

Intergovernmental Issues



Indiana 2001

This survey is administered by the Indiana Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, on a periodic basis, to gather information on current issues affecting the relationship between governments in the state. The IACIR seeks your opinions on the issues presented in the survey. Please feel free to consult others within your local government if you are unsure about the correct response to particular questions.

1. What office do you hold?

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senator | <input type="checkbox"/> Town Council President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Representative | <input type="checkbox"/> Township Trustee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Council President | <input type="checkbox"/> School Board President |
| <input type="checkbox"/> County Commission President | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mayor | |

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

- Very optimistic
- Mildly optimistic
- Neither optimistic or pessimistic
- Mildly pessimistic
- Very pessimistic

3. For the following conditions, please (a) indicate how each of the following conditions has changed in your community during the last 12 months; and (b) assess the extent to which each condition is currently a problem for your city, if at all. Check responses for each condition for both parts of the question.

Condition

Health

Cost /Availability of Health Services
 Drug and Alcohol Abuse
 Care for the Elderly

Public Safety

Police-Community Relations
 Violent Crime
 Youth Violence and Crime

Economics

Overall Economic Conditions
 Unemployment
 Workforce Training
 Workforce Retraining

Local Services

K-12 Education
 Drinking Water
 Sewer
 Roads and Streets
 Internet Access
 Telephone
 Parks and Recreation
 Solid Waste Management
 Cable TV
 Public Transportation

Land Use

Quality of Development
 Amount of Development
 Quality of Affordable Housing
 Open space
 Brownfields

Community Quality of Life

Race-Ethnic Relations
 Air Quality
 Water Quality
 Traffic
 Poverty
 Vitality of Neighborhoods
 Vitality of Downtown
 Volunteerism

4. Of the conditions listed in question 3, which three deteriorated most in your community during the past five years?

A _____ B. _____ C. _____

5. Of the conditions listed in question 3, which three improved the most in your community during the past five years?

A _____ B. _____ C. _____

6. Of the conditions listed in question 3, which three will be the most important to address during the next two years?

A _____ B. _____ C. _____

7. How optimistic are you about the ability of local government and schools in your area to work together to address local needs?

Very optimistic

Somewhat pessimistic

Somewhat optimistic

Very pessimistic

Neither optimistic nor pessimistic

8. Which local government finance reforms would be most effective in advancing the well being of your community? (Please rank top 3 measures—1 being the most effective.)

___ Eliminate school funding from property tax

___ Reform personal property tax

___ Eliminate inventory tax

___ Remove cap on local option income tax

___ Allow local government to enact a local gas tax

___ Remove property tax levy limits

___ Allow local government to enact a local sales tax

___ Transfer welfare from local to state funding

___ Remove all restrictions on local income tax

___ Other (specify) _____

9. Please rank the following options to improve the customer service provided by Indiana state government agencies (1 being the most effective, 5 being the least effective).
- Establish the State Information Center (already exists) as the customer service center for all of state government and accessible at 1-800-CALLGOV
 - Formally develop and train state information specialists who are accessible via telephone
 - Outsource state customer service to the private sector
 - Enhance existing technologies with case management techniques in order to increase accountability to citizen needs
 - Develop easy to use Web-based networks that connect state and local customer service functions making relevant information readily accessible
 - Other (specify) _____
10. The Indiana General Assembly created the Indiana Land Resources Council (ILRC) in 1999 to collect information on land use and provide assistance and advice to local governments about land use strategies and issues. The ILRC currently is considering how best to assist local governments. In your opinion, which of the following activities would help your community in managing land use? (Please rank the top 3 activities—1 being the most useful.)
- Collect data about land use
 - Develop best land management practices
 - Develop model ordinance language
 - Develop a land-use planning library of reference materials
 - Augment educational programs currently available from universities and professional organizations for local planning and zoning officials
 - Identify additional funding sources for planning studies and projects
 - Identify funding sources for staffing and training
 - Establish a referral service for technical and legal assistance
 - Facilitate better relationships between state agencies and local governments on land use issues
 - Inventory state agency programs and policies that affect land use

11. A number of state agencies have programs and policies that affect land use. Local governments must work with these agencies on a number of relevant issues. Please rate your experience with the following agencies in working on land use issues.

Agency	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Not worked with agency
Indiana Department of Commerce	4	3	2	1	0
Indiana Department of Environmental Management	4	3	2	1	0
Indiana Department of Natural Resources	4	3	2	1	0
Indiana Department of Transportation	4	3	2	1	0
Indiana Development Finance Authority	4	3	2	1	0
Indiana Housing Finance Authority	4	3	2	1	0
Indiana State Department of Health	4	3	2	1	0
Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission	4	3	2	1	0
Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture	4	3	2	1	0
Office of the State Chemist and Seed Commissioner	4	3	2	1	0

12. Think about the ideal community your constituents desire. For each of the following pairs, circle the point on the scale that most closely represents the ideal held by a majority of your constituents. For example, if you feel strongly that your community supports a mix of housing types, then circle the "4."

Separation of housing types	1	2	3	4	Mix of housing types
Similarly valued properties	1	2	3	4	Mix of property values
Low density	1	2	3	4	High density
Many types of shopping within walking distance	1	2	3	4	No commercial uses near housing
A variety of street and walking connections between adjacent neighborhoods	1	2	3	4	No connections between adjacent neighborhoods
Remoteness from neighbors	1	2	3	4	Closeness to neighbors
Neighbors are much like each other	1	2	3	4	Neighbors are diverse

13. If a subdivision with 160 new homes were proposed in your community, which level of density would be preferred by a majority of your constituents?

- 1 unit per acre (160 acres)
- 2 units per acre (80 acres)
- 4 units per acre (40 acres)
- 8 units per acre (20 acres)
- 9 units per acre or greater (18 acres or less)

14. Many Indiana communities are exploring options for protecting and preserving open space. Various options are available for funding open space acquisition. A list of some of these options is provided below. Please check those that you think would be supported by a majority of your constituents. Choose all that apply.

- Issuing locally funded general obligation bonds
- Impact fees
- Real estate transfer taxes and fees
- Local option sales tax (0.2 percent)
- Open space requirements for new subdivisions
- Modify rules to allow open space within residential subdivisions to be assessed as natural lands
- Slight increase in state sales tax
- Increased state contribution to the Heritage Trust Fund (environmental license plate fund)
- Build Indiana Fund
- Protection by non-governmental, nonprofit conservation organizations

15. **MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS ONLY:** Did your community pass local legislation to annex territory in 2000?

- Yes
- No ⇒ Go to Question 16.

If your community annexed territory in 2000, please indicate if the annexations were initiated by:

- Municipality (by ordinance)
- Property owners (by petition)
- Some by municipality and some by property owners

16. **MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY OFFICIALS ONLY:** "Brownfields" have gotten increasing attention at all levels of government (local, state, and federal). Please indicate your level of understanding of the concept and the available solutions.

- No knowledge
- Understand the basic issue only
- Understand the issue and available solutions
- I have participated in the redevelopment of a brownfield in my community

17. **MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY OFFICIALS ONLY:** Brownfields are defined as: "Abandoned or underutilized commercial or industrial property, upon which development is difficult due to the perception or actual existence of environmental contamination." Many different types of properties can be classified as brownfields including abandoned gas stations, old foundry sites, former industrial facilities, vacant school buildings, underutilized downtown structures, former hospitals, previous farm cooperative locations and vacant land.

Based on the above definition and examples, please estimate the number of brownfield sites that you have in your political jurisdiction:

- Under 10
- Between 10 and 25
- Between 25 and 50
- Between 50 and 100
- Over 100

18. **MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY OFFICIALS ONLY:** How many brownfield sites have been successfully redeveloped into productive properties in your political subdivision in the past three years? _____

Of these brownfield projects, which of the following played the primary role in the redevelopment process (choose one):

- Local Government
- Private Developer
- Community Organization/Not-For-Profit

23. The rise in the price of natural gas had a significant effect on Hoosier households this winter. Which of the following actions is most appropriate to minimize the effects of the price increase in the future?

- Provide additional aid to low-income households
- Pass stricter rate controls
- Encourage conservation measures
- Encourage the conversion of households to electric heat and appliances

24. Please use this space or attach additional pages to make any other comments about issues affecting intergovernmental relations in Indiana.

The seal of the State of Indiana is a circular emblem. It features a central scene with a rising sun over a landscape with a river, a tree, and a person. The words "SEAL OF THE STATE OF INDIANA" are inscribed around the perimeter of the seal.

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

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Please return the completed questionnaire in the enclosed postage paid envelope.
