



Intergovernmental Issues in Indiana: 2010 IACIR Survey

Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations
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Indianapolis, IN 46204-1708



Center for Urban Policy and the Environment
Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs



November 2011

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Executive Summary

Intergovernmental Issues in Indiana (2010) is the tenth 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 issues facing local governments. The 2010 survey included 33 questions and addressed many issues included in previous IACIR surveys, as well as “hot topics” affecting local governments currently. The heart of the survey is a series of questions about 71 community conditions in six categories: health, economics, public safety, local services, land use, and community quality of life.

Methods and Response Rate

The IACIR administered the survey to 1,148 local officeholders in the fall/winter of 2010, including mayors, county auditors, one randomly-selected member of each board of commissioners, county council, town council with population greater than 500, and school board, and two randomly selected township trustees from each county. The effective response rate was 35 percent.

Findings

Economic issues, the cost and availability of healthcare, drug issues, obesity, and local roads and streets are pressing issues for many communities

Economic issues (*overall economic conditions, unemployment, poverty, business attraction and retention, and job quality*), *cost and availability of health insurance/services*, drug issues (*drug and alcohol abuse and drug crime*), *obesity*, and *local roads and streets* are the most pressing issues for many communities. These issues were identified most often as a current problem, or a problem that was worsening, most deteriorated, or most important to work on. Infrastructure (*storm sewers, sanitary sewers, combined sewer overflows, and local roads and streets*), *parks and recreation*, *K-12 education*, public safety services (*fire services and police/sheriff services*), were chosen most often as improving conditions.

Local governments respond to property tax reductions in a variety of ways

HEA 1001-2008 placed additional property tax controls on local governments, including property tax circuit breakers. 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. In 2010, the survey asked respondents to indicate which strategies their local governments have implemented. A majority of officials indicated that their local governments had frozen or reduced employee wages/salaries, stopped hiring, cut or delayed capital expenditures, cut or reduced spending on training and travel, and reduced spending on roads and streets.

Local governments continue to use tax abatement and tax increment financing

County and municipal officials reported using tax abatement and tax increment financing in 2009 and 2010. Officials reported using both tools more in 2010 than in 2009, likely as a result of improving economic conditions from one year to the other.

Local governments increase joint purchasing and continue to utilize cooperative service arrangements

All groups of officeholders, except township trustees, reported a greater use of joint purchasing in 2010 than in 2008. While most services are provided by local governments with internal resources, juvenile detention, vocational education, special education, property assessment, solid waste services, emergency medical services, emergency dispatch, drinking water utilities, roads and streets, and economic development were the services reported most often as being provided through agreements with other local governments, private firms, or nonprofit organizations.

Local governments continue to make changes in response to rising healthcare costs

While the provision of healthcare and pension benefits to elected officials and employees varies substantially across local governments, rising healthcare costs has affected a majority of local governments. Officials report that costs have continued to rise since 2008. The actions officials reported using to combat these increases most often include increasing official/employee contributions, and reducing coverage, and changing insurance vendors. Officials provided a broader list of “other” strategies in 2010 than in 2008.

Local governments continue to provide training for elected officials and full-time employees

While officials reported reductions in training and travel, local governments continue to invest in training for their elected officials and full-time employees. A majority of respondents from all types of local governments, except townships, provide education and training for full-time employees. A majority of counties, cities, and school districts provide education and training for elected officials as well. A majority of trustees reported spending nothing for training for elected officials, full-time employees, and part-time employees. A majority of other groups of officials generally reported spending modest amounts, typically less than \$500, per elected official or full-time employee. A majority of officials indicated that spending is likely to stay the same over the next two years. About one-third of officials reported expecting expenditures for education and training to decrease.

Infrastructure investment important to communities

Infrastructure, particularly roads and sanitary sewers, have been identified consistently over time as important community issues. 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 (44 percent), and storm sewers (38 percent) were identified most often as not receiving enough investment (or too little investment).

County and municipal officials overwhelmingly indicated needing additional road funding for maintenance and construction. When queried about new funding sources, respondents selected *earmarking state sales tax revenues from motor fuel purchases*, *removing State Police funding from the Motor Vehicle Highway Account*, and *exempting local governments from the state gas tax* most often as preferred mechanisms for increasing funding for local roads and streets.

Counties facing declining dedicated revenue for 911 services

911 services are funded principally with taxes on landline and cellular telephones. The use of landlines is declining and with it the revenue counties receive from surcharges on that type of telephone service. Statewide fees on cellular service often do not generate adequate revenue to cover these losses. A very strong majority of county officials reported a loss of revenue.

A number of counties are being forced to use property tax or local income tax revenues to fund this critical service. For county officials, the preferred options for replacing those revenues were to *increase state surcharges on pre-paid cellular service* and *increased state surcharges on contract cellular service*.

Local officials' knowledge of 211 services is limited

211 is a service that allows people in need to dial 2-1-1 on the telephone to find out where to get help with health and human services issues. 211 services provide referrals to a variety of organizations, including community, faith-based, and government agencies. Almost half of officials reported that they were not familiar with 211 services. A majority of officials responded that they either did not support an increase in public funding or did not know whether they would support an increase in public funding. It is clear that proponents of expanded 211 services will need to build awareness of the services and its benefits in order to build support for additional public funding.

Introduction

Intergovernmental Issues in Indiana (2010) is the tenth 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, and 2008.

A complete description of the survey methodology appears in Appendix A. IACIR members, staff and faculty from the Indiana University Public Policy Institute and School of Public and Environmental Affairs, the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, and the Association of Indiana Counties submitted issues and questions for inclusion in the survey.

The final survey included 33 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, and infrastructure funding. The questionnaire appears in Appendix B.

The mail survey was administered between September and early December 2010. 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 2010 survey. Only nominal results are reported here; no statistical testing was completed. Survey responses are reported by topic area. The results are presented generally in the order they appear in the questionnaire.

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 33 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.

Response Rates

The IACIR mailed 1,148 surveys to local elected officials, including one randomly-selected member of each county board of commissioners, county council, town council from communities with population greater than 500 persons, and school board. The survey was mailed to each county auditor and mayor. The survey also was mailed to two randomly selected township trustees. In cases when counties had both urban and rural townships, one of each was selected randomly. 405 surveys were returned. Four (4) additional surveys were refused.

The effective aggregated response rate for the survey was 35 percent (405 out of 1,144) (Table 1 and Figure 1). This response rate is lower than in previous years, but remains well above the typical rates that are expected for a mail survey. Among groups of officeholders, township trustees had the highest response rate (55 percent), and school board members had the lowest (21 percent).

Table 1: Response rates by office (Question 1)

Office	Effective responses	Mailed	Excluded	Effective return rate
County council member	35	92	1	38%
County commissioner	30	92		33%
County auditor	39	92	2	43%
Mayor	58	120		48%
Town council member	81	275		29%
Township trustee	100	184	1	55%
School board member	62	293		21%
Total	405	1,148	4	35%

Figure 1: Response rates by office (Question 1)

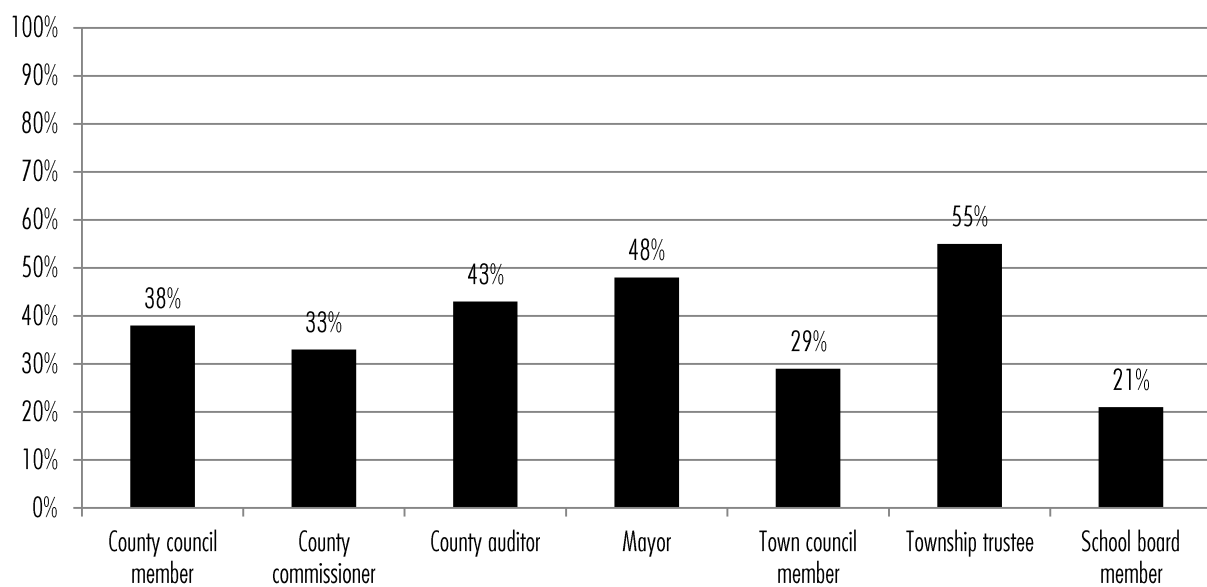


Table 2: Response rates by office by survey year (Question 1)

Office	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	38%	41%	37%	49%	64%	54%	52%	61%
County commissioner	33%	34%	45%	44%	53%	41%	51%	60%
County auditor	43%	-	-	-	-	-	--	-
Mayor	48%	41%	56%	63%	52%	50%	56%	61%
Town council member	29%	23%	25%	39%	37%	38%	32%	44%
Township trustee	55%	53%	52%	61%	57%	57%	43%	68%
School board member	21%	29%	31%	28%	44%	34%	47%	45%
Total	35%	41%	36%	41%	47%	41%	40%	51%

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 survey, but did not appear in previous surveys. 2010 respondents represent 370 local governments. All counties are represented by at least one local government respondent, except for Fayette 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 405 respondents, 18 percent completed the survey online (Table 4). Mayors (34 percent) and school board members (24 percent) utilized the online method more frequently than other officials. A greater proportion of respondents completed the survey online in 2010 than in 2008 (Table 5).

Table 3: Respondents by county (Question 3)

County	Respondents	County	Respondents
Adams	3	Lawrence	5
Allen	5	Madison	8
Bartholomew	5	Marion	9
Benton ^{ab}	2	Marshall ^b	7
Blackford	3	Martin	4
Boone ^b	6	Miami ^a	3
Brown	2	Monroe ^b	3
Carroll	6	Montgomery	5
Cass	3	Morgan ^b	3
Clark	1	Newton	1
Clay ^b	5	Noble ^b	8
Clinton ^b	4	Ohio ^b	3
Crawford	2	Orange ^b	6
Daviess	3	Owen	1
Dearborn ^a	7	Parke	3
Decatur ^b	2	Perry ^b	4
DeKalb ^b	3	Pike	3
Delaware	3	Porter	3
Dubois ^b	6	Posey	3
Elkhart ^{ab}	7	Pulaski ^{ab}	3
Fayette	0	Putnam	2
Floyd	6	Randolph	7
Fountain ^b	4	Ripley ^{ab}	6
Franklin	3	Rush	5
Fulton ^a	3	Scott	2
Gibson	4	Shelby ^b	4
Grant ^{ab}	5	Spencer	6
Greene	3	St. Joseph	6

Table 3: Respondents by county (Question 3) (continued)

County	Respondents	County	Respondents
Hamilton	7	Starke ^{ab}	6
Hancock ^b	6	Steuben ^b	5
Harrison	6	Sullivan	6
Hendricks ^b	7	Switzerland	2
Henry ^{ab}	3	Tippecanoe ^a	4
Howard	4	Tipton	1
Huntington	3	Union	1
Jackson ^b	2	Vanderburgh	3
Jasper ^b	4	Vermillion	5
Jay ^b	3	Vigo	4
Jefferson	4	Wabash	2
Jennings	5	Warren ^{ab}	2
Johnson	5	Warrick	2
Knox ^b	5	Washington	3
Kosciusko ^{ab}	6	Wayne ^{ab}	6
LaGrange ^{**}	1	Wells	1
Lake	13	White	4
LaPorte [*]	4	Whitley	5

^aSix respondents represent local governments that cross county boundaries

^bFor thirty-two counties, more than one county official returned surveys

Table 4: Method of completion by office

Office	Paper	Online
County council member (n=35)	92%	8%
County commissioner (n=30)	90%	10%
County auditor (n=39)	82%	18%
Mayor (n=58)	66%	34%
Town council member (n=81)	86%	14%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor (n=100)	86%	14%
School board member (n=62)	76%	24%
Total (n=405)	82%	18%

Table 5: Use of online method by year

	2010	2008
County council member	8%	5%
County commissioner	10%	16%
County auditor	18%	
Mayor	34%	23%
Town council member	14%	25%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor	14%	11%
School board member	24%	20%
Total	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 71 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. Respondents also were asked to identify the conditions that had improved and deteriorated most over the last year, as well as the conditions most important to work on over the next two years.

The 2010 survey reflects a few changes from previous years. *Too much low density development* and *too much high density development* were added in the Land Use category. *Childcare* was removed from the Community Quality of Life category.

Community Direction

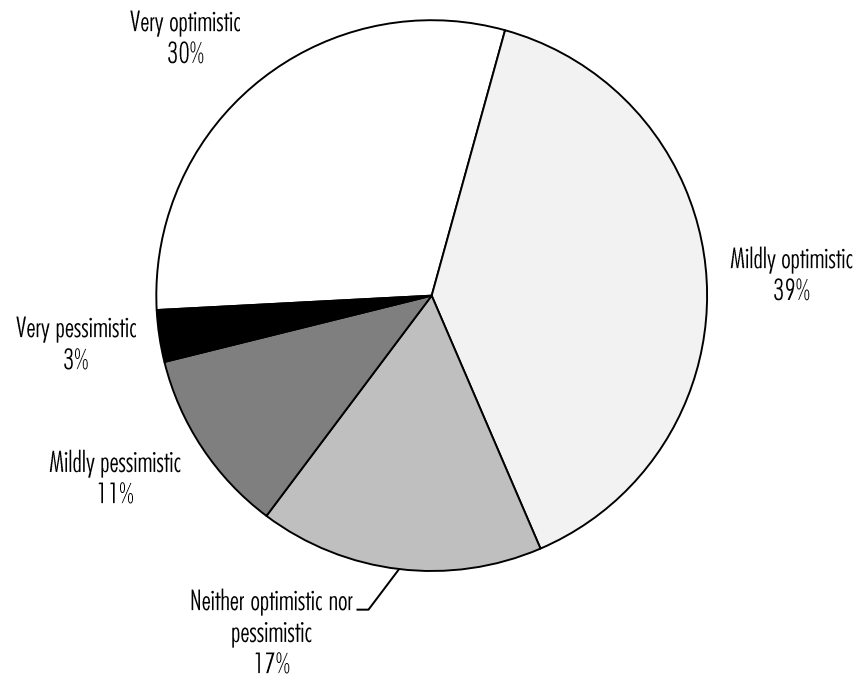
As shown in Table 6 and Figure 2, respondents are generally optimistic about the direction their communities are heading (69 percent). This represents more optimism than in 2008 but less than the previous surveys (Table 7). The decrease in optimism in the 2008 survey aggregate may be attributable, in 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) *

	Very optimistic	Mildly optimistic	Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	Mildly pessimistic	Very pessimistic
County auditor (n=38)	18%	53%	18%	11%	0%
County commissioner (n=28)	29%	43%	11%	18%	0%
County council member (n=36)	22%	44%	11%	11%	11%
Mayor (n=58)	52%	38%	5%	5%	0%
School board member (n=61)	25%	43%	16%	16%	0%
Town council member (n=79)	37%	37%	16%	8%	3%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor (n=95)	23%	32%	27%	12%	6%
Total (n=395)	30%	39%	17%	11%	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=395)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations,

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

	Very optimistic	Mildly optimistic	Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	Mildly pessimistic	Very pessimistic
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 71 community conditions, a majority of respondents identified more than half of the conditions (43 of the 71) as *minor or no problem* (Table 8). *Unemployment* (65 percent), *overall economic conditions* (56 percent), and *availability and cost of health insurance* (51 percent) were conditions identified as a *major problem* by a majority of respondents. Figure 3 shows the five conditions identified most often as *major or moderate problems* in 2010. Not surprisingly, economic issues were reported more often as problems in 2010 than in 2008 (Table 9). Furthermore, a greater number of respondents reported health issues as problems than in previous surveys.

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

Category	Condition	Major problem	Moderate problem	Minor or no problem
Health	Availability and cost of health services (n=387)	31%	42%	28%
	Availability and cost of dental health services (n=385)	22%	40%	38%
	Availability and cost of mental health services (n=376)	21%	43%	36%
	Availability and cost of services for people with disabilities (n=375)	20%	48%	32%
	Availability and cost of health insurance (n=383)	51%	35%	14%
	Care for the elderly (n=382)	15%	49%	35%
	Drug and alcohol abuse (n=378)	39%	48%	13%
	Smoking (n=378)	25%	52%	23%
	Obesity (n=377)	34%	52%	13%
	Chronic disease (heart disease, diabetes, etc.) (n=367)	26%	54%	19%
Economics	Overall economic conditions (n=389)	56%	38%	6%
	Unemployment (n=393)	65%	32%	4%
	Job quality (n=388)	44%	44%	12%
	Workforce training (n=385)	28%	47%	25%
	Business attraction and retention (n=383)	48%	39%	13%
	International trade (n=352)	27%	25%	48%
	Shovel-ready properties (n=373)	26%	33%	41%
Public Safety	Police/sheriff services (n=388)	6%	28%	66%
	Police-community relations (n=388)	6%	24%	70%
	Fire services (n=392)	3%	17%	81%
	Emergency medical services (n=385)	5%	21%	74%
	Emergency dispatch (n=387)	6%	20%	74%
	Violent crime (n=386)	7%	30%	63%
	Drug crime (n=387)	30%	51%	18%
	Youth crime (n=386)	15%	58%	27%
	Family/domestic violence (n=379)	12%	56%	32%
	Homeland security (n=379)	3%	15%	82%
	Jail facilities (n=381)	11%	23%	66%
	Youth detention facilities (n=369)	14%	33%	53%
	Disaster response (n=381)	3%	21%	76%
	Emergency warning sirens (n=385)	6%	23%	71%
Local Services and Infrastructure	K-12 education (n=377)	11%	23%	66%
	Drinking water (n=379)	3%	13%	84%
	Sanitary sewers (n=377)	10%	30%	59%
	Storm sewers (n=378)	14%	39%	47%
	Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) (n=350)	14%	30%	56%
	Local roads and streets (n=379)	20%	46%	35%
	Sidewalks (n=372)	21%	35%	45%
	Bridges (n=367)	13%	28%	60%
	Highways (n=370)	11%	33%	56%
	Public transit (n=341)	18%	27%	55%
	High-speed Internet access (n=368)	11%	30%	59%
	Parks and recreation (n=375)	5%	23%	72%
	Solid waste management (n=370)	5%	23%	72%

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

Category	Condition	Major problem	Moderate problem	Minor or no problem
Local Services and Infrastructure (continued)	Telephone (n=372)	2%	11%	87%
	Cellular telephone (n=371)	6%	20%	75%
	Cable TV (n=366)	5%	14%	81%
	Electric service (n=373)	3%	8%	89%
	Natural gas service (n=369)	3%	7%	90%
Land Use	Quality of development (n=369)	12%	35%	53%
	Increased amount of development (n=364)	15%	28%	56%
	Lack of development (n=370)	30%	37%	33%
	Quality affordable housing (n=371)	15%	40%	45%
	Balanced mix of housing types and prices (n=363)	13%	35%	52%
	Balanced mix of residential and nonresidential development (n=363)	12%	36%	52%
	Too much low density development (n=342) *	6%	15%	79%
	Too much high density development (n=340) *	5%	14%	81%
	Open space/green space (n=357)	3%	17%	80%
	Farmland conversion and loss (n=355)	6%	24%	71%
	Brownfields (n=348)	6%	27%	67%
Community Quality of Life	Air quality (n=378)	5%	20%	76%
	Water quality (n=375)	2%	17%	80%
	Traffic congestion (n=377)	6%	25%	69%
	Poverty (n=377)	27%	48%	25%
	Vitality of neighborhoods (n=368)	13%	41%	47%
	Vitality of downtown (n=363)	24%	39%	37%
	Arts and cultural resources n=360)	15%	27%	59%
	Community involvement (n=363)	13%	35%	53%
	Race-ethnic relations n=366)	5%	17%	78%
	Immigration (n=360)	9%	26%	65%
	Truancy and other school behavior problems (n=367)	10%	40%	51%

* New conditions added in 2010 survey

** 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)

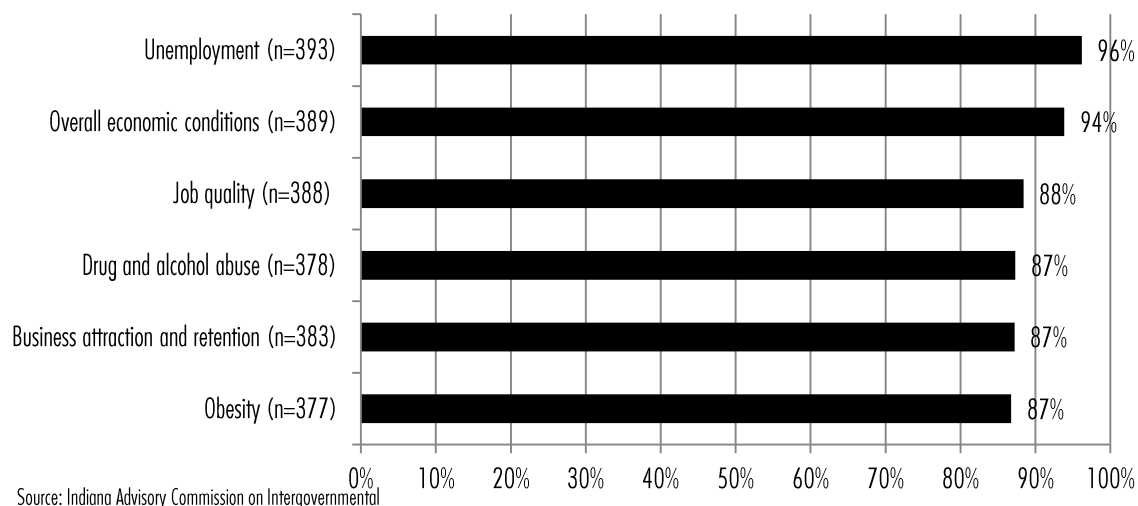


Table 9: Conditions reported as major or moderate problems by survey year **

Category	Condition	2010	2008	2006	2004	2003	2002	2001
Health	Cost of health services	72%	79%	83%	92%	94%	91%	68%
	Availability of health services				44%	47%	46%	
	Drug abuse	87%	85%	91%	90%	90%	85%	84%
	Alcohol abuse				84%	86%		
	Availability and cost of dental health services	62%	71%	—	—	—	—	—
	Availability and cost of mental health services	64%	68%	—	—	—	—	—
	Availability and cost of services for people with disabilities	68%	73%	—	—	—	—	—
	Availability and cost of health insurance	86%	88%	—	—	—	—	—
	Obesity	87%	85%	89%	—	—	—	—
	Care for the elderly	65%	69%	68%	62%	69%	63%	57%
	Smoking	77%	75%	—	—	—	—	—
	Chronic disease (heart disease, diabetes, etc.)	81%	80%	—	—	—	—	—
Economics	Overall economic conditions	94%	91%	82%	83%	91%	85%	—
	Unemployment	96%	88%	72%	79%	89%	74%	63%
	Business attraction	87%	82%	77%	80%	—	—	—
	Business retention				73%	—	—	—
	Job quality	88%	85%	76%	76%	—	—	—
	Workforce training	75%	72%	63%	64%	71%	59%	56%
	Workforce retraining	—	—	—	—	—	58%	49%
	International trade	52%	47%	—	—	—	—	—
	Shovel-ready properties	59%	48%	—	—	—	—	—
Public Safety	Police/sheriff services	34%	33%	30%	24%	—	—	—
	Police-community relations	30%	28%	25%	26%	30%	31%	26%
	Fire services	19%	21%	16%	15%	—	—	—
	Emergency medical services	26%	32%	29%	30%	—	—	—
	Emergency dispatch	26%	29%	—	—	—	—	—
	Violent crime	37%	40%	43%	38%	37%	33%	36%
	Drug crime	82%	75%	81%	76%	—	—	—
	Youth crime	73%	64%	71%	68%	—	57%	58%
	Family/domestic violence	68%	65%	73%	64%	—	—	—
	Homeland security	18%	25%	26%	10%	7%	—	—
	Jail facilities	34%	32%	44%	42%	47%	—	—
	Youth detention facilities	47%	44%	51%	52%	50%	—	—
	Disaster response	24%	30%	34%	27%	—	—	—
	Emergency warning sirens	29%	36%	—	—	—	—	—
Local services and infrastructure	K-12 education	34%	33%	36%	28%	34%	31%	36%
	Drinking water	16%	22%	18%	23%	19%	22%	23%
	Sanitary sewers	41%	39%	48%	49%	53%	52%	46%
	Storm sewers	53%	45%	54%	58%			
	Combined sewer overflows (CSOs)	44%	38%	47%	—	—	—	—
	Local roads and streets	65%	68%	69%	64%	67%	66%	62%
	Sidewalks	55%	52%	—	—	—	—	—
	Bridges	40%	44%	45%	—	—	—	—
	Highways	44%	46%	51%	52%	—	—	—

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

Category	Condition	2010	2008	2006	2004	2003	2002	2001
Local services and infrastructure (continued)	Public transit	45%	43%	52%	46%	45%	47%	29%
	High-speed Internet access	41%	45%	45%	46%	44%	43%	27%
	Parks and recreation	28%	26%	28%	30%	26%	25%	34%
	Solid waste management	28%	26%	26%	33%	37%	37%	29%
	Telephone	13%	16%	16%	21%	20%	23%	27%
	Cellular telephone	25%	32%	32%	40%	36%	32%	21%
	Cable TV	19%	26%	24%	29%	29%	34%	38%
	Electric service	11%	14%	14%	—	—	—	—
	Natural gas service	10%	18%	17%	—	—	—	—
Land use	Quality of development	47%	45%	53%	54%	55%	53%	50%
	Increased amount of development	44%	42%	50%	53%	52%	51%	53%
	Lack of development	67%	48%	48%	49%	—	—	—
	Quality affordable housing	55%	53%	56%	57%	57%	61%	61%
	Mix of housing types and prices	48%	44%	53%	54%	—	—	—
	Mix of residential and non-residential development	48%	45%	47%	46%	—	—	—
	Too much low density development*	21%	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Too much high density development*	19%	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Opens space/green space	20%	26%	36%	36%	34%	33%	37%
	Farmland conversion and loss	29%	42%	45%	51%	—	—	—
	Brownfields	33%	29%	36%	42%	34%	36%	32%
Community quality of life	Air quality	24%	23%	30%	33%	28%	22%	23%
	Water quality	20%	23%	20%	28%	22%	24%	24%
	Traffic	31%	34%	42%	54%	53%	56%	60%
	Poverty	75%	69%	70%	66%	71%	60%	50%
	Vitality of neighborhoods	53%	51%	56%	48%	51%	42%	43%
	Vitality of downtown	63%	60%	65%	71%	70%	66%	60%
	Arts and cultural resources	41%	36%	42%	46%	—	—	—
	Community involvement	47%	45%	59%	57%	57%	54%	39%
	Race-ethnic relations	22%	23%	32%	27%	26%	26%	29%
	Immigration	35%	37%	—	—	—	—	—
	Childcare	—	40%	45%	47%	—	—	—
	Truancy and other school behavior problems	49%	49%	—	—	—	—	—

*New conditions added to 2010 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 because of the changing environment or space limitations.

Change in Conditions

With the exceptions of *unemployment* and *overall economic conditions*, strong majorities of the respondents reported *no change* over the past year for all conditions (Table 10). Figures 4 and 5 show the five issues officials identified most often as improved and as worsened over the past year, respectively. Many of the same conditions have been reported as worsened by 25 percent or more of respondents since 2001, including *unemployment*, *overall economic conditions*, and *poverty* (Table 11).¹ No condition has been reported as improved by more than 25 percent of respondents since the 2004 survey.

Table 12 and Figure 6 show the top five issues identified as most improved over the past year. Local services and infrastructure issues, *fire services*, and *police/sheriff services* were considered most improved. Table 12 and Figure 7 show the top five issues identified as most deteriorated over the past year. Respondents considered economic issues (*unemployment*, *overall economic conditions*, and *economics*), *the availability and cost of health insurance*, and *poverty* most deteriorated during the past year. Similar issues were reported as most improved and most deteriorated in 2008 (Table 13).

Similar conditions were reported as improved in both Questions 5 and 6. Conditions found in the Local Services and Infrastructure, including *local roads and streets* 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, Figures 6 and 7).

Priorities for Action

Officials reported most often the need to address economic conditions (including *unemployment*, *overall economic conditions*, *business attraction and retention*, and *economics*) and *local roads and streets* over the next two years (Table 14 and Figure 8). These issues are consistent with those that have been identified most frequently since 1999 (Table 16).

¹ The rather stark relative differences between the proportion of respondents in Question 5 and Questions 6–8 are a function of question structure. In Question 5, respondents provided information about all 71 conditions. In Questions 6–8, respondents chose only 3 of the 71 conditions.

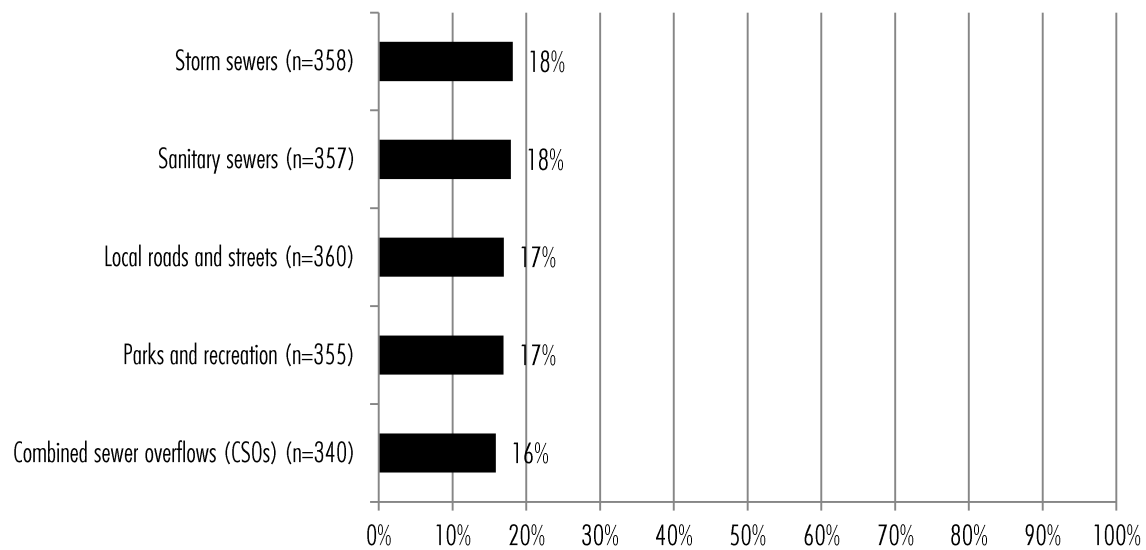
Table 10: Change in local conditions since last year (Question 5)

Category	Condition	Improved	Worsened	No change
Health	Availability and cost of health services (n=364)	7%	29%	65%
	Availability and cost of dental health services (n=363)	2%	17%	82%
	Availability and cost of mental health services (n=356)	2%	19%	79%
	Availability and cost of services for people with disabilities (n=354)	3%	13%	84%
	Availability and cost of health insurance (n=361)	2%	42%	56%
	Care for the elderly (n=358)	3%	14%	83%
	Drug and alcohol abuse (n=357)	2%	32%	66%
	Smoking (n=355)	10%	13%	77%
	Obesity (n=356)	5%	23%	72%
	Chronic disease (heart disease, diabetes, etc.) (n=343)	3%	20%	78%
	Overall economic conditions (n=366)	12%	48%	40%
Economics	Unemployment (n=371)	12%	50%	38%
	Job quality (n=366)	5%	34%	61%
	Workforce training (n=361)	11%	18%	70%
	Business attraction and retention (n=361)	13%	28%	60%
	International trade (n=336)	4%	13%	83%
	Shovel-ready properties (n=354)	14%	13%	73%
	Police/sheriff services (n=361)	9%	9%	82%
Public Safety	Police-community relations (n=360)	13%	9%	79%
	Fire services (n=362)	14%	5%	81%
	Emergency medical services (n=359)	13%	9%	79%
	Emergency dispatch (n=356)	10%	8%	81%
	Violent crime (n=359)	4%	14%	82%
	Drug crime (n=363)	3%	39%	58%
	Youth crime (n=359)	2%	31%	66%
	Family/domestic violence (n=357)	3%	24%	74%
	Homeland security (n=355)	4%	3%	92%
	Jail facilities (n=356)	9%	13%	78%
	Youth detention facilities (n=346)	5%	10%	85%
	Disaster response (n=354)	12%	4%	84%
	Emergency warning sirens (n=360)	14%	4%	82%
Local Services and Infrastructure	K-12 education (n=353)	13%	16%	72%
	Drinking water (n=358)	8%	3%	89%
	Sanitary sewers (n=357)	18%	12%	70%
	Storm sewers (n=358)	18%	12%	70%
	Combined sewer overflows (CSOs) (n=340)	16%	9%	75%
	Local roads and streets (n=360)	17%	31%	52%
	Sidewalks (n=355)	15%	19%	66%
	Bridges (n=348)	10%	13%	77%
	Highways (n=353)	10%	16%	74%
	Public transit (n=332)	8%	7%	85%
	Highspeed Internet access (n=352)	14%	4%	81%
	Parks and recreation (n=355)	17%	6%	77%
	Solid waste management (n=352)	8%	6%	86%
	Telephone (n=354)	3%	3%	94%
	Cellular telephone (n=355)	10%	5%	84%
	Cable TV (n=350)	4%	7%	89%
	Electric service (n=355)	4%	3%	93%
	Natural gas service (n=352)	2%	2%	97%

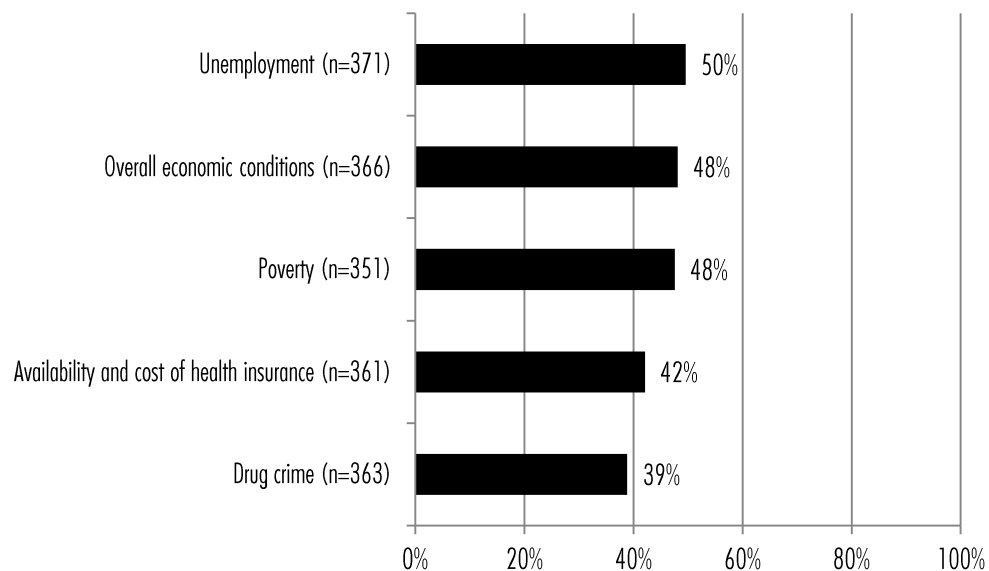
Table 10: Change in local conditions since last year (Question 5) (continued)

Category	Condition	Improved	Worsened	No change
Land Use	Quality of development (n=350)	8%	10%	81%
	Increased amount of development (n=347)	8%	15%	76%
	Lack of development (n=351)	5%	26%	69%
	Quality affordable housing (n=351)	9%	15%	76%
	Balanced mix of housing types and prices (n=348)	5%	11%	84%
	Balanced mix of residential and nonresidential development (n=347)	3%	11%	86%
	Too much low density development (n=332) *	1%	7%	92%
	Too much high density development (n=330) *	0%	4%	96%
	Open space/green space (n=344)	6%	4%	90%
	Farmland conversion and loss (n=344)	2%	10%	88%
	Brownfields (n=338)	7%	7%	87%
Community Quality of Life	Air quality (n=350)	4%	7%	89%
	Water quality (n=349)	8%	5%	87%
	Traffic congestion (n=350)	5%	14%	81%
	Poverty (n=351)	1%	48%	51%
	Vitality of neighborhoods (n=345)	7%	24%	69%
	Vitality of downtown (n=339)	15%	25%	60%
	Arts and cultural resources (n=339)	13%	7%	81%
	Community involvement (n=343)	15%	11%	75%
	Race-ethnic relations (n=347)	4%	6%	90%
	Immigration (n=342)	2%	18%	80%
	Truancy and other school behavior problems (n=346)	4%	19%	77%

*New conditions added to 2010 questionnaire

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

Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2011

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

Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2011

Table 11: Conditions identified as improved or worsened over the past year by survey year (Question 5)

Survey year	25% or more of respondents indicated improved	25% or more of respondents indicated worsened
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%)
2006		Drug crime (35%) Poverty (33%) Cost and availability of health services (33%) Overall economic conditions (33%) Youth crime (30%) Local roads and streets (30%) Drug abuse and alcohol (27%) Unemployment (27%) Vitality of downtown (25%)
2004		Cost of health services (51%) Overall economic conditions (42%) Drug abuse (42%) Unemployment (38%) Drug crime (38%) Poverty (34%) Traffic (33%) Business retention (31%) Vitality of downtown (30%) Youth crime (26%) Business attraction (26%) Farmland conversion and loss (26%) Local roads and streets (26%)

Table 11: Conditions identified as improved or worsened over the past year by survey year (Question 5) (continued)

Survey year	25% or more of respondents indicated improved	25% or more of respondents indicated worsened
2003	High-speed internet access (27%)	Unemployment (55%) Cost of health services (54%) Overall economic conditions (54%) Poverty (35%) Drug abuse (34%) Traffic (34%) Vitality of downtown (28%) Local roads and streets (25%)
2002		Overall economic conditions (59%) Cost of health services (54%) Unemployment (53%) Traffic (37%) Drug and alcohol abuse (31%) Vitality of downtown (30%) Local roads and streets (29%) Poverty (29%) Youth violence and crime (26%)
2001	Police-community relations (43%) Parks and recreation (40%) Amount of development (37%) Internet access (36%) K-12 education (34%) Quality of development (29%) Sewer (27%) Local roads and streets (27%) Solid waste management (27%) Volunteerism (25%)	Traffic (51%) Unemployment (48%) Local roads and streets (37%) Cost and availability of health care services (34%) Drug and alcohol abuse (34%) Vitality of downtown (32%) Youth violence and crime (29%) Quality affordable housing (26%) Open space (25%)

*The number of conditions expanded significantly in 2001, 2004, and 2008. Thus, readers should make comparisons cautiously.

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

Category	Condition	Reported as one of three most improved (n=295)	Reported as one of the three most deteriorated (n=327)
Health	Health**	3%	4%
	Availability and cost of health services	2%	8%
	Availability and cost of dental health services	1%	1%
	Availability and cost of mental health services	0%	2%
	Availability and cost of services for people with disabilities	0%	0%
	Availability and cost of health insurance	1%	12%
	Care for the elderly	4%	2%
	Drug and alcohol abuse	0%	9%
	Smoking	5%	1%
	Obesity	1%	3%
	Chronic disease (heart disease, diabetes, etc.)	0%	0%
Economics	Economics**	2%	10%
	Overall economic conditions	3%	17%
	Unemployment	5%	29%
	Job quality	1%	6%
	Workforce training	5%	2%
	Business attraction and retention	4%	9%
	International trade	0%	0%
	Shovel-ready properties	7%	1%
Public safety	Public safety**	8%	2%
	Police/sheriff services	9%	2%
	Police-community relations	6%	2%
	Fire services	10%	1%
	Emergency medical services	5%	1%
	Emergency dispatch	3%	0%
	Violent crime	1%	1%
	Drug crime	0%	9%
	Youth crime	1%	7%
	Family/domestic violence	0%	2%
	Homeland security	1%	0%
	Jail facilities	6%	2%
	Youth detention facilities	0%	1%
	Disaster response	2%	0%
	Emergency warning sirens	5%	0%
Local services and infrastructure	Local services and infrastructure**	6%	4%
	K-12 education	10%	4%
	Drinking water	3%	0%
	Sanitary sewers	7%	4%
	Storm sewers	6%	2%
	Combined sewer overflows (CSOs)	3%	1%
	Local roads and streets	14%	9%
	Sidewalks	4%	2%
	Bridges	2%	2%
	Highways	3%	1%
	Public transit	3%	1%
	High-speed Internet access	4%	0%

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

Category	Condition	Reported as one of three most improved (n=295)	Reported as one of the three most deteriorated (n=327)
Local services and infrastructure (continued)	Parks and recreation	9%	2%
	Solid waste management	2%	0%
	Telephone	0%	0%
	Cellular telephone	3%	0%
	Cable TV	1%	0%
	Electric service	1%	0%
	Natural gas service	0%	0%
Land use	Land use**	6%	2%
	Quality of development	1%	0%
	Increased amount of development	3%	0%
	Lack of development	0%	5%
	Quality affordable housing	4%	4%
	Balanced mix of housing types and prices	1%	1%
	Balanced mix of residential and non-residential development	0%	0%
	Too much low density development*	0%	0%
	Too much high density development*	0%	0%
	Open space/green space	1%	0%
	Farmland conversion and loss	1%	0%
	Brownfields	1%	0%
Community quality of life	Community quality of life**	5%	3%
	Air quality	1%	1%
	Water quality	4%	0%
	Traffic congestion	0%	3%
	Poverty	0%	15%
	Vitality of neighborhoods	1%	5%
	Vitality of downtown	8%	4%
	Arts and cultural resources	2%	0%
	Community involvement	5%	2%
	Race-ethnic relations	1%	1%
	Immigration	0%	3%
	Truancy and other school behavior problems	1%	2%
Other***	Other — No change	5% (14)	1% (3)
	Other — Drugs		2%
	Drug crime	<1%	1%
	Methamphetamine		1%
	Other — Water	1%	
	Other — Infrastructure	1%	
	Other — Local services	1%	<1%
	Other — Economic development	1%	<1%

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

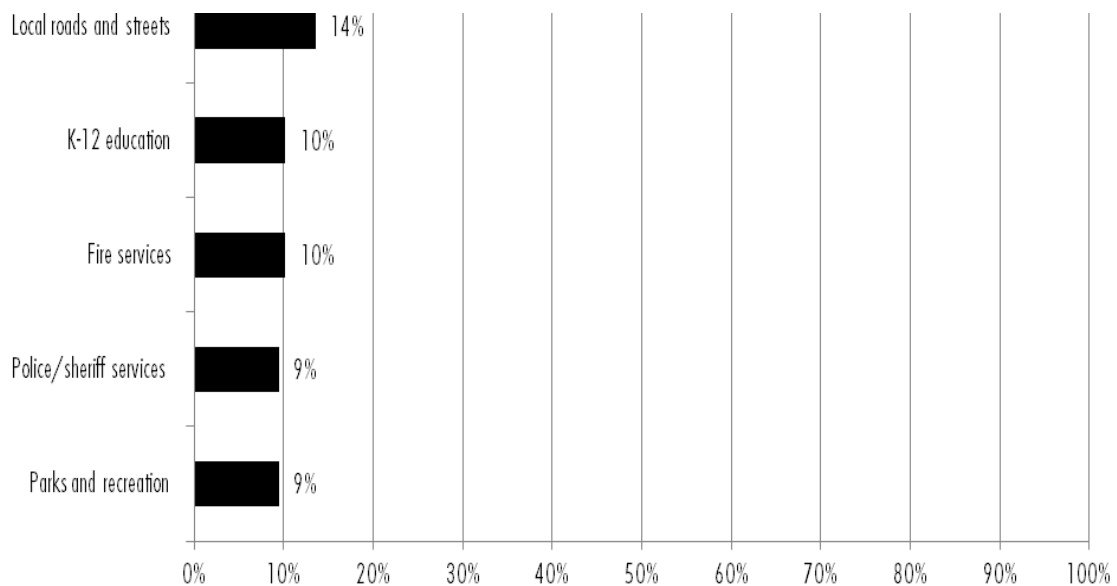
Category	Condition	Reported as one of three most improved (n=295)	Reported as one of the three most deteriorated (n=327)
Other*** (continued)	Other – Employment	1% (2)	1% (4)
	Other – Jobs	1% (2)	8% (25)
	Other – Emergency services	1%	<1%
	Other – Education	1%	
	Other – Development		1%
	Other – Overall economic development		1%
	Other – Amount of development	1%	
	Other – Other	19% (55)	24% (77)

*New conditions added to 2010 questionnaire

**In some cases, respondents identified general categories rather than specific conditions.

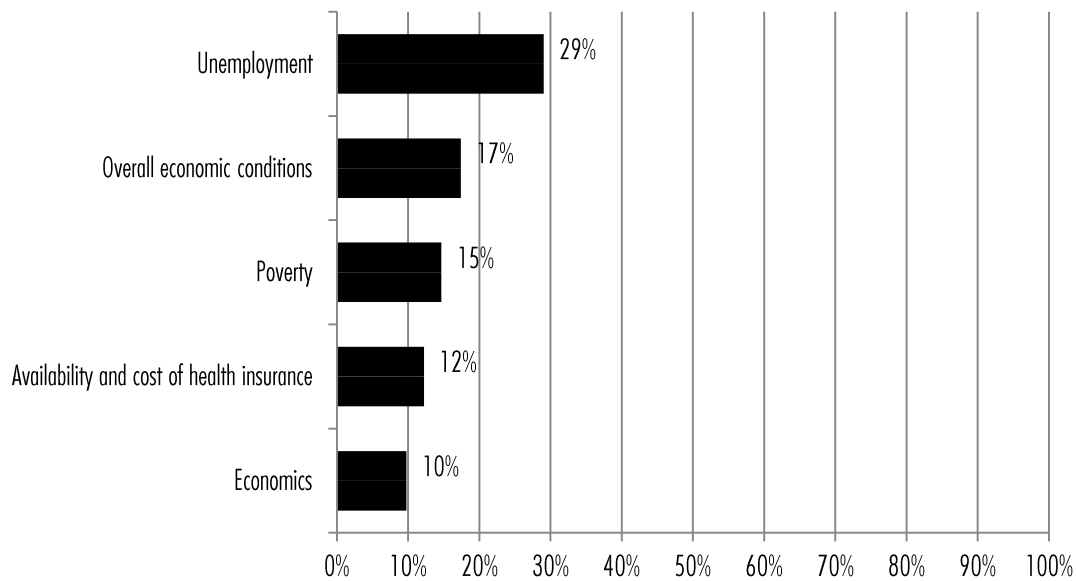
***In other cases, respondents identified conditions not listed in Question 4 or in a manner that did not allow the responses to be interpreted as one of the provided conditions. A list of these responses is provided in Appendix D.

Figure 6: Top five issues ranked as most improved during the past year (Question 6, n=295)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2011

Figure 7: Top five issues ranked as most deteriorated during the past year (Question 7, n=327)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2011

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
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%)
2006	K-12 education (14%) Business attraction and retention (12%) Public safety (11%) High-speed internet access (11%) Overall economic conditions (10%) Jail facilities (10%) Fire services (10%)	Drug and alcohol abuse (18%) Drug crime (14%) Cost and availability of health services (13%) Local roads and streets (13%) Overall economic conditions (11%) Unemployment (10%)
2004	Community involvement (20%) Vitality of downtown (12%) K-12 education (11%) Police/sheriff services (10%) Fire services (10%) Water quality (10%) Childcare (10%)	Cost of health services (19%) Traffic (19%) Drug abuse (16%) Vitality of downtown (16%) Poverty (15%) Drug crime (10%) Unemployment (10%) Local roads and streets (10%)

*These questions were changed in 2004 to assess the most improved and deteriorated conditions over the last year, rather than over the last five years. As such, this table does not have comparisons for survey years prior to 2004.

Table 14: Conditions ranked as most important to work on over the next two years (Question 8, n=333)

Category	Condition	Reported as one of three most important to work on (n=333)
Health	Health**	5%
	Availability and cost of health services	7%
	Availability and cost of dental health services	0%
	Availability and cost of mental health services	2%
	Availability and cost of services for people with disabilities	0%
	Availability and cost of health insurance	8%
	Care for the elderly	2%
	Drug and alcohol abuse	7%
	Smoking	1%
	Obesity	2%
	Chronic disease (heart disease, diabetes, etc.)	0%
Economics	Economics**	11%
	Overall economic conditions	17%
	Unemployment	33%
	Job quality	8%
	Workforce training	4%
	Business attraction and retention	15%
	International trade	0%
	Shovel-ready properties	2%
Public safety	Public safety**	5%
	Police/sheriff services	2%
	Police-community relations	1%
	Fire services	0%
	Emergency medical services	1%
	Emergency dispatch	0%
	Violent crime	1%
	Drug crime	7%
	Youth crime	4%
	Family/domestic violence	1%
	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**	3%
	K-12 education	9%
	Drinking water	2%
	Sanitary sewers	6%
	Storm sewers	4%
	Combined sewer overflows (CSOs)	1%
	Local roads and streets	10%
	Sidewalks	2%
	Bridges	3%
	Highways	1%
	Public transit	1%
	High-speed Internet access	1%
	Parks and recreation	1%
	Solid waste management	1%
	Telephone	0%

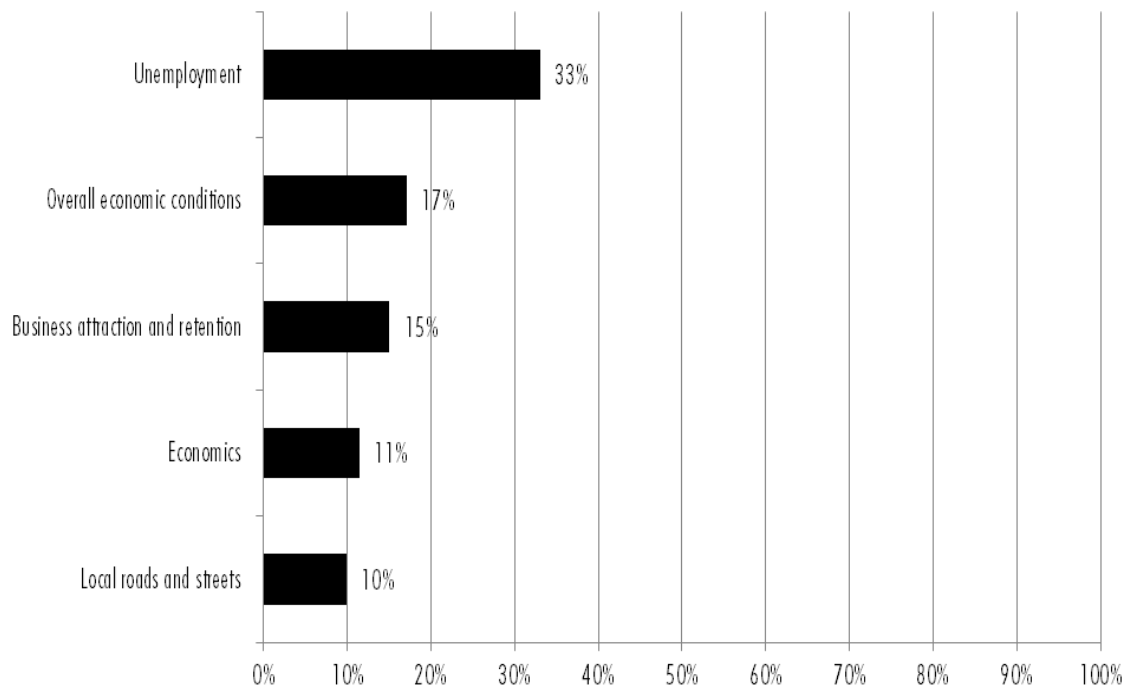
Table 14: Conditions ranked as most important to work on over the next two years (Question 8, n=333)

Category	Condition	Reported as one of three most important to work on (n=333)
Local Services and Infrastructure (continued)	Cellular telephone	1%
	Cable TV	0%
	Electric service	0%
	Natural gas service	0%
Land use	Land use**	3%
	Quality of development	1%
	Increased amount of development	1%
	Lack of development	2%
	Quality affordable housing	2%
	Balanced mix of housing types and prices	0%
	Balanced mix of residential and non-residential development	0%
	Too much low density development*	0%
	Too much high density development*	0%
	Open space/green space	0%
	Farmland conversion and loss	0%
	Brownfields	0%
Community quality of life	Community quality of life**	3%
	Air quality	1%
	Water quality	1%
	Traffic congestion	1%
	Poverty	9%
	Vitality of neighborhoods	2%
	Vitality of downtown	5%
	Arts and cultural resources	0%
	Community involvement	1%
	Race-ethnic relations	1%
	Immigration	3%
	Truancy and other school behavior problems	2%
Other***	Other — Jobs (30)	9%
	Other — Healthcare (12)	4%
	Other — Economic development (9)	3%
	Other — Employment (9)	3%
	Other — Drugs (5)	2%
	Other — Crime (3)	1%
	Other — Development (3)	1%
	Other — Housing (3)	1%
	Other — Lack of development (3)	1%
	Other — Infrastructure (3)	1%
	Other — Roads (2)	1%
	Other — Streets and sidewalks (2)	1%
	Other — Youth crime and drug crime (2)	1%
	Other — Other (91)	27%

*New conditions added to 2010 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 issues ranked as most important to work on (Question 8, n=333)

Source: Indiana Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2011

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
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%)

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
2006 (n=379)	Cost and availability of health services (17%) Business attraction and retention (16%) Economics (16%) Drug crime (14%) K–12 education (12%) Unemployment (12%) Local roads and streets (11%) Overall economic conditions (11%) Drug and alcohol abuse (11%)
2004 (n=440)	Cost of health services (18%) Business attraction (16%) Vitality of downtown (16%) Drug abuse (15%) Traffic (15%) Economics (13%) Local roads and streets (12%) Poverty (12%) Unemployment (10%) Community involvement (10%)
2003 (n= 457)	Overall economic conditions (28%) Cost of health services (26%) Unemployment (21%) Drug abuse (17%) Local roads and streets (13%) Health (12%) Economics (12%) K–12 education (12%) Traffic (12%) Sewer (11%)
2002 (n=476)	Cost of health services (26%) Overall economic conditions (22%) Unemployment (21%) Local roads and streets (18%) Sewer (16%) Drug and alcohol abuse (13%) Poverty (11%)
2001 (n=462)	Local roads and streets (27%) Sewer (20%) Traffic (18%) Unemployment (15%) K–12 education (15%) Cost/availability of health services (13%) Drug and alcohol abuse (13%) Economics (general) (12%) Vitality of downtown (11%) Land use (10%)

Property Taxes

PL 146–2008 placed additional property tax controls on local governments. Principal among these controls was the adoption of circuit breakers for individual taxpayers. These controls were added to the Indiana Constitution in late 2010. With few exceptions, property taxes on principal residences are limited to 1 percent of the assessed value of those properties. Similarly, a 2 percent cap is applied to residential rental property and agricultural land and properties, and a 3 percent cap is applied to business and industrial properties. Many local governments are facing reduced tax revenue as a result.

Question 11 asked officials about responses to these changes. Question 9 asked officials about the use of tax increment financing (TIF) and tax abatement since the changes. Question 10 asked officials about whether government and nonprofit entities, currently exempt from paying property taxes, should be subject to payments in lieu of taxes or be required to provide services at a reduced cost to the affected local governments.

As mentioned above, Question 11 asked officials to identify their local government's response to changing revenues. 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.

The 2010 question asked officials about 24 potential actions (Table 16). All options were selected in each group of officeholders except for county commissioners and auditors for *adopted or increased payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) arrangements*. In the aggregate, a majority of officials indicated that their local governments *had frozen or reduced employee wages/salaries* (63 percent), *stopped hiring* (60 percent), *cut or delayed capital expenditures* (54 percent), *cut or reduced spending on training and travel* (52 percent), and *reduced spending on roads and streets* (51 percent). Table 16 provides responses by type of officeholder. There is variation in the amount of use across officeholders and strategy. This likely reflects the differences in services, levels of activity, and the effects of the tax caps across types of local government.

Question 9 asked county and municipal officials about the use of TIF and tax abatement in 2009 and 2010. Officials, across offices, reported generally using tax abatement more than TIF. They also reported generally more use of both tools in 2010 than in 2009. These patterns may reflect the uncertainty that existed in 2009 and improving economic development opportunities in 2010.

Table 16: Local government responses to reduced property tax revenues (Question 11)

Question 10 asked local officials if they support requiring government units and nonprofit organizations in their communities to make annual payments or provide services below costs to local government in lieu of paying property taxes. *Private universities or schools* were the only organizations identified by a majority of officials (54 percent) as appropriate to require making payments in lieu of taxes (or providing services at a reduced cost to the affected local governments). More than 40 percent of officials indicated that *units of federal government, units of state government* and *nonprofit hospitals* should be required to make payments in lieu of taxes or provide services at a reduced cost. There was the least support among officials for using either of these cost recovery mechanisms for churches and other religious institutions and other nonprofits.

Table 17: Use of tax increment financing or tax abatement since 2009 (Question 9)

	TIF		Tax Abatement	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
County council (n=27)	67%	74%	89%	96%
County commissioner (n=15)	47%	67%	80%	87%
County auditor (24)	50%	54%	71%	79%
Mayor (41)	71%	76%	90%	90%
Town council (34)	35%	38%	56%	56%

Table 18: Payment in lieu of property taxes for community organizations (Question 10)

Type of organization	Should be required to make payments in lieu of property taxes to local government	Should NOT be required to make payment in lieu of property taxes to local government
Units of federal government (n=174)	46%	54%
Units of state government (n=173)	47%	53%
Units of other local government (n=188)	29%	71%
Nonprofit hospital (n=156)	47%	53%
Private university or school (n=156)	54%	46%
Church or other religious nonprofits (n=248)	35%	65%
Other nonprofits (n=105)*	36%	64%

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

Table 19: Service in lieu of property taxes for community organizations in lieu of property taxes (Question 10)

Type of organization	Should be required to provide services to local government below cost in lieu of property taxes	Should NOT be required to provide services to local government below cost in lieu of property taxes
Units of federal government (n=85)	44%	56%
Units of state government (n=93)	49%	51%
Units of other local government (n=119)	37%	63%
Nonprofit hospital (n=103)	49%	51%
Private university or school (n=90)	36%	64%
Church or other religious nonprofits (n=136)	18%	82%
Other nonprofits (n=62)*	13%	87%

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

Cooperative Arrangements

Cooperative service arrangements are among the options that local governments have for reducing costs and/or improving services. Cooperative arrangements were addressed in Question 11 above. Question 12 asked officials about whether particular services were provided through agreements with another local government, a private sector firm, or a nonprofit organization. Question 13 asked officials about cooperative purchasing. Questions 14 and 15 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.

In Question 11 (Table 16), local officials identified *having implemented cooperative service arrangements with other local governments* (30 percent), *having adjusted the terms for contract services* (27 percent), and *having engaged in joint purchasing with other local governments* (27 percent) most often among the responses reflecting cooperative arrangements. Question 12 (Table 20) asked respondents to indicate the arrangement used to provide each type of local service. A strong majority of officials reported providing services with internal resources for all services except property assessment (47 percent), special education (29 percent), juvenile detention (34 percent), and vocational education (28 percent). Officials reported juvenile detention (51 percent), vocational education (41 percent), special education (38 percent), property assessment (36 percent), and emergency dispatch (34 percent) as the services most often carried out through and agreement or contract with other local governments. Officials reported solid waste services (20 percent), property assessment (15 percent), juvenile detention (12 percent), emergency medical services (12 percent), drinking water utilities (11 percent), and roads and streets (10 percent) as the services most often carried out through contracts with private firms. Vocational education (23 percent), special education (18 percent), and economic development (17 percent) were identified most frequently as being provided through contracts with nonprofit organizations.

Table 20: Arrangements used to provide each type of service (Question 12)

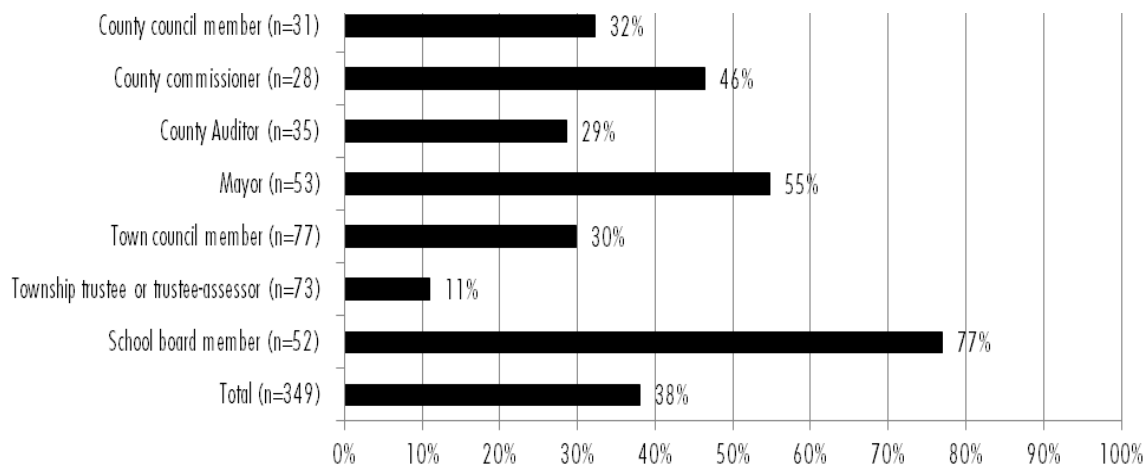
Service	My local government provides this service with internal resources	My local government provides this service through an agreement or contract with another local government	My local government provides this service through a contract with a private for-profit firm	My local government provides this service through a contract with a nonprofit organization
Jail (n=187)	75%	24%	2%	0%
Juvenile detention (n=148)	34%	51%	12%	3%
Roads and streets (n=278)	86%	3%	10%	1%
Parks and recreation (n=267)	91%	6%	2%	2%
Drinking water utility (n=217)	81%	7%	11%	1%
Solid waste services (n=241)	59%	19%	20%	3%
Sewer utility (n=219)	87%	8%	5%	0%
Police services (n=272)	96%	4%	0%	0%
Fire services (n=287)	70%	21%	2%	7%
Emergency medical services (n=249)	57%	24%	12%	8%
Emergency dispatch (n=258)	62%	34%	2%	2%
Planning/plan commission (n=244)	79%	19%	1%	1%
Economic development (n=243)	55%	25%	3%	17%
Vocational education (n=119)	28%	41%	8%	23%
Special education (n=130)	39%	38%	5%	18%
Property assessment (n=194)	47%	36%	15%	1%
Other (n=6)*	83%	17%	0%	0%

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

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). Question 13 asked if the respondent's local government purchased goods cooperatively in the last year. School board members (77 percent) and mayors (55 percent) reported most often their local government had purchased goods cooperatively in the last year. Township trustees reported using joint purchasing least among groups of officeholders (11 percent). All groups of officeholders, except township trustees, reported greater use of joint purchasing in 2010 than in 2008 (Table 21 and Figure 9).

Table 21: Cooperative purchasing by local government in the last year by office (Question 13)

	2010		2008	
	n	Percentage	n	Percentage
County council member (n=31)	31	32%	33	21%
County commissioner (n=28)	28	46%	30	37%
County auditor (n=35)	35	29%		
Mayor (n=53)	53	55%	44	32%
Town council member (n=77)	77	30%	95	17%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor (n=73)	73	11%	435	12%
School board member (n=52)	52	77%	71	70%
Total (n=349)	349	38%	708	21%

Figure 9: Respondents purchasing goods through cooperative arrangements within the last year by office (Question 13)

Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2011

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, and resource sharing. Question 14 asked how the amount of cooperative activity between respondent's local government and other organizations changed over the last two years. The 2006 survey asked about number of instances of cooperation. Table 22 shows that a majority of each group of officeholders, except mayors, reported that the level of cooperation over the last two years with other local organizations was about the same. Mayors (61 percent), school board members (49 percent), and county commissioners (38 percent) reported most often that the amount of cooperative activity between their local government and other organizations increased over the last two years.

Table 22: Change in cooperative activity between local governments and other organizations over the last two years by office (Question 14)

	Increased	Decreased	Stayed about the same
County council member (n=31)	19%	3%	77%
County commissioner (n=29)	38%	0%	62%
County Auditor (n=35)	29%	3%	69%
Mayor (n=54)	61%	2%	37%
Town council member (n=74)	28%	4%	68%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor (n=78)	15%	3%	82%
School board member (n=57)	49%	0%	51%
Total (n=358)	34%	2%	64%

Question 15 asked how local officials would characterize the working relationship between their local government and other local governments. Table 23 shows that respondents indicated positive working relationships other local governments in their counties. With the exception of other special districts, at least 70 percent of each of the remaining categories of officeholders indicated having a positive relationship with other types of local government. For special districts, 60 percent indicated having a positive relationship, 25 percent indicated having neither a positive nor negative relationship, 3 percent indicated having a negative relationship, and 12 percent indicated having no relationship.

Table 23: Characterization of working relationships between local governments within the same county (Question 15)

	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Neither positive or negative	Somewhat negative	Very negative	No relationship
County government(s) (n=351)	40%	34%	17%	6%	2%	1%
City governments (n=318)	35%	36%	19%	4%	1%	5%
Town governments (n=321)	41%	36%	16%	3%	1%	3%
Township governments (n=364)	37%	35%	19%	4%	2%	3%
School districts (n=345)	43%	30%	18%	4%	1%	4%
Library districts (n=328)	39%	34%	19%	3%	1%	4%
Other special districts (n=179)	36%	24%	25%	3%	0%	12%

Nonprofits and Government Services

Questions 16, 17, and 18 explored the relationship between local governments and nonprofits. Question 16 presented several contradictory statements about the relationship between local government and local nonprofit organizations. Local officials were asked to check the number along the continuum that reflects the statement they agree most with and how strongly they agree. Table 24 shows that local officials recognize the importance of nonprofits in local communities; 60 percent of respondents agreed that it is natural that nonprofit organizations participate actively in solving local problems. A majority of officials also believe that nonprofits should have autonomy over the selection of their activities (52 percent). However, with respect to functions over which local governments have control, respondents generally were less willing to view the nonprofit organizations as autonomous. More respondents agreed that it is important that local government controls how nonprofits use government funding (46 percent) than the converse (38 percent). More respondents (44 percent) also agreed that nonprofit organizations should not become involved in local government decision-making than the converse (28 percent).

Question 17 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 were also asked to estimate the number of hours per month they currently spend with each type of organization. Officials indicated belonging to all types of nonprofit organizations. *Sports, recreation, and social activities* (31 percent); *law, advocacy, and politics* (31 percent); *education and research* (29 percent); *economic and community development, housing, employment, and training* (28 percent); and *business and professional associations, unions* (25 percent) were listed most often as organizations in which officials are active as members. 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 25).

Table 24: Relationship between local governments and local nonprofit organizations (Question 16)

Statement A	2A	1A	0	1B	2B	Statement B
It is natural that nonprofit organizations participate actively in solving local problems. (n=350)	31%	29%	15%	17%	9%	It is not the purpose of nonprofit organizations to help solve local problems.
It is important that local government can control how nonprofit organizations use government funding. (n=346)	22%	24%	16%	21%	17%	When nonprofit organizations receive government funding, they should administer the funds as they wish to do, without government control.
Local government should have an influence on the activities of local nonprofit organizations. (n=344)	8%	17%	23%	26%	26%	It is important that nonprofit organizations have as much self-determination as possible with regard to their activities.
Nonprofit organizations should adjust their activities to the needs and preferences of government to get economic support. (n=341)	11%	17%	29%	24%	19%	Nonprofit organizations should not adjust their activities to what government will support economically.
It is important that nonprofit organizations participate in local government decision-making. (n=349)	9%	19%	27%	23%	21%	Nonprofit organizations should not become involved in local government decision-making.
Nonprofit organizations represent the public's interests on local issues. (n=342)	9%	21%	29%	23%	19%	Nonprofit organizations represent their own interests on local issues.

Table 25: Volunteerism by membership and leadership (Question 17; n=315)

Type of nonprofit or charity organization	Membership		Leadership	
	Active now	Active in the past	Active now	Active in the past
Culture and arts	14%	12%	7%	6%
Sports, recreation, and social activities	31%	23%	15%	17%
Education and research	29%	12%	18%	8%
Health	13%	8%	8%	7%
Social services (including emergency relief)	22%	8%	11%	8%
Environment and animal protection	13%	6%	6%	5%
Economic and community development, housing, employment, and training	28%	13%	20%	4%
Law, advocacy, and politics	31%	8%	18%	4%
Philanthropic institutions and promotion of voluntarism	19%	11%	12%	7%
International	3%	2%	1%	2%
Business and professional associations, unions	25%	11%	10%	6%
Other*	5%	1%	3%	1%

*Other nonprofit or charity organizations are listed in Appendix D

In the aggregate, officials who provided information about the number of hours spent reported that they spend 46.7 hours per month participating in nonprofit organizations (Table 26). These officials reported participating most often in *education and research* (n=87); *sports, recreation, and social activities* (n=85); *economic and community development, housing, employment, and training* (n=83); and *law, advocacy, and politics* (n=76) organizations. They reported spending the most time volunteering in *education and research* (7.7 hours per person per month); *law, advocacy, and politics* (7.3 hours); *economic and community development, housing, employment, and training* (5.5 hours); *sports, recreation, and social activities* (5.3 hours); *social services* (4.7 hours); and *health* (4.5 hours) organizations. The officials reported spending the least amount of time volunteering in *culture and arts* (1.1 hours) and *international* (0.3 hours) organizations.

More than three-quarters of respondents indicated that being involved with nonprofits or charitable organizations was important for their work as a local government official. More than 90 percent of county commissioners (95 percent) and mayors (94 percent) believed this involvement is important (Table 27).

Table 26: Volunteerism by number of hours spent per month (Question 17; n=202)

Type of nonprofit or charity organization	Officials reporting hours spent	Aggregate number of hours	Mean number of hours per person
Culture and arts	48	213.0	1.1
Sports, recreation, and social activities	85	1,072.9	5.3
Education and research	87	1,553.5	7.7
Health	34	903.0	4.5
Social Services (including emergency relief)	58	948.0	4.7
Environment and animal protection	34	447.0	2.2
Economic and community development, housing, employment, and training	83	1,103.5	5.5
Law, advocacy, and politics	76	1,481.5	7.3
Philanthropic institutions and promotion of voluntarism	57	583.0	2.9
International	11	57.0	0.3
Business and professional associations, unions	63	661.5	3.3
Other	19	400.0	2.0
Total	202	9,423.9	46.7

*Other nonprofit or charity organizations are listed in Appendix D.

Table 27: Importance of involvement in nonprofit and charitable organizations for work as an elected official by office (Question 18)

	Very important	Somewhat important	Neither important nor unimportant	Somewhat unimportant	Very unimportant
County council member (n=25)	28%	52%	16%	4%	0%
County commissioner (n=22)	68%	27%	0%	5%	0%
County Auditor (n=23)	48%	30%	17%	0%	4%
Mayor (n=52)	67%	27%	4%	2%	0%
Town council member (n=57)	51%	37%	11%	0%	2%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor (n=72)	49%	29%	14%	1%	7%
School board member (n=54)	63%	26%	7%	0%	4%
Total (n=305)	54%	31%	10%	1%	3%

Local Government Benefits

Questions 19–22 asked respondents about retirement and health insurance benefits. Questions 19 and 20 queried participants about whether retirement and health insurance benefits are provided to elected officials, full-time, and part-time local government employees. Questions 21 and 22 asked about the rising cost of health insurance and local government responses.

Respondents reported that a greater proportion of local governments provide healthcare benefits than retirement or pension benefits (Tables 28 and 29). A strong majority of city and county officials reported

providing these benefits to elected officials. With the exception of townships, strong majorities of officeholders reported providing healthcare and pension benefits to full-time employees. Few local governments provide either type of benefits to part-time employees. A smaller proportion of county council members, mayors, town council members, and school board members reported that elected officials received pension/retirement benefits or health insurance from local governments in 2010 than in 2008.

With the exception of township trustees, a strong majority of officeholders reported increasing health insurance costs over the last three years (Table 30). Half (50 percent) of township trustees reported increasing costs as well. The proportion of officeholders by type reporting that health care insurance costs have risen was greater in 2010 than in 2008. Nearly two-thirds of respondents reported responding to the rise in costs with *increased elected official or employee contributions* (64 percent). More than one-third of officials chose *reducing health costs by changing vendors* (39 percent), and nearly one-third of the respondents chose *reduced health coverage* (31 percent) (Table 31). Officials provided a broader list of *other* strategies in 2010 than in 2008.

Table 28: Provision of pensions or retirement contributions by office (Question 19)

	Elected officials			Full-time employees			Part-time employees		
	n	Yes	No	n	Yes	No	n	Yes	No
County council member	35	63%	37%	34	76%	24%	32	9%	91%
County commissioner	26	85%	15%	25	92%	8%	14	14%	86%
County auditor	37	86%	14%	36	89%	11%	24	0%	100%
Mayor	55	62%	38%	53	91%	9%	47	4%	96%
Town council member	72	17%	83%	78	76%	24%	70	7%	93%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor	88	32%	68%	83	36%	64%	79	4%	96%
School board member	55	24%	76%	57	96%	4%	54	20%	80%
Total	368	44%	56%	366	75%	25%	320	8%	92%

Table 29: Provision of health insurance by office (Question 20)

	Elected officials			Full-time employees			Part-time employees		
	n	Yes	No	n	Yes	No	n	Yes	No
County council member	32	81%	19%	33	91%	9%	29	14%	86%
County commissioner	28	93%	7%	28	100%	0%	18	17%	83%
County auditor	38	89%	11%	38	92%	8%	24	8%	92%
Mayor	58	72%	28%	58	91%	9%	48	10%	90%
Town council member	71	15%	85%	77	79%	21%	71	8%	92%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor	91	35%	65%	82	37%	63%	78	9%	91%
School board member	54	48%	52%	54	96%	4%	49	18%	82%
Total	372	53%	47%	370	78%	22%	317	11%	89%

Table 30: Local government health insurance costs have increased over the last three years by office (Question 21)

	Yes	No
County council member (n=36)	100%	0%
County commissioner (n=27)	93%	7%
County auditor (n=35)	100%	0%
Mayor (n=54)	94%	6%
Town council member (n=70)	87%	13%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor (n=64)	50%	50%
School board member (n=59)	95%	5%
Total (n=345)	86%	14%

Table 31: Steps local government have taken over the last three years to combat the rising cost of providing health insurance to elected officials and employees (Question 22; n=278)

Action taken	Percentage
Increased elected official and employee health insurance contributions	64%
Reduced health insurance coverage	31%
Reduced health insurance eligibility for officials and employees	11%
Reduced health insurance costs through a cooperative purchasing arrangement with the state of Indiana or another local government	4%
Reduced health insurance costs by changing vendors	39%
Reduced noninsurance expenditures	9%
Other—Employee health clinic (10)	4%
Other—Increase deductibles (9)	3%
Other—Health savings account (7)	3%
Other—Absorbed cost (4)	1%
Other—Investigated other sources (3)	1%
Other—Wellness program (3)	1%
Other—Reduced contributions (2)	1%
Other—Other (22)	8%

*In 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.

Education and Training

Questions 23, 24, and 25 asked about budgeting and expenditures by local governments for work-related and post secondary education for elected officials and/or employees over the last two years. Table 32 indicates that a majority of respondents from all types of local governments, except townships, provide education and training for full-time employees. A majority of counties, cities, and school districts provide education and training for elected officials as well. Part-time employees often are not provided with education or training. Tables 34 through 39 show the expenditures reported for elected officials, full-time employees, and part-time employees. A majority of trustees reported spending nothing for elected officials, full-time employees, or part-time employees. A majority of other groups of officials generally reported spending modest amounts, typically less than \$500 per elected official or full-time employee. A majority of officials in the aggregate indicated that spending is likely to stay the same over the next two years for all three groups. About one-third of officials reported expecting expenditures for education and training to decrease.

Table 32: Provision of work-related training and post secondary education for elected officials and/or employees (Question 23)

	Elected Officials			Full-time employees			Part-time employees		
	n	Yes	No	n	Yes	No	n	Yes	No
County council member	30	63%	37%	31	68%	32%	28	36%	64%
County commissioner	26	65%	35%	25	56%	44%	20	20%	80%
County auditor	38	50%	50%	38	50%	50%	31	13%	87%
Mayor	56	59%	41%	56	80%	20%	46	24%	76%
Town council member	68	43%	57%	75	85%	15%	62	24%	76%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor	79	37%	63%	74	34%	66%	71	20%	80%
School board member	53	57%	43%	55	73%	27%	49	43%	57%
Total	350	50%	50%	354	64%	36%	307	26%	74%

Table 33: Provision of work-related training and post secondary education for elected officials and/or employees over the last two years (Question 23)

	Elected Officials			Full-time employees			Part-time employees		
	n	Yes	No	n	Yes	No	n	Yes	No
County council member	30	63%	37%	31	68%	32%	28	36%	64%
County commissioner	26	65%	35%	25	56%	44%	20	20%	80%
County auditor	38	50%	50%	38	50%	50%	31	13%	87%
Mayor	56	59%	41%	56	80%	20%	46	24%	76%
Town council member	68	43%	57%	75	85%	15%	62	24%	76%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor	79	37%	63%	74	34%	66%	71	20%	80%
School board member	53	57%	43%	55	73%	27%	49	43%	57%
Total	350	50%	50%	354	64%	36%	307	26%	74%

Table 34: Annual expenditures on work-related and post secondary education over the last two years for elected officials (Question 24)

	None	\$1 — \$249	\$250- \$499	\$500- \$749	\$750- \$999	\$1,000 or more
County council member (n=28)	23%	50%	9%	5%	5%	9%
County commissioner (n=19)	5%	32%	32%	21%	0%	11%
County auditor (n=22)	18%	32%	25%	25%	0%	0%
Mayor (n=48)	29%	27%	17%	15%	10%	2%
Town council member (n=39)	45%	31%	12%	7%	3%	1%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor (n=67)	59%	19%	16%	3%	2%	2%
School board member (n=64)	15%	26%	33%	10%	8%	8%
Total (n=287)	34%	29%	19%	10%	4%	3%

Table 35: Annual expenditures on work-related and post secondary education over the last two years for full-time employees (Question 24)

	None	\$1 — \$249	\$250- \$499	\$500- \$749	\$750- \$999	\$1,000 or more
County council member (n=29)	17%	42%	21%	13%	0%	8%
County commissioner (n=19)	16%	26%	32%	11%	16%	0%
County auditor (n=24)	24%	34%	34%	7%	0%	0%
Mayor (n=51)	16%	24%	18%	20%	4%	20%
Town council member (n=36)	3%	22%	33%	18%	10%	15%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor (n=73)	63%	15%	12%	5%	3%	2%
School board member (n=60)	3%	17%	33%	17%	8%	22%
Total (n=292)	22%	23%	25%	13%	6%	11%

Table 36: Annual expenditures on work-related and post secondary education over the last two years for part-time employees (Question 24)

	None	\$1 — \$249	\$250- \$499	\$500- \$749	\$750- \$999	\$1,000 or more
County council member (n=19)	50%	44%	6%	0%	0%	0%
County commissioner (n=14)	64%	21%	14%	0%	0%	0%
County auditor (n=18)	84%	11%	5%	0%	0%	0%
Mayor (n=40)	60%	30%	3%	8%	0%	0%
Town council member (n=32)	67%	16%	8%	8%	0%	2%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor (n=63)	81%	10%	9%	0%	0%	0%
School board member (n=58)	31%	44%	16%	6%	0%	3%
Total (n=244)	64%	23%	8%	4%	0%	1%

Table 37: Work-related and post secondary education budget changes over the next two years for elected officials (Question 25)

	Increase	Decrease	Stay the same
County council member (n=23)	17%	26%	57%
County commissioner (n=26)	15%	46%	38%
County auditor (n=34)	0%	44%	56%
Mayor (n=54)	11%	35%	54%
Town council member (n=63)	8%	25%	67%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor (n=66)	5%	15%	80%
School board member (n=53)	6%	51%	43%
Total (n=319)	8%	33%	59%

Table 38: Work-related and post secondary education budget changes over the next two years for full-time employees (Question 25)

	Increase	Decrease	Stay the same
County council member (n=23)	17%	30%	52%
County commissioner (n=24)	8%	46%	46%
County auditor (n=34)	0%	47%	53%
Mayor (n=54)	13%	43%	44%
Town council member (n=73)	12%	25%	63%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor (n=56)	9%	16%	75%
School board member (n=53)	8%	51%	42%
Total (n=317)	10%	35%	55%

Table 39: Work-related and post secondary education budget changes over the next two years for part-time employees (Question 25)

	Increase	Decrease	Stay the same
County council member (n=17)	6%	18%	76%
County commissioner (n=17)	12%	35%	53%
County auditor (n=23)	0%	35%	65%
Mayor (n=45)	7%	29%	64%
Town council member (n=53)	9%	19%	72%
Township trustee or trustee-assessor (n=55)	7%	13%	80%
School board member (n=49)	10%	49%	41%
Total (n=259)	8%	27%	65%

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 and streets 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 26 queried respondents about the adequacy of investments, through public or private sources, for a number of types of capital infrastructure. Questions 27-29 addressed current investments and spending on road infrastructure, funding needs, and funding options. Questions 28 and 29 regarding annual maintenance and construction spending and annual funding needs were directed to county and municipal officials. Questions 26 and 29 were open to all respondents

Question 26 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* (44 percent), and *storm sewers* (38 percent) were identified most often as not receiving enough investment (or too little investment) (Table 40).

Question 27 asked county and municipal officials about changes in annual road maintenance and construction over the past three years. The results indicate that the changes in funding varied across local governments. Overall, more than one-third of local governments reported increases in road funding over the last three years, while more than two-fifths reported decreases (Table 41 and Figure 10). Readers should be cautious about interpreting increases, as one-time federal stimulus funding was available to some communities during this period.

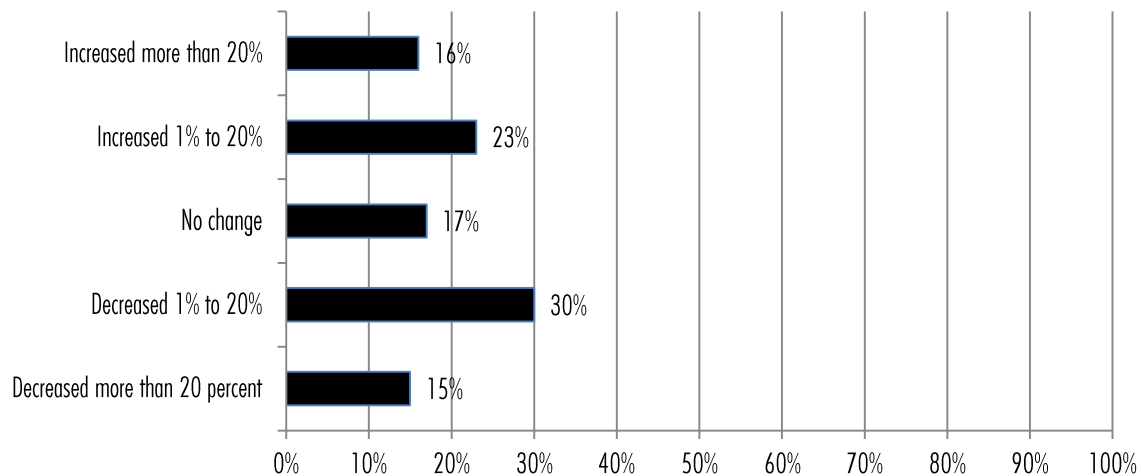
Table 40: Adequacy of local investment in infrastructure (Question 26)

	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
Highways (n=315)	1%	56%	44%
Local roads and streets (n=336)	1%	43%	56%
Bridges (n=294)	0%	64%	36%
Parks (n=326)	3%	65%	32%
Public school classroom and other instruction facilities (n=300)	9%	59%	31%
Public school performance and athletic facilities (n=300)	18%	61%	21%
Public library facilities (n=308)	10%	71%	19%
Drinking water (n=314)	1%	81%	18%
Sanitary sewers (n=320)	1%	70%	29%
Storm sewers (n=316)	0%	61%	38%
Telephone (n=290)	2%	90%	8%
Cellular phone (n=291)	5%	83%	12%
Highspeed Internet (n=290)	4%	74%	22%
Electricity (n=299)	2%	90%	8%
Natural gas (n=285)	2%	89%	9%
Other (n=9)	22%	0%	78%

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

Table 41: Change in annual road maintenance and construction expenditures over the past three years by office (Question 27)

	Increased more than 20%	Increased 1% to 20%	No change	Decreased 1% to 20%	Decreased more than 20%
County council member (n=33)	21%	33%	6%	24%	15%
County commissioner (n=27)	11%	15%	11%	41%	22%
County Auditor (n=29)	17%	21%	14%	34%	14%
Mayor (n=52)	15%	21%	12%	37%	15%
Town council member (n=62)	16%	23%	29%	19%	13%
Total (n=212)	16%	23%	17%	30%	15%

Figure 10: Change in annual road maintenance and construction expenditures over the past three years (Question 27; n=212)

Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2011

Question 28 was asked in two parts. Question 28a asked county and municipal officials to estimate how much additional funding is needed annually to maintain their community's existing road system. Question 28b asked them to estimate how much additional road funding is needed annually to construct new roads, bridges, and related capital infrastructure. Table 42 shows a lot of variation in funding needs for road maintenance and the construction of roads, bridges, and related infrastructure across municipal and county governments. Officials reported most often needing an additional \$100,000 to \$499,999 (28 percent) and \$500,000 to \$999,999 (20 percent) annually for local road maintenance. Officials reported most often needing an additional \$500,000 to \$999,999 (22 percent) and \$1,000,000 to \$3,999,999 (22 percent) annually for local road construction.

Question 29 asked all local officials to rank the top three options for providing increased regular funding for local roads and streets. Similar to 2008, officials chose *earmark state sales tax revenue from motor fuel purchases for road infrastructure* (68 percent) and *remove Indiana State Police funding from the Motor Vehicle Highway Account* most often as the preferred options for additional roads and streets funding (Table 43).

Table 42: Additional funding needed for local road maintenance and construction (Question 28)

	(a) Additional funding needed annually for local road maintenance (n=190)	(b) Additional funding needed annually for local road construction (n=152)
\$10,000,000 or more	9%	9%
\$7,000,000 - \$9,999,999	3%	5%
\$4,000,000 - \$6,999,999	6%	8%
\$1,000,000 - \$3,999,999	14%	22%
\$500,000 - \$999,999	20%	22%
\$100,000 - \$499,999	28%	17%
\$1 - \$99,999	16%	13%
No additional funding needed	4%	5%

Table 43: Funding options for local roads and streets (Question 29)

Funding options	2010 (n=216)	2008 (n=317)
Adopt mileage-based user fees	21%	22%
Remove Indiana State Police funding from the Motor Vehicle Highway Account	48%	47%
Earmark state sales tax revenue from motor fuel purchases for road infrastructure	68%	76%
Increase state sales tax and dedicate increase to local roads and streets	28%	19%
Expand local bonding capacity	14%	16%
Increase state gasoline tax rate	34%	23%
Allow the adoption of a local option gas tax	20%	20%
Exempt local governments from the state gas tax	36%	42%

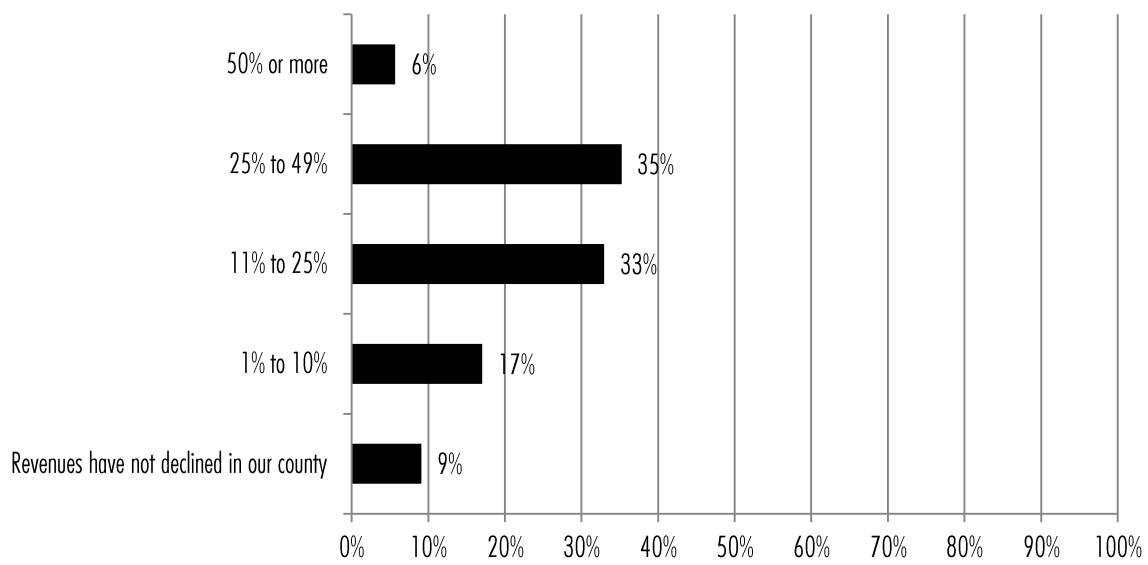
911 Funding

911 services are funded using a variety of revenues. Counties are allowed to set local surcharges on traditional landline telephones. The General Assembly has set statewide surcharges for cellular telephones that are distributed to local governments by formula, including a new surcharge on pre-paid cellular service.

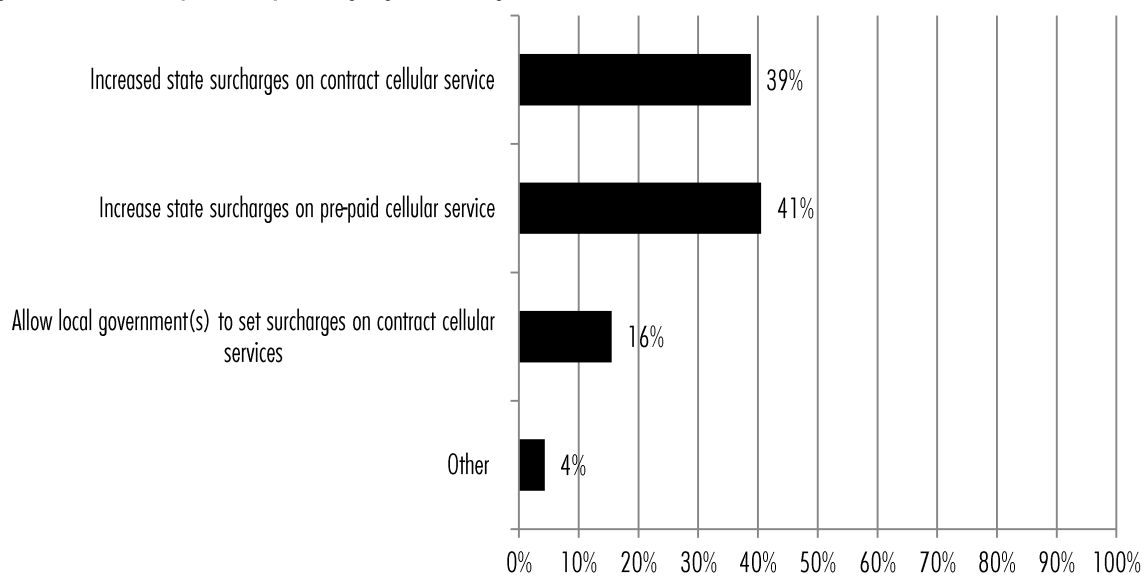
Counties are facing declining dedicated revenues to fund 911 services. The use of landlines is declining and with it the revenue counties receive from surcharges on that type of telephone service. Statewide fees on cellular service often do not generate adequate revenue to cover these losses. A number of counties are being forced to use property tax or local income tax revenues to fund this critical service. Question 30 asked county officials how much annual revenues from landline surcharges have declined in their county over the last five years and their preferred option for raising additional revenue (Table 44 and Figure 11). Most county officials reported a loss of revenue (91 percent). A large majority (68 percent) indicated losing between 11 and 49 percent of revenues over the last five years. The preferred options for replacing those revenues were to *increase state surcharges on pre-paid cellular service* (41 percent) followed closely by *increased state surcharges on contract cellular service* (39 percent) (Figure 12).

Table 44: Decline in 911 landline surcharges over the last five years by office (Question 30a; n=88)

	1% to 10%	11% to 25%	25% to 49%	50% or more	Revenues have not declined in our county
County council member	14%	21%	38%	10%	17%
County commissioner	17%	33%	33%	8%	8%
County auditor	20%	43%	34%	0%	3%
Total	17%	33%	35%	6%	9%

Figure 11: Decline in 911 landline surcharges over the last five years (Question 30a; n=88)

Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2011

Figure 12: Preferred options for providing regular funding for 911 service (Question 30b; n=114)

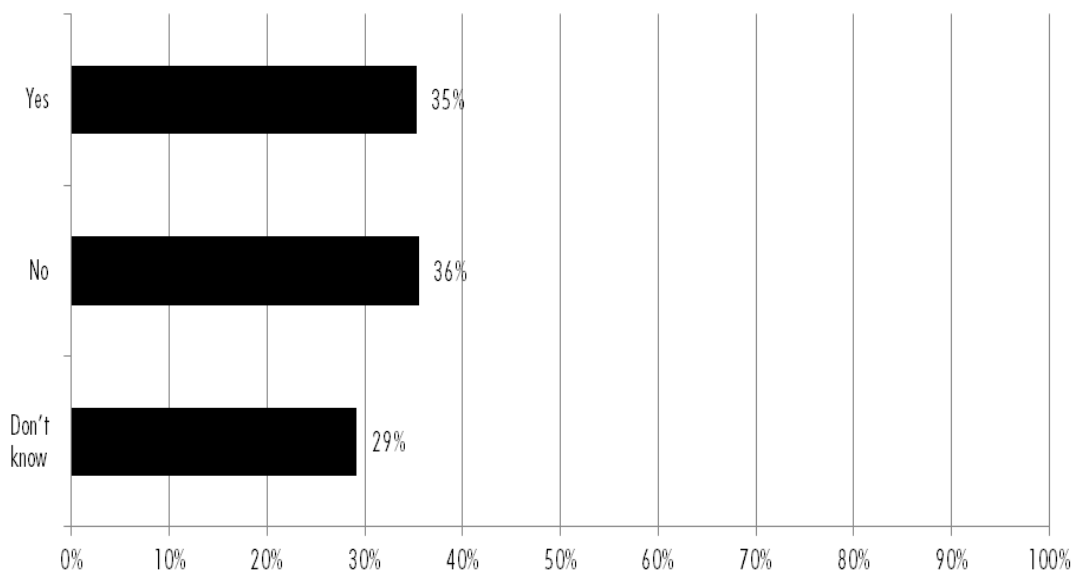
Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2011

211 Service and Funding

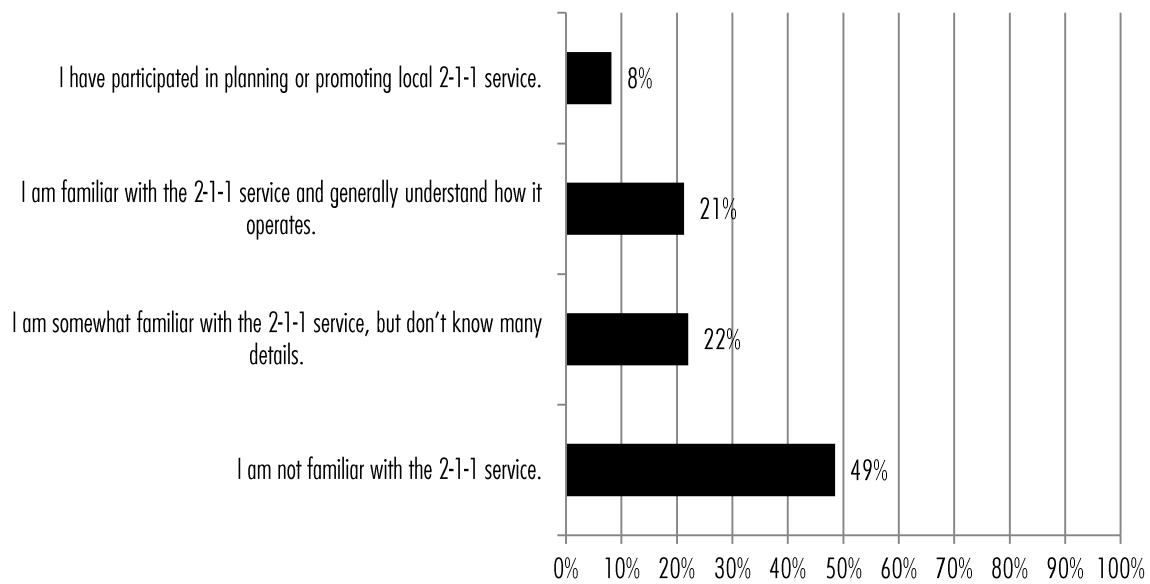
211 is a service that allows people in need to dial 2-1-1 on the telephone to find out where to get help with health and human services issues. 211 services provide referrals to a variety of organizations, including community, faith-based, and government agencies. Question 31 asked local officials about the availability of this service in their community, their knowledge of the service, and what they thought the usefulness was for the 211 service. Roughly the same number of respondents indicated that their communities had (35 percent) or did not have (36 percent) 211 services. The remaining respondents did not know whether their communities had the service. Almost half of the respondents indicated being unfamiliar with this service (49 percent). About two-thirds of respondents who expressed an opinion of the usefulness of 211 services indicated that it was very useful or somewhat useful (67 percent). More than one-quarter of respondents found it to be not very useful or somewhat not useful (28 percent).

The costs of 211 services in Indiana are currently supported primarily by private donations, but will need public funding (estimated at \$3 million) to meet the full annual cost (estimated at \$6-9 million) to operate and maintain the system statewide. Question 32 asked if public officials would support an increase in the amount of public funding for 211 to ensure that this service continues. Only 15 percent of respondents indicated that they would support increased funding. More than two-fifths of respondents said they would not support increased funding (44 percent). More than two-fifths (41 percent) said they did not know if they would support a funding increase. Based on these results, it is clear that proponents for expanded 211 services clearly will need to build additional awareness about the service and its benefits to be successful in securing additional funding (Figures 13 through 16).

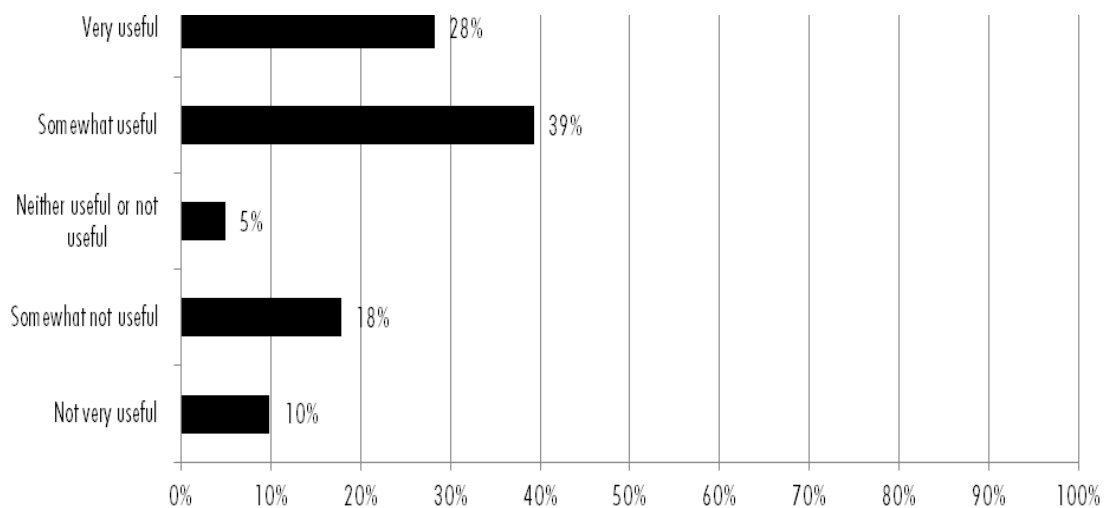
Figure 13: 211 availability in community (Question 31a; n=360)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2011

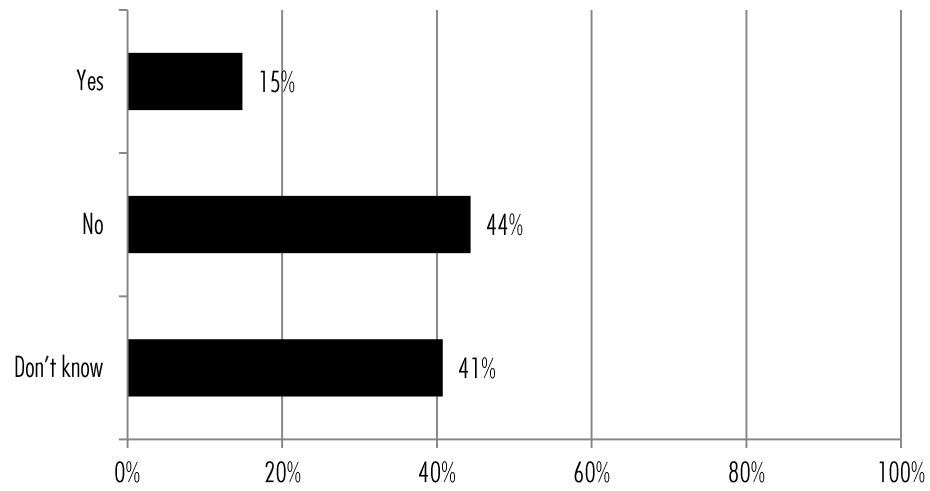
Figure 14: Local official knowledge of 211 service (Question 31b; n=268)

Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2011

Figure 15: Usefulness of 211 service in community (Question 31c; n=269)

Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2011

Figure 16: Support of an increase in the amount of public funding for 211 (Question 32; n=336)



Source: Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, 2011

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 2010 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 2010, the Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Center for Urban Policy and the Environment, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, and the Association of Indiana Counties submitted issues and questions.

The final questionnaire included 33 questions. The 2010 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, and infrastructure funding. 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 Township Association, and the Indiana School Board Association. Using these resources, commission staff identified all county auditors and mayors. Staff also randomly selected one member of each county council, county board of commissioners, town council representing a population greater than 500, and school board. The staff selected two township trustees randomly from each county including one trustee for an urban township greater than 10,000 population and one for a rural township with population less than 10,000. In cases when counties had only urban or only rural townships, two trustees were randomly selected from among all townships. The 2008 list included a broader sample of town and township officials than in 2006 and 2010. The resulting sample included 1,148 officials.

Administration of Survey

IACIR staff administered the survey by mail according to the procedures recommended by Dillman.² Cover letters explaining the purpose of the survey, the questionnaires, and business reply envelopes were sent on September 27, 2010 and were followed by reminder postcards sent on October 22, 2010. Officials who did not respond were sent another letter and replacement questionnaire on November 3, 2010. An additional reminder post card was sent out on November 15, 2010, and an email reminder was sent on November 30, 2010.

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.

² Dillman, D. (1999). *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 December 9, 2010, 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 33 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

Appendix C

Respondent Local Governments by County

Table C1. Respondent Local Government by County

County	Local Government
Adams	City of Berne
	Washington Township
	Adams Central Schools
Allen	City of New Haven
	City of Woodburn
	Town of Monroeville
	Jackson Township
	Southwest Allen County Schools
Bartholomew	Bartholomew County
	City of Columbus
	Columbus Township
	Sand Creek Township
	Bartholomew Consolidated School Corporation
Benton	Town of Boswell
	Town of Fowler
	Benton Community Schools*
Blackford	Blackford County (2)
	Washington Township
Boone	Boone County (2)
	City of Lebanon
	City of Jamestown
	Town of Zionsville
	Sugar Creek Township
	Zionsville Community Schools
Brown	Brown County
	Town of Nashville
Carroll	Carroll County
	City of Delphi
	Town of Flora
	Carrollton Township
	Washington Township
	Carroll Consolidated School Corporation
Cass	Cass County
	City of Logansport
	Logansport Community School Corporation
Clark	Clark County
Clay	Clay County (3)
	City of Brazil
	Corporate Town of Staunton
	Town of Harmony
	Brazil Township
	Clinton County (2)
Clinton	Town of Mulberry
	Center Township
	Warren Township
Crawford	Crawford County
	Jennings Township

Table C1. Respondent Local Government by County (continued)

County	Local Government
Daviess	Madison Township
	Washington Township
	North Daviess Community Schools
Dearborn	City of Lawrenceburg
	City of Aurora
	Town of Dillsboro
	Town of St. Leon
	Miller Township
	York Township
	Sunman Dearborn Community School Corporation*
Decatur	Decatur County (2)
	Town of Westport
DeKalb	DeKalb County (2)
	City of Auburn
	City of Butler
Delaware	Delaware County
	Town of Selma
	Yorktown Community Schools
Dubois	Dubois County (2)
	Town of Ferdinand
	Bainbridge Township
	Columbia Township
	Northeast Dubois County School Corporation
	Southwest Dubois School Corporation
Elkhart	Elkhart County (3)
	City of Goshen
	City of Nappanee*
	Concord Township
	Elkhart County Public Schools
	Baugo Community Schools
	Middleburg Community Schools
Floyd	Floyd County
	City of New Albany
	Town of Georgetown
	Town of Greenville
	Greenville Township
	New Albany Township
Fountain	Fountain County (2)
	City of Attica
	Millcreek Township
	Southeastern Fountain School Corporation
Franklin	Franklin County
	Highland Township
	Franklin County Community School Corporation
Fulton	Town of Kewanna
	Rochester Community School Corporation

Table C1. Respondent Local Government by County (continued)

County	Local Government
Gibson	Gibson County
	City of Oakland
	City of Princeton
	Town of Haubstadt
Grant	Grant County (2)
	Town of Matthews
	Town of Upland
	Marion Community Schools
Greene	Green County
	City of Jasonville
	City of Linton
Hamilton	Hamilton County
	City of Westfield
	Town of Arcadia
	Town of Cicero
	Adams Township
	Clay County Schools
	Hamilton Southeastern Schools
Hancock	Hancock County (2)
	City of Greenfield
	Town of New Palestine
	Buck Creek Township
	Center Township
Harrison	Mt. Vernon Community School Corp
	Harrison County
	Town of Lanesville
	Town of Elizabeth
	Harrison Township
	Heth Township
Hendricks	North Harrison Community Schools
	Hendricks County (2)
	Town of Clayton
	Lincoln Township
	Union Township
	Avon Community Schools
	Brownsburg Community School Corporation
Henry	Plainfield Community School Corporation
	Henry County (2)
Howard	Town of Middletown
	City of Kokomo
	Center Township
	Clay Township
Huntington	Kokomo-Center Township Consolidated School Corporation
	Huntington County
	Town of Warren
Jackson	Wayne Township
	Jackson County
	Jackson County
	Town of Brownstown

Table C1. Respondent Local Government by County (continued)

County	Local Government
Jasper	Jasper County (2)
	City of Rensselaer
	Town of Remington
	Keener Township
Jay	Jay County (2)
	Town of Redkey
	Greene Township
Jefferson	Jefferson County
	City of Madison
	Town of Hanover
	Madison Township
Jennings	Jennings County
	City of North Vernon
	Town of Vernon
	Center Township
	Columbia Township
Johnson	Johnson County
	City of Greenwood
	Town of Prince's Lakes
	Hensley Township
	Nineveh-Hensley-Jackson United School Corporation
Knox	Knox County (2)
	City of Bicknell
	City of Vincennes
	Vincennes Township
	Community School Corporation
Kosciusko	Kosciusko County (2)
	Town of Etna Green
	Turkey Creek Township
	Washington Township
	Warsaw Community Schools
LaGrange	LaGrange County
Lake	City of Crown Point
	City of Gary
	City of Hammond
	City of Whiting
	Town of Highland
	Town of Munster
	Town of New Chicago
	Town of Schererville
	Town of Schneider
	Hanover Township
	School City of Hobart
	School Town of Munster
	Lake Central School Corporation
LaPorte	La Porte County
	City of Michigan City
	Town of Kingsford Heights
	Hudson Township

Table C1. Respondent Local Government by County (continued)

County	Local Government
Lawrence	Lawrence County
	City of Bedford
	City of Mitchell
	Town of Oolitic
	Perry Township
Madison	City of Alexandria
	City of Anderson
	Town of Edgewood
	Town of Eldwood
	Town of Frankton
	Town of Summitville
	Alexandria Community School Corporation
	Elwood Community School Corporation
Marion	Marion County
	City of Indianapolis (2)
	City of Southport
	Town of Homecroft
	MSD Pike Township
	MSD Washington Township
	MSD Wayne Township
	School Town of Speedway
Marshall	Marshall County (2)
	Town of Bremen
	German Township
	Union Township
	Argos Community Schools
	Triton School Corporation
Martin	Martin County
	City of Loogootee
	Town of Shoals
	Rutherford Township
Miami	Miami County
	Town of Converse*
	Peru Community Schools
Monroe	Monroe County (3)
	Salt Creek Township
	Van Buren Township
Montgomery	Montgomery County
	Town of Darlington
	Town of Lagoda
	Union Township
	Wayne Township
Morgan	Morgan County (2)
	Madison Township
	Washington Township
Newton	Lincoln Township

Table C1. Respondent Local Government by County (continued)

County	Local Government
Noble	Noble County (2)
	City of Kendallville
	City of Ligonier
	Town of Albion
	Town of Avilla
	Town of Cromwell
	Wayne Township
	Washington Township
Ohio	Ohio County (2)
	City of Rising Sun
	Pike Township
Orange	Orange County (2)
	Town of French Lick
	Town of Orleans
	Jackson Township
	Orleans Township
	Springs Valley Schools
Owen	Town of Spencer
Parke	Parke County
	Town of Rosedale
	Rockville Community Schools
Perry	Perry County (2)
	City of Cannelton
	Leopold Township
	Troy Township
Pike	Pike County
	Logan Township
	Madison Township
Porter	Town of Beverly Shores
	Town of Hebron
	Duneland School Corporation
Posey	Posey County
	Town of New Harmony
	Black Township
Pulaski	Pulaski County
	Franklin Township
	Pulaski Township
Putnam	City of Greencastle
	Greencastle Township
Randolph	Parker City
	Union City
	Town of Farmland
	Monroe Township
	Wayne Township
	Randolph Central School Board
	Randolph Eastern Schools

Table C1. Respondent Local Government by County (continued)

County	Local Government
Ripley	Ripley County (2)
	Town of Sunman
	Delaware Township
	Johnson Township
	Jac-Cen-Del Community School Corporation
Rush	Rush County
	City of Rushville
	Union Township
	Walker Township
	Rush County Schools
Scott	City of Austin
	Lexington Township
Shelby	Shelby County (2)
	Addison Township
	Shelby Township
	Northwest Shelby Schools
Spencer	Spencer County
	City of Rockport
	Town of Dale
	Town of Grandview
	Harrison Township
	Huff Township
St. Joseph	City of Mishawaka
	Town of Lakeville
	Town of New Carlisle
	Town of North Liberty
	Town of Roseland
	German Township
Starke	Starke County (2)
	City of Knox
	Center Township
	Culver Community Schools Corporation*
	North Judson San Pierre School Corporation
	Oregon Davis School Corporation
Steuben	Steuben County (2)
	City of Angola
	Town of Hamilton
	Pleasant Township
	MSD Steuben County
Sullivan	Sullivan County
	City of Sullivan
	Town of Shelburn
	Curry Township
	Gill Township
	Haddon Township
Switzerland	Cotton Township
	Pleasant Township

Table C1. Respondent Local Government by County (continued)

County	Local Government
Tippecanoe	Tippecanoe County
	Town of Battle Ground
	Lauramie Township
Tipton	Tipton County
Union	Union County
Vanderburgh	City of Evansville
	Town of Darmstadt
	Center Township
Vermillion	City of Clinton
	Clinton Township
	Eugene Township
	North Vermillion Community School
	South Vermillion School Corporation
Vigo	Vigo County
	Town of Seelyville
	Pierson Township
	Sugar Creek Township
Wabash	City of Wabash
	Liberty Township
Warren	Warren County (2)
Warrick	Town of Lynnville
	Owen Township
Washington	Washington County
	Town of Pekin
	Polk Township
Wayne	Wayne County (2)
	Cambridge City
	Town of Fountain City
	Center Township
	Wayne Township
Wells	Nettle Creek School Corporation*
	Union Township
White	White County
	City of Monticello
	Town of Monon
	North White School Corporation
Whitley	Whitley County
	City of Columbia City
	Town of Churubusco
	Richland Township
	Smith-Green Community Schools

* Six respondents represent local governments that cross county boundaries.

** For three counties, a county commissioner, a county auditor, and a county council member returned surveys and are noted with "(3)".

*** For 27 counties, a combination of two of the three county officers returned surveys and are noted with "(2)".

**** A school board member and the Mayor of Indianapolis returned surveys, noted with "(3)".

Appendix D

Other Responses

Other Responses

Questions 1, 10, 12, 17, 22, 26, and 30b allowed officials to identify responses not included in the survey. Questions 6, 7, and 8 were open-ended questions and 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 are also listed here.

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 (14)
- Water (4)
- Infrastructure (3)
- Local services (3)
- Economic development (2)
- Employment (2)
- Jobs (2)
- Emergency services (2)
- Education (2)
- Amount of development (2)
- Youth facilities
- Working together
- [Street and highway] improvements
- We are upgrading the firehouse
- Two new businesses
- Surface drainage
- Street and sidewalks
- Some jobs
- School-new elementary
- School test scores
- School improvements, quality of education
- Sanitary/storm sewers
- Roads, streets, and sidewalks (trails)
- Retail development on eastside
- Repurposed existing buildings for city use
- Repair of curbs
- Public safety and police/sheriff services
- Public health-new sewers
- Proposed development at [nearby industrial park]
- Police effectiveness
- Parks and trails
- New middle school improved truancy and behavior
- New fire station
- New additions to hospital
- Minor improvement in jobs
- Medical services
- [Our local hospital]

- Local services
- Local roads and streets and sidewalks
- Land development
- K-12 education—two new K-6 schools in [our] county
- Housing prices have gone up slightly, but still low due to the economy
- High speed/fiber optics
- Health services
- [A new mental health facility]
- Government understanding of problems
- Government services
- Fire services and emergency medical services
- Emergency services
- Emergency response
- Emergency management
- Economic Development Committee
- Economic development
- Downtown streetscape
- Downtown facade
- Domestic violence services
- Curbs
- Crime
- Court services
- Community services for low-income families
- Community involvement with arts and culture
- Carey Services
- Business development
- We are breaking [ground] on a new bridge next week
- A new business is in town

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

- Other (77)
- Jobs (25)
- Drugs (8)
- Drug crime (2)
- Methamphetamine (2)
- Employment (4)
- No change (3)
- Development (2)
- Overall economic development (2)
- Help for the poor
- Illegal immigration
- Influx of illegal into our community
- Too many Mexicans
- Downtown business
- Downtown development stalled
- Economic development

- Income
- Lack of commercial development
- Poverty and lack of employment opportunities
- Quality of workers
- Economic development
- Lack of economic development
- Small businesses
- Unemployment/job availability
- Mental health
- Availability and cost of health services and insurance
- Cost of elderly care
- Cost of dental insurance
- Obesity and general health deterioration
- Development
- Land use development
- Affordable land development
- Land development
- Closing our K-6 school-Shame
- Electric rates
- Highways and roads
- Septic system
- Drinking water and sewage
- Public works services
- Funding for local services and public safety
- Homes
- Housing
- Increases in fuel and utilities
- Local services
- Park maintenance
- Road maintenance dollars
- Streets and sidewalks
- Water and storm sewer problems
- Crime by illegal [immigrants]
- Funding for police
- Fire protection—voluntary fire department—lacking revenue to do what needs to be done
- Public safety and fire services
- E911 funds
- Emergency services
- Drug issues
- Drugs in schools
- Youth using prescriptions drugs
- Condition of housing
- Education and employment
- Empty houses-foreclosures
- Flooding
- Foreclosure RE
- Privatization without looking at issues other than finance

- School funding—state formula
- Schools/funding
- Substance abuse/crime
- Vacant houses
- Drugs, violence and youth crimes
- Financial support for schools
- Foreclosed homes
- Funding for infrastructure repairs/improvements
- Funding for local schools
- Housing
- Housing deterioration by Mexican population
- Lack of openness of decisions
- Loss of homes (being sheriff's sales, etc.)
- State highways
- Understaffed schools
- Graduation rate at high school
- Lack of listening to all of the public—too much on economics not quality of life
- Local funding—state caps
- Vacant housing units
- None are getting worse—all are holding or improving

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 (30)
- Healthcare (12)
- Employment (9)
- Economic development (9)
- Drugs (5)
- Development (3)
- Housing (3)
- Lack of development (3)
- Infrastructure (3)
- Crime (3)
- Economic development (2)
- Youth crime and drug crime (2)
- Streets and sidewalks (2)
- If we have illegal Mexicans, tax them
- Illegal immigrants
- More food pantries
- Available job—new factory
- Business development
- Economic community development
- Economic growth
- Economy/jobs
- Economy—poverty hasn't become stable
- Employment
- Employment-job creation

- Income
- Job creation
- Jobs for people without degrees
- Lack of development (business)
- New businesses needed
- No jobs
- Overall business conditions
- Poverty level-job availability
- Quality of workers
- Raise pay levels. Families cannot live on minimum
- Unemployment and poverty
- Availability and cost of health care
- Availability and cost of health services and availability and cost of mental health
- Cost of dental insurance
- Health cost including insurance
- Health insurance
- Health quality
- Health services
- Healthcare-affordable and preventative educational on obesity, diabetic and heart
- Healthy living, i.e. obesity, smoking, drug abuse
- Development
- Green space/parks
- Land use windmills
- Residential development
- We need more green space—not more expensive housing—look at downtown streets closing for 2012 football game
- Cost of gas
- Develop a county-wide vocational-tech center
- Education funding at proper levels
- Electric rates
- Free or low-cost transportation
- Funding for infrastructure
- Highways and roads
- Infrastructure
- K-12 education funding
- Public education
- Roads and bridges
- Schools
- Septic system
- Sewer issue—coming up with an alternative to make it more affordable to our customers
- Streets
- Streets and bridges
- Surface drainage
- The frozen levy [in our county]
- Transportation
- Crime
- Drug and youth crimes

- Emergency communications through next generation E911 upgrades
- Emergency medical service -new building
- Fire protection—working on coming up with other alternatives to make it more cost effective
- Funding for essential Service (Fire, EMS, Police)
- Jail overcrowding
- Lack of enough officers
- Public safety funding
- Recidivism
- Tougher on drug enforcement
- Drug programs
- Drugs and crimes
- Declining neighborhoods/amount of surplus or unsold tax properties
- Federal government takeover of local control
- Financial support to schools
- Funding for new construction
- Homeowner assistance on existing homes
- Industrial development
- Insurance
- Insurance cost
- K-12 education-debt
- Let locals decide about issues—not legislature
- Local funding
- Properly funding the general fund
- Property tax losses
- Property taxes
- Removing trash houses
- Reverse dying communities
- School finance
- School funding—state formula
- Substance abuse/crime
- Upfront financial deals for companies—no taxes for 10yrs
- Vacant rundown houses
- Water
- Youth

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 10)

	Should be required to make payments in lieu of property taxes to local government	Should NOT be required to make payment in lieu of property taxes to local government	Should be required to provide services to local government below cost in lieu of property taxes	Should NOT be required to provide services to local government below cost in lieu of property taxes
501 3 (c) groups	9	0	0	0
Airport authorities	0	0	1	0
Any that own or real estate	1	0	0	0
Any, especially those that are community-minded	0	1	0	1
Benevolent Elks, Masons, Moose, etc.	1	0	0	0
Boys and Girls Clubs	0	1	0	0
Cancer resources, Boy Scouts, hospices	0	1	0	1
Child care	0	1	0	0
Church owned housing or businesses should support local government. Also housing, nursing homes, cemeteries, etc.	1	0	0	0
Church-owned businesses	1	0	0	0
Civic groups	0	2	0	0
Clubs	0	0	0	1
Community service agencies	1	0	0	0
Community service providers	0	0	0	1
Dance studios, retired or assisted living facilities, for-profit hospital related business activities	1	0	0	0
Food pantries	0	1	0	1
Food pantries and churches who provide services to community	0	1	0	0
[Undertakers]	0	0	0	0
Large corporations under a non-profit umbrella	1	0	0	0
Lions Clubs	0	1	0	0
Lions Clubs, community centers, cemetery associations	0	1	0	1
Methodist Homes, Masonic Homes	1	0	0	0
Mosques	1	0	0	0
Senior Citizens Centers/local pantries	0	1	0	1
Service organizations	1	0	0	0
Serving physically and mentally disabled persons	0	1	0	0
This is a confusing question and it would depend on services and cost, etc.	0	1	0	1
VFW, Lions, etc.	1	0	0	0
YMCA, Scouts, youth sports sponsors	0	1	0	0

Other responses to “Arrangements used to provide services?” (Question 12)

My local government provides this service with internal resources

- Cemetery (2)
- All county services, courts, probation, elected offices
- Funds for helping with utilities, rents, medical expense
- Township assistance

My local government provides this service through an agreement or contract with another local government

- Crime investigation

Other, other

- Emergency Dispatch, Planning/Plan Commission, and Economic Development are hybrid answers that don't neatly fit an option above
- K-12 education

Other responses to "What is your involvement in the following kinds of organizations?" (Question 17)

Org	Member Now	Member Past	Leader Now	Leader Past	Time
4-H Youth	x	—	—	—	
CASA	—	x	—	—	30
Church	x	—	x	—	200
Church	x	—	x	—	10
Church	x	x	x	x	2
Church	x	—	—	—	10
Church	—	—	x	—	15
Church	—	—	x	—	9
Church Foundation	—	—	x	—	1
Downtown revitalization	x	—	—	—	10
Faith	x	—	—	—	6
Family Justice Center	x	—	—	—	5
Federal government issues	x	—	—	—	
Historical Society	x	—	—	—	10
Lions, VFW, Boat Club	x	—	—	—	50
Main Street	—	—	x	—	6
Masonic organization	x	—	—	x	4
Religious	x	—	—	—	4
Religious (Christian)	—	—	—	—	18
School education	—	—	—	—	6
School volunteer	x	—	x	—	
Youth Development	x	—	—	—	4

Other responses to "What actions, if any, has your local government taken over the last three years to combat the rising cost of providing health insurance to elected official and employees?" (Question 22)

- Employee health clinic (10)
- Increase deductibles (9)
- Health savings account (7)
- Absorbed cost (4)
- Investigated other sources (3)
- Wellness program (3)
- Reduced contributions (2)
- Attempted to join IACT Medical Trust
- Irresponsibly ignored it justifying "retention"
- Carve out plan for retirees
- Change in re-insurance company

- Carve out spouses
- Change to partial self-funded plan.
- Changed benefits
- Cost share
- Employees elected not to take insurance, already covered by spouses insurance
- Increase town and employees insurance cost
- Labor union contract—not much opportunity
- Looking into consortium clinics
- Medicare benefits
- Negotiation with vendors
- Penalize the user of not using mail order for maintenance drugs
- Review annually
- Spouse co-pay
- Smaller pay increases
- Trustee office had to drop it!
- We didn't decrease benefits, but no raises for employees in order to keep level of benefits
- We do not have insurance except for workman's compensation.
- Will possibly be increasing contributions; not decided at this time

Other responses to "Do you think your community, through public or private sources, over invests, adequately invests, or under invests in the types of infrastructure listed below?" (Question 26)

	Too much investment	Adequate investment	Not enough investment
Economic development			x
Economic development, neighborhood redevelopment, affordable housing			x
Government buildings			x
Highway equipment			x
Public safety			x
Sidewalks			x
Youth			x
Colts, Simon, Pacers, Sports	x		
Police	x		
Total (9)	22%	0%	78%

Other responses to "Please rank the top two options for providing regular funding for 911 services?" (Question 30a)

Option	Respondent's Ranking	Office
Allow counties to levy services.	1	County Commissioner
Let county establish a fee not tied to phone technology. It should be a public safety question and not a phone fee question. Make it a utility fee not tied to phone services.	2	County Commissioner
Make a uniform rate for all landlines and cell phones across the state	2	County Auditor
Property tax outside levy and tax caps for enhanced 911 and next generation communications. This is going to cost local and state government plenty	3	County Auditor
Raise cell phone tax	1	County Commissioner
Coal tonnage tax for our area	1	Mayor

Appendix E

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 33 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 33)

Office	Question	Comment
County council member	5	We need money for roads. We need E911 tax. Immigration: Enforce the law.
Mayor	5	State funding for K-12 education is a major problem that has worsened.
Mayor	5	Cellular telephone: 911 tax
Town council member	5	Closing our school takes us off of the chart! Remove [the highway] from our town!
Town council member	5	Storm sewers on [the state highway] are a moderate problem
Township trustee	5	International trade, shovel-ready properties, sanitary sewers, storm sewers; combined sewer overflows (CSOs), sidewalks, and public transit: not applicable
School board member	5	Possible [change in health conditions] with new healthcare legislation
School board member	5	K-12 education facilities: moderate problem
County council member	6	Large scale drug bust helped
County council member	6	Most [conditions] have not improved
County council member	6	Youth detention facilities have improved with an intake center. Farmland loss has improved because housing development has stopped.
County auditor	6	I don't think there has been much change but we did pass the K-12 school referendum
County auditor	6	We need public transit for the low-income and senior populations
County auditor	6	Nothing [has improved] really, we are a small community and with the economy we have become stagnant
Mayor	6	Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) passed
Mayor	6	Declining 911 revenues from cellular telephones is an issue
Mayor	6	Public safety
Town council member	6	Our fire departments are all volunteer
Town council member	6	Land use (better)
Town council member	6	We are starting to fix some storm sewers. We are starting to repair some streets.
Town council member	6	We have rehabilitated our sanitary sewer collection system. We have added a patrol car and two reserves.
Township trustee	6	New water tower west end
Township trustee	6	Downtown/Main Street has improved with parks and activities
Township trustee	6	Our downtown shows signs of future development.
School board member	6	Fire districts
School board member	6	We have lots of new programs for obesity
School board member	6	K-12 education improved because referendum passed
School board member	6	Streets/roads with curbs [improved] — stimulus funding
School board member	6	Quality affordable housing just because of the recession; many roads are resurfaced and repaired; Internet access is available to just about everyone now
County council member	7	E911 [deteriorated because of the] lack of funds due to cell phone use and not taxing them. Healthcare insurance cost. Good jobs can cure [the] rest.
County commissioner	7	Youth using prescription drugs. Loss of jobs
Mayor	7	Too much high density development
Mayor	7	Water lines
Town council member	7	Curbs
Township trustee	7	Because there are no jobs, conditions like substance abuse/crime and juvenile detention are created
School board member	7	Small towns are dying

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 33) (continued)

Office	Question	Comment
School board member	7	Job quality-conditions and pressures on employees; obesity-horrible; high health insurance cost is brought on in part by obesity.
County council member	8	Did I mention jobs? Bigger jail. More officers. Correct the pension problem.
Mayor	8	School behavior/mentoring program
Town council member	8	We have several closed businesses. We have foreclosures. We lost emergency medical technician (EMT) staff and volunteers.
Town council member	8	Crime
Town council member	8	Sidewalks provide safety to school
Township trustee	8	We need high-speed Internet to the whole county
School board member	8	Our county roads and highways are being heavily used by farmers in the adjoining state. They buy our farm ground because they need more ground to spread their manure. They do not live in Indiana; they do not mow their side ditches, and their portion of real estate tax is not enough to support our crumbling roads. They keep their equipment in their state. This is costing Indiana in more ways than one.
School board member	8	Address K-12 education
School board member	8	Drug crime (manufacture)
School board member	8	K-12 education: help us hold teachers more accountable and fire the bad ones without requiring years of paperwork because of a union
County council member	9	Tax abatement and TIF are routinely used
County commissioner	9	Both [funding options were used] prior to 2009—none since
County auditor	9	My county barely hit the caps because our net AVs [Ad Valorem] are strong
County auditor	9	[Had this type of funding] from previous adoptions
County auditor	9	Our county has used TIF and tax abatement for several years
Mayor	9	Yes!
Township trustee	9	Had [this type of funding]
County council member	10	I live in a rural community
County council member	10	Church and other religious nonprofits: only original and tax all others. Quit sending money overseas. Quit covering illegal [immigrants] (put them in work camps). Quit covering Medicaid moving into our state.
County commissioner	10	I believe we have too many nonprofit organizations
County auditor	10	Units of federal government, state government, local government, and nonprofit hospitals are supported by our taxes. There is no need to increase.
Mayor	10	Anyone who owns property, including seniors, should pay something
Mayor	10	Absolutely not
Town council member	10	Other nonprofits should be required to provide services to local government below cost in lieu of property taxes, i.e. Lions, etc., help with other fundraisers
Town council member	10	Should NOT be required to make payment in lieu of property taxes to local government: not in town, but several abutting or only a few blocks away from town.
Township trustee	10	I believe in sales tax; no income tax or real estate or personal property. Majority of the people I talked to are in favor of it, but nothing ever is done about it.
School board member	10	Do these pay property taxes now?
County auditor	11	We have remained static with operations and office exp[enses, and] salaries + 2%
Mayor	11	Local government has reduced spending on "police" specifically
Mayor	11	My local government has stopped hiring but there are exceptions
Town council member	11	My local government has pursued consolidation with another unit of government for 911 services and dispatchers
Town council member	11	My local government has engaged in joint purchasing with other local governments for a newsletter.
School board member	11	Our school corporation has implemented cooperative service arrangements, such as interlocal agreements, with other local governments and has engaged in joint purchasing with other local governments for many years.
School board member	11	Only to limits under contracts. Teachers union [is a] real problem.
County commissioner	12	We have no parks
Mayor	12	County jail

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 33) (continued)

Office	Question	Comment
Mayor	12	Drinking water utility and sewer utility: my local government provides this service with internal resources and through an agreement or contract with another local government. Fire services and emergency medical services are provided by my city and the township jointly.
Mayor	12	911 emergency dispatch is a joint effort
Town council member	12	Planning/plan commission: problem
School board member	12	The county provides special education services
County council member	13	Gas
County council member	13	Salt through Indiana quality purchase agreement (QPA)
Mayor	13	We have tried purchasing goods cooperatively with the county in the last year with no luck!
Mayor	13	This type of [cooperative] purchasing takes away from local small town businesses. Therefore, [it] forces small towns and cities to lose jobs and businesses.
Town council member	13	Purchased road salt cooperatively in the last year
Town council member	14	[The amount of cooperative activity between my local government and other organizations has stayed the same] as far as I know.
Mayor	15	We have our own city library
County auditor	16	These questions are not logical
Township trustee	16	Nonprofit organizations represent the public's interest on local issues vs. nonprofit organizations represent their own interests on local issues: Mixture. Nice to work together
County auditor	17	[I once] worked at one
County council member	19	[We provide] Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERF)
County council member	19	We only provide pension or retirement to full-time employees in sheriff's department
County auditor	19	PERF
County auditor	19	PERF is provided to elected officials and full-time employees
Mayor	19	My local government provides pension or retirement benefits to police
Mayor	19	My local government provides pension or retirement benefits to elected officials if vested
Mayor	19	My local government provides pension or retirement benefits to police only
Mayor	19	Our local government provides pension or retirement benefits to elected officials and full-time employees (PERF)
Town council member	19	Full-time employees - PERF
Town council member	19	My local government provides pension or retirement benefits only to clerk treasurers not board members
Town council member	19	[My local government provides] some [pensions or retirement contributions for elected officials]
Town council member	19	[My local government provides] some [health insurance for elected officials]
Town council member	19	We provide pensions or retirement to clerk-treasurer only and not to the town council
Township trustee	19	Just me, I don't know about other offices
School board member	19	Some elected officials are provided pensions or retirement contributions, however, I am not
County commissioner	20	[Health insurance benefits are provided to elected officials] except county council and commissioners
County commissioner	20	My local government provides health insurance benefits to elected officials and full-time employees optionally
County auditor	20	Elected [part-time employees are provided health insurance benefits]
County auditor	20	Part-time employees: clinic
Mayor	20	Full-time [elected officials receive health insurance benefits]
Town council member	20	My local government provides health insurance only to clerk treasurers not board members
Town council member	20	We provide health insurance to clerk-treasurer but not to the town council
School board member	20	Some, not all, elected officials and full-time employees [receive health insurance benefits]
School board member	20	Some elected officials are provided health insurance benefits, however, I am not
Township trustee	21	We don't have health insurance
Town council member	22	Reduced health insurance costs by changing vendors: have applied; obtaining quotes
County commissioner	22	Reduced health insurance cost through a cooperative purchasing arrangement with the state of Indiana or another local government: too expensive!
Mayor	22	No
Mayor	22	We have increased elected official and employee health insurance contributions with higher deductions

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 33) (continued)

Office	Question	Comment
Mayor	22	Reduced health insurance costs through a cooperative purchasing arrangement with the state of Indiana or other local government: needed
School board member	22	Increase in employee health insurance contributions
County council member	23	My local government has paid for work-related training and post secondary education for elected officials and/or employees over the last two years: very little
Town council member	24	Part-time employees, police reserves, etc., receive \$1-\$249 annually on work-related training and post secondary education over the last two years
County council member	26	Two schools have too much investment while two schools have not enough investment
County commissioner	26	I don't feel like we get our fair share of the gas tax
Town council member	26	Do not invest
Township trustee	26	Not enough investment in athletic facilities
County council member	29	Increase gas tax
Mayor	29	Is the adoption of mileage-based user fees a wheel tax?
Mayor	29	No new taxes. Fix the state funding formula for our schools. Remove the frozen levy in our county.
School board member	29	Need better ideas than these
County council member	30	Charge countywide by tower use. That is fair; not some cheap phone from the east coast that we get no money with. Towers close to two counties share revenue on that tower.
County council member	30	Surcharge on pre-paid cellular service should be onetime fee of at least 20 dollars not 25 cents
County commissioner	30	Higher technology is killing the counties
County commissioner	30	Need more funding for roads and streets. Best most fair way is to raise gas and fuel tax at least 10 cents per gallon.
County commissioner	30	Higher technology is killing the counties
County commissioner	30	I estimate 11% to 25% decline in annual revenues from landline surcharges over the last five years
County auditor	30	Increased state surcharges on contract cellular service and on prepaid cellular service should be used together
County auditor	30	24%
County auditor	31	They do not know it exists
Township trustee	31	It is useless
School board member	31	If publicized
County commissioner	32	Don't have 211
Mayor	32	They need to start funding safety officers budgets
County council member	33	[I don't like] the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF)
County council member	33	Effective community leadership; a step change in the degree of collaboration between all the players in a locality; and a deeper engagement between local people and the state - these are most important functions that must be delivered at a local level if government is to meet the challenges it is likely to face in the future. Other issues: A more robust conversation about road and transit funding needs to take place involving all levels of government. Bridges need to be evaluated again. The biggest issue facing the counties is decreasing revenues.
County council member	33	Need to raise the charge on cell phones; need more funding for roads
County council member	33	Use tax is better. Get rid of all taxes and use a value-added tax (VAT) or another 25-35-40%
County council member	33	The state gasoline tax must be increased or our county road system will decline to an unacceptable condition. Cost has gone up 50% and revenue has declined. [This is] very important for state officials to address.
County council member	33	We will have to raise our local income option tax within the next two years due to the tax caps. The State has accused the local spending to be out of control with little or no cuts on the state level. They made it sound as if their taking over the payment for schools and child protection services would be better. It has simply meant less services or funding than we provided on the local level.
County council member	33	What you haven't touched on is the number of services that the state used to provide that they require. We now provide those services but allow use no additional revenues from the state. Two that I can think of are maintenance software for sheriff and assessor's budgets.
County council member	33	Need increase in gas tax; need more options on local level for raising funds

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 33) (continued)

Office	Question	Comment
County commissioner	33	In our county we have over 960 miles of local roads and streets for which the highway department is responsible. Additionally, another 50 to 100 miles that should be taken over. There are 17 bridges that should be replaced by the end of 2012 and 26 more that need extensive repair. My estimated cost for replacement and repairs is approximately \$6,000,000. Our county [a large] land mass in Indiana and one of the lowest populations. Our income for the highway department comes from wheel tax, local roads and streets and Motor Vehicle Highway Account. We get less distribution each year and more expenses. There has to be a better way.
County commissioner	33	I don't understand why local elected officials have term limits when Senators and representatives can run for life. What is fair about that? I think the main reason is locals don't have lobbyists. I think the main reason the big boys are lifers is they can fill their pockets. All government has to do is live within their means like common working people. The mortgage foreclosure problem is because people don't buy from a practical standpoint. They want to impress. Same old story: the rich get richer; the common folk get poorer. I'm sure you think I am crazy but this is the way it appears.
County commissioner	33	Tax caps and increased operating costs are bankrupting county government. We desperately need an increase of state funding for local roads and streets.
County auditor	33	I was a high school teacher for 35 years and saw a great difference in pay across the state and also within the same county. Teaching in four different areas of the state also gave me insight to the great difference in pay and benefits for the exact same work. It is not right that my retirement is based on my income that came from the different schools' salary schedules.
County auditor	33	I would like to see further studies done to determine the cost savings if the number of counties was reduced. Indiana does not need 92 counties.
County auditor	33	Our county has received a grant for new warning sirens
County auditor	33	Most of these questions do not apply to me as the County Auditor.
County auditor	33	I did not participate in the first request because I have only been involved since January 2010. I still do not feel my answers should carry much significance at this time.
County auditor	33	This is a big waste of money!
County auditor	33	We would like to have the road tax formula revisited as we are a donor county. If we could have a percent of gasoline sold in the county [then] our road funding problems would be lessened.
Mayor	33	The tax caps hurt our city in public safety. We receive approximately \$800,000/yr in property taxes and in order to provide 24/7 fire and police service it would cost approximately \$600,000/yr. The state/Federal unfunded mandates fund hurt the smaller cities that provide public safety to anyone who comes to their jurisdictions. Public safety funds should come from all forms of government, such as county, state, federal and non profits.
Mayor	33	Availability/cost of health care: services are available but may not be affordable to those most in need
Mayor	33	Consistent tax policies, road funding and policies in support of growing communities
Mayor	33	CSOs must be fixed; we must have grants or 0% bonds to completely cover CSO expense. Unfunded mandates must stop! The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) attitude will bankrupt our utilities or price us out! General public cannot pay \$100.00 plus utility bills. Township government/citizens must pay higher user fees, [for example] fire [and] ambulance.
Mayor	33	Eliminate township government. Establish dispatch size per call volume. Establish county/city size based on population. Encourage/force/incentives for consolidation of government: fire territory, emergency medical services.
Mayor	33	Increase sales tax. Consider flat tax implemented nationwide.
Mayor	33	Less legislation hampering local government spending and revenue, and more legislation with local control on taxes, user fees, economic development. More legislation on Kernan-Shepard Report!
Mayor	33	Municipalities that were conservative were punished by SBHfreezing at current levy. Now tax caps are creating undue hardships on communities. Declining AV: foreclosures all make it impossible to maintain services taxpayers demand.
Mayor	33	Property tax caps are going to have a much greater negative effect on the taxpayer than positive. In the long run, it will cost the middle and lower tax payers more money in increased sales and other local taxes than what the tax caps will save them. They won't notice it because the increased taxes will be paid out slowly with each purchase or through each paycheck instead of lump sums twice a year when they pay their property taxes.
Mayor	33	We have prepared for budget cuts over the last two years. We reduced our workforce by 103 people. We reduced our budget by \$10 million. We just work harder and smarter.
Mayor	33	All cities and towns should be able to have food and beverage tax

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 33) (continued)

Office	Question	Comment
Mayor	33	Something needs to be done statewide to make it clear that when a county exercises the option to collect 911 fees that it must provide the service to all its municipalities
Town council member	33	Where did the state government think towns and schools would get their funding needed after property taxes dropped our income? Sometimes we don't get information from the state in a timely manner.
Town council member	33	For small municipalities, under a population of 5,000, 40 percent or more [of these questions] do not apply
Town council member	33	I feel the sheriff [and the] jail systems of our county have a very bad problem with trust and respect in the community. I also feel the drug problem in our area is completely out of control with no hope of improvement. Our local public schools are failing to teach our children. The State is putting people in danger on the state road due to it not being big enough to handle the traffic volume.
Town council member	33	I personally feel that as a whole we over-tax our residents. I think that a lot of free services that are offered to our communities cost way more than they benefit and should be re-evaluated. Government needs to be willing to make cost saving cuts on items that are really not that beneficial. Government is one of the most wasteful entities that exist. Not all services are absolutely needed. Sure they might benefit a few, but are they benefiting the whole. I also think that politicians' giving themselves pay raises, when our economy cannot support it, is utterly ridiculous. It is time for all of us to tighten our belts and make sacrifices. We as a society need to stop relying on government to take care of all of our problems and see what we can do to improve our situations.
Town council member	33	Larger municipalities are too much under county control. Counties should handle more of the unincorporated towns and not take so much of city and towns who also provide area services with the exception of the sheriff.
Town council member	33	More grants need to be made available to repair streets, sidewalks, and sewage
Town council member	33	New water line
Town council member	33	More money for the maintenance of roads, streets, and alleys
Town council member	33	I don't know who designed this, but it is a very confusing format. We have a small town of less than 1,500. We are strong financially and our budget is in the black. We are fortunate during these difficult times.
Town council member	33	Stop unfunded mandates to local government from state government
Town council member	33	Some of the questions were far too general in nature and did not pertain to our local government
Town council member	33	The state has targeted legislation that will force our county to enact the local option income tax. The county is in control of that process, however the communities are beginning to be short handed on police and public works personnel. We seem to be collateral damage.
Town council member	33	There is not enough money to fund everything
Town council member	33	Too much red tape and individuals making a fortune attempting to obtain grants for cities and towns. Cities and towns should be only authorized units to obtain necessary grants.
Town council member	33	Unless something is done shortly in the General Assembly regarding the tax cap, expect towns to start laying off people as we are at bare bones. Have the General Assembly quit passing unfunded mandates and quit dipping into casino revenues to balance the state's budget at the expense of the town that were to receive a portion of the revenue.
Township trustee	33	As township trustee I only have a clerk with very little salary. I receive no health or retirement benefits. Therefore, it is hard for me to answer a lot of your questions.
Township trustee	33	Hard for small townships to answer these questions because a lot of the questions do not apply to them
Township trustee	33	I am a township trustee. I am not provided with insurance or any other benefits
Township trustee	33	I live in a small community that does not have a lot of nonprofit organizations that can help the poor. If it was not for township trustees, I don't know how the poor would survive in my county.

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 33) (continued)

Office	Question	Comment
Township trustee	33	In response to your survey. My township is totally agriculturally based. We have none of the typical public services, i.e. sewers, public transportation, etc. available to us. Our township has seen changes in the last year as far as empty houses and lack of job prospects. On a county level I see many changes. Our roads are deteriorating, unemployment is high, and job prospects seem only to be available at the [industrial] facility. On a personal note I see children being shuttled to schools facing a bleak future. Our high school is running daily with emergency lights in the hallway only to save money. We've taken away their industrial arts programs, their teachers, their arts and music programs to face more fellow students in every classroom with less individualized help in the name of downsizing. Our county went from four ambulances for 300 square miles to two. County Council has tried to bring a third back. It is also the first time we've had a meeting called by the County Council since I've been a trustee for 12 years. So there is your communication answer. We have very little access to the arts and affordable health insurance. There is a health clinic nearby thanks to a nearby university. Also on a personal note my husband and I have traveled extensively throughout our great state of Indiana and have found town after small town in peril: boarded store fronts, empty houses, and people walking away from the lives they've built. Just explaining my answers to Question 5. Furthermore, I wish our state representatives would realize that we all can't live in Indianapolis, Carmel, Lafayette, Ft. Wayne, etc. And for now our hands are pretty much empty until this economy turns around, not only for our townships, but for our county, state, and nation.
Township trustee	33	Local government represents the township residents. It is designed for individuals to have an immediate contact who could contact government officials who are not available. The idea the current governor has to do away with local government, only confirms he has no idea what the local government saves in tax dollars or how we react to an emergency.
Township trustee	33	Many of these questions do not apply to a small rural farming community with few businesses.
Township trustee	33	My experience with 211 is that the person(s) advising a caller do not know the township boundaries and therefore oftentimes direct the caller to the wrong trustee!
Township trustee	33	The main area is reduced revenue due to economy tax caps. We are helping more and more people because of economy; lost jobs and/or quality of jobs. As everyone else tries to cut back on expenses, capping jobs, wages, cost of living, gasoline. There are more expenses and less and less monies, putting a bigger strain on families, townships, and local government. So we are spending more/bringing in less with nowhere to turn. State law says we must help but then we are being stopped from raising our funds. We received some help from nonprofits, but their giving has also declined.
Township trustee	33	Small community of approximately 300 people, most of these questions do not apply
Township trustee	33	The services I provide as township trustee to my community could not be provided in a more economical manner by any other government entity
Township trustee	33	The state is not ready to take over services to the poor. Local trustees appear not to be cost effective. This is due to time constraints of the decision making process or the cost of the service provided. These items are not calculated into the annual report. Ultimately, trustee save the state money by weeding out fraud and other abuses. In short, we know our people and are accessible 24/7, 365 days a year.
Township trustee	33	The work of trustees is not known and taken as not vital. Trustees save taxpayers money if they are doing their jobs properly. Also, they know the needs [of their constituents] more than anyone else and can best meet these needs.
Township trustee	33	Township fire and medical services are mandated by the state but are not fully funded. This should be changed so money is available for these services.
Township trustee	33	Trustee participation in helping the needy has increased dramatically in 2010. Our reason for existence is very important.
Township trustee	33	Very small township; not much involvement
Township trustee	33	We need more jobs in our area. Most people have to travel at least 20 miles for work. The county doesn't seem to try to get any new developments in our area. We have had a couple to companies wanting to build in the area, but the deals fell through. We need help in our area and I am sure we are not the only community hurting. Here at the trustee's office we have seen an increase in people needing help and we just don't have the funds to help everybody.
School board member	33	Property tax monies should be distributed to the schools by their counties not by the state
School board member	33	At present time situation seems to be good local government
School board member	33	DOE needs to stop lumping all schools into the same category as Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS)

Table E1: Additional comments by respondent (Question 33) (continued)

Office	Question	Comment
School board member	33	Fund all current and future mandates passed by Indiana legislature
School board member	33	Increased development
School board member	33	Our county is a very poor county with declining enrollment in our school. The only improvement made is through a technology park located [near a local business]. It has increased a few jobs but our community is still struggling. With the tax acts both county and local agencies are having a difficult time. Schools need to cut administration. Much of our budget is being spent here. We have already cut teachers. The governor said he was going to phase out superintendents, but hasn't done it yet. We need one superintendent in our county. It seems our kids always pay the price: larger class sizes, fewer teachers, less bus routes. As a board member, I am only one vote of five. School boards could also become a county board. Schools within the county could become one. Consolidate schools within the county not surrounding counties.
School board member	33	New taxes are not the answer. In general, cutting spending and expenses while bringing in new business is going to keep us in the black. It is hard to cut spending and services and entitlements, but we must, and it will eventually produce a healthier Indiana. Thanks for your good work!
School board member	33	Our city government is very creative and forward-looking in their efforts to move the city forward. Our county government, however, is very protective of their power, particularly in the area of collection of taxes and resists cooperative attempts to improve efficiency of government as well as economy of government. The "good ole boys" of county government are hurting the entire county.
School board member	33	Our local government faces the normal challenges everyone is facing. Poverty is high in this area and drugs are a major issue that we face every day. Working with school children the effects the economy and drug usage has on them is unbelievable. Parents with no jobs and parents who use drugs that are not involved in their child's life, school and social, leads to more trouble on the streets. It only makes the problems worse unfortunately.
School board member	33	Our county schools have been working together to increase our buying power on insurance, special education services, and other services and commodities for some time now. We continue to look into ways we can save money, share services and work together to benefit students. Not all students are suited to a four-year college plan. Those students would benefit from a local vocational technological school. They need a chance to find something they can be good at and help spark a career for them. Traveling to Muncie is not always an option for many students. They lose too much class time. A local vocational-technological school could also improve dropout rates.
School board member	33	To continually criticize public education serves no useful purpose. To visit a school does not equate what is really happening. Using facts is frequently interpreted as excuses - they are not. We are competent, please listen. Thank you.
School board member	33	We must find ways to help schools meet their needs. Our children are our best natural resource.
School board member	33	There needs to be local control of funding for schools reinstated - not cost effective. Laws requiring schools to hire administrators for a minimum number of years revoked - not cost effective. School bidding laws are unjust and cost corporation money. We had to take lowest bidder but work was unsatisfactory and will cost due to repairs over time. Paying teachers due to student performance will be terrible and not producing desired outcome. Look at the studies! Enact local teacher unions, promote them. Better negotiations and more consideration to cost savings to both administration and teachers.
School board member	33	The future of our community and our schools are dependent on jobs and economic growth. No jobs equals no population equals no students. But our cost of operation due to contract issues and infrastructure costs continue to grow. Help!
School board member	33	Our county schools need to consolidate administratively to increase purchasing power eliminate duplication and deliver better education to all kids. Eliminate township government!
School board member	33	K-12 problems in my district, for the most part, all relate to adequate funding. Decreased funding from the state led our community to support increased local funding. This is no long-term answer and no answer for us as a state! K-12 doesn't need access to huge increases in revenue, but all children deserve their local school districts to pay their bills, to obtain an adequate funding level to provide appropriate service.
School board member	33	I intentionally did not send in the previous questionnaire, as I felt it unjust that you would ask someone who works approximately 60 hours a week, is active in his local church, and is very active in his school community to take time out to answer some 200-300 questions. Then on top of that to harass me by sending a letter asking where it was and finally to send another questionnaire to my school superintendent. This really takes the cake!!

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