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FRANK J. MADARAS

PATRICK POWERS

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Pruyne and Carie Anne Ergo, Village Administrator

FROM: Deanne Curelo, ATVA

DATE: January 5, 2024

SUBJECT: Approval of a Resolution to Adopt the Illinois Municipal League 2024 State Legislative Agenda

RECOMMENDED MOTION: Motion to Adopt the Illinois Municipal League 2024 State Legislative Agenda.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this Resolution is to allow the Mayor or his designee(s) to advocate for legislation in the 2024 Legislative Session which supports the Village's interests.

DISCUSSION

The Illinois Municipal League (IML) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to unifying and advocating for the interests of municipalities in Illinois. Serving as a collective voice for local governments, it fosters collaboration and provides resources to address common challenges, promoting effective governance.

Each year, the IML adopts a State Legislative Agenda (SLA) to establish positions on legislative issues that collectively benefit member municipalities. As a longstanding member of the League, the Village has supported IML's platform to uphold and safeguard municipal rights.

This year's SLA aims to continue to:

- Promote local decision-making; and
- Preserve home rule authority; and
- Expand non-home rule authority; and
- Oppose unfunded mandates and preemption; and
- Preserve the right of municipalities to determine employee wages and benefits; and
- Protect state-shared and other local revenues.

By approving this resolution, the Board indicates its approval of IML's SLA agenda, and permits Mayor Pruyn or his designee(s) to advocate for legislation that supports it.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the item be forwarded to the Committee of the Whole Meeting on January 9, 2023, for consideration and approval.

ATTACHMENTS

IML State Legislative Agenda
Resolution

IML 2024

ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE

LEGISLATIVE PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

MISSION STATEMENT

The Illinois Municipal League (IML) is the statewide community-focused lobbying and educational organization "whose special interest is the people" so municipalities can have a powerful resource and voice in Springfield.

CORE VALUES

- Promote Local Decision Making;
- Promote and Preserve Home Rule Authority;
- Expand Non-Home Rule Authority;
- Oppose Unfunded Mandates and Preemption;
- Preserve the Right of Municipalities to Decide Employee Wages and Benefits; and,
- Protect State-Shared and Other Local Revenues.

OVERVIEW

This document is a summary of IML's 2024 *Legislative Principles and Policies* adopted by the IML Board of Directors, and serves as the basis for IML's advocacy at the state and federal levels. Additionally, this document is intended to outline how IML positions are developed on critical issues facing Illinois cities, villages and towns.

iml.org
iml.org/legislative
iml.org/principles

December 9, 2023

Municipal Authority

The operation of a municipality is complex and requires partnerships with both federal and state governments. Laws and regulations that preempt local authority or impose additional unfunded mandates only hinder the ability of municipal officials to meet the needs of residents. Municipal officials must maintain the necessary autonomy to fulfill their responsibilities on behalf of those they serve.

To achieve this, IML:

- Supports a Municipal Bill of Rights to protect and preserve municipal governance throughout the state;
- Supports the full preservation of home rule authority afforded under the Illinois Constitution and the expansion of home rule eligibility for cities, villages and incorporated towns in Illinois;
- Supports legislation that allows for protection from creditors in a bankruptcy proceeding for instances where Illinois municipalities find themselves in need of such protection;
- Opposes preemption of traditional local rights and responsibilities, such as the right to levy and collect taxes and fees and to make land use and zoning decisions; and,
- Opposes unfunded mandates on local communities either by legislative, executive or administrative action.

Municipal Revenue and Taxation

It is critical that Illinois municipalities receive the revenues necessary to offer essential services and provide for the health, safety and welfare of their citizenry. IML commends the state for revenue sharing with Illinois municipalities. This successful partnership must continue in good faith and in recognition that most of the services that benefit Illinoisans are provided by local government. Municipal governments must also have the autonomy to address their local revenue needs.

To achieve this, IML:

- Supports the restoration of a full 10% share of state income tax collections through the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) and the restoration of previously-diverted Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT) revenues;
- Supports federal and state grants, forgivable loans and other revenue sources to fully fund the replacement of lead service lines in community water supplies;
- Supports full flexibility for municipal officials to spend municipal revenues to benefit communities. This includes broader discretion for expending Motor Fuel Tax and Hotel/Motel tax revenues;
- Supports the repeal of the state's Property Tax Extension Limitation Law (PTELL);
- Supports the continued federal tax exemption for municipal bonds;
- Supports legislation that removes or reduces the state administrative fees on locally-imposed revenues and opposes any diversions of revenue that is collected by the state on behalf of local governments;
- Opposes legislation that freezes property tax rates;
- Opposes any reduction in existing municipal taxing and regulatory authority;
- Opposes restrictions to municipal finance and economic development tools such as Tax Increment Financing (TIF), Special Service Areas, Special Assessment Areas and various debt instruments when the restrictions undermine the benefits that these tools provide to local communities; and,
- Opposes policies that allow the state to hold and control the release of tax revenue derived from locally-imposed sales taxes.
- Supports the elimination of administrative fees charged to process locally-imposed taxes.

Labor Law, Compensation and Employment Benefits

Compensation and benefit decisions involving local government employees are appropriately made by the employer. Wages and benefits must balance the interests of the employee, employer and taxpayer. The General

Assembly and Governor must avoid approving policies that increase the costs of municipal compensation, benefits and personnel without providing revenues to offset the financial obligations created by their actions. Existing state labor and employment policies must also be reexamined with the intent of ensuring that local governments can maintain personnel costs at sustainable levels.

To achieve this, IML:

- Supports maximum reform and consolidation of benefit administration for downstate and suburban municipal police and firefighter pension funds in a manner that reduces the long-term financial obligations to municipal employers and protects the solvency of the systems for participating employees;
- Supports the reamortization of downstate public safety pension funds to 2050 or later, which will statutorily place them in line with other statewide, state-administered and Chicago-based funds and provide immediate financial relief to affected communities;
- Supports legislation that eliminates the practice of “pension spiking” involving vacation time, sick time and longevity pay;
- Supports cost-saving reforms to the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act (PSEBA) and the adoption of the federal definition of “catastrophic injury”;
- Supports local control of the hiring, promotion and discipline of municipal employees and opposes state interference in what are local employment matters;
- Supports requiring arbitrators to base awards primarily on actual existing municipal revenues and not on other factors, such as municipal authority to increase taxes and fees or spend down financial reserves;
- Supports legislation that reduces the number of issues subject to mandatory collective bargaining requirements;
- Supports reforms to the Workers’ Compensation system that result in meaningful cost savings to local governments and taxpayers;
- Opposes preemption of municipal authority, as employers, to determine and apply paid leave policies, health insurance benefits, disability benefits and determination standards, personnel levels and retirement eligibility for municipal employees;
- Opposes legislation that increases pension benefits;
- Opposes the expansion of collective bargaining rights for municipal employees to the detriment of municipal employers; and,
- Opposes expansions to the Prevailing Wage Act.

Intergovernmental Cooperation

Local governments and Illinois taxpayers benefit from the broad authority that allows local governments to cooperatively pool resources and share services. Service cooperation and consolidation reduces the cost to local governments, eliminates redundancies and appropriates resources wisely and effectively.

To achieve this, IML:

- Supports the purpose and intent of Article VII, Section 10 of the Illinois Constitution which authorizes intergovernmental cooperation between units of government; and,
- Opposes legislation that restricts, modifies or otherwise infringes upon the authority of local governments to voluntarily initiate or terminate intergovernmental cooperation arrangements.

Meetings, Public Records and Notifications

IML believes that a democracy requires the active participation of an engaged citizenry. Citizens elect their local leaders and hold them accountable. The Open Meetings Act (OMA), Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and public notification laws are essential accountability mechanisms. These laws must be balanced to consider

staff obligations, confidential personnel information, evolving technology and occasional abuses of the process by those seeking public information.

To achieve this, IML:

- Supports legislation that allows for statutory reporting requirements and FOIA requests to be satisfied when the information is available on the website of the municipality;
- Supports legislation that provides for the utilization of LocalPublicNotices.org and other electronic means, instead of publication in a print newspaper, for required notifications if the municipality so chooses the option;
- Supports legislation that allows local officials to determine when remote meetings under OMA are practical or prudent or in the best interest of the public body or the public;
- Opposes legislation that unnecessarily complicates the ability of a local governing body to properly communicate with the public and that discourages communications among governing body members through unproductive restrictions; and,

Public Safety and Crime Prevention

Municipal governments are the primary guarantors of public safety. Cities, villages and towns are tasked with the responsibility of addressing crime in their communities. Municipalities must be well-equipped with the funding and tools necessary to carry out these essential obligations to protect the health, safety and welfare of their residents.

To achieve this, IML:

- Supports legislation that provides additional funding for effective community policing programs;
- Supports legislation that makes it easier to identify, prosecute and convict violent offenders;
- Supports legislation that enhances prison sentences for repeat violent crime offenders;
- Supports initiatives that reduce the need for the incarceration of at-risk youth, mentally ill and non-violent drug offenders;
- Supports legislation that promotes drug abuse prevention, education and treatment;
- Supports programs and policies to address the growing opioid abuse epidemic afflicting all communities;
- Supports legislation that funds community-oriented grant programs to help local law enforcement agencies implement and improve implicit bias training;
- Supports efforts to improve relationships between local police and communities they are sworn to protect and serve, especially in communities of color;
- Supports funding law enforcement training to de-escalate dangerous situations; and,
- Supports legislation that allows for non-home rule communities to adopt crime-free housing programs.

Municipal Liability

Illinois law provides some measure of protection from excessive, costly lawsuits against public bodies. These laws should remain in place and not weakened in a manner that would expose municipal employees and local taxpayers to unreasonable lawsuits.

To achieve this, IML:

- Supports the reinstatement of the Public Duty Rule to restore protections for municipalities and first responders;
- Supports the preservation of qualified immunity as a defense for alleged constitutional violations; and,
- Supports legislation that minimizes municipal liability in cases of data breaches and cyberattacks.

RESOLUTION 1504-24

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE LEGISLATIVE ACTION PROGRAM OF THE ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL CONFERENCE FOR THE 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WHEREAS, the Village of Itasca is a member of the Illinois Municipal League (IML); and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Municipal League develops its annual Legislative Action Program with the goal of establishing a comprehensive platform on legislative issues in order to protect and benefit the interests of its member municipalities, residents and businesses in these municipalities, and the region generally; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Municipal League Board of Directors voted unanimously to adopt its 2024 Legislative Action Program, attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Itasca, will individually benefit by formally establishing positions on legislative issues affecting municipalities, thereby giving clear direction to officials and employees of the Village of Itasca regarding legislative positions that may be represented in official capacity or on behalf of the municipality:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Itasca, DuPage County, Illinois as follows:

SECTION ONE: The Village of Itasca hereby adopts the Illinois Municipal League's 2024 Legislative Action Program which is attached and includes the following listed legislative priorities:

- Promote local decision-making; and
- Preserve home rule authority; and
- Expand non-home rule authority; and
- Oppose unfunded mandates and preemption; and
- Preserve the right of municipalities to determine employee wages and benefits; and
- Protect state-shared and other local revenues.

SECTION TWO: The Mayor or his designee(s) may represent the Village of Itasca's position on state or federal legislation that is consistent with the approved IML 2024 Legislative Action Program.

SECTION THREE: A copy of this Resolution should be forwarded to the Illinois Municipal League, to all state legislators representing the Village of Itasca, and to the Office of the Governor.

SECTION FOUR: SEVERABILITY. If any section, paragraph, or provision of this

Resolution shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Resolution.

SECTION FIVE: REPEAL OF PRIOR RESOLUTIONS. All prior Resolutions and Ordinances in conflict or inconsistent herewith are hereby expressly repealed only to the extent of such conflict or inconsistency.

SECTION SIX: EFFECTIVE DATE. This Resolution shall be in effect immediately from and after its passage and approval.

	Trustee Aiani	Trustee Daly	Trustee Gavanese	Trustee Leahy	Trustee Madaras	Trustee Powers	Mayor Pruyn
Aye	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Absent	<input type="checkbox"/>						
Abstain	<input type="checkbox"/>						

APPROVED and ADOPTED by the Village President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Itasca this 23rd day of January, 2024.

APPROVED:

Village President Jeffery J. Pruyn

ATTEST:

Village Clerk Jody Conidi