



UNITED COUNTIES
COUNCIL of ILLINOIS



Priority Issues For Counties

April 14, 2026

The following issues/bills are highlighted by the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo) and the United Counties Council of Illinois (UCCI).

FUNDING ISSUE

Local Government Distributive Fund

Counties are aligned with our municipal partners in seeking an increase in the percentage of the State Income Tax distributed to counties and municipalities through the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF). **Counties are requesting an incremental restoration of the full 10 percent of State Income Tax revenue collected by the state and shared with counties and municipalities on a per capita basis.** This percentage was reduced in 2011 and currently is 6.47 percent of State Income Tax collections.

COUNTY LEGISLATION

Wind and Solar Siting Changes (Support)

HB 5477 (Representative Ness)

Proposal: HB 5477 wind and solar siting legislation was introduced to strengthen the role of county governments in reviewing and approving utility-scale wind and solar projects. The legislation clarifies that counties have the authority to adopt and enforce local siting standards, such as setbacks, drainage protections, road use agreements, and decommissioning requirements, based on local conditions. It also helps ensure that counties can require developers to address potential impacts on farmland, infrastructure, and neighboring properties before projects move forward.

At its core, the proposal reinforces local decision-making by preventing a one-size-fits-all approach to renewable energy development. Rather than shifting authority to the state, the legislation preserves counties' ability to balance energy growth with community concerns, giving locally elected officials the tools to make informed decisions that reflect the needs and priorities of their residents.

Status: House Rules Committee

Veterans Assistance Commission Funding, Governance and Administration (Oppose)

SB 3646 (Senator Porfirio)

Proposal: SB 3646 (Senator Porfirio) proposes to amend the Military Veterans Assistance Act (MVAA) and raises significant concerns regarding erosion of county board authority over local funding and governance decisions. The bill shifts key elements of oversight and administrative control away from locally elected county boards and toward structures that may operate with reduced direct accountability to county leadership. In doing so, it limits a county board's traditional role in determining how services are delivered, how funds are allocated, and how local priorities are balanced within the broader scope of county responsibilities.

Additionally, the legislation introduces arbitration and litigation provisions that further constrain county discretion and expose counties to increased legal and financial risk. These provisions establish mechanisms through which disputes over funding levels or service obligations may be directed to arbitration or pursued through the courts, potentially overriding locally adopted budget decisions. This creates a pathway for external parties to challenge county board determinations, weakening local fiscal authority and increasing the likelihood of costly legal proceedings. From a county perspective, these changes represent a concerning shift away from local decision-making and toward a more prescriptive and enforceable framework.

Status: The bill is currently pending before the Senate Revenue Committee and remains subject to an extended deadline of April 24 for further consideration. The sponsor has stated that he would like to work on the bill to remove opposition.

Exempt Veterans' Assistance Commission Funding from PTELL (Support)

HB 2720 (Representative Ness)/SB 2853 (Senator Jones)

Proposal: These bills amend state law to exempt the VAC portion of the property tax levy from the Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL – Tax Cap). This would restore the ability of county boards to fund other programs and services irrespective of any funding obligated for VACs.

Status: HB 2783 is presently being discussed by the House Property Tax Working Group. SB 2853 is in the Senate Revenue Committee with an extended deadline of April 24, 2026.

BUILD Act Package (Oppose)

Proposal: The proposed BUILD Act in Illinois represents a sweeping housing and zoning reform package aimed at increasing housing supply and affordability by overriding certain local land-use controls. The legislation would require local governments to allow higher-density residential development, often referred to as "middle housing," on parcels traditionally limited to single-family use, while also permitting accessory dwelling units and limiting local requirements such as minimum parking mandates. In addition, the proposal seeks to standardize aspects of the development process and restrict the ability of local governments to impose certain zoning and design standards that exceed state-established thresholds.

The BUILD Act package consists of seven separate bills (HB 5626, SBs 4060, 4061, 4062, 4063, 4064 and 4071). All seven bills impact municipalities, while two of the bills (HB 5626 and SB 4061) also affect counties. Both of these bills would preempt county authority by amending the Illinois Counties Code to establish a statewide standard allowing residential buildings of up to six stories to be constructed with a single stairway under certain conditions.

Status: None of the bills have advanced in either chamber, but may gain traction prior to adjournment.

EMS Alternative Rural Staffing Models (Support)

HB 5446 (Representative Davidsmeyer)

Proposal: HB 5446 amends the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Systems Act to expand eligibility for the alternative rural staffing model by allowing vehicle service providers to utilize part-time employees in addition to the current allowed use of volunteers and paid-on-call staff. Under this provision, EMS providers that serve rural or semi-rural populations of 10,000 or fewer inhabitants would be granted greater flexibility in how they staff their emergency vehicles, provided they use these specific labor categories or a combination thereof. By including "part-time employees," the legislation aims to help small-town and rural EMS systems maintain consistent coverage and meet state licensing requirements despite the chronic staffing shortages often faced by exclusively volunteer-based departments.

Status: House Floor

Human Control of Artificial Intelligence Act (Oppose)

HB 4980 (Representative Rashid)

Proposal: HB 4980 would significantly increase the administrative and legal responsibilities of public employers by mandating that all automated decision-making systems, ranging from social service eligibility to hiring, remain under "meaningful human control" exercised by staff with the technical expertise to interpret and override algorithmic logic. For county boards, this legislation transforms AI procurement into a perpetual cycle of fiscal and labor hurdles, requiring comprehensive biennial impact assessments to audit for discriminatory "algorithmic drift" and making the deployment of productivity-tracking or screening software a mandatory subject of collective bargaining with unions. The legislation may be especially burdensome for some counties to implement.

Status: House Floor