

FY2018 LAKE COUNTY LEGISLATIVE AGENDA – ADDITIONAL INITIATIVES

ITEMS FOR COLLABORATION			
STATE/ FEDERAL	SUBMITTOR & TOPIC	ISSUE	RECOMMENDATION
Federal	EMA/County Board: Federal Assistance Eligibility: Cross-Jurisdictional Boundaries	The Stafford Act (42 USC 5121-5207) provides an avenue through which financial assistance may be disbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to support debris removal, emergency protective measures, permanent infrastructure work (bridges and roads; water control facilities; buildings and equipment; utilities; parks, recreation and other facilities; and hazard mitigation) in geographical areas impacted by a disaster. In determining eligibility of state, tribal, territorial, and local governments for federal public assistance in these disaster areas, FEMA evaluates the impact and estimated cost against the population per capita cost of a state regardless of the area(s) impacted by a disaster. As a result, a formula of the state’s population multiplied by a per capita cost determined by FEMA establishes a minimum uninsured cost threshold for federal public assistance eligibility. While the formula may be appropriate for disasters which impact all or a majority of a state area, the formula does not allow for consideration of substantial disasters which occur in limited areas of a state or an area that crosses state boundaries. An amendment to the Stafford Act to enable a formula utilized to create a threshold for FEMA public assistance based on where the disaster occurs (including cross state boundaries) would create flexibility in instances where disasters cause significant damage in areas regardless of boundaries.	Continue to engage in dialogue with state and federal legislators, IEMA and FEMA to address potential remedies through administrative rules and/or legislation.
State	CAO/County Board: Comptroller Warehouse	Units of government are required to submit annual, detailed financial reports to the Comptroller’s Office. These reports are then “rolled up” and published on the State website. This reduces transparency and inhibits the ability for units of government to identify opportunities for shared services and economies of scale.	Engage in discussion with Comptroller’s Office to determine feasibility of including detailed financial reports in Warehouse.
State	EMA/PBD: Disaster Response Efficiency and Effectiveness – Disaster Documentation	In geographic areas impacted by disasters, federal and state law, rule and policy prescribe a process through which damage assessments are compiled and submitted for purposes of determining action by a State Governor and/ or United States President on declaration of a disaster. While FEMA guidance published in 2016 includes a range of strategies and emerging technologies to conduct and complete the damage assessment process (such as inundation mapping, flood modeling and remote sensing through drones), IEMA restricts the submission of reporting to the use of spreadsheets. As a result, the ability of local communities to assess and submit timely and accurate information is significantly restricted.	Staff will collaborate with IEMA to identify strategies to address this.

ITEMS FOR ASSOCIATIONS TO LEAD			
STATE/ FEDERAL	SUBMITTOR & TOPIC	ISSUE	RECOMMENDATION
State	County Clerk: Vote-by-Mail Ballot Application Deadline	The Illinois Election Code (10 ILCS 5/19-4) currently allows voters who have requested a vote-by-mail ballot to receive such ballot not more than 90 days nor less than 5 days prior to such election. An amendment of the 90-day requirement to 60 days would reduce voter frustration and confusion, maximize the security of such applications and ballots for a shorter period of time, and reduce the Clerk's Office response time to such ballot requests.	More appropriate for Clerk's Association to lead.
State	County Clerk: Closure of Early Voting Sites Monday before Election Day	The Illinois Election Code (10 ILCS 5/ 19A-15(b)) currently requires that a permanent polling place for early voting be open for a certain period and hours before an election through the end of the day before election day. Such a requirement inhibits the election authority's (County Clerk) ability to make the transition between early voting and election day procedures. Amending the current statute to require the operation of an early voting site through the Sunday preceding the Tuesday election day would enhance the election authority's ability to transition between procedures and maximize service to voters on election day.	More appropriate for Clerk's Association to lead.
State	County Clerk: Electronic Submission of Fetal and Stillbirth Death Records	The Illinois Vital Records Act (410 ILCS 535/ 20 (1)) requires that each fetal death after a gestation period of 20 completed months or more which is buried or cremated must be registered within the district in which the delivery occurred. Hospitals and funeral directors are responsible for filing such records. Currently, fetal death records are the only deaths in Illinois that are not registered electronically. Instead, the submission of such records is permitted only in hard paper form. This creates potential vulnerabilities for the permanent retention of such records, while also adding administrative burdens on registrars of such records, hospitals and funeral directors. An amendment to the Illinois Vital Records Act to requiring the electronic submission of fetal and stillbirth death records to the State Registrar of Vital Records via the electronic Illinois Vital Records System would ensure the ability of the registrars of such records to have accurate records and be more responsive to requests for such records.	More appropriate for Clerk's Association to lead.
State	County Clerk: Third Party Vote- by-Mail Applications	The Illinois Election Code (10 ILCS 5/19-3) authorizes third-parties to receive and return completed vote-by-mail application ballots to an election authority. In doing so, this increases the response time and frustration and confusion among voters in receiving vote-by-mail ballots. While still preserving the ability of third-parties to distribute vote-by-mail ballot applications, changing the statute to require the submission of completed vote-by-mail ballot applications directly to the appropriate election authority would reduce response time to and frustration by voters seeking mail ballots.	More appropriate for Clerk's Association to lead.

ITEMS FOR ASSOCIATIONS TO LEAD (cont.)			
STATE/ FEDERAL	SUBMITTOR & TOPIC	ISSUE	RECOMMENDATION
State	Sheriff's Office: Restriction of Seized Funds Usage	<p>Currently, law enforcement agencies within Illinois seize and receive assets through criminal violations. Through the applicable statutory procedures, law enforcement agencies submit the assets to the state and receive a distribution of the assets value for law enforcement purposes as deemed appropriate by the local law enforcement agency. In Fiscal Year 2017, the Lake County Sheriff's Office has been involved in the seizure and receipt of assets totaling \$36,488 and is anticipating disbursements in the amount of \$22,674.62. Based on seizures and receipt of assets over the past several years, Lake County Sheriff's Office has accrued approximately \$500,000 for use on law enforcement purposes.</p> <p>In the 2017 Legislative Session, HB689 was introduced proposing the creation of the Seizure and Forfeiture Reporting Act which would result in (a) shifting the seizures and assets to a state authority permitted to recoup its costs associated with new reporting requirements by charging a fee to law enforcement agencies required to file a report; and (b) awarding grants as its procedures deem appropriate.</p> <p>As a result, the current distribution of funds to local entities such as the Sheriff's Office would be changed resulting in a revenue loss to local law enforcement agencies. The bill reduces the County's existing authority and erodes its existing revenue base.</p>	More appropriate for Sheriff's Association to lead.
ITEM NOT RECOMMENDED FOR INCLUSION			
State	Community Development: Prevailing Wage Definition Clarification – Affordable Housing Single-Family Residence	<p>The Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130) requires the payment of a wage no less than an identified prevailing wage for all workers employed by or on behalf of any and all public bodies engaged in public works (including contracts for public works). The Act's definition of 'public works' is broad and has been interpreted to include projects with Federal funds that pass through the County and to single-family home development projects. The application of prevailing wages increases the cost of single family home development by 60%, thereby limiting the County's Community Development Division and its partners to maximize the development of affordable housing within Lake County.</p> <p>To leverage funding for the development of affordable housing through Community Development partnerships, the County is seeking an amendment to the definition of 'public works' contained within the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130) limiting its application to housing developments required to maintain long-term affordability because of the public funds provided by or through the State or any of its political subdivisions. Such an amendment would increase affordable housing development across the State and maximize Federal investment in the County.</p>	Not recommended for inclusion in FY2018 Lake County Legislative Agenda.