

# Core Legislative Principles

## Economic Vitality

**Healthy communities are essential to the economic viability and attraction of jobs to Michigan.**

Vibrant municipalities are the economic engines of the state. Municipalities must maintain the ability to expand and provide the higher level of services demanded by the citizens. Michigan's cities, villages, and urban townships need to be given the appropriate tools to create economic development, redevelopment, and revitalization. This includes dedicating state and federal resources and amending state law to allow for more efficient local tools first and foremost to developed, full-service communities for economic development, infrastructure, and local improvements. New growth in existing municipalities should utilize existing infrastructure for the most efficient use of state and local public revenue. All those who benefit from a municipality through use of the infrastructure, municipal amenities, proximity to jobs, commerce, and cultural resources should bear a fair share of the cost of providing those services. This must be reflected in land use law. Municipal authority must be maintained and enhanced to allow more flexibility and options at the local level. Necessary tools for appropriate revitalization and growth in developed communities include the ability to zone, flexibility in planning, local review, and approval of buildings and new development, urban redevelopment options and tools, and economic development and financing strategies. These principles, along with quality educational opportunities, are the cornerstones that make Michigan communities competitive in today's global economy.

## Environmental and Infrastructure Sustainability

**Environmental regulations must be appropriately funded to adequately protect public health, based on scientific principles and risk analysis. Policies should encourage the development and redevelopment of residential, commercial and industrial properties in full-service communities. Local government involvement in telecommunications and internet connectivity are essential for commerce, public safety, economic development, education, and healthcare in the 21st century.**

Local governments are partners with state and federal agencies in protecting the environment and quality of life for residents, serving as regulators and members of the regulated community. As regulators, municipalities need adequate authority to set standards, enforce requirements, and perform inspections. The state should continue to provide technical assistance and financial resources to local governments for the implementation of environmental programs. Municipalities must be directly involved in the development and review of environmental laws and regulations.

Local governments should retain the right to establish, own, and operate new and existing municipal telecommunications systems and should have the opportunity to partner with public and private service providers to supply Michigan residents with access to this technology. Proper communication and coordination must be upheld in these partnerships to ensure municipal rights of way are maintained without excessive disruption for construction or insertion of new technology. Communities must have the primary right to define locations in or near rights of way that meet the aesthetic needs of homeowners, the community, and the engineering needs of the service providers.

## **Ethical Conduct**

**It is essential that all government elected and appointed officials abide by a code of ethical conduct.**

State and municipal officials must adhere to standards of conduct that promote transparency and public confidence in Michigan's system of governance. Ethics provisions should preserve options for locally developed and adopted ethical standards, as may be provided for in local charters or ordinances.

## **Local Control**

**Constitutional power given to the people of Michigan's communities to govern themselves in local matters must be carefully preserved.**

The powers of 'home rule' were granted in the 1908 Michigan Constitution and reaffirmed and strengthened in the 1963 Michigan Constitution. The strength and high standards that prevail today in Michigan local government come from this long tradition of self-determination. Citizens adopt charters to govern themselves and elect municipal officials to resolve significant issues in the public interest which best meet local needs and conditions. To ensure communities can continue to provide a wide range of needed and wanted services, state and federal legislation must uphold the principles of local control and ensure costs are not shifted to local taxpayers. Burdensome liabilities or unfunded mandates must not be placed upon municipalities. Functions or activities required by state or federal government must include funding for implementation. Municipalities must also be given the flexibility to consolidate. They must be given incentives for consolidation, and current laws need to be streamlined and made more flexible for any communities that choose to consolidate.

## **Municipal Finance**

**Improvements to the municipal finance system are needed to provide fiscal stability and flexibility, which are necessary components of vibrant communities.**

Property taxes, city income taxes, revenue sharing, franchise fees, adequate compensation for use of municipal resources by third parties, other fees and various local option taxes are all integral components of a stable, reliable and balanced revenue stream for municipalities. The property tax system and municipal fee structure must be improved to provide greater flexibility for appropriate funding of municipal services. Elimination of any property tax liability without local approval must occur only if reimbursement is guaranteed by constitutional amendment. Revenue sharing must be fully funded and be provided in greater proportion to full-service municipalities. Existing revenue streams must not be eliminated without having alternative revenue sources in place. New revenue streams, including those that may be obtained through local option revenue sources, are essential to meet the future needs of municipal residents and to provide the infrastructure necessary for vital public services.

## **Municipal Services**

**Municipalities must be able to offer the appropriate and desired municipal services their residents want and need.**

Federal and state resources must be provided to maintain appropriate and needed municipal services that meet the human need and support a high quality of life in Michigan communities. Unfunded mandates must not be required by the state and federal government. To serve growing urban populations with water, sewer, transportation, police protection, fire protection, solid waste, stormwater, electricity, gas, communications, parks and recreation, public housing, and other services, municipalities need the autonomy to make appropriate management, financial and operational decisions. Municipalities must be free to determine when it is appropriate to enter into and fund regional or multi-jurisdictional arrangements. They must be free of barriers that discourage cost savings through interlocal cooperation and long-range planning.

## **Transportation**

**To improve quality of life in Michigan's communities, multi-modal transportation infrastructure and transit operations are essential to ensure the safest, most cost-effective transportation system.**

Transportation infrastructure is a strategic investment that is essential to strengthening Michigan's economy. Long-term reliable transportation funding sources must be developed to provide base-line support for infrastructure improvements and transit operations. The use of existing transportation resources has grown dramatically in Michigan while funding systems have changed little. The global and interdependent economy relies on an increasingly mobile population and communities that offer accessible, high-quality services. Transportation is critical to both. Michigan's economy and quality of life in its municipalities are dependent upon the ability to move people and goods. Therefore, transportation investments have a direct impact on the ability of municipalities to continue to attract highly skilled residents and employees.



michigan municipal league

Better Communities.  
Better Michigan.

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## **Michigan Municipal League Annual Meeting Notice**

(Please present at the next Council or Commission Meeting)

Dear Official:

The Annual Convention of the Michigan Municipal League will be held on Mackinac Island, October 1-4, 2008. **The annual meeting is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 2, at the Grand Hotel. The meeting will be held for the following purposes:**

1. **Election of Trustees.** To elect six members of the Board of Trustees for terms of three years each (see page 2).
2. **Policy.** To vote on Core Legislative Principles document and resolutions properly brought before the annual meeting. All member municipalities planning on submitting resolutions for consideration at the annual meeting are reminded that under the Bylaws, the deadline for League trustees to receive resolutions for their review is September 2, 2008 (please see page 2).
3. **Other Business.** To transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

### Designation of Voting Delegates

Pursuant to the provisions of the League Bylaws, you are requested to designate by action of your governing body one of your officials who will be in attendance at the Convention as your official representative to cast the vote of the municipality at the annual meeting, and, if possible, to designate one other official to serve as alternate. After taking this action, please return the enclosed reply card no later than September 15, 2008.

Regarding the designation of an official representative of the member to the annual meeting, please note the following section of the MML Bylaws:

“Section 4.4 - Votes of Members. Each member shall be equally privileged with all other members in its voice and vote in the election of officers and upon any proposition presented for discussion or decision at any meeting of the members. Honorary Members shall be entitled to participate in the discussion of any question, but such members shall not be entitled to vote. The vote of each member shall be cast by its official representative attending the meeting at which an election of officers or a decision on any proposition shall take place. Each member shall, by action of its governing body prior to the annual meeting or any special meeting, appoint one official of such member as its principal official representative to cast the vote of the member at such meeting, and may appoint one official as its alternate official representative to serve in the absence or inability to act of the principal representative.”

1. Election of Trustees

Regarding election of officers, under Section 5.3 of the MML Bylaws, six members of the Board of Trustees will be elected at the annual meeting for a term of three years. The regulations of the Board of Trustees require the Nominations Committee to complete its recommendations and post the names of the nominees for the Board of Trustees on the bulletin board of the registration desk at least four hours before the hour of the business meeting.

2. Statements of Policy and Resolutions \*

Regarding consideration of resolutions and statements of policy, under Section 4.5 of the MML Bylaws, the Board of Trustees acts as the Resolutions Committee, and "no resolution or motion, except procedural and incidental matters having to do with business properly before the annual meeting or pertaining to the conduct of the meeting, shall be considered at the annual meeting unless it is either (1) submitted to the meeting by the Board of Trustees, or (2) submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees by resolution of the governing body of a member at least thirty (30) days preceding the date of the annual meeting." Thus the deadline this year for the MML to receive resolutions is August 28<sup>th</sup>.

"Every proposed resolution submitted by a member shall be stated in clear and concise language and shall be accompanied by a statement setting forth the reasons for recommending the proposed resolution. The Board shall consider the proposal at a Board meeting prior to the next annual meeting and, after consideration, shall make a recommendation as to the advisability of adopting each such resolution or modification thereof."

The proposed 2008-2009 Michigan Municipal League Policies and any new proposed Resolutions recommended by the Board of Trustees for adoption by the membership are available on the League website\*, to permit governing bodies of member cities and villages to have an opportunity to review such proposals and delegate to their voting representative the responsibility for expressing the official point of view of the member at the annual meeting.

The Board of Trustees will meet on Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> at the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island for the purpose of considering such other matters as may be requested by the membership, in addition to other agenda items.

\* The proposed 2008-2009 MML Core Legislative Principles document are available on the League website at <http://www.mml.org>. If you would like to receive a copy of the proposed policies by fax, please call Susan at the League at 800-653-2483.

Sincerely,



Deborah Doyle  
President



Daniel P. Gilmartin  
Executive Director & CEO

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**OFFICIAL VOTING DELEGATES  
ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING  
Michigan Municipal League**

In accordance with the accompanying MML Annual Meeting Notice, each member municipality is to appoint one Official Voting Delegate and one Official Alternate Voting Delegate to represent the municipal at the Annual Business Meeting of the Michigan Municipal League.

The purpose of these instructions is to familiarize the voting delegate, especially those officials serving in this capacity for the first time, with the procedure to be followed during the Annual Business Meeting.

1. Prior to entering the Business Meeting, Official Voting Delegates should check-in at the registration desk located just outside of the meeting room. Official Voting Delegates will then be given a pass to enter in the reserved seating area for Voting Delegates. If the Official Voting Delegate is not present, the Official Alternate Voting Delegate should check-in at the registration desk to be given the Voting Delegate pass.

Only the Official Voting Delegate will be seated in the area reserved for Voting Delegates. If the Official Voting Delegate is not present, the Official Alternate Voting Delegate will take the Delegate's place in the reserved area as the Voting Delegate. Therefore, each member municipality will have only one person seated in the reserved area. All other municipal officials, and all other Alternate Voting Delegates, may be seated outside the reserved area.

2. In general, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, will govern the conduct of the Annual Business Meeting. Parliamentary decisions will be made by the President of the League who will preside at the Annual Business Meeting. The President will be assisted by a Parliamentarian. Parliamentary decisions by the Chair, if challenged from the floor, are subject to be sustained or overturned by a majority of the voting delegates.

3. The Bylaw governing the submission of policy resolutions provides:

Section 4.5 - Resolutions

- A. No resolution or motion shall be submitted to debate or vote at the annual meeting or any special meeting unless it is germane to the functions and purposes of the League.
- B. No resolution or motion, excepting procedural and incidental matters having to do with business properly before the annual meeting or pertaining to the conduct of the meeting, shall be considered at the annual meeting unless it is either: 1) submitted to the meeting by the Board of Trustees; or 2) submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees by resolution of the governing body of a member at least thirty (30) days preceding the date of the annual meeting\*\*.

- C. Every proposed resolution submitted by a member shall be stated in clear and concise language and shall be accompanied by a statement setting forth the reasons for recommending the proposed resolution. The Board shall consider the proposal at a Board meeting prior to the next annual meeting and, after consideration, shall make a recommendation as to the advisability of adopting each such resolution or a modification thereof. If time permits, each such resolution with the recommendation of the Board shall be printed in the *Michigan Municipal Review*.

\*\* The deadline for receiving resolutions is September 2, 2008.

4. If a Voting Delegate wishes to speak, the Delegate should rise and proceed to one of the microphones available in the reserved area and after recognition by the Chair, may then speak. Since the Annual Business Meeting is being recorded, each Voting Delegate who wishes to speak for any reason, after being recognized by the Chair, should first announce the Delegate's name, title and municipality slowly and clearly into the microphone.

A member of the Board of Trustees, an Honorary Life Member, or a Chair or a designated member of a League Standing or Special Committee may speak on a question, but may not vote unless serving also as a Voting Delegate. If a question is raised about a proposed policy or resolution, or an amendment is offered and seconded, the Chair or designated member of the proper League Standing or Special Committee or a member of the Board of Trustees will be called upon to speak at an appropriate time to explain the Committee's views *before the vote* is put on the question. In addition, upon request of the Chair, a member of the League staff may speak on a question. Any other person present may speak only with the approval of the Voting Delegate body.

5. If a Voting Delegate who has been seated wishes to have the Alternate Voting Delegate from the Delegate's municipality speak on an issue, the Voting Delegate should request, after being recognized by the Chair, to be excused from the reserved area and that the other person be permitted to take the Delegate's place temporarily or for the balance of the meeting. Upon being excused by the Chair, the Alternate Voting Delegate may then take the Voting Delegate's place in the reserved seating area and may speak and vote as the Official Voting Delegate.
6. The above procedure is necessary to assure that, in the event of a vote on a question by show of hands or by voice vote of the Delegates, no municipality will have more than one person seated in the reserved area