

PRESS RELEASE

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JULIE L. VOORHIES
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Recorder and Surveyor Join Forces to Save Taxpayer Money

Plan to Streamline Local Government Speeds Ahead while Mayor Preaches UniGov 2.0 and Supporters of the Kernan- Shepard Report Posture

Indianapolis, IN – February 10, 2009: Marion County Recorder, Julie Voorhies, and Marion County Surveyor, Debra Jenkins are proud to announce a resource sharing plan aimed at reducing the operating costs of both offices. Effective January 1, 2009, the Recorder and Surveyor's Office have agreed, through a signed Memorandum of Understanding, to share office space and administrative and technical staff, and to leverage their combined buying power by purchasing equipment and supplies together. These two County offices are moving quickly to implement all facets of this streamlining plan by April 1, 2009.

This resource sharing plan comes as Mayor Gregory A. Ballard proposes, through his UniGov 2.0 consolidation plan and supporters of the Kernan -Shephard Report begin a process of amending Indiana's constitution to eliminate these county offices. The process of eliminating these constitutional offices will take several years of legislative work and will ultimately ask voters to give-up their power to oversee these county offices and transfer that power to one person, the Mayor.

The Recorder and Surveyor's streamlining plan promises immediate and tangible savings at a time when those savings are needed most. Mayor Ballard has not said how his UniGov 2.0 plan would save taxpayers anything over the short or long-term. The Recorder and Surveyor believe their plan shows how independent county offices can work together without oversight from the Mayor's office to streamline local government.

"As separately elected officials we are accountable directly to the voting public and know best how to run our operations and how to find opportunities to streamline," says Julie Voorhies. Debra Jenkins, Marion County Surveyor believes, "smarter more efficient government is the answer to cost savings in local government, combined the Recorder and I share over 30 years of state and local government experience, that experience enables us to understand taxpayers needs and to make immediate, positive and certain change."