



# DUPAGECOUNTY

2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



DANIEL J. CRONIN, Chairman, DuPage County Board



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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Daniel J. Cronin  
Chairman  
DuPage County Board

421 N. County Farm Road  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
(630) 407-6023  
[www.dupageco.org](http://www.dupageco.org)

## LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



John F. Curran  
Chairman



Peter DiCianni



Tonia Khouri



Donald E. Puchalski  
Vice Chairman



Karyn Romano



James F. Zay

### DISTRICT 1

Paul Fichtner (R-Elmhurst)  
Donald E. Puchalski (R-Addison)  
Sam Tornatore (R-Bloomingtondale)

### DISTRICT 3

John F. Curran (R-Woodridge)  
Gary Grasso (R-Burr Ridge)  
Brian Krajewski (R-Downers Grove)

### DISTRICT 5

James Healy (R-Naperville)  
Tonia Khouri (R-Aurora)  
Tony Michelassi (D-Aurora)

### DISTRICT 2

Elizabeth Chaplin (D-Downers Grove)  
Peter "Pete" DiCianni (R-Elmhurst)  
Sean Noonan (R-Elmhurst)

### DISTRICT 4

Grant Eckhoff (R-Wheaton)  
Amy Grant (R-Wheaton)  
Karyn Romano (R-Glen Ellyn)

### DISTRICT 6

Robert Larsen (R-Warrenville)  
Kevin Wiley (R-West Chicago)  
James F. Zay (R-Carol Stream)



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### DuPage County, Illinois

*The mission of DuPage County is to assure that DuPage County's communities will always be desirable places to live, work, and raise families 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.*

#### General Information

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

#### Demographic Information

Population  
Total Population: 932,126  
Incorporated Population: 819,609  
Unincorporated Population: 112,517

#### Race, Ethnicity, Gender

Caucasian: 81.7%  
African American: 5.1%  
American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.4%  
Asian: 11.0%  
Hispanic or Latino: 13.9%  
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.1%  
Identified by two or more: 1.8%  
Male: 49.1%  
Female: 50.9%

#### Education Attainment

High School Graduate: 20.20%  
Bachelor's Degree: 28.10%  
Graduate or Professional Degree: 17.30%  
Percent High School degree or higher: 91.9%  
Percent Bachelor's degree or higher: 45.9%

#### Colleges and Universities

College of DuPage  
Wheaton College  
Benedictine University  
Elmhurst College  
North Central College  
Midwestern University  
National University of Health Sciences  
Northern Baptist Theological Seminary

#### Financial Information

County Budget: \$447.1 million  
Sales Tax Revenue: \$92.7 million  
Property Tax Revenue: \$48.8 million  
Local Gas Tax Revenue: \$19.1 million  
Income Tax Revenue: \$9.7 million  
Fee Offices/Elected Officials: \$40.1 million  
Funds on Hand: \$54.4 million  
Other: \$182.3 million

#### Economic Information

Unemployment Rate: 5.0%  
Office Space Vacancy Rate: 17.2%  
Industrial Space Vacancy Rate: 6.3%  
Chicago Fed. Reserve Midwest Manufacturing Index: 97.4%  
Bond rating: Triple: A  
Sales Tax Receipts: +4.99% Housing  
Units: 356,231  
Median Household Income: \$78,538

Persons per Square Miles: 2,771.2  
Undeveloped Land: 4.2% or 9,013 acres  
Open Space: 20.8% or 44,941 acres

Total Area: 336.36 sq. miles  
Total Incorporated Area: 245.26 sq. miles  
Total Unincorporated Area: 91.11 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



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### OVERVIEW

DuPage County is the second largest county in Illinois with 932,126 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 over 750,000 jobs and 16 colleges, 7 hospitals, 2 national laboratories (Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator), 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 County-wide 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 18 members who are elected from six County Board Districts (three members from each district).

Core county government services include the provision of: public safety and the operation of the county jail; administration of the 18<sup>th</sup> judicial circuit court; construction and maintenance of the county highway and trails system; economic development and planning; public health and mental health care services; flood control and prevention; job training and support services; water and sewer; building and permitting; zoning enforcement; the administration of countywide elections; the operation of the county nursing home; community and senior services; emergency management preparedness; and animal control.

County leaders continue to seek opportunities to reduce the size of county government in order to minimize the tax burden on residents. Over the past several years, the county's budget has been reduced by \$25 million and full-time headcount lowered by 50 positions. DuPage continues to receive a AAA Bond Rating from all three major credit rating agencies, a status achieved by less than 1% of all counties nationwide. In 2014, DuPage County government accounted for less than 3% of the average property tax bill.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### SUMMARY

- **Elgin-O'Hare Western Access Project of National Significance:** secure the remaining funds necessary to complete this \$3.4 billion infrastructure project that is under construction and will create 65,000 new jobs and generate millions of dollars in local and federal tax revenues.
- **DuPage County Capital Improvement Plan:** support critical infrastructure projects that will alleviate flooding, reduce traffic congestion, improve water quality, enhance public safety and expand recreational opportunities for DuPage County residents.
- **Closeout of Superfund Sites in DuPage County:** secure the remaining Title X reimbursement dollars required to complete the cleanup and remediation of the DuPage River and Rare Earths Facility located in West Chicago.
- **EPA Ban on Blending:** oppose attempts by the USEPA to bypass the normal rulemaking process to ban blending at publicly owned wastewater treatment plants. A blending ban is estimated to cost over \$150 billion nationwide to implement, to be paid by units of local government like DuPage County.
- **Protect the Great Lakes Basin:** oppose the construction of an underground long-term burial facility to store nuclear waste less than a mile from Lake Huron that could potentially threaten the drinking water supply for millions of residents of Northeastern Illinois.
- **FDA Approval of Intranasal Naloxone:** encourage the FDA to act swiftly to officially approve the utilization of the nasal administered Narcan antidote that has saved 34 lives in DuPage County over the past year.
- **Noise Relief for Communities Surrounding O'Hare Airport:** direct the FAA to update noise studies and to work with all stakeholders in a comprehensive, transparent assessment of aircraft noise and develop a list of actions to help mitigate aircraft noise in our communities.
- **Reauthorize:**
  - **Federal Transportation Bill:** invest and modernize the nation's highway and mass transit systems.
  - **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA):** add DuPage to the list of counties eligible to apply for funding under the Environmental Infrastructure Program (Section 219) that supports water related and resource protection projects.
- **Maintain:**
  - **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funding:** that returns taxpayer dollars to DuPage County to assist non-profit agencies that serve our elderly, people with disabilities, families in crisis, and the homeless population.
  - **Federal Income Tax Exemption for Municipal Bonds:** oppose efforts to remove the primary financing method for state and local governments to rebuild the nation's infrastructure.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## PRIORITIES

### **Elgin-O'Hare Western Access Project of National Significance (EOWA)**

As part of the 2005 (SAFETEA-LU) Federal Transportation Bill, the U.S. Congress identified the Elgin O'Hare-Western Bypass as a ***Project of National and Regional Significance***, one of only 26 projects nationwide. Completion of the EOWA will sustain the area's global competitiveness, promote business retention and create new jobs, as well as complement the multi-billion dollar infrastructure improvements underway at O'Hare International Airport.

It is estimated that 65,000 new jobs will be created as a result of the project and the Gross Regional Product (GRP) for DuPage County will increase 20% or over \$10 billion per year by 2030. Additionally, hundreds of millions of dollars in federal tax revenues will be generated over the project construction period. The project is expected to have a regionally significant impact on travel efficiency with estimates of travel delay savings of more than \$145 million annually by 2040.

In 2011, the Illinois State Toll Highway (Tollway) Authority adopted ***Move Illinois***, a fifteen year capital program that included \$3.1 billion towards construction of the \$3.4 billion Elgin-O'Hare Western Access roadway. The estimated shortfall of approximately \$300 million has been reduced by almost \$111 million through donations of right of way and the success of DuPage County and its local and regional partners in procuring Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) grants totaling almost \$70 million. DuPage County and its regional partners continue to aggressively pursue strategies to close the remaining \$189 million shortfall.

The project is moving forward in earnest. To date, the Tollway has awarded \$390 million in construction contracts on the western section of the Elgin O'Hare and is expected to award \$240 million in contracts in 2015. The Tollway continues to aggressively pursue engineering, environmental and land acquisition activities in the communities of Itasca, Wood Dale and Bensenville east of I-290. Other initiatives in the corridor include a County-led program to develop a unified aesthetic strategy that will enhance the corridor's marketability, a Choose DuPage led Economic Development marketing plan and the PACE Suburban Bus transit marketing plan.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### DuPage County Capital Improvement Plan

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 County residents; the operation and maintenance of countywide flood control facilities including sixteen reservoirs/dams and pumping stations; the operation of a number of facilities on the County's Main Wheaton Campus including the County Jail, Courthouse, Health Department, Animal Shelter, and Convalescent Center; plus the maintenance of 220 miles of highways and 92 miles of multi-use trails.

Attached to this document is a comprehensive list of sixty 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 932,126 residents.

A detailed list of projects (that may be searched by district) can also be accessed by visiting: [www.dupagecapitalplan.com](http://www.dupagecapitalplan.com).

### Closeout of Superfund Sites in DuPage County

After decades of effort to characterize, remediate, and restore areas impacted by radiological materials that originated from a Rare Earths Facility in West Chicago, the cleanup is nearing completion. Outstanding work includes remediating two remaining Superfund Sites in West Chicago (the Rare Earths Facility and the Residential Areas Site) and the restoration, including maintenance and monitoring, of the Kress Creek/ West Branch DuPage River Site. This massive cleanup project was funded by Tronox, a spinoff of the former Kerr McGee Corporation that was absorbed in a buyout by Anadarko Oil until 2009 when the company filed for bankruptcy. The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) filed suit for among other items, creating a fraudulent company in order to abandon environmental liabilities. While the litigation is pending, the USEPA has worked cooperatively with the impacted local communities (DuPage County, West Chicago, West Chicago Park District, Warrenville, and Forest Preserve District of DuPage County) to secure funding to continue the remediation/ restoration process required to close out each site.

Thanks to the efforts of our Congressional Delegation, for Federal Fiscal Year 2015, \$10 million was appropriated to the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Title X program, of which a minimum of \$2.4 million is expected to be allocated to the County's Project. Pending receipt of this funding, additional work in 2015 may include remediation of the Rare Earths Facility, complete remediation of the Residential Areas Site, and maintenance and monitoring along the Kress Creek/ West Branch DuPage River Site. Continued funding will ensure the health and safety of thousands of local residents and aid in delisting these sites from the USEPA's National Priorities List (NPL). **For Federal Fiscal Year 2016, DuPage County requests an additional \$10 million in Title X funds.**



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### **EPA Ban on Blending**

During heavy rain events (only), Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs - wastewater treatment plants) “overflow” the increased storm water around the primary treatment plant, blend the overflow back into the treated water from the primary treatment plant, and then discharge (a process known as blending).

DuPage County’s wastewater treatment facilities have been designed and constructed pursuant to a permit issued by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) with a specific capacity for treating water entering those facilities which cannot be exceeded or increased. During heavy rain events, storm water enters the County’s sanitary sewer systems increasing the overall volume of the water reaching the County’s POTWs and per USEPA issued permits, the bypassed overflow is then blended with treated water from the secondary treatment plant.

The USEPA is currently seeking to implement a ban on blending by circumventing the normal rulemaking process (absent any public review and comment periods). Such a ban would cost an estimated \$150 billion nationwide to implement and would be paid for by units of local government (as an unfunded mandate). DuPage County opposes any attempts by the USEPA to ban blending that would negatively impact the operations of the County’s POTWs.

### **Protect the Great Lakes Basin**

The Ontario Power Generation (OPG) Company is proposing to construct a deep geologic repository, which is an underground long-term burial facility for Ontario’s low and intermediate level radioactive nuclear waste, at a location less than one mile from Lake Huron and approximately 1,300 feet below the lake level. The company has reported that the majority of the radioactive waste will decay in 300 years, with the remaining radioactive waste decaying in more than 100,000 years.

Any contamination resulting from a leaking nuclear waste repository located on Lake Huron could have a potential impact on Lake Michigan’s waters, the source of drinking water for almost 7 million residents of Northeastern Illinois including the residents of DuPage. County leaders have a duty to protect residents and businesses by ensuring a safe potable drinking water supply. DuPage County opposes the construction of any deep geologic nuclear waste repository in the Great Lakes Basin and urges the U.S. Congress to use its authority to review the OPG application and to provide a recommendation on behalf of the citizens of the United States of America.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### **FDA Approval of Intranasal Naloxone**

DuPage County citizens and officials realized that the escalating number of heroin deaths in our communities was creating a public health crisis and in 2013, established the DuPage Coalition Against Heroin to develop a multi-faceted approach to combat opioid and heroin addiction. In addition to heroin prevention, education, and treatment efforts, there was an urgent need to save lives.

Following a record number of deaths due to heroin, the DuPage County Health Department, DuPage Chiefs of Police, DuPage County Coroner, State's Attorney, and Sheriff's Offices, initiated the DuPage Narcan program in August of 2013 (Naloxone is a non-addictive drug that can reverse a potentially fatal opioid overdose). DuPage became the first County in the State to offer intranasal naloxone (Narcan) spray to law enforcement officers who are often the first to respond to an emergency call for assistance. Over 1,800 non-EMT first responders have been trained and equipped with the intranasal spray device that to date **has saved the lives of 34 individuals.**

Although the FDA has approved the Narcan auto-injection device, it has yet to approve an intranasal Narcan spray device. Law enforcement officers and other non-EMT first responders have expressed concerns that they lack the medical training necessary to administer the auto-injection device and are more comfortable using a nasal spray device.

DuPage County urges the FDA to address this public health crisis in our communities by approving an intranasal spray device of Naloxone for use as soon as possible.

### **Noise Relief for Communities Surrounding O'Hare Airport**

Due to the new runway configurations at O'Hare International Airport, the number of noise complaints from homeowners residing in communities neighboring O'Hare, including the Villages of Bensenville and Itasca and the City of Wood Dale, has risen sharply over the past year. An estimated 40% of complaints received were also from City of Chicago residents.

Local leaders are requesting that the City of Chicago undertake a new FAA Part 150 Noise Compatibility study at O'Hare. The purpose of this study would be to require all stakeholders to be involved in a comprehensive, transparent process/assessment of aircraft noise in surrounding communities as well as the development of a list of actions to be implemented by responsible agencies to mitigate aircraft noise. With new traffic patterns impacting different portions of airport-adjacent communities surrounding O'Hare, a new Part 150 study is timely and appropriate. Part 150 studies should be updated every 5 to 7 years however the City of Chicago has not updated O'Hare's Part 150 plan since 1989.

DuPage County requests that Congress direct the FAA to work with the City of Chicago and neighboring communities to update the applicable noise studies and to work collaboratively with all parties to help improve the quality of live for those residing around O'Hare.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### Reauthorize

**Federal Transportation Bill** - Although Congress adopted a short-term federal surface transportation bill (MAP-21), it expires as of May and the Highway Trust Fund is headed towards insolvency. Counties are responsible for building and maintaining a significant portion of our nation's infrastructure (45% of all public roads) yet are limited in our ability to raise revenue in order to make the necessary transportation investments.

DuPage County requests that Congress fix the trust fund and enact a multi-year surface transportation reauthorization bill that provides stability and support of county transportation priorities including Projects of National Significance.

**Water Resources Development Act (WRDA)** – In addition to the reauthorization of the Act, DuPage County is seeking legislation to be named to the list of entities eligible for Section 219 funding under the 1992 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) that authorizes the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers to support a variety of water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects. Once designated, DuPage County would be eligible to apply for a variety of grant opportunities under Section 219.

### Maintain

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)** - DuPage County distributes millions of dollars annually in CDBG funds to support local non-profit agencies and municipal programs that directly benefit the county's elderly, disabled, families in crisis, and homeless population. Since 2010 Congress has reduced funding for CDBG by 16%, resulting in a drop from \$4.26 million to \$3.56 million for DuPage County, yet CDBG remains one of the few programs that returns tax dollars sent to Washington, D.C. back to our local communities in DuPage.

Now in its 40th year, CDBG is arguably one of the federal government's most successful domestic programs. CDBG provides assistance to low and moderate income persons and persons with special needs by supporting housing activities, public improvements and public services. With the assistance of CDBG funds (\$668,686), the county recently completed projects with three agencies that house and assist persons with special needs. These projects assist 26 individuals annually. Likewise, during the past two years Du Page County invested \$3 million to replace aging infrastructure in ten low income neighborhoods. These programs provide a direct benefit to DuPage County's elderly, people with disabilities, families in crisis and the homeless population that would not be possible without this federal-local partnership.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2015 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

**Income Tax Exemption for Municipal Bonds** - Municipal Bonds have been a critical source of capital for states and units of local government to finance, at a reasonable cost, vital public projects such as highway construction, water and sewer upgrades, bridge repairs, school construction, and other public works projects that spur job growth and economic development. Taxpayers also benefit when public purpose projects are financed at a lower cost.

In 2010, DuPage County adopted a \$67 million (30 year) bond program that included improvements to county highways, the county nursing home, sewer treatment plants, courthouse, and flood control facilities. Absent tax-exempt financing, this program would have cost DuPage County residents an additional \$17 million in financing costs over the term of the bond, a cost borne directly by local taxpayers (not the investor) who would pay the increased property tax or sales tax used to fund the debt. DuPage County opposes any attempts to repeal the tax exemption for municipal bonds that helps local economies create jobs and address the critical infrastructure needs of our communities.