

THE BUDGET PROCESS

The County Board adopts a strategic plan that guides policy and budget decisions. Each of the five goals includes corresponding strategies that lead to identifiable and measurable actions. On a quarterly basis, departments and staff from the administrator's office, along with budget analysts, meet to update progress on these goals. Twice a year, detailed updates are provided to the Board. The involvement of budget staff in this process helps ensure the connection between the budget review process and the strategic plan. The full strategic plan and progress reports are available on the County's website at lakecountyil.gov/strategicplan.

County Board

Your 21 elected County Board members are responsible for adopting the budget, appropriation, and levy ordinances. The budget provides funding for all county departments. Early in the process, the Board adopts policies that guide the development of the budget. For example, the policies require the County to maintain strong reserves.

County Departments

All departments review and analyze their expenditures and revenue, and submit new requests annually. These are vetted by the finance team and county administrator. Departments also work every day to ensure services are efficient, cost-effective, and align with the strategic plan.

You

You can testify at a public hearing before the County Board adopts the budget every November. You can also provide input to County Board members at any stage in the process.

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The budget is a road map to how the County sets its spending priorities. There are key players for each step in the budget process.

County Administrator/ Finance & Administration

The county administrator works with the finance team to develop the budget, and he provides oversight of the budget all year long. He is also responsible for developing the strategic plan and ensuring the strategic priorities and policies of the County Board are implemented.

Lake County budgets according to Illinois State Statutes, which require all appropriations to end with the fiscal year.