



Serving Residents of DuPage and Illinois

DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference

2018 Legislative Action Program

Representing more than one million residents by advocating for sound public policy initiatives, the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC) strives to promote municipal government, foster intergovernmental cooperation, and find innovative solutions to make local government work more effectively for DuPage residents and ultimately all citizens of Illinois. DMMC’s legislative priorities for 2018 include:



Ensuring Sustainable Municipal Budgets

Making sure that revenue generated by local residents and businesses stays local is crucial to preserving vital municipal services like police and fire protection, garbage pick-up, road maintenance, and snow removal. DMMC communities, as well as those throughout the state, rely on these revenue streams—including Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) dollars—that are collected by the state and returned to municipal governments to pay for essential services. By **protecting all state-collected local revenue streams**, legislators help ensure municipalities can deliver basic services and necessary staffing to residents.

<p>LGDF has been an essential component of local operating budgets for 50 years, especially as municipalities have been making sacrifices to reduce expenditures.</p>	<p>Cities, villages and counties rely on more than \$1 billion per year to provide essential services, including public safety, that preserve residents’ quality of life.</p>	<p>Reducing LGDF dollars would shift the state’s financial burden onto municipalities, forcing service cuts, police and fire layoffs and local property tax increases.</p>
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Supporting Financially Sustainable Public Safety Pension System

DMMC is part of a statewide coalition advocating for reforms aimed at preserving public safety pensions for local police officers and firefighters while reducing the burden on municipalities and taxpayers. Without cutting benefits, **consolidating the 663 municipal public safety pension funds** into a single multiple-employer pension system would expand investment opportunities and lower operational expenses for those who serve our communities. In addition, DMMC supports repealing or amending a law that was passed in 2011 and that requires municipalities to fund pensions to a level of 90 percent, amortized to 2040, or risk having local revenue withheld by the state. Without these reforms and more, the costs of public safety pensions will continue to rise, further shifting the financial burden onto municipalities and forcing cuts in basic services or increases in local property taxes.

<p>A consolidated structure would resemble the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund, which serves more than 420,000 members and retirees and nearly 3,000 local units of government.</p>	<p>Consolidation should pass constitutional muster, reduce the unfunded pension liability and help prevent municipalities from having to raise property taxes to cover escalating pension costs.</p>	<p>Municipal public safety pension systems are unsustainable. The challenges faced by municipalities are compounded by the passage of pension sweeteners as well as changes to the mortality table and other actuarial standards.</p>
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Preserving Local Authority

The ability for municipalities to govern themselves and make decisions at the local level is the most effective way they can fully serve the unique needs of their residents and communities. Issues such as franchising, zoning, permitting and licensing, local code enforcement and regulating business activities are the fundamental responsibilities of local governments. The ability to make decisions to raise and expend municipal funds is **vital for government to provide for and protect the health, safety, and welfare of local residents**. Policies limiting that decision-making authority make for less efficient and costlier government and services.

Locally elected leaders are best equipped to set local policy because they live in the communities they represent and have daily interaction with the constituents they serve.	In some cases, legislation and mandates can restrict a local government's ability to do what's right for residents and businesses.	Local government is closest to the people. Illinois cities and villages should operate independently with local elected officials representing the best interests of their constituents and answering to their needs.
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Empowering Local Taxpayers Regardless of Population

Municipalities should have the ability to respond to constituent needs and govern themselves, regardless of their population. **Removing the distinction between home rule and non-home rule communities** would eliminate the barriers of non-home rule authority, giving all municipalities crucial local control and decision-making ability. This reform would also provide access to restricted dollars to fund critical services like police and fire protection, infrastructure repairs and economic development. Non-home rule communities make up approximately half of the municipalities in DuPage and approximately 83 percent of those in Illinois. Expanding the limited authority of citizens in non-home rule municipalities would allow local governments to provide solutions to their individual issues without requiring additional state attention or resources.

Removing the home-rule distinction for communities with fewer than 25,000 residents would allow greater ability to implement policies that include state funding alternatives and economic development incentives.	Home rule municipalities have the ability to access existing tax revenue from hotel/motel stays, sales transactions, car rentals, natural gas utilities and other sources, which can be spent on local priorities.	This reform would also enable all communities to license landlords and implement inspection of dwellings, which home rule municipalities employ to protect the health, safety and welfare of local residents.
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Reforming the Workers' Compensation Act to Prevent Abuse

Workers' compensation reforms would create economic opportunity and jobs to make Illinois more competitive with surrounding states. **Adopting common-sense changes** would lead to more reasonable settlements without harming employees who have legitimate claims. Modest reforms would better protect workers and enable employers to expand, relocate and grow their businesses.

Establishing standards to ensure that an injury or illness is directly linked to the work or the workplace would be fair to workers and businesses.	Lower costs brought about by these reforms would save significant taxpayer dollars.	The workers' compensation system must be fixed to ensure local government benefits continue to be available for those employees who have legitimate claims.
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