



DUPAGE COUNTY

2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



Daniel J. Cronin, Chairman, DuPage County Board
Sam Tornatore, Chairman, Legislative Committee



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. Knuepfer 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



Greg Hart **R**

Burr Ridge



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

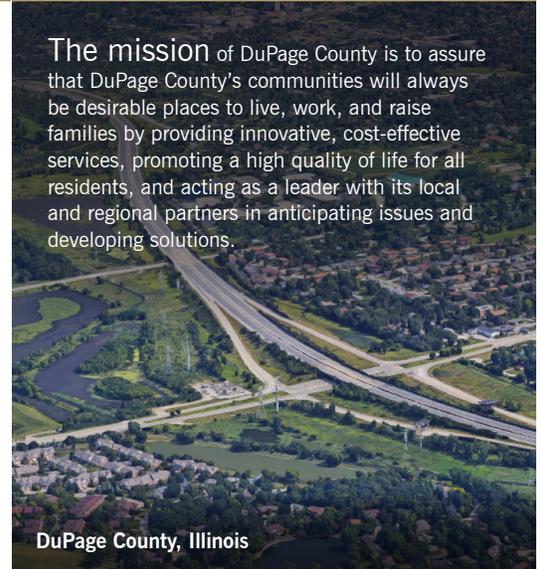
Unincorporated communities

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: 929,368
- Incorporated Population: 815,775
- Unincorporated Population: 113,593



Race, Ethnicity, Gender²

- Caucasian: 80.6%
- African American: 5.2%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.4%
- Asian: 11.8%
- Hispanic or Latino: 14.3%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.1%
- Identified by two or more: 1.9%
- Male: 49.0%
- Female: 51.0%



Education Attainment³

- High School Graduate: 19.2%
- Bachelor's Degree: 28.5%
- Graduate or Professional Degree: 18.2%
- Percent High School degree or higher: 92.4%
- Percent Bachelor's degree or higher: 47.3%



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: \$439.5 million
- Sales Tax Revenue: \$102.4 million
- Property Tax Revenue⁷: \$48.8 million
- Local Gas Tax Revenue: \$19.3 million
- Income Tax Revenue: \$7.7 million
- Fee Offices/Elected Officials: \$32.3 million
- Funds on Hand: \$48.2 million
- Other⁸: \$179.6 million



Economic Information⁹

- Unemployment Rate: 4.0%
- 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+¹⁰
- Sales Tax Receipts: -3.9%
- Housing Units: 359,103¹¹
- Median Household Income: \$81,521¹²



¹ 2016 U.S. Census Estimates
² 2016 U.S. Census Estimates
³ 2016 U.S. Census Estimates
⁴ 2009 ELU Report

⁵ DuPage County GIS Department, 2010 U.S. Census
⁶ DuPage County's FY2018 Approved Budget
⁷ 2017 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 2016 U.S. Census Estimates
¹² 2016 U.S. Census Estimates



DUPAGE COUNTY

2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Overview

DuPage County is the second largest county in Illinois with 929,368 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 716,900 jobs, 19 institutions of higher learning, 7 hospitals, 2 national laboratories, 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 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, the second largest in the state; the maintenance and construction 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/zoning/permitting for unincorporated areas; 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 four county appointed agencies and freezing the county's property tax levy for the past ten years, the county continues to reduce its annual operating costs and full-time budgeted head count. DuPage maintains 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

2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



2018 State Legislative Priorities

Preserve LGDF: prohibit any future cuts by the state to the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) that allocates a small portion of incomes taxes paid by DuPage County residents back home to support critical local services including senior citizen programs, community services, and public safety.

Election Commission Consolidation: return the responsibility for the administration of local elections to the County Clerk and eliminate a separate agency of government, the DuPage County Election Commission, thus creating greater efficiencies and reducing administrative costs.

Reduce State imposed Sales Tax Withholding to 1%: support legislation already filed to cut in half the 2% withholding of local sales tax proceeds by the Illinois Department of Revenue as an administrative fee (adopted during the 2017 spring session) that cost counties and municipalities millions of dollars in lost revenues, jeopardizing the delivery of local services.

Prohibit Tobacco Sales till Age 21: support the DuPage County Health Department's resolution to prohibit the sale of tobacco to anyone under the age of 21 as tobacco use is a contributing factor in the leading causes of death in DuPage County including cancer, heart disease, stroke and chronic lower respiratory disease.

Ban the Sale of Commercially Bred Pets: ban the sale of commercially bred animals and require pet stores in the county to sell only dogs, cats, and rabbits obtained from shelters, rescue organizations and pounds. Also support legislation to provide that a person is immune from criminal liability, who is acting in good faith, to rescue a dog or cat that has been confined in a motor vehicle.

Property Tax Relief: ensure that taxpayers across the state are on a level playing field through the establishment of a Fair and Equitable Assessment of Property Task Force to study issues of assessment equity and fairness and to make recommendations that would provide for the uniform and transparent assessment of property valuations statewide.

Reduce the Size, Scope and Cost of Local Government: support legislation that provides additional tools to local government leaders to share services and that also empowers voters to determine the size of government they wish to support.

Oppose Small Wireless Facilities on County Infrastructure: continue to oppose legislation that limits the authority of local governments to site small cell wireless devices on public infrastructure located in the county right-of-way absent any community input and that dictates the fee schedule and timeline for the approval of permits.

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



DUPAGE COUNTY

2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Preserve LGDF

Monies allocated under the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) does not represent a “grant” from the state but rather a small share of the income taxes paid by our citizens that are returned to support critical local services. DuPage County currently receives \$9.8 million annually in LGDF funds, an amount that was reduced in 2017 by 10% in order to balance the state’s FY 2018 budget.

Counties and our municipalities have suffered the same economic hardships as the state yet have made the tough choices to cut spending, reduce staffing levels, and achieve operational efficiencies to balance our budgets. Local Government Leaders oppose any attempts by the state to divert our fair share of income tax proceeds. Any reductions in this long-standing revenue sharing agreement will force DuPage County to diminish basic services to the residents we all serve, impacting senior citizens, mental health, our non-profit community and public safety.

Election Commission Consolidation

DuPage County is proposing the consolidation of the DuPage County Election Commission, a separate governmental agency, with the County Clerk’s Office. Placing the responsibility for the Election Commission under a countywide elected official, versus an appointed body, will improve accountability and result in many operational efficiencies, saving taxpayers significant resources. Prior to 1974, the County Clerk assumed the responsibility for the administration of local elections, as does every other County Clerk in the state except for 7 municipal election commissions (Aurora, Bloomington, Chicago, Danville, East St. Louis, Galesburg and Rockford) and 1 county election commission (Peoria).

On the March 2018 primary ballot, the DuPage County Board has placed an advisory referendum question asking voters: “Shall the DuPage County Election Commission be dissolved and its functions consolidated with the Office of the County Clerk?” DuPage County lacks the authority to place a binding referendum question on the ballot unless citizens gather over 61,000 signatures to formally place the initiative on the ballot (state statute requires the signatures of 10% of the registered voters in the county). The City of Aurora has also placed a (binding) referendum question on the March primary ballot asking voters if they wish to dissolve the Aurora Election Commission.

Reduce State Imposed Sales Tax Administrative Fee

As part of the state’s effort to balance its FY 2018 budget, the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) imposed a new 2% administrative fee (surcharge) on the collection of 14 locally imposed sales taxes prior to the distribution of these tax revenues to local governments. For DuPage County, the 2% fee assessed on the collection of the RTA sales tax represented a \$1 million cut to the county budget.

Although there may be a small cost for the state to collect the locally imposed sales taxes (the department already collects its own state sales taxes), the Department of Revenue prohibits local governments from collecting local sales taxes and could not provide any explanation or justification for the 2% administrative fee that in total, will cost local governments an estimated \$60 million annually in lost revenues.



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Legislation has already been introduced (HB 4101) for consideration during the 2018 spring session to reduce this fee from 2% to 1%, cutting in half the burden local taxpayers now pay to disproportionately support IDOR at the expense of local services. DuPage County supports this legislation as a compromise that will aid both the state and the county to deliver critical local services.

Prohibit tobacco sales till age 21

According to the DuPage County Health Department, smoking is a contributing factor in the leading causes of death in the county, including heart disease, cancer, stroke and chronic lower respiratory disease. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also show that 95% of adult smokers began smoking before age 21. Numerous studies, including a recent Institute of Medicine report, conclude that raising the minimum legal sale age for tobacco products will reduce tobacco initiation among young people (an estimated 12% decrease), improving health and decreasing mortality rates.

Recently, the DuPage County Board of Health adopted a resolution in support of restricting tobacco sales to anyone under age 21.

Ban the sale of Commercially Bred Pets

DuPage County's Animal Care and Control facility is an open-admission shelter obligated by state statute to accept any animal surrendered to the facility, including sick and ill-tempered animals bred from puppy mills.

Working collaboratively with Will County, the Humane Society, the Puppy Mill Project and several other local animal advocacy groups, DuPage County is proposing legislation to enact a countywide ban (in DuPage and Will) on the retail sale of animals (dogs, cats, rabbits) obtained from commercial breeders that have lower health and welfare standards. Under the legislation, pet stores in the two counties would be permitted to only sell animals obtained from shelters, rescue organizations, and pounds.

The bill is similar to ordinances adopted in Chicago and Cook County to protect consumers, improve animal welfare standards, encourage pet adoption and responsible breeding, with the goal of ending animal cruelty for profit. DuPage County also supports legislation to provide immunity from criminal liability for a person who acting in good faith, rescues a dog or cat that has been confined in a motor vehicle.

Property Tax Relief

The current system of property valuation in Illinois is often unequal and lacks uniformity across the 900 different assessment jurisdictions. As the state's school funding formula (for example) is based on the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) of property, unequal valuation leads to less state funding for school districts, thus causing local property taxes to rise.



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To address these inequities, resolutions have been introduced in the House and Senate by DuPage Legislators to establish the Fair and Equitable Assessment of Property Task Force that would conduct a comprehensive review of state laws, statewide assessment systems, current exemptions, the impact of TIFs, enhanced use of technology and other measures in order to develop recommendations to ensure a fairer and equitable assessment process.

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 over 370 separate taxing districts in DuPage County alone. The tax dollars required to support this large bureaucracy has not resulted in a higher level of services being delivered to our citizens but rather created an inefficient, redundant, and costly system of overlapping government agencies that lacks accountability and wastes resources.

By challenging traditional service-delivery models, taxpayers benefit through the receipt of innovative and more cost-effective services. Government agencies benefit by maximizing the utilization of scarce resources. Taxpayers would realize additional savings if the General Assembly would provide units of local government with greater autonomy and more tools to 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 to permit greater citizen participation in the level of government they wish to support.

Oppose Small Wireless Facilities on County Infrastructure

DuPage County supports the goal of ensuring reliable wireless services in our communities and the advancement of technology required to meet the growing demand for telecommunication services. Currently, the county works cooperatively with telecommunication companies to permit projects in the county's right-of-way to deploy advanced wireless technology for the public's benefit in a timely and appropriate manner.

Legislation still pending in Springfield however, SB 1451, the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act, removes the authority of local officials to determine, in consultation with our residents, businesses, and schools, the most appropriate placement of these devices in our communities to minimize potential public health and safety risks as well as visual blight. SB 1451, that creates an automatic approval process for these permit applications regardless of the complexity or number of applications received, represents an unnecessary mandate on local governments and a significant overreach of local authority by the state for the benefit of commercial entities.



DUPAGE COUNTY

2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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 county nursing home; plus the maintenance of 220 miles of highways and 92 miles of multi-use trails.

The county has developed its 2018 Capital Improvement Plan that includes a comprehensive list of over 50 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 929,368 residents.

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