



DU PAGE COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE
FINAL MINUTES

January 9, 2018

Regular Meeting

9:30 AM

ROOM 3500A
421 NORTH COUNTY FARM ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187

1. CALL TO ORDER

9:30 AM meeting was called to order by Chair Sam Tornatore at 9:30 AM.

2. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: DiCianni, Elliott, Khouri, Tornatore, Zay, Krajewski

ABSENT:

Other County Board Members present: Liz Chaplin, Greg Hart

County Staff Present: Tom Cuculich, Doreen Phillipp, Paul Rafac, Conor McCarthy, Evan Shields, Christopher Walton, Mary Keating, Mike Tuman, Tony Hayman

Public Present: Dawn Dina, Mark Baloga, Jay Mitchell, Arlene Kendorski, Sheila Rutledge

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. Legislative & Governmental Affairs Committee - Regular Meeting - Dec 12, 2017 9:30 AM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Sam Tornatore, Chair
SECONDER:	James Zay, District 6
AYES:	DiCianni, Elliott, Khouri, Tornatore, Zay, Krajewski



4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Tornatore mentioned upcoming dates to the Committee including the DuPage Mayors and Managers Annual Legislative Reception and Dinner on January 17, 2018; the DuPage County Annual Legislative Breakfast scheduled for February 9, 2018 and the tentatively planned April 18, 2018 Springfield drive down event.

6. ACTION ITEMS

- A. LEG-R-0039-18 RESOLUTION -- Resolution Adopting the County's 2018 State Legislative Program

The Legislative and Governmental Affairs Committee has developed a list of priorities for DuPage County to propose and support during the 2018 spring session of the Illinois General Assembly. A brief discussion was held on the nine legislative priorities. The Committee voted unanimously in support of Resolution LEG-R-0039-18, which adopts the County's Legislative Program. The record should reflect that Member Khouri opposes the County's legislative priority of prohibiting tobacco sales until age 21, as you are an adult at age 18.

Member Krajewski spoke briefly regarding the December 21, 2017 press conference that garnered media attention about animal rights legislation introduced by Senator Connelly.

Member Elliott stated many of his constituent's main concern is property tax relief and expressed it is a main priority.

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Sam Tornatore, Chair
SECONDER:	Peter DiCianni, District 2
AYES:	DiCianni, Elliott, Khouri, Tornatore, Zay, Krajewski

**7. OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

8. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.



DU PAGE COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE & GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE
FINAL SUMMARY

December 12, 2017

Regular Meeting

9:30 AM

ROOM 3500A

421 NORTH COUNTY FARM ROAD
WHEATON, IL 60187

A. CALL TO ORDER

9:30 AM meeting was called to order by Chair Sam Tornatore at 9:30 AM.

B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Khouri, Tornatore, Zay, Krajewski

ABSENT: DiCianni, Elliott

Other County Board Members present: Don Puchalski, Liz Chaplin

County Staff Present: Sheryl Markay, Joan Olson, Mary Keating, Evan Shields, Doreen Phillipp, Chris Snyder, Connor McCarthy, Christopher Walton, Janelle Chadwick

Public Present:

Mark Sanchez, Dawn Dina, Kate Buggy, Arlene Kendorski, Jay Mitchell

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Legislative & Governmental Affairs Committee - Regular Meeting - Oct 24, 2017 9:30 AM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Tonia Khouri, Vice Chair
SECONDER:	James Zay, District 6
AYES:	Khouri, Tornatore, Zay, Krajewski
ABSENT:	DiCianni, Elliott



D. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

E. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Tornatore wished everyone a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Dec 12, 2017 9:30 AM (Approval of Minutes)

1. Potential Legislation for 2018

Dates in April for a Committee drive down event to Springfield were considered.

Potential 2018 state legislation for the County agenda was discussed and included several consolidation bills, one that would combine the DuPage Board of Elections with the County Clerk. Member Krajewski discussed several Animal Control bills he is working on in cooperation with another County. Additional priority legislation for 2018 was discussed. Member Chaplin suggested the Committee add to their agenda support for raising the age of purchasing tobacco to the age of 21. Member Chaplin requested Committee support for Federal funding of CHIP, Children's Health Insurance Program. Member Khouri asked the Committee if items can be presented regarding taxes. A brief discussion followed.



F. ACTION ITEMS

1. LEG-R-0024-18 RESOLUTION -- Urging the Governor to Veto Senate Bill 1451

This Resolution urges the Governor to preserve and respect local government authority by vetoing Senate Bill ("SB") 1451. The Resolution passed the Committee and was brought forth to the County Board.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	James Zay, District 6
SECONDER:	Tonia Khouri, Vice Chair
AYES:	Khouri, Tornatore, Zay, Krajewski
ABSENT:	DiCianni, Elliott



G. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

H. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

I. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Dec 12, 2017 9:30 AM (Approval of Minutes)



2018 State Legislative Priorities

- 1. Preserve LGDF:** prohibit any future cuts by the state to the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) that allocates a small portion of incomes taxes paid by DuPage County residents back home to support critical local services including senior citizen programs, community services, and public safety.
- 2. Election Commission Consolidation:** return the responsibility for the administration of local elections to the County Clerk and eliminate a separate agency of government, the DuPage County Election Commission, thus creating greater efficiencies and reducing administrative costs.
- 3. Reduce State imposed Sales Tax Withholding to 1%:** support legislation already filed to cut in half the 2% withholding of local sales tax proceeds by the Illinois Department of Revenue as an administrative fee (adopted during the 2017 spring session) that cost counties and municipalities millions of dollars in lost revenues, jeopardizing the delivery of local services.
- 4. Prohibit Tobacco Sales till Age 21:** support the DuPage County Health Department's resolution to prohibit the sale of tobacco to anyone under the age of 21 as tobacco use is a contributing factor in the leading causes of death in DuPage County including cancer, heart disease, stroke and chronic lower respiratory disease.
- 5. Ban the Sale of Commercially Bred Pets:** ban the sale of commercially bred animals and require pet stores in the county to sell only dogs, cats, and rabbits obtained from shelters, rescue organizations and pounds. Also support legislation to provide that a person is immune from criminal liability, who is acting in good faith, to rescue a dog or cat that has been confined in a motor vehicle.
- 6. Property Tax Relief:** ensure that taxpayers across the state are on a level playing field through the establishment of a Fair and Equitable Assessment of Property Task Force to study issues of assessment equity and fairness and to make recommendations that would provide for the uniform and transparent assessment of property valuations statewide.
- 7. Reduce the Size, Scope and Cost of Local Government:** support legislation that provides additional tools to local government leaders to share services and that also empowers voters to determine the size of government they wish to support.
- 8. Oppose Small Wireless Facilities on County Infrastructure:** continue to oppose legislation that limits the authority of local governments to site small cell wireless devices on public infrastructure located in the county right-of-way absent any community input and that dictates the fee schedule and timeline for the approval of permits.
- 9. Capital Funding:** support critical infrastructure improvements to reduce flooding, relieve traffic congestion and improve the health and safety of DuPage County residents.



DUPAGE COUNTY

2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



6.A.a

1. Preserve LGDF

Monies allocated under the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) does not represent a “grant” from the state but rather a small share of the income taxes paid by our citizens that are returned to support critical local services. DuPage County currently receives \$9.8 million annually in LGDF funds, an amount that was reduced in 2017 by 10% in order to balance the state’s FY 2018 budget.

Counties and our municipalities have suffered the same economic hardships as the state yet have made the tough choices to cut spending, reduce staffing levels, and achieve operational efficiencies to balance our budgets. Local Government Leaders oppose any attempts by the state to divert our fair share of income tax proceeds. Any reductions in this long-standing revenue sharing agreement will force DuPage County to diminish basic services to the residents we all serve, impacting senior citizens, mental health, our non-profit community and public safety.

2. Election Commission Consolidation

DuPage County is proposing the consolidation of the DuPage County Election Commission, a separate governmental agency, with the County Clerk’s Office. Placing the responsibility for the Election Commission under a countywide elected official, versus an appointed body, will improve accountability and result in many operational efficiencies, saving taxpayers significant resources. Prior to 1974, the County Clerk assumed the responsibility for the administration of local elections, as does every other County Clerk in the state except for 7 municipal election commissions (Aurora, Bloomington, Chicago, Danville, East St. Louis, Galesburg and Rockford) and 1 county election commission (Peoria).

On the March 2018 primary ballot, the DuPage County Board has placed an advisory referendum question asking voters: “Shall the DuPage County Election Commission be dissolved and its functions consolidated with the Office of the County Clerk?” DuPage County lacks the authority to place a binding referendum question on the ballot unless citizens gather over 61,000 signatures to formally place the initiative on the ballot (state statute requires the signatures of 10% of the registered voters in the county). The City of Aurora has placed a binding referendum question on the March primary ballot asking voters if they wish to dissolve the Aurora Election Commission.

3. Reduce State Imposed Sales Tax Administrative Fee

As part of the state’s effort to balance its FY 2018 budget, the Illinois Department of Revenue (IDOR) imposed a new 2% administrative fee (surcharge) on the collection of 14 locally imposed sales taxes prior to the distribution of these tax revenues to local governments. For DuPage County, the 2% fee assessed on the collection of the RTA sales tax represented a \$1 million cut to the county budget.

Although there may be a small cost for the state to collect the locally imposed sales taxes (the department already collects its own state sales taxes), the Department of Revenue prohibits local governments from collecting local sales taxes and could not provide any explanation or justification

Attachment: 2018 State Priorities-Draft (LEG-R-0039-18 : Resolution Adopting the County's 2018 State Legislative Program)



for the 2% administrative fee that in total, will cost local governments an estimated \$60 million annually in lost revenues.

Legislation has already been introduced (HB 4101) for consideration during the 2018 spring session to reduce this fee from 2% to 1%, cutting in half the burden local taxpayers now pay to disproportionately support IDOR at the expense of local services. DuPage County supports this legislation as a compromise that will aid both the state and the county to deliver critical local services.

4. Prohibit tobacco sales till age 21

According to the DuPage County Health Department, smoking is a contributing factor in the leading causes of death in the county, including heart disease, cancer, stroke and chronic lower respiratory disease. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also show that 95% of adult smokers began smoking before age 21. Numerous studies, including a recent Institute of Medicine report, conclude that raising the minimum legal sale age for tobacco products will reduce tobacco initiation among young people (an estimated 12% decrease), improving health and decreasing mortality rates.

Recently, the DuPage County Board of Health adopted a resolution in support of restricting tobacco sales to anyone under age 21.

5. Ban the sale of Commercially Bred Pets

DuPage County's Animal Care and Control facility is an open-admission shelter obligated by state statute to accept any animal surrendered to the facility, including sick and ill-tempered animals bred from puppy mills.

Working collaboratively with Will County, the Humane Society, the Puppy Mill Project and several other local animal advocacy groups, DuPage County is proposing legislation to enact a countywide ban (in DuPage and Will) on the retail sale of animals (dogs, cats, rabbits) obtained from commercial breeders that have lower health and welfare standards. Pet stores in the two counties would be permitted to only sell animals obtained from shelters, rescue organizations, and pounds.

The bill is similar to ordinances adopted in Chicago and Cook County to protect consumers, improve animal welfare standards, encourage pet adoption and responsible breeding, with the goal of ending animal cruelty for profit. DuPage County also supports legislation to provide immunity from criminal liability for a person who acting in good faith, rescues a dog or cat that has been confined in a motor vehicle.

6. Property Tax Relief

The current system of property valuation in Illinois is often unequal and lacks uniformity across the 900 different assessment jurisdictions. As the state's school funding formula (for example) is based on the equalized assessed valuation (EAV) of property, unequal valuation leads to less state funding for school districts, thus causing local property taxes to rise.



To address these inequities, resolutions have been introduced in the House and Senate by DuPage Legislators to establish the Fair and Equitable Assessment of Property Task Force that would conduct a comprehensive review of state laws, statewide assessment systems, current exemptions, the impact of TIFs, enhanced use of technology and other measures in order to develop recommendations to ensure a fairer and equitable assessment process.

7. Reduce the Size, Scope and Cost of Local Government

Illinois continues to lead the nation with the most units of local government, over 7,000, with over 370 separate taxing districts in DuPage County alone. The tax dollars required to support this large bureaucracy has not resulted in a higher level of services being delivered to our citizens but rather created an inefficient, redundant, and costly system of overlapping government agencies that lacks accountability and wastes resources.

By challenging traditional service-delivery models, taxpayers benefit through the receipt of innovative and more cost-effective services. Government agencies benefit by maximizing the utilization of scarce resources. Taxpayers would realize additional savings if the General Assembly would provide units of local government with greater autonomy and more tools to support collaboration across silos and existing boundaries. Requirements for citizen-led ballot initiatives to dissolve and consolidate local units of government should also be eased and standardized to permit greater citizen participation in the level of government they wish to support.

8. Oppose Small Wireless Facilities on County Infrastructure

DuPage County supports the goal of ensuring reliable wireless services in our communities and the advancement of technology required to meet the growing demand for telecommunication services. Currently, the county works cooperatively with telecommunication companies to permit projects in the county’s right-of-way to deploy advanced wireless technology for the public’s benefit in a timely and appropriate manner.

Legislation still pending in Springfield however, SB 1451, the Small Wireless Facilities Deployment Act, removes the authority of local officials to determine, in consultation with our residents, businesses, and schools, the most appropriate placement of these devices in our communities to minimize potential public health and safety risks as well as visual blight. SB 1451, that creates an automatic approval process for these permit applications regardless of the complexity or number of applications received, represents an unnecessary mandate on local governments and a significant overreach of local authority by the state for the benefit of commercial entities.



DUPAGE COUNTY

2018 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



6.A.a

9. Capital Funding

DuPage County is responsible for a large portion of the county's infrastructure including: the provision of water and sewer services to approximately 200,000 county residents; the operation and maintenance of countywide flood control facilities including sixteen reservoirs/dams and pumping stations; the operation of a number of facilities on the county's main Wheaton Campus including the county Jail, courthouse, health department, animal care and control (animal shelter), and the county nursing home; plus the maintenance of 220 miles of highways and 92 miles of multi-use trails.

The county has developed its 2018 Capital Improvement Plan that includes a comprehensive list of over 50 flood control, transportation, wastewater, water, and other critical county infrastructure projects that once completed, would significantly reduce flooding for homeowners and businesses, relieve traffic congestion, improve water quality, and enhance public safety for the county's 929,368 residents.

To access the county's capital plan, please visit www.dupagecapitalplan.com or request a copy from the County Board Office.

Attachment: 2018 State Priorities-Draft (LEG-R-0039-18 : Resolution Adopting the County's 2018 State Legislative Program)