

VLCT Legislative Previews

The 2010 legislative session promises to be as difficult for local governments as any in recent memory. State revenues have not rebounded, the state deficit is projected to be \$26 million for the current fiscal year, and further budget cuts loom in legislators' futures unless they can find either new funding sources or some source other than state government to administer programs. Local governments have been fertile ground for both in the past few years. In a recent study, the Washington D.C.-based Tax Foundation stated that Vermont derived 42.1 percent of its total state and local tax load from property taxes during fiscal 2007, compared to the national average of 30 percent. Approximately 25 percent of that property tax load is to support municipal government.

Your efforts will be vital to assuring that the legislature neither shifts program responsibility to the local level nor uses the property tax to fund programs. Join your advocacy staff at a legislative preview meeting to discuss these issues. Each two-hour session begins at 9 a.m.

December 1: South Burlington City Hall, 575 Dorset Street, South Burlington

December 2: St. Johnsbury Town Office, 1187 Main Street, Suite 1, St. Johnsbury

December 8: Windsor Town Offices, 29 Union Street, Windsor.