



November 2022 Referendum Questions

The following is a brief background on the three Non-Binding Referendum Questions on the November 8 general election ballot. These three questions were approved to be placed on the ballot by the DuPage County Board at its meeting on Aug. 9, 2022.

1. Should the County of DuPage research and invest in public electric vehicle fast charging stations to provide a revenue stream, promote a healthy environment, and drive local economic development?

Over the past decade, electric vehicles have become a viable mode of transportation for people looking to reduce their carbon footprint. One challenge presented for electric vehicle (EV) users is the lack of infrastructure available for charging stations throughout the United States. In the past year, the federal government has announced funding to place EV charging stations throughout the United States highway system. To compliment the federal government's initiative, the State of Illinois has provided funding to various entities, including municipalities, to fund the installation of EV charging stations within their own parking lots and properties. Some of these initiatives include rebates on the purchase of EV vehicles and installation of charging stations. The installation of EV charging stations at various locations throughout DuPage County would build an infrastructure that is accessible and welcoming to individuals with EV vehicles and encourage them to visit for work and leisure travel.

DuPage County is seeking input from voters as to whether resources should be made available to invest in electric vehicle fast charging stations throughout the county to compliment the State and Federal efforts.

2. Should the County of DuPage continue to assist qualifying small businesses by providing grants to support local economic development and job growth?

In 2019, DuPage County received \$161 million in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act) funds and in 2021, received \$179 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to combat COVID-19 and to also support local economic recovery. DuPage County allocated a substantial portion of these funds (an estimated \$40 million) to support the small business community through the creation of the Reinvest DuPage grant relief program. This initiative is tailored to help small businesses recover from the negative impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, the county continues to fund workNet DuPage that assists both employers and individuals with job training and job placement.

DuPage County is seeking input from voters as to whether additional resources should be allocated for grants to small businesses to support local economic growth.



DUPAGE COUNTY

3. Should the County of DuPage continue its support of mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention through the funding of local non-profits?

Currently, DuPage County provides funding for various non-profits that assist individuals who are experiencing mental health or substance abuse crises. The main conduit for this work is accomplished through the DuPage County Heroin/Opioid Prevention and Education (HOPE) Taskforce. In FY2022, the County Board allocated \$200,000 to the HOPE Taskforce to fund various non-profit organization programs helping with mental health and substance abuse issues. In addition, the County Board has continued to fund the First Offender Call Unified for Success (F.O.C.U.S.)/Drug Court within the 18th Judicial Circuit to provide individuals with drug-related issues with the support needed to overcome their addiction as opposed to being placed in the correctional system.

In 2022, DuPage County established an agreement with the DuPage Foundation to create the DuPage Community Transformation Partnership. Through this partnership, the Foundation will distribute \$10 million in ARPA grants with the intention of supporting evidence-based programs focused on long-term solutions to build capacity, improve efficiency, and ensure that selected programs efficiently support DuPage County residents. As of October 2022, the Partnership has distributed more than \$3.8 million in grants to programs seeking to provide effective mental health and substance use disorder treatment or prevention programs.

DuPage County is seeking input from voters as to whether additional resources should be dedicated to mental health and substance abuse treatment and prevention through the additional funding of local non-profits.