

City of Madison
2016 – 2017 Legislative Agenda

Maintain Local Control – Decisions should be made at a local level whenever possible; the city opposes efforts to take authority away from municipalities.

Protect Property Tax Base –As more property is removed from the tax roll, it places an increasing burden on the remaining property owners. For example, eliminating personal property tax will not reduce taxes overall, it will simply shift a greater portion of the burden to homeowners.

Fully Fund Payment for Municipal Services Program –The PMS program reimburses municipalities for the police and fire protection provided to state facilities. Recent funding has declined sharply, which forces local taxpayers to subsidize the state’s obligation.

Shared Revenue –Funding for shared revenue should be increased to relieve the tax pressure on homeowners, and the distribution formula should be modified to address the costs of poverty to a community.

Modify Levy Limits – The current limitations do not even allow for inflation, nor do they provide room to deal with unexpected costs such as the emerald ash borer.

Increase Funding for Local Roads – Ninety percent of the state’s road miles are under local government jurisdiction. The state should increase funding from the Transportation Fund for local roads.

Increase State Transit Funding and Maintain a Consistent Level –Given the essential role that transit plays in an effective transportation system, state funding should be increased and stabilized.

Reestablish Regional Transportation Authorities -Authorize local governments to create RTAs with the ability to levy a sales tax to finance their capital costs and operations.

Protect Stewardship funding for land acquisition – This program provides an essential means of preserving our state’s valuable outdoor spaces.

Protect the integrity of the Impact Fee statutes – Impact fees are an effective way to fund the increased infrastructure costs of development.

Remove the RPC from the County’s Levy Limit Calculation –Though the Regional Planning Commission is an independent body, its charge is counted against the county’s levy limit.

Alders serving as election officials – State law should be modified to allow alders to work as election officials.

Modify procedures for absentee voting in nursing homes and residential care facilities – Current law is exceptionally complicated and costly; the city spends about \$40 on each absentee ballot cast in a nursing homes or residential care facility.

Expand documents accepted as proof of residence for registration - Current law allows only 11 documents as proof of residence for registration. The law should allow

other reliable documents such as renter's insurance, homeowner's insurance, medical insurance documents, hospital bills/statements, and credit card bills.

Allow legal notices to be published online instead of in the newspaper – Given the increased readership of online resources, online posting would be cheaper and reach a wider audience.

Allow electronic delivery of property tax bills - State statute specifically requires property tax bills to be sent through the mail.

Support Public Records and Open Meetings Law Reform – Current law on public records and open meetings is outdated given the modern technology. The City has adopted ordinances that are more up-to-date, but statutes should be updated.

Allow Municipal Attorneys to Issue Subpoenas in Municipal Court - Town, village or city attorneys should be able to issue subpoenas in cases in municipal court.

Allow Minor Property Damage to Vehicles to be Subject to Forfeiture –A failure to stop after hitting an occupied vehicle can be charged only as a crime. A smaller penalty should be created so that minor incidents do not go unaddressed.

Require Medical Fitness Exams for Metro drivers – Require transit drivers to have routine medical exams like those that are required for truckers and school bus drivers.

Reduce Interest on Tax Refunds – Municipalities must pay 9.6% annual interest on tax refunds for entities found to be tax exempt. The rate should be lowered to be consistent with excessive assessment claims.

Update statutory references to Milwaukee – As the population of Dane county grows, statues designed only for the city/county of Milwaukee should be updated to ensure they do not apply to Madison.

Allow the Use of TIF for Police and Fire Stations – Police and fire buildings are excluded from the list of allowable TIF costs, but development cannot exist without those municipal services.

Reduce Incentives for Municipalities to use TIF to Compete for Business –State law should reduce the incentive for municipalities to use TIF to compete for business.

Increase the Homestead Tax Credit – The homestead tax credit provides property tax relief to low-income working families and homeowners on fixed incomes. It should be increase and indexed to inflation.

Change the age youth are considered juveniles – Persons 17 and older are subject to adult criminal court jurisdiction. The age should be raised to 18.