# DuPage County Board

**Deborah A. Conroy**
Chair, DuPage County Board
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## District 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Cronin Cahill</td>
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<td>Elmhurst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Childress</td>
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<td>Bloomingdale</td>
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<td>Sam Tornatore</td>
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<td>Roselle</td>
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## District 2

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<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Chaplin</td>
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<td>Downers Grove</td>
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<td>Paula Deacon Garcia</td>
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<td>Lisle</td>
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<td>Yeena Yoo</td>
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<td>Elmhurst</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucy Chang Evans</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kari Galassi</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>Hinsdale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Krajewski</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grant Eckhoff</td>
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<td>Wheaton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynn LaPlante</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mary FitzGerald Ozog</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Glen Ellyn</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sadia Covert</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Naperville</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dawn DeSart</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Aurora</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patty Gustin</td>
<td>R</td>
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## District 6

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<tr>
<td>Sheila Rutledge</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>West Chicago</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greg Schwarze</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>Carol Stream</td>
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<tr>
<td>James F. Zay</td>
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<td>Carol Stream</td>
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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:

Unincorporated communities:
Cloverdale, Eola, Flowerfield, Keeneyville, Lakewood, Medina, Palisades, Swift, and York Center

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

Demographic Information

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

Race, Ethnicity, Gender

- Caucasian: 65.0%
- African American: 5.4%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.4%
- Asian: 13.2%
- Hispanic or Latino: 15.0%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.01%
- Other: 3.53%
- Male: 49.5%
- Female: 50.5%

Education Attainment

- High School Graduate: 93.3%
- Bachelor’s Degree: 50.3%
- Graduate or Professional Degree: 19.6%

Colleges and Universities

- 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

- Persons per Square Miles: 2,773.4
- Open Space: 20% or 443,060 acres
- Total Area: 336.36 sq. miles
- Total Incorporated Area: 247.58 sq. miles
- Total Unincorporated Area: 88.78 sq. miles
- District 1: 54.81 sq. miles
- District 2: 49.99 sq. miles
- District 3: 53.08 sq. miles
- District 4: 38.64 sq. miles
- District 5: 49.63 sq. miles
- District 6: 90.22 sq. miles

Financial Information

- County Revenue: $510.0 million
- Sales Tax Revenue: $131.3 million
- Property Tax Revenue: $46.4 million
- Local Gas Tax Revenue: $37.1 million
- Income Tax Revenue: $13.9 million
- Funds on Hand: $98.9 million

Economic Information

- Unemployment Rate: 3.3%
- Number of Jobs: 632,089
- Office Space Vacancy Rate: 16.9%
- Industrial Space Vacancy Rate: 2.8%
- Bond rating: AAA / AA+
- Housing Units: 344,314
- Median Household Income: $94,930

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 630,000 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 Chair at-large plus nine other Countywide Elected Officials including the 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/sheriff’s office 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, circuit court clerk, 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; assistance with food, emergency shelter, utilities, and transportation services to residents in need; programs for seniors including adult protective services; 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; emergency management and emergency preparedness; and operation of the county animal shelter.

County leaders continue to seek opportunities to share the delivery of public services to minimize the tax burden on residents. DuPage County continues to receive a AAA Bond Rating from two major credit rating agencies. County government also accounts for less than 3% of an average property tax bill.
2023 Federal Legislative Priorities

- **Restore Historic Funding of Community Development Programs** – that returns federal dollars back to our communities to improve critical local infrastructure, expand affordable housing opportunities, and support the social service needs of our elderly, families in crisis, individuals with disabilities, and low-income populations.

- **Permanently Expand Eligibility for the Community Services Block Grant Program (CSBG)** – from 125% of the federal poverty level to 200%, enabling 100,000 DuPage County households to remain eligible for support with basic needs, keeping many families out of poverty.

- **Enact Federal Insurance Protection for Children with Autism** – by requiring ERISA health insurance plans to also include coverage of necessary treatments for children with autism and other developmental disabilities.

- **Adopt a Behavioral and Mental Health Care Package** – to assist counties with the resources and tools necessary to provide appropriate treatment and support to millions of Americans suffering from mental health and addiction issues.

- **Keep our Communities Safe** – protect our residents from senseless gun violence through the enactment of a federal ban on the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines.

- **Housing Support** – expand access to safe, quality, accessible and affordable housing for families, individuals, veterans, the elderly and persons with developmental disabilities.

- **Expand eligibility for Workforce Development Services** – by removing barriers that prevent at-risk youth in particular, from accessing job training and support services.

- **Extend ARPA Timelines** – to provide local governments with the flexibility to complete critical and long-term capital projects that reinvest in our communities and enhance the quality of life for residents.

- **Reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)** – long-term (versus on an annual basis), to ensure it remains an accessible and affordable program for all county residents.

- **Protect our Environment** – by enacting measures to protect citizens from dangerous chemicals in our air, water and land, address Climate Change, and reduce the amount of waste placed in landfills.

- **Support the Humane Treatment of our Animal Population** - strengthen requirements for the licensure 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.
Restore Historic Funding of Community Development Programs

Together with the National Association of Counties (NACo), DuPage urges Congress to increase funding levels for several HUD programs, specifically the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the HOME Investment Partnership program. For Fiscal Year 2024, recommended funding levels are $4.2 billion for CDBG (formula funding) and $1.9 billion in (formula funding) for HOME.

The CDBG and HOME programs have been extremely effective federal block grant programs for improving the nation’s crumbling infrastructure, expanding affordable housing opportunities, and revitalizing neighborhoods. Despite the success of these programs, since 2000, funding for both programs have declined by 49% and 55% respectively.

In 2003, DuPage County received $5 million in CDBG funding and $2.7 million in HOME grant dollars. Conversely, in 2022, the county received $3.7 million in CDBG and $1.9 million in HOME dollars. Decreased funding over the years has severely limited the county’s ability to foster sustainable and economically resilient communities.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)

About to enter its 49th year, CDBG remains one of the few programs that returns tax dollars sent to the federal government by county residents back to local communities and remains one of the federal government’s most successful domestic programs. DuPage County distributes funds to municipalities and non-profit agencies to 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 to support public services such as case management and housing.

Projects anticipated for 2023 include: $1.2 million to improve water mains in two communities; $600,000 for street improvements in one community; $481,425 for streetlights in one community; and $535,000 to support staffing for six non-profit agencies providing support services for individuals experiencing homelessness.

HOME Investment Partnership Program

Provides an estimated $2 million in annual funding for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of affordable housing. These funds create affordable rental units for seniors and families and are also used to provide some rental assistance to clients.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

Provides an estimated $300,000 in annual funding to address the housing and support needs of persons experiencing homelessness.
LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

Provides $1.7 million in annual (federal) funding (the program also receives some state funding), to help low-income households pay their energy bills. At the state level, LIHEAP is seeing a high demand for assistance this year, largely due to soaring energy costs. In 2022, DuPage County processed 6,500 applications but the need was far greater. Both the county and the State of Illinois are urging Congress to appropriate more LIHEAP funds.

Weatherization

Provides $1.3 million in annual funding (the program also receives some state funding), to support energy efficiency improvements for low-income households. This program was included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure bill that was enacted in December so it is anticipated this program will grow over the next 5-10 years.

Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

LIHWAP is currently authorized (and funded) through August 2023 and provides funds to assist low-income households with water and wastewater bills (and in paying arrearages/past due bills). Through December of 2022, DuPage County assisted 1,500 families and paid out an estimated $650,000 in benefits. By the time the program expires in August, the county expects to provide about $1.3 million in benefits. DuPage County urges Congress to continue this program to ensure low-income households are not disconnected from services due to non-payment.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Provides $1.1 million in annual funding to assist households at or below 200% of the federal poverty level (see below). Programs that are supported include Information and Referral, Academic Scholarships, Disaster Assistance, and Family Self-Sufficiency. CSBG also supports case management and housing programs operated by Catholic Charities; youth job skills and training programs operated by Outreach and 360 Youth Services; budget counseling and financial fitness by H.O.M.E. DuPage; and provides car seats and an infant pantry by Teen Parent Connection.

Permanently Expand 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 have included a 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 Federal Insurance Protection for Children with Autism

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, autism is the number one diagnosed children’s disorder, affecting 1 in 44 children in the U.S.

Although all 50 states have adopted Insurance Protection for Autism laws, that mandate both private and public health insurance companies provide coverage for children with autism, states lack the authority to regulate ERISA’s, self-insured large companies that are regulated by the federal government. ERISA’s cover roughly 4 in 10 children, leaving millions of children currently without coverage of autism treatments.

DuPage County urges Congress to mandate autism treatment coverage by ERISA plans, including early diagnosis, and medically necessary evidenced based treatments such as speech and language, occupational, behavioral, and physical therapies. In addition, Congress should consider mandating health insurance coverage for all developmental disabilities, including Downs Syndrome, Cerebral Palsy, and Williams Syndrome.

Adopt a Behavioral and Mental Health Care Package

Counties play a critical role in the delivery of our nation’s behavioral health system, coordinating and providing services, often in county owned community health facilities.

NACo has identified (5) key behavioral health priorities we urge Congress to adopt.

1. **Amend the Medicaid Inmate Exclusion Policy (MIEP)** – that currently prohibits the use of federal funds (such as Medicaid) for medical care provided to “inmates of a public institution.” It is estimated that 63% of jail inmates suffer with a substance abuse condition and this policy remains a significant barrier from inmates seeking Medication Assisted Treatment in county jails. MIEP should be amended to allow for Medicaid coverage of incarcerated individuals.

2. **Repeal the Institutions for Mental Diseases (IMD) exclusion** – to reduce barriers for the provision of comprehensive behavioral health treatment and services at the county level to increase access to care for our residents. The federal Medicaid statute prohibits federal reimbursement for care provided at psychiatric treatment facilities with more than 16 beds (Institutions for Mental Diseases, IMDs), limiting access to inpatient mental health services for low-income individuals on Medicaid, especially for those with serious mental illness.

3. **Recruit/train/retain behavioral workforce** – provide federal funding for programs and initiatives that incentivize individuals to become behavioral health providers. There is already a shortage of mental health professionals across the country, which is expected to decrease by an additional 20% over the next few years.
4. **Support Local Crisis Response Infrastructure** – counties provide local/mobile crisis intervention services to help de-escalate behavioral health crises and connect individuals with community based treatment services. When provided, these services also reduce emergency room visits and hospitalizations and contribute to lower rates of arrest and incarceration of individuals with behavioral health issues. Counties also support the 988 national suicide prevention lifeline and related services. Under ARPA, Congress provided an enhanced federal matching rate under Medicaid for states to expand access to mobile crisis intervention services that should continue beyond ARPA but also needs to serve populations that are not Medicaid eligible.

5. **Remove limitations on coverage for the treatment of mental illness and addiction** – although Congress passed the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act in 2008, and the Affordable Care Act requires most health plans to cover mental health and substance use disorder services, there are still forms of insurance including Medicare, certain state Medicaid programs, Veterans Administration or short term limited duration health plans, that still place limitations on mental health coverage. Federal laws also do not require parity in reimbursement rates, severely limiting the choice for those needing treatment of in-network mental health care providers.

DuPage County joins NACo in requesting that Congress build upon the success of major investments in mental health and substance use disorder programs over the last few years, by enacting additional behavioral health policies that will improve the stability and health of millions of Americans.

**Keep our Communities Safe**

Last fall, Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering shared with County Board Members details of the horrific Highland Park Fourth of July mass shooting that killed seven people, left dozens injured, and traumatized its residents and community for generations to come. Unfortunately, the Highland Park shooting was not a unique occurrence in this country, that has witnessed over 60 mass shootings to date this year.

As a first step towards ending these senseless acts of gun violence, Mayor Rotering urged County Board Members to support stricter gun laws and specifically, legislation to ban the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines at both the state and federal level.

DuPage County supports the enactment of common-sense gun control measures to help keep our communities and residents safe, including a federal ban on the sale of assault weapons and the sale of high-capacity magazines, and legislation to ban the sale and possession of ghost guns (un serialized firearms), including appropriate penalties for possession and use of such weapons.

**Housing Support**

DuPage County has an estimated shortage of 16,000 units of affordable rental housing, and over 20% of DuPage renters pay more than 50% of their income on rent. DuPage recently utilized federal COVID and American Rescue Plan Act funds to support the purchase of a 130-room hotel that was converted into an interim housing center (IHC) which provides emergency housing to those experiencing homelessness. The IHC quickly filled to capacity and currently houses approximately 300 people per night, including nearly 100 children (and has a waiting list).
In addition to support of the HOME Investment Partnership Program (see above), that provides an estimated $2 million in annual funding for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of affordable housing, DuPage County supports the efforts of the DuPage Housing Authority to:

- Increase the number of Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, that provides low-income families with rental assistance to obtain housing in the private market;
- Increase the appropriation level for HUD’s Discretionary Fund, that provides monies for local affordable housing developments;
- Support HUD’s initiative to improve Section 504 regulations to improve accessibility standards for HUD assisted facilities to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to all HUD programs.

**Expand Eligibility for Workforce Development Services**

Workforce development services are critical for job seekers, businesses, and for the overall health of our local and national economy. Through the federal Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA), DuPage County provides training, job search, and employment services to hundreds of job seekers and businesses.

Over the past two program years, DuPage County has expended over $4.1 million on occupational training for job seekers pursuing high-growth career pathways as well as over $450,000 to pay for incumbent worker training costs of local employers. The average annual salary upon program completion for all WIOA participants in DuPage County is over $70,000, demonstrating the efficacy of these programs in alleviating poverty and boosting the local economy. Last program year, individuals who completed services saw an average increase in earnings of nearly 30%.

However, a number of federal regulations currently act as a barrier, especially for our youth, to obtain services. *Expanding eligibility as much as possible will be critical in a post-COVID environment in which every worker’s participation in the labor force is vital.*

To build upon the impact of the federally funded workforce system, DuPage County supports the following modifications to WIOA as part of the reauthorization process.

- Provide the greatest overall flexibility possible for the Title I program to maximize benefits for all job seekers and to increase inclusivity and accessibility of services.
- Expand eligibility definitions for Dislocated Worker and Youth grants to provide:
  - Inclusion of all young adults who are disconnected from a career path or education program regardless of household income or presence of other specified barrier (such as young adults who did not complete college and are living at home yet still lack a career path and adequate earning potential);
  - Inclusion as 1D (Dislocated Worker) eligible those who are disconnected from the workforce but have not experienced a layoff (for example, individuals reentering the workforce after an extended period such as returning mothers and caregivers, individuals recently released from the criminal justice system, relocated workers or their spouses).
- Remove required math and reading assessments for young adult participants - these
requirements are onerous particularly for in-school youth who regularly take other standardized tests.

- Eliminate the six-month employment requirement for Incumbent Worker Training grants to better assist employers and facilitate apprenticeship development.

- Reduce or remove post-exit follow up service requirements to better focus resources on those searching for employment and facilitate customer choice regarding whether they want to maintain contact after employed.

- Add a performance measure to capture successful customer engagement/service regardless of customer outcome.
  - In some cases, time-intensive service is provided to job seeker clients who, because of that service, are successfully connected to opportunities such as training programs or job placement. In instances where the client does not maintain success in either a training program or job placement due to a range of factors out of the workforce organization’s control, there is no performance measure that captures the successful connection of the job seeker to the opportunity.

When all performance measures are tied to variables outside of the workforce organization’s control, it can lead to unwanted performance management that may yield exclusion rather than inclusion of those most in need, i.e. performance measures as currently constructed may disincentivize service of the most hard-to-serve. A measure that gauges the organization’s successful provision of opportunity to each participant, whether they successfully take advantage of that opportunity, would strongly increase access and inclusivity without fear of penalty or repercussion.

**Extend ARPA Timelines**

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) was signed into law on March 11, 2021. Under the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, DuPage County received $179 million, which has been distributed to non-profits, other units of government, the health department, to reinvigorate the local economy, reconstruct water and sewer infrastructure, and to construct a number of COVID (capital) mitigation projects on the county campus, including the renovation of 350 resident rooms at the county nursing home.

As many of these capital projects will take significant time to complete, especially in light of supply chain challenges, it may be difficult to meet the current ARPA deadlines of 12/31/24 for the obligation of funds and 12/31/26 for the expenditure of all ARPA dollars.

DuPage County joins other units of government to request a one-year extension of both ARPA deadlines, to ensure the completion of long-term capital projects and the availability of funds (if needed), to combat the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency.

**Reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)**

On December 29, 2022, the President signed legislation to extend the NFIP’s current authorization to September 30, 2023. 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.

**Protect the Environmental Health of our Communities**

Government has a responsibility to protect the health and safety of its citizens - specific environmental concerns are as follows.

**Global Warming and 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’s stormwater department recently had to replace two pumps (earlier than anticipated) at a cost of $400,000 each, in addition to rising 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 programs. 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.

**Clean Drinking Water:**

The recently enacted Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included $11.7 billion for clean water projects under the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, $5 billion for Water Infrastructure Improvement Grants to
address emerging contaminants, $3 billion in funding to states for lead service line replacement, and $15 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for projects to replace lead service lines.

DuPage County continues to seek opportunities to obtain a clean, safe, and sustainable water source for property owners by converting properties in unincorporated areas from private wells to Lake Michigan water. Last year, the county allocated $1 million of ARPA funds for a new initiative, the Water Connection Assistance Grant program, to help homeowners with conversion/connection costs.

DuPage County advocates that Congress pursue legislation that reduces human impact on climate and the overall environment. The county encourages Congress to pass legislation that supports a just transition to cleaner power while ensuring the electric grid can support the growth in demand. Continued investment in the recycling system would also benefit the county. Legislation and programs that back the responsible collection of various categories of waste including but not limited to batteries containing lithium, compressed gas tanks and medical sharps, would aid in the county's goals to increase recycling and properly manage waste. As the United States moves to cleaner transportation and buildings, Congress should enhance their investment and leadership in electric vehicles, EV ready infrastructure, transportation systems and energy efficiency and provide reasonable outlets for small businesses and local governments that generate hazardous waste. Additionally, the federal government should continue to appropriate funds to invest and improve our nation's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.

**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 2022, over 2,000 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 according to the Humane Society of the U.S.
The Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act (previously H.R. 3277 that will be re-introduced shortly by Congressman Krishnamoorthi), 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 sharing cruelty and neglect information with local law enforcement.

DuPage County supports the advancement of these animal welfare enforcement provisions through the Farm Bill and 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.