



# DUPAGE COUNTY

2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



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



## GOVERNMENT PROFILE

## DUPAGE COUNTY BOARD



### DuPage County Board

**Daniel J. Cronin** **R**

Chairman  
DuPage County Board

(630) 407-6060 • [www.dupageco.org/cobrd](http://www.dupageco.org/cobrd)



Jack T. Knuepfer Administration Building

### District 1



**Donald E. Puchalski** **R**

Addison



**Ashley J. Selmon** **D**

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**

Hinsdale



**Brian Krajewski** **R**

Downers Grove



**Julie Renehan** **D**

Hinsdale

### District 4



**Grant Eckhoff** **R**

Wheaton



**Tim Elliott** **R**

Glen Ellyn



**Mary FitzGerald Ozog** **D**

Glen Ellyn

### District 5



**Sadia Covert** **D**

Naperville



**Dawn DeSart** **D**

Aurora



**James Healy** **R**

Naperville

### District 6



**Robert Larsen** **R**

Wheaton



**Sheila Rutledge** **D**

West Chicago



**James F. Zay** **R**

Carol Stream



# DUPAGE COUNTY

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

## 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

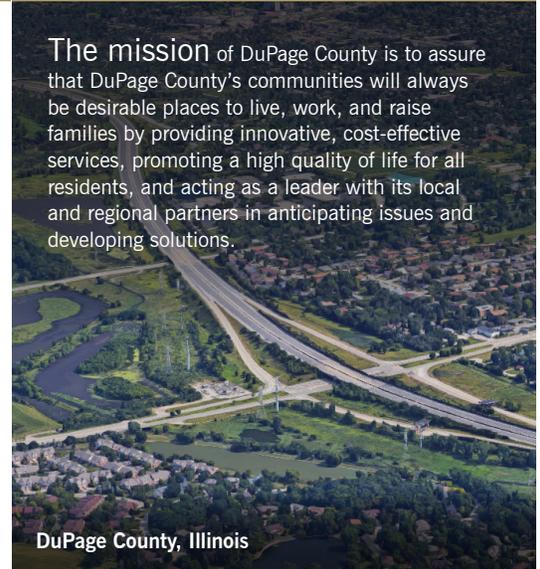
#### Unincorporated communities

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

- Population<sup>1</sup>.....
- Total Population:..... 930,128
- Incorporated Population:..... 816,442
- Unincorporated Population:..... 113,686



### Race, Ethnicity, Gender<sup>2</sup>

- Caucasian:..... 67.0%
- African American:..... 5.2%
- American Indian/Alaska Native:..... 0.4%
- Asian:..... 12.1%
- Hispanic or Latino:..... 14.4%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander:..... 0.1%
- Other:..... 0.8%
- Male:..... 49.1%
- Female:..... 50.9%



### Education Attainment<sup>3</sup>

- 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 Information<sup>4</sup>

- Persons per Square Miles:..... 2,767.8
- Undeveloped Land:..... 4.2% or 9,013 acres
- Open Space:..... 20.8% or 44,941 acres
- Total Area<sup>5</sup>:..... 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 Information<sup>6</sup>

- County Revenue:..... \$439.5 million
- Sales Tax Revenue:..... \$102.4 million
- Property Tax Revenue<sup>7</sup>:..... \$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
- Other<sup>8</sup>:..... \$179.6 million



### Economic Information<sup>9</sup>

- Unemployment Rate:..... 3.1%
- 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+<sup>10</sup>
- Sales Tax Receipts:..... -3.9%
- Housing Units:..... 360,146<sup>11</sup>
- Median Household Income:..... \$81,521<sup>12</sup>



<sup>1</sup> 2017 U.S. Census Estimates  
<sup>2</sup> 2017 U.S. Census Estimates.  
<sup>3</sup> 2017 U.S. Census Estimates  
<sup>4</sup> 2009 ELU Report

<sup>5</sup> DuPage County GIS Department, 2010 U.S. Census  
<sup>6</sup> DuPage County's FY2018 Approved Budget  
<sup>7</sup> 2017 County revenue minus Health Department tax levy  
<sup>8</sup> 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.

<sup>9</sup> Choose DuPage  
<sup>10</sup> Maintains AAA bond rating with Standard & Poor's and Moody's and a AA+ bond rating with Fitch.  
<sup>11</sup> 2017 U.S. Census Estimates  
<sup>12</sup> 2017 U.S. Census Estimates



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### Overview

DuPage County is the second largest county in Illinois with 930,128 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 18<sup>th</sup> judicial circuit, the second largest court system in the state; the maintenance and construction of the county highway and trails system; the delivery of 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 services.

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 seven county appointed agencies and freezing the county's property tax levy for the past ten years, the county continues to reduce its 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.



### 2019 State Legislative Priorities

**Preserve Local Revenues:** prohibit any future cuts by the State to the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) that returns a small portion of income taxes paid by DuPage County residents to support critical local services.

**Eliminate State Sales Tax Administrative Fee:** support legislation to eliminate the current 1.5% withholding of local sales tax proceeds by the Illinois Department of Revenue as an *administrative fee*, that costs counties and municipalities millions of dollars in lost revenues and jeopardizes the delivery of local services.

**Enact Capital Funding Plan:** support critical infrastructure improvements to reduce flooding, relieve traffic congestion, improve the health and safety of DuPage County residents, and support the technology necessary to ensure a secure and accessible election process.

**Protect Our Citizens Environmental Health:** work with State and Federal regulatory agencies to enact new air quality standards that protect our citizens from dangerous chemicals in the air and water supply.

**Increase Mental Health Funding:** support community crisis centers and additional community-based programs that lead to reductions in costs and better quality of life across our communities.

**Expand Local Funding Option for Senior Citizen Programs/Social Services:** amend legislation adopted during the fall veto session that expands the permitted use of the special county retailers' occupation tax (per passage of a successful voter referendum) to include the delivery of services to senior citizens and social service programs that help residents escape poverty and achieve independence.

**Prohibit Tobacco Sales Until Age 21:** support the DuPage County Health Department's resolution to prohibit the sale of tobacco to anyone under the age of 21. 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.

**School Safety:** promote school safety by supporting effective measures to ensure a safe and secure learning environment in schools throughout DuPage and Illinois.

**Reduce the Size, Scope and Cost of Local Government:** support legislation that provides additional tools to local government leaders to dissolve units of government and to empower voters to more easily place dissolution questions on the ballot.

**Support Mass Transit Funding:** develop a State comprehensive plan to address the ongoing maintenance and replacement needs of our region's transit system that serves 65% of the State's population. Due to the lack of State funding, Metra and Pace riders have disproportionately seen an increase in fares to subsidize the transit system.

**Provide Adequate Reimbursement of Probation Costs:** support appropriation levels to reimburse counties for probation salary costs as required by state statute. Enactment of the Bail Reform Act and other measures have dramatically increased probation department budgets due to expanded monitoring of offenders.

**Ban the Sale of Commercially Bred Pets:** ban the sale in DuPage County of commercially bred animals and require pet stores to only sell dogs, cats, and rabbits obtained from a shelter, rescue organization, or a 501 (c) (3). The county's open admission shelter must accept any animal surrendered including sick and ill-tempered animals.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### Preserve Local Revenues

Monies allocated under the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) do 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 \$9.4 million annually in LGDF funds, an amount that was reduced by the General Assembly in 2017 by 10% and in 2018 by 5% in order to balance the state’s budget.

The Paul Simon Public Policy study and a report from the Legislative Research Unit show that state taxes and state spending are not equally distributed across Illinois. Generally, the suburban “collar” counties generate almost twice as much in taxes paid as they receive in direct state spending. Particularly, based on taxes and spending from 2013 (the latest data available), DuPage County (as a whole – including all governments that receive LGDF) realizes \$0.31 for every \$1 in total taxes our county’s taxpayers send to state government. According to the Paul Simon study, DuPage County taxpayers generated \$2,738,909,746 in revenue during the study year, but only saw \$850,866,241 in disbursements. The results of the study highlight the need to protect DuPage County’s share of the Local Government Distributive Fund.

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 budgets. Local Government Leaders oppose any attempts by the state to continue to divert our fair share of income tax proceeds. Any reductions in this long-standing revenue sharing agreement will force DuPage County and our municipal partners to diminish basic services to the residents we all serve, impacting senior citizens, mental health, our non-profit community and public safety.

### Eliminate State Sales Tax Administrative Fee

As part of the state’s effort to balance its FY 2018 budget, the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) implemented in 2017 a **new** 2% administrative withholding fee on the collection of 14 locally imposed sales taxes prior to the distribution of these revenues to local governments. For DuPage County, this 2% fee assessed on the collection of the RTA sales tax represented a **\$1 million cut to the county**.

In addition, for many years, IDOR has withheld 2% of DuPage County’s local gas tax receipts as an administrative fee, which equates to an estimated loss of \$390,000 in tax receipts annually.

Although there is a small cost for the state to collect locally imposed sales taxes (it is the department’s responsibility to do so), IDOR already collects its own state sales taxes and prohibits local governments from doing so. Why local governments are required to subsidize the operation of state government has never been detailed nor has documentation been provided to justify the need for this fee that cost local governments last year over \$60 million.

In 2018 due to intense lobbying efforts by local government officials, the General Assembly reduced the administrative fee slightly from 2% to 1.5%, impacting the county budget by an estimated \$750,000.

DuPage County supports legislation to eliminate administrative fees charged by IDOR that withholds local resources and jeopardizes the delivery of critical services.



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## 2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### **Enact Capital Funding 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 the county nursing home; plus the maintenance of 220 miles of highways and 92 miles of multi-use trails.

The county has developed its 2019 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 930,128 residents. There is also a future need for DuPage County to replace aging voting equipment that will require a significant investment of funds.

To access the county's capital plan, please visit [www.dupagecapitalplan.com](http://www.dupagecapitalplan.com) or request a copy from the County Board Office.

### **Protect Our Citizens Environmental Health**

In late summer of 2018, DuPage County residents in Willowbrook and surrounding communities were made aware of air sampling completed by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). This data was posted online and concluded that people living in areas surrounding the Sterigenics facility may have an increased risk of cancer due to the exposure of ethylene oxide (EtO). This known carcinogen has, and continues to be, emitted into the air by the facility, which uses the chemical to sterilize medical equipment. Since late August, elected officials, concerned citizens, and over 19,000 individuals who live, work, and attend school near the facility, have been seeking credible information from state and federal regulators as to whether the air they breathe is safe.

Government has no greater responsibility than to protect the health and safety of its citizens. DuPage County calls on the General Assembly to enact legislation that will require the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) to establish new EtO emission standards, deny permits to companies that exceed the revised state standards, restrict the use of EtO to medical product sterilization, encourage the development of alternatives to the use of EtO, and prohibit the use of ethylene oxide in Illinois by 2022.

### **Increase Mental Health Funding**

Mental health disorders are one of the leading causes of disability in the United States. Using estimates from national models indicating that approximately 10% of the adult population experiences serious psychological distress in a 12-month time frame, DuPage County will find over 78,000 adults over the course of a year who seek support for a mental health disorder.



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## 2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

DuPage County has once again identified mental health and the treatment of mental health disorders as a top public health priority in the most recent Impact DuPage report. Unfortunately, the complexity of navigating the healthcare system can make accessing appropriate care difficult, at best and completely unattainable, at worst. The number one reason, cited by over 50% of individuals with an unmet need for mental health care, was cost and/or lacking insurance coverage for not receiving adequate care.

Meanwhile, the cost of untreated mental health conditions is felt across multiple sectors of our communities, from law enforcement/criminal justice systems to healthcare to workplaces to schools. DuPage County invests over \$7 million in support of the Health Department's Behavioral Health Services, leveraging those funds to provide over \$20 million in behavioral health services to residents of DuPage County.

The needs are increasing, and in DuPage County, opportunities for creative and effective programs, such as those that partner behavioral health programs with the criminal justice, law enforcement, and emergency response systems rely upon short-term grant funds. These programs need sustainable funding that will require creativity and support from the State and Federal level.

For 2019, DuPage County is requesting our state legislators support legislation to identify funding for community crisis centers and for additional community-based programs that lead to reductions in costs and better quality of life across our communities.

### **Expand Local Funding Option for Senior Citizen Programs/Social Services**

Since 2000, the number of senior citizens residing in DuPage County has grown from 88,948 to a projected 163,604 in 2020, escalating to 196,131 citizens in 2025. The demand for services, from home delivered meals, in-home care, transportation, and long-term care, continues to increase rapidly with the aging population. Poverty rates have also increased among senior citizens. Locally, according to the People's Resource Center, in 2018, 12% of clients were age 65 and older and the number of households served with at least one senior member increased by 16% since 2009. There has also been a steady increase in Adult Protective Services cases (Elder Abuse), up 78%. In addition, the county's Community Services Department provides a number of social services to help all residents escape poverty, maintain independence, and achieve economic self-sufficiency.

During the 2018 fall veto session, legislation was adopted (signed by the Governor on January 4) to expand the permissible use of revenues generated by the special county retailers' occupation tax. Currently, a county referendum approved tax may only be used for public safety, public facilities, or transportation purposes. Under Public Act 100-1167, counties may now impose a referendum approved tax for mental health or substance abuse purposes. DuPage County would like to amend this provision to also include the provision of senior citizen programs and social services.



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## 2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### **Prohibit Tobacco Sales Until 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 indicate 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.

In 2018, the DuPage County Board of Health adopted a resolution in support of restricting tobacco sales to anyone under age 21.

### **School Safety**

In light of recent tragedies that have occurred in schools across our nation, ensuring the safety and security of our children has become a major concern for families and our local communities. School resource officers are specially trained members of the law enforcement community who build relationships with students and serve as a resource to teachers and administrators to resolve problems before they escalate. School resource officers complement the efforts of school psychologists, social workers, mental health and behavioral specialists and should not be phased out as previously proposed.

### **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 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 and 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 dissolution process.

### **Support Mass Transit Funding**

Decades of inadequate funding and state budget cuts, in addition to a lagging economy, have contributed to insufficient funding levels to support the region's transit agencies. As a result, transit riders especially Pace and Metra consumers, have seen frequent fare increases yet the system still lacks the resources necessary to address the billions of dollars of backlogged capital maintenance and replacement needs. According to CMAP, the state has



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## 2019 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

not provided any new transit funding in five years and currently owes the RTA region approximately \$400 million in late monthly payments. The six county northeastern Illinois area comprises 65% of the state's population and is responsible for 80% of the state's overall economy. Within the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) region, the three transit agencies provide approximately 2 million rides daily and a substantial portion of the region's economic growth has occurred around transit (proximity to a transit station). Clearly transit is a factor that drives the economy of the Northeastern Illinois region.

DuPage County urges the General Assembly to work with the RTA to develop a comprehensive, long-term transit funding solution to ensure the continued viability of our state and region.

### **Provide Adequate Reimbursement of Probation Costs**

The State of Illinois requires counties to provide probation services as part of a mandated court services program. However, state reimbursement of county probation costs has been reduced to 70% and payment cycles continue to lag due to state fiscal issues. New unfunded state mandates including GPS monitoring and the creation of specialty courts in addition to the costs associated with the early release of offenders due to the Bail Reform Act have strained resources and increased costs. Since the Bail Reform Act went into effect in 2017, the number of people ordered to be placed on GPS monitoring increased by 95% and the number of cases assigned to pre-trial officers has increased by 45%.

DuPage County supports the restoration by the state of probation funding to required levels consistent with state statute and as advocated by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts (Supreme Court) policies.

### **Ban the Sale of Commercially Bred Pets**

DuPage County's Animal Services Department operates an open-admission shelter required by state statute to accept any animal surrendered to the facility, both stray and owner-relinquished, including sick and ill-tempered animals.

Working collaboratively with the Humane Society and several other local animal advocacy groups, DuPage County is proposing legislation to enact a countywide ban on the retail sale of animals (dogs, cats, rabbits) obtained from commercial breeders that often have lower health and welfare standards. Under the legislation, pet stores would be permitted to only sell animals obtained from shelters, rescue organizations, or a bona fide 501 (c) (3) organization.

The bill is similar to ordinances adopted in Chicago and Cook County in 2014. The benefits of these ordinances include: increased consumer protection; improved animal welfare standards; and expanded pet adoption and responsible breeding, all with the goal of ending animal cruelty for profit.