

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:

Ensure 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.

Support Financially Sustainable Public Safety Pension Systems

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 amending Public Act 96-1495, which 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.

Preserve Local Authority

The ability of municipalities to govern themselves and make decisions at the local level is the most effective way that they can fully serve the unique needs of their residents and communities. Issues such as franchising, zoning, issuing permits and licenses, 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 the decision-making authority of local municipalities make for less efficient and more costly government.

Empower 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. 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.

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Reform 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. 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 Person 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