



DUPAGE COUNTY

2019 FEDERAL 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



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

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Wheaton, IL 60187
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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

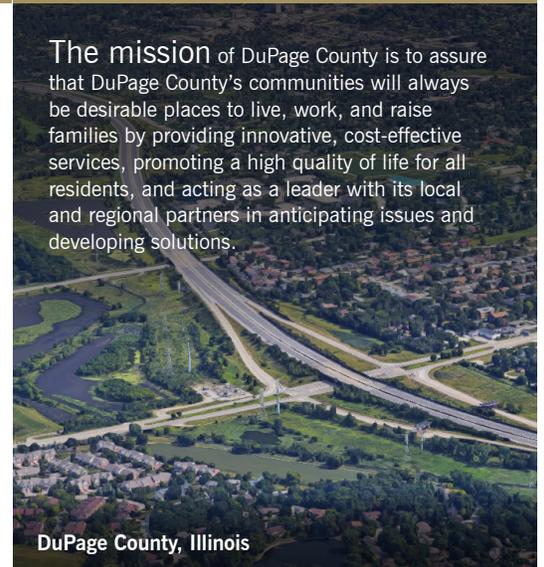
Unincorporated communities

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:..... 930,128
- Incorporated Population:..... 816,442
- Unincorporated Population:..... 113,686



Race, Ethnicity, Gender²

- 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 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:..... 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+¹⁰
- Sales Tax Receipts:..... -3.9%
- Housing Units:..... 360,146¹¹
- Median Household Income:..... \$81,521¹²



¹ 2017 U.S. Census Estimates
² 2017 U.S. Census Estimates.
³ 2017 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 2017 U.S. Census Estimates
¹² 2017 U.S. Census Estimates



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 18th 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 Federal Legislative Priorities

Restore the SALT Deduction: reinstate the state and local tax (SALT) deduction, removing the \$10,000 cap established by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

Reinvest in Local Infrastructure/Capital Improvements: pass a federal capital program with support for local communities to fund critical infrastructure improvements to reduce flooding, relieve traffic congestion, improve the health and safety of DuPage County residents, and the technology necessary to ensure a secure and accessible election process.

Environmental Health: take proactive steps to protect our citizens from dangerous chemicals in our air and reduce our nation's carbon footprint.

Respect Local Authority under 5G Deployment: enact pending legislation to overturn a recent FCC Ruling that severely limits local governments' ability to regulate public rights-of-way and protect the health and safety of our residents.

Support the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program: sustain funding for CDBG, one of a handful of federal programs that returns a portion of federal tax dollars back to local communities to meet the needs of our elderly, individuals with disabilities, families in crisis, low-income and homeless populations.

Fight Heroin/Opioid Epidemic: provide funding to help states and counties continue to fight the devastating impact of heroin and opioid addiction in our communities.

Increase Mass Transit Funding: address the replacement and capital needs of our nation's aging public transit system that serves 65% of the state's population.

Reaffirm Support of Elgin O'Hare Bypass/Western Access: reaffirm Congress' commitment 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 permanent rotation plan under the Fly Quiet Program.

Protect Municipal Bonds: oppose efforts to remove this primary financing method for state and local governments to help rebuild our nation's infrastructure.



Restore the SALT Deduction

The SALT (state and local tax) deduction permits taxpayers (who itemize) to deduct state and local taxes paid from their federally taxable income. Although DuPage County has worked diligently to reduce costs and keep its portion of the property tax levy flat, Illinois residents still pay some of the highest real estate taxes in the nation. The ability for homeowners to deduct state and local taxes provided one measure of relief, however, this deduction was capped at \$10,000 under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017.

According to the National Association of Counties (NACo), more taxpayers claim the property tax deduction than the mortgage interest deduction. In 2015, over 44 million taxpayers wrote off real property taxes while 32.7 million deducted mortgage interest. This deduction is especially important for middle-income homeowners as approximately 40% of taxpayers who claim the SALT deduction have an adjusted gross income between \$50,000 to \$75,000.

DuPage County supports legislation currently pending in Congress to eliminate the \$10,000 cap on SALT deductions.

Reinvest in Local Infrastructure

Infrastructure provides the backbone for county operations. Counties invest more than \$122 billion annually in building infrastructure and maintaining and operating public works systems. Counties also build and maintain 46 percent of all public roads and 38 percent of bridges nationwide. The decisions that county leaders make every day about transportation, infrastructure, and land use policies, influence local and national economic opportunities, shape how communities grow and change and contribute to our quality of life.

According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, the nation has a \$2 trillion infrastructure investment gap, with over \$1 trillion of the shortfall including needed surface transportation projects.

DuPage County is responsible for a large portion of the county's infrastructure including: the maintenance of 220 miles of highways and 92 miles of multi-use trails; the provision of water and sewer services to approximately 200,000 county residents; the operation and maintenance of countywide flood control facilities including seventeen reservoirs/dams and pumping stations; and the operation of a number of facilities on the county's main



Wheaton Campus including the county Jail, courthouse, health department, emergency operations center, animal shelter, and county nursing home.

The county has developed its 2019 Capital Improvement Plan that includes a comprehensive list of 34 flood control, transportation, wastewater, water, and other critical 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.

Protect Our Citizens - Environmental Health

EtO emissions:

- a) In late summer of 2018, DuPage County residents in Willowbrook and surrounding communities were made aware of air sampling completed by the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). The data collected was compiled as part of the National Air Toxics Assessment (NATA) report and identified Willowbrook as a community exposed to high and unsafe levels of ethylene oxide (EtO) from a specific source, Sterigenics. The data was posted online with little notice and with no regard to community impact.

The ATSDR report concluded that people living in the areas surrounding the Sterigenics facility may have an increased risk of cancer due to the exposure of EtO. This known carcinogen has, and continues to be, emitted into the air by this 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 federal regulators as to whether the air they breathe is safe. Citizens and elected officials continue to be frustrated with the lack of definitive information from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and inaction on the agency's part (on 2/15/19, the Illinois EPA shut down the operations of the Sterigenics facility after new air sampling results taken February 5-8 indicated the highest levels of ethylene oxide recorded to date – the company is also challenging this decision in court).

Government has no greater responsibility than to protect the health and safety of its citizens. DuPage County calls on our Congressional delegation to direct the U.S. EPA to take swift action to revise its safety standards, establish more restrictive EtO



emission standards and work towards the development of alternatives to the use of EtO.

Climate Change:

- b) The severity and frequency of climate-caused disasters are increasing across our nation, resulting in the loss of life and significant damage to our local economies and infrastructure. The primary cause of climate change is attributed to human activity and carbon emissions through the burning of fossil fuels, that accounts for more than 80% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Many counties, including DuPage, have taken steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing energy efficiency, practicing energy conservation at county facilities, purchasing low-emission vehicles and promoting environmentally sensitive design.

In 2015, DuPage County acknowledged its responsibility to reduce our carbon footprint by launching *Cool DuPage*, a countywide effort to encourage greater energy conservation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10% in 2020 and 20% by 2030.

DuPage County joins many other local units of government and the National Association of Counties (NACo) to urge Congress to address climate change and to pursue national programs to develop carbon-neutral energy sources that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and utilize cost effective technologies. DuPage County also supports the efforts of the bi-partisan Climate Solutions Caucus to make fossil fuels less desirable and cleaner sources of energy more competitive, including an examination of a carbon fee and dividend program.

Respect Local Authority through 5G Deployment

DuPage County supports the goal of ensuring reliable wireless services in our communities and the advancement of technology. Currently, the county works cooperatively with telecommunication providers to permit small wireless facilities in the county's rights-of-way in an equitable and timely manner. The County also resolves any community concerns that arise regarding the siting of these devices (proximity to schools, residential areas, etc..) as part of the local review process, an essential component towards ensuring the location of small cell devices do not place the public health or safety at risk.



The upcoming 5G network deployment will require telecommunication providers to install hundreds of thousands of small cell devices across this nation and most of these sites will be located on county and municipal infrastructure and locally owned public rights-of-way. Unfortunately, as broadband companies push for 5G dominance in the market place, providers have sought state and federal remedies to bypass the local (zoning) review process that protects the public from potential safety hazards (20 states have enacted preemptive legislation including Illinois, Public Act 100-0585).

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) also last September approved the *Streamlining Deployment of Next Generation Wireless Infrastructure Declaratory Ruling* that limits fees local governments nationwide can charge and implements a 60 day “shot clock” for applications to be evaluated. These arbitrary limits prevent the proper review by counties of the construction, modification, and installation of 5G networks on public property and rights-of-way that could negatively impact the public health and safety of residents.

DuPage County supports pending legislation in Congress (H.R. 530, the Accelerating Wireless Broadband Development by Empowering Local Communities Act) that would dismantle the FCC 5G siting order that severely limits the authority of counties and local governments.

Sustain Community Development Block Grant

DuPage County receives approximately \$3.9 million in CDBG funding each year and in turn grants it out to municipalities and non-profit agencies. Now in its 45th 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 2019 include: \$1.75 million to improve water mains, roads, street lighting, and accessibility of public buildings in six communities, and to operate four neighborhood resource centers in low-income neighborhoods; \$1.5 million to renovate residential properties, counseling centers, and learning environments for eight entities providing services for persons with disabilities, seniors, veterans, and other special populations; \$330,000 to assist low-income homeowners in keeping their homes safe, code compliant, and energy efficient; and \$473,000 to pay for case management and services through 13 agencies that assist homeless persons (including youth, families, veterans, and victims of domestic violence).



DuPage County urges our Congressional Delegation to support appropriate funding levels to continue this vital program.

Heroin/Opioid Epidemic

By 2025, deaths from illicit opioid abuse are expected to skyrocket by 147% from 2015, according to a study recently published in the Journal of the American Medical Association. Despite the efforts of DuPage County, through its HOPE (Heroin Opioid Prevention & Education) Task Force, deaths caused by opioids/heroin continue to increase. From 2014 through 2018, 372 lives have been lost to the epidemic.

DuPage County has developed a five-point framework to address this public health crisis: reduce access to drugs through education and an expansion of the RxBox and other drug take back programs; reduce opioid use and misuse through the promotion of safe prescribing messages and training; increase overdose response by making naloxone more accessible and increased awareness of Good Samaritan laws ; integrate mental health and substance abuse treatment and recovery programs to increase the availability of treatment options; and enhance substance abuse prevention and education efforts. The overdose response efforts have yielded 590 saved lives through the expanded use of Narcan. Despite those efforts, more resources are needed.

DuPage County urges Congress to approve legislation that authorizes funding to assist states and local governments to eradicate heroin and opioids in our communities and to increase treatment and recovery homes.

Support Mass Transit Funding

Decades of inadequate funding and state and federal budget cuts, in addition to a lagging economy, have contributed to insufficient funding levels to support the Northeastern Illinois 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 the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), the state has not provided any new transit funding in five years and currently owes the Regional Transit Authority (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 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 Congress to work with the RTA to develop a comprehensive, long-term transit funding solution to ensure the continued viability of our state, region and nation.

Western Access/O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP)

DuPage County has entered into agreements in support of the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) and supporting area infrastructure improvements, specifically the Elgin O'Hare-Western Bypass, a *Project of National and Regional Significance*, one of only 26 projects nationwide, including a Western Access to O'Hare Airport. These projects will sustain our global competitiveness, promote business retention and create new jobs. It is estimated that 65,000 new jobs will be created as a result of these improvements 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. DuPage County urges our Congressional Delegation to continue to support these improvements, especially Western Access, and to support appropriate funding levels through capital programs and transportation reauthorization legislation to assist financially with the construction of a western terminal and/or supporting infrastructure to ensure the full economic impact of these improvements are realized.

In addition, DuPage County urges FAA approval of the Draft Re-Evaluation of the OMP for the Proposed Interim Fly Quiet Program to equitably balance nighttime air traffic noise across the region and continued federal funding support for sound proofing properties in proximity to O'Hare Airport (see below).

Noise Relief for Communities Surrounding O'Hare Airport

The O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission reports that of noise related complaints, approximately one-third received originated from municipalities west of the airport. More noise monitoring stations recorded increases in the average noise levels than decreases.

Over the last two years, stakeholder groups, the Suburban O'Hare Commission (SOC) and the Fair Allocation in Runways (FAiR), have worked closely with the Chicago Department of Aviation to improve the noise impact to communities. Communities have focused largely on the Fly



Quiet period from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m. where runway rotation programs are especially effective at reducing impacts to one or two communities on consecutive nights.

Two runway rotation phases have been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for Fly Quiet at O'Hare. O'Hare is entering the final phase of its runway construction period which is slated for completion in 2021. With many runways under construction or being decommissioned, it is extremely important that the FAA approve the proposed "interim" rotation program. The FAA has just issued its DRAFT Re-Evaluation of Impacts of the Interim Fly Quiet Runway Rotation Program as part of the O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP). It is expected to be finalized, approved, and implemented in mid to late 2019.

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

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 \$36.5 million in General Obligation Refunding Bonds (Courthouse Project). The County saved an additional \$3.6 million by those bonds being tax-exempt, as opposed to taxable. As the bonds were funded by property taxes, the savings were passed directly to taxpayers.

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