



South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association 2022 State Legislative Priorities

The South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association (SSMMA), an intergovernmental agency representing 45 municipalities and nearly 750,000 residents, serves communities that have long struggled for inclusive economic growth. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated inequities and hardships faced by our already vulnerable region, escalating the urgency for remedies that “build back better” and accelerate transformational inclusive economic growth in the South Suburbs. No longer can we stand idly by waiting for conditions to change and the decades-long economic downturn throughout the region to miraculously reverse itself.

We call upon Illinois leaders to make improving the economic quality of life in the Southland a top priority. Through enactment of strategic policies and legislation that spurs investment and rebuilds our critical infrastructure, we can respond to the challenges of the COVID-19 emergency, address the economic downturn, bring back jobs, and lay the groundwork for a strong and equitable recovery within the region. The time is now.

SSMMA’s 2022 Legislative Agenda:

1. **PASS THE SOUTHLAND REACTIVATION ACT (HB 1842/SB 2178).**

CoSponsor and pass HB 1842/SB 2178, a pilot program that allows Southland municipalities to “reactivate” their own tax-exempt parcels to bring them back on the tax rolls, contributing much needed property tax revenues to all taxing bodies and revitalizing blighted properties.

The Southland Reactivation Act is an innovative economic development tool that has the potential—at no cost to the State—to address blight and replace/expand the tax base and local jobs through the re-establishment of strong industrial and commercial properties throughout the south suburbs.

2. **RESTORE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DISTRIBUTIVE FUNDS TO 8% (HB 4169/SB 3010).**

Vote “YES” on HB 4169 and SB 3010, which restore LGDF payments to local communities back up from 6.06 to 8 percent of total income tax collections.

Local Government Distributive Funds (LGDF) dollars fund everything from the salaries of police officers and firefighters to garbage pick-up, road repairs, maintenance, flood prevention, and large scale infrastructure projects. In recent years, LGDF payments dropped from a promised level equaling 10% of total income tax dollars to a mere 6.06%. This has put significant strain on local governments and has forced tough financial decisions in the face of budget shortfalls. Restoring LGDF payments to local communities to 8% is an important step for local governments and allows for stability and certainty in budgeting and responsibly funding basic services, infrastructure investment and public safety costs.

3. **IMPLEMENT CAPITAL PROGRAM, ACCELERATE INVESTMENTS IN SOUTHLAND.**

Deliver on the promise made to Southland constituents in past Capital Bills. Secure and fast track local Capital Bill projects to rebuild local communities and get Illinoisans back to work.

Since 2019, the State’s Annual Capital Program has named numerous roads, bridges, freight rail, airport-related, water, sewer, and other long-needed infrastructure projects within the Southland. Unfortunately, most of these projects are not anywhere close to getting underway. State leaders must prioritize the backlog of critical infrastructure projects in our region as they are crucial to rebuilding and spurring transformative economic growth. In 2022, let’s get Capital Bill commitments activated as projects and get them slated to get underway. There is no better time, and nowhere more relevant than the South Suburbs, to “build back better”.



SSMMA looks forward to working with Governor Pritzker and General Assembly members this year. Together, we can accelerate transformational inclusive economic growth in the South Suburbs. Our Legislative Program reflects the collective consideration and position of member municipalities. With the support of the General Assembly, SSMMA's consensus agenda can put Southland communities on the path to a more economically competitive, socially equitable, and fiscally sustainable future. Our goal is to implement measures that lay the groundwork for a strong and equitable recovery so that future generations within the region thrive. Decisive action today means Southland communities unleash their economic potential and flourish tomorrow.

Please contact President Bob Kolosh, Legislative Chairman Richard Reinbold, or Executive Director Kristi DeLaurentiis if you have questions about SSMMA's 2022 Legislative Priorities or SSMMA communities' needs.

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Visit our web site
www.ssmma.org

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[SSMMA's COVID-19 Dashboard at www.ssmmacovid.org](http://www.ssmmacovid.org)

(Providing up to date data on Covid-19 impact on Southland communities)

SSMMA represents the communities of Alsip, Beecher, Blue Island, Burnham, Calumet City, Calumet Park, Chicago Heights, Country Club Hills, Crestwood, Crete, Dixmoor, Dolton, East Hazel Crest, Flossmoor, Ford Heights, Glenwood, Harvey, Hazel Crest, Homewood, Lansing, Lynwood, Markham, Matteson, Midlothian, Mokena, Monee, Oak Forest, Olympia Fields, Orland Hills, Orland Park, Park Forest, Peotone, Phoenix, Posen, Richton Park, Riverdale, Robbins, Sauk Village, South Chicago Heights, South Holland, Steger, Thornton, Tinley Park, University Park, and Worth.