



August 22, 2007

Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform sets work program
Plans include research, interviews with stakeholders and public forums

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform outlined its work plan for the next few months in an August 22 organizational meeting. After the meeting, former Governor Joe Kernan and Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall Shepard, co-chairs of the Commission, met with members of the media to discuss the Commission's timetable, process and scope of work.

With all members present for the organizational meeting, the Commission discussed the general charge before it, set a timeline for future meetings and work, and heard reports on initial research conducted by the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment staff.

The Commission members set a work schedule that will effectively move through three overlapping stages:

- **Research and Analysis:**

During the months of August and September, the Center for Urban Policy and the Environment staff will gather, analyze and consolidate information and data. Information to be considered during this process will include, but not be limited to previous reform efforts, research studies, and best practices from other states. The Commission will review collected research and request additional research or clarifications as needed. Research and information collection will continue throughout the process.

- **Public Input:**

The Commission will provide a number of opportunities to collect input from the public and other stakeholders.

Through out the process, interested parties can submit comment to the commission via its Web site (<http://indianalocalgovreform.iu.edu/>), e-mail lgreform@iu.edu or U.S. mail to the Center on Urban Policy and the Environment at 334 N. Senate Avenue, Suite 300, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

During September, the staff of the Center on Urban Policy and the Environment will conduct focused interviews with representatives of organizations that know various aspects of government and government reform. That will include representatives of school boards, chambers of commerce, libraries, local-government associations and more.

In October, the Commission will host a series of moderated, public forums. Members of the public will be able to share their ideas with the Commission and other members of the public. Those meetings will take place in various parts of the state. Locations will be announced as they are determined.

- **Deliberations:**

Finally, in November and December, the Commission will begin the process of reviewing all input and forming its recommendations. The Commission will deliver a set of proposals to the people of Indiana – including the governor and members of the legislature – by the end of the year so that its recommendations will be available for a first look by the 2008 general assembly during the short session.



The Indiana Commission on Local Government Reform was proposed by Gov. Mitch Daniels to provide recommendations for a leaner local government structure. The Commission operates under the leadership of former Governor Kernan and Chief Justice Shepard and under the auspices of Indiana University's Center for Urban Policy and the Environment.