

Joint Resolution of the Central MN Cities of St. Cloud, Sartell,
Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, St. Joseph, St. Augusta and Rockville
Advocating Support for Certain Legislative Issues and Proposals of
Common Interest or Concern to Central Minnesota Region

WHEREAS, the Central Minnesota-St. Cloud area has a strong history of collaboration and coordination amongst its local units of government to facilitate well planned communities that are provided municipal services in the most cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner possible; and

WHEREAS, to better assist our State legislative leaders, we have collectively identified certain legislative issues and proposals that are of specific impact and interest to our communities to enable them to respond in a manner that strengthens the partnership between our local units of government and the State in fostering the continuation and enhancement of socially, economically and culturally vibrant.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Councils for the Cities of St. Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, St. Joseph, St. Augusta and Rockville, Minnesota, that the following legislative issues and proposals are of common interest or concern to the Central Minnesota Region and therefore officially support and advocate the following actions of the MN State Legislature:

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES:

- 1- **Local Government Aid:** Restore LGA funding to the 2008 certified level with no further reductions and retain the 2008 LGA Unity formula.

LMC FF-1 State-Local Fiscal Relations; FF-3 Funding LGA, FF-4 Local Government Aid Reform – pages 92-96.
- 2- **Levy Limits:** SUPPORT elimination of levy limits and continue to facilitate local accountability.

LMC F-13 State Restrictions on Local Budgets – page 101.
- 3- **Tax Rate Driven Levies:** Enable cities to adopt tax rates that determine levy amounts by requiring tax valuation data to be provided prior to preliminary levy adoption.
- 4- **Market Value Homestead Credit (MVHC):** SUPPORT legislation that provides the relief directly to the property owners rather than through the local units of government. Any reductions in MVHC should result in a reduction in relief to the property owner benefiting from the credit.

LMC FF-7 State-Local Fiscal relations – page 97.

- 5- **Tax Exempt Credit Program:** SUPPORT legislation to assist Cities with disproportionately high amounts of government and nonprofit business properties such as Colleges, Universities and Hospitals.

LMC FF-19 Payments for Services to Tax-Exempt Property – page 106.

- 6- **State Mandate Relief:** SUPPORT legislation that reduces or eliminates unfunded and/or onerous mandates to local governments (e.g. personnel related mandates such as binding arbitration, lack of State funding for State retirement plan, MPCA fees, storm water fees). No additional mandates should be enacted unless the legislature or agency imposing the requirements provides a permanent stable revenue source for the mandate. RE-ESTABLISH the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation to facilitate review and approval of waivers in State rules and regulations.

LMC SD-1 Unfunded Mandates – page 1; SD-3 Redesigning and Reinventing Government – page 2 (Promote local efforts through incentives rather than mandates).

- 7- **State Fee Increases:** SUPPORT measures that preclude State agencies and operations from shifting funding reductions and/or cost increases on to municipalities in the form of fee increases.

LMC FF-5 State Charges for Administrative Services – page 96.

- 8- **Eminent Domain:** SUPPORT modifications to the 2006 Eminent Domain statute to remove recently added attorney fees and cost penalty provisions in actions involving public infrastructure improvements in order to restore a fair balance between the rights of private landowners and the interests of the public.

- 9- **Land Use Reform & Annexation:** Support legislation that better protects the environment, reduces green gas emissions, reduces the cost to deliver municipal services, and protects the interests of cities in annexation statutes.

- 10- **Regional Collaboration:** SUPPORT regional efforts of local government jurisdictions by providing additional incentives that encourage these types of efforts. RE-ESTABLISH the Board of Government Innovation and Cooperation to facilitate the provision of financial incentives for implementing new collaborations.

LMC SD-3 Redesigning and Reinventing Government – page 2 (Promote local efforts through incentives rather than mandates).

- 11- **North Star Commuter Rail:** Support extension of North Star Commuter Rail service northward to the St. Cloud area in a manner that serves the needs of business and commercial travels, that is highly expandable, and is priced affordably to optimize use.

12- **State Airports Fund:** SUPPORT restoration of the \$15 million to the State Airports Fund.

LMC LE-35 Airport Planning and Funding – page 89.

13- **Water Conservation Pricing Legislation:** SUPPORT legislation to repeal the water conservation pricing legislation that was enacted in the 2008 legislative session.

14- **Street Improvement District Authority:** SUPPORT legislation that would give municipalities the authority to establish street improvement districts to collect fees from property owners within a district to fund municipal street maintenance, construction, reconstruction and facility upgrades.

LMC FF-16 City Revenue Diversification – page 103.

15- **Statutory Approval Timelines – 60-day Rule:** SUPPORT the revision of State Law to reflect that the 60-day time line applies to the period in which the City is in control of the application and does not include the period during which the applicant is debating whether or not to proceed with a local appeals process.

LMC LE-4 Statutory Approval Timelines – page 57.

16- **Green Acres Legislation:** SUPPORT the repeal or reform of the Green Acres legislation adopted last legislative session.

17- **Photo Cop:** SUPPORT legislation that allows cities the ability to utilize the Photo Cop technology.

LMC SD-33 Traffic Enforcement Cameras – page 35.

18- **Administrative Authority:** SUPPORT the expansion of authority of Statutory and Home Rule Charter cities ability to impose and collect administrative penalties.

LMC SD-28 Administrative Fines – page 30.

CAPITAL INVESTMENT/STATE BONDING REQUESTS:

1- **St. Cloud Civic Center Expansion:** Support \$15.1 million state funding for \$30 million expansion project – City of St. Cloud.

2- **Regional Parks & Trails:** Support State bonding as follows:

- a. Sauk River Park Land Acquisition (City of Sartell – Dehler property) - \$1.3 million, ranked #1 land acquisition priority by Central MN Parks & Trails Board

- b. Rockville County Park & Nature Preserve (City of Rockville) - \$ 250,000 for access and trail improvements to enable the park to be opened for use by the public.
- c. Quarry Park & Nature Preserve (City of Waite Park) - \$422,500 for 39.5 acre land acquisition to facilitate expansion of the park and creation of an additional access into the park.
- d. Rocori Trail (City of Rockville) - \$1,459,500 to construction Phase 1a from 178th Avenue to 14th Avenue in Cold Spring

3- St. Cloud Regional Airport Land Acquisition (City of St. Cloud) - \$2 million

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2009, by the Council for the City of St. Cloud.

Mayor

City Clerk

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2009, by the Council for the City of Sartell.

Mayor

City Clerk

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2009, by the Council for the City of Sauk Rapids.

Mayor

City Clerk

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2009, by the Council for the City of Waite Park.

Mayor

City Clerk

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2009, by the Council for the City of St. Joseph.

Mayor

City Clerk

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2009, by the Council for the City of St. Augusta.

Mayor

City Clerk

Adopted this ____ day of _____, 2009, by the Council for the City of Rockville.

Mayor

City Clerk

