

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jennifer Simmons
December 18, 2008
(317) 237-6200 x240 (o)
(317) 294-8528 (m)



**Indiana Association of
Cities and Towns**

200 S. Meridian, Suite 340
Indianapolis, IN 46225
www.citiesandtowns.org

Cities and Towns to Support Kernan-Shepard

*IACT Executive Committee Votes to Help Governor Daniels Pass
Sweeping Government Reform Package*

Indianapolis, IN – After months of deliberation and review, the Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) today announced that it would be supporting the reform package recommended by the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform, also known as Kernan-Shepard. The package, supported by Governor Mitch Daniels, is expected to dominate the upcoming session of the Indiana General Assembly.

“I am pleased that after a thoughtful review process our Association has determined the majority of the recommendations put forth by the Commission on Local Government Reform are in the best interest of Hoosiers. We look forward to assisting the Governor in achieving this significant reform package,” said Noblesville Mayor and IACT President John Ditslear.

Ditslear went on to explain that earlier this year IACT appointed a subcommittee to review the report in detail and make recommendations to the organization’s 34 member Executive Committee. The subcommittee finalized its report earlier this month by suggesting IACT support nearly all of the Kernan-Shepard recommendations.

“Much has been said and written in the past two years about where local government would stand on Kernan-Shepard. We want our support to send a message that the leaders of Indiana’s cities and towns support good ideas that are focused on positive change,” said IACT Executive Director Matt Greller.



Indiana Association of
Cities and Towns

“The report was complimentary regarding the structure of city and town government. The recommendations clearly advocate for reorganizing county governments much like those of municipalities; with one chief executive and a fiscal body,” said Greller.

Three areas where IACT will work with the General Assembly and Administration to improve any proposed legislation are:

- Maintaining the election rather than appointment of city clerks in Indiana’s class two cities.
- Support voluntary, rather than mandated, countywide public safety boards to coordinate interagency programs among the various public safety entities in each county.
- If broad cost-savings will be realized by moving municipal elections, movement into non-presidential election cycles is preferred.

The Indiana Association of Cities and Towns (IACT) is a coalition of municipal officials who seek to improve the quality of life in Indiana through effective government, and is a member of the National League of Cities. Founded in 1891, IACT is one of the oldest state municipal organizations in the country, with 463 cities and towns as members. IACT advocates for municipalities as the official voice of municipal government in Indiana, and promotes good government through education, training and leadership.

-End-