Chapter 2 – ADMINISTRATION

ARTICLE I   IN GENERAL

Sec. 2-1   E-911 System

A. For purpose of this section, the following definitions shall apply:
   1. Network connection means the number of voice grade communication channels directly between a subscriber and a telecommunications carrier's public switched network without the intervention of any other telecommunications carriers switched network which would be required to carry the subscriber's inter-premises traffic.
   2. Transmitting messages shall have the meaning ascribed to the term in Section 8-11-2 of the Illinois Municipal Code (65 ILCS 5/8-11-2).
   3. Telecommunications carrier means any natural individual, firm, trust, estate, partnership, association, joint stock company, joint adventure, corporation, municipal corporation or political subdivision of this state, or a receiver, trustee, conservator or other representative appointed by order of any court engaged in the business of transmitting messages by means of electricity.

B. A surcharge is hereby imposed, subject to the provisions of Section 2 of Ordinance No. 89-14, calling the referendum on the surcharge levied under this section, upon all telephone subscribers passed through telecommunication carriers engaged in the business of transmitting messages by means of electricity originating within the corporate limits of the County and terminating within the state for funding of a 911 emergency telephone system.

C. A surcharge is hereby imposed at a rate of $0.84 per month per in-service network connection. A network connection shall not be deemed to be in service where a subscriber's account is uncollectible.

D. The County Clerk shall provide any telecommunication carrier subject to the surcharge with a certified list of those network connections assigned to the County to be exempt from imposition of the surcharge. The certified list may be revised by the County on 60 days' prior written notice provided to the telecommunication carriers.

E. In lieu of the telecommunication carriers imposing a three-percent accounting and collection charge on its subscribers as permitted under the act (50 ILCS 750/0.01 et seq.), each telecommunication carrier is hereby authorized and instructed to recover the accounting and collection charge by deducting three percent from the amount of surcharge otherwise due and owing the County prior to remittance under Subsection G of this section.

F. The amount of surcharge collected by the telecommunications carrier shall be paid to the County treasurer not later than 30 days after the surcharge is collected, net of any network or other 911 or sophisticated 911 system charges then due the particular telecommunication carrier, as shown on an itemized bill and the three-percent accounting and collection charge described in Subsection F of this section.

G. Simultaneously with the remittance described in Subsection G of this section each telecommunication carrier shall make a return to the County treasurer for the period to which the remittance applies stating as follows:
   1. The name of the telecommunication carrier.
   2. The telecommunication carrier's principal place of business.
   3. The number of network connections to which the surcharge applies.
   4. The amount of surcharge due.
   5. Such other reasonable and related information as the corporate authorities may require.
H. If it shall appear that an amount of surcharge has been paid which was not due under the provisions of this section, whether as the result of a mistake of fact or an error of law, then such amount shall be credited against any surcharge due, or to become due, under this section from the telecommunication carrier who made the erroneous payments; provided that no amounts erroneously paid more than three years prior to the filing of a claim therefor shall be so credited. Ninety days' prior notice shall be given to the emergency telephone systems (ETS) Board on any credit against a surcharge due.

I. No action to recover any amount of surcharge due under the provisions of this section shall be commenced more than three years after the due date of such amount.

J. The County Board does hereby adopt the Memorandum of Understanding dated June 1, 1989, which is hereby incorporated by reference. The Board hereby directs the ETS Board, once appointed, to abide by the conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding.

K. The manner of appointment and composition of the ETS Board is not to be altered except as expressly provided in the Memorandum of Understanding.

L. The surcharge must be established at $0.84 and maintained at that level except as provided in this section.

M. Once initial capitalization of the basic E-911 system is complete and after annual operating costs have been appropriated by the ETS Board, there shall be proportionate allocation of remaining revenues to the jurisdictions requesting funding under the act (50 ILCS 750/0.01 et seq.).

N. The surcharge of $0.84 may not be lowered while eligible E-911 requests are pending before the ETS Board.

O. Lowering of the $0.84 surcharge by the ETS Board shall be accomplished only after all eligible requests have been funded, annual operating costs have been accounted for and sufficient funds have been set aside to account for depreciation of basic and enhanced system equipment. Should additional eligible requests be placed before the Board, the Board will once again raise the surcharge to a level not to exceed $0.84 to fund these eligible requests.

Sec. 2-2 Rate of Wages in Public Works

A. It is the policy of the state that a wage of no less than the general prevailing hourly rate as paid for work of a similar character in the locality in which the work is performed shall be paid to all laborers, workers and mechanics employed by or on behalf of any and all public bodies engaged in such public work. It is a requirement of the Prevailing Wage Act that the County either ascertain the prevailing wage rates for this community or publish the rates as ascertained by the state department of labor. The County chooses to publish the rates as ascertained by the department of labor, a copy of that determination as of June 1997 is attached to this resolution and incorporated herein by reference. The definition of any terms appearing in this resolution, which are also used in the aforesaid Prevailing Wage Act, shall be the same as in said Act.

B. Nothing herein contained shall be construed to apply said general prevailing rate of wages as herein ascertained to any work or employment except public works construction of this County to the extent required by the aforesaid Act.

C. The County Clerk shall publicly post or keep available for inspection by any interested party in the administration building this determination of such prevailing rate of wages.

D. The County Clerk shall mail a copy of this determination to any employer, and to any association of employers and to any person or association of employees who have filed, or file their names and addresses, requesting copies of any determination stating the particular rates and the particular class of workers whose wages will be affected by such rates.

E. The County Clerk shall promptly file a certified copy of this resolution with both the secretary of state and the department of labor of the state.
F. The County Clerk shall cause to be published in a newspaper of general circulation within the area a copy of this resolution and such publication shall constitute notice that the determination is effective and that this is the determination of this public body.

(Res. of 6-18-1997, §§ 1—6)

Sec. 2-3 Gift Ban Act; Ethics Officer; Ethics Commissioner

A. The County Board does hereby recognize the provisions of the state Gift Ban Act and does, by reference, generally incorporate its provisions herein.

B. The County in compliance with the provisions of the Gift Ban Act as adopted by this resolution, does appoint the State's Attorney, as its ethics officer.

C. In order to further implement the provisions of the state Gift Ban Act, the County Board does hereby appoint the members of the County executive Committee to serve as the ethics commission for the County.

(Res. of 7-21-1999)

Secs. 2-4—2-25 Reserved
ARTICLE II   COUNTY BOARD

DIVISION 1   GENERALLY

Sec. 2-26   Size
The County Board shall consist of 24 members elected as provided by law.
(Res. No. R2012-37, 5-16-2012)
State Law reference — Power of County Board to determine its size, 55 ILCS 5/2-3002; term of members, 10 ILCS 5/2A-23.

Sec. 2-27   Number of Districts and Representation of Districts
There shall be 12 multimember districts, with two members elected from each district. The 12 districts shall be as depicted on the official DeKalb County Board district maps as maintained by the County Clerk, and as described on the basis of the number of precincts that have been approved for the County. No person shall be eligible to hold the office of County Board member unless he or she is a legal voter and has been a resident of the County, and the County Board district from which elected (or appointed), for at least one year immediately preceding the general election (or date of appointment if filling a mid-term vacancy), and registered to vote at a residence located in said district at the time of filing their statement of candidacy (or at the time of appointment).
State Law reference — Power of County Board to require Board Members to be elected from districts, 55 ILCS 5/2-3002.

Sec. 2-27.1   Redistricting
In addition to the criteria mandates that are stipulated by federal and state laws for redistricting of County Board districts, the following procedures shall be used:

1. County Board districts shall each have a population as nearly equal as practical to the ideal population to each other. County Board districts shall not vary in population from the ideal district population except as necessary to comply with one of the other standards enumerated in this section.

2. County Board districts shall divide townships or municipalities only when necessary to conform to the population requirement of paragraph (1) of this section. To the extent possible, district boundaries shall coincide with the boundaries of townships and municipalities. The number of townships and municipalities divided among more than one district shall be as few as possible. When there is a choice between dividing townships and/or municipalities, the more populous shall be divided before the less populous.

3. No County Board district shall be drawn for the purpose of favoring a political party, incumbent Board member, or other person or group, or for the purpose of augmenting or diluting the voting strength of a language or racial minority group. In establishing districts, no use shall be made of any of the following data:
   a. Addresses of incumbent County Board members;
   b. Political affiliations of registered voters;
   c. Previous election results;
   d. Demographic information, other than population, except as required by the Constitutions and the laws of the United States and the State of Illinois.
4. County Board districts shall be created in such a manner so that no precinct shall be divided between two or more districts, insofar as is practicable.

5. In no case shall the quotient, obtained by dividing the total of the absolute values of the deviations of all district populations from the applicable ideal district population (numerator) by the number of districts (denominator) established, exceed three percent of the applicable ideal district population.

6. No County Board district shall have a population which exceeds that of any other County Board district by more than eight percent.

7. No County Board district shall have a population which varies by more than five percent from the applicable ideal district population.

8. County Board districts shall be comprised of contiguous territory, as nearly compact as practicable. Areas which meet only at the points of adjoining corners shall not be considered contiguous. In general, reasonably compact districts are those which are square, rectangular, or hexagonal in shape, and not irregularly shaped, to the extent permitted by natural or political boundaries.

9. If it is necessary to compare the relative compactness of two or more districts, or of two or more alternative districting plans, the tests prescribed by paragraphs a. and b. below shall be used.

   a. *Length-width compactness.* The compactness of a district is greatest when the length of the district and the width of the district are equal. The measure of a district's compactness is the absolute value of the difference between the length and the width of the district. In general, the length-width compactness of a district shall be calculated by measuring the distance from the northernmost point or portion of the boundary of a district to the southernmost point or portion of the boundary of the same district, and the distance from the westernmost point or portion of the boundary of the district to the easternmost point or portion of the boundary of the same district. The absolute values computed for individual districts under this paragraph may be cumulated for all districts in a plan in order to compare the overall compactness of two or more alternative districting plans for the County.

   b. *Perimeter compactness.* The compactness of a district is greatest when the distance needed to traverse the perimeter boundary of a district is as short as possible. The total perimeter distance computed for individual districts under this paragraph may be cumulated for all districts in a plan in order to compare the overall compactness of two or more alternative districting plans for the County, or for a portion of the County.

10. The County Administrator, the Community Development Director, and the County Engineer, utilizing the County's Geographic Information System (GIS) and Information Management Office (IMO) staff, shall each independently develop a potential plan for redistricting. If a vacancy exists in one of these offices, then the Forest Preserve Superintendent will fill the open spot. These individuals shall not discuss or share any details of his or her plan with the others, or with any member of the Board, until such plans are presented to the County Board for consideration. The IMO Director will independently submit a report to the County Board analyzing each of the three plans for the degree of compliance with the various criteria as set forth in this Section 2-27.1 of the County Code, as well as with any Federal or State requirements.

11. All three plans shall be presented directly to the County Board for consideration not later than the regular monthly meeting of the County Board which next occurs 90 days after the release of the census data. No County Board Committee shall first review the three plans nor make a recommendation on a preferred plan. The County Board shall strive to adopt a plan within the legal time-frame parameters for such action.

Sec. 2-27.2 Certification: Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education Training Program

The County Board does recommend that all future County Board Chairmen become B.A.S.S.E.T. certified during their first year of service as County liquor commissioner, and that the County reimburse those Chairmen for the expense of obtaining said certification.


State Law reference — County Board generally, 55 ILCS 5/5-1004 et seq., 5/2-3001 et seq., 5/2-1001 et seq.
DIVISION 2 RULES

Sec. 2-28 Scope
The provisions of this division shall govern all meetings of the County Board or any Committee of the County Board.

(Res. No. R2012-37, 5-16-2012)

Sec. 2-29 Officers
A. At the organizational meeting of the County Board held the first Monday of December in each even numbered year, and whenever a vacancy in the offices of Chairman or Vice-Chairman shall occur, the Board shall elect from its membership a Chairman and a vice-Chairman, neither of whom shall serve more than three full terms in a 12 year period in that position, who shall be nominated and voted upon separately as follows:

The Chairman Pro Tem shall ask for nominations for the office of Chairman.

1. When there is one nominee, a voice vote shall be taken.
2. When there are only two nominees to be voted on, a roll call vote shall be taken with the members stating the name of their choice. A tie vote shall result in a re-vote or re-votes until a Chairman has been elected.
3. When there are more than two nominees a roll call vote shall be taken with the members stating the name of their choice. If no nominee receives a majority of the votes cast a runoff election shall be conducted between the two top vote getters.
4. When there is a three-way tie for top vote getter an "odd man out" coin flip shall determine the runoff nominees.
5. When one nominee has a larger number of votes, but not a majority, and two or more candidates are tied for second, a coin flip, or series of coin flips shall be conducted until only one nominee has a coin showing "heads." That nominee shall then participate in a runoff election against the nominee with the larger number of votes.

The Chairman shall ask for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman (if that office is vacant) and shall follow the same process outlined above to elect a Vice-Chairman.

B. It shall be the Chairman's responsibility to preside over the meetings of the Board, to appoint the Committees of the Board with the advice of the ad hoc nominating Committee and the consent of the entire Board, to compile the agenda for Board meetings that the Chairman calls, and to perform such other duties as the Board may from time to time assign.

C. It shall be the Vice-Chairman's responsibility to preside over the meetings of the Board in the absence of the Chairman and to perform such other duties as the Board may assign from time to time.


Sec. 2-30 Seating
Members of the County Board shall be seated in alphabetical order, unless physical limitations or other unforeseen circumstances, as agreed to by the Board Chair, necessitate a variation.

Sec. 2-31 Rules of Order

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the County Board in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are not inconsistent with the rules of the Board including, but not limited to, the following rules:

1. The Chairman shall preserve order and decorum and decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Board without debate.

2. No member shall have the privilege of the floor until he shall respectfully address the Chair, rise, if practical, and be recognized. Members shall remain standing when addressing the Chair or the Board.

3. When two or more members shall address the Chair at the same time, the Chair shall name the member to speak first.

4. No member shall speak to a question for more than five minutes the first time, and no member may speak twice on the same question until all members who wish to have spoken. A member may speak for no more than five minutes the second time unless granted permission by the Chair.

5. No member shall absent himself before the formal close of the day's session, unless excused by the Chairman of the Board.

6. A member may abstain from voting on any issue, provided that an abstaining member shall not be counted as a voting member for any purpose. No member shall pass a vote.

7. No motion shall be debated before it has been seconded; when seconded, it shall be stated by the Chair before being debated, and every such motion shall be reduced to writing and made a part of the Board's minutes stating the name of the moving member and seconder.

8. After a motion is stated by the Chairman or read by the Clerk, it shall be deemed to be in the possession of the Board, but may be withdrawn by the moving member with consent of the second at any time prior to an amendment or decision thereon.

9. A roll call vote shall be called on any question upon the demand of any one member.

10. The Clerk shall call the names of members in alphabetical order when calling the roll or when polling a vote. Beginning at the first regular or special meeting of the County Board following adoption of the ordinance from which this section derives the Clerk shall call the first member in alphabetical order and cycle through the alphabet one member per meeting, skipping members who may be absent, until the last member in alphabetical order has voted first and then begin the process again. The Clerk shall restart the process at the beginning of each session of the Board starting with the first roll call vote following the seating of the new Board at the organizational meeting held on the first Monday of December of each even-numbered year by beginning with the first member in alphabetical order.

11. A motion to reconsider can be made only at the same meeting and by a member voting with the majority.

12. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order and shall be decided without debate, unless a question of what time to adjourn to shall occur.

13. No alteration shall be made in any of the rules of the Board without the consent of a majority of the members of the Board nor without two weeks' notice being given to the motion therefor but the rules may be suspended in any particular case by vote of two-thirds of the members voting.

14. No unauthorized person or persons may enter into or remain in the seating area for the County Board or those areas immediately adjacent to the seating area of the County Board beginning one half-hour prior to County Board meetings and ending one half-hour after adjournment of the County Board. No unauthorized person or persons may distribute materials or speak to members of the County Board in the Board seating area during such periods.
15. Full Board meetings and Committee meetings may be recorded by a third party or the County in any form, except where the meeting is held in closed session or where an individual providing testimony to the Committee or full Board objects. Where a witness objects to providing testimony while recorded by a third party, the third party shall cease any and all recording during the testimony, but may resume, once the testimony is completed.

16. Any member of the public who persists in disrupting or interfering with the orderly business of the Board shall be removed from the meeting premises by a law enforcement officer at the direction of the Chairman.

17. A consent agenda may be presented by the Chairman at the beginning of a meeting. Items may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any member. Items not removed may be adopted by general consent without debate. Removed items may be taken up either immediately after the consent agenda or placed later on the agenda at the discretion of the member requesting the item’s removal from the consent agenda. Expenditure of funds may never be subject to a consent agenda.

(Res. No. R2012-37, 5-16-2012)

Sec. 2-32 Meetings Generally

A. Regular meetings of the County Board shall commence promptly at 7:00 p.m. and shall end no later than 10:30 p.m. unless extended by majority vote of the members present. Meetings shall be held on the third Wednesday of each month. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman in accordance with the requirements of the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The meeting agenda, Board minutes, Committee reports, and a compilation of bills to be paid shall be made available to Board members and to the public on the County's website not less than five calendar days prior to regular Board meetings.

B. Special meetings of the Board shall be held when requested by at least one-third of the members of the Board, which request shall be in writing, addressed to the Clerk of the Board, and specifying the time and place of such meeting. The Clerk shall then give notice of such special meeting to members and to the general public as required by law.

C. In the first calendar quarter of each year following the County Board’s Organizational Meeting, the County board Chairman may set a special workshop for all County Board Members. The agenda for the meeting will be approved by the Executive Committee, but the intent is to only have discussion items, such as regarding Board Member orientation or an in-depth examination of specific issues, with no formal actions being taken by the Board at this workshop.

D. Regular meetings of the County Board may be cancelled by a two-thirds majority vote of the executive Committee. Notice of cancellation shall be provided by e-mail to Board members and Department Heads within 12 hours of the vote to cancel the meeting. A vote to cancel a regular meeting may be overridden by written petition signed by a majority of the members of the County Board and delivered to the Board office not less than six calendar days before the meeting was scheduled to occur. Written petition may include e-mail correspondence sent to the County Board coordinator and Board Chairman. In such event, the executive Committee shall meet not less than three calendar days before the meeting to prepare an agenda for the meeting. No more than two meetings may be cancelled in any calendar year. Regular meetings of the Board may be cancelled upon shorter notice, in the discretion of the Board Chairman, in case of emergency, inclement weather, act of God, or other extraordinary circumstance or event.

E. Standing Committee meetings may be cancelled by a two-thirds majority vote of Committee members. A Committee Chairman may cancel a meeting in case of emergency, inclement weather, act of God, or other extraordinary circumstance or event. If the Committee Chairman determines that there is an apparent lack of business items to warrant the cancellation of a meeting, the County Administrator or designee will contact each of the standing Committee members for concurrence in cancelling the meeting. If during that process a member suggests a business item to the County
Chapter 2 – Administration

Administrator or designee, a new round of contacts will be made. If two-thirds of the Committee members agree to cancel the meeting, the meeting will be cancelled.

F. When Special Meetings are held at the request of outside parties because the timing of the regular monthly County Board Meeting will not meet their needs, the County will charge a fee of $3,000. The fee may be waived by the County Board at their next monthly meeting if it is determined that the Special Meetings was also in the best interest of the general public.


State Law reference — Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120/1—120/6.

Sec. 2-33 Order of Business
The order of business at meetings of the County Board shall be as follows:

1. Roll Call
2. Pledge to the Flag
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Communications & Proclamations
6. Public Comments
7. Approval of Appointments
8. Reports of Standing Committees
9. Reports of Special Committees
10. Old Business
11. New Business & Referral of Matters to Committee
12. Adjournment


Sec. 2-34 Quorum
Thirteen members of the County Board shall constitute a quorum for meetings of the full Board.

(Res. No. R2012-37, 5-16-2012)

Sec. 2-35 Agenda of the County Board
A. The Chairman, with the advice and consent of the executive Committee, shall prepare an agenda for each regular and special meeting of the County Board. The agenda shall be in writing and shall be distributed to Board members and made available to the public and to the news media not less than five calendar days prior to the meeting for which the agenda is prepared.

B. The agenda shall be sufficiently itemized to apprise members and the public of the matters to be considered by the Board.

C. Only members shall have the right to have matters placed on the agenda. All matters to be placed on the agenda shall originate from a standing or ad-hoc Committee, unless the executive Committee votes by a two-thirds majority to place such item on the agenda.

D. A matter not on the agenda may be discussed upon a motion made, seconded and passed by two-thirds of the members voting. No final action may be taken on items not part of the published agenda for that meeting.
Sec. 2-36  New Business
New matters presented to the County Board shall be stated in writing and shall be referred to the appropriate Committees by the Chairman without debate. Any matter can be discussed by the Board at any time upon motion made, seconded and passed by two-thirds of the members voting. No final action may be taken on items not on the published agenda.

Sec. 2-37  Comments from Public
A time shall be provided on the agenda of each regular meeting of the County Board for members of the public to be heard. Such time shall not exceed 30 minutes. Persons desiring to be heard shall be allotted three minutes in which to address the Board speakers shall identify themselves by name and township. The 30 minutes time limits may be extended, for time certain, by a vote of the majority of the members present.

Sec. 2-38  Claims
No claim or bill shall be submitted to the County Board until such claim or bill has been submitted first to the Finance Director. Each Board member shall be provided with a list of the monthly claims, and it shall not be necessary for the claims to be read.

Sec. 2-39  Decorum of Members
All members shall comport themselves in a manner befitting that of an elected public official. Members shall be respectful of one another, of County staff, and of those members of the public whom they serve. Members shall attend meetings of the full Board dressed in business casual or professional attire.

Sec. 2-40  Nomination of Chair, Vice-Chair, and Standing Committees
A. Not less than one week prior to the organizational meeting of the County Board, members shall hold their respective party caucuses. Each caucus shall select three of its members to serve on an Ad Hoc Nominating Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the Ad Hoc Nominating Committee to recommend to the Chair of the County Board elected at the organizational meeting, a Vice-Chair, members of each Committee, and the Chairs and Vice-Chairs for each of the Standing Committees, plus an advisory recommendation to the Forest Preserve President for Forest Preserve Standing Committees. The Committee Chairs shall be proportional to each party's representation on the Board. The majority party shall have the first selection of Standing Committee Chairs and the parties shall then select alternately until the minority allotment has been filled. Minority party Chair allotments shall be as follows: If the minority party holds nine, ten or 11 seats it shall be entitled to three Committee Chairs. If the minority party holds six, seven, or eight seats it shall be entitled to two Chairs. If the minority party holds two, three, four, or five seats it shall be entitled to one Chair. A party holding less than two seats shall be entitled to no Standing Committee Chairs. The Chair of the Executive Committee shall be the County Board Chair. The Vice-Chair of the Board and Executive Committee shall be a member of a minority party.
B. The Ad Hoc Nominating Committee shall submit its recommendations for Committee memberships, with the goal of each County Board Member serving on two of either the County’s or Forest Preserve’s Standing Committees, and Committee Chairs in writing to the Chair of the County Board elected at the organization meeting of the Board. The Chair, following the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee insofar as possible, shall thereupon appoint members, Vice Chairs, and Chairs of all Standing Committees of the Board subject to the consent of the Board expressed by roll call vote.


Sec. 2-41 Standing Committees Enumerated

A1. Executive Committee. The Chair of the Executive Committee shall be the County Board Chair. The Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee shall be the Vice-Chair of the County Board. The Executive Committee consists of the Chairs of the Standing Committees, or in their absence, the Vice-Chairs of those Standing Committees and is Chaired by the County Board Chair. The Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee shall be a member of the opposite party of the County Board Chair and shall represent the County Board Chair in his absence and present all reports of the Executive Committee at meetings of the full County Board. When neither the Board Chair nor the Vice-Chair is available the Board Chair shall designate another member of the Executive Committee to serve as Chair for any regular or Executive Committee meeting. The Executive Committee advises the County Board with regard to the agenda for its meetings, coordinates the efforts of all Standing and Ad Hoc Committees, administers the exempt employee evaluation plan and advises the Board on matters relating to administrative procedures such as the conduct of public hearings. If a Committee Chair is absent from the meeting, then the Vice-Chair shall serve on the Executive Committee in his absence. If both the Committee Chair and Vice-Chair are absent from the meeting, then the County Board Chair, with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee, may designate a member of the Committee who is present at the meeting to serve on the Executive Committee in the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair.

A2. The Executive Committee is entrusted with the authority to receive litigation updates on County litigation that is pending against it, or on behalf of it, and its elected officials, as deemed necessary. The Executive Committee shall also be responsible for making final determinations as to the initiation, settlement, compromise, and/or appeal of litigation for and against the County of DeKalb. Though, upon its own motion, the Executive Committee may refer such duties to the full County Board on a case by case basis should it determine such is necessary or desirable. (Further reference Section 2-80.)

B. All Standing Committees serve in an advisory capacity and perform such functions as are determined by the County Board plus those responsibilities noted below:

1. Finance Committee. This committee advises the county board in matters relating to finance, capital planning, facility management, information management technology and administrative services. Responsible annually for the submission to the county board of a balanced budget along with recommended tax levy and capital spending plan for the coming five-year period. The Finance Committee monitors the budget revenues and expenses throughout each fiscal year and may propose measures during the year to help meet annual budget goals.

2. Planning and Zoning Committee. The planning and zoning committee advises the county board in matters relative to the county’s comprehensive plan, zoning ordinances, building and development matters, building codes and violations of various county ordinances. This committee coordinates with the regional planning commission.

3. County Highway Committee. The county highway committee advises the county board on all matters related to roads, bridges and other elements of public infrastructure. This committee is also responsible for intergovernmental issues related to transportation including coordination of efforts with the state, municipal and township road and bridge systems and participation in the metropolitan planning organization.
4. **Economic Development Committee.** The economic development committee advises the county board on all matters relating to growth, including residential, commercial and industrial growth and the economic opportunities and challenges associated with that growth. This committee coordinates with the county economic development corporation, and the various cities, towns and villages within the county on growth-related matters. This committee also coordinates and oversees the operation of the property tax system and recommends periodically beneficial changes in local policies and state laws.

5. **Health and Human Services Committee.** The health and human services committee advises the county board on all matters pertaining to the provision of health and human services to the residents of the county, including those services provided directly by the county and/or services provided by others that are overseen and/or funded by the county. This committee coordinates and oversees a wide variety of services in the fields of health, mental health, public health and long-term care. The committee oversees the administration of the county's senior services levy and the rural transportation services and veterans' transportation services provided through the Voluntary Action Center. This committee coordinates with the board of health, 708 board and the regional superintendent of schools.

6. **Law and Justice Committee.** This committee advises the county board on all aspects of the justice system, including, but not limited to, funding and coordination of services provided by the judiciary, coroner/ESDA, sheriff’s department, court services, the public defender, the circuit clerk’s office and the office of the State’s Attorney. This committee makes periodic recommendations to the county board on tax and financial policies relative to the ongoing operational and capital needs of the justice system.

C. **Committee of the Whole.** The Committee of the Whole, comprised of all County Board members and chaired by the County Board Chair, received, studies, questions, and debates matters of general interest to the entire County Board. These meetings are designed to learn and gather information and as such, no formal votes may be taken. Discussions which may ultimately lead to business items for action by the entire County Board are still subject to the Standing Committee process. No requirement is made nor inferred that a matter for Standing Committee consideration must first be routed through the Committee of the Whole.


---

**Sec. 2-42 Committee Members**

A. The Chairman of the County Board shall be the Chairman and a member of the executive Committee and may be a member of such other Committees which he may be appointed to with consent of the Board. The Chairman of the County Board shall be an ex officio member of all Committees.

B. All County Board Committee or Committee Chairman appointments, after the initial regular meeting in December, shall be made by the Chairman with the advice of the executive Committee and consent of the entire Board.

C. Committee members shall serve until the next Board election and qualification of members. At the request of a Committee member, such member's Committee assignment may be changed by the Chairman with the advice of the executive Committee and the consent of the entire Board.

(Res. No. R2012-37, 5-16-2012)
Sec. 2-43 Committee Meetings

A. Without permission of the County Board Chairman, no Committee may conduct business during any regular or special meeting of the Board.

B. Standing Committees shall establish regular meeting dates and times which shall be published in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The first meeting and special meetings of standing Committees and meetings of other Committees and subcommittees including executive sessions shall be called, public notice given, and held in compliance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/1 et seq.).

C. No Committee shall meet without a quorum being present. A quorum of a standing Committee shall be a majority of its members. Members in attendance by other means, as provided in subparagraph (d) below, shall not be included for purposes of establishing a quorum, but shall have the right to participate fully in the meeting and vote on all matters in the same manner as if the member were present in person.

D. If a member of a Committee is prevented from physically attending a Committee meeting because of:
   1. Personal illness or disability;
   2. Employment purposes or the business of the public body; or
   3. A family or other emergency;
then a quorum of the members of the Committee may allow, by majority vote, a Committee member to attend the meeting by other means. "Other means" shall mean by video or audio conference. If a Committee member wishes to attend a meeting by other means, the member shall notify the County Board office or Committee Chair before the meeting, unless advance notice is impractical, and the County Board office or Committee Chair shall make appropriate arrangements for attendance by other means by the member.

E. Members who do not attend a Committee meeting in person, but attend by other means, as defined in subparagraph D above, shall not receive per diem compensation or mileage reimbursement for such attendance by other means.

F. In the event that a Committee Chairman is absent or attends a meeting by other means, the Committee Vice Chairman shall preside over the meeting. In the event that both the Committee Chairman and Vice Chairman are absent or attend by other means, the Committee members shall elect a Committee member to preside over the meeting.

G. No standing committee shall schedule its regular monthly meetings between the executive committee meeting and the date of the full county board meeting without approval of the executive committee.

H. Any member who will be absent from a committee meeting shall notify the county board office or committee chair of his absence prior to the meeting. If a member is absent from more than three (3) committee meetings within a calendar year, the committee chair shall notify the board chairman of such absences and the chairman shall, with the advice of the executive committee and the consent of the full county board, remove the member from the committee in which the member was absent. Attendance by other means, in accordance with subparagraph D, shall not constitute an absence.

Sec. 2-44  Minutes of Committees

All Committee minutes shall be in writing and shall be delivered to the Chairman for distribution to the members of the County Board. Committee minutes shall be delivered to the Chairman not less than seven calendar days prior to the Board meeting at which such reports are to be considered. In addition, as a courtesy to the public, audio recordings of Committee meetings will be made available, as soon as practical, via the County's web site for a period of 12 months following the date of the meeting.


Sec. 2-45  Executive, Closed Sessions

Executive or closed sessions of the County Board and of all Committees and subcommittees of the Board shall only be held in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/1 et seq.), as amended from time to time.


Sec. 2-46  Amendments to Division 2, Rules

Amendments to the County Board rules shall be based on recommendations made by an ad hoc rules Committee. This Committee shall contain equal representatives of the opposing parties. This Committee shall be appointed by the Chairman, with the advice and consent of the entire Board, and shall consist of not less than two or more than eight members of the County Board. The full Board shall have the sole authority to adopt such amendments and shall do so by a two-thirds majority.

(Res. No. R2012-37, 5-16-2012)

Sec. 2-47  Per Diem & Mileage

DeKalb County Board Members may collect a per diem and mileage for the attendance of any County Board or Committee meeting for which they are assigned and attend. Should a Board Member attend more than one County meeting in a calendar day, then he/she may only receive the payment of one per diem for the day in total and mileage only for trips actually driven. Per diems and mileage cannot be collected for meetings attended where the Board Member is not themselves a member.


Sec. 2-48  Board Member Attendance at Non-Assigned Committee Meetings

County Board Members are permitted, and in some cases encouraged, to attend the meetings of Committees that they do not serve on, so as to be informed on all issues. However, when a Board Member is attending a Committee meeting that they are not a member of, it is imperative that they do not participate in discussions, but rather just attend for information purposes. When a Board Member participated in a Committee meeting for which they are not assigned, the result could be a violation of the Open Meetings Act and thus must be strictly avoided.


Secs. 2-49—2-65  Reserved.
ARTICLE III  OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES, & COUNTY OPERATIONS

Sec. 2-66 County Administrator

A.  Position created. There is hereby created the position of County Administrator.

B.  Appointment. The County Administrator position, when vacant, shall be filled via the following procedure:

1. The executive Committee shall act as a selection Committee.

2. The Committee shall review the credentials of all applicants and select a group of not less than three persons for personal interviews.

3. Following completion of all scheduled interviews, the selection Committee shall forward to the full Board at its next meeting a recommendation to hire one of the candidates.

4. A majority vote of those members present in favor of the hiring resolution shall end the selection process. Should the motion fail, the selection Committee shall restart the process outlined above.

C. Qualifications. The County will seek candidates with relevant education, administrative, management, and government experience. Candidates who are not credentialed by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), may be required to obtain that certification, or pursue other professional development opportunities, as a condition of employment. The selection Committee is authorized to use discretion in evaluating candidate qualifications to bring forward their recommendation to the County Board for appointment.

D. Authority, duties and responsibilities.

1. The County Administrator reports directly to the County Board through the Chairman and the executive Committee.

2. The County Administrator is responsible for gathering and disseminating to the Board objective information which will aid in their decision-making process including, where appropriate, staff recommendations.

3. The County Administrator facilitates and promotes communication between the Board, the public, Department Heads, County employees, external Boards, commissions and their governments.

4. The County Administrator provides key staff support to the Board in its policy formulation efforts and makes recommendations as appropriate. The County Administrator assures that the actions of the Board, as expressed through their various ordinances and resolutions, are carried out. The County Administrator also serves as the Editor of the County Code and is responsible to see that all actions of the County Board, as appropriate, are timely codified and made available to the public in an organized format.

5. The County Administrator is responsible for the day-to-day coordination and operation of all County services that are under the control of the County Board.

6. The County Administrator is authorized, pursuant to a departmental request, to amend departmental budgets between line-items and categories within a department's total appropriation of all their cost centers within a fund, but only the County Board may increase or decrease the total fund appropriation for a department.

7. In the event of an emergency, the County Administrator, in consultation with the Chair, Vice-Chair, the Finance Chair, and the Chair of the relevant jurisdiction Committee, may authorize additional spending to address the emergency, but such expenditures must be reported to the Finance Committee at their next regular meeting.

8. The County Administrator is responsible for the allocation, use, renovation, safety, and stewardship of the County's buildings and grounds.
9. The County Board retains the authority to approve the number of authorized positions for each department, but the County Administrator may approve staff re-organizations within a department where the resulting annualized expenses do not exceed the monies already budgeted.

10. Labor contracts are to be negotiated and recommended by the County Administrator to the County Board for the Board’s final approval. Before negotiations begin, the County Administrator shall gather input from the executive Committee and then the County Administrator. Board Chair, and Board Vice-Chair shall establish negotiation parameters and strategy. Labor disputes and policy interpretations arising above the departmental level will be handled by the County Administrator.

11. When a vacancy exists at the Department Head level (other than that of County Administrator), the County Administrator, the Chair of the relevant jurisdiction Committee, and either the Board Chair or Vice-Chair (to even out political party representation if possible), are responsible for bringing forward to the appropriate County Board Committee up to five candidates for consideration by the Committee. If none of the candidates are found to be acceptable by the Committee, or the County Board, the process starts over.

12. Performance evaluations for County Board appointed Department Heads will be conducted by the County Board in a manner determined from time to time by the executive Committee of the County Board. The County Administrator may submit input to the Board as part of that evaluation process. The County Administrator may also choose to perform interim evaluations as deemed appropriate.

13. In situations where the County Administrator deems it necessary, the County Administrator shall have the power to order the immediate suspension of a County Board appointed Department Head, with or without pay as deemed appropriate, until acted upon by the County Board. In such cases, the County Board shall act on the suspension at their next regular monthly meeting to reinstate, or take other appropriate action, or to permanently remove the Department Head.

14. The County Administrator, or their designee, will represent the County on any applicable Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) District’s Joint Review Boards or related TIF Advisory Boards.

E. Limitations on authority. No provision of this section is intended to vest in or grant to the County Administrator any duty or any authority which is vested by general law or ordinance in any other County officer, official, or employee. No provision of this section shall be construed to delegate to the County Administrator any authority reserved to the County Board by law; nor may the County Administrator purchase or sell real estate on behalf of the County, nor bind the County to any debt obligation, unless specifically granted such authority by an ordinance or resolution.

F. Removal. The County Administrator is an employee at will who serves at the pleasure of the Board. The County Administrator may be removed by a majority vote of the full County Board at any regular meeting of the Board. In situations where the Chairman deems it necessary, the Chairman shall have the power to order the immediate suspension of the County Administrator with pay until acted upon by the Board. In such cases, the Board shall act on the suspension at their next regular meeting, voting to remove permanently, or take other appropriate action, or reinstate the County Administrator.

G. Performance Evaluations. The Executive Committee will perform evaluations of the County Administrator in a manner as determined appropriate, from time to time, by the Committee. The intent of the evaluation will be to keep lines of communication open, to facilitate the accomplishment of County Board goals, and to foster positive relationships between the County Board and County Administrator.

Sec. 2-67 Deputy County Administrator

A Deputy County Administrator may be hired by the County Board to serve as key staff to the Board and County Administrator and shall serve at the pleasure of the County Board. A Deputy County Administrator shall not be an elected official and compensation will be determined by the County Board in the hiring resolution. A Deputy County Administrator shall provide executive, administrative, and operational support and analysis to the County Board and County Administrator and shall assist in the formulation and implementation of policies and procedures for the County. A Deputy County Administrator serves under the direction of the County Administrator and the duties shall include all duties as assigned by the Board and County Administrator including, but not limited to:

1. Serve as a resource to the County Board, the County Administrator and County Department Heads in the formulation of overall County policy. Assist the County Administrator in the formulation of operating policies and procedures.

2. Provide advice and guidance to the County Board, its Committees, the County Administrator and Department Heads on a variety of strategic planning, financial, and management matters; recommend policy, interpret procedures, answer questions, and offer information both generally and concerning specific projects.

3. Assist the County Administrator and participate in the formulation and administration of personnel policies, personnel procedures, and union negotiations. Serve as the County’s privacy officer as it relates to employee matters. Confer with and advise the County Administrator and County Board on difficult work problems, and develop, implement and monitor new work procedures.

4. Initiate and craft internal and external communications on behalf of the County Board and County Administrator on matters of information of concern, public policy, and of general interest.

5. Working with the County Administrator and Department Heads prepare and articulate an annual federal and state legislative agenda on behalf of the County Board. The Deputy County Administrator should stay abreast of local initiatives and issues throughout the County and communicate any impact of those issues on the County with recommendations for policy positions as necessary.

6. Participate in the development of the annual County budget in cooperation with the County Administrator and Finance Director. Attend, as necessary, all County Board, Committee, and public budget hearings.

7. Stay abreast of applicable Freedom of Information Laws, the Illinois Open Meetings Act, and the County Code as it pertains to meetings; serve in an advisory capacity to the County Board and County Administrator, as needed; regarding same; and assist the County Administrator in the timely and accurate codification of the County Code.

8. The County Administrator shall identify and recommend appropriate candidates to fill this position to the Executive Committee who shall forward their recommendation to the County Board. The Executive Committee of the County Board shall have the authority to further define the duties of Deputy County Administrator as needed, from time to time.

Sec. 2-68 Finance Director

The Finance Director shall serve as the chief financial officer of the County and exercise direct control over such functions as accounting, auditing, budget management, financial planning and reporting, inventory control, risk management, payroll and benefits, and issuance of bonds. The Finance Director shall serve as key staff to the County Board and the County Administrator and provide them with financial and operational analyses to assist in the formulation of policy and procedures. In addition, the Finance Director shall have the duty to:

1. Plan, organize, direct and participate in the review of general financial procedures for the County to include: retirement fund and payroll administration, accounting, auditing, employee benefits, grants, purchasing, bill payment, record keeping and reporting; monitoring and coordinating cost accounting activities of County departments with the general accounting system.

2. Develop and consolidate the annual County budget in cooperation with the County Administrator and deputy County Administrator; assess budget proposals submitted by individual departments and review with the County Administrator and Department Directors; research, estimate and compute both current and projected budgetary revenues and expenditures; attend all County Board, Committee, and public budget hearings to receive comments, answer questions, give interpretations and make recommendations; advise news media and answer questions about County finances and the budget.

3. Provide advice and guidance to the County Board, its Committees, the County Administrator, Deputy County Administrator, and Department Directors on a variety of financial matters; recommend financial policy, interpret procedures, answer questions, and offer information and advice concerning specific financial projects and policies.

4. Directly administer County insurance, self-insurance, and risk management programs, recommend policies and procedures to be instituted; represent the County to insurance agencies, report to the County Board on insurance activities; answer questions and requests for information from employees.

5. Prepare, audit, and recommend to the County Board all invoices to be paid by the County each month. Prepare a variety of financial and statistical reports analyses and informational summaries; examples include: Finance Director’s quarterly report, annual budget book, bond reports, asset replacement and capital project schedules, census report, grant reports, appropriate personnel reports, and management costs studies.

6. Supervise and oversee the work of Finance Office employees; hire, train, evaluate, discipline and dismiss department employees.


Sec. 2-69 Community Development Director

The Community Development Director shall serve as the building officer, economic development officer, plat officer, planning director and zoning Administrator of the County and exercise direct control over all professional and technical work of the Community Development Department. In addition, he shall serve as key staff to the County Board and the County Administrator, and provide them with research, plans and professional recommendations to assist in the formulation of policy and procedures.

Sec. 2-80 County Litigation

Pursuant to Illinois law and DeKalb County Ordinance O2019-27, the DeKalb County Board’s Executive Committee shall be entrusted with the authority to enter into settlement or compromise agreements and to otherwise control the initiation and/or appeal of litigation on behalf of the County of DeKalb, Illinois.

When the DeKalb County State’s Attorney’s Office determines it is necessary to consult with an/or advise the DeKalb County Board as to threatened and/or pending litigation, it shall do so by advising the DeKalb County Board’s Executive Committee, or the full DeKalb County Board itself, as is deemed necessary or desirable.

The DeKalb County Board’s Executive Committee shall, in its discretion, be permitted to refer any litigation’s initiation, settlement, compromise, and/or appeal to the full County Board for its consideration.

Nothing within this Section is to be interpreted as a restriction or limitation on the DeKalb County State’s Attorney or the DeKalb County Sheriff to initiate, defend, settle, compromise, appeal or otherwise control litigation as is otherwise authorized and/or mandated by Illinois law.


Sec. 2-81 Indemnification of Officers, Employees and Certain Appointees

To the fullest extent permitted by the Constitution of the State of Illinois of 1970 and applicable law, all County Officers and their employees, including the following:

- County Board Chairman
- County Board Members
- Forest Preserve Commissioners
- County Circuit Court Judges
- County Clerk and Recorder
- County Hearing Officer
- Circuit Clerk
- Information Management Office Director
- State’s Attorney
- County Treasurer and Collector
- ESDA Director
- Deputy County Administrator
- Deputy Director of Court Services
- Drug Court Administrator
- Problem-solving Court Teams
- Finance Director
- Public Health Administrator
- Contracted Health Department Physicians
- Contracted Health Department Animal Control Veterinarian Administrator
- Contracted Health Department Advanced Practice Clinicians (Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants)
- Public Defender
- County Coroner
- Regional Superintendent of Schools
- County Sheriff
- County Supervisor of Assessments
County Planning Director
Forest Preserve Superintendent
Community Action Director
County Administrator
County Facilities Manager
County Home Administrator
County Home Manager
Contracted County Home Medical Director
County Engineer
County Historian
Mental Health Administrator
Veterans Assistance Superintendent
Certain County Appointees who serve as Members of the:
Community Mental Health Board
County Board of Health
County Board of Review
County Farmland Assessment Review Committee
Community Services Advisory Board
County Jury Commission
County Building Board of Appeals
County Public Building Commission
Sheriff's Merit Commission
Sheriff's Auxiliary
Sheriff's Radio Watchers
ESDA Weather-Spotters
County Soil and Water Conservation District
County Emergency Telephone System Board
County Nursing Home Foundation Board
County Rehab and Nursing Center Operating Board
County Members of the River Valley Workforce Investment Board
County Regional Planning Commission
County Supportive Living Facility—Not for Profit, Directors
Regional Board of School Trustees
Veterans Assistance Commission
County Stormwater Management Planning Committee

shall be indemnified, defended and held harmless by the County from and against all liabilities, expenses or investigation, judgments and amounts paid in settlement which may be imposed upon or reasonably incurred or paid by such officer, employee or appointee in connection with or resulting from any claim made against him or her, or any action, suit, proceeding or investigation in which he or she may be involved by reason of his or her being or having been such officer, employee or appointee of the County, whether or not he or she continues to be such officer, employee or appointee at or after the time of such claim, action, suit, proceeding or investigation; provided however, that the foregoing indemnity shall not extend to any of the following:
1. Any liability or cost with respect to any matter as to which such officer, employee or appointee is finally adjudged to be guilty of bad faith, or actual malice, or willful and wanton misconduct in the performance of his or her duties as such officer, employee or appointee.

2. Any payment, expense or cost arising out of a settlement of any claim, action, suit or proceeding, unless:
   a. Such settlement has been approved by the court having jurisdiction over such claim, action, suit or proceeding, with express knowledge of the existence of the indemnification provided hereby; or
   b. Such settlement has been made with the approval of the State’s Attorney, a special assistant State’s Attorney, or special State’s Attorney, to the effect that there is no reasonable ground for any finding of bad faith, or of actual malice, or willful and wanton misconduct on the part of such officer, employee or appointee and that the anticipated cost of such settlement will not substantially exceed the estimated cost and expense of defending such claim, action, suit or proceeding to a final conclusion.

3. Any liability of judgment payable to the County itself.

4. The cost of legal representation, except as provided by: the State's Attorney; a special assistant State’s Attorney, duly appointed by the State’s Attorney; or a special State’s Attorney, appointed by a court having jurisdiction over such claim, action, suit or proceeding.

5. Any liability or costs incurred as a result of the County officer's, County employee's or appointee's failure to provide timely notice of such claims, action, suit or proceeding.

6. Any liability of costs incurred as a result of the County officer's, County employee's or County appointee's failure to reasonably cooperate in the defense of such claim, action, suit or proceeding.

The foregoing rights of indemnification shall be in addition to any other rights to which such officer, employee, or appointee may otherwise be entitled as a matter of law.


State Law reference — Similar provisions, 745 ILCS 10/1-101 et seq.
Sec. 2-82  Internet Usage Policy

A. The County provides internet access to employees for their use to transact County business.

B. Department Heads may request, in writing, for individual employees to have access to the internet through the County's system, certifying that said employee has a business need for access.

C. Authorized employees may access the internet for their own use, during hours that are outside of the normal County work day. Typically, this would be before 8:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, plus weekends, when the volume of business transactions will be significantly reduced.

D. The County may choose to restrict access to various internet sites. Absent specific blocking of a site, employees are expected to refrain from accessing sites which would be considered offensive by community standards, except where such access is necessary for the execution of County business.

E. The County will not monitor individual internet usage as a routine matter. There may be a need for the County to occasionally review individual internet usage in a specific area.

F. Employees that access the internet must be aware that the hardware and software utilized for the internet access has the ability to log all County internet activity, including linked sites.

G. Nothing in this policy shall prohibit law enforcement officials from examining any internet usage in the course of an on-going investigation of civil or criminal or activity. The County reserves the right to disclose any internet activity to law enforcement officials, but will notify the State's Attorney's Office prior to any investigation being initiated.

H. When accessing the internet, employees are expected to use anti-virus software on their workstations and particular caution for computer viruses should be exercised if files are downloaded.

I. Any conduct that violates this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

J. The County reserves the right to change this policy at any time, with such prior notice, if any, as may be reasonable under the circumstances.

K. No one shall receive authorized access to the internet until he or she has received, reviewed, and agreed, in writing, to comply with this policy. Such documentation shall be retained in the employee’s personnel file.

Sec. 2-83  E-mail Usage Policy

A. The County provides e-mail (electronic mail) to employees for their use to transact County business.

B. The County recognizes that employees have substantial interest in, and reasonable expectations of, privacy with regard to the e-mail messages they send or receive. However, the County can make no guarantees that absolute privacy of e-mail messages will be experienced.

C. Time spent on e-mail messages, which are personal, is expected to be either incidental in nature, or confined to time periods which are not a part of the employee's paid work hours.

D. Employees are expected to refrain from sending, or encouraging the receipt of, messages for which the content would be considered offensive by community standards, except where such messages are necessary for the execution of County business.

E. The County reserves the right to access and disclose the contents of e-mail messages, but will do so only when it has a legitimate business need, or when the urgency of the need is sufficiently strong to offset the County's commitment to honor the employee's interest in privacy.

F. The County will not monitor e-mail messages as a routine matter. There may be a need, however, for the County to occasionally review e-mail content for a specific reason.

G. Nothing in this policy shall prohibit law enforcement officials from examining any e-mail messages in the course of an on-going internal investigation of civil or criminal activity for alleged use or misuse by a County employee. The County reserves the right to disclose any e-mail messages to law enforcement officials, but will notify the State's Attorney's Office prior to any investigation being initiated.

H. In case of termination or extended absence, work-related e-mail messages may be forwarded to the most appropriate employee.

I. The unauthorized viewing and/or retrieval of another person's e-mail messages, and other forms of electronic snooping, are prohibited.

J. The State's Attorney, the County Administrator, and the Finance Director, will review any request for access to the contents of e-mail messages. In the absence of one of those individuals, the Information Management Office Director may be substituted. Such requests must be approved in advance by a majority, and any access undertaken without such approval, is a breach of County policy for which there may be disciplinary action.

K. Any conduct which violates this policy may result in disciplinary action up to and including dismissal.

L. The County reserves the right to change this policy at any time, with such prior notice, if any, as may be reasonable under the circumstances.

M. No one shall receive authorized access to the e-mail system until he or she has received, reviewed, and agreed, in writing, to comply with this policy. Such documentation shall be retained in the employee's personnel file.

Sec. 2-84 Government Vehicle Operation Policy

A. Policy. The operation of vehicles is indispensable in conducting County business, and the way in which each vehicle is handled directly affects the production of County departments. First, the safety of our employees is our primary concern. Second, vehicular collisions are potentially the most costly losses we can incur when the summation of property damage, bodily injury, fatalities, and liability suits is considered. Such costs can mount to proportions that will adversely affect every department in efforts to accomplish its mission and maintain good public relations.

B. Coverage. This policy applies to all departments of County government headed by appointed officials or those headed by Elected Officials who have chosen to adopt these policies. This policy shall be in addition to any existing policies previously put in place by the various departments of the County.

C. Responsibilities/procedure.
   1. Department Heads and Elected Officials who have adopted these policies shall:
      a. Once these policies have been adopted, ensure departmental compliance by monitoring internal implementation procedures and periodically checking on employee compliance.
      b. Notify all employees of the existence of these policies and the potential disciplinary actions that may be taken against those employees who show a disregard for these policies.
      c. Assure that all County-owned vehicles are maintained adequately for safe operations.
      d. Establish periodic inspections of County-owned vehicles for safety discrepancies, malfunctions, signs of abuse, unreported damage and cleanliness. If repairs are necessary, such repairs shall be made as soon as possible.
      e. Support the County's on-line driving training program and require all covered drivers to complete it.

   2. Supervisors, having direct authority over employees, shall:
      a. Ensure that employees do not drive any County vehicle unless they have valid State of Illinois driver's licenses, are familiar with state laws and this policy, and for employees whose primary duty is driving shall be required to have a valid license of the proper class.
      b. Ensure that only authorized personnel be allowed to operate County vehicles, special purpose vehicles and trucks.
         1. An employee shall not be certified as authorized to operate a special purpose vehicle until he/she has satisfactorily demonstrated his/her complete familiarity with its functions. The employee shall thoroughly understand the manufacturer's operating instructions, vehicle limitations, and emergency procedures and be able to successfully pass an operator's checkout test to the satisfaction of the supervisor.
         2. These procedures shall be accomplished for each type of special purpose vehicle and truck the operator is required to operate.
      c. Ensure that unsafe vehicles are not driven until safety discrepancies have been corrected.
      d. Ensure that all employees are briefed and understand that the use of seat belts while driving or riding in a County vehicle is mandatory.

   3. Employees are required to follow defensive driving practices, which are established for the protection of themselves, their fellow employees and the citizens of the County. Every driver of a County-owned vehicle and every County employee who routinely (average of once per week or more) operates their own vehicle on County business must pass the on-line course within six months of the effective date of this policy. Course cost will be paid by the tort fund. Department Heads may mandate that all drivers that drive on County business pass the on-line course.
Following the effective date of this policy, new hires will be expected to pass the on-line course prior to completion of their probation period. Employees shall also:

a. Inspect the vehicle which he/she is about to drive in accordance with the following:
   1. If there is evidence of accident damage, the employee shall report it to his/her supervisor before driving. Otherwise he/she could be charged for the accident he/she didn't have.
   2. If the vehicle is found to be unsafe, the employee shall report it before driving and request another vehicle.
   3. Vehicles having steering or braking defects shall not be driven. They shall be towed to a garage and repaired before being returned to service.

b. Report to the supervisor in writing all defects noted during the trip.

c. Wear seat belts at all times while driving, requiring passengers to do same.

d. Call police in the jurisdiction responsible to investigate all collisions involving County vehicles and report details to immediate supervisor (or other supervisor if immediate is not available) as soon as possible.

e. Employees operating a vehicle in service to the County shall follow these operating rules:
   1. Removal of any equipment from a County-owned vehicle without written permission of the immediate supervisor and/or the Department Head is prohibited.
   2. Operating any vehicle on County business while impaired in any way is a violation of this policy and subject to disciplinary action up to and including discharge for a first offense. Impairment includes any physical, mental or emotional state or condition naturally or artificially induced that would lessen the ability of the driver to safely operate the motor vehicle.
   3. No alcoholic beverage (whether opened or unopened), narcotics, firearm or explosive material may be transported in a vehicle being utilized for County business purposes unless designated as part of the driver's responsibility.
   4. County vehicles shall not be parked in front of or in parking areas associated with taverns or liquor stores unless employee is on official County business with said establishment. (Restaurants serving liquor are not included in this prohibition.)
   5. Each driver who operates his/her personal vehicle in service to the County must present his/her supervisor with a valid certification of insurance and renewals of it. Each driver must provide initial proof of a valid State of Illinois driver's license and notify their supervisor immediately of the loss, revocation or suspension of those driving privileges.
   6. Modification of any vehicle or of any equipment in a County-owned vehicle without written permission of the immediate supervisor and/or the Department Head is prohibited.
   7. Employees who operate a County vehicle shall restrict use of the vehicle to official County business and incidental personal use.
4. The County Finance Office shall:
   a. Maintain and administer an aggressive program for County employees that seeks to reduce vehicular collisions and liability claims against the County.
   b. Provide access to an on-line driving course for County employees. Departments will be responsible for maintaining compliance records and making sure employees complete training on a timely basis.
   c. Recommend safety equipment requirements and specifications for purchasing new vehicles.
   d. Maintain a database of driver's licenses of County employees who drive in service to the County and periodically spot check that drivers are maintaining a valid license.
   e. Maintain complete records on County collisions, property damage, and liability claims.

5. Take-home policy. The decision regarding assignment of County vehicles to employees, and the subsequent decision to allow the vehicles to be driven to and from work each day, shall be left to the discretion of the Department Head.
   a. County-owned vehicles parked at employee's homes shall be locked and secured.
   b. On-street parking should be avoided to the extent possible. County vehicles should be parked and stored in the safest possible manner at all times.

6. Accident reporting requirements. Any accident involving a County-owned, rented or leased vehicle or privately owned vehicle used in service to the County shall be reported as follows:
   a. Summon medical care for any injured parties.
   b. Notify appropriate law enforcement authorities.
   c. Notify employee's immediate supervisor.
   d. The supervisor shall be responsible for initiating the departmental investigation of the accident, completing all required reports and recommending any follow-up preventative actions.

7. Personally owned vehicles used in service to the County.
   a. The County's self-insurance program provides for excess liability coverage, but does not cover physical damage to an employee's personal vehicle. For excess liability coverage to apply, the accident must be determined by the Finance Office to have occurred during the course and scope of the employee's work duties.
   b. An employee's personal automobile insurance policy is primary to any County coverage. Employees who use personally owned vehicles for County business might wish to confirm with their insurance carrier that their personal automobile insurance policy provides coverage for this use.

8. Reporting requirements. All vehicle operators are required to notify their immediate supervisor immediately of any temporary or permanent suspension, revocation or loss of driving privileges. Such reports shall be forwarded to the Finance Office by the applicable department. Employees who become ineligible to drive, and whose job requires them to do so, are subject to reassignment or discharge at the sole discretion of the employer.

Sec. 2-85  Fiscal Year
The fiscal year for the County shall be a period commencing January 1 of each year and ending December 31 of each year.


Sec. 2-86  Department Credit Cards
The purpose of this section is to allow departments to purchase goods and services directly from vendors when those items are needed, but it is not expedient, practical, or desirable to have either a check or cash available when payment is demanded.

1. The Finance Office will select a company to use to obtain the necessary credit cards and establish a line of credit with that company. Consideration will be given a company who can meet the general purchasing needs of the various County departments and the billing and payment requirements of the County.

2. Each Department Head will determine how many cards are needed for their department and which employees will be allowed to use them. All employees issued a credit card must sign an acknowledgment form recognizing their responsibility to comply with the County's policy regarding credit cards.

3. The Finance Office will establish appropriate credit limits for each card, recognizing that individual cards may vary with the types of goods and services which are anticipated to be acquired.

4. The use of this card is restricted for the County government to acquire goods and services which are appropriate for the conduct of the County's business.

5. Each Department Head is responsible for the use of the cards by their department. The Department Head is responsible to make sure that any charges are authorized County expenditures and that adequate monies are available within the department's approved budget.

6. No personal expenditures are allowed by employees with the credit cards, even if the intent is to re-pay the County at a future point.

7. Credit card bills submitted to the Finance Office for payment must include supporting documentation, such as receipts and invoices, which clearly show what goods and services were purchased using the credit card.

(Res. of 3-15-2000)

Sec. 2-87  Residency Requirement
County Department Heads who are appointed by Resolution by the County Board are required to live in DeKalb County within eighteen (18) months of their first day of employment (work). This requirement may only be waived or modified by action of the County Board. Failure of a Department Head to comply with this requirement is grounds for dismissal, but dismissal is subject to formal action by the County Board. Employees hired before March 1, 2018 are “grandfathered” and this provision does not apply.

(Ord. No. 2018-03, 2-21-2018 PDF)
Sec. 2-88  Filling Departmental Staff Vacancies
When a staff vacancy exists in a Department where the County board appoints the Department Head, before those vacancies can be filled, the over-sight Standing Committee must first approve that the need exists for this position. The Department Head will provide six-month status updates to the Standing Committee during the vacancy period. The Finance Committee, as provided for in Section 2-41 (A) (1), may impose additional conditions on filling vacancies based on budgetary concerns. Each Standing Committee, if requested by a Department Head, may approve a list of “critical employees” for whom the above approval process would then not apply when a vacancy occurs.

(Ord. No. 2018-03, 2-21-2018)

Secs. 2-70 to 2-79 & 2-89 & 2-91  Reserved

Sec. 2-92  Prohibited Political Activities
A. No officer or employee shall intentionally perform any prohibited political activity during any compensated time, as defined herein. No officer or employee shall intentionally use any property or resources of the County in connection with any prohibited political activity.
B. At no time shall any officer or employee intentionally require any other officer or employee to perform any prohibited political activity:
   1. As part of that officer or employees’ duties;
   2. As a condition of employment; or
   3. During any compensated time off (such as holidays, vacation or personal time off).
C. No officer or employee shall be required at any time to participate in any prohibited political activity in consideration for that officer or employee being awarded additional compensation or any benefit, whether in the form of a salary adjustment, bonus, compensatory time off, continued employment or otherwise, nor shall any officer or employee be awarded additional compensation or any benefit in consideration for his or her participation in any prohibited political activity.
D. Nothing in this section prohibits activities that are permissible for an officer or employee to engage in as part of his or her official duties, or activities that are undertaken by an officer or employee on a voluntary basis which are not prohibited by this article.
E. No person either:
   1. In a position that is subject to recognized merit principles of public employment; or
   2. In a position the salary for which is paid in whole or in part by federal funds and that is subject to the federal standards for a merit system of personnel administration applicable to grant-in-aid programs;

shall be denied or deprived of employment or tenure solely because he or she is a member or an officer of a political Committee, of a political party, or of a political organization or club.

(Ord. No. 2004-25, § 1, 6-16-2004)
Sec. 2-93 Gift Ban

A. Gift ban. Except as permitted by this article, no officer or employee, and no spouse of or immediate family member living with any officer or employee (collectively referred to herein as "recipients"), shall intentionally solicit or accept any gift from any prohibited source, as defined herein, or which is otherwise prohibited by law or ordinance. No prohibited source shall intentionally offer or make a gift that violates this section.

B. Exceptions. Subsection A is not applicable to the following:

1. Opportunities, benefits, and services that are available on the same conditions as for the general public.

2. Anything for which the officer or employee, or his or her spouse or immediate family member, pays the fair market value.

3. Any:
   a. Contribution that is lawfully made under the election code; or
   b. Activities associated with a fundraising event in support of a political organization or candidate.

4. Educational materials and missions.

5. Travel expenses for a meeting to discuss business.

6. A gift from a relative, meaning those people related to the individual as father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, great aunt, great uncle, first cousin, nephew, niece, husband, wife, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, stepfather, stepsister, half-brother, half-sister, and including the father, mother, grandfather, or grandmother of the individual's spouse and the individual's fiancé or fiancée.

7. Anything provided by an individual on the basis of a personal friendship unless the recipient has reason to believe that, under the circumstances, the gift was provided because of the official position or employment of the recipient or his or her spouse or immediate family member and not because of the personal friendship. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the recipient shall consider the circumstances under which the gift was offered, such as:
   a. The history of the relationship between the individual giving the gift and the recipient of the gift, including any previous exchange of gifts between those individuals;
   b. Whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift personally paid for the gift or sought a tax deduction or business reimbursement for the gift; and
   c. Whether to the actual knowledge of the recipient the individual who gave the gift also at the same time gave the same or similar gifts to other officers or employees, or their spouses or immediate family members.

8. Food or refreshments not exceeding $75.00 per person in value on a single calendar day; provided that the food or refreshments are:
   a. Consumed on the premises from which they were purchased or prepared or
   b. catered. For the purposes of this section, "catered" means food or refreshments that are purchased ready to consume which are delivered by any means.
9. Food, refreshments, lodging, transportation, and other benefits resulting from outside business or employment activities (or outside activities that are not connected to the official duties of an officer or employee), if the benefits have not been offered or enhanced because of the official position or employment of the officer or employee, and are customarily provided to others in similar circumstances.

10. Intra-governmental and inter-governmental gifts. For the purpose of this article, "intragovernmental gift" means any gift given to an officer or employee from another officer or employee, and "inter-governmental gift" means any gift given to an officer or employee by an officer or employee of another governmental entity.

11. Bequests, inheritances, and other transfers at death.

12. Any item or items from any one prohibited source during any calendar year having a cumulative total value of less than $100.00.

Each of the exceptions listed in this section is mutually exclusive and independent of every other.

C. Disposition of gifts. An officer or employee, his or her spouse or an immediate family member living with the officer or employee, does not violate this article if the recipient promptly takes reasonable action to return a gift from a prohibited source to its source or gives the gift or an amount equal to its value to an appropriate charity that is exempt from income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as now or hereafter amended, renumbered, or succeeded.

(Ord. No. 2004-25, § 1, 6-16-2004)

Sec. 2-94 Ethics Advisor

A. The County Board Chairman, with the advice and consent of the County Board, shall designate the County State's Attorney or his/her designated assistant as the ethics advisor for the County.

B. The ethics advisor shall provide guidance to the officers and employees of the County concerning the interpretation of and compliance with the provisions of this article and state ethics laws. The ethics advisor shall perform such other duties as may be delegated by the County Board.

(Ord. No. 2004-25, § 1, 6-16-2004)
Sec. 2-95   Penalties

A. A person who intentionally violates any provision of Section 2-92 of this article may be punished by a term of incarceration in a penal institution other than a penitentiary for a period of not more than 364 days, and may be fined in an amount not to exceed $2,500.00.

B. A person who intentionally violates any provision of Section 2-93 of this article is subject to a fine in an amount of not less than $1,001.00 and not more than $5,000.00.

C. Any person who intentionally makes a false report alleging a violation of any provision of this article to the local enforcement authorities, the State's Attorney or any other law enforcement official may be punished by a term of incarceration in a penal institution other than a penitentiary for a period of not more than 364 days, and may be fined in an amount not to exceed $2,500.00.

D. (1) A violation of Section 2-92 of this article shall be prosecuted as a criminal offense by an attorney for the County by filing in the circuit court an information, or sworn complaint, charging such offense. The prosecution shall be under and conform to the rules of criminal procedure. Conviction shall require the establishment of the guilt of the defendant beyond a reasonable doubt.

(2) A violation of Section 2-93 of this article may be prosecuted as a quasi-criminal offense by an attorney for the County, or, if an ethics commission has been created, by the commission through the designated administrative procedure.

E. In addition to any other penalty that may be applicable, whether criminal or civil, an officer or employee who intentionally violates any provision of Section 2-92 or Section 2-93 of this article is subject to discipline or discharge.

(Ord. No. 2004-25, § 1, 6-16-2004)

Sec. 2-99   Definitions

For purposes of this article, the following terms shall be given these definitions:

Campaign for elective office means any activity in furtherance of an effort to influence the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of any individual to any federal, state, or local public office or office in a political organization, or the selection, nomination, or election of presidential or vice-presidential electors, but does not include activities:

1. Relating to the support or opposition of any executive, legislative or administrative action;
2. Relating to collective bargaining; or
3. That are otherwise in furtherance of the person's official duties.

Candidate means a person who has filed nominating papers or petitions for nomination or election to an elected office, or who has been appointed to fill a vacancy in nomination, and who remains eligible for placement on the ballot at a regular election, as defined in Section 1-3 of the election code (10 ILCS 5/1-3).

Collective bargaining has the same meaning as that term is defined in Section 3 of the Illinois Public Labor Relations Act (5 ILCS 315/3).

Compensated time means, with respect to an employee, any time worked by or credited to the employee that counts toward any minimum work time requirement imposed as a condition of his or her employment but for purposes of this article, does not include any designated holidays, vacation periods, personal time, compensatory time off or any period when the employee is on a leave of absence. With respect to officers or employees whose hours are not fixed, "compensated time" includes any period of time when the officer is on premises under the control of the employer and any other time when the officer or employee is executing his or her official duties, regardless of location.
Compensatory time off means authorized time off earned by or awarded to an employee to compensate in whole or in part for time worked in excess of the minimum work time required of that employee as a condition of his or her employment.

Contribution has the same meaning as that term is defined in Section 9-1.4 of the election code (10 ILCS 5/9-1.4).

Employee means a person employed by the County, whether on a full-time or part-time basis or pursuant to a contract, whose duties are subject to the direction and control of an employer with regard to the material details of how the work is to be performed, but does not include an independent contractor.

Employer means the County.

Gift means any gratuity discount, entertainment hospitality, loan, forbearance, or other tangible or intangible item having monetary value including, but not limited to, cash, food and drink, and honoraria for speaking engagements related to or attributable to government employment or the official position of an officer or employee.

Leave of absence means any period during which an employee does not receive:

1. Compensation for employment;
2. Service credit towards pension benefits; and
3. Health insurance benefits paid for by the employer.

Officer means a person who holds, by election or appointment, an office created by statute or ordinance, regardless of whether the officer is compensated for service in his or her official capacity.

Political activity means any activity in support of or in connection with any campaign for elective office or any political organization, but does not include activities:

1. Relating to the support or opposition of any executive, legislative, or administrative action;
2. Relating to collective bargaining, or
3. That are otherwise in furtherance of the person's official duties.

Political organization means a party, Committee, association, fund, or other organization (whether or not incorporated) that is required to file a statement of organization with the state Board of elections or a County Clerk under Section 9-3 of the election code (10 ILCS 5/9-3), but only with regard to those activities that require filing with the state Board of elections or a County Clerk.

Prohibited political activity means:

1. Preparing for, organizing, or participating in any political meeting, political rally, political demonstration, or other political event.
2. Soliciting contributions, including but not limited to the purchase of, selling, distributing, or receiving payment for tickets for any political fundraiser, political meeting, or other political event.
3. Soliciting, planning the solicitation of, or preparing any document or report regarding anything of value intended as a campaign contribution.
4. Planning, conducting, or participating in a public opinion poll in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
5. Surveying or gathering information from potential or actual voters in an election to determine probable vote outcome in connection with a campaign for elective office or on behalf of a political organization for political purposes or for or against any referendum question.
6. Assisting at the polls on election day on behalf of any political organization or candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.
7. Soliciting votes on behalf of a candidate for elective office or a political organization or for or against any referendum question or helping in an effort to get voters to the polls.
8. Initiating for circulation, preparing, circulating, reviewing, or filing any petition on behalf of a candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.

9. Making contributions on behalf of any candidate for elective office in that capacity or in connection with a campaign for elective office.

10. Preparing or reviewing responses to candidate questionnaires.

11. Distributing, preparing for distribution, or mailing campaign literature, campaign signs, or other campaign material on behalf of any candidate for elective office or for or against any referendum question.

12. Campaigning for any elective office or for or against any referendum question.

13. Managing or working on a campaign for elective office or for or against any referendum question.

14. Serving as a delegate, alternate, or proxy to a political party convention.

15. Participating in any recount or challenge to the outcome of any election.

_Prohibited source_ means any person or entity who:

1. Is seeking official action:
   a. By an officer or
   b. By an employee, or by the officer or another employee directing that employee;

2. Does business or seeks to do business:
   a. With the officer or
   b. With an employee, or with the officer or another employee directing that employee;

3. Conducts activities regulated:
   a. By the officer or
   b. By an employee, or by the officer or another employee directing that employee; or

4. Has interests that may be substantially affected by the performance or non-performance of the official duties of the officer or employee.

_(Ord. No. 2004-25, § 1, 6-16-2004)_