



# DU PAGE COUNTY

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

## Legislative Committee

### Final-revised Regular Meeting Agenda

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Tuesday, January 13, 2026

11:30 AM

Room 3500B

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A. [26-0250](#)

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

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

5. CHAIR'S REMARKS - CHAIR DESART

6. PRESENTATION

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

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).

8. LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS

8.A. [LEG-R-0001-26](#)

Resolution to Adopt the County's 2026 State Legislative Program

9. OLD BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. ADJOURNMENT



# Minutes

421 N. COUNTY FARM  
ROAD  
WHEATON, IL 60187  
[www.dupagecounty.gov](http://www.dupagecounty.gov)

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**File #:** 26-0250

**Agenda Date:** 1/13/2026

**Agenda #:** 3.A.

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# DU PAGE COUNTY

## Legislative Committee

### Final Summary

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

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**Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

**11:30 AM**

**Room 3500A**

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Legislative meeting was called to order by Chair Dawn DeSart at 11:40 AM.

**2. ROLL CALL**

Guests: Jesse Gutierrez and Victoria Lukan.

Staff present: Evan Shields, Kate Kissane, Sheryl Markay, Mary Keating, Dennis Brennan, Conor McCarthy.

Additional County Board Members present: Member Yoo.

<b>PRESENT</b>	Childress, DeSart, Galassi, Garcia, and Schwarze
<b>ABSENT</b>	Ozog

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3.A. [25-1943](#)

Legislative Minutes - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, June 10, 2025

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dawn DeSart
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michael Childress

3.B. [25-1944](#)

Legislative Minutes - Regular Meeting - Tuesday, August 12, 2025

<b>RESULT:</b>	APPROVED
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dawn DeSart
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michael Childress

**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comments were offered.

**5. CHAIR'S REMARKS - CHAIR DESART**

Chair DeSart shared:

Happy New Year and Go Bears!

Our Federal lobbyist, Greg Bales, is leaving McGuireWoods whose contract is up at the end of January. Instead of continuing with McGuireWoods, Chair Conroy has put forth Reilly O'Connor with Lincoln Park Group. The approval on this contract will be on the 1/13/2026 Legislative agenda.

The State Legislature reconvenes on 1/13/2026 for the Senate and the House on 1/20/2026. The Governor's budget address is scheduled for 2/18/2026.

The Federal government ended 2025 without addressing its two most pressing political issues:  
How to fund the government beyond 1/30/26.  
How to address the expired tax credits for the Affordable Care Act to help with insurance premiums.

## 6. LEGISLATIVE PROGRAMS

### 6.A. [LEG-R-0001-26](#)

Resolution to Adopt the County's 2026 State Legislative Program

Member Galassi asked that a section on Economic Development and Public Safety be added to the DuPage County State agenda including modifications to the SAFE-T Act to give judges more discretion. Member Galassi added she would like to include language to address increasing LGDF funding and language on the Federal scholarship tax credit that the Governor needs to opt into in order to be eligible to receive Federal tax credits from the Federal government. She also proposed changes to the Support our Immigrant Community section. There was discussion regarding these topics.

Member Yoo brought language asking to amend page 5 of the 2026 draft State Legislative program to add a new state legislative priority including:

-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 ensure those who violate gun law are held accountable.

Member Deacon Garcia made a motion to amend using the above language, Chair DeSart seconded and the Committee voted all Ayes in a voice vote.

More discussion and questions were had surrounding the DuPage County State agenda. The Committee was asked to get all of their additions and suggestions to Kate Kissane by 1/7/2026. Kate will then send out a new draft DuPage County State agenda for the Committee to review and respond to by 1/8/2026.

LEG-R-0001-26 was postponed until 1/13/2026. Motioned by Chair DeSart, 2nd by Member Childress and all Ayes in a voice vote.

<b>RESULT:</b>	TABLED
<b>MOVER:</b>	Dawn DeSart
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Michael Childress

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed.

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:14 PM.



## Legislative Purchase Requisition

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

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**File #:** LEG-P-0001-26

**Agenda Date:** 1/13/2026

**Agenda #:** 7.A.

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AWARDING RESOLUTION TO  
LINCOLN PARK GROUP LLC  
FOR CONSULTING SERVICES AS LOBBYISTS  
(COUNTY COST: \$96,000)

WHEREAS, an agreement has been negotiated in accordance with County Board policy; and

WHEREAS, the Legislative Committee recommends County Board approval for the issuance of a Contract to Lincoln Park Group, LLC, to provide Consulting Services as Lobbyists for projects 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 February 1, 2026, through January 31, 2027, for the DuPage County Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that County Contract covering said, to provide Consulting Services as Lobbyists for projects before the U.S. Congress and the Federal Executive Branch, for DuPage County's Division of Transportation, Public Works and Stormwater Management, for the period February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2027, for the DuPage County Board, be, and it is hereby approved for issuance of a Contract by the Procurement Division to Lincoln Park Group, LLC, 3212 17<sup>th</sup> Street NE, Washington, DC 20018, for a contract total not to exceed \$96,000.00.

Enacted and approved this 27<sup>th</sup> of January, 2026 at Wheaton, Illinois.

\_\_\_\_\_  
DEBORAH A. CONROY, CHAIR  
DU PAGE COUNTY BOARD

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
JEAN KACZMAREK, COUNTY CLERK



**Procurement Review Comprehensive Checklist**  
**Procurement Services Division**  
 This form must accompany all Purchase Order Requisitions

**SECTION 1: DESCRIPTION**

<i>General Tracking</i>		<i>Contract Terms</i>	
FILE ID#: LEG-P-0001-26	RFP, BID, QUOTE OR RENEWAL #:	INITIAL TERM WITH RENEWALS: 1 YR + 1 X 1 YR TERM PERIOD	INITIAL TERM TOTAL COST: \$96,000.00
COMMITTEE: LEGISLATIVE	TARGET COMMITTEE DATE: 01/06/2026	PROMPT FOR RENEWAL:	CONTRACT TOTAL COST WITH ALL RENEWALS: \$96,000.00
	CURRENT TERM TOTAL COST: \$96,000.00	MAX LENGTH WITH ALL RENEWALS: ONE YEAR	CURRENT TERM PERIOD: INITIAL TERM
<i>Vendor Information</i>		<i>Department Information</i>	
VENDOR: Lincoln Park Group	VENDOR #: 47590	DEPT: County Board	DEPT CONTACT NAME: Evan Shields and Kate Kissane
VENDOR CONTACT: Reilly O'Connor	VENDOR CONTACT PHONE: (202) 384-4442	DEPT CONTACT PHONE #: Evan 6022 Kate 6038	DEPT CONTACT EMAIL: Evan.Shields@dupagecounty.gov Kate.Kissane@dupagecounty.gov
VENDOR CONTACT EMAIL: reilly@lincolnparkgroup.com	VENDOR WEBSITE: LincolnParkGroup.com	DEPT REQ #:	
<i>Overview</i>			
DESCRIPTION Identify scope of work, item(s) being purchased, total cost and type of procurement (i.e., lowest bid, RFP, renewal, sole source, etc.). Identify scope of work, item(s) being purchased, total cost and type of procurement (i.e., lowest bid, RFP, renewal, sole source, etc.). Consulting Services as a lobbyist representing DuPage County before the federal government, specifically Congress and the Executive Branch. Not to exceed \$96,000.00. \$20,000 from County Board, \$30,000 from DOT, \$30,000 from Stormwater and \$16,000 from Public Works.			
JUSTIFICATION Summarize why this procurement is necessary and what objectives will be accomplished To assist with the development and execution of the County's federal legislative program, to educate and inform the County's Congressional Delegation of the County's priorities and goals, to arrange meetings with lawmakers, to identify federal funding opportunities, and to provide regular updates on pending federal issues.			

**SECTION 2: DECISION MEMO REQUIREMENTS**

DECISION MEMO NOT REQUIRED	Select an item from the following dropdown menu to identify why a Decision Memo (Section 3) is not required.
DECISION MEMO REQUIRED	Select an item from the following dropdown menu to identify why a Decision Memo (Section 3) is required.
OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES (DETAIL SELECTION PROCESS ON DECISION MEMO)	

**SECTION 3: DECISION MEMO**

SOURCE SELECTION	Describe method used to select source. Professional Services selection
RECOMMENDATION AND TWO ALTERNATIVES	Describe staff recommendation and provide justification. Identify at least 2 other options to accomplish this request, including status quo, (i.e., take no action). 1. Selection of Lincoln Park Group (staff recommendation) 2. Selection of other entity 3. Selection of no entity

## SECTION 4: SOLE SOURCE MEMO/JUSTIFICATION

<b>JUSTIFICATION</b>	Select an item from the following dropdown menu to justify why this is a sole source procurement.
<b>NECESSITY AND UNIQUE FEATURES</b>	Describe the product or services that are not available from other vendors. Explain necessary and unique features or services. Attach letters from manufacturer, letters from distributor, warranties, licenses, or patents as needed. Be specific.
<b>MARKET TESTING</b>	List and describe the last time the market has been tested on the applicability of the sole source. If it has not been tested over the last 12 months, explain why not.
<b>AVAILABILITY</b>	Describe steps taken to verify that these features are not available elsewhere. Included a detailed list of all products or services by brand/manufacturer examined and include names, phone numbers, and emails of people contacted.

## SECTION 5: Purchase Requisition Information

<i>Send Purchase Order To:</i>		<i>Send Invoices To:</i>	
Vendor: Lincoln Park Group	Vendor#: 47590	Dept: County Board	Division:
Attn: Reilly O'Connor	Email: reilly@lincolnparkgroup.com	Attn: Evan Shields and Kate Kissane	Email: Evan.Shields@dupagecounty.gov Kate.Kissane@dupagecounty.gov
Address: 3212 17th Street NE	City: Washington, DC	Address: 421 N. County Farm Rd	City: Wheaton
State: Washington, DC	Zip: 20018	State: IL	Zip: 60187
Phone: (202) 384-4442	Fax:	Phone: 630-407-6023	Fax:
<i>Send Payments To:</i>		<i>Ship to:</i>	
Vendor: Lincoln Park Group	Vendor#: 47590	Dept:	Division:
Attn: Same as above	Email: Same as above	Attn:	Email:
Address: Same as above	City:	Address:	City:
State:	Zip:	State:	Zip:
Phone:	Fax:	Phone:	Fax:
<b>Shipping</b>		<b>Contract Dates</b>	
Payment Terms: PER 50 ILCS 505/1	FOB: Destination	Contract Start Date (PO25): Feb 1, 2026	Contract End Date (PO25): Jan 31, 2027

**Purchase Requisition Line Details**

LN	Qty	UOM	Item Detail (Product #)	Description	FY	Company	AU	Acct Code	Sub-Accts/Activity Code	Unit Price	Extension
1	1	EA		Consulting Services as a Lobbyist ( County Board)	FY26	1000	1001	53050		16,667.00	16,667.00
2	1	EA		Consulting Services as a Lobbyist (Transportation)	FY26	1500	3500	53050		25,000.00	25,000.00
3	1	EA		Consulting Services as a Lobbyist (Stormwater)	FY26	1600	3000	53050		25,000.00	25,000.00
4	1	EA		Consulting Services as a Lobbyist (Public Works)	FY26	2000	2665	53050	16	13,333.00	13,333.00
5	1	EA		Consulting Services as a Lobbyist ( County Board)	FY27	1000	1001	53050		3,333.00	3,333.00
6	1	EA		Consulting Services as a Lobbyist Transportation)	FY27	1500	3500	53050		5,000.00	5,000.00
7	1	EA		Consulting Services as a Lobbyist (Stormwater)	FY27	1600	3000	53050		5,000.00	5,000.00
8	1	EA		Consulting Services as a Lobbyist (Public Works)	FY27	2000	2665	53050	16	2,667.00	2,667.00
<b><i>FY is required, ensure the correct FY is selected.</i></b>										Requisition Total	\$ 96,000.00

<i>Comments</i>	
HEADER COMMENTS	Provide comments for P020 and P025.
SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS	Provide comments for Buyer or Approver (not for P020 and P025). Comments will not appear on PO.
INTERNAL NOTES	Provide comments for department internal use (not for P020 and P025). Comments will not appear on PO.
APPROVALS	Department Head signature approval for procurements under \$15,000. Procurement Officer Approval for ETSB.

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# COUNTY OF DuPAGE, ILLINOIS

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## INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR AGREEMENT

This AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is effective as of the 1st day of February 2026, and is entered into by and between the County of DuPage, a body politic and corporate ("County") and Lincoln Park Group LLC, an Contractor ("Contractor").

### RECITALS

WHEREAS, the County desires that CONTRACTOR render certain services more fully described herein; and

WHEREAS, the CONTRACTOR has demonstrated expertise in providing such services, has represented that it has the requisite knowledge, skill, experience, and other resources necessary to perform such services and is desirous of providing such services for the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties hereby agree as follows:

1. **Incorporation of Recitals:** The matters recited above are hereby incorporated into and made a part of this Agreement.
2. **Term:** This Agreement is for a term commencing, February 1, 2026, through January 31, 2027 ("Term"), unless terminated sooner as provided herein.
3. **Termination**
  - 3.1 Except as otherwise set forth in this AGREEMENT, either party shall have the right to terminate this AGREEMENT for any cause or without cause thirty (30) days after having served written notice upon the other party, except in the event of CONTRACTOR'S insolvency, bankruptcy or receivership, in which case termination shall be effective immediately upon receipt of notice.
  - 3.2 Upon such termination, the liabilities of the parties to this AGREEMENT shall cease, but they shall not be relieved of the duty to perform their obligations up to the date of termination, or to pay for deliverables tendered prior to termination. There shall be no termination expenses.
  - 3.3 Upon termination of this AGREEMENT, all data, work products, reports and documents produced because of this AGREEMENT shall become the property of the COUNTY. Further, CONSULTANT shall provide all deliverables within fourteen (14) days of termination in accordance with the other provisions of this AGREEMENT.
4. **Scope of Services:** CONTRACTOR agrees to provide the services required and, if applicable, set forth on Exhibit "A" including the deliverables set forth thereon ("Services"), in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement. The County may, from time to time, request changes in the Scope of Services. Any such changes, including any increase or decrease in CONTRACTOR's fees, shall be documented by an amendment to this Agreement in accordance with State and County laws.
5. **Compensation and Payment:** Compensation for Services during the initial term shall be based on a monthly rate of \$8,000.00, over the period of the contract and that shall not exceed, \$96,000.00, with no reimbursement for expenses. Compensation shall be based on actual Services performed during the Term of this Agreement and the County shall not be obligated to pay for any Services not in compliance with this Agreement. In the event of early termination of this Agreement, the County shall only be obligated to pay the fees incurred up to the date of termination. In no event shall the County be liable for any costs incurred or services performed after the effective date of termination as provided herein. Consultant shall

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## COUNTY OF DuPAGE, ILLINOIS

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submit invoices referencing this Agreement with such supporting documentation as may be requested by the County. Payments shall be subject to 50 ILCS 505, "Local Government Prompt Payment Act". Payment will not be made on invoices submitted later than six months (180 days) after delivery of goods and any statute of limitations to the contrary is hereby waived.

6. **Non-appropriation:** Expenditures not appropriated in the current fiscal year budget are deemed to be contingent liabilities only and are subject to appropriation in subsequent fiscal year budgets. In the event sufficient funds are not appropriated in a subsequent fiscal year by the County for performance under this Agreement, the County shall notify CONTRACTOR and this Agreement shall terminate on the last day of the fiscal period for which funds were appropriated. In no event shall the County be liable to the CONTRACTOR for any amount in excess of the cost of the services rendered up to and including the last day of the fiscal period.
7. **Events of Default and Remedies.**
  - 7.1 Events of Default. Events of default include, but are not limited to, any of the following: (i) Any material misrepresentation by CONTRACTOR in the inducement of this Agreement or the performance of Services; (ii) Breach of any agreement, representation or warranty made by CONTRACTOR in this Agreement; or (iii) Failure of CONTRACTOR to perform in accordance with or comply with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.
  - 7.2 Remedies. In the event CONTRACTOR defaults under this Agreement and such default is not cured within fifteen (15) calendar days after written notice is given by the County, the following actions may be taken by the County: (i) This Agreement may be terminated immediately; and (ii) The County may deem CONTRACTOR non-responsible for future contract awards. The remedies stated herein are not intended to be exclusive and the County may pursue any and all other remedies available at law or equity.
8. **Standards of Performance:** CONTRACTOR agrees to devote such time, attention, skill, and knowledge as is necessary to perform Services effectively and efficiently. The CONTRACTOR acknowledges and accepts a relationship of trust and confidence with the County and agree to cooperate with the County in performing Services to further the best interests of the County.
9. **Assignment:** This Agreement shall be binding on the parties and their respective successors and assigns, provided however, that neither party may assign this Agreement, or any obligations imposed hereunder without the prior written consent of the other party.
10. **Confidentiality and Ownership of Documents.**
  - 10.1 Confidential Information. In the performance of Services, CONTRACTOR may have access to certain information that is not generally known to other ("Confidential Information"). CONTRACTOR agrees not to use or disclose to any third party, except in the performance of Services, any confidential information or any records, reports or documents prepared or generated as a result of this Agreement without the prior written consent of the County. CONTRACTOR shall not issue publicity news releases or grant press interviews, except as may be required by law, during or after the performance of the Services, nor shall CONTRACTOR disseminate any information regarding Services without the prior written consent of the County. CONTRACTOR agrees to cause its personnel, staff and/or subcontractors, if any, to undertake the same obligations of confidentiality agreed to by CONTRACTOR under this Agreement. The terms of this Paragraph 9.1 shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement.

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## COUNTY OF DuPAGE, ILLINOIS

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- 10.2 **Ownership.** All records, reports, documents, and other materials prepared by CONTRACTOR in performing Services, as well as all records, reports, documents, and other materials containing Confidential Information prepared or generated as a result of this Agreement, shall at all times be and remain the property of the County. All of the foregoing items shall be delivered to the County upon demand at any time and in any event, shall be promptly delivered to the County upon expiration or termination of the Agreement. In the event any of the above items are lost or damaged while in CONTRACTOR's possession, such items shall be restored or replaced at CONTRACTOR's expense. Notwithstanding any provision herein to the contrary, CONTRACTOR is permitted to retain a copy of the Confidential Information (i) to the extent and as long as required by law, regulation, administrative, court order, or record retention requirements or (ii) in compliance with its professional liability insurance policies. Any Confidential Information stored as electronic data on magnetic media due to automatic archiving and backup procedures shall be retained according to CONTRACTOR's normal record retention policies. Nothing herein prohibits CONTRACTOR from retaining copies of its work product that may rely on or incorporate, in whole or part, Confidential Information.
11. **Representations and Warranties of CONTRACTOR:** CONTRACTOR represents and warrants that the following shall be true and correct as of the effective date of this Agreement and shall continue to be true and correct during the Term of this Agreement.
- 11.1 **Licensed Professionals.** Services required to be performed by professionals shall be performed by professionals licensed to practice by the State of Illinois in the applicable professional discipline.
- 11.2 **Compliance with Laws.** CONTRACTOR is and shall remain in compliance with all local, state and federal laws, County of DuPage ordinances, and regulations relating to this Agreement and the performance of Services. Further, CONTRACTOR is and shall remain in compliance with all County policies and rules, including, but not limited to, criminal background checks.
- 11.3 **Good Standing.** CONTRACTOR is not in default and has not been deemed by the County to be in default under any other Agreement with the County during the five (5) year period immediately preceding the effective date of this Agreement.
- 11.4 **Authorization.** In the event CONTRACTOR is an entity other than a sole proprietorship, CONTRACTOR represents that it has taken all action necessary for the approval and execution of this Agreement, and execution by the person signing on behalf of CONTRACTOR is duly authorized by CONTRACTOR and has been made with complete and full authority to commit CONTRACTOR to all terms and conditions of this Agreement which shall constitute valid, binding obligations of Individual.
- 11.5 **Gratuities.** No payment, gratuity or offer of employment, except as permitted by the Illinois State Gift Ban Act, was made by or to CONTRACTOR in relation to this Agreement or as an inducement for award of this Agreement.
12. **Independent Contractor:** It is understood and agreed that the relationship of CONTRACTOR to the County is and shall continue to be that of an independent contractor and neither CONTRACTOR nor any of CONTRACTOR's employees shall be entitled to receive County employee benefits. As an independent contractor, CONTRACTOR agrees to be responsible for the payment of all taxes and withholdings specified by law, which may be due in regard to compensation paid by the County. CONTRACTOR agrees that neither CONTRACTOR nor its employees, staff or subcontractors shall represent themselves as employees or agents of the County.

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## COUNTY OF DuPAGE, ILLINOIS

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13. **Indemnification:** CONTRACTOR agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the County, its members, trustees, employees, agents, officers and officials, from and against any and all liabilities, taxes, tax penalties, interest, losses, penalties, damages and expenses of every kind, nature and character, including costs and attorney fees, claims, liens, damages, obligations, actions, suits, judgments, settlements, or causes of action (collectively "Losses") proximately caused by the negligence, gross negligence, willful misconduct or breach of this Agreement by CONTRACTOR or its employees or its subcontractors. This includes, but is not limited to, the unauthorized use of any trade secrets, U.S. patent or copyright infringement. As a condition of the indemnities set forth herein, the County shall provide CONTRACTOR with (i) prompt notice of any indemnifiable loss or claim, (ii) the option to assume the defense of any indemnified claim, and (iii) the right to approve or reject the settlement of any indemnified claim. The indemnities set forth herein shall survive the expiration or termination of this Agreement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the CONTRACTOR and County shall not be deemed to have waived any rights, protections, or immunities under 745 ILCS 10/1-10 I, *et seq.* (Local Government and Governmental Employees Tort Immunity Act.) Notwithstanding the terms above, the indemnities hereunder shall not apply to the extent such Losses result from (i) CONTRACTOR's reasonable reliance on information provided by the County, or (ii) a breach of this Agreement by the County, or (iii) the negligence or willful misconduct of the County.
14. **Insurance:**  
At all times during the term of the contract, the Contractor and its independent contractors shall maintain, at their sole expense, insurance coverage for the Contractor, its employees, officers and independent contractors, as follows:
- 14.1 **Automobile Insurance.** If Contractor will be driving a vehicle in the course of performing the Services, Contractor shall attach a copy of its current automobile insurance card confirming that the vehicle is covered by insurance.
- 14.2 **Waiver.** In consideration of the County agreeing to waive its requirement that Contractor carry Commercial General Liability Insurance, Professional Liability Insurance and Worker's Compensation and Employer's Liability Insurance, Contractor agrees to hold the County, its members, trustees, employees, agents, officers and officials, harmless from all liability in any claim or action made by Contractor or any third party, and harmless from any judgment awarded by any court or administrative body, for personal injury, disability or death, or damage or destruction of property resulting from or connected with the Services, unless caused by the negligence or gross negligence of the County.
15. **Notices:** All notices required under this Agreement shall be in writing and sent to the addresses and persons set forth below, or to such other addresses as may be designated by a party in writing. All notices shall be deemed received when (i) delivered personally; (ii) sent by confirmed telex or facsimile (followed by the actual document); or (iii) one (1) day after deposit with a commercial express courier specifying next day delivery, with written verification of receipt.

IF TO THE COUNTY:

Kate Kissane  
DuPage County Board Office  
421 North County Farm Road  
Wheaton, IL 60187

COPY TO: Valerie Calvente, Chief Procurement Officer  
DuPage County Procurement Division  
421 North County Farm Road  
Wheaton, IL 60187-3978

**COUNTY OF DuPAGE, ILLINOIS**

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COPY TO: Assistant State's Attorney – Conor P. McCarthy (Civil Bureau)  
Office of DuPage County State's Attorney Robert B. Berlin William J.  
Bauer Judicial Office Facility - Annex  
503 North County Farm Road  
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

IF TO CONTRACTOR:  
Reilly O'Connor  
Lincoln Park Group LLC  
3212 17th Street NE  
Washington, DC 20018

- 16. **Entire Agreement and Amendment:** This Agreement, including all exhibits and referenced documents, constitutes the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the matters contained herein. All attached exhibits are incorporated into and made a part of this agreement. No modification of or amendment to this Agreement shall be effective unless such modification or amendment is in writing and signed by both parties hereto. Any prior agreements or representations, either written or oral, relating to the subject matter of this Agreement is of no force or effect.
- 17. **Governing Law:** This Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois without regard to any conflict of law or choice of law principles.
- 18. **Waiver:** No delay or omission by the County to exercise any right hereunder shall be construed as a waiver of any such right and the County reserves the right to exercise any such right from time to time as often and as may be deemed expedient.
- 19. **County Approval:** If applicable, This Agreement is subject to approval of the appropriate committee(s) and County Board of the County of DuPage.
- 20. **Subcontractors:** The County and Contractor agree that, from time to time, Contractor may need to provide specific representational services using a subcontractor with specialized knowledge and skills. Where Contractor engages a subcontractor, Contractor shall obtain a completed vendor ethics form from the subcontractor and shall tender the vendor ethics form to the County within 30 days of receipt of the subcontractor vendor ethics form.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorized representatives as of the date first above written.

**THE COUNTY OF DUPAGE, ILLINOIS**

**C**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
VALERIE CALVENTE  
CHIEF PROCUREMENT OFFICER

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
REILLY O'CONNOR  
FOUNDING PRINCIPAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

1/7/2026  
\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

# COUNTY OF DuPAGE, ILLINOIS

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## EXHIBIT A

### SCOPE OF SERVICES

County's Purchase Order #		County Resolution #	
Contract Name	<b>Lincoln Park Group LLC</b>	Contract Date	
County's Project Manager	<b>Kate Kissane</b>	Contractor's Project Manager	<b>Reilly O'Connor</b>

This Scope of Services is for Contractors providing to the County certain Services pursuant to the above-referenced Contract and County Resolution

1. **DESCRIPTION OF CONTRACTOR'S WORK**

Consulting Services as a lobbyist representing DuPage County before the United States Congress and federal executive branch agencies.

2. **MILESTONE/DELIVERABLE INFORMATION**

Will provide regular updates and reports as directed to the County Board Chair, Chair of the Legislative & Committee and the County Board.

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**Reilly O'Connor**

Lincoln Park Group  
3212 17th Street NE  
Washington, DC 20018  
(202) 384-4442  
reilly@lincolnparkgroup.com

January 5, 2026

**Dawn DeSart**

Council Member, DuPage County  
DuPage County Board Office  
421 North County Farm Road  
Wheaton, IL 60187

Dear Member DeSart,

Thank you very much for the opportunities to discuss the Lincoln Park Group's past federal lobbying work on behalf of DuPage County as well as providing some background on our team.

For the past two years, we have worked on the county's behalf in Washington as a subcontractor of the McGuireWoods team. We were part of the original team Greg Bales put into place to provide lobbying services in Washington. Greg and I worked the Illinois delegation offices together: he took the lead with the Senators and we divided up the House Members.

We participated in all federal lobbying meetings, providing updates and insight into various federal funding priorities for the County. Additionally we staffed county officials in Washington during the National Association of Counties Legislative Conference.

Two of the House offices on which the Lincoln Park Group took the lobbying lead for FY 2026 were selected for earmark funding. Both projects were included in the Interior Appropriations bill that passed at Committee on July 22, 2025 and are currently awaiting resolution as Congress struggles to wrap up the FY 2026 Appropriations bills. These projects include:

- \$1.09 million for stormwater management (Rep. Delia Ramirez)
- \$240,000 for flood reduction (Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi)

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The [Lincoln Park Group](#) is a boutique government relations firm that helps clients navigate legislative developments, craft solutions and proactively engage with elected officials. Please see below for biographical information.

### **Reilly**

Since founding the Lincoln Park Group in 2017, Reilly has represented a wide range of organizations - from Fortune 500 companies and national trade associations to local government and nonprofits. He is well-versed in tax, trade and the appropriations process.

Previously, Reilly served as Vice President and Head of Federal Affairs & Policy at the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America, where he was the association's top strategist and voice before Congress and federal agencies. He spent a decade leading bipartisan lobbying efforts earning a reputation for persistence, pragmatism and policy acumen. He began his lobbying career as Director of Government Affairs at the Generic Pharmaceutical Association.

Reilly worked on numerous campaigns and in the offices of U.S. Senators Richard Durbin and Tom Harkin prior to settling in Washington. He is a co-founder and board member of the U.S. Ireland Partnership for Growth. The North Aurora-native earned his B.A. magna cum laude from Lake Forest College.

Sincerely,

Reilly O'Connor



DuPage County  
 Finance Department  
 Procurement Division  
 421 North County Farm Road  
 Room 3-400  
 Wheaton, Illinois 60187-3978

## REQUIRED VENDOR ETHICS DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

### **Section I: Contact Information**

Please complete the contact information below.

BID NUMBER:	
COMPANY NAME:	Lincoln Park Group LLC
CONTACT PERSON:	Reilly O'Connor
CONTACT EMAIL:	reilly@lincolnparkgroup.com

### **Section II: Procurement Ordinance Requirements**

Every contractor, union, or vendor that is seeking or has previously obtained a contract, change orders to one (1) or more contracts, or two (2) or more individual contracts with the County, shall provide to the Procurement Division a written disclosure of all political campaign contributions made by such contractor, union, or vendor to any incumbent County Board member, County Board chairman, or Countywide elected official whose office the contract to be awarded will benefit within the current and previous calendar year. The contractor, union, or vendor shall update such disclosure annually during the term of a multi-year contract and prior to any change order or renewal requiring approval by the county board. For purposes of this disclosure requirement, "contractor or vendor" includes owners, officers, managers, lobbyists, agents, consultants, bond counsel and underwriters counsel, subcontractors, and corporate entities under the control of the contracting person, and political action committees to which the contracting person has made contributions.

Has the Bidder made contributions as described above?

Yes

No

If "Yes", complete the required information in the table below.

RECIPIENT	DONOR	DESCRIPTION (e.g., cash, type of item, in-kind services, etc.)	AMOUNT/VALUE	DATE MADE

Rev. 1-2025

All contractors and vendors who have obtained or are seeking contracts with the County shall disclose the names and

contact information of their lobbyists, agents and representatives and all individuals who are or will be having contact with county officers or employees in relation to the contractor bid and shall update such disclosure with any changes that may occur.

Has the Bidder had or will the Bidder have contact with lobbyists, agents, representatives or individuals who are or will be having contact with county officers or employees as described above.

- Yes
- No

If "Yes", list the name, phone number, and email of lobbyists, agents, representatives, and all individuals who are or will be having contact with county officers or employees in the table below.

NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Reilly O'Connor	202-384-4442	reilly@lincolnparkgroup.com

**Section III: Violations**

A contractor or vendor that knowingly violates these disclosure requirements is subject to penalties which may include, but are not limited to, the immediate cancellation of the contract and possible disbarment from future County contracts. Continuing and supplemental disclosure is required. The Bidder agrees to update this disclosure form as follows:

- If information changes, within five (5) days of change, or prior to county action, whichever is sooner, • 30 days prior to the optional renewal of any contract;
- Annual disclosure for multi-year contracts on the anniversary of said contract
- With any request for change order except those issued by the county for administrative adjustments

The full text of the County's Ethics Ordinance is available at:

[http://www.dupagecounty.gov/government/county\\_board/ethics\\_at\\_the\\_county/](http://www.dupagecounty.gov/government/county_board/ethics_at_the_county/)

The full text of the County's Procurement Ordinance is available at:

[https://www.dupagecounty.gov/government/departments/finance/procurement/procurement\\_ordinance\\_and\\_guiding\\_principles.php](https://www.dupagecounty.gov/government/departments/finance/procurement/procurement_ordinance_and_guiding_principles.php)

**Section IV: Certification**

By signing below, the Bidder hereby acknowledges that it has received, read, and understands these requirements, and certifies that the information submitted on this form is true and correct to the best of its knowledge.

Printed Name: Reilly O'Connor Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: Principal Date: 1/1/2026



## Legislative Resolution

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

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**File #:** LEG-R-0001-26

**Agenda Date:** 1/13/2026

**Agenda #:** 8.A.

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### RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE COUNTY'S 2026 STATE 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 2026 spring session of the Illinois General Assembly (herein referred to as "2026 State Legislative Program" and attached as Exhibit A which is incorporated by reference); and

WHEREAS, it is important for the County's 2026 State 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 State Legislative Program for DuPage County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that staff and the County's lobbyists are directed to work together with the County's legislative delegation to advance the 2026 State Legislative Program in Springfield.

Enacted and approved this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026 at Wheaton, Illinois.

---

DEBORAH A. CONROY, CHAIR  
DU PAGE COUNTY BOARD

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
JEAN KACZMAREK, COUNTY CLERK



# DUPAGECOUNTY

## 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



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



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2026 STATE 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 Information<sup>1</sup>

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



### Race, Ethnicity, Gender<sup>2</sup>

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



### Education Attainment<sup>3</sup>

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



### Colleges and Universities<sup>4</sup>

- DeVry University
- College of DuPage
- Wheaton College
- Benedictine University
- Elmhurst University
- North Central College
- Midwestern University
- National University of Health Sciences
- Lewis University



### Area Information<sup>5</sup>

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



### Financial Information<sup>6</sup>

- County Revenue: ..... \$523.0 million
- Sales Tax Revenue: ..... \$138.0 million
- Property Tax Revenue<sup>7</sup>: ..... \$48.2 million
- Local Gas Tax Revenue: ..... \$38.8 million
- Income Tax Revenue: ..... \$16.4 million
- Funds on Hand: ..... \$107.5 million



### Economic Information<sup>8</sup>

- Unemployment Rate: ..... 4.3%
- Number of Jobs: ..... 654,386
- Office Space Vacancy Rate: ..... 15.8%
- Industrial Space Vacancy Rate: ..... 3.2%
- Bond rating: ..... AAA<sup>9</sup>
- Housing Units: ..... 344,314<sup>10</sup>
- Median Household Income: ..... \$94,930<sup>11</sup>



<sup>1</sup> ESRI/American Community Survey 2023

<sup>2</sup> ESRI/American Community Survey 2023

<sup>3</sup> 2020 U.S. Census

<sup>4</sup> There are 18 colleges and universities in DuPage County

<sup>5</sup> DuPage GIS Map Book (2022)

<sup>6</sup> DuPage County FY2026 Budget

<sup>7</sup> 2025 County revenue minus Health Department tax levy

<sup>8</sup> Choose DuPage 2024 statistics

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

<sup>10</sup> 2020 U.S. Census

<sup>11</sup> 2020 U.S. Census



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



### DuPage County Board

**Deborah A. Conroy**

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



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



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

### 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.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

### 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 our residents 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.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

- **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.



### 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



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

### **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 residents 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 residents. 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



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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).



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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.



# DUPAGE COUNTY



## 2026 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

### 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](http://www.dupagecapitalplan.com)