



DUPAGECOUNTY

2017 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



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



DUPAGE COUNTY



2017 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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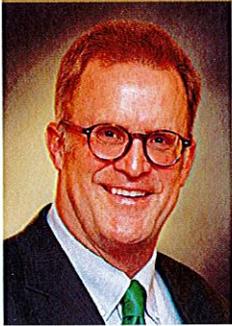


DUPAGE COUNTY

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

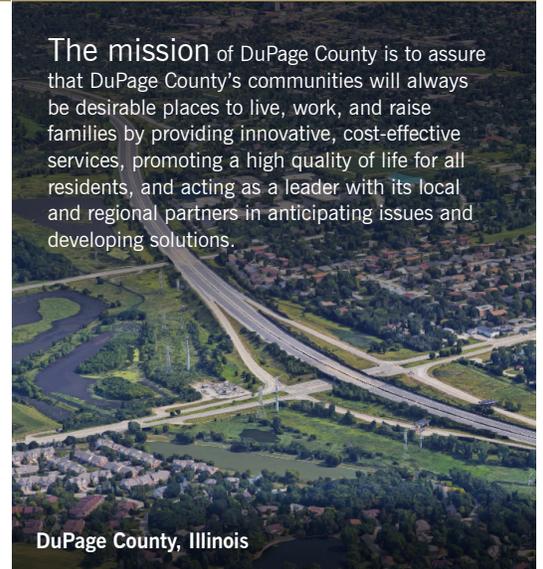
Unincorporated communities

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 FEDERAL 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.



DUPAGE COUNTY



2017 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

SUMMARY

- **Promote Local Economic Development:** obtain approval from the U.S. Department of Energy for a 320 foot easement that would stimulate job growth at the 500 acre DuPage Business Center located in West Chicago.
- **Protect the Federal-State-Local Partnership for Medicaid:** preserve the current federal-state-local structure for financing and delivering Medicaid services that includes an enhanced Medicaid rate for county owned nursing homes versus a block grant allocation.
- **Complete the Elgin-O'Hare Western Access Project of National Significance:** secure the remaining funds to complete this \$3.4 billion infrastructure project that 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.
- **Fight Heroin Addiction:** provide funding to implement 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 a small portion of our federal tax dollars to DuPage County to help local non-profit agencies meet the needs of our elderly, people with disabilities, families in crisis, and homeless population.
- **Protect Municipal Bonds:** oppose efforts to remove this primary financing method for state and local governments to help rebuild our nation's infrastructure.
- **Support DuPage County's 2017 Capital Improvement Plan:** to complete critical infrastructure projects that will help alleviate flooding, reduce traffic congestion, improve water quality, and enhance public safety.



PRIORITY ISSUES

Approval of DOE Easement for the DuPage Business Center

The DuPage Airport Authority (DAA) is seeking approval from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) of a 320 foot easement on the far outer edge of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory property in order to construct a rail spur to connect the DuPage Business Center to the existing Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) rail line.

Acquisition of this easement from the DOE is critical to the future success of the 500 acre business park located in West Chicago. Fermilab, a 6,800 acre facility and valued asset to our community, is bordered by another rail line and would not be adversely impacted by the approval of this small easement to an existing rail line.

DuPage County supports the attainment of this rail easement that will stimulate development at the DuPage Business Center, resulting in the creation of hundreds of jobs for our regional economy.

Protect Medicaid Funding

As a county owned nursing home, the DuPage Convalescent Center receives an enhanced reimbursement rate for the provision of Medicaid services from the State of Illinois (Department of Healthcare & Family Services) based on a higher match/supplemental payments the agency receives from the federal government. This rate was approved in 2011 in recognition of the fact that the majority of county nursing home residents are Medicaid recipients (79%) and required more costly, intensive medical care after exhausting their own resources at a private non-Medicaid facility. In addition, county taxpayers continue to subsidize a significant portion of the care provided by the Convalescent Center (\$6 million annually) despite the higher Medicaid rate. Any decrease in Medicaid reimbursement rates for long-term care services by either the federal or state government would significantly impact the county's ability to continue to serve this indigent population without shifting a further burden to local taxpayers.

Counties continue to be concerned however about measures that would limit the ability of states to direct **supplemental payments** to county providers or that would reimburse states for Medicaid services based on a block grant allocation. Under a block grant, states would receive a fixed amount of federal funding each year, regardless of changes in program enrollment and mandates. Utilizing a per capita cap that has also been proposed, states would receive a fixed



amount of federal funding per beneficiary category. According to the National Association of Counties (NACO), such measures would further shift costs to counties, straining county budgets and reducing the ability of counties to provide care for their residents.

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

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 79 engineering and/or construction contracts for the EOWA project totaling more than \$1.04 billion. 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.



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 250,000 per month in 2016 as compared to just over 15,000 per month in 2014. 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 recently. 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 late 2015. One of the products of the JDA reports was a proposal for a new Fly Quiet runway rotation plan. The purpose of the rotation plan was to distribute noise impacts and to relieve overburdened residents as much as possible. The FAA approved a rotation plan test period in early 2016. This test period ended in December 2016 and CDA, the FAA and SOC are evaluating the results of the test program. Should the evaluations indicate positive results, DuPage County, SOC and FAiR will request that CDA seek approval from FAA to amend and continue a permanent rotation plan.

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



Fight Heroin Addiction

We continue to face a heroin epidemic in our nation that has infiltrated every state and community including DuPage County. In 2016, there were a total of 78 opiate related deaths compared to 51 deaths in 2015.

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 six part strategy: train and supply law enforcement officers in the county (2,225 officers to date) in the use of the nasal spray antidote Narcan (145 lives saved in 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 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; expand the number of Rx box locations in the county that accept and safely dispose of unused and expired prescription medications; and provide outreach to overdose survivors through Project Connect, a pilot program that links heroin users and their families with community treatment options and support services.

DuPage County urges Congress to authorize funding to implement the Comprehensive Addiction & Recovery Act of 2016 that would provide grants to state and local governments to support opioid abuse prevention and treatment activities 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 42st 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 2017 include: \$1.7 million to improve water mains, roads, and street lighting in five communities and to operate five neighborhood resource centers; \$1.75 million to renovate living and learning environments for eight entities providing housing and services for persons with disabilities, seniors, and children in foster care; \$200,000 to assist low-income homeowners in keeping their homes safe, code compliant, and energy efficient; and \$462,000



DUPAGE COUNTY



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to pay for case management and services through 12 agencies that assist homeless persons (including youth, families, veterans, and victims of domestic violence).

Tax Exempt Municipal Bonds

For decades, 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. In 2015, more than \$400 billion in municipal bonds were issued.

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, savings are passed on directly to taxpayers.

DuPage County opposes any attempts, as part of a package of tax reform measures to address the federal deficit, to repeal the tax exemption for municipal bonds that helps local economies create jobs and address the critical infrastructure needs of our communities.

2017 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 main Wheaton Campus including the County Jail, Courthouse, Health Department, Animal Shelter, and Convalescent Center; and the maintenance of 220 miles of highways and 92 miles of multi-use trails.

DuPage County's 2017 Capital Improvement Plan includes a comprehensive list of (53) 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.

In addition to support of DuPage County's Capital program, the county is seeking eligibility from Congress to qualify for environmental infrastructure grants under Section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that provides funds to the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to support a variety of water-related resource protection and development projects.



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A detailed list of all DuPage County capital projects (that may be searched by Congressional District) may be viewed online at: www.dupagecapitalplan.com.