

Purpose of the FY2018 Lake County Legislative Agenda

The intent of Lake County's fiscal year 2018 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.

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA – GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

The legislative agenda is guided by the following tenets:

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 the existing County revenue base.
9. Oppose legislation that provides entities with waiver exemption(s) from consolidation in the absence of objective, empirical evidence.

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

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.

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 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.