

NEWS RELEASE



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RACINE COUNTY GOVERNMENT INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY USE RECOGNIZED FOR SEVENTH STRAIGHT YEAR

Racine- Racine County Executive Bill McReynolds announced today that county government will receive its seventh consecutive Digital Counties award for its use of information technology (IT) to deliver services to its residents. Among all the counties in its population category, Racine County placed fifth, its seventh top-10 ranking in a row.

The recognition comes out of the 2009 Digital Counties Survey, an annual study by the Center for Digital Government and the National Association of Counties (NACo) that identifies best practices and recognizes those counties with exemplary digital service to their citizens. The Digital Counties Survey is conducted annually during March and April. All U.S. counties are invited to participate.

McReynolds said, "It's clear to us that information technology is vital to ensuring that we provide our citizens the best service at the lowest possible cost." He added that the county's Information Systems department, headed by its new director, Terry DeBrabander, and the county's IT service vendor, Premier Workforce Solutions, have developed the kind of partnership that could serve other local governments equally well.

The 2009 Digital Counties Survey grouped counties into four population categories: 500,000 or more; 250,000-499,999; 150,000-249,999 (Racine County's category); and less than 150,000. No other Wisconsin county placed among the top ten in any population category. The full list of winners can be found at <http://www.govtech.com/dc/surveys/counties/90>

"As counties face the budgetary challenges of 2009 and beyond, they are finding Information Technology essential for effective and efficient government," said NACo Executive Director Larry E. Naake. "Not only are county governments using technology to continue delivering services with fewer resources, they are using innovative technology to communicate more effectively with their citizens and businesses. The Digital Counties Survey illustrates the innovation and tenacity of counties across the country." Award-winning counties were recognized at NACo's annual conference in Nashville, Tennessee, July 24-29, 2009.

The Center for Digital Government is a national research and advisory institute on information technology policies and best practices in state and local government. For more than two decades, the Center and its sister divisions, Government Technology magazine, GTCs and Center for Digital Education, have been providing public- and private-sector leaders with decision support, knowledge and opportunities to help them succeed in 21st century government.

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