



Serving Residents of DuPage and Illinois

DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference

2017 Legislative Priorities

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 include:

- Ensuring sustainable municipal budgets
- Preserving retirement benefits for police and firefighters
- Empowering local taxpayers regardless of population
- Making local businesses more competitive



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 these 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 over \$1 billion per year to provide basic services 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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Preserving Retirement Benefits for Police and Firefighters

To ensure retirement security for local police officers and firefighters, DMMC is part of a statewide coalition advocating for reforms aimed at preserving public safety pensions.

Without cutting benefits, consolidating the 651 individual 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.

<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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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 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.

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 utilize to protect the health, safety and welfare of local residents.
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Making Local Businesses More Competitive

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. **The following modest reforms would better** protect workers and enable employers to expand, relocate and grow their businesses:

- Ensure employers receive credit for permanency payments on subsequent injuries to body parts that are compensated as man-as-a-whole.
- Equate permanent loss of the shoulder to loss of use of the arm.
- Remove the burden of proof for the cause of firefighter injuries from municipalities.
- Require arbitrators to adhere to guidelines from the American Medical Association.
- Require medical providers to issue bills pursuant to the established fee schedule.
- Return compensation levels for specific injuries to those granted through 2005.

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.	The 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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