



DU PAGE COUNTY

Legislative Committee

Final Summary

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
www.dupagecounty.gov

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

11:30 AM

Room 3500A

1. CALL TO ORDER

11:30 AM meeting was called to order by Chair DeSart at 11:30 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

Other Board Members present: Member Yena Yoo

Staff present: Conor McCarthy (Assistant State's Attorney - State's Attorney's Office), Craig Noll (Computer Technician - Information Technology), Sheryl Markay (Government Affairs Coordinator - County Board Office), Kate Kissane (Government Affairs Coordinator- County Board Office)

Public present: Jesse Guitierrez

PRESENT	Childress, DeSart, Galassi, Garcia, Ozog, and Schwarze
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3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A. 26-0346

Legislative Minutes - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, January 13, 2026

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Dawn DeSart
SECONDER:	Paula Garcia

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was received.

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS - CHAIR DESART

Chair DeSart thanked members for providing input on the Federal Legislative Agenda. She also invited the committee members to the Legislative Breakfast.

6. LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS

MOTION TO AMEND THE 2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Member Schwarze commented on the federal budget cuts and food insecurity, stressing the importance of school lunch programs. Government Affairs Coordinator Kate Kissane provided an update on where the federal funding stands now. Consensus was given by the committee members to add support for school lunch programs to the 2026 Federal Legislative Program.

Member Ozog mentioned some programs in other states that cover all breakfasts and all lunches for students, and inquired about where Illinois stands with programs like that. Government Affairs Coordinators Sheryl Markay and Kate Kissane recommended that instead of adding a new category to the program, that this support for school lunch funding initiatives could be added under a section that already exists.

Member Ozog moved and Member Schwarze seconded a motion to add language that supports funding for school lunches in Illinois to the 2026 Federal Legislative Program.

Motion to amend the 2026 Federal Legislative Program

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Mary Ozog
SECONDER:	Greg Schwarze

6.A. LEG-R-0002-26

Resolution Adopting the County's 2026 Federal Legislative Program

A roll call vote was taken to approve the 2026 Federal Legislative Agenda as amended above.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED
MOVER:	Dawn DeSart
SECONDER:	Paula Garcia
AYES:	Childress, DeSart, Garcia, Ozog, and Schwarze
NAY:	Galassi

7. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

8. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, this meeting was adjourned.



Minutes

421 N. COUNTY FARM
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File #: 26-0346

Agenda Date: 1/20/2026

Agenda #: 3.A.



DU PAGE COUNTY

Legislative Committee

Final Summary

421 N. COUNTY FARM ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
www.dupagecounty.gov

Tuesday, January 13, 2026

11:30 AM

Room 3500B

**** Or Immediately Following County Board ****

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by Chair Dawn DeSart at 12:35 PM.

2. ROLL CALL

Additional Board Member: Member Yeenah Yoo.

Staff Present: Mary Catherine Wells, Mary Keating, Kate Kissane, Sheryl Markay, Conor McCarthy.

Guests: Reilly O'Connor, Jesse Gutierrez.

Member Mary Ozog arrived at 12:37 PM after the first vote accepting the minutes.

PRESENT	Childress, DeSart, Garcia, and Schwarze
ABSENT	Galassi
LATE	Ozog

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A. 26-0250

Legislative Minutes - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, January 6, 2026

RESULT:	APPROVED
MOVER:	Dawn DeSart
SECONDER:	Paula Garcia

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jesse Gutierrez gave public comment regarding the 2026 State Legislative Program.

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS - CHAIR DESART

No remarks were offered.

6. PRESENTATION

6.A. Introduction to Reilly O'Connor with Lincoln Park Group

Chair DeSart introduced Reilly O'Connor with The Lincoln Group. Reilly shared with the committee his background and accomplishments. Chair DeSart asked a few questions to help the committee get to know him and his talents.

7. ACTION ITEMS**7.A. LEG-P-0001-26**

Recommendation for the approval of a County Contract to Lincoln Park Group LLC, to provide Consulting Services as Lobbyists representing DuPage County before the U.S. Congress and the Federal Executive Branch for DuPage County's Division of Transportation, Public Works, Stormwater Management and all other County departments and agencies, for the period of February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027, for the County Board, for a contract total amount not to exceed \$96,000. Other Professional Services not suitable for competitive bid per 55 ILCS 5/5-1022(c). Vendor selected pursuant to DuPage County Procurement Ordinance 2-353(1)(b).

RESULT:	APPROVED AND SENT TO FINANCE
MOVER:	Dawn DeSart
SECONDER:	Michael Childress

8. LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS**8.A. LEG-R-0001-26**

Resolution to Adopt the County's 2026 State Legislative Program

Member Childress suggested changing the word "residents". After discussion, the Committee agreed on "all individuals" to replace "residents". Member Ozog motioned to amend the language to be "all individuals", Chair DeSart seconded, the Committee had a voice vote of all ayes.

RESULT:	APPROVED AS AMENDED
MOVER:	Dawn DeSart
SECONDER:	Mary Ozog

9. OLD BUSINESS

The Committee was reminded to review the 2026 Federal agenda and provide their feedback to Kate Kissane as soon as possible.

10. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

11. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:07 PM.



Legislative Resolution

421 N. COUNTY FARM
ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187
www.dupagecounty.gov

File #: LEG-R-0002-26

Agenda Date: 1/20/2026

Agenda #: 17.C.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COUNTY'S 2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, members of the Legislative Committee have communicated with County elected officials and staff regarding the needs of County residents; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Committee has developed a legislative program consisting of a list of priorities for DuPage County to propose and support during the next session of the United States Congress (herein referred to as "2026 Federal Legislative Program" and attached which is incorporated by reference); and

WHEREAS, it is important for the County's 2026 Federal Legislative Program to be communicated to the public and to our elected officials; and

WHEREAS, County Board Rules provide that a legislative program and duties related thereto receive the advice and consent of a majority vote of the County Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED per the recommendation of the Legislative Committee, that the DuPage County Board does hereby advise and consent to the adoption of the attached 2026 Federal Legislative Program for DuPage County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that staff and the County's federal lobbyist are directed to work together with the County's congressional delegation to advance the 2026 Federal Legislative Program in Washington, D.C.

Enacted and approved this 27th day of January, 2026 at Wheaton, Illinois.

DEBORAH A. CONROY, CHAIR
DU PAGE COUNTY BOARD

Attest:

JEAN KACZMAREK, COUNTY CLERK



DUPAGE COUNTY

2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



Deborah A. Conroy, Chair, DuPage County Board

Dawn DeSart, Chair, Legislative Committee



DUPAGE COUNTY

2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



DuPage County, Illinois

Incorporated January 1, 1838

Cities located entirely or partly in DuPage:

Aurora, Batavia, Chicago, Darien, Elmhurst, Naperville, Oakbrook Terrace, St. Charles, Warrenville, West Chicago, Wheaton and Wood Dale

Villages located entirely or partly in DuPage:

Addison, Bartlett, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Bolingbrook, Burr Ridge, Carol Stream, Clarendon Hills, Downers Grove, Elk Grove Village, Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn, Hanover Park, Hinsdale, Itasca, Lemont, Lisle, Lombard, Oak Brook, Roselle, Schaumburg, Villa Park, Wayne, Westmont, Willowbrook, Winfield and Woodridge

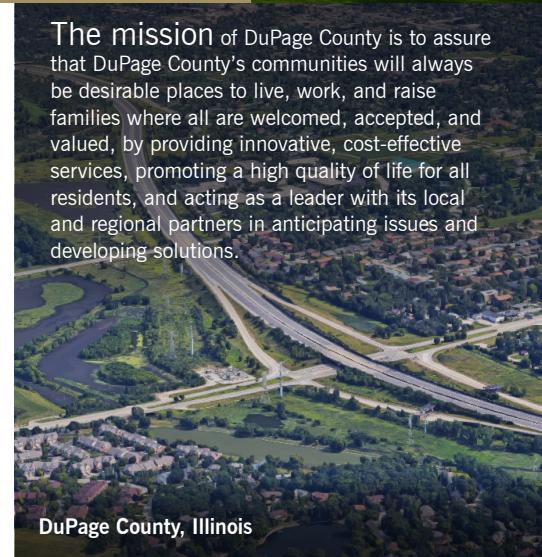
Unincorporated communities:

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

Townships:

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

The mission of DuPage County is to assure that DuPage County's communities will always be desirable places to live, work, and raise families where all are welcomed, accepted, and valued, by providing innovative, cost-effective services, promoting a high quality of life for all residents, and acting as a leader with its local and regional partners in anticipating issues and developing solutions.



DuPage County, Illinois

Demographic Information¹

- Population
- Total Population: 928,814
- Incorporated Population: 832,363
- Unincorporated Population: 96,451



Race, Ethnicity, Gender²

- 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 Attainment³

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



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
- 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 Information⁶

- County Revenue: \$523.0 million
- Sales Tax Revenue: \$138.0 million
- Property Tax Revenue: \$48.2 million
- Local Gas Tax Revenue: \$38.8 million
- Income Tax Revenue: \$16.4 million
- Funds on Hand: \$107.5 million



Economic Information⁸

- Unemployment Rate: 4.3%
- Number of Jobs: 654,386
- Office Space Vacancy Rate: 15.8%
- Industrial Space Vacancy Rate: 3.2%
- Bond rating: AAA⁹
- Housing Units: 344,314¹⁰
- Median Household Income: \$94,930¹¹



¹ ESRI/American Community Survey 2023

² ESRI/American Community Survey 2023

³ 2020 U.S. Census

⁴ There are 18 colleges and universities in DuPage County

⁵ DuPage GIS Map Book (2022)

⁶ DuPage County FY2026 Budget

⁷ 2025 County revenue minus Health Department tax levy

⁸ Choose DuPage 2024 statistics

⁹ Maintains AAA bond rating with all three rating agencies: Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch

¹⁰ 2020 U.S. Census

¹¹ 2020 U.S. Census



DUPAGE COUNTY

2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



DuPage County Board

Deborah A. Conroy

Chair, DuPage County Board
(630) 407-6060 • www.dupagecounty.gov/cobrd



District 1



Cindy Cronin Cahill

Elmhurst



Michael Childress

Bloomingdale



Sam Tornatore

Bloomingdale

District 4



Grant Eckhoff

Wheaton



Lynn LaPlante

Glen Ellyn



Mary Fitzgerald Ozog

Glen Ellyn

District 2



Paula Deacon Garcia

Lisle



Andrew Honig

Lombard



Yeena Yoo

Elmhurst

District 3



Lucy Chang Evans

Naperville



Kari Galassi

Hinsdale



Brian Krajewski

Downers Grove

District 5



Sadia Covert

Naperville



Dawn DeSart

Aurora



Saba Haider

Aurora

District 6



Melissa Martinez

West Chicago



Greg Schwarze

Carol Stream



James F. Zay

Carol Stream



DUPAGE COUNTY

2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Overview

DuPage County is the second-largest county in Illinois with more than 925,000 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), O'Hare International Airport and the DuPage Airport, 18 institutions of higher education, 300 miles of bikeways, and 23,000 acres of forest preserve property. More than 20 percent 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 all three major credit rating agencies, a designation shared by less than 2 percent of counties nationwide. County government also accounts for 2 percent of the average property tax bill.



DUPAGE COUNTY

2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



2026 Federal Legislative Priorities

- Immigration Reform
- Restoration of Affordable Care Act Subsidies
- Preserve the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)
- Increase funding of Community Development Programs
- Protect our Communities from Gun Violence
- Maintain Nutritional Benefits
- Oppose cuts to Child Care and Family Assistance Funding
- Support our Public Transportation Infrastructure
- Noise relief for Communities surrounding O'Hare
- Protect the Environmental Health of our Communities
- Support the Humane Treatment of our Animal Population
- Support County Capital Projects



DUPAGE COUNTY

2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Immigration Reform

Congress and the Administration need to act expeditiously to fix our outdated and broken immigration system that has not been updated since 1986.

The presence and recent activities of ICE officers (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) in our communities have fostered a climate of fear and intimidation, disrupted the lives of countless families, caused mental and physical stress, impeded access to jobs, school, legal, and medical services, and strained local economies.

DuPage County supports federal and state policies that ensure immigration enforcement respects due process, transparency, and constitutional protections, including limits on the use of masked or unidentified agents and militarized tactics in civilian settings. The county also opposes the use of public funds for immigration enforcement practices that undermine civil liberties or public safety, and support redirecting resources toward community-based public safety, legal protections, and accountability measures.

DuPage County urges the federal administration to cease ICE operations (unless there is a signed judicial warrant) and the racial and ethnic profiling of all individuals. Although counties lack the authority to change federal immigration laws, DuPage County will continue to create welcoming communities and to support our neighbors.

After decades of failure, DuPage County calls upon Congress to begin a bipartisan effort to reform our broken immigration system and to establish a clear, legal, fair, and achievable path to citizenship for individuals seeking to become U.S. citizens.

Restoration of Affordable Care Act Subsidies

To date, Congress has failed to extend subsidies for people buying health insurance under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) marketplace. The pandemic era enhanced tax credits, that reduced ACA premiums for low to medium income families, expired as of December 31, 2025.

Absent these federal subsidies, countless families, seniors and those with disabilities will be unable to afford health insurance. According to the DuPage Health Coalition, DuPage County enrollees in **Get Covered Illinois**, the state's ACA marketplace program, face an average premium increase of 71%. In addition to premium increases, deductibles, medication co-pays, and out of pocket maximums will also rise.

Last year, over 24 million Americans obtained health insurance through the ACA (including 550,000 Illinois residents), 93% of whom qualified for the eligible tax credits that helped reduce the cost of premiums. These subsidies reduced average premium costs by more than 50%, leading to record enrollment in 2024. Currently, the average premium cost for Illinois enrollees is \$260 per month that will increase to an estimated \$464 per month.



DUPAGE COUNTY

2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



The Congressional Budget Office predicts that without the subsidies, more than 4 million people would lose access to healthcare as they could no longer afford the cost of premiums.

DuPage County urges Congress to immediately restore these subsidies.

Preserve the Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act (WIOA)

DuPage County strongly opposes proposed cuts to WIOA job training programs for adults and youth that have been incredibly effective at lifting people out of poverty and reducing reliance on unemployment benefits and SNAP. On average, job seekers who complete the county's WIOA program experience wage gains of 61% and earn on average \$28.13 per hour or \$58,000 annually.

Our WIOA programs also benefit DuPage County employers, enhancing the job skills of more than 874 workers for companies such as Jel Sert, Pepperidge Farm, and Endeavor Health. DuPage Workforce development programs prepare our local workforce to meet the demands of a changing economy and focus on our key industry sectors including healthcare, transportation, logistics, information technology.

The proposed cuts to WIOA funding would eliminate services for over 400 local residents currently receiving grant services such as funding for educational costs or work-based learning experiences. Such cuts would likely close the workNet DuPage Career Center in Lisle that offers free workshops to thousands of job seekers on resume writing, interview skills, computer skills, career planning and access to an online job board.

DuPage County urges Congress to maintain funding of WIOA to strengthen America's workforce and to ensure our workers are prepared to meet the needs of key industry sectors now and in the future.

Increase funding of Community Development & Social Services Programs

DuPage County urges Congress to increase funding levels for several HUD programs, specifically the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the HOME Investment Partnership program.

The CDBG and HOME programs have been extremely effective federal block grant programs for improving the nation's crumbling infrastructure, expanding housing opportunities, and revitalizing neighborhoods. Despite the success of these programs, since 2000, funding for both programs has 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 2025, the county received \$3.7 million in CDBG and \$1.6 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)

Now in its 51st year, CDBG remains one of the few programs that returns control of Federal funds back to local communities and remains one of the federal government's most successful domestic programs. DuPage County distributes CDBG funds to municipalities and non-profit agencies to benefit low to



DUPAGE COUNTY

2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



moderate income people and neighborhoods by providing needed infrastructure improvements; public facilities for people with disabilities and other special needs populations; and to support public services such as case management and housing.

Projects supported with 2025 funding include: \$1.8 million to improve water mains in three communities and \$600,000 to improve streets in one community; \$219,472 for income eligible owner-occupied single-family housing rehabilitation throughout the County; and \$425,000 to support staffing for two non-profit agencies and the County's Housing Resource Unit providing support services for individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

HOME Investment Partnership Program

Provides an estimated \$1.6 million in annual funding for the acquisition, construction, or rehabilitation of affordable housing. These funds create and maintain suitable rental units for seniors, working families and those in need of supportive housing options. Additionally, these funds are used to provide rental assistance to clients working toward self-sufficiency

During 2025, the County committed funding for a development which will create 42 new affordable rental units for both working families and persons with disabilities. The County has also conditionally committed funding for another development which proposes to create 71 new affordable rental units for both seniors and individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG)

Provides an estimated \$287,000 in annual funding to address the housing and support needs of persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

LIHEAP (Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

Provides \$3.6 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 2024/2025, DuPage County processed just over 11,000 applications but the need was far greater as energy prices increased.

Community Services Block Grant (CSBG)

Provides \$1.3 million in annual funding to assist households at the federal poverty level. 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, credit repair and financial fitness by H.O.M.E. DuPage, nutrition and gardening programs operated by The Garden Works Project, and provides car seats and an infant pantry by Teen Parent Connection.



DUPAGE COUNTY

2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Protect our Communities from Gun Violence

DuPage County supports common-sense measures to end senseless acts of gun violence and protect all individuals, whether in-state or while traveling out-of-state. These measures include reinstating the federal ban on the sale of assault weapons and large capacity magazines; closing dangerous gaps in our background check system; supporting regulations that prohibit modification of handguns or accessories that make firearms more deadly; supporting safe gun storage legislation; increasing the penalties for modification of a handgun, or any crime committed with a gun; strengthening requirements for gun shops to ensure gun sales are done responsibly; and supporting the funding and authority of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the federal agency tasked with enforcing our gun laws.

We also urge the administration and Congress to reinstate the Office of Gun Violence Prevention and funding for community-based prevention and reduction programs, such as the community violence intervention funding, funding for school mental health resources, and domestic violence assistance programs. These programs assisted local organizations with reducing and preventing violent crime and helped victims of gun violence.

Maintain Nutritional Benefits

As we strive to build a just and compassionate society in which no individual goes hungry, DuPage County has worked collaboratively with the State of Illinois and our non-profit organizations to ensure equitable access to nutritious food for vulnerable populations including children, seniors, the disabled, and low-income families.

According to Impact DuPage, 10% of DuPage County residents experience food insecurity, (defined as limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods), with 76,000 DuPage County residents receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. The SNAP program helps over 42 million Americans purchase food each month, with 70% of participants being elderly, disabled, or children. During the recent federal shutdown, SNAP benefits were paused in early November of 2025 before full benefits were restored later that month.

Since the onset of COVID-19, DuPage County has done its part to address food insecurity, allocating \$19.5 million to support the Northern Illinois Food Bank and community food pantries to distribute fresh produce and other essential commodities. The county has also made substantial capital investments in our food infrastructure, purchasing items such as refrigerated vans, additional freezer and refrigeration capacity, and other vital equipment to enhance the efficiency of local pantries.

DuPage County urges Congress and the federal administration to maintain SNAP benefits that help alleviate hunger and poverty among our most vulnerable residents. Additionally, DuPage County supports the continuation and full restoration of child nutrition programs, such as the Patrick Leahy Farm to Table program, and those which provide universal school nutritional services to children.



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2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Oppose Cuts to Child Care and Family Assistance Funding

The federal administration just announced that it has frozen access to certain federal childcare and family assistance funds for five states including Illinois, totaling \$10 billion. This action affects funding under the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG).

The CCDF supports families with low incomes to afford childcare, facilitating parental employment, training, and education to improve the economic condition of families. TANF is a temporary financial assistance program that supports low-income families with children. Currently, 2,025 county residents receive TANF. The SSBG supports vulnerable populations including developmental disability services, family support, employment services to low-income families, assistance for youth and at-risk families and programs to prevent abuse and neglect.

The loss of these funds will have a devastating impact on our children and families statewide. DuPage County strongly opposes these cuts and calls upon the federal administration and Congress to immediately restore these critical funds.

Support our Public Transportation Infrastructure

A viable and accessible public transportation system benefits our regional economy, eases traffic congestion, reduces air pollution, improves fuel efficiency, and increases community mobility. Public transit in particular is essential for lower-income households who often have no access to a vehicle and rely solely on public transit to travel to work, school, medical appointments, and other daily necessities.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, the federal government has long provided significant financial support for public transportation. During the coronavirus pandemic when ridership drastically declined, negatively impacting farebox revenue, a major source of funding for transit operations, Congress provided billions in emergency relief funding to transit agencies (\$70 billion onetime supplemental funding in 2020 and 2021) and in 2022, enacted the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), which increased the federal government's annual support for public transit through early 2026. These funds should be continued and protected.

While traditional transit ridership levels continue to increase, demand for paratransit services for the disabled and seniors has increased significantly. The County requests federal support for demand responsive services that serve transit dependent populations.

Transit agencies across the nation will also need federal support to begin the fleet transition to zero-emissions vehicles. The Pace suburban bus agency has announced its commitment to operating 100% zero emission vehicles by 2040 at a cost of over \$1 billion.

Although the Illinois General Assembly adopted in November a comprehensive transit reform measure that secured a number of revenue sources to support the operations of the region's three transit



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2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



agencies, specific funding of capital infrastructure projects including expanded service remains a challenge.

DuPage County joins our regional partners to ask the federal government to:

1. **Prioritize Transit Funding.** Transit agencies have significant infrastructure repair and rolling stock replacement backlogs, in addition to the cost of retrofitting buses to electric. Congress should also reauthorize innovative small transit funding for innovative services.
2. **Capital Projects.** Federal funding is needed for capital projects that address the state of good repair, especially railroad bridge repair backlogs that affect transit and freight operations.
3. **Develop MFT Replacement Funding.** Develop innovative funding mechanisms, such as a national per-mile road usage charge and a federal freight transportation fee in the long term. Support authorization of resources to state and local pilot projects that test new technologies for calculating usage and developing equitable pricing models.
4. **Enable Tolling on Interstate System.** Provide greater flexibility for states and regions to impose user fees by removing federal restrictions on tolling the interstate system and removing interstate system restrictions on commercial activity.
5. **Prioritize Development of EV Charging Infrastructure.** Plan and implement electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure along major interstate routes for personal and commercial purposes.
6. **Americans with Disabilities Act and Public Streets.** Formally adopt ADA and PROWAG (Public Right of Way Accessibility Guidelines) standards. Provide states, counties, and cities with funding to accelerate conversion of legacy infrastructure to new standards.

In addition to support of a viable transportation system, DuPage County joins the National Association of Counties (NACo), the National League of Cities (NLC) and the U.S. Conference of Mayors (USCM), in opposition to any increases to heavy truck size and weight limits. Beyond public safety concerns, a major problem for local governments and taxpayers is the damage these heavier trucks and tractor trailers inflict on our roads and bridges and the resulting financial burden. We urge Congress to consider the impacts of heavy trucks on our roadways and bridges, already in need of repair, and oppose any legislation to increase heavy truck size and weight.

Noise Relief for Communities Surrounding O'Hare

O'Hare International Airport remains one of the busiest airports in the world and in 2024, the O'Hare Noise Hotline received more than 42,800 noise related complaints. To date, under the O'Hare Residential & School Sound Insulation Program, 3,600 homes in DuPage County and 27 schools have been soundproofed. Under the new Environmental Analysis resulting from the OHARE21 program, the 65 decibel DNL now expands west into Itasca and unincorporated DuPage, which results in an additional 646 homes that are eligible for remediation. Thousands of DuPage County residents continue to be negatively affected by noise pollution and public health concerns living under the footprint of O'Hare. DuPage County urges Congress, the FAA, and the City of Chicago to expand its mitigation program to include additional homes to offer some measure of relief to impacted residents on the west side of O'Hare.



DUPAGE COUNTY

2026 FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



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. DuPage County advocates that Congress pursues 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. DuPage also supports efforts to reduce Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) in products, drinking water, soil and in the overall environment. These chemicals are commonly called "forever chemicals" due to their long-term persistence in the environment and health impacts range from developmental effects in children to increased risk of certain types of cancers.

Natural Hazards and Extreme Weather Events

Advocate for proactive, climate-resilient stormwater management to protect citizens, businesses, and natural resources from the increasing impacts of extreme weather and flooding. Implementing advanced stormwater strategies is essential to mitigating flood risks, preserving water quality, and enhancing the resilience of our communities. By investing in sustainable infrastructure and conserving natural habitats, we can help secure the long-term health and safety of our communities, strengthen local ecosystems, and safeguard against the challenges posed by a variable climate.

Clean Drinking Water

Continue to prioritize and fund the EPA's water & wastewater infrastructure finance programs. The implementation of water and wastewater infrastructure improvements is critical to maintaining future compliance with the Clean Water Act. Continuing to invest in water infrastructure will ensure funding for necessary projects such as lead service lines, reducing polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS), Phosphorous & Nitrogen reduction within our waterways, and address the mitigating effects of climate change.

Recycling, Composting and Packaging

EPA efforts to reduce food waste and food scrap composting should be continued and enhanced. Food waste makes up 20% of waste that is landfilled and contributes 58% of greenhouse gas emissions from landfills. More accurate, less confusing and consistent labeling of food is projected to reduce 8% of food waste. EPA investment in digesters, compost facilities coupled with market development for finished compost would support this critical greenhouse gas contributor while supporting the economy and new jobs. Packaging contributes to the increasing waste stream entering landfills and also impacts the livelihood of successful recycling programs. Investment in material recovery centers and recycling is encouraged. A healthy recycling industry supports new jobs and the economy.

Clean Energy & Clean Transportation

Federal action that supports energy from clean renewable sources would greatly benefit DuPage County residents. Emissions in the region are as follows: Industry 36%, Buildings 35% and Transportation 26%. The County contributes 7.0% of the greenhouse gas emissions in the Chicago Metropolitan Statistical Area. The region is home to several data centers that have an increasing demand for the electrical supply. Investment in long-term clean energy projects and cleaner transportation would ensure that residents and businesses have reliable access to energy and cleaner air. Federal grant funding or



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earmarks would help the county address portions of its highway and stormwater network that are highly vulnerable to flooding or climate factors.

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.

Last year, over 2,500 animals entered DuPage County Animal Services, some surrendered due to illness or significant behavioral problems as many were sourced from commercial breeding facilities. Even though Illinois is one of seven states with retail pet sale (puppy mill) bans, there are still an estimated 10,000 puppy mills nationwide, with the majority located in the Midwest. Animals from these facilities often live in poor sanitary conditions, lack adequate veterinary care and socialization, resulting in sick and unwanted animals that end up in the County's animal shelter.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is charged with ensuring that animals raised in commercial breeding facilities are protected against harm and neglect by conducting inspections and issuing penalties and fines for noncompliance. According to the Humane Society of the U.S., the current licensing process for commercial breeders, circuses, petting zoos, and other animal dealers is broken and perpetuates the inhumane treatment of countless animals. The USDA recently removed from its website thousands of inspection reports, continues to routinely renew licenses even if violations exist, announces inspections ahead of time, and fails to enforce proper animal welfare standards.

The Animal Welfare Enforcement Improvement Act (H.R. 3859), introduced during the 118th Congress, seeks to revise the USDA licensing process for animal dealers and exhibitors, expand the agency's oversight and enforce animal welfare requirements. The bill also authorizes the USDA to suspend the licenses of dealers or exhibitors whose violations present a risk to animal welfare among other provisions.

DuPage County supports this legislation and other measures at the federal and state level to provide for the humane treatment of our animals.

Support County Capital Projects

DuPage County is responsible for a sizeable portion of our local infrastructure including the operation of seventeen countywide flood control facilities, 220 miles of highways, and 92 miles of multi-use trails. Additionally, DuPage County operates the DuPage Care Center, the County Jail, the 18th Judicial Circuit Court, the DuPage Animal Shelter, and the provision of water and sewer services to over 200,000 DuPage residents.



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Annually, the county updates its *DuPage County Capital Improvement Plan* that includes critical Flood Control, Transportation, County Campus, Environmental, and Water & Sewer projects. Once completed, these initiatives would reduce flooding for homeowners and businesses, relieve traffic congestion, enhance public health and safety, and improve water quality for the county's almost one million residents.

To view the county's complete list of projects by district, please visit: www.dupagecapitalplan.com