

## Legislative Positions

### STATE ISSUES

- **Protect all local government revenues against further efforts to erode them.** Protect existing amount and work to re-instate the full amount of LGDF. Also oppose attempts to balance the state budget by (1) increasing fees charged to local governments; (2) raiding dedicated funds used by local governments.
- **Oppose legislation that attempts to eliminate local decision-making authority particularly with local zoning issues and infrastructure funding (water and sewer system funding).** Modernize municipal authority allowing more flexibility in areas such as permit control, maintenance on property, crime free housing, allowing the change in number of municipal council members, zoning ordinances, etc. Metro West supports legislation that **manages** growth and development while maintaining local control.
- **Support pension reamortization for Downstate Public Safety Pensions and enhance tier pension investments.** Encourage lawmakers to extend the amortization schedule for downstate public safety pension funds to 2050 or later, to be in line with other funds and ensuring municipalities are better prepared to continue their obligation to adequately fund retirements for public safety pensions. Provide fair and sustainable systems for public safety employees by making enhancements to Tier 2 benefits to create an equitable compensation package that adds value to the current benefits.
- **Maintain the efficacy of local government economic development tools including Tax Increment Finance Districts (TIF).** TIFs are an essential and effective tool for communities to address land use and land condition problems, and to provide the funding necessary to do so. The current statutory limitations on the implementation of these tools are extremely rigorous and serve to ensure that they are only applied where appropriate, or are subject to challenge in a variety of fashions. Metro West opposes the imposition of any moratoria or greater restrictions upon the use of local government economic development tools.
- **Address follow up legislation on Public Safety.** Continue to work with stakeholders to include municipalities in the discussion on the implementation and funding sources for body cameras, electronic storage, FOIA management and drone usage for public safety. Work to address the underlying issue of mental health.
- **Oppose unfunded and under-funded mandates. Metro West opposes legislation that creates unfunded or under-funded mandates for local governments.** Oppose attempts to reduce the State's share of funds currently provided for programs such as roads, transit, schools, parks, storm water and other public infrastructure.



Metro West Council of *Government* represents about 750,000 voices by advocating for effective public policy and promoting local government initiatives in Kane, Kendall and DeKalb Counties. Established in 2004, Metro West serves the region by:

- Promoting excellence in local government.
- Evaluating the impact of pending state and federal legislation on municipalities.
- Articulating municipal concerns and advocating municipal positions on local, regional, state and national issues.
- Fostering intergovernmental communication and cooperation.
- Providing research, technical assistance, training and leadership development opportunities to members.
- Addressing growth, transportation and water conservation issues affecting the region.
- Serving as a strong advocate for municipalities.

# Metro West COG Legislative Positions

# 2024

- **Gain continued recognition of the Northwest Water Planning Alliance as the regional entity that will guide water supply planning and policy and be the model for other regional entities.** Water supply is a critical issue for the region's sustainable future that must have proper stewardship. Municipalities have the experience in producing and regulating water and the interest in insuring the future of the water supply for its citizens. As such, municipalities must be key members of any planning or governing body for such water supplies.

## FEDERAL ISSUES

- **Increase transportation funding for region, with increased focus on multi-year transportation plan.** Work with Illinois' congressional delegation to increase the share of federal transportation dollars that are invested in the state, northeastern Illinois and the Metro West (Kane, DeKalb and Kendall County) region.
- **Support sensible policing reform at the Federal level.** Policing reform at the federal level insures equitable protections to law enforcement and citizens. Metro West supports reforms that also assists those sworn to protect the public.
- **Provide more funding to the region to address the challenges to the region's water and sewer infrastructure.** Aging infrastructure, replacement of lead service lines, treatment of new and emerging contaminants such as PFAS, and insuring a future water supply requires additional funding for low interest loans and grants.
- **Address ongoing migrant funding .** Provide adequate funding for the continuously growing number of migrants coming to the region. Encourage Congress to increase funding and to recognize the significant financial and wrap around support needed.

## JOINT FEDERAL/STATE ISSUES

- **The State must contribute its share of Federally Funded Projects.** Local municipalities rely heavily on joint programs of the federal and state government. The state must continue to commit and provide its share of such programs in a timely manner to allow these valuable projects to continue.

## **Metro West Municipal Members**

Village of Algonquin  
City of Aurora  
City of Batavia  
Village of Big Rock  
Village of Burlington  
Village of Campton Hills  
Village of Carpentersville  
Town of Courtland  
Village of East Dundee  
Village of Elburn  
City of Elgin  
City of Geneva  
City of Genoa  
Village of Gilberts  
Village of Hampshire  
Village of Huntley  
Village of Kaneville  
Village of Lily Lake  
Village of Millbrook  
Village of Minooka  
Village of Montgomery  
Village of Newark  
Village of North Aurora  
Village of Oswego  
Village of Pingree Grove  
Village of Plattville  
Village of Sleepy Hollow  
Village of South Elgin  
City of St Charles  
Village of Sugar Grove  
Village of Virgil  
Village of Wayne  
Village of West Dundee  
United City of Yorkville

-----  
Metro West Council of Government  
40W270 La Fox Road, Suite A  
Campton Hills, IL 60175  
630.859.1331  
Metrowestcog.org

Lesli Melendy, Executive Director  
Lmelendy@metrowestcog.org  
Mobile: 847.226.4876