

**COLFAX TOWNSHIP REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DECENNIAL
COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT
Townships and Road District JOINT REPORT**

I. Unit of government submitting this report:

NAME OF TOWNSHIP: Colfax

Note: Any local government that levies a tax, other than a municipality or county must file this report. For Road Districts in counties with populations of less than 400,000 the highway commissioner may form a joint committee to prepare one combined report. See 50 ILCS 70/10(b-5).

II. Information about our Township

A. We are located in Champaign County. There are 29 townships in our county.

B. The population of our Township is 219, as of the 2020 census.

C. We have 0 employees of the Township (not including elected officials).

D. We have 0 employees in our Road District (not including elected officials).

E. Our annual budget for 2023 is: \$ 278,350.

F. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2023 is \$ 25,172,550.

III. Information about Our Committee

A. Committee Members:

Township Supervisor Bernie Magsamen

Township Highway Commissioner Jeff White

Township Trustee Chris Foran

Township Trustee Frank Hardimon

Township Trustee Andy Woodworth

Township Trustee Ron Starwalt

Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment) Kathy White

Township Resident (Supervisor Appointment) Ken Gady

Township Resident (Highway Comm. Appointment) Lori Magsamen

Note: Per 50 ILCS 70/10(b), the committee membership must include all the elected or appointed members of the township board (Supervisor and Trustees) and two residents appointed by the Supervisor. The residents can be the Assessor, Clerk or Collector, if you have one, or other residents of the Township, but these officials are not required to be on this Committee. The Supervisor may appoint more than two residents if deemed appropriate.

- B. Dates that our Committee Met (50 ILCS 70/20)
 - First (Organizational) Meeting
(must occur prior to June 10, 2023): May 31, 2023
 - Second Meeting: June 30, 2023
 - Third Meeting: July 31, 2023
 - Additional Meetings (List All): _____, 2023

Colfax Township

IV. Programs Offered by our Township.

- A. Our Township offers the following services and programs:
General Assistance
- B. Other services/programs we could possibly provide:
None

V. Intergovernmental Agreements

A. We partner with, or have Intergovernmental Agreements, with the following other Governments:

Entity: Sadorus Township (Sadorus Colfax Multi Township)
Services Offered: Tax Assessment

B. Our Township's efficiency has increased through intergovernmental cooperation in the following way: There is efficiency in sharing the cost of the tax assessor between Sadorus Township and Colfax Township. Scott Township will be added to the multi-township and therefore will be even more efficient. The tax assessments have been lowered by doing this which benefits the citizens of the townships.

VI. Review of Laws, Township Policies, Township Rules and Procedures, Township Training Materials, and other Documents

We have reviewed the following, non-exhaustive list of laws, policies, training materials, and other documents applicable to the Township to evaluate our compliance and to determine if any of the foregoing should be amended.

 X State laws applicable to Townships, including, but not limited to the Township Code (60 ILCS)

 X Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120)

 X Policy on public comment

 X Designation of OMA officer (5 ILCS 120/1.05(a))

 X All of Elected Officials have completed OMA Training (5 ILCS 120/1.05(b))

 X Schedule of All Township Regular Meetings for Calendar or Fiscal Year (5 ILCS 120/2.03)

 X Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140)

 X Designation of FOIA officer (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))

- FOIA Officer Training (5 ILCS 140/3.5(b))
- Computation and Retention of FOIA Requests (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))
- Posting Other Required FOIA Information (5 ILCS 140/4(a); 5 ILCS 140/4(b))
- All of our Elected Officials have filed statement of economic interests (5 ILCS 420/4A-101; 5 ILCS 420/4A-101.5)
- Sexual harassment prevention training (775 ILCS 5/2-109(c))
- Our Intergovernmental Agreements
- Our budget and financial documents
- State Ethics Laws, including, but not limited to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/1-1)

VII. What Have We Done Well?

We have kept taxes down for the residents of Colfax Township. We have levied no special tax assessments. We have not levied more than the CPI and therefore have not needed to hold a truth in taxation hearing in the past 21 years.

VIII. What Inefficiencies Did We Identify/What Are our Next Steps?

No inefficiencies were identified.

IX. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?

The committee did not come up with anything that we could do more efficiently.

X. Studies on Governmental Efficiencies

In preparing this report, we reviewed several studies on local government efficiency. These studies show that:

- The average local government in Illinois serves 1800 residents compared to the national median of 2850 individuals
- Most townships in Illinois have no bonded indebtedness. Together with road districts they are an integral element of local democracy. Township expenditures have grown at a lower rate than those of any other level of government since 1992.
- Townships have lower labor costs and employ mostly part time employees.

XI. Our committee's recommendations regarding Increased Accountability and Efficiency: The committee feels that Colfax Township is very efficient and had no recommendations to increase efficiency.

Submitted by: Bernie Magsamen
Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of Colfax Township
Date: 11/30/24

Colfax Road District

XII. Review of Laws, Township Policies, Township Rules and Procedures, Township Training Materials, and other Documents

We have reviewed the following, non-exhaustive list of laws, policies, training materials, and other documents applicable to the Township to evaluate our compliance and to determine if any of the foregoing should be amended.

- State laws applicable to Townships, including, but not limited to the Township Code (60 ILCS)
- Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120)
- Policy on public comment
- Designation of OMA officer (5 ILCS 120/1.05(a))
- All of Elected Officials have completed OMA Training (5 ILCS 120/1.05(b))
- Schedule of All Township Regular Meetings for Calendar or Fiscal Year (5 ILCS 120/2.03)
- Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140)
- Designation of FOIA officer (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))
- FOIA Officer Training (5 ILCS 140/3.5(b))
- Computation and Retention of FOIA Requests (5 ILCS 140/3.5(a))
- Posting Other Required FOIA Information (5 ILCS 140/4(a); 5 ILCS 140/4(b))
- All of our Elected Officials have filed statement of economic interests (5 ILCS 420/4A-101; 5 ILCS 420/4A-101.5)
- Sexual harassment prevention training (775 ILCS 5/2-109(c))
- Our Intergovernmental Agreements
- Our budget and financial documents

X State Ethics Laws, including, but not limited to the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act (5 ILCS 430/1-1)

XIII. What Have We Done Well?

There are 56 miles of roads in Colfax Township. The Road Commissioner has done a great job of building and maintaining these roads. We have kept costs down by not having any full-time employees and therefore also saving by not having healthcare and retirement costs. All property tax money goes to maintain the roads and bridges of Colfax Township.

XIV. What Inefficiencies Did We Identify/What Are our Next Steps?

We did not find any inefficiencies in regards to the Colfax Road District.

XV. What Can We Do Better or More Efficiently?

The committee did not come up with anything that we could do more efficiently.

XVI. Studies on Governmental Efficiencies

In preparing this report, we reviewed several studies on local government efficiency. These studies show that:

- The average local government in Illinois serves 1800 residents compared to the national median of 2850 individuals
- Most townships in Illinois have no bonded indebtedness. Together with road districts they are an integral element of local democracy. Township expenditures have grown at a lower rate than those of any other level of government since 1992.
- Townships have lower labor costs and employ mostly part time employees.

XVII. Our committee's recommendations regarding Increased Accountability and

Efficiency: The committee feels that Colfax Road District is very efficient. The committee came up with no recommendations to improve the efficiency.

Note: This Report must be filed with your County no later than 18 months after your first committee meeting.

Submitted by: Bernie Magsamen
Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of Colfax Township

Date: 11/30/24