

Lake County, Illinois

FY201~~8~~⁹ State and Federal Legislative Agenda

INTRODUCTION

Lake County government strives toward fiscally stable, efficient, and transparent operations amidst uncertain political and economic climates. A primary way that Lake County maximizes its operations is by maintaining strong partnerships with state and federal legislators. Through the County's policies and partnerships, Lake County residents continue to receive valuable, efficient, and cost-effective services.

~~As always, in 2018, as in previous years,~~ the Lake County Board appreciates the opportunity to meet with our state and federal legislators to discuss challenges we face as a County. To best address such challenges, it is essential for Lake County to govern free from the restrictions of various statutes and public acts which slow down the process to ensure a high quality of life for Lake County residents.

Lake County government is aware of the current financial environment at the state and federal government levels and has attempted to be responsive and responsible in preparing the FY201~~8~~⁹ Legislative Agenda. As such, this year's Legislative Agenda balances large, aspirational goals that carry potential regional or statewide effects with direct, technical changes that make Lake County government – and in some cases all local governments – more efficient.

The guiding tenets of Lake County's legislative agenda are to:

1. Support legislation that grants additional permissive authorities for counties.
2. Support legislation that allows counties to expand non-property tax revenue sources.
3. Support legislation that promotes transparency at all levels of government.
4. Support legislation that encourages cost-effective government consolidation.
5. Support legislation that mitigates inefficiency.
6. Oppose unfunded mandates imposed by the state or federal government.
7. Oppose legislation that would reduce the existing authority of county government.
8. Oppose legislation that erodes existing state-appropriated County revenues.
9. Oppose legislation that weakens the County's ability to consolidate local governmental units and circumvents an existing appeals process.

Specifically, with respect to legislative policy numbers six and eight, Lake County aggressively opposes any action that will divert, redirect, or reduce any funds owed and/or due to units of local government (e.g., sales tax, income tax, and Personal Property Replacement Tax).

Additionally, Lake County's legislative agenda is guided by the following values adopted within the County Board's 2017-18 Strategic Plan:

- i. Leadership
- ii. Fiscal Responsibility
- iii. Exceptional Service
- iv. Operational Excellence
- v. Environmental Stewardship

~~Sponsorship of specific initiatives and support of other proposals listed in the FY2018 Lake County Legislative Agenda is greatly appreciated.~~

DRAFT

Lake County, Illinois

FY2018 State and Federal Legislative Agenda

Positions

1. **Sponsor:** Lake County sponsored initiatives.
2. **Support:** Seek to support partner organizations in their sponsorship of the initiative. These proposals are broad-based with impacts that extend beyond Lake County. It is most appropriate for a coalition or statewide organization to lead these initiatives, and Lake County will support their efforts as well as the proposals.
3. **Multi-Session:** Initiatives that Lake County may sponsor or support, and that may require multiple legislative sessions before a specific proposal is formulated. Each year, the work of the Lake County Board is driven and guided by its mission and values, as well as its strategic plan. These drivers play a significant role in the development of Lake County's annual legislative agenda. Based on the potential for substantive impact of legislative initiatives on the quality of life enjoyed by residents inside and outside of the County, the dynamics of certain legislative initiatives require efforts which span more than one legislative session. The Lake County Board supports legislative measures over one or more legislative sessions which address the substantive issues outlined herein.

Lake County, Illinois

Purpose of the FY20189 State and Federal Legislative Agenda

The intent of Lake County's fiscal year 20189 Legislative Agenda is to formalize the County's positions on legislation anticipated or sought to be considered by the Illinois General Assembly and the United States Congress. This Legislative Agenda is offered as a guideline for our State and Federal elected officials when considering legislation that would impact Lake County.

This agenda describes the County's proposed initiatives and/or underlying interest in specific issues. With coordination between the Lake County Board, the County Administrator's Office, the County's legislative consultants, and the Lake County legislative delegation, this agenda will help advance County initiatives and inform County positions taken on specific bills, once the legislative session begins. During session, the County Board may also consider amendments to the Legislative Agenda and adjust its position on bills.

In addition to the Legislative Agenda, Lake County also attempts to influence State and Federal policy through other avenues, such as submitting comments on administrative rulemakings, or by making direct appeals to State and Federal administrative officials. While the Legislative Agenda is not intended to direct such action, it serves as a resource to inform important County efforts.

THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AS A "NIMBLE TOOL"

Members of the Lake County Board agree that the issues described within this Legislative Agenda represent their collective endorsements. The Lake County Board recognizes that many other unforeseen issues will become known throughout the legislative year. While it is important to have approval from the Lake County Board for additional endorsements before any position becomes official, it is also important for the Legislative Agenda to be a "nimble tool" that appropriately supports an ever-changing landscape during the State and Federal legislative processes. As such, the manner in which the Legislative Agenda may be used to adjust and/or react to the fast-paced legislative process is outlined below.

PROCESS TO AMEND LAKE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

The County Board may revisit the Legislative Agenda at any point as a body, or through its Financial & Administrative Committee and Ad Hoc Legislative Committee. The Ad Hoc Committee, with representation by the Finance and Administration Committee Chair, may be convened on an ad hoc basis with the County's legislative consultants and County staff when the following circumstances present themselves:

Legislative action is expected that would significantly impact a County policy and/or operation, which the County Board has previously provided general

Formatted: Font: Bold, Italic

direction, but which the County Board had not provided specific direction. (This might occur via the Legislative Agenda or other approved policies.) As such, time-constraints may preclude the County Board from having an opportunity to provide the needed direction. In these situations, the County Board Chair, the County's legislative consultant, and County staff may turn to the Ad Hoc Committee for direction on such legislation so that the County can advocate accordingly. The County Board will be informed whenever such Ad Hoc Committee direction has been provided, and may choose to revisit such direction at a future meeting.

Amendments to the Legislative Agenda should be adopted with the goal, such that modifications require consistency, when applicable, with the criteria outlined below:

- A. Uniformity with the County Board's strategic plan;
- B. Expected relevance in the upcoming or present State and/or Federal legislative sessions;
- C. Uniqueness of issue or impact to Lake County;
- D. Viability or likelihood of achieving a goal;
- E. Opportunity for providing or preserving funding for Lake County; and
- F. High probability of metrics of success to allow the position to be removed from future legislative agendas, if achieved.

These criteria, which provide important guidance and direction, is not intended to prohibit departures in unique circumstances as determined by the County Board and/or Ad Hoc Committee, such as when adoption of a County position is important to support its regional partners, even when the legislation is otherwise of limited consequence to the County.

In addition, to accommodate any requests that may arise after approval of the Legislative Agenda, the County Board Chair and County Administrator may periodically provide legislative testimony and/or letters of support or opposition based upon any perceived benefit or detriment to Lake County. In doing so, such testimony and/or letters will be guided by the principles and values stated herein.

To summarize, the process for requesting an amendment to the County's adopted Legislative Agenda is provided below:

Amend the formal Legislative Agenda: The approved County's Legislative Agenda may be amended at any point through County Board or Finance & Administrative Committee and Ad Hoc Legislative Committee (AHLC) based on consistency with articulated criteria.

County Position on Specific Legislative Bill(s): The County may take a position on a specific bill through action by AHLC based on significant impact to County policy or operation; County Board is to be informed on such direction and County Board may revisit thereafter.

How does a member of the Board or standing committee seek a County position on specific legislative bills?

Formatted: Left, Space After: 0 pt, Line spacing: single

Formatted: No Spacing

Formatted: No Spacing

1. attend the AHLC and request that it take a position on a bill; or
2. ask the Standing Committee for which the bill's subject is pertinent to request, on behalf of the Committee, that the AHLC take a position on a bill.

Submission of a witness slip on the County's behalf regarding a specific legislative bill

The County Board Chair, County Administrator, or County Legislative Consultant may submit a witness slip on the County's behalf on specific legislation when the County's Legislative Agenda is clear about what the County's position is or following specific action by the County Board or AHLC on a specific bill. Nothing herein prohibits an individual member of the Lake County Board to submit a witness slip on a specific bill in their individual personal capacity.

Formatted: No Spacing, Indent: Left: 0", Numbered + Level: 1 + Numbering Style: 1, 2, 3, ... + Start at: 1 + Alignment: Left + Aligned at: 0.25" + Indent at: 0.5"

Formatted: Left, Space After: 0 pt, Line spacing: single

Formatted: Font: Bold, Italic

Formatted: No Spacing

DRAFT