



michigan municipal league

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League Applauds Governor's Local Government Reforms

But Michigan Municipal League Remains Opposed to Continued Reduction of Funding to Michigan Communities

The following statements are from Michigan Municipal League officials commenting on Gov. Rick Snyder's proposed "Community Development and Local Government Reforms" plan announced this morning in Grand Rapids.

"We applaud the governor's continued support of Michigan communities and his desire to give our cities, villages and urban townships the tools they need to share services and operate as efficiently as possible," said Michigan Municipal League CEO and Executive Director Dan Gilmartin.

Gov. Snyder's [message](#) focused on consolidating and sharing services; transparency and accountability; and reducing the cost of employee benefits. In his message, the governor referenced the work done by the Michigan Municipal League in helping form a local government dashboard. He also referenced the League's Center for 21st Century Communities initiative and the comment that he is "strongly encouraged by the voluntary efforts underway in our local government associations," Gilmartin said.

"The League continues to oppose pieces of the governor's budget plan, particularly significant reduction in funding to communities and the inability of all cities and villages to obtain additional dollars in the governor's incentive plan. However, overall we are pleased with the governor's efforts to give local governments the tools they need to reduce costs and share services," said League Board President Carol Shafto, Alpena mayor.

Summer Minnick, the League's director of state affairs, said that the League would prefer that all Michigan communities be eligible for the incentive program outlined by the governor. As proposed by the governor, only communities currently receiving \$6,000 or more in statutory revenue sharing would be eligible for the incentive program dollars.

The League, however, supports the regulatory reforms proposed today by the governor, including changes to Public Act 312 (dealing with mandatory arbitration for emergency workers)

and the Urban Cooperation Act. Many of these reforms have already been proposed by the League. (View the League's plan [here](#).)

The League also supports the [government dashboard template](#) discussed by the governor as a valuable tool for Michigan communities, Gilmartin said.

"Many communities already use systems similar to the governor's dashboard template, but it will be nice to have a uniform tool for all local governments," Gilmartin said.

[Michigan Municipal League](#) advocates on behalf of its member communities in Lansing, Washington D.C., and the courts; provides educational opportunities for elected and appointed municipal officials; and assists municipal leaders in administering services to their communities through League programs and services.

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