

# League of Minnesota Cities

Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Committee

MSB 1200

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# About the League of Minnesota Cities

The League is a statewide association serving **837** of Minnesota's 854 cities.

The League provides advocacy, education and training, risk management and other services. The League also operates an insurance trust for cities.



# About Minnesota's 854 Cities

146 cities are in the seven-county metropolitan area

708 cities are in Greater Minnesota

705 cities have population < 5,000

498 cities have a population < 1,000

# Who We Represent

## Cities and their elected and appointed officials

- Mayors and Councilmembers
- Appointed officials:
  - Administrators/managers
  - Clerks/elections administrators
  - Finance officers
  - Public safety leaders
  - Engineers
  - HR professionals
  - Community developers
  - and more

We do not represent individual cities on individual projects

# What cities do:

Police Protection

Fire Protection

Local Road  
Construction and  
Maintenance

Drinking Water

Wastewater

Housing

Economic  
Development

Parks &  
Recreation

Community  
Services

Libraries

Waste/Recycling

Other Local  
Services

## Why Cities Need Representation

Cities are a large part of an entire level of government and provide crucial services to Minnesota communities.

Much of what cities can do is dictated by state law.

Cities ask for policies and resources to better address the needs of Minnesotans.

# Legislative Issues Important to Cities

Local Control

Environment &  
Water

Transportation

Human Resources &  
Employment

Property Tax System  
& Public Finance

Pensions &  
Retirement

State Bonding

Open Meeting Law  
& Data Practices

Economic  
Development

Public Safety

Elections

Broadband

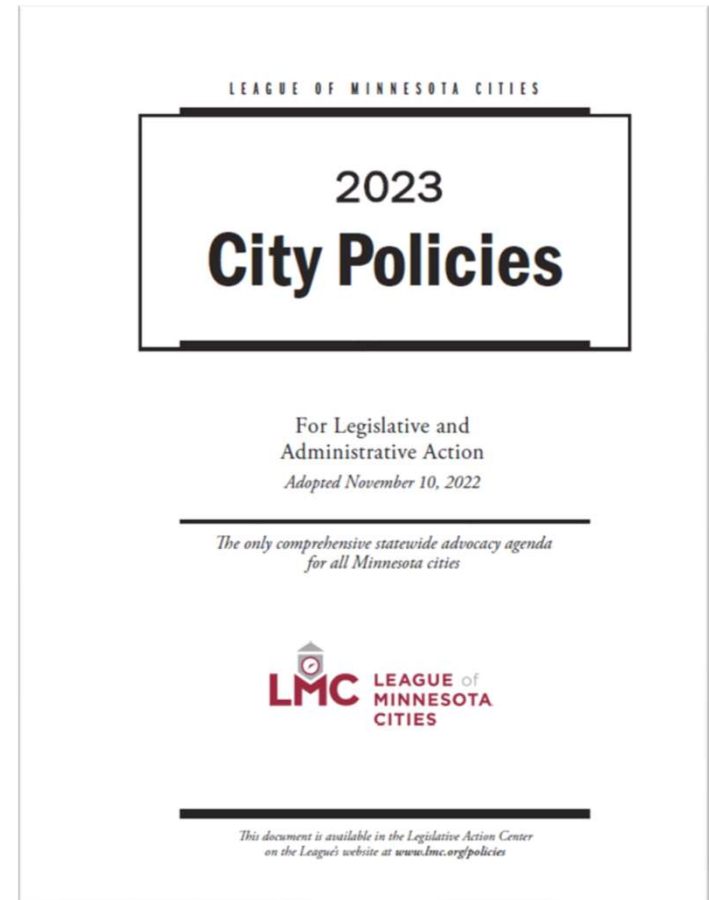
Housing

Land Use,  
Annexation and  
Zoning

Utilities

# How do we shape our legislative platform?

- Our policies are developed by our members and approved by our board of directors.
- Over 150 city officials from around the state meet each year to discuss issues impacting their communities and shape our legislative platform.
- The League uses these policies as a basis for our advocacy efforts and representing cities at the Capitol.





# 2023 Legislative Priorities

## Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act State Match

The League urges swift passage of state funds to provide necessary non-federal matching resources to ensure the state and local governments have access to all of Minnesota's \$7.3 billion share of critical IJA funding that will help advance a broad array of state and local infrastructure goals.

## Cannabinoid Regulation

The League calls for a strong and comprehensive regulatory framework for cannabinoid products, including maintaining local authority to license and regulate the products and considerations for public safety, taxation, and employment.

## Housing

The League calls for solutions that support the diverse housing needs in cities across the state and solutions that address the full housing spectrum, support local innovation, provide state incentives instead of mandates, and advance community-specific housing solutions.

## Local Control/Preemption

The League will oppose legislation that erodes local control in cities across Minnesota.

## LGA/Aid to Cities

The League supports updating the LGA formula to reflect new fiscal and demographic data, an immediate increase in the appropriation and annual appropriation increases to address inflationary pressures. The League also supports permanent funding for the Small Cities Assistance Account aid.

## Police and Fire Disability Benefits

The League will advance legislation for injury prevention and treatment and will seek state funding for certain disability benefits currently funded by employers. The League will oppose efforts to expand conditions presumed to be work-related for workers' compensation purposes.

## Bonding/Capital Investment

The League supports a substantial bonding bill that includes appropriations for municipal water and wastewater infrastructure, local roads and bridges, funding for the local road wetland replacement fund, and flood hazard mitigation.

## Sales Tax Exemption on Construction Materials

The League supports legislation to streamline the process required for cities to secure the sales tax exemption on construction materials.

## Transportation Funding

The League calls for a dedicated and sustainable state funding source for non-Municipal State Aid city streets, legislation that would allow cities to create street improvement districts, and grant funding for cities burdened by cost participation requirements.

## Water and Wastewater Policy and Funding

The League supports technical and financial resources needed for drinking water, stormwater, and wastewater infrastructure.

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