



NEWS RELEASE

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Transform Illinois Coalition Supports Local Government Efficiency Legislation

Wheaton – DuPage County Board Chairman Dan Cronin and representatives of the Transform Illinois coalition gathered in Springfield on March 13 to highlight and support proposed legislation limiting the size, scope and cost of local government.

Coalition members noted increased interest in “smarter,” streamlined government services, evidenced by more than 100 pieces of legislation introduced since 2016, creating new opportunities for local government efficiency. Transform Illinois members were joined by lawmakers sponsoring more than 60 bills in the General Assembly’s spring session, aimed at improving local government efficiency, empowering voters to make decisions and increasing transparency and accountability.

“Illinois has more units of government than any other state in the nation and one of the highest property tax rates. What unites our coalition is the notion that too many ‘legacy’ local government systems were created decades ago and they’ve never adapted to the changing times or new technology. But thanks to our Transform Illinois partners and thoughtful lawmakers, efforts to make government service delivery more efficient and effective are taking hold across the state,” said DuPage County Board Chairman Dan Cronin.

“The momentum for transparency, accountability and smart government is growing. Not only have we seen the number of bills introduced this year triple, but we have consistently added civic and advocacy organizations to Transform Illinois. State leaders are finally saying: no more government that doesn’t serve its purpose,” said MarySue Barrett, president, Metropolitan Planning Council. “The people of Illinois deserve better.”

Created in 2014, Transform Illinois is committed to better coordinating research, advocacy, legislative and policy implementation activities that will improve the effectiveness of government service delivery in Illinois. Members include DuPage County, Metropolitan Planning Council, Better Government Association, The Civic Federation, Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning, Reform for Illinois, Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, Illinois Chamber of Commerce, Northern Illinois University Center for Governmental Studies, Taxpayers’ Federation of Illinois and League of Women Voters of Illinois.

“Taxpayers have a right to expect that tax dollars are wisely spent and that government evolves as every organization, institution and business must do, with changing technology and customer demands. Illinois residents deserve a voice in the way local governments are managing their resources,” said Carol Portman, President of the Taxpayers’ Federation of Illinois. “For almost five years now, our Transform Illinois coalition has been an informed, consistent voice advocating for common sense government that serves taxpayers’ needs as efficiently as possible. We applaud the lawmakers who support innovative solutions and streamlined service delivery.”

“Government consolidation is key to increasing efficiency and saving vital taxpayer dollars. Transform Illinois continues to be vital in helping lawmakers reduce the government’s footprint without sacrificing services for local residents. I look forward to continuing to work in a bipartisan manner to ensure government evolves with the needs of the people of Illinois,” said Illinois State Senator Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park).

“The best way to cut property taxes long-term is to consolidate unnecessary local governments. I’ll continue to fight for meaningful consolidation legislation,” said Illinois State Representative David McSweeney (R-Barrington Hills).

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