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

2/22/2019 League of WI Municipalities
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
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

• 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
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