

City of Minneapolis 2009 Legislative Agenda

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Local Government Finance

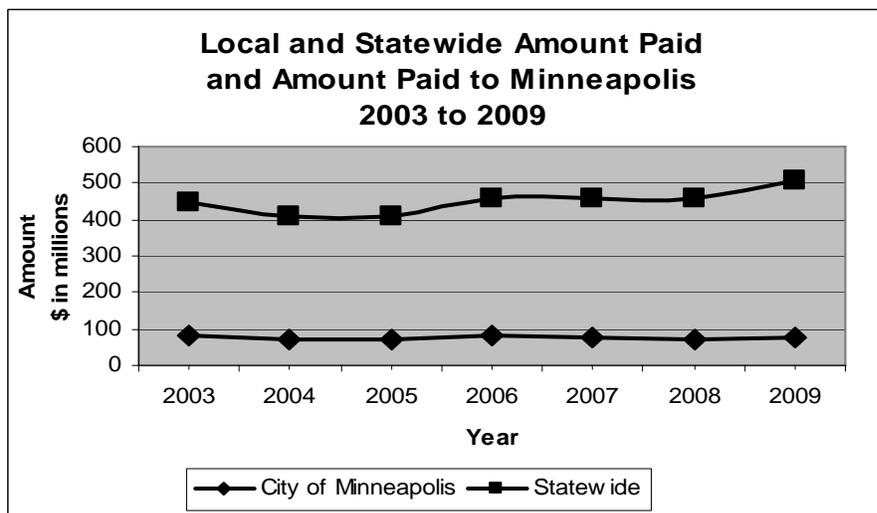
The priority issues for Minneapolis:

Local Government Aid (LGA)

LGA is the state program that provides cities and counties with annual financial assistance. Initiated in 1971 LGA distributes a state general appropriation based on a legislatively approved formula. In 2009 the LGA appropriation is authorized at \$526.0 million or \$42.0 million greater than the previous year's amount. However the 2009 annual appropriation is approximately \$60.0 million below the 2003 original appropriation. The 2003 legislature not only changed the statutory distribution but also in response to a budget deficit reduced the amount of the annual appropriation.

As a result of the 2003 legislation the 2004 and subsequent year appropriations were set at \$436.0 million, or \$150.0 million--25% below the previous year's certified amount. The 2005 legislature increased the appropriation to \$485.0 million. The formula change included new factors such as the amount of household size and traffic accidents. The legislation also increased the amount of LGA that was subject to the formula and conversely reduced the amount appropriated based on the previous year LGA amount (grandfathered) and special provisions. For example, in 2003 approximately \$367.0 million or 63% of the LGA appropriation was grandfathered but in 2004 the grandfathered amount was \$26.5 million or 6%. With more cities having its LGA based on the formula, fewer cities are receiving LGA than prior to the legislative changes. The legislation also eliminated the annual inflation increase which was added to the appropriation.

The City's LGA and Statewide amounts from 2003 to 2009 follow:



The City's future year's LGA amount is dependent upon not only changes in its own factors but also those of the other participating cities. For example, a decline in traffic accidents or an increase in taxable value could influence the City's LGA amount. The current formula however does not include a factor that measures the impact of a city's employment level and business activity.

The 2008 legislature also modified the formula. Among the modifications were the inclusion of a “jobs” factor but the aid derived from the factor is limited to no more than \$4.725 million annually to any city. Minneapolis’ job factor aid exceeded the cap by \$800,000. The legislature also amended the law to minimize the annual aid fluctuations and established a commission to study and recommend changes to the formula. The commission which consists of legislators and local government officials is scheduled to report to the legislature by December 15, 2010.

Unlike other state aid programs that require the proceeds to be used for a specified purpose, LGA does not specify expenditure requirements. City councils determine how the funds should be used. In most instances the funds are appropriated to the general fund and, in effect, help reduce the proposed property tax levy.

For the biennium beginning in 2009, the City of Minneapolis recommends that:

- Local Government Aid (LGA) be funded, at a minimum, amount equal to the 2003 certified amount adjusted for inflation.
- The program continues to be flexible and not include spending requirements by type of expenditure.
- The formula be amended to reflect measures of a city’s service level, needs and demands.
- The 2009 LGA certified amounts to all cities not be reduced.

Mall of America (MoA)

The City is aware that the MoA adds to the region’s economy by attracting patrons from other parts of the state and country and that it is a major employer of both construction and retail service workers. However, the City must oppose legislation relating to the expansion of the MoA unless the following conditions are met:

- a) the public improvements are paid from non-regional sources and not fiscal disparities which provides property tax relief for many cities;
- b) the parking structure, in part, is self funded either through fees or leases entered into by MoA tenants;
- c) the proposed theater will not upon completion or by a later modification provide performances that could compete with publicly funded theaters in the region. Theater configurations which will be assumed to be competitive include theaters configured as a dinner theater with tables on the main floor and a seating capacity which exceeds 1,500 seats, or a theater configured in the traditional auditorium style with “fly space” and a seating capacity which exceeds 500 seats; and
- d) the MoA’s conference center will not compete with regional convention centers located in the metro area and greater Minnesota.

The 2008 legislature authorized the City of Bloomington to levy special taxes (sales, lodging, food and beverage) and tax increment financing to support public improvements including the parking ramp. The taxes apply to the mall district and some of the taxes could be extended by the Bloomington City Council to other parts of the city. The legislation does not include regional financing and it prohibits live theater on the site.

If the 2009 Legislature discusses the MoA development legislation the City of Minneapolis reaffirms its opposition unless the identified conditions are included in the final bill.

Minneapolis supports:

Increased property tax relief to those residential properties that will have significant tax increases due to the elimination of the limited market value program, tax levy increases and changes in the property tax base.

- Continued efforts by the Department of Revenue to provide public information regarding the property tax relief program. Such efforts can include but not be limited to public service announcements, web pages, printed materials and presentations at public meetings and on public education/government programming.
- Diversifying revenue sources for municipalities, including but not limited to street use utility, sales tax, and other user fees including infrastructure maintenance assessments.
- Repealing the state sales tax on local government purchases.
- Restructure the property tax relief programs to base property tax relief primarily on the income of the owner-occupant of residential property.

Levy Limits. Repeal

The 2008 Legislature approved the imposition of levy limits for cities over 2,500 in population. The limits are effective for taxes collected in 2009 through 2011. The limits are based on levy plus aids and permit certain expenditures such as debt payments, and pensions to be special levies, or exempt from the limit.

Levy limits restrict the authority of local governments to manage their operations. In the absence of levy limits, the City of Minneapolis been able to expend public funds that have been targeted to needed services and has maintained the City's fiscal health. The City of Minneapolis opposes levy limits and recommends that the current limits be repealed for taxes paid in 2010 and 2011.

Minneapolis opposes:

- Legislation including constitutional and statutory amendments, including levy limits, that would limit government revenues and authority.
- Unfunded mandated services or procedures imposed by the legislature on local governments.
- Use of the sales tax proceeds approved by the November 8 constitutional amendment for purposes other than those intended by the amendment.

Capital Bonding

The following projects were submitted by the City of Minneapolis to the Department of Finance and adopted as the City's bonding priorities for the 2008 Session. Many of the projects received positive response from the legislature and a few were funded in the final bill passed by the legislature.

However, because of the governor's veto pen and because two large transportation funding items (UPA and Central Corridor) were viewed as entirely or partially Minneapolis projects, only one Minneapolis bonding ask received funding in 2008 (SEMI/University Research Park).

It is our recommendation that because more funds are needed for SEMI and the other projects received no funds in the 2008 session that our bonding priorities remain the same for 2009.

1. Target Center Debt Reduction	\$ 62.0M
2. Grand Rounds Scenic Byway Lighting Renovation	\$ 2.0M
3. Grand Rounds Scenic Byway (bridge replacement)	\$ 3.1M
4. Southeast Minneapolis Industrial University Research Park (SEMI)	\$ 6.85M
5. Training and Emergency Operations Center	\$ 8.0M
6. Hiawatha LRT Corridor Development	\$ 6.5M
7. Joint Minneapolis-Hennepin County Forensic Laboratory	\$ 2.7M

In addition the City of Minneapolis is willing to be the political subdivision required by Minnesota Statutes 16A.86 for Orchestra Hall, should that organization obtain state bonding process.

Public Safety

Keeping residents and visitors safe is a top priority for the City of Minneapolis.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

General Public Safety

- Funding for the entire public safety system, including such critical functions as police, fire, prosecutors, public defense, communication systems, probation, the courts and victim services. Providing public safety, a core responsibility of local government, is threatened by insufficient funding. Prioritize new criminal justice funding to address rising violent crime.
- Changing the criminal code to address chronic offenders of indecent exposure laws and allowing for enhancement to felony level offenses.

- Amending the Victims' Rights Statute to allow prosecutors to obtain victims' input on potential terms of plea agreements prior to attendance in court, so that court proceedings are not delayed.
- Legislation defining "chronic offender" and providing for gross misdemeanor penalties or enhanced penalties for chronic offenders.
- Creating a statewide coordinated plan for dealing with released sex offenders that addresses the overall concentration of offenders located within the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County and especially mitigates the concentration of sex offenders within vulnerable neighborhoods. To ensure this equitable distribution of sex offenders, the State must fund additional housing options and placement of half-way houses and should require the county of commitment to bear financial responsibility for released offenders.

Prostitution and Human Trafficking

- Efforts to reduce prostitution and domestic human trafficking.
- Streamlining statutes in order to more effectively prosecute prostitution-related offenses.
- Broaden the definition of "public place" for gross misdemeanor prostitution and patron cases to be the same as that in the Minnesota Human Right Act.
- Strengthen the gross misdemeanor "public place" prostitution statute so that the elements of the offense are the same as those in the misdemeanor prostitution statute, except for the additional requirement that the offense must take place in a "public place."
- Modify the prostitution statute to provide that on a first offense, the Department of Motor Vehicles will classify as "public data" the fact that a prostitution patron was convicted of a prostitution offense using a motor vehicle.
- Amending the prostitution in a public place statute to make a first violation of this section a gross misdemeanor by enhancement.
- Legislation designating funding for treatment and creation of transitional housing programs to support women leaving behind a life of prostitution.

Domestic Abuse – Orders of Protection

- Legislation disqualifying an offender who violates a domestic abuse no contact order or interferes with an emergency call from owning or possessing a pistol.
- Expand the definition of "family or household members" to include persons *formerly* involved in such a relationship.
- Amend the domestic abuse no contact statute to permit prosecutors to charge this offense under circumstances in which a defendant has violated a no contact order issued after he or she was convicted of an offense *arising from* a domestic abuse assault-related offense, rather than convicted of the domestic-assault related offense itself.
- Amend the domestic abuse gross misdemeanor statute to remove the requirement that the prior qualified offense be against a family or household member.
- Modify the language in the domestic abuse definitions statute from "qualified domestic violence related offense" to "qualified prior offense" to allow clearer application for non-domestic assaults.
- Amend the domestic violence probable cause statute to expand the time frame in which police officers can arrest a person who has committed domestic abuse from 12 hours to 24 hours.

- Strengthen the domestic abuse no contact order statute to make the order applicable throughout the state.
- Improve the processes to access court records.
- Improve the process to authorize when arrests may be made for violations of orders for protection.
- Permit prosecutors to show that the respondent to an order for protection either knew, or had reason to know, of the existence of the order.

Minneapolis Supports:

General Public Safety

- Continued funding for re-entry programs and efforts to coordinate the programs with existing opportunities. Legislation supporting the re-entry of ex-offenders into their communities, such as voting rights, public/private training and employment programs, and access to affordable housing.
- Mandatory statewide regulation of massage therapists.
- Protecting the human rights of immigrant populations and establishing a culture of mutual trust between law enforcement and immigrant populations to foster greater community public safety. The ability of local governments to ensure greater public safety should not be hampered by state efforts to impose unfunded mandates or dictate traditional federal government responsibility to the local level.
- On a state-wide basis, imposing a per-drink surcharge on alcoholic beverages and using the proceeds for public safety, crime prevention and rehabilitation of offenders.
- Initiatives to address livability crimes, including continued and increased state funding for restorative justice programs.
- Legislation supporting significant gun control measures including the mandatory reporting of any lost or stolen firearm, strengthening laws regulating the transfer of firearms, the prohibition of possessing replica guns in public, and measures to stop the flow of handguns to youth.
- Opposing legislative efforts to reduce the effective use of the Automated Pawn System (APS), to promote cooperation between law enforcement and the pawn industry, to enhance the ability to identify illegal activity and recover stolen property.

Traffic and Driving Offenses

- Legislative authority for the “Stop on Red” initiative.
- Strengthening proof of insurance law to include hit and run situations when the driver is unidentified.
- Legislation making it a crime to drive under the influence of any drug that makes a person an unsafe driver, including THC.
- Allowing for a gross misdemeanor and increasing penalties for careless driving offense if driving conduct results in a fatality.
- Increasing the probation period for criminal vehicular homicide and injury.
- Prohibiting the use of hand held cell phones for phone calling by all drivers.
- Amending the driving while impaired statute to change to .16, the level at which a person’s alcohol concentration becomes an aggravating factor, allowing prosecutors to charge such an offense at a higher level.
- Amending the reckless or careless driving statute to address aggressive driving perpetrated with malicious intent.

Vulnerable Adults

- Making indecent exposure in the presence of a vulnerable adult a gross misdemeanor.
- Expanding the vulnerable adult statutes to prescribe felony level punishment for neglect.

Fire Safety

- Mandated fire sprinklers in certain facilities such as large homes, nursing homes, high rises.
- Required inspections by the State Fire Marshall to include private schools, assisted living facilities and resorts.
- Oppose the expansion of fireworks

Miscellaneous Changes to Criminal Code

- Amending the tampering with a motor vehicle statute to prohibit the act of manipulating, damaging or interfering with any levers, starting devices, brakes, or machinery located in or about the motor vehicle without the owner's permission.
- Amending the hitchhiking-solicitation of business statutes to include the use of the median to conduct such activities.
- Legislation that would prohibit the solicitation of business at the scene of a mass casualty or disaster.
- Amending the rifles and shotguns in public places statute to apply to the outdoor areas, such as the front and back yards, of the private lands owned by persons other than the possessors of the weapons.
- Allowing for a misdemeanor offense for restricting access to a telephone for the purpose of emergency calls in a place of business.
- Amending the burglary statutes to make it a crime for a person to enter a building without consent and commit invasion of privacy offenses.
- Legislation creating tougher penalties for offenders convicted of tagging, which includes the suspending of drivers' licenses for up to one year; and also support a statewide age limit on the purchase of spray paint.
- Allowing "any equivalent crime in another state" to be added to the increased penalty for certain misdemeanors statute and clarifying when prosecutors may charge offenders.

Pension Sustainability

The Plan for Sustainable Pensions: Funding and Securing the Police and Fire Relief Associations.

In 1980, the Minneapolis Police Relief Association (MPRA) pension fund and the Minneapolis Firefighters' Relief Association (MFRA) pension fund were "closed" to new members. City employees who would have been eligible for enrollment in those plans were enrolled in the Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERA) from that point on.

The MPRA and MFRA pension plans need to achieve full funding and secure pension benefits without undue burden to Minneapolis taxpayers. It is time that the City and the Legislature work to address the following problems:

1. **Minneapolis taxpayers have an unlimited financial obligation under current law to fund the growing costs of the closed pension funds, and the City has very limited authority to manage or control these costs.** From 2009 to 2010, the anticipated City contribution to the closed funds will grow by 231% to \$18.0 million, not including debt service. This substantial increase from 2010 forward is mostly due to a change in the mortality assumptions calculation for MPRA. In addition to recurring annual costs, debt service payments on the closed pension funds will cost the City \$34.9 million through 2014. The combined City obligation to the closed funds with debt service is \$258.9 million over the next 20 years if no action is taken. Also, it should be noted that the associations which govern the funds are both considering proposals that would further increase the City's costs beyond these projections. *Costs could quickly balloon beyond current projections in this document unless something is done.*
2. **The City funds the pension plans, but has limited influence in the governance of the plans.** In 2009, the City's contribution to MPRA from the tax levy is \$3.0 million with an additional \$2.9 million required for debt service. The City's 2009 contribution to MFRA from the tax levy is \$1.9 million. MFRA debt service obligations were fulfilled in 2008. These costs have increased over time under the auspices of the associations which govern the plans and compute the benefit calculations.
3. **The plans are not fully funded.** MFRA was fully funded from 1998-2001; however, poor market performance has produced a negative return on investments, increasing the burden on Minneapolis taxpayers responsible for covering the shortfall. MPRA has never been fully funded. When decisions made by the associations result in losses, the City must fund these losses.
4. **Benefit calculations are determined by the associations and are not linked to cost of living adjustments commonly used by other funds.** The associations are administered by the members receiving the benefits. No external party validates the calculations, and the associations are the sole arbitrators of any disputes short of legal action. In effect, the association members have exercised great latitude in setting their own benefit amounts by changing the "unit value" calculations in violation of the 1995 Agreement between the City and the associations, as identified by the State Auditor.

The annual cost of living adjustment for each of these funds is unpredictable, has no limit on the annual adjustment like other public pension plans in Minnesota, and is tied to the pay of a small number of current employees, which can vary widely from year to year.

The City's sustainability plan includes the following objectives:

1. Assure the continuation of retiree base benefits.
2. Balance retiree and taxpayer interests.
3. Simplify and link the annual cost of living adjustments in a manner consistent with other governmental pension plans.
4. Establish a schedule of City contributions to fully fund the plans by 2020.

While there may be a number of ways to reach these objectives, the City's sustainability plan includes the following actions that require legislative approval followed by City Council approval:

- 1. Ensure that retirees receive consistent cost of living adjustments.** This could be achieved by replacing the annual change in unit value with a cost of living adjustment equal to or comparable with what other police and fire retirees in Minnesota receive.
- 2. Change the structure of governance for the closed funds.** To achieve this, the current administrative structure should be replaced with the Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA) and all of the funds' assets should be managed by the State Board of Investment (SBI).
- 3. Commit the City to a fixed annual contribution that fully funds each plan no later than 2020.** The City's funding commitment will begin when the sustainability plan is approved by the legislature, agreement is reached on actuarial assumptions, the change in administration of the plans occurs, cost of living adjustments are linked to the COLA changes for similar Minnesota pension plans, and City Council approval is made.

Minneapolis opposes:

- Legislation increasing benefits to MRFA members until such time that a sustainable solution to ensure the long-term health of the funds can be jointly reached by MFRA and the City.

Transportation

The City supports increased funding for transit and highways that includes stable and secure financial resources to meet both the capital and operational needs of the expanding regional transit systems.

Minneapolis supports funding for all modes of transportation and puts a high priority on model options that provide alternatives to the use of single occupancy vehicles and supports legislation that requires that all state funded transportation projects consider appropriate accommodations for all transportation modes.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

- Funding to complete development of the Central Corridor LRT line.
- Funding for Southwest Corridor and Bottineau Boulevard.
- Funding for 35W BRT including funds for a Lake Street Station.
- Funding for traffic mitigation efforts in and around the University of Minnesota made necessary because of the at-grade Washington Avenue alignment.
- Adequate funding for transit operations.
- Legislation creating alternative sources of revenue for transportation improvements, including local authority to create and make use of a street utility and authority for more extensive use of special assessments.

- Moving Violation for Blocking Intersections. Amend MS 169.15 to allow local jurisdictions to issue a moving violation for blocking intersections. Currently the City has an ordinance that prohibits blocking an intersection and assesses a \$30 fine for the offense.

Affordable Housing & Homelessness Prevention

Minneapolis has adopted and implemented policies to provide lifecycle housing throughout the City. Providing all residents with safe, quality and affordable housing is a priority in Minneapolis. In cooperation with public and private partners, the City has assisted in the production of affordable rental and owner-occupied housing.

The City's efforts in providing affordable housing have been slowed by the mortgage foreclosure crisis and the tightening of credit to potential homeowners. While the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) will help, additional resources are needed.

Recognizing that limited resources are available, Minneapolis plans to achieve this goal by partnering with local and statewide housing advocates and agencies, including MinnesotaHousing, Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA), and several nonprofit organizations.

Other affordable housing priorities in Minneapolis include safeguarding the current MHFA programs that serve low-income residents.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

- Policies that prevent mortgage foreclosures and vacant and abandoned properties. Such policies include but are not limited to improved notices of foreclosures to cities and renters, modifications of mortgage terms, increased availability and public awareness of counseling services, permitting continued occupancy of foreclosed property during the redemption period and modifying the foreclosure process to provide additional time prior to the sale. The Legislature should also review the scrap metal theft and trespass statutes and recommend modifications that would make the statutes more effective. The landlord and tenant statute should also be reviewed to ensure that tenants' rights are protected in such arrangements as lease to own contracts.
- Appropriations for MHFA at a level significant enough to have statewide impact on shelters as well as permanent, supportive, assisted and transitional housing that serve affordable housing needs throughout the State. The Legislature should also continue the homelessness prevention programs, including the outreach project, and provide additional resources for housing preservation and mortgage foreclosure prevention programs.

Minneapolis supports:

- Continued review of the property tax code to encourage affordable housing production and preservation.
- State income tax credits for affordable housing.
- Initiation of a state-supported land trust project.

- The initiatives proposed by the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless to prevent homelessness by improving transitions from corrections, including ensuring permanent state funding for additional prison discharge planners and the creation and funding for a jail re-entry pilot project in up to five Minnesota counties.
- Repeal of the \$50 offset for households living in public or rent subsidized housing and receiving financial assistance from the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).
- Legislative action to eliminate tax incentives that encourage the conversion of single family housing to rental property.
- Funding, both capital and program, for the continued implementation of Heading Home Hennepin including capital funding for the equal opportunity center.
- Prospective repeal of the relative homestead property tax classification.

Municipal Governance

Minneapolis' ability to conduct business in an orderly and efficient manner is frequently regulated by state law.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

- Legislation repealing the numerous special laws that had been enacted between 1960 and 2002 establishing specific unclassified appointed positions in the City of Minneapolis. In 2003, the City passed a special law that allowed the City to determine which positions should be in the appointed unclassified service.
- Support a state law allowing the Civilian Review Authority (CRA) to be granted limited subpoena power to compel the production of documents, records and other physical evidence to improve the quality of CRA staff investigations by obtaining information relevant to the allegations from entities outside the city organization.
- Legislation authorizing cities to conduct alternative voting methods including instant runoff voting and legislation that adopts rules to implement instant runoff voting or authorize the Secretary of State or cities to promulgate the rules.
- Legislation enabling the charging of a felony when there is evidence that a person uses, trains, or possesses a dog or other animal for the purpose of participating in, engaging in, or promoting animal fighting; increased penalties for animal fighting and possession of animals for fighting; and allowing for the charging of a felony for being a spectator at an animal fight.

Minneapolis supports:

- Legislation to assist the City in dealing with abandoned vehicles that are not claimed by their owners, including:
 - authority like that granted to private lot operator to bring deficiency claims against owner of abandoned vehicles for the cost of towing and storage of their car;
 - the creating of a statewide fund to assist impound lot operators in covering the costs of unpaid towing and storage fees not covered by the sale of abandoned vehicles;
 - other measures to reduce the costs associated with abandoned vehicles and the costs of operating one of only two public impound lots in the State of Minnesota.

- Legislation that eliminates outdated or unnecessary publications and permits cities to elect alternative means such as the web to publish notices and official proceedings.
- Support the examination of the governance of the Metropolitan Council to ensure that the council members are chosen via a process that includes an opportunity for local governments and other stakeholders to provide meaningful input, including consideration for an elected Met Council. Any future changes to the governance structure should be reflective of the true geography of the metropolitan region and a regional understanding of the Metropolitan Council's future direction and goals.
- Legislation allowing local units of government to define "dependent" for purposes of group benefits for local government officers and employees.
- Legislation that would authorize state regulation of dog and cat breeders.
- Legislation that would permit qualifying nonprofit animal welfare organizations to provide subsidized spay and neuter services to animals belonging to low income persons.
- An amendment to the Municipal Planning Act (MS 462.351 to 462. 364) that would establish a period of time in which a person can appeal to the district court for review of the decision. The amendment would be to MS 462.361 (Judicial Review) and would be similar to the provisions of the county planning, development and zoning law (MS 394). The county law (MS 394.27 sub 9) allows an appeal to the district court of a decision made by the County Board of Adjustment within thirty days of the date of the decision.
- Legislation allowing municipalities to adopt and enforce a housing, property maintenance, rental licensing or point of sale ordinance and not be in conflict with the State Building Code provided the adopted ordinance does not require provisions more restrictive than the most current property maintenance code adopted as part of the Minnesota State Fire Code or the State Building Code under which the facility was built, whichever is the more restrictive.
- Legislation requiring agencies and licensed and registered providers that operate residential care facilities to notify the city before properties are operated as residential care facilities. The Legislature should also require establishment of non-concentration standards for residential care facilities to prevent clustering.
- Oppose legislation restricting the authority of cities to license and regulate the pawnshop industry; efforts to limit the authority of cities to set licensing and transaction fees that enable cities to recover their full regulatory and enforcement expenses.

City Livability

The City works to keep Minneapolis a desirable place to live, work, conduct business and play.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

General City Livability

- Legislation authorizing the development of a statewide aviation policy to diversify air traffic throughout the State.

Youth Violence Prevention

Traditionally, public policy has addressed youth violence primarily as a public safety issue. As a result, solutions to the increasing problem of youth violence have been

sought through the criminal justice system. Increased arrests, longer sentences, and trying youth as adults, however, have not solved the problem.

By changing our perspective and instead addressing youth violence as an issue of public and community health and wellbeing, public and nonprofit partners are better able to work cooperatively with youth, parents, teachers, health providers and other stakeholders to protect youth and prevent violence. Viewed through the lens of public health, the City is recommending policies that:

- Establish competitive grant funds for existing state or local mentoring partnerships to increase the number of mentors statewide.
- Align existing state resources to fund prevention and intervention programs that address youth violence and associated risk factors including but not limited to teen pregnancy prevention.
- Maintain state and federal workforce funding and policies to employ at-risk youth and youth reentering the community from the criminal justice system.
- Support policies that help local law enforcement track illegal guns and restrict the access of young people to illegal guns.
- Establish a state policy that defines youth violence as a public health issue that can be prevented by drawing on public health methodologies used to address other acute health concerns.

Public Health

- Maintain funding for the State Health Improvement Program, a statewide comprehensive health promotion plan to prevent chronic disease and substance abuse.

Minneapolis supports:

- Expanded health care access and protecting funding for health and human services, safety net programs including child and adolescent mental health services, and oppose efforts to further restrict access to health care programs for undocumented persons.
- Sustaining the minor's consent law permitting adolescents to see medical providers for reproductive, mental health and chemical dependency issues without informing or obtaining the consent of a parent or guardian.
- Childhood lead prevention policies that include:
 - The lowering of the state mandated environmental intervention level for lead to 10 ug/dL using a venous test and funding to support this effort.
 - Promotion of universal lead screening for all urban children and children on Medical Assistance.
 - The creation of a statewide window replacement fund financed as a revolving loan program.
 - The creation of new funding mechanisms for lead prevention.
- Strengthening physical and health education curriculum in schools to prevent obesity and promote healthy lifestyles.
- Ensuring efficient funding for public health emergency preparedness and response.
- Establishing and enforcing quality standards, and restoring and maintaining the funding for early childhood programs.
- Continued funding and retention of the formula to distribute state health funds.

- Maintained funding for the Eliminating Health Disparities grants.
- Continued and expanded funding to support urban family planning programs.
- Legislation to increase funding for public library operations and to exempt county sales tax proceeds from maintenance of effort requirements.
- Increased funding for youth development programs including after-school programs and reinstatement of the youth-at-risk behavior program.
- The City supports and approves the Youth Coordinating Board (YCB)'s Legislative Agenda.
- A health care system and a public health system that eliminates health disparities so that all residents can have equal opportunity for optimal health. A system would be affordable, assure a culturally relevant quality of care, be user-friendly and provide a comprehensive benefit set that emphasizes primary and preventive care and includes physical health, mental health, substance abuse, dental services and medications.
- Legislation supporting the phase-out bisphenol-A (BPA) in products intended for use by young children, including but not limited to, toys, pacifiers, baby bottles, and teething.
- Policies and enhanced funding to increase the number of children who can bike and walk to school safely. Specifically increase funding for Safe Routes to Schools programs and school student safety programs.

Minneapolis opposes:

- Legislation allowing the purchase of wine in grocery stores or other changes making it easier for minors to purchase alcoholic beverages.
- Legislation that further directs the City of Minneapolis on governance issues related to the neighborhood revitalization program.

Environment

Minneapolis supports strong environmental policies focused on improving air, water and soil quality. The City will partner with county, state, federal and other jurisdictions to meet these objectives.

Priority Issue:

Extended Product Responsibility

- Support and Extended Producer Responsibility Framework approach that creates effective, producer-lead reduction, reuse and recycling programs to deal with a product's lifecycle impacts from design through end of life management so that state and local governments do not have primary responsibility for financing such efforts.

Minneapolis supports:

Stormwater/Wastewater Management

- Support increased state funding of stormwater management costs to local governments. This includes funds to help cities promote best management practices for stormwater, costs associated with stormwater projects necessitated by impairments to water bodies through Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL studies. There should be increased assistance costs associated with surcharges for excess

inflow and infiltration, combined sewer overflows and flood mitigation. Priority should be given to projects that solve more than one stormwater problem and that also emphasize water quality. Future legislations should also ensure that the Metropolitan Council is eligible for all appropriate waste water funding programs and recognize the upcoming costs of stormwater management infrastructure and operation on municipalities from new regulatory mandates and load reduction requirements.

Clean Cars

- The goal is to pass legislation that adopts California's auto emissions standards (including greenhouse gas standards). The federal Clean Air Act allows states to adopt the California vehicle emission standards, which require reductions in carbon dioxide emissions of 30 percent by 2016 in new passenger vehicles. These standards, already adopted by 14 other states, go beyond the federal CAFÉ standards.

Low Carbon Fuel Standard

- Support passage of a Low-Carbon Fuel Standard to reduce carbon impact of transportation fuels in Minnesota at least 10% by 2020. The LCFS is performance-based, greenhouse gas standard targeting transportation fuels sold in the state. It does not promote specific technologies. California has already adopted a similar measure.

Green Jobs

- Support recommendation of the Green Jobs Task Force, which was established by the State Legislature in 2008 to advise the governor and legislature regarding activities to advance the state's economy as it relates to green jobs and at the same time reducing global warming, saving money and investing in our local economy.

Cap, Auction, and Trade

- Legislation establishing a regional cap, trade, and auction system that would: (1) ensure cost-effective reduction of greenhouse gases to at least the reduction levels set forth in 2007 Minnesota statute (30 percent by 2025), (2) maximize public benefits while minimizing the potential for manipulation by private entities, (3) induce innovation in the energy efficiency and sustainable energy technologies with the greatest long-term promise to reduce greenhouse gases, (4) avoid inequitable impacts on low-income communities, and (5) maximize the likelihood of trading with other state-based cap-and-trade systems.

Climate Change Financial Incentives

- Support legislation that would provide local governments and non profits the same tax and financial incentives provided to private individuals and businesses for global warming initiatives including energy efficiency. This could include, but not be limited to consultants, fleets, fuels, renewable energy, capital projects, appliances and equipment purchases.

Solar

- Solar as a clean, affordable energy technology is lagging in Minnesota when compared to other states. Support incentives, mandates, and policies that increase solar photovoltaic and thermal production for both public and private entities.

Land Use Impacts on Climate Change

- Support amending the Met Council's comprehensive planning process to incorporate global warming reduction targets.
- Support creating financial incentives for metro and greater Minnesota communities land use planning that would achieve global warming pollution reduction goals.
- Support amending the statutory goals of MnDOT to include a reduction in per capita vehicle miles driven and propose changes in other state agencies' goals or mission that can also foster reduction of global warming pollution through more efficient land use patterns and reduced need for driving.
- Support requiring analysis of energy use and direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions as part of the environmental review of projects that currently require review.

Wetlands Reporting

- Support closing the loop between landowners, local government units, and the Board of Water and Soil Resources regarding the use of wetland exemptions for the state to accurately estimate wetland impacts. (The Board of Water and Soil Resources is working on this issue but it is unclear at this time if there will be an adequate, timely resolution).

Preventative Environmental Activities

- Support the use of the tax proceeds approved by the November 8th constitution amendment for preventative environmental activities that do not supplant existing State funding.

Lead Weight Restrictions

- Support mandates or incentives to eliminate the use of lead free tire weights for vehicles. The EPA estimates that 50 million pounds of lead are used annually for wheel weights. While these weights help keep tires balanced and long-lasting, they can commonly fall off at a pothole or sudden stop. They also end up in landfills when tires are replaced and not recycled. Lead can contaminate water if improperly disposed, and may cause health effects for young children. It has already been banned as an ingredient in other products such as in paint.

Artificial Turf

- Support previously proposed legislation to conduct health study of synthetic turf and crumb rubber adding a comparable analysis of alternatives.

Jobs & Economic Development

The priority issues for Minneapolis:

Redevelopment and Economic Development

Minneapolis supports state financial assistance for redevelopment-related infrastructure improvements and economic development for cities throughout the state. The assistance should incorporate policies encouraging green manufacturing, and sustainability. Therefore the 2009 Minnesota Legislature should:

- increase resources for the redevelopment fund

- provide resources for sustainable development including green manufacturing;
- provide additional resources for the brown field cleanup program
- authorize a tax credit for high technology and bioscience companies that conduct research and development
- approve a historic tax credit.

Workforce

The City of Minneapolis has operated a jobs and training program that assists youth and adults in obtaining jobs skills and employment. The programs are funded with state and federal resources. Since 2006, the City has received a state appropriation for summer youth employment. The appropriation has provided approximately 1000 young people with jobs. The City supports:

- increased funding for the summer youth employment program and adult job training and employment programs.

Minneapolis supports:

- Statewide Tax Increment Financing (TIF) legislation for redevelopment districts that will facilitate the clean-up and redevelopment of property and transit- oriented development.
- Authorizing the transfer of the proceeds of contamination tax to the clean-up grant account.
- Continuation of the Livable Communities Act programs.
- Increase funding for the Minnesota Historical Society’s Local Preservation Grant Program.