



State Legislative Agenda
Will County, Illinois
Fiscal Year 2024





COUNTY OF WILL

WILL COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING • 302 N. CHICAGO STREET • JOLIET, ILLINOIS 60432

Dear Legislators,

We are pleased to present to you Will County's 2024 State Legislative Agenda. We appreciate the support of the State of Illinois and IDOT in assisting in the planning for the future of our region. Working together with all our stakeholders is key to making 2024 a successful year.

Will County is rich in diversity with both small and large municipalities, a vast unincorporated area with productive farmlands and rural communities. We remain the fourth largest county in Illinois and Joliet, our county seat, is the third most populous city in the state. As we continue our economic development efforts, we also remain diligent to balance our growth with the quality of life for our residents.

Our priorities this year are focused on the continued enhancement of our region. We ask for your continued support in protecting revenue streams so we can effectively manage our county budget, ensure our residents have access to quality healthcare, and protect our natural resources and environment so our families have a great place to live and work.

Will County recognizes and appreciates the efforts made by the Governor and the 103rd General Assembly to fund critical projects and we hope that you will work with us to ensure these projects are completed in a timely matter.

Most importantly, we welcome your ideas and suggestions on ways we can work together going forward to address the challenges that all our communities face.

Sincerely,

Judy Ogalla
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Will County Board

Bill Quick Reference Sheet

Support/Oppose	Bill/Resolution	Title	Page Number
Support	HB4526	INC TX-COMMUNITY CARE	1 & 4
Support	HB4135	COUNTY-SOLAR FACILITY STEBACKS	1
Support	SB2813	COUNTIES CD-BOARD COMPENSATION	1
Support	SB2780	PROPERTY TX-COUNTY EXECUTIVE	1
Support	SB3091	IDNR-LAND TRANSFER-WILL CO	Full Description After Pg 12
Support	HB4612	COUNTIES CODE-WIND FACILITES	Full Description After Pg 12
Oppose	HB5050	LOC GOV REDUCTION & EFFICIENCY	Full Description After Pg 12

Will County State Legislative Agenda 2024

This Legislative Agenda is a result of a partnership between the Will County Board, the County Executive, other elected officials, and County Departments. It represents the County's priorities and highlights specific projects that are important to our region.

This agenda is the “*foundation*” of our requests, but is not intended to be “*all inclusive*”. As the 103rd General Assembly proceeds with the Spring Session the Will County Legislative Committee, County Board Leadership and the County Executive will continue to monitor developing legislation and offer opinions on those issues via amendments to this Legislative Agenda.

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POSITION OF PROPOSED BILLS/RESOLUTIONS

HB4526 SUPPORT

INC TX-COMMUNITY CARE

House Sponsor(s): Rep. Jackie Haas, Rep. Kevin Schmidt

This legislation creates an income tax credit in the amount of \$5,000 for a taxpayer who is a qualified community care physician. Will County supports this legislation as tax credit incentives would encourage providers to contract with the Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC).

HB4135 SUPPORT

COUNTY-SOLAR FACILITY SETBACKS

House Sponsor(s): Rep. Anthony DeLuca

Provides that a county may require a commercial solar energy facility to be sited 500 feet (rather than 50 feet) to the nearest point on the property line of a nonparticipating property and 500 feet (rather than 150 feet) from the nearest point on the outside wall of an occupied community building or dwelling on nonparticipating properties.

SB2813 SUPPORT

COUNTIES CD-BOARD COMPENSATION

Senate Sponsor(s): Sen. Rachel Ventura

Provides that county board members shall receive compensation as fixed by the the county board in accordance with the method of compensation selected by the county board. Provides that the compensation shall be set before the general election at which county board members are elected. Alllows the county board chair to receive a larger salary then other county board members upon approval of the county board. Provides that county board members and the county board chair may receive, as approved by the county board, travel, expense allowances and stipends.

SB2780 SUPPORT

PROPERTY TX-COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Senate Sponsor(s): Sen. Rachel Ventura

Amends the Property Tax Code. Makes changes in provisions concerning supervisors of assessments to include reference to county executives. Amends the Community Mental Health Act. Makes changes in provisions concerning community mental health boards to include references to county executives.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

General Government

Will County *OPPOSES* any legislation that removes authority and duties of the County Board or the County Board Chair and gives that power to another elected official or governing body. Additionally, the Will County Board opposes legislation that impacts or limits the authority of the County to pass ordinances deemed in the best interest of the people of Will County, causing loss of local control.

Voting and Elections

Will County *SUPPORTS* efforts to change the mandated fee associated with persons filing a petition for discovery. The current fee is set at \$10 per precinct specified for discovery. That fee does not cover costs of conducting an election recount. (10 ILCS 5/22-9.1)

Will County *SUPPORTS* legislation that provides additional state funding to:

- Train and compensate election judges and election workers for work they perform on election day, during early voting, processing vote by mail ballots, and any other election related duties
- Cover postage for new mandated mailings
- Enhance Voter Registration systems

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INFRASTRUCTURE & LAND USE

Transportation Projects

Major delays to transportation projects can prevent critical infrastructure projects from being completed in a timely manner and lead to significant cost increases, placing an even higher burden on local governments and taxpayers.

Will County **SUPPORTS** the Will County Department of Transportation efforts to pursue legislative action authorizing the use of quick-take proceedings for the following transportation project:

Widening and reconstruction of 143rd St from State Street/Lemont Rd to Bell Road

Will County **SUPPORTS** legislation that streamlines the review process for local transportation projects by the Illinois Department of Transportation.

Delays in environmental and engineering reviews prevent local projects from being completed in a timely manner.

South Suburban Airport

The state has been evaluating a method to develop, finance, and operate the proposed airport for more than 38 years and has been unsuccessful. The footprint of the proposed airport lies entirely within Will County, yet we would not benefit from tax revenues generated, per Public Act 098-0109.

Recent legislation attempts again to garner interest in this project, if the South Suburban Airport moves forward the people of Will County deserve a seat at the table for the decision making process. The failure of a viable option should result in the people of Will County having a say in an *alternative use* of the property.

Will County **ENCOURAGES** the state legislature to consider an *alternative plan that preserves our natural resources, protects farmland with conservation farming initiatives, creates an environment to provide education to future farmers of America, and restores private ownership of farmland and homesteads.*

PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Public Health

*Will County **SUPPORTS** increased state funding for the Local Health Protection Grant from Illinois Department of Public Health which provides financial support for public health services.* There is an increased need for the investigation of disease outbreaks, inspection of restaurants, inspection of private water wells, and regulation of private sewage disposal systems.

*Will County **SUPPORTS** legislation providing additional state funding to hire and support Behavioral Health Professionals.* Local health departments struggle when competing against the private sector providers for healthcare professionals and clinicians.

*Will County **SUPPORTS** legislation providing additional state funding to hire and support Behavioral and Mental Health Professionals.* County health departments struggle to be competitive with private sector providers in their efforts to hire healthcare professionals and clinicians.

- Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder grant funding to offset pay rates not competitive with private practice and larger agencies

*Will County **SUPPORTS** funding and legislation for County Public Health Departments so they can continue to provide for the growing need for services within their County.*

- Reimbursement for language and sign services
- Increase reimbursement rates for Psychiatrists & Advance Nurse Practitioners

Veterans Assistance Commission

*Will County **SUPPORTS** HB4526 which would provide tax credit incentives to encourage providers to contract with the Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC).*

This legislation creates an income tax credit in the amount of \$5,000 for a taxpayer who is a qualified community care physician.

PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Sunny Hill Tuberculosis Clinic

Will County *SUPPORTS* legislation that provides additional funding for testing and treatment of tuberculosis. The Sunny Hill Tuberculosis Clinic serves five counties. It should be noted that there has been an increase of active tuberculosis cases throughout the Country. Our healthcare professionals have outlined the necessary steps to address this growing health concern.

- Mandatory TB testing and screening for all undocumented individuals
- Testing at all points of entry into the state including transportation hubs, homeless shelters, hotels and motels, gathering sites (churches, public/non-profit locations) and privately owned locations, including residences and businesses

Housing Stability

Will County *SUPPORTS* continued state funding for the Court-Based Rental Assistance Program. The Court-Based Rental Assistance Program (CBRAP) provides funding to Illinois tenants and landlords across the state who have pending cases in eviction court.

Will County *SUPPORTS* funding the initiatives outlined in the “Home Illinois: Illinois’ Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness.” Those experiencing homelessness and homeless service providers expressed a need for immediate access to permanent housing.

Will County *ENCOURAGES* the State to utilize Federal resources under its control; including State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, Emergency Rental Assistance funds, and HOME-ARP funds, to support the construction of new affordable rental housing in areas with limited multi-family housing stock.

ENVIRONMENT

Recycling Initiative

*Will County **SUPPORTS** legislative efforts to establish a statewide Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for single-use batteries.* Will County currently accepts rechargeable batteries at our one day Household Hazardous Waste drop off events, but does not accept or recycle single-use batteries. Will County pays for mail-in return programs at libraries. EPR legislation would substantially improve service to residents.

Composting Initiative

*Will County **SUPPORTS** efforts to initiate and pass Food Scrap Legislation.* Public interest for food scrap composting has been increasing but are cost prohibitive to residents, restaurant owners, and grocery stores. Legislation providing grants and education for composting facilities, like Green Era on the south side of Chicago.

Water Resource Plan

*Will County **SUPPORTS** a regional planning effort for a better management of the County's water resources.* Regional planning grant opportunities would support water supply planning and management to ensure that communities across our county have a long-term sustainable water supply. With an identified funding source, the state could formalize water planning within the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), support regional planning groups like the Illinois State Water Survey and the Water Summit Committee.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Emergency Management

*Will County **SUPPORTS** legislative efforts to increase grant amounts awarded to counties through the State's Nuclear Safety Preparedness Grant Program.*

*Will County **SUPPORTS** legislation that provides state funding to enhance safety and security measures at K-12 schools and Higher Education campuses.*

*Will County **SUPPORTS** legislation that to amend SB921 which created the Illinois Access and Functional Needs program. The amendment should allow at least one emergency manager from each IEMA region to be appointed to serve on this Committee and not be limited to three total members.*

*Will County **SUPPORTS** legislation to lower the age that an individual is allowed to be hired on as a firefighter. Currently the law states that an individual may not be hired until the age of 21. This amendment should allow a Fire District/Department to hire a full-time employee at the age of 18 or after graduation from high school.*

*Will County **SUPPORTS** legislation to allow additional years of employment before a firefighter is obligated to retire.*

*Will County **SUPPORTS** a grant program that allows students to intern with an Emergency Management Agency while they continue their training and education. At the end of the program, students would have attained knowledge and experience necessary to become a full time staff member.*

PUBLIC SAFETY

Criminal Justice System

Will County *SUPPORTS* amendments to the SAFE-T Act as outlined below:

- Removal of the language requiring the court to review a defendant's pretrial detention every court date. A review at every court date, not upon written request of defendant with no change in circumstances, consumes court resources. 725 ILCS 5/110-6.1(i-5). We recommend language that the court must review defendant's pretrial detention, only upon written motion of the defendant or not less than every sixty days.
- Provide for additional days for a county to transport a defendant arrested in another county. Five days is not sufficient for counties with limited resources or located a distance from the arresting county to make arrangements to pick up a defendant. Failure to pick up a defendant within 5 days results in the defendant simply being released with no consideration for the offense charged. 725 ILCS 109-2. Suggestion of fifteen days for county to pick up defendant.
- Requiring the Illinois Supreme Court to issue statewide approved forms for Petition to Detain, Orders to Detain, Petitions to Revoke Pretrial Release, Petitions for Sanctions, Notice to Appear, etc.

Will County *SUPPORTS* state funding for all unfunded mandates placed on counties as a result of the implementation of the provisions of the SAFE-T Act.

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Will County State Legislative Agenda 2024
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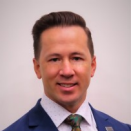


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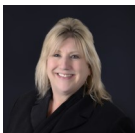


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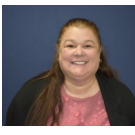


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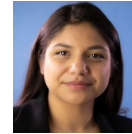


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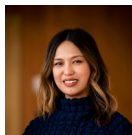


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Legislative Updates

Legislative Update March 2024



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SB3091 SUPPORT

IDNR-LAND TRANSFER-WILL CO

Senate Sponsors: Senator Patrick Joyce

Synopsis As Introduced

Authorizes the Director of Natural Resources to convey the described parcel in Will County to the Forest Preserve District of Will County. Effective immediately.

HB4612 SUPPORT

COUNTIES CODE-WIND FACILITIES

House Sponsor: Representative Bradley Fritts

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Counties Code. Provides that a county may set blade tip height limitations for wind towers in commercial wind energy facilities near a restricted landing area to ensure compliance with specified provisions of the Illinois Administrative Code.

Legislative Update March 2024



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HB5050 OPPOSE

LOC GOV REDUCTION&EFFICIENCY

House Sponsor: Representative Natalie Manley

Synopsis As Introduced

Amends the Local Government Reduction and Efficiency Division of the Counties Code. Defines "district" as a township road and bridge district, sanitary district, drainage district, mosquito abatement district, or street light district. Provides that a county board may enact a resolution or ordinance or a county executive may issue an executive order to dissolve a district, but must first adopt or issue a plan that describes how the county will absorb and implement the services provided by the district, that provides a reason to discontinue the services provided, that describes how the county will pay for the transfer of services, and that shows long-term savings for taxpayers and file that plan with the State Comptroller. Provides that the State Comptroller may approve or deny the dissolution of the district based on the contents of the plan. Provides that, if the dissolution and transfer is approved by the State Comptroller, the county board may adopt a resolution or ordinance or a county executive may issue an executive order authorizing the dissolution of the district not less than 60 days following the court's appointment of a trustee-in-dissolution. Includes procedures for the dissolution of the district and designation of individuals to represent the district. Provides that the county must provide quarterly updates to the State Comptroller and that the State Comptroller shall publish those quarterly updates on the State Comptroller's local government Warehouse database. Makes conforming changes in the Division.