

Legislative Agenda text as of 1/15/02 5:44 PM

~~Revised 1/18/02 3:13 PM with changes received from Andrea Hart-Kajer, David Fey and Intergovernmental Relations Committee via Bill Barnhart.~~

~~Plain text — version as of 1/15/02 5:47 PM~~

~~strikethrough~~ means delete

underline means new text

dashed underline means minor grammatical or format changes

[Is this the correct form or is it Minnesota Solutions?] Used for comments and needed clarifications.

Bill Carter, Department of Communications

Priority Issues

State Bonding Program

~~The City of~~ Minneapolis' priorities in the State's biennial bonding bill are:

- ◆ \$12 million for the Minneapolis Empowerment Zone
- ◆ \$30 million for the Minnesota Planetarium Discovery and Space Center

The City will also seek a sales tax exemption for construction materials for the Minneapolis Central Library and the Planetarium projects. ~~Minneapolis will also support the \$35 million request for the Guthrie Theater.~~ *[Moved to supported issues.]*

Affordable Housing

The reduction in Federal support for affordable housing, combined with a tight housing market, has left many Minnesotans financially unable to live in a safe, decent home. ~~Affordable housing is a statewide dilemma that impacts all levels of government. The tax reform legislation of 2001 drastically reduced taxes for rental housing—this should help to spur the construction of more rental housing as well as improve maintenance of existing rental housing. Recent changes to increase the supply of rental housing will not address all the other~~ However, increasing the supply of rental housing will not address, in and of itself, the multiple aspects of the affordable housing crisis. To address more aspects Minneapolis supports:

~~—Minneapolis supports i~~ increased funding to alleviate the immediate need for homeless shelters. ~~for the homeless.~~

~~Minneapolis supports t~~he creation of statewide policies and incentives, including density bonuses for inclusionary housing.

- ◆ ~~Minneapolis supports i~~ncreased funding for the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.
- ◆ ~~Minneapolis supports E~~expanding ~~the scope of~~ the sales tax exemption for housing projects that provide affordable housing.
- ◆ ~~Minneapolis supports the creative use~~ Use of state bond proceeds to pay for facilitate affordable housing.
- ◆ Minneapolis opposes the phase out of the 4(d) property tax classification.

~~Minneapolis supports the use of mortgage registry and deed tax for affordable housing purposes.~~

Transportation

An expanded and properly financed public transit system (rail and bus) is crucial to both Minneapolis and the metropolitan area. For Minneapolis, a quality system is needed to ensure the mobility of residents who do not own automobiles, to ensure the growth of downtown, and to provide Minneapolis-its residents ~~—both those with and without vehicles—~~ convenient transportation to jobs throughout the region. For the region, a greatly expanded public transit system is needed to ensure long term environmental and economic sustainability. ~~The metropolitan transportation system is an integral part of the efficient statewide movement of goods and services.~~ The 2001 Legislature removed financing for the metropolitan transit system from the property tax and made it a State responsibility. Additionally, Minneapolis supports:

- ~~The City of Minneapolis supports legislation~~ Legislation to significantly increase ~~the level of~~ funding for transit.
- ~~Minneapolis will oppose legislation what would negatively impact Light Rail Transit (LRT) either in the building stage or during operations, or that would treat LRT differently from any other regional transportation project.~~
- ~~—Minneapolis supports~~ Funding for commuter rail (including the Northstar and Red Rocks lines) as a part of an ~~overall~~ regional transportation system.
- ~~Minneapolis holds the position~~ that the approval of the revised I35W/Crosstown project should be contingent upon the project including an ~~adequate~~ aggressive public transportation component.

Minneapolis opposes legislation what would negatively impact Light Rail Transit (LRT) either in the building stage or during operations, or that would treat LRT differently from any other regional transportation project.

Local Government Finance

The 2001 Legislature enacted major property tax reforms that have had a direct impact upon cities and their ability to finance local efforts. However, the 2001 legislation did not address the underlying formulas for the Local Government Aid (LGA) program; instead it created an “LGA Reform Account” with the intent of revising the formulas in the 2002 Session. The primary task facing the 2002 Legislature will be balancing the biennial State budget. The City: The City of Minneapolis supports:

- ◆ ~~The City of Minneapolis strongly~~ Sstrongly holds that LGA or a similar program must continue to be a major part of municipal financing.
- ◆ ~~The position of the City of Minneapolis is~~ Bbelieves that a A new LGA formula that recognizes should recognize need, overburden and ability to pay.

- ◆ Minneapolis ~~Supports~~ Supports the The continuation of limited market value for homesteaded properties.
- ◆ Minneapolis ~~Holds~~ Holds The position that holds that levy limits should not be altered.

—Minneapolis opposes legislation that would allow enable a reverse referendum.

Supported Issues

State Bonding Program

The City of Minneapolis supports the three projects for inclusion in the State's biennial bonding bill. The projects are listed in order of importance to the City of Minneapolis.

- ◆ \$35 million for the Guthrie Theater
- ◆ \$2 million for the American Indian Business Development Center
- ◆ \$10 million for the Shubert Theater

Emergency Preparedness

~~Given the events of September 11, 2001, the~~ The Governor, ~~the House Republicans and the Senate DFL has have~~ proposed ~~an~~ emergency preparedness packages for the 2002 Session. ~~At this time, the package contains only policy recommendations and makes no specific funding proposals.~~ The City of Minneapolis will advocate for a number of measures which should be included in the Legislature's discussion of emergency preparedness. These measures are:

- ◆ ~~The City of Minneapolis supports a~~adequate State funding for emergency preparedness equipment and training, including simulated disaster exercises.
- ◆ ~~Minneapolis supports a~~n increase in the 911 telephone surcharge ~~in order~~ to provide adequate funding to the nearly 120 public safety answering points located throughout Minnesota.
- ◆ ~~The best possible public safety communications network is vital in times of emergencies. Therefore, Minneapolis supports~~ State funding for 800 Mhz radio implementation and operations.
- ◆ ~~Minneapolis supports i~~increased ~~Increased~~ funding for the CriMNet system and advocates that the burden of local matching grants needs to be fully considered.
- ◆ ~~The City supports m~~Measures and funding to strengthen public health infrastructure and the capacity of public health entities to respond to emergencies.
- ◆ ~~Additional items supported by the City of Minneapolis include~~ revisions to open meeting and quarantine laws to make them ~~current with post-September 11 circumstances.~~ applicable to emergency preparedness situations.

Development Tools

The tax reform bill of 2001 severely limited the effectiveness of tax increment financing (TIF). [The City supports:](#)

- ◆ ~~The City of Minneapolis advocates that~~ [Continuing](#) public financial support of essential redevelopment activities, [must continue](#). Possible sources of funding include specific items in the bonding bill, alteration of eligible activities in the TIF grant fund, and an increase in appropriations for the State's Redevelopment Account.
- ◆ ~~Minneapolis supports e~~Changes to the tax laws to encourage more private investment in existing commercial and industrial properties.
- ◆ ~~The City supports t~~[The Preservation Alliance, the Minnesota Historical Society and MN-Minnesota Solutions](#) *[Is this the correct form or is it Minnesota Solutions?]* in efforts to enact a State income tax and/or increase State appropriations to finance historic preservation.
- ◆ ~~The City supports the e~~[Continuation of the "This Old House" program to encourage investment by homeowners in older homes.](#)
- ◆ [Special legislation that would make materials used in the construction of the Heritage Park exempt from sales tax.](#)

City Livability

The City of Minneapolis must continue to ensure that Minneapolis is a place where it is desirable to live, work, conduct business, attend school and visit. [The City supports:](#)

- ◆ ~~Minneapolis supports legislation that would test all pre-schoolers for elevated levels of lead in a child's body. The City of Minneapolis s~~[Supports legislation requiring the testing of all preschoolers for elevated lead levels, sustained funding for remediation and education, and increased funding for compliance with Federal regulations.](#)
- ~~Minneapolis opposes legislation which would make it easier to carry weapons. [Moved to end of section.]~~
- ◆ ~~Minneapolis supports legislation which would r~~[Regulateion of](#) the sale of lawn fertilizers that contain phosphorous.
- ◆ ~~Minneapolis supports e~~[Comprehensive legislation that would fully recognize and mitigate the effect of the airport upon surrounding neighborhoods. The legislation should include a funding source, such as sales tax receipts at the airport, that would allow for full funding of the noise mitigation program out to the 60 DNL.](#)
- ◆ ~~Minneapolis supports l~~[ong-term solutions to the lack of airport capacity. Measures include landbanking for a second airport and/or diversion of flights to other regional airports – such as Rochester and St. Cloud – in Minnesota.](#)
- ◆ [The City supports receiving local authority to determine the closing time of bars. \(Schandel -- "receiving" doesn't make sense to me. Is that the correct word or a typo? Should it be reviving or reviewing?\) \[Carter: "Receiving" is correct and proper.\]](#)

◆

~~—Minneapolis opposes legislation that would allow the purchase of wine in grocery stores or other changes in law that would make it easier to purchase alcoholic beverages.~~

~~[Minneapolis opposes legislation which would make it easier to carry weapons.](#)~~

~~—[The City supports receiving local authority to determine the closing time of bars.](#) *[Moved to above.]*~~

Municipal Government

The ability of the City of Minneapolis to conduct business in an orderly and efficient manner is frequently dependent upon State law. [These changes would increase the City's ability to do so:](#)

- ◆ ~~Minneapolis seeks the~~ Local authority to extend benefits to domestic partners
- ◆ ~~Minneapolis seeks to~~ the expansion of ~~expand~~ the ability of the City's Chief of Police to appoint additional deputy chiefs and inspectors.
- ◆ ~~Minneapolis supports altering of the regulations surrounding~~ Changes in the legal notification law so ~~that~~ the Internet can be more fully used to notify citizens of public actions.

Endorsed Agendas

In addition to its specific legislative agenda, the City of Minneapolis endorses the legislative agendas of the following organizations:

- ◆ The League of Minnesota Cities, except for the League's position on limited market value.
- ◆ The Association of Metropolitan Municipalities, except for the Association's position on limited market value.
- ◆ The Property Tax Study Project
- ◆ Homeless Task Force
- ◆ Housing Minnesota
- ◆ MALFA *[need to spell out]* [Minnesota Association of Local Finance Agencies](#)
- ◆ MN. Solutions *[Is this the correct form or is it Minnesota Solutions?]*
- ◆ NAHRO *[need to spell out]* [National Association of Housing Redevelopment Organizations](#)