DUPAGECOUNTY

2021 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Daniel J. Cronin, Chairman, DuPage County Board

Dawn DeSart, Chair, Legislative Committee

DUPAGECOUNTY

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

GOVERNMENT PROFILE

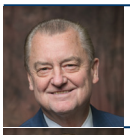
DUPAGE COUNTY BOARD

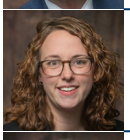
DuPage County Board

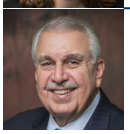
Daniel J. Cronin R
Chairman
DuPage County Board
(630) 407-6060 • www.dupageco.org/cobrd

Jack T. Knuepfer Administration Building

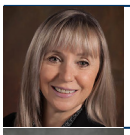
District 1

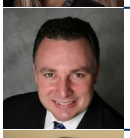

Donald E. Puchalski R
Addison

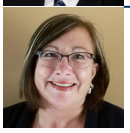

Ashley J. Selmon D
Addison


Sam Tornatore R
Roselle

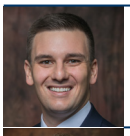
District 2

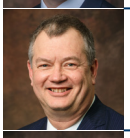

Elizabeth Chaplin D
Downers Grove


Peter "Pete" DiCianni R
Elmhurst


Paula Deacon Garcia D
Lisle

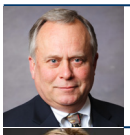
District 3

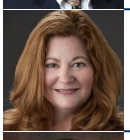

Greg Hart R
Hinsdale

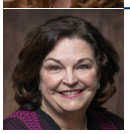

Brian Krajewski R
Downers Grove

Julie Renehan D
Hinsdale

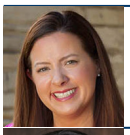
District 4

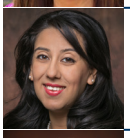

Grant Eckhoff R
Wheaton

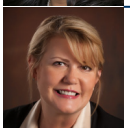

Lynn LaPlante D
Glen Ellyn


Mary FitzGerald Ozog D
Glen Ellyn

District 5

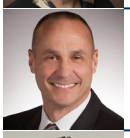

Amy Chavez D
Naperville


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

DUPAGECOUNTY

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GOVERNMENT PROFILE

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

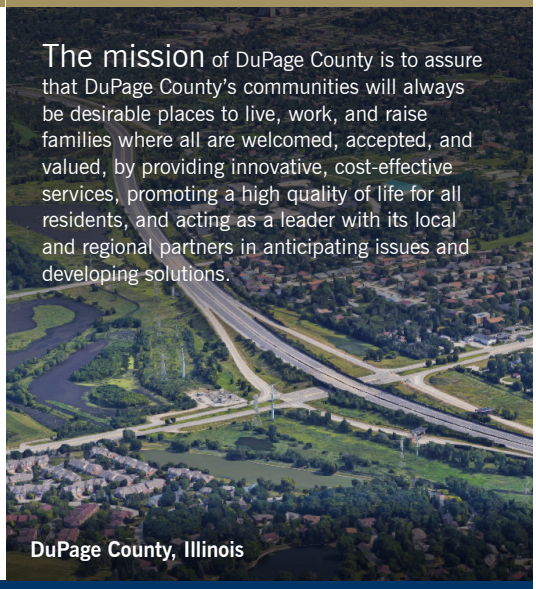
Cloverdale, Eola, Flowerfield, Keeneyville, Lakewood, Medinah, Palisades, Swift, and York Center

Townships:

Addison, Bloomingdale, Downers Grove, Lisle, Milton, Naperville, Wayne, Winfield and York

COUNTY FACTS

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[1]

- Population
- Total Population: 922,057
- Incorporated Population: 827,042
- Unincorporated Population: 95,015

Race, Ethnicity, Gender[2]

- 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[3]

- High School Graduate: 18.3%
- Bachelor's Degree: 29.4%
- Graduate or Professional Degree: 19.4%
- Percent High School degree or higher: 92.6%
- Percent Bachelor's degree or higher: 48.8%

Colleges and Universities[4]

- 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[5]

- Persons per Square Miles: 2,799.8
- Undeveloped Land: 4.0% or 8,612 acres
- Open Space: 20% or 443,060 acres
- Total Area[5]: 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[6]

- County Revenue: $479.7 million
- Sales Tax Revenue: $93.9 million
- Property Tax Revenue[7]: $50.7 million
- Local Gas Tax Revenue: $15.9 million
- Income Tax Revenue: $10.1 million
- Funds on Hand: $50.6 million

Economic Information[8]

- Unemployment Rate: 8.2%
- Number of Jobs: 650,456
- Office Space Vacancy Rate: 14.6%
- Industrial Space Vacancy Rate: 5.8%
- Bond rating: AAA / AA+[9]
- Housing Units: 361,429[10]
- Median Household Income: $88,711[11]

[1] 2019 U.S. Census Estimates
[2] 2019 U.S. Census Estimates.
[3] 2019 U.S. Census Estimates
[4] There are 18 colleges and universities in DuPage County
[5] DuPage GIS Map Book (2019)
[6] DuPage County FY2021 Approved Budget
[7] 2019 County revenue minus Health Department tax levy
[8] Choose DuPage
[9] Maintains AAA bond rating with Standard & Poor's and Moody's and an AA+ rating with Fitch
[10] 2019 U.S. Census Estimates
[11] 2019 U.S. Census Estimates

DUPAGECOUNTY

2021 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

2021 Federal Legislative Priorities

- **Provide COVID-19 Direct Assistance to Local Governments**: counties have been on the front lines 24/7 combatting the COVID-19 pandemic for over a year; providing education, contact tracing, testing, vaccine deployment, food and emergency shelter, PPE, small business assistance, and other critical support services. More federal dollars are required by state and local governments to continue to provide these essential services in the coming months.
- **Enhance Security of Government Buildings:** according to NACo, county officials and employees are facing pressure and threats to their safety as never seen before, in part due to the ongoing effects of the global pandemic and also the current divisiveness facing our country. State and local governments should be provided with the resources necessary to ensure the safety of its elected officials and staff.
- **Replace Outdated Election Equipment**: federal assistance is needed to help local election jurisdictions replace aging voting equipment and to ensure the administration of a reliable, accurate, and secure election process.
- **Repeal the SALT Deduction Cap:** remove the $10,000 cap imposed by Congress in 2017 on the state and local tax (SALT) deduction that penalizes individual homeowners, especially in high property tax states.
- **Reauthorize the Federal Surface Transportation Bill:** reauthorize the federal transportation act (that expired as of September 30, 2020) to provide a consistent and long-term funding mechanism (and certainty) for transportation infrastructure planning and investment in state and local roads.
- **Restore Local Authority to Deploy Small Cell Technology:** adopt legislation to reverse an FCC ruling that severely limits local government's ability to regulate the location of small cell devices in the public rights-of-way and county owned infrastructure to protect the health and safety of our residents.
- **Protect the Environmental Health of our Communities**: government has the responsibility to protect citizens from dangerous chemicals in our air and water and to enact measures to address Climate Change and reduce our nation's carbon footprint.
- **Support Community Development Programs:** sustain funding of CDBG, CSBG, HOME, LIHEAP, and Weatherization programs that meet the needs of our elderly, families in crisis, individuals with disabilities, and low-income populations.
- **Reinvest in County Infrastructure:** support county governments that are responsible for maintaining almost half of our nation's infrastructure by funding capital projects to reduce flooding, relieve traffic congestion, and improve the health and safety of DuPage County residents.

DUPAGECOUNTY

2021 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Provide COVID-19 Direct Assistance to Local Governments

County governments have been on the front lines of the emergency response to the COVID-19 pandemic for over a year; providing education, contact tracing, testing, vaccine deployment, food and emergency shelter, public safety, PPE, small business assistance, emergency operation centers, and other critical support services to our communities. DuPage County is grateful for the allocation of CARES Act monies in 2020 which provided much needed relief to families, nonprofits, businesses, and other local units of government yet many challenges remain.

State and local government budgets have been stretched like never before while the demand for county services including public health, substance abuse and mental health, housing and energy assistance, food, job training, and support for senior citizens continues to soar. State and local governments require additional federal resources to continue to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in our communities and to provide the safety net and economic support services necessary for residents and for small businesses to survive.

DuPage County urges Congress and the Administration to work collaboratively to ensure county leaders have the budgetary support necessary to continue to respond to this global pandemic.

Enhance Security of Government Buildings

As tensions and public discourse continue nationwide, aggrieved individuals are expressing frustration at the local level, often targeting comments to public health and election officials in particular. The security of county government administration buildings and courthouses should be reviewed to ensure the safety of elected officials and staff.

Replace Outdated Election Equipment

One of the most fundamental rights our constituents exercise is the right to cast their ballot during an election and to have those votes tabulated in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Although Congress has provided funding to states for election security, no significant federal funding has been provided to local election jurisdictions to replace outdated technology and voting equipment since 2003 under the Help America Vote Act (HAVA).

The DuPage County Clerk's Election Division provides election services to over 650,000 DuPage County voters. Duties include maintaining an accurate voter registration database, maintaining proper equipment, coordinating voter outreach activities, and the recruitment and training of election judges.

Last year, the County spent $2 million just to replace electronic poll books that are utilized to check in voters at polling locations, as the equipment could no longer be supported by the vendor. More

importantly, larger voting equipment and tabulating systems used to administer elections (purchased in 2001 and 2006) need to be replaced within the next several years, at an estimated cost of $10 to $15 million, as finding parts and maintaining this outdated technology has become increasingly difficult.

Under state law, the DuPage County Clerk's Election Division is currently required to operate 268 polling places on Election Day. DuPage County is requesting federal assistance to help replace its aging voting infrastructure and to ensure the administration of a reliable, accurate, and secure election process.

Repeal the SALT Deduction Cap

The SALT (State and Local Tax) deduction permits taxpayers (who itemize) when filing federal taxes to deduct state and local taxes paid from their federally taxable income. However, this deduction was capped at $10,000 per year (beginning in 2018) by Congress as part of the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Prior to this Act, the SALT deduction was unlimited.

Although DuPage County has worked diligently to reduce operational costs and to keep its portion of property taxes paid by residents to less than 3% of a typical homeowner's property tax bill, Illinois residents still pay some of the highest real estate taxes in the nation. As state and local government taxes are mandatory, families and individuals should not be capped as to the amount of local taxes that may be deducted.

The ability for homeowners to deduct state and local taxes also provides one measure of relief, a deduction that more taxpayers claim than the mortgage interest deduction. In addition, this deduction is especially important for middle-income families as approximately 40% of taxpayers who claim the SALT deduction have an adjusted gross income of between $50,000 and $75,000.

DuPage County urges Congress to repeal the current cap on the SALT deduction.

Enact the Federal Transportation Reauthorization Bill

The last five-year federal transportation bill approved by Congress (*the FAST Act*) expired as of September 30, 2020. A reliable, federal investment through a new surface transportation bill would permit counties, states, and other local governments to commence much needed infrastructure improvements. As part of the reauthorization process, DuPage County requests that Congress provide adequate and dedicated resources towards improving safety, ensuring sustainable and long-term funding, reduce barriers to the timely delivery of projects, and recognize and address the importance of supporting infrastructure to encourage public transit usage.

Specifically, a reauthorization transportation bill should include the following principles:

- **Safety**
  State and regional trends show a concerning trend of increasing fatal and severe crashes particularly among vulnerable road users (pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorcyclists). DuPage County is supportive of national and regional strategies, legislation, and funding that result in a reduction of fatal and severe crashes.

- **Funding**
  We need to ensure a long-term, sustainable funding strategy at the federal level. The state and County have recently increased motor fuel taxes to meet the growing demand of providing a safe, reliable, and multimodal transportation network. Federal formula funds to states should reward states that have raised transportation revenues.

- **Reducing barriers to project delivery**
  A safe and reliable transportation network is essential to the economic stability and growth of our region. It sustains, creates, and/or supports new jobs and businesses that sustain our daily livelihoods. Eliminating administrative barriers and streamlining federal project reviews and approval will ensure that transportation investments keep pace with the needs and demands of our economy.

- **Supporting infrastructure and transit**
  Reauthorization must recognize the important role transit supportive infrastructure (sidewalks, paths, shelters, transit signal priority, etc.) has in encouraging and growing transit ridership. “First” and “last” mile challenges must be addressed to ensure a post-COVID return to transit.

Restore Local Authority to Deploy Small Cell Technology

With the onset of COVID-19, consumer demand and reliance on cellular technology has increased exponentially. While DuPage County supports the delivery of reliable wireless services to our residents and businesses, we encourage our elected officials to ensure appropriate processes are in place to do so collaboratively and in consideration of local aesthetics and zoning/siting requirements. Unfortunately, on September 26, 2018, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) issued a declaratory ruling that diminishes the ability of local governments to appropriately site small cell devices in our communities, specifically in public rights-of-way and county infrastructure. The ruling also permits the installation of new poles for the benefit of commercial entities.

The FCC order limits the amount of permit fees a local government may charge and places time constraints on the review of applications; 60 days for wireless providers seeking to attach 5G small cells to existing infrastructure and 90 days for equipment to be installed on new infrastructures. As cellular technology continues to advance, requiring an expanded network of small wireless facilities in close proximity, the FCC declaratory ruling will increase administrative burdens on local governments including DuPage County to site these devices.

With the expansion and evolution of cellular technology, there is also growing consumer interest in studying the possible health impacts of this new technology. Local communities, however, must rely upon federal agencies (the FCC and FDA) that are responsible for assuring our safety, to address these concerns.

DuPage County urges Congress to enact legislation to reverse the FCC ruling and to restore local control over public infrastructure and to further examine the potential adverse public health impacts of the deployment of small cell technology on our communities.

Protect the Environmental Health of our Communities

Government has the responsibility to protect the health and safety of its citizens; specific environmental concerns include:

EtO Emissions:
In August 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 Recovery (ATSDR) around the Sterigenics facility due to its emission of ethylene oxide (EtO) into the atmosphere. The substance listed on the toxic substances list was supposed to be reevaluated for health impacts. The data concluded that the 19,000 people who lived, worked, and attended school near the facility may have an increased risk of cancer due to the exposure to EtO, a known carcinogen, data that was confirmed in early 2019 by an Illinois Department of Public Health study. The State of Illinois subsequently shut down operations at the Sterigenics facility in February of 2019.

DuPage County calls upon Congress and the Administration to ensure that ATSDR and the U.S. EPA have the necessary resources to continue expeditious and thorough evaluations of chemicals that might pose a risk to human health and the environment.

Climate Change:
The severity and frequency of extreme weather events including rising temperatures and heavy rainfall, are having a direct impact on DuPage County stormwater operations. Average annual precipitation in the Midwest has increased by 5% to 10%, rainfall during the four wettest days of the year has increased by about 35%, and flow rates in most streams during the worst flood of the year have increased by more than 20%. These more frequent storm events have increased costs to the County for energy use and maintenance of our flood control facilities. For example, the County recently had to replace two pumps (earlier than anticipated) at a cost of $250,000 each, in addition to increased electricity costs (for example, it can cost up to $250,000 to pump water out of the Elmhurst Quarry).

As urban flooding becomes more prevalent, property owners are also faced with rising costs. In addition, increased stormwater runoff leads to further pollution, erosion, and threatens water quality. Transportation infrastructure construction will need to account for the increased runoff and the

durability of roadways is expected to decline with additional maintenance. Emergency relief from more frequent and more severe weather is also anticipated.

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 bi-partisan efforts to make fossil fuels less desirable and cleaner sources of energy more competitive, including an examination of a carbon fee and dividend program. DuPage County supports federal programs that provide incentives to citizens and businesses to pursue energy efficiency, renewable energy and alternative fuels, electric vehicles, and an expansion of public transit. Local, state and federal leadership is needed to continue to advance these technologies, which can provide needed economic stimulus and clean energy jobs.

Recycling & Composting:
With China's National Sword (ban on the import of many materials) and the recent plastic recycling import restrictions instituted by the Basel Convention, the recycling industry is struggling to remain an economically viable business. The County supports efforts and policies that increase and enhance investment in U.S. recycling infrastructure and recycled content products and other sustainable products and packaging. DuPage County has been supporting the recycling industry by participating in a statewide education campaign that highlights the problems caused by contamination in the recycling stream.

Entities throughout the region have made strides in diverting food scraps from landfills where its decomposition generates significantly more potent greenhouse gas emissions. Currently, the markets for the compost have remained low. The Administration and Congress can accelerate the composting industry by utilizing food scrap amended compost and related finished projects in federal projects.

Support Community Development Programs

CDBG
DuPage County receives approximately $3.9 million in CDBG funding each year and in turn, provides grants to municipalities and local non-profit agencies. About to enter its 47th year, CDBG remains one of the few programs that returns tax dollars sent to the federal government 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 2021 include: $1.2M to improve water mains and roads in three communities; $1.773M to renovate group homes, convalescent centers, shelters for homeless veterans and facilities for persons with disabilities; $52K in financial support for three neighborhood resource centers in low-income neighborhoods; $124,808 in funding to assist low-income homeowners in keeping their homes safe, code compliant, and energy efficient; and $528,500 to pay for public services including case management and other services through 13 agencies that assist youth, families, veterans, and victims of domestic violence.

In 2020, the CDBG program also received $6.688M in CARES Act funding which will be used to assist the County's COVID-19 response including addressing capital needs, foreclosure prevention, eviction prevention, emergent food needs, and emergency shelter.

HOME Investment Partnership Program
Provides $1.8 million in annual funding for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of affordable housing. These funds create affordable rental units for seniors and families. HOME funds are also used in DuPage County to provide down payment assistance to first-time homebuyers.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
Provides $300K in annual funding to address the housing and support needs of persons experiencing homelessness. In 2020, the ESG program also received $3.515M in CARES Act funding which is being used to assist the County's COVID-19 response including providing emergency shelter for individuals who have not been able to utilize congregate shelters due to the pandemic.

LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program)
Provides $1.7 million in annual funding (the program also receives some state funding), to help low-income households pay their energy bills. In 2020, the LIHEAP program also received an additional $1.4M in funding to assist families impacted economically by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Weatherization
Provides $1.46 million in annual funding (the program also receives some state funding), to support energy efficiency improvements for low-income households. The program also needs to be reauthorized by Congress (last authorization occurred in 2012).

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)
Provides $1.5 million each year to support programs within the County to assist households at or below 200% of the federal poverty level including Information and Referral, WIOA/workNet Programs, Disaster Assistance, basic needs assistance, and Family Self-Sufficiency. CSBG also supports programs operated

by DuPage non-profits including Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans, Catholic Charities, 360 Youth Services, HOME DuPage, Outreach Community Services, and food pantries throughout the County. Congress needs to also officially "reauthorize" the CSBG that was last reauthorized in 1998.

DuPage County urges Congress to reauthorize these vital community development programs and continue current funding levels that help address the health, safety, and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Reinvest in County 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.

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 residents; the operation and maintenance of seventeen countywide flood control facilities; the operation of critical facilities at the County's main Wheaton Campus including the County jail, courthouse, health department, County nursing home and animal shelter; plus, the maintenance of 220 miles of County highways and 92 miles of multi-use trails.

Each year, the County compiles a comprehensive list of flood control, transportation, wastewater, water, and other critical country 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 almost one million residents.