

The South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA), an intergovernmental agency representing 45 municipalities and nearly 750,000 residents, has one vision for the southern suburbs: **a stronger, more economically vibrant and competitive Southland.** In 2020, we pledge to work with members of the 101st General Assembly to secure resources, spur investment, rebuild our crumbling infrastructure, and accelerate transformational inclusive economic growth in the South Suburbs.

SSMMA's 2020 Legislative Priorities:

- **Expand the Economic Development Tools of the Southland**
- **Stabilize and Reinvest in Local Communities**
- **Rebuild Our Critical Infrastructure**

How do we succeed?

- **Pass the Southland Reactivation Act (HB 43)**, an innovative economic development tool that has the potential to reactivate and expand the tax base and local jobs in an unprecedented way through the re-establishment of strong industrial and commercial properties throughout the south suburbs.
- **Implement Illinois' long-awaited Capital Bill and the projects promised to Southland constituents.** The State's Capital Program and IDOT's Budget Bill included funding for roads, bridges, transit, rail, trails, water, and airport-related infrastructure projects within the Southland. We need to secure our allocations and fast track our pledged projects so that we can address the backlog of critical infrastructure projects ready to go.
- **Provide adequate funding for the Southland Development Authority (SDA).** The SDA is a next economy cross-sector institution recently launched to bring new development, and financial and management capacity to the south suburbs. With a DCEO-supported, professionally run business-like entity implementing a coordinated development plan on behalf of all of the South Suburbs, the SDA can restore the Southland to its position as a leading driver of growth for the metropolitan area and the State.
- **Tackle full pension consolidation reform.** Consolidating the assets of the more than 650 separate public safety pension funds into two statewide pooled investment funds was an important first step. Now we need to go further and combine administrative functions and boards in order to lower the run-away costs to municipalities and taxpayers and fully reform Illinois' pension systems.
- **Restore Local Government Distributive Funds (LGDF), Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT), and protect other local revenue distributions collected by the state.** Diversions eat into resources that go to support vital public safety, transportation infrastructure, water and sewer services and all other programs and services that protect and contribute to the safety and welfare of residents.
- **Update the Fiscally Distressed Cities Law.** Not modified since 2004, the law should be modernized to provide certain home rule *and* non-home rule communities the ability to access assistance to help them meet their financial obligations while providing for the health, safety, and welfare of their residents.



LEGISLATIVE ASKS:

Pass the Southland Reactivation Act, HB 43 (DeLuca)

- » Sponsor and sign on to the Southland Reactivation Act in the House and the Senate. Work hard to ensure bipartisan support and passage of legislation that establishes a pilot program that allows Southland municipalities to “reactivate” their own tax-exempt parcels to bring them back on the tax roles, contributing much needed property tax revenues to all taxing bodies and revitalizing blighted properties.
- » Advocate for this innovative measure which — AT NO COST TO STATE — provides the south suburbs with a competitive edge in attracting private sector investment and new jobs to distressed or obsolete industrial and commercial sites. Local “reactivation” will grow the tax base and may serve as a model for other regions.

Implement and Rebuild Southland Capital Infrastructure

- » Implement the Capital Infrastructure Investment Program enacted last year by the General Assembly.
- » Support the South Suburban Airport.
- » Ensure Southland projects have sufficient resources committed and appropriated. Our critical roads, bridges, transit, rail, air, open space and trails, and water infrastructure projects have to come to fruition in order to support our region’s strategic economic growth and long-term success.
- » Identify and advance Phase I funding for crucial projects, such as the I-57 corridor improvements, so that we are competitive with neighboring states and regions.

Fund the Southland Development Authority (SDA)

- » Appropriate \$1 million in FY 2021 DCEO budget to support and operationalize the SDA — supporting Illinois’ economic development objectives preparing underserved communities for business development and growth.
- » Create the Southland Development Fund - \$5 million in discretionary capital to drive new investment deals.
- » Sign letter to Governor to make SDA funding a priority in 2020.

Complete the Reform & Consolidation of Local Public Safety Pension Funds

- » Reconvene the Governor’s Pension Consolidation Task Force and begin discussions of “Step II” pension consolidation plans.
- » Support reform and consolidation of the downstate and suburban municipal police and firefighter pension funds in a manner that reduces the long-term financial obligations to municipal employers and protects the solvency of the systems for participating employers.

Protect All State-Collected Local Revenue Streams

- » Oppose any diversions of revenue that is collected by the state on behalf of local governments.
- » Restore previously-diverted Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax and Local Government Tax Fund revenues.
- » Reduce Sales Tax Administrative Fee on the collection of locally-imposed sales taxes from 1.5% TO 1% for FY 2021.
- » Support automatic appropriation authority for Local Funds, making all revenues collected by the state on behalf of municipal governments subject to continuing appropriation authority. This includes Municipal Motor Fuel Tax (MFT), video/casino gaming, Use Tax and 9-1-1 revenues.

Update the Fiscally Distressed Cities Law

- » Update law for access to assistance in certain home rule and non-home rule communities.
- » Shared revenues from the state income tax should be allocated to financially distressed cities to help them meet rising obligations without the fear of intercept and provide mandate relief.