



DUPAGECOUNTY

2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



Deborah A. Conroy, Chair, DuPage County Board
Dawn DeSart, Chair, Legislative Committee



DUPAGE COUNTY



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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:

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 Revenue⁷: \$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



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DuPage County Board

Deborah A. Conroy

Chair, DuPage County Board
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Jack T. Knuepfer Administration Building

District 1



Cindy Cronin Cahill
Elmhurst



Michael Childress
Bloomington



Sam Tornatore
Bloomington

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 4



Grant Eckhoff
Wheaton



Lynn LaPlante
Glen Ellyn



Mary FitzGerald Ozog
Glen Ellyn

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



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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), 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.



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2026 State Legislative Priorities

- **Ensure access to mental health and substance use treatment**
Provide full Medicaid reimbursement for all behavioral health crisis services, eliminate barriers to care, and mitigate the impact of the loss of federal subsidies under the Affordable Care Act.
- **Expand Housing Opportunities**
Foster the creation of new housing units by providing DuPage County with the tools necessary to develop more affordable housing options to help families and seniors remain in their communities.
- **Support our Immigrant Community**
Urge the federal administration to halt the ethnic and racial profiling of all individuals by ICE and to immediately reform the nation's broken immigration system.
- **Keeping our communities safe**
Protect our residents, especially children, from injury and death through continued public education and awareness campaigns, gun safety storage provisions, and stronger tools to ensure those who violate gun laws are held accountable. We also need to give judges more discretion in detaining those who are a threat to our communities.
- **Allocate a Fair Share of Income Tax Revenues**
Provide counties and municipalities with its fair share of income tax proceeds through the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) that supports the delivery of critical local government services to residents.
- **Strengthen Economic Development Efforts**
Support initiatives that grow economic development and build opportunities for expansion within our state and region.
- **Address Food Insecurity**
Enact innovative strategies to help eliminate hunger statewide and expand access to healthy, nutritious food.
- **Protecting the Environment**
Support measures that divert waste from our landfills including food scraps and household hazardous waste products.
- **State Support of 211 DuPage**
Provide funds to continue this free non-emergency helpline that assists residents to locate critical services such as food, clothing, housing, and utility assistance 24/7.



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- **Care for our Animal Population**
Advocate for our animal population by closing the loophole that permits a handful of pet stores to continue to source animals from puppy mills and support measures that eliminate barriers to pet ownership.
- **Capital Projects**
Support county infrastructure projects to reduce flooding, relieve traffic congestion, and enhance the public health and safety of the county's over 900,000 residents.



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Ensure Access to Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment

There continues to be a growing need for mental health and substance use treatment across the nation.

According to Mental Health America, in 2024, 23.4% of U.S. adults (an estimated 60 million people) experienced mental illness, 17.7% had a substance use disorder (46 million people), and 5.5% of adults reported experiencing serious thoughts of suicide (14 million people). For youth ages 12 to 17, 11.3% experienced a major depressive episode and nearly 3 million had frequent thoughts of suicide.

Access to care, cost, insurance, and shortages of professionals continue to act as barriers to treatment. The DuPage County Health Department has identified three key issues the State of Illinois needs to address in order to expand access to care.

1. Medicaid Coverage of “A Safe Place for Help” in a Behavioral Health Crisis

The DuPage County Health Department is leading the way in establishing “a safe place for help” for someone in a behavioral health crisis by opening in 2025 the **Crisis Recovery Center (CRC)**. The CRC offers immediate appropriate crisis care from behavioral health professionals, crisis counselors, and people with lived expertise, as well as a warm hand-off to post-crisis services, support for children 5 years of age and older, adults experiencing a mental health crisis, and adults in substance use crisis.

Prior to the opening of the CRC, the most common places for a person in a mental health or substance use crisis was a hospital emergency room (ER) or entering the criminal legal system. For someone experiencing a behavioral crisis, ERs generally are not equipped to provide immediate, compassionate, and effective care to stabilize the individual. Studies show that wait times for treatment in an ER are three times longer for someone in a behavioral health crisis than for other patients because ERs are not equipped to treat these individuals.

However, Medicaid reimbursement does not pay for all the services offered by the CRC in a sustainable way. ***Full Medicaid reimbursement through a per diem rate for all behavioral health crisis services provided by the CRC is needed to enable sustainability.***

2. Eliminate Barriers to Care Following a Behavioral Health Crisis

Illinois’ Medicaid program requires a mental health assessment at the time of a behavioral health crisis and then another, more lengthy assessment to begin post-crisis services such as therapy or other supportive services. ***To enable more timely connection to care following a crisis, the initial mental health assessment done at the time of the crisis should enable most mental health services for up to 30 days before another assessment is required.***

3. Access to Affordable Healthcare Coverage

The U.S. Congress passed H.R. 1 in July 2025. H.R. 1 made substantial cuts to Medicaid and to tax subsidies that make Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace health plans more affordable. Illinois must now implement these federal cuts, which are expected to result in the loss of health coverage for hundreds of thousands of Illinoisans. These federal cuts will make mental health and substance use



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treatment far more difficult to access for people with serious conditions. ***Mitigating as much harm as possible is critical in implementing H.R. 1 in Illinois.***

It is imperative that the State of Illinois invests the resources necessary to ensure every resident receives the appropriate level of mental health and substance use treatment.

Expand Housing Opportunities

In DuPage County there is an urgent need for more attainable housing options for the “missing middle,” middle-income earners including essential workers, senior citizens, and young adults who want to remain in their communities as well as families seeking to purchase their first homes. Homeownership in particular creates and sustains generational wealth, supports long-term financial stability, and spurs local economic growth.

It is estimated that DuPage County faces a shortage of over 16,000 affordable rental units with more than 20% of renters allocating more than half of their income to rental costs. Initial studies have identified three key barriers to workforce housing development in unincorporated areas of the county including;

- land availability,
- zoning complexities, and
- regulatory costs.

In response to this shortage, DuPage County established in 2023 an Ad Hoc Housing Solutions Committee to focus on the many aspects of affordable housing including defining affordability, evaluating the impact of local policies on development, and analyzing potential solutions. To date, the county has allocated \$10 million to support the work of the committee.

The cost of living in DuPage County is higher than the national average, primarily due to rising housing costs and high property taxes. The average rent in DuPage County is estimated at \$1,962 per month and according to Impact DuPage, the median mortgage payment is \$2,443 per month.

According to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the median family income in 2025 for the Chicago-Joliet-Naperville Area was \$119,900 (for a family of four). As a non-home rule county, DuPage County is seeking legislative authority to acquire property, to enter into agreements to transfer real property, to donate, lease below market rate or sell below market rate, real property to establish a Land Bank and support a Community Land Trust to assist persons ***who earn up to 150%*** of area median income (AMI). Currently, the county may only serve populations with household incomes up to 80% of the AMI (for a family of four, \$95,900).

Passage of this legislation would enable DuPage County to expand housing opportunities for middle-class working families by repurposing vacant, under-utilized, abandoned, tax delinquent, and deteriorated properties to either rental units or single-family homes.



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Support our Immigrant Community

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 the constitutional rights of all individuals to receive due process, legal representation, and equal protection under the law. DuPage County urges the federal administration to cease ICE operations (unless there is a signed judicial warrant) and the racial and ethnic profiling of law-abiding individuals. DuPage County encourages the state of Illinois to adopt legislation prohibiting ICE officers' use of masks or neck gaiters while interacting with the public.

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.

Keeping our Communities Safe

Public safety remains a top concern for residents who want to live and work in a safe and secure environment. Over the years, DuPage County has worked collaboratively with law enforcement, the state's attorney's office, and community organizations to invest in crime prevention and restorative justice programs, establishing alternatives to traditional prosecution including the creation of a Drug Court, Veteran's Court, and a Mental Illness Court Alternative program, and creation of a Victim Services Unit to advocate and support victims of crime.

DuPage County supports state legislation that will help keep our communities safe and protect our residents from injury through additional public education and gun safety awareness campaigns, gun storage provisions, and stronger tools to ensure those who violate gun laws are held accountable. We also support legislation that would provide judges with more discretion to detain those who may be a threat to our community.

Allocate a Fair Share of Income Tax Revenues

Monies allocated under the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF), established in 1969 when the State of Illinois enacted an income tax, does not represent a "grant" from the State but rather a small share of income taxes paid by county residents (unincorporated) and municipal residents (incorporated) that are returned on a per capita basis to local governments to support critical services.

Under the original agreement with the State, units of local government received a 10% share of the total state income tax revenues through LGDF which continued until 2011, when the State instituted a temporary income tax increase but failed to share the corresponding (increased) portion with local governments, thus reducing the county and municipal share to 6%. In 2017, the state income tax was



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permanently increased, and the local government share was subsequently reduced to 5.45% for individual income tax collections and 6.16% for corporate income tax collections for state fiscal year 2018.

Over the past five years, there have been a few minor increases in the share of LGDF revenues received to the present distribution rate of 6.47% of individual income tax collections and 6.85% of corporate income tax collections. Currently, DuPage County receives \$17.5 million in LGDF revenues annually.

DuPage County urges the General Assembly to continue to build towards the restoration of LGDF to the agreed upon 10% share of income tax proceeds.

Strengthen Economic Development Efforts

DuPage County is home to more than 630,000 workers and 96,000 businesses. With the close proximity of O'Hare and Midway international Airports, DuPage supports initiatives that support a thriving economy, attracting local, national and global clients. DuPage County's location at the transportation crossroads of the nation, with the four major interstates and an extensive rail freight system brings commerce to and through our County.

DuPage supports initiatives that will continue to produce highly trained and skilled workers that our businesses need to grow and answer the needs of emerging industries. We also support the continued work of the Illinois Economic Development Corporation to attract global investment in our state and region. DuPage promotes a thriving ecosystem that encourages investment and supports efforts to enrich and expand our business sectors, especially in the areas of healthcare, technology, manufacturing, transportation, distribution and logistics.

Address Food Insecurity

As we strive to build a just and compassionate society in which no individual goes hungry, the State of Illinois, local governments, and our non-profit organizations continue to collaborate 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. Since the onset of COVID-19, DuPage County has allocated \$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 is requesting the State of Illinois offer additional financial assistance to support innovative solutions at the local level to help alleviate hunger such as the Hub & Spoke Model ("HUB 2.0") utilized by the Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry to more efficiently store, process, and distribute food and to establish a "farm to table" pilot program to help schools and food banks purchase fresh produce and meats from local farmers (to replace programs recently eliminated by the USDA).



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Together, we need to address food insecurity statewide and consider strategies that promote and incentivize local food production, bolster community-based programs, streamline the distribution process, and maximize collectively our efforts to eliminate hunger and foster a society where every individual can thrive.

Protecting the Environment

One of government's primary responsibilities is to protect the environmental health of its citizens by ensuring residents have access to clean air, land, and water. DuPage County supports measures that decrease our carbon footprint (per our Cool DuPage program), reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and expand the recycling and reuse of materials.

According to the U.S. EPA, landfills are the third-largest source of methane emissions from human activities and long-term, methane is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Not only is it estimated that 40% of food produced is wasted, food scraps comprise 24% of landfill waste and generate 58% of methane emissions. DuPage County supports the establishment of a statewide food scrap management infrastructure program and initiatives that divert food waste from landfills to reduce methane emissions and increase the availability of food for human consumption.

The improper disposal of leftover household products such as cleaners, pesticides, paint removers and pool chemicals, can pose serious environmental risks when stored in garages, basements, sheds, or tossed into landfills. To date, the cost of household hazardous waste (HHW) collection programs has been disproportionately borne by state and local governments, with limited or no access to HHW facilities in many areas of the state.

DuPage County supports the establishment of an Extended Producer Responsibility Program to require manufacturers to share in the cost to responsibly dispose of waste from its products, and to increase the number of household hazardous waste facilities statewide to improve access for consumers.

State Support of 211 DuPage

211 DuPage connects DuPage County residents to essential health and human services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This free, non-emergency number connects residents with a trained specialist who can help locate services including housing, food, clothing, utility assistance, health, education services, and more. Residents may also text their zip code to 898211 to connect with services in their area.

Since its inception in 2022, DuPage County has funded this vital information/referral program with revenues from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) which will no longer be an available source of revenue as of September 2026.

As a member of 211 Illinois, DuPage County is requesting \$5 million to continue this vital service for all counties in the State.



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Care for our Animal Population

DuPage County Animal Services (DCAS) operates an open admission shelter located in Wheaton that cares for the community's lost, homeless, stray, injured, neglected, sick, abandoned or surrendered animals. Last year, almost 2,500 animals entered the facility, with an estimated 40% being surrendered due to the rising costs of food, veterinary care, and high fees charged by some rental companies. The current economic downturn is leading to crowded shelters nationwide and making pet adoption unaffordable for many families.

Although it may be appropriate to assess reasonable fees for extra cleaning or for specific pet-related damage, many rental (housing) companies charge exorbitant non-refundable pet fees (of \$500 or more) and hundreds of dollars in monthly pet rent that causes some owners to surrender their pets. DuPage County supports legislation to cap the fees charged by rental companies that currently act as a barrier to pet ownership.

DuPage County also supports legislation to close the current loophole in the Illinois Humane Pet Store Law adopted in 2021 to ban the sale of dogs or cats sourced from commercial breeding facilities (puppy mills). Despite passage of this landmark legislation, (5) retail facilities continue to operate in the State due to an unclear definition of "dog dealer" under the Illinois Agriculture Act.

DuPage County urges the General Assembly to close this loophole and to oppose any attempts to weaken or repeal the Illinois Humane Pet Store Law.

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.

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