

Hoosiers Chime In on Local Government Effectiveness

*Thousands visit Web, send e-mails and participate in forums to connect with
Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform*

INDIANAPOLIS — Invited by the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform to play a role in improving local government, Indiana residents responded by the thousands, logging onto the Commission's Web site, e-mailing comments and participating in public conversations.

Launched in August 2007, the Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform Web site (<http://indianalocalgovreform.iu.edu/>) has logged nearly 10,000 visits over the last few months, and more than 1,000 Hoosiers have provided input to the Commission through mail, e-mail and voice mail. Comments have ranged from one-sentence suggestions to multi-page, data-supported proposals. All comments provided to the Commission through October 15 are available for public review on the Commission's Web site. New comments are posted twice a month.

In addition, nearly 700 Hoosiers participated in public forums in locations across the state. Information received through those forums also is summarized on the Web site.

"We're gratified by the number of Hoosiers who have taken the time to participate in this process," said former Gov. Joe Kernan, who, along with Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall Shepard, co-chairs the Commission. "The citizens of Indiana clearly are interested in better, more efficient local government."

"I'm impressed by the real substance in the comments we've received," added Shepard. "The people have taken this effort seriously and offered us some real, meaningful suggestions. They've given us a lot to think about."

Created in July by Gov. Mitch Daniels, the Commission is charged with finding ways to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of local government operations and, as a result, reduce the cost of local government to Hoosier taxpayers.

To form its recommendations, the Commission is working with IUPUI's Center for Urban Policy and the Environment to conduct research into current local government structure, previous reform efforts, research studies, and best practices from other states.

The Commission is in the process of reviewing the research and public input that will shape its recommendations. The Commission will deliver a set of proposals to the people of Indiana—including the governor and members of the legislature—in December so that its recommendations will be available for a first look by the 2008 General Assembly during its short session.

Complete information on the Commission and its work is available at <http://indianalocalgovreform.iu.edu/>.
