

2025-2026

Missouri Municipal Policy

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**Missouri
Municipal
League**

2025-2026

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preamble

Preamble

The member cities and villages of the Missouri Municipal League in adopting this statement of policy, wish to call attention to the needs of Missouri municipalities and the obligations of the state and federal governments to support municipalities.

This policy statement addresses itself to those specific areas in which state and federal assistance is needed and in terms of the resources, powers and revenues required by the cities and villages to solve their problems. It contains the issues and League policies that confront municipal officials in the areas of environmental quality, human resources, government and administration, revenue and finance and urban development. It urges that where legislation is called for, the General Assembly or Congress meet its responsibility and enact legislation, and where administrative action is needed, the Governor initiate and ensure the action is taken. It also encourages the General Assembly to recognize those areas where legislation is not needed and to refrain from enacting special legislation that adversely affects a single municipality or group of municipalities.

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Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee of the Missouri Municipal League plays a key role in the development of the Missouri Municipal Policy.

Policymaking is a very important function of the Missouri Municipal League. The primary process is that four appointed policy committees meet each June to discuss and debate policy issues facing Missouri municipalities.

The result is new or amended policy recommendations that are reviewed and finalized by the Resolutions Committee. These final policy recommendations are presented to the general membership for adoption at the Business Meeting during the Annual Conference. Alternatively, members may modify or offer new policies during the Business Meeting for adoption by the general membership.

Resolutions Committee

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Economic Development and Human Resources

Introduction

The most important resources in our municipalities are people. The human resource development efforts of all levels of government must be directed toward the ultimate goal of improving the quality of life of people by increasing their social, economic and physical health, security and personal mobility, and by ensuring an equal opportunity in the selection of basic goods and services.

Because the ultimate responsibility for implementation of human resource and economic development policies and programs generally falls to local governments, their input to state and federal policy and program development must be considered crucial.

Municipal officials must play a key role in the partnership with state officials and the Missouri Department of Economic Development, as well as the private sector in strengthening the economies of their communities. The Missouri Municipal League (MML) recognizes economic development as more than the attraction of new industry and encourages its members to adopt best practices associated with the ethical consideration of economic development incentives.

Economic development encompasses all forms of business retention, attraction and expansion. Economic development should include, but not be limited to: 1) deliberate and coordinated efforts in business retention; 2) expansion of existing businesses; 3) marketing and positioning of Missouri products and services within state, national and world markets; 4) promotion of Missouri and its communities for new investment, including but not limited to life sciences/biotechnology; 5) the attraction of tourism to Missouri; 6) promotion of Missouri locations for conventions; 7) funding for improvement and expansion of infrastructure; 8) funding support for applied research at Missouri schools that can be commercialized to create jobs in Missouri; 9) support of the Missouri Community Betterment Program; and 10) workforce development.

Economic incentive programs should provide competitive, performance-based discretionary economic development tools throughout the state. The state should look for and encourage the use of new economic development tools to encourage economic growth.

Access To Capital

The MML supports public and private efforts to provide access to seed and venture capital for viable projects by Missouri entrepreneurs. The state of Missouri, in conjunction with its communities, shall make an effort to assist new and expanding businesses with access to competitively priced financing.

Missouri Works Program¹

The MML supports removing the current sunset on “Missouri Works.” The state should consider establishing additional and separate funding for rural and metropolitan statistical district projects.

Confidential Negotiations

The MML supports changes to Chapter 610 RSMo to allow economic development projects to be negotiated in closed session similar to the exemption that currently exists for real estate.

Downtown Revitalization And Economic Assistance For Missouri

The MML supports the concept of downtown and/or central business district revitalization and funding for planning and projects related thereto, including but not limited to incentives for the redevelopment and reuse of vacant and underutilized commercial properties.

Economic Incentive Programs

The state of Missouri should maintain basic economic incentive programs including but not limited to: 1) Community Development Block Grants, 2) taxable and tax-exempt financing programs, 3) various tax credits, 4) the Missouri Linked Deposit Program, 5) Environmental Improvement and Energy Resource Authority, 6) Missouri Industrial Development Loan Guarantees, 7) Enhanced Enterprise Zones, 8) Missouri Works, and 9) grant and forgivable loan programs for community development, small business and business attraction/retention. All such programs should be maintained at existing or increased levels. The state of Missouri is encouraged to increase its education and outreach regarding all available incentive programs to communities and businesses.

¹*The Missouri Works Program has a sunset of 2030. It was extended in the 2018/19 MO Legislative session to expire in 2030. Missouri Works is a program that combines the Development Tax Credit Program, The Rebuilding Communities Tax Credit Program, the Enhanced Enterprise Zone Tax Credit Program and the Missouri Quality Jobs Program, and rolls their functions into the one streamlined program to promote business retention, expansion and attraction in Missouri for job creation and capital investment.*

Industrial Revenue Bonds²

The MML supports the extension and expansion of the dollar limit on tax-exempt industrial revenue bonds, adjusted annually by inflation rates, to provide financing for business expansions.

Life Sciences And Biotechnology

The MML supports state efforts to promote life sciences/biotechnology investments in Missouri.

Marketing Efforts

The MML supports an increased emphasis on marketing the state of Missouri as a location for business expansions. Marketing efforts should be expanded to include additional emphasis on high-tech companies, manufacturing, agriculture and service operations. A coordinated effort between The Missouri Partnership, Hawthorn Foundation, all appropriate state agencies, and between state and municipal groups promoting business; industry; science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM); agriculture; animal science; hospitality; and tourism should be fostered in promoting the resources already available in Missouri. The state of Missouri must continue to assist businesses in reaching new markets for their products and services, including an increased awareness of international opportunities and new technologies.

Entrepreneurship And Small Businesses

The MML recognizes entrepreneurship and small businesses development are an excellent source of economic development in our communities. The MML supports programs and resources, including but not limited to Small Business Development Centers, pertaining to small businesses that support individuals in starting, growing, marketing and maintaining a business.

Super Tax Increment Financing Caps

The MML urges the General Assembly to increase the existing fiscal cap as needed, adjusted annually to keep up with inflation rates, on the super Tax Increment Financing (TIF) program.³

MML also urges the state to provide guidance on how projects located outside of metropolitan areas can qualify for this incentive.

Missouri Technology Corporation

The MML supports full utilization of the Missouri Technology Corporation and support of its vision and mission.

²The small purchase cap is \$10 million. The state's total volume cap is more than \$600 million.

³The state TIF cap is \$32 million annually.

Tax Abatement

The MML supports the preservation of Chapter 353 RSMo, the Urban Redevelopment law, and Chapter 100 RSMo, industrial revenue bonds, including the option of tax abatement without unreasonable restriction by other governmental units.

Tax Credit Programs

The MML opposes subjecting the tax credit program to the appropriations process as this puts Missouri at a competitive disadvantage. MML supports the retention, reasonable oversight and funding of these tax credit programs, including but not limited to:

- a. Low Income Housing Tax Credits
- b. Tax Credit for Contributions Program
- c. Neighborhood Assistance Program Tax Credits
- d. Historic Preservation Tax Credits
- e. Missouri Build Tax Credits
- f. Film Tax Credits
- g. Brownfield Tax Credits
- h. Professional and Amateur Sports Tax Credits

Capital Investment Incentives

The MML encourages the state of Missouri to consider new incentive programs that take into account the sum total of private investment and job retention versus strictly considering the number of new jobs created.

Sustainable Development Tax Credit And Finance Programs

The MML supports the establishment, funding and retention of sustainable tax credits, energy rebates and finance programs.

Tax Increment Financing

The MML opposes legislation to exempt any governmental entity from being required to contribute to the tax increment financing (TIF) allocation fund. The MML opposes any attempt to change the purpose or types of development permitted under current TIF statutes. The MML supports legislation that clearly requires all applicable taxes, pre- and post- adoption, to be subject to the TIF.

Special Taxing Districts

The MML supports the ability of special taxing districts' use of self-imposed mechanisms to support district functions and projects. The MML encourages county officials to actively partner with cities and taxing districts to collect voter-approved taxes.

Technology Transfer

The MML supports funding for applied research at Missouri-based educational facilities, technology transfer, and the commercialization of this knowledge to create jobs in Missouri.

Economic Multiplier Effect Of Post-Secondary Education

The MML supports programs that make post-secondary education affordable for our Missourians including the funding of research grants and scholarship programs. Because higher education creates an economic multiplier effect in the state, the MML supports increased adequate funding for public, four-year institutions and full funding of the A+ Program.

Outreach, Access And Extension Research

The MML encourages state support of research institutions without penalty so that data may be collected, peer-reviewed and reported on in a fair, accurate and apolitical manner.

Tourism Promotion

The MML supports increased funding efforts for tourism promotion campaigns, including promoting the state of Missouri domestically and internationally as a visitor destination. The MML encourages the General Assembly to increase funding for arts, culture, history and heritage tourism, and agritourism, specifically the Missouri Arts Council, the Missouri Humanities Council, the Missouri Department of Agriculture and the Missouri Division of Tourism. The MML supports the efforts of local communities to promote its natural resources and beauty and tourism destinations. In addition, cost sharing between local and state promotional groups has proven to be a cost-effective way to increase exposure and should be expanded.

Transportation Infrastructure

The MML recognizes the importance of transportation infrastructure to Missouri economic development and supports continuing reviews of the structure of the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and of funding resources to address transportation needs that solely focus on:

1. Support the economic importance of connectivity.
2. Provide infrastructure for mass transit.
3. The MML supports the funding and development of the Rock Island Trail system and other similar trails throughout the state for the environmental, health, tourism and economic development benefits.
4. Maintain existing infrastructure.

Statewide Broadband Access

The MML supports funding for expansion of broadband access throughout the state, regardless of whether the provider is a public, private or joint public/private partnership. The MML supports changes in policy so that areas that have access to only minimum "broadband" speeds are not considered to be adequately served and can have access to grant funding and other opportunities to increase

access to modern broadband speeds and so that whenever possible, the state and its communities limit support to only those broadband projects that will increase access to faster speeds necessary to meaningfully participate in the modern (and future) economy and virtual classroom. The MML also supports continuing efforts to change the definition of broadband at the federal level to increase access to modern speeds in both unserved and underserved areas.

Human Resources Policies _____

Affordable Housing And Homelessness

The MML urges state and federal agencies to provide resources and programs to assist Missouri municipalities, as well as private and not-for-profit organizations to address homelessness; affordable housing; physical healthcare and mental healthcare; hygiene services and proper nutrition; supported living services for seniors, veterans, youth, the disabled; rehabilitation of existing housing; and food insecurity.

Workforce Development And Human Resources

To encourage the continued implementation of job training, such as on-the-job training programs, including but not limited to Missouri One Start, the MML supports:

- 1) Continued emphasis on the education and training necessary to provide a competitive work force in Missouri, including promoting higher standards and accreditation for all levels of education, and discouraging predatory lending practices.
- 2) Adequate state funding for preschool, primary, secondary and post-secondary public education, including new educational initiatives to ensure the availability of a Missouri work force equipped with the technical skills to compete in future decades that may include vocational and technical training, as well as apprenticeships.
- 3) Strong coordination between agencies involved in the job training, retraining and placement systems and the business sector.
- 4) More resources for centers designed to assist high school dropouts and potential dropouts to earn high school diplomas or equivalency certification.
- 5) Continued and increased support for state job training funds, as well as education targeted for all businesses and not-for-profit organizations.
- 6) Increase funding for existing and new workforce training.
- 7) Working closely with private industry and not-for-profits to plan and implement programs that assist in adult/youth training, worker reentry, the underemployed, seniors and work reentry programs for ex-offenders.
- 8) Enhance economic development tools, including the use of sales tax abatement, for construction materials used

to support affordable housing development to include “workforce” housing.

9) Expand the Show Me Heroes program to include incentives to attract skilled veterans and/or their designated caregiver.

10) Develop incentives and programs to retain college graduates throughout the state.

Childcare Programs

The MML urges the state to develop education programs and incentives to ensure development of public/private partnerships to enhance and expand affordable high-quality childcare and early childhood education facilities, including care for infants, children with special needs, weekend and non-daytime shift workers, before- and after-school programs and the adequate training of childcare providers. Technical assistance and training must be available to local providers.

The MML urges the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) to adequately fund services and staff to safeguard quality childcare for Missouri children, particularly to ensure that funds are available for childcare licensing staff to properly license and monitor family, group home and childcare centers, and before- and after-school programs. The MML also supports the licensing of private and faith-based childcare centers and encourages the DHSS and DSS to jointly develop quality incentives that would promote voluntary accreditation or other similar quality standards for all childcare providers.

Community Education

The MML supports the use of state funds for community counseling and education programs that are proactive and/or rehabilitative. Examples of these include, but are not limited to programs that prevent or address issues such as:

- substance abuse,
- mental health,
- gambling addiction,
- juvenile delinquency,
- gang activity,
- homelessness,
- gun safety,
- racial equality,
- bullying,
- abuse,
- teenage pregnancy and the education of teenage parents (including prenatal and postnatal care,)
- parenting skills,
- drop-out prevention programs,
- reduction of unemployment/underemployment,
- development of adequate, safe, and available recreation facilities and programs, and
- life skills, financial literacy, education and training.

Needs Of Seniors and Adults With Disabilities

The MML calls on all levels of government to recognize the needs of seniors and adults with disabilities and to help them remain independent. Further, the MML urges:

- 1) The General Assembly to provide adequate funding to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS). The DHSS should in turn provide adequate funding for services such as: Medicaid meals, home-delivered meals, home health programs, community senior centers, transportation and ombudsman services.
- 2) The DHSS to make readily available funding to the local Agency on Aging for information and referral services.
- 3) Local governments to encourage senior volunteerism in their communities.
- 4) The DHSS to fund and encourage development of intergenerational mentoring and outreach programs that focus on education, quality of life and life experiences.

Research Regarding Marijuana Use

MML encourages Missouri DHSS to conduct ongoing research to monitor, analyze and report annually the societal impacts from the legalization of medicinal and recreational marijuana. Additionally, MML supports the efforts of the Missouri Coalition of Roadway Safety (MCRS) and the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to study and develop a scientific way to test for impairment after the consumption of marijuana.

School Safety And Coordination

The MML recognizes that it takes a community working together to keep schools as safe as possible for children, teachers and parents. The MML encourages strong collaboration with local leaders across the community, including school boards, city officials, county officials, faith-based entities, community organizations, law enforcement, fire departments and local chambers of commerce.

Finance and Taxation Committee

CHAIR:

David Dimmitt, *Mayor, Brentwood*

Brian Crane, *City Administrator, Jefferson City*

Barbara Flint, *Finance Director, Eureka*

Martin Ghafoori, *Managing Director, Stifel*

Bill Hanks, *City Clerk, Weldon Spring*

Randal Hein, *Mayor, Bridgeton*

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Arnold Hinkle, *Mayor, Black Jack*

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Mary Sprung, *Finance Director, Kirkwood*

Joe Warren, *City Manager, Belton*

Terry Wilson, *City Administrator, Dellwood*

Finance and Taxation

Introduction

In many of Missouri's municipalities, annual revenues are never adequate to meet the service needs and demands of citizens. The continuing reduction of federal funds and the transfer of service delivery responsibility to the local level has caused this situation to become acute for many municipalities. Cities are particularly frustrated by state constitutional and statutory provisions that restrict or exempt sources of municipal revenue, while the state and federal governments continue to enact rules, regulations and guidelines affecting or dictating municipal services, such as the Fair Labor Standards Act, prevailing wage, workers' compensation and unemployment compensation. This combination of state restrictions on revenue sources, mandated state and federal regulations, and elimination of federal support results in a reduction in essential municipal services in many municipalities.

The General Assembly is urged to give municipalities greater freedom to increase revenues without the restrictions of limiting legislation, such as earmarking revenue for special purposes, except when the revenue is generated by users of the service. This would allow the needed flexibility to meet changing conditions.

Property Tax

The Missouri Municipal League (MML) supports streamlining the property tax setting process by changing the deadline for establishing the municipal property tax levy as required in Section 67.110 RSMo to 45 days after receiving from the county the assessed valuation of all property located within the municipality.

Further, the MML urges the General Assembly and the electorate to allow municipalities to exceed their \$1.00 property tax limit with approval of a simple majority of the voters instead of the current two-thirds vote requirement. The MML also calls for the elimination of the current four-year sunset for municipal property tax increases over the \$1.00 limit.

(See Article X, Section 11(b) Missouri Constitution and Chapter 94 RSMo.)

Local Control Of Sales Tax

The MML opposes restrictions on local voters' ability to control local sales taxes.

Business And Occupation Licenses

The MML supports legislation to authorize municipalities to license, tax and regulate the occupation of merchants, manufacturers and all businesses, avocations, pursuits and callings, including homebased businesses, and to, by ordinance, base such licenses on gross receipts, square footage, per capita, flat fee, graduated scale based on gross or net receipts or sales, or any other method of measurement of tax or any combination thereof derived or allocable to the carrying on or conducting of any business, avocation, pursuits or callings or activities carried on in such cities.

Exemptions From Local Option Sales Tax

The MML opposes the exemption of any further items from the local option sales tax and encourages a thorough review of current exemptions to examine their validity. For example, the local sales tax on food annually generates in excess of \$1.3 billion for needed municipal services, according to a 2023 Legislative Research fiscal note. No other revenue source is available to replace this revenue. Should the General Assembly approve additional sales tax holidays, the MML requests that all future sales tax holidays include an opt in provision while still allowing the municipality the option to opt out in future years.

Local Earnings/Income Taxes

The MML opposes legislation repealing the local earnings tax and favor decisions regarding municipal taxation remaining at the local level. Further, MML supports the removal of the requirement that the voters of Kansas City and the city of St. Louis vote on the repeal of the earnings tax every five years.

Road District Expenditures Within City Limits

MML supports legislation that removes the cap on the amount of capital that may be used by road districts within municipalities located within the road district. MML supports expanding the requirement that road districts expend a portion of their funds on roadways within existing municipalities that are within the road district boundaries.

Transient Guest Tax

The MML urges the General Assembly to adopt legislation authorizing all cities to levy a tax on transient guest rooms with approval of said tax by the voters.

Video Service And Telecommunications Providers

The MML opposes any federal and state legislation or regulations that would diminish the ability of local governments to manage the public rights-of-way or to charge a fee or taxes to telecommunications and video service providers that use the public rights-of-way to deliver their product or service. All video service and

telecommunications providers must comply with all local right-of-way regulations and consumer protection provisions.

Regulation Of Municipal Broadband

The MML opposes any state or federal legislation that regulates, restricts or prohibits municipalities from providing municipal broadband services.

Taxation Of Cell Phones, Voip And Other Communication Systems

The MML supports legislation to impose or maintain local gross receipts taxes on cellular, land-line and VoIP telecommunications providers and other types of personal communications technology.

Utility Taxes

The MML opposes legislation capping the rate or reducing the amount of utility taxes imposed by municipalities.

State/Federal Mandates

The MML urges members of the General Assembly and Congress to work with local officials to determine how to limit the fiscal and other burdens of mandates on the operation of municipal government.

Further, the MML supports an assessment of current state and federal programs, regulations and policies to determine the extent of adverse cost, structural and intergovernmental impacts on cities.

Public Deposits And Investments

The MML supports legislation that expands the investment opportunities for municipalities.

Transportation Needs

While the MML supports appropriate funding for transportation purposes in Missouri, the MML opposes the use of sales taxes by the state of Missouri as the primary source to raise revenue for meeting the needs of the state's highways, roads and transit systems. The MML urges the General Assembly and Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) to devise a comprehensive plan to increase the needed revenue for meeting Missouri's transportation needs and securing federal matching funds. Such plan should dedicate sufficient funding to provide quality mass transit services throughout the state that serves all users.

Public Safety Sales Tax

The MML urges the Missouri General Assembly to enact legislation authorizing all municipalities to levy a public safety sales tax.

Fire Sales Tax Expansion

The MML urges the Missouri General Assembly to enact legislation authorizing municipalities wishing to contract

for fire protection services to levy a fire sales tax under Section 321.242 RSMo.

Collection Of Special Taxes For Property Maintenance

The MML urges the General Assembly to pass legislation authorizing municipalities to collect special tax bills for property maintenance code violations in the same manner as for delinquent property taxes.

Collection Of Delinquent Utility Bills

The MML opposes the repeal of the state law authorizing municipalities to hold the property owner and tenant jointly responsible for delinquent water and sewer bills.

Further, the MML supports legislation providing clear authority to municipally owned utilities to hold the property owner and tenant jointly responsible for electric, gas, refuse collection and other utility bills.

Revenue Collections For Municipalities

The MML supports development of streamlined interactive software for the collection of revenue and improved service for auditing and review of municipal sales and use tax collections. Furthermore, the Missouri Department of Revenue is encouraged to conduct an implementation plan review with the MML for all new and existing collection services related to local sales and uses taxes.

Preserving Municipal Revenue Sources

The range of municipal revenue sources are limited primarily to taxes, user fees, licenses and fines. These revenue sources are vital to the operation of important municipal services and it is essential that municipal voters and their local elected officials have the ability to levy these revenue sources without interference from the Missouri General Assembly. The MML opposes any attempt by the Missouri General Assembly to preempt, prohibit or restrict the imposition and collection of municipal revenue sources.

Sports Wagering

The MML urges our General Assembly that in the event that legislation is adopted to allow sports betting that a portion of revenues be directed to municipalities so that such revenues can be used by municipalities to address the direct and secondary effects that betting operations impose on municipalities and to compensate municipalities for use of public rights-of-way to deliver electronic sports betting services.

Special Taxing Districts

The MML supports local strengthening oversight of special taxing districts by local governing bodies. Further, the MML opposes restrictions, reductions or elimination of special districts' funding sources.

The MML encourages county officials to partner with municipalities to collect special assessments levied by local special taxing districts.

Assessment Of Real Property

The Missouri Municipal League (MML) supports a property assessment system that is fair, transparent, equitable, consistent throughout the state and ensures the preservation of local revenue sources essential to the delivery of municipal services.

The Missouri Municipal League urges the General Assembly to refrain from enacting further changes to the property assessment process until a comprehensive, data-informed review has been completed. The League stands ready to collaborate with state leaders to ensure that Missouri's property tax system remains a fair, transparent, and reliable foundation for funding local government.

Elimination Of Elected City Collector Position In Fourth-Class Cities

The Missouri Municipal League supports legislation that would allow fourth-class cities to eliminate the elected city collector position without requiring a public vote.

Municipal Administration and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

CHAIR:

Andrew Dawson, *Mayor, Sedalia*

Barbara Buffaloe, *Mayor, Columbia*

Errol Bush, *Alderman, Northwoods*

Carl Cobb, *Council Member, Neosho*

Courtney Doyle, *Director of Administration, Fulton*

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James Thomas, Sr., *Mayor, Bellefontaine Neighbors*

Matt Turner, *Alderman, Harrisonville*

Sean Wilson, *Mayor, Waynesville*

Municipal Administration and Intergovernmental Relations

Introduction

Missouri municipal officials are constrained in responding to citizen needs and demands for services by obsolete and restrictive statutory provisions relating to municipal government administration. There is a need to clarify the statutory powers for municipal governments. While Missouri's home rule provisions are progressive and flexible, considerable work remains to be done to authorize cities to determine their own internal structure, lift the legal barriers to adequate local taxation and moderate state controls over local government.

While the state and federal governments have an obligation to encourage and assist sound municipal management, they should adhere to the principle of home rule and maximize opportunities for local self-determination to the fullest extent possible. The importance of retaining flexible and strong municipal government must be actively communicated and pursued.

Blight/Eminent Domain

The Missouri Municipal League (MML) opposes efforts to prohibit the use of eminent domain to rehabilitate blighted areas and other essential public uses that benefit the health, safety and general welfare of the municipality. MML also opposes any effort that would negatively impact nuisance abatement programs. The MML should work with utilities, businesses, developers and other groups to inform the public of the benefits of eminent domain and nuisance abatement programs.

Eminent domain is indispensable and is most often used as a last resort for revitalizing local economies, creating much-needed jobs and generating revenue that enables cities to provide essential services. Eminent domain is a powerful tool; its prudent use, when exercised in the sunshine of public scrutiny, helps achieve a great public good that benefits the entire community. Economic policies and incentives supported by the Governor and adopted by the General Assembly will have little effect in encouraging businesses to expand or relocate in Missouri to support the economic vitality of the state if land cannot be assembled through the power of eminent domain when necessary. The MML supports changes in the law to further ensure fair treatment and just compensation of property owners, but

any such changes should be carefully drafted to permit use of eminent domain for economic development purposes when necessary.

The MML further opposes any requirement to pay “damages” to nearby property owners when a municipality purchases or condemns land for public purposes. The MML also opposes legislation that would encourage property owners to challenge risk free condemnation settlements offered in good faith.

Posting Of Legal Notices In Newsletters Or On Websites

Due to the increased usage of online technology, the MML supports legislation to allow for publication of legal notices including but not limited to financial statements, land use and election notices in non-traditional electronic distribution systems in lieu of the unfunded mandate for newspaper publication to help keep the public apprised of local affairs in a much more cost-effective method.

Further, the MML supports legislation that permits the use of electronic and digital archiving of public records.

General Assembly Term Limits

The MML supports legislation to initiate an amendment to the Missouri Constitution to lengthen or modify term limits for members of the General Assembly.

Self Governance

The MML continues its support for self-governance for all municipalities and the right contained therein of municipal self-determination. The MML urges the General Assembly to refrain from enacting legislation in areas that can be better dealt with by local government. Additionally, MML supports the elimination of the minimum population requirement to achieve constitutional charter city status.

Modernization Of Local Government Statutes

The MML urges the repeal or revision of contradictory and/or arcane provisions of the statutes that create barriers to efficient administration of local government.

Labor Relations

The MML supports legislation to resolve issues from the *Independence NEA v. Independence School District* Missouri Supreme Court decision. Such legislation must preserve traditional management rights, the fiscal integrity of the city, the delivery of services to the taxpayer, and the role of the duly elected representatives of the people as the final decision-makers on contract provisions.

Municipal Personnel Policies

In the interest of public health and safety, the MML opposes legislation that would interfere with municipal authority to determine personnel policies or merit system rules and regulations.

State Mandates

The MML urges the Governor, the General Assembly and state agencies to oppose unfunded mandates and provide for reimbursement to cities for direct costs of compliance with state laws, policies, regulations and standards that impose additional costs and responsibilities on local governments, pursuant to the Missouri Constitution (Article X, Section 21) commonly referred to as the “Hancock Amendment.”

Fines In Municipal Court

The MML supports legislation to standardize the maximum fine for violation of city ordinances at \$2,000 for statutory municipalities. The League opposes any further restrictions that limit fines as a proportion of general revenue. Additionally, the League encourages consideration of the devaluation effects of inflation. Further, the League seeks a restoration of local control of fines for traffic and nuisance violations.

Enforcement Of Failure To Appear

The MML supports legislation to ensure defendants can be compelled, through appropriate due process, to attend municipal courts, and pay the fines that have been imposed on them for violation of the law.

Regulation Of Municipal Rights-Of-Way

The MML supports the authorization of local governments to impose reasonable fees for any use of the public rights-of-way and opposes any legislation that limits municipalities’ authorities to manage rights-of-way for the public interest and/or transfer the cost of relocation of utilities from private industry to public entities.

The MML opposes any legislation that would prohibit or restrict a municipality’s authority to require a telecommunications, broadband, cable and utility company to pay the cost of relocating its facilities located in the public rights-of-way when the request is for a public purpose.

The MML opposes any legislation that would allow for the installation of equipment, hardware, or other infrastructure in municipal rights-of-way or on municipal facilities that prohibits oversight by the municipality.

Deregulation In The Name Of “Religious Freedom”

While the MML supports free exercise of religion, the MML opposes legislation to further erode, under the guise of religious freedom, local authority to protect the health, safety and welfare of all people, including but not limited to municipal zoning, building codes, sign regulations, child-care regulations and all other applicable local ordinances.

Concealed Weapons In Municipal Facilities

The MML supports language to clarify the concealed carry law (Section 571.107 RSMo) to grant local governments the authority to exercise local control by adopting ordinances that provide the flexibility for local communities to determine whether to allow or prohibit the carrying of concealed weapons in city facilities and parks.

Taxpayers Bill Of Rights (TABOR)

The MML opposes efforts by any group to impose further restrictions on state revenues and spending through the so-called Taxpayers Bill of Rights (TABOR) or similar initiatives.

Opposition To Predatory Lending Practices And The Proliferation Of Payday Loan Operations

The MML supports legislation that would impose stricter regulations, with penalties, on lenders who engage in unfair and deceptive lending practices. The legislation should give the Missouri Attorney General the increased responsibility to investigate and take legal action against predatory lenders.

In addition, the MML supports legislation that would allow cities to impose limits on the number and locations of payday loan companies or similar loan companies or, if desired by the community, to ban these operations entirely.

Campaign Finance Reform

The MML supports efforts to address campaign finance reform.

Rental Property Owner Identification

The MML supports legislation that would provide municipalities with the authority to require owners of rental property to provide contact information for responding to questions or concerns about the property. This contact information at minimum must include the name, address, telephone number and emergency contact information for the owner of the property. Properties that are owned by individuals or entities that do not reside at that location should be required to have a local contact for the property. Statutory cities should be granted the authority to license and regulate residential rental properties.

Nuisance And Problem Properties

The MML supports new or amended legislation that streamlines and simplifies nuisance abatement procedures, especially for continual or habitual nuisance properties. Furthermore, the MML supports new or amended legislation which would assist municipalities to more readily and directly recover nuisance abatement costs from owners of nuisance properties, including access to tax refunds, tax credits, the probate system, direct foreclosures, and other means that would make nuisance properties directly and personally responsible for municipal abatement costs.

Short-Term Rental

MML opposes legislation that would limit or eliminate municipal authority to regulate short-term rentals.

MML supports statewide policies to clarify and reinforce municipalities' ability to collect local lodging taxes on short term rentals through online based reservation service providers.

Police Use Of Force And Treatment Of Detainees

The MML praises the dedication and hard work of Missouri's law enforcement professionals. Misconduct by a single officer can tarnish the reputation of law enforcement nationwide. The MML supports:

- POST requirement of de-escalation, implicit bias and diversity training for all law enforcement officers, both in basic training and continuing education.
- Policies that require officers to intervene and report unnecessary force and/or inappropriate treatment by fellow officers.

Sunshine Law

The MML fully supports the right of all Missouri citizens to observe and witness the deliberations and votes of their elected leaders. The MML also supports citizen access the records of their government. Access to records and meetings must be tempered by the potential harm the release of some personal information can cause. With these principles in mind the MML supports legislation that would:

1. Clarify that governing bodies may conduct official meetings using video conferencing including casting votes using video conferencing technology.
2. Close citizen email addresses retained by local governments.
3. Close citizen telephone numbers retained by local government.
4. Address access to information stored in databases and running of searches/creation of reports.
5. Clarify that the Sunshine Law does not apply to social media posts by 3rd parties retained by local governments.
6. Prohibit anonymous requests and require verification in writing of an individual contact person together with payment in advance of filling the request.
7. Allow cities to recoup all expenses in complying with Sunshine Law requirements including attorney's fees.

Qualified Immunity

The MML urges the General Assembly to protect the affirmative defense of qualified immunity for local government officials and employees. Should these protections be eroded legislatively or judicially, the financial burden to municipalities will be significant and the ability to attract qualified officials will be diminished.

Illegal Gaming Devices

The MML opposes the expansion of unregulated gambling devices including no-chance gaming devices beyond the current constitutional framework without a statewide vote.

Further, the MML urges local and state law enforcement and the Missouri Attorney General to aggressively enforce the laws prohibiting unregulated no-chance games and gambling devices.

Pre-Emption

The MML opposes federal and state pre-emption of existing local regulations and authority in all matters including but not limited to economic development, parks, crime prevention, nuisance abatement, public health, right-of-way management, transportation and taxation.

Cybersecurity

The MML urges the Governor and Missouri General Assembly to assist local governments in preparing for cyberattacks by establishing a cybersecurity program that will assist local governments in cybersecurity funding, training, planning, operations and implementation.

Commercial Vehicle Size Limits

The MML supports maintaining the current state and federal legal load limits; including but not limited to gross vehicle weight (80,000 pounds total; 20,000 pounds on a single axle, and 34,000 pounds on a tandem) and the size vehicle limits set by the Federal Highway Administration.

Distracted Driving

The MML supports strengthening law enforcement's ability to address distracted driving by: allowing for primary enforcement of the ban on use of electronic devices while driving; limiting the exemption for use of these devices for GIS or audio access to a manner that does not distract operators while driving; and ending the state pre-emption of the local regulation of the use of electronic devices.

Expanded Term Options For Third-Class City Mayors

The MML supports legislation allowing 3rd class cities to have the same term length options available to mayors in 4th class cities.

Prevent Election Filing Closing On Holiday

MML calls on the legislature to amend RSMo 115.127 by adjusting the election filing period for municipal office to prevent the close of filing from occurring on a nationally recognized holiday.

Regulation Of Cannabinoids

The MML urges the General Assembly to enact legislation prohibiting or heavily regulating the distribution of intoxicating cannabinoids products that are not permitted

for distribution under Article XIV of the Constitution. Such regulations would include products such as Delta 8 and other intoxicating hemp or marijuana derivatives. Prohibition is urged but, if regulated, regulations should be similar to other regulations of intoxicating products such as alcohol or marijuana. Regulations should prohibit for sale to persons under the age of 21, childproof packaging should be mandated, marketing to children should be prohibited, product lab testing should be required as it is for marijuana cultivation or marijuana-infused product manufacturing, and labeling requirements should be imposed.

State Obligations For Mentally Ill

The MML calls on the Missouri Department of Mental Health to fulfill their obligations to meet the 1963 Community Mental Health Act. DMH should reimburse local governments for the cost to house individuals who are evaluated as incompetent and are supposed to be in the Department of Mental Health housing.

State Building Codes

The MML supports protecting local authority over building codes. Any proposed legislation should provide for municipalities' ability to address unique needs.

Public Hearings

The Missouri Municipal League supports legislation to clarify that, once the initial notice of a public hearing has been properly published, the hearing may be continued to a later date without requiring additional publication. Continuation should be permitted by a motion entered into the official minutes, specifying the new date, time, and location of the continued hearing.

Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development Committee

CHAIR:

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Darlene Bell, *Alderman, Moline Acres*

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Mike West, *Council Member, Fulton*

Matt Winters, *City Manager, Poplar Bluff*

Environment, Energy and Sustainable Development

Introduction

To develop a community is to protect and improve the physical, economic and social conditions and opportunities a community affords its inhabitants. The goal is the creation of a community environment responsive to and supportive of individual expression and endeavor while also protecting the health, safety and welfare of its residents.

Local governments have broad responsibilities to develop increasingly livable communities. The physical improvement and preservation of the natural environment is essential. This includes not only the provision of physical facilities and protection of natural resources for a city's population, but it also includes primary consideration for the human requirements for living within the physical confines of the city, the effects of physical development and growth on the total community life of the city and the environment. These responsibilities vary with the size of the community and the potential impact on the environment. It should also be noted that laws and policies created and implemented by and for state agencies must never fail to consider the overriding and abiding importance of considering, supporting and ensuring the right of Missouri voters to govern themselves through local control.

Outdoor Air Quality

The Missouri Municipal League (MML) encourages all governmental jurisdictions in Missouri to initiate and support programs designed to increase public awareness and education about air pollution issues and how pollution can be abated. The MML supports continued federal funding for those municipalities that have entered into a contract with the Missouri Air Conservation Commission to monitor air pollution sources within their jurisdictions, including point and area sources. The MML encourages all governmental jurisdictions to help foster and address public concern for clean air by leading by example in modeling energy efficiency, the benefits of native landscaping and trees, use of quality multi-modal transportation planning, as well as the use of low-emission and fuel-efficient vehicles in their governmental activities. The MML requests that the state of Missouri provides adequate financial assistance to municipalities to help them conform to the state and federal clean air standards.

The state should continue to involve local officials in the implementation of any air pollution plan or policy that may be imposed to conform to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) pollution standards. Municipalities should support improving air quality through local policies.

The MML encourages the state of Missouri to remain diligent and spend the time needed to implement any new federal regulations that may be developed regarding emissions.

MML supports prescribed burning as a land management tool, keeping in mind state and federal regulations as they relate to air quality and making sure that this tool is used carefully and with appropriately trained staff. The MML supports the state's efforts to set limits on prescribed burning so that it is done efficiently and effectively.

Indoor Air Quality

The MML encourages municipal efforts to improve indoor air quality and the air quality surrounding governmental and commercial buildings located within their boundaries, including the adoption of smoking restrictions and regulation of other contaminants. It should also be up to the discretion of the municipality regarding vaping and smoking marijuana and the various techniques involved in these activities to regulate as they see fit, providing there is no conflict with federal and state statutes. The MML opposes the adoption of any state laws which preempt a municipality's authority to adopt local smoking restrictions or ordinances that are designed to improve indoor air quality.

Water Quality

The MML encourages Missouri municipalities to attempt to meet and/or exceed their water permit requirements using watershed-based best management practices, including a strong emphasis on adopting green infrastructure strategies, in order to mitigate pollutants and stormwater runoff. Given the enormous costs of constructing and operating wastewater treatment and collection facilities, the MML recommends that the General Assembly appropriate sufficient funds to provide adequate technical assistance through the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to determine the most cost-effective means of meeting state and federal requirements.

Water Quality Standards - The MML urges the Clean Water Commission and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to develop realistic standards based on 1) documented studies that verify potential health risks 2) site-specific environmental requirements and 3) the MML urges DNR and EPA to base affordability evaluations upon households at or below a municipality's household median income along with other community-specific affordability considerations.

The MML supports all levels of government, with substantial state and federal help, collaborating as equals to ensure

that water quality is protected to the maximum extent practicable in the most affordable and cost-effective manner. Any requirements that go beyond federal requirements should be expressly identified and justified. The state and local water protection efforts should address aquatic life needs as well as public recreation, particularly where uses are documented to occur.

Integrated Planning - With regard to integrated planning, municipalities should have the opportunity to plan and prioritize their infrastructure for drinking water, stormwater and wastewater needs. Protection of public health is paramount. Environmental compliance must be considered but should be balanced with a municipality's need for affordability, ability to obtain financing or grant funding, economic growth, and other local priorities. Integrated management planning should remain a community led effort that is supported by DNR and EPA.

Clean Water Commission - MML supports legislation providing that the Missouri Clean Water Commission should include members who are knowledgeable about the needs of publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities.

PFAS Liability - Municipal drinking water and wastewater facilities as well as airports may be "passive" receivers of PFAS chemicals. Legislative safeguards are necessary to uphold the "polluter pays" principle and prevent unfair penalties on local governments managing essential public services. MML supports legislation to limit municipal liability for PFAS chemicals.

Cover Crops - The MML urges state and federal agencies to support funding of commodity cover crops that not only improve soil health, water retention and quality and increased yields, but also to protect rural watersheds by reducing sediment and phosphorus losses, slowing surface erosion, increasing water infiltration, and scavenging nitrates typically lost to leaching.

Stormwater - The MML urges DNR to implement the stormwater discharge permit program in a manner that will not impose delays on municipal and private projects. The MML urges the EPA and DNR to develop a more simplified and flexible approach to managing municipal stormwater runoff that will feature long-term iterative best management practices. The MML opposes any point source testing requirement in stormwater permits.

Sewer Overflows - The MML urges DNR and EPA to develop flexible standards for the treatment of combined sewer overflows that will allow all municipalities to implement solutions that will meet their unique, geographic environmental situations while recognizing financial limitations based on the point of diminishing returns. The MML opposes any state regulations that exceed the scope of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System

(NPDES) permit program regulations, while expressly supporting DNR's application of the significant regulatory flexibility within the federal program to tailor city-specific discharge solutions and requirements. MML supports the development of high flow exemptions and the use of temporary water quality standard exemptions during certain storm and flow events as allowed in EPA's 1994 Combined Sewer Overflow Control Policy.

Nutrient Trading -The MML endorses a state statutory clarification supporting voluntary Missouri water-quality trading to allow municipalities and other regulated dischargers to cost-effectively comply with water quality requirements. Such a statutory clarification is timely with the pending adoption of the state's nutrient criteria for lakes and reservoirs.

Ammonia - MML recognizes the detrimental impact of nitrogen and ammonia pollution on aquatic life in Missouri streams, rivers, and further downstream, including contributing to gulf hypoxia. The primary source of nutrient pollution is agricultural runoff, although municipal wastewater effluent may also contribute to nitrogen levels. The current federal and state environmental regulatory framework emphasizes the regulation of point source discharges. For nitrogen reductions this will impose disproportionate burdens on municipal ratepayers to alleviate nitrogen pollution, even though municipal discharges are not the primary cause. Meeting the lowered nitrogen discharge limits will impose significant maintenance and energy costs on larger mechanical plants and require expensive upgrades at smaller facilities. Many small Missouri communities already face significant economic challenges. Requiring multi-million-dollar upgrades for these smaller communities will cause severe hardships. Therefore, MML supports the provision of variances, extended schedules of compliance, and similar exemptions that recognize the limited financial capacity of these communities to remove ammonia from wastewater effluent.

Solid Waste Management

The MML expects the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to be involved in the monitoring of landfills, whether closed or active, abandoned or monitored by a responsible party, and other solid waste issues. The MML encourages municipalities to participate in a regional approach when addressing solid waste issues and urges municipalities to take an active role in the operation of solid waste management districts. Further, the MML encourages municipalities to promote efforts to reduce landfill waste; to address management of recoverable materials; to ensure access to core residential services and household hazardous waste collection in an effort to minimize illegal dumping and littering and

encourage waste diversion from landfills; to establish public education on waste reduction and solid waste management for residents and businesses; and to support the implementation of programs to reduce, eliminate or divert other household and business waste from landfills.

The MML urges the state agencies and departments involved with implementation of the state's solid waste management law to coordinate their efforts with municipal solid waste activities and initiatives. The MML encourages state leadership on policies and issues of statewide significance, including public education, product stewardship, sustainable funding, incentives for diversion goals, and research on existing and new technologies and trends.

The MML encourages the state to aggressively deal with stimulation of the demand and markets for recycled materials. The MML encourages the federal and state government to take an active role in developing uses for recyclable materials, as well as the marketing of the products developed from recyclable materials. The MML also encourages the state to look at food waste and how to sustainably compost materials and reuse the composted materials in an environmentally sound practice.

The MML urges Congress to enact legislation preserving the 2007 U.S. Supreme Court finding that allowed states and local governments to require that municipal solid waste (but not separated recyclables) be transported to municipal solid waste management facilities.

The MML urges the General Assembly to enact legislation giving municipalities greater flexibility in meeting the post-closure responsibilities for municipally owned landfills.

The MML urges the General Assembly to protect the yard waste ban and any exceptions written into it, the statewide tonnage fee, as well as the rights of local governments to develop and implement solid-waste management strategies, facilities and services. In particular, the MML urges the General Assembly to remove and prevent barriers to responsible and sustainable waste-management best practices, including the elimination of the two-year notice requirement for local governments seeking to contract for solid waste services.

MML also encourages DNR to allow the use of native plant material as permanent cover on closed landfills.

Hazardous Material Management

The MML supports and encourages federal and state programs that educate the public and ensure safe processing, incineration, recycling, transportation, storage and disposal of hazardous materials and emerging contaminants, including ones that contain newer products.

The MML supports an active investigative effort to identify sources, violators and existing active and legacy sites

of hazardous material. Such investigative efforts should include advance notification to municipal officials.

The MML further recommends clarification and limitations of the liabilities that cities may have for unknown hazardous materials.

Energy

The MML endorses reasonable incentives that foster a cost-effective transition to renewable clean energy sources produced and delivered in the state including, but not limited to, solar energy, wind power and geothermal. MML also supports the optimal uses of nuclear energy, synthetic fuels, biomass, methane gas, natural gas, hydrogen and the continued examination of improvements in the conservation of energy. The MML endorses policies that promote energy efficiency.

A statewide standard should not supersede local ordinances because communities differ too much in density, architectural features, history and other neighborhood factors for one standard to address every variable in every community. The MML discourages prohibitions and mandates on renewable energy facilities that might include solar panels, wind turbines, windmills, water structures, underground heating and cooling fields and facilities yet to be defined. The MML encourages each locality to consider appropriate policies to encourage reasonable uses. The MML also encourages sustainability measures including reviewing building codes, green infrastructure and land use.

The MML supports the efforts of the Missouri Joint Municipal Electric Utility Commission to purchase long-term transmission service on the Grain Belt Express and discourages the General Assembly from passing legislation that would hinder development of this project.

The MML also supports the use of low-cost, securitized ratepayer-backed bonds to enable electric corporations to lower the financing costs of retired generating facilities and to empower the Missouri Public Service Commission to review such securitization methods to determine whether they are consistent with the public interest.

Sustainable Development

The MML supports policies, legislation and incentives that facilitate sustainable development. Such sustainable and smart-growth policies and legislation will help establish Missouri as a competitive area with cost-effective public development programs. Sustainable development also promotes the re-use of neighborhoods with their existing infrastructure, thereby supporting the established schools, churches, firehouses and systems that promote stability. However, development outside established systems and areas should not be discouraged when existing systems can be expanded and sustained with new revenue from the

new development without negatively impacting existing systems.

The MML supports a triple bottom line approach to municipal and state policy and planning efforts balancing: 1) economic, 2) community, and 3) environmental factors in decision making.

Community Growth Incentive

The MML recommends that existing statutes be revised to require that central water service adequate for fire protection, stormwater management infrastructure and state-approved sewer service be provided prior to development of a subdivision and to require adequate easements for utilities.

The MML opposes any regulatory changes by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that would encourage the development of subdivisions with separate water supply, wastewater collection and stormwater management systems developed adjacent to a municipal system.

Regionalism

Missouri is challenged with an extraordinary high number of very small water and sewer systems/utilities as compared to other states. Most of these systems are costly and necessary upgrades to meet new regulatory requirements associated with ammonia removal, disinfection, metals and a host of other pollutants are expensive. The MML encourages municipalities and regulatory agencies to participate in meaningful discussions with each other, along with other stakeholders, when considering regionalization as a potential solution. With regard to cooperative regionalization, MML supports voluntary consolidation of drinking water systems and wastewater collection and treatment systems that provide a higher level of effluent water quality, economies of scale and sustainable operations.

The MML continues to support regional councils and opposes efforts to repeal or weaken the enabling legislation governing regional councils and their activities. The MML further supports state funding of regional council activities.

Local Code Coordination

The MML urges the General Assembly to enact legislation requiring the mandatory referral of development plans by the state or its political subdivisions to the affected municipal government for compliance with local codes and coordination with municipal plans.

Preemption Of Municipal Land Use Authority

The MML opposes any further preemption of municipal land use regulations by the General Assembly and seeks rather to preserve local authorities' control of best governance practices.

Extraterritorial Planning And Zoning Powers

The MML supports the amendment of Sections 89.144 and 89.145, RSMo to extend to all state municipalities extraterritorial planning, zoning, subdivision and code enforcement powers in the surrounding unincorporated areas. Additional provisions should include mandatory representation of residents in the areas affected on planning and zoning boards during consideration of issues related to their area and the retention of the primacy of the extraterritorial powers by municipalities regardless of whether or not the respective county has adopted planning and/or zoning procedures.

Local Government Boundary Adjustment

The MML urges the immediate adoption of legislation amending the annexation statutes to provide that:

- 1) The current annexation procedures be simplified and expedited to the greatest extent possible;
- 2) Publicly held land could be exempt from the election requirements at the discretion of the local government;
- 3) Special provisions be included for “unincorporated islands” – land surrounded by incorporated area;
- 4) Normal municipal services and their funding sources be clearly defined;
- 5) Municipalities be given the authority to enter into binding preannexation agreements with landowners with property not contiguous to the corporate limits of a municipality;
- 6) A second election, as provided for in Section 71.015 RSMo, is not needed when two-thirds of the combined voters of the city and the area proposed to be annexed approve the annexation proposal in the first election, even if a majority of the voters in the area to be annexed fail to approve the annexation;
- 7) The right of a property owner to voluntarily agree to annexation shall be protected; and
- 8) Municipalities be granted clear authority to annex areas along a road or highway up to two miles from their corporate limits for use in development, creation of industry or services that support growth, unless there exists opposition from one of the contiguous cities.

Extension Of Municipal Services Into Annexed Areas

The MML opposes any legislation that restricts the ability of a municipality to extend municipal services into newly annexed areas. Further, the MML urges the repeal of current laws that restrict the extension of municipal services into annexed areas. Specifically, amend Section 247.165 RSMo to remove the six-month time period after an annexation for the municipality and water district to develop an agreement to provide water service to the annexed area.

In the creation or expansion of special use districts, i.e. sewer, fire, etc., that encroach or overlap a municipal jurisdiction,

the municipality should have the legal grounds to file as an “Exceptor” and be notified via certified mail of the filing of the petition.

An exceptor is a party that can file exceptions to the legal petition requesting the formation of the district.

Current state law only allows municipalities to file exceptions when water districts are created or expanded. This authority should be granted to municipalities when all special districts are created or expanded. When creating a special district, the filing party should be required to notify the municipality of the petition to create the special district. The MML opposes legislation that would require or prohibit cities to provide municipal services beyond municipal boundaries.

Municipalities should be given the authority to set urban service standards that apply to all providers within municipal corporate limits. Municipalities should retain the authority to set rates and policies that apply to all customers served both inside and outside municipal corporate limits.

Recapture Agreements

The MML urges the General Assembly to pass legislation authorizing municipalities to enter into agreements with developers to construct certain public improvements or excess utility capacity that would benefit other properties not yet developed or served by such facilities. The city would recapture a portion of the costs associated with the construction of these public improvements by requiring properties benefiting from the improvements to pay a proportional share of the installation of these oversized or expanded public improvements before connecting or using said facilities.

Sustainable Lifestyles

The MML encourages all municipal leaders and members of the General Assembly to increase access to and affordability of healthy food and beverage choices in both urban and rural communities. Municipalities, particularly in urban areas, should maximize access and incentives to participate in safe, multimodal transportation choices; opportunities for urban agriculture and farmers markets; encourage community and backyard gardens; mixed used development; and affordable physical activity, both indoors and outdoors.

The MML supports community funding for the development of programs that reduce food insecurity and food desert zones. The programs should include an educational component for dietetics and exploration of financial incentives to promote healthy food choices. The programs should include funding for testing and remediation of toxins, assuring the safety and viability of food-source production on repurposed land. The MML supports funding

of agencies and organizations that impact and promote community agriculture education.

MML supports funding and development of the Rock Island Trail system and other similar trails throughout the state in support of the environmental, health, economic development and tourism benefits that the trails would provide.

Recreational Use Legislation

The MML urges the state of Missouri to enact Recreational Use legislation to protect landowners from civil liability if they let their property be used by others for recreational purposes without charging a fee for profit.

Missouri's Land And Water Conservation Fund Program

The MML supports the full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), in particular, the renewed allocation of LWCF funds to each state.

Property Maintenance Accountability

The MML urges the Missouri General Assembly to expand to all municipalities the statutory provision (Section 347.048 RSMo) requiring limited liability companies that own, rent or lease real property, or that own unoccupied real property to file with the municipality in which the real property is located an affidavit listing the name(s) and address of the person(s) who has management control and responsibility for the real property owned, rented or leased by the limited liability company. Further, the MML urges the Missouri General Assembly to authorize municipalities to file legal action requiring limited liability companies who fail to file an affidavit with the municipality to file such affidavit.

Mass Transit

The MML supports an expansion of state funding for mass transit. Such funding would aid in achieving environmental, energy conservation and clean air goals. Quality public transportation expands access to jobs, increases road safety, reduces traffic congestion and improves public health.

Electrical Transportation

MML supports municipalities' efforts to provide equitable access to electric vehicle charging infrastructure for all residents and visitors, including using energy efficient vehicles. These electric vehicles could be used for community-wide essential services, as well as the electrification of municipal fleets. MML opposes any efforts to limit the ability of municipalities to diversify their fleets and energy sources and provide charging infrastructure. MML opposes any efforts to limit the ability of municipalities to establish electric vehicle charging infrastructure requirements.

Community Resilience

Community resilience is a measure of the sustained ability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand and recover from adverse situations. Activities, such as disaster preparedness, (which includes planning, prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery) are key steps to resilience.

The MML encourages the state of Missouri and its political subdivisions to develop and implement plans and actions designed to prevent, prepare for and mitigate the causes of adverse situations and catastrophic events. Moreover, the MML encourages the state and municipalities to enact adaptation strategies to strengthen community resilience through innovative planning and the use of technologies to minimize the impact of societal choices and the built environment. The environmental, social and economic welfare of the state of Missouri and communities depend on our taking such actions.

Regionalized Floodplain Management

MML encourages state and federal agencies to proactively partner with MML and its members when it comes to floodplain management. Municipalities are encouraged to work with other entities with a focus on regionalization as it pertains to flooding and prevention of flooding. State and federal agencies should engage those municipalities and work towards solutions that impact multiple municipalities contained within a region. With regard to development in floodplains, levee construction and/or levee improvements, the MML encourages municipalities and levee districts to approach these projects in regional terms considering and acknowledging the effect up and down the river systems and other immediate areas.

Stormwater And Soil Erosion Management

Stormwater runoff and soil erosion, exacerbated by more frequent and intense storms and increased impervious development, cause major issues for municipalities both in urban and rural settings. Both problems cause damage to private and public property; destruction to infrastructure; and challenges downstream where sediment and contaminants can pollute waterways. MML supports the state and federal agencies that provide support to municipalities to assist with stormwater issues and soil erosion. In addition, MML supports the funding for these state and federal agencies. MML encourages the appropriate state and federal agencies to work with municipalities and include them in the decision-making process involved in working towards solutions related to stormwater and soil erosion management.

Invasive Exotic Plants

Invasive exotic plants are non-native species introduced to the area that cause harm to the environment, economy

or human health by outcompeting native species, altering habitats and disrupting natural processes. Invasive plants threaten aspects of Missouri's economy, including horticulture, agricultural production, private landowners, native plant health, native ecosystems, and the outdoor recreation industry. Many of these problematic plants are imported, bred, distributed and/or promoted for sale in Missouri.

The MML opposes the introduction and establishment of invasive exotic plants within municipalities across Missouri. MML supports a standardized approach to protect local ecosystems, biodiversity, public lands and resources from the adverse effects of these species.

MML supports the development of and maintenance of a list of prohibited invasive exotic plant species based on state and federal guidelines. MML opposes the sale, distribution and planting of listed invasive exotic plant species within municipal limits or the state.

MML supports interagency cooperation that includes working with state and federal agencies to align municipal policies with broader invasive species management strategies. MML also supports partnering with local organizations, garden clubs and environmental groups to support invasive plant species prevention and removal efforts.

MML Past Presidents

- 2025 **Len Pagano**, *Mayor, St. Peters*
- 2024 **Matt Turner**, *Alderman, Harrisonville*
- 2023 **Michele DeShay**, *Mayor, Moline Acres*
- 2022 **Joe Garritano**, *Council Member, Wildwood*
- 2021 **Chuck Caverly**, *Council Member, Maryland Heights*
- 2020 **Debra Hickey**, *Mayor, Battlefield*
- 2019 **Chris Lievsay**, *Council Member, Blue Springs*
- 2018 **Matthew Robinson**, *Mayor, Hazelwood*
- 2017 **Kathleen Rose**, *Mayor, Riverside*
- 2016 **Randall Rhoads**, *Mayor, Lee's Summit*
- 2015 **Bill Kolas**, *Mayor, Higginsville*
- 2014 **Jan Marcason**, *Council Member, Kansas City*
- 2013 **Susan McVey**, *Mayor Pro Tem, Poplar Bluff*
- 2012 **Norman McCourt**, *Mayor, Black Jack*
- 2011 **Carson Ross**, *Mayor, Blue Springs*
- 2010 **Gerry Welch**, *Mayor, Webster Groves*
- 2009 **Bill Skaggs**, *Council Member, Kansas City*
- 2008 **Kevin Wood**, *Mayor, Harrisonville*
- 2007 **Ron Monnig**, *Council Member, Slater*
- 2006 **Patti York**, *Mayor, St. Charles*
- 2005 **Coni Hadden**, *Council Member, Liberty*
- 2004 **Rex Meneely**, *Council Member, Kirksville*
- 2003 **Mike Swoboda**, *Mayor, Kirkwood*
- 2002 **Marie Wessley**, *Council Member, Nevada*
- 2001 **Karen Messerli**, *Mayor, Lee's Summit*
- 2000 **Joseph Adams**, *Mayor, University City*
- 1999 **Joseph Adams**, *Mayor, University City*
- 1998 **Judith Swope**, *Council Member, Kansas City*
- 1997 **Harry Wilson**, *Mayor, Grandview*
- 1996 **George Irion**, *Mayor, Mexico*
- 1995 **Marge Schramm**, *Mayor, Kirkwood*
- 1994 **Louis Gardner**, *Mayor, Jefferson City*
- 1993 **Mary Anne McCollum**, *Mayor, Columbia*
- 1992 **Carolyn Gerdes**, *Council Member, Springfield*
- 1991 **Cheryl Dandridge**, *Mayor, Joplin*
- 1990 **Kennard Whitfield**, *Alderman, Rock Hill*
- 1989 **John C. O'Renick**, *Mayor, Sugar Creek*
- 1988 **Patricia Killoren**, *Mayor, Crestwood*
- 1987 **Barbara Potts**, *Mayor, Independence*
- 1986 **George Scruggs**, *Mayor, Springfield*
- 1985 **Clark Ferguson**, *Mayor, North Kansas City*
- 1984 **George Hartsfield**, *Mayor, Jefferson City*
- 1983 **John Cooper, Jr.**, *Mayor, Webster Groves*

- 1982 **Dolores Hudson**, *Council Member, Warrensburg*
- 1981 **Richard Berkley**, *Mayor, Kansas City*
- 1980 **Lawrence Lieberman**, *Council Member, University City*
- 1979 **Joanne Collins**, *Council Member, Kansas City*
- 1978 **Harold Dielmann**, *Mayor, Creve Coeur*
- 1977 **Howard Tooke**, *Mayor, Cape Girardeau*
- 1976 **Victor F. Swyden**, *Council Member, Kansas City*
- 1975 **Richard Provaznik**, *Mayor, Richmond Heights*
- 1974 **Wesley Smith**, *Mayor, Liberty*
- 1973 **Charles B. Wheeler**, *Mayor, Kansas City*
- 1972 **Phil K. Weeks**, *Mayor, Independence*
- 1971 **A.J. Cervantes**, *Mayor, St. Louis*
- 1970 **A.J. Cervantes**, *Mayor, St. Louis*
- 1969 **James Eagan**, *Mayor, Florissant*
- 1968 **Ilus W. Davis**, *Mayor, Kansas City*
- 1967 **Ralph B. Crain**, *Mayor, North Kansas City*
- 1966 **Nathan Kaufman**, *Mayor, University City*
- 1965 **John G. Christy**, *Mayor, Jefferson City*
- 1964 **Vincent A. Bayer**, *Mayor, Greendale*
- 1963 **Curtis Tindel**, *Mayor, Cabool*
- 1962 **David C. Scott**, *Mayor, Springfield*
- 1961 **F. William Human, Jr.**, *Mayor, Clayton*
- 1960 **Arthur J. Meers**, *Mayor, St. Joseph*
- 1959 **Walter H. Ford**, *Mayor, Cape Girardeau*
- 1958 **Sterling P. Davidson**, *Mayor, Maplewood*
- 1957 **H. Roe Bartle**, *Mayor, Kansas City*
- 1956 **Lee M. Duggan**, *Mayor, Richmond Heights*
- 1955 **R.D. Scharz**, *Mayor, North Kansas City*
- 1954 **John Torrey Berger**, *City Attorney, Kirkwood*
- 1953 **Stanley I. Dale**, *Mayor, St. Joseph*
- 1952 **R.P. Weatherford, Jr.**, *Mayor, Independence*
- 1951 **Clarence Appel**, *Mayor, Webster Groves*
- 1950 **Otis L. Barbarick**, *Mayor, Springfield*
- 1949 **William E. Kemp**, *Mayor, Kansas City*
- 1948 **Marvin E. Bisseau**, *Director Of Law, University City*
- 1947 **H.D. Allison**, *Mayor, St. Joseph*
- 1946 **Frank L. Martini**, *Mayor, Maplewood*
- 1945 **J.C. Griggs**, *Mayor, Carthage*
- 1944 **Arthur Bangert**, *Mayor, Florissant*
- 1943 **Roger T. Sermon**, *Mayor, Independence*
- 1942 **James D. Idol**, *Mayor, Harrisonville*
- 1941 **Edwin E. Chapman**, *Mayor, Webster Groves*
- 1940 **Julian H. Bagby**, *Mayor, Sedalia*
- 1939 **W.A. McGraw**, *Mayor, Flat River*
- 1938 **Roger T. Sermon**, *Mayor, Independence*
- 1937 **L.C. Pitkin**, *Mayor, Memphis*
- 1936 **Charles A. Shaw**, *Mayor, Clayton*
- 1935 **Daniel C. Rogers**, *Mayor, Fayette*
- 1934 **Homer L. Pruett**, *Mayor, Centralia*

2026 MML CONFERENCES

Legislative Conference

Jefferson City, Missouri

February 17-18, 2026

Elected Officials Training Conference

Columbia, Missouri

June 11-12, 2026

MML 92nd Annual Conference

Osage Beach, Missouri

September 13-16, 2026

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“To strengthen cities through
a unified voice, cooperation,
effective services, and a
proactive agenda.”

Missouri Municipal League

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