

City of Madison

2019 – 2020 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.

- Small cell co-locations
- Erosion of landlord/tenant and development-related ordinances
- Taxi/rideshare regulation

Protect Property Tax Base – The property tax burden has increasingly been shifted to homeowners

- Properties should not be removed from the tax rolls
- Fix the Dark Store loophole

Fully Fund Payment for Municipal Services Program –The PMS program reimburses municipalities for the police and fire protection provided to state facilities. Funding has declined sharply, forcing 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.

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 – Transit plays an essential role in an effective transportation system; state funding should be increased and stabilized.

Statewide Transit Capital Assistance Fund –As the federal assistance continues to diminish, the state should continue to use the VW settlement funds for capital assistance.

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

Provide Funding Assistance for 2020 Census - For the 2000 census, the state made matching funds available to assist communities in getting an accurate census count. A similar effort should be made for the 2020 census.

Modify Procedures for Absentee Voting in Nursing Homes – 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 Municipalities to Move Local Elections to November – Moving local elections to November could drive up participation and engagement in local government.

Restore Ability to Condemn for Sidewalks and Bike Lanes - Bike lanes and sidewalks are an essential part of a complete transportation system

Address Electronic Bikes, and Dockless Bikes and Scooters – State law needs to be updated to take account of these new forms of transportation.

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 a fair and effective way to fund the increased infrastructure costs of development.

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

Exempt Municipalities from the Fair Dealership law – Governments were never intended to be covered by this law.

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; state 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.

Include Condominiums in Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Review – Reclassifying a subdivision as a condominium should not be a way to avoid ETJ review.

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.

Pursue Legislation to Assist in Chloride Reduction – The City has implemented a voluntary salt applicator certification program. Allowing liability protection for certified applicators could greatly improve participation.

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 increased and indexed to inflation.

Increase Funding for the Homeless Prevention Program and the Housing Assistance Program – These programs are effective in preventing homelessness, but their funding levels are insufficient to address current needs.

Increase Funding for Wisconsin Shares – Funding for Wisconsin Shares has fallen over the past 10 years. State funding should be increased to raise rates to 75th percentile.

Create a \$1500 Refundable Tax Credit for Childcare Professionals – Wage stagnation has caused this workforce to be underpaid, which leads to high turnover and inconsistent care.

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.

Allow Driver Permits for Undocumented Persons – Identification would only be used for driving purposes only.

Allow Emergency Detention Transports by Non-Police Personnel – Since Mendota closed, transports to Winnebago have become a financial and time challenge. Allowing municipalities to contract these services could save costs and officer time.