



DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference



# Legislative Action Program

DMMC Legislative Priorities for 2019

## DuPage Mayor and Managers Conference –

### SERVING RESIDENTS OF DUPAGE AND ILLINOIS

Representing more than one million residents by advocating for sound public policy initiatives, the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC) strives to promote sound local 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 2019 include:

- **Protecting Local Government Distributive Fund Revenue** to adequately fund municipal operating budgets and provide basic services to residents without shifting the state’s financial problems onto municipalities.
- **Consolidating Public Safety Pensions** to reduce unfunded pension liabilities, stabilize retirement systems and protect against cuts to basic services and property tax increases.
- **Preserving Local Authority** to allow municipalities to serve the distinct needs of residents and businesses in their communities.
- **Repairing and Improving Illinois’ Infrastructure** to maintain local roads, bridges and water facilities while ensuring safe transport and creating new jobs.
- **Reforming Workers’ Compensation laws** to bring more economic opportunity in Illinois while ensuring that injured workers get quality health care and fair treatment.

## BY THE NUMBERS...

**33** MUNICIPALITIES

**1 MILLION** RESIDENTS

**340,000** HOUSEHOLDS

**700,000** JOBS

**75,000** BUSINESSES

**\$20 BILLION** RETAIL SALES



## ENSURE SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL BUDGETS



Returning revenue generated by local residents and businesses back to the community is crucial to preserving vital municipal services like police and fire protection, garbage pick-up, road maintenance, snow removal and emergency medical services (EMS). DMMC communities, as well as those throughout the state, rely on these revenue streams—including the \$1 billion 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. Reducing LGDF dollars shifts the state's financial problems onto municipalities, forcing potential service cuts, police and fire layoffs and local property tax increases.

## SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC SAFETY PENSIONS

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. The current system is unsustainable as the unfunded pension liabilities continue to grow significantly, despite more revenue pouring into the system. Without cutting benefits, **consolidating the 663 municipal public safety pension funds** into a single multiple-employer pension fund management system would expand investment opportunities and lower operational expenses for those who serve our communities. Without reform, the costs of public safety pensions will continue to rise, adding to the financial burden of municipalities and forcing cuts in basic services or increases in local property taxes.



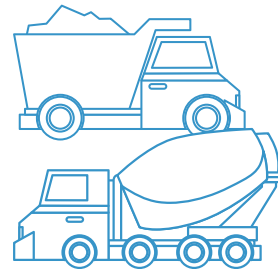
## PRESERVE LOCAL AUTHORITY



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. 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 communities. In some cases, legislation and mandates can restrict a local government's ability to do what's right for residents and businesses. Issues such as franchising, zoning, permitting and licensing, local code enforcement and regulating business activities are fundamental responsibilities of local government. In addition, removing the distinction between home rule and non-home rule communities would eliminate barriers, giving all municipalities crucial local control and decision-making ability.

## INVEST IN ILLINOIS' INFRASTRUCTURE

Improving Illinois' infrastructure system will bolster the state's economy, create jobs and attract new businesses. **A state capital bill would help jumpstart Illinois' economy**, which depends on roads, rail and water facilities that connect local communities, and limit congestion while ensuring safe travel, prompt freight delivery, clean water and an efficient public transportation system. By establishing a systematic approach for identifying and prioritizing needs with matching resources, municipalities can work with the state to upgrade infrastructure, creating new projects for communities and jobs for residents. This will increase wages and attract a more competitive workforce so that Illinois remains one of the best places to work, own a business and raise a family.



## REFORM WORKERS' COMPENSATION



Workers' compensation reforms would create economic opportunity and jobs to make Illinois more competitive with surrounding states. **Adopting common-sense reforms would lead to more reasonable settlements** without harming employees who have legitimate claims and ensure they are protected and receive quality treatment. Establishing standards that ensure an injury or illness is directly linked to the work or the workplace is fair to workers and businesses. As a result, lower costs brought about by these reforms would save significant taxpayer dollars and enable employers to expand, relocate and grow their businesses in Illinois.

