



2018

LEGISLATIVE

PRIORITIES

Adopted By:
NMML Board of Directors
October 7, 2017
Santa Fe, NM

The New Mexico Municipal League Board of Directors at the October 7, 2017 meeting adopted priorities for the upcoming 2018 Legislative Session. The Board approved two resolutions for the League's Action Program.

The Board also prioritized a number of League policies that focuses on the protection of municipal revenues and taxing authority, as well as preemption of municipal authority.

TAXATION AND REVENUE

Municipalities and the Board of Directors expressed concern about the continuing attempts to reduce municipal revenues and taxing authority. To that end, the Board extracted the following Sections (3.2.00, 3.2.01, 3.2.02 and 3.2.05) from the Municipal Policy Statement to support our positions on taxation and revenues:

- New Mexico municipalities are heavily dependent on the Gross Receipts tax...(and) support legislation that will diversify the sources of revenues available;
- The League supports a...sharing of the Compensating Tax that would equal the municipal share of gross receipts taxes;
- Any shifting of tax sharing between the state and municipalities (including tax reform) must guarantee the same level of revenues and capacities;
- Additional Burdens are placed on municipalities when state or federal government redirects local revenues to their use. Any such state redirection must comply with Article IV, Section 16 of the *New Mexico* state Constitution;
- Any changes in the tax base should not reduce present or future municipal revenue;
- The League opposes federal and state legislation that preempts local taxing authority; and
- Grant authority to levy a local option tax on the sale of gasoline or increase the municipal share of the current state gasoline tax.

PRE-EMPTION OF MUNICIPAL AUTHORITY

The New Mexico Municipal League Board of Directors recognize that municipal authority is being challenged at the state and federal levels by the introduction of legislation that pre-empts municipal authority to govern. The Board prioritized the following provision of the Municipal Policy Statement:

- **Local Authority.** New Mexico municipalities are governed by locally elected officials with the duty and responsibility of protecting the health, safety and welfare of all citizens of their community. The League seeks to insure that the local autonomy of the New Mexico municipalities is protected from pre-emption by other levels of government through legislative or regulatory mandates.

PRIORITY RESOLUTIONS

- ♦ **Bond Issue for Libraries.** The New Mexico Municipal League endorses the passage of a State General Obligation Bond for funding libraries. **(Resolution 2017-9)**
- ♦ **Law Enforcement Protection Fund.** Support legislation to distribute all remaining balances in the fund to the appropriate law enforcement agencies. **(Resolution 2017-36)**

RESOLUTION 2017-9

CONCERNING 2018 BOND ISSUE FOR LIBRARIES

Whereas, New Mexico public libraries provide books and other materials to meet the informational, educational, cultural and recreational needs of all New Mexicans; and

Whereas, the effectiveness of a library is determined by its ability to deliver current, accurate information in a timely manner through books and materials answering community needs; and

Whereas, advances in technology have made information resources increasingly accessible electronically; and

Whereas, the demand for library resources continues to rise while the cost of providing the resources is beyond local funding capacity; and

Whereas, publicly funded libraries have increased their effectiveness by sharing their resources electronically, enabling public, tribal, school and college libraries to coordinate the use of scarce library funds within the community and statewide; and

Whereas, public libraries have experienced a substantial growth in usage, yet many municipalities lack resources to support adequate funding for library collections.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the New Mexico Municipal League endorses legislative passage of a General Obligation bond bill for \$18 million for libraries on the November 2018 general election ballot.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 17th day of August at the City of Clovis, New Mexico.

RESOLUTION 2017-36

CONCERNING THE LAW ENFORCEMENT PROTECTION FUND

Whereas, the purposes of the Law Enforcement Protection Fund Act (LEPF) is to provide for the distribution of money to qualified departments, for use in the maintenance and improvement of those departments and to sustain, at a reasonable level, payments to the surviving eligible family members of peace officers killed in the line of duty; and

Whereas, the LEPF was intended to establish, in the state treasury, a dedicated fund for the purpose of law enforcement protection. Such distributions are made to municipal, county, tribal and university police departments; and

Whereas, the LEPF monies may be expended as outlined in NMSA, 1978, Section 29-13-7 Expenditure limitation; and

Whereas, the cost of law enforcement equipment continually increases and expenditures are on the rise. It is imperative that law enforcement improve services with implementation of innovative technology and other resources that are necessary to continue to provide quality service and protection of citizens and their communities; and

Whereas, the costs of mandatory or advanced training and the expenses associated with attending one of the several locally operated law enforcement academies continue to increase every year and an allocation of resources is crucial to public safety; and

Whereas, available federal funding and grants to police agencies have all but vanished and community policing and safety remain a top priority for every agency, however, with such sparse resources, the ability to serve communities is compromised.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the New Mexico Municipal League seeks legislation to distribute all remaining balances in the Law Enforcement Protection Fund, not otherwise obligated, to the appropriate Law Enforcement Agencies; and

Be It Further Resolved that a new state appropriation be created to be distributed to the satellite academies, including three regional academies, Southeastern New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy in Hobbs, San Juan County Criminal Justice Training Authority in Farmington, and Western New Mexico University Law Enforcement Academy in Silver City to provide for training that is legislatively mandated.

Passed, Approved and Adopted this 17th day of August at the City of Clovis, New Mexico.