



ADVISOR

September 2007

A publication of Governmental Consulting Services

From the Director's DeskWelcome to GCS!



Melissa K. Ambre
Executive Director

Governmental Consulting Services, GCS, an Indiana based and focused company, has opened its doors for business. The ADVISOR is just that.... A newsletter designed to advise you of company updates on a periodic basis. After working with local government officials for over twenty years, I wanted the opportunity to continue assisting local officials, but in a different capacity. There are many financial advisors, but I believe what sets **GCS** apart is that we have both a state and local perspective on the issues that you face.

Joining me at **GCS** is Jim Steele. Jim brings a wealth of experience to **GCS**, having served as the former Executive Director of the Indiana Bond Bank, City Controller in both Anderson and Indianapolis, and now as a financial advisor to various local units of government in both Marion and Madison Counties. Jim has worked on a wide range of bipartisan committees seeking efficiency and cost reductions including consolidation approaches.

Also, by special agreement, Mike Reuter has joined the **Governmental Consulting Services** team. Mike formerly worked for five years at the State Board of Tax Commissioners and now serves as Chief Financial Officer for Hamilton Southeastern Schools, as well as being financial advisor to multiple units of government throughout the State.

All of us have been involved with preparing annual budgets, conducting budget training, analyzing a unit's financial situation, allocating property tax dollars to various units, and serving as financial advisors. This experience enables us to see the big picture in terms of local

governments' operating and capital needs. Today, local officials face many challenges, whether it is considering a new income tax, pursuing a capital project, or planning next year's budget. Local officials need straight answers, and that is what we plan to offer. At **Governmental Consulting Services**, we will provide you with the facts, good or bad, that help you make informed decisions.

We have participated in discussions with local units of government and others that centered on the local option income taxes available, the composition of capital project boards, development of a capital project plan, and on-going concerns over financial constraints. We understand that these are issues that affect local government operations today and can have long-term impacts. We can assist you in working through these challenges.

We have heard officials express concerns about the cost of employee benefits, in particular health and pension plans. Public Law 234-2007 provides an opportunity for city, town, and county officials to review their retirement promises for all staff, including fire and police departments' personnel, and to place a value on those promises. Counties or municipalities may issue bonds, notes, or other obligations for the purpose of providing funds to pay pension benefits under certain terms. Pension plans have short and long-term impacts on budgets. Our actuaries will evaluate your promises and help you ensure pension plans are funded now and in the future. Additionally, we can assist you in re-working your health program to make it more cost effective.

Our motto is simple: **Governmental Consulting Services – Our Experience is Your Asset.** Using our services, which include training on budgets, conducting financial health analyses, serving as financial advisors for capital projects, reviewing income tax options, working with counties to establish county tax and capital project review boards, helping units develop capital project plans, and providing advice on employee benefit plans, can help you align your goals.

Our company brings a wealth of government experience, common sense and a firm understanding of local government operations to your doorstep. Visit our website at www.govtconsultingserv.com or call us at (317) 663-4400.

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