More Than 40 Cities Pass Resolutions Supporting Local Decision-Making Authority

The resolution, provided by the League, demonstrates cities’ objections to a growing trend in the Legislature of introducing and advancing bills that remove or restrict the authority of local elected officials.

**CAPITOL UPDATES**

Follow the Action with Capitol Updates

During the legislative session, Capitol Updates will give you breaking legislative news in between issues of the weekly Cities Bulletin.

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**In Other News**

Bills Pre-empting Local Employment Regulations Reach Conference Committee

Minor differences exist between the House and Senate versions of a bill that pre-empts local governments from establishing certain employment requirements for private employers.

Tax Conference Committee Makes Steady Progress on Non-Budget Items

Most of the major changes, including tax reductions and new aid and credit spending, remain to be resolved.

Funding for Census 2020 Missing in Budget Discussions

The state government finance omnibus bill conference committee hasn’t included funding for Census 2020.

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**More Information and Resources**

Don’t Miss Tomorrow’s Webinar on the State Bonding Process—Register by Noon on 5/2

Deadline This Friday to Nominate Your City or Leader for a League Award

Get Up-To-Date Information with the 2017 Directory of Minnesota City Officials—Available Now!

New 4M Fund Term Series Open for a Limited Time: Act by May 8

GreenStep Cities: Enter by This Friday to Win the Sustainable City Award!

Get Tips on How to Recognize Unconscious Bias in Your Own City: Free Webinar on May 23

Applications to Serve on LMC Board Due May 26

Discover the Signs of a Vibrant City During the 2017 Annual Conference in Rochester

Model Documents Now Featured on League Website

Learn from Sustainable Purchasing Case Studies at May 3 GreenStep Cities Workshop & Webinar

New Video: Tour the Capitol and Get Tips for Visiting with Legislators

Help Select 2017 League Board

Clerks: Join Colleagues from Across the State in Rochester June 14-16

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**Training, Conferences, Events**

Upcoming League Events

Online Training/E-Learning

Co-Sponsored Events

Events Sponsored by Other Organizations
More Than 40 Cities Pass Resolutions Supporting Local Decision-Making Authority

The resolution, provided by the League, demonstrates cities’ objections to a growing trend in the Legislature of introducing and advancing bills that remove or restrict the authority of local elected officials.

In less than six weeks, more than 40 Minnesota cities have approved resolutions calling on the Legislature to stop advancing bills that place limits on local decision-making authority. The resolution was provided by the League beginning March 20, and is in response to the proliferation of 2017 legislative initiatives aimed at restricting local control.

- Learn more about the bills and download the resolution (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/Resolution-localcontrol.jsp)

The resolutions have generated media attention and have prompted some legislators to privately suggest they are feeling pressure from local leaders in their districts to oppose bills aimed at interfering with local control.

The League expects more cities to pass the resolution as city officials become increasingly concerned about legislative initiatives that would hamper the ability of elected officials to respond to the health, safety, and welfare needs of their constituents, including local businesses.

If your city has passed a resolution, please be sure to share it with the League, as well as with your legislators.

- See the list of cities that have passed the resolution (pdf) (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/localcontrol_resolutions.pdf)
- Access the League’s Local Decision-Making Authority Advocacy Toolkit (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/LocalAuthorityToolkit.jsp)

Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp)
Bills Pre-empting Local
Employment Regulations Reach
Conference Committee

Minor differences exist between the House and Senate versions of a
bill that pre-empts local governments from establishing certain employment
requirements for private employers.
(Published May 1, 2017)

League-opposed bills that pre-empt local governments from regulating wages, paid
time off, scheduling practices, terms of employment, and benefits of private
employers have passed off the floors of the House and Senate and await action by a
conference committee.

HF 600, authored by Rep. Pat Garofalo (R-Farmington), was passed by the full House on a vote of 76 to 53 on March 2. On April 20, the
Senate amended and passed HF 600 on a vote of 35 to 31.

- See HF 600 as amended by the Senate

The Senate companion was introduced as SF 580 and is authored by Sen. Jeremy Miller (R-Winona).

The major difference between the two bills is that the House version prohibits local
governments from regulating “working conditions,” and the Senate version does
not include this provision.

The House refused to concur with the Senate version; therefore, a conference
commitee was appointed. Members of the conference committee on HF 600 are:

- Rep. Garofalo (House Chair)
- Rep. Dave Baker (R-Willmar)
- Rep. Jeanne Poppe (DFL-Austin)
- Sen. Miller (Senate Chair)
- Sen. Julie Rosen (R-Vernon Center)
- Sen. Dan Sparks (DFL-Austin)

What’s next?
An initial meeting of the conference committee is pending. The bill is expected to
reach Gov. Dayton’s desk before the session concludes. Gov. Dayton has expressed
concerns about the notion of taking decision-making authority away from local elected officials, but he stopped short of saying he would veto the measure.

Learn more and get involved
The League has been tracking a number of bills introduced during the 2017 session that would infringe on local decision-making authority. Many of the bills remain viable, and the League is encouraging city officials to contact legislators to express concerns about the trend toward restricting local control.

- Access the LMC Local Decision-Making Authority Advocacy Toolkit, which includes a sample resolution (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/LocalAuthorityToolkit.jsp)
- Read a Pioneer Press article about this topic (Link to: http://www.twincities.com/2017/04/20/dayton-concerned-about-but-would-not-necessarily-veto-bill-to-preempt-local-ordinances/)

For more background information on this topic, read a previous Bulletin article (Link to: http://lmc.org/preemptemploymentbulletinbackground).

- Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp)

Your LMC Resource

Contact Anne Finn
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Most of the major changes, including tax reductions and new aid and credit spending, remain to be resolved.

(Published May 1, 2017)

The omnibus tax bill conference committee last week reached agreement on several provisions that don’t impact the state budget, including those related to local sales tax requests, local tax increment financing (TIF) requests, and several miscellaneous provisions. Tax reductions and appropriations for programs such as local government aid (LGA) have not yet been discussed.

Like the tax committee, many of the conference committees on the other 10 omnibus budget bills approved provisions over the past week that have no impact on the state budget. With the release of the joint House and Senate budget targets on April 28, the conferees will now begin finalizing conference committee reports in anticipation of negotiating budget positions with the governor.

The House tax bill (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/OmniTaxBill.jsp) (HF 4, Rep. Greg Davids, R-Preston) included $1.3 billion in tax reductions and tax-related spending, while the Senate bill (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/OmniTaxBillSenate17.jsp) (SF 2255, Sen. Roger Chamberlain, R-Lino Lakes) included roughly $900 million in tax relief and tax-related spending. The joint House and Senate tax budget target was set at $1.15 billion.

Specific city provisions
During last week’s tax conference committee hearings, the committee approved several provisions impacting specific cities, including those related to local sales taxes and TIF projects.

The adopted local sales tax provisions include:

- Duluth food and beverage tax and local lodging tax.
- Mankato sales tax extension.
- Hermantown sales tax extension.
- New Ulm sales tax use expansion.
- Proctor sales tax rate increase.
• Albert Lea sales tax extension.
• Worthington sales tax modification.
• North Mankato sales tax extension.
• East Grand Forks sales tax authorization.
• Fairmont sales tax authorization.
• Fergus Falls sales tax authorization.
• Moose Lake sales tax authorization.
• New London sales tax authorization.
• Spicer sales tax authorization.
• Walker sales tax authorization.
• Sleepy Eye special lodging tax authorization.

The adopted local TIF provisions include:

• Burnsville
• Seaway Port Authority
• Edina
• Maple Grove
• Anoka
• Coon Rapids
• Cottage Grove
• Moorhead
• Richfield (two districts)
• St. Louis Park
• St. Paul
• Wayzata

Other adopted items
The committee also adopted several miscellaneous provisions, including the following:

• The House position related to an agricultural containment facility exemption clarification, which will significantly narrow the definition of portions of property that qualify for a property tax exemption.
• The House position that prohibits cities from imposing fees or taxes on merchant-provided bags.
• A Senate position that moves the proposed property tax levy certification date for special taxing districts—including economic development authorities, housing and redevelopment authorities, and port authorities—from Sept. 15 to Sept. 30.
The committee also adopted a House position that changes income limits for existing affordable housing TIF districts that receive Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) Challenge funds. This provision was included in the League’s larger workforce housing TIF bill and is supported by the League. It makes no changes to the existing income limits of MHFA’s Challenge program, rather it applies those higher income limits (80 percent of statewide median income, which is roughly $62,000) to affordable housing TIF districts that are also funded with Challenge funds. Current income limits for affordable housing TIFs are 20 percent of units need to be at 50 percent statewide median income, or 40 percent of units need to be at 60 percent statewide median income.

Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp)

Your LMC Resource

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Funding for Census 2020
Missing in Budget Discussions

The state government finance omnibus bill conference committee hasn’t included funding for Census 2020.
(Published May 1, 2017)

The Minnesota Department of Administration is concerned about the lack of state funding for Census 2020 in the budget discussions, and what that could mean for Minnesota.


Gov. Dayton’s proposed budget includes $190,000/year for four years for Census 2020, which the state demographer would use to hire two temporary employees. This funding was not in the House or Senate state government finance bills and remains left out of the conference committee discussions thus far.

Census impact on Minnesota
An accurate census is very important to the state as a whole, including cities. The collected data determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is used to distribute federal funds to states and local governments.

Minnesota was on the verge of losing one of its eight congressional seats in 2010. The 2020 census count will determine if Minnesotans will have one less representative in Washington, D.C.

The census data is also used in the distribution formula for local government aid.

Why is the census done?
The census is required by the U.S. Constitution by Article I, Section 2. Every 10 years, the U.S. census counts every resident in the United States, including citizens and non-citizens.

For more information:

- LMC Cities Bulletin article: Preparing for the 2020 Census: Role of Cities (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/census2020LUCA.jsp)
- MinnPost article: As the State Demographer’s office gears up to count Minnesotans, can it count on the Legislature? (Link to: https://www.minnpost.com/politics-policy/2017/04/state-demographer-s-office-gears-count-minnesotans-can-it-count-legislature)
• INFORUM article: Minnesotans prepare to make sure all rural residents are counted in census (Link to: http://www.inforum.com/news/4251061-minnesotans-prepare-make-sure-all-rural-residents-are-counted-census)

Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp)

Your LMC Resource

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ikao@lmc.org (Link to: mailto:ikao@lmc.org)
Nominate Your City or Official for a 2017 League Award!

The League each year honors the special achievements of cities and city leaders. Entries are now being accepted for the City of Excellence Awards, C.C. Ludwig Award, and James F. Miller Leadership Award.

Chief appointed and chief elected officials in every member city will receive entry brochures in the mail. You may also download the brochures here. The deadline to enter is **May 5**.

View the City of Excellence Awards entry form (pdf) ([Link](http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/cityofexcellenceapp.pdf?inline=true))

View the C.C. Ludwig Award & James F. Miller Leadership Award entry form (pdf) ([Link](http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/ludwigmillerapp.pdf?inline=true))

**About City of Excellence Awards**

The [City of Excellence Awards](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/city-of-excellence-awards.jsp) recognize cities for programs that have helped their cities progress in some way. Awards are given in three different population categories and in one special topical category, which is different each year. The 2017 Topical Category is "Promoting Civility in Your City."

Read more about the City of Excellence Awards ([Link](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/city-of-excellence-awards.jsp))

**About the C.C. Ludwig Award and James F. Miller Leadership Award**

The [C.C. Ludwig Award](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/ludwig-awards.jsp) recognizes elected officials who have made significant contributions to Minnesota city government. Similarly, the [James F. Miller Leadership Award](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/ludwig-awards.jsp) honors appointed city officials who have gone above and beyond the call of duty for their city and all Minnesota cities.

Read more about the C.C. Ludwig Award & James F. Miller Leadership Award ([Link](http://www.lmc.org/page/1/ludwig-awards.jsp))

**Your LMC Resource**

Let us know if you have questions or suggestions about our LMC Awards Programs.

**Contact Don Reeder**

Assistant Director of Communications for Public Affairs  
(651) 215-4031 or (800) 925-1122  
dreeder@lmc.org ([Link](mailto:dreeder@lmc.org))

**Meet our city vendors!**
Submit your 2017 entries now!

Cities currently participating in the Minnesota GreenStep Cities program are eligible to submit an entry for the 2017 League of Minnesota Cities/GreenStep Cities Sustainable City Award. The deadline to enter is May 5.

View the Sustainable City Award entry form (pdf) (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/sustainablecityawardapp.pdf?inline=true)

The award will be given to a single city that has implemented a project, program, or initiative that is helping the city achieve its sustainability goals through implementation of one or more of the GreenStep Cities program’s 29 best practices. The winner will be announced at the 2017 LMC Annual Conference, happening June 14-16 in Rochester.

In addition to special recognition at the Annual Conference, the winning city receives a cash prize of $1,000. The winner is also featured in League press releases and publications.

Past Sustainable City Award winners

2015 Sustainable City Award winner (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/sustainablecityaward15-nr.jsp)
2016 Sustainable City Award winner (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/sustainablecityaward16-nr.jsp)

Your LMC Resource

Contact Don Reeder
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dreeder@lmc.org (Link to: mailto:dreeder@lmc.org)

Meet our city vendors!
Applications to Serve on LMC Board Due May 26

Apply now to serve on the League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) Board of Directors and help to lead an organization that represents cities across the state.

Serving on the LMC Board of Directors is both an honor and responsibility. One of the League’s strengths has always been its broad and engaged membership. Its ability to serve members’ needs and exhibit leadership by anticipating and proactively addressing city challenges hinges on having a Board of Directors that is representative, responsible, strategic, and visionary.

Board responsibilities
If you are interested in serving on the LMC Board, please review the Board’s Governance Handbook before submitting an application to ensure you are aware of the roles and responsibilities. The League of Minnesota Cities Governance Handbook (pdf) (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/governancehandbookpdf.pdf?inline=true) was developed by the Board to guide the manner in which Board business is conducted and to outline the values and expectations that drive Board service.

Board meetings are typically held during the day on the third Thursday of the month. In addition, this year’s Board planning retreat is scheduled for Sept. 13-15 at Ruttger’s Bay Lodge in Deerwood. The League reimburses all direct expenses of Board members. Mileage is reimbursed at the current approved rate.

Selection process
A Nominating Committee appointed by the League president will interview candidates on June 14 at the LMC Annual Conference in Rochester. The nominated candidates will be presented to members at the annual business meeting on June 15.

The committee considers the following guidelines when selecting nominees:

Geographic representation
City population
Gender
Race
City position (appointed vs. elected)
League experience and involvement
Positions held in other organizations

League members will elect a president, a first vice president, a second vice president, and four directors. If a current Board member is elected to an officer position, there would be one additional opening for a director position.

How to apply
To request an application packet, contact Kellie Sundheim, LMC, at (651) 281-1214, (800) 925-1122, or ksundheim@lmc.org (Link to: mailto:ksundheim@lmc.org). The deadline to apply is May 26.

Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp)

Your LMC Resource

Interested in applying for the LMC Board of Directors?

Contact Kellie Sundheim
Assistant to the Executive Director
(651) 281-1214 or (800) 925-1122
ksundheim@lmc.org (Link to: mailto:ksundheim@lmc.org)

Meet our city vendors!

https://www.lmc.org/page/1/bod-apply.jsp
Applications to Serve on LMC Board Due May 26

http://www.lmc.org/page/1/bod-apply.jsp
Model Documents Now Featured on League Website

Starting from scratch? It’s great when baking—not so much when you must write a city policy. Now you can easily find League model documents to help you in the website Resource Library.

Learn more about finding model documents in the Resource Library (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/city-codes.jsp)

On the Model Documents page (at the above link), you can select from a list the type of model you want: resolutions, policies, contracts, ordinances, or other forms. By searching “forms” you can find a variety of models such as letters, notices, checklists, permits, applications, and more. They are all available in Word document formats, so you don’t have to retype it—just grab and go!

Many League models offer practical pointers or optional approaches marked with this “information” icon, and fill-in-the-blank fields so you can customize the model for your city. Each model links back to a resource on the model’s topic, such as an information memo, handbook, or Human Resources Reference Manual chapter.

Another quick way to search is to check only “models” as a “Resource Type to Search” and place a word in the Resource Library (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/resource-library.jsp) keyword search box.

Check back often, as models will continue to be added over coming months.

Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp)

Meet our city vendors!

(Links: http://www.lmc.org/ads/106210)
Advocacy 101: Navigating the Capitol

City officials coming to the Capitol can use this new video to prepare for their visit.  
(Published Apr 17, 2017)

A new video is available that demonstrates what city officials can expect when advocating in St. Paul on behalf of Minnesota cities or simply visiting the Capitol complex. It reflects changes in office and hearing room locations made following the Capitol renovation and construction of the new Minnesota Senate Building in 2016.

The video breaks down where four popular destinations in the Capitol complex are located, what activity happens in each, and tools and tips for a successful visit. It also demonstrates procedures and etiquette that is typical of the Minnesota Legislature.

The video was produced by League interns Ted Bengtson, Casey Casella, and Katie Davidson.

For more information
Have questions about navigating the Capitol or planning your advocacy trip to St. Paul? The League of Minnesota Cities offers tools and services for city officials coming to advocate for their cities.

View advocacy resources (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/how-to-lobby.jsp)

View How to Advocate (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/tell-your-city-story.jsp) steps (video also available on this page)

Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp)

* By posting you are agreeing to the LMC Comment Policy (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/comment-policy.jsp) .

https://www.lmc.org/page/1/NavigatingtheCapitol17.jsp 5/1/2017
Your LMC Resource

Contact Ted Bengtson
IGR Intern
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tbengtson@lmc.org (Link to: mailto:tbengtson@lmc.org)

Contact Heather Corcoran
IGR Member Service Coordinator
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hcorcoran@lmc.org (Link to: mailto:hcorcoran@lmc.org)

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[Image of Hamline University Master of Public Administration advertisement]

(Link to: http://www.lmc.org/ads/102706)
Help Select 2017 League Board

You can play an important role in the selection of new members of the 2017 League of Minnesota Cities (LMC) Board of Directors. Apply by May 26 to be part of the Nominating Committee that determines Board candidates worthy of serving the League and its more than 830 member cities.

LMC President Rhonda Pownell, mayor of Northfield, is expected to appoint the Nominating Committee by the end of May. The Nominating Committee is made up of eight to 12 city officials, consisting of both elected and appointed officials. Everyone is encouraged to apply.

The League reimburses Nominating Committee members for expenses incurred for serving on this committee.

Once the Nominating Committee has been selected and members have been notified, there will be an hour-long conference call to provide information on the Nominating Committee process and guidelines for conducting the Board candidate interviews and deliberation process.

If you are providing a letter of reference for an individual who plans on applying to the LMC Board of Directors, we ask that you refrain from applying to be on the Nominating Committee. This will ensure that no conflicts of interest arise during the process.

The committee will convene early on the morning of June 14 at the 2017 LMC Annual Conference in Rochester to interview candidates for the positions of president, first vice president, second vice president, and four director positions. The committee’s recommendations will then be presented to the entire membership at the annual business meeting on June 15.

City officials interested in serving on the Nominating Committee should contact Kellie Sundheim, LMC, by May 26 at (651) 281-1214, (800) 925-1122, or ksundheim@lmc.org (Link to: mailto:ksundheim@lmc.org).

Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin (Link to: http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp)

Your LMC Resource

Interested in serving on the Nominating Committee?

Contact Kellie Sundheim
Assistant to the Executive Director
(651) 281-1214 or (800) 925-1122
ksundheim@lmc.org (Link to: mailto:ksundheim@lmc.org)

Reach Minnesota Cities!

(Link to: http://www.lmc.org/ads/102700)