

2016

STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



**County Office Building
302 North Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432**



**RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

Establishing Will County 2016 Legislative Agenda & Priorities

WHEREAS, the Will County Board Legislative & Policy Committee has been diligently monitoring legislation affecting Will County and has prepared the 2016 Will County State Legislative Agenda; and

WHEREAS, in anticipation of the 99th Illinois General Assembly Spring Session, the Legislative & Policy Committee has summarized Will County's main legislative priorities and concerns; and

WHEREAS, with the assistance of Will County Elected Officials and department heads, the Legislative & Policy Committee has recommended the attached list of priorities for inclusion in the 2016 Will County State Legislative Agenda.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Will County Board hereby establishes the list of priorities set forth as the 2016 Will County State Legislative Agenda, as attached, to move forward to the spring session of the Illinois General Assembly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Will County Clerk shall transmit copies of the attached 2016 Will County State Legislative Agenda & Priorities to members of Will County's State Legislative Delegation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Preamble of this Resolution is hereby incorporated as if fully set forth herein; and this Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon its passage and approval as provided by law.

Adopted by the Will County Board this 17th day of December, 2015.

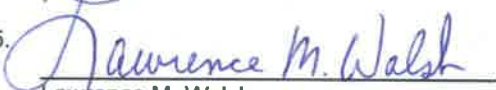
AYES: Howard, Ogalla, Moustis, Singer, Moran, Rice, Harris, Traynere, Bennefield, Fritz, Freitag, Gould, Balich, Fricilone, Brooks Jr., Winfrey, Parker, Staley-Ferry, Babich, Wilhelmi, Hart, Maher, Tuminello, Weigel, Collins, Ferry

Result: Approved - [Unanimous]

Approved this 17th day of December, 2015.


Nancy Scholtz Voots
Will County Clerk

(SEAL)


Lawrence M. Walsh
Will County Executive

WILL COUNTY LEADERSHIP



WILL COUNTY BOARD SPEAKER

JIM MOUSTIS (R)

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS CHAIR

CHARLES "CHUCK" MAHER

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR

HERBERT BROOKS, JR.

REPUBLICAN WHIP

MIKE FRICILONE

DEMOCRATIC WHIP

DONALD A. MORAN

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Judy Ogalla (R)

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Cory Singer (R)

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Beth Rice (D)

District 4

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District 5

Darren Bennefield (R)
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District 12

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Liz Collins (R)
Mark Ferry (D)

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INTRODUCTION

Will County Board Legislative & Policy Committee

**SUZANNE HART, CHAIR
ROBERT HOWARD, VICE CHAIR
STEVE BALICH
LIZ COLLINS
KENNETH E. HARRIS
DON MORAN
ANNETTE PARKER
BETH RICE
RAY TUMINELLO**

The Legislative Agenda for 2016 is a product of the Will County Board's Legislative & Policy Committee and is endorsed by the Will County Board. The committee is charged with reviewing legislative proposals that may affect the county, and developing legislative proposals that enhance the ability of Will County Government to serve its citizens. The committee also takes positions on selected bills on behalf of the Will County Board.

It is the County Board's policy to support legislation granting additional authority to counties. We also may support legislation which allows counties to expand non-property tax revenue sources.

In general, we ask the Governor and all legislators to adhere to the following principles:

- Oppose unfunded mandates imposed by State and Federal governments, and fund programs as mandated by state law;
- Oppose legislation that reduces our existing authority;
- Oppose legislation that erodes our existing revenue base;
- Honor all of the state's financial obligations;
- Do not divert dedicated revenues including, but not limited to, sales, gasoline, income and RTA taxes, that should come to the county.

OUR LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Weber Road & Interstate 55

The area around the I-55/Weber Road interchange has experienced tremendous population and employment growth since the interchange was constructed in 1990, mainly within the Villages of Bolingbrook and Romeoville. The high concentration of manufacturing, warehousing and distribution companies located along I-55 depend on safe and efficient truck access to the interstate highway system. Due to increased traffic, severe congestion at peak travel times and delays, the interchange has become a chokepoint for commuters and freight. Additional manufacturing and distribution space is available in the I-55 and Weber Road corridors and important to local economic development.

Will County funded 100% of the cost of the Phase I study, which was completed in January of 2014, and has committed another \$3.5 million to Phase II. Construction is estimated to cost \$70 million. IDOT lists engineering design and construction costs for the project in its FY 2014-2019 multi-year highway improvement program, noting a requirement for additional local funds to implement. The Villages of Bolingbrook and Romeoville have committed local funds to the project.

Interstate 55

Will County supports the programming of funds for add-lanes on I-55 from I-80 south to at least IL 129 to provide safer and more efficient travel by the public, and to accommodate significant truck traffic traveling to and from intermodal developments within the region.

Interstate 80

Will County supports the programming of additional funds to construct add-lanes on I-80 from Route 30 to Ridge Road in order to provide safer and more efficient travel for the public and to accommodate significant truck traffic traveling through the Midwest.

I-80 is an important link in the nation's interstate system, connecting California to New Jersey, and is an important east-west corridor for moving freight across the country and through Chicago.

The 16-mile corridor of I-80 through Will County from US Route 30 to Ridge Road carries over 110,000 vehicles, including up to 30% trucks. Within the 2-lane corridor, there are eight interchanges, over 40 structures, and four waterway crossings. In the center of the project is the Des Plaines River Bridges, aging structures anticipated to require over \$250 million for replacement.

Significant population and employment growth in the region and Will County have contributed to increased travel demand through the corridor. The segment of I-80 through Will County is the only location in the country to have a reduced 45mph speed limit and is a recognized bottleneck for national freight movement. Since 2002, two rail intermodal terminals have begun operating in Will County, attracting new warehousing and distribution facilities to the area. Container trucks access Will County's Inland Port from I-80 at Route 53, an interchange not designed for large trucks and currently a high accident location. Plans to construct a new bridge over I-80 directly connecting the northern end of the Inland Port with the existing Houbolt Road interchange have been discussed among local stakeholders as an alternative point of access from I-80. Future projections show truck traffic volumes growing dramatically on I-80 through Will County in future years without new east west alternatives, like the proposed Illiana Expressway.

IDOT initiated a Phase I study in this corridor in 2009. The project study team has been working with local stakeholders to develop and evaluate improvement alternatives with particular attention to the interchanges at Center Street, Chicago Street (IL Route 52/53) and Richards Street. Phase II funding included for I-80 in IDOT's FY 2013-2018 Multi-Modal Transportation Improvement Program is intended for near term corridor needs mainly focusing on bridge rehabilitation and is likely not sufficient for long term capacity type improvements. IDOT completed a resurfacing project on I-80 between US 30 and the Will/Grundy County line in 2011, in addition to an add-lanes project on I-80, east of US 30 to IL Route 45.

County Clerk

HB1452 – Foreign Language Ballots. Will County opposes requiring that ballots and other elections material be available in a second language in any precinct that overlaps a census tract where at least 10% of the population is considered limited in English proficiency. The expenses far outweigh the benefits and managing multiple languages by precinct will increase the risk of errors.

Cell Towers

The County's lack of authority over the siting of cell towers has led to a reduction in quality of life for many Will County residents. Despite county efforts to encourage appropriate siting with reasonable setbacks from residential property lines, several towers have been constructed dangerously close to homes.

Will County supports legislation that will grant counties zoning and planning authority similar to the authority municipalities currently have. We would further support legislation providing for assurances that a telecommunication carrier would be responsible for the removal of obsolete facilities and site restoration as technology is advanced and towers are no longer beneficial.

Property Foreclosures

Will County opposes legislation that will allow plaintiffs in foreclosure suits to select entities to conduct foreclosure sales. Efforts to allow private entities, rather than county sheriffs, to conduct the sales will cost the county more than \$1.2 million in lost revenue annually. We strongly believe that county sheriffs should conduct the sales. Will County opposes bills that attempt to change the current practice – a practice that ensures fairness to all concerned.

Sales in Error (35 ILCS 200/21-310)

Applications for Sales in Error have skyrocketed since a change to the law in 2011. The spike, in our opinion, is the result of a loophole allowing tax buyers to declare that a county sold property taxes in error because of a past bankruptcy. The intent of the law should be for active bankruptcies, not any bankruptcy.

Sample Language: Clarification to the code outlining how Sales in Error should be for “open bankruptcies at the time of sale,” i.e., cases that are currently in court.

Court Ordered Interest (35 ILCS 200/21-315(b))

The spike in court ordered refunds for Sales in Error force the county to bear the penalty costs. In 2012, Court Ordered refunds were more than \$1-million. The penalty is 1% per month, which is substantially higher than the county earns on its month in the same period. We believe the county loses 97-cents for every dollar it pays on Court Ordered refunds. By changing the language, counties can manage its losses.

Sample Language: “Interest shall be awarded and paid to the tax purchaser at the lesser rate of 1% per month or the percentage increase in the CPI for all urban consumers during the 12-month calendar year preceding the levy year for which the refund was made as published by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.”

Fund for Payment of Interest (35 ILCS 200/21-330)

Tax Buyers pay the county a \$60 fee to fund the Court Ordered Interest Fund. Because of the large number of Sales in Error, Illinois counties are paying more from this fund than they are taking in as fees, costing the county directly. We recommend a fee increase to \$100 from \$60.

Sample Language: “In counties of under 3,000,000 inhabitants, the county board may impose a fee of up to \$100, which shall be paid to the county collector...”

Probation Funding

In accordance with the *Probation and Probation Officers Act (730 ILCS 110)*, probation services are mandated by the State of Illinois as part of the Court Services program.

“Although an increase in salary reimbursement funding has been realized for SFY 2015, adequate funding for Probation and Detention services throughout the State of Illinois remains a critical issue. The continuation of the support for this positive trend in Probation and Detention funding is essential in order to maintain safer communities by insuring offender accountability. A reduction in funding will only serve to diminish the capability of

Court Services Departments to accomplish the mission of creating safer communities and insuring offender accountability.”

While Will County supports legislation for alternative funding mechanisms, we urge the legislature to fully fund probation services without diminishing other county revenues.

Clean Construction and Demolition Debris

Public Act 96-1416 allows the disposal of so-called *clean construction and demolition debris* in Will County and other state quarries. Will County participated in the Pollution Control Board’s rulemaking to ensure that the rules would provide for groundwater monitoring and effectively protect our citizens and environment. The promulgated rules did not, and although approved by JCAR (Joint Committee on Administrative Rules) the Pollution Control Board was asked to revisit the issue of groundwater monitoring. The Pollution Control Board (PCB) recently rejected this matter and the Will County State’s Attorney’s Office has filed an appeal of the PCB’s decision. While we await the appeal process, legislation will be developed and forwarded to the Illinois State legislature to require groundwater monitoring at CCDD Facilities (Will County has 9 active CCDD sites).

Emergency Management

The Illinois Nuclear Safety Preparedness Act, 420 ILCS 5/, includes provisions for annual licensing fees for commercial nuclear stations. This generates roughly \$24,000,000 each year, which goes to Illinois EMA. A provision within the act allocates \$450,000 annually (There is a provision which allows IEMA to fund up to \$600,000, which they usually do) to help fund related emergency management activities of the counties and local jurisdictions directly impacted by the nuclear stations. The last time this amount was increased was 1998. Since then, our responsibilities and the cost of doing business for our emergency management program have both increased significantly. In the case of Will County, the amount we receive each year covers only around 50% of our costs for our nuclear preparedness activities. The Illinois Nuclear Safety Preparedness Act should be amended to increase funding levels for counties.

Resource Recovery

- **Illinois Residential Electronics Recycling**

Amend the Electronic Products Recycling and Re-Use Act (Public Act 97-0287) so that

the goals of manufacturers include convenience standards that ensure funding year round, even if goals are met, to sufficiently fund residential electronic recycling programs.

- Will County supports the consolidation of state revenue from the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) into a single fund that cannot be swept by the State. 25% of Illinois energy is to be produced by renewable energy sources (wind, solar, biomass, etc.) pursuant to the *Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS)*. RPS funding is provided by the main energy suppliers to support local energy efficiency programs. The distribution of that revenue into multiple funds has resulted in the diversion of those funds by the state. Will County supports legislation that places all revenue into a protected single fund that prevents the diversion of RPS revenue by the State of Illinois.

Emergency Telephone System Board

Will County supports the immediate appropriation to the Department of State Police from the Statewide 9-1-1 Fund (funded by the 9-1-1 surcharge on phone lines and wireless phones) an amount necessary to pay all costs pursuant to the *Emergency Telephone System Act*, including the operation of 9-1-1 dispatch centers throughout the State of Illinois.

Assessments

Pollution Control Equipment: Will County opposes an expansion of the definition for pollution control equipment.

Will County Road Projects

Will County is one of the fastest growing counties in the nation and is projected to have a population of approximately 1.2 million by the year 2030. Over the last decade, we have become a major inland port with three major intermodal facilities currently operating and two more in the development phase.

We are providing a list of road projects by legislative district that will need funding in the near future. We ask that IDOT, along with the Senator and Representative from each legislative district, consider these projects as funding becomes available through a capital bill.

We look forward to working with each of you to ensure that Will County and its taxpayers get a fair distribution of the resources identified in the capital bill.

State Representative Thaddeus Jones
29th Representative District

Project	Location	Type	Cost
Pauling-Goodenow	over Plum Creek	Structure repl.	\$ 1,300,000.00
		Eng – Ph III	\$ 130,000.00
		<hr/>	
		Total Cost	\$ 1,430,000.00

State Representative Elgie R. Sims, Jr.
 34th Representative District

Project	Location	Type	Cost
Will-Center Rd	at Peotone-Beecher Rd	Channelization	\$ 1,500,000.00
		Eng – Ph II	\$ 350,000.00
		Ph III	\$ 140,000.00
		R/W	\$ 60,000.00
		Total Cost	\$ 2,050,000.00

State Representative Margo McDermed
37th Representative District

Project	Location	Type	Cost
80 th Ave	183 rd Street to 191 st Street	Add Lanes and Bridge Repl.	\$ 3,000,000.00
		Eng – Ph II	\$ 300,000.00
		Ph III	\$ 300,000.00
		R/W	\$ 250,000.00
80 th Ave	Over I-80	Structure Widening	\$ 5,500,000.00
		Eng – Ph II	\$ 550,000.00
		Ph III	\$ 550,000.00
		R/W	\$ 100,000.00
Total Cost			\$10,550,000.00

State Representative Al Riley
38th Representative District

Project	Location	Type	Cost
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No County Highways in this District

State Representative Grant Wehrli
41st Representative District

Project	Location	Type	Cost
95 th Street	at Plainfield-Naperville Rd	New Road (Add Lanes and Signals)	\$ 4,900,000.00
		Eng – Ph III	\$ 690,000.00
		R/W	\$ 140,000.00
		Total Cost	\$ 5,730,000.00

State Representative John D. Anthony
75th Representative District

Project	Location	Type	Cost
County Line Road (Will Road)	over Kankakee River	Structure Repl.	\$3,808,000.00
		Eng – Ph II	\$ 175,000.00
		Total Cost	\$3,983,000.00

State Representative Katherine “Kate” Cloonen
79th Representative District

Project	Location	Type	Cost
Center Road	at N. Peotone Rd	Channelization	\$ 1,550,000.00
		Two structures	
		Eng – Ph II	\$ 390,000.00
		Ph III	\$ 160,000.00
		R/W	\$ 60,000.00
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		Total Cost	\$ 2,160,000.00

State Representative Anthony DeLuca
80th Representative District

Project	Location	Type	Cost
Laraway Road	at Cedar Road	Intersection	\$ 4,750,000.00
		Eng – Ph II	\$ 20,000.00
		Ph III	\$ 800,000.00
		R/W	\$ 650,000.00
Laraway Road	At Spencer Road	Intersection	\$ 925,000.00
		Widening / Signals	
		Eng – Ph II	\$ 10,000.00
		Ph III	\$ 92,500.00
		R/W	\$ 50,000.00
Total Cost			\$ 7,297,500.00

State Representative Ron Sandack
81st Representative District

Project	Location	Type	Cost
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No County Highways in this District

State Representative Jim Durkin
82nd Representative District

Project	Location	Type	Cost
Bell Road	at 143rd Street	Intersection Improvement And Signals	\$14,500,000.00
		Eng – Ph III	\$ 1,450,000.00
		R/W	\$15,000,000.00
Bell Road	159 th Street to 151 st Street	Pavement Widening	\$ 6,500,000.00
		Eng – Ph II	\$ 400,000.00
		Ph III	\$ 650,000.00
		R/W	\$ 700,000.00
		Total Cost	

State Representative Stephanie A. Kifowit
84th Representative District

Project	Location	Type	Cost
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No County Highways in this District

State Representative Emily McAsey
85th Representative District

Project	Location	Type	Cost
135 th Street	New Avenue to Smith Road	Add Lanes and Signals	\$14,000,000.00
		Eng – Ph III	\$ 1,400,000.00
		R/W	\$ 50,000.00
		Total Cost	\$15,450,000.00

State Representative Lawrence M. Walsh, Jr.
86th Representative District

Project	Location	Type	Cost
Briggs Street	Mills Road to US Route 52	Reconstruction	\$ 4,000,000.00
		R/W	\$ 10,000.00
Briggs Street	Mills Road to New Lenox Road	Reconstruction	\$ 1,500,000.00
		Eng – Ph II	\$ 400,000.00
		R/W	\$ 100,000.00
Manhattan Road	Baseline to Brandon	Roadway	\$ 2,100,000.00
		Eng – Ph III	\$ 320,000.00
		R/W	\$ 150,000.00
		Total Cost	\$ 8,580,000.00

State Representative Mark Batinick
97th Representative District

Project	Location	Type	Cost
Plainfield-Naperville	111 th Street to 119 th Street	Pavement Widening	\$ 5,000,000.00
		Eng – Ph II	\$ 100,000.00
		Ph III	\$ 500,000.00
		R/W	\$ 100,000.00
		Total Cost	\$ 5,700,000.00

State Representative Natalie A. Manley
98th Representative District

<u>Project</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Weber Road	at I-55	Add Lanes and Reconfigure	\$ 70,000,000.00