



# **ISACo County Platform 2021**

January 1, 2021

## **ABOUT ISACo**

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

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

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

ISACo seeks to accomplish the following:

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

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

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

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

## **CORE TENETS**

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

## **LEGISLATIVE POLICY STATEMENTS**

### **County Authority**

- Supports legislation to expand the authority of counties to address local issues.
- Opposes the federal and state abrogation of rights and responsibilities more appropriately vested with counties.

### **County Revenue and Taxation**

- Opposes legislation reducing state-shared revenues received by county governments.
- Supports the restoration of Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) revenues to a full 10% of the State Income Tax.
- Opposes the continued diversion of Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT) revenue.
- Supports repeal of the 1.5% administrative fee assessed by the state for the collection of locally-imposed sales taxes.
- Opposes enactment of property tax exemptions that reduce local revenues.
- Opposes reductions to county taxation authority.
- Supports the continued federal tax exemption for municipal bonds.
- Supports federal enactment of legislation allowing for the collection of taxes on out-of-state sales transactions.
- Supports legislation authorizing all counties to impose a local Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) for transportation funding purposes.
- Supports additional federal funding to offset county costs associated with COVID-19 and the authority to use these funds to offset revenues lost as a result of the economic shutdown.

### **Elections**

- Opposes mandates expanding the duties and responsibilities of local election authorities without the inclusion of funding to offset additional costs created by the mandates.

### **Environment**

- Supports preservation of county interests in Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) regulations.

## **General Governance**

- Supports legislation to make it easier for counties to comply with decennial census requirements.

## **Health and Human Services**

- Supports legislation to restore Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Benefits (CHIP) for local jail inmates awaiting trial.
- Supports increased state and federal investment in county public health infrastructure.

## **Labor and Personnel Benefits**

- Supports local control over county employment matters.
- Opposes legislation that increases public employee benefits or expands eligibility for benefits without providing state money to offset increased costs.
- Supports legislation authorizing county board participation in collective bargaining negotiations when the county board is responsible for appropriating money to fund the wages and benefits agreed to by the parties.

## **Public Records and Notifications**

- Supports legislation that allows for statutory reporting requirements and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests to be fulfilled through the availability of information on a county website.
- Opposes notification requirements that are duplicative and superfluous.
- Opposes legislation that increases penalties and consequences for unintentional violations of FOIA or the Open Meetings Act (OMA).

## **Transportation and Infrastructure**

- Supports inclusion of county priorities in federal infrastructure package or surface transportation reauthorization.
- Supports preservation of local zoning authority in the deployment of next generation telecommunications and opposes federal limitations of such authority.
- Supports federal efforts to improve the accuracy of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Broadband Mapping Data.
- Supports reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).