

MAYORS INSTITUTE



APRIL 29–30, 2025

**Bottleworks Hotel
Indianapolis, Indiana**

AGENDA

TUESDAY, APRIL 29

8:30 a.m. – 9:15 a.m. **Registration & Breakfast**

9:15 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. **Welcome & Introductions**

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Roundtable Discussion: Vacant and Abandoned Property
Maintenance Standards**

Every community faces the challenge of vacant and unsafe buildings. We'll kick off Mayors Institute with some best practices and then open it up for questions and feedback from attendees.

Speakers:

Mayor Bob Courtney, Madison

Mayor Brandon Sakbun, Terre Haute

TUESDAY, APRIL 29 (continued)

10:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Workshop:** Assessing Property Tax Proposals and Preparing for Potential Outcomes

This workshop will help attendees assess the potential impact the proposed legislation could have on your municipality, as well as other taxing units in your region. Presenters will explore strategies for effective collaboration among these units to help your city address upcoming legislative changes. Regardless of where the legislature ends up relative to property tax reforms – some forward thinking and collective planning can only benefit your constituents.

Speakers:

Brock Bowsher, Principal, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors

Ross Hagen, Director, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors

Andrew Mouser, Director, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors

11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. **Workshop:** AI in Indiana Local Government

Artificial intelligence (AI) presents numerous opportunities, as well as challenges, for local government. Professor Schiff will present results from a survey of local government leaders in Indiana from Summer 2024 and will share resources for those interested in AI. The workshop will involve a group discussion and will conclude with the opportunity for participants to share their thoughts and experiences with AI through a survey.

Speaker:

Dr. Kaylyn Jackson Schiff, Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Purdue University and Co-Director of the Governance and Responsible AI Lab (GRAIL)

12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Lunch**

TUESDAY, APRIL 29 (continued)

1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Workshop:** IU Indianapolis Seamless Admissions Initiative

The IU Indianapolis Seamless Admissions Initiative streamlines the path to college for high school students, granting automatic admission to students who achieve a 3.0 GPA or higher. The initiative removes barriers that are typical to the admissions process like filling out applications, paying application fees and supplying high school transcripts, and offers a robust range of academic support programs to empower students and foster success.

Speaker:

Latha Ramchand, Chancellor, IU Indianapolis

1:30 p.m. – 1:45 p.m. **Break**

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. **Workshop:** LIT Financing: Options and Opportunities

Local Income Tax (LIT) is a significant tool for municipalities and local governments. This workshop will dive into the history of LIT, its applications, and how LIT revenues are used in a borrowing context, particularly focusing on bond opportunities.

Speakers:

Sarah Correll, Associate, Ice Miller LLP

Heather James, Partner, Ice Miller LLP

Jason Semler, Principal, Baker Tilly Municipal Advisors

2:45 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Facilitated Roundtable:** Exploring Innovative Summer and Fall Events

As cities continue to grow and evolve, so do the ways in which they engage their residents and visitors. This discussion allows mayors to inspire one another with fresh and

TUESDAY, APRIL 29 (continued)

innovative ideas for summer and fall events that can energize cities of all sizes.

Moderator:

Matt Greller, Chief Executive Officer, Aim

3:30 p.m. – 3:45 p.m.

Break

3:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Mayors' Idea Exchange: Regional Wellness Initiatives

The Mayors Idea Exchange is designed to kick off a roundtable-style discussion on a specific project or issue of interest. For this session, Mayors Dunbar, Vonderheide, and Wright will come together to discuss the future of regional wellness initiatives. Each speaker will provide an overview of their project and how it was funded. They will also talk about how to work in partnership with local YMCAs, non-profits, or others to promote healthy living, improve community engagement, and enhance wellness opportunities for residents of all ages.

Speakers:

Mayor Lynda Dunbar, Greencastle

Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Jasper

Mayor Greg Wright, Princeton

4:30 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.

Update: Federal Matters

While Rep. Rudy Yakym (R-IN) has publicly defended the tax exemption for municipal bonds, recently an informal adviser to the president suggested it is “in play” to remove the tax exemption. This update will include discussion on continuing to voice our concerns over this change. In addition, Becca will provide updates regarding the USDOT grants and other federal grant communication.

TUESDAY, APRIL 29 (continued)

Speaker:

Becca McCuaig, Chief Legal Counsel, Aim

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Trust Local Dinner & Networking

Sundry & Vice

Bottleworks Hotel – 1st Floor

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Breakfast & Panel: Transforming Local Government through Innovation and Partnerships

An interactive discussion about the need to use innovative methods to address both traditional and contemporary challenges facing today's mayors. You will hear past and present examples of highly successful efforts to harness technology and data, combined with strategic public-private partnerships, and how to leverage limited public resources to solve problems and transform local communities. Last, you will learn about a new **award competition** that can advance one selected Indiana community's big idea to reality.

Speakers:

Susan Brooks, Former Congresswoman

Stephen Goldsmith, Former Mayor, Indianapolis

Pete Yonkman, President, Cook Medical Group

11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Workshop: 2025 Legislative Update

When we gather in Indianapolis for Mayors Institute in April, the legislature will be moments away from Sine Die. Participants will receive a live update on the status of bills impacting property taxes, TIF, municipal elections, and more.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30 (continued)

Speakers:

Izzie Elliott, Government Affairs Manager, Aim

Matt Greller, Chief Executive Officer, Aim

Amy Krieg, Government Affairs Director, Aim

Campbell Ricci, Policy & Financial Resources Director, Aim

11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks & Adjourn**