



## Upcoming Dates:



September 16-22:  
Farm Safety Week

October 10-12:  
Managers to Washington

October 12:  
County Resolution  
Submittal Deadline

November 5-7:  
Local & Regional Food  
Summit

November 6:  
General Election

November 7-8:  
Statewide Resolution  
Committee Meeting

December 1-4:  
IAA® Annual Meeting



## Did You Know...?

**39** townships  
don't have  
highway  
commissioners



September/October 2018

Volume 9 Issue 5

## Urbanized areas & stormwater

More counties to gain stormwater management authority

by Kevin Rund

To date, there are just a handful of counties authorized to regulate stormwater and impose a fee to cover that cost. That hand is about to get a lot fuller.

Exactly six years ago, in the 2012 September/October issue of *LINK*, we reported on the five collar counties (around Chicago) and nine "downstate" counties in Illinois with the power to regulate stormwater runoff and levy taxes to finance that effort. But, earlier this year, the Illinois General Assembly passed HB4748 expanding that list. The governor signed that legislation into law on August 10. Public Act 100-0758 becomes effective January 1, 2019.

At the beginning of next year, the number of counties specifically authorized to regulate stormwater will jump to 24. Add on Cook County—with its home rule

authority—makes that 25 and means that nearly one fourth of all Illinois counties could be subject to county-level stormwater regulation and taxes.

The counties added to this list by the 2018 legislation weren't mentioned by name. Instead, the new Illinois law extends this authority to all counties that contain "all or a part of an urbanized area." That means that the list of 25 could grow as urban populations expand (as counted by the decennial census).

The key words are, "urbanized area". The U.S. Bureau of the Census uses the term "urban area" and includes under that umbrella term two other terms: "urbanized area" and "urban center". The latter is generally defined to cover contiguous census tracts that have 2,500 to fewer than 50,000 in population; the former have 50,000 or more.

(See **Stormwater** on page 5)

## Broadband connectivity

IFB® comments on USDA e-connectivity pilot program

by Brenda Matherly

Access to broadband connectivity is important to rural Illinois. In all areas of the state, broadband plays a critical role in the lives of rural citizens and the industries providing quality-of-life services. Success in agriculture, healthcare, education and economic development require rural areas to keep up with connectivity and technology. The failure of any one of these industries in a rural area could result in the end of a

viable community.

Illinois Farm Bureau® (IFB) recently submitted comments to the USDA in a show of support for a newly-funded program being created to evaluate rural broadband needs.

The USDA has received a \$600 million appropriation from Congress in the Consolidated Budget Act of 2018. The mon

(See **Broadband** on page 8)



It's time for a shout-out! October will mark the graduation of our third class of *Think LINK* participants. Congratulations to:

- Jane Brangenberg,  
Calhoun County Farm Bureau®
- Sydney Lay,  
Clay County Farm Bureau®
- Marisa Davis,  
Saline and Gallatin County Farm Bureaus®
- Lance Martin,  
Williamson County Farm Bureau®

Each of these managers did an outstanding job and have successfully completed this program with an intense focus on local government awareness and involvement.

*Think LINK*, now in its third year, continues to target newer county Farm Bureau managers. The program is intended to raise their awareness, understanding and comfort level with local government—and ultimately their involvement.

To help achieve these goals, Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB®) staff spends a year working with the new manager participants. Much of that time is spent in the county, with learning exercises aimed at producing results that have practical application.

To showcase their participation, our *Think LINK* managers each wrote an article on a local government topic of interest to them. Those articles are included in this publication of *LINK*.

Make sure to congratulate each of these managers on a job well done!

## Petition process in Illinois

A look at some of the basics of the petition process in a local partisan election

by Sydney Lay, Manager  
Clay County Farm Bureau®

With fall just around the corner, election season is in full swing. Voters are being bombarded with ads, mailers, and information about candidates and measures that will be on the ballot come November. But just what does it take to get your name on the ballot? Petitioning is a big step in the beginning stages of running for office. This article focuses on the local candidate process in a partisan election. Below are some of the key requirements for petitioning in Illinois to get your candidacy on the ballot.

To be considered a candidate for election in a local position, candidates must file nomination papers with the Illinois State Board of Elections (ISBE). Candidates have a one-week window in which to file their

nomination papers, which include a statement of candidacy, loyalty oath (optional), statement of economic interest, and petition papers.

Each petition sheet must be numbered, uniform in size, and contain the same uniform heading, which includes the candidate's name, office, and political party. The header information must be submitted and verified by the ISBE prior to circulating the petition sheets, and the header information must match the header that was submitted on the statement of candidacy.

The number of signatures depends on which office is being sought, and which party the candidate belongs to. Someone running as part of an established political party has different signature requirements than a candidate running as an independent, or a candidate wishing to run as part of a brand-new party.

There are also stipulations on who can collect signatures. Sometimes it takes a village to help gather sufficient numbers of signatures; candidates often enlist the help of friends and family to act as circulator. The circulator must be of legal voting age at the time of the general or consolidated election and must witness every signature made on their sheet.

When it is time to file, papers can't just be shuffled together on the way to the county clerk or township office; they must be neatly bound, book-style on one side. Timing is also key, because papers must be filed before 5 p.m., or close of business, whichever is later, on the last day of the filing period—even if you are in line before the deadline, if you don't make it to the front by then, your papers won't be accepted.

(See *Petition* on page 7)

# Forms of county government

Different structures do not necessarily mean different outcomes, only a different approach

by Lance Martin, Manager,  
Williamson County Farm Bureau®

Counties in Illinois operate under one or the other of two available forms of governance: township form (also referred to as "board form") and commission form. The township form of government is most popular in Illinois with 84 counties using it while 17 counties are commission form.

Illinois settlers originating from the eastern states preferred small scale government at the local level and formed counties with townships. Settlers coming from the south liked strong executives in large counties resulting in commission form in their counties.

While each form of government has its advantages, it sometimes causes great debate when two counties of each form border each other. Commission proponents could argue multiple layers of township/county government doing the same thing results in inefficiencies. Townships claim more local control to the people. Which is better?

I reside in a county with the township form of government. The township board meets once a month at the nearby townhouse to discuss matters. The elected road commissioner oversees township roads. The county elects 14 at-large board members and hires a county highway engineer to oversee county roads.

I work in a neighboring county with the commission form of government. Three elected commissioners govern the county and hire a highway engineer to oversee all local roads.

Let's look at some issues that have been discussed historically.

## Roads

Road funding comes from a variety of sources including federal and

state programs, the Motor Fuel Tax fund, and local sources...primarily property taxes.

The roads in the commission form county are paved; many of those in the township form county are not. Is it because of the commission form of government? Probably not. The commission form county's population far out numbers that of the

township county resulting in more funds available to operate a highway/road department and maintain roads. Some really rural townships with low population as well as commission counties with low population struggle with funding and that will probably continue.

My commission form county is orga-

(Continued on page 6)

## SWCDs

The best kept secret of Illinois — a local/state/federal entity?

by Jane Brangenburg, Manager  
Calhoun County Farm Bureau®

Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) were established under the Illinois Soil and Water Conservation District Act in 1937, and although a SWCD is a governmental body, it is unique in its relation with federal, state, and county government.

The SWCDs were created largely because of the Dust Bowl. In 1934 the dust storms began. The drought was the worst ever in US History. As crops died, the "Black Blizzards" began.

Hugh Hammond Bennett, known as the father of soil & water conservation districts, understood the need

for assistance at the local level. President Franklin Roosevelt was advised by Mr. Bennett on soil erosion and the fact "Americans in the nation's midsection had farmed too much, too fast". Bennett educated leaders that the land could not

withstand this type of abuse.

In 1936 a Standard State District Act, also referred to as "District Law," was developed at the federal government level by the United States Department of Agriculture or (USDA)—previously called Soil Conservation Service—which encouraged the citizens of local governments to organize conservation districts as political subdivisions of state government. President Roosevelt wrote to each state governor urging each to approve legislation

that would create Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

In Illinois there are now 97 SWCD district offices. They work in conjunction with Natural Resources Conservation Service and the

Farm Service Agency as part of the USDA Service Center.

The local governing body is known as the Conservation District Board and consists of 5 directors. They shall be owners or occupiers of

(See SWCD on page 7)

"Out of the long list of nature's gifts to man, none is perhaps so utterly essential to human life as soil."

—Hugh Hammond

# Road jurisdictions

What are some of the differences in local road jurisdictions

by Marisa Davis, Manager, Saline and Gallatin County Farm Bureaus®

There are several different road district types across the State of Illinois. Many may not know much about highway systems other than state run roads. In this context we will cover a few differences of local road jurisdictions in Illinois.

## COUNTY

In a county highway system, a highway in a rural area may be called a "road," while a highway in a municipal area may be called a "street" (605 ILCS 5/2-202). The county highway system is under the jurisdiction of the county board and is managed by an appointed county engineer.

County highway systems are the roads that connect principal municipalities and trading points (traffic generators) within the county with each other, and with those in other counties (605 ILCS 5/5-102). Traffic generators in this context refers to stores, gas stations, grain elevators, any money generating or sightseeing place along the route or in a town/city/village.

Within a county, there could be many that believe the local roads are not being maintained the way they should be. When this happens, there can be petitions circulated within the county, and if the number of signatures needed are obtained the idea of moving away from a township road district system to a county unit road district can be placed on the ballot.

## ROAD DISTRICTS

In Illinois there are 1,432 townships still functioning (Illinois Comptroller), the closest level of general purpose government to the people living in unincorporated areas.

A township road district system consists of all rural public roads not part of the State highway system, the county highway system,

or municipal street system and not under the jurisdiction of any department, board, commission, agency or municipal corporation in the State of Illinois. For more on what they consist of check out the [highway systems booklet](#) from IDOT's Bureau of Local Roads & Streets.



The township government is run by a Township Board of Trustees. When it comes to the road system of the township, the Board of Trustees have little control over anything but

that district's budget. Each township's road system is run by a Highway Commissioner who is elected.

Township road districts can cover a single township or can be formed by consolidating the road districts of two or more townships, without consolidating the townships themselves. The County Unit Road District is also an option. (See sidebar on page 4.)

(See **Roads** on page 9)

# Motor Fuel Tax

Stagnation strains a needy system

by Kirby Wagner

In 1929, the Illinois General Assembly adopted a law placing a tax on the operation of a motor vehicle on public highways and operation of

recreational watercraft for the consumption of motor fuel.

Proceeds from this tax are administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), with a portion of these revenues being allocated to counties, townships, and municipalities. The collection and distribution of these funds are outlined in the [Motor Fuel Tax \(MFT\) Law](#).

MFT proceeds are heavily relied upon at the local level. In some cases, it can provide for more than half a local road district's overall budget. local governments must use MFT funds to improve, maintain, or build their transportation system as specified by law.

In Illinois, the MFT originated at 3 cents per gallon those 89 years ago. Since then, the tax rate has been increased nine times. However, the last time the Illinois General Assembly passed an increase of the motor fuel tax was 1990.

As a result, the revenue from MFT has failed to keep pace with inflation. The cost to operate, maintain, and expand a transportation s

(Continued on page 9)

## County Unit District

*All counties have the option of adopting the "County Unit Road District" approach to maintaining local roads that are not a part of the county highway system. These special road district roads remain separate and apart from the system of county highways within that county. Roads within the jurisdiction of a county unit road district are operated under a set of laws very similar to those that apply to township road districts and commission county road districts, with one notable exception. A County Unit Road District is administered by the county engineer instead of an elected highway commissioner.*

## Stormwater

(Continued from page 1)

The chart on the right provides the specifics of what areas and which counties are affected. Pay attention to the footnotes that indicate which are new based on this 2018 legislation.

Members and county Farm Bureau® leaders in the counties newly affected by this legislation will want to study the matter. Eventually, they'll want to have a conversation with leaders in county government about whether they intend to exercise that authority.

The original law—upon which this expansion is built—contains some safeguards for agriculture. Land used for cropland and pasture would generally not be subject to taxation for stormwater purposes, and county stormwater ordinances could not be used to regulate agricultural practices. However, infrastructure on farms—to the degree it includes impervious surfaces—generally could be subject to local fees or taxes.

Watch for the next issue of LINK where we'll describe the process needed for counties to adopt this authority and the powers provided once they do.

LINK

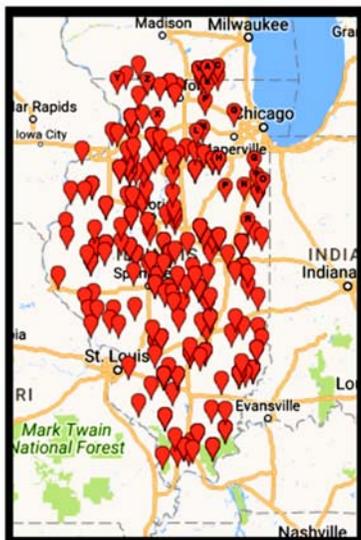
## Urbanized Areas in Illinois (2010)

#	Urbanized Area	Population	IL Counties Affected
1	Beloit, WI-IL	63,835	Winnebago**
2	Bloomington-Normal, IL	132,600	McLean**
3	Cape Girardeau, MO-IL *	52,900	Alexander**
4	Carbondale, IL *	67,821	Jackson**
5	Champaign, IL	145,361	Champaign**
6	Chicago, IL-IN	8,608,208	Cook & the collar counties†
7	Danville, IL-IN	50,996	Vermilion**
8	Davenport, IA-IL	280,051	Rock Island**
9	Decatur, IL	93,863	Macon**
10	DeKalb, IL	68,545	DeKalb†
11	Dubuque, IA-IL	67,818	Jo Daviess**
12	Kankakee, IL	81,926	Kankakee**
13	Kenosha, WI-IL	124,064	Lake†
14	Peoria, IL	266,921	Peoria**, Tazewell**, Woodford**
15	Rockford, IL	296,863	Winnebago**, Boone†
16	Springfield, IL	161,316	Sangamon**
17	St. Louis, MO-IL	2,150,706	Madison†, Monroe†, St. Clair†

\* Newly-added as an urbanized area by the 2010 census

\*\* Newly-authorized to adopt a stormwater plan by the 2018 HB4748

† Already holds authority for stormwater management and taxes



Map provided by Google Maps via BatchGeo

### Illinois Farm Bureau Survey on Broadband Service:

A recent member survey distributed by Illinois Farm Bureau generated a report that shows the value farmers place on high-speed, reliable internet access. The survey was conducted from February 22 to March 12, 2018.

Of the 235 respondents from 178 towns, villages & cities in Illinois:

- 75% report having broadband internet access at home.
- 61% have broadband internet access on their farm
- 56% report "lowest satisfaction" with their broadband internet service
- 66% report the quality of their broadband internet negatively impacts their farming business
- 71% chose "Focus a Lot" to describe how much Illinois Farm Bureau should focus on this issue.

### Form

(Continued from page 3)

nized with a countywide "unit district". But it is also possible for a township form county to create a unit district and place all roads under the purview of the county engineer.

### Control

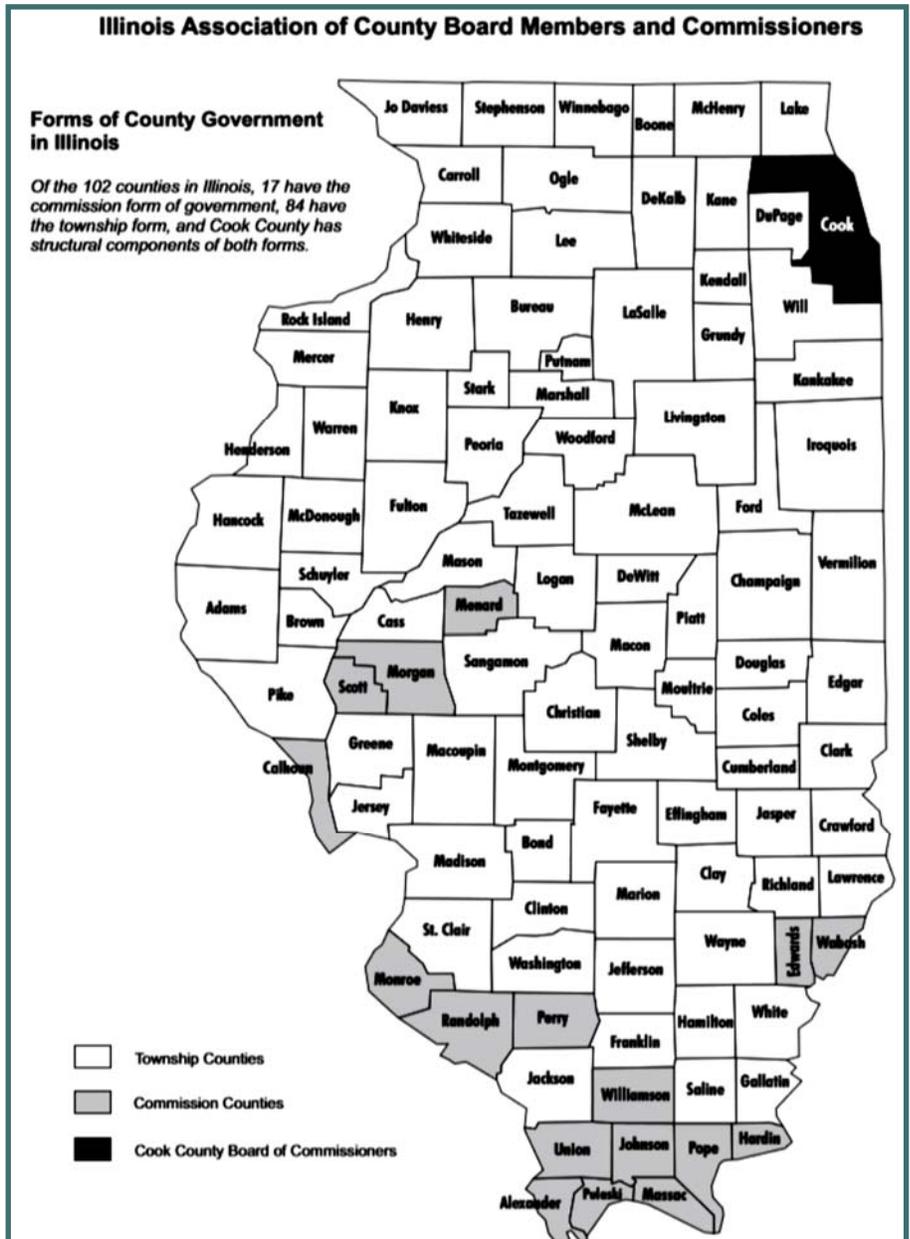
Fans of the township form with the elected 14-member county board like that control is spread out over more people helping make decisions. More people involved means any one agenda is not likely to pass through easily. The nature of politics today however demonstrates, regardless the number of elected people, divisions are clear and identified. In the commission form, yes, there are only three commissioners that ultimately make decisions. However, they are still elected by the people and for the people just like the township form officials.

### Meetings

It is true that multiple personalities sometime clash over issues regardless of the number of people. More people engaged in heated discussion does gain more attention. But, issues being decided upon by a board of 14 are just as important before a board of three. If you have strong views on a topic being discussed, make sure you reach out to a board

*Counties with township organization can elect board members at-large or by district. If by district, those district boundaries must be re-drawn following each 10-year census to allow for correct district representation based on population changes. The number of board members can range from 5 to 29.*

*Under the commission structure of county government, most counties can elect three or five commissioners. If at-large, the county must elect three commissioners, if by district, the county can choose to elect three or five commissioners.*



member to express your views. You can also request to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. Meetings in counties with either form are accessible.

### Summary

Commission form versus township form is a debate that will likely continue. The common bond between the two is that people still vote and elect who represents them. Those concerned that a three-member board is not enough maybe should consider proposing a five-member board. The same could be said for a multiple member board needing to

be trimmed down to be more efficient. What is ideal? That is a hard number to identify but easy to answer. That decision should be and is determined by the people.

Population, location and current infrastructure will continue to be factors in the evolution of government. When does one propose changes? Are governmental needs and services being met? If the answer is no, attend a board meeting and make your point heard.

LINK

## SWCD

(Continued from page 3)

lands within the district in which they serve.

These boards are made up of volunteers who are elected or appointed to oversee the implementation of the district's programs.

Programs that are offered through the SWCD provide technical assistance on a variety of natural resource issues such as soil conservation, water quality, nutrient management, sustainable land use, and conservation education. Over 500,000 individuals benefit from SWCD services each year.

The districts also administer the Illinois Department of Agriculture's Partners for Conservation (PFC) program by providing technical assistance and financial cost-share incentives to farmers and suburban/urban landowners for installation of various conservation practices such as grassed waterways, filter strips, and cover crops.

The conservation practices supported by SWCDs help to protect runoff from fields and account for an estimated reduction of 85,000-90,000 tons of soil loss. They also help to prevent approximately 170,000-180,000 pounds of nitrogen and 85,000-90,000 of phosphorous from reaching Illinois'

## Petitions

(Continued from page 2)

To be a valid signature on a petition, the constituent must be a registered voter in the district and may not sign petitions for a candidate of more than one political party for the same primary election. Signatures and addresses are subject to verification and can be stricken from the petition if not matching voter records.

The rules on running for office can be confusing for those just starting to get their feet wet in the political world. The *Candidates Guide* for that election calendar is a great re-

## USDA Encourages Rural Communities to Tap Into Loans for Water Infrastructure

Through its Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program, the Agriculture Department is providing \$4 billion to help rural communities and water districts maintain, modernize or build water and wastewater systems.

The funding is targeted at rural communities with 10,000 or fewer residents, like Greenview, Illinois, a village with a population of 788. Greenview is receiving a \$4.9 million loan and a \$3.7 million grant to construct a wastewater collection and treatment facility. This project will alleviate health hazards caused by private septic or aeration systems that discharge effluent into drainage fields.

Eligible rural communities and water districts can apply via the [RD Apply](#) tool or through one of USDA Rural Development's [state or field offices](#).

[FBNews article](#)

ditches, streams, lakes, and rivers—also the goal of the state-sponsored Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy.

SWCDs receive operational and cost-share funds through the Partners for Conservation Program from the IL Dept. of Ag. Overall funding has been cut by 70% since fiscal year 2002.

Each SWCD office is responsible for bringing state and federal funding to rural and urban citizens.

Unlike most state-funded agencies, SWCDs return to the local economy an average of \$23.57 for every \$1 spent, adding more than \$400 million to the State's economy every year.

[LINK](#)

### Petition Signatures: — *ISBE's 2018 Candidates Guide*

- A signer must sign his/her own signature on the petition. The signer cannot sign for someone else, such as another member of his or her family.
- The voter should sign the petition as he/she is registered to vote (i.e. the signature for James Smith ideally should not appear on the petition as Jim Smith; however, signing with a nickname will not invalidate the signature, provided the voter can be reasonably identified).
- Pencil signatures are allowed, but black ink is preferable.

source for those seeking candidacy in an upcoming election; it can be found at the ISBE website at <https://elections.il.gov/>. Don't let an error in the beginning stages of your campaign keep your candidacy off the ballot—pay close attention to the rules of petitioning to secure your

spot on the next ballot.

[LINK](#)

#### Sources:

"2018 Candidates Guide" pg. 1-6. [Elections.il.gov](#)  
"2016 Candidates Guide" pg. 1-11, 25-29. [Elections.il.gov](#)

## Broadband

(Continued from page 1)

ey will be used to develop a pilot program to help bring broadband to rural areas of the country.

The focus of the program is to improve broadband services for as many rural American homes, businesses, farms, schools and health care facilities as possible.

As a major stakeholder in agricultural interests and rural development, IFB provided comments to USDA on the importance of rural broadband deployment. The following remarks support our member-based policy and address USDA's request for input on the rollout of the newly-funded e-Connectivity Pilot Program.

### USDA Comment Request #1:

*Provide comments to USDA on ways of evaluating a rural household's "sufficient access" to broadband e-Connectivity at speeds of 10 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream, and how broadband service affordability should be factored.*

### IFB Comments:

A survey targeting rural households and businesses can be used to collect data on the satisfaction of "sufficient broadband access" in rural areas. To be effective, the survey should:

- Contain a set of standardized and uniform questions created from and tabulated by a single source (i.e. USDA).
- Be structured using a standard format that includes short, simple and non-invasive questions.
- Include distribution using "hard copy" delivery. Based on USDA data, this is essential to reach the 22% of

rural residents that do not have internet access. Delivery methods can include:

- ◇ Direct mail using Rural



Free Delivery (RFD) routes.

- ◇ Distribution, by a USDA representative, at events targeting agriculture and rural lifestyles (i.e. county and state fairs, farm shows, stakeholder events such as conferences and trade shows.)
- ◇ Promotion by stakeholders such as state and county Farm Bureaus, Extension Service, rural electric cooperatives and rural development groups. Encourage these stakeholder groups to convey to their members how important it is to gather this information and distribute the survey.

Avoid relying on farmer-exclusive database, such as NASS. Expand target audience outreach to all residents in unincorporated areas. Consider using existing government data available through the US Census, USPS and existing RFD delivery routes to identify non-farm rural populations.

- Create an app, or use an existing app, that can be used on a mobile, smart device to measure "sufficient access". The app should be able to measure, record and transmit data that shows availability, reliability and speed. Data should be collected from businesses and private citizens reporting from several locations on their property (i.e. households, out-buildings and farm fields). Those using the app should be willing to test rural services and share their results.
- Use the survey to identify adoption rates in rural areas. Affordability is largely tied to the number of users subscribing to the service. Rural areas have fewer residents to share the expense. If a percentage of that population is not willing to subscribe to a service, even if available, the cost will likely increase for those that wish to subscribe.

### USDA Comment Request #2:

*Provide comments to USDA on the best options to verify speeds of broadband service provided to rural households.*

### IFB Comments:

- Test reliable access and speed using locations based on nine-digit zip codes to identify adequate service. This allows for exact household locations as opposed to larger areas identified using only a five-digit zip code.

- Encourage rural residents to access Google and/or FCC speed tests and report their results. Provide, in the survey, a URL link or scannable QR code to these existing tools.

- Expand speed test areas beyond just the rural households. Include areas vital to rural lifestyles such as farm fields, out-buildings and businesses.

### USDA Comment Request #3:

*Provide comments to USDA on the best leading indicators of project benefits for rural industries such as agriculture, manufacturing, e-commerce, transportation, health care and education, using available public data.*

### IFB Comments:

- Identify growth in adoption rates. Rely on rural providers to share data on subscription rates, service and speeds requested in rural locations.
- Monitor the use of telemedicine. Increased connectivity will allow telemedicine to play a bigger role in rural health care—providing significant benefits to both rural health care providers and rural residents.
- Track local units of government. As rural areas become more connected, local units of government should step up their online visibility and information sharing.

Offering these comments and staying in the loop with USDA's efforts helps to keep IFB at the table on this priority issue that impacts both the well-being of agriculture and the quality of farm family life.

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## MFT

(Continued from page 4)

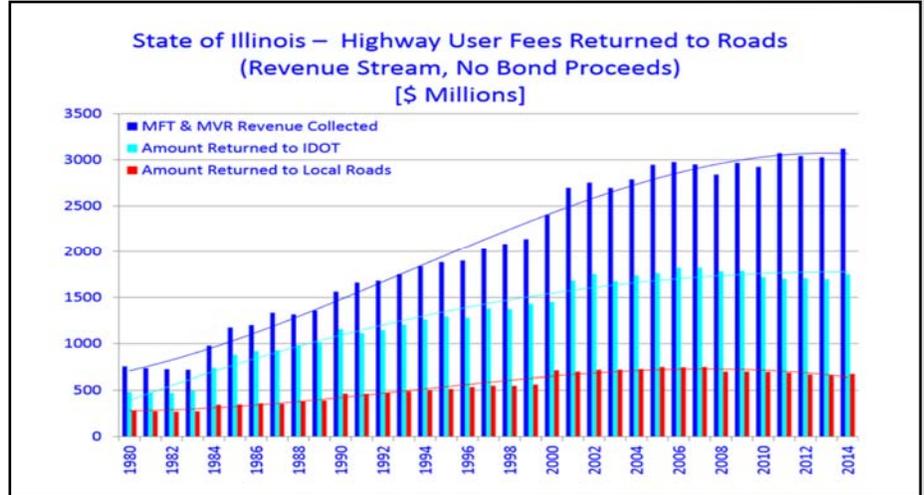
system increases over time; to keep up, the revenues to support the system must also grow, but haven't.

Since the MFT was last increased 28 years ago, the purchasing power of that revenue has declined by half. The lack of MFT inflation indexing greatly affects the ability of the local governments, as well as the State, to maintain and enhance the transportation system. Starting in 2003, the State's total construction costs began to outpace total MFT revenues.

MFT revenues are also impacted by newer vehicles. Fuel consumption has declined as vehicles become more efficient, and overall vehicle travel has stagnated in recent years, further reducing MFT revenues.

While cost of construction has risen and vehicles have become more fuel efficient, the MFT rate has remained unchanged. The MFT rate has not been increased to keep up with inflation and rising costs. This has caused a decline in purchasing power from the MFT, and that dramatically impacts the ability of the state, and local districts to fund construction projects.

The future of the MFT remains uncertain. Attempts to raise the MFT or create new transportation



funding sources arise every year in the Illinois General Assembly. Those attempts have all resulted in failure.

Without an adequate funding source, local governments are having to find new ways to repair and maintain roads—or forego that maintenance. The lack of funding has severely hampered local road systems, and those jurisdictions are

being more selective about what projects they undertake.

The hope remains for a successful solution to these issues that will help Illinois continue to be the heart of an incredible transportation network that makes the U.S. a leading mover of products across the world.

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### **IFB Policy 126: TRANSPORTATION — HIGHWAYS, Finance**

We will support:

1. Legislation which provides that user fees such as MFTs, licensing and registration fees are the basic means for funding highway transportation systems in Illinois at both state and local levels.
2. The increase of the State of Illinois motor fuel tax by up to 10 cents per gallon.
3. As an alternative to increasing the flat motor fuel tax, the creation of a new tax as a percentage of the wholesale price of fuel. This new tax would be distributed under the current motor fuel tax distribution formula.
4. Legislation collecting road user fees from hybrid vehicles, alternative fuel and electric highway vehicles.

## Roads

(Continued from page 4)

### MUNICIPAL

Municipality is a term used to include cities, villages and incorporated towns. Municipal street systems consist of streets within the municipality's limits that are not part of any state or county system.

The municipal street systems are overseen by the municipality's gov-

erning board. Under that board are municipal staff and employees that are hired to manage the street system and deal with day-to-day operations, snow removal, pothole filling and those types of jobs.

Streets beyond the municipal limits can be included into the jurisdiction of the municipal systems in at least three cases. Roads constructed under the School Code that connect the school grounds to any municipal street are then included into the municipal street system. Secondly, a road district's road can be brought into the municipality's jurisdiction

through annexation. When a road district road right-of-way is annexed into the municipality, the road is removed from the road district's care and placed into the municipality's care. And finally, when a municipality annexes only a portion of the road district's right-of-way—or even just to its near-side edge—it is automatically required that the full width of the highway be annexed into the municipal street system.

LINK

# Election Calendar

Sep. 27	Early voting begins
Oct. 9	Regular voter registration ends
Oct. 10	Grace period voter registration; voting begins
Oct. 21	Online voter registration ends
Nov. 1	Last day for absentee ballot applications
Nov. 5	Early voting ends
Nov. 6	Election Day



*Don't forget to cast your ballot for the 2018 election! Our future depends on the choices we make TODAY.*

Visit [www.ilfb.org/vote](http://www.ilfb.org/vote) for more voter resources.

# Local Regional Food Conference

Live local and support your local food system

An engaging three-day event you won't want to miss!

November 5-7, 2018

Are you a local farmer, processor, distributor, or retailer? Do you own a small business? Give back to your community while bringing fresh food and local businesses together. Know your impact and what buying and selling local can bring your local economy.

Mark your calendar to attend the Local Regional Food Conference and learn how to grow your business from the best. #LiveLocal

Early bird registration through October 13.

Register NOW at [www.ilfb.org/LiveLocal](http://www.ilfb.org/LiveLocal) to reserve your seat.