



**Sign up for my e-newsletter:** My twice-monthly e-newsletter has information that directly impacts you. There are three ways to subscribe:

**Email me:** [JWasik@lakecountyl.gov](mailto:JWasik@lakecountyl.gov)

**Text** "Lake Wasik" followed by your email address to 468311

**Subscribe online:** [www.lakecountyl.gov/Wasik](http://www.lakecountyl.gov/Wasik)



## Annual Report to Constituents

John Wasik, Lake County Board Member, District 6

Happy Holidays! I hope this letter finds you and your family well. I wanted to update you with what's happened in the past year.

**The best news is that we cut the county portion of your property tax bill by \$10.66 (for next year on a home valued at \$250,000)—the first time in at least 20 years that this has happened.** We were able to do this while prudently balancing our 2020 budget and launching a new, strong Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP). Here are my highlights from 2019:

### Major Accomplishments

- As Chair of the Legislative Committee, I co-organized the county's lobbying effort. When 2019 began, I started off by organizing a legislative breakfast at Grayslake's University Center, which included most county officials and our General Assembly delegation. We handed each legislator a list of our objectives. Continued and improved communication with Springfield proved to be productive.
- What did we achieve? 1) Funding nearly half of our \$1.2 billion County Consensus Transportation Plan—netting \$46 million for our district—out of \$540 million for total county road projects, and 2) Obtaining the authority to remove the county board chair. Note: Since we hadn't received any road money from Springfield in more than a decade, the road funding was a major win.
- The new road dollars will jump start our Route 120 "Capacity Plan" to widen a stretch of the state highway in the middle of Grayslake. Work will also start on connecting Atkinson Road with Rt. 83 across the CNRR tracks. That will ease traffic from Washington Street south through the village. We're engaged to secure the rest of the funding we need to remedy traffic headaches.
- I held four constituent events, three of which focused on tax issues. More to come next year. Check my newsletter (sign up above) and Facebook page for updates.

## Environmental Progress

- I was able to obtain pledges for \$250,000 in combined funding from a private foundation for the Forest Preserve's Youth Farm and Liberty Prairie Foundation's Farm Corps. I'm committed to regenerative/organic farming and continuing to work with the University of Illinois Extension, Farm Bureau and College of Lake County to promote sustainable agriculture. I want to get more people outside and engaged in growing things and being well.
- I was able to restore funding of the University of Illinois Extension Office in Grayslake (\$60,000). This will fund environmental education throughout the county.
- As a Stormwater Management Commission member, I successfully fought to double the funding of this essential agency. We've applied for a grant to relieve flooding around Grayslake Central High School.
- We restored a sustainability director position to lead our Environmental Stewardship Program (ESP), which includes alternative energy, electric vehicles and carbon footprint reduction throughout the county.
- Our ESP is one of our proudest achievements. By directly addressing climate change in our new strategic plan and aligning ourselves with the Paris Accords—for the first time—we committed the county to lowering its carbon footprint in every department. We will also be reducing waste; lowering energy costs by installing solar panels on 10 county buildings; buying electric/hybrid vehicles and using software to cut utility and fuel bills throughout county operations. More to come in 2020: We want to be the greenest county in the country. (I'm vice chair of our new Energy & Environment Committee).

## Disappointments

- Although we only received a down payment on the Route 120 project, we will continue to request more money to ease traffic through Grayslake, Hainesville and Wildwood. We are also asking for more funds for a railroad underpass at Route 83 and Rt. 120. Widening Rt. 137/83 remains a priority.
- I'm always looking at ways to reduce taxes while maintaining a high level of county services. However, bugs implementing a new computer tax system delayed assessment notices. We've addressed that issue and are moving forward. Fair, accountable and transparent property assessments and taxes will remain a top priority in the coming year.

Since I served on more than a dozen committees and commissions, I was certainly busy, but honored to serve the 6th district. **Let me know what I can do in the coming year to make Lake County work for you.**

Regards,



John

JWasik@lakecountyil.gov  
847-377-2300