



2012 LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS

STATE ISSUES

- 1. Control the cost of local government public safety pensions.** Pension benefits are mandated by the State; yet local governments bear the cost. Frequently, an increase in state mandated pension benefits results in a property tax increase for local residents. Metro West opposes any non-negotiated attempts to increase pension benefits for municipal employees. Metro West urges the inclusion of representatives of regional councils in any agreed bill process or other negotiating process.
- 2. Gain recognition for the Northwest Water Planning Alliance as the regional entity that will guide water supply planning and policy and be the model for other regional entities.** Water supply is a critical issue for the region's sustainable future that must have proper stewardship. Municipalities have the experience in producing and regulating water and the interest in insuring the future of the water supply for its citizenry. As such, municipalities must be key members of any planning or governing body for such water supplies.
- 3. Protect local government revenues against further efforts to erode them especially the local share of the state income tax and the one percent local portion of the sales tax.** Also oppose attempts to balance state budget by 1) increasing fees charged to local governments; 2) raiding dedicated funds used by local governments; and 3) charging new administrative fees against dedicated funds. Make Sales Tax data available to non-home rule municipalities and not subject to FOIA.
- 4. Oppose legislation that attempts to eliminate local decision-making authority regarding personnel issues.** New collective bargaining mandates are particularly burdensome to the small local governments.
- 5. Maintain the efficacy of local government economic development tools including Tax Increment Finance Districts (TIF), Enterprise Zones (EZ) and Business Development Districts (BDD).** TIFs, EZs and BDDs are essential tools for communities to address land use and land condition problems, and to provide the funding necessary to do so. The current statutory limitations on the implementation of these tools are extremely rigorous and serve to ensure that they are only applied where appropriate, or are subject to challenge in a variety of fashions. Metro West Council of Government opposes the imposition of any moratoria or greater restrictions upon the use of local government economic development tools, including the creation of new BDDs, EZs and TIF Districts.
- 6. Oppose unfunded and under-funded mandates. Metro West opposes legislation that creates unfunded or under-funded mandates for local governments.** Oppose attempts to

reduce the State's share of funds currently provided for programs such as roads, transit, schools, parks, storm water and other public infrastructure.

7. Oppose federal or state legislation that would remove local control of public rights of way to the state and/or federal governments. New or revised legislation should ensure that municipalities maintain control of public rights of way which provide for the health, safety, and welfare, and are in the best interests of the public. Taking away control of local rights of way by state and federal governments is both unnecessary and unwarranted.

8. Enact corrective legislation to clarify the rights of firefighters and police to run for elected office while preserving existing conflict of interest law. Rescind legislation that creates the potential for conflicts of interest and (again) creates more issues than it answers. Rather than relying on the courts to resolve such questions, laws that favor certain municipal employees to serve as employee/employer at the same time should be rescinded or amended to address these fundamentally important concerns.

9. Promote legislation that recognizes the role of local government authority in the effectiveness and efficiency of municipal services provided to the public. Encourage and promote legislation that preserves the future of local government's positive and necessary affect on quality of life issues.

10. Maintain local control of zoning/land use issues while supporting non-binding regional communication on planning issues. Metro West supports legislation that **manages** growth and development while maintaining local control.

FEDERAL ISSUES

1. Increase Transportation Funding for Region. Work with Illinois' congressional delegation to increase the share of federal transportation dollars that are invested in the state, northeastern Illinois, and the MetroWest (Kane, DeKalb & Kendall County) region.

2. Enforce sales taxes compliance to all Internet retailers. Metro West supports legislation that mandates compliance among all online retailers to tax all transactions. Municipalities are missing out on certain revenue streams and the brick and mortar businesses are at a disadvantage relative to competition in the market.

JOINT FEDERAL/STATE ISSUES

1. The State must contribute its share of Federally Funded Projects. Local municipalities rely heavily on joint programs of the federal and state government. The state must continue to commit and provide its share of such programs in a timely manner to allow these valuable projects to continue.

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