



from your Executive Director

By Bryan E. Smith

TOI Executive Director

BEGINNING LAST YEAR, and up until the time of me sitting down to write this article, it has been hard to pick up a newspaper or turn on the television or radio without hearing or seeing something about the most recent events in Springfield, where the Governor and members of the General Assembly are at odds over a budget for the state of Illinois.

Frustration is at an all-time high as we are near the end of the Spring Session of the General Assembly and still no budget. All this is causing major voter dissatisfaction and has a lesson for township officials. As elected officials, we always have to remember who our bosses are: the voters who elected us to office. After all, it is the voters who pay our salary!

It is now just a few months away before the cycle begins for township officials to begin the process for the 2017 township election. At this time when the public is very untrusting of government and government officials, it is more important than ever before for township officials to demonstrate innovative management techniques in order to provide their constituents with the most cost-effective government there is.

It was nice to hear recently from townships that took advantage of Local Government Week, the first full week in March, and the Annual Town meeting on the second Tuesday in April to showcase and tell what their township is doing to make their community a better place for those who pay for it, the taxpayers.

There are countless township officials all over the state, who are steadfast in their commitment to excellence. Township officials have a right to be proud because they are doing a great job and I salute you for everything you do. I have said this many times before, but it bears repeating: township officials are the most dedicated group of officials who want to make sure they are giving their constituents the very best.

Again, thank you for your commitment to serve in your township. Township government has a great story to tell and each of you is a storyteller.

THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS HAS POSTED NEW PUBLICATIONS TO THEIR WEBSITE

THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS has made available the 2017 Local Election Officials Handbook and the 2017 Township Caucus Guide as downloadable documents from their website at www.elections.il.gov. These publications cover the election dates, the nomination processes, ballot certification, election administration, vacancies, early voting, public questions, lottery procedures, and forms.

Look for the 2017 Candidates Guide and the 2017 Election and Campaign Finance Calendar to be posted in July 2016. If you should have any questions regarding any of these publications, please call the State Board of Elections at 217-782-4141.