

Dear Manager/Administrator:

We write you to ask that your municipality participate in a new program to ensure that your voice is heard in Springfield on those issues most important to municipal governments.

The Illinois General Assembly considers hundreds of bills every year that affect municipal governments. Many of these bills will have limited impact on municipal governments. Some of these bills, however, are beneficial to municipal operations, while others can hinder municipal functions and budgets. Legislators need to hear from municipal leaders about the bills that will discernibly affect your budgets and operations.

The Illinois Municipal League (IML) and the Illinois City/County Management Association (ILCMA) are working together to build a Grassroots Advocacy Program (GAP). We are asking municipalities to make two commitments as part of this effort.

The first commitment is to identify someone on the management team as the designated contact person and forward their name and e-mail address to the IML. The second commitment is to empower this individual to coordinate and follow-up on any official requests for information and/or advocacy.

For example, if a bill is being considered that will impose an unfunded mandate, the IML will send information about the bill accompanied by a specific request for action to the contact person in each municipality. The designated contact person should be responsible for coordinating with appropriate staff to develop a cost estimate for the bill and any other information necessary to analyze the impact on your municipal operations. This information can then be forwarded to legislators and the IML. At times, the IML will need your municipality to simply send a prepared letter to your legislator. The IML will draft the letter and e-mail it to the municipal contact person, who can place it on official stationary for the signature of the mayor or manager and mail it to the legislator.

It is very important to gather critical information about how a bill may affect a municipality. It is also extremely important that a legislator not be able to say that they never heard from their municipalities on an important issue.

Please be assured that the IML will utilize this program only for select legislation deemed as particularly beneficial or burdensome for municipal governments.

We are looking for 100% participation in this new program from municipalities with a manager or administrator. Please complete the form attached to identify your official GAP program contact person and contact information. The form can be sent to Joe Schatteman, Research & Information Services Coordinator

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Dawn S. Petrus

Executive Director
Illinois City/County Management Assoc.

Executive Director
Illinois Municipal League

Grassroots Advocacy Program (G.A.P.)

Contact Information Survey

Municipality: _____

Name of GAP contact: _____

Title of GAP contact: _____

Contact Information:

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Is the contact person able to receive text messages on their cell phone?

Yes: _____ No: _____

Additional Information:

How familiar is the contact person with the Illinois Legislative Process?

_____ Very Familiar

_____ Somewhat Familiar

_____ Not Familiar

Please list the state legislators that represent your municipality and indicate if there is a person working or representing your community that has a good working relationship with that legislator.

Senator _____ Good Working Relationship: Yes No

Senator _____ Good Working Relationship: Yes No

Representative _____ Good Working Relationship: Yes No

Representative _____ Good Working Relationship: Yes No

Please return the completed form to:

Joe Schatteman
Illinois Municipal League
500 E. Capitol
P.O. Box 5180
Springfield Illinois 62705

Or Fax: 217/525/7438

Or email:
Jschatteman@iml.org