

INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

**The Good, The Bad, & The Ugly
Tips & Tales from
County Commissioners**

TIP 1

MIKE REPAY

Lake County Commissioner

mcrepay@Comcast.net

219-755-3205

6th Year in Office

Use all of your resources to identify opportunities to improve neighborhoods by enhancing county-owned property.



TIP 2

Frank Lucchese
Elkhart County Commissioner

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574-534-3541

12th Year in Office

Large roadside memorials in the public right of way can be a problem. They can create an obstruction to maintenance and potentially sightline.

Commissioners may have to take it into the public forum for feedback on a sensitive subject.



Like · Reply · Message · 5w



Tori Melanie I don't think the county or commissioner should have any say on how friends and family choose to grieve a loved one. There are way more important things in this community that you should be spending you time and our money on. Don't disrespect the loss of someone like that. How about using that money to make sure every kid in school gets a meal, or building better after school programs for kids. The 60% of people who voted for this are absolutely selfish.



Like · Reply · Message · 5w



Penny Norrod Price I hate roadside memorials:

1. They are distracting.
2. Who maintains them? At some point the flowers will die, balloons deflate, stuffed animals will get wet/rot, etc.
3. When placed on or near a homeowner's property, it detracts from their property and they end up having to deal with the trash (dead flowers, etc.)
4. We already have a space dedicated to memorializing those who died - cemeteries.
5. I never understood the point of memorializing the place of death. If Grandpa died in his recliner, do you set up a shrine around it?

I don't care for the signs, either, but they are better than the roadside memorials. It seems like the signs we already have in place should be sufficient to make people aware of their surroundings (sharp curve ahead, bridges ice before roadway, hidden driveway, etc.).



Like · Reply · Message · 5w



Mike Hughes They have a permanent reminder, it's called a cemetery. I say, leave them up for a year then return them to the family.



Like · Reply · Message · 5w



Nathan James So what happens when your road side memorial causes the death of another motorist because it had flashing LED lights on it, or was buried so deeply that it did not breakaway when struck, or it's not maintained and falls into the roadway?

Is your grieving worth the loss of more life on the roadside? Worth causing maintenance issues that may endanger others?

That's a pretty selfish view, especially considering that the roadways are maintained with tax dollars taken from the general public. So should the general public have to pay a worker to maintain your private (and illegally placed) memorial? What gives you the right to burden the tax payer in such a way?



Like · Reply · Message · 5w

TIP 3

Tom Murtaugh

Tippecanoe County Commissioner

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765-423-9215

10th Year in Office

When there are high levels of nitrates in the water in some of the communities within your county—meaning they are drinking their own poo 🤢

- Commissioners need to look at creative strategies, possibly even forming a regional sewer and water district, to fund a solution for the health and quality of life of their residents.*

TIP 4

Andy Kostielney

St. Joseph County Commissioner

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574-235-9534

10th Year in Office

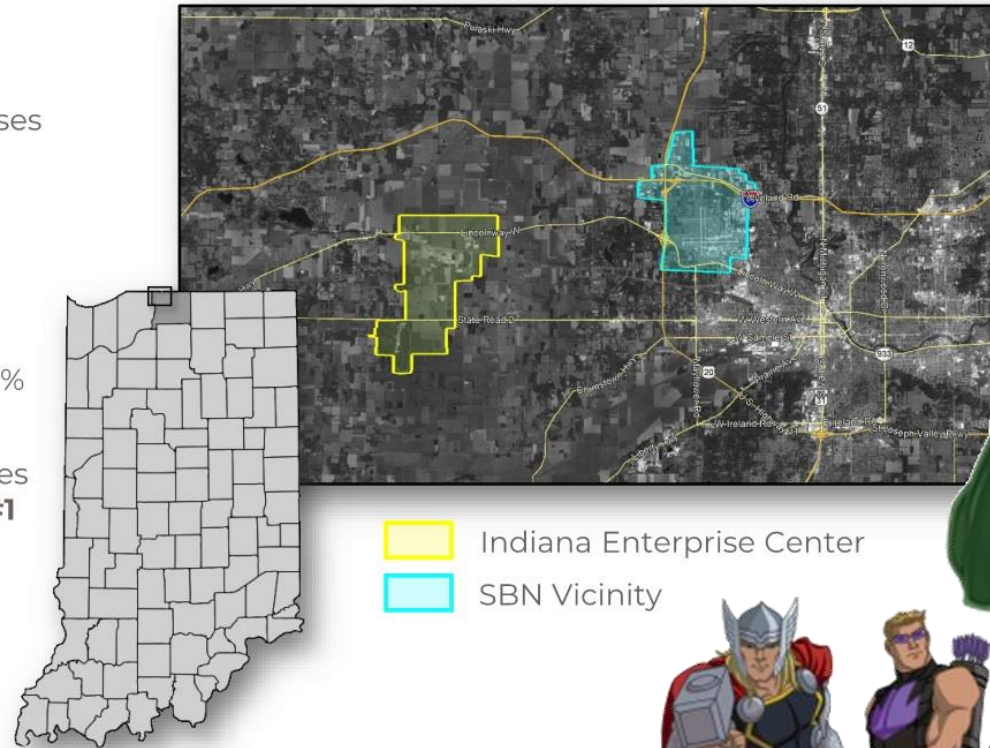
When you have a massive economic development project Commissioners may need to hire a team of similar magnitude, in this case 9 firms, each of which is chosen based on their excellence in the discipline for which they are selected to perform work.

WHERE ARE WE?

Business Environment

- **887** businesses are located within the IEC/SBN Vicinity (9.5% of all of the businesses in St. Joseph County)
- **16,377** employees are hired by businesses within the IEC/SBN Vicinity (11.4% of all employers in SJC)
- **\$4,118,755,000** is the annual sales volume for businesses in the IEC/SBN Vicinity (19.9% of all sales volume in SJC)
- The largest industries (by Total Annual Sales Volume) in the IEC/SBN Study Areas are: **#1 Wholesale Trade; #2 Manufacturing; #3 Retail Trade; #4 Transportation and Warehousing; #5 Construction**
- These 5 industries account for 54% of all employees in the IEC

Source: 2018 ESRI Community Analyst Data



TIP 5

Mike Yoder

Elkhart County Commissioner

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574-534-3541

14th Year in Office

Some of our employees have expressed that they feel “outgunned by the public”, and several have raised the issue of carrying handguns to work.

The Commissioners are working with the Sheriff, Prosecutor, HR, and County Administrator to develop a policy. And no one agrees yet.

TIP 6

Brian Baird

Johnson County Commissioner

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317-346-4300

6th Year in Office

*It's okay to cross party lines to support the individual
whom you believe to be the best candidate in the race.
And if your loyalty is questioned, stand your ground.*

TIP 7

Jim Sailors

Cass County Commissioner

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574-753-7890

11th Year in Office

When INDOT shuts down most of your north/south arterials, use a combination of funding sources to build a beautiful new drag strip...correction, road.

We've combined toll road money, SMURF from relinquishment, group 4 federal funds, and we've matched with EDIT.



TIP 8

John Frey

Montgomery County Commissioner

john.frey@montgomeryco.net

765-361-2623

2nd Year in Office

When you are given the chance to create a county-wide comprehensive plan, see it as an opportunity to be visionaries, not just to fix the problems of today.

TIP 9

Diana Biddle

Brown County Commissioner

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812-988-4901

4th Year in Office

Consider utilizing creative local partnerships with public and private entities, for instance your rural electric co-op, to expand and improve internet connectivity for residents throughout your county.

TIP 10

Suzie Weirick
Elkhart County Commissioner

suzanne weirick@me.com

574-534-3541

2nd Year in Office

Collaboration gets more done.

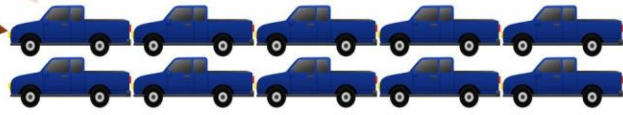


Elkhart County Leaf Collection Competition: How many leaves is the 3-ton threshold?

3 tons of leaves is equal to...



\$1,000!!



~10 full-size trucks, filled to top of bed
with loose, dry leaves

- **Divide it up.** Many hands make light work. A team of 10 members would only have to bring 1 truck load per person! Also, larger teams will be able to collaborate with a larger homeowner network.
- **Collaborate with homeowners who have a lot of leaves.** Some lawns barely have any leaves on them, while other lawns are absolutely filled with leaves. Lawns with lots of leaves will give you the most "weight for your work."
- **Compact the leaves.** Packing down or shredding the leaves will help your team bring in more leaves per truck load. You may be able to eliminate several truck load trips this way!
- **Don't forget you have time.** The competition lasts for 11 weeks, to accommodate for leaves falling at different times during the autumn season. This long time frame will also help busy teams find time in their schedules to collect leaves.

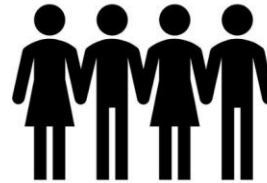
Please visit www.elkhartcountyswmd.com/leaf-collection-competition/
to learn more about the competition.

Leaf Collection Competition

Progress Update:
November 21



25 teams



**119 tons of leaves
collected so far**



**10 days
remaining**



Do you live in unincorporated Elkhart County?
Would you like your leaves collected as part of the Leaf
Collection Competition?

Visit www.elkhartcountyswmd.com/leaf-collection-competition
to contact some of our participating groups!

AUDIENCE TIPS & TALES

TIP 11

James King

Delaware County Commissioner

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765-747-7730

6th Year in Office

When you need a new correctional complex but don't want to spend hundreds of millions of dollars, consider renovating existing public facilities, in this case saving \$40M by turning an old middle school into a new jail.

TIP 12

Shannon Henry

Delaware County Commissioner

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765-747-7730

4th Year in Office

To assist a municipality within your county that is facing difficult financial issues or just struggling for funding, consider offering them grants from your EDIT funds.

We have contributed up to \$1.7M in the last 6 years to our smaller communities within our county, assisting with storm water drainage, purchase of new equipment, and economic development.

TIP 13

Charlie Crawford

Harrison County Commissioner

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812-572-5988

2nd Year in Office

When your county departments go above and beyond, don't forget to thank them! 😊

Our highway department has their own sign department and has gone above and beyond the new MUTCD requirements for advisory signage.

TIP 14

Mike Yoder

Elkhart County Commissioner

mikeyoder@maplenet.net

574-534-3541

14th Year in Office

Elkhart County Highway Department is always reviewing its budget for potential savings, and in doing this has gone from outsourcing many services several years ago (e.g. plowing) to now potentially hiring former farmers, buying a vector truck, and doing our own striping.

TIP 15

Rich Mrozinski

LaPorte County Commissioner

rmrozinski@LaPorteCounty.org

219-326-6808

2nd Year in Office

When you have tens of thousands of trucks backing up your downtown every day, assess the economic development opportunities around you and consider creating a corridor to improve downtown and create a generator for future economic growth.

TIP 16

Therese Brown

Allen County Commissioner

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260-449-7555

8th Year in Office

When you have a project that is very important to your county, remember to make your selection based on quality.

*Quality is more than just price—
it's time, it's care for your project.*

TIP 17

Mark Heirbrandt

Hamilton County Commissioner

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317-776-9719

6th Year in Office

Collaboration is the key to success. We have a quarterly dinner with all of the mayors in our county to discuss legislative issues, funding opportunities, etc.

TIP 18

John Frey

Montgomery County Commissioner

john.frey@montgomeryco.net

765-361-2623

2nd Year in Office

A great way to interact with the public—on a level playing field and in an effort to improve communication—is to host “Coffee with a Commish” or “Cocktails with a Commish”.

COFFEE *with the Commish!*

**JOIN US FOR A DISCUSSION ABOUT
OUR COUNTY'S BRIGHT FUTURE!**

Saturday, October 20th
7:30–9:30 am @ Allen's Country Kitchen

101 East Main St. • Crawfordsville, IN

County Commissioner John Frey will be on hand for a productive discussion about our great community! Come with questions!



TIP 19

Diana Biddle

Brown County Commissioner

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812-988-4901

4th Year in Office

A tip on leadership and public service:

Don't listen to the cheap-seat hecklers.

AUDIENCE TIPS & TALES