



South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association 2021 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 has exacerbated the inequities and hardships faced by our already vulnerable region, escalating the urgency for remedies that support “building back better” and acceleration of transformational inclusive economic growth in the South Suburbs. As Illinois leaders face the profound challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, we pledge to do our part to support a framework that results in rebuilding a more stable, prosperous, resilient State and our own Southland region. Our collective priority is ensuring the health and recovery of residents, businesses and our communities as a whole during these unprecedented times.

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, the disparities experienced in the south suburbs reveal the need to promote a Blueprint for Southland Recovery that:

- *Stabilizes and Reinvests in Local Communities*
- *Rebuilds Our Critical Infrastructure*
- *Expands the Economic Development Tools of the Southland*

How do we accelerate equitable recovery?

1. **Stabilize Local Government Revenues (HB 315)**. Securing the full distribution of local revenues collected by the State is critical for municipalities—they provide essential services that impact the health and safety of residents and the business community. Reversing prior years' cuts was a good first step and, should stimulus and economic conditions permit, SSMMA respectfully requests restoration of all state collected local revenues, including Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) and Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax (CPPRT).
2. **Implement Illinois' Capital Program and the projects promised to Southland constituents**. The State's 2019 Capital Program included funding for roads, bridges, transit, rail, trails, water, and airport-related infrastructure projects within the Southland. Few projects moved forward in 2020. In 2021, lawmakers can help by accelerating bond sales that result in infrastructure investments that put Illinoisans back to work and rebuild our communities, addressing the backlog of projects poised and ready to move forward.
3. **Pass the Southland Reactivation Act (HB 1842/SB 2178)**, an innovative economic development tool that has the potential 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.
4. **Provide adequate funding for the Southland Development Authority (SDA)**. The SDA is a non-profit business organization designed to recover and grow the economy of the South Suburbs. Launched in 2019, the SDA needs additional resources to leverage private sector investment and to support the survival and growth of Southland businesses and industry that are key to the inclusive transformation of our region.
5. **Support Pension Reamortization (HB 308)**: Municipalities are experiencing unprecedented budget shortfalls as a result of the current public health emergency. Moving the amortization date for downstate public safety pension funds from the end of Municipal Fiscal Year (MFY) 2040 to MFY 2050 or later would provide immediate financial relief to Southland communities.
6. **Control Unfunded Mandates (HB 5)**: Cash strapped municipalities can little afford to absorb new costs. Lowering the financial burden on local governments by reducing prevailing wage, FOIA requirements, and eliminating onerous/outdated publishing requirements for legal notices would provide relief. In addition, newly passed requirements for police body cameras and enhanced police training should include substantial funding for implementation.



SSMMA looks forward to working with Governor Pritzker and General Assembly members this year. Together, we can advance this ***Blueprint for Southland Recovery***. 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 not only address the needs of municipalities and today's residents, but to provide solutions to existing challenges so that future generations within our communities will also thrive. Decisive action today means Southland communities unleash their economic potential and flourish tomorrow.

Please contact President Tyrone Ward, Legislative Chairman Richard Reinbold, or Executive Director Kristi DeLaurentiis if you have questions about SSMMA's 2021 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.