



Intergovernmental Issues in Indiana: 2012 IACIR Survey

Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations

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Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs

part of the
IU Public Policy Institute



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Executive Summary

Since 1996, the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment (IU Public Policy Institute), on behalf of the Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (IACIR), has periodically surveyed elected officials to help the IACIR and the Indiana General Assembly understand issues facing local governments. The 2012 survey (11th in the series) included 42 questions and addressed many issues included in previous IACIR surveys, as well as topics currently affecting local governments. The heart of the survey is a series of questions about 75 community conditions in six categories: health, economics, public safety, local services and infrastructure, land use, and community quality of life.

Methods and Response Rate

The IACIR administered the survey to 1,185 local officeholders in the summer/fall of 2012, including all city mayors; one randomly selected member of each board of commissioners, county council, town council, and school board; and one or two (depending on population) randomly selected township trustees from each county. The effective response rate was 35 percent.

Findings

Economic issues, the cost of health insurance, obesity, drug issues, abandoned properties, and local roadways are issues for many communities

Economic issues (*overall economic conditions, job loss/unemployment, job quality, business attraction/retention, poverty, and foreclosures*), *cost of health insurance, obesity, drug issues (drug and alcohol abuse and drug crime), abandoned properties, and local roads, streets, and highways* were identified most often as a current problem, or a problem that was worsening, most deteriorated, or most important to work on. However, the majority of respondents reported no change in local conditions over the last year for 72 of the 75 issues.

Local governments respond to fiscal challenges in a variety of ways

Local governments are making hard choices to address changing revenues from property taxes, local income taxes, and gas taxes that have occurred at the same time they are faced with increases in costs such as employee health insurance and fuel. In 2008, the survey asked respondents to indicate what they planned to do to address reduced revenues as a result of property tax caps and other structural changes. About one-third of officials indicated that they had not considered any changes at that point. When asked in 2012 about changes made in 2008–09 and 2010–11 to address these issues, a majority of respondents said during both time periods that they had *frozen/reduced employee wages/salaries, cut/reduced spending on training/travel, made internal operational changes, cut/delayed capital expenditures, and reduced spending on roads/streets*.

Local governments contribute to retirement and health insurance benefits for employees, but the proportion making these contributions decreased from 2010

While the majority of local governments still provide retirement and health insurance contributions for their employees and elected officials, a smaller percentage in 2012 reported providing these benefits than in 2010. Part of the reason can be attributed to rising health insurance costs. The actions officials reported using to combat these increases most often include *increasing official/employee contributions, changing insurance vendors, reducing coverage, and reducing non-insurance expenditures*.

Local governments communicate with residents electronically

Local governments often maintain websites used to communicate with residents, and those that do generally also have policies and procedures that govern this type of communication. Fewer local governments use other methods of social media to interact with residents. Mayors and school board members were more likely to use social media than other types of local government officials. A number of local officials, who reported that their local governments do not use social media stated that they do have

formal policies governing the use of social media. It is possible that these policies and procedures concern personal use of these tools during work hours, rather than the use of this type of communication in an official capacity.

Perceived trustworthiness decrease with an organization's increased distance

Local government officials tend to think local organizations—charities/nonprofits, businesses, local government—can be trusted to do the right thing more often than state or federal government.

Officials credit residents with being informed about local government, but think current civic education efforts are lacking

Local government officials believe a majority of residents understand local government, including funding, but it is a smaller proportion than understand local government structure and services. One of the biggest misconceptions officials think residents have about local government is the perception that local government has unlimited resources to provide additional services. Most local officials report that K-12 schools are not teaching enough about government and civics.

Local governments provide training for elected officials

While officials reported reductions in training and travel, local governments continue to invest in training for their elected officials. A majority of respondents from all types of local governments, except townships, provide education and training for elected officials during their first year. However, a majority of elected officials did not think they received adequate training on issues facing their local government in the last 12 months.

Investments in local roadways are important to communities

Infrastructure, particularly local roadways and highways, have been identified consistently over time as important community issues. The item *local roads, streets, and highways* was identified as one of the most deteriorated issues in the last year and one of the most important to address. It was the only infrastructure item in the 2012 survey to be identified by a majority of the respondents as receiving inadequate investment.

When queried about new funding sources, respondents selected *earmarking state sales tax revenues from motor fuel purchases*, *removing State Police and BMV funding from the Motor Vehicle Highway Account*, and *expanding local funding options* most often as preferred mechanisms for increasing funding for local roads and streets. The Indiana General Assembly removed the State Police and the BMV from the Motor Vehicle Highway Account during the 2013 legislative session (HEA 1001).

Issues related to funding are uppermost in the minds of local government officials

When given the opportunity to name issues affecting local government and intergovernmental relations in Indiana in an open-ended format, respondents often listed some aspect of funding or resources. Some of the issues mentioned frequently included lack of resources, changes in state funding for schools, changes in funding options for local governments, unfunded mandates, micromanagement by the legislature, road funding, and infrastructure funding.

Introduction

Intergovernmental Issues in Indiana (2012) is the eleventh in a series of periodic surveys of elected officials designed to help the Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (IACIR) and the Indiana General Assembly understand the issues that are important to local governments. The IACIR conducted similar surveys in 1996, 1997, 1999, 2001–2004, 2006, 2008, and 2010.

A complete description of the survey methodology appears in Appendix A. IACIR members, staff and faculty from the Indiana University Center for Urban Policy and the Environment (Public Policy Institute) and School of Public and Environmental Affairs, the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, the Association of Indiana Counties, and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce submitted issues and questions for inclusion in the survey. The final survey included 42 questions and addressed a number of issues that were included in one or more previous surveys. The survey also addressed several “hot topics” affecting local communities, including health insurance and retirement benefits for local officials, responses to changes in local government revenues, interlocal cooperation, use of volunteers, infrastructure funding, and use of social media to communicate to citizens. The questionnaire appears in Appendix B. The survey was administered between late August and early November 2012. Respondents were given the option to complete a printed questionnaire and return by mail or to complete the questionnaire online.

This report presents the results of the 2012 survey. Only nominal results are reported here; no statistical testing was completed. Survey responses are reported by topic area.

To account for non-responses to specific questions and questions addressed to specific officeholders, the number of responses is provided within the table or figure for each question. Several questions gave respondents the option of writing in a specific response to *other*. In cases when these responses closely matched an option in the list provided, the response was grouped with those options. A complete list of *other* responses is provided in Appendix D. Question 35 asked respondents to identify the biggest misconceptions citizens have about local government. Unlike many of the other questions in the survey, this question did not provide respondents with prepared selections from which to choose. The complete list of responses appears in Appendix E. Question 42 provided respondents an open-ended opportunity to make comments about any issue affecting local government and intergovernmental relations in Indiana. Appendix F includes a complete list of responses to this question as well as comments written in throughout the questionnaire. In a few cases, names and other identifiers were removed from written comments to ensure that no individual respondent could be associated with a particular response.

Response Rates

The IACIR mailed 1,185 surveys to local elected officials, including one randomly-selected member of each county board of commissioners, county council, town council, and school board. The survey was mailed to each city mayor. The survey was sent to one or two township trustees from each county. If the county contained one or more urban township (township with a population greater than 10,000) and one or more rural township (township with population less than 10,000), one trustee was selected randomly from both groups. In counties that had only urban or only rural townships, one trustee was randomly selected from among all townships. Fourteen (14) surveys were refused by recipients or undeliverable. These surveys were excluded when calculating the effective response rate below.

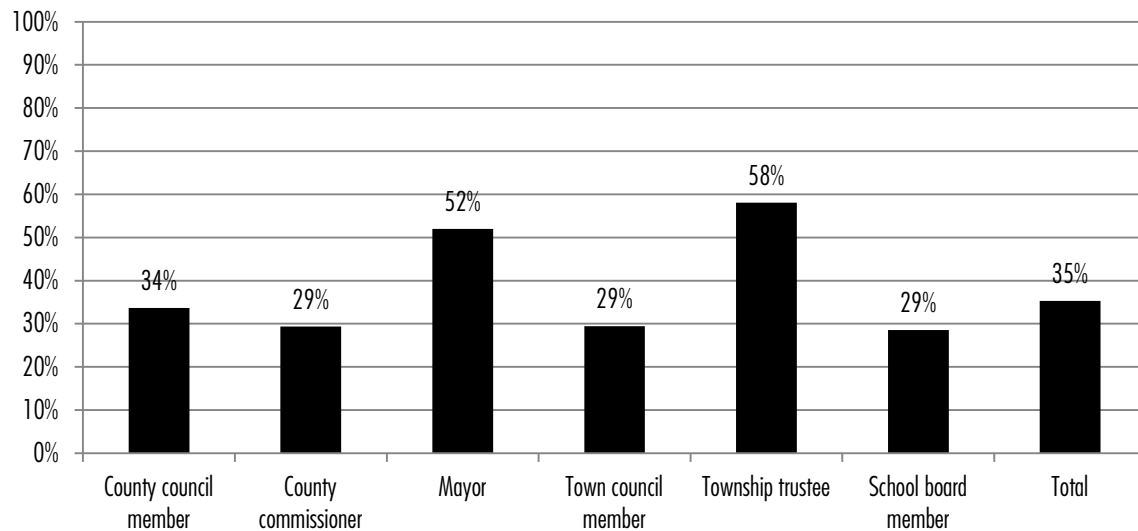
The effective aggregated response rate for the survey was 35 percent (413 out of 1,170) (Table 1 and Figure 1). This response rate is the same as 2010 but lower than in previous years (Table 2). The current

response rate, however, is well above the typical rates that are expected for a mail survey. Among groups of officeholders, township trustees had the highest response rate (58 percent), and county commissioners, town council members, and school board members had the lowest rates (29 percent).

Table 1: Response rates by office (Question 1)

Office	Effective responses	Mailed	Excluded	Effective return rate
County council member	31	92	0	34%
County commissioner	27	92	0	29%
Mayor	61	119	1	52%
Town council member	129	442	4	29%
Township trustee	83	149	6	58%
School board member	82	290	3	29%
Total	413	1,184	14	35%

Figure 1: Response rates by office (Question 1)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Elected Officials

Table 2: Response rates by office by survey year (Question 1)

Office	2012	2010	2008	2006	2004	2003	2002	2001	1999
Senator	-	-	-	16%	29%	40%	32%	30%	46%
Representative	-	-	-	24%	26%	28%	23%	19%	35%
County council member	34%	38%	41%	37%	49%	64%	54%	52%	61%
County commissioner	29%	33%	34%	45%	44%	53%	41%	51%	60%
County auditor	-	43%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mayor	52%	48%	41%	56%	63%	52%	50%	56%	61%
Town council member	29%	29%	23%	25%	39%	37%	38%	32%	44%
Township trustee	58%	55%	53%	52%	61%	57%	57%	43%	68%
School board member	29%	21%	29%	31%	28%	44%	34%	47%	45%
Total	35%	35%	41%	36%	41%	47%	41%	40%	51%

Table 3: Respondents by county (Question 3)

County	Respondents	County	Respondents
Adams County ^b	7	Lawrence County	3
Allen County	9	Madison County	9
Bartholomew County	4	Marion County	7
Benton County	1	Marshall County ^a	6
Blackford County	3	Martin County	1
Boone County ^b	8	Miami County ^a	8
Brown County	1	Monroe County	3
Carroll County ^b	3	Montgomery County	8
Cass County	4	Morgan County	4
Clark County	2	Newton County	3
Clay County ^a	4	Noble County ^a	11
Clinton County	4	Ohio County ^b	2
Crawford County	0	Orange County	3
Daviess County	1	Owen County	3
Dearborn County	3	Parke County	4
Decatur County ^b	3	Perry County	3
DeKalb County	6	Pike County	5
Delaware County	5	Porter County	4
Dubois County	5	Posey County	2
Elkhart County	9	Pulaski County	2
Fayette County	3	Putnam County	6
Floyd County	4	Randolph County	6
Fountain County	4	Ripley County	2
Franklin County	3	Rush County ^b	2
Fulton County	7	Scott County	2
Gibson County	8	Shelby County	7
Grant County ^a	3	Spencer County	5
Greene County ^a	3	St. Joseph County ^a	6
Hamilton County	7	Starke County	5
Hancock County ^a	4	Steuben County	6
Harrison County	6	Sullivan County	3
Hendricks County	7	Switzerland County	1
Henry County ^a	6	Tippecanoe County	4
Howard County	3	Tipton County	3
Huntington County	2	Union County	1
Jackson County	2	Vanderburgh County	1
Jasper Indiana	1	Vermillion County	5
Jay County	3	Vigo County	3
Jefferson County ^b	2	Wabash County	4
Jennings County ^b	3	Warren County	2
Johnson County	7	Warrick County	4
Knox County ^b	8	Washington County ^b	6
Kosciusko County ^a	3	Wayne County	9
LaGrange County ^a	4	Wells County	4
Lake County ^b	17	White County	6
LaPorte County ^a	3	Whitley County ^{ab}	5

^aThirteen respondents represent local governments that cross county boundaries^bFor twelve counties, more than one county official returned surveys

Questions 2 and 3 asked respondents to identify their local government and the county(ies) in which it is located. These questions appeared in the 2008 and 2010 survey, but did not appear in previous surveys. 2012 respondents represent 400 local governments. All counties are represented by at least one local government respondent, except for Crawford County (Table 3). A complete list of the local governments represented by respondents appears in Appendix C.

Respondents had the option to complete the survey online or by mail. Of the 413 respondents, 16 percent completed the survey online (Table 4). Mayors (28 percent) utilized the online method more frequently than other officials. A smaller proportion of respondents completed the survey online in 2012 than in 2010 (Table 5).

Table 4: Method of completion by office

Office	Paper	Online
County council member (n=31)	84%	16%
County commissioner (n=27)	89%	11%
Mayor (n=61)	72%	28%
Town council member (n=129)	83%	17%
Township trustee (n=83)	93%	7%
School board member (n=82)	83%	17%
Total (n=413)	84%	16%

Table 5: Use of online method by survey year

Office	2012	2010	2008
County council member	16%	8%	5%
County commissioner	11%	10%	16%
Mayor	28%	34%	23%
Town council member	17%	14%	25%
Township trustee	7%	14%	11%
School board member	17%	24%	20%
Total	16%	18%	14%

Local Conditions and Services

Questions 4–8 addressed local conditions and services. Question 4 queried respondents about their feelings regarding the future of their communities. Questions 5–8 addressed 75 local conditions in six general categories: health, economics, public safety, local services and infrastructure, land use, and community quality of life. Respondents were asked about the current status of each condition and change in their community during the last year (Question 5). Respondents also were asked to identify the conditions that had improved (Question 6) and deteriorated (Question 7) most over the last year, as well as the conditions most important to work on over the next two years (Question 8). A similar set of questions has been included in the survey since 1999.

The list of conditions in the 2012 survey reflects a few changes from 2010. *Too much low density development* and *too much high density development* were removed. *Code enforcement*, *private property maintenance*, *foreclosures*, and *abandoned properties* were added as new conditions. *Childcare* was returned to the list of conditions after being excluded in 2010. *Local roads and streets* and *highways* were aggregated into one condition. The *availability and cost of health services* and the *availability and the cost of health insurance* were disaggregated into

four conditions. *High speed internet access* was changed to *lack of high-speed internet/broadband*; *unemployment* was changed to *job loss/unemployment*; and *workforce training* was changed to *workforce training and retraining* for clarity.

In 2012, the structure of Questions 6–8 also was changed slightly. Respondents were asked to identify the number in Question 5 corresponding to the condition they wished to identify as most improved, most deteriorated, or most important to work on. The previous structure asked respondents to write in their responses. It is our hope that this change will reduce the number of respondents that choose condition categories (health, economics, etc.) and the number of responses that are classified as *other* because they do not match one of the listed conditions.

Community Direction

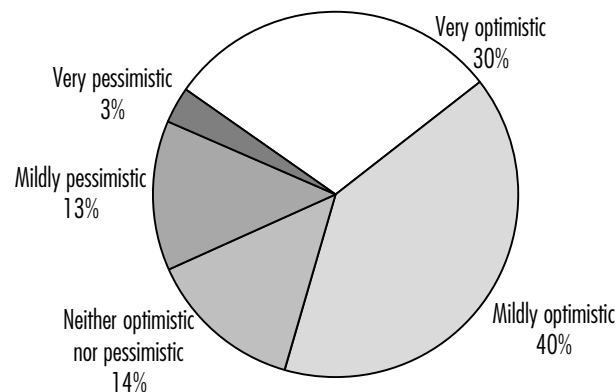
As shown in Table 6 and Figure 2, respondents are generally optimistic about the direction their communities are heading (70 percent). This represents more optimism than in 2008 and 2010 but less than other previous surveys (Table 7). The decrease in optimism for all officials in the 2008 survey may be attributable, in part, to the increased sampling of township officials. If township trustees are excluded from 2008 results, the remaining groups of officials reported optimism about the future at almost 75 percent, which is similar to the overall optimism reported in 2004 and 2006.

Table 6: Feelings about the direction the community is heading by office (Question 4) *

Office	Very optimistic	Mildly optimistic	Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	Mildly pessimistic	Very pessimistic
County council member (n=31)	29%	48%	10%	13%	0%
County commissioner (n=27)	33%	37%	4%	22%	4%
Mayor (n=61)	59%	34%	5%	2%	0%
Town council member (n=127)	26%	43%	17%	10%	3%
Township trustee (n=81)	15%	41%	21%	17%	6%
School board member (n=80)	28%	36%	13%	20%	4%
Total (n=407)	30%	40%	14%	13%	3%

*Some of the totals may be slightly more or less than 100 percent due to rounding

Figure 2: Feelings about the general direction the community is heading (Question 4; n=407)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Table 7: Feelings about the general direction the community is heading by survey year

Year	Very optimistic	Mildly optimistic	Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	Mildly pessimistic	Very pessimistic
2012 (n=407)	30%	40%	14%	13%	3%
2010 (n=395)	30%	39%	17%	11%	3%
2008 (n=810)	21%	40%	19%	16%	5%
2006 (n=431)	29%	46%	8%	14%	3%
2004 (n=491)	26%	48%	12%	11%	3%
2003 (n=502)	27%	45%	14%	11%	3%
2002 (n=543)	28%	47%	13%	9%	2%
2001 (n=542)	34%	50%	9%	5%	2%
1999 (n=599)	38%	44%	10%	7%	1%

Current Status of Conditions

Most conditions appear to be stable across communities. When asked about the current status of the 75 community conditions, a majority of respondents identified more than half of the conditions (43 of the 75) as *minor or no problem* (Table 8). *Cost of health insurance* (57 percent), *drug and alcohol abuse* (46 percent), *overall economic conditions* (46 percent), and *job loss/unemployment* (45 percent) were conditions most often identified as a *major problem* by respondents. Combining *major* or *moderate problems*, Figure 3 shows the five conditions identified most often as a problem. Economic issues were reported slightly less often as problems in 2012 than in 2010 and 2008, suggesting that the economy may be stabilizing (Table 9).

Table 8: Current status of community conditions (Question 5)**

Category	Condition	Major problem	Moderate problem	Minor or no problem
Health	Availability of health services * (n=392)	11%	31%	59%
	Cost of health services * (n=387)	42%	39%	19%
	Availability of health insurance * (n=388)	17%	41%	41%
	Cost of health insurance * (n=387)	57%	31%	12%
	Availability and cost of dental health services (n=386)	20%	45%	35%
	Availability and cost of mental health services (n=379)	20%	40%	40%
	Availability and cost of services for people with disabilities (n=374)	19%	44%	37%
	Care for the elderly (n=381)	17%	42%	41%
	Drug and alcohol abuse (n=391)	46%	39%	15%
	Smoking (n=391)	22%	48%	30%
	Obesity (n=393)	36%	49%	15%
	Chronic disease (heart disease, diabetes, etc. (n=381)	24%	55%	21%
Economics	Overall economic conditions (n=395)	46%	44%	11%
	Job loss/unemployment (n=394)	45%	45%	10%
	Job quality (n=391)	36%	48%	16%
	Workforce training and retraining * (n=389)	25%	49%	26%
	Business attraction and retention (n=390)	38%	44%	18%
	International trade (n=365)	25%	29%	46%
	Shovel-ready properties (n=378)	23%	34%	43%
Public safety	Police/sheriff services (n=394)	4%	21%	75%
	Police-community relations (n=394)	3%	24%	73%
	Fire services (n=396)	3%	15%	82%

Table 8: Current status of community conditions (Question 5)** (continued)

Category	Condition	Major problem	Moderate problem	Minor or no problem
Public safety (continued)	Emergency medical services (n=391)	4%	20%	76%
	Emergency dispatch (n=390)	6%	20%	74%
	Violent crime (n=390)	6%	36%	58%
	Drug crime (n=395)	36%	44%	20%
	Youth crime (n=390)	16%	53%	31%
	Family/domestic violence (n=384)	13%	54%	34%
	Homeland security (n=378)	4%	19%	78%
	Jail facilities (n=388)	9%	23%	69%
	Youth detention facilities (n=381)	13%	29%	57%
	Disaster response (n=384)	3%	20%	77%
	Emergency warning sirens (n=392)	6%	23%	70%
Local services and infrastructure	K-12 education (n=385)	7%	27%	66%
	Drinking water (n=384)	3%	14%	83%
	Sanitary sewers (n=381)	10%	27%	62%
	Storm sewers (n=378)	13%	33%	53%
	Combined sewer overflows CSOs (n=366)	13%	26%	61%
	Local roads, streets, and highways * (n=391)	22%	48%	30%
	Sidewalks (n=381)	19%	39%	42%
	Bridges (n=370)	13%	31%	56%
	Public transit (n=371)	19%	22%	58%
	Parks and recreation (n=384)	3%	23%	74%
	Solid waste management (n=382)	3%	18%	79%
	Telephone (n=388)	2%	13%	85%
	Cellular telephone (n=385)	4%	20%	76%
	Cable TV (n=387)	5%	16%	79%
	Electric service (n=385)	2%	10%	88%
	Natural gas service (n=380)	3%	8%	89%
	Lack of high-speed internet/broadband * (n=387)	12%	25%	62%
Land use	Quality of development (n=376)	12%	35%	53%
	Increased amount of development (n=375)	11%	29%	60%
	Lack of development (n=380)	26%	32%	42%
	Quality affordable housing (n=380)	14%	36%	50%
	Balanced mix of housing types and prices (n=379)	11%	35%	54%
	Balanced mix of residential and non-residential development (n=374)	14%	32%	54%
	Code enforcement * (n=370)	14%	29%	57%
	Private property maintenance * (n=381)	22%	40%	38%
	Foreclosures * (n=385)	36%	42%	21%
	Abandoned properties * (n=383)	34%	38%	27%
	Open space/green space (n=373)	5%	21%	74%
	Farmland conversion and loss (n=372)	7%	21%	72%
	Brownfields (n=364)	8%	27%	65%
Community quality of life	Air quality (n=383)	4%	18%	78%
	Water quality (n=384)	2%	15%	83%
	Traffic congestion (n=385)	5%	25%	70%
	Poverty (n=389)	26%	46%	28%
	Vitality of neighborhoods (n=383)	14%	41%	44%
	Vitality of downtown (n=377)	24%	39%	37%

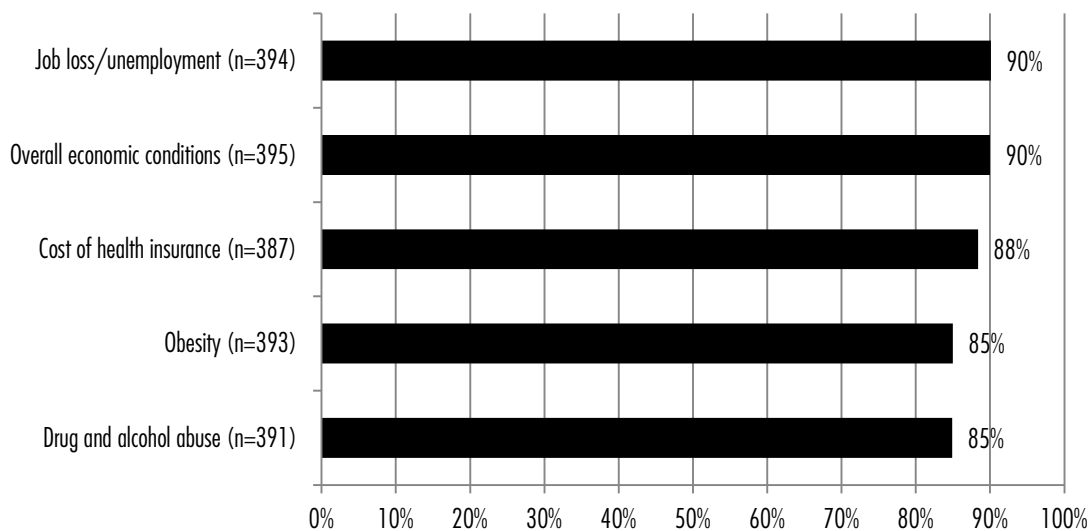
Table 8: Current status of community conditions (Question 5)** (continued)

Category	Condition	Major problem	Moderate problem	Minor or no problem
Community quality of life (continued)	Arts and cultural resources (n=376)	12%	30%	59%
	Community involvement (n=386)	13%	37%	49%
	Race-ethnic relations (n=384)	2%	16%	81%
	Immigration (n=382)	4%	22%	74%
	Childcare *(n=379)	5%	31%	64%
	Truancy and other school behavior problems (n=384)	10%	35%	55%

* Conditions that were added or adjusted for 2012 questionnaire

** Some of the totals may be slightly more or less than 100 percent due to rounding

Figure 3: Top five issues identified as major or moderate problems (Question 5)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Table 9: Conditions reported as major or moderate problems by survey year

Category	Condition	2012	2010	2008	2006	2004	2003	2002	2001
Health	Total number of conditions	75	71	70	57	55	37	35	32
	Availability of health services*	41%	72%	79%	83%	44%	47%	46%	68%
	Cost of health services*	81%				92%	94%	91%	
	Availability of health insurance*	59%	86%	88%	—	—	—	—	—
	Cost of health insurance*	88%			—	—	—	—	—
	Availability and cost of dental health services	65%	62%	71%	—	—	—	—	—
	Availability and cost of mental health services	60%	64%	68%	—	—	—	—	—
	Availability and cost of services for people with disabilities	63%	68%	73%	—	—	—	—	—
	Care for the elderly	59%	65%	69%	68%	62%	69%	63%	57%
	Drug abuse	85%	87%	85%	91%	90%	90%	85%	84%
	Alcohol abuse					84%	86%		
	Smoking	70%	77%	75%	—	—	—	—	—

Table 9: Conditions reported as major or moderate problems by survey year (continued)

Category	Year	2012	2010	2008	2006	2004	2003	2002	2001
	Total number of conditions	75	71	70	57	55	37	35	32
	Obesity	85%	87%	85%	89%	—	—	—	—
	Chronic disease (heart disease, diabetes, etc.)	79%	81%	80%	—	—	—	—	—
Economics	Overall economic conditions	89%	94%	91%	82%	83%	91%	85%	—
	Job loss/unemployment*	90%	96%	88%	72%	79%	89%	74%	63%
	Job quality	84%	88%	85%	76%	76%	—	—	—
	Business attraction	82%	87%	82%	77%	80%	—	—	—
	Business retention	—	—	—	—	73%	—	—	—
	Workforce training	74%	75%	72%	63%	64%	71%	59%	56%
	Workforce retraining	—	—	—	—	—	—	58%	49%
	International trade	54%	52%	47%	—	—	—	—	—
	Shovel-ready properties	57%	59%	48%	—	—	—	—	—
	Police/sheriff services	25%	34%	33%	30%	24%	—	—	—
Public safety	Police-community relations	27%	30%	28%	25%	26%	30%	31%	26%
	Fire services	18%	19%	21%	16%	15%	—	—	—
	Emergency medical services	24%	26%	32%	29%	30%	—	—	—
	Emergency dispatch	26%	26%	29%	—	—	—	—	—
	Violent crime	42%	37%	40%	43%	38%	37%	33%	36%
	Drug crime	80%	82%	75%	81%	76%	—	—	—
	Youth crime	69%	73%	64%	71%	68%	—	57%	58%
	Family/domestic violence	66%	68%	65%	73%	64%	—	—	—
	Homeland security	22%	18%	25%	26%	10%	7%	—	—
	Jail facilities	31%	34%	32%	44%	42%	47%	—	—
	Youth detention facilities	43%	47%	44%	51%	52%	50%	—	—
	Disaster response	23%	24%	30%	34%	27%	—	—	—
	Emergency warning sirens	30%	29%	36%	—	—	—	—	—
Local services and infrastructure	K-12 education	34%	34%	33%	36%	28%	34%	31%	36%
	Drinking water	17%	16%	22%	18%	23%	19%	22%	23%
	Sanitary sewers	38%	41%	39%	48%	49%	53%	52%	46%
	Storm sewers	47%	53%	45%	54%	58%	—	—	—
	Combined sewer overflows (CSOs)	39%	44%	38%	47%	—	—	—	—
	Local roads and streets*	70%	65%	68%	69%	64%	67%	66%	62%
	Highways*	—	44%	46%	51%	52%	—	—	—
	Sidewalks	58%	55%	52%	—	—	—	—	—
	Bridges	44%	40%	44%	45%	—	—	—	—
	Public transit	42%	45%	43%	52%	46%	45%	47%	29%
	Parks and recreation	26%	28%	26%	28%	30%	26%	25%	34%
	Solid waste management	21%	28%	26%	26%	33%	37%	37%	29%
	Telephone	15%	13%	16%	16%	21%	20%	23%	27%
	Cellular telephone	24%	25%	32%	32%	40%	36%	32%	21%
	Cable TV	21%	19%	26%	24%	29%	29%	34%	38%
	Electric service	12%	11%	14%	14%	—	—	—	—
	Natural gas service	11%	10%	18%	17%	—	—	—	—
	Lack of high-speed internet/broadband*	38%	41%	45%	45%	46%	44%	43%	27%
Land use	Quality of development	47%	47%	45%	53%	54%	55%	53%	50%
	Increased amount of development	40%	44%	42%	50%	53%	52%	51%	53%
	Lack of development	58%	67%	48%	48%	49%	—	—	—
	Quality affordable housing	50%	55%	53%	56%	57%	57%	61%	61%

Table 9: Conditions reported as major or moderate problems by survey year (continued)

Category	Year	2012	2010	2008	2006	2004	2003	2002	2001
	Total number of conditions	75	71	70	57	55	37	35	32
Land use (continued)	Mix of housing types and prices	46%	48%	44%	53%	54%	—	—	—
	Mix of residential and non-residential development	46%	48%	45%	47%	46%	—	—	—
	Code enforcement*	43%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Private property maintenance*	62%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Foreclosures*	79%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Abandoned properties*	73%	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Too much low density development*	—	21%	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Too much high density development*	—	19%	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Opens space/green space	26%	20%	26%	36%	36%	34%	33%	37%
	Farmland conversion and loss	28%	29%	42%	45%	51%	—	—	—
	Brownfields	35%	33%	29%	36%	42%	34%	36%	32%
Community quality of life	Air quality	22%	24%	23%	30%	33%	28%	22%	23%
	Water quality	17%	20%	23%	20%	28%	22%	24%	24%
	Traffic congestion	30%	31%	34%	42%	54%	53%	56%	60%
	Poverty	72%	75%	69%	70%	66%	71%	60%	50%
	Vitality of neighborhoods	56%	53%	51%	56%	48%	51%	42%	43%
	Vitality of downtown	63%	63%	60%	65%	71%	70%	66%	60%
	Arts and cultural resources	41%	41%	36%	42%	46%	—	—	—
	Community involvement	51%	47%	45%	59%	57%	57%	54%	39%
	Race-ethnic relations	19%	22%	23%	32%	27%	26%	26%	29%
	Immigration	26%	35%	37%	—	—	—	—	—
	Childcare*	36%	—	40%	45%	47%	—	—	—
	Truancy and other school behavior problems	45%	49%	49%	—	—	—	—	—

*Conditions that were added or adjusted in the 2012 questionnaire

Change in Conditions

With the exceptions of *overall economic conditions*, *job loss/unemployment* and *foreclosures*, strong majorities of the respondents reported *no change* over the past year for all conditions (Table 10). Figures 4 and 5 show the top five issues officials identified most often as improved and as worsened over the past year, respectively. In 2012, *foreclosures* (46 percent), *poverty* (42 percent) and *abandoned properties* (41 percent) were the conditions chosen most often as worsened. Many conditions chosen by more than 25 percent of the respondents as worsened in 2010 also were chosen in 2012. Several new conditions also were chosen by more than 25 percent as worsened in 2012, including *foreclosures* (46 percent), *abandoned properties* (41 percent), *private property maintenance* (30 percent). *Obesity* (32 percent) and *vitality of neighborhoods* (28 percent) also made the list in 2012. No condition has been reported as improved by more than 25 percent of respondents since the 2003 survey (Tables 10 and 11).

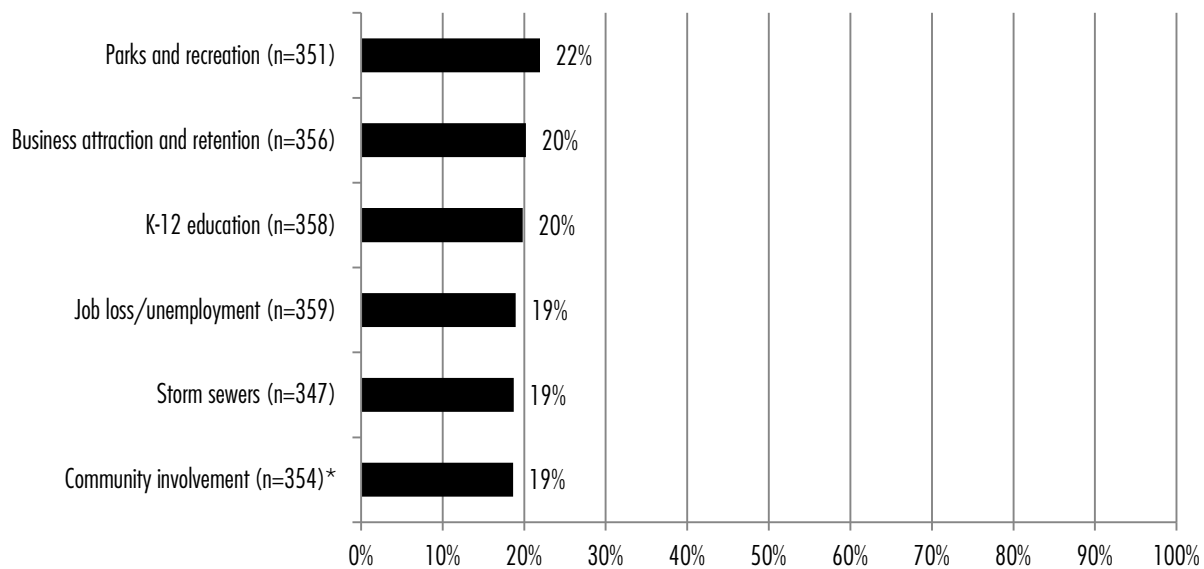
Table 10: Change in local conditions since last year (Question 5)

Category	Condition	Improved	Worsened	No change
Health	Availability of health services * (n=362)	17%	5%	78%
	Cost of health services * (n=361)	4%	32%	64%
	Availability of health insurance * (n=360)	4%	19%	76%
	Cost of health insurance * (n=361)	6%	40%	54%
	Availability and cost of dental health services (n=359)	3%	20%	77%
	Availability and cost of mental health services (n=352)	4%	15%	82%
	Availability and cost of services for people with disabilities (n=351)	7%	14%	79%
	Care for the elderly (n=351)	7%	15%	78%
	Drug and alcohol abuse (n=357)	4%	39%	58%
	Smoking (n=356)	18%	10%	72%
	Obesity (n=351)	5%	32%	63%
	Chronic disease (heart disease, diabetes, etc.) (n=344)	3%	17%	79%
Economics	Overall economic conditions (n=362)	18%	34%	48%
	Job loss/unemployment * (n=359)	19%	33%	48%
	Job quality (n=359)	9%	25%	66%
	Workforce training and retraining * (n=354)	14%	16%	71%
	Business attraction and retention (n=356)	20%	22%	57%
	International trade (n=336)	7%	10%	83%
	Shovel-ready properties (n=348)	18%	12%	70%
Public safety	Police/sheriff services (n=362)	15%	8%	77%
	Police-community relations (n=364)	17%	8%	75%
	Fire services (n=363)	16%	5%	79%
	Emergency medical services (n=359)	16%	6%	78%
	Emergency dispatch (n=358)	15%	8%	77%
	Violent crime (n=356)	6%	17%	78%
	Drug crime (n=354)	9%	37%	54%
	Youth crime (n=346)	5%	26%	69%
	Family/domestic violence (n=346)	6%	19%	75%
	Homeland security (n=356)	6%	2%	92%
	Jail facilities (n=365)	9%	10%	81%
	Youth detention facilities (n=346)	4%	10%	86%
	Disaster response (n=347)	14%	3%	82%
Local services and infrastructure	Emergency warning sirens (n=358)	18%	4%	78%
	K-12 education (n=358)	20%	17%	63%
	Drinking water (n=346)	10%	5%	86%
	Sanitary sewers (n=350)	17%	9%	74%
	Storm sewers (n=347)	19%	12%	69%
	Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) (n=339)	15%	11%	74%
	Local roads, streets, and highways * (n=354)	14%	34%	52%
	Sidewalks (n=347)	16%	21%	63%
	Bridges (n=338)	8%	20%	72%
	Public transit (n=337)	5%	10%	85%
	Parks and recreation (n=351)	22%	6%	72%
	Solid waste management (n=352)	14%	5%	82%
	Telephone (n=355)	4%	3%	93%
	Cellular telephone (n=352)	8%	9%	84%

Table 10: Change in local conditions since last year (Question 5)

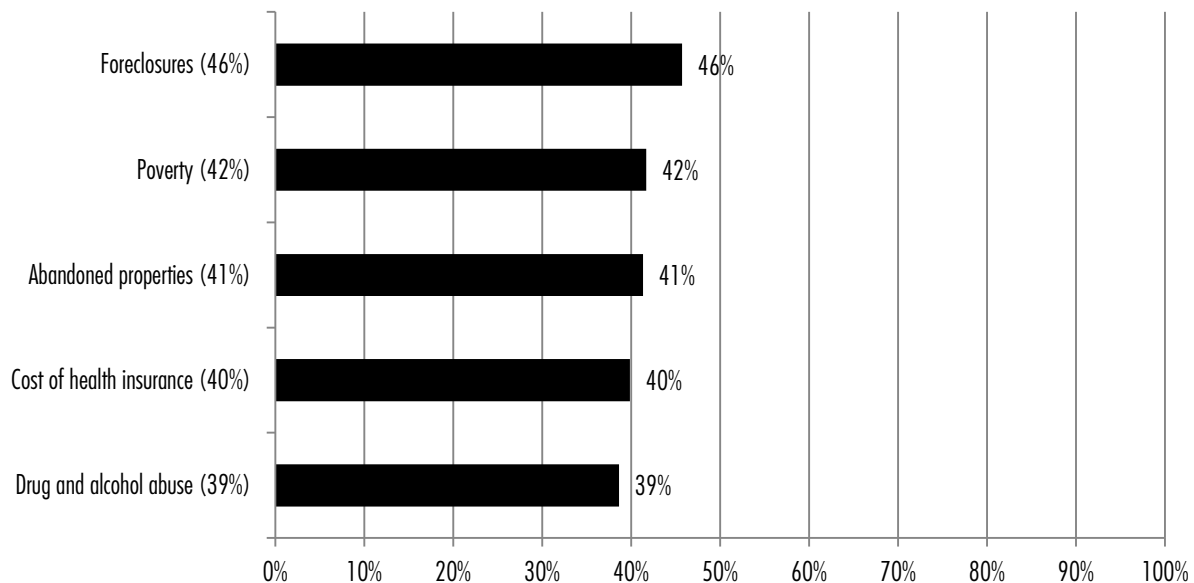
Category	Condition	Improved	Worsened	No change
Local services and infrastructure (continued)	Cable TV (n=352)	4%	10%	86%
	Electric service (n=352)	5%	6%	89%
	Natural gas service (n=351)	4%	3%	93%
	Lack of high-speed internet/broadband * (n=358)	16%	7%	77%
Land Use	Quality of development (n=341)	11%	15%	74%
	Increased amount of development (n=344)	10%	16%	74%
	Lack of development (n=346)	9%	22%	69%
	Quality affordable housing (n=345)	11%	16%	73%
	Balanced mix of housing types and prices (n=345)	8%	13%	79%
	Balanced mix of residential and non-residential development (n=344)	6%	14%	80%
	Code enforcement * (n=341)	15%	15%	70%
	Private property maintenance * (n=345)	10%	30%	60%
	Foreclosures * (n=352)	8%	46%	46%
	Abandoned properties * (n=346)	7%	41%	52%
	Open space/green space (n=344)	9%	6%	85%
	Farmland conversion and loss (n=343)	3%	13%	84%
	Brownfields (n=336)	7%	10%	84%
	Air quality (n=349)	5%	6%	89%
	Water quality (n=349)	9%	4%	87%
Community quality of life	Traffic congestion (n=349)	4%	17%	79%
	Poverty (n=350)	4%	42%	55%
	Vitality of neighborhoods (n=347)	6%	28%	66%
	Vitality of downtown (n=346)	18%	25%	57%
	Arts and cultural resources (n=346)	13%	9%	78%
	Community involvement (n=354)	19%	13%	68%
	Race-ethnic relations (n=350)	4%	4%	92%
	Immigration (n=350)	3%	10%	87%
	Childcare * (n=346)	6%	8%	86%
	Truancy and other school behavior problems (n=346)	10%	18%	73%

*Conditions that have been added or adjusted in the 2012 questionnaire. Over time, the community conditions that are included in the survey have changed for a number of reasons. The number of conditions expanded significantly in 2001, 2004, and 2008. In some cases, conditions have been disaggregated to allow finer analysis. In other cases, conditions have been modified or deleted for clarity or because of the changing policy environment or space limitations.

Figure 4: Top five issues identified most often as improved during the past year (Question 5)

*Six issues appear here because of a tie

Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Figure 5: Top five issues identified most often as worsened during the past year (Question 5)

Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Table 11: Conditions identified as improved or worsened over the past year by survey year (2012, 2010, and 2008) (Question 5)*

Survey year	25% or more of respondents indicated improved	25% or more of respondents indicated worsened
2012		Foreclosures (46%) Poverty (42%) Abandoned properties (41%) Cost of health insurance (40%) Drug and alcohol abuse (39%) Drug crime (37%) Overall economic conditions (34%) Local roads, streets, and highways (34%) Job loss/unemployment (33%) Obesity (32%) Cost of health services (32%) Private property maintenance (30%) Vitality of neighborhoods (28%) Youth crime (26%) Vitality of downtown (25%) Job quality (25%)
2010		Unemployment (50%) Overall economic conditions (48%) Poverty (48%) Availability and cost of health insurance (42%) Drug crime (39%) Job quality (34%) Drug and alcohol abuse (32%) Youth crime (31%) Local roads and streets (31%) Availability and cost of health services (29%) Business attraction and retention (28%) Lack of development (26%) Vitality of downtown (25%)
2008		Unemployment (59%) Overall economic conditions (59%) Poverty (45%) Job quality (42%) Availability and cost of health insurance (41%) Drug crime (35%) Business attraction and retention (33%) Local roads and streets (31%) Drug and alcohol abuse (30%) Youth crime (30%) Availability and cost of health services (29%) Obesity (28%)

*Responses for years prior to 2008 are available in previous survey reports

Table 12 and Figures 6 and 7 show the top five issues identified as most improved and most deteriorated over the past year. *K-12 education*, (14 percent) and *parks and recreation* (11 percent) were considered most improved. *Local roads, streets, and highways*, (18 percent) and *drug and alcohol abuse* (17 percent) were identified as the most deteriorated during the past year.¹ A number of similar issues were reported as most deteriorated in 2010 (Table 13).

Similar conditions were reported as improved in both Questions 5 and 6. Conditions found in the Local Services and Infrastructure category, including *local roads, streets, and highways*, and *parks* were cited most frequently as improved by respondents. Likewise, similar conditions were reported as worsened or deteriorated when asked in Questions 5 and 7, especially *unemployment*, *overall economic conditions*, and *poverty*.

Table 12: Reported as one of three most improved or deteriorated (Questions 6 and 7)

Category	Condition for report	Reported as one of the three most improved (n=313)	Reported as one of the three most deteriorated (n=319)
Health	Health**	1%	1%
	Availability of health services*	10%	2%
	Cost of health insurance*	2%	8%
	Availability of health insurance*	1%	3%
	Cost of health insurance*	0%	11%
	Availability and cost of dental health services	1%	1%
	Availability and cost of mental health services	0%	1%
	Availability and cost of services for people with disabilities	1%	1%
	Care for the elderly	3%	1%
	Drug and alcohol abuse	2%	17%
	Smoking	8%	1%
	Obesity	1%	5%
	Chronic disease (heart disease, diabetes, etc.)	0%	1%
Economics	Economics**	1%	3%
	Overall economic conditions	7%	13%
	Job loss/unemployment*	6%	14%
	Job quality	4%	4%
	Workforce training and retraining*	4%	2%
	Business attraction and retention	8%	8%
	International trade	1%	0%
	Shovel-ready properties	6%	2%
Public safety	Public safety**	2%	0%
	Police/sheriff services	9%	3%
	Police-community relations	6%	1%
	Fire services	9%	2%
	Emergency medical services	5%	1%
	Emergency dispatch	5%	1%
	Violent crime	0%	4%
	Drug crime	3%	14%

¹ The rather stark relative differences between the proportion of respondents in Question 4 and Questions 5-7 are a function of question structure. In Question 4, respondents provided information on all 75 conditions. In Questions 5-7, respondents chose only 3 of 75 conditions that had changed most or were important to work on in the short-term.

Table 12: Reported as one of three most improved or deteriorated (Questions 6 and 7)

Category	Condition for report	Reported as one of the three most improved (n=313)	Reported as one of the three most deteriorated (n=319)
Public safety (continued)	Youth crime	1%	4%
	Family/domestic violence	0%	4%
	Homeland security	0%	0%
	Jail facilities	4%	2%
	Youth detention facilities	0%	0%
	Disaster response	4%	0%
	Emergency warning sirens	4%	0%
Local services and infrastructure	Local services and infrastructure**	1%	1%
	K-12 education	14%	5%
	Drinking water	3%	1%
	Sanitary sewers	7%	2%
	Storm sewers	7%	3%
	Combined sewer overflows (CSOs)	4%	1%
	Local roads, streets, and highways*	9%	18%
	Sidewalks	5%	4%
	Bridges	1%	5%
	Public transit	1%	1%
	Parks and recreation	11%	1%
	Solid waste management	3%	0%
	Telephone	2%	0%
	Cellular telephone	4%	1%
	Cable TV	1%	1%
	Electric service	0%	1%
	Natural gas service	1%	0%
	Lack of high-speed internet/broadband*	4%	1%
Land use	Land use**	1%	2%
	Quality of development	2%	3%
	Increased amount of development	3%	0%
	Lack of development	1%	5%
	Quality affordable housing	3%	1%
	Balanced mix of housing types and prices	2%	2%
	Balanced mix of residential and non-residential development	1%	0%
	Code enforcement*	5%	3%
	Private property maintenance*	2%	7%
	Foreclosures*	3%	15%
	Abandoned properties*	1%	11%
	Open space/green space	2%	0%
	Farmland conversion and loss	1%	1%
	Brownfields	0%	0%
Community quality of life	Community quality of life**	1%	2%
	Air quality	2%	1%
	Water quality	3%	1%
	Traffic congestion	1%	4%
	Poverty	1%	11%
	Vitality of neighborhoods	3%	2%
	Vitality of downtown	9%	6%

Table 12: Reported as one of three most improved or deteriorated (Questions 6 and 7) (continued)

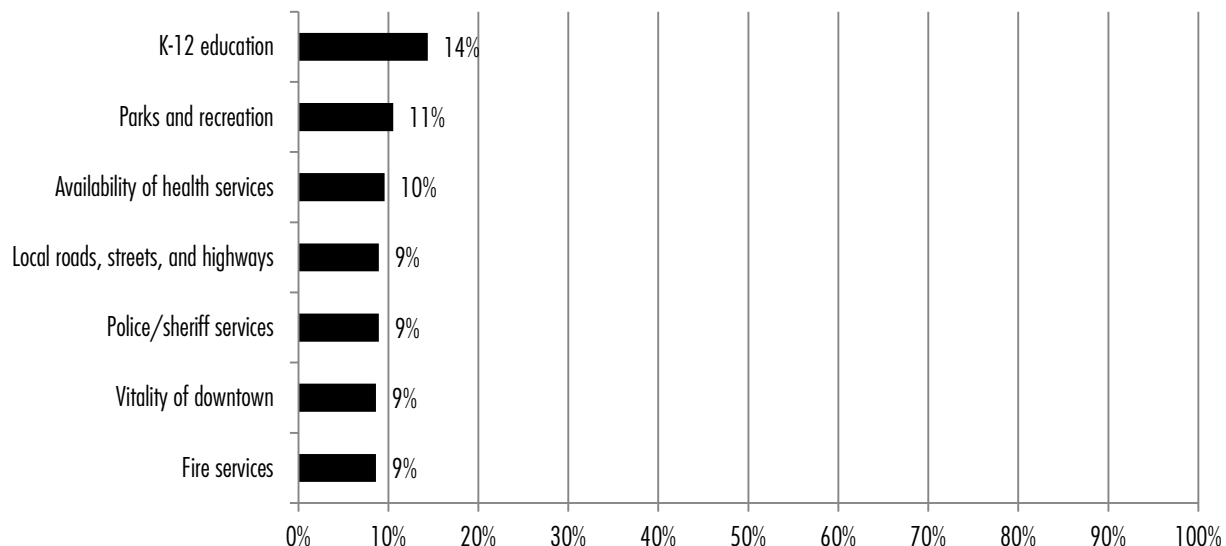
Category	Condition for report	Reported as one of the three most improved (n=313)	Reported as one of the three most deteriorated (n=319)
Community quality of life (continued)	Arts and cultural resources	2%	0%
	Community involvement	7%	3%
	Race-ethnic relations	1%	1%
	Immigration	0%	2%
	Childcare*	0%	0%
	Truancy and other school behavior problems	2%	3%
Other***	Other — No change	2% (7)	2% (5)
	Other — Local services	1% (3)	
	Other — Health services	1% (2)	
	Other — Development	1% (2)	
	Other — Storm water	1% (2)	
	Other — Jobs		1% (3)
	Other — Drugs		1% (2)
	Other — Foreclosures, abandoned properties		1% (2)
	Other — Health insurance		1% (2)
	Other — Other	19% (59)	11% (36)

*Conditions that were added or adjusted in the 2012 questionnaire.

**Questions 6-8 required respondents to identify the top three conditions listed in the questions. In spite of the restructuring, some respondents still identified general categories rather than specific conditions.

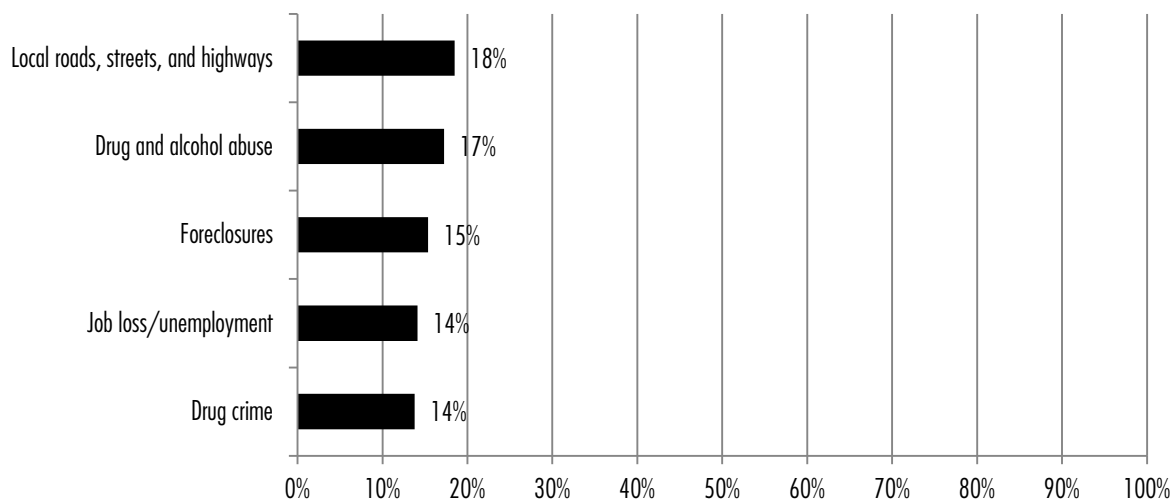
***In other cases, respondents identified conditions that were not listed in Question 5 or in a manner that did not allow the responses to be interpreted as one of the provided conditions. A list of these responses is provided in Appendix D. In cases when they were reported by at least 1 percent of respondents, they are included in the table.

Figure 6: Top five issues ranked as most improved during the past year (Question 6, n=313)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Figure 7: Top five issues ranked as most deteriorated during the past year (Question 7, n=319)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Table 13: Conditions chosen most often as most improved or most deteriorated over the last year by survey year*

Year	10% or more of respondents indicated most improved	10% or more of respondents indicated most deteriorated
2012	K-12 education (14%) Parks and recreation (11%)	Local roads, streets, and highways (18%) Drug and alcohol abuse (17%) Foreclosures (15%) Job loss/unemployment (14%) Drug crime (14%) Overall economic conditions (13%) Cost of health insurance (11%) Abandoned properties (11%) Poverty (11%)
2010	Local roads and streets (14%) K-12 education (10%) Fire services (10%)	Unemployment (29%) Overall economic conditions (18%) Poverty (15%) Availability and cost of health insurance (12%) Economics (10%) Drug crime (10%)
2008	Fire services (14%) K-12 education (12%) Police/sheriff services (11%)	Overall economic conditions (27%) Unemployment (24%) Availability and cost of health services (16%) Local roads and streets (13%) Poverty (11%)

*Responses for years prior to 2008 are available in previous survey reports

Priorities for Action

Officials reported most often the need to address economic conditions (including *job loss/unemployment*, *overall economic conditions*, and *business attraction and retention*), *local roads, streets, and highways*, and the *cost of health insurance* over the next two years (Table 14 and Figure 8). These issues are consistent with those that have been identified most frequently as important for short-term action in surveys since 2001 (Table 15).

Table 14: Conditions ranked as most important to work on over the next two years (Question 8, n=336)

Category	Condition	Percent
Health	Health**	1%
	Availability of health services	1%
	Cost of health services	7%
	Availability of health insurance	2%
	Cost of health insurance	11%
	Availability and cost of dental health services	0%
	Availability and cost of mental health services	0%
	Availability and cost of services for people with disabilities	0%
	Care for the elderly	2%
	Drug and alcohol abuse	9%
	Smoking	0%
	Obesity	1%
	Chronic disease (heart disease, diabetes, etc.)	0%
Economics	Economics**	3%
	Overall economic conditions	21%
	Job loss/unemployment	21%
	Job quality	8%
	Workforce training and retraining	4%
	Business attraction and retention	13%
	International trade	1%
	Shovel-ready properties	2%
Public safety	Public safety**	1%
	Police/sheriff services	2%
	Police-community relations	2%
	Fire services	2%
	Emergency medical services	1%
	Emergency dispatch	1%
	Violent crime	3%
	Drug crime	9%
	Youth crime	3%
	Family/domestic violence	3%
	Homeland security	0%
	Jail facilities	1%
	Youth detention facilities	1%
	Disaster response	0%
	Emergency warning sirens	0%
Local services and infrastructure	Local services and infrastructure**	1%
	K-12 education	8%
	Drinking water	1%
	Sanitary sewers	5%
	Storm sewers	5%
	Combined sewer overflows (CSOs)	3%
	Local roads, streets, and highways*	17%
	Sidewalks	2%
	Bridges	4%
	Public transit	2%
	Parks and recreation	1%
	Solid waste management	0%

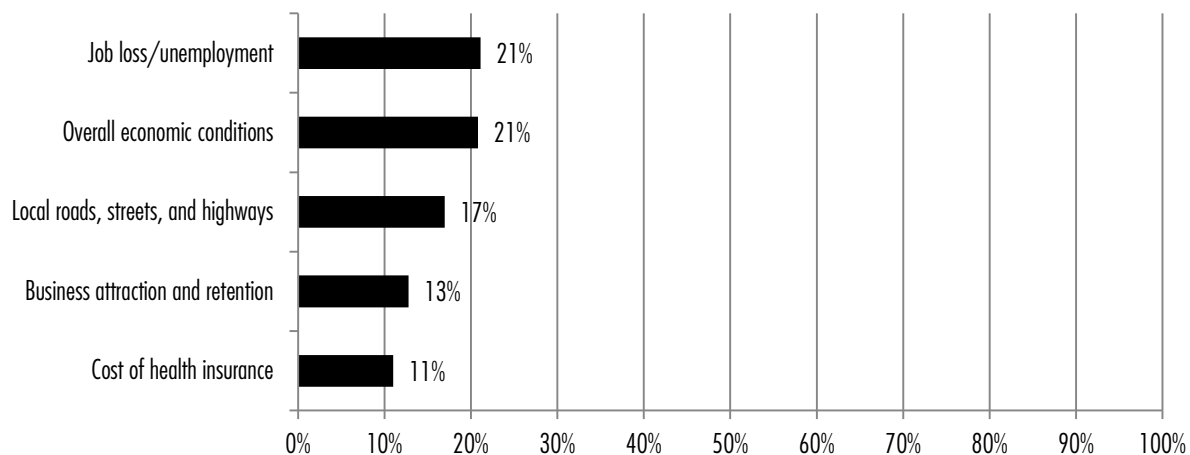
Table 14: Conditions ranked as most important to work on over the next two years (Question 8, n=336) (continued)

Category	Condition	Percent
Local services and infrastructure (continued)	Telephone	0%
	Cellular telephone	1%
	Cable TV	0%
	Electric service	0%
	Natural gas service	0%
	Lack of high-speed internet/broadband*	1%
Land use	Land use**	1%
	Quality of development	1%
	Increased amount of development	2%
	Lack of development	3%
	Quality affordable housing	2%
	Balanced mix of housing types and prices	1%
	Balanced mix of residential and non-residential development	1%
	Code enforcement*	3%
	Private property maintenance*	5%
	Foreclosures*	8%
	Abandoned properties*	7%
	Open space/green space	0%
	Farmland conversion and loss	1%
	Brownfields	0%
Community quality of life	Community quality of life**	1%
	Air quality	1%
	Water quality	1%
	Traffic congestion	1%
	Poverty	8%
	Vitality of neighborhoods	3%
	Vitality of downtown	6%
	Arts and cultural resources	0%
	Community involvement	5%
	Race-ethnic relations	1%
	Immigration	2%
	Childcare*	0%
	Truancy and other school behavior problems	1%
Other***	Other — Jobs (11)	3%
	Other — Drugs (6)	2%
	Other — Economic development (3)	1%
	Other — Health insurance (3)	1%
	Other — Land use (3)	
	Other — None (3)	1%
	Other — All (3)	1%
	Other — Foreclosures, abandoned properties (2)	1%
	Other — Water (2)	1%

*New conditions added or adjusted in the 2012 questionnaire

**Questions 6-8 required respondents to identify the top three conditions from the list in question 5. In some cases, respondents identified general categories rather than specific conditions.

***In other cases, respondents identified conditions not listed in Question 5 or in a manner that did not allow the responses to be interpreted as one of the provided conditions. A list of these responses is provided in Appendix D. In cases when they were reported by at least 1 percent of respondents they are included in the table.

Figure 8: Top five issues ranked as most important to work on (Question 8, n=336)

Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Table 15: Conditions ranked as most important to work on over the next two years by survey year (Question 8)*

Survey year	10% or more of respondents indicated as most important to work on
2012 (n=336)	Job quality (21%) Overall economic conditions (21%) Local roads, streets, and highways (17%) Business attraction and retention (13%) Cost of health insurance (11%)
2010 (n=333)	Unemployment (33%) Overall economic conditions (17%) Business attraction and retention (15%) Economics (11%) Local roads and streets (10%)
2008 (n=684)	Unemployment (20%) Availability and cost of health insurance (18%) Overall economic conditions (16%) Local roads and streets (15%) Business attraction and retention (14%) Job quality (11%) Economics (11%) Poverty (10%)

*Responses for years prior to 2008 are available in previous survey reports.

Fiscal Challenges

Local governments have faced a number of fiscal challenges over the last few years. Property taxes are now subject to property tax caps. Other tax revenues, such as local option income taxes, have declined as a result of the depressed economy. In addition, these governments face the rising costs of employee health insurance, fuel, and other supplies. Question 11 asked officials to identify their local government's response to changing revenues for 2008-2009 and 2010-2011. In 2008, the survey asked officials to indicate prospectively what they might do. At that time, more than one-third of officials indicated that they had

not made any changes or were not anticipating making any changes. Responses from the current survey indicate that, since then, local governments utilized many of the listed tools in response to recent fiscal challenges (Tables 16-19).

The changes reported most frequently, in the aggregate, as a means to address reduced revenue and increasing costs over the two time periods were *cut or delay in capital expenditures* (2008-2009, 57 percent; and 2010-2011, 62 percent), *reduced spending on roads and streets* (2008-2009: 56 percent, and 2010-2011: 62 percent), *making internal operational changes* (2008-2009: 52 percent, and 2010-2011: 61 percent), *cut or reduced spending on training and travel* (2008-2009: 51 percent, and 2010-2011: 55 percent), and *increased fees and charges for local services* (2008-2009: 41 percent, and 2010-2011: 55 percent) (Figures 9 and 10). *Passed a new or additional local option income tax* (2008-2009: 11 percent, and 2010-2011: 13 percent), *privatized capital assets or local government functions* (2008-2009: 12 percent, and 2010-2011: 14 percent), *pursued consolidation with another unit of government* (2008-2009: 13 percent, and 2010-2011: 20 percent), *reduced spending on solid waste management* (2008-2009: 16 percent, and 2010-2011: 18 percent), and *reduced spending on sanitary sewers, storm sewers, and drinking water* (2008-2009: 20 percent, and 2010-2011: 20 percent) were chosen least often.

A greater proportion of respondents indicated using each tool in 2010-2011 than in 2008-2009, except for *laid off employees*. The proportion of respondents who selected *laid off employees* and *reduced spending on sanitary sewers, storm sewers, and drinking water* were the same across the two time periods. In most cases, the groups of officeholders reported using each tool in equal or greater proportion in 2010-2011 than in 2008-2009.

Table 16: Options chosen by local government in the last four years to address fiscal challenges – New revenues (Question 11)

	2008-2009		2010-2011	
My local government or county has passed a new or additional local option income tax				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	28	21%	31	10%
County commissioner	25	8%	25	12%
Mayor	57	9%	55	11%
Town council member	96	7%	100	14%
Township trustee	51	14%	48	13%
School board member	54	15%	55	18%
Total	311	11%	314	13%
My local government has increased fees and charges for local services				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	28	29%	30	40%
County commissioner	24	50%	23	61%
Mayor	55	64%	58	71%
Town council member	93	38%	106	53%
Township trustee	50	24%	50	34%
School board member	54	44%	58	66%
Total	304	41%	325	55%

*Question 11 was not limited by type of officeholder. The responses reported for specific services, however, have been limited to the officials representing local governments that have the authority to or typically provide these services.

Table 17: Options chosen by local government in the last four years to address fiscal challenges – Changes to workforce (Question 11)

	2008-2009		2010-2011	
My local government laid off employees				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	30	17%	31	10%
County commissioner	25	36%	25	36%
Mayor	57	25%	58	21%
Town council member	99	11%	106	11%
Township trustee	48	17%	51	22%
School board member	56	39%	58	47%
Total	315	22%	329	22%
My local government has stopped hiring				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	29	55%	31	61%
County commissioner	24	50%	24	54%
Mayor	56	57%	56	55%
Town council member	96	40%	106	43%
Township trustee	53	49%	52	52%
School board member	52	44%	55	47%
Total	310	47%	324	50%
My local government has frozen or reduced employee wages/salaries				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	28	54%	29	31%
County commissioner	25	48%	25	48%
Mayor	56	52%	58	43%
Town council member	97	24%	107	32%
Township trustee	53	38%	53	36%
School board member	54	52%	58	66%
Total	313	41%	330	42%
My local government has reduced employee benefits and/or raised employee contributions				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	28	29%	30	33%
County commissioner	25	52%	25	72%
Mayor	56	52%	58	48%
Town council member	95	28%	104	33%
Township trustee	48	27%	49	41%
School board member	54	59%	55	65%
Total	306	40%	321	45%

Table 17: Options chosen by local government in the last four years to address fiscal challenges – Changes to workforce (Question 11)
(continued)

		2008-2009		2010-2011	
My local government has cut or reduced spending on training and travel					
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes	
County council member	28	50%	30	53%	
County commissioner	25	48%	25	48%	
Mayor	56	59%	58	62%	
Town council member	98	40%	106	42%	
Township trustee	50	52%	50	56%	
School board member	55	65%	58	76%	
Total	312	51%	327	55%	
My local government increased its reliance on volunteers to assist in providing local services					
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes	
County council member	29	14%	31	19%	
County commissioner	25	28%	25	28%	
Mayor	56	52%	58	64%	
Town council member	96	36%	104	43%	
Township trustee	49	35%	50	46%	
School board member	53	51%	55	55%	
Total	308	39%	323	46%	

*Question 11 was not limited by type of officeholder. The responses reported for specific services, however, have been limited to the officials representing local governments that have the authority to or typically provide these services.

Table 18: Options chosen by local government in the last four years to address fiscal challenges – Cuts or reductions in services (Question 11)

	2008-2009		2010-2011	
My local government has made internal operational changes e.g., mowing less frequently				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	29	52%	31	48%
County commissioner	24	58%	25	68%
Mayor	56	64%	57	77%
Town council member	94	43%	105	51%
Township trustee	47	38%	48	50%
School board member	56	64%	58	78%
Total	306	52%	324	61%
My local government has cut or reduced services e.g., reduced hours for swimming pool, fewer parks programs				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	28	25%	30	30%
County commissioner	23	13%	23	22%
Mayor	56	39%	58	43%
Town council member	93	15%	101	20%
Township trustee	49	24%	50	30%
School board member	54	56%	56	55%
Total	303	29%	318	33%

Table 18: Options chosen by local government in the last four years to address fiscal challenges – Cuts or reductions in services (Question 11) (continued)

	2008-2009		2010-2011	
My local government has cut or delayed capital expenditures				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	29	55%	31	55%
County commissioner	24	67%	24	71%
Mayor	56	68%	58	72%
Town council member	93	51%	103	57%
Township trustee	45	33%	46	46%
School board member	57	74%	59	75%
Total	304	57%	321	62%
My local government has reduced spending on parks and recreation – Counties, cities, towns, and townships only*				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	26	31%	28	39%
County commissioner	22	23%	21	33%
Mayor	56	55%	58	53%
Town council member	95	35%	101	42%
Township trustee	46	24%	47	32%
School board member	-	-	-	-
Total	245	36%	255	42%
My local government has reduced spending on sheriff/police – Counties, cities, towns, and schools only*				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	29	14%	31	10%
County commissioner	25	24%	25	28%
Mayor	56	43%	57	46%
Town council member	94	21%	102	25%
Township trustee	-	-	-	-
School board member	50	26%	52	38%
Total	254	26%	267	30%
My local government has reduced spending on fire services – Cities, towns, and townships only*				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	-	-	-	-
County commissioner	-	-	-	-
Mayor	56	38%	58	34%
Town council member	94	12%	101	15%
Township trustee	-	-	-	-
School board member	49	16%	50	20%
Total	199	20%	209	22%

Table 18: Options chosen by local government in the last four years to address fiscal challenges – Cuts or reductions in services (Question 11) (continued)

	2008-2009		2010-2011	
My local government has reduced spending on roads and streets – Counties, cities, and towns only*				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	29	59%	31	55%
County commissioner	25	64%	25	84%
Mayor	56	61%	58	62%
Town council member	97	51%	105	59%
Township trustee	-	-	-	-
School board member	-	-	-	-
Total	207	56%	219	62%
My local government has reduced spending on sanitary sewers, storm sewers, and drinking water – Counties (stormwater), cities, and towns only*				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	22	9%	23	9%
County commissioner	22	14%	22	14%
Mayor	55	33%	57	30%
Town council member	93	16%	100	19%
Township trustee	-	-	-	-
School board member	-	-	-	-
Total	192	20%	202	20%
My local government has reduced spending on solid waste management – Counties, cities, and towns only*				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	28	4%	30	0%
County commissioner	25	24%	25	36%
Mayor	54	26%	56	29%
Town council member	94	13%	99	12%
Township trustee	-	-	-	-
School board member	-	-	-	-
Total	201	16%	209	18%
My local government has reduced spending on [other] identified by respondent**				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	6	67%	8	63%
County commissioner	5	60%	4	75%
Mayor	17	53%	17	59%
Town council member	54	41%	59	47%
Township trustee	21	14%	21	24%
School board member	14	57%	15	60%
Total	117	42%	124	48%

*Question 11 was not limited by type of officeholder. The responses reported for specific services, however, have been limited to the officials representing local governments that have the authority to or typically provide these services.

**A complete list of Other responses is available in Appendix D

Table 19: Options chosen made by local government in the last four years to address fiscal challenges – Changes in service arrangements (Question 11)

	2008-2009		2010-2011	
My local government has adjusted the terms for contracted services				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	27	48%	28	50%
County commissioner	25	64%	25	68%
Mayor	56	41%	57	56%
Town council member	92	29%	101	38%
Township trustee	40	28%	42	38%
School board member	49	51%	49	63%
Total	289	40%	302	49%
My local government has privatized capital assets or local government functions				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	28	4%	29	17%
County commissioner	25	12%	25	16%
Mayor	56	14%	56	13%
Town council member	89	10%	96	11%
Township trustee	40	10%	41	10%
School board member	44	18%	46	20%
Total	282	12%	293	14%
My local government has established alternate service arrangements with local nonprofit organizations				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	26	8%	27	15%
County commissioner	23	26%	23	43%
Mayor	56	18%	57	23%
Town council member	91	10%	98	13%
Township trustee	39	18%	40	28%
School board member	46	26%	47	34%
Total	281	16%	292	23%
My local government has implemented cooperative service arrangements, such as interlocal agreements, with other local governments				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	28	54%	29	62%
County commissioner	25	68%	25	76%
Mayor	56	55%	58	69%
Town council member	90	28%	98	35%
Township trustee	42	19%	43	23%
School board member	42	52%	44	57%
Total	283	42%	297	49%

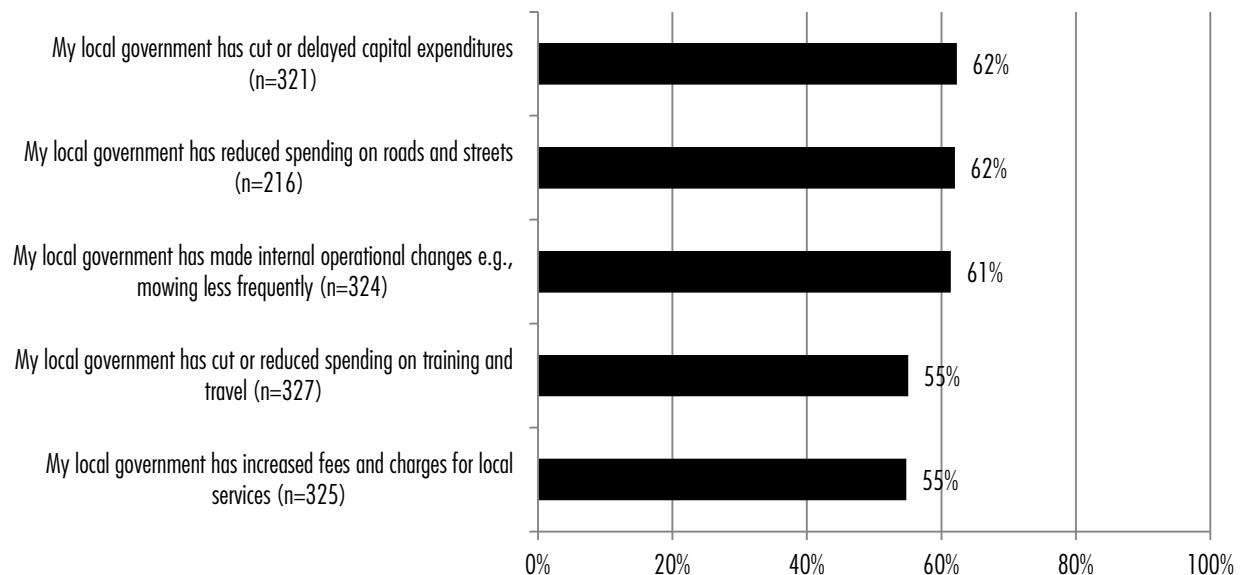
Table 19: Options chosen made by local government in the last four years to address fiscal challenges – Changes in service arrangements (Question 11) (continued)

	2008-2009		2010-2011	
My local government has engaged in joint purchasing with other local governments				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	28	25%	28	29%
County commissioner	24	29%	24	33%
Mayor	56	41%	58	45%
Town council member	92	25%	99	28%
Township trustee	43	16%	46	22%
School board member	51	61%	52	63%
Total	294	33%	307	37%
My local government has pursued consolidation with another unit of government				
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	27	4%	28	14%
County commissioner	25	8%	25	16%
Mayor	56	20%	57	25%
Town council member	90	11%	99	19%
Township trustee	43	5%	44	9%
School board member	51	24%	52	31%
Total	292	13%	305	20%

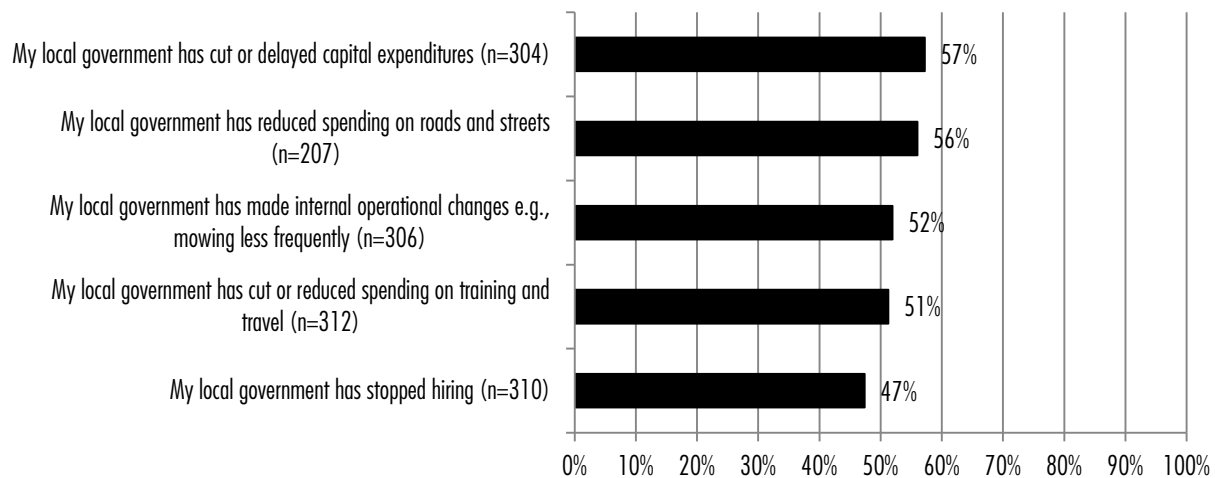
*Question 11 was not limited by type of officeholder. The responses reported for specific services, however, have been limited to the officials representing local governments that have the authority to or typically provide these services.

*A complete list of Other responses is available in Appendix D

Figure 9: Options chosen most often by local officials in response to fiscal challenges 2010-2011 (Question 11)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Figure 10: Options chosen most often by local officials in response to fiscal challenges 2008-2009 (Question 11)

Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

PILOTs and SILOTs

Government and nonprofit organizations that own property generally are exempt from paying property taxes. Local governments provide services (e.g., fire suppression, police protection, and other services) to these properties. Question 12 asked if the respondent would be in favor of requiring such organizations in their community that own real property to make annual payments in lieu of property taxes (PILOT) and/or provide services below cost to local government in lieu of property taxes (SILOT). It should be noted that this question was structured differently in 2012 than in 2010. In 2010, officials were asked to indicate their support for imposing PILOT or SILOT on particular types of tax-exempt property only if they had those properties within their jurisdictions. In 2012, all officials were asked to indicate their support for imposing PILOT or SILOT on particular types of tax-exempt property without regard for those types of properties being within the boundaries of the local government. Question 13 asked respondents about whether they have particular types of exempt properties within their jurisdictions and whether they have implemented payments in lieu of property taxes (PILOT) and/or provide services below cost to local government in lieu of property taxes (SILOT).

As mentioned above, Question 12 asked if respondents favor requiring PILOTs and SILOTs for various groups of organizations. *Private universities or schools* were chosen most often as appropriate to pay PILOTs in 2012 and in 2010 (48 percent and 54 percent, respectively). In every category, a smaller proportion of respondents indicated that PILOTs were appropriate in 2012 than in 2010 (Table 20). *Private universities or schools* and *nonprofit hospitals* were chosen most often as appropriate to provide SILOTs in 2012 (29 percent and 25 percent, respectively). Officials chose *units of state government*, *nonprofit hospitals*, and *units of federal government* most often in 2010 (48 percent, 47 percent, and 43 percent, respectively). Officials indicated less support for SILOTs in all categories of tax-exempt properties in 2012 than in 2010, except for *church or other religious nonprofits* and *other nonprofits* (Table 21).

Table 20: Support for the use of payments in lieu of property taxes (PILOT) and services in lieu of taxes (SILOT) for community organizations by survey year (Question 12)

Government/organization	Should be required to make payments to local government in lieu of taxes (PILOT)				Should be required to provide services at a reduced cost to local government in lieu of property taxes (SILOT)			
	2012		2010*		2012		2010*	
	n	Yes	n	Yes	n	Yes	n	Yes
Units of federal government	341	33%	178	46%	298	22%	87	43%
Units of state government	341	33%	178	47%	295	23%	95	48%
Units of other local government	335	23%	190	28%	297	19%	120	37%
Nonprofit hospital	340	35%	161	47%	302	25%	108	47%
Private university or school	345	48%	158	54%	301	29%	93	35%
Church or other religious nonprofits	348	32%	249	35%	306	21%	136	18%
Other nonprofits**	187	23%	105	36%	187	16%	62	13%

*In 2010, only officials with each type of tax-exempt properties in their jurisdictions are included in these results. In 2012, all officials were asked to provide their opinions on requiring PILOTs for particular types of tax-exempt properties.

**A complete list of *Other* responses is available in Appendix D

Question 13 asked which types of tax-exempt entities own property within the boundaries of the respondent's jurisdiction and whether their local government receives payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) or services in lieu of taxes (SILOT) from these types of tax-exempt organizations. Officials reported most often that *churches and other religious nonprofits* and *units of local government* own property within their jurisdictions (84 percent and 74 percent, respectively). Few local officials reported receiving PILOTs or SILOTs from any of the types of tax-exempt entities. Officials reported most often receiving PILOTs from *units of local governments* and *units of state government* (9 percent and 5 percent, respectively). No more than 4 percent of officials reported receiving SILOTs from tax-exempt entities in any category (Table 21).

Table 21: Use of PILOTs and SILOTs within the boundaries of local government-2012 (Question 13)

Government/organization	Own property within my jurisdiction		My local government received PILOT from:		My local government received SILOT from:	
	n	Yes	n	Yes	n	Yes
Units of federal government	288	37%	255	3%	249	2%
Units of state government	296	45%	259	5%	253	3%
Units of local government	306	74%	272	9%	264	3%
Nonprofit hospital	292	37%	258	2%	254	4%
Private university or school	297	38%	259	3%	254	2%
Church or other religious nonprofits	329	84%	287	2%	285	3%
Other nonprofits*	143	44%	150	4%	152	2%

*A complete list of *Other* responses is available in Appendix D

TIF and Tax Abatement

Over the last few years, the Indiana General Assembly has made significant changes to the way local government is funded, including the adoption of property tax caps. These changes have the potential to reduce the effectiveness of local economic development tools such as tax increment financing (TIF) and

tax abatement. Question 9 asked county, city, and town officials if their local government has used TIF or tax abatement in the last four years.

Counties and municipalities continued to utilize both TIF and tax abatement between 2009 and 2012 (Tables 22 and 23, and Figure 11). Generally, officials reported using tax abatement more often than they reported using TIF—66 percent reported using tax abatement sometime between 2009 and 2012, while only 53 percent of all officials reported using TIF during the same period. Each group of officeholders also reported using tax abatement more often than TIF.

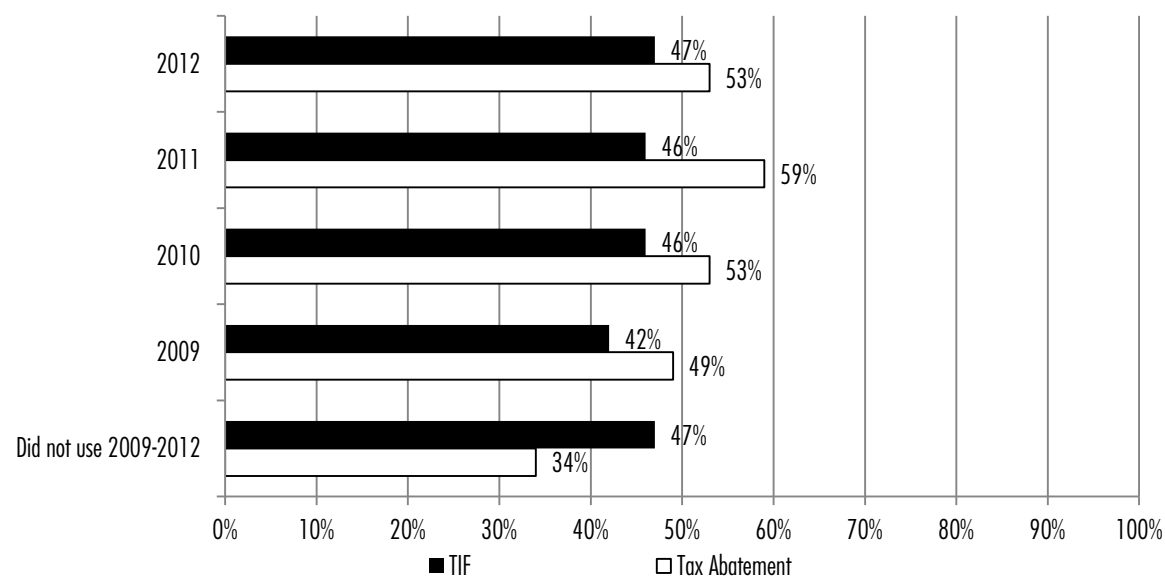
Table 22: Use of tax increment financing (TIF) since 2009 (Question 9)

Office	2012	2011	2010	2009	Did not use 2009-2012
County council member (n=22)	32%	50%	45%	27%	50%
County commissioner (n=23)	65%	65%	65%	70%	26%
Mayor (n=56)	77%	66%	68%	63%	20%
Town council member (n=70)	21%	21%	21%	20%	74%
Total (n=171)	47%	46%	46%	42%	47%

Table 23: Use of tax abatement since 2009 (Question 9)

Office	2012	2011	2010	2009	Did not use 2009-2012
County council member (n=25)	60%	84%	72%	60%	12%
County commissioner (n=23)	74%	87%	78%	74%	9%
Mayor (n=56)	79%	79%	75%	73%	13%
Town council member (n=70)	24%	26%	21%	19%	69%
Total (n=174)	53%	59%	53%	49%	34%

Figure 11: Use of tax increment financing or tax abatement in the last four years



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Judicial Mandates

As counties and other local governments face ongoing fiscal challenges, the courts are not likely to be immune. Question 10 asked county officials if their local government received a judicial mandate to restore county court funding in the last two years. Very few county officials reported being subject to mandates to restore funding over the last two years (Table 24).

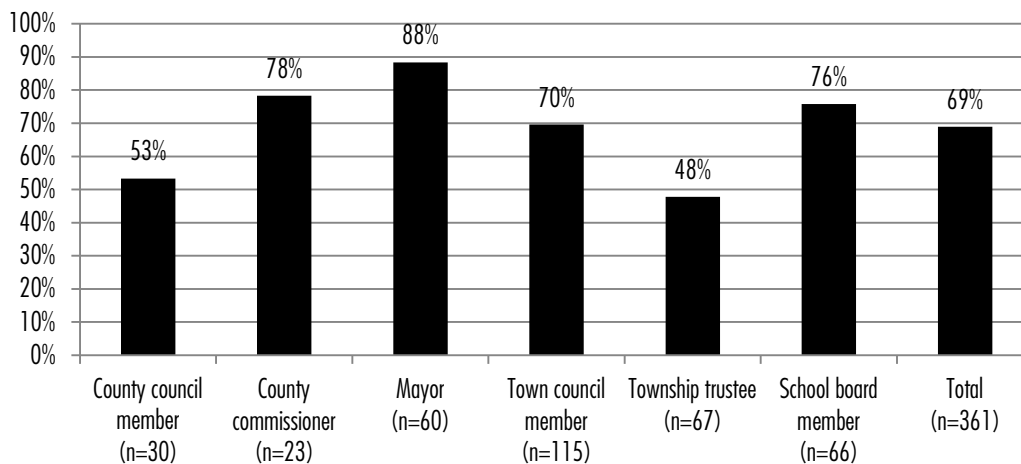
Table 24: Receipt of a judicial mandate to restore county court funding in the last two years (Question 10)

Office	Yes
County council member (n=30)	7%
County commissioner (n=24)	4%
Total (n=54)	6%

Volunteers

The use of volunteers is yet another option local governments have to reduce costs and/or improve local services. Question 14 asked if the respondents' local governments use unpaid volunteers. Question 15 asked local government officials if they used unpaid volunteer assistance in a variety of service areas. This question as printed was not restricted to any types of governments, but only responses from officials elected for types of governments that provide these services are summarized here. For example, only counties, cities, and towns are allowed to have courts. Only responses from these officials are reported here for that service. In the aggregate, more than two-thirds of officials indicated using unpaid volunteers in their local government (Table 25 and Figure 12). Mayors responded most frequently that their local governments use unpaid volunteers (88 percent). Township trustees reported using unpaid volunteers least (48 percent). In the aggregate, officials reported using volunteers most often for *education* (78 percent), *general beautification cleanup, planting* (66 percent), *parks* (52 percent), *fire* (50 percent), and *police/sheriff* (50 percent). Table 25 shows the relative use of unpaid volunteers by service and type of officeholder.

Figure 12: Local government use of unpaid volunteers by local government (Question 14)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Table 25: Use of unpaid volunteers by type of service and type of officeholder (Question 15)

General reception/clerical	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=28)	11%
County commissioner (n=22)	9%
Mayor (n=56)	25%
Town council member (n=108)	14%
Township trustee (n=60)	5%
School board member (n=56)	34%
Total (n=330)	17%
Technology (websites, computers, phone systems)	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=28)	7%
County commissioner (n=23)	22%
Mayor (n=56)	27%
Town council member (n=108)	19%
Township trustee (n=59)	8%
School board member (n=56)	21%
Total (n=330)	18%
Police/sheriff (counties, cities, towns, and schools only*)	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=28)	68%
County commissioner (n=25)	72%
Mayor (n=58)	50%
Town council member (n=109)	51%
Township trustee	-
School board member (n=54)	28%
Total (n=274)	50%
Courts (counties, cities, and towns only*)	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=28)	36%
County commissioner (n=23)	13%
Mayor (n=52)	4%
Town council member (n=102)	1%
Township trustee	-
School board member	-
Total (n=205)	8%
Fire (cities, towns, and townships only*)	
Office	Yes
County council member	-
County commissioner	-
Mayor (n=56)	41%
Town council member (n=113)	58%
Township trustee (n=62)	42%
School board member	-
Total (n=231)	50%

Table 25: Use of unpaid volunteers by type of service and type of officeholder (Question 15) (continued)

Parks (counties, cities, towns, and townships only*)	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=24)	42%
County commissioner (n=24)	71%
Mayor (n=58)	78%
Town council member (n=110)	54%
Township trustee (n=60)	22%
School board member	
Total (n=281)	52%
Roads (counties, cities, and towns*)	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=28)	4%
County commissioner (n=22)	23%
Mayor (n=56)	16%
Town council member (n=109)	15%
Township trustee	-
School board member	-
Total (n=215)	14%
Health services (counties and selected cities*)	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=27)	33%
County commissioner (n=23)	35%
Mayor	-
Town council member	-
Township trustee	-
School board member	-
Total (n=50)	34%
Youth and family services	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=26)	58%
County commissioner (n=23)	52%
Mayor (n=53)	34%
Town council member (n=106)	14%
Township trustee (n=58)	12%
School board member (n=59)	58%
Total (n=325)	31%
Senior services	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=27)	67%
County commissioner (n=23)	57%
Mayor (n=57)	58%
Town council member (n=105)	20%
Township trustee (n=59)	19%
School board member (n=58)	52%
Total (n=329)	38%

Table 25: Use of unpaid volunteers by type of service and type of officeholder (Question 15) (continued)

Environmental protection (counties, cities, and towns*)	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=27)	11%
County commissioner (n=23)	30%
Mayor (n=54)	17%
Town council member (n=106)	8%
Township trustee	-
School board member	-
Total (n=210)	13%
Planning and code enforcement (counties, cities, towns, and townships*)	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=27)	15%
County commissioner (n=23)	17%
Mayor (n=55)	16%
Town council member (n=107)	21%
Township trustee (n=57)	5%
School board member	-
Total (n=269)	16%
General beautification (cleanup, planting)	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=27)	59%
County commissioner (n=23)	65%
Mayor (n=57)	86%
Town council member (n=112)	65%
Township trustee (n=62)	35%
School board member (n=62)	81%
Total (n=343)	66%
Animal services (counties, cities, and towns only*)	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=26)	58%
County commissioner (n=24)	71%
Mayor (n=56)	39%
Town council member (n=110)	17%
Township trustee	-
School board member	-
Total (n=216)	34%
Emergency management and shelters (counties, cities, and towns only*)	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=27)	52%
County commissioner (n=22)	68%
Mayor (n=56)	30%
Town council member (n=107)	20%
Township trustee	-
School board member	-
Total (n=212)	32%

Table 25: Use of unpaid volunteers by type of service and type of officeholder (Question 15) (continued)

Elections (counties only*)	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=28)	32%
County commissioner (n=22)	50%
Mayor	-
Town council member	-
Township trustee	-
School board member	-
Total (n=50)	40%
Education (school districts only*)	
Office	Yes
County council member	-
County commissioner	-
Mayor	-
Town council member	-
Township trustee	-
School board member (n=72)	78%
Total (n=72)	78%
Other**	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=5)	20%
County commissioner (n=6)	50%
Mayor (n=15)	13%
Town council member (n=40)	15%
Township trustee (n=35)	20%
School board member (n=14)	21%
Total (n=115)	19%

Question 15 was not limited by type of officeholder. The responses reported for specific services, however, have been limited to the officials representing local governments that have the authority to or typically provide these services.

**A complete list of *Other* responses is available in Appendix D

Cooperative Arrangements

Cooperative service arrangements also are among the options that local governments have available for reducing costs and/or improving services. Cooperative arrangements were addressed briefly in the discussion about Question 11. In Question 11 (Table 19), local officials identified *adjusted the terms for contract services*, *implemented cooperative service arrangements with other local governments*, and *engaged in joint purchasing with other local governments* most often among the responses regarding changes made to address declining revenues/increased costs for 2008-09 and 2010-11. Question 16 asked officials whether particular services were provided through agreements with another local government, a private sector firm, or a nonprofit organization. Question 17 asked officials about cooperative purchasing. Questions 18 and 19 asked about the amount of cooperative activity within each county over the last two years and the character of cooperative activity with other local governments.

Question 16 asked local government officials to indicate the arrangement currently used to provide each type of a variety of public services. This question as printed was not restricted to any types of governments. Only responses from officials elected for types of governments that provide these services are summarized here. A majority of applicable respondents indicated that their local government provides each service with internal resources except for *emergency medical services* (45 percent) and *juvenile detention* (27 percent). Officials generally reported using contract or agreements with other local governments more often than contracts with private firms or nonprofit organizations. *Juvenile detention* (57 percent), *emergency dispatch* (42 percent), and *emergency medical services* (36 percent) were reported most often as services provided through a contract with another local government. *Solid waste services* (25 percent), *property assessment* (22 percent), and *juvenile detention* (16 percent) were reported most often as services provided through contracts with private firms. *Fire services* (19 percent), *economic development* (14 percent), and *emergency medical services* (13 percent) were reported most often as services provided through a contract with a nonprofit organization (Table 26).

Table 26: Arrangements used to provide services by type (Question 16)

Service	Types of local governments that provide service	My local government provides this service with internal resources	My local government provides this service through an agreement or contract with another local government	My local government provides this service through a contract with a private for-profit firm	My local government provides this service through a contract with a nonprofit organization
Jail (n=94)	Counties, cities, towns	70%	29%	0%	1%
Juvenile detention (n=79)	Counties, cities, towns	27%	57%	16%	0%
Roads and streets (n=207)	Counties, cities, towns	88%	1%	10%	1%
Parks and recreation (n=203)	Counties, cities, towns, townships	91%	4%	2%	2%
Drinking water utility (n=136)	Cities, towns	86%	9%	4%	1%
Solid waste services (n=126)	Cities, towns	56%	18%	25%	1%
Sewer utility (n=148)	Cities, towns	87%	11%	1%	1%
Police services (n=235)	Counties, cities, towns, school	94%	5%	0%	1%
Fire services (n=205)	Cities, towns, township	60%	20%	1%	19%
Emergency medical services (n=150)	Counties, cities, towns, townships	45%	36%	7%	13%
Emergency dispatch (n=166)	Counties, cities, towns	52%	42%	1%	5%
Planning/plan commission (n=173)	Counties, cities, towns,	82%	17%	0%	1%
Economic development (n=175)	Counties, cities, towns	56%	26%	4%	14%
Vocational education (n=50)	School	60%	24%	8%	8%
Special education (n=56)	School	57%	29%	11%	4%
Property assessment (n=50)	Counties, townships (selected)	74%	2%	22%	2%
Other (n=13) **	Counties, cities, towns, townships, schools	62%	8%	31%	0%

*This question allowed respondents to indicate that their local government does not provide the particular service. The data reported here includes only respondents who responded affirmatively to providing this service and who represent a type of government that typically would provide such a service.

**A complete list of Other responses is available in Appendix D

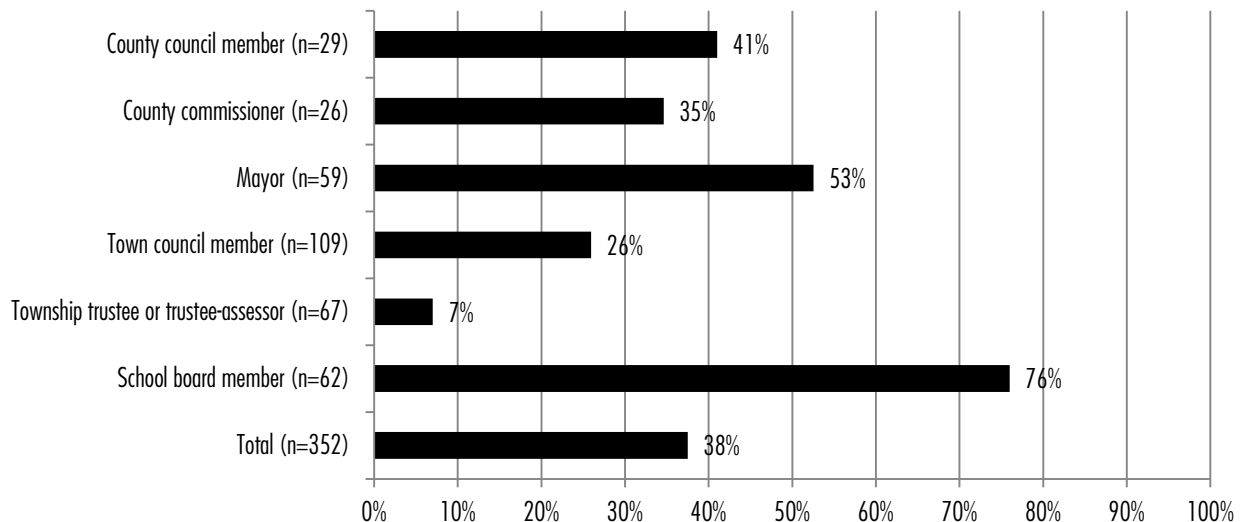
Joint purchasing is a type of cooperative arrangement that can be accomplished using a number of mechanisms including the interlocal agreement statute, State of Indiana Quantity Purchasing Agreements (QPA), and U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Cooperative (www.uscommunities.org). Question 17 asked if the respondent's local government purchased goods cooperatively in the last year. School board members (76 percent) and mayors (53 percent) reported most often their local government

had purchased goods cooperatively in the last year. Township trustees reported using joint purchasing least among groups on officeholders (7 percent). In the aggregate, officials reported a similar utilization of joint purchasing in 2012 and 2010. All groups of officeholders, except township trustees, reported greater use of joint purchasing in 2012 than in 2008 (Table 27 and Figure 13).

Table 27: Cooperative purchasing by local government in the last year by office (Question 17)

Office	2012		2010		2008	
	n	Yes	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	29	41%	31	32%	33	21%
County commissioner	26	35%	28	46%	30	37%
Mayor	59	53%	53	55%	44	32%
Town council member	109	26%	77	30%	95	17%
Township trustee	67	7%	73	11%	435	12%
School board member	62	76%	52	77%	71	70%
Total	352	38%	349	38%	708	21%

Figure 13: Cooperative purchasing within the last year by office – 2012 (Question 17)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Many communities engage in cooperative efforts through a variety of formal and informal mechanisms, including regional organizations, memorandums of understanding (MOUs), interlocal agreements, cooperatives, task forces, joint meetings, resource sharing, etc. Question 18 asked local officials how the amount of cooperative activity between their local government and other organizations has changed over the last two years. In the aggregate, a greater proportion of officials reported increased cooperative activity in 2012 than in 2010. More specifically, a greater proportion of county council members, county commissioners, and township trustees reported that cooperation had increased over the previous two years in 2012 than in 2010 (Table 28).

Table 28: Change in cooperative activity between local governments over the last two years by office (Question 18)

Office	2012				2010			
	n	Increased	Decreased	Stayed about the same	n	Increased	Decreased	Stayed about the same
County council member	30	43%	3%	53%	31	19%	3%	77%
County commissioner	25	56%	4%	40%	29	38%	0%	62%
County auditor	-	-	-	-	35	29%	3%	69%
Mayor	61	61%	5%	34%	54	61%	2%	37%
Town council member	115	21%	2%	77%	74	28%	4%	68%
Township trustee	63	17%	0%	83%	78	15%	3%	82%
School board member	66	45%	8%	47%	57	49%	0%	51%
Total	360	36%	3%	61%	358*	34%	2%	64%

*County auditors were included in the survey in 2010 only.

Question 19 asked how local officials would characterize the working relationship between their local government and other local governments. Table 29 shows that respondents indicated positive working relationships with other local governments in their counties. With the exception of *state government* (48 percent), *other special districts* (42 percent), and *federal government* (35 percent), at least 60 percent of each of the remaining groups of officeholders indicated having a positive relationship (*very positive* or *somewhat positive*) with other types of government, business, and nonprofit organizations. Respondents listed having a negative relationship (*very negative* or *somewhat negative*) with *state government* (25 percent) and *federal government* (12 percent) most often among the organizations listed.

Table 29: Working relationship between local government and other governments and service provider organizations (Question 19)

Government/organization	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Neither positive nor negative	Somewhat negative	Very negative	No relationship
Federal government (n=323)	12%	23%	41%	9%	3%	11%
State government (n=350)	15%	33%	26%	17%	8%	2%
County governments (n=345)	30%	39%	20%	8%	1%	1%
City governments (n=313)	31%	35%	21%	7%	2%	4%
Town governments (n=309)	29%	37%	25%	3%	1%	5%
Township governments (n=338)	34%	36%	20%	6%	2%	1%
School districts (n=334)	32%	36%	25%	2%	1%	3%
Library districts (n=325)	32%	31%	29%	3%	1%	5%
Other special districts (n=226)	19%	23%	44%	3%	1%	10%
Local businesses (n=337)	35%	37%	25%	1%	0%	1%
Local charities and other nonprofits (n=341)	40%	38%	21%	1%	0%	1%

Local Government Benefits

Questions 21–24 asked respondents about retirement and health insurance benefits for officials and employees. Questions 21 and 22 queried participants about whether retirement and health insurance benefits are provided to elected officials, full-time, and part-time local government employees. Questions 23 and 24 asked about the rising cost of health insurance and local government responses.

Questions 21 and 22 asked about pension/retirement and health insurance benefits for elected officials and employees. A strong majority of city and county officials reported providing retirement and health insurance benefits to elected officials. With the exception of townships, strong majorities in each group of officeholders reported providing healthcare and pension benefits to full-time employees. Few local governments provide either type of benefits to part-time employees. In the aggregate, respondents reported that a greater proportion of local governments provide healthcare benefits than retirement or pension benefits (Tables 30 and 31). A greater proportion of officials reported providing pension/retirement benefits and health benefits to all groups in 2010 than in 2012

Questions 23 and 24 asked respondents about whether health insurance costs are rising and about local government response. A strong majority of respondents reported an increase in health insurance costs over the last two years (Table 32). The relative response for 2010 was similar in the aggregate (Table 32). Nearly three-fifths of respondents reported responding to the rise in costs with *increased elected official or employee contributions* (59 percent). More than one-third of officials chose *reducing health costs by changing vendors* (43 percent) and *reduced health coverage* (38 percent) (Table 33).

Table 30: Provision of pensions or retirement contributions by office by year (Question 21)

Office	2012					
	Elected officials		Full-time employees		Part-time employees	
	n	Yes	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	31	90%	31	100%	28	4%
County commissioner	25	72%	25	84%	25	4%
Mayor	57	65%	59	92%	56	5%
Town council member	118	13%	116	58%	112	4%
Township trustee	76	32%	74	31%	72	6%
School board member	61	28%	66	95%	61	21%
Total	368	38%	371	70%	354	7%
Office	2010					
	Elected officials		Full-time employees		Part-time employees	
	n	Yes	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	35	63%	34	76%	32	9%
County commissioner	26	85%	25	92%	14	14%
County auditor	37	86%	36	89%	24	0%
Mayor	55	62%	53	91%	47	4%
Town council member	72	17%	78	76%	70	7%
Township trustee	88	32%	83	36%	79	4%
School board member	55	24%	57	96%	54	20%
Total	368	44%	366	75%	320	8%

Table 30: Provision of pensions or retirement contributions by office by year (Question 21) (continued)

Office	2008					
	Elected officials		Full-time employees		Part-time employees	
	n	Yes	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	36	72%	37	81%	34	3%
County commissioner	31	84%	31	90%	30	17%
Mayor	46	70%	46	91%	39	5%
Town council member	97	19%	94	59%	93	4%
Township trustee	459	34%	448	40%	436	3%
School board member	78	33%	79	95%	73	19%
Total	747	38%	735	56%	705	6%

Table 31: Provision of health insurance by office (Question 22)

Office	2012					
	Elected officials		Full-time employees		Part-time employees	
	n	Yes	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	30	93%	30	100%	26	8%
County commissioner	24	88%	25	100%	25	0%
Mayor	59	83%	58	98%	56	4%
Town council member	118	15%	118	64%	112	7%
Township trustee	75	19%	74	26%	71	1%
School board member	62	52%	65	98%	59	39%
Total	368	44%	370	73%	349	10%

Office	2010					
	Elected officials		Full-time employees		Part-time employees	
	n	Yes	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	32	81%	33	91%	29	14%
County commissioner	28	93%	28	100%	18	17%
County auditor	38	89%	38	92%	24	8%
Mayor	58	72%	58	91%	48	10%
Town council member	71	15%	77	79%	71	8%
Township trustee	91	35%	82	37%	78	9%
School board member	54	48%	54	96%	49	18%
Total	372	53%	370	78%	317	11%

Office	2008					
	Elected officials		Full-time employees		Part-time employees	
	n	Yes	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	37	89%	37	92%	34	12%
County commissioner	31	87%	31	100%	28	25%
Mayor	41	93%	44	98%	40	5%
Town council member	88	19%	94	66%	87	7%
Township trustee	455	35%	442	44%	427	6%
School board member	77	53%	76	95%	73	18%
Total	729	43%	724	60%	689	9%

Table 32: Local government health insurance costs have increased over the last two years by office (Question 23)

Office	2012		2010*		2008*	
	n	Yes	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	29	83%	36	100%	37	86%
County commissioner	25	80%	27	93%	29	86%
County auditor**	-	-	35	100%	-	-
Mayor	55	95%	54	94%	44	93%
Town council member	86	80%	70	87%	94	71%
Township trustee	30	70%	64	50%	405	47%
School board member	68	93%	59	95%	84	99%
Total	293	85%	345	86%	693	63%

*The question was changed in 2012 to address only the last two years. In 2010 and 2008, the question asked officials to respond regarding the last three years.

**County auditors were surveyed in 2010 only

Table 33: Steps local governments have taken over the last three years to combat the rising cost of providing health insurance to elected officials and employees by office, 2012 (Question 24)

Increased elected official and employee health insurance contributions		
Office	n	Yes
County council member	25	64%
County commissioner	19	58%
Mayor	55	62%
Town council member	68	38%
Township trustee	20	45%
School board member	57	86%
Total	244	59%
Reduced health insurance coverage		
Office	n	Yes
County council member	23	35%
County commissioner	19	21%
Mayor	53	38%
Town council member	68	29%
Township trustee	17	35%
School board member	54	56%
Total	234	38%
Reduced health insurance eligibility for officials and employees		
Office	n	Yes
County council member	22	9%
County commissioner	19	16%
Mayor	53	17%
Town council member	67	6%
Township trustee	16	25%
School board member	52	33%
Total	229	17%

Table 33: Steps local governments have taken over the last three years to combat the rising cost of providing health insurance to elected officials and employees by office, 2012 (Question 24) (continued)

Reduced health insurance costs through a cooperative purchasing arrangement with the State of Indiana or another local government		
Office	n	Yes
County council member	23	9%
County commissioner	19	16%
Mayor	53	15%
Town council member	66	12%
Township trustee	16	13%
School board member	51	31%
Total	228	17%
Reduced health insurance costs by changing vendors		
Office	n	Yes
County council member	22	64%
County commissioner	20	40%
Mayor	53	53%
Town council member	67	30%
Township trustee	18	28%
School board member	54	48%
Total	234	43%
Reduced non-insurance expenditures		
Office	n	Yes
County council member	19	26%
County commissioner	16	31%
Mayor	48	54%
Town council member	65	20%
Township trustee	14	29%
School board member	48	50%
Total	210	37%
Other*		
Office	n	Yes
County council member	3	7%
County commissioner	5	12%
Mayor	8	20%
Town council member	10	24%
Township trustee	1	2%
School board member	14	34%
Total	41	100%
No action taken		
Office	n	Yes
County council member	10	10%
County commissioner	3	0%
Mayor	16	44%
Town council member	31	32%
Township trustee	14	21%
School board member	15	33%
Total	89	29%

*A complete list of *Other* responses is available in Appendix D

Communication

Questions 30 through 33 asked about ways local governments communicate with residents. Questions 30 and 31 asked whether each local government has a website and any formal policies and procedures that govern website communications. Questions 32 and 33 asked whether each local government uses social media (i.e., Facebook, Twitter, etc.) and any formal policies and procedures that govern communications using these media.

A majority of all groups of officeholders, except for township trustees, reported using a local government website to communicate with residents. More than three-quarters of county council members, county commissioners, mayors, and school board members reported having a local government website. All groups of officeholders reported using websites as a means of communication more than social media (e.g., Facebook, Twitter). Only a majority of mayors and school board members indicated using social media (Table 34).

Not surprisingly, a majority of each group of officials who indicated using a website for communication also reported having formal policies governing that communication except for town council members (Table 35). Results were similar for officials who reported their government using social media to communicate with residents (Table 36). Interestingly, a number of local officials, who reported that their local governments do not use social media to communicate with residents, reported that they have formal policies governing the use of social media. We expect that these policies may address the personal use of social media by employees during work hours. Adjustments to the survey questions would allow us to confirm our interpretation.

Table 34: Local governments that have formal policies governing communication using websites (Question 31)

Office	My local government has a website used to communicate with residents-All		My local government has formal policies and procedures that govern communications on our website <u>and</u> has a website used to communicate with residents		My local government has formal policies and procedures that govern communications on our website <u>but</u> does not have a website used to communicate with residents	
	n	Yes	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	29	76%	20	65%	5	0%
County commissioner	25	88%	22	73%	3	0%
Mayor	58	90%	51	65%	6	0%
Town council member	117	52%	58	45%	52	2%
Township trustee	68	26%	16	69%	45	0%
School board member	67	96%	61	87%	3	33%
Total	364	66%	228	67%	114	2%

Table 35: Local governments that have formal policies governing communication using social media (Question 31)

	My local government uses social media to communicate with residents-All		My local government has formal policies and procedures that govern communications via social media <u>and</u> uses social media to communicate with residents		My local government has formal policies and procedures that govern communications via social media <u>but</u> does not use social media to communicate with residents	
Office	n	Yes	n	Yes	n	Yes
County council member	29	3%	1	100%	27	26%
County commissioner	25	20%	5	60%	19	32%
Mayor	56	52%	29	62%	25	28%
Town council member	116	21%	23	39%	88	3%
Township trustee	64	11%	6	67%	54	4%
School board member	62	52%	28	68%	29	31%
Total	352	28%	92	59%	242	14%

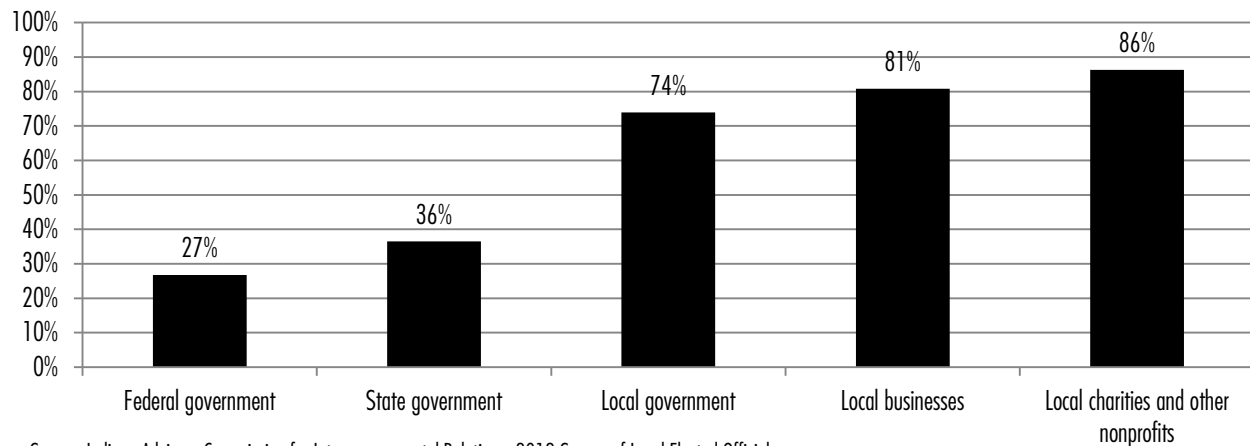
Civics

Questions 20 and 34–36 addressed public trust of various types of organizations, including local government, and public knowledge of local government. Question 20 asked how often the respondent trusted various organizations to do the right thing. *Local charities and other nonprofits* (86 percent), *local businesses* (81 percent), and *local government* (74 percent) were reported by a strong majority of officials as being trusted *almost always* or *most of the time*. On the other hand, the *federal government* (73 percent) and *state government* (64 percent) were reported as being trusted *some of the time* or *almost never* by a majority of officials (Table 36).

Table 36: Organizations trusted to do the right thing by public (Question 20)

Government/organization	Almost always	Most of the time	Some of the time	Almost never
Federal government (n=381)	3%	24%	50%	23%
State government (n=384)	4%	33%	51%	13%
Local government (n=383)	22%	52%	23%	3%
Local businesses (n=381)	18%	63%	17%	2%
Local charities and other nonprofits (n=380)	31%	55%	13%	1%

Figure 14: Organizations trusted to do the right thing most of the time or almost always (Question 20)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission for Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Question 34² asked government officials how often their residents are well informed about local government structure, services, and funding. With a few exceptions, a majority of each group of officials generally reported that their residents are well informed (*almost always* or *most of the time*) about government structure, local services, and local finances (Tables 37-39). Only 47 percent of county council members reported that their residents are well informed about government structure. Only 47 percent of school board members reported that their residents are well informed about local government services. Fewer than half of county council members (43 percent) and school board members (40 percent) reported that their residents are well informed about local government funding.

Table 37: How often residents are well informed about local government structure (Question 34)

Office	Almost always	Most of the time	Some of the time	Almost never
County council member (n=30)	10%	37%	43%	10%
County commissioner (n=25)	8%	44%	36%	12%
Mayor (n=57)	23%	40%	33%	4%
Town council member (n=115)	24%	37%	27%	11%
Township trustee (n=66)	27%	24%	33%	15%
School board member (n=64)	13%	39%	42%	6%
Total (n=357)	20%	36%	34%	10%

Table 38: How often residents are well informed about local government services (Question 34)

Office	Almost always	Most of the time	Some of the time	Almost never
County council member (n=30)	13%	40%	47%	0%
County commissioner (n=25)	8%	60%	20%	12%
Mayor (n=57)	32%	47%	19%	2%
Town council member (n=115)	25%	41%	26%	8%
Township trustee (n=67)	27%	31%	31%	10%
School board member (n=65)	12%	35%	49%	3%
Total (n=359)	22%	40%	31%	6%

² The online version of this question was formatted incorrectly during the first week the survey was administered. The question was corrected. Because the responses submitted to that point were so different from the printed version, the responses prior to the correction have been excluded from this analysis.

Table 39: How often residents are well informed about local government funding (Question 34)

Office	Almost always	Most of the time	Some of the time	Almost never
County council member (n=30)	23%	20%	43%	13%
County commissioner (n=25)	8%	44%	24%	24%
Mayor (n=57)	21%	42%	30%	7%
Town council member (n=114)	22%	35%	30%	13%
Township trustee (n=66)	26%	30%	29%	15%
School board member (n=65)	15%	25%	42%	18%
Total (n=357)	20%	33%	32%	14%

Question 35 asked respondents to write-in the biggest misconception residents have about their local governments. Unlike many of the other questions in the survey, this question did not provide respondents with prepared selections from which to choose. The first response provided by each respondent was categorized by researchers. Readers should take care not to over interpret the percentages reported here. Many officials chose not to respond to this question, so percentages often reflect just a few actual responses. For example, 15 percent of county council members indicated that the biggest misperception citizens have about local government is that they do not know that funding comes from property taxes and other sources. Three county council members gave this response.

In the aggregate, responses that reflected *perceive that local government has unlimited resources to provide additional services* and *misunderstand that local government funding comes from property taxes and other sources* were provided most often (22 percent and 8 percent, respectively). *Unaware that there are restrictions on spending from particular sources/accounts*, *unaware of the mandates that local government must follow*, and *misunderstand the responsibilities of this type of local government* were provided next most often (6 percent each). The mix of responses varied by type of officeholder (Table 40). A complete list of responses is provided in Appendix E.

Table 40: Residents' biggest misconceptions about official's local government (Question 35)

Misunderstand that local government funding comes from property taxes and other sources	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	15%
County commissioner (n=18)	0%
Mayor (n=39)	3%
Town council member (n=84)	10%
Township trustee (n=33)	0%
School board member (n=42)	14%
Total (n=236)	8%
Unaware that there are restrictions on spending from particular sources/accounts	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	5%
County commissioner (n=18)	0%
Mayor (n=39)	3%
Town council member (n=84)	4%
Township trustee (n=33)	3%
School board member (n=42)	17%
Total (n=236)	6%

Table 40: Residents' biggest misconceptions about official's local government (Question 35) (continued)

Misunderstand road funding	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	0%
County commissioner (n=18)	17%
Mayor (n=39)	0%
Town council member (n=84)	0%
Township trustee (n=33)	0%
School board member (n=42)	2%
Total (n=236)	2%
Misunderstand the differences between federal, state, and local funding	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	5%
County commissioner (n=18)	0%
Mayor (n=39)	3%
Town council member (n=84)	1%
Township trustee (n=33)	0%
School board member (n=42)	7%
Total (n=236)	3%
Perceive that local government has unlimited resources to provide additional services	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	10%
County commissioner (n=18)	17%
Mayor (n=39)	41%
Town council member (n=84)	26%
Township trustee (n=33)	21%
School board member (n=42)	7%
Total (n=236)	22%
Perceive that local government has too many resources; is wasteful	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	10%
County commissioner (n=18)	0%
Mayor (n=39)	3%
Town council member (n=84)	2%
Township trustee (n=33)	3%
School board member (n=42)	0%
Total (n=236)	3%
Unaware of mandates that local government must follow	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	15%
County commissioner (n=18)	22%
Mayor (n=39)	3%
Town council member (n=84)	2%
Township trustee (n=33)	0%
School board member (n=42)	7%
Total (n=236)	6%

Table 40: Residents' biggest misconceptions about official's local government (Question 35) (continued)

Misunderstand the responsibilities of this type of local government	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	5%
County commissioner (n=18)	11%
Mayor (n=39)	3%
Town council member (n=84)	2%
Township trustee (n=33)	21%
School board member (n=42)	5%
Total (n=236)	6%
Misunderstand the relative responsibilities between state and local governments	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	0%
County commissioner (n=18)	0%
Mayor (n=39)	8%
Town council member (n=84)	0%
Township trustee (n=33)	3%
School board member (n=42)	0%
Total (n=236)	2%
Misunderstand the relative responsibilities between types of local government	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	5%
County commissioner (n=18)	11%
Mayor (n=39)	10%
Town council member (n=84)	4%
Township trustee (n=33)	6%
School board member (n=42)	0%
Total (n=236)	5%
Misunderstand the government structure of this type of local government	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	10%
County commissioner (n=18)	6%
Mayor (n=39)	5%
Town council member (n=84)	1%
Township trustee (n=33)	0%
School board member (n=42)	0%
Total (n=236)	3%
Perceive that local government does not listen	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	5%
County commissioner (n=18)	0%
Mayor (n=39)	0%
Town council member (n=84)	2%
Township trustee (n=33)	0%
School board member (n=42)	7%
Total (n=236)	3%

Table 40: Residents' biggest misconceptions about official's local government (Question 35) (continued)

Do not choose to participate; apathy	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	0%
County commissioner (n=18)	0%
Mayor (n=39)	0%
Town council member (n=84)	10%
Township trustee (n=33)	0%
School board member (n=42)	2%
Total (n=236)	4%
Mistrust local government	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	5%
County commissioner (n=18)	0%
Mayor (n=39)	0%
Town council member (n=84)	1%
Township trustee (n=33)	3%
School board member (n=42)	7%
Total (n=236)	3%
Misunderstand development; planning and zoning	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	0%
County commissioner (n=18)	0%
Mayor (n=39)	3%
Town council member (n=84)	2%
Township trustee (n=33)	0%
School board member (n=42)	0%
Total (n=236)	1%
Misunderstand township relief	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	0%
County commissioner (n=18)	0%
Mayor (n=39)	0%
Town council member (n=84)	0%
Township trustee (n=33)	21%
School board member (n=42)	0%
Total (n=236)	3%

Table 40: Residents' biggest misconceptions about official's local government (Question 35) (continued)

Other*	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=20)	10%
County commissioner (n=18)	17%
Mayor (n=39)	18%
Town council member (n=84)	32%
Township trustee (n=33)	18%
School board member (n=42)	24%
Total (n=236)	23%

*A complete list of *Other* responses is available in Appendix D

Question 36 asked local officials if they thought local schools (K-12) are teaching enough about government and civics. With the exception of school board members (60 percent), less than one-third of all other groups of elected officials reported that schools were teaching enough about government and civics (Table 41).

Table 41: Adequacy of local schools (K-12) teaching government and civics (Question 36)

Office	Yes
County council (n=28)	25%
County commissioner (n=25)	20%
Mayor (n=54)	28%
Town council member (n=112)	29%
Township trustee (n=71)	28%
School board member (n=73)	60%
Total (n=363)	34%

Education and Training

Questions 37-39 queried officials about training in support of their official duties and sources of information consulted when implementing new programs or policies. Question 37 asked respondents if they received training specifically to learn about their duties as an elected official in the first year they held office. With the exception of the town council members (47 percent), a substantial majority of each group of officeholders reported that they attended training during their first year (Table 42).

Table 42: Received elected official training during first year of office (Question 37)

Office	Yes
County council member (n=30)	63%
County commissioner (n=25)	88%
Mayor (n=56)	91%
Town council member (n=118)	47%
Township trustee (n=77)	75%
School board member (n=74)	93%
Total (n=380)	72%

Question 38 asked local officials if they received adequate training on issues facing their local government in the last twelve months. A majority of county commissioners (72 percent), mayors (63 percent), trustees (51 percent), and school board members (71 percent) reported receiving adequate training in the last twelve months, while county council members reported least often that they received adequate training (10 percent). County council members and town council members reported most often receiving some training, but wanting more or receiving no training (Table 43).

Table 43: Received adequate training on issues facing local elected officials in the last twelve months (Question 38)

Office	I received adequate training	I received some training, but would like to participate in more opportunities	I did not receive any training
County council member (n=30)	10%	57%	33%
County commissioner (n=25)	72%	20%	8%
Mayor (n=56)	63%	32%	5%
Town council member (n=116)	24%	39%	37%
Township trustee (n=76)	51%	29%	20%
School board member (n=72)	71%	17%	13%
Total (n=375)	46%	32%	22%

Question 39 asked elected officials which information sources they consult typically when considering the implementation of management practices or programs. Responses show that officials use a variety of information resources. In the aggregate, a majority of respondents indicated consulting *local government peers* (94 percent), *state agencies* (78 percent), *private consultants* (68 percent), and *state trade associations* (61 percent). These resources were chosen by a majority of respondents in each group of officeholders, except for trustees for *state trade associations* (45 percent) and *private consultants* (23 percent).

Table 44: Sources consulted by local government officials regarding implementation of management practices or programs (Question 39)

State agencies	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=26)	77%
County commissioner (n=20)	90%
Mayor (n=53)	75%
Town council (n=106)	75%
Trustee (n=65)	82%
School board (n=65)	75%
Total (n=335)	78%
University departments and centers	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=26)	15%
County commissioner (n=19)	47%
Mayor (n=52)	46%
Town council (n=101)	22%
Trustee (n=55)	5%
School board (n=60)	55%
Total (n=313)	30%

Table 44: Sources consulted by local government officials regarding implementation of management practices or programs (Question 39) (continued)

National trade associations (NACO, NLC, ICMA, NAT&T, etc.)	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=25)	12%
County commissioner (n=21)	48%
Mayor (n=48)	35%
Town council (n=100)	16%
Trustee (n=55)	2%
School board (n=58)	40%
Total (n=307)	23%
State trade associations (AIC, IACT, ITA, etc.)	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=26)	54%
County commissioner (n=22)	86%
Mayor (n=52)	87%
Town council (n=103)	51%
Trustee (n=60)	45%
School board (n=59)	63%
Total (n=322)	61%
Regional institutions (MPO, COG, etc.)	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=25)	8%
County commissioner (n=20)	50%
Mayor (n=47)	60%
Town council (n=99)	17%
Trustee (n=56)	5%
School board (n=52)	27%
Total (n=299)	25%
Private consultants	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=26)	69%
County commissioner (n=21)	81%
Mayor (n=53)	92%
Town council (n=102)	70%
Trustee (n=57)	23%
School board (n=61)	79%
Total (n=320)	68%
Local government peers	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=29)	100%
County commissioner (n=22)	100%
Mayor (n=54)	100%
Town council (n=110)	91%
Trustee (n=66)	89%
School board (n=61)	95%
Total (n=343)	94%

Table 44: Sources consulted by local government officials regarding implementation of management practices or programs (Question 39) (continued)

Other*	
Office	Yes
County council member (n=4)	75%
County commissioner (n=4)	100%
Mayor (n=6)	17%
Town council (n=29)	38%
Trustee (n=22)	18%
School board (n=6)	50%
Total (n=71)	37%

*A complete list of *Other* responses is available in Appendix D

Infrastructure Investments and Funding

Infrastructure investment, particularly for wastewater infrastructure and local roads and streets, has been identified consistently over time as an important community issue by IACIR members and survey respondents. In the current survey, two-thirds of respondents identified *local roads, streets, and highways* as a problem. *Sanitary sewers, storm sewers, and combined sewer overflows* were each identified by at least two-fifths of respondents as a problem (Question 5; Table 8).

Question 25 queried respondents about the adequacy of investments, through public or private sources, for a number of types of capital infrastructure. Question 26 asked respondents to indicate support or opposition to a number of road funding options. Questions 27 and 28 addressed current spending on road infrastructure, as well as additional funding needed for road maintenance, bridge maintenance, and new road construction. These questions were addressed to county city, and town officials only. Questions 29 asked county officials if their counties plan to use their new ability to use property taxes and miscellaneous revenues to fund road maintenance (2012 SEA 98).

Question 25 asked all local officials about the adequacy of investment in various types of infrastructure. With the exception of *local roads and streets* a strong majority of respondents indicated that investment was adequate for all infrastructure types. *Local roads and streets* (56 percent), *highways* (41 percent), *bridges* (39 percent), and *storm sewers* (30 percent) were identified most often as not receiving enough investment (or too little investment) (Table 45). These same infrastructure types were chosen most often in 2010.

Table 45: Adequacy of local investments in infrastructure (Question 25)

Highways			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=29)	0%	55%	45%
County commissioner (n=25)	0%	36%	64%
Mayor (n=54)	2%	46%	52%
Town council member (n=96)	0%	58%	42%
Township trustee (n=63)	2%	67%	32%
School board member (n=67)	4%	64%	31%
Total (n=334)	1%	57%	41%

Table 45: Adequacy of local investments in infrastructure (Question 25) (continued)

Local roads and streets			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=29)	0%	48%	52%
County commissioner (n=25)	0%	28%	72%
Mayor (n=56)	0%	30%	70%
Town council member (n=117)	1%	44%	56%
Township trustee (n=64)	2%	50%	48%
School board member (n=70)	0%	51%	49%
Total (n=361)	1%	43%	56%
Bridges			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=29)	0%	59%	41%
County commissioner (n=25)	0%	60%	40%
Mayor (n=53)	2%	51%	47%
Town council member (n=95)	2%	64%	34%
Township trustee (n=64)	0%	66%	34%
School board member (n=65)	2%	57%	42%
Total (n=331)	1%	60%	39%
Parks			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=27)	15%	63%	22%
County commissioner (n=21)	10%	71%	19%
Mayor (n=54)	0%	63%	37%
Town council member (n=110)	2%	69%	29%
Township trustee (n=66)	12%	79%	9%
School board member (n=69)	9%	67%	25%
Total (n=347)	6%	69%	24%
Public school classroom and other instruction facilities			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=28)	11%	75%	14%
County commissioner (n=24)	17%	75%	8%
Mayor (n=55)	2%	69%	29%
Town council member (n=95)	9%	67%	23%
Township trustee (n=65)	11%	75%	14%
School board member (n=70)	0%	53%	47%
Total (n=337)	7%	67%	26%
Public school performance and athletic facilities			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=28)	18%	82%	0%
County commissioner (n=24)	29%	63%	8%
Mayor (n=55)	11%	73%	16%
Town council member (n=94)	16%	65%	19%
Township trustee (n=65)	26%	62%	12%
School board member (n=72)	4%	65%	31%
Total (n=338)	16%	67%	17%

Table 45: Adequacy of local investments in infrastructure (Question 25) (continued)

Public library facilities			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=29)	24%	76%	0%
County commissioner (n=24)	21%	75%	4%
Mayor (n=56)	4%	86%	11%
Town council member (n=96)	11%	74%	15%
Township trustee (n=64)	16%	77%	8%
School board member (n=72)	11%	71%	18%
Total (n=341)	13%	76%	11%
Drinking water			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=27)	0%	93%	7%
County commissioner (n=24)	4%	92%	4%
Mayor (n=56)	0%	86%	14%
Town council member (n=109)	2%	81%	17%
Township trustee (n=63)	3%	84%	13%
School board member (n=66)	2%	83%	15%
Total (n=345)	2%	84%	14%
Sanitary sewers			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=28)	0%	86%	14%
County commissioner (n=23)	4%	78%	17%
Mayor (n=56)	2%	68%	30%
Town council member (n=111)	2%	77%	22%
Township trustee (n=63)	3%	79%	17%
School board member (n=68)	4%	71%	25%
Total (n=349)	3%	75%	22%
Storm sewers			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=28)	4%	75%	21%
County commissioner (n=22)	5%	82%	14%
Mayor (n=56)	0%	55%	45%
Town council member (n=110)	1%	58%	41%
Township trustee (n=62)	5%	79%	16%
School board member (n=68)	6%	71%	24%
Total (n=346)	3%	67%	30%
Telephone			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=28)	0%	96%	4%
County commissioner (n=25)	4%	96%	0%
Mayor (n=54)	6%	85%	9%
Town council member (n=104)	2%	89%	9%
Township trustee (n=63)	2%	92%	6%
School board member (n=64)	5%	91%	5%
Total (n=338)	3%	91%	7%

Table 45: Adequacy of local investments in infrastructure (Question 25) (continued)

Cellular telephone			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=28)	4%	89%	7%
County commissioner (n=24)	0%	92%	8%
Mayor (n=55)	5%	80%	15%
Town council member (n=104)	4%	79%	17%
Township trustee (n=65)	2%	88%	11%
School board member (n=65)	8%	82%	11%
Total (n=341)	4%	83%	13%
High-speed internet			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=27)	4%	59%	37%
County commissioner (n=23)	4%	61%	35%
Mayor (n=55)	5%	58%	36%
Town council member (n=105)	2%	75%	23%
Township trustee (n=64)	2%	80%	19%
School board member (n=65)	3%	69%	28%
Total (n=339)	3%	70%	27%
Electricity			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=28)	4%	96%	0%
County commissioner (n=24)	4%	96%	0%
Mayor (n=55)	2%	91%	7%
Town council member (n=102)	3%	88%	9%
Township trustee (n=63)	2%	94%	5%
School board member (n=65)	3%	89%	8%
Total (n=337)	3%	91%	6%
Natural gas			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=28)	0%	100%	0%
County commissioner (n=24)	0%	100%	0%
Mayor (n=52)	2%	94%	4%
Town council member (n=101)	3%	88%	9%
Township trustee (n=62)	2%	92%	6%
School board member (n=64)	3%	88%	9%
Total (n=331)	2%	92%	6%

Table 45: Adequacy of local investments in infrastructure (Question 25) (continued)

Other*			
Office	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
County council member (n=4)	0%	100%	0%
County commissioner (n=0)	0%	0%	0%
Mayor (n=4)	0%	100%	0%
Town council member (n=19)	0%	63%	37%
Township trustee (n=18)	6%	78%	17%
School board member (n=7)	0%	71%	29%
Total (n=6)	0%	17%	67%

*A complete list of *Other* responses is available in Appendix D

Federal and state gasoline taxes are primary sources of revenue used to fund roads. Tax collections have declined over time as a result of factors such as an increase in the fuel efficiency of the vehicle fleet and the rise in alternate fuel vehicles. In light of the discussions at the federal and state levels about how to combat the reduced revenue, Question 26 asked officials to indicate their relative support or opposition to potential funding options for the construction and maintenance of local road infrastructure. While only counties, cities, and towns build and maintain public roads, the question was asked of all respondents. Mayors and county commissioners expressed support, on average, for all funding options except for *replacing fuel taxes with mileage-based user fees* (commissioners only) and *establishing tolls on additional public roads*. Officials in all groups expressed support generally for *removing the Indiana State Police and Bureau of Motor Vehicles from the Motor Vehicle Highway Account*, *earmarking sales tax revenue from motor fuel purchases for road infrastructure*, and *expanding local funding options* (Table 46). The General Assembly removed the Indiana State Police and the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles from the Motor Vehicle Highway Account during the 2013 legislative session (2013 HEA 1001).

Table 46: Support or opposition to potential funding options for the construction and maintenance of local road infrastructure (Question 26)

Increase state fuel taxes						
Office	Strongly Support (5)	Support (4)	Neither support or oppose (3)	Oppose (2)	Strongly oppose (1)	Mean*
County council member (n=30)	10%	27%	10%	27%	27%	2.7
County commissioner (n=21)	33%	29%	14%	19%	5%	3.7
Mayor (n=56)	20%	29%	21%	21%	9%	3.3
Town council (n=115)	5%	9%	24%	37%	25%	2.3
Trustee (n=70)	3%	11%	16%	37%	33%	2.1
School board (n=71)	3%	14%	18%	35%	30%	2.3
Total (n=363)	9%	16%	19%	32%	24%	2.5

Table 46: Support or opposition to potential funding options for the construction and maintenance of local road infrastructure (Question 26) (continued)

Replace fuel taxes with mileage-based user fees						
Office	Strongly Support (5)	Support (4)	Neither support or oppose (3)	Oppose (2)	Strongly oppose (1)	Mean*
County council member (n=30)	0%	10%	33%	30%	27%	2.3
County commissioner (n=22)	18%	14%	18%	32%	18%	2.8
Mayor (n=56)	13%	16%	41%	25%	5%	3.1
Town council (n=116)	3%	18%	28%	28%	24%	2.5
Trustee (n=69)	1%	13%	33%	25%	28%	2.4
School board (n=73)	7%	21%	23%	27%	22%	2.6
Total (n=366)	5%	16%	30%	27%	21%	2.6
Expand the use of public-private partnerships						
Office	Strongly Support (5)	Support (4)	Neither support or oppose (3)	Oppose (2)	Strongly oppose (1)	Mean*
County council member (n=28)	7%	32%	43%	7%	11%	3.2
County commissioner (n=22)	14%	27%	32%	23%	5%	3.2
Mayor (n=55)	11%	42%	33%	11%	4%	3.5
Town council (n=113)	4%	25%	45%	16%	10%	3.0
Trustee (n=67)	3%	13%	39%	27%	18%	2.6
School board (n=70)	9%	34%	34%	17%	6%	3.2
Total (n=355)	7%	28%	39%	17%	9%	3.1
Adopt tolls on additional public roads						
Office	Strongly Support (5)	Support (4)	Neither support or oppose (3)	Oppose (2)	Strongly oppose (1)	Mean*
County council member (n=30)	0%	27%	13%	30%	30%	2.4
County commissioner (n=22)	5%	9%	36%	23%	27%	2.4
Mayor (n=55)	7%	22%	31%	24%	16%	2.8
Town council (n=107)	7%	10%	24%	30%	28%	2.4
Trustee (n=69)	4%	4%	23%	39%	29%	2.2
School board (n=71)	3%	15%	20%	38%	24%	2.4
Total (n=354)	5%	13%	24%	32%	26%	2.4
Increase vehicle excise taxes						
Office	Strongly Support (5)	Support (4)	Neither support or oppose (3)	Oppose (2)	Strongly oppose (1)	Mean*
County council member (n=30)	10%	23%	27%	20%	20%	2.8
County commissioner (n=22)	23%	50%	14%	5%	9%	3.7
Mayor (n=56)	13%	29%	32%	21%	5%	3.2
Town council (n=112)	6%	21%	27%	29%	18%	2.7
Trustee (n=69)	1%	16%	28%	41%	14%	2.5
School board (n=70)	1%	36%	21%	31%	10%	2.9
Total (n=359)	7%	26%	26%	28%	13%	2.8

Table 46: Support or opposition to potential funding options for the construction and maintenance of local road infrastructure (Question 26) (continued)

Remove Indiana State Police and Bureau of Motor Vehicles from the Motor Vehicle Highway Account						
Office	Strongly Support (5)	Support (4)	Neither support or oppose (3)	Oppose (2)	Strongly oppose (1)	Mean*
County council member (n=30)	27%	23%	30%	13%	7%	3.5
County commissioner (n=24)	75%	13%	13%	0%	0%	4.6
Mayor (n=56)	46%	13%	27%	7%	7%	3.8
Town council (n=113)	14%	27%	37%	13%	9%	3.2
Trustee (n=67)	15%	19%	48%	15%	3%	3.3
School board (n=68)	12%	28%	37%	19%	4%	3.2
Total (n=358)	24%	22%	35%	13%	6%	3.5
Earmark sales tax revenues from motor fuel purchases for road infrastructure						
Office	Strongly Support (5)	Support (4)	Neither support or oppose (3)	Oppose (2)	Strongly oppose (1)	Mean*
County council member (n=30)	43%	27%	20%	7%	3%	4
County commissioner (n=23)	70%	30%	0%	0%	0%	4.7
Mayor (n=56)	39%	38%	18%	5%	0%	4.1
Town council (n=115)	19%	48%	25%	4%	3%	3.7
Trustee (n=68)	18%	41%	32%	7%	1%	3.7
School board (n=69)	23%	51%	17%	4%	4%	3.8
Total (n=361)	28%	43%	22%	5%	2%	3.9
Expand local funding options						
Office	Strongly Support (5)	Support (4)	Neither support or oppose (3)	Oppose (2)	Strongly oppose (1)	Mean*
County council member (n=30)	37%	33%	17%	10%	3%	3.9
County commissioner (n=23)	39%	26%	22%	9%	4%	3.9
Mayor (n=55)	42%	33%	20%	4%	2%	4.1
Town council (n=114)	15%	43%	30%	6%	6%	3.5
Trustee (n=68)	7%	25%	43%	18%	7%	3.1
School board (n=70)	10%	41%	30%	11%	7%	3.4
Total (n=360)	20%	36%	29%	9%	6%	3.6

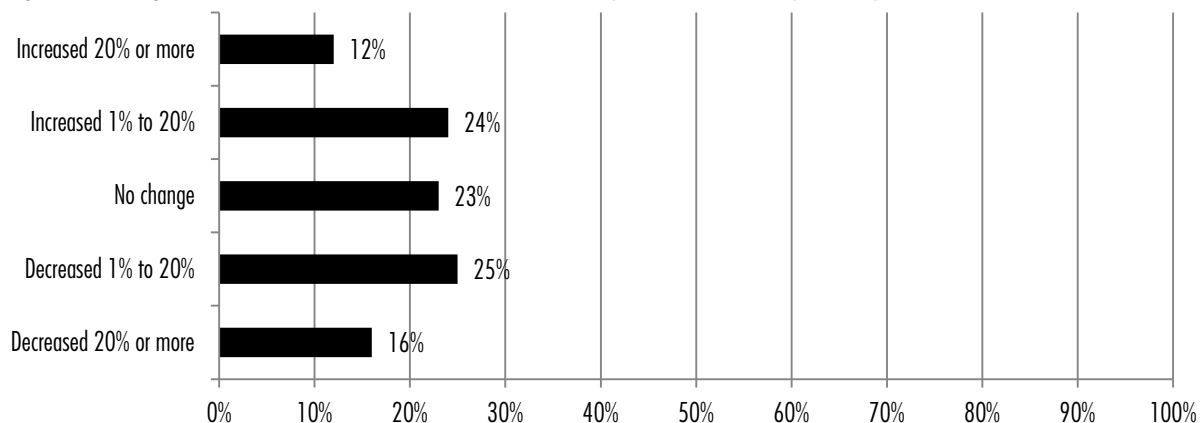
*Each response category was assigned a value as shown in parentheses with the new title. Means were then calculated. Means above 3.0 indicate that officials support the funding option on average. Means below 3.0 indicate that officials oppose the funding option on average.

Question 27 asked county, city, and town officials about changes in annual road maintenance and construction over the past two years. The results indicate that local governments are experiencing a variety of circumstances. Overall, almost two-fifths of respondents reported an increase in spending, but more than two-fifths of respondents reported decreases in road spending over the last two years. (Table 47 and Figure 15).

Table 47: Change in annual road maintenance and construction expenditures over the past two years by office (Question 27)

Office	Increased 20% or more	Increased 1% to 20%	No change	Decreased 1% to 20%	Decreased 20% or more
County council member (n=28)	11%	32%	21%	21%	14%
County commissioner (n=25)	16%	20%	16%	32%	16%
Mayor (n=52)	13%	21%	21%	23%	21%
Town council member (n=83)	10%	25%	27%	25%	13%
Total (n=188)	12%	24%	23%	25%	16%

Figure 15: Change in annual road maintenance and construction expenditures over the past two years (Question 27; n=188)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Question 28 asked county and municipal officials to estimate how much additional funding is needed annually to maintain their community's existing road system, for annual bridge maintenance, and to construct new roads, respectively. Table 49 shows a lot of variation in funding needs across municipal and county governments. The median response for road maintenance across local governments was \$100,000 to \$499,999. The median response for bridge maintenance across local governments was \$1-\$99,999. This number may underrepresent the median need because the city and town responses skew the results. Counties principally have responsibility for maintaining bridges in both incorporated and unincorporated areas, but cities and towns sometimes maintain bridges or share in funding repairs. The median response for new road construction was \$100,000 to \$499,999.

Table 48: Additional funding needed for local road and bridge maintenance and construction (Question 28)

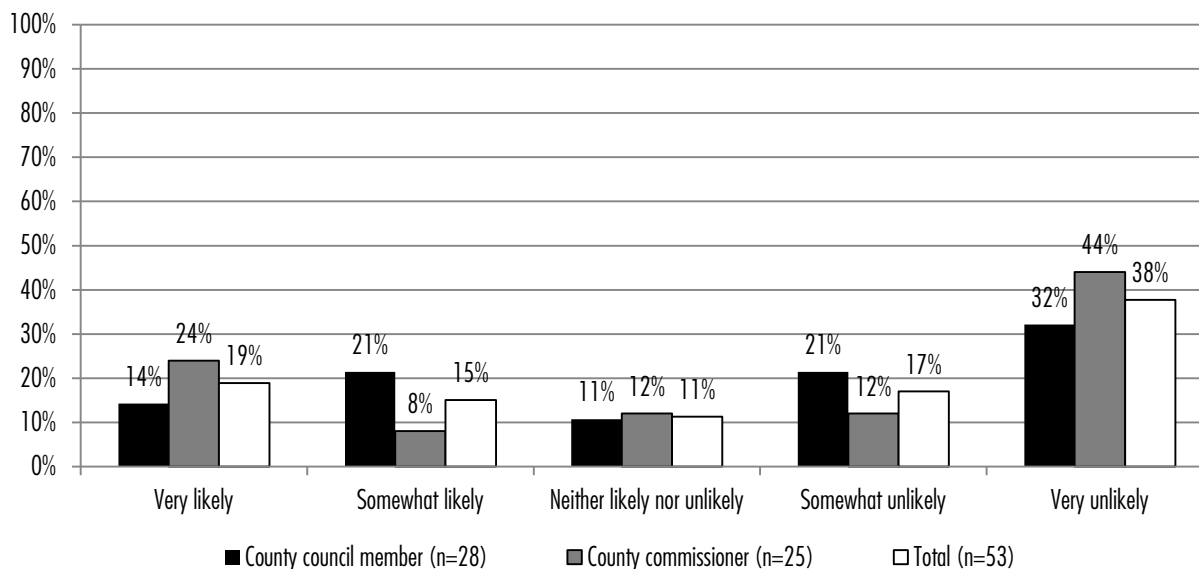
Road maintenance								
Office	\$10,000,000 or more	\$7,000,000 - \$9,999,999	\$4,000,000 - \$6,999,999	\$1,000,000 - \$3,999,999	\$500,000 - \$999,999	\$100,000 - \$499,999	\$1 - \$99,999	No additional funding needed
County council member (n=25)	0%	0%	12%	24%	36%	12%	8%	8%
County commissioner (n=24)	13%	4%	13%	25%	33%	13%	0%	0%
Mayor (n=52)	10%	2%	4%	13%	10%	44%	13%	4%
Town council member (n=78)	10%	3%	0%	3%	4%	15%	53%	13%
Total (n=179)	9%	2%	4%	12%	14%	23%	28%	8%

Table 48: Additional funding needed for local road and bridge maintenance and construction (Question 28) (continued)

Bridge maintenance								
Office	\$10,000,000 or more	\$7,000,000 - \$9,999,999	\$4,000,000 - \$6,999,999	\$1,000,000 - \$3,999,999	\$500,000 - \$999,999	\$100,000 - \$499,999	\$1 - \$99,999	No additional funding needed
County council member (n=24)	0%	4%	8%	17%	17%	38%	0%	17%
County commissioner (n=23)	0%	4%	4%	30%	22%	13%	0%	26%
Mayor (n=36)	14%	3%	0%	17%	3%	11%	6%	47%
Town council member (n=55)	2%	0%	2%	5%	5%	5%	16%	64%
Total (n=138)	4%	2%	3%	14%	9%	14%	8%	45%
New road construction								
Office	\$10,000,000 or more	\$7,000,000 - \$9,999,999	\$4,000,000 - \$6,999,999	\$1,000,000 - \$3,999,999	\$500,000 - \$999,999	\$100,000 - \$499,999	\$1 - \$99,999	No additional funding needed
County council member (n=22)	0%	0%	5%	32%	5%	23%	14%	23%
County commissioner (n=21)	10%	5%	19%	43%	14%	5%	0%	5%
Mayor (n=48)	15%	4%	6%	15%	19%	21%	15%	6%
Town council member (n=62)	5%	5%	2%	5%	3%	15%	34%	32%
Total (n=153)	8%	4%	6%	17%	10%	16%	20%	19%

A new law, 2012 SEA 98, allows counties to use property taxes and miscellaneous revenue deposited in the general fund to fund road maintenance. Question 29 asked county officials how likely it would be that their county will use property tax revenues to fund additional road maintenance in the next few years. About one-third of county officials reported that they were *very likely* or *somewhat likely* to use property taxes and other miscellaneous revenues to fund roads; more than half of county officials reported that they were *somewhat unlikely* or *very unlikely* to use these sources (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Use of property tax revenues to fund additional road maintenance in the next few years (Question 29)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

Officials' Volunteerism

Questions 40 and 41 explored the relationship between local governments and nonprofits. Question 40 asked respondents to indicate whether they are, or have been, actively involved with volunteer organizations as a member or in a leadership position (e.g., as board member or executive director). They also were asked to estimate the number of hours per month they currently spend with each type of organization. Questions 41 asked respondents to indicate how important current involvement in nonprofits was to their work as a local elected official.

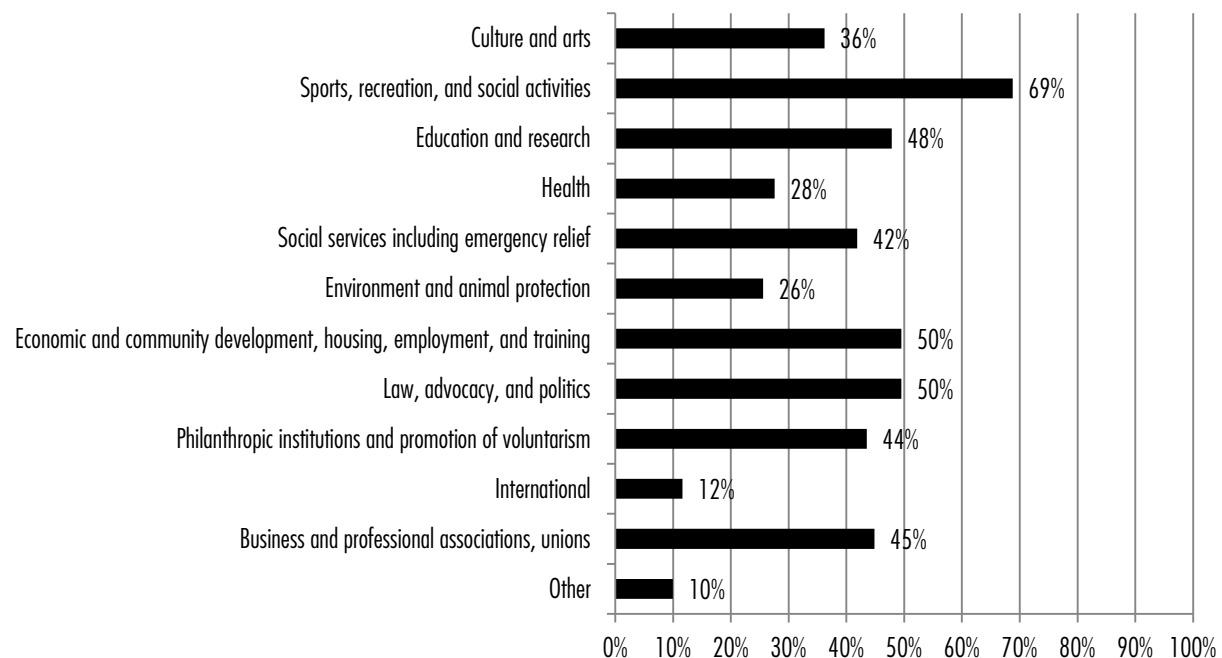
In the aggregate, officials indicated belonging to and being leaders in all types of nonprofit organizations. *Sports, recreation, and social activities* (40 percent), *law, advocacy, and politics* (39 percent), *economic and community development, housing, employment, and training* (38 percent), *philanthropic institutions and promotion of volunteerism* (33 percent), and *business and professional associations, unions* (29 percent) were listed most often as organizations in which officials are active as members. With the exception of *education and research organizations*, they listed a similar set of organizational types most often regarding active leadership as well. Not surprisingly, fewer officials indicated being currently active as leaders than active as members (Table 49). When considering participation in each type of nonprofit at any time as a member or a leader, respondents reported most often participating in a similar set of types of organizations as identified for current membership and current leadership, although in greater proportions as might be expected with the addition of past membership and leadership. Similar types of organizations were chosen most often for active membership, active leadership, and participation generally in 2010.

Table 49: Volunteerism by membership and leadership (Question 40; n=301)

Type of nonprofit or charity organization	Membership		Leadership		Participation now or in the past
	Active now	Active in the past	Active now	Active in the past	
Culture and arts	19%	15%	8%	12%	36%
Sports, recreation, and social activities	40%	24%	21%	25%	69%
Education and research	28%	16%	22%	12%	48%
Health	14%	12%	8%	8%	28%
Social services (including emergency relief)	27%	11%	14%	10%	42%
Environment and animal protection	15%	10%	7%	7%	26%
Economic and community development, housing, employment, and training	38%	10%	25%	6%	50%
Law, advocacy, and politics	39%	8%	26%	7%	50%
Philanthropic institutions and promotion of voluntarism	33%	8%	20%	8%	44%
International	3%	7%	3%	5%	12%
Business and professional associations, unions	29%	13%	18%	11%	45%
Other*	9%	0%	6%	1%	10%

*Other nonprofit or charity organizations are listed in Appendix D

Figure 17: Participation in volunteer organizations now and in the past (Question 40)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2012 Survey of Local Elected Officials

The second part of Question 40 addressed the number of hours spent per month by type of nonprofit. Fewer officials responded to this part of the question. In cases when respondents provided a range for hours of participation, researchers used the mean of the two numbers for the analysis presented here. In the aggregate, officials reported spending 38.5 hours per month currently participating in nonprofit organizations (Table 50). These officials reported participating most often in *sports, recreation, and social activities* (n=115); *law advocacy, and politics* (n=96); *economic and community development, housing, employment,*

and training (n=95); philanthropic institutions and promotion of voluntarism (n=85); and education and research (n=83). They reported spending the most time on average volunteering in *law, advocacy, and politics* (15.6 hours), *sports, recreation, and social activities* (11.5 hours); *education and research* (12.9 hours per month); and *economic and community development, housing, employment, and training* (11.2 hours per month). The officials reported spending the least amount of time volunteering in *health* and *international* organizations (6.1 hours).

Question 41 queried respondents about how important their nonprofit activities were for their work as an elected official. More than three-quarters of each group of officeholder indicated that being involved with nonprofits or charitable organizations was important for their work as a local government official.

Table 50: Volunteerism by number of hours spent per month (Question 40)

Type of nonprofit	Aggregate number of hours**	Mean number of hours per respondent reporting the activity**
Culture and arts (n=58)	297.5	5.1
Sports, recreation, and social activities (n=115)	1,324.0	11.5
Education and research (n=83)	1,074.0	12.9
Health (n=37)	225.0	6.1
Social services including emergency relief (n=76)	829.5	10.9
Environment and animal protection (n=37)	255.5	6.9
Economic community development, housing, employment training (n=95)	1,061.5	11.2
Law, advocacy, and politics (n=96)	1,494.5	15.6
Philanthropic institutions and promotion of voluntarism (n=85)	745.5	8.8
International (n=16)	98.0	6.1
Business and professional associations, unions (n=72)	749.5	10.4
Other* (n=31)	691.5	22.3
Total (n=230)	8,846.0	38.5

*Other nonprofit or charity organizations are listed in Appendix D

** These numbers include only officials who responded for each category

Table 51: Importance of involvement in nonprofit and charitable organizations for work as an elected official by office (Question 41)

Office	Very important	Somewhat important	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat unimportant
County council member (n=26)	62%	15%	19%	4%
County commissioner (n=23)	61%	35%	0%	4%
Mayor (n=54)	70%	30%	0%	0%
Town council member (n=80)	53%	30%	15%	3%
Township trustee (n=45)	47%	31%	20%	2%
School board member (n=66)	45%	45%	9%	0%
Total (n=294)	55%	33%	11%	2%

Other Issues

Question 42 allowed officials to comment about issues facing state and local government in Indiana. Many respondents also wrote in responses for a number of questions throughout the survey. The complete set of these comments is provided in Appendix E.

While the issues addressed in this forum varied widely, a number of issues were mentioned several times, including lack of resources, changes in state funding for schools, changes in funding options for local governments, unfunded mandates, micromanagement by the legislature, road funding, and infrastructure funding. Several respondents referred to length of the survey and the limited applicability of some questions to particular types of local governments.

Appendix A

Survey Methodology

Survey Methodology

The survey process involved four steps: developing the survey, selecting the sample population, administering the survey, and coding and analyzing the results.

Questionnaire Development

The 2012 questionnaire and previous questionnaires have been modeled after a regular survey of local elected officials conducted by the National League of Cities. As in years past, commission staff consulted IACIR members, researchers, and other interested organizations to identify potential questions. In 2012, the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs, the Indiana University Public Policy Institute, the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, the Association of Indiana Counties, and the Indiana Chamber of Commerce submitted issues and questions.

The final questionnaire included 42 questions. The 2012 questionnaire reprised a number of questions that have appeared one or more times in the past. Some questions have been repeated consistently across surveys to track changes over time. Questions also were selected to address current “hot topics” affecting local communities, including health insurance and retirement benefits for local officials, responses to changes in local government revenues, interlocal cooperation, use of volunteers, infrastructure funding, and use of social media to communicate to citizens. The questionnaire is provided in Appendix B.

Selection of Sample Population

Names and addresses of officials were obtained using printed directories or lists provided by the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, the Association of Indiana Counties, the Indiana Association of County Commissioners, the Indiana Township Association, and the Indiana School Board Association. Using these resources, commission staff identified all mayors. Staff also randomly selected one member of each county council, county board of commissioners, town council, and school board. The staff selected one or two township trustees randomly from each county. If the county contained one or more urban townships greater than 10,000 population and one or more for a rural township with population less than 10,000, one trustee was selected randomly from both groups. In cases when counties had only urban or only rural townships, one trustee was randomly selected from among all townships. The resulting sample included 1,185 officials.

Administration of Survey

IACIR staff administered the survey by mail according to the procedures recommended by Dillman.³ Cover letters explaining the purpose of the survey, the questionnaires, and business reply envelopes were sent on August 20, 2012, and were followed by reminder postcards sent on August 27, 2012. Officials who did not respond were sent another letter and replacement questionnaire on September 10, 2012. An additional reminder post card was sent out on October 1, 2012.

This year, respondents again were given the option to complete the survey online. An electronic version of the questionnaire was posted on SurveyMonkey.com. Respondents were required to enter the survey number provided on the back of the printed survey.

³ Dillman, D. (2000). *Mail and Internet telephone surveys: The tailored design method*. New York: Wiley.

Coding and Analysis

Completed printed questionnaires were sent to the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment and entered by staff into SurveyMonkey.com. Surveys completed or received by November 6, 2012, were included in the analysis. Data were imported into SPSS (Statistical Package for Social Sciences) and cleaned. Staff also utilized SPSS and Excel to complete various analyses.

To account for non-responses to specific questions and questions addressed to specific officeholders, the number of responses is provided with the table or figure for each question. Several questions gave respondents the option of writing in a specific response to *other*. In cases when these responses closely matched an option in the list provided, the response was grouped with that option. A complete list of *other* responses is provided in Appendix D. Appendix E includes a complete list of responses to the open-ended Question 42 as well as comments written in throughout the questionnaire. In a few cases, names and other identifiers were removed from written comments to ensure that no individual respondent is associated with a particular response.

Appendix B Questionnaire

Intergovernmental Issues in Indiana 2012



A Survey
Administered by
the Indiana Advisory
Commission on
Intergovernmental
Relations



This survey is administered by the Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations (IACIR) on a periodic basis to gather information on current issues affecting the relationships between governments in the state. The IACIR seeks your opinions on the issues presented in the survey for use by state elected officials and for policy research. The survey must be completed by a person holding elective office with the exception of appointed school board members. Please feel free to consult others within your local government if you are unsure about the correct response to a particular question.

Completion of the questionnaire is voluntary. Respondents have the option to complete the survey online at www.iacir.spea.iupui.edu or to return the printed questionnaire in the enclosed postage paid envelope. Online participants will need the identification number printed on the cover letter or on the back of the questionnaire in the lower right-hand corner.

1

What elected office do you hold?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> County council member | <input type="checkbox"/> Township trustee or trustee-assessor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County commissioner | <input type="checkbox"/> School board member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>specify</i>) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Town council member | |

2

What local government do you represent?

3

In which county(ies) is your local government located?

4

How do you feel about the general direction in which your community is heading?

- ☐ Very optimistic
- ☐ Mildly optimistic
- ☐ Neither optimistic nor pessimistic
- ☐ Mildly pessimistic
- ☐ Very pessimistic

5

For the following conditions, please indicate (A) the extent to which each is currently a problem in your community, if at all; and (B) how each of the following conditions has changed in your community during the last 12 months. *Circle the appropriate number.*

	(A) CURRENT STATUS OF CONDITION			(B) CHANGE IN CONDITION OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS		
	Major Problem	Moderate Problem	Minor or No Problem	Improved	Worsened	No Change
HEALTH						
a1. Availability of health services	2	1	0	2	1	0
a2. Cost of health services	2	1	0	2	1	0
a3. Availability of health insurance	2	1	0	2	1	0
a4. Cost of health insurance	2	1	0	2	1	0
a5. Availability and cost of dental health services	2	1	0	2	1	0
a6. Availability and cost of mental health services	2	1	0	2	1	0
a7. Availability and cost of services for people with disabilities	2	1	0	2	1	0
a8. Care for the elderly	2	1	0	2	1	0
a9. Drug and alcohol abuse	2	1	0	2	1	0
a10. Smoking	2	1	0	2	1	0
a11. Obesity	2	1	0	2	1	0
a12. Chronic disease (heart disease, diabetes, etc.)	2	1	0	2	1	0
ECONOMICS						
b1. Overall economic conditions	2	1	0	2	1	0
b2. Job loss/unemployment	2	1	0	2	1	0
b3. Job quality	2	1	0	2	1	0
b4. Workforce training and retraining	2	1	0	2	1	0
b5. Business attraction and retention	2	1	0	2	1	0
b6. International trade	2	1	0	2	1	0
b7. Shovel-ready properties	2	1	0	2	1	0
PUBLIC SAFETY						
c1. Police/sheriff services	2	1	0	2	1	0
c2. Police-community relations	2	1	0	2	1	0
c3. Fire services	2	1	0	2	1	0
c4. Emergency medical services	2	1	0	2	1	0
c5. Emergency dispatch	2	1	0	2	1	0
c6. Violent crime	2	1	0	2	1	0
c7. Drug crime	2	1	0	2	1	0
c8. Youth crime	2	1	0	2	1	0
c9. Family/domestic violence	2	1	0	2	1	0
c10. Homeland security	2	1	0	2	1	0
c11. Jail facilities	2	1	0	2	1	0
c12. Youth detention facilities	2	1	0	2	1	0
c13. Disaster response	2	1	0	2	1	0
c14. Emergency warning sirens	2	1	0	2	1	0

	(A) CURRENT STATUS OF CONDITION			(B) CHANGE IN CONDITION OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS		
	Major Problem	Moderate Problem	Minor or No Problem	Improved	Worsened	No Change
LOCAL SERVICES AND INFRASTRUCTURE						
d1. K-12 education	2	1	0	2	1	0
d2. Drinking water	2	1	0	2	1	0
d3. Sanitary sewers	2	1	0	2	1	0
d4. Storm sewers	2	1	0	2	1	0
d5. Combined sewer overflows (CSOs)	2	1	0	2	1	0
d6. Local roads, streets, and highways	2	1	0	2	1	0
d7. Sidewalks	2	1	0	2	1	0
d8. Bridges	2	1	0	2	1	0
d9. Public transit	2	1	0	2	1	0
d10. Parks and recreation	2	1	0	2	1	0
d11. Solid waste management	2	1	0	2	1	0
d12. Telephone	2	1	0	2	1	0
d13. Cellular telephone	2	1	0	2	1	0
d14. Cable TV	2	1	0	2	1	0
d15. Electric service	2	1	0	2	1	0
d16. Natural gas service	2	1	0	2	1	0
d17. Lack of high-speed internet/broadband	2	1	0	2	1	0
LAND USE						
e1. Quality of development	2	1	0	2	1	0
e2. Increased amount of development	2	1	0	2	1	0
e3. Lack of development	2	1	0	2	1	0
e4. Quality affordable housing	2	1	0	2	1	0
e5. Balanced mix of housing types and prices	2	1	0	2	1	0
e6. Balanced mix of residential and non-residential development	2	1	0	2	1	0
e7. Code enforcement	2	1	0	2	1	0
e8. Private property maintenance	2	1	0	2	1	0
e9. Foreclosures	2	1	0	2	1	0
e10. Abandoned properties	2	1	0	2	1	0
e11. Open space/green space	2	1	0	2	1	0
e12. Farmland conversion and loss	2	1	0	2	1	0
e13. Brownfields	2	1	0	2	1	0
COMMUNITY QUALITY OF LIFE						
f1. Air quality	2	1	0	2	1	0
f2. Water quality	2	1	0	2	1	0
f3. Traffic congestion	2	1	0	2	1	0
f4. Poverty	2	1	0	2	1	0
f5. Vitality of neighborhoods	2	1	0	2	1	0
f6. Vitality of downtown	2	1	0	2	1	0
f7. Arts and cultural resources	2	1	0	2	1	0
f8. Community involvement	2	1	0	2	1	0
f9. Race-ethnic relations	2	1	0	2	1	0
f10. Immigration	2	1	0	2	1	0
f11. Childcare	2	1	0	2	1	0
f12. Truancy and other school behavior problems	2	1	0	2	1	0

PLEASE CONTINUE 

6 Of the conditions listed in question 5, which three have improved most in your community during the PAST YEAR? *Please fill in the complete phrase or the corresponding letter/number from Question 5.*

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

7 Of the conditions listed in question 5, which three have deteriorated most in your community during the PAST YEAR? *Please fill in the complete phrase or the corresponding letter/number from Question 5.*

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

8 Of the conditions listed in question 5, which three are the most important to address during the NEXT TWO YEARS? *Please fill in the complete phrase or the corresponding letter/number from Question 5.*

- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

9 **MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY OFFICIALS ONLY:** Over the last few years, the Indiana General Assembly has made significant changes to the way local government is funded, including the adoption of property tax caps. Please indicate below whether your local government has used tax increment financing or tax abatement in the last four years.

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	My local government did not use <u>2009-2012</u>
Tax increment financing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tax abatement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

10 **COUNTY OFFICIALS ONLY:** Has your local government received a judicial mandate to restore county court funding in the last two years?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Local governments are making hard choices to address declining revenues from property taxes, local income taxes, and gas taxes, and rising costs for employee health insurance, fuel, and other supplies. Please indicate if your local government made any of the following changes in the last four years.

	2008-2009		2010-2011	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
My local government or county has passed a new or additional local option income tax.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has increased fees and charges for local services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government laid off employees.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has stopped hiring.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has frozen or reduced employee wages/salaries.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced employee benefits and/or raised employee contributions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has cut or reduced spending on training and travel.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government increased its reliance on volunteers to assist in providing local services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has made internal operational changes (e.g., mowing less frequently).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has cut or reduced services (e.g., reduced hours for swimming pool, fewer parks programs).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has cut or delayed capital expenditures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced spending on parks and recreation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced spending on sheriff/police.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced spending on fire services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced spending on roads and streets.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced spending on sanitary sewers, storm sewers, and drinking water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced spending on solid waste management.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has reduced spending on _____ (please identify).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has adjusted the terms for contracted services.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has privatized capital assets or local government functions.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has established alternate service arrangements with local nonprofit organizations.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has implemented cooperative service arrangements, such as interlocal agreements, with other local governments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has engaged in joint purchasing with other local governments.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
My local government has pursued consolidation with another unit of government.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

12

Government and nonprofit organizations that own property are exempt from paying property taxes. Local services (e.g., fire suppression, police protection, and other services) are provided to these properties.

Would you be in favor of **REQUIRING** any of the following types of organizations in your community that own real property to (A) make annual payments in lieu of property taxes and/or (B) provide services below cost to local government in lieu of property taxes?

	(A) Do you favor requiring payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for:			(B) Do you favor requiring the provision of reduced cost services in lieu of taxes (SILOT) for:	
	Yes	No		Yes	No
Units of federal government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Units of state government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Units of other local government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonprofit hospital	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private university or school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Church or other religious nonprofits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other nonprofits (please identify _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

13

Please indicate (A) which types of tax-exempt entities own property within the boundaries of your local government and whether your local government receives (B) payment in lieu of taxes or (C) services in lieu of taxes from any of these types of entities?

	(A) These entities own property within my local government boundaries			(B) My local government receives payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) from:			(C) My local government receives services at a reduced cost (SILOT) from:	
	Yes	No		Yes	No		Yes	No
Unit of federal government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unit of state government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unit of local government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Nonprofit hospital	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private university or school	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Church or other religious nonprofit	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other nonprofits (please identify _____)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

14

Does your local government use unpaid volunteers?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

15

Has your local government used unpaid volunteer assistance in any of the following service areas?

	Yes	No
General reception/clerical	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Technology (websites, computers, phone systems)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Police/sheriff	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Courts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roads	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Youth and family services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Senior services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Environmental protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Planning and code enforcement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
General beautification (cleanup, planting)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Animal services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emergency management and shelters	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elections	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

16

Please indicate the arrangement currently used to provide each type of service. *Circle the number corresponding to only one option for each service. Answer only for the local government you represent as an elected (or appointed) official.*

	<u>My local government provides this service with internal resources</u>	<u>My local government provides this service through an agreement or contract with another local government</u>	<u>My local government provides this service through a contract with a private for-profit firm</u>	<u>My local government provides this service through a contract with a nonprofit organization</u>	<u>My local government does not provide this service</u>
Jail	4	3	2	1	0
Juvenile detention	4	3	2	1	0
Roads and streets	4	3	2	1	0
Parks and recreation	4	3	2	1	0
Drinking water utility	4	3	2	1	0
Solid waste services	4	3	2	1	0
Sewer utility	4	3	2	1	0
Police services	4	3	2	1	0
Fire services	4	3	2	1	0
Emergency medical services	4	3	2	1	0
Emergency dispatch	4	3	2	1	0
Planning/plan commission	4	3	2	1	0
Economic development	4	3	2	1	0
Vocational education	4	3	2	1	0
Special education	4	3	2	1	0
Property assessment	4	3	2	1	0
Other (specify)_____	4	3	2	1	0

17

Joint purchasing is one type of cooperative arrangement that can be accomplished using a number of mechanisms including the interlocal agreement statute, State of Indiana Quantity Purchasing Agreements (QPA), and U.S. Communities Government Purchasing Cooperative (www.uscommunities.org). Has your local government purchased goods cooperatively in the LAST YEAR?

☐ Yes

☐ No

18

Many communities engage in cooperative efforts through a variety of formal and informal mechanisms, including regional organizations, memorandums of understanding (MOUs), interlocal agreements, cooperatives, task forces, joint meetings, resource sharing, etc. How has the amount of cooperative activity between your local government and other organizations changed over the last 2 years?

- ☐ Increased
- ☐ Decreased
- ☐ Stayed about the same

19

How would you characterize the current working relationship between your local government and other governments and service provider organizations?

	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Neither positive nor negative	Somewhat negative	Very negative	No relationship	Not applicable
Federal government	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
State government	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
County government(s)	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
City governments	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
Town governments	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
Township governments	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
School districts	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
Library districts	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
Other special districts	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
Local businesses	5	4	3	2	1	0	9
Local charities and other nonprofits	5	4	3	2	1	0	9

20

How often do you trust the following types of organizations to do the right thing?

	Almost always	Most of the time	Some of the time	Almost never
Federal government	5	4	2	1
State government	5	4	2	1
Local government	5	4	2	1
Local businesses	5	4	2	1
Local charities and other nonprofits	5	4	2	1

PLEASE CONTINUE ►

21

Does your local government currently provide pensions or retirement contributions for elected officials, full-time employees, and/or part-time employees?

	Yes, my local government provides pension or retirement benefits to:	No, my local government does not provide pension or retirement benefits to:
Elected officials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part-time employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

22

Does your local government provide health insurance for elected officials, full-time employees, and/or part-time employees?

	Yes, my local government provides health insurance benefits to:	No, my local government does not provide health insurance benefits to:
Elected officials	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Full-time employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Part-time employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

23

Have health insurance costs increased for your local government over the LAST TWO YEARS?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No → SKIP TO QUESTION 25
- ☐ My local government doesn't provide health insurance → SKIP TO QUESTION 25

24

What actions, if any, has your local government taken over the LAST TWO YEARS to combat the rising cost of providing health insurance to elected officials and employees? *Check all that apply.*

	Yes	No
Increased elected official and employee health insurance contributions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduced health insurance coverage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduced health insurance eligibility for officials and employees	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduced health insurance costs through a cooperative purchasing arrangement with the state of Indiana or another local government	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduced health insurance costs by changing vendors	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reduced non-insurance expenditures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No actions taken	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

25

Do you think your community, through public or private sources, over invests, adequately invests, or under invests in the types of infrastructure listed below?

	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
Highways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local roads and streets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bridges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public school classroom and other instruction facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public school performance and athletic facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public library facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Drinking water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sanitary sewers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Storm sewers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Telephone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cellular phone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
High-speed internet	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Electricity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Natural gas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

26

Federal and state gasoline taxes are primary sources of revenue used to fund roads. Tax collections have declined over time as a result of a decline in vehicle miles travelled and increase in the fuel efficiency of the current fleet. Federal and state officials across the country are considering ways to combat reduced revenues available to fund road maintenance and construction. Please indicate your support or opposition to the adoption of the following options for increasing the funding available for the construction and maintenance of Indiana's state and local road infrastructure. *Circle the appropriate number.*

	Strongly Support	Support	Neither support nor oppose	Oppose	Strongly oppose
a. Increase state fuel taxes	5	4	3	2	1
b. Replace fuel taxes with mileage-based user fees	5	4	3	2	1
c. Expand the use of public-private partnerships	5	4	3	2	1
d. Adopt tolls on additional public roads	5	4	3	2	1
e. Increase vehicle excise taxes and dedicate to road infrastructure	5	4	3	2	1
f. Remove Indiana State Police and Bureau of Motor Vehicles funding from the Motor Vehicle Highway Account	5	4	3	2	1
g. Earmark state sales tax revenue from motor fuel purchases for road infrastructure	5	4	3	2	1
h. Expand local funding options	5	4	3	2	1

PLEASE CONTINUE 

27

FOR COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS ONLY: Please estimate the change in your annual road maintenance and construction expenditures over the PAST TWO YEARS.

- ☐ Increased 20% or more
- ☐ Increased 1% to 20%
- ☐ No change
- ☐ Decreased 1% to 20%
- ☐ Decreased 20% or more

28

FOR COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS ONLY: Please estimate how much additional funding is needed annually to (A) maintain your community's existing road system, (B) maintain existing bridges, and (C) construct new roads. *Please consult with other local officials as necessary. Check only one option per column.*

	(A) Additional funding needed annually for local road maintenance	(B) Additional funding needed annually for local bridge maintenance	(C) Additional funding needed annually for new local road construction
\$10,000,000 or more	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$7,000,000 - \$9,999,999	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$4,000,000 - \$6,999,999	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,000 - \$3,999,999	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,000 - \$999,999	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$499,999	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1 - \$99,999	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
No additional funding needed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

29

FOR COUNTY OFFICIALS ONLY: 2012 SEA 98 allows counties to use property taxes and miscellaneous revenue deposited in the general fund to fund road maintenance. How likely is it that your county will use property tax revenues to fund additional road maintenance in the next few years?

- ☐ Very likely
- ☐ Somewhat likely
- ☐ Neither likely nor unlikely
- ☐ Somewhat unlikely
- ☐ Very unlikely

30

Does your local government have a website that is used to communicate with residents?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

31

Does your local government have formal policies and procedures that govern communications on your local government website?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

32

Do your local government or local government departments use social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.) to communicate with residents?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

33

Does your local government have formal policies and procedures that govern communications via social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)?

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

34

How often are your residents well informed about the following elements of local government?

	<u>Almost always</u>	<u>Most of the time</u>	<u>Some of the time</u>	<u>Almost never</u>
Local government structure	4	3	2	1
Local government services	4	3	2	1
Local government funding	4	3	2	1

35

What is the biggest misconception that residents have about how your local government operates? *Fill in the blank.*

PLEASE CONTINUE 

36

Do you think that local schools (K-12) are teaching enough about government and civics?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

37

In the first year you held your current office, did you attend training specifically to learn about your duties as an elected official?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

38

As a local elected official, have you received adequate training on issues facing your local government in the last 12 months?

- ☐ I received adequate training.
- ☐ I received some training, but would like to participate in additional opportunities.
- ☐ I have not received any training.

39

Which of the following information sources do you consult typically when considering the implementation of management practices or programs?

	Yes	No
State agencies	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
University departments and centers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National trade associations (NACO, NLC, ICMA, NAT&T, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State trade associations (AIC, IACT, ITA, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regional institutions (MPO, COG, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private consultants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local government peers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

40

Please indicate whether you are, or have been, actively involved with any of the following kinds of organizations as a member or in a leadership position (e.g., as board member or executive director). Also, estimate the number of hours per month you currently spend with each type of organization. *Check all that apply.*

Type of nonprofit or charity organization	MEMBERSHIP		LEADERSHIP		Current Hours per Month (fill in number)
	Active Now	Active in the Past	Active Now	Active in the Past	
a. Culture and arts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
b. Sports, recreation, and social activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
c. Education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
d. Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
e. Social Services (including emergency relief)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
f. Environment and animal protection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
g. Economic & community development, housing, employment & training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
h. Law, advocacy, and politics	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
i. Philanthropic institutions and promotion of voluntarism	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
j. International	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
k. Business and professional associations, unions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
l. Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

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If you are currently involved with any such groups, how important is your involvement for your work as a local government official?

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Neither important nor unimportant
- ☐ Somewhat unimportant
- ☐ Not applicable

Please use this space or attach additional pages to make any other comments about the issues affecting your local government and intergovernmental relations in Indiana.

Your participation in this survey is greatly appreciated.
If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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317/261-3046
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*Please complete the questionnaire online at www.iacir.spea.iupui.edu or
return the completed questionnaire in the enclosed postage paid envelope.*

Appendix C

Respondent Local Governments by County

Table C1: Respondent local government by county

County	Local Government
Adams County	Adams County (2)
	City of Decatur
	Town of Geneva
	Town of Monroe
	Monroe Township
	Washington Township
	Adams Central Schools
Allen County	City of Fort Wayne
	City of New Haven
	City of Woodburn
	Town of Monroeville
	Monroe Township
	Washington Township
	Northwest Allen County School Board
	Fort Wayne Community Schools
Bartholomew County	Metropolitan School District of Southwest Allen County
	Bartholomew County
	Town of Clifford
	Columbus Township
Benton County	Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation
	Town of Fowler
Blackford County	Blackford County
	City of Montpelier
	Washington Township
Boone County	Boone County (2)
	City of Lebanon
	Town of Jamestown
	Town of Whitestown
	Town of Zionsville
	Center Township
	Jackson Township
	Zionsville Community School Corporation
Brown County	Brown County Schools
Carroll County	Carroll County (2)
	City of Delphi
	Town of Yeoman
Cass County	Cass County
	Town of Galveston
	Town of Walton
	Southeastern School Corporation
Clark County	City of Jeffersonville
	Greater Clark County School
Clay County	Clay County
	Town of Center Point
	Clay Community Schools

Table C1: Respondent local government by county (continued)

County	Local Government
Clinton County	Town of Kirklint
	Town of Mulberry
	Warren Township
	Frankfort Community Schools
Daviess County	Reeve Township
Dearborn County	City of Aurora
	City of Lawrenceburg
	Miller Township
Decatur County	Decatur County (2)
	Town of Westport
	Marion Township
DeKalb County	City of Auburn
	Town of Corunna
	Town of Waterloo
	Union Township
	Garrett-Keyser-Butler Community School District
	DeKalb County Eastern Community School District
Delaware County	City of Muncie
	Town of Daleville
	Delaware County Center Township
	Liberty-Perry Community School Corporate Township
	Yorktown Community Schools
Dubois County	City of Huntingburg
	City of Jasper
	Town of Ferdinand
	Greater Jasper School Corporation
	Southwest Public School Corporation
Elkhart County	City of Goshen
	City of Nappanee
	Town of Bristol
	Town of Millersburg
	Town of Wakarusa
	Benton Township
	Cleveland Township
	Fairfield School Board
	Wa-Nee Community Schools
Fayette County	Fayette County
	Connersville Township
	Fayette County Schools
Floyd County	Floyd County
	Town of Georgetown
	Lafayette Township
	New Albany-Floyd County Community School Corporation
Fountain County	City of Attica
	Town of Kingsman
	Cain Township
	Covington Community School Corporation School Board

Table C1: Respondent local government by county (continued)

County	Local Government
Franklin County	Town of Brookville
	Town of Oldenburg
	Franklin County Community School Corporation
Fulton County	Fulton County
	City of Rochester
	Town of Akron
	Town of Fulton
	Aubbeenaubbee Township
	Rochester Township
	Rochester Community School Corporation
Gibson County	Gibson County
	City of Oakland City
	City of Princeton
	Town of Fort Branch
	Town of Francisco
	Town of Hazleton
	Center Township
	Patoka Township
Grant County	City of Gas City
	Marion Community Schools
Greene County	Greene County
	City of Jasonville
	Town of Bloomfield
	Town of Newberry
	Linton-Stockton School Corporation
	Metropolitan School District of Shakamak*
Hamilton County	City of Carmel
	City of Noblesville
	Town of Arcadia
	Adams Township
	Washington Township
	Carmel Clay Schools
	Hamilton Heights School Corporation
Hancock County	Hancock County
	City of Greenfield
	Greenfield-Central Community School Corporation
	Town of Shirley*
Harrison County	Town of Lanesville
	Town of Mauckport
	Town of New Middletown
	Franklin Township
	Harrison Township
	North Harrison Community School Corporation

Table C1: Respondent local government by county (continued)

County	Local Government
Hendricks County	Hendricks County
	Town of Avon
	Town of Clayton
	Town of Stilesville
	Liberty Township
	Avon Community School Corporation
	North West Hendricks School Corporation
Henry County	Henry County
	Town of Dunreith
	Town of Mount Summit
	Harrison Township
Howard County	Henry Township
	City of Kokomo
	Center Township
Huntington County	Honey Creek Township
	Town of Andrews
Jackson County	Warren Township
	Jackson County
Jasper County	Seymour Community Schools
	Jordan Township
Jay County	Jay County
	Town of Pennville
	Pike Township
Jefferson County	Jefferson County (2)
	Town of Hanover
Jennings County	Jennings County (2)
	City of North Vernon
	Town of Vernon
Johnson County	City of Franklin
	City of Greenwood
	Town of Princess Lakes
	Town of Trafalgar
	Hensley Township
	Clark-Pleasant School Corporation
	Greenwood School Corporation
Knox County	Knox County (2)
	City of Bicknell
	City of Vincennes
	Town of Sandborn
	Decker Township
	Vincennes Township
	North Knox School Corporation
	South Knox School Corporation
Kosciusko County	Town of Milford Junction
	Town of Winona Lake
	Wayne Township

Table C1: Respondent local government by county (continued)

County	Local Government
LaGrange County	Town of Shipshewana
	Newbury Township
	Westview School Corporation
Lake County	Lake County (2)
	City of Crown Point
	City of East Chicago
	City of Gary
	City of Hammond
	City of Whiting
	Town of Griffith
	Town of Merrillville
	Town of Munster
	Town of New Chicago
	Hobart Township
	West Creek Township
	School City of East Chicago
	School City of Hammond
	School City of Hobart
	Lake Ridge Schools
	River Forest Community School Corporation
LaPorte County	Town of Lacrosse
	Town of Long Beach
Lawrence County	Lawrence County
	Bono Township
	Shawswick Township
Madison County	City of Alexandria
	Town of Country Club Heights
	Town of Edgewood
	Town of Frankton
	Town of Orestes
	Adams Township
	VanBuren Township
	Elwood Community School Corporation
	South Madison Community School Corporation
Marion County	Marion County
	Town of Homecroft
	Town of Williams Creek
	Town of Wynnedale
	Beech Grove City Schools
	Indianapolis Public Schools
	Metropolitan School District Wayne Township
Marshall County	Marshall County
	Town of LaPaz
	Center Township
	Culver Community School Corporation
Martin County	Triton School Corporation
	Town of Shoals

Table C1: Respondent local government by county (continued)

County	Local Government
Miami County	City of Peru
	Town of Amboy
	Harrison Township
	Peru Township
	Maconaquah School Corporation
	North Miami Community Schools
	Peru Community Schools
	Town of Converse*
Monroe County	Polk Township
	Van Buren Township
	Monroe County Community School Corporation
Montgomery County	Montgomery County
	City of Crawfordsville
	Town of Ladoga
	Town of New Richmond
	Town of Waveland
	Town of Waynetown
	Town of Wingate
	Union Township
Morgan County	Morgan County
	Town of Bethany
	Town of Brooklyn
	Town of Morgantown
Newton County	Town of Kentland
	Town of Mount Ayr
	McClellan Township
Noble County	City of Kendallville
	City of Ligonier
	Town of Albion
	Town of Avilla
	Town of Cromwell
	Town of Rome City
	Perry Township
	Wayne Township
	Central Noble Community Schools
	East Noble School Corporation
	Town of Wolcottville*
Ohio County	Ohio County (2)
	City of Rising Sun
Orange County	Town of Orleans
	Paoli Township
	Orleans Community Schools
Owen County	Town of Gosport
	Town of Spencer
	Marion Township

Table C1: Respondent local government by county (continued)

County	Local Government
Parke County	Park County
	Town of Rosedale
	Florida Township
	Turkey Run School Corporation
Perry County	Perry County
	City of Cannelton
	Tobin Township
Pike County	Pike County
	City of Petersburg
	Town of Spurgeon
	Town of Winslow
	Pike County School Corporation
Porter County	City of Valparaiso
	Town of Ogden Dunes
	Duneland School Corporation
	Porter Township School Corporation
Posey County	Posey County
	Bethel Township
Pulaski County	Franklin Township
	Eastern Pulaski Community School Corporation
Putnam County	Putnam County
	City of Greencastle
	Town of Fillmore
	Town of Russiaville
	Cloverdale Community School Corporation
	South Putnam Community School Corporation
Randolph County	City of Union City
	City of Winchester
	Town of Lynn
	Town of Parker City
	Town of Saratoga
	Randolph Central School Corporation
Ripley County	Ripley County
	Jac-Cen-Del School Corporation
Rush County	Rush County (2)
	City of Rushville
Scott County	City of Austin
	Vienna Township
Shelby County	Shelby County
	City of Shelbyville
	Town of Fairland
	Town of Morristown
	Addison Township
	Shelby Township
	Northwest Consolidated Schools of Shelby County

Table C1: Respondent local government by county (continued)

County	Local Government
Spencer County	Spencer County District I
	City of Rockport
	Town of Dale
	Town of Richland
	Huff Township
St. Joseph County	City of Mishawaka
	Town of Roseland
	Town of Lakeville
	German Township
	Penn-Harris-Madison School Corporation
Starke County	John Glenn School Corporation Board of Trustees*
	Starke County
	City of Knox
	Town of Hamlet
	Town of North Judson
Steuben County	Jackson Civil Township
	City of Angola
	Town of Hudson
	Town of Orland
	Pleasant Township
Sullivan County	Freemont Community Schools
	Metropolitan School District of Steuben County
	Town of Farmersburg
Switzerland County	Town of Merom
	Town of Shelburn
Tippecanoe County	Pleasant Township
	Town of Shadeland
	Jackson Township
	Wea Township
Tipton County	Lafayette School Corporation
	Tipton County
	Town of Kemton
Union County	Tri-Central Community Schools
Vanderburgh County	Union County
Vermillion County	Center Township
	Vermillion County
	City of Clinton
	Town of Perrysville
	Clinton Township
Vigo County	North Vermillion School Corporation
	Town of West Terre Haute
	Harrison Township
Wabash County	Pierson Township
	City of Wabash
	Town of LaFontaine
	Noble Township
	Pleasant Township

Table C1: Respondent local government by county (continued)

County	Local Government
Warren County	City of State Line City
	Town of Williamsport
Warrick County	Town of Elberfeld
	Anderson Township
	Boon Township
	Warrick County Schools
Washington County	Washington County (2)
	City of Salem
	Town of Little York
	Town of Saltillo
	Washington Township
Wayne County	Franklin Township
	Wayne County
	Town of Boston
	Town of Greenfork
	Town of Hagerstown
	Town of Whitewater
	Washington Township
	Wayne Township
	Richmond Community Schools
	Western Wayne Schools
Wells County	Wells County
	City of Bluffton
	Town of Ossian
	Town of Uniondale
White County	White County
	City of Monticello
	Town of Burnettsville
	Town of Reynolds
	Town of Wolcott
Whitley County	Whitley County (2)
	City of Columbia City
	Cleveland Township
	Smith-Green Community Schools
	Whitley County Consolidated Schools
	Whitko Community Schools*

* Six respondents represent local governments that cross county boundaries.

**For 12 counties, a county commissioner and a county council member returned surveys and are noted with "(2)"

Appendix D

Other Responses

Other Responses

Questions 1, 11, 12, 13, 15, 16, 24, 25, 39, and 40, allowed officials to identify responses not included in the survey. Questions 6, 7, and 8 were not open-ended questions, but in some cases, respondents identified conditions not listed in question 5 or in a manner that did not allow the responses to be interpreted as one of the provided conditions. These responses also are listed here.

Other responses to “What elected office do you hold?” (Question 1)

- County treasurer
- County auditor
- Town clerk/treasurer (2)

Other responses to “Of the conditions listed in question 5, which three have improved most in your community in the past year?” (Question 6)

- No change (7)
- Local services (3)
- Development (2)
- Health services (2)
- Storm water (2)
- All have improved except one
- Availability of food for poverty
- Classroom space
- Closure of sanitary lagoon system
- Commercial development
- Community relations
- Drinking water, storm sewers, local roads, streets, and highways, parks and recreation, lack of high-speed internet/broadband, code enforcement, water quality
- Drugs and crime
- Economic job a little
- Economics/Infrastructure (tie)
- Economy-auto bail out saved us big time!
- Emergency response
- Emergency services
- Fire department and ambulance service
- Getting drugs out of the community
- Highway 66 and ADA ramp
- Improved communication with city and township
- Improved economic opportunities
- Improved services with new mayor
- Industrial zone almost full
- Infrastructure
- Job improvement-Chrysler hiring, Delphi and Haynes hiring
- Local roads, streets, and highways, bridges
- Police and fire
- Police relations/services
- Police/sheriff services, police-community relations, fire services, emergency medical services

- Private property renewal and code enforcement
- Quality affordable housing, balanced mix of housing and types and prices, balanced mix of residential and non-residential development
- Quality of development, increased amount of development, lack of development
- School facilities
- The cleanup of downtown
- Through the assistance of volunteers
- Town council interaction
- Traffic congestion and local roads, streets, and highways
- Visitor's center is under construction
- Water
- Water quality-UAD grant to replace mains
- Water tower painted
- We are in pretty good shape all around
- We have frequent band concerts in the park and two festivals.

Other responses to "Of the conditions listed in question 5, which three have deteriorated most in your community in the past year?" (Question 7)

- No change (5)
- Jobs (3)
- Drugs (2)
- Foreclosures, abandoned properties (2)
- Health insurance (2)
- All counties must have wheel tax, we do not
- Cost of health insurance, job quality
- Cost of health services, cost of health insurance
- Development
- Drugs, smoking, obesity
- Employment
- Frozen tax levies forced the shutdown of regional busses
- Health cost
- Increased amount of development, lack of development
- Local roads, streets, and highways, sidewalks
- Local roads, streets, and highways, sidewalks, bridges
- Poverty, vitality of neighborhoods, vitality of downtown
- Poverty, vitality of neighborhoods, vitality of downtown, community involvement
- Roads, but most bridges
- Sanitary sewers, storm sewers, combined sewer overflows (CSOs)
- Sewer
- Sewer-now in process of improvement
- Sidewalks, cellular telephone
- Street and sidewalks
- The funding from the state has been cut when it should have been raised.
- The number of cancer deaths
- Water issues: Both storm and fresh because of federal regulations

Other responses to “Of the conditions listed in question 5, which three are most important to address during the next two years?” (Question 8)

- Jobs (11)
- Drugs (6)
- Economic development (3)
- Land development/use (3)
- Health insurance (3)
- None (3)
- All (3)
- Foreclosures, abandoned properties (2)
- Water (2)
- Air quality and related disease
- Attracting business after sewers
- Balanced mix of residential and non-residential development, private property maintenance, vitality of neighborhoods, vitality of downtown, community involvement
- Business development
- Care for the poor is becoming much tougher with my county's frozen tax levies
- Care of properties in neighborhoods
- Community
- Cost of health services, cost of health insurance
- Crime
- Deteriorating houses
- Development
- Drugs/kids
- Economics (job)
- End private sector utility money lies
- Getting our jobs back from Mexico, China, etc.
- Government making it easier for business to compete
- Health costs/insurance rates
- Health services
- Healthcare
- Highway and road safety. Need more sheriffs patrolling the roads when school busses are present
- Home owner rehab for the elderly
- Housing
- Housing and overall community
- Improving employment opportunities
- Infrastructure streets, sewers, and water
- Insurance
- Job development
- Job quality, job loss
- Jobs good pay
- Lack of development, balanced mix of residential and non-residential development, foreclosures, abandoned properties
- Land
- Less government, not more
- Low income families/sales of homes
- Medical

- None The town does not have the funds to help in any of these
- Overall economic conditions, job loss/unemployment, job quality
- Personal behavior impicators
- Police/sheriff services, fire services
- Poverty, vitality of neighborhoods, vitality of downtown
- Public services
- Replacing jobs that were lost from [large employer]
- Revenue problems persist in my county due to the county officials negligence in enacting a local option income tax
- Rising utility costs
- Road condition
- Sanitary sewers, storm sewers, combined sewer overflows (CSOs)
- Sewer
- Storm sewers, local roads, streets, and highways, bridges
- Teachers worrying about their jobs because of the lack of funding from the state.
- There has to be leadership from the Federal Government or the State of Indiana on the housing crisis/foreclosure issue
- Water condition/cost
- Welfare

Other responses to Changes made to address declining revenues from property taxes? (Question 11)

2008-2009 Number of Respondents	2010-2012 Number of Respondents	Other
3	5	All
2	2	Sidewalk maintenance and improvement
	1	Budget cuts
1	1	Ambulance services
1	1	Community center
1	1	Computer and office equipment
1	1	Employees
1	1	HB1001 we lost 42% of our operating budget so all departments were cut
	1	Health insurance
	1	Healthcare
1	1	Heating fuel
	1	Just won't spend. But have \$18,000,000 in bank.
1	1	Man hours
1	1	Museum operations
	1	Office rent
1	1	Office supplies
1	1	Overtime
1	1	Overtime, supplies
	1	Personnel
1	1	Poor relief township assistance

Other responses to Requiring organizations that own real estate property to make annual payments or provide services below cost to local government in lieu of paying property taxes (Question 12)

Payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT)		Provision of reduced cost services in lieu of taxes (SILOT)	
Yes	No	Yes	No
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All (4) • All non-secular religious nonprofit institutions. • All untaxed entities should make some contribution. • Brown County State Park, Yellowwood State Forest, Hoosier National Forest (these cover a large part of the county area, but need services) • Businesses owned by religious organizations • CBO's [Community-Based Organizations] • Cheaters; liars about their property • Emergency Medical Services • Goodwill • If nonprofit is not invested in some type of community outreach • Nursing facilities • Retreats and retirement communities • United Way 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemetery (2) • Service clubs (2) • Community Association • Community Foundations, etc. • Eagles, Masons, Lions Club • Indiana Masonic Home, Franklin United Methodist Community • Lions Club • Masonic Lodge, VFW, American Legion • Sheltered workshops • Social services • Service clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All untaxed entities should make some contribution. • Brown County State Park, Yellowwood State Forest, Hoosier National Forest (these cover a large part of the county area, but need services) • CBO's [Community-Based Organizations] • Cheaters; liars about their property • Community Association • Goodwill • Indiana Masonic Home, Franklin United Methodist Community • Masonic Lodge, VFW, American Legion • Retreats and retirement communities • Service clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All (2) • Cemetery (2) • All non-secular religious nonprofit institutions. • Businesses owned by religious organizations • Community Foundations, etc. • Eagles, Masons, Lions Club • Emergency Medical Services • If nonprofit is not invested in some type of community outreach • Lions Club • Nursing facilities • Service clubs • Sheltered workshops • Social services • United Way

Other responses to Which types of tax-exempt entities own property, receives payment or services in lieu of taxes? (Question 13)

Tax-exempt entity	Owns Property	PILOT	SILOT
Many (3)	Yes	No	No
All (2)	Yes	No	No
Cemeteries (2)	Yes	No	No
Lions Club (2)	Yes	No	No
Art Guild, Historic Preservations, Learning Network	Yes	No	No
Big Brothers Community Foundation, etc.	Yes	No	No
Church-owned retirement community	Yes	Yes	No
Community centers	Yes	No	No
Fire department	Yes	No	No
Fire department	No		
Fire department volunteer	No	No	No
Fire Services	Yes	Yes	No
Foundations	Yes	No	No
Goodwill	Yes	No	No
Home for disabled	Yes	No	Yes
Indiana Masonic Home, Franklin United Methodist Community	Yes	No	No
Lakes	Yes	No	No
Legion	Yes	No	No
Legion, Masons, Eagles, Schools	Yes	No	No
Lions Club, Kiwanis	Yes		
Local nonprofit organizations	Yes	No	No
Local services charities	Yes	No	No
Many	Yes		
Masonic Lodge, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Lodge	Yes	No	Yes
Masons, Elks, Veteran's Affairs	Yes	No	No
Morgan County Community Foundation	Yes	No	No
Museum car	Yes	No	No
New Hope, CASI [Community Association Services of Indiana]	Yes		
Public universities	Yes	Yes	
Retirement home	Yes	No	No
Retirement home	Yes	Yes	
Social ministries	Yes	No	No
Social services	Yes	No	No
Surrounding County-Monroe	Yes	No	No
Utility	Yes	Yes	No
Volunteer Fire Department, emergency medical services (ambulance)	Yes	No	No
Young Men's Christian Association	No	No	Yes

Other responses to In which service areas local governments use unpaid volunteer assistance (Question 15)

- Cemetery (4)
- Clerk Treasurer is only one paid. No other town board members are paid.
- Coaching
- Community events
- Community focus groups
- Disaster response

- Funding for programs
- Good-Start Community Action
- Ham [radio] operators
- Museum (car)
- Revitalization Committee activities and projects
- RSD board members and library
- Social support for students
- Town celebrations
- Tutoring, County community kitchen, literacy coalition, churches for counseling, flower bed maintenance, students trash pickup off streets and sidewalks
- Veteran's services
- Work release to help clean up cemetery

Other responses to Arrangement currently used to provide each type of service? (Question 16)

Type of Service	Arrangement
Cemetery maintenance (3)	Contract with a for-profit firm
Mental health services	Contract with a for-profit firm
Teacher's assistant	Internal resources
Public assistance programs	Internal resources
Poor Relief	Internal resources
Mosquito management	Internal resources
K-12 education	Internal resources
GED teaching and testing	Internal resources
Airport	Internal resources

Other responses to Actions taken to combat the rising cost of providing health insurance (Question 24).

- Increased deductibles (6)
- On-site clinic(5)
- Have a wellness clinic for employees (3)
- Mail order prescriptions (2)
- Wellness plan (2)
- Changed insurance company (2)
- [My county] met with all trustees and other vendors, but costs never lowered
- Absorbed cost
- Deleted spouses who had own plan
- High Deductible Plan
- Health Savings Account, but no one likes it
- Implemented high deductible HSA's
- Increased city share
- Increased employee contributions
- Increased HSA benefit
- Increased our share of cost
- Joined larger group
- New administrators pay a larger share
- No longer offer [health insurance]
- Not possible not control over cost for services

- Passing on some of cost to employee
- Pay portion of the deductible after it is met
- Reviewing options
- Layoffs
- School boards no health insurance
- Self-insured
- Shop it for best service/cost

Other responses to Adequacy of investment in infrastructure (Question 25).

Amount of Investment	Infrastructure
Not enough investment	Underground cable network for AT&T, Dish, etc.
	Rural-our poorly educated people fail to see better education as a way to solve many local problems.
	Infrastructure for business development
	Fire and Emergency medical services
Adequate	Cemetery

Other responses to What information sources are consulted when implementing practices or programs (Question 39).

- Attorney (8)
 - Contracted municipal attorney (1)
 - Town attorney (1)
 - School attorney (1)
- Internet websites (4)
 - Government websites (1)
- Constituents/taxpayers (3)
- Business (2)
- Prior business management experience
- Prior officials
- Accountants

Other responses to Officials' activity in nonprofit or charity organizations (Question 40)

Membership	Leadership	Organization	Hours per month
Now	Now	Church	40
Now	Now	Church	20
Now	Now	Church	50
Now	Past	Church	-
Now	Now	Church	80
Now		Church	8
	Now	Church	10 to 12
Now	Now	Church	6
Now	Now	Church and community center	20
Now	Now	Church leadership	40
Now	Now	Economic development, local boards	40

Other responses to Officials' activity in nonprofit or charity organizations(Question 40) (continued)

Membership	Leadership	Organization	Hours per month
		Fair board, zoning board	4
Now	Past	Fire department	12
Now	Now	Fire, emergency medical service & townships	100
Now	Now	Habitat for Humanity	4+
Now		IAU	2
Now		Kiwanis	-
Now		Knights of Columbus	10
Now	Now	Lions	50
		Mental health	4
Now	Now	Nonprofit organizations	8
	Now	Plan commission	11
		President of town board	8
Now	Now	Public library	5
Now	Now	Public safety	48
Past		Regional service council	3 to 5

Appendix E
Question 35 Responses
Citizens' Biggest Misunderstandings about Local
Government

Table E1: The biggest misconception that residents have about how local government operates (Question 35)

Office	Response
County council member	Distrust
County council member	Most people believe property tax is the only way government receives funds. No other revenue.
County council member	People seem to incorrectly think that an increase of new businesses in our county will increase property tax revenue
County council member	Residents as a whole have no idea how city and county government work
County council member	Residents believe that the county receives majority of real estate tax income as opposed to the fact that schools receive the majority of real estate tax income
County council member	Residents do not understand the county government structure (e.g., council, commissioners, department heads)
County council member	State mandates-county must comply without a vote
County council member	Taxpayers do not realize what it costs to run county government and many think property taxes pays for everything, including highway budgets
County council member	Taxes collected may be spent on any project. Residents don't understand all the restrictions when it comes to funding.
County council member	That government does nothing
County council member	That we are in control of raising property taxes! It's our fault all the taxes are increasing and services decreasing.
County council member	That we waste money
County council member	The biggest misconception would be what is the difference between [the offices of] council member and commissioner
County council member	The funding
County council member	They have no idea how local government operates
County council member	Too much and unnecessary spending of county funds
County council member	Transparency
County council member	We have an endless amount of revenue
County council member	What the county can pay for and what the state mandates
County council member	Who is responsible for what fee/tax. Is this a city, county, state problem?
County commissioner	Editorials in local newspaper
County commissioner	Everything
County commissioner	Funding for state and federally mandated items-inmate housing, medical and psychological analysis
County commissioner	Have no idea what officials do
County commissioner	Local government does not have authority or power to end state mandated laws
County commissioner	Most people have no idea how county government is structured or how it operates
County commissioner	Most people think property tax funds roads
County commissioner	Property taxes pay for road repairs
County commissioner	Public feels local government has sufficient monies to operate
County commissioner	Residents feel we have more money to spend than what we really have available
County commissioner	That the amount that the tax levy can be raised is controlled locally and not by the state
County commissioner	That the level of tax income does not match the rise in expenses
County commissioner	The biggest misconception is roads are funded from property tax
County commissioner	They don't know how regulated our spending of funds has become
County commissioner	They don't know the difference between city and county office and services
County commissioner	We have \$18,000,000 in bank but act like we are broke
County commissioner	What is city and what is county
County commissioner	Who has the purse strings and who has the executive authority. How the funding process works.
Mayor	1. [That these things are] unlimited-power, funds, and handouts. 2. That we can do anything that they ask. 3. They don't understand that when they ask "the city" to spend money, a.) Where it comes from and b.) it is their money.
Mayor	City does not have bridge jurisdiction and residents think we do
Mayor	Confusing state and federal services/operations with local government services; and misconception local governments have the funding sources to provide all their social needs
Mayor	Don't understand how money is spent; feel it is misused. Also have no idea how busy offices are
Mayor	Effect of tax caps on budget, i.e., providing emergency services
Mayor	Get us mixed up with federal spending. Also blames local for state actions-unfunded mandates, etc.
Mayor	How much is spent on operations of local government

Table E1: The biggest misconception that residents have about how local government operates (Question 35) (continued)

Office	Response
Mayor	How we are funded. [They] think we have more [money] than is available. And [they don't know] how those funds are spent.
Mayor	[There is] much confusion with the role different portions of local government, boards, commissions, etc. [play]
Mayor	[They have] no understanding of state and federal regulations [to which] we have to comply
Mayor	Residents don't differentiate between county and city functions
Mayor	That all funding in general can be moved at will
Mayor	That city government has money for any project—especially theirs!
Mayor	That government spends too much money and employees are overpaid and underworked
Mayor	That it is sunny every day and we have no problems with which to contend
Mayor	That tax revenues can be greatly reduced and we can still provide all of our services
Mayor	That there is an unlimited pool of dollars for spending. That there is no accountability and transparency in government.
Mayor	That they somehow feel that they have entitlement and this city is going to hand out money
Mayor	That we are able to control things that are outside our jurisdiction (state roads)
Mayor	That we can just condemn properties at no cost
Mayor	That we have "excess" in the budget
Mayor	That we have all the money in the world
Mayor	That we have too many employees on the city's payroll. We currently have no full-time office staff, two full-time street/maintenance employees, two full-time water employees, and four full-time police officers.
Mayor	That we should be providing for all of their needs because they pay taxes
Mayor	The biggest misconception is that local governments should provide the same services citizens receive from federal and state governments
Mayor	The biggest misconception is that residents tend to think all funding comes from property taxes. They also believe the mayor is the fiscal body and oversees the city council when it comes to spending and budgeting.
Mayor	The city has plenty of money
Mayor	My city has the resources to solve all the requests and/or mandates the citizens, state government, and the federal government have concerning city government operations
Mayor	The residents typically feel that the mayor has control over all aspects of government in a city, including the library district, the school district, etc.
Mayor	The whole process
Mayor	They believe that the civil city operations have control over education
Mayor	They believe the city runs other units of government (libraries, schools, etc.)
Mayor	They have failed to realize the loss of tax revenue and still require the same standard of service. Through direct mail and local cable channel we have promoted the reduction and took their feedback. HB1001 was the best thing that happened to local government.
Mayor	They never understand tax abatement and how tax dollars in general are used
Mayor	We can write a check and fix anything
Mayor	We control local properties and their uses
Mayor	We have an excess of funding
Mayor	We have unlimited funds
Mayor	What separation of powers between the Mayor and the Common Council
Town council member	Funding (2)
Town council member	That we have plenty of money (2)
Town council member	A lot of residents think we spend too much money on engineering and attorney fees
Town council member	Community involvement in meetings (attendance) is very low. Residents somehow feel their opinion does not matter or will not be heard.
Town council member	Distribution of funds
Town council member	Everybody is different
Town council member	Everything is free
Town council member	Everything is funded with property taxes
Town council member	How funds are spent and why? Also, who controls or provides services i.e., water, road repairs, traffic.

Table E1: The biggest misconception that residents have about how local government operates (Question 35) (continued)

Office	Response
Town council member	How it operates
Town council member	How we receive and spend funding
Town council member	I don't think they know how difficult it is to expand and improve services due to monetary constraints
Town council member	I pay taxes so you owe me
Town council member	Little amount of money spent
Town council member	Misuse of funding and equipment
Town council member	Money available to spend
Town council member	Most people don't have a clue. They are apathetic.
Town council member	No one knows from where the funding comes
Town council member	Not understanding the limitations on how different funds can be used
Town council member	One person is trying to run it all
Town council member	Our residents do not seem interested in our town
Town council member	Our residents don't realize that there is a difference between county and town government
Town council member	Our town is run very well
Town council member	Planning and zoning laws
Town council member	The public thinks there is more money than [there] actually is to provide services
Town council member	Regarding town only-residents feel that they can do any construction or building without town permission
Town council member	Residents are full of good ideas but they never come to the meetings to communicate with their governing body. They are fast to complain when something is done that does not suit them. Television, school events, and other activities become a quick excuse to avoid getting involved with your local government.
Town council member	Residents believe we have unlimited funding available
Town council member	Residents feel not enough gets accomplished, [for example] employees milking it or putting in time and doing nothing productive
Town council member	Rumors-they never come to meetings
Town council member	Taxes, funding
Town council member	That funds for major projects are all free from federal and state monies
Town council member	That money grows on trees
Town council member	That part time help should work to public perception not to a schedule
Town council member	That residents are not responsible for advising town government of changes that might affect water usage, sewage flows, etc.
Town council member	That services can be maintained or increased from the present level while the tax revenue continues to decrease in almost all areas
Town council member	That the job of local government is very easy to do and they have a lot of money to spend
Town council member	That there is a tree in front of town hall that grows money and that we can instantly repair, replace, rebuild/refurbish anything upon their request without raising taxes
Town council member	That things can happen fast! They don't get involved unless it directly affects them.
Town council member	That town board has full access to all funds and can bankrupt the town
Town council member	That water and sewer rates give us a surplus and [they] don't understand bond payments
Town council member	That we are full-time
Town council member	That we can accomplish issues of importance quickly
Town council member	That we can lower water and sewer rates or carry delinquent accounts indefinitely
Town council member	That we do anything to better the community
Town council member	That we don't make positive decision[s] for town future-we don't make a difference
Town council member	That we get unlimited money from the government
Town council member	That we have an unlimited supply of funds to care for the town
Town council member	That we have more money than we do because they pay taxes
Town council member	That we have more to say in county issues
Town council member	That we operate and have excess money in the bank
Town council member	That we operate without anyone knowing what we are doing. All our meetings are open to the public. They just do not come to the meetings.
Town council member	That we raise taxes and rates because we want to [raise taxes]
Town council member	The cost

Table E1: The biggest misconception that residents have about how local government operates (Question 35) (continued)

Office	Response
Town council member	They do not understand the difference between town, township and county governments
Town council member	The inability to understand how taxes, budgets and spending work
Town council member	That we have an unlimited budget to correct all requests and needs in our town
Town council member	They are unaware of the controls/regulations imposed that limit our ability to react or respond to local needs. They do not know that the state controls the funds that we have available to meet the needs of our town.
Town council member	They believe it is easy all the time
Town council member	They don't attend town board meetings
Town council member	They don't realize all of the regulations and the fact that you can't spend money made from utilities on streets or police
Town council member	They feel they don't have a say in government. They won't attend any government meetings.
Town council member	They have no clue about the impact of property [tax] caps on local government
Town council member	They have no idea of how much we do
Town council member	They think there is an unlimited supply of money and that I am responsible for the woes of the town
Town council member	They think we all make a lot of money and have too many benefits
Town council member	They think we can take funds and do what we please
Town council member	They understand the big picture
Town council member	Think we don't do enough
Town council member	Thinks the officers control all the direction without a vote
Town council member	[We have an] unlimited budget. [In] other words, [we have] lots of money for roads and infrastructure
Town council member	Unlimited funds
Town council member	Unlimited income for expenditures
Town council member	Very little input from residents
Town council member	Wasteful spending
Town council member	We can do what we want, when we want
Town council member	We have a large budget
Town council member	We have more money than we do
Town council member	What authority the town does and doesn't have as pertains to residents. The amount of work that goes into being a small town, part-time politician.
Town council member	Where all the money is spent. How our big problem is being handled by the state. And why it is taking so long to convict the person for taking the town money.
Town council member	Where spending funds come from and how they are spent. [They do not understand] the difference between civil and government responsibility
Town council member	Why we cannot do more
Township trustee	Do not know what service we provide county
Township trustee	Endless resources
Township trustee	Full knowledge of what we do
Township trustee	How easy the job is
Township trustee	How much we spend compared to other units of government
Township trustee	How public assistance is handled
Township trustee	I think that trustees have been here long enough that they know
Township trustee	I think they think we have a lot of money with which to assist people
Township trustee	It's a piggy bank, come and get yours
Township trustee	Just because we have funds to legally use for one project, they could be legally used for and there purpose
Township trustee	Money (think we have more than we do)
Township trustee	Most of the clients we see mismanage what income they have. They have all kinds of jobs. They get fired because they won't show up. They don't understand why they must complete an application to get assistance and account for this spending or job performance.
Township trustee	Most residents have no knowledge, or very little, about what township trustees do
Township trustee	Not having all the facts. Wanting help, but they will not go through the steps to see if they qualify.
Township trustee	Not knowing what local government can do for them

Table E1: The biggest misconception that residents have about how local government operates (Question 35) (continued)

Office	Response
Township trustee	On the city level there is some belief that things are not on the up-and-up in some departments
Township trustee	Poor relief. They think the trustees will give monies directly to them instead of the people or company they owe.
Township trustee	Residents are not aware of all the duties of township government. They know of township assistance and maybe fire protection, but are unaware of other services provided at township level.
Township trustee	Some folks have a hard time with where we get our funding. They don't get it that our money to operate comes from taxpayers!
Township trustee	Tax levies
Township trustee	That everyone is entitled and should receive assistance
Township trustee	That funds are unlimited and taxes are too high
Township trustee	That we are part of city government
Township trustee	That we have an endless bank and tax account
Township trustee	That we only help the poor
Township trustee	That we pay their gas, electric, water, rent in full. Tax caps caused cuts
Township trustee	The inability to define differences of state, city, county, and township government
Township trustee	They are not aware of the things townships do or control
Township trustee	They think I have lots of money for helping (assistance) and I don't. [I'll be] asking for \$800 next year for that. [I'll be asking for] \$9,000 for fire department contract. [I'll be asking for] \$9,000 for [the] general fund. [I'll be asking for] \$2,000 for Cumulative Fund. I could probably get \$13,800 from taxes!
Township trustee	They think the township can make and change the laws or enforce them. They need to be educated on what a trustee's job is and what they do.
Township trustee	Unlimited funds
Township trustee	We do nothing until they need help
Township trustee	What they do
Township trustee	Where they live (township-county) [They need] geography education. How government works (operates). [They need] government education.
School board member	That we are not transparent with budget-we are! That we are central office heavy-we are not
School board member	Decision makers are aware of issues that need attention
School board member	Funding of public schools. [They] still think it is with local money.
School board member	How city utilities run independent of the city
School board member	How politics has no business in public safety as far as day-to-day operations
School board member	How services are funded, specifically, different school funding sources
School board member	How the various funds are used to pay for expenditures
School board member	How we are funded
School board member	City officials are not transparent and not responsive to community. For example, the city council provides themselves with health insurance and the community opposes.
School board member	Misunderstanding that school finances are limited for what they may be used
School board member	More money will fix all of public education's problems and how funding works and that you can't use bond money to pay for more teachers. While it is true that we are allowed to do general fund bonds now, most people think that we can use capital project bonds to put more money in the classroom.
School board member	One big boys club
School board member	People feel property tax cap will meet our financial needs
School board member	People just don't care to learn or know
School board member	Politicians are not to be trusted
School board member	Property taxes and pay for education
School board member	Residents do not understand the complexities of school funding, either by the state or by local funds
School board member	Right now it is the negative public perception of public schools
School board member	Roads and bridges
School board member	School funding is a mystery to most
School board member	School funding. Spending is limited to that account and cannot be transferred. Most feel that we can spend dollars from any account on other things.

Table E1: The biggest misconception that residents have about how local government operates (Question 35) (continued)

Office	Response
School board member	Schools elected officials' do not have as much control as residents believe. There is a tremendous amount of intrusion from federal and state requirements and mandates.
School board member	Sometimes they think we don't communicate enough
School board member	State funding to our local schools has decreased \$600/per student and we can't use other school funds to pay teacher salaries
School board member	That local government does not tell the state government how badly they have hurt public education by cutting the funding
School board member	That most of the money we obtained for labs, computer rooms, our resource center, and upgrade to technology is through grants, not state assistance
School board member	That school boards have a lot of leeway about what we can do. Most of our decisions are made by the state or federal government
School board member	That the mayor is doing the right thing in assisting a private college with taxpayer funds
School board member	That the state government is fully funding education
School board member	That they are transparent and honest
School board member	The role (responsibilities/limits) of the Board of Education
School board member	The school board has little control over many fixed expenditures. Prevailing federal and state mandates drive up cost of education. People, sometimes, just don't understand.
School board member	The variation of abilities and education of those serving local government. Many can win a popularity contest but have no idea how to do the job and are unable or unwilling to learn.
School board member	They are intentionally kept in the dark. I do not feel this is intentional.
School board member	They do not understand funding sources and limitations of various budgets
School board member	They do not update their personal views with how things really are
School board member	They still think their local property taxes pay for our general fund expenses like teachers and utilities
School board member	Think we are all here for a free ride and are all yes people
School board member	Unlimited availability of funds to support their needs
School board member	[That we have] unlimited money and they have no responsibility
School board member	Where money comes from to run the school and how it's managed
School board member	Word of mouth, hearsay

Appendix F

Additional Comments

Additional Comments

The final survey question provided an opportunity for officials to make any additional comments. These comments and comments written in the margins throughout the questionnaire are transcribed below. Comments provided for any question other than Question 42 are preceded with the appropriate question number. Responses have been edited in cases where a particular elected official could be identified.

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 42)

Office	Question	Comment
School board member	4	Our assessed values have and are plummeting; becoming a vicious circle of decline. However, the work to save our community at a grassroots level of cooperation has expanded.
County council member	5	[Jail facilities] are underway.
County commissioner	5	[Our] bridges are very bad.
County commissioner	5	The cost of cable TV
Mayor	5	Duke Energy
Town council member	5	[Our] fire services are excellent. [We need] emergency warning sirens. Reo water [is] available. [Starting] to recoat [local roads, streets, and highways. 7a) f12: - caused by students - truancy - drugs - property damage - fights 7b) f6: vitality of downtown - old building, small business closing. 7c) f4: poverty - small older homes draw low income renters not keeping property. 8b) d17: high speed internet - to draw more business 9) first incorporated in 2009. 11) My local government has implemented cooperative service arrangements, such as interlocal agreements, with other local governments. - working on. 40h) Respondent wrote near law, advocacy, and politics, "Neighborhood Watch." 40i) Respondent works with philanthropic institutions and promotion of voluntarism through a local nonprofit. 42) We are still taking baby steps as we learn our way in government. This is our second elected board as finances become available we try to spend wisely for our future.
Town council member	5	Brownfields -2012
Town council member	5	The local services and infrastructure that have improved most in the community is the new iron filtration plant.
School board member	5	The condition of drug crime is between a major and moderate problem
School board member	5	K-12 education: There is a lack of funding from the statehouse. [It's] been a bad four years.
School board member	5	Efforts to improve business development
School board member	5	Land use-Leaders in our township worked many hours several years ago to develop a comprehensive plan that would develop property with an equal balance of homes, businesses, and industry. The Zoning Board has consistently ignored this work in favor of developers who do not become part of the community.
County council member	6	I don't think any have changed.
County council member	6	Public service.
County commissioner	6	There have been no improvements in the community during the past year.
Mayor	6	With the economic times we are in some areas might have remained about the same, but I see no improvement.
Mayor	6	All part of CSO efforts
Town council member	6	a. [There are] fewer foreclosures
Town council member	6	a. Brownfields-USDA grant to remove tanks
Town council member	6	a. Community involvement-Town Board works on keeping the people informed.
Town council member	6	No improvement with storm sewers. Problems will be corrected within 6-8 months.
Township trustee	6	Our community is very static, not much changes.
Township trustee	6	Need for job creation, fire service - lay-off of firefighters, foreclosures.
School board member	6	This overall auto bailout has helped all business in the area!
School board member	6	School standardized test scores.
School board member	6	On-going efforts to improve downtown facilities.
School board member	6	Affordable housing due to price dropping and foreclosures.

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 42) (continued)

Office	Question	Comment
School board member	6	K-12 education has improved most through local efforts in spite of Tom Bennett.
School board member	6	Passage of school referendum (2nd time) has helped improve financial deficits that have resulted from property tax caps [which resulted] in a decrease in school funding
School board member	6	The improvement of the vitality of downtown is due to the Super Bowl aftermath. The improvement of community involvement is due to extraordinary effort of the Superintendent. Truancy and other school behavior problems have improved due to the extraordinary effort of the superintendent and staff.
School board member	6	State and County smoking regulations!
County council member	7	I think all of these [code enforcement, private property maintenance, and foreclosures] have gotten worse.
County commissioner	7	Employment and business retention have deteriorated most in the community during the past year.
County commissioner	7	a. Transportation, b. Roads and bridges, c. Crime and drugs (Gangs)
Mayor	7	a - Health/insurance; b - Economics; c - Abandoned properties/foreclosures
Mayor	7	a. We should be improving more, b. The job growth has been on the low end, c. Economic related.
Town council member	7	[Truancy creates a problem]: Caused by students - truancy - drugs - property damage - fights. Vitality of downtown - old building, small business closing. Poverty - small older homes draw low income renters not keeping property.
Town council member	7	a. Local roads, streets, and highways: Curbs, b. Cost is too high for cellular telephones, c. Cost is too high for cable TV
Town council member	7	c. Cable TV: rising costs
Town council member	7	a. Vitality of downtown: Businesses closed and [there is a] threat of [the post office] closing.
Town council member	7	No change. [Storm sewer problem] has not gotten any worse in past year.
Township trustee	7	a. Fire Services: they are hardly doing anything. Other fire services come from different townships to assist fires
Township trustee	7	a. Drinking water is too expensive. c. Sewers are too expensive.
Township trustee	7	Cable TV - No longer can use an antenna, reduction in wage and loss of jobs.
School board member	7	K-12 has a lack of state support.
School board member	7	Highways are dangerous due to the lack of flashing lights and stop lights.
School board member	7	Lack of parental involvement in schools, truancy.
School board member	7	Watching our public school system suffer from a parent and school board person's view
School board member	7	Observations that obesity too common among young people. Current restrictions/policy on building projects for educational purposes have prevented growth in an area that needs attention. Decisions to postpone projects to address growth or efficiency improvement have led to creative ways to circumvent state guidance. This leads to increased costs and delays to address needs.
School board member	7	Health insurance costs
School board member	7	Our town has not attracted business development in the past 20 years. Thus our residential assessed value is 927, with commercial assessed value at eight percent. This is not sustainable.
School board member	7	The cost of health insurance keeps rising.
County commissioner	8	The most important thing to address during the next two years are jobs.
County commissioner	8	a. Job opportunities, b. Drugs, crime, gangs, c. Healthcare and welfare
Mayor	8	All are important, but infrastructure and economy, I believe, could help drive the others.
Mayor	8	b. CSO cost/no funding! Dollars to fund Emergency Services!
Mayor	8	Employment is one of the three most important conditions to address during the next two years.
Mayor	8	a - Health/insurance cost; b - Abandoned properties; c - Development
Town council member	8	High speed internet - to draw more business.
Town council member	8	Traffic-semi trucks, more than 1,200 a day.
Town council member	8	a. Local roads, streets, and highways: curbs.
Town council member	8	a. Empty homes-foreclosures
Town council member	8	b. Economic/employment opportunities
Town council member	8	Not mandating business to have healthcare for same business.
Township trustee	8	My road was torn up from asphalt and put back to gravel.
Township trustee	8	Employment/Poverty

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 42) (continued)

Office	Question	Comment
School board member	8	Poverty; child welfare and monitoring the lack of parenting.
School board member	8	Vocational training at the high school level
School board member	8	Our whole school system (public) deserves better.
School board member	8	Health insurance costs
School board member	8	We must change funding for public education so that great schools like [ours] can be rewarded to make up for cuts in funding and property tax cap losses.
Town council member	9	First incorporated in 2009.
School board member	9	Tax caps should not have been adopted.
County council member	10	Not the last two years!
County council member	11	My local government has implemented cooperative service arrangements, such as interlocal agreements, with other local governments.
Mayor	11	Survey doesn't address 2012. We started making some of these change with 2012 budgets.
Mayor	11	Our revenues did not decline.
Town council member	11	[Mine is a] small town of 335. Do less spending/more action.
Town council member	11	My local government is working on cooperative service arrangements, such as interlocal agreements, with other local governments.
Town council member	11	My local government has increased fees and charges for local services like sewage and water utilities. My local government increased its reliance on volunteers to assist in providing local services like law enforcement.
Township trustee	11	Not sure of dates, but there have been many cutbacks.
Township trustee	11	These answers are for my township only.
Township trustee	11	You can find this on www.in.gov
Township trustee	11	My local government has reduced spending on K-12 education.
School board member	11	Schools have implemented cooperative service arrangements, such as interlocal agreements, with other local governments.
Town council member	12	Other nonprofits (cheaters) - liars about their property
School board member	12	The ever-expanding airport does not pay taxes on land or structures that they own, yet they rely on our public services.
School board member	12	No cost at all (referring to units of federal government, units of state government, units of other local government).
Township trustee	16	Local volunteer fire department and first respondents.
Township trustee	16	All the rest is done through the county
Town council member	19	Requires too much paperwork.
Township trustee	21	Trustee and employees only
School board member	21	My local government provides pensions or retirement benefits for some elected officials, full-time employees, and/or part-time employees.
School board member	21	Some do (referring to elected officials).
Township trustee	22	Trustee and employees only
Township trustee	22	My local government provides health insurance for some part-time employees.
School board member	22	Schools do not provide health insurance for elected officials.
School board member	22	My local government does not provide health insurance for school board or precinct people.
School board member	22	My local government provides health insurance benefits to elected officials at cost. My local government provides health insurance benefits to full and part-time employees at some cost.
School board member	22	My local government provides health insurance for some elected officials, full-time employees, and part-time employees.
School board member	22	Some do (referring to elected officials).
Mayor	23	Community is self-insured.
County commissioner	25	[Our] local roads and streets are very bad. [Our] bridges are very bad. All should have wheel tax!
Town council member	25	No investments.
Township trustee	25	Answers as to <i>Others</i> . "Not mine."

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 42) (continued)

Office	Question	Comment
School board member	25	Sanitary sewers raised the amount we pay way too much.
Mayor	26	Property fund mass transit.
Mayor	26	Increase state fuel taxes, if they are directed to local government.
Township trustee	26	Quit importing oil-regulate gas prices to begin with.
School board member	26	[There is] way too much semi traffic in our area.
Mayor	27	No funds
County commissioner	29	Council will never do it! All County's need the wheel tax. It is a fair tax. But the governor needs to make us all do it. Not local because it's not popular and no council will do it, because of votes on a local level.
Township trustee	30	Township-no; county and town-yes.
School board member	30	Schools have a website that is used to communicate with residents.
School board member	31	Schools have formal policies and procedures that govern communications on local government their local government website.
Mayor	36	I would most likely say "no" but what would you remove to allow more time for this.
School board member	36	But [teaching enough about government and civics] could always be improved.
School board member	36	We are in committee on [whether local schools (K-12) are teaching enough about government and civics] now. Why I don't trust state government, one reason among many! I recently had a discussion with Assistant State Superintendent Dale Chou. I was questioning a mandate from the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) that, it seemed to me, superseded state statute. Several do, by the way. He told me, "Your problem is that you see the law here (hand held high), as if it is the limit, the roof. At IDOE, we see it here (hand held low) as the foundation on which to build our plan." I was shocked. I suggested that this was wrong. That if the law did not fit their agenda, that they should do what everyone else does in a democratic representative government, and speak with the representative to get the law changed. He smirked at my "naivety." How can I trust a state government entity that is allowed by the state to do this?
Town council member	37	No training was offered.
Township trustee	37	No, because I didn't have the money to do it!
Township trustee	37	[I have been a] township assessor for eight years.
School board member	37	[I receive training] every year as a school board member. It is vital. I do not receive training for precinct other than election training.
Mayor	38	Difficult to get away to all the opportunities available.
Township trustee	38	Too far away to attend!
Township trustee	38	Via emails and talking to other trustees.
Township trustee	38	I have not received training-no issues.
Township trustee	38	I would love to (I have not received any training.)
Mayor	39	When considering the implementation of management practices or programs, private consultants are typically consulted sometimes as information sources.
Township trustee	39	We consider NSBA and ISBA as sources when considering the implementation of management practices or programs.
School board member	39	[I consult agencies like the National School Board Association] (NSBA)
Town council member	40	Respondent works for law, advocacy, and politics in the Neighborhood Watch. Respondent works with philanthropic institutions and promotion of voluntarism through Friends of Richland.
Township trustee	40	Respondent clarified that his activity is social activities and not sports and recreation.
Township trustee	41	Rural: This is a small community of 1,000 people.
County council member	42	State should support public education instead of cutting it in favor of private schools or charter schools.
County council member	42	Apathy has gotten us to where we are. That has led to ignorance. We have got to educate the electorate and all start participating again. I took a pass on several of your questions because I didn't feel they were asked correctly or in some cases "leading." I believe we need to "fix" the wasteful spending before we increase the revenue (taxes) to pay for more stuff. Pensions are going to be the downfall of most f local governments in the future (it has in many already) and we are relying too much on grants to fund local projects. I believe that money will have to be reduced by the Feds or it will be in default sooner rather than later.

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 42) (continued)

Office	Question	Comment
County council member	42	If you want surveys completed it would be best to shorten them.
County council member	42	Questionnaire was too long. I think [sending] different versions for the type of local government (city, town, county, etc.) would make the responses more meaningful.
County council member	42	The state of Indiana continues to micro-manage local government. Too many restrictions on how funds are used. The Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) has too much power over local government; answers [from] the DLGF vary too much. It all depends on who you speak with.
County council member	42	Unfunded mandates: The legislature continues to give counties unfunded mandates. The new law that requires the county council to do a binding review of appointed school board budgets is a great example. The county councils have been given no guidance or assistance in doing that job. We have no experience/expertise in school budget development.
County commissioner	42	I initially planned to respond to this entire survey. It's an excellent idea to gather information on the overall picture of a community and to track its progress. However, I decided not to complete this survey early on as I began filling it out. It is difficult transforming complex issues into a simple survey in a way that will yield helpful and reliable results, although I admire and respect what you have done here. I expect this survey is most valuable in illustrating trends over time since individual interpretations of terms might impact shorter-term results. And I realized that I personally need a broader perspective of time to really respond to your questions in a meaningful, comprehensive way. I have served less than a year, elected on a weekend and beginning work Monday. To make targeted improvements, I've focused extensively on specific, selected issues, yet your survey is targeted to capture the overall health of the county, as measured in many, many different areas. If I am fortunate enough to continue to serve county residents, next year I can and will respond with a much a broader perspective.
County commissioner	42	I will write more later, when I have more time. Thanks, I am interested in what you discover.
County commissioner	42	No one complains about good roads or sidewalks. We need road funding first.
County commissioner	42	No unfunded mandates. More road funds. Keep local government as is, no reform.
County commissioner	42	Our local government is strapped financially because of state and federal mandates. An example would be the mandate a few years ago to do away with the inventory tax. We voted to do away as we were required to do, asked for the maximum replacement, and lost \$73,000 the first year it was dropped.
County commissioner	42	State of Indiana has balanced its budget on the backs of local government, education, mental health, public safety.
County commissioner	42	The implementation of the tax caps have vastly affected the ability of local governments to take care of internal matters that are delegated to them.
County commissioner	42	The quality of local government is limited primarily by the lack of quality community leaders. The methods of running for election are mostly one of increasing name recognition. This works because the electorate has little, if any, interest in learning what the issues are.
Mayor	42	As mayor of a small city in a rural area there is a belief that far too much power resides in the hands of legislators in the Indianapolis metropolitan counties and that local issues in these areas tend to become state laws which impact the rest of the state's citizens.
Mayor	42	Frozen tax levies make it much harder to afford professional (unionized) firemen. Frozen tax levies forced the shutdown of regional busses.
Mayor	42	Funding for infrastructure: property tax caps have been very harmful. We also have several buildings that need to be torn down. Health and safety issues: funding these projects is almost impossible.
Mayor	42	I am the vice-chairman for a group of volunteers who help remove blight from our communities. Sometimes we help make improvements but often it is in the demolition of abandoned and unsightly homes/buildings in our communities.
Mayor	42	It takes involvement of all government entities, citizens, businesses, social agencies, local charities, etc. to make a successful community. Everyone working together and best utilization of all funding resources available. Small communities do not have it easy to compete for funding with larger cities due to criteria necessary and matching funds. Infrastructure is one of our hardest issues. Our downtown is falling apart, but funding is very hard to obtain except for sidewalks and streets and most of that goes to development costs, engineering, and planning, leaving little for actual projects.

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 42) (continued)

Office	Question	Comment
Mayor	42	Municipalities are being forced to raise user fees, to cut services in some areas, and to cope with antique infrastructure. Help comes in the way of state and federal matching grant programs, some of which have been expanded while other has been downsized.
Mayor	42	The state legislature is micro managing local government whether it is cities, town, counties, or schools. They decide what revenues we can receive and how we collect those fees. We are supposed to have "home rule" but in reality we don't. If a community in southwest Indiana with a population of 500 has a problem the legislature passes a law that affects all communities from a population of 500 to 1 million. The governor and legislature have not addressed funding for future highway maintenance, yet they want to cut taxes. The legislature wants to pay for charter schools but do not have enough money for public schools and they want to cut taxes. The list goes on and on.
Mayor	42	The state needs to create incentives for counties under 50,000 population. County/local government [should] work to consolidate all aspects of operations. In our county we had three dispatch centers. [We] forced the closing of two and the county then came back and charged our municipality for that service. [We need] incentives for adjoining counties to work together for dispatch. A well trained dispatch center can handle a considerable call count than two adjoining counties both operating two separate systems. [We need] incentives to get rid to township government, consolidate law enforcement/fire/emergency medical services under one umbrella, consolidate libraries under the school systems, when applying for grants if you have done X Y and Z you get more points for your grant application. We make government too difficult with all the barriers many local/county officials put up. [There are] different work rules for police/fire/emergency medical services for communities under 10,000 since they would not have a human resource department can function more efficiently. Consolidate, consolidate. Break down the barriers with incentives. Develop the model for community/county and set the bar for those to achieve.
Town council member	42	1. Due to forced budget reductions we have not increased employee wages for five (5) years. 2. I do not understand the need for the county council's approval of our budget. 3. All day kindergarten and preschool is the responsibility of the Department of Education and needs to be fully funded. 4. State legislators need to wake up. Not all citizens in Indiana live in [one] county.
Town council member	42	1. Not enough local ability to tailor revenues to local situations, whether it is county, city or town. Town should be able to have their own LOIT. 2. We need PILOTS for nonprofits. Religious entities are building garden homes that only a few rich can enjoy. [They are] not helping all and should pay for public safety at least. 3. Make education for government officials affordable. I can't always afford Indiana Association of Cities and Town's seminars, etc. especially with the tax caps.
Town council member	42	We are still taking baby steps as we learn our way in government. This is our second elected board as finances become available we try to spend wisely for our future.
Town council member	42	Expense in trying to become compliant with Indiana Department of Environmental Management on sewage plant operations
Town council member	42	I am of the opinion we have too many layers of government. I also believe government needs to be run from the bottom up instead of the top down.
Town council member	42	Indianapolis needs to remember our county is part of Indiana.
Town council member	42	Interaction with the residents can be very delicate at times. This is mainly caused by a lack of communication. I was lucky enough to realize the importance of participation but was never raised or taught in school to do so. I love being on the town council and I try to make decisions in the best interest of my residents. This is a thankless job and I do not do it for the money. I live in a small community and I wish I could get more residents involved. Times have change and people are not proactive. Reactive is the trend now.
Town council member	42	It seems that almost everything is an issue in one way or another.

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 42) (continued)

Office	Question	Comment
Town council member	42	[My town] has a new water plant paid for with grant money, but the plant was not built to 10 state standards. Indiana Department of Environmental Management made suggestions as to what should be included in the plant, but the builder installed substandard equipment and they have neglected to take the 12 consecutive samples as required by the contract and by Indiana Department of Environmental Management. The previous town board president signed off on the contract in the month after the new board took over and we can't compel [the builder] to fulfill their requirements and Indiana Department of Environmental Management says they can't do anything about it since it was signed off. [My town] has been stuck with a huge chemical bill that wasn't in the original design and replacement parts such as filters can only be purchased from [the builder] because they designed the plant to accommodate their own patented products. The company that previously operated our water and sewer plants quit, leaving us to hire new operators and the other board member to work free of charge until our new operator gets his license.
Town council member	42	Not enough revenue. Too many restrictions. No one person in charge.
Town council member	42	Our community is largely comprised of low and moderate income earners with the oldest of the old population in Indiana. This demographic has largely been unchanged for decades. Our issues have not changed much for many years, and are unlikely to do so; however, we have had some positive developments occur recently that gives me hope for at least minor improvements in the near future.
Town council member	42	What reaction would we get from the "state" if we were to conduct a local referendum that would approve a 25-30 percent increase in our annual tax levy? We would still have the lowest rate of any municipality in our county! How do we go about obtaining Department of Local Government Finance approval to increase levy rates so we don't have to accumulate four or five years to do necessary street repairs?
Town council member	42	Tax abatements and TIF's in the same area, no pass through support for the local governments that are required to provide services. Lack of dispatch training, software, and funding to support area services.
Town council member	42	The reduction of tax dollars is affecting the viability of the community. It will soon start to take away from the services and employment in our town. Our budgeting becomes more difficult every year in maintaining it as balanced.
Town council member	42	There are 32 homes in this town. We are on state highway. There is no gas station here. We have to drive six miles to [the nearest] for this.
Town council member	42	They lottery was for Build Indiana. If you are not going to use it that way, do away with it. Get rid of the illegals. Fine the companies that have them. [Do not give them] free health care. Tax them at a higher rate, say, four times.
Town council member	42	[In our town] we have only REMC street lights and a cable company that runs through here. We have a cemetery that the town keeps mowed. About once every five to ten years we help the county pave a street. That's it.
Town council member	42	Unsafe property that consumes the majority of our downtown, however, we do not have the funding available for litigation with the property owners.
Town council member	42	Very small community where we see very few changes
Town council member	42	We are a small town and most of the questions do not involve our local government.
Town council member	42	We are going to need to find other funding sources to continue to support the type of programs requested by our residents.
Town council member	42	We are very concerned about how the new highway will affect our town. We have been diligently trying to address these concerns through committees and grants to improve our town. We are trying to make [our town] a destination and bedroom community to [the nearby city]. We have received a grant through OCRA to improve our downtown sidewalks and update lighting, crosswalks, and drainage etc. We will be addressing the main exit from the new highway. We want to annex that portion to accommodate new businesses on that strip of land. But through the course of two town clerks who were derelict in their duties, we have some financial problems that have stifled our progress. We are hoping that next year we be in a better position to advance these plans.
Township trustee	42	#1: Unelected bureaucrats.

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 42) (continued)

Office	Question	Comment
Township trustee	42	Law: Trustee must take care of abandon/unused cemeteries. Can't get enough funds for mowing, tree cutting. Law: Help (assist) with bills, medicines, rent, food for those in need. I don't get enough to serve all in need. I don't get enough for supplies (I buy out-of-pocket) nor do I get a paycheck, rent, travel expenses, etc. My predecessor did not turn in a budget, therefore, my "budget" is shot! Why wasn't he forced to do his job or at least be made accountable for his error/neglect?
Township trustee	42	Fire and emergency medical services regulations are more demanding to replace gear and equipment to meet state and federal guidelines. CAPS have been placed on townships and fire departments restricting them to cut funding in other areas. These restrictions have now impact operations to decrease our budget with no recourse to recoup.
Township trustee	42	I do not know the answers to the majority of these questions. Therefore, I hesitated to return this.
Township trustee	42	I'm a small township and most of these comments don't pertain. The state owns around 25 thousand acres in my school corporation. So our schools have been hurting for years. I contract fire protection and help with township welfare mostly.
Township trustee	42	ITA [Indiana Township Association] needs to teach budget and annual reports through [their] website. I hate paying NIPSCO for not using any gas from May-to-Oct. It's robbery at \$60 per month.
Township trustee	42	Quit trying to change local government without having sincere input and ideas from those who work with it daily!
Township trustee	42	State attempts to eliminate township government. Poverty leading to drug use and increased demands on township assistance dollars also from a lack of high paying jobs to lift folks out of poverty and declining wages and availability of jobs.
Township trustee	42	Study too long. Don't have time to complete. Needs to be shorter.
Township trustee	42	Too much government at state and federal levels. Too much waste, too many perks and entitlements for state and federal politicians. Too many decisions are made for only self-gain and party affiliation - not for what is best for the country, state, or county as a whole.
School board member	42	This survey took a long time to complete.
School board member	42	The bottom line is communities all over the state are being dictated by federal and state government. I was a teacher for 30 years [and have] been on the school board for six years and all these requirements coming down from the federal and state governments are killing education. Teaching to a test, merit pay, union busting, etc. Why don't they try and make public education look great instead of wanting it to look awful? I could go on but I just get more upset!!
School board member	42	City government and most levels of government are not responsive to citizens. Government cannot be trusted to act in best interests of the people. They are responsive to money sources. Overall, they cannot be trusted.
School board member	42	I believe that the further away from any local issues you get, the less effective solution you will get. Let local officials as much as possible decide local issues instead of someone in Indianapolis or Washington, D.C. who won't be around to pay for the decision made or have to deal with a poor solution they come up with.
School board member	42	I want to see more agencies working together.
School board member	42	I would like to see our local and state governments evaluate the efficiencies in their highway departments. [For] example, does it really take four men in a pickup to pick up road kill animals or twelve men and eight to ten trucks to do simple tasks as road patching or minor repairs? Performance pay should be implemented from top to bottom in government positions. Trim fat at all levels!
School board member	42	In K-12 education, we are adjusting to the accelerated rate of change imposed on us by the Department of Education. As a leader, I welcome these changes, but those in our charge, administrators and teachers, are suspicious of the superintendent's motives and methods. I believe that when fully implemented, the reforms will lead to improved student performance, and the teachers will discover that the new methodology is not as frightening as they imagine. We are increasingly restricted in our taxing authority by the Department of Local Government Finance, making our operation of our Capital Projects and Bus Replacement funds more difficult to be properly equipped. The paperwork and documentation requirements of the federal Department of Education and other agencies is exploding, and creating a nightmare of administrative effort and expense. I wish the U.S. Department of Education were abolished.

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 42) (continued)

Office	Question	Comment
School board member	42	Inadequate state funding for our schools places our schools in the bottom five percent of funding resulting in program cuts and no money for reasonable teacher compensation (especially to reward those evaluated as "competent/highly competent.") Teacher layoffs and poor funding for raises will negatively impact quality of education in our locale which will eventually negatively impact property values and economic development. Schools should be more important than parks and roads!
School board member	42	Indiana schools need less standardized testing, and less state control. Use funding thrown away in those areas, and direct it toward things like e-book licenses and development. Give us choices, with less test emphasis.
School board member	42	My county is being treated differently than the rest of the state because we did not implement a local option income tax. This is hurting all the local governmental units because our rates have been frozen. Because we have not opted to use the local income tax option, we have made significant cuts across all governmental units. If one would review the austerity measures that have gone into effect across the board, you can see that we have a much leaner government than those counties that opted for the local option income tax. Our county should be applauded instead of vilified for holding the line and not taxing its citizens more money with another tax. There is a perception in Indianapolis that all the politicians in our county are corrupt. The famous quote is "You are entitled to all the lousy, crummy, graft-ridden government you are prepared to pay for." It makes it difficult to work with state agencies and other elected officials because of this preconceived notion.
School board member	42	Let the local government have control over their communities. The state is taking away local control, based on recent actions and the jest of this survey.
School board member	42	Most questions are towards municipalities and government. Not school issues.
School board member	42	Public education and civic duties need to be discussed at public events in the community.
School board member	42	I love our public education, but the state has let the students down by cutting the funding to public schools.
School board member	42	Indiana has cut public education funding and imposed property tax caps. Senator Brandt Hershmann has a plan to help mitigate the resulting deficits by rewarding the schools that are excelling. I support a change in the funding formula to assist those schools that are doing well in spite of the cuts to funding.
School board member	42	State funding of rural public schools is not only hurting education but the economic development of our county.
School board member	42	The general feeling is education is being targeted to become private.
School board member	42	The sooner schools are returned to state and local leadership, the better we will be able to properly prepare our future generations for success. Washington hasn't gotten very much right in education, period!
School board member	42	The state of Indiana is slowly destroying the Indiana public schools. Money from the schools is being used to support charter schools and vouchers, even in areas where good schools already exist. In addition, local schools have difficulty making improvements as the Department of Local Government Finance turns down many requests for money to make those improvements. The state needs to get out of local school governance.
School board member	42	Too many rules and changes without looking at all the outcomes.
School board member	42	We have too much turmoil between parties!
School board member	42	We really need help with school funding. The circuit breaker law has thrown all school systems in a deficit spending situation. We are now making tough choices on class sizes, consolidation of schools and employee layoffs.
School board member	42	When in 2009 the state took over 100 percent of funding for school general funds, control shifted away from local school officials. Ours is a very rural school district with different needs from larger, urban districts. When mandates come to us from state officials they often fit our needs poorly and hurt, rather than help our education process.

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