



DUPAGECOUNTY

2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



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



DUPAGE COUNTY

2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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DUPAGE COUNTY

421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187
(630) 407-6500 • www.dupageco.org

GOVERNMENT PROFILE

DUPAGE COUNTY BOARD

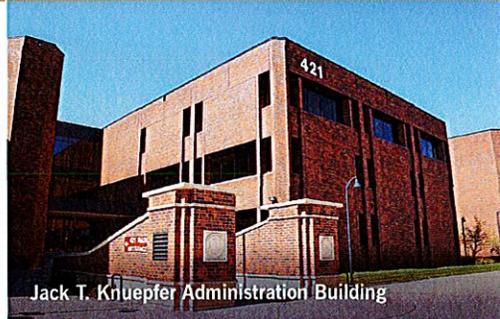


DuPage County Board

Daniel J. Cronin **R**

Chairman
DuPage County Board

(630) 407-6060 • www.dupageco.org/cobrd



Jack T. Kruepfer Administration Building

District 1



Paul Fichtner **R**
Elmhurst



Donald E. Puchalski **R**
Addison



Sam Tornatore **R**
Roselle

District 2



Elizabeth Chaplin **D**
Downers Grove



Peter "Pete" DiCianni **R**
Elmhurst



Sean Noonan **R**
Elmhurst

District 3



John F. Curran **R**
Downers Grove



Gary Grasso **R**
Burr Ridge



Brian Krajewski **R**
Downers Grove

District 4



Grant Eckhoff **R**
Wheaton



Tim Elliott **R**
Glen Ellyn



Amy Grant **R**
Wheaton

District 5



Janice Anderson **R**
Naperville



James Healy **R**
Naperville



Tonia Khouri **R**
Aurora

District 6



Robert Larsen **R**
Wheaton



Kevin Wiley **R**
West Chicago



James F. Zay **R**
Carol Stream



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GOVERNMENT PROFILE

COUNTY FACTS

DuPage County, Illinois

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

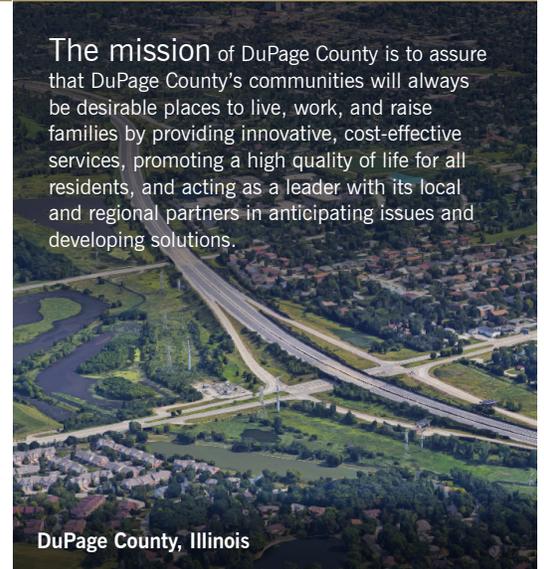
Unincorporated communities

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

Townships:

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

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.



DuPage County, Illinois

Demographic Information

- Population¹.....
- Total Population:..... 933,736
- Incorporated Population:..... 819,609
- Unincorporated Population:..... 112,517



Race, Ethnicity, Gender²

- Caucasian:..... 80.7%
- African American:..... 5.3%
- American Indian/Alaska Native:..... 0.4%
- Asian:..... 11.6%
- Hispanic or Latino:..... 14.3%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander:..... 0.1%
- Identified by two or more:..... 1.8%
- Male:..... 49.1%
- Female:..... 50.9%



Education Attainment³

- 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



Area Information⁴

- Persons per Square Miles:..... 2,767.8
- Undeveloped Land:..... 4.2% or 9,013 acres
- Open Space:..... 20.8% or 44,941 acres
- Total Area⁵:..... 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



Financial Information⁶

- County Revenue:..... \$433.8 million
- Sales Tax Revenue:..... \$102.8 million
- Property Tax Revenue⁷:..... \$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



Economic Information⁹

- Unemployment Rate:..... 4.5%
- Number of Jobs:..... 716,903
- Office Space Vacancy Rate:..... 16.0%
- Industrial Space Vacancy Rate:..... 5.0%
- Chicago Fed. Reserve Midwest Manufacturing Index:..... 97.4%
- Bond rating:..... AAA / AA+
- Sales Tax Receipts:..... -3.9%
- Housing Units:..... 358,144¹¹
- Median Household Income:..... \$79,016¹²



¹ DuPage County GIS Department, 2013 Census Estimates
² 2015 U.S. Census Estimates
³ 2014 U.S. Census Estimates
⁴ 2009 ELU Report

⁵ DuPage County GIS Department, 2010 U.S. Census
⁶ DuPage County's FY2016 Proposed Budget
⁷ 2014 County revenue minus Health Department tax levy
⁸ Among which includes Convalescent Center's patient care, water and sewer service charges, highway motor fuel taxes, IMRF/social security indirect cost reimbursement, subsidy transfers, interfund transfers, and much more

⁹ Choose DuPage
¹⁰ Maintains AAA bond rating with Standard & Poor's and Moody's and a AA+ bond rating with Fitch.
¹¹ 2015 Census Estimates
¹² 2014 U.S. Census Estimates



DUPAGE COUNTY



2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

OVERVIEW

DuPage County is the second largest county in Illinois with 933,736 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 institutions of higher education, 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; 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, scope, and cost 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 \$43.9 million and full-time budgeted headcount by 60 positions since FY 2011 and for the ninth consecutive year, the county's FY 2017 budget includes no property tax increase. DuPage continues to receive an AAA Bond Rating from two of the major credit rating agencies and county government accounts for less than 3% of an average homeowner's (annual) property tax bill.



SUMMARY

Reduce the Size, Scope and Cost of Local Government: provide additional tools to units of local government to share services, empower local taxpayers to determine the size of government they wish to support, and permit the DuPage County Board to consolidate the Election Commission with the County Clerk's Office.

Preserve LGDF: monies allocated under the Local Government Distributive Fund do not represent a grant from state government but rather a portion of income taxes paid by DuPage County residents that are utilized to deliver critical local services.

Sustain County Nursing Homes Enhanced Medicaid Rate: county supported nursing homes, including the DuPage Convalescent Center, receive an enhanced Medicaid rate due to the disproportionate number of Medicaid residents (79%) it serves.

Extend the 9-1-1 statewide surcharge: remove/extend the July 1, 2017 sunset date of the statewide surcharge that funds local public safety agencies (ETSB's) in order to ensure a swift and appropriate response to 9-1-1 calls placed statewide.

Support Economic Development: continue the Economic Development for a Growing Economy (EDGE) Tax Credit Act and join efforts to reform the program to ensure value for taxpayers and provide appropriate incentives to grow, attract, and retain businesses in DuPage County and the State of Illinois.

Combat Heroin Addiction: support statewide heroin education programs and expand treatment opportunities to help prevent heroin use and to assist families struggling with the devastating impact of this highly addictive drug.

Expand Opportunities for Electronics Recycling: formulate a long-term solution with manufacturers that provide citizens with reasonable access to electronics recycling while keeping expenses to all stakeholders at a reasonable level.

Oppose unfunded Judicial Mandates: proposals to mandate body cameras, increase juror compensation, and prohibit the use of video conferencing of court proceedings with no accompanying revenue source to implement these initiatives threatens the county's ability to fund the operation of court facilities.

Approval of Small Wireless Facilities on County Infrastructure: create an equitable process for the siting of small wireless facilities and small wireless facility networks on infrastructure owned and operated by units of local government that recognizes the needs of consumers to access advanced wireless technology with the needs of local government to protect the public.

Support Adequate Reimbursement of Probation Costs: restore state funding/reimbursement of county probation costs that continue to rise largely due to the imposition of new costly (state) mandates.

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



DUPAGE COUNTY



2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PRIORITIES

Reduce the Size, Scope and Cost of Local Government

Illinois continues to lead the nation with the most units of local government, nearly 7,000, with over 370 separate taxing districts in DuPage County alone. The result; an inefficient, redundant, and costly system of overlapping government agencies delivering public services through an outdated model that lacks accountability and fails to make the best use of resources.

By reimagining traditional service delivery models through innovation, taxpayers benefit with more cost-effective services. Government agencies also benefit by maximizing the utilization of scarce public resources. Taxpayers would realize additional savings if the General Assembly would provide units of local government with greater autonomy and more tools that support collaboration across silos and existing boundaries. Requirements for citizen-led ballot initiatives to dissolve and consolidate local units of government should also be eased and standardized which helps promote citizen engagement in local government.

Since 2012, DuPage County has dissolved four county appointed agencies (Timberlake Estates Sanitary District, Fairview Fire Protection District, DuPage Fair & Exposition Authority, and the Century Hills Street Lighting District) after careful examination of each entity and partnerships with other service providers. Under its ACT (Accountability, Consolidation & Transparency) Initiative, county taxpayers have saved over \$100 million through collaboration, joint purchasing and shared services among local government agencies.

For the 2017 legislative session, DuPage County is proposing the consolidation of the DuPage County Election Commission (a separate county appointed agency) with the Office of the County Clerk. Due to the expanded use of technology, including online voter registration, plus the expansion of early voting and the ease of voting by mail/absentee ballot, the number of full-time county election staff may be reduced. As both the County Clerk's Office and the Election Commission experience a high volume of public inquiries and customer interactions on a daily basis, opportunities exist to cross-train both staffs to reduce administrative costs and create greater efficiencies.

Under the proposed legislation, the County Clerk would assume responsibilities for procurement, the hiring of staff, and other day-to-day administrative functions under a newly created Election Division. A newly formed five-member bipartisan Board of Election Commissioners would meet on a regular basis to set election policy, hold public meetings, serve as the Electoral Board and receive public comment. This more efficient electoral administration model enhances bipartisanship and fosters transparent and accountable operations.



DUPAGE COUNTY

2017 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



PRIORITIES

Preserve Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF)

DuPage County currently receives an estimated \$9.7 million annually from the local government distribution of Illinois income tax proceeds. These monies do not represent a state government grant but rather a small share of the income taxes paid by our citizens to be used for local purposes. LGDF dollars meet local needs such as: support of community services; non-profit agencies; senior citizen programs; public safety and probation services; and the operation of the Convalescent Center.

DuPage County and its municipalities are subject to the same economic pressures as the State of Illinois and the county and its municipalities also continue to struggle to provide basic services to our residents. Absent LGDF dollars, county leaders will have no choice but to slash or eliminate funding to local programs and services that will impact public safety, threaten our social services, and negatively impact our citizens' quality of life.

DuPage County opposes any attempts to divert the obligated local share of income tax revenues to counties and municipalities that utilize these funds to provide critical services to our residents.

Sustain County Nursing Homes Enhanced Medicaid Rate

As one of 19 remaining county nursing homes in the state, the DuPage Convalescent Center (Convo) receives an enhanced rate for the provision of Medicaid services from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS). This enhanced rate (\$3 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 acknowledgment of the fact that the majority of county nursing home residents are Medicaid recipients (79% of Convo residents). This rate was also negotiated in recognition of the significant financial contributions made by county taxpayers each year to subsidize the operations of Convo. Absent Convo, Medicaid residents and families would be forced to seek residential alternatives outside of DuPage County due to the shortage of local Medicaid beds. The state benefits from the operation of Convo as the state is responsible for the placement and care of Medicaid recipients. County homes also generate a higher reimbursement rate from the federal government, thus providing much needed additional revenues to the state's Medicaid program.

With proposed cuts to the Medicaid program and absent a state budget, the enhanced county nursing home rate could be in jeopardy. DuPage County urges lawmakers to continue to honor this intergovernmental agreement and to maintain this enhanced rate to ensure the continued viability of county nursing homes and the DuPage Convalescent Center, home to over 350 frail and largely indigent county residents.



PRIORITIES

Extend the 9-1-1 statewide surcharge

The DuPage Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB) has oversight of the enhanced 9-1-1 emergency response systems for the citizens of DuPage County and for portions of Cook, Kane, and Will Counties (excluding Naperville and Aurora). In recent years, the County's ETSB has worked diligently to consolidate the number of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's or dispatch centers) from 22 PSAP's in 2008 to 5 by the end of 2016 and 3 by the end of 2017, saving taxpayers an estimated \$6.7 million in personnel costs and \$2.9 million in capital system replacement costs.

In 2015, the General Assembly enacted legislation (Public Act 99-0006) to overhaul the state's 9-1-1 emergency response system based on a series of recommendations developed by the statewide 9-1-1 Services Advisory Board that included a new 9-1-1 administrator within the Department of State Police, the establishment of a statewide Next Generation 9-1-1 network, and the imposition of a uniform 9-1-1 monthly statewide surcharge fee on all cellular lines that resulted in an additional \$900,000 annually for the county's ETSB. The legislation also set mandatory consolidation goals for all PSAP's to achieve by the Act's sunset date of July 1, 2017.

The DuPage County ETSB is the largest county 9-1-1 system in the state and receives its funding from the .87 cent 9-1-1 statewide surcharge. It is critical that the uniform monthly surcharge continue past the sunset date and the mandated consolidation goals included as part of Public Act 99-0006 remain to guarantee sufficient resources statewide and that unnecessary and outdated 9-1-1 infrastructure is eliminated, thus ensuring a swift and appropriate response to citizen requests for emergency assistance when dialing 9-1-1.

The 9-1-1 Services Advisory Board is currently working on legislative language as part of a trailer bill to Public Act 99-0006 to amend procedural issues within the Act. It will also have a sunset language recommendation based on the status of the state 9-1-1 network project. At this time, a change in the amount of the surcharge has not been discussed in-depth because the cost of the statewide 9-1-1 network has not yet been determined through a competitive bid process.

Economic Development

The EDGE program is the state's largest and most effective tool to recruit companies to our state and to help businesses remain here and expand. According to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, since the EDGE Tax Credit was established in 1999, it has created 34,000 jobs and retained an additional 46,000 jobs in Illinois.



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The EDGE program is designed to offer a special tax incentive to encourage companies to locate or expand operations in Illinois when there is active consideration of a competing location in another state. The program can provide tax credits to qualifying companies, equal to the amount of state income taxes withheld from the salaries of employees in newly created jobs. The nonrefundable credits can be used against corporate income taxes to be paid over a period not to exceed ten years.

The current EDGE program will expire as of April 30 and discussions are currently underway in the General Assembly to reform and tighten the program's application, including efforts to reduce the size of incentives and to limit tax credits.

In an effort to encourage innovation and to assist smaller businesses, reform proposals should also include incentives for startup companies that currently do not qualify for EDGE, perhaps by offering the ability to monetize credits. A newly established company not yet realizing net income for instance, could sell earned credits to profitable companies that could use them.

DuPage County supports the continuation of a tax credit program that welcomes businesses to our state, encourages existing companies to expand, and recognizes the need to incentivize entrepreneurs to invest in the creation of new companies.

Combat Heroin Addiction

We continue to face a heroin epidemic that has infiltrated every community in our state. The statistics are staggering; every day in the U.S., 580 people use heroin for the first time, 3,900 people initiate nonmedical use of prescription opioids for the first time, and 78 people die from an opioid-related overdose. Overall, Americans consume 85% of the world's prescription opioids. In 2015, DuPage County reported 43 heroin deaths. In 2016, DuPage saw the introduction of more powerful and deadlier synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, into the heroin trade. By the end of the year, more than 70 people died as a result of prescription pain pills, heroin, or from a fentanyl overdose.

In 2013, the DuPage Coalition Against Heroin was formed to raise awareness and to educate the public regarding the dangers of opioid and heroin addiction. Following best practice models adopted by the Department of Justice and National Association of Counties, the Coalition developed a multi-pronged approach to combatting heroin abuse and addiction. First, the Coalition supported the DuPage Narcan Program, which trained more than 3,000 local law enforcement officials in the use of Narcan, an overdose reversal drug. The Coalition funds a prevention education program led by the Robert Crown Center, the Rx Box safe disposal program and Project Connect, which links those seeking help with treatment providers. Although we've made some progress, new, deadly twists in the local heroin trade increase the sense of urgency around the issue.



DUPAGE COUNTY



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While revenues remain uncertain, DuPage County strongly encourages the General Assembly to focus on the development of a comprehensive statewide funding program to expand heroin treatment options, advocate for opioid training among medical providers, increase public awareness, facilitate safe disposal sites, expand the availability of Narcan for law enforcement and to develop statewide solutions to assist families devastated by heroin addiction.

Expand Opportunities for Electronics Recycling

The Electronic Product Recycling and Reuse Act ban specific electronics from Illinois landfills. The Act requires electronics manufacturers to fund the collection and recycling of electronics throughout the state. Over the last several years, DuPage County has experienced a significant loss of collection sites due to the absence of manufacturer funded collection programs within the county combined with the increased cost of recycling. The problem is perpetuated by the significant volume of electronic waste that is generated annually. The private sector collects some of the banned types of electronics (Goodwill, Best Buy, Home Depot and Staples locations), however not all items are collected and televisions and monitors continue to be an issue for residents unable or unwilling to pay any associated fees to recycle these items.

DuPage County urges the General Assembly to work on a long-term, easily accessible and zero-cost solution for the handling of banned electronic waste. Absent convenient alternatives for consumers to recycle banned electronics, communities will begin to experience open dumping and abandonment of electronics on roadways, forest preserves, and vacant land due in part to fewer alternatives for residents to recycle electronics.

Oppose Unfunded Judicial Mandates

DuPage County is responsible for the operation of the second largest court system in the state, the 18th Judicial Circuit Court, and associated public safety county agencies including the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Jury Commission, Probation and Court Services, Public Defender, State's Attorney, and Sheriff's Office. Revenues that help support court operations include revenues from statutory fees and fines and proceeds from bail set by judges (cash-bond system).

The General Assembly has enacted a number of unfunded mandates on the courts including increased juror compensation, pretrial screening programs, and expanded use of electronic monitoring but with no accompanying revenue source to help pay for such services. In addition, the passage of a myriad of new mandated court fees by the General Assembly to fund specific purposes (such as body cameras, trauma centers, and driver education for example), have actually reduced proportionately fee amounts



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received by court related agencies. Proposals pending in the General Assembly that would greatly reduce all bail requirements would not only raise public safety concerns, but also have a devastating impact on court revenues.

In addition to these factors, other proposals pending in the General Assembly would reduce the amount of time juvenile offenders may be held in temporary custody prior to a judicial hearing, requiring courts to open on weekends and holidays. For counties outside of Cook, this would present a significant challenge as many counties including DuPage (and most downstate counties) share a regional juvenile detention facility, requiring juveniles to be transported across county lines to the home county courthouse in order to appear. These proposals would also prohibit the use of video conferencing for initial court proceedings, a reasonable alternative to requiring counties to assume the significant overtime costs of keeping court related personnel on call in order to transport juveniles for a brief initial court appearance.

DuPage County urges the General Assembly to work with counties to balance the needs of offenders with the rising and unfunded costs of operating our court systems, attributed in large measure to the continued unfunded mandates placed on the courts by the legislature.

Approval of Small Wireless Facilities on County Infrastructure

There is a growing demand for wireless telecommunications services. This has resulted in national, state, regional, and local requests for the installation of small cell, distributed antenna systems and other wireless telecommunication facilities to ensure sufficient capacity and coverage by wireless users, including citizens, businesses, government agencies, and emergency responders. In general, there is a preference by operators of such facilities and networks to deploy infrastructure within public rights-of-way where available. While the deployment of such facilities and networks appear to be in the overall best interest of the public, so too is the judicious management of the public rights-of-way by local agencies for the benefit of our citizens.

In order to balance the demand for access to convenient, reliable wireless technology with local control, legislation is needed in order to establish an equitable process by which such facilities and/or networks can be permitted within public rights-of-way. Many communities have begun to adopt ordinances that address issues such as pole/tower heights, spacing, co-locating on municipal infrastructure, and aesthetics. Proposed legislation should recognize these local ordinances and establish a framework for the efficient permitting, aesthetics, fee assessments, etc., that mutually benefit operators as well as local agencies yet do not adversely impact existing/future telecommunication facilities/networks located on local infrastructure not within the public rights-of-way.



PRIORITIES

Support Adequate Reimbursement of Probation Costs

The State requires counties to provide probation services as part of a mandated court services program. However, state reimbursement of county probation costs has been reduced and payment cycles continue to lag absent a state budget. A number of new unfunded state mandates such as the GPS monitoring of probationers, the creation of specialty courts, and mental health related costs have also strained resources and increased costs.

Without an approved state budget, salary reimbursement funding levels (of probation officers) have been significantly reduced to reflect the levels of previous years (below 70% of allowed costs).

DuPage County supports the restoration of probation funding to required levels (at the maximum reimbursable level) consistent with state statute and AOIC (Supreme Court) policies.

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 care and control (animal shelter), and the Convalescent Center; plus the maintenance of 220 miles of highways and 92 miles of multi-use trails.

The county has developed its 2017 Capital Improvement Plan that 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 933,736 residents.

To access the county's capital plan, please visit www.dupagecapitalplan.com or request a copy from the County Board Office.