

The Municipal Agenda for the 2019-2020 Legislative Session

League Of Wisconsin Municipalities

February 2019



Who is “The League?”



- Wisconsin’s cities and villages
- Created in 1898
(10 days before Christmas)
- Several thousand elected and appointed experts in local services

League's Lobby Team



Curt



Gail



Jerry



...and (most importantly) you.

Split Control of the Capitol Returns



- Expect fewer laws to be passed.
- Delay in State Budget being enacted.
- Generally good for municipalities.

A Few Observations



-GOP retains huge majority in Assembly:
63-36 and comfortable majority in Senate:
19-14

--The Governor controls agencies, has a
strong veto and the largest bully pulpit.

New/Old Legislative Leaders



Senate leadership remains unchanged:

--Maj. Leader: Sen. Scott Fitzgerald



--Minority Leader: Sen. Jennifer Shilling



New/Old Legislative Leaders



Assembly leadership no change:

--Speaker: Rep. Robin Vos



--Minority Leader: Rep. Gordon Hintz



Governor Elect's Staff & Cabinet Appointments



DOA Secretary – Joel Brennan

--State Budget Director – Brian Pahnke

DOT Secretary – Craig Thompson

DOR Secretary – Peter Barca

DNR Secretary – Preston Cole

League Priorities



- Strengthen Local Democracy
- Diversify Revenue sources
- Adjust levy limits
- Close the Dark Store Loophole
- Just Fix it!
- Remove barriers to collaboration

Strengthen Local Democracy



- Restore municipal powers taken away by previous legislatures and governors
- Preserve local control
- Exempt municipalities from Fair Dealership Law

Diversify Local Revenue Sources improve aid programs



- Increase funding for shared revenue program.
- Improve Expenditure Restraint Program
- Fully Fund Payment for Municipal Services Program

Adjust levy limits for slow-growing communities



- Allow levies to grow by rate of inflation.
- Allow cities and villages under 3,000 in population an option short of referendum to exceed levy limits.
- Allow municipalities that experienced less than 2 percent growth in equalized value from net new construction for two successive years to increase their levy by 3 percent or CPI, whichever is greater.

Close Dark Store loopholes



Restore Fairness to Property Tax System



When
BIG BOX STORES
Pay Less...
WE PAY
MORE.



MORE property taxes for homeowners and
small businesses... [Let's Fix This! >](#)

Just Fix It already!

Adequately and Sustainably Fund State-Local Transportation System

- Invest in Municipal Streets.
- Invest in mass transit systems.
- Regional Transportation Authorities.
- Protect Local Transportation Revenue Options against state Interference.



Remove barriers to collaboration



Encourage multijurisdictional Service Delivery

- Make it easier for neighboring communities to consolidate.
- Close incorporation law loophole.
- Create state funded incentives rewarding local governments that cooperate to efficiently deliver services.

How you can help – Step 1



Sign up for the League's Lobby Team

- In person lobbying three times a legislative session
- Next Lobby Day in Madison – May 22- Infrastructure
- Voter Voice – quick pre-written emails provides you with the opportunity to advocate for your community

How you can help – Step 2



Develop and nurture relationships with your legislators:

- Sign up for your Legislator's Newsletters
- Make sure they receive your Municipal Newsletter if you have one
- Invite them to your next Council/Board meeting to talk about the budget
- Give them a tour of municipal facilities

How you can help-Step 3



Stay Informed about legislative developments.

- Subscribe to the League's Legislative Bulletin and Capitol Buzz

By working together and speaking with a unified voice we can make a difference.



Questions and Comments



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