

**District Governance Plan
Administrative District 15
Blackford, Delaware, Henry, Jay and Randolph
Counties**

Article 1 – Governance

- a. The district will be governed through a committee of the whole, comprised of the sitting trial court judges of the district’s counties.
- b. Each sitting trial court judge (“member”) shall hold one (1) vote, regarding district matters.
- c. A quorum of at least eight (8) member judges is needed to take binding action.
- d. Other judicial officers, such as Magistrates, Commissioners, Referees and Hearing Officers, working in any of the district’s counties, may be invited to district meetings at the discretion of that person’s supervising judge. These other judicial officers shall not hold a vote and shall not be counted toward the quorum requirement.

Article 2 - Representation on the Judicial Conference Board of Directors

- a. The district has one vote on the Indiana Judicial Conference Board of Directors, and the District Representative has exclusive authority to cast that vote for the district.
- b. The representative will serve a two-year term on the Board of Directors.
- c. The representative will be selected at an annual meeting of the district, at the meeting held in odd numbered years, commencing with 2013.
- d. Each sitting trial judge in the district (or that person’s authorized proxy) will have one vote in selecting the district’s representative to the Board of Directors.
- e. The representative must be selected from among the sitting trial judges in the district.
- f. The judge with the most votes will be selected to serve as the district’s representative.

Article 3 – Annual Meeting and Other Meetings

- a. The district shall hold an annual meeting, to be held at least ten (10) days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference of Indiana (typically held in September).
- b. The annual meeting shall be called, coordinated and conducted by the District Representative.
- c. The district’s first District Representative is the Honorable Marianne Vorhees of the Delaware Circuit Court, and the first annual meeting to be called by the District Representative is anticipated for August-September 2013.
- d. The District Representative has authority to call special meetings of the district, as the need arises.

- e. In the event that the District Representative is not able or willing to call an annual meeting, any sitting trial court judge in the district has authority to call the annual meeting. The most senior trial court judge present at the meeting will preside over the meeting.

Article 4 – Special Judge Selection (TR 79)

- a. Each district county has a local rule in place to meet the requirements of TR 79.
- b. Each district county shall monitor the existing local rule, and any amendment(s) thereto, to assure that the rule does not conflict with the rules of the other counties in the district.
- c. In accordance with TR 79, the local rule for any of the district counties may include use of special judges outside of the district counties, as long as the non-district judge has agreed to serve in that capacity.

Article 5 – Assignment of Criminal Cases (CR 2.2)

- a. Each district county has an approved local rule in place that meets the requirements of CR 2.2.
- b. Each district county shall monitor the existing local rule, and any amendment(s) thereto, to assure that the rule does not conflict with the rules of the other counties in the district.

Article 6 – District-wide Cooperative Programs

- a. The members shall annually discuss opportunities for programs that may be administered on a district-wide basis, and implement such programs upon approval by a majority of the voting members.
- b. This Article does not prohibit cooperative programming with counties outside of the district, or by less than all of the district's counties.

Article 7 – Amendment

- a. This District Governance Plan may be amended by approval of a majority of the members present at the annual meeting or any special meeting.