

DEKALB COUNTY GOVERNMENT
2016
STATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA



Adopted by the DeKalb County Board
January 20, 2016
Resolution # R2016-04

**DEKALB COUNTY GOVERNMENT
SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS**

LEGISLATIVE AGENDA GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Adopted January 20, 2016

- Support legislation granting additional authority to counties as the most efficient and effective way to provide services to our citizens
- Honor all Federal and State financial obligations and commitments
- Oppose unfunded mandates imposed by State and Federal governments, and fund all programs mandated in the law
- Oppose legislation that erodes our existing revenue base
- Oppose diverting revenues dedicated to local government (including, but not limited to, sales, gasoline, and income taxes)
- Support legislation that expands reasonable user fees for specific services to reduce the reliance on property tax revenues

Item:	DeKalb County Government's Legislative Agenda	# 2016-1 1/20/2016
Submitted:	County Board Executive Committee	
Topic:	Passage of a Responsible State Budget for FY 2016	
Issue:	As of this date, no State Budget has been passed for the period July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. This is creating a funding hardship for many organizations throughout DeKalb County and the State.	
Solution:	Find a reasonable compromise among all parties that will not hurt Illinois citizens and Units of Local Government.	
Proposed Wording:		
Status:		

Item:	DeKalb County Government's Legislative Agenda	# 2016-2 1/20/2016
Submitted:	Finance Office	
Topic:	Access to Basic Sales Tax Information	
Issue:	Illinois Counties do not have the same access to sales tax information for businesses located within their County as municipalities do. The lack of information makes it virtually impossible for counties to determine if the taxes collected are going to the correct jurisdiction.	
Solution:	Pass legislation that gives Counties access to sales tax information for businesses located within their County. This would give counties the same rights as were previously granted to municipalities.	
Proposed Wording:	<p><u>35 ILCS 120/11</u>: <i>In provisions concerning the furnishing of financial information by the Department of Revenue to municipalities or counties, provides that: (1) the Department may disclose the standard classification number assigned to a business; (2) only the chief executive officer or chairman of the municipality or county may enter into an information-sharing agreement with the Department; (3) the chief executive officer or chairman shall provide the Department with a list of municipal or county employees who may request return information, view return information, or receive related information; (4) provides that the list may include only employees who are directly involved in the financial operations of the municipality or county; (5) the written agreement may be canceled by either the Department or the chief executive officer or chairman of the municipality or county at any time and shall be canceled in the event of any unauthorized use or disclosure of State tax return information obtained pursuant to the written agreement or failure to abide by the procedures set forth in the agreement by the Department for safeguarding the confidentiality of tax return information.</i></p>	
Status:		

Item:	DeKalb County Government's Legislative Agenda	# 2016-3 1/20/2016
Submitted:	Administration Office & Highway Department	
Topic:	Permission for an Optional Per Gallon Local Motor Fuel Tax	
Issue:	More funds are needed at the local level to maintain and build roads for the public to improve safety, commerce, and off-road pathways. Only DuPage, Kane and McHenry Counties are allowed to impose a local tax upon all persons engaged in the county in the business of selling motor fuel.	
Solution:	Obtain legislative permission for DeKalb County to have the option to collect a local motor fuel tax of up to 4 cents per gallon.	
Proposed Wording:	<i>55 ILCS 5/5-1035.1: The county board of the counties of <u>Boone, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane and McHenry</u> may, by an ordinance or resolution adopted by an affirmative vote, of a majority of the members elected or appointed to the county board, impose a tax upon all persons engaged in the county in the business of selling motor fuel, as now or hereafter defined in the Motor Fuel Tax Law, at retail for the operation of motor vehicles upon public highways or for the operation of recreational watercraft upon waterways.</i>	
Status:	House Bill #4368 adds Boone County.	

Item:	DeKalb County Government's Legislative Agenda	# 2016-4 1/20/2016
Submitted:	Finance Office	
Topic:	Permission for Optional Local Judicial Facilities Fee	
Issue:	No funding source is available to most counties to fund building and remodeling projects for the (State) Court system. Only Kane County and Will County are authorized to impose a judicial facilities fee for the purpose of building or remodeling judicial facilities.	
Solution:	Obtain legislative permission to have the option to collect a Judicial Facilities Fee on court cases filed by adding DeKalb County to the list of Counties so authorized. The fee would not change and would not exceed \$30 per case.	
Proposed Wording:	<u>Amend 55 ILCS 5/5-1101.3:</u> <i>The county boards of <u>DeKalb County</u>, Kane County, and Will County may by ordinance impose a judicial facilities fee to be used for the building of new judicial facilities.</i>	
Status:		

Item:	DeKalb County Government's Legislative Agenda	#2016-5 1/20/2016
Submitted:	Assessor's Office	
Topic:	Allow Official Notifications by Electronic Methods	
Issue:	Currently the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) is required to send certain official documents by US Mail rather than via electronic methods which causes monies to be unnecessarily spent on printing, postage, and staff costs.	
Solution:	Permit the use of e-mail delivery for a more environmentally friendly, cost-effective alternative.	
Proposed Wording:	<u>35 ILCS 200/16-180</u> : <i>"A copy of the appellant's petition shall be mailed or e-mailed by the clerk of the Property Tax Appeal Board to the board of review whose decision is being appealed."</i>	
Status:		

Item:	DeKalb County Government’s Legislative Agenda	# 2016-6 1/20/2016
Submitted:	Assessor’s Office	
Topic:	“Supportive Living Facilities” are not currently qualifying facilities where residents can keep the homestead exemption on their main house	
Issue:	Most homestead exemptions include a goal of providing that if a taxpayer moves to a specific type of nursing facility, the taxpayer may continue to receive the homestead exemption on their property so long as the taxpayer remains in ownership, and the homestead property remains vacant or is occupied by a qualifying spouse. Supportive Living Facilities currently are not considered a qualifying property for residents of those facilities.	
Solution:	Pass legislation to include “Supportive Living Facilities” (a newer type of facility legislatively codified in 2006) by adding the language to the homestead exemption laws.	
Proposed Wording:	<u>35 ILCS 200/15-165: “or becomes a resident of a Supportive Living Program facility as certified by a Supportive Living Program Certification by the State of Illinois Department of Healthcare & Family Services”.</u>	
Status:		

Item:	DeKalb County Government's Legislative Agenda	# 2016-7 1/20/2016
Submitted:	Assessor's Office	
Topic:	Notification process of Taxing Bodies for Assessment Complaints exceeding \$100,000 in value change (35 ILCS 200/16-55(i)) (Submitted by the Assessor's Department)	
Issue:	When an assessment complaint is filed where the value could be changed by \$100,000 or more, the County must notify all impacted Taxing Bodies by US Mail. This creates an administrative time and burden, adds costs unnecessarily, and time delays to the process.	
Solution:	Pass legislation to allow required notices to be sent electronically.	
Proposed Wording:	<u>35 ILCS 200/16-55(i)</u> : (i) In all cases where a change in assessed valuation of \$100,000 or more is sought, the board of review shall also serve a copy of the petition, <u>either by hard or electronic method</u> , on all taxing districts as shown on the last available tax bill at least 14 days prior to the hearing on the complaint. All taxing districts shall have an opportunity to be heard on the complaint.	
Status:		

Item:	DeKalb County Government's Legislative Agenda	# 2016-8 1/20/2016
Submitted:	Assessor's Office	
Topic:	Exempt Property Renewals	
Issue:	Each year, hundreds of exempt property "certificates of status" are required to be sent out to and returned by units of local government. However, even if they are not returned, they cannot be placed on the tax rolls because they cannot go to the delinquent tax sale.	
Solution:	Pass legislation that any exempt property owned by a unit of State or local government join the current list (churches, cemeteries, and property of the United States) of properties that are not required to file an annual certificate of status.	
Proposed Wording:	<p><u>35 ILCS 200/15-10:</u> (b) However, titleholders or owners of the beneficial interest in any property exempted under any of the following provisions are not required to submit an annual filing under this Section:</p> <p>(1) Section 15-45 (burial grounds) in counties of less than 3,000,000 inhabitants and owned by a not-for-profit organization.</p> <p>(2) Section 15-40.</p> <p>(3) Section 15-50 (United States property).</p> <p><u>(4) Section 15-60 (Taxing District Property).</u></p>	
Status:		

Item:	DeKalb County Government's Legislative Agenda	# 2016-9 1/20/2016
Submitted:	County Board Member Steve Reid	
Topic:	Criminal Justice Reform	
Issue:	The criminal justice system is our largest unfunded mandate and needs reform for several reasons.	
Solution:	Support legislation that reforms the criminal code and corrections code. Promote ending mandatory minimum sentences.	
Proposed Wording:	The County Board of DeKalb County does hereby urge our representatives at the state and federal level to enact legislation to reduce arbitrary mandatory sentences, encourage judges to release non-violent, non-flight-risk detainees on their own recognizance, decriminalize "nuisance" offences, provide for the support of community-based mental health treatment alternatives to incarceration, and/or other such action that will reduce jail populations to include only those who pose real risks to themselves or the community.	
Status:		

Item:	DeKalb County Government's Legislative Agenda	# 2016-10 1/20/2016
Submitted:	County Board Executive Committee	
Topic:	Fair Map Criteria for Legislative Re-Districting	
Issue:	Legislative Districts, for Federal, State, and Local governments, which are changed after each 10 year Census, are often drawn in a manner that is political in nature rather than based on unbiased criteria.	
Solution:	Pass legislation that requires re-districting criteria to be based on non-political criteria.	
Proposed Wording:	Possible language can be found based on the "Iowa Model" and also on language adopted by the DeKalb County Board on November 19, 2014.	
Status:		

**RESOLUTION
R2016-04**

DEKALB COUNTY 2016 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

WHEREAS, the members of the DeKalb County Executive Committee have determined the need for the County to develop a Legislative Agenda, and

WHEREAS, the County Board Members and County Department Heads were invited to submit ideas for the State Legislative Agenda which would improve services to citizens or increase the efficiency and effectiveness in operating County Departments, and

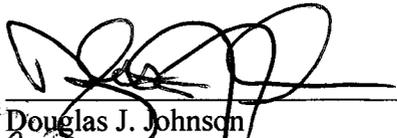
WHEREAS, the efforts of the Executive Committee have resulted in the State Legislative Agenda which is attached to this resolution and herein incorporated by reference;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the DeKalb County Board does hereby endorse and adopt the State Legislative Agenda as recommended by the DeKalb County Board Executive Committee and does direct the County Administrator to provide copies of the attached State Legislative Agenda to all State Senators and State Representatives serving the citizens of DeKalb County.

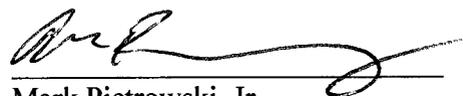
PASSED AT SYCAMORE, ILLINOIS, THIS 20TH DAY OF JANUARY, 2016 A.D.

ATTEST:

SIGNED:



Douglas J. Johnson
DeKalb County Clerk



Mark Pietrowski, Jr.
County Board Chairman

