



Indiana Association of  
Cities and Towns

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*June – July, 2009*

*Dear IACT Member:*

*Since the passage of HEA 1001-2008 we have been anticipating the negative impact of the property tax caps on the delivery of services in cities and towns across Indiana. While some have been making a range of cuts for the past several months, it appears, for many, the cuts are getting deeper and further into the skeleton of municipal services than ever before.*

*As we talk with legislators and members of the media we have a great need for more data regarding the plight of our members who are most impacted by the caps. To better advocate for you we need to know precisely how lost revenues from the property tax caps, reductions in AV, slow property tax collections, etc., are impacting or will soon impact your ability to deliver services in your city or town.*

*Reductions in trash service or implementation of a trash fee, changing mowing schedules from once a week to two times per year, eliminating entire departments, closing pools or reducing their hours of operation, closing city or town hall one day each week, and, of course, laying off personnel – especially in public safety...these are the kinds things we need to know. No service cuts are insignificant.*

*Please complete the attached Municipal Budget Crisis Questionnaire and help us gather the data that puts IACT in the best possible position to advocate for you and tell your story.*

*Sincerely yours,*

*Matthew C. Greller*

*Matthew C. Greller  
Executive Director*



Indiana Association *of*  
Cities and Towns

Help IACT Advocate for Your  
Community!

Please complete this Municipal Budget  
Crisis Questionnaire at your earliest  
convenience.

Municipality: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Title of Respondent: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Has your municipality made or will you make any budget cuts in 2009 that have or will result in reductions in municipal services and personnel?
2. If you answered “yes” to the previous question, please explain in as much detail as possible what those cuts have been and what you believe those cuts can be attributed to (tax caps, reductions in AV, high rate of uncollected property taxes, other revenue reductions etc.).
3. Is your municipality planning any budget cuts in 2010 that will result in reductions in municipal services or personnel?

*IACT - Municipal Budget Crisis Questionnaire, Continued*

4. If you answered “yes” to the previous question, please explain in as much detail as possible what those cuts are likely to entail and what they will be attributed to (tax caps, reductions in AV, high rate of uncollected property taxes, other revenue reductions etc.).

5. If you have not already offered this information above, please explain in as much detail as possible any cuts in public safety services (police, fire, emergency management, 911, etc.) that your municipality has made or plans to make in either 2009 or 2010.

6. Has your municipality engaged the public in any discussions via public meetings, surveys, direct mail, etc., regarding the cuts in services you either have made or will be making?

7. If you answered “yes” to the previous question, please explain in as much detail as possible what your public information process has entailed.

*IACT - Municipal Budget Crisis Questionnaire, Continued*

8. Have you or your representative spoken with legislators about the budget cuts you are expecting to make or have made?

9. If you answered “yes” to the previous question, please tell us which legislators you have spoken with and offer some general information regarding their response.

10. Please explain any new fees or recent increases to existing fees your municipality has implemented to recover revenues lost due to the property tax caps or other fiscal shortfall.

11. Please offer ANY additional information regarding your fiscal situation, such as the possible impact on economic development, community development, etc., that you believe will help IACT advocate for you at the Statehouse or with members of the media.

Please return your completed questionnaire to the **Indiana Association of Cities and Towns, attn: Jennifer Simmons, 200 South Meridian St., Suite 340, Indianapolis, IN 46225. Responses can also be faxed to 317-237-6206, or emailed to [jsimmons@citiesandtowns.org](mailto:jsimmons@citiesandtowns.org).**

Attach any additional documentation that you deem necessary or helpful.

Please send your response at your earliest convenience. As your local budget process progresses, any updates are appreciated.