



OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR
EVELYN SANGUINETTI

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Contact

Marcela Cartagena

Marcela.Cartagena@illinois.gov

Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti Celebrates Shared Services with Monmouth Township and Mercer County Officials

Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti highlighted both the Monmouth Township General Assistance and Publishing Partnership, and the Mercer County Ag Literacy Program 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

MONMOUTH – Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti joined local leaders today to discuss two joint ventures. The first is a partnership between Monmouth Township and other Warren County entities to jointly publish public notices and provide a consolidated General Assistance office . The second is a joint venture among Mercer County community entities to fund the Mercer County Ag Literacy Program. These projects are two 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 Municipal League, Township Officials of Illinois 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 Monmouth Township General Assistance and Publishing Partnership, which enabled Monmouth Township to provide the General Assistance office and administrative duties for several public entities in Warren County through intergovernmental agreements. Additionally, Monmouth Township provides wage information to area agencies, which saves over \$1,000 per year in publishing costs. These partnerships have achieved significant administrative and office cost savings.

“Before I became a trustee I was a taxpayer. As I have the opportunity to look through this Journal, there are some great ideas that can really be spread. It provides an excellent starting point for a discussion,” said Dorothy Ricketts, a Monmouth Township trustee.

Another example included in the Journal is the Mercer County Ag Literacy program, a joint venture between local schools (Sherrard and Mercer County School Districts) along with the Mercer County Farm Bureau, Mercer Branch of the Cooperative Extension Service and the Soil and Water Conservation District. The organization provides learning material and in-the-classroom presentations promoting production agriculture and a natural resource preservation program. This collaboration successfully provided funds for an Ag Literacy Coordinator who plans educational programming for hundreds of students each year.

“I would like to thank the Lieutenant Governor for recognizing the mutual effort of the Mercer County Farm Bureau, the Mercer County Cooperative Extension Service and the Mercer County Soil and Water Conservation District. It has enabled us to provide an educational program for the youth of Mercer County during a time of limited financial resources,” said Bill Joseph, a resource conservationist for Mercer County.

The 2016 Journal of Local Government Shared Service Best Practices can be found [here](#). *Photo caption: Lieutenant Governor Sanguinetti with Monmouth and Mercer County community members. The attached photo may be used for publication.*

