

2018



Annual Report

Prepared for the April 24, 2019 Annual Meeting

About Metro Cities

In the 1970s, metropolitan area city officials identified a need for unity among metropolitan municipalities in responding to decisions being made at the State Capitol and newly established Metropolitan Council, and Metro Cities was established as the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities in 1974. Its primary function continues to be to advance and protect the collective interests of metropolitan area cities at the Legislature, Metropolitan Council and Executive Branch. Metro Cities' vision is that of an economically vibrant region and successful communities.

Membership in Metro Cities is open to any city in the seven-county metropolitan area. The organization's 90 members encompass over 95% of the region's population.

Metro Cities is governed by a 19-member Board of Directors of elected and appointed member city officials from across the metropolitan region. The Board has fiduciary oversight for the organization and sets the organization's legislative priorities and overall budget each year. The Board meets once per month.

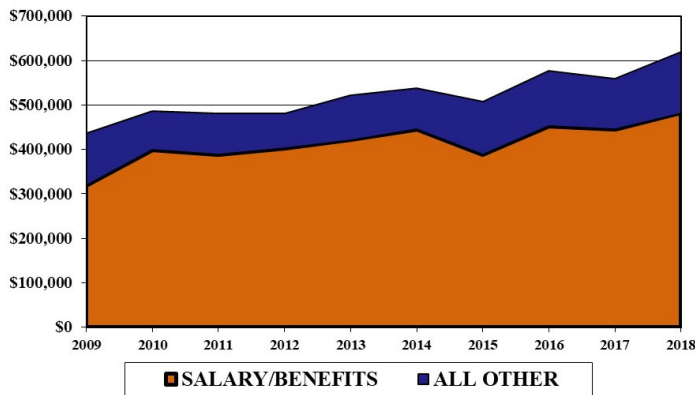
Partnerships

Metro Cities values its important partnership with the League of MN Cities and strong working relationships with the League's Board and staff. Metro Cities also regularly partners with a variety of organizations on common objectives. These include the Economic Development Association of Minnesota (EDAM), National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO), Transportation Alliance, Citizens League, Minnesota Housing Partnership, and local chambers of commerce.

Metro Cities and the Metropolitan Council

Metro Cities has a distinct role among local government organizations in its representation of cities at the Metropolitan Council. Metro Cities monitors meetings of the Council and its committees, alerts city officials of impending decisions, lobbies the Council directly and works to ensure metro area city interests are considered on regional policies, funding and programming. Metro Cities has statutory appointing authority for the municipal members of the regional Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and appoints city officials to the Metro GIS Policy Board.

Metro Cities Expenditures 2009 - 2018



License & Permit Fee Survey

Metro Cities has produced a License and Permit Fee Survey for over three decades and it is updated biennially. The software used for the survey is in need of major upgrades, necessitating a “hold” on this year’s survey update. Metro Cities will form a focus group of city officials this summer to examine use, benefits, and challenges with the survey and will use that information to inform the future of the survey product. Please contact Metro Cities if you would like to participate in the focus group.

Communications Audit

In 2018, Metro Cities undertook an audit of its communications practices, and conducted member surveys to identify what works, and what needs improvement in how the association communicates with city officials. City officials gave high marks for the online newsletter and website. Members also identified how the association could improve, specifically in adding opportunities for information sharing, member-to-member interaction, engagement with policymakers, and additional website content.

New Website

In 2018, Metro Cities’ website got a new look, new format, and added content. Feedback on the site’s content, look, and user-friendliness is appreciated!

New Metropolitan Council

In March, a new Metropolitan Council was seated following candidate interviews by a Nominating Committee. This committee is required to be seven members and must include three local officials. Metro Cities has advocated for a nominating committee that has a majority of local officials and for more transparency in the overall selection process.

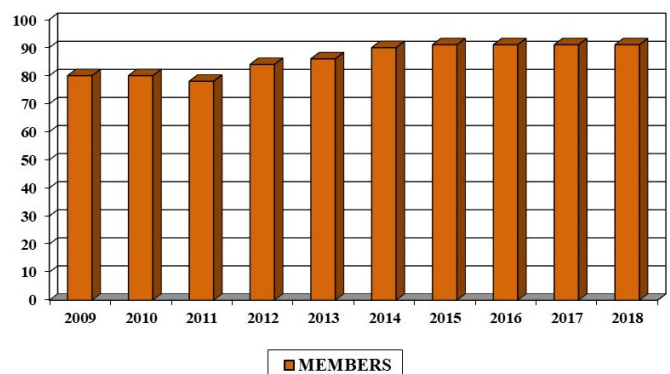
This year, Governor Walz appointed 12 members to a nominating committee, with a majority of local officials, and made names of finalists public on the Metropolitan Council’s website prior to the selection of members to the Council.

Metro Cities provided a letter to the Nominating Committee emphasizing the need for Council members with diverse skills applicable to Council functions and a strong understanding of the needs of local governments.

City Visits

Metro Cities staff visit metropolitan area city halls in the fall to meet with city officials firsthand, and to learn more about local issues and concerns. Typically, staff visit 40-50 city halls each year.

Metro Cities Membership 2009 through 2018



Member Advocacy

During the legislative session, Metro Cities asks members to provide testimony at the Capitol, or to contact legislators and the Governor on bills

METRO CITIES FAST FACTS

2019-2020

2018 Metro Cities Members

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

(Terms Begin July 1, 2019)

Board Officers

President

Mark McNeill
City Administrator
Mendota Heights

Vice-President

Myron Bailey
Mayor
Cottage Grove

Past-President

Mary Gaasch
Mayor
Lauderdale

Directors

Daniel Buchholtz
City Administrator
Spring Lake Park

Marc Carrier
Councilmember
Waconia

Steve Fletcher
Councilmember
Minneapolis

Jason Gadd
Mayor
Hopkins

Mary Hamann-Roland
Mayor
Apple Valley

Jan Jenson
Councilmember
St. Anthony Village

Lisa Laliberte
Councilmember
Roseville

J. Thomas McCarty
City Administrator
Stillwater

Melanie Mesko Lee
City Manager
Burnsville

William Reynolds
City Administrator
Shakopee

Matt Stemwedel
City Manager
Coon Rapids

Jay Stroebel
City Manager
Brooklyn Park

Gene Winstead
Mayor
Bloomington

ThaoMee Xiong
IGR Director
St. Paul

TBD

St. Paul

TBD

Minneapolis

Andover

Arden Hills

Bloomington

Burnsville

Chanhassen

Columbia Heights

Cottage Grove

Eden Prairie

Excelsior

Fridley

Hastings

Independence

Lauderdale

Mahtomedi

Maplewood

Mendota Heights

Minnetonka Beach

New Brighton

North St. Paul

Orono

Prior Lake

Robbinsdale

Roseville

St. Louis Park

*St. Paul Port
Authority

Shoreview

Spring Lake Park

Sunfish Lake

Waconia

West St. Paul

Anoka

Bayport

Brooklyn Center

Carver

Chaska

Coon Rapids

Dayton

Edina

Falcon Heights

Golden Valley

Hopkins

Inver Grove
Heights

Lilydale

Maple Grove

Marine on St.
Croix

Minneapolis

Minnetrissa

New Hope

Oak Park Heights

Osseo

Ramsey

Rogers

St. Anthony
Village

St. Paul

Savage

Shorewood

Spring Park

Vadnais Heights

Watertown

White Bear Lake

*Affiliate Member

Apple Valley

Blaine

Brooklyn Park

Centerville

Circle Pines

Corcoran

Eagan

Elko New Market

Forest Lake

*Hanover

Hugo

Lake Elmo

Long Lake

Maple Plain

Medicine Lake

Minnnetonka

Mounds View

Newport

Oakdale

Plymouth

Richfield

Rosemount

St. Francis

St. Paul Park

Shakopee

South St. Paul

Stillwater

Victoria

Wayzata

Woodbury

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2019

Legislative Policy Committees

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 2018 Legislative Policy Committees! We had a great turnout, with participants representing many member cities. A special thank you to the 2018 Chairs of each committee, who helped plan and guide each meeting:

- [Jason Gadd, Hopkins](#)
Transportation & General Government Committee
- [Patrick Trudgeon, Roseville](#)
Municipal Revenues Committee
- [Susan Arntz, Waconia](#)
Metropolitan Agencies Committee
- [Bryan Hartman, Bloomington](#)
Housing & Economic Development Committee

Please consider serving on a committee this summer and encourage fellow staff or officials to do the same!

- ♦ **Remember!** Policy committees will meet in the mornings and afternoons. Transportation & General Government (Mondays), Municipal Revenues (Tuesdays), and Metropolitan Agencies (Wednesdays) will be held from 9:00-11:30 am and Housing & Economic Development (Wednesdays) will be held from 1:00-3:30 pm.
- ♦ **We ask that you sign up for the committee(s) you wish to attend again this year even if you have been on the committee(s) in previous years.** This will help us keep our rosters current and correct.
- ♦ A sign-up form is available via our website (www.MetroCitiesMN.org), or you can email Kimberly@MetroCitiesMN.org for a paper version.

2019 Legislative Policy Committee meetings will again be held in July, August and September.

Transportation & General Government (9:00-11:30 am)

Chair: [Jason Gadd, Hopkins](#)

Monday, July 8, 2019

Monday, August 12, 2019

Monday, September 9, 2019

Municipal Revenues (9:00-11:30 am)

Chair: [Patrick Trudgeon, Roseville](#)

Tuesday, July 9, 2019

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

Tuesday, September 10, 2019

Metropolitan Agencies (9:00-11:30 am)

Chair: [Gary Hansen, Eagan](#)

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Housing & Economic Development (1:00-3:30 pm)

Chair: [Bryan Hartman, Bloomington](#)

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

Wednesday, August 14, 2019

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Metro Cities Breakfast

@ LMC Annual Conference

Duluth Entertainment Convention Center

Duluth

June 26-28, 2019

Metro Cities will host a breakfast during the League of Minnesota Cities' Annual Conference, held this year in Duluth at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center (DECC) on June 26-28.

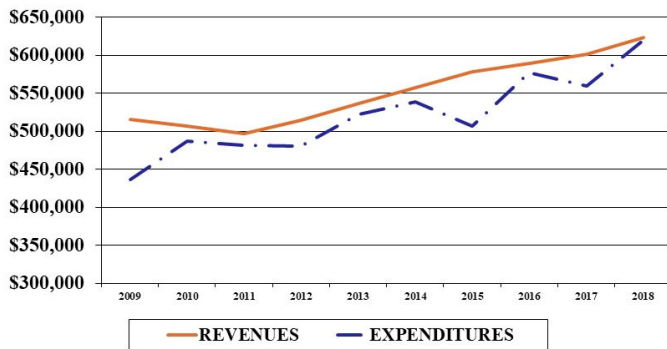
Join fellow metro area cities staff and officials for breakfast, networking, and a brief legislative update from Metro Cities staff on **Thursday, June 27 at 7:30 am.**

Find more information and register for the LMC Annual Conference on their website: www.lmc.org.

that affect metropolitan communities. These efforts provide important assistance to Metro Cities' work on behalf of metropolitan cities.

Metro Cities recently conducted a survey to determine member interest in a workshop on legislative advocacy. Members would like to see information on message crafting, and tips on how to testify and communicate effectively at the Legislature. Metro Cities will host a workshop later this year on advocacy tips and tools. Stay tuned.

Metro Cities Revenues & Expenditures
2009 through 2018



Legislative & Regional Issues

Transportation

Transportation is an important, ongoing issue with significant needs for resources for transportation and transit in the metro area and across the state. Metro Cities' policies support increased funding and tools for roads, bridges, transit and local road infrastructure. Metro Cities consistently makes the case at the Capitol for additional resources and monitors for metro parity in transportation grant programs. Thanks to the important assistance provided by our member city officials in these efforts.

Economic Development

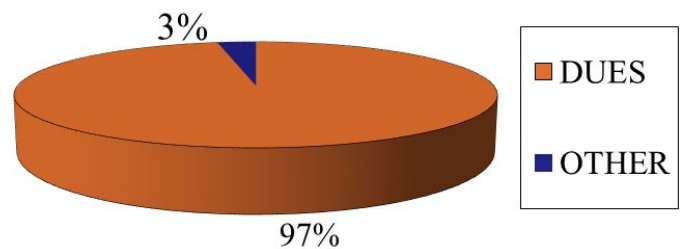
Funding for economic development programs is a priority of Metro Cities' advocacy at the Legislature. State investments in new and expanding businesses and attracting new investment helps

local tax bases and supports good-paying jobs important to residents and the region's economy. State funding for the Minnesota Investment Fund and Job Creation Fund are actively supported by Metro Cities. Metro Cities has also advocated for funding for the redevelopment grant program which allows land to be reused and redeveloped.

Housing

Housing is a highly pressing issue for local communities. A recent Governor's level task force on housing, combined with more robust housing requirements in comprehensive plans for metro local governments, have focused attention on housing policy and government roles and funding. How to pay for residential infrastructure also continues to be discussed by stakeholders and policy makers. Metro Cities is participating and responding to state, regional and local debates and consistently advocates for state support to meet housing needs for communities in the metro region. Metro Cities also supports state funds to match local funds, and for state support to meet locally-identified needs, as well as program flexibility for Minnesota Housing's programs.

Metro Cities Revenue 2018



Taxes, Aids, and Revenues

Metro Cities' policies support predictable and adequate resources for cities, increases to local government aid (LGA), and expanding direct property tax relief programs. This session, several proposals to modify the LGA program have received consideration, with varying effects on the

distribution of aid. Metro Cities will join with other city organization lobbyists and legislators to convene interim discussions to further examine the LGA program.

Regional Governance

The subject of regional governance has received debate at the Legislature over the last several years, and bills opposed by Metro Cities that would require the Metropolitan Council to be made up of local officials have received consideration. Metro Cities initiated legislation in 2018 that staggers Metropolitan Council member terms, requires a majority of local officials on a nominating committee, and provides additional transparency and accountability in the process for appointing members to the Metropolitan Council. Legislation to this effect is currently awaiting consideration on the House floor.

Comprehensive Plans

Local comprehensive plan updates were required to be submitted to the Metropolitan Council by all metro municipalities in December 2018. Metro

Cities' policies support processes for the submission of plans that are streamlined, user-friendly, not duplicative among requirements, and that recognize the Council's "review and comment" role. The organization appreciates any feedback by city officials as cities receive comments from the Council on local plans.

Funding for Metro Inflow/Infiltration (III) Mitigation

Metro Cities has secured funding in state capital investment bills and continues to advocate for funding to assist metropolitan area cities with I/I mitigation. Capital appropriations help cities with mitigation on local public infrastructure and sources such as the Clean Water Fund provide support for work on private properties contributing to excess inflow-infiltration. Cities in the metropolitan area are required to address excess inflow-infiltration, as it uses capacity in the regional wastewater system not intended for this purpose.

Metro Cities

Association of Metropolitan Municipalities

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