



Indiana Association of
Cities and Towns

2015 IACT Legislative Initiatives

CORNERSTONE:

1. **Municipal Local Option Income Taxes (LOIT) authority:**

- IACT continues to push for legislation that would allow municipalities to have the authority to implement LOIT and other fees in order to off-set tax revenue losses. Municipalities should have the authority to adopt the Public Safety LOIT according to their own needs without the requirement to adopt another LOIT first.

2. **Statewide authority to adopt food and beverage taxes:**

- IACT will seek legislation that would level the playing field in regard to food and beverage taxes. The legislation would allow all cities and towns to have an equal opportunity to adopt a local food and beverage tax and the revenues could be used for any municipal purpose.

OPERATIONAL:

1. **Increased Road Funding**

- Costs for road and street construction and repair have gone up exponentially and have outpaced the increase in government funding. Road and street funding levels will again be a topic for debate in the 2015 state budget negotiations. While IACT members are appreciative of the strides made for increases to road and street funding in the 2013 state budget, IACT will again encourage state legislators to do everything possible to provide locals with the funding needed to construct and maintain local roads and streets at an acceptable level. Viable local roads and streets promote public safety, economic development and commerce throughout Indiana.

2. **Assessment Appeals**

- Several large commercial taxpayers have been making it a regular practice to appeal their property assessments. These taxpayers win their case by default when no data is presented by the other side to show that the property assessment conducted by the county is a valid representation of the property's value. IACT will seek legislation which will require the county to give cities and towns notice when there has been an appeal by a significant taxpayer. In addition, IACT will seek legislation that will afford local governments the flexibility and tools necessary to verify the property's value and challenge the appeal, if warranted.

3. **Consolidate Tax Increment Finance (TIF) Reporting**

- In recent years, the legislature has made several changes to the statutes related to TIF. While the reporting and transparency provisions of these new laws are important, the timing and duplicative nature of the reporting needs to be revised for more efficiency. IACT will work to restructure TIF reporting requirements and any other duplicative and redundant reporting requirements that need to be revamped in order to promote greater conservation of limited government resources.