the Illinois State Armory and plans for a new Legislative Office Building are reshaping the landscape surrounding the seat of state government. These projects reflect a broader effort to modernize state facilities while preserving the architectural and historical character that has defined the Capitol complex for generations.

Construction plans are underway for a new Legislative Office Building that will eventually provide modern office space for members of the General Assembly and staff. The project is intended to replace aging facilities and better accommodate the needs of the legislative branch.

Meanwhile, the historic Illinois State Armory, located just south of the Capitol, is being converted into office space that will house support staff from the Governor's Office and other state agencies. The project will breathe new life into a building that has long been part of Springfield's landscape.

Taken together, these projects are reshaping the Capitol complex and ensuring that Illinois' seat of government remains functional and accessible while preserving the historic structures that have served generations of Illinoisans.

For county officials who regularly travel to Springfield, the changing landscape serves as a reminder that stewardship extends beyond programs and policies. Preserving public buildings and investing in infrastructure are important responsibilities that help ensure future generations inherit institutions capable of serving the people of Illinois for decades to come.

As these projects approach completion, visitors to Springfield will soon experience a Capitol complex that blends history with modern functionality—a new look for the Capitol complex while maintaining the traditions that have long defined Illinois government.

As Illinois and the nation commemorate 250 years of American history, these investments in the Capitol complex serve as a reminder that preserving the institutions and places that connect us to our past is also an investment in the future.

2026 Spring Legislative Session Summary

By: ISACo Staff

The 104th Illinois General Assembly completed its work for the spring and adjourned in the early morning hours on Monday, June 1.

During the 2026 spring legislative session, more than 3,000 bills were filed.

In total, 395 bills were approved by both chambers. Put another way, approximately 13 percent of introduced House and Senate bills will make it to the Governor's desk.

The General Assembly is scheduled to return for the Fall Veto Session from November 17-19 and December 1-3.

This report provides an initial overview of the more consequential legislation approved during the second year of the 104th General Assembly. Key legislation that was not approved is also referenced.

ISACo has also prepared a comprehensive report on legislation approved by both chambers that affects or is of interest to counties. The report is available on our website at www.isacoil.org.

State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2027 Budget

Prior to adjournment, Illinois lawmakers approved a \$55.945 billion spending proposal. The approved budget includes \$55.950 billion in revenues.

The new state fiscal year begins on July 1, 2026.

The budget bills are listed below:

SB 3019 (Senator Villanueva, D-Chicago/Representative Tarver, D-Chicago) is the omnibus state revenue bill that includes provisions estimated to yield an estimated \$815 million to \$1.4 billion in new state revenues. **Signed into law as P.A. 104-0468.**

HB 111 (Speaker Welch, D-Hillside/Senator Sims, D-Chicago) is the appropriations bill. It includes \$55.950 billion in anticipated revenues and \$55.945 billion in expenditures. **Signed into law as P.A. 104-0464.**

HB 2949 (Representative Guzzardi, D-Chicago/Senator Sims, D-Chicago) is the Budget Implementation bill (BIMP). The BIMP bill effectuates the state budget. **Signed into law as P.A. 104-0466.**

The SFY 2027 Illinois budget package includes an estimated \$815 million to \$1.4 billion in new revenue, generated through a combination of tax increases, new fees, and one-time fund

transfers. The largest guaranteed revenue increase is a \$300 million corporate tax increase achieved by extending and tightening the state's cap on net operating loss deductions. Businesses will face new limits on the amount of prior losses they can deduct against current income.

New Taxes and Fees

The budget also creates several new taxes and fees. A new social media fee on large platforms is projected to generate \$200 million annually, while a 0.2 percent tax on digital asset transactions and services is expected to raise \$60 million. Illinois will also begin taxing capital gains from certain qualifying small-business stock sales by decoupling from a federal tax exemption, generating an estimated \$50 million to \$60 million, and will impose a 15 percent tax on fantasy sports contest revenues, projected to raise about \$5 million.

Another significant and controversial provision is a new 10 percent tax on targeted digital advertising services, which would apply to companies with more than \$1 million in Illinois digital advertising revenue. Revenue estimates range widely, from \$200 million to more than \$800 million annually, because legal challenges are expected. Opponents argue the tax may violate federal law and constitutional provisions and could be difficult to administer.

Fund Sweeps

In addition to new taxes, the budget relies on approximately \$185 million in fund sweeps. This includes transferring \$150 million from the Road Fund, supported in part by gasoline sales tax revenues, to the General Revenue Fund for general state operations, as well as \$35 million from a federal coronavirus relief fund. These transfers provide one-time revenue to help balance the budget but do not represent recurring sources of funding.

Motor Fuel Tax Increase Delay

The budget package includes a six-month delay of the scheduled July 1 increase in the state Motor Fuels Tax, postponing a planned 1.3-cent-per-gallon increase. Lawmakers estimated the delay would reduce fuel tax collections by approximately \$37.5 million. The budget also transfers \$150 million from the Road Fund to the General Revenue Fund, using revenues generated from state sales taxes on gasoline.

Local Road Fund

The budget includes an additional allocation of \$300 million to the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Local Road Fund.

SNAP Funding

In addition, the budget establishes the Families Receiving Emergency Support for Hunger (FRESH) Program, which provides a one-time \$400 payment to individuals who recently lost Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits after failing to meet work requirements. Lawmakers estimate the program will cost approximately \$60 million. The proposal had previously been introduced as separate legislation before being included in the budget package.

STATE SHARED REVENUES

No Cut to LGDF: Distributions into LGDF Remain at SFY 2026 Level

The amount of Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) revenue as a percentage of state income tax collections will remain at 6.47 percent of income tax collections in SFY 2027. In other words, **there is no change in the percentage share compared to the current state fiscal year.**

ISACo placed a priority on averting cuts to LGDF after Governor Pritzker had proposed reducing LGDF distributions to 6.28 percent of income tax distributions. We extend our appreciation to the Governor and state legislators for standing with counties and municipalities. ISACo will continue to work with our coalition partners to advocate for a restoration of LGDF distributions to the full 10 percent received by counties and municipalities prior to 2011.

Personal Property Replacement Tax Diversions

The General Assembly continued the practice of diverting Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT) revenue away from local governments for use by the state for other purposes. The amount of the diversion in the SFY 2027 budget exceeds \$407 million.

KEY LEGISLATION APPROVED BY BOTH CHAMBERS

In addition to the budget, the General Assembly considered and approved several bills of significance for counties during the final days of the spring session. Those bills are included below:

Energy Bill

HB 1700 (Representative Williams, D-Chicago/Senator Stadelman, D-Rockford) amends the Illinois Power Agency Act and the Public Utilities Act to modify various clean energy and utility programs. The bill authorizes limited additional funding for the Illinois Solar for All Program through May 31, 2028, lowers the geothermal system size threshold that triggers prevailing wage requirements, and revises distributed storage rebate eligibility and compensation limits. **The bill also modifies the process for resolving disputes between energy facility developers and local governments by authorizing the Illinois Commerce Commission to issue siting certificates when a local government fails to adopt a siting or zoning ordinance that complies with State siting law, provided the developer gives at least 60 business days' notice before filing a petition.** Effective June 1, 2026. The bill passed both chambers. **ISACo Opposes**

PFAS Action Plan

HB 2955 (Representative Rashid, D-Bridgeview/Senator Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago) creates the PFAS Wastewater Citizen Protection Act, establishing a dedicated Committee tasked with creating, updating, and submitting an annual PFAS Action Plan to the Governor's Office, the General Assembly, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The bill passed both chambers. **ISACo Supports**

Property Tax Sales Reform

HB 4537 (Representative Tarver, D-Chicago/Senator Villanueva, D-Chicago) would fundamentally restructure the Illinois Property Tax Code to end the practice of "absolute forfeiture." The bill was approved as a response to the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark *Tyler v. Hennepin County* ruling. Under the bill, local governments and tax buyers can no longer absorb a property's total equity to satisfy a smaller tax debt. Instead, the historical system will be replaced by a mandatory Judicial Tax Deed Auction designed to establish a property's true market value through public bidding. Any auction proceeds that exceed the underlying tax debt, interest, and administrative costs must be deposited with the County Treasurer and returned to the former owner. Additionally, the bill establishes county-level, fee-funded Surplus Equity Funds to protect former owners if a public auction fails to draw private bids, while significantly upgrading bilingual due process and notification requirements to ensure property owners understand their equity rights. The bill passed both chambers.

ISACo Supports

Affordable Housing Tools

HB 4571 (Representative Deuter, D-Westmont/Senator Ellman, D-Naperville) amends the Counties Code to authorize certain counties to acquire, transfer, lease, sell, and otherwise use real property, financial incentives, infrastructure improvements, and other tools to create and preserve affordable housing for households earning up to 140 percent of the area median income. Applies to counties with populations between 750,000 and 2 million (Dupage), as well as certain county executive counties with populations between 650,000 and 2 million (Will) and takes effect immediately. The bill passed both chambers. **ISACo Supports**

Rental Fees

HB 3564 (Representative Syed, D-Palatine/Senator Simmons, D-Chicago) amends the Landlord and Tenant Act to establish new rental fee transparency requirements for residential leases. The bill requires landlords to clearly and conspicuously disclose all non-optional fees in residential property listings or through an accompanying web link at the time of listing and to include all non-optional fees on the first page of a lease agreement. Tenants are not liable for fees that are not properly disclosed, and landlords must indicate whether utilities are included in the rent. The legislation also prohibits certain fees and fines, including excessive rental application or background check fees, fees intended to duplicate tenant screening costs, fees for lease modifications or renewals, after-hours maintenance request fees, and pest abatement charges when the tenant did not contribute to the infestation. The bill creates a private right of action for violations, prohibits landlords from renaming fees to avoid compliance, limits the concurrent exercise of home rule powers if inconsistent with the Act, and applies to residential lease agreements entered into after the effective date of the Act. The bill passed both chambers. **ISACo Opposes**

HB 5234 (Representative Syed, D-Palatine/Senator Simmons, D-Chicago) includes language specifying that, if and only if HB 3564 (above) becomes law, then the effective date of that bill becomes January 1, 2027. The bill passed both chambers. **No Position**

IMRF Death Benefit Increase

SB 2802 (Senator Holmes, D-Aurora/Representative Walsh, D-Joliet) increases the IMRF death benefit from \$3,000 to \$8,000. The bill passed both chambers. **No Position**

PEDA Expansion

SB 3076 (Senator Edly-Allen, D-Grayslake/Representative Johnson, D-East Moline) expands the scope of the Public Employee Disability Act (PEDA) in a way that directly increases counties' financial costs, particularly for sheriff's offices and correctional operations. The bill passed both chambers. **ISACo Opposes**

Hemp Regulation

SB 3222 (Senator Lightford, D-Maywood/Representative Guzzardi, D-Chicago) creates the Illinois Hemp Act and establishes a comprehensive regulatory framework for the production, manufacture, distribution, and sale of hemp products in Illinois. It requires licensing and authorization for hemp-related activities, creates the Illinois Hemp Regulatory Fund, provides for enforcement actions and penalties, and incorporates violations into the Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act. The legislation also dissolves the Industrial Hemp Regulatory Fund, limits home rule authority in this area, and repeals the Industrial Hemp Act effective November 12, 2026.

The bill makes significant changes to Illinois' medical cannabis and adult-use cannabis laws. It updates definitions and regulatory requirements, modifies provisions concerning patients, caregivers, dispensing organizations, licenses, taxes, possession limits, laboratory testing, and operational standards, and authorizes the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation to issue, update, and enforce dispensing organization licenses. The legislation also repeals the Social Equity Justice-Involved Medical Lottery, expands references to infuser organizations, and eliminates the repeal date for the Community College Cannabis Vocational Program.

In addition, the legislation amends numerous related statutes, including tax laws, the Illinois Vehicle Code, the Cannabis Control Act, and the Tobacco Accessories and Smoking Herbs Control Act, to conform state law to the new hemp and cannabis regulatory framework. The Act takes effect immediately, except for the creation of the Illinois Hemp Act and the repeal of the Industrial Hemp Act, which take effect on November 12, 2026. The bill passed both chambers. **No Position**

E-Bike Regulations

SB 3484 (Senator Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago/Representative Hernandez, D-Aurora) amends the Illinois Vehicle Code to establish titling requirements for certain higher-powered electric motor-driven cycles and gas-powered bicycles, while exempting electric micromobility devices from titling, registration, licensing, and insurance requirements. It also creates operational rules for toy vehicles, motor-driven cycles, and electric micromobility devices, including signage requirements for areas where motor-driven cycles are prohibited and restrictions on passengers for operators under age 18.

The bill further authorizes the Department of Natural Resources and local park, forest preserve, conservation, and transit districts to regulate the use of low-speed electric bicycles on property under their jurisdiction. It also makes conforming changes to related state laws and takes effect January 1, 2027. The bill passed both chambers. **No Position**

Lead Service Line Notifications

SB 4025 (Senator Villivalam, D-Chicago/Representative Olickal, D-Chicago) would amend the Environmental Protection Act to allow community water supplies alternative methods for notifying building owners of lead service lines. It also mandates that property owners statewide, or legal occupants if the owner is unavailable or unwilling, must grant water supplies free access to replace lead or galvanized service lines at no cost, while shielding occupants from liability. The bill passed both chambers. **No Position.**

KEY LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT ADVANCE

Several significant bills did not make it through both chambers in the waning days of the spring legislative session. Those bills are listed below:

Veterans Assistance Commissions

SB 3646 (Senator Porfirio, D-Burbank) would have modified the Military Veterans Assistance Act to expand the structure for delivery of veterans services, broaden eligibility for assistance, reduce county board authority over VACs, create new enforcement mechanisms and increase oversight and compliance requirements. This bill may be considered during the Fall Veto Session. The bill did not pass. **ISACo Opposes**

BUILD Act

ISACo previously reported on our opposition to specific bills that were part of the Governor's BUILD Act intended to create more affordable housing stock. Some bills amended the Counties Code to preempt local authority. Those bills, as well as legislation only impacting municipalities, did not advance out of either chamber.

Elections

HB 1832 (Representative Smith, D-Chicago/Senator Cunningham, D-Beverly) was intended to receive an amendment with several provisions concerning elections. The bill was not considered prior to adjournment. **Under Review**

Data Center Regulation

Senate Amendment 1 to SB 1050 (Senator Hills, R-Barrington Hills) would expressly authorize counties and municipalities to establish local standards governing the construction and siting of data centers through local ordinance. The bill did not pass. **ISACo Supports**

SB 4016 (Senator Ram Villivalam, D-Chicago/HB 5513 - Representative Gabel, D-Evanston) is the Protecting Our Water, Energy, and Ratepayers (POWER) Act that proposes a comprehensive regulatory framework for large-scale data centers in Illinois in response to concerns over their growing electricity and water demands. The legislation would have required new hyperscale data centers to pay for the utility infrastructure needed to serve

their facilities, secure new clean energy resources to offset their power consumption, report energy and water usage, and comply with water resource planning and environmental protection requirements. Supporters argued the measure would protect residential and business utility customers from bearing the costs of data center growth and help safeguard natural resources, while opponents contended the requirements could discourage investment and undermine Illinois' competitiveness in attracting data center development. The legislation did not advance to final passage during the 2026 spring legislative session. The bill includes unfunded mandates on local governments. The bill did not pass. **ISACo Opposes**

Megaprojects Bill (Chicago Bears Stadium)

The General Assembly did not approve legislation intended to support a new Chicago Bears stadium development in Illinois, particularly at the team's Arlington Heights property (**HB 910 - Speaker Welch, D-Hillside/Senator Cunningham, D-Beverly**). The proposal would have allowed qualifying "megaprojects" valued at \$100 million or more to negotiate discounted payments in lieu of property taxes (PILOTs), potentially reducing the Bears' property tax obligations on a proposed stadium and surrounding development. The House approved the legislation, but Senate support appeared to collapse near the end of the legislative session, with concerns raised about providing incentives that could encourage the Bears to leave Chicago. The bill did not pass.

The Senate worked on an alternative approach and approved a stadium bill (**HB 958 - Representative Avelar, D-Romeoville**) that would have empowered home rule governments in Cook County with a population of 70,000 or more to create authorities to help finance and construct professional sports stadiums. This concept is modeled after the Illinois Sports Authority law and would allow for the construction of a stadium while avoiding a property tax obligation for the Bears. The bill passed the Senate but was not considered by the House prior to adjournment.

ISACo will monitor and report on actions taken by the Governor for the bills approved by both chambers. Please visit our website at www.isacoil.org to find a frequently updated "Bills Approved by Both Chambers Report" that includes public act numbers for bills signed into law.



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ILLINOIS STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES

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 Visibility 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.
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.

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.

How to Get Involved:

Joining is easy! Visit our website 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!



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County Quarterly Newsletter

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