



IACC

2021 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- IACC supports the need for fund flexibility during and post the COVID-19 pandemic. This specifically includes flexibility pertaining to the 50/50 restrictions on Motor Vehicle Highway.
- IACC supports the need for fiscal responsibility during the global pandemic; however, IACC urges caution when looking to make budget cuts via local government programs. This includes the Level 6 Per Diem fund, road funding, mental health and addiction, broadband, and community corrections.
- IACC supports the examination of 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. 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 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, including an increase to the per diem rate. IACC also supports legislation and coalition efforts to curb the use of opioids and prescription drugs in our communities and explore related needs to address issues locally (funding, jail overcrowding, mental health and addiction treatment services, etc.).
- IACC supports the continued funding of the community crossings grant program and possible distributions into the local portion of Motor Vehicle Highway fund during the global pandemic.

- IACC supports the review of the MVH funding formula, specifically the changes made during the 2018 legislative session concerning HEA 1290.
- 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, and multi-power sources) and monitor for erosion of local license and permitting fees and powers
- IACC supports open and accessible government, including, but not limited to, the availability of citizens to attend public meetings and review government records and communications. There is a point, however, where the Indiana Access to Public Records Act is being abused by parties requesting information, either to gather information for commercial solicitations or as a tool of annoyance against local officials. In those instances, the IACC supports legislation allowing local officials, in accordance with the Indiana Public Access Counselor, the power to stop responding to harassing requests that impact the day-to-day operations of county government.
- IACC supports a statutory mechanism to remove commissioner-appointed board members (who fail to meet service obligations) mid-appointment. IACC further supports the ability to remove members of the county health board by a unanimous vote of the commissioners.
- IACC supports county government control over rights-of-way, including the ability to generate fees from utilities for the use of local easements. IACC also supports the ability of local governments to move utility lines during construction or transportation projects.
- IACC supports the use of electronic signatures for bond documents and other finance transactions of local units of government.
- IACC supports reforming the property tax assessment appeals process to prevent comparison of newly-built and 1st generation stores to vacant or 2nd generation stores. This would capture the current use value of a purpose-built property rather than establishing value by relying on sales, which rely on a theoretical future use (likely be of lesser value not reflective of the use as of the assessment date).



- 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.
- IACC supports the immediate review and assessment of cyber security threats to local government. IACC further supports the study of the possible creation of a state program (CTAP) to assist with cyber security threats, including ransomware, in the future.
- IACC supports responsible Tax Increment Financing as an economic development tool for counties.
- IACC does not support any change of appointments to the redevelopment commission. The current number of appointments by the commissioners and council should remain the same.
- IACC does understand the importance of educational opportunities for training purposes; any structure for such training must involve the associations representing those elected officials and identify a funding mechanism for training requirements.
- Monitor discussion and legislation clarifying local public works statutes 36-1-12 and Title 4 and 5 to reduce conflicting provisions and provide clarification to local government officials.

FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

IACC urges Congress to pass another stimulus package that includes direct funding for local revenue replacement. During the continued global pandemic, local governments face unprecedented challenges, and the uncertainty of tax revenue collections hurt the ability of local governments to respond to the continued public health emergency.

IACC urges Congress to address the national mental and behavioral health crisis through passage of legislation that defines pre-trial detainment vs. post-conviction incarceration and reinstates federal health care benefits (Medicaid) for justice involved individuals that are detained prior to conviction.

IACC urges Congress to address liability protections for local governments as employees and citizens return to administrative and county offices.