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**Kane County Achieves Perfect Score for Transparency
From Leading Illinois Think Tank**

Geneva, IL - Kane County's effort to achieve the highest possible level of transparency has resulted in its website (www.countyofkane.org) being awarded a perfect score of 100 percent, according to the [Illinois Policy Institute \(IPI\)](http://www.illinoispolicyinstitute.org), a leading Illinois think tank.

The perfect score, announced Tuesday, June 26th by the IPI, was the result of a second follow-up audit of 26 counties in Northern Illinois and improves significantly on the Kane County's score announced in the [Local Transparency Project](#) and [10-Point Transparency Checklist](#) in March.

"Kane County has led the way on transparency, and has again been recognized for our trailblazing efforts," McConnaughay said. "But we never rest on our laurels and worked diligently to receive this perfect score. I'm proud of our team and grateful to IPI for its efforts to promote open and responsive government."

The 100 percent score is the result of an intensive effort since March by the county's Information Technologies Department (IT) to significantly improve on its original top-ranking score and set an even higher standard for public access to government documents and data.

"Kane County used IPI's original analysis as the baseline for further improvements," said IT Executive Director Roger Fahnestock, whose county staff has been busy batch-indexing thousands of documents so county board meeting agendas and minutes are searchable on the site while also providing more salary, contract and tax information.

"Proactive government transparency is one of the most important tools we have to help prevent, expose and put an end to government corruption," said Brian Costin, IPI's Director of

Government Reform. “Kane County is the first county-level government to achieve the highest possible score on the Illinois Policy Institute’s 10-point Transparency Checklist. We enthusiastically applaud the efforts Chairman McConaughay, the County Board and the hardworking county staff to be more open and accountable to taxpayers. We hope their 100 percent score will inspire other government agencies to embrace transparency.”

The IPI, with offices in Chicago and Springfield, evaluates websites against a Ten-Point Transparency Checklist and awards a varying number of points based on the extent to which each point is addressed. Details on IPI’s evaluation process and criteria can be found at www.illinoispolicy.org.

Among other things, the Kane County website now includes a Transparency Initiatives Page, making it much easier to see how the county stacks up against the IPI's criteria, according to Fahnstock.

Earlier this year Kane County was one of 214 government entities nationwide to be honored with a "Sunny Award" from the Virginia-based Sunshine Review, a national non-profit organization dedicated to government transparency. It was the second year in a row that the County was recognized nationally, along with 18 other governmental units in Illinois, for having the most transparent government websites in the nation.

A complete list of how all 26 Northern Illinois counties fared in the recent follow-up audit follows:

Local Transparency Project Audit Results

	June 2012 Audit	Grade
Kane County	100	A+
DuPage County	86.3	B
Lake County	84	B
Rock Island County	71.3	C
Cook County	65.2	D
DeKalb County	60.9	D-
Will County	58.6	F
McHenry County	56.4	F
Kankakee County	52	F
Boone County	47.6	F

Kendall County	45.2	F
Carroll County	43.6	F
Stephenson County	43.2	F
Henry County	40.1	F
Jo Daviess County	39.8	F
Marshall County	27.4	F
Whiteside County	27.4	F
Grundy County	25.1	F
LaSalle County	24.3	F
Ogle County	23.8	F
Lee County	18	F
Winnebago County	16.7	F
Putnam County	12.6	F
Mercer County	9.5	F
Bureau County	8.5	F
Stark County	7.5	F
Average Score	42.1	F

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