



# — INDIANA — COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



## Agenda

Tuesday November 28

12:00pm – 1:00pm Registration

12:45pm – 1:00pm

Coffee and Snacks

**Sponsored By:** Mainstream Fiber Networks

1:00pm – 2:15pm Opening Session

Welcome Mark Heirbrandt, ICC 2023 President, and Hamilton County Commissioner

Posting of the Colors by the Indiana State Police

Opening Remarks Vanessa Sindere, President and CEO Indiana Chamber of Commerce

Keynote Speaker, Gary Varvel – Award winning cartoonist, author and producer

ICC Achievement Awards Ceremony and ICC Elections

Heather Gries, ICC Awards Committee Chairperson and Spencer County Commissioner

*The ICC will recognize outstanding County Commissioners, County Engineers, Highway Supervisors, County Auditors, and Administrative Assistants. These individuals have consistently engaged in distinguished and exceptional service resulting in significant, positive impact to their county. Be sure to join in and celebrate their accomplishments!*

2:15pm – 3:00pm

Six Concurrent ICC District Meetings

**Sponsored By: VS Engineering**

Northwest District	Suite 7
Northeast District	Suite 6
West Central District	Suite 5
East Central District	Suite 4
Southwest District	Suite 3
Southeast District	Suite 2

*Be sure to attend your District Meeting to discuss issues important to you and collaborate with County Commissioners in your district. Each District will elect a District President and Vice President that will serve as members of the ICC State Board of Directors and support County Commissioners in their district. Your participation is very important!*

2:15pm – 3:00pm – Affiliate Breakout Sessions

*Attend your affiliate session and learn, share, and build relationships across the state to strengthen valuable partnerships.*

County Auditors	Suite 15
County Administrators/CEO's	Suite 14
Indiana Association of Highway Engineers and Supervisors (IACHES) Board of Directors Meeting	Metro Suite

3:00pm – 6:00pm Grand Opening Reception and Exhibit Hall Plaza Ballroom

*Please be sure to visit with the participating trusted exhibitors who support our association!*

Evening available for individual activities & dinner

HOSPITALITY SUITES WILL BE OPEN UNTIL WEE HOURS

Wednesday November 29

7:30am – 3:00pm Registration Clearwater Lobby

8:00am – 9:00am Continental Breakfast Clearwater Lobby and Exhibit Area

Sponsored By: Indiana Pork

9:00am – 4:00pm Indiana Association of County Highway Engineers and Supervisors Metro Suite

9:00am – 9:45am Clearwater Ballroom

Building Relevancy through collaboration, communication, and advocacy.

Trevor Revesz, Senior Director of Communications at RJL Solutions

Ryan Ritchie, VP of Government Relations, RJL Solutions

Chris Switzer, Commissioner, Vigo County

*Relevance is a key determinant of a thriving community. In competing for the next big economic development opportunity, a grant to fund strategic community initiatives, or qualified workers to fill vacant jobs, communities must hold relevance in the minds of local, state, and federal decisionmakers to achieve success. In this breakout session, community leaders will learn how a comprehensive advocacy and strategic communications strategy can elevate their communities' relevance and maximize success.*

TIPS & Tales #1

10:00am – 10:45am Clearwater Ballroom

2024 Legislative Update

Jacob German, ICC Lobbyist and Partner at Barnes & Thornburg

Chris Switzer, ICC Legislative Committee Chairman and Vigo County Commissioner, Moderator

*Are you ready for the 2024 legislative session? Positive outcomes with legislation depend on the collaboration and communication between County Commissioners and other stakeholders, such as county councils, state legislators, and citizens. We need our members to join in and advocate for the interests of their county, provide feedback and input on proposed bills, and seek support for local initiatives. This informative and engaging session will cover ICC's legislative priorities and ready you for participation.*

10:45am – 11:00am Break

**Sponsored By:** Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers, Kapur and Associates Inc., Weigand Construction Co., Inc.

11:00am – 11:45pm

Clearwater Ballroom

How Can Counties Play a Role in Water Resource Management?

Jack Witman, PhD VP Water – Eastern US INTERA

Mark Heirbrandt, Hamilton County Commissioner

*Water is a vital and scarce resource that faces many challenges from increasing demand. Counties can play a key role in water resource management by adopting an integrated and holistic approach that considers the multiple uses and values of water, as well as the interconnections between water, land, and related resources. Participants will learn how to assess water resources, identify stakeholders, develop plans and policies, implement actions, and monitor and evaluate outcomes. Commissioners need to be leaders and ensure water security, sustainability, and resilience for their communities and the environment.*

TIPS & Tales #2

12:00pm – 1:30pm Lunch Buffet and Exhibit Hall

**Sponsored By:** A & Z Engineering, LLC, Ameresco, Banning Engineering,

*Please be sure to visit with the participating trusted exhibitors who support our association!*

1:30pm – 2:00pm

Clearwater Ballroom

Open Door Laws..Keeping it Legal

Luke Britt, Indiana Public Access Counselor

Brian Baird, Johnson County Commissioner, Moderator

*This session will discuss both of the Indiana Public Access Laws, the Open Door Law and Access to Public Records Act, including common pitfalls and mistakes made by public agencies in attempting to comply.*

2:00pm – 2:45pm

Clearwater Ballroom

BOT and Other Project Delivery Methods

Richard Hall, ICC Legal Counsel and Partner at Barnes & Thornburg

Paul Okeson, Garmong Construction Services

Bill Spalding, Hancock County Commissioner, Moderator

*One of the most important decisions made by any owner embarking on a construction project is the choice of the project delivery method – how the project will be designed and constructed. Attendees will learn about the alternative capital project delivery methods, an overview of the project delivery process, and the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders. This session will help county officials understand the pros and cons of each method, as well as the risk allocation and contractual arrangements involved.*

TIPS & Tales #3

3:00pm – 3:15pm Break

**Sponsored By:** A & Z Engineering, LLC, Election Systems & Software, GRW

Participants will select one of five sessions to attend.

Bring your whole team to cover them all!

1. The Importance of long-term planning. Suite 7  
Jason Semler, Baker Tilly  
Bobbie Plummer, Henry County Commissioner  
Tracey Powell, Tipton County Commissioner Moderator  
*Local governments are challenged with the task of providing/maintaining services with limited resources. This underscores the need for local units of government to match budgeted expenses with estimated annual receipts and extend planning horizons beyond one year. A long term, 3-5 year financial and capital planning approach, will provide a living document that can be modified as new information becomes available. This document can allow local government to take a proactive approach to assist in identifying and prioritizing expenses/projects and the best ways in which to fund them.*
  
2. Planning and Zoning Challenges Suite 6  
K.K. Gerhart Fritz, FAICP, The Planning Workshop, Inc.  
Deborah Luzier, AICP, GRW, Inc.  
Jamie Palmer, AICP, IU Public Policy Institute  
Mark Gourley, Starke County Commissioner, Moderator  
*Balancing the needs of the community and the property owners in terms of land use, development, and preservation is a complex and challenging task that requires careful planning, collaboration and compromise. There is no one-size-fits-all solution for addressing challenges, but there are some general principles and strategies that can help guide the process. Attend this session to learn strategies to ease controversial public hearings.*
  
3. The Intersection of Asset Management and Transportation Improvement Plans Suite 5  
Patrick Conner, Indiana LTAP  
Jennifer Sharkey  
Cheryl Musgrave, Vanderburgh County Commissioner  
John Stoll, Vanderburgh County  
Jacob Lough, Montgomery County  
John Frey, Montgomery County Commissioner, Moderator  
*This session will discuss the importance of transportation planning and how to utilize an existing asset management plan as a foundation for this process. Participants will learn how to accelerate their asset management goals and objectives by establishing a transportation improvement plan.*
  
4. Techniques and services proven to help prevent cybersecurity threats and attacks. Suite 4  
Taylor Hollenbeck, Local Government Program Director, IOT  
Graig Lubsen, Director of Communications and External Affairs.  
Jack Dodd, Howard County Commissioner Moderator  
*IOTAn interactive discussion that will present techniques and services proven to help prevent cybersecurity threats and attacks that are available to local governments at a low fee or free of charge. To receive a portion of the \$20M of federal funds, local governments will be encouraged to meet cybersecurity best practices before applying.*
  
5. Data-Driven Success: Aligning Workforce and Talent Needs Suite 3  
Mike Thibideau – President & CEO of Invest Hamilton County  
Greg Lannan – Katz, Sapper & Miller  
Alaina Shonkwiler – Katz, Sapper & Miller  
Jack Woods – The Veridus Group  
Mike Watson Dekalb County Commissioner, Moderator  
*Jobs and residents are the pillars of any community. They directly influence the need for essential services like infrastructure, schools, utilities, restaurants, parks, and various other initiatives that improve quality of life. However, the job opportunities available in a community do not always align with the area's resident population. One Indiana county found a smart solution to the problem – conducting a detailed data analysis of population and workforce data to address the challenges of matching skilled workers with future job demands. This forward-thinking approach allows the county to anticipate talent needs, attract and retain top talent, and provide valuable resources to support the current and future workforce in the region until 2030.*  
  
*Come and hear the story behind the project, the crucial partners who helped make it a success, the way diverse data was synthesized, and the exciting next steps that will help ensure a bright future for the area.*

9:00pm – 11:00pm County Fair

Plaza Ballroom

ICC's County Fair - Networking Social Event

- County Fair Games and Prizes
- Royal King & Queen Crowning
- ICC County Fair Jamboree Jam  
IACHES/Road School Jam Band... and Friends

Sponsored by Some of our Associate Member Partners

You will not want to miss this event!

This is a great opportunity to not only have fun but to also network with other officials and mentors!

Thursday November 30

8:00am – 9:00am Continental Breakfast

Clearwater Lobby

**Sponsored By:** EMCS, Inc. Resolution Group, Inc., Weigand Construction Co., Inc.

9:00am -10:00am

Clearwater Ballroom

Workforce and Housing Development Opportunities

Emma Adlam, Baker Tilly

Sherry Seiwert, Indiana Finance Authority (IFA)

Rachel Leslie – RJI Solutions

Kellie Streeter, Knox County Commissioner Moderator

*Affordable housing can create jobs and stimulate economic growth. This session will have important discussions of workforce and housing development, focusing on the development of affordable housing and the utilization of IFA's new residential infrastructure program (RIP) and tax increment finance (TIF). Learn best practices and strategies to consider implementing a program that benefits your community and various stakeholders?*

TIPS & Tales #4

10:00am – 11:00am

Clearwater Ballroom

What Happened with Indiana Property Taxes in Pay-23—and Will it Happen Again?

Larry DeBoer, Emeritus Professor of Agricultural Economics, Purdue University

Suzanne Weirick, Elkhart County Commissioner, Moderator

*Pay-2023 saw an extraordinary rise in assessed values for Indiana property taxes, which resulted in both falling tax rates and an unusually large increase in property tax bills. What caused this event? How did the General Assembly respond? And will it happen again in pay-2024? Esteemed property tax expert Purdue Emeritus Professor Larry DeBoer provides some answers and asks some more questions. You will not want to miss this session!*