

## 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

### AIDS, REVENUES AND TAXES

Metro Cities Supports:

- Allowing cities to impose local sales taxes for certain public improvements without the need for special legislation.

### ADULT-USE CANNABIS

Metro Cities Supports:

- Re-establishment of Local Government Cannabis Aid to provide adequate funding for local costs resulting from cannabis legalization.

### ELECTIONS

Metro Cities Supports:

- Statutory efficiencies in administering absentee ballots and early voting.
- Reimbursement to local governments for costs related to changes to election laws.

### EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

Metro Cities Supports:

- Allowing local units of government to designate local service provider(s).
- Additional tools and local authority that ensure transparency by EMS providers.

### ENVIRONMENT

Metro Cities Supports:

- Resources, including funding for capital improvements, to address PFAS/PFOS and other contaminants of concern.
- Sustained state funding to support local climate action planning, climate resiliency, climate related infrastructure projects.

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Metro Cities Supports:

- Tools to support the adaptive re-use of vacant and under-utilized commercial space to uses that support economic growth across the metropolitan region.

### HOUSING

Metro Cities Supports:

- Expanding timeline for Local Affordable Housing Aid (LAHA) funds to be spent, funds considered expended if deposited into a local housing trust fund and allowing a percentage of funds for administrative costs.
- Adding metropolitan cities under 10,000 in population as eligible for state funding from local affordable housing aid grants.

### LOCAL AUTHORITY

Metro Cities Supports:

- Local decision making, including over local land uses, city budgets and public rights of way. Metro Cities opposes legislation that would pre-empt this local authority.

### METROPOLITAN INFLOW-INFILTRATION MITIGATION

Metro Cities Supports:

- A capital appropriation to assist metropolitan cities with inflow-infiltration mitigation on public systems.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

Metro Cities Supports:

- Funding for local public safety needs (ongoing public safety aid, grants for equipment, reimbursement for assisting with protests and demonstrations).
- Funding and policy changes to address retention and recruitment challenges for local law enforcement.

### TRANSPORTATION and TRANSIT

Metro Cities Supports:

- Investment in the Municipal State Aid Street (MSAS) system, small cities assistance account, Local Road and Local Bridge programs, Corridors of Commerce program, and the Local Road Wetland Replacement Program.
- A comprehensive regional transit system supported by state and regional sources.
- Revisions in MnDOT's cost participation policy to ease burden on local governments for trunk highway projects.