



DUPAGE COUNTY

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



Deborah A. Conroy, Chair, DuPage County Board
Dawn DeSart, Chair, Legislative Committee



GOVERNMENT PROFILE

DUPAGE COUNTY BOARD



DuPage County Board

Deborah A. Conroy **D**

Chair, DuPage County Board
(630) 407-6060 • www.dupagecounty.gov/cobrd



Jack T. Knuepfer Administration Building

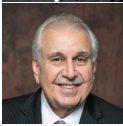
District 1



Cindy Cronin Cahill **R**
Elmhurst



Michael Childress **D**
Bloomington



Sam Tornatore **R**
Roselle

District 2



Elizabeth Chaplin **D**
Downers Grove



Paula Deacon Garcia **D**
Lisle



Yeena Yoo **D**
Elmhurst

District 3



Lucy Chang Evans **D**
Naperville



Kari Galassi **R**
Hinsdale



Brian Krajewski **R**
Downers Grove

District 4



Grant Eckhoff **R**
Wheaton



Lynn LaPlante **D**
Glen Ellyn

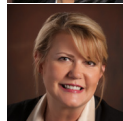


Mary FitzGerald Ozog **D**
Glen Ellyn

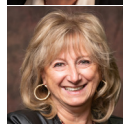
District 5



Sadia Covert **D**
Naperville



Dawn DeSart **D**
Aurora

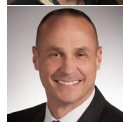


Patty Gustin **R**
Naperville

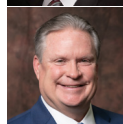
District 6



Sheila Rutledge **D**
West Chicago



Greg Schwarze **D**
Carol Stream



James F. Zay **R**
Carol Stream



DUPAGE COUNTY

421 N. County Farm Road
Wheaton, IL 60187

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GOVERNMENT PROFILE

COUNTY FACTS

DuPage County, Illinois

Incorporated January 1, 1838

Cities located entirely or partly in DuPage:

Aurora, Batavia, Chicago, Darien, Elmhurst, Naperville, Oakbrook Terrace, St. Charles, Warrenville, West Chicago, Wheaton and Wood Dale

Villages located entirely or partly in DuPage:

Addison, Bartlett, Bensenville, Bloomingdale, Bolingbrook, Burr Ridge, Carol Stream, Clarendon Hills, Downers Grove, Elk Grove Village, Glendale Heights, Glen Ellyn, Hanover Park, Hinsdale, Itasca, Lemont, Lisle, Lombard, Oak Brook, Roselle, Schaumburg, Villa Park, Wayne, Westmont, Willowbrook, Winfield and Woodridge

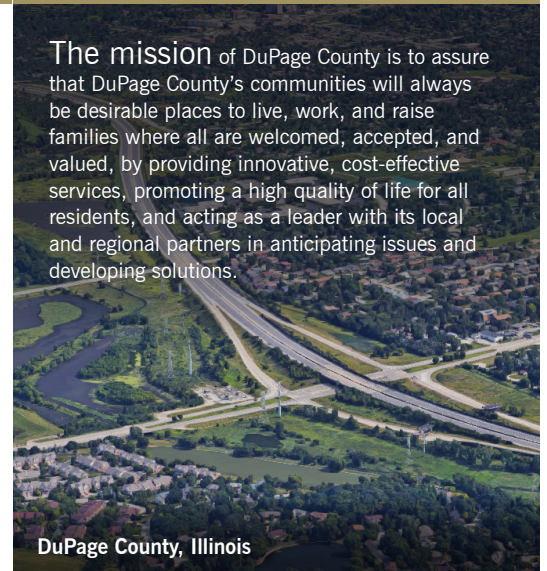
Unincorporated communities:

Cloverdale, Eola, Flowerfield, Keeneyville, Lakewood, Medinah, Palisades, Swift, and York Center

Townships:

Addison, Bloomingdale, Downers Grove, Lisle, Milton, Naperville, Wayne, Winfield and York

The mission of DuPage County is to assure that DuPage County's communities will always be desirable places to live, work, and raise families where all are welcomed, accepted, and valued, by providing innovative, cost-effective services, promoting a high quality of life for all residents, and acting as a leader with its local and regional partners in anticipating issues and developing solutions.



DuPage County, Illinois

Demographic Information¹

- Population: 932,877
- Total Population: 932,877
- Incorporated Population: 837,054
- Unincorporated Population: 95,823



Race, Ethnicity, Gender²

- Caucasian: 65.0%
- African American: 5.4%
- American Indian/Alaska Native: 0.4%
- Asian: 13.2%
- Hispanic or Latino: 15.0%
- Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 0.01%
- Other: 3.53%
- Male: 49.5%
- Female: 50.5%



Education Attainment³

- High School Graduate: 93.3%
- Bachelor's Degree: 50.3%
- Graduate or Professional Degree: 19.6%



Colleges and Universities⁴

- Devry University
- College of DuPage
- Wheaton College
- Benedictine University
- Elmhurst University
- North Central College
- Midwestern University
- National University of Health Sciences
- Lewis University



Area Information⁵

- Persons per Square Miles: 2,773.4
- Open Space: 20% or 443,060 acres
- Total Area: 336.36 sq. miles
- Total Incorporated Area: 247.58 sq. miles
- Total Unincorporated Area: 88.78 sq. miles
- District 1: 54.81 sq. miles
- District 2: 49.99 sq. miles
- District 3: 53.08 sq. miles
- District 4: 38.64 sq. miles
- District 5: 49.63 sq. miles
- District 6: 90.22 sq. miles



Financial Information⁶

- County Revenue: \$510.0 million
- Sales Tax Revenue: \$131.3 million
- Property Tax Revenue⁷: \$46.4 million
- Local Gas Tax Revenue: \$37.1 million
- Income Tax Revenue: \$13.9 million
- Funds on Hand: \$98.9 million



Economic Information⁸

- Unemployment Rate: 3.3%
- Number of Jobs: 632,089
- Office Space Vacancy Rate: 16.9%
- Industrial Space Vacancy Rate: 2.8%
- Bond rating: AAA / AA+⁹
- Housing Units: 344,314¹⁰
- Median Household Income: \$94,930¹¹



¹ 2020 U.S. Census

² 2020 U.S. Census

³ 2020 U.S. Census

⁴ There are 18 colleges and universities in DuPage County

⁵ DuPage GIS Map Book (2022)

⁶ DuPage County FY2023 Approved Budget

⁷ 2023 County revenue minus Health Department tax levy

⁸ Choose DuPage

⁹ Maintains AAA bond rating with Standard & Poor's and Moody's and an AA+ rating with Fitch

¹⁰ 2020 U.S. Census

¹¹ 2020 U.S. Census



DUPAGE COUNTY

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Overview

DuPage County is the second largest county in Illinois with over 930,000 residents. The County is comprised of 9 townships, portions of 39 municipalities, and 336 square miles. DuPage is a major employment center for northeastern Illinois, home to 630,000 jobs, 90,000 businesses, 7 hospitals, 2 national laboratories (Argonne National Laboratory and Fermi National Accelerator), 18 institutions of higher education, 300 miles of bikeways, and 23,000 acres of forest preserve property. Over 20% of the county is open space.

County residents elect the County Board Chair at-large plus nine other Countywide Elected Officials including the Auditor, County Clerk, Clerk of the Circuit Court, Coroner, Recorder, Regional Superintendent of Schools, Sheriff, State's Attorney, and Treasurer. The County Board includes eighteen members who are elected from six County Board Districts (three members per district).

Core county government services include the provision of: public safety/sheriff's office and the operation of the county jail; administration of the 18th judicial circuit, the second largest court system in the state (and all related agencies - judiciary, state's attorney, circuit court clerk, public defender, jury commission, probation); construction and maintenance of the county highway and trails system; delivery of public health, environmental health, mental health care, and substance use prevention; assistance with food, emergency shelter, utilities, and transportation services to residents in need; programs for seniors including adult protective services; flood control and stormwater management; job training and job search support; water and sewer services; building and permitting; zoning enforcement; administration of countywide elections; operation of the county nursing home; emergency management and emergency preparedness; and operation of the county animal shelter.

County leaders continue to seek opportunities to share the delivery of public services to minimize the tax burden on residents. DuPage County continues to receive a AAA Bond Rating from two major credit rating agencies. County government also accounts for less than 3% of an average property tax bill.



DUPAGE COUNTY

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



2023 State Legislative Priorities

- **Keeping our Communities Safe** – protect our residents from senseless gun violence through the enactment of stiffer penalties for the unlawful use of a weapon and for the possession and unlawful sale of ghost guns.
- **Reimagining our Public Transit System** – recognize the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on suburban ridership and the needs of the people of DuPage County. DuPage encourages the modernization of our public transit delivery system, including funding of sustainability and service flexibility that meets the needs of our evolving demographics, market forces, employer attraction, and retention, and ensures accountability of the transit service providers.
- **Expand Mental Health Infrastructure** – support rebuilding of Illinois’ Mental Health infrastructure and workforce, expanding access to substance use disorder and mental health care, preventing unnecessary hospitalizations, while properly funding innovative solutions and reimbursements to local providers.
- **Extend the sunset of the Emergency Telephone System Act** – ensure the continued delivery of 9-1-1 emergency dispatch services.
- **Allocate a Fair Share of Income Tax Revenues** – provide counties and municipalities with its fair share of income tax proceeds through the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF), that supports the delivery of critical local government services to our residents.
- **Protect Our Environment** – support legislation that reduces the impact our residents and businesses have on the environment by reducing waste and diverting materials from landfills.
- **Expand Tourism/Economic Development Opportunities** – support certified convention and visitors’ bureaus to help them compete with neighboring states, to attract major events to maximize economic opportunities.
- **Enact an Illinois Child Tax Credit** – join 12 other states that offer child tax credits (in addition to the federal credit), to help lift families with children out of poverty.
- **Address Homelessness and Expand Affordable Housing Opportunities** – continue and expand resources directed toward ensuring housing stability.
- **Protect our Animal Population** – advocate for our animal population by providing that those who mistreat animals are held accountable for their actions, oppose any attempts to repeal the current ban on puppy mills, and enact other measures to protect animals from inhumane treatment.



DUPAGE COUNTY

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Keeping our Communities Safe

One of the primary functions of county government is to ensure the safety of our communities and residents. Currently, DuPage County allocates over 60% of its annual \$584 million budget to support public safety agencies, including the sheriff, state's attorney, judiciary, public defender, circuit court clerk, coroner, and probation offices.

Unfortunately, this country continues to experience mass shootings with 39 such shootings occurring this year to date. Although legislation to ban the sale of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines has already been enacted by the General Assembly, the County Board supports the adoption of stiffer penalties for gun crimes, specifically for the offenses of armed habitual criminal, unlawful use of a weapon, and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon. In addition, the proliferation of ghost guns, firearms that are privately produced instead of by a registered gun manufacturer that lack serial numbers and cannot be traced, poses yet another significant threat to public safety. DuPage County supports increased penalties for the possession of ghost guns and for the unlawful sale of a ghost gun.

Reimagining our Public Transit System

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted transit usage in the region. Projections indicate ridership is unlikely to return to pre-pandemic levels in the foreseeable future, if at all. The widespread availability of telework options has and will continue to impact traditional transit services and historical commutes. In addition, evolving markets, especially in the logistics and warehousing sectors, has created a potential unmet transit service need. The federal Justice40 program was established to ensure that at least 40% of investment flows to disadvantaged communities, that includes a number of communities within DuPage County. It is imperative that the RTA and Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) acknowledge and plan to address suburban disparities along with those in Chicago and Cook County.

Last session, the Illinois General Assembly directed CMAP to prepare a report outlining recommendations for the long-term financial and service viability of public transit. A report is due to the General Assembly in January of 2024. Federal COVID relief funding will continue to sustain operations of our regional transit system through 2025, however the service agencies have projected a \$730 million operational deficit by 2026 (that will continue to grow each year). DuPage County will remain engaged in discussions regarding the future of transit in the region and will closely monitor any transit legislative initiatives prior to the release of the CMAP Transit Report, including reductions to the fare box recovery rate beyond what is allowed by the temporary State recovery ratio relief currently in place to ensure some accountability by ridership.

Expand Mental Health Infrastructure

COVID-19 brought another Public Health Crisis to the forefront of this nation, the need to expand Mental Health services. The DuPage County Health Department faces challenges as it builds a behavioral health crisis system, consisting of an organized set of structures, processes, and services that are in place to meet all types of urgent and emergent behavioral health crisis needs in a defined population or community, effectively and efficiently.



DUPAGE COUNTY

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



The Illinois General Assembly (during its 2023 Lame Duck Session) appropriated a *one-time* directed payment for services that include mobile crisis response and crisis intervention. The \$30 million statewide appropriation should be made *permanent*, and a mechanism established for sustainable funding. This investment will be needed to build those systems long term and to support the sustainable operations of the crisis and mental health system. The funding should also be made on a per capita basis. Separately, the overnight stays in crisis residential programs remain unfunded. The development of a Night of Care (NOC) rate for this level of care would also assist in long-term funding and sustaining 24/7 operations instead of relying on taxpayer support and a state grant that does not cover the cost of the program. This is a much more efficient and effective alternative to hospitalizations but must be funded to continue.

The first step in rebuilding the Illinois Mental Health Workforce is by having a well-educated and well-trained group of available workers. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) study of the demand and supply of the mental health workforce estimates that Illinois will have fewer mental health workers, resulting in an even more profound inability to meet the higher demand for services. It is imperative that policies, programs, and legislation be enacted to increase the supply of healthcare workers to meet the demands of the problems associated with mental health and substance use disorder.

Supporting the behavioral health workforce and creating a better pipeline for people to come into the field is necessary and overdue. Paid internships, student loan repayment that is not based solely on serving clients in low-income areas and instead focused on unserved populations should be considered to serve all areas of the State.

The General Assembly has passed legislation stating that no base Medicaid rate payment or any other payment for the provision of Medicaid community mental health services in place on January 1, 2023, shall be diminished. DuPage County requests the General Assembly make the Medicaid reimbursement rates for crisis intervention and mobile crisis response permanent, develop a Night of Care (NOC) rate for overnight stays, and set aside funds to offer students enrolled in mental health fields, scholarships, loan forgiveness, and other incentives to study fields related to Mental Health and to practice once they graduate in Illinois (such as social workers, occupational therapists, community mental health nurses, psychiatrists, psychologists, counselors, community support workers, mental health pharmacists).

It is imperative that the State of Illinois invest the resources necessary to ensure anyone of any background can receive the appropriate level of mental health treatment.

Extend the Sunset of the Emergency Telephone System Act

The Emergency Telephone System Board of DuPage County (ETSB) has statutory oversight of the enhanced 9-1-1 emergency response systems for police, fire, and EMS for the citizens of DuPage County and for portions of Cook, Kane, and Will Counties (excluding incorporated Naperville and Aurora). The DuPage County ETSB is the largest county 9-1-1 system in the State and receives approximately \$14.1 million annually in funding from the 9-1-1 statewide surcharge. The County's ETSB has worked diligently to consolidate the number of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAP's or dispatch centers) from 22 geographic locations in 2008 to 2 in 2020, resulting in an



DUPAGE COUNTY

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



annual savings to taxpayers of an estimated \$7 million in personnel costs and \$2.3 million in network systems costs.

The Emergency Telephone System Act (50 ILCS 750), including the surcharge, is due to sunset on December 31, 2023. DuPage County requests support of the following provisions to ensure the continuation of responsive 9-1-1 services to our residents.

- **Extend the Act and Surcharge.** It is critical that the Act, including the uniform monthly surcharge, continue past the sunset date to December 31, 2026, to ensure continued local emergency response operations and the completion and operation of the new NG9-1-1 statewide network.
- **Continue State-wide Consolidation.** The mandated consolidation goals included as part of the Act should also remain, to eliminate unnecessary, outdated 9-1-1 infrastructure and reduce transfers of 9-1-1 calls to facilitate a swift response to citizen requests for emergency assistance when dialing 9-1-1.
- **Acceptable Use of Surcharge.** In September of 2022, the FCC provided guidelines that have narrowed the scope of *acceptable* use of surcharge dollars. The Act (50 ILCS 750) and Administrative Code relating to the use of the surcharge (83 Illinois Administrative Code Part 1329,) will be aligned to federal guidelines. Care must be taken to maintain the strategic benefits gained from shared resources and systems which could be affected by these changes.

Allocate a Fair Share of Income Tax Revenues

Monies allocated under the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF), established in 1969 when the State of Illinois enacted an income tax, does not represent a “grant” from the State but rather a small share of income taxes paid by county residents that are returned on a per capita basis to support critical local services.

Under the original agreement with the State, units of local government were to receive 10% of total state income tax revenues which continued until 2011, when the State instituted a temporary income tax increase but failed to share the corresponding (increased) portion with local governments. In 2017, the General Assembly further reduced LGDF payments to local governments by 10% of state income tax revenues received, and in 2018, by another 5% of revenues received (to help balance the state budget).

As part of the Fiscal Year 2023 budget package, the General Assembly approved a modest one-year increase in local government’s total share of income tax proceeds, raising the amount distributed from the previous 6.06% of individual income tax collections to 6.16%, (for state fiscal year 2023 only), which translates into an estimated annual increase of \$133,632 for DuPage County.

DuPage County, together with our municipal partners and the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACo), urge the Illinois General Assembly to restore the distribution of LGDF dollars to the agreed upon 10% share of income tax proceeds to local governments.



DUPAGE COUNTY

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



Protect Our Environment

DuPage County seeks to reduce the impact our residents and businesses have on the environment by reducing waste and increasing recycling and reuse. Packaging has become a significant source of waste and is causing contamination issues within the existing recycling system. Ensuring that packaging is recyclable, compostable and includes post-consumer recycled content also supports the county's solid waste management goals.

An Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) policy for packaging and paper products, would require brand owners (producers) to bear the financial and operational responsibility for the recycling of materials, plus manage a statewide recycling system including cardboard, plastic, metal, paper, and other common recyclables. Similar to current Illinois laws related to the recycling of electronics and pharmaceuticals, producers would form an independent nonprofit organization, a Producer Responsibility Organization (PRO), to coordinate, fund and manage a statewide recycling system and develop one consistent statewide list of what may be recycled. A

working group of stakeholders including retailers, environmental groups, solid waste agencies, and waste & recycling organizations (and DuPage County) have met for over a year and continue to meet, to reach an agreement this session on a Packaging and Paper Products Bill.

DuPage County continues to support the enactment of the Carpet Stewardship Act, that would manage the recycling of carpet and carpet padding (made of plastic) to reduce the product's waste generation, promote reuse/recycling, and develop a system to collect, transport and process carpet for recycling. It is estimated that 89% of all carpeting ends up in landfills and in Illinois, that translates to a per capita carpet generation rate of 14 pounds per person annually. Most carpets are made from petroleum products, which creates an opportunity to avoid greenhouse gas emissions when carpet is recycled. Latex paint is often purchased in larger quantities than needed and like electronics, carpet, and packaging, a statewide program should be created to ensure that unused paint is either reused, recycled, or properly disposed of.

DuPage County urges legislators to work with all stakeholders to develop legislation that reduces waste and increases the recycling and reuse of materials. DuPage also supports legislation that paves the way for electric vehicles and the necessary charging infrastructure, including incentives. A proposition on the 2022 ballot asking if the County should invest in charging stations was passed by more than 55%.

Expand Tourism/Economic Development Opportunities

Tourism is a major driver of economic activity, contributing billions of dollars to the State's economy that welcomed over 110 million visitors last year. The Illinois Office of Tourism (under the Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, DCEO) works with the (40) certified Convention and Visitors Bureaus statewide, including the DuPage Convention and Visitors Bureau (DCVB), to promote Illinois as a travel destination for meetings, conventions, domestic and international visitors as well as leisure travelers. In 2021, the tourism and hospitality industry employed nearly 400,000 people statewide.

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic created significant challenges for the tourism industry that is still recovering. In addition, the current State grant formula that distributes hotel/motel tax revenues caps large



DUPAGE COUNTY

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



bureaus (such as the DCVB), and fails to recognize high performing bureaus, like DCVB, that generates millions of dollars in revenue for the State.

DuPage County requests that the Illinois Office of Tourism develop a strategy to increase discretionary grant funding for those bureaus that generate significant economic impact through meetings, events, and sports tournaments, which result in a substantial return on investment and meet targeted business goals.

Enact an Illinois Child Tax Credit

The COVID-19 pandemic compounded economic burdens for many families in this country. A child tax credit is one way to provide some a monetary benefit and relief to families raising children, by increasing their income, thus lifting many low to middle-income families out of poverty. Research studies confirm that food and housing insecurity is reduced, and health incomes improved, through the receipt of monthly payments under a child tax credit. To date, the federal government and 12 states offer child tax credits to enhance the economic security of families, including California, Colorado, Connecticut, Idaho, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, and Vermont.

DuPage County encourages the Illinois General Assembly to enact a State Child Tax Credit, to provide some financial relief to low to middle-income families.

Address Homelessness & Expand Affordable Housing Opportunities

DuPage County has an estimated shortage of 16,000 units of affordable rental housing, and over 20% of DuPage renters pay more than 50% of their income on rent. DuPage recently utilized federal COVID and American Rescue Plan Act funds to support the purchase of a 130-room hotel to be converted into an interim housing center (IHC) which provides emergency housing to those experiencing homelessness. The IHC quickly filled to capacity and currently houses approximately 300 people per night, including nearly 100 children (and has a waiting list).

DuPage County encourages the State to increase funding for its Emergency and Transitional Housing Program, which provides the necessary operating and services support for the emergency shelter system.

DuPage County supports homeless prevention efforts that stabilize families at risk of losing their homes, particularly through the Illinois Housing Development Authority's (IHDA) Court Based Rental Assistance program, the creation of additional units of permanent supportive housing, and through other initiatives outlined in the recently released "Home Illinois: Illinois' Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness."

DuPage County also encourages the State to utilize the federal resources under its control, including State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, Emergency Rental Assistance funds, and HOME-ARP funds, to



DUPAGE COUNTY

2023 STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



support the construction of new affordable rental housing throughout the State

Protect Our Animal Population

DuPage County Animal Services (DCAS) operates an open-admission shelter in Wheaton that is required by state statute to accept any companion animal surrendered to the facility, both stray and owner-relinquished. DCAS works to: prevent and control the spread of rabies; rescue and shelter stray and unwanted animals; provide veterinary medical and surgical care to treat illness and injury to shelter animals; perform spay/neuter procedures to control the animal overpopulation; and promote responsible pet ownership through humane education programs. Last year, almost 2,000 animals entered DuPage County Animal Services, some surrendered due to illness or significant behavioral problems as they were sourced from commercial breeding facilities. Animals from these facilities often live under poor sanitary conditions and lack adequate veterinary care, resulting in many sick and unwanted animals being given up by their owners, ending up in the county's care.

In 2021, DuPage County played a pivotal role in the passage of Public Act 102-0586, the Humane Pet Store Law, effectively banning the sale of cats and dogs sourced from commercial breeding facilities (puppy mills). Despite passage of this legislation, the pet store industry continues to attempt to weaken or repeal this Public Act and a few retail facilities continue to operate due to a loophole in current law regarding the licensure of dog dealers by the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

In January of 2019, a kennel fire in unincorporated West Chicago claimed the lives of twenty-nine dogs and injured several first responders. After a subsequent investigation, it was determined that the dogs residing at the facility were mistreated, previously suffering from wounds, and living under inhumane and unsanitary conditions. Although the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office charged the defendant with aggravated animal cruelty and requested a lifetime ban on the defendant possessing companion animals in the future, the court stated it lacked the ability to do so under current state statute.

DuPage County opposes all attempts to weaken or repeal the Humane Pet Store Law, supports legislation to revise the definition of dog dealer under the Illinois Agriculture Act, and supports the enactment of the Animal Cruelty and Forfeiture of Animals Act, to enhance penalties for violations of the Act.