



DUPAGECOUNTY

2016 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



Daniel J. Cronin, Chairman, DuPage County Board
John F. Curran, Chairman, Legislative Committee



DUPAGE COUNTY



2016 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

INTRODUCTION

DuPage County Board.....3

DuPage County Facts.....4

Overview.....5

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Summary.....6

Priority Issues.....7



DuPage County Board



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Chairman
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District 1	District 2
Paul Fichtner (R—Elmhurst) Donald E. Puchalski (R—Addison) Sam Tornatore (R—Roselle)	Elizabeth Chaplin (D—Downers Grove) Peter “Pete” DiCianni (R—Elmhurst) Sean Noonan (R—Elmhurst)
District 3	District 4
John F. Curran (R—Downers Grove) Gary Grasso (R—Burr Ridge) Brian Krajewski (R—Downers Grove)	Grant Eckhoff (R—Wheaton) Amy Grant (R—Wheaton) Karyn Romano (R—Glen Ellyn)
District 5	District 6
James Healy (R—Naperville) Tonia Khouri (R—Aurora) Tony Michelassi (D-Aurora)	Robert Larsen (R—Wheaton) Kevin Wiley (R-West Chicago) James F. Zay (R—Carol Stream)

LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

John F. Curran
Chairman



Peter DiCianni



Tonia Khouri



Donald E. Puchalski
Vice Chair



Karyn Romano



James F. Zay





DUPAGE COUNTY



2016 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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: 19.2%
Bachelor's Degree: 28.5%
Graduate or Professional Degree: 18.2%
Percent High School degree or higher: 92.3%
Percent Bachelor's degree or higher: 46.7%

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: \$444.4 million
Sales Tax Revenue: \$102.8 million
Property Tax Revenue: \$49.1 million
Local Gas Tax Revenue: \$18.8 million
Income Tax Revenue: \$9.7 million
Fee Offices/Elected Officials: \$32.3 million
Funds on Hand: \$52.1 million
Other: \$179.6 million

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

Economic Information

Unemployment Rate: 4.2%
Number of Jobs: 544,363
Office Space Vacancy Rate: 16.9%
Industrial Space Vacancy Rate: 5.7%
Chicago Federal Reserve Midwest
Manufacturing Index: 97.4%
Bond rating: Triple A
Sales Tax Receipts: +5.56%
Housing Units: 356,625
Median Household Income: \$79,016



DUPAGE COUNTY



2016 FEDERAL 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 544,363 jobs and 19 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 Countywide 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 18th 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. In addition to dissolving several county appointed agencies, the county's budget has been reduced by \$33 million since 2010 and for the eighth consecutive year, the county's FY2016 budget includes no property tax increase. DuPage continues to receive a AAA Bond Rating from the major credit rating agencies, a status achieved by less than 2% of all counties and municipalities nationwide. DuPage County government also accounts for less than 3% of an average homeowner's annual property tax bill.



SUMMARY

- **Complete Elgin-O’Hare Western Access Project of National Significance:** secure remaining funds to complete this \$3.4 billion infrastructure project that is under construction and will sustain our region’s global competitiveness, promote business retention, and create thousands of new jobs.
- **Provide Noise Relief for Communities Surrounding O’Hare:** direct the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to work with the City of Chicago and neighboring communities to develop a more robust and sustainable Fly Quiet Program.
- **Amend Water Resources Development Act (WRDA):** add DuPage County to the list of counties eligible to apply for funding under the Environmental Infrastructure Program (Section 219) that supports water related and resource protection projects.
- **Protect Medicaid Funding:** preserve the federal-state-local structure for financing and delivering Medicaid services
- **Fight Heroin Addiction:** support the Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery Act of 2016 and other efforts to combat the heroin epidemic that has infiltrated every community in this nation.
- **Sustain Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding:** that returns taxpayer dollars to DuPage County to help non-profit agencies meet the needs of our elderly, people with disabilities, families in crisis, and the homeless population.
- **Support DuPage County Capital Improvement Plan:** to complete critical infrastructure projects that will help alleviate flooding, reduce traffic congestion, improve water quality, and enhance public safety.
- **Protect the Great Lakes Basin:** oppose the construction by Ontario Power of an underground long-term burial facility to store nuclear waste less than a mile from Lake Huron that could potentially threaten the drinking water supply for 40 million people.
- **Protect Municipal Bonds:** oppose efforts to remove the primary financing method for state and local governments to rebuild the nation’s infrastructure.



PRIORITY ISSUES

Elgin-O'Hare Western Access Project of National Significance (EOWA)

As part of the 2005 (SAFETEA-LU) Federal Transportation Bill, the U.S. Congress identified the Elgin O'Hare-Western Bypass as a ***Project of National and Regional Significance***, one of only 26 projects nationwide. Completion of the EOWA will sustain the area's global competitiveness, promote business retention and create new jobs, as well as complement the multi-billion dollar infrastructure improvements underway at O'Hare International Airport.

It is estimated that 65,000 new jobs will be created as a result of the project and the Gross Regional Product (GRP) for DuPage County will increase 20% or over \$10 billion per year by 2030. Additionally, hundreds of millions of dollars in federal tax revenues will be generated over the project construction period. The project is expected to have a regionally significant impact on travel efficiency with estimates of travel delay savings of more than \$145 million annually by 2040.

In 2011, the Illinois State Toll Highway (Tollway) Authority adopted ***Move Illinois***, a fifteen year capital program that included \$3.1 billion towards construction of the \$3.4 billion Elgin-O'Hare Western Access roadway. The estimated shortfall of approximately \$300 million has been reduced by almost \$142 million through donations of right of way and the success of DuPage County and its local and regional partners in procuring Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grants totaling almost \$100 million. **DuPage County and its regional partners continue to aggressively pursue strategies to close the remaining \$158 million shortfall.**

The project is moving forward in earnest. To date, the Tollway has awarded 31 contracts for the EOWA project totaling more than \$600 million in construction. The Tollway continues to aggressively pursue engineering, environmental and land acquisition activities in the communities of Itasca, Wood Dale and Bensenville east of I-290 as well as for the Western Bypass component north and south of O'Hare Airport. Other initiatives in the corridor include a County-led program to develop a unified aesthetic strategy that will enhance the corridor's marketability, a Choose DuPage led Economic Development marketing plan and the PACE Suburban Bus transit marketing plan.



PRIORITY ISSUES

Noise Relief for Communities Surrounding O'Hare Airport

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. The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission reports that noise related complaints exceeded 3.7 million in 2015 as compared to 268,211 in 2014 and 29,493 in 2013. An estimated 42% of complaints received were City of Chicago residents but the number of complaints originating from DuPage County communities more than 6 miles from the airport also rose dramatically.

A variety of activities surrounding O'Hare noise have occurred in 2015. In early 2015, Illinois legislature passed Public Act 99-0202 which is an amendment to the Permanent Noise Monitoring Act. The amendment changed the noise monitoring standards, making them more stringent and pertinent to impacts in evening and overnight hours. In August, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) released the results of the O'Hare Modernization Program Environmental Impact Statement Re-evaluation, finding that the Modernization Program is producing no significant added impacts above and beyond those predicted under the original EIS.

Also in 2015, independent noise groups Suburban O'Hare Commission (SOC) and Fair Allocation in Runways (FAIR) met frequently to discuss strategies for making O'Hare Airport a better neighbor. SOC hired nationally renowned aviation experts JDA as well as a Washington Lobbying firm to assist DuPage and Cook Counties develop a platform upon which productive and meaningful dialogue with the City Department of Aviation could be based. That contract resulted in a set of twenty (20) discussion points which were presented to CDA Commissioner Evans in August. One of the products of the JDA reports was a proposal for a new Fly Quiet runway rotation plan which the City is evaluating. Discussions between SOC, JDA and CDA are ongoing and much of this work will inform strategies that are promoted and discussed at O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission meetings in early 2016.

DuPage County requests that Congress direct the FAA to work with the City of Chicago and neighboring communities to deliver a more robust and sustainable Fly Quiet program and to work collaboratively with all parties to help improve the quality of life for those residing around O'Hare.



PRIORITY ISSUES

Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)

In addition to the reauthorization of the Act, DuPage County is seeking legislation to be named to the list of entities eligible for Section 219 funding under the 1992 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that authorizes the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to support a variety of water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects. Once designated, DuPage County would be eligible to apply for a variety of grant opportunities under Section 219.

Protect Medicaid Funding

As a county nursing home, the DuPage Convalescent Center receives an enhanced rate for the provision of Medicaid services from the State of Illinois (Department of Healthcare & Family Services). This rate was approved in 2011 in recognition of the fact that the majority of county nursing home residents are Medicaid recipients (79%) and that county taxpayers subsidize a significant portion of the care provided by the Convalescent Center (over \$6 million annually) that benefits the State's Medicaid program.

Counties continue to be concerned however about measures that would limit the ability of states to direct supplemental payments to county providers or shift federal and state Medicaid costs to counties. In order to ensure that over 300 of the county's most vulnerable residents continue to receive the quality care they deserve, DuPage County urges Congress to preserve the federal-state-local structure for financing and delivering Medicaid services.

Fight Heroin Addiction

We continue to face a heroin epidemic in the State of Illinois and in our nation that has infiltrated every community. Recognizing the seriousness of heroin use in our county, the DuPage Coalition Against Heroin was established in November of 2013 to raise awareness and to educate our youth in particular about this highly addictive drug. The Coalition's "Be a Hero-In DuPage" campaign includes a five part strategy: train and supply all law enforcement officers in the county in the use of the (nasal) antidote Narcan (100 lives saved as of January 2016); conduct safe prescribing and overdose prevention training for health care professionals; fund prevention education programs including a classroom based curriculum for middle and high



PRIORITY ISSUES

school students; launch a social media and website campaign (www.heroindupage.org) to provide a variety of information about the devastating effects of heroin and available local resources and facts; and provide outreach to overdose survivors through Project Connect which links heroin users and their families with community treatment options and support services.

DuPage County urges Congress to enact a comprehensive Addiction and Treatment program to support local agencies through grants and demonstration projects to help us fight the presence and impact of heroin in our communities.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

DuPage County receives approximately \$3.5 million in CDBG funding each year and in turn grants it out to municipalities and non-profit agencies. Now in its 41st year, CDBG remains one of the few programs that returns tax dollars sent to Washington, D.C. back to local communities and is arguably one of the federal government's most successful domestic programs. Funds benefit low to moderate income persons and neighborhoods by providing: needed infrastructure improvements; public facilities for persons with disabilities and other special needs populations; and public services such as case management and housing services.

Projects anticipated for 2016 include: \$900,000 to improve water mains and roads in four communities and to operate seven neighborhood resource centers; \$1 million to renovate living and learning environments for four entities providing housing and services for persons with disabilities, seniors, and children in foster care; \$300,000 to assist low-income homeowners in keeping their homes safe, code compliant, and energy efficient; and \$422,000 to pay for case management and services through 12 agencies that assist homeless persons (including youth, families, veterans, and victims of domestic violence).

DuPage County Capital Improvement Plan

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



PRIORITY ISSUES

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.

DuPage County's 2016 Capital Improvement Plan includes a comprehensive list of (54) 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.

A detailed list of all projects (that may be searched by representative district) can be accessed by visiting: www.dupagecapitalplan.com.

Protect the Great Lakes Basin

The Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Company is proposing to construct a deep geologic repository, which is an underground long-term burial facility for Ontario's low and intermediate level radioactive nuclear waste, at a location less than one mile from Lake Huron and approximately 1,300 feet below the lake level. The company has reported that the majority of the radioactive waste will decay in 300 years, with the remaining radioactive waste decaying in more than 100,000 years.

Any contamination resulting from a leaking nuclear waste repository located on Lake Huron could have a potential impact on Lake Michigan's waters, the source of drinking water for almost 7 million residents of Northeastern Illinois including the residents of DuPage. County leaders have a duty to protect residents and businesses by ensuring a safe potable drinking water supply. DuPage County joins the National Association of Counties (NACO) and hundreds of governmental entities to oppose the construction of any deep geologic nuclear waste repository in the Great Lakes Basin and urges the U.S. Congress to use diplomatic means and its authority to review the OPG application and to provide a recommendation on behalf of the citizens of the United States of America.



PRIORITY ISSUES

Income Tax Exemption for Municipal Bonds

Municipal Bonds have been a critical source of capital for states and units of local government to finance, at a reasonable cost, vital public projects such as highway construction, water and sewer upgrades, bridge repairs, school construction, and other public works projects that spur job growth and economic development. Taxpayers also benefit when public purpose projects are financed at a lower cost. In early 2016 DuPage County issued \$36.05 million in General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Courthouse Project). The County saved an additional \$3.6 million by those bonds being tax-exempt, as opposed to taxable. As the bonds were funded by property taxes, the savings is passed on directly to taxpayers.

DuPage County opposes any attempts to repeal the tax exemption for municipal bonds that helps local economies create jobs and address the critical infrastructure needs of our communities.

Full Rebate for Taxable Municipal Bonds

In 2010 DuPage County adopted a \$67 million (30 year) bond program that included improvements to county highways, the county nursing home, sewer treatment plants, courthouse, and flood control facilities. These bonds were issued under the federal Build America Bond and Recovery Zone Economic Development bond programs as taxable bonds. The programs incentivized the issuance of higher cost taxable bonds with federal subsidy refundable credits of 35% of interest due on the Build America Bonds and 45% of interest due on the Recovery Zone Economic Development bonds. In federal fiscal year 2013, Congress passed a budget amendment to sequester the refundable rebate. Sequestration cut the rebate payments by 7.2% in FFY 2014 and 7.3% in FFY 2015. Over the last three years these cuts have lost county taxpayers over \$297 thousand in the federal subsidy rebates.

DuPage County opposes the continued sequestration of taxable bond rebates for municipal bonds as it increases the cost of debt service after the fact and increases the burden on the County.