

Legislative  
Agenda

2010



THE MCHENRY COUNTY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

# 2010 Legislative Agenda

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McHenry County Council of Governments

44 N. Virginia Street • Suite 2-A

Crystal Lake, IL 60014

Phone 815.477.2090 • Fax 815.459.9057

[www.mchenrycountycog.org](http://www.mchenrycountycog.org)

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MCCG Legislative Committee Chair

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Mayor, City of Woodstock  
MCCG Past-President

Anna Bicanic Moeller  
MCCG Executive Director

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Supervisor, McHenry Township

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President, Village of Barrington Hills

Peter Austin  
McHenry County Administrator

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City of Crystal Lake

Rich Flood  
Zukowski, Rogers, Flood & McArdle

Ron Kopke  
Village of Spring Grove

Ruth Schlossberg  
Zukowski, Rogers, Flood & McArdle

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## Introduction

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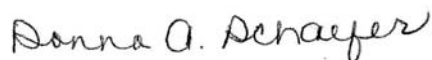
On behalf of the McHenry County Council of Governments, I am pleased to present the MCCG Legislative Agenda for 2010. The Legislative Agenda was unanimously approved by MCCG members on January 27, 2010 and reflects the concerns and needs of our municipal, township and local government members.

The MCCG Legislative Committee met several times during the fall of 2009 to discuss the primary issues of concern for municipalities and local governments in McHenry County. This agenda reflects those issues. Overwhelmingly, protection of local government revenues emerged as the main concern of the MCCG membership this year. The economic recession has severely impacted local governments. Any reduction in the local share of the income tax or sales tax would be devastating to local governments and threaten their ability to deliver vital public services to residents and businesses. We call our state elected officials to protect local government revenues from fund sweeps and unfunded mandates.

The MCCG also recognizes that there are other issues of great concern and potential impact to local governments. We have identified four additional policy areas, which are included in the agenda. These include: Support and Participate in Joint Council of Governments' Efforts in Water Supply Planning; Support and Participate in Regional Efforts to Enact Public Safety Pension Reform; Maintain Special Service Areas as Effective Tools for Municipalities and Maintain TIF Districts as Effective Tools for Municipalities. We look forward to working with our legislators on these issues that impact local government.

Finally, this agenda includes the legislative tenets that set forth our underlying principles when evaluating and taking a position on legislation. We believe local governments should be empowered to solve problems facing their local communities and we oppose any legislation that would infringe on this ability. We believe local government, as the government closest to the people, is in a unique and powerful position to directly impact and improve the quality of life for its citizens. We are committed to working on behalf of our local governments to support them in this endeavor.

Best Regards-



Supervisor Donna A. Schaefer, McHenry Township  
Chairwoman of the Legislative and Intergovernmental Committee

## McHenry County Council of Governments Legislative Agenda for 2010

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### ▣ Protect Local Government Revenues and Reject Unfunded Mandates on Local Governments

Loss of sales taxes, property taxes, building permit and investment revenue along with increased costs for fuel, road salt, employee health insurance and other costs have significantly strained local government budgets over the past few years. In many cases local governments have been forced to lay off workers, enact hiring freezes and defer infrastructure or capital improvements thus threatening their ability to deliver vital services to their residents. The MCCG calls on our state legislators to protect local governments from fund diversions and unfunded mandates. In particular, the MCCG calls on the legislature to maintain current per capita and formula revenue distributions of tax revenues and a moratorium on unfunded mandates on local governments.

- Maintain 1/10<sup>th</sup> Share for Municipalities in Local Government Distributive Fund
- Support Local Government Distributive Fund Monies Going Directly to LGDF Fund (HB652)
- Support Streamlining of Administrative Procedures for MFT Small Road Projects
- Support Legislation to Include Municipalities and Townships as Exempt Entities from the Unfunded Defibrillator Mandate at Certain Park Facilities
- Support Changes to Freedom of Information Act that: 1) Monitor the impact and cost to local governments and governmental districts of the FOIA reforms of 2009 (Public Act 96-0542/SB 189); 2) Deny commercial requests that unduly burden public resources under FOIA; 3) Exempt requests for records and seek further clarification on rules regarding personal information; and 4) Apply the requirements of the FOIA statute to apply equally and ubiquitously to all levels of government.

### ▣ Support and Participate in Joint Council of Governments' Efforts in Water Supply Planning

Municipalities recognize that water supply planning is a priority in the State. Since supply is provided by municipalities (not state or regional entities), municipalities must be included in planning and/or governance for supply. 1) planning areas should be determined based on similarity of available resources and sensible geographic boundaries; 2) any governance or planning groups created should be advisory and a majority of representatives should be from public water supply agencies; 3) future water supply planning must have a strong educational component;

and 4) recent regional and local water planning initiatives should continue and be taken into account by new water supply planning efforts.

### ▣ Support and Participate in Regional Efforts to Enact Public Safety Pension Reform

The MCCG supports the efforts of the Northwest Municipal Conference, Illinois Municipal League and other regional councils of government in enacting meaningful and comprehensive public safety pension reform. The current economic crisis and the loss of pension fund investment earnings have resulted in steep and unsustainable increases for municipalities in funding their public safety pensions. Both short and long-term solutions are necessary to ensure the sustainability of these funds for beneficiaries and to lessen the financial burden on municipalities and their taxpayers.

### ▣ Maintain Special Service Areas as Effective Tools for Municipalities

Special service areas are an important tool that municipalities may use to fund public improvements such as water and sewer infrastructure, storm water detention/retention, lighting, and maintenance of public property within a geographic area. Special service areas are an equitable method by which to finance public improvements because residents, who directly benefit from a public improvement, pay for that public improvement. During the 2009 spring legislative session, several bills were introduced that would make it more difficult for municipalities to establish special service areas. The MCCG opposes any legislation that would hinder a municipality's ability to establish or utilize special service areas.

### ▣ Maintain TIF Districts as Effective Tools for Municipalities

Tax Increment Finance Districts (TIFs) are essential tools for communities in revitalizing neighborhoods, furthering economic development and improving quality of life. The current statutory limitations on TIFs are extremely rigorous and ensure that TIFs are only created where appropriate. The McHenry County Council of Governments opposes any moratoria or greater restrictions upon the use and creation of new TIF Districts and TIF Districts already in place.

- Oppose legislation that requires payment of prevailing wages in TIF districts.

## Legislative Tenets of the McHenry County Council of Governments

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- Support legislation granting additional permissive authority for counties, townships, and municipalities;
- Support legislation allowing counties, townships and both home rule and non-home rule municipalities to expand non-property tax revenue sources;
- Oppose unfunded mandates imposed by the state or federal government;
- Oppose legislation that would reduce the existing authority of county, township, or municipal government;
- Oppose proposals that erode the existing county, township, or municipal revenue base; and
- Support legislation upholding local and regional land planning and zoning authority.

## Our Mission

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The McHenry County Council of Governments is a cohesive network of governmental bodies who seek to foster cooperation between all levels of government. The purpose of the McHenry County Council of Governments is to uphold and advocate principles of effective local government, facilitate solutions to regional issues, and otherwise lessen the burdens of government.

## Our History

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The McHenry County Council of Governments is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization created in 1976 to foster intergovernmental cooperation among municipalities and other local governments in McHenry County and to address issues of mutual concern. The organization was made more formal in 2002-2003 with the adoption of by-laws. In 2004, member municipalities began paying dues in proportion to their population and assessed valuation and in 2005, the first part-time Executive Director was hired. The MCCG is recognized as one of several regional councils of government and is a member of the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus.

# Members

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## Municipal Members

Village of Algonquin  
Village of Barrington Hills  
City of Crystal Lake  
Village of Fox River Grove  
Village of Greenwood  
City of Harvard  
Village of Hebron  
Village of Huntley  
Village of Island Lake  
Village of Johnsburg  
Village of Lake in the Hills  
Village of Lakemoor  
Village of Lakewood  
City of Marengo  
Village of McCullom Lake  
City of McHenry  
Village of Prairie Grove  
Village of Richmond  
Village of Ringwood  
Village of Spring Grove  
Village of Trout Valley  
Village of Union  
City of Woodstock

## Supporting Members

Ancel, Glink, Diamond, Bush, DiCianni  
& Krafthefer, P.C.  
Christopher B. Burk Engineering, Ltd.  
Commonwealth Edison  
Hampton, Lenzini & Renwick, Inc.  
Lamp, Incorporated  
Trotter and Associates  
Lamp, Incorporated  
Robert W. Baird & Co.  
McHenry County Economic  
Development Corporation

## Local Government Members

McHenry County  
Algonquin Township  
Grafton Township  
McHenry Township  
Richmond Township  
Seneca Township  
Lake in the Hills Sanitary District  
McHenry County College  
McHenry County Conservation District  
Northern Moraine Water Reclamation  
District