

# County Engineer

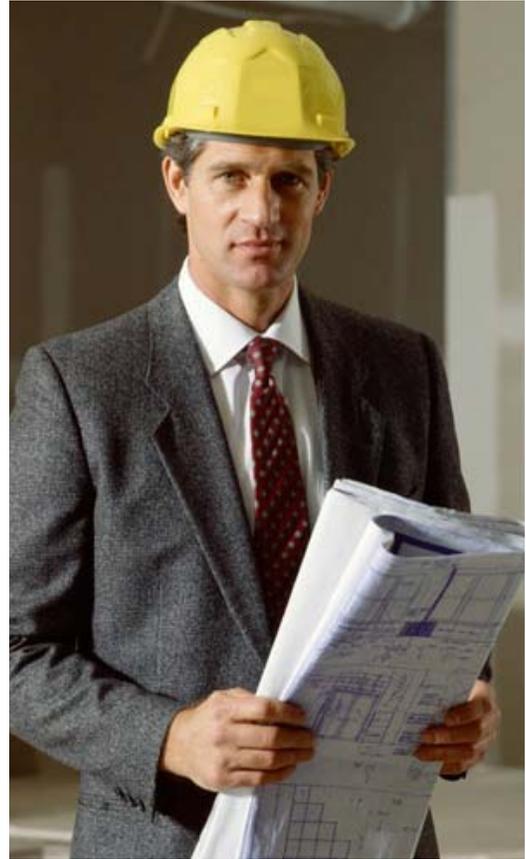
PRESENTED BY THE ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS AND COMMISSIONERS

## Primary Duties

The county engineer is the caretaker of the county's network of roads. The engineer is responsible for the maintenance, repair, widening, resurfacing and construction of all roads and bridges on the county highway system. In counties with a population over 3 million, the position is called "county superintendent of highways."

In Illinois, the county engineer is responsible for the safe operation of 16,751 miles of designated county highways. Under the direction of the county board, the engineer works to carry out a wide variety of obligations including preparing plans for the use of motor fuel tax funds. In addition, the engineer is fully responsible for bridges on both county and township highway systems. The county engineer performs an annual inspection and evaluation of the condition and load-carrying capacity of each bridge.

The county engineer works closely with townships and municipalities to assist with maintenance of streets within their boundaries. The county engineer serves as the engineering advisor to the township trustees for the maintenance and repair of their highways. Maintenance duties include traffic control, safety projects guardrail repair and replacement, mowing and snow removal. County engineers are required to keep records of all township road contracts in excess of \$5,000. The engineer also serves as representative of the county's interest with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT).



## Other Responsibilities

The county engineer is the tax map draftsman for the county and generally serves on the local regional planning commission. Regional planning commissions provide advocacy, planning, technical assistance and project development in areas such as transportation, housing, land use and solid waste. In some counties, the engineer serves as the county sanitary engineer, working with the county board to supervise the construction of sewer and water lines. Approval and operation of landfills may also be a function of the engineer's office.

## Training

Illinois requires county engineers to be graduate, licensed professional engineers. This accreditation requires a minimum of a college degree in engineering. In addition, many county engineers are also licensed registered professional surveyors.

## Term

County engineers, as provided by Illinois law, are appointed by the county board to a six-year term and must be approved by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT)