Municipal Priorities

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VLCT's Municipal Legislative Priorities for 2027

The VLCT Board of Directors has adopted the **municipal priorities for 2027**. These priorities were drawn from the more comprehensive Municipal Policy(opens in a new tab) in order to guide the VLCT Board of Directors, advocacy staff, and members in effectively advocating for Vermont local governments. In Vermont, local government resources and authority are severely constrained by state law (statutes). Cities and towns need the funding, flexibility, and professional capacity to meet today's challenges, and VLCT articulates these needs to the Vermont General Assembly (state legislature).



Vermont League of Cities & Towns

2027 Legislative Priorities

Local Government Works for Vermont

Our cities, towns, and villages do all the heavy lifting. From playgrounds and parks to paving and plowing, municipal government delivers most of the public services that Vermonters rely on. Every city and town in Vermont runs our elections, collects your state taxes, and keeps local government open and accessible for all. **To reduce pressure on municipal property tax rates, VLCT advocates for legislative actions that will diversify municipal revenues, increase the State's share of municipal costs, and reduce the cost of delivering essential municipal services.**



Fund the Fundamentals

Give municipalities the resources and revenue authority they need to deliver basic services and maintain critical infrastructure.



Clear the Way

Remove barriers to building housing, businesses and infrastructure, and find practical solutions that make local work better and faster.

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Fund the Fundamentals

Give municipalities the resources and revenue authority they need to deliver basic services and maintain critical infrastructure.

- Authorize municipal revenues beyond property taxes, including gross receipts taxes, transportation-related fees, and an additional 1% on existing Local Option Tax.
- Authorize variable municipal property tax rates for non-residential dwellings and provide interest-free borrowing to municipalities for uncollected state property taxes.
- Share state revenues, including from land gains, property transfer tax, and cannabis sales, with the community where the economic activity occurred.
- Match state property tax relief with municipal stabilization agreements for infill-scale housing.
- Provide municipalities with resources to provide basic public health amenities and remove hazardous materials from encampments and public spaces.

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- Authorize new state investment in and revolving loan funds for town highways and bridges.
- Keep transportation revenues in the transportation fund, including purchase and use tax and mileage-based user fees, to leverage federal match dollars.
- Fully cover the state's share of costs for grand list maintenance, reappraisal, and appeal.

Clear the Way

Remove barriers to building housing, businesses, and infrastructure, and find practical solutions that make government work better and faster.

- Assure that intermunicipal agreements and regional efforts are optional and accountable to voters.
- Modernize Public Records Law to support compliance and control costs to municipal taxpayers.
- Allow penalty-free disenrollment from the Current Use program for farmworker housing and for municipal lands required for public infrastructure.
- Reform the 3-acre permit rule: allow cost to be a factor in determining feasibility, remove residential neighborhoods and town roads, and allow for compliance at redevelopment.
- Advance strategies to reduce the volume and burden of permit appeals and reduce duplicate regulatory frameworks and permitting requirements.
- Accelerate brownfield cleanup and redevelopment.
- Adopt modernized septic and well regulations.

Deliver What Matters

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Support essential services and the frontline people who provide them.

- Support the recruitment and retention of the municipal workforce by making VMERS pensions exempt from state income tax.
- Institute flexible alternatives to the residential Vermont Police Academy training program.
- Urgently establish a systemic approach to financially support emergency call handling and dispatch services for implementation by FY29.
- Authorize administration of buprenorphine by EMTs and paramedics for all municipal emergency service agencies.
- Prioritize funding for providers of field-based services, including for day shelter, emergency shelter, case management services, and pre-trial supervision.
- Support new models of delivering mental health crisis and public inebriate beds.

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