**IACC 2023 DRAFT LEGISLATIVE TOPICS**

* IACC supports the Governor’s State Public Health Commission and the ultimate goal of improving the state’s overall health and health outcomes. IACC supports the use of data to modernize public health services, and furthermore, IACC supports the state’s financial support of this effort. However, IACC supports an opt-out mechanism for the commissioners that do not want to participate in any or all programs established by the commission, without loss of current funding level.
* IACC supports the development and implementation of mental health and addiction plans by community mental health centers, including the transparent use of funds and collaboration with county officials concerning how those funds are spent within the county. If a plan is not presented and accepted by the local county commissioners, funding for the county’s CMHC can be allocated to other mental health services.
* IACC supports a mechanism to allow commissioners to receive information and discuss issues facing the county in administrative sessions. This does not include any final action or vote, but a mechanism would provide the opportunity for open discussion on topics of interest.
* IACC supports responsible review and examination of current tax structures and tax policy. IACC does not support, however, the elimination of the 30% floor of the Business Personal Property Tax without a statutorily enumerated source of replace revenue, equaling or exceeding previous BPPT revenue. Any elimination of the BPPT floor without a direct replacement of dollars and economic development benefits would irreparably harm all Hoosier taxpayers and local governments.
* IACC supports reasonable audit procedures and oversight by the State Board of Accounts; however, IACC would like to implement a cost ceiling for SBOA audits or the ability of local units of government to pursue audits within the open market.
* IACC supports county government control over rights-of-way, including the ability to generate fees from utilities for the use of local easements. This also includes a county’s ability to implement punitive measures for utilities who remain unresponsive to requests to move lines during construction or transportation projects.
* IACC supports the defense Home Rule including, but not limited to, retaining the authority at the local level to control the development of land (zoning ordinances), adamantly oppose the pre-emption of local land use controls (i.e. short term rentals, mining, agricultural operations, utility installations, energy generation, public health, and multi-power sources) and monitor for erosion of local license and permitting fees and powers.
* IACC supports a statutory mechanism to remove commissioner-appointed board members (who fail to meet attendance obligations or are insubordinate) mid-appointment.
* IACC supports the continued discussion and evaluation of solutions concerning jail over crowdedness. Furthermore, the IACC further supports the increase of money dedicated to the Level 6 felon reimbursement fund.
* IACC supports the immediate review and assessment of cyber security threats to local government. IACC further supports the creation of a state program (CTAP) to assist with cyber security threats, including ransomware, in the future.
* IACC supports the examination of notice of public meetings and public participation in government meetings and the possibility of permanent changes to the Open Door Law and the Access to Public Records Act concerning virtual participation by public officials. The ability to notice meetings via traditional newspaper advertisements continue to dwindle and often presents challenges under the current statutory requirements. IACC supports the ability to provide notice on the county website AND in public thoroughfares in county offices. Also IACC supports the review and use of the internet as a publication tool for meetings, ordinances, and tax information. With the continued advancement of technology and the interconnectedness of communities, a centralized official county or government website, conveying required publication materials, allows the taxpayers to monitor a centralized location for all county information.
* IACC supports the inclusion of a county commissioner representative on the INPRS Board of Trustees.
* IACC supports the removal of the sunset provision for the $0.01 gas tax inflation mechanism.
* MVH fund flexibility. This specifically includes flexibility pertaining to the restrictions on Motor Vehicle Highway funds and potentially percentage changes (from 50/50) and review of formula used for MVH distributions.
* IACC supports the ability to bond using the gas tax as the backing for debt service, in the same way municipalities currently do.
* IACC supports all efforts to retain great county highway engineers and superintendents, including the expanded stipend for the county highway superintendent.
* IACC does not support the inclusion of any extraneous calculations concerning the valuation of land during condemnation proceedings or during the use of eminent domain. Any speculative valuation should not be included in the process.