



Office of the Lt. Governor
Evelyn Sanguinetti

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Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti celebrates Urbana School District #116, Urbana Park District for sharing services

Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti highlighted the Urbana partnership 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

URBANA – Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti joined local leaders today to discuss a joint venture between Urbana School District #116 and Urbana Park District that provides a high quality indoor swim facility for both students and community members. 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 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 Urbana Aquatic Center, an indoor swim facility that's available to students and the community. "The Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center adds value to the community beyond a traditional school-based pool. The partnership between Urbana School District #116 and Urbana Park District provides for maximum use of a school facility throughout the year," said John Dimit, Urbana School District #116 Board President.

"Urbana is a community where we work to get to know each other, and where we believe in playing to each other's strengths. Parks and schools are natural partners when you keep a broader focus. It takes real work to have a partnership like this, and it benefits the whole community when you do," said Michael Walker, Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners President.

The 2016 Journal of Local Government Shared Service Best Practices can be found [here](#).

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