



# DUPAGECOUNTY

2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



DANIEL J. CRONIN, Chairman, DuPage County Board  
JOHN F. CURRAN, Chairman, Legislative Committee



# DUPAGE COUNTY

2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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# DUPAGE COUNTY

2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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## LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



John F. Curran  
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Peter DiCianni



Tonia Khouri



Donald E. Puchalski  
Vice Chairman



Karyn Romano



James F. Zay

### DISTRICT 1

Paul Fichtner (R—Elmhurst)  
Donald E. Puchalski (R—Addison)  
Sam Tornatore (R—Bloomingtondale)

### DISTRICT 2

Elizabeth Chaplin (D—Downers Grove)  
Peter “Pete” DiCianni (R—Elmhurst)  
Sean Noonan (R—Elmhurst)

### DISTRICT 3

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Gary Grasso (R—Burr Ridge)  
Brian Krajewski (R—Downers Grove)

### DISTRICT 4

Grant Eckhoff (R—Wheaton)  
Amy Grant (R—Wheaton)  
Karyn Romano (R—Glen Ellyn)

### DISTRICT 5

James Healy (R—Naperville)  
Tonia Khouri (R—Aurora)  
Tony Michelassi (D—Aurora)

### DISTRICT 6

Robert Larsen (R—Warrenville)  
Kevin Wiley (R—West Chicago)  
James F. Zay (R—Carol Stream)



## DuPage County, Illinois

*The mission of DuPage County is to assure that DuPage County's communities will always be desirable places to live, work, and raise families by providing innovative, cost-effective services, promoting a high quality of life for all residents, and acting as a leader with its local and regional partners in anticipating issues and developing solutions.*

### General Information

Incorporated January 1, 1838

#### Cities located entirely or partly in DuPage:

Aurora, Batavia, Chicago, Darien, Elmhurst, Naperville, Oakbrook Terrace, St. Charles, Warrenville, West Chicago, Wheaton and Wood Dale

#### Villages located entirely or partly in DuPage:

Addison, Bartlett, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Bolingbrook, Burr Ridge, Carol Stream, Clarendon Hills, Downers Grove, Elk Grove Village, Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn, Hanover Park, Hinsdale, Itasca, Lemont, Lisle, Lombard, Oak Brook, Roselle, Schaumburg, Villa Park, Wayne, Westmont, Willowbrook, Winfield and Woodridge

#### Unincorporated communities:

Cloverdale, Eola, Flowerfield, Keeneyville, Lakewood, Medinah, Palisades, Swift and York Center

**Townships:** Addison, Bloomingdale, Downers Grove, Lisle, Milton, Naperville, Wayne, Winfield and York

### Demographic Information

Population  
Total Population: 932,126  
Incorporated Population: 819,609  
Unincorporated Population: 112,517

### Race, Ethnicity, Gender

Caucasian: 81.7%  
African American: 5.1%  
American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.4%  
Asian: 11.0%  
Hispanic or Latino: 13.9%  
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.1%  
Identified by two or more: 1.8%  
Male: 49.1%  
Female: 50.9%

### Education Attainment

High School Graduate: 20.20%  
Bachelor's Degree: 28.10%  
Graduate or Professional Degree: 17.30%  
Percent High School degree or higher: 91.9%  
Percent Bachelor's degree or higher: 45.9%

### Colleges and Universities

College of DuPage  
Wheaton College  
Benedictine University  
Elmhurst College  
North Central College  
Midwestern University  
National University of Health Sciences  
Northern Baptist Theological Seminary

### Financial Information

County Budget: \$447.1 million  
Sales Tax Revenue: \$92.7 million  
Property Tax Revenue: \$48.8 million  
Local Gas Tax Revenue: \$19.1 million  
Income Tax Revenue: \$9.7 million  
Fee Offices/Elected Officials: \$40.1 million  
Funds on Hand: \$54.4 million  
Other: \$182.3 million

### Economic Information

Unemployment Rate: 5.0%  
Office Space Vacancy Rate: 17.2%  
Industrial Space Vacancy Rate: 6.3%  
Chicago Fed. Reserve Midwest Manufacturing Index: 97.4%  
Bond rating: Triple: A  
Sales Tax Receipts: +4.99%  
Housing Units: 356,231  
Median Household Income: \$78,538

Persons per Square Miles: 2,771.2  
Undeveloped Land: 4.2% or 9,013 acres  
Open Space: 20.8% or 44,941 acres

Total Area: 336.36 sq. miles  
Total Incorporated Area: 245.26 sq. miles  
Total Unincorporated Area: 91.11 sq. miles  
District 1: 53.95 sq. miles  
District 2: 51.01 sq. miles  
District 3: 52.96 sq. miles  
District 4: 39.25 sq. miles  
District 5: 49.41 sq. miles  
District 6: 89.78 sq. miles



# DUPAGE COUNTY

2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



## OVERVIEW

DuPage County is the second largest county in Illinois with 932,126 residents. The County is comprised of 9 townships, portions of 39 municipalities, and 336 square miles. DuPage is a major employment center for northeastern Illinois, home to over 750,000 jobs and 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. Over 20% of the county is open space.

County residents elect the County Board Chairman at-large plus nine other County-wide Elected Officials; Auditor, County 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 the provision of: public safety and the operation of the county jail; administration of the 18<sup>th</sup> judicial circuit court; construction and maintenance of the county highway and trails system; economic development and planning; public health and mental health care services; flood control and prevention; job training and support services; water and sewer; 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 residents. Over the past several years, the county's budget has been reduced by \$25 million and full-time headcount lowered by 50 positions. DuPage continues to receive a AAA Bond Rating from all three major credit rating agencies, a status achieved by less than 1% of all counties nationwide. In 2014, DuPage County government accounted for less than 3% of the average property tax bill.



# DUPAGE COUNTY

2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



## SUMMARY

**Reduce the Size, Scope and Cost of Local Government:** expand upon the model established in DuPage County to eliminate duplicative and inefficient government agencies.

**Remove the Sunset Date of the 9-1-1 Wireless Surcharge:** eliminate the annual sunset date of this critical revenue source and make permanent a stable source of funding for local public safety agencies in order to ensure a swift and appropriate response to 9-1-1 calls.

**Address Rising Costs of Court Operations:** develop a mechanism to help counties offset the increased costs associated with the operation of court facilities and associated programs including unfunded mandates such as Public Act 98-1132 that significantly increases the cost of jury compensation.

**Provide Noise Relief for Communities Surrounding O'Hare:** support legislation that adequately measures the impact of aircraft noise on neighborhoods and enhances the quality of life for residents.

**Combat Heroin Use:** support and strengthen local and statewide Heroin Education programs by providing the tools and resources necessary to help prevent heroin use and to assist families who are struggling with the effects of this dangerous drug.

**Expand Opportunities for Electronics Recycling:** formulate a long-term solution that offers consumers with ample opportunity to recycle residential electronics that are banned from landfills.

**Ensure Safe Housing for our Communities:** provide non-home rule municipalities and counties with the authority to enact Crime Free Housing Ordinances for rental properties to reduce crime and protect the safety of all residents.

**Expand Access to Drug Court Programs:** expand eligibility for certain offenders to successfully complete a Drug Court program while retaining the discretion of State's Attorney's to approve applications.

**Adequate Reimbursement of Probation Costs:** restore state funding of county probation costs that continue to rise largely due to the imposition of new mandates.

**Capital Funding:** support critical infrastructure improvements to relieve traffic congestion, reduce flooding, and improve the health and safety of DuPage County residents.



## PRIORITIES

### **Reduce the Size, Scope and Cost of Local Government**

Illinois continues to lead the nation with the most units of local government, over 7,000, with 400 separate taxing districts in DuPage County alone. The result; an inefficient, redundant system of overlapping government agencies delivering public services that lacks accountability and wastes resources.

In order to “redesign” government at the county level, the DuPage ACT Initiative (Accountability, Consolidation, and Transparency) was created in May of 2012 to heighten the scrutiny of local government agencies and to implement a new model of governance focused on efficiency and responsibility. By challenging traditional service delivery models, taxpayers benefit through the receipt of innovative and more cost effective services and government agencies benefit by maximizing the utilization of scarce resources.

Through shared services, greater collaboration and intergovernmental cooperation, DuPage County has saved taxpayers an estimated \$80 million in less than three years. In addition, improved communication and stronger relationships among government officials have resulted, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the program.

DuPage County’s ACT Initiative can serve as a demonstration model statewide, paving the way for larger scale consolidation efforts across all levels of government. More opportunities exist to share and consolidate functions if units of local government are granted greater authority and/or the incentive to work collaboratively across silos and existing boundaries to achieve taxpayer savings.



## PRIORITIES

### **Remove the Sunset Date of the 9-1-1 Wireless Surcharge**

The DuPage Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) has oversight of the Enhanced 9-1-1 systems for the citizens of DuPage County and portions of Cook, Kane, and Will Counties, excluding Burr Ridge and Naperville. Over the past several years, the ETSB has worked diligently to consolidate the number of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in order to increase the efficiency of its operations, reducing the total number of PSAPs from 20 to 8 dispatch centers.

The majority of ETSB's funding is derived from the agency's share of the .73 cents monthly surcharge fee assessed by the State on all cellular lines. As 75% of the emergency calls placed in DuPage County are from wireless technology, the wireless surcharge represents a corresponding user based fee that appropriately supports the operation and infrastructure costs associated with the County's Emergency Response System. The Wireless Emergency Telephone System Surcharge is scheduled to sunset however as of July 1, 2015.

The DuPage County ETSB is the single largest system in the state and absent these surcharge funds, dispatch and the other services required to ensure a swift and appropriate public safety response to citizen requests for emergency assistance would be in jeopardy.

DuPage County supports the removal of the wireless surcharge sunset date and the development of a long-term, stable funding mechanism that encourages the consolidation of dispatch functions and adequately funds local emergency response systems our citizens depend upon.

## PRIORITIES

### **Address the Rising Costs of Court Operations**

DuPage County is responsible for the administration of the Eighteenth Judicial Circuit of the State of Illinois, the second largest Circuit Court in the State. The costs associated with the operation of court facilities, related court functions, agencies and programs continues to rise due in part to a number of unfunded mandates.

During the closing days of the 2014 veto session, Public Act 98-1132 was adopted that in some instances will triple the compensation paid to jurors. The legislation was adopted absent any communication with the 102 Counties in this State that will bear the cost of this unfunded mandate, **estimated to cost DuPage County taxpayers \$500,000 annually**. DuPage County requests that lawmakers work this session with county government leaders to develop a mechanism to help offset a portion of these increased costs.

### **Provide Noise Relief for Communities Surrounding O'Hare**

Due to the new runway configurations at O'Hare International Airport, the number of noise complaints from homeowners residing in communities neighboring O'Hare, including the Villages of Bensenville and Itasca and the City of Wood Dale, has risen sharply over the past year. An estimated 40% of complaints received were also from City of Chicago residents.

The communities surrounding O'Hare have requested the passage of legislation to amend the State's Permanent Noise Monitoring Act to adopt the Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) as the metric for monitoring of aircraft noise in Illinois. According to community leaders, the adoption of the CNEL as the State's noise metric would be a positive step towards more accurately measuring noise impacts on our communities. In addition, local leaders have called upon the General Assembly to adopt a resolution urging the City of Chicago to implement a new FAA Part 150 Noise Compatibility study at O'Hare. The purpose of this study would be to require all stakeholders to be involved in a comprehensive, transparent process/assessment of aircraft noise in surrounding communities as well as the development of a list of actions to be implemented by responsible agencies to mitigate aircraft noise impacts.

## PRIORITIES

In addition, DuPage County has convened an Ad Hoc Committee on Airport Noise Mitigation to provide direction to the County on the local and regional issue of increasing and changing noise patterns created by air traffic at O’Hare International Airport. Noise issues impact DuPage County residents’ quality of life and County leaders will continue to work to bring stakeholders, communities, legislators, and technical experts together to recommend both short and long term solutions.

### **Combat Heroin Use**

We continue to face a heroin epidemic in this State that has infiltrated every community. Recognizing the seriousness of heroin use in our County, the DuPage Coalition Against Heroin was formed in November of 2013 to raise awareness and to educate the public about this growing problem. The Coalition’s “Be a Hero-In DuPage” campaign includes a three part strategy; train and supply law enforcement officers in the use of Narcan, conduct safe prescribing and overdose prevention training, and to provide funding for a prevention education program that includes online and social media campaigns, as well as classroom-based lessons and tools impacting middle and high school students, their parents and teachers.

DuPage asks for continued support for these efforts, especially those designed to prevent prescription pain pill and heroin abuse (such as the Rx Box program) and increased resources to assist families devastated by heroin addiction.

## PRIORITIES

### **Expand Opportunities for Electronics Recycling**

The Electronic Product Recycling and Reuse Act requires manufacturers to fully fund the recycling of residential electronics (that are banned from landfills) based on a mandated goal of 50% of the weight of current retail sales of electronics. As the weight of electronics sold continues to decrease, the statutory goal is reached earlier each year (in 2014 the goal was reached in May), thus reducing the number of recyclers/companies that are willing to collect electronics free of charge. The total amount of electronics actually recycled also continues to decrease, from 47.5 million pounds in 2013 to a projected 36.2 million pounds for 2015.

DuPage County and many other units of local governments across the State that previously hosted free electronics collection events have lost programs due to the inability to identify a zero cost recycler because of the low manufacturer goals, leaving consumers with fewer alternatives to dispose of unwanted electronics. Absent appropriate alternatives, electronics will be illegally dumped on public highways and open spaces, hidden in refuse containers to be illegally landfilled, and retailers and other outlets will be overrun and stop collecting items.

DuPage County urges the General Assembly to work with all interested parties to formulate a long-term solution that protects our environment and offers consumers with the opportunity to properly dispose of unwanted electronics.



## PRIORITIES

### **Ensure Safe Housing for our Communities**

Grant non-home rule municipalities and counties with the same local authority as home-rule municipalities (and Cook County) to enact Crime Free Housing Ordinances for rental properties.

The goal of Crime Free Rental Housing Ordinances is to reduce crime, including drug trafficking and gang-related activities, in residential areas. A number of local communities have successfully implemented Crime Free Rental Housing programs to enable tenants, owners, and managers of rental properties to reduce activities which negatively impact the quality of life and safety of families residing in rental housing.

### **Expand Access to Drug Court Programs**

In recent years, the General Assembly has established several specialty courts as a sentencing alternative for non-violent offenders, including Mental Health Court, Veterans Court and Drug Court. The DuPage County Drug Court Program is a pre-sentence program and eligible applicants must meet basic criteria that includes being a resident of the County, age 17 or older, have a pending felony charge, and demonstrate a significant drug program. In addition, the Circuit Court, State's Attorney's Office and Public Defender by agreement, must admit a defendant who is also willing to participate in the 24 month program.

Unlike Veterans Court and Mental Health Court however, individuals who previously completed a Drug Court Program or who were discharged prior to completion of the program, are ineligible from participation in the future under current Illinois law. Situations exist, however, where a defendant could benefit from the opportunity/a second chance to participate in the program again.

DuPage County supports an amendment to the Drug Court Treatment Act to permit the consideration of applicants who have previously enrolled in a Drug Court Program.



## PRIORITIES

### Probation Funding

The State requires counties to provide probation services as part of a mandated court services program yet over the years, state reimbursement of county probation costs has been cut dramatically and payment cycles reduced.

For Fiscal year 2015, county probation funding did receive a significant increase over the last year's funding which provided salary reimbursement at an average level of 69% statewide. However, any net increase to DuPage County will be offset by new unfunded mandates imposed on county probation departments. Effective January 1, 2015, PA 098-1012 went into effect which expands the use of GPS monitoring for additional pretrial cases. Many defendants will not have the means to pay for the GPS equipment thus impacting Probation's budget, as well as the potential for needing additional staff to supervise these cases.

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

### Capital Funding

DuPage County is responsible for a large portion of the County's Infrastructure including: the provision of water and sewer services to approximately 200,000 County residents; the operation and maintenance of countywide flood control facilities including sixteen reservoirs/dams and pumping stations; the operation of a number of facilities on the County's Main Wheaton Campus including the County Jail, Courthouse, Health Department, Animal Shelter, and Convalescent Center; plus the maintenance of 220 miles of highways and 92 miles of multi-use trails.

Attached to this document is a comprehensive list of (60) Flood Control, Transportation, Wastewater, Water, and other critical County Infrastructure projects that once completed, would significantly reduce flooding for homeowners and businesses, relieve traffic congestion, improve water quality, and enhance public safety for the County's 932,126 residents.