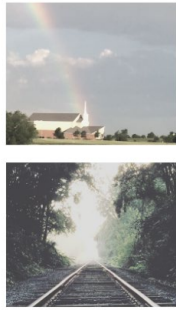


CITY OF WASHINGTON COUNCIL REPORT

June 28, 2024



CITY ADMINISTRATION – Jim Snider

- **South High Street Parking Lot**

City crews have completed the paving of the South High Street parking lot. The parking lot will remain closed so that crews can stripe for parking spaces next week. We anticipate the parking lot will be open sometime the week of July 8th.

- **From Brad Cole – Illinois Municipal League Update**

The 103rd General Assembly adjourned its 2024 Spring Legislative Session on May 29, 2024, after finalizing a state budget and passing numerous other pieces of legislation. The Senate adjourned on Sunday, May 26, at 11:11 p.m., while the House adjourned on Wednesday, May 29, at 4:51 a.m. IML staff monitored both the Senate and House from January 11 through the final gavel as both chambers adjourned.

Throughout this session, IML has been a leading voice at the State Capitol, representing the interests of all 1,294 cities, villages and towns in Illinois. Our advocacy on behalf of municipalities ranged from fighting harmful mandates and preemptions, to protecting local revenues and preserving municipal authority.

The General Assembly passed many bills of importance to municipalities this year. In total, legislators in both chambers introduced more than 3,650 bills during the 2024 Spring Legislative Session, of which IML has taken a position on more than 1,100 items. The General Assembly will not return until Fall Veto Session or unless called into special session sooner.

We value and appreciate our members, and we are pleased to provide this comprehensive overview of legislative activity for your information. We will also remain on the job — just because the General Assembly is adjourned, work at IML does not stop. Our staff will be sorting through what took place, putting together materials and information that local officials will need as a result and planning ahead for the fall and even next spring.

STATE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET BREAKDOWN

On February 21, 2024, Governor JB Pritzker delivered his combined State of the State Address and State Budget Address.¹ The Governor's proposed State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2025 budget suggested a repeal of the 1% statewide sales tax on groceries, of which 100% of the revenue stays local.

While IML's preference was to maintain the status quo and for the tax to remain statewide, the SFY 2025 budget followed through on the Governor's proposal and repealed the statewide grocery tax. Due to municipal officials who made it clear to their legislators the extent of the potential annual revenue loss for municipalities, and thanks to leaders in the General Assembly who understood the significance of this issue and wished to partner with IML toward a positive solution, the authority to implement a 1% grocery sales tax locally by ordinance — for both home rule and non-home rule municipalities — was approved as part of the SFY 2025 budget package. IML played an integral role securing this authority and providing technical assistance to the budget drafters to ensure that municipalities who wish to implement this tax locally may do so properly. The statewide tax will not be repealed until January 1, 2026; until then, nothing will change and no action will be necessary by municipalities. IML will provide a model ordinance for municipalities to adopt, specific to the grocery tax, at a later date.

Additionally, IML advocated for and secured the authority for all non-home rule municipalities (without need for referendum approval) to implement a local general sales tax, separate from the grocery sales tax, a sizable Illinois Department of

Transportation (IDOT) Local Road Fund additional allocation to be disbursed in SFY 2025 and the elimination of the Illinois Department of Revenue's (IDOR) administrative fees on future local grocery tax collections.

The framework of the SFY 2025 budget was agreed upon late in the evening on Thursday, May 24. "We are pleased with the overall framework of the issues affecting municipalities," said IML Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Brad Cole. "Local leaders have long advocated for greater authority to provide for the programs and services their residents rely on every day, which they will be granted under this budget agreement."

IML issued a statement regarding the elimination of the statewide grocery tax and the additional authority granted.² Once the authorizing legislation is signed into law, IML will release additional information that includes a model ordinance to implement the grocery tax locally and that explains important details about necessary timelines following the January 1, 2026, repeal.

For non-home rule municipalities that wish to implement a local general sales tax, IML has developed a model ordinance³ that can be adopted at any time. Please consult with your municipal attorney prior to taking any action. IDOR requires taxing ordinances to be on file with IDOR by April 1 for a July 1 collection implementation or by October 1 for a January 1 collection implementation. This new non-home rule general sales tax authority is silent as to how it impacts municipalities that have an existing non-home rule sales tax that was established by referendum.

On these and other issues, our municipal advocacy included testimony at a House Cities and Villages Committee hearing on April 17. IML CEO Brad Cole joined Illinois mayors to testify about the need to maintain grocery tax revenue, restore full funding to the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF), enact meaningful public safety pension reform and stop the harmful effects of state-imposed mandates and preemptions.

There is neither a reduction nor an increase in the LGDF funding formula in the SFY 2025 budget. Full restoration of LGDF continues to be a top priority of IML.⁴

As part of the SFY 2025 budget negotiations, IML received a commitment from legislative leaders to meet cooperatively to discuss the long term status of possible increased LGDF funding. IML will first convene our members to develop a plan and strategy, then we will meet with legislative leaders to hopefully reach an agreement. Those meetings and discussions will take place throughout this summer and fall.

Other provisions in the budget package are expected to generate revenue for municipalities throughout the state. A change to the Retailers' Occupation and Tax Act for out-of-state sellers, in line with the intent of the Leveling the Playing Field for Illinois Retail Act,⁵ could generate significant funds for some municipalities. A reduction to the discount retailers are allowed to claim under the Retailers' Occupation and Tax Act could generate an estimated \$85 million more in sales tax disbursements annually. In response to this deduction, transaction fees on credit card charges will now be prohibited on sales taxes and gratuities, the fees will now only apply to the goods themselves; guidance as to how this could impact municipal transactions will be provided as soon as possible. Imposing a "re-renters tax" on third-party sites booking hotel rooms in Chicago will also generate approximately \$35 million annually in new revenue to be distributed locally through various avenues.⁶

The General Assembly passed four primary pieces of legislation related to the budget:

- SB 251 (Sen. Sims, D-Chicago) is the SFY 2025 state general appropriations bill, which includes \$53.281 billion in projected general revenues and \$53.074 billion in general expenditures.
- HB 3144 (Sen. Castro, D-Elgin/Sen. Holmes, D-Aurora) is the local revenue bill. HB 3144 includes: the elimination of the statewide grocery tax, effective January 1, 2026; the subsequent authority for both home rule and non-home rule municipalities (without need for referendum approval) to impose a grocery tax locally, effective on or after January 1, 2026; and, new authority for non-home rule municipalities (without need for referendum approval) to impose a local sales tax on general merchandise.
- HB 4951 (Sen. Villanueva, D-Chicago) is the state revenue bill, which includes various provisions to increase certain taxes, adjust tax credits, change regulatory provisions and other actions to generate \$865 million in projected new state revenue.

- HB 4959 (Sen. Sims, D-Chicago) is the budget implementation (BIMP) bill, which includes multiple provisions that are necessary to effectuate the new state budget.

Like in previous years, the SFY 2025 budget diverts Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT) dollars to various state agencies to assist in the performance of other government functions. Total PPRT diversions this year are in excess of \$369 million.⁷

Mass transit funding may have been affected in various ways by legislation related to the budget. Please check with your local mass transit agency for more information.

CLOSING MESSAGE

While the General Assembly has adjourned until the call of the Speaker of the House and/or Senate President, the Fall Veto Session or unless called into special session by the Governor, IML staff will maintain efforts to benefit our members. Our important work continues year-round.

We will work with our membership to build positive support for IML's initiatives, and also strengthen our opposition to harmful legislative items that could be considered later in the year. We will continue to provide the Statehouse Briefing (available at iml.org/statehouse) to ensure IML members have the most up-to-date information. If you do not already receive this e-newsletter, please feel welcome to subscribe at iml.org/subscribe.

The IML legislative webpage (iml.org/legislative) is regularly updated with resources to utilize when interacting with state and federal officials. Additionally, IML has fact sheets on a variety of issues on a dedicated webpage, iml.org/factsheets, to provide more detailed information on issues of importance to municipalities.

IML will continue to have a seat at the table at the State Capitol to give a voice to the challenges facing municipal officials. We are proud to work for the protection of local authority and revenues critical to Illinois' cities, villages and towns.

To all of our members, thank you for the opportunity to serve you and the residents of your communities.

¹ IML's overview of the Governor's Budget Address is available at <https://iml.org/page.cfm?key=30725>

² <https://legislative.iml.org/file.cfm?key=27748>

³ <https://www.iml.org/page.cfm?category=5381>

⁴ The IML fact sheet about LGDF is available at <https://iml.org/file.cfm?key=15419>

⁵ IML's fact sheet is available at <https://iml.org/file.cfm?key=16124>

⁶ More information about the "re-renters tax" or "online travel agency loophole" from the Illinois Hotel and Lodging Association is available at <https://www.iml.org/ams/tl.cfm?job=file&key=134018>

⁷ IML has two fact sheets about PPRT, History of Personal Property Taxation, available at <https://www.iml.org/file.cfm?key=14820>, and PPRT 101, available at <https://www.iml.org/file.cfm?key=15007>

ENGINEERING – Dennis Carr/Ross Fuller

- The final lift of asphalt binder has been placed on Freedom Pkwy. UCM has forms set for the rec trail that will be installed in the ROW on Freedom north of Walmart. This will be poured on Monday. Oberlander has continued with electrical work. The mast arms for the traffic signals arrived on site this week as well. Installation will begin next week.
- The concrete stabilization has been completed for the Nofsinger realignment. New medians have been poured on Rt. 24. Paving on Rt. 24 is scheduled for Tuesday of next week. Gensini is working to get rock placed throughout the new road so that concrete work can begin as soon as possible.
- The bid opening for the Eagle St. sidewalk project was held this week. Ottobaum and C & G Concrete bid the project. C & G came in with the lowest bid at \$109,852.00.
- Ameren has completed the gas relocation on Catherine. Utility pole relocation will be completed next week. Stark plans to be on-site Monday July 8 to begin brick removal.
- Spray patching for this year's MFT project will begin Monday July 8. This year's project will include roads north of the bypass from Santa Fe to the south. We will also be addressing North St, Victoria, Terrace, Crestview, and Birchwood.

- The Hot In-Place is still slated for July. This will then be followed up by the chip seal work as well.
- Met with Knapp Concrete to discuss some possible design changes to the Felkers Project. We are waiting on Knapp to decide if this is a route they want to work with us on or if we will be sticking to the plans.
- Due to a citizen complaint directly to both IEPA and IDNR, the Washington Park Berm project will be delayed. The designer, who does reviews for IDNR, did not feel the project warranted an IDNR review because of the elevations of the top of berm versus those downstream, but since there was a complaint from a property owner, IDNR is wanting to do a full review. The IDNR review period is being stretched out by the nice weather and their need to do dam inspections themselves. If it cannot be constructed in July or early August, the Park District has asked that it wait until late September to avoid Cross Country Season.

FINANCE – Joanie Baxter

- Preparation for FY23-24 Audit:
 - Police Pension Fund – analysis of accounts and reconciliation of Net Pooled Investment Income; preparation of year-end journal entries.
 - Participated in DebtBook implementation meetings and training in regard to GASB-96 Subscription-Based Information Technology Arrangements (SBITA).
- Analyzed endorsement activity for vehicles and equipment.
- Research on Article 3 surviving spouse pensions.
- Jeanette reconciled bank accounts and activity and I prepared revenue reports for the monthly financial reports for March and April 2024.
- Jill processed and I reviewed payroll for June 21, 2024.
- Utility Billing (May 31 – June 27, 2024)
 - A total of 5,510 bills were processed for June with 728 emailed or 13.2%
 - A total of 459 penalties were assessed for delinquent May bills
 - A total of 290 cutoff notices were processed for May billing for accounts still outstanding
 - A total of 41 disconnects were processed for May with 16 owing a balance, 20 with a credit balance and five with a zero balance
 - A total of eight disconnects were sent final notices for May disconnects
 - A total of 27 cutoffs were processed for May billing for accounts with an outstanding balance and 14 door knockers were distributed and 34 payment arrangements made
 - New accounts and account closings processed:
 - 34 ins
 - 40 outs
 - Leak detection through RNI and Sensus Analytics software – 112 leaks were caught and residents/businesses notified

HUMAN RESOURCES – Maureen Chambers

- Back from maternity leave.
- Getting caught up on all things!

PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT – Jon Oliphant/Joe Boyer

- Roofing materials are scheduled to arrive at the brewpub site next week. Windows and doors have been arriving this week. The building should be weather-tight soon and the fence company has been notified to remove the construction fencing adjacent to the sidewalk. Rough-in electrical, plumbing, sprinkler, and framing inspections are anticipated in the next couple of weeks. The 120 building is on hold while the architect continues to explore options for resolving an issue with the roof trusses.
- Demolition has begun on the northwest corner of the 501-505 Walnut building. The demolition of the west-facing wall should be done by Friday. An architect continues preparation of a building plan to rehab the remainder of the structure after the demo is completed.
- Four FY 27-28 Surface Transportation Block Grant applications have been submitted to the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission. A decision on all awards during this call for projects is anticipated in November.

- Following further review of the drafted redevelopment agreements for the Washington Commercial Grant Program and receiving feedback from the project applicants, slight revisions will be made to the clause that addresses insurance. As a result, the second reading ordinance for the Countryside agreement will be moved to the Council agenda for July 15. First reading ordinances for six other agreements have been prepared and will be on the Council's agenda for the July 15 meeting. Please note that two of those projects have been removed for consideration as desired by the respective business owners.
- Two inoperable vehicles were towed this week per order of the Code Hearing Officer and there are orders for several others.
- Staff is working with the owner of a house at Peoria and Market that was struck by lightning during Tuesday night's storm and sustained some damage. The house is not a complete loss but will require some renovation to make it habitable.
- There is no July PZC meeting due to a lack of agenda items.
- Attached is the Chamber's Snapshot for the second quarter. Several events are planned in the coming months.

PUBLIC SAFETY – Chief McCoy/Deputy Chief Stevens

- For awareness purposes we note the speeding citation issued with the greatest difference between the posted limit and the cited speed during this reporting period: 100 MPH on Boyd at College (55 MPH zone). This driver was later cited for aggravated fleeing and eluding.
- We asked Dewberry to be prepared to rebid the evidence building (and assemble an invoice for doing so).
- IDOT approved the request for partial closure of the Square for Autumn Fest.
- A maintenance review of all outdoor warning sirens revealed a vegetation issue near one (resolved by Street Department), an aging antenna system on another (replacement on the way), and affirmation of several maintenance steps we take. Tazewell County EMA is, with stakeholders, looking at short and long-term siren plans including switching from current radio activation to Starcom. We are involved in that process.
- We are using the Flock automated license plate readers on Washington Road (2) and Freedom Parkway. We tested those devices by comparing the numbers of license plate captures to traffic counts established by use of department-owned, radar-operated vehicle data collectors. About 2 years ago, we stopped using Flock in part because of low capture rates. The newest installs have solved that problem in that captured plate counts nearly equal counted passing vehicles.

We are still awaiting installation of the ALPR on Peoria Street. That process has been slowed by the high density of underground utilities at the location because each time a particular spot is identified, but rejected after utility locates, it restarts. The involvement of the installation contractor, Flock, each utility, and IDOT proceeds anew, step by step. Flock's ability to provide ALPR installation lags behind the demand, an issue several other customers also experience.

With only 3 ALPRs in service, we have used the system to further missing person investigations, identify stolen vehicles in the City (one leading to a terminated pursuit and later arrest), and identify unlicensed drivers, among other involvements. The identification of stolen cars is particularly helpful because they are connected to other criminal activities like burglaries. While arresting an auto thief is ideal, even seeking out a stolen vehicle within minutes of its arrival can force offenders to abandon plans for other criminal acts here. Because this pressure can move crime in addition to suppressing crime, the proliferation of ALPRs in other jurisdictions could move crime to places without ALPRs or with a lower density of ALPRs.

Our contract for Flock ALPRs gives us access to a network of other Flock ALPRs, which we use daily in investigations. Regionally, Flock is the most prolific provider of government ALPRs, giving us access to other agencies' results in Tazewell, Peoria, and Woodford counties, among other locations. Some nearby municipalities with Flock ALPRs include Peoria, Pekin, East Peoria, Bartonville, Morton, Mackinaw, Eureka, Canton, El Paso, Chillicothe, and Peoria Heights.

Our 3 ALPRs capture between 16,000 and 22,000 license plates per day, which amounts to 10,000 – 13,000 unique vehicles.

- Starcom radio for law enforcement is expected to be live in Tazewell County, including WPD, on Monday, July 1.
- After investigations, we cited two drivers for separate incidents of fleeing traffic stops (one noted above). There was a third, unrelated event which is still under investigation.
- We are investigating mail thefts.
- Preparing for negotiations with Washington Fire Department.

PUBLIC WORKS – Brian Rittenhouse

- Asphalt paving has been completed with around 1,750 tons of asphalt used to rehab alleys, streets and parking lots. Staff will begin painting the parking spaces at both the Fire Department and the S. High Street Parking Lot in the next couple of weeks.
- Street sweeping will resume in July. It was temporarily on hold so staff could help with paving.
- Staff have installed the Jackson Street culvert. Final grading, seeding and sidewalk will be completed once we know more about the Park District berm project timeline.
- Staff will look to start replacing lead service lines, mid to late July. There are 16 considered the City's responsibility that we need to replace. Of those 16, 4 will need to be replaced all the way to the resident's home. Staff will seek quotes from qualified plumbers to replace the resident's portion.
- Council members will need to consider going with a two-color scheme, like Water Tower #1 or staying the same as it is now. Below is a picture of how water tower #2 currently looks and Water Tower #1's two-color scheme the City went with back in 2020. Having the lower bowl painted a darker color helps hide algae growth on the outside of the tank. This will help extend the amount of time in between pressure washing. Staff will ask for direction at the council meeting.



Water Tower #2



Water Tower #1

CITY CLERK – Valeri Brod

- FOIA/OMA Update:
 - FOIA Requests for February - June (non-police related)
 - 11 Commercial requests fulfilled.
 - 13 Standard requests fulfilled.



WASHINGTON
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Washington Chamber Snapshot

April - June 2024



At a Glance

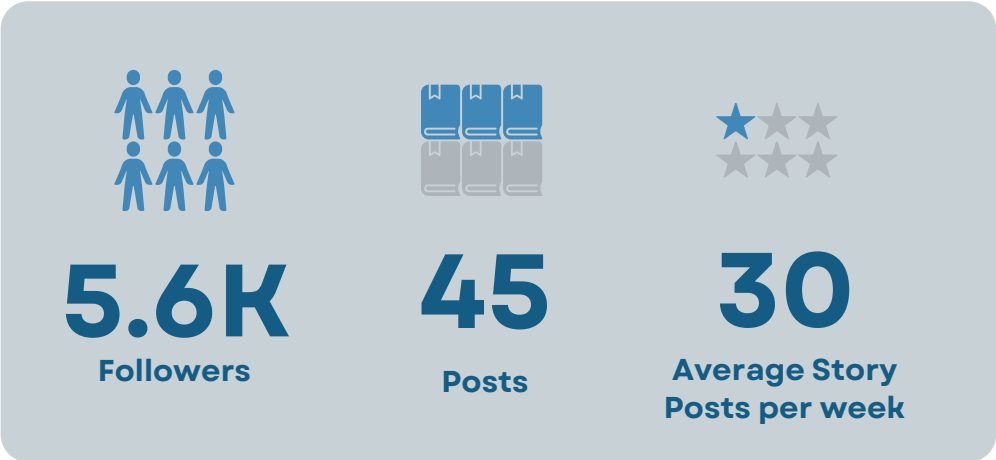
Washington Good Neighbor Days was held on May 29-June 2, 2024. We were able to secure the grounds for the festival, just four weeks before. While this caused a severe time crunch in planning, attendance was back to pre-pandemic numbers. There were some issues, but these were mostly due to the lack of planning time. We are looking forward to our event in August that will feature many of the community favorites that were missing from the festival.

On August 17, 2024, the Washington Chamber is partnering with the Washington Park District to host Rock the Field, a concert with JammSammich on the field in Washington Park. The event will feature kids activities like a foam party, petting zoo, face painters, as well as a beer garden, live music and more.

April-June 2024

Washington Chamber Snapshot

Social Media Insights



All Post Average



Upcoming Events

25
JULY

Rock the Field

A concert on the field with JammSammich and family fun in Washington Park

Dementia Friendly Kick Off Event

Serving as a kick off of Washington Dementia Friendly and July Business After Hours held at Crossroads

17
AUG

Golf 4 Local

A Washington Chamber of Commerce golf outing at Quail Meadows with businesses supporting businesses

6
SEPT

Community Showcase

Bringing the Good Neighbor Days Merchant Tent inside! Visit, network and learn more about our Washington businesses

15
OCT

Trick or Treat in the Park

Local businesses, non-profits and community groups come together for kids to trick or treat in Washington Park

26
OCT