

2012

City/County Legislative Initiatives



CITY/COUNTY LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

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Legislative Program Peoria City/County

2012 Legislative Initiatives

Illinois Fiscal Concerns (City/County)

- Support legislation and budgetary efforts that protect the existing revenue base of local governments
- Support legislation initiatives that grant to local governments the ability to raise non-property tax revenues
- Support legislation that allows the State Comptroller to withhold payments to vendors if they owe local governments
- Oppose legislation that diverts funding streams away from units of local government into State coffers

Personal Property Replacement Tax (City/County)

- Oppose legislation that redirects Personal Property Replacement Tax funds to employment-related compensation and benefits for Regional School Superintendents.

DCEO Flexibility (City/County)

- Support granting greater flexibility to DCEO staff when attracting new business or business expansion

Enterprise Zone Extension (City/County)

- Amend Enterprise Zone Act to extend the life of Illinois Enterprise Zones for a minimum of 20 years.

Code Enforcement associated with Heritage Neighborhoods and Economic Development (City/County)

- Require Utility companies to share *disconnect* information with local governments/Health Departments so entities are aware of vacated property
- Determine if and what type of penalty can be assessed on owner of vacant property
- Land banking: getting the property back in use and on the tax roll

Streamlining the Creation of Countywide Election Commissions (City/County)

- Proposed legislation to require only one referendum to dissolve a City Election Commission and to establish a County Election Commission

Probation Officers Salary Reimbursement (County)

- Support reimbursement of Probation Officer Salaries through the Supreme Court's Administrative Office of Illinois Courts as provided in statute (730 ILCS 110/15).

Medicaid Reimbursement (County)

- Resolution of issues related to the Intergovernmental Transfers for County Nursing Homes

Motor Fuel Tax Revenue (County)

- Proposed Amendment to Statute to allow Peoria County to collect additional MFT revenues at the local level, via referendum.

Mortgage Foreclosure (County)

- Opposition to legislation that removes county sheriff from the foreclosure process

Pioneer Parkway Extension Project Plan (City)

- The project will support planned development of the area identified for coordinated, beneficial growth management by the City, County and Peoria Sanitary District.

Pension Plans - Rolling 30 (City)

- Current Pension Plans created a two tier plan effective January 2011 and extended amortization period to July 2040. Proposed legislative initiative would create a Rolling 30 year amortization period.

Waive Certified Appraiser (City)

- Grant waiver of the law for certified appraisal authority to municipalities for right-of-way and temporary easements identical to the powers recently granted to counties.

2012 Legislative Proposal

Topic: Illinois Fiscal Concerns

Problem: The third quarter edition of the Illinois State Comptroller's Quarterly newsletter states: "Staggering Fiscal Challenges Remain - Bill backlog numbers provide incomplete picture." The newsletter explains that while: "the backlog of unpaid bills from the General Funds in the Comptroller's office stood at \$3.8 billion at the end of this quarter, compared to \$5.5 billion at the same time last year. While those numbers indicate progress, they should not create a false sense of security as further improvement in the next quarter is not expected. That is because last year, in an effort to pay its bills, the state relied heavily on one-time revenue sources in the first half of the fiscal year, including borrowing, the sale of tobacco bonds, and a tax amnesty program. While the backlog has fallen when compared to last year, the level of unpaid bills is similar to the level at the end of the last quarter, and has continually exceeded \$3 billion. Absent the one-time funding sources used in the second quarter last year, the cash flow position is not likely to improve during the next quarter."

While the State's backlog of bills is currently lower than last year's levels, major financial problems still exist for the State of Illinois. In addition to the \$3.8 billion bill backlog, the State has not addressed liabilities related to Medicaid bills, unpaid state employee health insurance bills and unpaid corporate income tax refunds held by the state agencies. The State's General Revenue Fund also owes approximately \$486 million to other State funds in order to pay back FY 2011 interfund borrowing, of which approximately \$350 million is due to be repaid in FY 2012. Illinois needs to pay back approximately \$1.1 billion in FY 2011 obligations as of October 2011. Next year, the State will feel the impact of the loss of one-time revenue sources and the need to make pension payments that were addressed through borrowing last year.

Local governments are aware of the state's fiscal situation and, likewise, are trying to address their revenue shortfalls. Recent action to restore regional school superintendent salaries is an inappropriate solution. While there is support for funding Regional School Superintendent salaries, it is the State's obligation and not local government.

Solution: Support legislative and budgetary efforts that protect the existing revenue base of local governments. Further, support legislative initiatives that grant to local governments the ability to raise non-property tax revenues. Consider the indexing statutory fees and charges to the rate of inflation.

Support legislation that allows the State Comptroller to withhold payments to vendors if they owe local governments.

Oppose legislation that diverts funding streams away from local units of government into State coffers.

Oppose legislation that reduces the rate or distribution relating to state shared revenues, grants and salary reimbursements.

Action: Support above positions

Existing Legislation N/A

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2012 Legislative Proposal

Topic: Personal Property Replacement Tax

Problem: Legislation was recently adopted legislation authorizing the diversion of around \$13 million in corporate personal property replacement taxes (CPPRT) for one year to fund salaries and benefits of Regional Superintendents of Education. Of this amount, Peoria County will lose approximately \$45,000. Although this amount appears not to be substantial, there are serious concerns that the state will increasingly look to cost-shift its financial obligations onto local governments.

Local governments are struggling to address revenue shortfalls, same as the State of Illinois. It is unjustifiable for the State to attempt to remedy its fiscal issues by creating more fiscal issues at the local level.

Solution: Oppose legislation that diverts Personal Property Replacement tax dollars from units of local government to pay for salaries and benefits of Regional School Superintendents or other State obligations.

Action: Oppose

Existing Legislation Public Act 97-0619 (SB-2147)

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2012 Legislative Proposal

Topic: Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Flexibility

Problem: When trying to attract new businesses or businesses that want to expand, there are not sufficient incentives to offer. DCEO currently requires businesses to provide information on incentives from other states before they will offer any type of incentives.

Solution: DCEO needs to be more flexible when looking at possible incentives for businesses or existing businesses to expand.

Action: Review and revise processes for attracting and retaining businesses to allow more flexibility in providing incentives.

**Existing
Legislation** None

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2012 Legislative Proposal

Topic: Extend the Life of the Enterprise Zone.

Problem: DCEO records indicate that 97 enterprise zones have been designated since 1982. Many of them are expiring soon. Peoria's Zone expires in 2013.

According to the State of Illinois 2011 Enterprise Zone report this incentive resulted in the creation of 8,980 jobs and \$2.489 billion in private investment in Illinois during the past year.

This legislation needs to occur now since, for many communities Enterprise Zone benefits have already begun to sunset. For example: Peoria offers a five-year property tax abatement in the Zone. Businesses who seek the abatement in 2011 would anticipate receiving the abatement until 2016. However the Peoria Zone expires in 2013. The loss of this incentive leaves one less powerful tool for government bodies to use in attracting growth opportunities to our Cities, Counties and ultimately our State.

Solution: **Support HB 3811** to extend the life of Enterprise Zones in the State of Illinois for a minimum of 20 years. Communities will be able to utilize the most powerful tools of sales tax exemption on building materials for projects that will require construction as well as property tax abatement on the improvements, for business attraction and retention.

Action: Amend the Enterprise Zone Act to extend the life of Illinois Enterprise Zones for a minimum of 20 years.

Existing Legislation Illinois Enterprise Zone Act

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2012 Legislative Proposal

Topic: Code Enforcement Changes

Problem: The prevalence of vacant and abandoned housing stock in certain neighborhoods of the City is a contributing factor to blight and public safety issues. Housing stock that is at risk of becoming vacant also leads to neighborhood instability. Vacant houses and declining property values have a negative impact upon services. Funds that could be budgeted elsewhere are needed to respond to problems at vacant and abandoned properties.

Solution: Many communities and states throughout the country have developed innovative programs to combat vacant and abandoned properties. Borrowing from the environmental movement, Illinois needs to develop a comprehensive approach to *reduce* the number of vacant and abandoned structures, *reuse* those structures that have some special value or potential use for productive means, and *recycle* value from the properties with less value.

Specific legislative proposals to address vacant and abandoned properties include:

- 1) Requiring Utility companies to share information regarding utility disconnects with municipalities to begin to track at-risk properties.
- 2) Establishing innovative enforcement mechanisms to encourage the reuse of vacant properties, both residential and commercial. Indianapolis, Indiana has established accelerated "blight penalties" to obtain code compliance. Cincinnati, Ohio requires vacant property owners to get a license for maintaining uninhabitable housing, waiving the license when the house is made habitable. Louisville, Kentucky has created an abandoned urban property tax on vacant and tax delinquent properties that violate certain maintenance standards. The tax is three times the regular property tax rate.
- 3) Increasing the efficiency of the current tax sale process. Allow for the creation of a land bank authority that would acquire tax delinquent properties in order to foster the public purpose of returning non-property tax generating property back into a viable property tax producing status.

Action: Support a comprehensive legislative strategy as highlighted above.

**Existing
Legislation** N/A

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2012 Legislative Proposal

Topic: Streamlining the Creation of Countywide Election Commissions

Problem: Municipal Boards of Election Commissions receive their funding from a portion of the consolidated county general fund tax levy. The property taxes disbursed to the Election Commission are based upon the equalized assessed valuation of the Municipality. State law also mandates that the County shall pay the salaries of the Commissioners, the Executive Director, and the Assistant Executive Director. While elections occur in cycles that place greater demands for service in some years over others, the current funding scheme is tied to equalized assessed value, not the estimated cost of elections. Thus, some years Municipalities may be the recipient of excess funds, while other years they may be required to provide funds over and above what is needed to conduct elections. Also, if the Municipality were to annex into other Counties, there is no requirement that the new County provide any remuneration to the Commission. Thus, taxpayers from one portion of the Municipality fund elections for the remainder of the Municipality. There is a gap between the fiscal accountability for the local election commissions and the respective governmental entity that the local election commission serves. A referendum is required to dissolve a City Election Commission and place the functions under the County Clerk.

It is argued that the Election Commission is non-partisan and would administer the elections with impartiality. The Election Code does allow for the establishment of a countywide Election Commission by ordinance of the County Board or by passage of a referendum in the County. Thus, in order to establish a County Election Commission, two referenda would be required: one to dissolve the City Election Commission; and one to establish the County Election Commission.

Solution: Streamlining the method by which a County Election District may be created would be less onerous on the public. One referendum would eliminate the confusion that would confront many people that would be asked to dissolve one Election Commission and establish another Election Commission.

Action: Introduce legislation to amend the Election Code to require only one referendum to dissolve a City Election Commission and to establish a County Election Commission.

Existing Legislation: None

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TO: Honorable Members of the Peoria County Board's Tax, Elections, Policy & Audit Committee.

FROM: Steve Sonnemaker, County Clerk

RE: County Election Commission Law

DATE: November, 16th. 2011

I was asked to make some comments regarding the proposed legislation in order for Peoria County to create a county election commission through one referendum. Since this proposal is likely to create much stress with the employees of both the commission and the county clerk's office, I hope that ample consideration can be given both groups regarding job security.

Before proceeding to referenda on this issue, thought should be given to the implementation of this new government agency. This would include, but not limited to, consideration to the initial start-up costs involved, including a new facility that is large enough to house additional staff and equipment. Also, the location should be convenient for the voting public.

If I understand the intent of the majority of the county board regarding this issue, any legislation should include the following two items:

- The county board must control, through their normal budget process the annual budgeted amount of tax dollars appropriated to the county board of election commission.
- As required in the current county board of election commission law (10 ILCS 5/6A-1-7), the county board should continue to have the authority to appoint the members the commission. The current law allows the county clerk the option to serve as one of the members of the county commission. (I would add that the county clerk should not receive any additional salary for serving on the county commission). The county board should set the salaries, if any, of the other commissioners.

Thank You

2012 Legislative Proposal

Topic: Probation Officers Salary Reimbursement

Problem: The reduction in Probation Officer Salary Reimbursement to Peoria County from the Supreme Court's budget has resulted in a decrease in the level of reimbursement of the salaries it was intended to reimburse. Since 2002, the funding has declined or remained constant while wages for these employees continue to rise, paid by the county. The State of Illinois is required by law to fund a portion of probation and detention workers salaries.

Solution: 730 ILCS 110/15 provides for the reimbursement of Probation Officer Salaries through the Supreme Court's Administrative Office of Illinois Courts.

Action: The Legislature provide the funding necessary to achieve the reimbursement levels prescribed by 730 ILCS 110/15.

**Existing
Legislation:** N/A

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2012 Legislative Proposal

Topic: Medicaid Reimbursement

Problem: Medicaid Reimbursement remains a concern for Bel-Wood Nursing Home. Under the Intergovernmental Transfer (IGT) program, Illinois County homes are paid at a higher rate in recognition of the higher operating costs associated with governmental entities. Under the old IGT (prior to 10-31-2009), County homes were paid promptly, i.e., monthly. Under the new IGT program to be effective 10-1-2009, Bel-Wood would be paid a daily rate comparable to other long term care facilities and then, quarterly, the State would pay the County the additional IGT payments. To date Federal approval is still forthcoming; it is expected shortly. Problematically, there is no assurance that Counties will be paid promptly. To make matters worse, no payments under the IGT have been received since 10-1-2009, putting many County facilities in financial distress due to the high number of Medicaid residents they accommodate.

Solution: HFS (Healthcare Family Services) needs to ensure that the IGT money that the State receives from the Federal government is passed onto the County homes.

Action: State Legislature needs to assure that County homes receive full payment promptly and regularly.

**Existing
Legislation** N/A

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2012 Legislative Proposal

Topic: Motor Fuel Tax Revenue

Problem: The local share of Motor Fuel Tax Revenue disbursed to Peoria County and other county governments across the State is not sustainable when compared to the annual cost of maintaining the network of county highways. It is not sustainable for a variety of reasons including the impacts of fuel economy, the growing use of alternative fuel types, and changes in vehicle registrations. For these reasons when combined with no change in the State Motor Fuel Tax in almost two decades, Peoria County needs an alternative revenue to be able to maintain the county's existing road network into the future.

Solution: Proposed Amendment to Statute to allow Peoria County to collect additional MFT revenues at the local level, via a local referendum.

Action: Amend statute to allow the County to collect additional MFT, by voters' approval.

**Existing
Legislation** N/A

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2012 Legislative Proposal

Topic: Mortgage Foreclosure

Problem: Proposed legislation that removes a county Sheriff from the foreclosure process. Thus, in most cases, a Sheriff will be replaced by an entity -- likely a lending institution. Should this occur, a citizen that is party to the foreclosure proceedings and in a position to lose their home will have little consumer protection from the lending institutions that are attempting to foreclose on their property. By removing a county Sheriff from the foreclosure process will have a negative financial impact on county government as well as decrease transparency in the process.

Solution: Oppose amendment to Code of Civil Procedure that enacts this legislation.

Action: Oppose

**Existing
Legislation** House Bill 1293

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2012 Legislative Proposal

Topic: Pioneer Parkway Extension Project Plan

Project: This project involves the extension of Pioneer Parkway on a new alignment. This new, major arterial roadway will support planned development of the area identified for coordinated, beneficial growth management by the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and the Greater Peoria Sanitary District. The proposed roadway extension will begin at the intersection of Allen Road and Pioneer Parkway and continue west to intersect Trigger Road. The project will include a new interchange at IL Route 6, and a new bridge over an existing railroad. The length of the project is approximately 3 miles. The roadway will connect to existing roads at Radnor Road, IL Route 91 and Trigger Road, and will connect to the planned extension of Orange Prairie Road.

**Cost and Cost
Sharing:**

The 2011 project cost estimate is approximately \$74 million. Currently the City has a \$2.6 million earmark for this project. The City must pursue State and Federal highway grants for the majority of the work. Motor Fuel Tax dollars can be used for the City's local match for future highway grants. Construction of some portions of the project could be facilitated by future developer or annexation agreements.

Timeline: Preliminary engineering studies for this project began in 2001. The City received federal and State approval of the project Environmental Assessment in February, 2011. Design Report approval is anticipated in summer/fall, 2011. The project will be built in multiple phases as funding allows, and could be implemented over a period of ten years or more. The first phase of construction will be the improvement of the Allen/Pioneer Parkway intersection and the first leg of the westerly extension, at an estimated current cost of \$7,158,000. Considering the \$2.6 million earmark, the City will need an additional \$4,558,000 for just his first segment. A new high school is in the planning phases and this road is needed for that development to move forward.

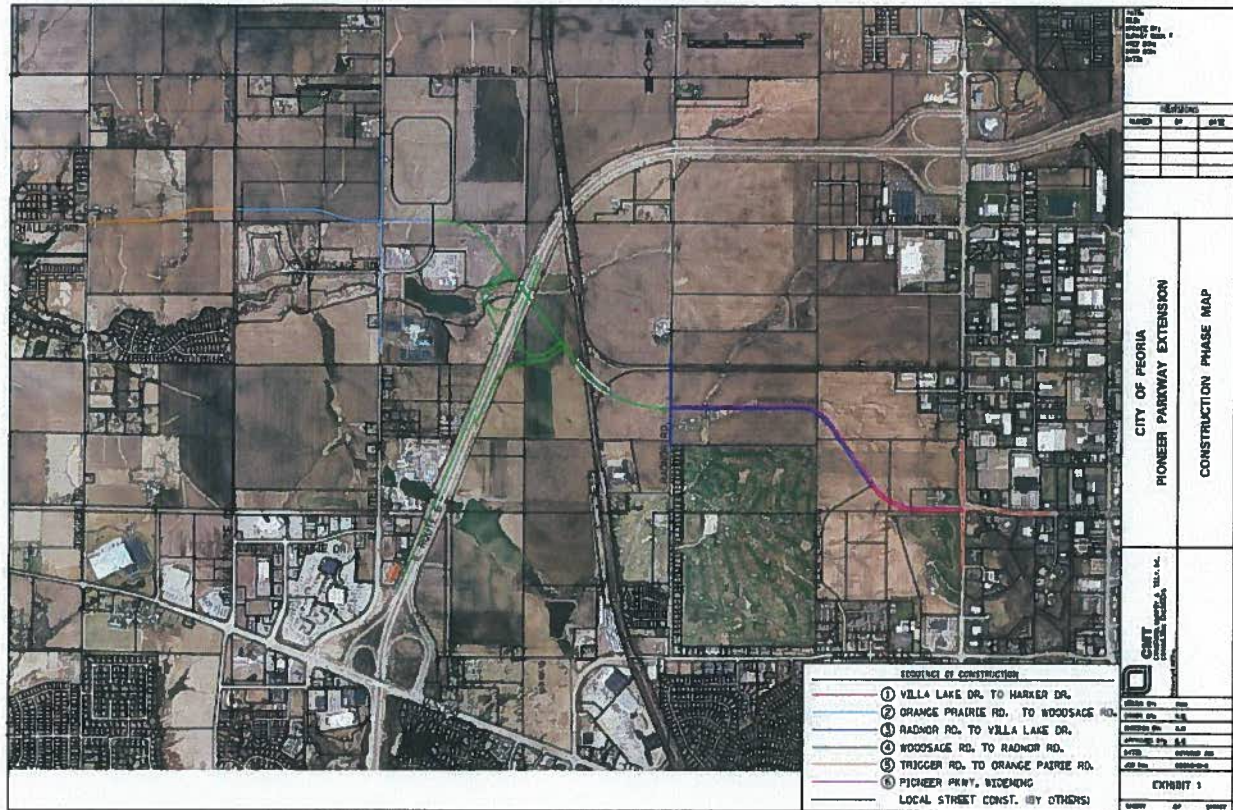
Basic History: The purpose of this project is to provide transportation access to serve and promote economic growth in Growth Cells Two and Three (Growth Cells). This proposed road will traverse the Growth Cells and provide vehicular access to the interstate highway system via a proposed interchange with Illinois Route 6. The justification study for the new freeway access was completed by the Illinois Department of Transportation in 2000. The IDOT study also supported the westerly extension of Pioneer Parkway to connect to the new interchange.

Pioneer Parkway /Rail Service:

The proposed Pioneer Parkway roadway bridge over the Union Pacific railroad lines has been planned to allow for a future 'balanced' railroad spur (a 'wye' spur) to provide enhanced rail service to Growth Cell Two. See attached RR Spur Map.



Staging Map



Cost Estimates per Segment

Construction Segment	Pioneer Pkwy. Station Range	Construction Estimate	ROW Purchase	ROW Acquisition Service	Design Engineering	Construction Engineering	Segment Total	Construction Year
1	188+00 to 223+11	\$5,395,000	\$560,000	\$220,000	\$502,000	\$481,000	\$7,158,000	2013 - 2014
2	51+97 to 88+62	\$6,565,000	\$2,108,000	\$85,000	\$554,000	\$591,000	\$9,903,000	2014 - 2015
3	147+00 to 188+00	\$3,539,000	\$488,000	\$37,000	\$327,000	\$334,000	\$4,725,000	2016
4	88+62 to 147+00	\$39,945,000	\$2,026,000	\$49,000	\$2,842,000	\$3,019,000	\$47,881,000	2016 - 2017
5	25+19 to 51+97	\$1,960,000	\$621,000	\$12,000	\$118,000	\$176,000	\$2,887,000	2018
6	147+00 to 209+00	\$1,257,000			\$90,000	\$90,000	\$1,437,000	2020
Totals		\$58,661,000	\$5,803,000	\$403,000	\$4,433,000	\$4,691,000	\$73,991,000	

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2012 Legislative Proposal

Topic: Rolling 30

Problem: The current Article 3 and Article 4 Pensions Plans created a two tier plan effective January 1, 2011 and an extended amortization period to July 1, 2040. The proposed legislative initiative would create a rolling 30 amortization period.

Solution: The 30 year rolling amortization period would accomplish the following:

- a) This would reflect employment expectancy of a firefighter or police officer based upon maximum pension benefit.
- b) The change would not impact the retirement benefit of the firefighter or police officers.
- c) The change would reduce the required contribution of the municipality.
 - i. The municipality will not go out of business and will continue to fund the pension into perpetuity.
 - ii. Pension funds are not like home mortgages, but are an annual obligation that will never be paid off as long as municipalities hire and maintain an active fire and police department.
 - iii. This change would also allow smoothing of investment returns beyond the current fixed date of July 1, 2040.

Action: The City of Peoria believes that this pension reform more closely mirrors the reality of the current firefighter and police officers.

- a) 30 years is the expectancy of a career firefighter or police officer.
- b) Actuary analysis should mirror the firefighter or police officer population sample.

A new hire would require funding for 30 years while a 10 year veteran would allow the city to have full funding in the next 20 years and so on.

**Existing
Legislation**

N/A

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2012 Legislative Proposal

Topic: Waiver Certified Appraiser

Problem: In 2010, the Department of Professional Regulation determined via departmental policy that only licensed appraisers can provide values for land acquisition. This requires municipal governments to expend scarce revenue to complete work that a municipal employee could previously perform if the value of the appraised property was low. Governmental units must now hire an appraiser to appraise every land acquisition, including temporary easements. In 2011, legislation (SB 1539/PA 97-0602) was approved restoring the policy of allowing governmental employees to complete right-of-way or temporary easement acquisitions for IDOT and counties; however, municipalities and townships were not included in the change.

In Peoria, the cost for obtaining two temporary easements was \$600; however, the cost for the two appraisals was \$1,200. Similarly, in O'Fallon, the cost for the fee acquisition and the temporary easements of four parcels was \$2,700 and the cost for the appraisals was \$2,000. These minor takings are representative of a typical local agency road improvement project – very small acquisitions with relatively low dollar values. Hiring a land appraiser will nearly double the cost of obtaining temporary easements. Another indirect cost that municipalities experienced is the time delay added to a project while getting an appraiser to complete an appraisal.

Solution: Grant waiver of the law for certified appraisal authority to municipalities for right-of-way and temporary easements identical to the powers recently granted Counties.

Reduce the cost of obtaining right-of-way or temporary easements with legislation allowing for municipal employees to complete valuation waivers for right-of-way or temporary easements with a value of under \$10,000 without hiring a licensed appraiser

Action: Amends Section 5-5 of the Real Estate Appraiser Act (225 ILCS 458/) to allow a municipal employee to provide a valuation waiver without being a licensed appraiser if the value of the right-of-way or temporary easement does not exceed \$10,000.

**Existing
Legislation** Support

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2012 Peoria County Adopted Budget Message

A budget represents a spending plan, and serves to demonstrate an organization's priorities. The adopted Peoria County fiscal year 2012 budget is \$36.0 million (21.1%) lower than the adopted fiscal year 2011 budget, as the construction of the Peoria Riverfront Museum is completed and construction of the new Elder Care Facility begins in West Peoria. The 2012 budget represents a continued organizational effort to live within our means. The effects of the recent recession have been absorbed due to careful planning and exemplary policy guidance. No new taxes are proposed, expenses are aligned with resources, the property tax rate does not change from the prior year and efforts are underway to avoid a material impact on services. In short, Peoria County government continues to strive to provide the greatest amount of services as efficiently as possible for the citizens of Peoria County.

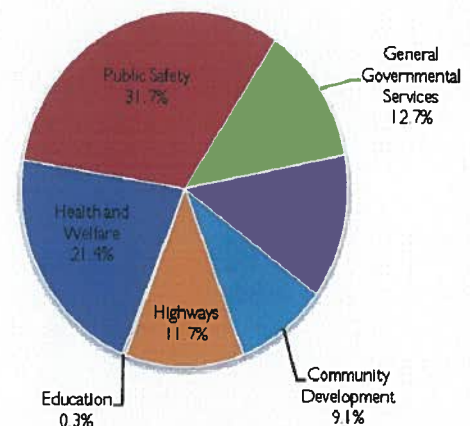
The overall spending plan of \$134,610,820 for the 2012 fiscal year includes:

- The operating budget totaling \$104.974 million, representing 78.0% of the total county budget, and is only 0.44% higher than the FY2011 operating budget. County FTEs at 910.02 are 7.2 fewer than 2011, and is the smallest number of FTE's in more than 15 years.
- The capital budget totaling \$12.653 million, including transportation, public safety and maintenance outlay on county-owned assets. The capital budget represents 9.4% of county spending. Projects include completing the Peoria Riverfront Museum, the new Criminal Justice System and construction of the new Elder-Care facility. Debt service for FY2012 comprises \$7.54 million of the budget.
- Total gross Fund Balance reserves are projected to decrease by \$12,950,248 (11.2%) in 2012 to \$102,812,852 from the 2011 projected amount of \$115,763,100.
- The County Board Strategic Plan is further aligned with available resources. New for 2012 is a recommendation to focus on community development, achieving the Boards stated desire to improve Heritage Neighborhoods, Economic Development, and Commercial Business Loans.

EXPENSES

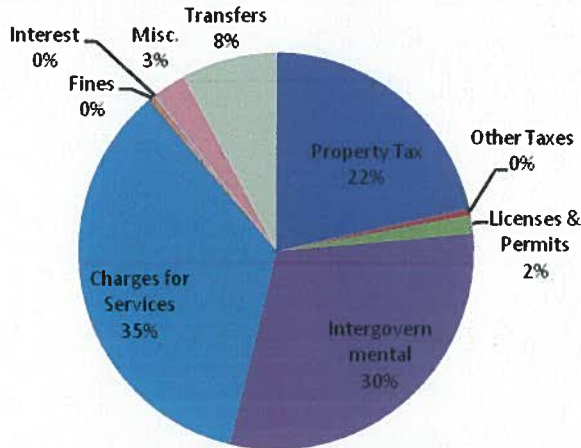
As shown to the right, the aggregate of judicial, public safety, transportation (highways), and health and welfare spending comprise 77.9% of the total 2012 Budget. The majority of capital spending in 2012 will be in public safety and health & welfare, as the criminal justice system is developed and the new elder care facility is constructed. Public Safety and Judicial Expenses account for 69% of General Fund Spending. An 8% increase is adopted for employee health premiums in 2012 in anticipation of increased health care in 2012 and beyond.

Budget By Function - FY2012 Budget
\$134,610,820





2012 Peoria County Adopted Budget Message



FY 2012 Revenues by Source

REVENUES - Overall revenue sources in 2012 total \$121,660,572. Property taxes account for 22% of all revenues in 2012, but decline 0.9% due to declining EAV. The bulk of Peoria County's non-capital revenue sources are driven by charges for services, including those amounts related to nursing home billing, circuit clerk administration, and police protection contracts.

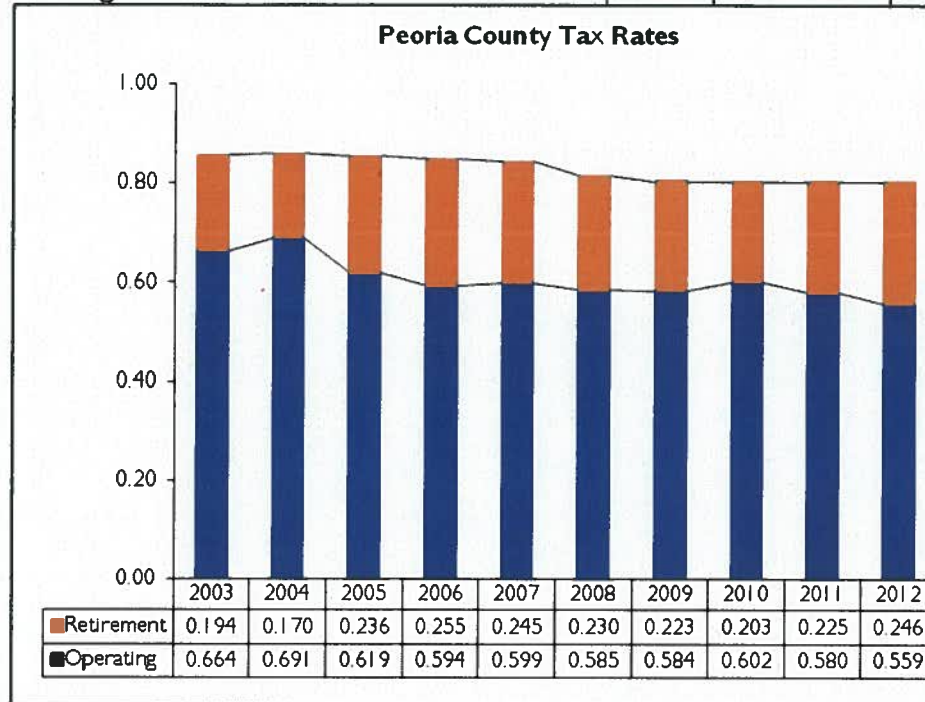
Intergovernmental revenues are sources shared with the state and acquired through federal grant funding organizations. Sales Tax and other state shared revenues continued to rebound in 2011, and this trend is expected to continue next year but at a slower pace. Unemployment in the area is still a major economic concern, with rates still around 9%. State funding for County government services is also still a significant concern, as the State's budget woes continue. State salary reimbursements are down, and the State is in arrears on some payments due to the County. The uncertainty in State funding will need to be closely watched going forward, as any reduction in State funding makes it very likely that Peoria County will have to make a corresponding adjustment sized to the scope and severity of any state cuts.



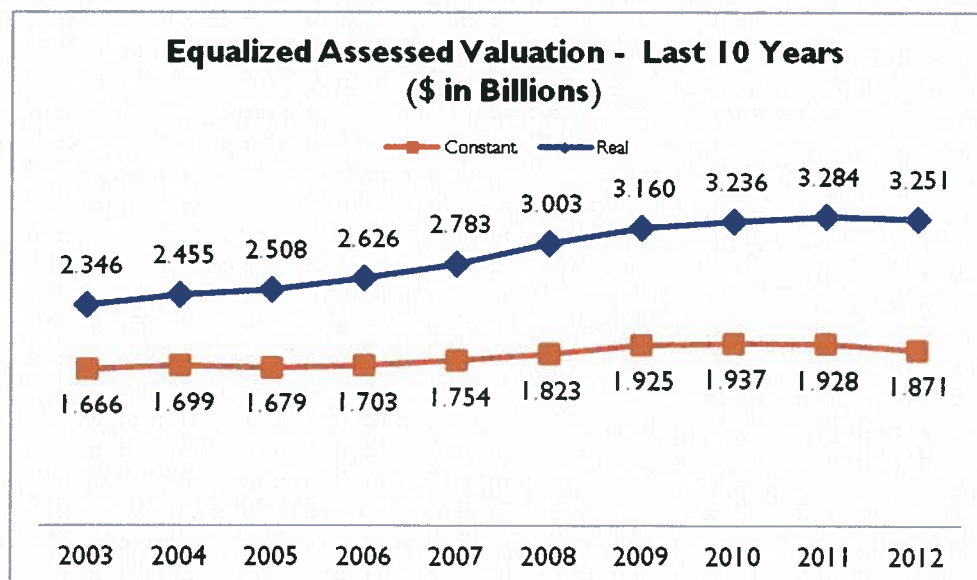
2012 Peoria County Adopted Budget Message

PROPERTY TAXES

The Peoria County tax rate adopted for 2012 remains the same as 2011, with a larger portion of property taxes covering employee retirement costs. A second tier of lesser pension benefits begins in 2011 that should ease the upward pressure on pension funding.



EAV growth for 2012 is estimated at -1.5%, the first time in over 20 years that the County has experienced negative EAV growth. Due to this drop in EAV, property taxes collected will decrease, both in actual and in "constant dollars" in 2012. The chart below demonstrates that actual drop in property tax revenues.





2012 Peoria County Adopted Budget Message

The Peoria County portion of the property tax bill is about 10% of the total. School funding is about 56% of the total tax bill with funding for municipalities, townships, Illinois Central College, and other taxing districts comprising the other 34% of the property tax bill.

AGENDA BRIEFING

COMMITTEE:	Tax, Elections, Policy, & Audit	LINE ITEM:	N/A
MEETING DATE:	Poll Vote	AMOUNT:	N/A

ISSUE:

For RESOLUTION: 2012 Legislative Initiatives

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

Annually, the Tax, Elections, Policy, and Audit Committee reviews issues affecting Peoria County government and develop legislative proposals accordingly to present to the area legislators. Initiatives have been developed as set forth in the attached document.

COUNTY BOARD GOALS:



GROWING COUNTY



HIGH PERFORMING PUBLIC ORGANIZATION



SAFE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITY



WORLD CLASS PUBLIC FACILITIES

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVAL OF THE 2012 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

COMMITTEE ACTION:	Approved 11/18/2012 via Poll Vote 6/1 (Harding - Nay)
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PREPARED BY:	Virginia Pearl
DEPARTMENT:	County Administration

DATE: November 14, 2011

TO THE HONORABLE COUNTY BOARD)
COUNTY OF PEORIA, ILLINOIS)

Your Tax, Elections, Policy, and Audit Committee does hereby recommend passage of the following Resolution:

RE: FY2012 Legislative Initiatives

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is important that the County of Peoria advises its area legislators on proposed legislation which may have an effect upon the County, its officials, and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the schedule of presenting bills and amendments of the General Assembly often prevents the County of Peoria from advising the area legislators in a timely or meaningful manner;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the County of Peoria to permit the Tax, Elections, Policy, and Audit Committee to respond to pending legislation in a timely manner and make recommendations directly to the General Assembly; and

WHEREAS, that authority has been granted through established guidelines set forth in the County Board Rules of Order; and

WHEREAS, the Tax, Elections, Policy, and Audit Committee shall develop an annual State and Federal legislative program of primary legislative concerns; and

WHEREAS, the Tax, Elections, Policy, and Audit Committee has considered the proposed topics on the attached list to pursue with area legislators.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the topics listed be discussed and full position statements regarding potential legislation be developed and presented to the legislators.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
TAX, ELECTIONS, POLICY, AND AUDIT COMMITTEE