

2017

LEAGUE OF MINNESOTA CITIES CITY ISSUE FACT SHEET

WAVE OF PRE-EMPTION LEGISLATION ERODES LOCAL AUTHORITY



PROBLEM:

Several bills introduced during the 2017 legislative session collectively serve to undermine Minnesota's robust city-state partnership.

This historic principle is based upon a shared vision and must allow communities and locally elected officials to tailor that vision to the unique needs of their citizens.

Cities use a comprehensive, legal, and open process to develop ordinances. Through this process they often serve as laboratories for public policy. Obstructing this authority will impede innovation that has proven to result in statewide benefits.

BACKGROUND:

The League has historically supported the principle of local control, and opposed threats to local control at federal and state levels. League legislative policy SD 2 states that "City government most directly impacts the lives of people and therefore, local units of government must have sufficient authority and flexibility to meet the challenges of governing and providing citizens with local services."

A core value of the League is that locally elected decision-makers are in the best position to determine what health, safety and welfare regulations best serve their constituents.

LEAGUE-SUPPORTED SOLUTION:

- Reject legislation that erodes the fundamental principle of local control in cities across Minnesota.
- Continue to actively work together and communicate about our communities in a way that respects the authority each form of government is given by voters.

DID YOU KNOW?

To date, more than two dozen bills that restrict local decision-making—on issues ranging from prohibition of plastic bags to the authority to set a local minimum wage—have been introduced in 2017.



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