DUPAGE COUNTY

2022 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Daniel J. Cronin  R
Chairman
DuPage County Board
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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, Illinois

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:

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

Demographic Information1

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

Race, Ethnicity, Gender2

- Caucasian: 63.4%
- African American: 4.7%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.2%
- Asian: 12.7%
- Hispanic or Latino: 15.4%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.02%
- Other: 3.52%
- Male: 51.03%
- Female: 48.96%

Education Attainment3

- 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 Universities4

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

Area Information5

- Persons per Square Miles: 2,773.4
- Undeveloped Land: 4.0% or 8,612 acres
- Open Space: 20.0% or 443,060 acres
- Total Area: 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 Information6

- County Revenue: $430.0 million
- Sales Tax Revenue: $109.4 million
- Property Tax Revenue: $51.1 million
- Local Gas Tax Revenue: $36.1 million
- Income Tax Revenue: $11.8 million
- Funds on Hand: $40.3 million

Economic Information7

- 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+
- Housing Units: 364,970
- Median Household Income: $96,403

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.
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 18th 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.
2022 Federal Legislative Priorities

- **Support the Build Back Better Act (BBBA):** last November, the U.S. House passed this Act that appropriates significant federal funding for education, childcare, preschool education, housing stabilization and resources to address climate change, among many other provisions.

- **Sustain Expanded Eligibility for the Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG):** over the past two years, Congress temporarily expanded eligibility to receive benefits under the CSBG from 125% of the federal poverty level to 200%. Making this change permanent would enable up to 100,000 DuPage County (additional) households to remain eligible for support with basic needs, keeping many out of poverty.

- **Enact a Full-Year Transportation Appropriation:** in order for local governments to access $45 billion in new transportation resources as provided under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) enacted last year, Congress must adopt a full-year Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations bill (versus a Continuing Resolution) to fund transportation.

- **Support the Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP):** reauthorize NFIP (long-term) to ensure the program is accessible and affordable for all county residents.

- **Repeal the SALT Deduction Cap:** remove or adjust 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.

- **Protect the Environmental Health of our Communities:** support measures to protect citizens from dangerous chemicals in our air, water, and land; address Climate Change; and reduce our nation’s carbon footprint.

- **Maintain Federal Funding of 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.

- **Support the Humane Treatment of our Animal Population:** strengthen requirements for the licensing of animal dealers and exhibitors under the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and expand the agency’s oversight and enforcement of animal welfare standards.

- **Reinvest in County Infrastructure:** support county governments that are responsible for maintaining almost half of our nation’s infrastructure by supporting county projects that reduce flooding, relieve traffic congestion, and improve the health and safety of DuPage County residents.
Support the Build Back Better Act
On November 9, 2021, the U.S. House passed the Build Back Better Act (BBBA), a $1.75 trillion reconciliation package. This comprehensive proposal invests in many social and environmental programs including early childhood education and childcare, climate change, housing stabilization, adult protective services, community development and job training, among many other programs. The legislation as adopted by the House also raises the state and local tax (SALT) deduction from $10,000 to $80,000 (see below), expands Medicaid coverage, increases PELL grants and funding of higher education, plus incentives to spur the electric vehicles market.

A comprehensive summary of the legislation may be found at the National Association of Counties website: https://www.naco.org/resources/featured/buildbackbetter.

Sustain Expanded Eligibility for CSBG
The Community Services Block Grant Program helps meet the basic needs of individuals and families living near or at the federal poverty level, including support for clothing and household goods, food, job training, homeless prevention, and assistance with water and sewer bills.

Currently, Continuing Resolutions supporting the operation of the federal government include this temporary increase in CSBG eligibility from 125% of the federal poverty level to 200%. With rising grocery prices, utility and housing costs, many more families are at risk of food insecurity and losing their homes. Enactment of a permanent eligibility level of 200% of the federal poverty level would maintain eligibility for approximately 29% more households (100,000 households) in DuPage County.

DuPage County urges Congress to enact a permanent increase in the CSBG eligibility level to 200% of poverty guidelines.

Enact a Full-Year Transportation Appropriation
Although the federal Fiscal Year 2022 began as of October 1, Congress has yet to agree on a full year appropriation bill for transportation, funding government operations instead through Continuing Resolutions, thus freezing federal funding at previous year levels.

As part of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) enacted by Congress last year, $45 billion in new transportation resources were allocated, roughly a 20% increase for highway formula programs and more than a 30% increase for public transit formula programs. However, local governments cannot access this new pot of federal funding absent passage of a full-year transportation appropriation bill. For Illinois, this translates into over
$1 billion in additional (lost) resources under highway formula programs should Congress fail to act. For many counties, the only opportunity to access federal transportation dollars is limited to competitive grant opportunities funded through the federal appropriation process.

DuPage County urges Congress to quickly enact a full-year federal transportation appropriation bill to permit local governments to access the additional ($45 billion) transportation resources contained as part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

**Support the Reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

The National Flood Insurance Program was established by Congress in 1968 to provide accessible and affordable insurance coverage for property owners for damages and losses due to catastrophic flooding. NFIP is a voluntary program based on an agreement between the federal government and a local community. For residents and businesses located in a participating governmental entity, FEMA offers flood insurance, disaster assistance, and mitigation grants.

Since NFIP’s five-year reauthorization expired as of September 30, 2017, Congress has adopted only short-term extensions of the program, causing uncertainty for counties and participating communities. Although the intention of the program is to stabilize the cost of flood insurance, the last reauthorization bill (the Biggert-Waters Act) also resulted in some unintended consequences including dramatic increases in flood insurance premiums for some homeowners and the addition of new (previously not covered) areas under revised flood insurance rate maps.

Floods are by far the most common natural disaster in Illinois, accounting for over 90% of the declared disasters. There are currently 82 counties and 770 communities in the state that have adopted a local floodplain ordinance (and the required regulations) in order to participate in NFIP, including DuPage County and 13 local communities. As DuPage County exceeds the NFIP minimum program standards, our residents receive roughly a 20% discount on flood insurance coverage (currently there are an estimated 4,000 flood insurance policies in DuPage).

DuPage County supports the long-term reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program with the safeguards currently being advocated by NACo, protecting policy holders from exorbitant premium hikes by capping annual increases, providing affordability measures for low- and middle-income policy holders, and increasing funding of mitigation activities at the state and local level.
Repeal the SALT Deduction Cap
The SALT (state and local tax) deduction permits taxpayers (who itemize) to deduct state and local taxes paid from their federally taxable income. However, this deduction was capped at $10,000 by Congress in 2017 as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Although DuPage County has worked diligently to reduce operational costs and to keep its portion of property taxes paid by our residents to less than 3% of a typical homeowner’s 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 taxes that may be deducted, nor should the SALT deduction be treated as optional as other federal deductions.

The ability for homeowners to deduct state and local taxes also provides one measure of property tax 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.

Currently, the Build Back Better Act (as discussed previously) would increase the $10,000 deduction cap to $80,000. In addition, separate legislation has been introduced, the SALT Deductibility Act, to repeal the $10,000 cap.

DuPage County urges Congress to enact legislation to remove the state and local tax deduction cap that double taxes our residents.

Protect the Environmental Health of our Communities
Government has a responsibility to protect the health and safety of its citizens; specific environmental concerns include:

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 if at capacity).
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, requiring 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 its carbon footprint by launching Cool DuPage, a countywide effort to encourage greater energy conservation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 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:**
DuPage County 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, compostable 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 in Springfield that supports sustainable materials management.

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

Maintain Federal Funding of 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 48th 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 population, and public services such as case management and housing services.

Projects anticipated for 2022 include: $2.4 million to improve water mains/sidewalks/roads in four communities; $600,000 to improve a community park in one community; $400,000 to renovate a group home for individuals with substance use disorders; $70,000 to improve the HVAC system at a fair housing facility; and $225,000 to pay for public services including case management, housing assistance and fair housing education/outreach/enforcement.

In 2020, the CDBG program also received $6.7 million in CARES Act funding. This continues to 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. In 2021, the county received $6.5 million in additional HOME funds through the American Rescue Plan Act. This will be used to reduce homelessness and increase housing stability.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)
Provides $300,000 in annual funding to address the housing and support needs of persons experiencing homelessness. In 2020, the ESG program also received $3.5 million in CARES Act funding. This continues to be 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 both 2020 ($1.4 million in Cares Act funding) and 2021 ($6.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding), the LIHEAP program received additional funds to assist families impacted economically by the COVID-19 pandemic.
Weatherization
Provides $1.54 million in annual funding (the program also receives some state funding), to support energy efficiency improvements for low-income households.

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 (currently a temporary standard, see above) including information and referral, WIOA/workNet programs, disaster assistance, basic needs assistance, and Family Self-Sufficiency.

Support the Humane Treatment of our Animal Population
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, including some surrendered pets who suffered severe illness or significant behavioral problems due to being sourced from a substandard commercial breeding facility. 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 socialization, resulting in sick and unwanted animals that end up in the county’s care.

The USDA is charged with ensuring that animals raised in commercial breeding facilities are protected against harm and neglect by conducting inspections and issuing penalties/fines for noncompliance. The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) current licensing process of commercial breeders, circuses, petting zoos and other animal dealers is broken and permits the continued inhumane treatment of countless animals. The USDA has removed from its website thousands of inspection reports, licenses are routinely renewed even if violations exist, inspections are pre-announced, and there is lax to non-existent enforcement of proper animal welfare standards.

The Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act (H.R. 3277) would strengthen the USDA’s licensing process for animal dealers and exhibitors by expanding oversight and ensuring the transparency of the animal dealer and exhibitor licensing process. Specifically, unannounced inspections would occur before a license is issued or renewed and repeat violators of animal welfare laws would be held accountable. Goldie’s Act (H.R. 6100) would require inspectors to take welfare conditions seriously and help animals who are visibly suffering through the imposition of meaningful penalties for violations and also sharing cruelty and neglect information with local law enforcement.
DuPage County urges Congress to enact legislation to hold commercial breeders, animal dealers, and exhibitors accountable for the treatment of animals and to restore integrity to the USDA licensing process.

**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 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 almost one million residents.