



# DUPAGE COUNTY

2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



Daniel J. Cronin, Chairman, DuPage County Board  
*Dawn DeSart, Chair, Legislative Committee*



## GOVERNMENT PROFILE

## DUPAGE COUNTY BOARD



### DuPage County Board

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

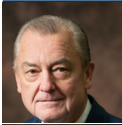
Chairman  
DuPage County Board

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Jack T. Knuepfer Administration Building

### District 1



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

Addison



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

Addison



**Sam Tornatore** **R**

Roselle

### District 2



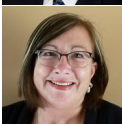
**Elizabeth Chaplin** **D**

Downers Grove



**Peter "Pete" DiCianni** **R**

Elmhurst



**Paula Deacon Garcia** **D**

Lisle

### District 3



**Greg Hart** **R**

Hinsdale



**Brian Krajewski** **R**

Downers Grove



**Julie Renehan** **D**

Hinsdale

### District 4



**Grant Eckhoff** **R**

Wheaton



**Lynn LaPlante** **D**

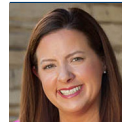
Glen Ellyn



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

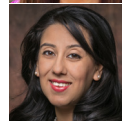
Glen Ellyn

### District 5



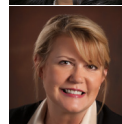
**Amy Chavez** **D**

Naperville



**Sadia Covert** **D**

Naperville



**Dawn DeSart** **D**

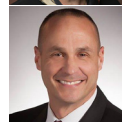
Aurora

### District 6



**Sheila Rutledge** **D**

West Chicago



**Greg Schwarze** **D**

Carol Stream



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

Carol Stream



# DUPAGE COUNTY

421 N. County Farm Road  
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

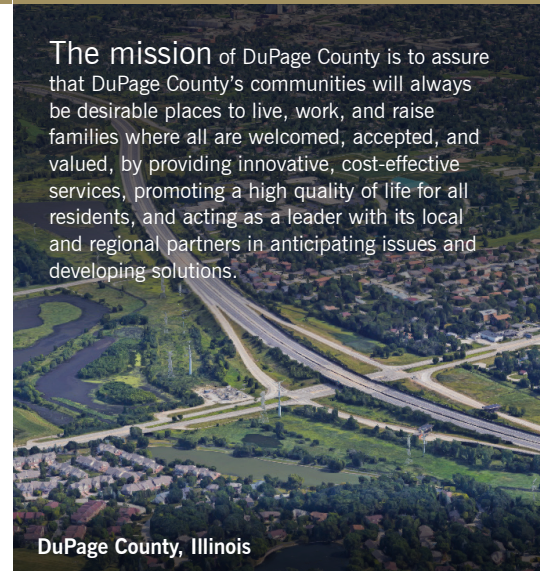
#### Unincorporated communities:

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 where all are welcomed, accepted, and valued, 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<sup>1</sup>

- Population: 932,877
- Total Population: 932,877
- Incorporated Population: 837,054
- Unincorporated Population: 95,823



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

- Caucasian: 63.4%
- African American: 4.74%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.09%
- Asian: 12.75%
- Hispanic or Latino: 15.47%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.02%
- Other: 3.52%
- Male: 48.96%
- Female: 51.03%



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

- High School Graduate: 18.2%
- Bachelor's Degree: 29.8%
- Graduate or Professional Degree: 19.6%
- Percent High School degree or higher: 93.0%
- Percent Bachelor's degree or higher: 50.7%



### Colleges and Universities<sup>4</sup>

- Devry University
- College of DuPage
- Wheaton College
- Benedictine University
- Elmhurst University
- North Central College
- Midwestern University
- National University of Health Sciences
- Lewis University



### Area Information<sup>5</sup>

- Persons per Square Miles: 2,773.4
- Undeveloped Land: 4.0% or 8,612 acres
- Open Space: 20% or 443,060 acres
- Total Area<sup>5</sup>: 336.36 sq. miles
- Total Incorporated Area: 246.26 sq. miles
- Total Unincorporated Area: 90.1 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: \$430.0 million
- Sales Tax Revenue: \$109.4 million
- Property Tax Revenue<sup>7</sup>: \$51.1 million
- Local Gas Tax Revenue: \$36.1 million
- Income Tax Revenue: \$11.8 million
- Funds on Hand: \$40.3 million



### Economic Information<sup>8</sup>

- Unemployment Rate: 3.7%
- Number of Jobs: 642,472
- Office Space Vacancy Rate: 16.5%
- Industrial Space Vacancy Rate: 5.8%
- Bond rating: AAA / AA+<sup>9</sup>
- Housing Units: 364,970<sup>10</sup>
- Median Household Income: \$96,403<sup>11</sup>



<sup>1</sup> 2020 U.S. Census

<sup>2</sup> 2020 U.S. Census

<sup>3</sup> 2020 U.S. Census

<sup>4</sup> There are 18 colleges and universities in DuPage County

<sup>5</sup> DuPage GIS Map Book (2019)

<sup>6</sup> DuPage County FY2022 Approved Budget

<sup>7</sup> 2022 County revenue minus Health Department tax levy

<sup>8</sup> Choose DuPage

<sup>9</sup> Maintains AAA bond rating with Standard & Poor's and Moody's and an AA+ rating with Fitch

<sup>10</sup> 2020 U.S. Census

<sup>11</sup> 2020 U.S. Census



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### Overview

DuPage County is the second largest county in Illinois with over 930,000 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 640,000 jobs, 90,000 businesses, 7 hospitals, 2 national laboratories (Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator), 18 institutions of higher education, 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 eighteen members who are elected from six County Board Districts (three members per 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 (and all related agencies - judiciary, state's attorney, public defender, jury commission, probation); construction and maintenance of the county highway and trails system; delivery of public health, environmental health, mental health care, and substance use prevention; flood control and stormwater management; job training and job search support; water and sewer services; building and permitting; zoning enforcement; administration of countywide elections; operation of the county nursing home; provision of social services and senior citizen programs; emergency management and emergency preparedness; and the operation of the county animal shelter.

County leaders continue to seek opportunities to reduce the size of county government to minimize the tax burden on residents. In recent years, the county's full-time headcount has been reduced and DuPage County continues to receive a AAA Bond Rating from two major credit rating agencies. County government accounts for less than 3% of an average property tax bill.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### 2022 State Legislative Priorities

- **Build Local Public Health Infrastructure** - county health departments have been on the front lines 24/7 combating the COVID-19 pandemic for over two years, providing education, contact tracing, testing, vaccine deployment, expanded mental health care and other critical support services. Although one-time significant federal dollars have been made available to the state, these funds have not been evenly distributed to local health departments.
- **Allocate Fair Share of Income Tax Revenues** - counties rely on state shared revenues to provide critical services to residents, yet the state continues to delay, diminish, or assess administrative fees on local government revenue streams.
- **Protect the Environmental Health of our Residents** – DuPage County seeks to support efforts that protect our citizens from dangerous chemicals in our land, air, and water, to reduce the impact our residents and businesses have on the environment by reducing waste, increasing recycling and reuse, supporting alternative energy technologies and increasing research of innovative lower impact alternatives.
- **Expand Affordable Housing** – the economic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for more affordable housing and support programs and to also protect renters utilizing housing support vouchers or emergency rental funds from discrimination.
- **Oppose repeal of Puppy Mill Ban and Enhance Animal Cruelty Penalties** – DuPage County continues to advocate for our animal population to ensure that inhumane dog breeding facilities do not source dogs or cats and individuals who mistreat animals in their care are held responsible.
- **Support DuPage County Capital Projects** - DuPage County urges the Governor to release county capital projects that were included as part of the Rebuild Illinois (capital) program and to support new capital projects as part of the county's Annual Capital Program.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### **Build Local Public Health Infrastructure**

Public health infrastructure provides communities the capacity to prevent disease, promote health, and prepare for and respond to emergency threats and chronic challenges to health. Every public health service and system depends on basic infrastructure. Each public health program, including immunizations, infectious disease containment, behavioral health services, food safety, and prevention, requires three critical components:

- (1) Public health professionals with cross-cutting and technical skills who are compensated in a manner to prevent workforce shortages;
- (2) Modernized data systems that support secure and efficient data exchange, prioritize the protection of individual and patient data privacy rights, and provide local health departments with the tools and information to protect the public's health; and
- (3) Public health organizations with the capacity to assess and respond to emerging community health needs.

Illinois ranks 45th out of 50 states and the District of Columbia in public health funding. Due to the state's uneven funding, DuPage County is funded at \$1.1 million less than the average Illinois county, per capita, for public health. As the majority of health department clients are Medicaid recipients, currently low Medicaid reimbursement rates do not support the demand for services, especially for behavioral (mental) health care.

Prior to the pandemic, the General Assembly appropriated only \$18 million annually to support the state's 97 county public health departments. This historic lack of investment in our public health system has strained local resources. Although significant federal funding has been allocated to the states, monies distributed to local health departments have been insufficient and to date, have not been disbursed appropriately on a per capita (population) basis as noted above. Over the past year, DuPage County has spent over \$20 million of its own funds to support a county testing site, vaccine deployment in addition to ensuring an adequate supply of PPE, implement contact tracing, and place regional marketing ads to encourage the public to wear masks, socially distance, and adhere to IDPH and CDC guidelines.

As the second largest county in the state, DuPage County requests that the Governor and the Illinois General Assembly allocate the appropriate level of resources necessary to build up the state's public health infrastructure to continue to combat COVID-19 and to address future public health crises.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### **Allocate Fair Share of Income Tax Revenues**

Monies allocated under the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF), established in 1969 when the State of Illinois enacted an income tax, does not represent a “grant” from the state but rather a small share of income taxes paid by county residents that are returned on a per capita basis to support local services.

Under the original agreement with the state, units of local government were to receive **10%** of total state income tax revenues which continued until 2011, when the state instituted a temporary income tax increase but failed to share the corresponding (increased) portion with local governments. In 2017, the General Assembly further reduced LGDF payments by 10% and in 2018 another 5% of revenues received (to help balance the state budget).

Today, the state shares 6.06% of individual income tax collections and 6.845% of corporate tax collections with local governments.

DuPage County supports the restoration of LGDF payments to the agreed 10% share and opposes any attempts by the state to divert, reduce, or withhold the county’s designated portion of local revenues including the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF), Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT), local sales taxes, and the Motor Fuel Tax (MFT).

### **Protect the Environmental Health of our Residents**

One of government's primary responsibilities is to protect the public health and safety of its citizens by ensuring residents have access to clean air, land, and water. DuPage County supports measures that decrease our carbon footprint (per our *Cool DuPage program*), develop affordable clean energy and solar energy options, lessen vehicle miles traveled, and reduce industrial emissions, among other environmental concerns.

DuPage County also seeks to reduce the impact our residents and businesses have on the environment by reducing waste and increasing recycling and reuse. Packaging has become a source of significant waste and is causing contamination issues within the existing recycling system. Ensuring that packaging is recyclable, compost able and includes post-consumer recycled content supports the County’s solid waste management goals. A working group of stakeholders (that includes DuPage County) is drafting the elements of an extended producer responsibility bill that supports sustainable materials management.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

State investment in the research, technology and collection of waste items including lithium batteries, solar panels, sharps, medicines, and in particular carpet, would also benefit our environment.

It is estimated that 89% of all carpeting ends up in landfills. Carpet America Recovery Effort estimates that Illinois' per capita carpet generation rate is 14 pounds per person per year. With a population of over 12 million, that's approximately 159 million pounds of carpet landfilled in Illinois annually. Most carpets are made from petroleum products which creates an opportunity to also avoid greenhouse gas emissions when carpet is recycled. A Seattle study recently found that each ton of carpet recycled, reduced emissions by 8,300 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent thus carpet recycling, saves resources and curbs emissions.

Carpet Stewardship legislation already introduced this session would manage the recycling of carpet and carpet padding to better manage the product's waste generation, promote reuse/recycling and develop a system to collect, transport and process carpet for recycling.

DuPage County supports innovative initiatives that reduce the release of pollutants into the environment.

### **Expand Affordable Housing**

According to a recent report by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on Housing Insecurity and the COVID-19 Pandemic, over 8 million rental households were behind on their rent and over 2 million households were at least 3 months behind on their mortgage. As a result, there are a significant number of households at risk of losing their housing in this country due to eviction or foreclosure. Additionally, 21% of DuPage renters (approximately 19,000 households) pay more than 50% of their total income on housing. Families that lack access to affordable and stable housing (housing insecurity), face the prospect of homelessness and a number of other negative outcomes.

DuPage County supports efforts to stabilize families at risk of losing their homes due to the continued economic impact of the global pandemic. DuPage County also supports legislation introduced last session that seeks to prevent landlords from refusing to rent to tenants participating in the federal Housing Choice Voucher program or other emergency rental assistance programs. Last fall, DuPage County received over \$27 million in Emergency Rental Assistance Funds that provided support to over 2,600 families to remain in their homes.





# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### **Oppose Repeal of Puppy Mill Ban & Enhance Animal Cruelty Penalties**

DuPage County Animal Services (DCAS) operates an open-admission shelter in Wheaton that is required by state statute to accept any companion animal surrendered to the facility, both stray and owner-relinquished. DCAS works to: prevent and control the spread of rabies; rescue and shelter stray and unwanted animals; provide veterinary medical and surgical care to treat illness and injury to shelter animals; perform spay/neuter procedures to control the animal overpopulation; and promote responsible pet ownership through humane education programs.

In 2021, 1,924 animals entered DCAS, some surrendered due to illness or significant behavioral problems as they were sourced from commercial breeding facilities. According to the Humane Society, there is an estimated 5,000 puppy mills in the Midwest, with 99% of puppies being sold in pet stores coming from puppy mills. Animals from these facilities often live under poor sanitary conditions, lack adequate veterinary care, and necessary socialization resulting in sick and unwanted animals that end up in the county's care.

Last year, the General Assembly adopted legislation (HB 1711, Public Act 102-0586) that provides for the humane sourcing of animals, yet the pet store industry continues to seek the repeal or weakening of this much needed protection.

In January of 2019, a kennel fire in unincorporated West Chicago claimed the lives of twenty-nine dogs and injured several first responders. After a subsequent investigation, it was determined that the dogs residing at the facility were mistreated, previously suffering from wounds and living under inhumane and unsanitary conditions. As a result, the DuPage County State's Attorney is seeking legislation this session to enhance penalties for violations of the Humane Care for Animals Act (animal cruelty) and the relinquishment of animals that are the basis of the violation. DuPage County urges legislators to ensure that Public Act 102-0586 remains intact and that individuals are held responsible for the mistreatment of animals.

### **Support DuPage County Capital Projects**

DuPage County is responsible for a large portion of the county's infrastructure including the provision of water and sewer services to over 200,000 residents, the operation and maintenance of seventeen countywide flood control facilities, the county jail, courthouse, nursing home, animal shelter, and health department, among other county facilities, plus the maintenance of 220 miles of county highways and 92 miles of multi-use trails.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2022 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Each year, the county compiles a comprehensive list of largely shovel ready flood control, transportation, wastewater, and other critical infrastructure projects that once completed, would significantly reduce flooding for residents and businesses, relieve traffic congestion, improve water quality, and enhance public safety for the county's residents. To view the county's most recent Capital Plan (that may be sorted by Congressional or Legislative District), please visit: [www.dupagecapitalplan.com](http://www.dupagecapitalplan.com).

In addition to new requests, DuPage County calls upon its delegation to work with the Governor's Office to prioritize the release of previously authorized DuPage County capital projects that were included as part of the 2019 Rebuild Illinois (capital) program.