

**JOLIET TOWNSHIP REPORT FOR COMPLIANCE WITH DECENNIAL
COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY ACT**

I. Unit of government submitting this report:

NAME OF TOWNSHIP: **JOLIET TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT**

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. Joliet Township is located in WILL County. There are 24 townships in our county.
- B. The population of our Township is 84,713 as of the 2020 census.
- C. We have 64 employees of the Township (not including elected officials).
- D. We have 8 employees in our Road District (not including elected officials).
- E. Our annual budget for 2023 is \$9,985,468.
- F. Our Township's equalized assessed valuation for 2023 is \$1,558,503,483.

III. Information About Our Committee

A. Committee Members:

Township Supervisor:	Angel Contreras
Township Trustee:	Tanya Arias
Township Trustee:	Antione Edwards
Township Trustee:	Cesar Escutia
Township Trustee:	Raymond Slattery
Highway Commissioner:	Vincent Alessio
Township Resident:	Jesse Stiff
Township Resident:	Jeremy Brzycki

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, Highway Commissioner, 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 9, 2023

Second Meeting: December 19, 2023

Third Meeting: January 9, 2024

Fourth Meeting: February 13, 2024

Fifth Meeting: March 12, 2024

Sixth Meeting: April 9, 2024- No quorum

Seventh Meeting: May 14, 2024

IV. Programs Offered by our Township.

A. Our Township offers the following services and programs: (List programs like general assistance, youth programs, senior programs, community programs, LIHEAP, etc.)

Services for Township Residents only

- General Assistance
- Medical Loan Closet
- Persons with Disabilities Temporary Parking Placards
- Satellite Location for LIHEAP Assistance
- Tax Preparation
- Workfare Assistance
- Cemetery Oversight, Maintenance, and Operation of three locations
- Mosquito Abatement
- Facility Meeting Space Rental
- Youth Excellence Scholarship in partnership with Joliet Junior College
- Youth Programming in Partnership with Joliet Park District
- Offer community, veteran, and youth grants
- Senior Tax Levy grants to agencies and local groups
- Dial-A-Ride Support
- Thriveworks Counseling Services
- Workforce Programing

Services that cover the Township and the Greater Joliet Area

- Animal Care and Control
- Notary Services
- Micro-Pantries in three building sites
- Violence Prevention Services (outreach, casework, victim advocacy and community engagement events)
- Leading in Violence Prevention Coordination
- Trauma-Informed Behavioral Health Counseling for youth and young adults
- Transportation Services for seniors and residents with disabilities as well as clients of partner agencies.

V. Social Service Agreements

A. We partner with the following not-for-profits to offer social services (list all):

<u>Entity:</u>	<u>Services Provided:</u>
1. Catholic Charities	-Assist high-risk populations.
2. Family and Friends Adult Day Center	-Transportation of Veterans to services.
3. Family Guidance Centers, Inc.	-Transportation of clients to services.
4. Holsten Human Capital Development	-Transportation of food to residents.
5. Latino Economic Development Association	-Assist in community enrichment services.
6. Non-Violent Cities Organization	-Development of violence reduction implementations.
7. Morningstar Mission	- Behavioral Health Services.
8. Salvation Army	-Assist high-risk populations.
9. Spanish Community Center	-Transportation of clients to services.
10. Will County Center for Community Concerns	-Satellite location for services to clients.
11. Will Grundy Medical Clinic	-Development of Public Health Initiatives.
12. Greater Joliet YMCA	-Transportation of clients to services.

B. Our residents have benefitted from these agreements in the following ways:

Joliet Township has allocated more than 500,000 in the last 3 years to social service and community organizations. We provided general assistance and case management support to all eligible residents. We provided hundreds of residents with necessary medical items and support. We developed a transportation department that has alleviated transportation challenges for residents and agencies. A violence prevention program has been established with over 20 staff that assist in reducing opportunities for violence. We also have expanded our workforce program in participants and professional opportunities through our general assistance program allowing for a more holistic approach to public assistance.

VI. Awards and Recognitions

Our Township has received the following awards, distinctions, and recognitions: (List all).

- Illinois Department of Human Services State Awardee for grants combining over \$1.5 million in 2023 and just over \$600,000 in 2022.
- Will County Center for Community Concerns Community Action Award in 2022
- Prestige Athletic Club Agency Recognition 2023
- Veterans of Foreign Wars Recognition by Post #2199 in 2024

VII. Intergovernmental Agreements

A. We partner with, or have Intergovernmental Agreements, with the following other Governments (List all):

Entity:	Services Offered:
1. City of Crest Hill	- Facilitation of Animal Control services
2. City of Joliet	- African American Context Study
3. City of Rockdale	- Facilitation of Animal Control services
4. Will County	- Facilitation of Animal Control services
5. Board of Education of Rockdale School District	- Offering Behavioral Health Services
6. Will County Regional Office of Education	- Offering Behavioral Health Services

B. Our Township's efficiency has increased through intergovernmental cooperation in the following way (list cost savings, avoiding duplicated services, etc.):

Animal Control and Care Services:

Greater service area range and lower costs to the citizens in the control, collection, and sheltering of stray animals.

African American Context Study.

Accurate narrative and documenting of Black history in an inclusive and equitable long-range planning and education efforts that encompass thorough coverage of the area.

Trauma Informed Care

The Regional Office of Education for our County and unincorporated school districts can outsource needed trauma therapy for their students through our Township Services. Allowing for faster services for our student residents.

VIII. 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)) Yearly Online Training As Required
- ☒ 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))
- ☒ List of Types or Categories of FOIA Records under Township's Control (5 ILCS 140/5)
- ☒ Periodic Meetings to Review Closed Meeting Minutes (5 ILCS 120/2.06(d))
- ☒ IMRF Total Compensation Postings (5 ILCS 120/7.3)
- ☒ Designation of Whistleblower Auditing Official (50 ILCS 105/4.1)
- ☒ All of our Elected Officials have filed statements 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 Social Service Agreements or Contracts
- ☒ 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)

__X__ Our budget and financial documents

__X__ Reports on government efficiency, including “Local Government Efficiency and Size in Illinois: Counting Tax Revenues, Not Governments” by Wendell Cox (2016); “Local Democracy and Townships in the Chicagoland Area,” by Wendell Cox, (January 2012).

IX. What Have We Done Well? (List any budget/levy freezes or reductions in the past decade; list new programs or services offered to residents over the past decade; list any ethics ordinances adopted; timely FOIA compliance; responsiveness to the public; list any new intergovernmental agreements or social services offered; list any increase in number of township residents served, etc.)

- Timely FOIA compliance
- Responsiveness to the public through social media and adding platforms such as Public Input to engage with residents.
- Ethics Ordinances
 - 351-2018 Establishing A Policy Prohibiting Sexual Harassment
- New Programming of the last decade
 - Animal Care and Control Expansion
 - Cemetery Oversight of three locations
 - Facility Meeting Space Rental
 - Leading in Violence Prevention Coordination
 - Micro-Pantries in three building sites
 - Notary Services
 - Persons with Disabilities Temporary Parking Placards
 - Purchased New Building to accommodate program expansion
 - Satellite Location for LIHEAP Assistance
 - Tax Preparation
 - Thriveworks
 - Transportation Services for residents and local agencies
 - Trauma-Informed Behavioral Health Counseling
 - Violence Prevention Services (outreach, casework, and victim advocacy)
 - Youth Excellence Scholarship in partnership with Joliet Junior College

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

Over the past three years, we have focused on reaching out to and engaging with our residents, as many of them were unaware of the services provided by the Township Government. As a result of this effort, we have been able to assist more individuals through General Assistance and have received valuable feedback on service gaps, particularly between City and Unincorporated residents. The township has taken action on this feedback by collaborating with established agencies and entering into intergovernmental agreements, allowing us to expand our range of services.

XI. 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.

XII. Our committee's recommendations regarding Increased Accountability and Efficiency:

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

Submitted by: _____


Chairman, Decennial Efficiency Committee of Joliet Township

Date: _____

5/14/24