



OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR  
EVELYN SANGUINETTI

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**Contact**

Marcela Cartagena

[Marcela.Cartagena@illinois.gov](mailto:Marcela.Cartagena@illinois.gov)

## **Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti celebrates Chatham Township, neighboring communities for sharing services**

*Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti highlighted Chatham Township's partnership with neighboring communities in the 2016 Journal of Local Government Shared Service Best Practices, a blueprint for local governments to provide the people of Illinois more efficient, effective government services and save taxpayer dollars*

CHATHAM – Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti joined local leaders today to discuss a joint venture between Chatham Township and neighboring communities to share services, expertise and equipment. Their project is one of 27 examples included in the 2016 Journal of Local Government Shared Service Best Practices (Journal). The Journal, published by the Lt. Governor's Office, is a first-of-its-kind report that highlights how service consolidation and partnership among local governments in Illinois can reduce duplication, improve services and save taxpayer dollars.

"Illinois has the most units of government in the country at nearly 7,000 units and the highest property taxes in the nation," said Governor Bruce Rauner. "That's unacceptable. We have to cut the bureaucracy and create jobs to keep families from fleeing our state. We thank Lt. Governor Sanguinetti for her hard work on this journal and her dedication to the people of Illinois."

Since taking office in 2015, Governor Rauner has made property tax relief through local government consolidation a top priority. Within his first two months in office he named Lt. Governor the Chair of the Local Government Consolidation and Unfunded Mandates Task Force which aimed to streamline local government, empower communities, and save taxpayer dollars. The task force issued its [final report](#) in December 2015 with 27 recommendations, including the protection of shared service agreement-authority for local units of government.

“Last year we introduced legislation to empower local residents to consolidate units of government they believe are duplicative, excessive or ineffective,” said Lt. Governor Sanguinetti. “It is my hope that this journal can be used as a conversation starter in local communities. As you read, ask yourselves how shared services could work in your community.”

The examples in the report were collected from a survey conducted last year by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor in partnership with the Illinois Association of Park Districts, Illinois Association of School Boards, and the associations of various units of government. In total, 230 shared service examples were provided for best practice consideration. Out of those responses, 27 were selected to be published in the Journal.

One of the examples included in the Journal is the Chatham Township partnership. Since the early 1980s, Chatham and Ball Townships have shared labor and equipment for road maintenance, resulting in both cost savings and a reduced labor burden for each township. These successes led to Chatham Township developing more intergovernmental agreements with 14 neighboring governments in areas such as general assistance, weather sirens, and generators. Today, Chatham Township can proudly say it saves the community thousands of dollars each year through its commitment to efficient and cost-effective partnerships.

"In this day and age with rising costs and reduced revenues, it is imperative to work with other local government entities to streamline services and maximize efficiency of every tax dollar spent," said Chatham Township Highway Commissioner Shane Workman.

*The 2016 Journal of Local Government Shared Service Best Practices can be found [here](#). Photo caption: With Lieutenant Governor Sanguinetti is Shane Workman, Chatham Township Highway Commissioner.*