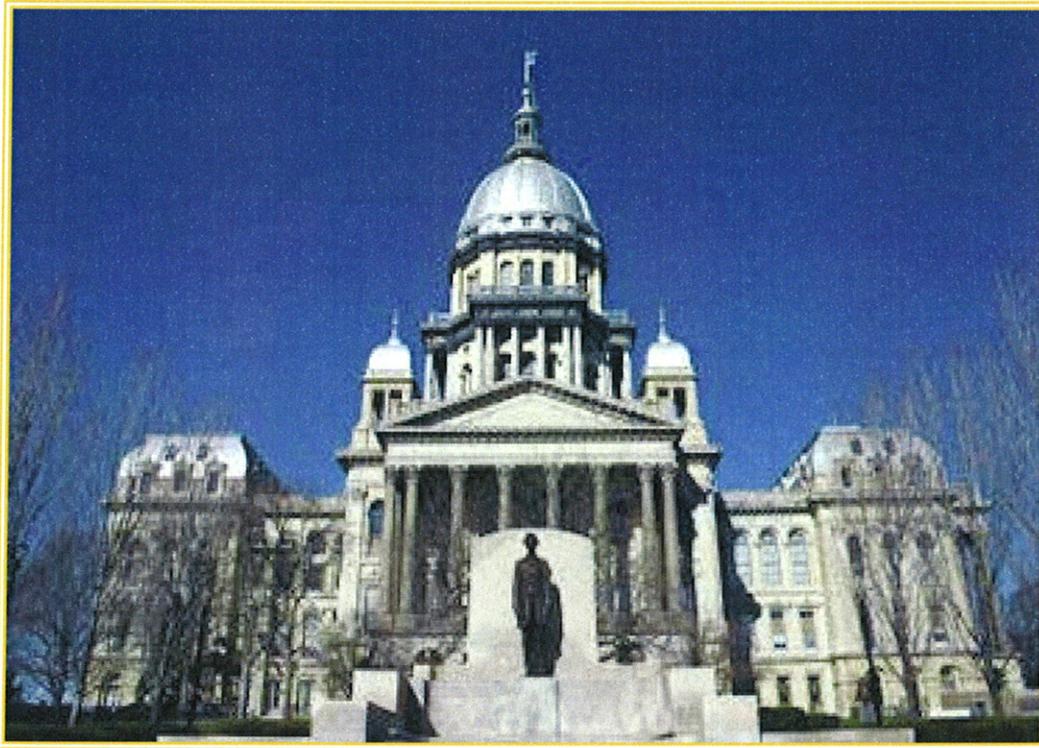




2013 DuPage County State Legislative Program



Daniel J. Cronin, Chairman, DuPage County Board

JR McBride, Chairman, Legislative Committee



**DuPage County
2013 State Legislative Program**

County Board Chairman

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- Jerry "JR" McBride - Chairman
- John F. Curran - Vice-Chairman
- Donald E. Puchalski
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- Tonia Khouri
- James F. Zay

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DuPage County 2013 State Legislative Program

Overview

DuPage County is the second largest county in Illinois with over 900,000 residents and is comprised of 9 townships and portions of 39 municipalities. DuPage is a major employment center for northeastern Illinois, home to over 750,000 jobs as well as 16 colleges, 7 hospitals, 2 national laboratories - Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator, 300 miles of bikeways and 23,000 acres of forest preserve property.

County residents elect the County Board Chairman at-large plus nine other Countywide Elected Officials - Auditor, Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Coroner, Recorder, Regional Superintendent of Schools, Sheriff, State's Attorney, and Treasurer. The County Board includes 18 members who are elected from six County Board Districts (three members from each district).

Core county government services include: public safety and the operation of the county jail; the 18th judicial circuit court; construction and maintenance of the county highway system and bikeways/trails; economic development and planning; public health and mental health care services; stormwater management; workforce and employment training; water and sewer services; building and permitting; zoning enforcement; the administration of countywide elections; the operation of the county nursing home; community and senior services; emergency management preparedness; and animal control.

County leaders continue to seek opportunities to reduce the size of county government in order to minimize the tax burden on our residents. Over the past two years, the county budget was reduced by over \$13 million and dozens of county positions eliminated. DuPage continues to receive an AAA Bond Rating from all three major credit rating agencies, a status achieved by less than 1% of all counties nationwide. In 2012, county government accounted for less than 3% of the average homeowner's property tax bill.

For 2013, goals for county government include:

- further consolidation of functions and utilization of shared services to reduce operational costs and increase efficiency;
- implementation of approved customer service standards and development of employee cross training programs to increase county staff productivity;
- continued development of the DuPage ACT Initiative that serves as a roadmap for county appointed agencies to adopt county policies and best practices.



**DuPage County
2013 State Legislative Program**

2013 Legislative Priorities

- **Reduce the Size of Government:** remove barriers and authorize local governmental agencies to centralize, dissolve or consolidate services in order to reduce the number of taxing districts and costs for all taxpayers
- **Protect Local Revenues:** oppose any efforts to divert the obligated share of income and sales tax revenues to counties and municipalities that utilize these funds to provide critical services to taxpayers
- **Maintain Enhanced County Nursing Home Payments:** honor the state's commitment to county nursing homes by continuing payment of an enhanced Medicaid rate to facilities that predominately serve Medicaid patients
- **Remove the sunset date - 9-1-1 Wireless Surcharge:** support emergency response agencies that depend on surcharge funds to ensure a swift and appropriate 9-1-1 response
- **Authorize Local Stormwater Fee:** grant permissive authority to DuPage and Peoria Counties to develop an alternative program to fund stormwater management activities
- **Approval of Defined Contribution Program:** provide local government employers with the option to offer a flexible (pension) benefit package to employees
- **Strong & Viable RTA:** ensure a viable and sustainable public transportation system for the entire region
- **Finalize Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project:** approve a revised joint House/Senate Resolution that reflects the final design recently approved by the federal government for this \$3.4 billion project of *national significance*
- **Endorsement of Public Safety Merger:** give local agencies the tools they need to deliver government services in the most cost effective manner possible
- **Increase Court Operations Fee:** authorize county boards to enact a schedule of fees as appropriate to administer local court operations
- **Adequately Fund Probation Departments:** the state continues to reduce the amount and payment cycle for the reimbursement of probation costs that are rising largely due to the imposition of new state mandates
- **Capital Improvements – County Highways, Public Works & Stormwater Projects**



**DuPage County
2013 State Legislative Program**

Legislative Priorities

Government Consolidation

Illinois leads the nation as the state with the most units of local government – close to 7,000 according to the U.S. Census Bureau. In DuPage County alone there are more than 400 separate taxing bodies including dozens of “independent” non-elected entities that provide basic services such as fire protection, sanitation, mosquito abatement, and street lighting.

Last year, after the County completed an examination of the operations of 24 such entities, DuPage County launched the *ACT Initiative – Accountability, Consolidation and Transparency* – the first step towards achieving greater efficiency and savings on behalf of taxpayers by requesting each agency to employ model standards and best practices. In just six months’ time, over one million dollars in savings has been realized through shared services, the elimination of positions, and the adoption of County financial and procurement policies. In addition, many entities are now posting agendas and minutes online for the first time, have enacted the County’s Ethics Ordinance, and exploring opportunities with neighboring entities to reduce costs through the adoption of Intergovernmental Agreements.

As this process continues to move forward, DuPage County would like to serve as a laboratory to test reform measures that may be applied statewide and supports the work of the Local Government Consolidation Commission that will issue a report later this year with recommendations as to how to reduce costs and encourage service provider collaboration.

Protect Local Revenues

Over the past several years, the General Assembly has considered legislation (and actually adopted several measures) to divert a portion of the local share of income tax proceeds (LGDF) to fund a state obligation. Other bills to potentially divert local sales tax revenues, enact new (unfunded) mandates on local governments, and to reduce reimbursement levels and payment cycles for services provided by county governments, were also proposed.

Diverting monies owed to local governments to support state mandated functions will only cause more financial stress on county budgets and diminish the level of services counties are able to provide their citizens.



**DuPage County
2013 State Legislative Program**

County Nursing Home Enhanced Payment Rate

As a county nursing home, the DuPage Convalescent Center receives an enhanced rate for the provision of Medicaid services from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS). This enhanced rate (an additional \$2.6 million annually for the Convalescent Center), was obtained through the adoption of an Intergovernmental Agreement with the state in 2011 after three years of negotiations between the county and the department. The rate was approved in recognition of the fact that the majority of county nursing home residents are Medicaid recipients. The enhanced rate also underscores the significant financial contributions made by counties to subsidize the care provided by county nursing homes that in part benefits the state's Medicaid program.

Due to the implementation of the Dual Medicare/Medicaid capitation program slated to go into effect as of October 1, 2013, the enhanced rate program may be in jeopardy. As the state has yet to submit to the federal government an implementation plan to enact the reforms contained in the 2011 Medicaid Reform Law, the opportunity remains to ensure the continuation of the HFS enhanced rate. DuPage County requests that the state honor its commitment to county nursing homes by working with all parties to ensure these payments continue.

9-1-1 Wireless Surcharge Funds

The DuPage Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) currently receives a portion of the .73 cents per wireless line surcharge that is assessed to support the operation of the county's 9-1-1 emergency response system. The Wireless Emergency Telephone System Surcharge is scheduled to sunset however as of July 1, 2013.

As 72% of the 9-1-1 calls placed in the county are from wireless technology (cell phones), the wireless surcharge represents a corresponding user based fee that funds the operation and infrastructure of our emergency response system.

DuPage County supports the removal of the sunset date and more importantly encourages all parties to address the issues raised in the recent ICC Report, including the need for continued and in some cases, increased funding of local Emergency Telephone System Boards. Absent these surcharge funds, dispatch and other services required to ensure a timely and appropriate response by local public safety agencies to all 9-1-1 calls placed in the county would be in jeopardy.



**DuPage County
2013 State Legislative Program**

Stormwater Utility Fee

DuPage and Peoria Counties are seeking permissive legislation that would authorize both counties to adopt a schedule of fees applicable to real property within each county to support the rising costs associated with the operation of the county's stormwater management facilities and activities. DuPage County currently provides watershed management, floodplain mapping, mandated federal water quality programs, permitting and the operation and maintenance of numerous flood control facilities countywide.

Authorization of a stormwater utility fee (that would have to be enacted by the County Board) would enable the county to design, in consultation with municipalities, a user fee based program (in lieu of a property tax) contingent upon the amount of stormwater runoff an individual property contributes to the watershed. The legislation requires that any program adopted provide at least 2 years' notice of an impending fee and to offer property owners green infrastructure credits or reduced fees for taking steps to manage the amount of stormwater runoff.

DuPage County continues to support legislation that provides local governments with the ability and the tools necessary to resolve local issues such as flood control.

Self-Managed Pension Program

The underperformance of state mandated pension plans in recent years will cost local governments millions of dollars in additional contributions over the next ten years. For 2012, DuPage County will contribute 11.4% for each (regular plan) IMRF employee and employees will contribute 4.5%. DuPage County will contribute this year close to \$23 million just to fund mandated IMRF costs.

Local government employers struggling to sustain current pension programs at 100% of funding levels (as mandated by state statute) should be provided with the tools to offer employees a flexible benefit package similar to what is offered by private sector and some public sector employers, including the option of a self-managed/401K style (defined contribution) retirement plan (already utilized by the Illinois State Universities Retirement System).

As the state continues to discuss the reform of the state pension system, reciprocal plans including the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF), should be included as part of a reform package that includes defined contribution plans.



**DuPage County
2013 State Legislative Program**

Regional Transportation Authority (RTA)

DuPage County is committed to a viable, sustainable public transportation system for the entire region. The RTA was established nearly forty years ago in order to balance city and suburban interests and to ensure that one service board was not unduly favored over the other two. For example, discretionary and surplus sales tax dollars should be disbursed by the RTA in a manner that is representative of the entire region versus one jurisdiction.

DuPage County encourages city and suburban officials to work together to reform the RTA as necessary, not to call for its elimination, which would be to the detriment of our taxpayers.

Elgin O'Hare Western Access Project (EOWA)

The Illinois Tollway is seeking approval of a Joint House/Senate Resolution that updates a previous version adopted by the General Assembly in 1995 to reflect the current project recommendations and to include the existing Elgin O'Hare Expressway. The federal government has recognized the EOWA as a "Project of National Significance" and in December of 2012 gave final approval for construction. Last year, the Illinois Tollway included the project as part of the tollway's \$12 billion *Move Illinois* capital program, and will create as many as 65,000 direct and indirect jobs plus relieve traffic congestion on the eastern side of O'Hare.

Construction is scheduled to begin later this year.

Public Safety Merger

The Villages of Hinsdale and Clarendon Hills continue to seek legislative approval to merge the towns' two police departments in order to reduce administrative overhead and the duplication of services. Legislation would remove a number of obstacles in state statute that currently prohibit the approval of an intergovernmental agreement between the two villages to combine the agencies. Once approved, a number of supervisory positions would be eliminated through attrition and one police station closed. DuPage County supports this legislation and the proactive efforts of these two communities to minimize the financial burden on taxpayers.



**DuPage County
2013 State Legislative Program**

Court Operations Fee

In 1982, the General Assembly authorized a schedule of different fees (depending on the violation) to assist counties with the cost of operating court facilities and the many programs and services provided by court related agencies (55 ILCS 5/5-1101). These fees have not been reviewed or increased however since the original enactment of the fees thirty years ago.

DuPage County joins other counties in supporting legislation that sets a minimum and maximum range (\$5 to \$15) for existing county court fees, thereby permitting county boards to set (by county ordinance) the appropriate level of fees for their own jurisdictions.

Appropriations

Probation Funding

The state requires counties to provide probation services as part of a mandated court services program yet over the past two fiscal years, the state has slashed probation reimbursement levels to counties.

For state fiscal year 2013, the Illinois Supreme Court requested \$95 million to fund county provided probation services yet the General Assembly adopted a budget of only \$47 million, a 13% reduction over FY 2012. The General Assembly did approve last year Public Act 97-0761, that authorizes the Chief Judge of each circuit court to impose a \$10 probation operations fee on specific criminal cases with the proceeds to be deposited into the probation and court services fund. Although the Chief Judge has authorized the use of this fee in DuPage County, the types of cases it is applicable to is limited, therefore revenues to date have not been significant.

The state not only has reduced the amount and payment cycle for the reimbursement of probation costs, the General Assembly continues to enact new unfunded mandates on county probation departments including GPS monitoring and a new Violent Offenders Registration System.

Several downstate counties have taken the drastic step of laying-off probation officers, refusing to shift the financial burden of the cost of probation services onto county taxpayers. Probation services are an integral part of public safety and are an extension of state government as defined under the Illinois Probation and Probation Officers Act.



**DuPage County
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DuPage County supports the restoration of probation funding to required levels.

Capital Improvements

Attached is a list of proposed State & County Highway Projects, Public Works/Drainage Projects, and Stormwater Initiatives for consideration. If completed, these projects would enhance safety on our roadways, offer significant congestion relief for the region, and reduce the incidence of flooding countywide.

Highway and Trail Improvements in DuPage County

State Highway Safety and Congestion Relief Projects			
DuPage County Priority	Scope of Work	Comments	C/B District
Elgin-O'Hare/West By-Pass	New Regional Facility	Project of National Significance	1
IL 38 at County Farm Road	Intersection Improvement	County requests project addition to IDOT multi-year program, estimated project cost of \$10M.	6
Finley Road at Ogden Avenue	Intersection Improvement	County requests project addition to IDOT multi-year program, estimated project cost TBD.	2
IL 59 at Stearns Road	Intersection Improvement	County requests project addition to IDOT multi-year program, estimated project cost TBD.	6

County Highway and Trail Safety and Congestion Relief Projects			
DuPage County Priority	Scope of Work	Comments	C/B District
IL Prairie Path (Aurora Branch) at CNRR/EJ&E	Trail Underpass	\$500K for Engineering, Land Acquisition, and Construction	5
Grand Avenue - Lake to Church	Sidewalk	\$400K for Construction	1
Fabyan Parkway - IL 38 to County Line	Capacity/Additional Lanes	\$14.2M for Engineering, Land Acquisition, and Construction	6
75th Street - Ogden to Washington	Capacity/Additional Lanes	\$72M for Engineering, Land Acquisition, and Construction	5
75th Street - Washington to Janes	Capacity/Additional Lanes	\$68.5M for Engineering, Land Acquisition, and Construction	3, 5
Eola Road - New York to IL 56	Capacity/Additional Lanes	\$65M for Engineering, Land Acquisition, and Construction	5, 6
IL Prairie Path Bridge at Eola Road	Extend Crossing	\$500K for Construction	5
Boughton Road at Woodward Avenue	Intersection Improvement	\$4.25M for Engineering, Land Acquisition, and Construction	3
Plainfield Road at Bailey Road	Intersection Improvement	\$1.0M for Engineering, Land Acquisition, and Construction	3
Glen Ellyn Road, Army Trail Road to Fullerton Avenue	Center Turn Lane, Resurfacing	\$2.1M for Engineering and Construction	4



DuPage County Capital Projects:

Public Works

Factor Station: One of the first facilities of its kind in the country, DuPage County Public Works is proposing to construct a new disposal station for the processing of waste and debris collected by Public Works and Transportation vacuum tanker trucks operating across the Chicago metropolitan region. This project would provide an environmentally safe and cost effective approach for public agencies to dispose of their operational waste and debris generated through Factor operations, thereby reducing Public Works Agencies operational expenses. This facility would be open to all governmental agencies in the region to utilize and will provide valuable test data for the Environmental Protection Agency to consider (see attached one page briefing for additional information). The Environmental Protection Agency has expressed a great interest towards this project as a viable disposal alternative for governmental agencies. It should be noted that this project is currently designed and shovel ready for construction.

Estimated Cost: \$800,000

Drainage

Below is a listing of priority Drainage Project Requests throughout DuPage County:

Liberty Park Drainage Improvement Project: The Liberty Park project extends through unincorporated areas of Downers Grove and Westmont with over 400 properties that will benefit from these drainage improvements. Large areas of residential properties continue to experience repetitive losses through severe flooding. Should funding become available, multiple phases of this project can be completed at various funding levels.

Estimated Cost (all phases): \$6,000,000

Timber Lake Improvement Project: The Timber Lake project consists of dredging of an existing regional lake that will greatly improve the subdivision's drainage conditions and overall lake water quality. This project is located in unincorporated Darien/Burr Ridge and will benefit over 75 properties.

Estimated Cost: \$1,000,000

Localized Drainage Improvement Projects: Numerous large and small scale drainage improvement projects are required to reduce the occurrence of localized flooding, road closures, and septic system failures during storm events. These projects will provide flooding relief for over 200 properties located in the unincorporated areas of Glen Ellyn, Glendale Heights, Winfield and Bloomingdale. Improvements include system upgrades, creation of detention ponds, property acquisition and the stabilization of creek banks.

Estimated Cost: \$500,000

Northwest DuPage Drainage Rehabilitation Projects: Several projects are required in order to install a conveyance system that can accommodate larger storm events through residential areas. This project will reduce the occurrence of widespread flooding and will benefit over 200 properties located in unincorporated Wayne Township-Geneva Woods and the unincorporated areas of Winfield and Bartlett. Currently, numerous properties and roadways experience severe flooding during storm events limiting access by emergency vehicles that could be eliminated as part of this project.

Estimated Cost: \$500,000

Stormwater/Flood Relief

Klein Creek Flood Mitigation Project (Armstrong Park): the project seeks to address severe flooding experienced by over 267 residences located in Carol Stream that continue to be affected by flood damages due to over-bank stream flooding, sanitary sewer back-ups, and/or sump-pump failures. The principal cause of the flooding is due to the inadequate capacity of the natural channel to convey runoff. The mitigation project will consist of a two reservoir system that will operate when Klein Creek experiences increased elevations. **Estimated Cost: \$1,700,000**

DuPage County Public Works Vector Waste Disposal Station

DuPage County Public Works is proposing to design and construct a new disposal station for the processing of waste and debris collected by Public Works and Transportation vacuum tanker trucks operating across the Chicago metropolitan region. The disposal station is proposed to be constructed at the DuPage County Woodridge Greene Valley wastewater treatment facility. This 12 million gallon per day sewage treatment plant has the available space on-site and the ability to handle truck traffic from Illinois Route 53 in an orderly process to collect the debris and treat the waste water flow that is would be brought to the site in waste vector tanker trucks.

This will be one of the first facilities of its kind constructed in the country. This new facility would provide an environmentally safe and cost effective approach for public agencies to dispose of their operational waste and debris generated through Vector operations, thereby reducing their operational expenses. This facility would be open to all governmental agencies in the region to utilize and will provide valuable test data for the Environmental Protection Agency to consider. The cost of constructing this facility has been estimated to be approximately \$800,000.

