

Conference Resolution No. 2011-1

Restoration of Shared Revenue Funding

(Sponsored by the League's Board of Directors)

Whereas, 2011 Wisconsin Act 32, cut shared revenue funding for municipalities by 7% (\$47.7 million) effective 2012; and

Whereas, shared revenue funding for municipalities was cut twice due to the state's fiscal difficulties, including cuts of \$57.6 million in 2004 and \$23.1 million in 2010; and

Whereas, for over ninety years the state shared revenue program has been a key component of Wisconsin's state and local relationship and an important part of the state's overall program of property tax relief ; and

Whereas, Gov. Walker and legislative leaders have made job creation and economic growth a top priority; and

Whereas, to create jobs and economic growth, municipalities must invest in services that businesses demand, like police protection, fire suppression, road maintenance, and snowplowing; and

Whereas, to create jobs and economic growth, municipalities must invest in infrastructure that businesses demand, like sewer pipes, water mains, roads, culverts, and bridges; and

Whereas, to create jobs and economic growth, municipalities must invest significant funds in a variety of development tools, such as development incentives and grants, business incubators, recruitment and retention efforts, community branding, public/private partnerships, economic development networks, urban service area extensions, and tax incremental financing districts; and

Whereas, a strong infrastructure for economic growth, which includes an efficient and effective transportation system to serve the workers and business community, is vital and necessary to the future of our state; and

Whereas, job creation and economic growth in our communities will generate additional sales and income taxes for the state; and

Whereas, the state should reinvest a portion of its revenue growth in local communities to spur further job creation and economic growth and put Wisconsin on the road to permanent financial stability;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the League of Wisconsin Municipalities in conference assembled on October 20, 2011, urges the Governor and the Legislature to restore shared revenue funding to 2002 levels when the state's future tax collections increase as a result of job creation and economic growth in our communities.

Conference Resolution No. 2011-2
Promoting Civil Public Discourse

(Sponsored by the City of Eau Claire)

Whereas, the principle of civility is the foundation of democracy and the rule of law; and

Whereas, public discourse today is all too often composed of divisive attacks rather than meaningful consideration of important public issues, which leads to ineffective public decision making, citizen frustration, and damage to our democracy; and

Whereas, municipal officials play an important role in shaping public behavior as leaders in our communities and therefore have a special opportunity to help steer public discourse back to a more civil direction;

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the League of Wisconsin Municipalities in conference assembled on October 20, 2011, urges all government officials and employees, political parties, media representatives, advocacy organizations, and candidates for political office and their supporters to strive toward a more civil public discourse in the conduct of political activities and in the administration of the affairs of government.