

2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

AIDS, REVENUES AND TAXES

Metro Cities supports legislation to simplify the sales tax exemption process for construction materials purchased by local governments.

Metro Cities supports allowing cities to impose local sales taxes without the need for legislative approval.

ADULT-USE CANNABIS

Metro Cities supports local control and zoning authority related to cannabis businesses, coordination between policymakers, the Office of Cannabis Management, and city officials as the law is implemented, and adequate funding for cities in recognition of local financial implications and needs resulting from cannabis legalization.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Metro Cities supports funding for the Minnesota Investment Fund, Job Creation Fund, Redevelopment Grant Program, and programs that support the region's workforce.

Metro Cities supports tools to address conversion of vacant commercial space to residential or new types of uses that support economic growth, such as state funding, tax credits and tax increment financing.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

Metro Cities supports allowing local units of government to designate licensed ambulance service provider(s) for their community, tools and local authority that ensure transparency by providers, decoupling the professional standards overview role from the service area determination and regional balance on the EMSRB.

ENVIRONMENT

Metro Cities supports resources to address PFAS/PFOS, and state funding for programs that support local climate action planning, climate resiliency, and climate related infrastructure projects.

HOUSING

Cities are responsible for local land use and zoning. Metro Cities opposes preemption over local land use decisions.

Metro Cities supports lowering the threshold of eligibility for cities to receive 4d(1) aid, as well as ongoing aid to mitigate the impact of the class rate reduction.

Metro Cities supports statutory clarity to allow for local impact fees to serve new residential development.

HOUSING

Metro Cities supports capital funding for local housing needs, including incenting home ownership, expanding housing aid grants for metropolitan cities under 10,000 in population, preservation of existing affordable housing, and programs that promote racial equity in homeownership.

LOCAL AUTHORITY

Metro Cities supports local authority and decision making, including over local planning and zoning, city budgets and local public rights of way.

Metro Cities supports laws to increase efficiencies in election administration and opposes laws that place undue financial or administrative burdens on local governments.

METROPOLITAN INFLOW-INFILTRATION MITIGATION

Metro Cities supports capital funding to assist metropolitan cities with local inflow-infiltration mitigation.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Metro Cities supports clarity on legislation related to school resource officers (SROs), ongoing funding for local public safety needs, and incentives to address retention and recruitment challenges faced by local police and fire departments.

REGIONAL GOVERNANCE

Metro Cities supports appointment of Metropolitan Council members by the Governor with four-year staggered terms, increasing local official input on the nominating process for Metropolitan Council members and providing for a statutory public comment period after members are nominated and before they are appointed.

TRANSPORTATION and TRANSIT

Metro Cities supports resources for the Local Road and Local Bridge, Corridors of Commerce, and Local Road Wetland Replacement programs, and other investments in local transportation infrastructure.

Metro Cities supports a comprehensive regional transit system supported by state and regional sources, and policies that allow providers to adequately address local transit service needs.