



Job shadowing program encourages partnerships

By **BILL RICHMOND**
City editor

State Representative Bill Davis (R-Portland) Wednesday was one of the first state government officials to participate in a job shadowing program sponsored by the Association of Indiana Counties (AIC). AIC officials say they hope the State and Counties Partnering for Progress program will allow county officials and state legislators to work together create effective solutions to deliver county services to taxpayers.

Davis visited several county centers, including the treasurer's office, where he did some data entry work; the recorder's office; the clerk's office, where he entered data in the judgement book; the auditor's office; and the assessor's office.

"I think what we're trying to do here is make a connection between state and local government," Davis said. "They have to deal with the legislation we pass on a day-to-day



State Representative Bill Davis Wednesday participated in a job shadowing program to see firsthand how county offices work on a day-to-day basis. Davis, left, discusses

the assessment process with County Chief Deputy Assessor George Caster.

Photo by Bill Richmond

basis so they may sometimes have a totally different impression of how it really works. This lets me see exactly what goes on after we pass this legislation - how it affects county workers and their constituents. We want to

serve taxpayers in the most efficient way possible." AIC Communications Director Karen Avery said they are trying to encourage interaction between state legislators and county government officials. "We know it's not like

this is something that has never happened before," Avery said. "We're not reinventing the wheel. We're just throwing out the welcome mat. We need to have this sort of partnership to be more efficient in the services we provide.

We're trying to encourage officials across the state to participate in our State and Counties Partnering for Progress shadow day program. We're hoping this will spur officials in other counties to invite their legislators to do something

similar. "It's good for legislators to see firsthand what county workers do on a daily basis. It helps in their decision-making process." Avery said Davis tried to talk to each individual working in each office without interrupting people who were performing their job duties. "It's a walking in each other's shoes kind of thing," she said. "We all understand each other better when we walk in each other's shoes and see things from their perspectives. It helps us to know if there are ways to do things more effectively." Davis said he found the day to be interesting and fun. "It was a good experience to talk to the hands-on people and to see how the legislation we're passing is affecting those folks," he said. " (County Treasurer) Jane Grove allowed me to do some data entry. It always seems easier when

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someone else is doing it and we sometimes forget that. It's more complicated than just saying, "Record my deed." It's all about serving taxpayers."

Grove said she is glad Davis took the AIC up on its offer to visit Randolph County offices and see how her department works on a regular basis.

"Our local legislators have always been glad to listen to us and this is another example of that process," Grove said.

"He actually got to do some procedures that will help him to see how the laws they pass in the State Legislature affect us on the local level. It gives us an opportunity to reach out and form a working partnership."