

# Peoria City & County Legislative Initiatives



2015





#### **PREAMBLE**

Peoria County is located by the Illinois River midway between Chicago and St. Louis. The county has excellent agricultural and industrial resources. The total estimated market value of real estate is \$11.22 billion, with an estimated assessed valuation of \$3.74 billion.\* Nearly 28% of the property tax base is non-residential, and Caterpillar, Inc. is the largest property taxpayer in the County.

The total county size is 629 square miles, with a total north/south length of 32 miles and east/west width of 28 miles. According to the estimated 2010 census, the population is 186,494. The majority (115,025) of this population resides in the county seat, the City of Peoria. The county has 17 townships, 4 cities, and 11 villages. There are 311 miles of County road. The County assists in the maintenance of 656 miles of township roads on a contract basis.

The County's governing body is the Peoria County Board. The Board is composed of 18 members elected to staggered four-year terms from 18 single-member districts. The County of Peoria is a legal subdivision of the State of Illinois. The services and functions are limited to those that are specifically authorized by state law.

<sup>\*</sup>Real estate numbers are preliminary.

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# Peoria County Vision 2027

Peoria County 2027 is a collection of LIVABLE, (1) SUSTAINABLE (2) COMMUNITIES, with a

STRONG, GROWING ECONOMY (3) and CONNECTIVITY WITHIN THE REGION and TO THE WORLD, (4) providing OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL (5) its residents.

COOPERATIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS (6)

provide EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE

SERVICES, (7)

and are RESPONSIVE TO RESIDENTS AND TO

COMMUNITY NEEDS.(8)

# **Goals 2017**

**Safe and Healthy Community** 

**Growing County** 

**High Performing Public Organization** 

**High Quality Public Facilities** 



# City of Peoria

# Vision 2029

Peoria 2029 is a safe, beautiful, and growing city. Peoria 2029 has a vibrant downtown, and a choice of great neighborhoods with character. Peoria 2029 has a strong economy, and connectivity within the city and to the world. Peoria 2029 has a culture of educational excellence, responsibility and accountability.

# Goals

- Financially Sound City Government, Effective City Organization
- Grow Peoria: Businesses, Jobs, and Population
- Attractive Neighborhoods with Character: Safe and Livable
- Vibrant Downtown: Riverfront/ Central Business District/ Warehouse District

#### **PEORIA COMMUNITY PROFILE**

#### **General Characteristics**

- Chartered April 12, 1845
- Form of Government Council/Manager
- Home Rule Municipality Established Illinois Constitution of 1970
- City Council (Non-Partisan): Mayor, Five District Council Members and Five At-Large Council Members
  - o Council members service four-year terms with elections staggered every two years
  - Other elected officials City Clerk and City Treasurer -four-years terms
  - o City Council appoints the City Manager as the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO)
- Peoria Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) 379,186 (2010 Census)
- City of Peoria population 115,007 (2010 Census)

#### **Educational Institutions**

- Peoria School District #150
- Dunlap Community Unit School District #323
- Bradley University
- University of Illinois Springfield Peoria Center
- University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria
- Illinois Central College
- Methodist College
- Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing
- Midstate College
- Robert Morris University

#### **Medical Institutions**

- OSF Saint Francis Medical Center
- Midwest Affiliate of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- Children's Hospital of Illinois
- UnityPoint Methodist Medical Center
- UnityPoint Proctor Hospital
- University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria
- Veterans Administration Clinic



#### 2015 COMMUNICATION LINKS WORKSHOP

#### **PARTICIPANTS**

#### **LEGISLATORS**

Hon. DARIN M. LAHOOD Illinois Senator of the 37th District Hon. DAVID KOEHLER Illinois Senator of the 46th District

Hon. DAVID R. LEITCH
Hon. DONALD L. MOFFITT
Hon. MICHAEL UNES
Hon. JEHAN GORDON

Illinois Representative of the 73rd District
Illinois Representative of the 74th District
Illinois Representative of the 91st District
Illinois Representative of the 92nd District

#### **CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Jim Ardis Mayor

Beth Akeson Council Member at Large Elizabeth Jensen Council Member at Large Ryan Spain Council Member at Large Eric Turner Council Member at Large Chuck Weaver Council Member at Large

Denise Moore Ist District
Chuck Grayeb 2nd District
Timothy Riggenbach 3rd District
Jim Montelongo 4th District
Casey Johnson 5th District

#### **COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS**

Sharon Williams District 1 County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee, V.C.

William (Junior) Watkins District 2
Lynn Scott Pearson District 3

Andrew Rand District 4 County Board Chairman

Rachael Parker District 5

Allen Mayer District 6 County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee

Jimmy Dillon District 7 County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee

Phil Salzer District 8

Michael Phelan District 9 County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee

Stephen Morris District 10 County Board Vice-Chairman

Mary Ardapple District 11 County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee, Chair Robert Baietto District 12 County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee James Fennell District 13 County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee

Brian Elsasser District 14
Carol Trumpe District 15
Brad Harding District 16
Thomas O'Neill District 17
Paul Rosenbohm District 18





**Countywide Elected Officials** 

Carol Van Winkle County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee

County Auditor

Steve Sonnemaker County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee

County Clerk

Robert Spears County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee

Circuit Clerk

Jerry Brady County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee

State's Attorney

Michael McCoy County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee

Sheriff

Johnna Ingersoll County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee

Coroner

Edward O'Connor, III County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee

Treasurer

Elizabeth Crider Derry County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee

Regional Superintendent

Judge Stephen A. Kouri County Board & Elected Officials Collaborative Committee

Chief Circuit Judge - 10th Judicial Circuit





# REQUESTS FOR DIRECT SPONSORSHIP

- DECLARE VACANT LAND ABANDONED (Joint)
- NON-AD VALOREM PROPERTY TAX ITEM (Joint)
- STATE HISTORIC TAX CREDIT EXTENSION (City)
- PROPERTY TAX REFORM (City)
- WALKABLE URBAN AREAS (City)
- PROPERTY LIENS ON OWNER PROPERTY (City)
- ERRONEOUS HOMESTEAD EXEMPTIONS (County)
- **O RETAILERS OCCUPATION TAX ACCESS (County)**

Topic: Declare vacant land abandoned

Problem: Cities spend considerable resources maintaining privately owned property,

including both residential structures and vacant lots in the City. Often times, these properties have been neglected for several years by unresponsive property owners. In order to mitigate blight, the City cleans and maintains these properties with no reimbursement. An alternative is for the City to become the owner of the properties, assume the maintenance and partner with a developer for reinvestment. Currently, state statue allows a municipality to petition the court to have a property declared abandoned and receive free and clear title if the following criteria is met:

- 1. The property has been delinquent for 2 or more years or bills for water service for the property have been outstanding for 2 or more years; and
- 2. The property is unoccupied by persons legally in possession; and
- 3. The property contains a dangerous or unsafe building for reasons specified in the petition.

Based on these criteria, vacant lots cannot be declared abandoned. Furthermore, there are hundreds of vacant parcels that are of irregular shape and size and have no value. The County processes tax bills for these parcels and eventually owns them through the delinquency process. The process for disposing of these properties is time consuming and costly.

Solution: Allow a municipality to petition the court to declare vacant lots abandoned.

Additionally, change the law to allow for a streamlined process for disposing

of irregular parcels.

Action: Joint City/County Request for Direct Sponsorship: Amend the state statue

to include language in criteria three to say "The property contains a dangerous or unsafe building for reasons specified in the petition or the property is not being maintained as evident by the municipality having to abate a violation more than three times within a twelve (12) month period." Furthermore, change the law to allow the County to administratively offer

irregular parcels to adjoining property owners at no cost.

Existing

Legislation: 65 ILCS 5/11-31-1

Contact: Ross Black Tripp O'Connor

City of Peoria Peoria County 309-494-8601 309-672-6065

<u>rblack@peoriagov.org</u> <u>toconnor@peoiracounty.org</u>





Topic: Non- Ad Valorem Property Tax Line Items

Problem: Municipalities lack efficient means of collecting fees. For example, the

City of Peoria collects a \$14/month garbage collection fee from every residential property (for properties with between one and four units). The City spends over \$200,000 per year with a third-party company to produce, mail, collect and process approximately 36,000 bills each month. Apart from the operational cost, the system misses some property, inefficiently identifies account holders (tenants vs. property

owners) and lacks an easy process for collecting outstanding debts.

Solution: Flat fees such as the City's garbage collection fee could instead be placed

as a non-ad valorem item on the property tax bill. Utilizing the well-established and robust property tax collection system would eliminate the need for a secondary system of collection. This saves both the municipality and its citizens money, more efficiently and comprehensively identifies all account holders, and provides for a solid collection system. Locally, the Peoria County Treasurer has agreed to work with the City

to enact such a program if the law allowed it.

Action: City Request for Direct Sponsorship: Introduce legislation that would

allow the placement of non-ad valorem items on the property tax bill.

Contact: Patrick Urich

City Manager City of Peoria 309-494-8524





Extend and Refine State Historic Tax Credit Topic:

In 2011, the River Edge Redevelopment Zone (RERZ) was amended to Problem:

> include Peoria and create a 25% Illinois historic tax credit. The incentive has proven crucial in helping our communities and is a key tool in the

redevelopment of Peoria's Warehouse District.

The 2011 legislation limited the impact State Historic Credit program in a number of ways. Of chief concern is its limited time frame: The fiveyear pilot program requires all projects receiving the credit to be completed by December 31, 2016. The pilot program was intended to demonstrate how the incentive would leverage additional private sector investment, add jobs and increase revenue. However, the economic recession of the past few years has delayed many urban redevelopment projects. Now that investment is returning and there is an increased emphasis on downtown development, many developers are stalling because of the near end of program. Additional provisions within the program have made it difficult for investors to use or market the tax credits.

Solution: The five RERZ communities (Peoria, Rockford, Elgin, Aurora and East St. Louis) are partnering to craft legislation to be introduced in 2015 that solves some of the key issues in the current program:

- Extends the pilot program 2020.
- Allows the state tax credit to be used against taxes imposed on the insurance industry.
- Streamlines the Illinois process to align it more with the federal tax credit program.

Action: City Request for Direct Sponsorship: Introduce or co-sponsor and support a bill that improves the tax credit.

#### **Contact:**

Christopher Setti Assistant City Manager City of Peoria 309-494-8618 csetti@peoriagov.org



Topic: Equalize Assessed and Market Values

Problem: The assessed value of a property for taxing purposes can be based on a

number of factors. However, the asking price for which the owner is marketing a property is not a factor that can be considered. In Peoria, there are numerous cases of property owners who work to keep their assessed value low while simultaneously asking ten times (or more) from

potential buyers.

The low assessed value makes holding vacant and underutilized property very inexpensive. Additionally, assessed values that do not reflect the true market value, as determined by the owner, reduce revenue available

to the City and other taxing bodies.

Solution: With proper documentation (i.e. CMLS listings, rejected offers, etc.),

township assessors should be allowed to raise assessed values to match marketed value. Further, the new assessed values reflecting the asking price should not be able to be reduced by appeal boards at the County

and State levels.

Action: City Request for Direct Sponsorship: Introduce or co-sponsor a bill that

brings assessed values in line with value ascribed by the property owner.

**Contact:** 

Patrick Urich City Manager City of Peoria 309-494-8524



**Topic:** Walkable Urban Areas with Populations over 100,000

**Problem:** The State of Illinois has adopted a Complete Streets Policy which does

not require implementation of complete streets if the ideas contradict their design guide or are determined as too expensive. The City of Peoria has a desire to make its streets more complete in order to encourage development of its downtown, as well as improving the pedestrian and bicyclist experience throughout the community. Increasing the pedestrian facilities and bicycling facilities within the City

of Peoria can help revitalize older neighborhoods.

Solution: One alternative would be for the legislature to adopt legislation that

would not give IDOT the oversight of the local share of the State Motor Fuel Tax, but instead would send it (State Motor Fuel Tax) directly to Municipalities with populations over 100,000 with restrictions that SMFT must be utilized for infrastructure improvements and can be subject to audits for its use. A second alternative would be to require IDOT to comply with the local design guidelines and locally-adopted policies, when rehabilitating infrastructure in an Urban Area with a population

greater than 100,000.

**Action:** State Legislature approval of new legislation.

#### Existing Legislation None

#### **Contact:**

Patrick Urich City Manager City of Peoria 309-494-8524



Topic: Property Liens on Owner Holdings

Problem: When the City of Peoria must take action to correct a problem with a

property, from cutting grass to demolishing structures, the bill is sent to the property owner. In many cases, the owner fails to pay the bill, resulting in a lien being placed against the property. However, many of the liens are never paid because the land is not sold or for other reasons. This leaves the City to bear the financial burden of maintaining properties throughout the City, draining resources that could be more valuably used. The placement of liens has ceased to become a threat to

many property owners in the community.

Solution: Municipalities should be allowed to attach liens to other property held

by the target property's owner. For example, a lien for demolishing a structure could be placed against the personal home of the target property's owner. This would likely be limited to property owned within the State of Illinois, though reciprocal arrangements with other

states could be explored.

Action: City Request for Direct Sponsorship: Introduce or co-sponsor a bill that

allows municipalities to attach liens to any property owned by an

individual or corporation who owes the municipality.

**Contact:** 

Patrick Urich City Manager City of Peoria 309-494-8524



**Topic:** Erroneous Homestead Exemptions

**Problem:** Instances exist where property owners have filed for a variety of property

tax exemptions on the same property. Or, in some cases, a property owner is receiving an owner occupied exemption on multiple properties. In the last General Assembly, Cook County sought authority to remedy such situations. The remedy included proper notice to property owners what exemptions were eligible for a specific property, and which exemptions were currently applied to a specific property. The remedy also included an amnesty program for property owners to voluntarily comply to make sure the correct exemptions were applied to each property. For those not complying through the amnesty program, Cook County also sought a financial consequence. Senate Bill 41 became PA 98-0093. The Act, however, does not extend its authority beyond Cook County. Since the Spring of 2014, the Cook County Assessor has been able to recoup over

one million dollars in fines and increase to the tax base.

Other counties should be able to have the ability, it is a discretionary program, protect their tax base and ensure that property owners are do not have more exemptions than what they are entitled to.

**Solution:** The ability to notify all property owners of what exemptions they are

eligible for; and which exemptions they are currently receiving is good transparent government. Additionally, a program to penalize property owners that took affirmative action to gain more than the exemptions to which they are able to achieve is also necessary to protect the tax base of any community. The General Assembly created the elements of these items in PA 098-0093, but made it exclusive to counties greater than 3,000,000 in population, or just Cook County. The contents of PA 98-0093 should be

available to any county in Illinois.

Action: County Request for Direct Sponsorship: Introduce legislation that would

extend the provisions of PA 098-0093 to all counties.

**Existing** PA 098-0093 (35 ILCS 200/9-275)

Legislation:

**Contact:** Lori Curtis Luther

County Administrator

309-672-6056



**Topic:** Retailers Occupation Tax Access

**Problem:** Under PA 098-1058, municipalities were granted the authority to enter into

agreements with the Illinois Department of Revenue for the purposes of obtaining business specific data on net revenues distributed to the municipality for the local share of revenue collected under the Service Use Tax Act, Service Occupation Tax Act, Retailers' Occupation Tax Act, and where applicable any locally imposed retailers' occupation tax or service

occupation tax.

County governments, like municipal governments are heavily dependent on these types of sales taxes. In fact, in Peoria County's fiscal year 2015 budget sales taxes comprise 13.5% of the county's total revenues. In the General Fund, sales taxes exceed property taxes as a revenue source. Because sales taxes are so vital to the financial solvency of Peoria County government,

forecasting and modeling trends of sales tax activity are crucial.

**Solution:** The authority to enter into an agreement with the Department of Revenue

for business specific sales tax data should be available to county

governments.

Action: County Request for Direct Sponsorship: Introduce legislation that would

extend the provisions of PA 098-1058 to county governments.

**Existing** PA 098-1058 (35 ILCS 120/11)

Legislation:

Contact: Lori Curtis Luther

County Administrator

309-672-6056



# REQUESTS FOR POSITION SUPPORT

- ILLINOIS FISCAL CONCERNS (Joint)
- DCEO FLEXIBILITY (Joint)
- SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING (Joint)
- PRESERVE HOME RULE POWERS (City)
- LOCAL PENSION REFORM (City)
- SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS FOR MUNICIPAL CHARGES (City)
- PROBATION OFFICERS' SALARY (County)

**Topic:** Illinois Fiscal Concerns

Problem: The October 2014 edition of the Illinois State Comptroller's Quarterly

newsletter states: "The General Funds backlog of unpaid bills at the Comptroller's Office (IOC) at the end of September totaled \$2.717 billion." While higher than the start of the state fiscal year, this amount is \$1.886 billion less than the same period in 2013. It remains a large number in light

of the income tax increase that expired at the end of 2014.

In addition to the backlog noted above, other major fiscal problems still exist for the State. The Comptroller's newsletter explains: "Looking ahead to the spring, policymakers will face big challenges in creating the budget for fiscal year 2016, when the full impact of the drop in income tax rates will impact the state's revenues. Reductions in income tax revenues and increases in statutory pension contributions and other spending pressures such as Medicaid and health insurance will combine to create a very large budgetary hole that must be addressed to avoid Illinois slipping back into financial chaos."

The State of Illinois continues to have liabilities for Medicaid, unfunded pension liabilities, ongoing reductions in a multitude of health and welfare programs, as well as having the lowest bond rating and highest borrowing costs of any state.

**Solution:** Support legislative and budgetary efforts that protect and enhance 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.

Oppose legislation that diverts funding streams away from local units of

government into State coffers.

**Action:** Support above positions

Existing N/A

Legislation:

Contact: Lori Curtis Luther Patrick Urich

County Administrator City Manager 309-672-6056 309-494-8524

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**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.

Specifically, DCEO should have the flexibility for funding for workforce training, beyond ETIP. Additionally, the county should oppose limits on

"normal" EDGE funding.

Action: Review and revise processes for attracting and retaining businesses to allow

more flexibility in providing incentives.

**Existing** None

Legislation:

**Contact:** Mark Rothert

Assistant County Administrator

County of Peoria 309-672-6056

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**Topic:** Sustainable Infrastructure Funding Mechanism

**Problem:** The American Society of Civil Engineers has graded Illinois' infrastructure as

a "C-." Specifically, our roads are rated as a "D+" and our bridges as a "C+." The primary funding stream to repair and replace the transportation infrastructure at all levels of Illinois government is the motor fuel tax. The current rate of  $19 \not e$  per gallon is not indexed to any economic indicator and has been flat since 1990. If it were adjusted for inflation, that  $19 \not e$  in 1990 would need to be  $34 \not e$  today to have the same buying power. The transportation infrastructure needs and funding in Peoria County and the

City of Peoria are no different.

An additional concern is the either perceived or actual siphoning of current motor fuel tax allocations, or the sometimes wild swings in monthly allotments of motor fuel tax, likely caused by cash flow constraints of the State. Motor fuel tax allotments to local governments should be segregated and not able to be used to meet the cash flow needs of the State.

**Solution:** There are multiple possible solutions which include: increasing the current

motor fuel tax rate to sustainable levels and ties future increases to an acceptable economic benchmark; replacement of motor fuel tax collection with a user based fee system; or replacement of the motor fuel tax collection with a tax on either the wholesaler or producer that is large

enough to be sustainable and fund the capital improvements.

**Action:** Explore legislation that either increases the current motor fuel tax rate to

sustainable levels and ties future increases to an acceptable economic benchmark; explore legislation that replaces motor fuel tax collection with a user based fee system; or explore legislation that replaces the motor fuel tax collection with a tax on either the wholesaler or producer that is large enough to be sustainable and fund the capital improvements necessary to

repair Illinois' transportation infrastructure.

**Existing** Motor Fuel Tax is currently taxed at a flat \$0.19 per gallon rate. This has

**Legislation:** been stagnant since 1990.

**Contact:** Scott Sorrel Chris Setti

Assistant County Administrator Assistant City Manager

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Topic: Preserve Home Rule Powers

Problem: The Illinois Constitution allows certain municipalities home rule

authority in order to craft local laws and regulations. With more and more frequency, this home rule power is being minimized or eliminated altogether in statewide legislation. For example, the recent "Compassionate Use of Medical Cannabis Pilot Program Act" prevented home rule communities from deciding for themselves how cultivation and dispensary operations should be handled within the municipality.

Solution: Stop by-passing home rule powers in statewide bills.

Action: When bills are introduced, demand that provisions that exclude home

rule communities from exercising their authority be removed or

modified.

#### **Contact:**

Patrick Urich City Manager City of Peoria 309-494-8524



**Topic:** Local Pension Reform

**Problem:** Just as the State has been financially hamstrung by unfunded pension liabilities that were growing by leaps and bounds, city governments are also struggling to keep pace with their local pension plans. The growth in Police and Fire pension contributions continues to be a significant pressure point for the City. Over the last decade, the growth in pension contributions has been staggering. In 2015, the City will contribute \$15,282,446 to police and fire pensions. By contrast, in 2007 the City contributed \$7,623,240. In eight years, the City's contributions have doubled.

> The majority of funds for police and fire pensions are levied through property taxes. While the City Council could simply let pension levies increase, the impact would mean higher property taxes for the citizens of Peoria. It has been a long standing policy of the Council to hold property tax levies down, and keep the property tax rate constant. Thus, pension growth has a real impact upon the City's ability to deliver services. In 2007, the City levied \$5,434,556 in the General Fund for In 2015, the General Fund levy is recommended at operations. \$1,508,116. Since 2007, pension costs for police and fire have doubled while the property tax levy that contributes to the wages of the fire and police officers has shrunk 72%. This means that the City is even more reliant upon elastic revenues like sales tax to fund operations.

**Solution:** The State of Illinois needs to begin tackling local pension reform. Reforms such as eliminating cost-of-living increases, increasing the retirement age, and capping pensionable salaries are all common-sense steps that should be implemented immediately.

> The General Assembly must also stop its habit of "sweetening" local public safety pensions as well as clarify legislative intent that, in its absence, has lead to pension abuses. Of significance, it needs to define "catastrophic injury" in the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act (PSEBA). The lack of a definition has led to court rulings that former employees who draw a 65% duty disability pension and go on to work a new job will receive lifetime taxpayer-funded health insurance coverage even though their new employer offers insurance coverage.

**Action:** Support comprehensive pension reform.

**Contact:** 

Patrick Urich City Manager 309-494-8524 purich@peoriagov.org



Topic: Add excess refuse/garbage fees; fines imposed for ordinance violations;

and demolition costs as costs that can be collected as a special

assessment.

Problem: The City has limited resources to collect unpaid fees and fines as

described above. Adding these unpaid fees and fines as costs that can be collected as a special assessment and therefore added to the property owner's tax bill will greatly improve City's efficiency in recouping its cost that is paid by all the taxpayers from the specific property owner who fails

to pay the fees and fines.

Solution: Add these fees and fines as costs that can be collected as a special

assessment.

Action: Support legislation that amends 65 ILCS 5/9-2-4.5 to add the above-

described fees and fines as costs that can be collected as a special

assessment.

Existing Legislation 65 ILCS 5/9-2-4.5. Special assessment for payment of costs associated with certain ordinance violations.

(a) For purposes of this Section, "Code" means any municipal ordinance that requires, after notice, the cutting of grass and weeds, the removal of garbage and debris, the removal of inoperable motor vehicles, and rodent and vermin abatement.

(b) In addition to any other method authorized by law, if (i) a property owner is cited with a Code violation, (ii) non-compliance is found upon reinspection of the property after the due date for compliance with an order to correct the Code violation or with an order for abatement, (iii) costs for services rendered by the municipality to correct the Code violation remain unpaid at the point in time that they would become a debt due and owing the municipality, as provided in Division 31.1 of Article 11 of the Illinois Municipal Code, and (iv) a lien has been filed of record by the municipality in the office of the recorder in the county in which the property is located, then those costs may be collected as a special assessment on the property under this Division. Upon payment of the costs by the owner of record or persons interested in the property, the lien shall be released by the municipality and the release shall be filed of record in the same manner as the filing of notice of the lien.

Contact: Don Leist

Corporation Counsel

City of Peoria 309-494-8592

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**Topic:** Probation Officers Salary Reimbursement

**Problem:** Probation Officer Salary Reimbursement to Peoria County from the Supreme

Court's budget has been restored to statutory or near statutory levels in recent years. For this, Peoria County is grateful. Furthermore, Peoria County appreciates the acknowledgment by AOIC of the probation related programs delivered by Peoria County and the results those programs. reimbursement at or near the statutory levels is critical in continuing to fulfill

the mission of both juvenile detention and adult and juvenile probation.

**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

730 ILCS 110/15 Legislation:

**Contact:** Lori Curtis Luther

County Administrator

309-672-6056



# **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

- COUNTY JAIL KITCHEN / LAUNDRY EXPANSION (County)
- WILLOW KNOLLS & ALLEN ROAD INTERSECTION (County)
- OLD GALENA ROAD RECONSTRUCTION (County)
- PIONEER PARKWAY EXTENSION (City)
- UNIVERSITY STREET REPAIR (City)
- PEDESTRIAN INFRASTRUCTURE ON STATE ROUTES (City)

Capital Project: Peoria County Jail Kitchen and Laundry Expansion Topic:

Problem:

This project entails the design and construction of an addition to the Peoria County Jail. The Jail was constructed in 1985 to house 256 inmates with a kitchen designed to serve 600-700 meals per day. As part of the Clinton Administration's community policing initiatives, the lail was expanded in 1997 to house an additional 179 inmates for a total of 435. At the same time, the County of Peoria constructed a new Juvenile Detention Center increasing our juvenile detention capacity from 15 beds to 110. The Jail's kitchen prepares meals for both facilities.

In 2012, the County further increased the capacity of the lail with additional bunks. The current capacity of the Jail is 492 inmates. The 2013 average daily population (ADP) of 542 between adults and juveniles, equating to 1,554 meals prepared in the original kitchen each day. At no point during any of the previous expansions was the kitchen altered or improved. That figure has been as high as 1,812 meals per day in 2012. To serve 1,554 meals each day, the Sheriff routinely uses one of the gymnasiums for dry goods storage, because there is no other space available. partnerships with prison ministries, the Sheriff accepts food donations each year that equal about 6% of the total food budget. Regrettably, another 2% of the annual food budget could be saved if there was adequate cold storage. Instead, this perishable food ends up in the landfill. This project will construct a second addition to the Peoria County Jail that will house a new and larger kitchen that is sized for the current operation and future growth of the Jail. The current kitchen will be retrofitted to be a new laundry facility, which will at least double the laundry capacity of the Jail.

Solution: The total project is estimated to cost \$3.6 million. Construction of a new kitchen and retro-fitted laundry at the Peoria County Jail will improve public health conditions for food preparation; extend the life cycle replacement of laundry equipment; allow for increased perishable food donations and appropriate dry good storage.

Action: Assistance in securing capital funding.

Contact: Lori Curtis Luther

County Administrator

309-672-6056



Topic: Capital Project: Willow Knolls Road / Allen Road Intersection

Problem: The intersection of Willow Knolls Road and Allen Road was constructed in

1983. The concrete pavement is in an advanced state of deterioration, and is beyond repair. The existing joints in the concrete pavement have been

repeatedly patched to prevent damage to vehicles.

The intersection is jointly controlled by both Peoria County and the City of Peoria. Both agencies spend an immense amount of time and resources patching the existing pavement to allow motorists to safely use the

intersection.

Solution: The solution for the project is a complete reconstruction of the

intersection with new pavement, curb & gutter, storm sewer, sidewalk, and traffic signals. The total project cost is estimated to cost \$2.5 million. Peoria County will be responsible for \$1.25 million, or one half of the

project cost.

Action: Assistance in securing capital funding.

Contact: Lori Curtis Luther

County Administrator

309-672-6056



Topic: Capital Project: Old Galena Road

Problem: The concrete pavement on Old Galena Road, from IL Route 29 to Cedar

Hills Drive, is in an advanced state of deterioration, and is beyond repair. The existing joints in the concrete pavement have been repeatedly patched to prevent damage to vehicles. Additionally, the traffic signal detector loops have to be repaired repeatedly due to breakage caused by the poor

pavement conditions.

Old Galena Road is the main route to several Caterpillar Inc. facilities.

Improved facilities will promote economic growth.

**Solution:** The solution for the project is a complete reconstruction of Old Galena

Road with new pavement, curb & gutter, storm sewer, multi-use path, and

traffic signals.

Peoria County received approval of the Preliminary Design Report from IDOT in December, 2014 for the Old Galena Road corridor from IL Route 29 to Cedar Hills Drive. Peoria County has scheduled an April 24, 2015 bid letting to reconstruct the intersection of Old Galena Road and State Street utilizing Surface Transportation Urban (STU) funds at a cost of \$2.57

million.

The total project cost for the remaining portion of Old Galena Road, from

IL Route 29 to Cedar Hills Drive, is estimated to cost \$21 million.

**Action:** Assistance in securing capital funding.

**Contact:** Lori Curtis Luther

County Administrator

309-672-6056



**Topic:** Pioneer Parkway Extension

The extension of Pioneer Parkway from Allen Road to Trigger Road has Problem:

been a main priority of the City of Peoria for over a decade. purpose of the project is to provide transportation access to serve and promote economic growth in Growth Cells Two and Three. access will open opportunity for residential, commercial, and industrial development in the City of Peoria without the need to expand its current geographic footprint. The project includes a realignment of Pioneer Parkway from Harker to Allen; major intersections at Radnor, Wood Sage, Orange Prairie, Route 91, and Trigger Road; a bridge over

the local rail spur; and a new interchange at Route 6.

The City has received all environmental approvals to proceed. In May 2012, IDOT approved the Design Report.

**Solution:** The total project is estimated to cost \$74 million. The City has received

\$2.6 million in federal funds, and is seeking additional state and federal sources to match local funds. The first phase of construction will improve the Pioneer Parkway and Allen Road intersection and begin the first westerly leg. This phase will allow access to the planned Notre

Dame High School.

**Action:** Assistance in securing state capital funding.

#### **Contact:**

Mike Rogers **Public Works Director** City of Peoria 309-494-8811 mtrogers@peoriagov.org



**Topic:** University Street Improvements

Problem:

As the manufacturing business evolved from large scale operations into the modern patterns of smaller and targeted production, a new sort of industrial area was required. Understanding this, the City of Peoria worked with the private sector to create the Pioneer Park Industrial Area in northern Peoria which has become home to dozens of companies that are a critical part of the regional economy.

While Pioneer Park is well served by Illinois Route 6 and major thoroughfares such as Allen Road and Pioneer Parkway, some of the most heavily traveled interior thoroughfares have not seen the level of improvement commensurate with their importance. Two roadways in particular are in significant need of investment. The first, Townline Road, has been addressed locally. In 2014, the City has spent \$1.1 million to improve Townline Road between Industrial Road and University Street. IDOT has also been improving Allen Road and the interchange with Route 6.

The City is seeking additional an additional \$4.3 million to improve University Street between Townline Road and Pioneer Parkway. This section of road is currently a 2-lane rural cross section that inadequately serves the businesses in the area. The City intends to widen the street to a 3-lane urban cross section that will decrease congestion, improve safety and provide better access to businesses that both front these streets and that are within the industrial park. The plan is to also include pedestrian facilities in order to provide the employees of the area walking access to the Rock Island Trail.

**Solution:** 

While the City has identified local funding for the improvements for the Townline Road portion of this area, the University Street section remains unfunded. Given the size of the project and its importance to both the local and regional economy, the City will require funding assistance from outside sources.

Action: Support a request for \$4.3M in funding for the University Street project.

#### **Contact:**

Mike Rogers
Public Works Director
City of Peoria
309-494-8811

mtrogers@peoriagov.org



Topic: Pedestrian Infrastructure on State Routes

Problem: Public streets should be designed to accommodate all modes of

transportation: cars, trucks, mass transit, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Throughout Peoria, a number of IDOT controlled streets have poor to non-existent infrastructure for pedestrians. Of particular note is Route I50 (War Memorial Drive) between University and Glen Hollow. This is heavily trafficked commercial district that includes Northwoods Mall, Glen Hollow Shopping Center, and numerous hotels. There are no sidewalks or crosswalks. Pedestrians can be routinely seen walking along the shoulder of War Memorial and crossing the street with no

protection against oncoming traffic.

Solution: IDOT should design and construct pedestrian facilities along existing

State routes, beginning with Route 150/War Memorial Drive and

Western Avenue.

Action: Advocate for capital funding for these improvements and/or direct IDOT

to use existing funding sources to remedy the issue.

#### **Contact:**

Mike Rogers
Public Works Director
City of Peoria
309-494-8811
mtrogers@peoriagov.org

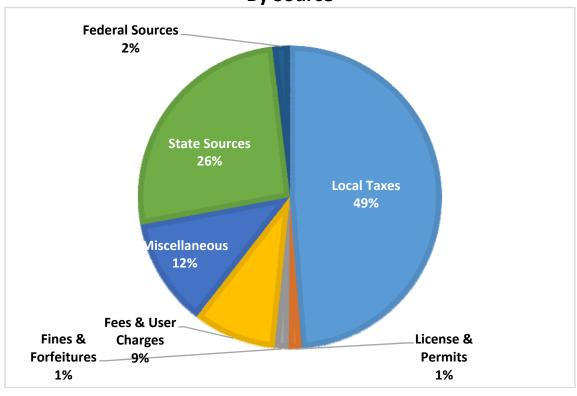


# CITY OF PEORIA BUDGET DOCUMENTS





# 2015 Revenues By Source



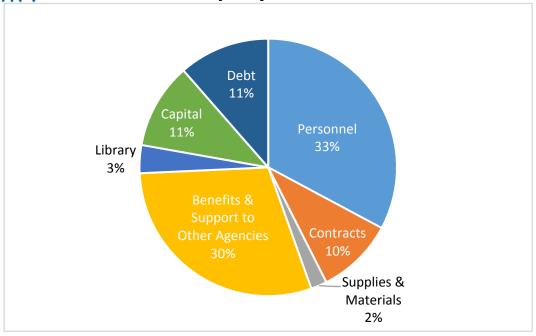
#### **Breakdown of Local Taxes**



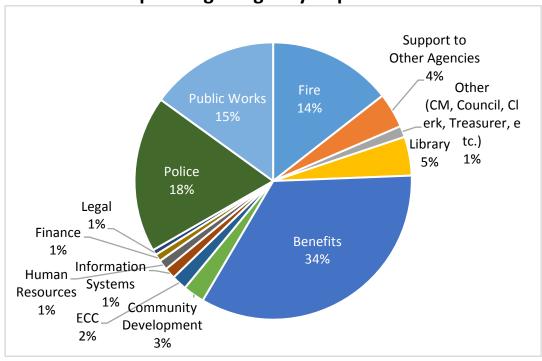


# **2015 Expenditures**

**By Major Area** 



## **Operating Budget by Department**



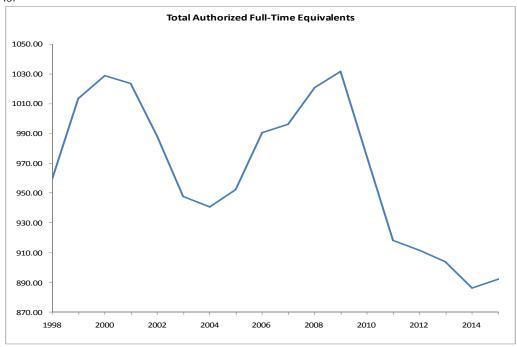
# COUNTY OF PEORIA BUDGET DOCUMENTS



A budget represents a spending plan, and serves to demonstrate an organization's priorities. The adopted Peoria County fiscal year 2015 budget is relatively flat with only a \$1.436 million (1.12%) increase from the adopted fiscal year 2014 budget. The 2015 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 \$129,461,075 for the 2015 fiscal year includes:

- The operating budget totaling \$111.9 million, representing 86.4% of the total county budget, and is only 1.7% higher than the revised FY 2014 operating budget.
- The County's FTE count increases for the first time since 2009. The authorized FTE count is 892.14 for FY 2015 and increases due to the hire of additional probation officers as a result of an increase in state funding for these positions. This can be seen in the chart below.
- The capital budget totaling \$5.14 million, including transportation, public safety and maintenance outlay on county-owned assets. The capital budget represents 4.0% of county spending. Project highlights include replacing the jail transfer switch and generator, performing mechanical equipment upgrades in the first cell block, elevator and entrance door upgrades at the Courthouse, and replacing the Kickapoo-Pottstown and Hallock-Cloverdale Road Bridges.
- Debt service for FY 2015 comprises \$7.6 million of the budget.
- Total gross Fund Balance reserves are projected to decrease by \$4.7 million (5.4%) in 2014 to \$82.7 million from the 2013 projected amount of \$87.4 million.
- The County Board Strategic Plan is further aligned with available resources. There is a continued focus on community development, achieving the Boards stated desire to improve Heritage Neighborhoods, Economic Development, and Commercial Business Loans.

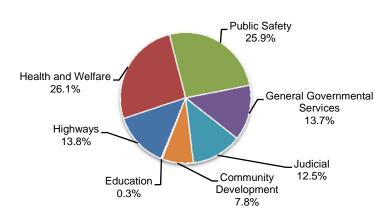




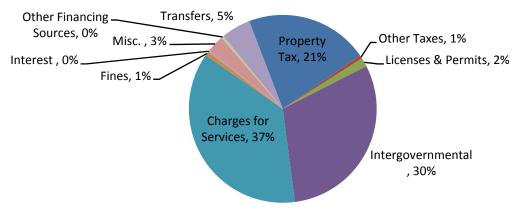
#### **EXPENSES**

As shown to below, the aggregate of judicial, public safety, transportation (highways), and health and welfare spending comprise 78.3% of the total 2015 Budget. The majority of capital spending in 2015 will be in the areas of public safety and road infrastructure. Public Safety and Judicial Expenses account for 65% of General Fund Spending. A 0% increase is adopted for employee health premiums in 2015. The fund currently has approximately 2 years of annual claims in fund reserves and conservative expense-side projections support this increase.

Budget By Function - FY2015 Budget \$129,461,075



**REVENUES** - Overall revenue sources in 2015 total \$124,029,920. Property taxes account for 21% of all revenues in 2015, but the County will receive more revenue than in 2014 due to a 1.9% increase in EAV while the tax rate remains \$0.805. 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.



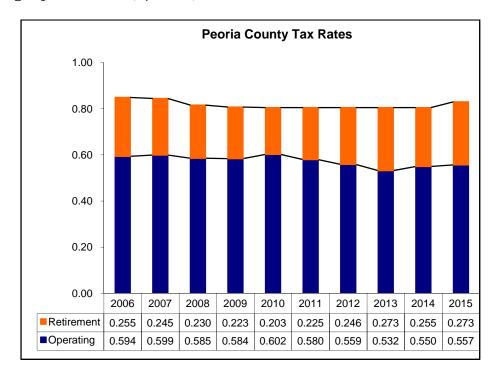
FY 2015 Revenues by Source



Intergovernmental revenues are sources shared with the state and acquired through federal grant funding organizations. State shared revenues did not experience the large positive growth witnessed in 2014. Income tax revenue is projected to finish the year 0.7% below 2013 figures and 3.97% below the 2014 budget. Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT) finished the year 2.9% over 2013 figures and 0.6% above the 2014 budget. While this figure is positive, it is far below the 10.9% growth in CPPRT seen in 2013. The 2015 budget projects slight growth in income tax revenue and assumes no growth in the CPPRT. Unemployment in the area is still a major economic concern, with rates still around 7.1%. State funding for County government services is also still a significant concern, as the State's budget woes continue. The uncertainty in State funding will continue to be closely monitored, 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.

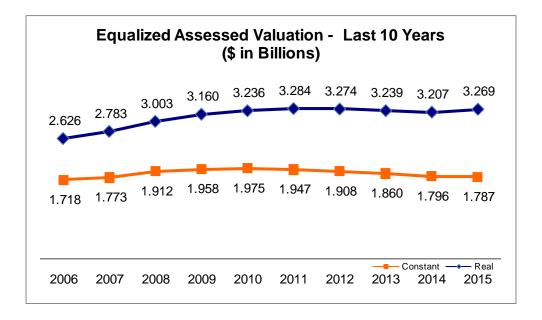
#### **PROPERTY TAXES**

The Peoria County tax rate adopted for 2015 remains the same as 2014. The General Fund tax levy decreased by 6.75% from the 2011 to 2015. Much of this decrease was due to the need to cover employee retirement costs. Due to the shift to user fees and away from property tax revenues in the Risk Management Fund, the General Fund's tax rate was able to increase slightly from 2014 (up 7.9%).

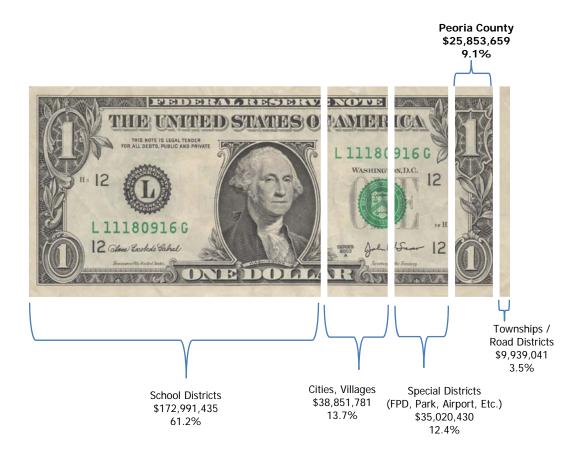


EAV growth for 2015 is estimated at 1.9%, the first year of positive growth out of the last four. Due to this increase in EAV, property taxes collected will increase in actual dollars, but the increase does not keep pace with in inflation as seen in the drop in "constant dollars" in 2015. The chart below demonstrates both of these trends.





The Peoria County portion of the property tax bill is roughly 9.1% of the total, which is down from 9.3% of the overall tax bill for the previous year. School funding is approximately 61.2% of the total tax bill with funding for municipalities, townships, Illinois Central College, and other taxing districts comprising the other 29.7% of the property tax bill.



#### AGENDA BRIEFING

COMMITTEE: Finance - Legislation Committee LINE ITEM: MEETING DATE: December 18, 2014 AMOUNT:

**ISSUE:** 

For RESOLUTION: Legislative Agenda for 2015 and 99th General Assembly

#### **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

Annually, the Finance and Legislative Committee reviews issues affecting Peoria County government and develop legislative proposals accordingly to present to the area legislators. As has been the case in recent years, the legislative program is a joint initiative with the City of Peoria. The MetroPeoria Committee has endorsed the attached program.

**COUNTY BOARD GOALS:** 



**GROWING COUNTY** 

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** 

**APPROVAL** 

COMMITTEE ACTION: 12/18/14 Approved (9 yes votes - Dillon and Fennell Absent)

**PREPARED BY:** Scott A. Sorrel, Assistant County Administrator

**DEPARTMENT:** County Administration **DATE:** December 12, 2014

TO THE HONORABLE COUNTY BOARD	
	)
COUNTY OF PEORIA ILLINOIS	

Your Finance / Legislative Study Committee does hereby recommend passage of the following Resolution.

RE: FY2015 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; and

**WHEREAS,** it is in the best interest of the County of Peoria to permit the Finance and Legislative 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 Finance and Legislative Committee shall develop an annual State and Federal legislative program of primary legislative concerns; and

**WHEREAS,** the Finance and Legislative 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, FINANCE AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE