



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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FOR MORE INFORMATION  
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## Northwest Municipal Conference Unveils 2020 Legislative Program

**Des Plaines, IL** – On January 25, the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) hosted its annual Legislative Brunch and released its 2020 Legislative Program. One hundred and fifty-five NWMC members and guests attended the annual event, held at the Hilton Chicago – Northbrook.

NWMC President and Morton Grove Mayor Dan DiMaria thanked Governor Pritzker and state lawmakers for creating statewide investment boards for local police and fire pension systems and dedicating significant resources to infrastructure investment.

Looking to 2020, Conference leadership urged state lawmakers and local officials to dedicate their attention to securing local revenues, improving the delivery of infrastructure projects and ensuring the short-term stability of public safety pension funds.

The 2020 NWMC Legislative Program outlines opportunities for lawmakers to address the many critical issues facing our state and its communities.

### **Pension Reform**

In thanking lawmakers for approving public safety pension fund investment consolidation, President DiMaria emphasized that the legislation “will lead to higher investment returns, lessening the burden on local taxpayers.” However, he noted the legislation created new short-term costs for municipalities at a time when pension funds are already stressed. He called on lawmakers to “work with us to provide short-term relief through actions such as restoring state collected local revenues such as the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) and reamortization of our public safety pension debt.”

### **Infrastructure Investment**

Mount Prospect Mayor and NWMC Legislative Committee Co-Chair Arlene Juracek thanked lawmakers for fulfilling their promise of infrastructure modernization by passing the *Rebuild Illinois* capital program, but highlighted that the “potential impact of Rebuild Illinois’ historic infrastructure investments may be dampened by IDOT’s current lack of capacity.” She called upon the administration and lawmakers to continue enhancing IDOT’s resources while looking for effective ways to streamline project delivery by delegating certain reviews to the District level or to municipal professionals.

**Local Government Revenue**

Glencoe President and NWMC Legislative Committee Co-Chair Larry Levin encouraged lawmakers to protect local revenues “for critical local services upon which our residents and your constituents rely – police, fire, public works, as well as critical infrastructure, like roads, water systems, sanitary and storm sewers.” He called on lawmakers to break the cycle of relying on local governments and restore the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF), protect local control of property taxes and broaden the sales tax base to services.

**About the 2020 NWMC Legislative Program**

To download the full 2020 NWMC Legislative Program, please visit: <https://www.nwmc-cog.org/Legislation/Legislative-Program.aspx>

**About the NWMC**

Founded in 1958, the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) has worked to strengthen communities and enhance intergovernmental relationships in the north and northwest suburbs of Chicago. As one of the premier regional councils of government, the Northwest Municipal Conference represents over 1.3 million citizens residing in our 43 municipalities and 1 township. Our membership area covers over 300 square miles in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry counties.

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