



DUPAGE COUNTY



GOVERNMENT

November 2020 Referendum Questions



1. Shall DuPage County continue to consider financial support of law enforcement and public safety its top budgeting priority?

Governments across our region and nation are currently debating the level of taxpayer resources that should be allocated to law enforcement. Historically, the largest portion of DuPage County's budget (an estimated 47%) has been dedicated to public safety and related agencies, including the DuPage County Sheriff, State's Attorney, Judiciary, Circuit Court Clerk, and Public Defender Offices.

DuPage County is seeking input from voters as to whether to continue the prioritization of law enforcement and public safety as a top budget priority.

2. In order to fight the spread of COVID-19, shall DuPage County obtain a stockpile of personal protective equipment for distribution to nursing homes, first responders, health care providers, and at risk communities who are not otherwise able to obtain personal protective equipment?

Earlier this year, DuPage County received \$161 million from the federal government through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. DuPage County has allocated a significant portion of these funds to support efforts to combat this public health emergency including county departments, other units of local government, nonprofit organizations, and small business loans. In addition, the County Board set aside almost \$5 million to purchase personal protective equipment (PPE) for the County Sheriff, DuPage Care Center (County Nursing Home), and other County Departments.

Currently, DuPage County is not purchasing PPE for the 9 hospitals, 47 long-term care facilities, and 63 public safety agencies (first responders) across the County. Should voters support the purchase of PPE for these entities and at-risk communities, DuPage County leaders would need to set aside additional CARES Act funds.



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3. Shall DuPage County continue to fund and support training methods that decrease the risk of injury to officers and suspects for local law enforcement agencies?

Currently, the DuPage County Sheriff's Office offers to law enforcement agencies countywide, a training program that teaches officers how to interact respectfully with motorists during traffic stops and other interactions with law enforcement.

To date, the Sheriff's Office has trained 700 DuPage County police officers, or about 40 percent of the total officers in the County. The training outlines mental health cues to watch for and ways to de-escalate potentially violent situations. Officers run through scenarios and are videotaped and critiqued on their methods. Since implementing this training program, the Sheriff's Office has received no use-of-force complaints from members of the public.

The Sheriff's Office is developing a second training program about policing in a diverse community, where officers will learn ways to speak with and interact with people of different ethnicities or cultures than their own. To help develop a more effective training program, the Sheriff's Office interviewed inmates at the County Jail to understand their perspective and how officers could improve communication.

Running these programs requires staff time and resources from the Sheriff's Office and expanding these programs to include all officers countywide would require additional funding.