March 20, 2020 – This week, legislators, local officials, the private sector, and the administration have all been focused on addressing the growing list of needs of Vermonters – many of whom, as recently as last week, could not have imagined that... Read more

March 13, 2020 – News about the confirmed cases in Vermont of the novel coronavirus, or Covid-19, has claimed the headlines of late. But the week following the annual town meeting break is when legislative committees are statutorily required to... Read more

February 28, 2020 – Next week is town meeting, Vermont’s treasured form of direct democracy where a town’s voters debate numerous matters important to local government. Every year, a bit of media frenzy accompanies the questions asked of voters as... Read more


February 14, 2020 – Despite the threatening weather, dozens of intrepid local officials trekked to the State House on Thursday, Local Government Day, to discuss with their legislators some of the issues of the 2020 session that will affect their... Read more

January 17, 2020 – On Wednesday, the House Ways and Means Committee heard from staff from the Joint Fiscal Office about proposals to borrow for school construction funding and how that would affect the Education Fund. In 2007, the state imposed a... Read more

January 10, 2020 – The gavel fell with a bang this week, signaling the beginning of the second half of the legislative biennium. Legislators returning to the State House dove right into work on all kinds of issues. On Wednesday, Governor Phil Scott... Read more

December 19, 2020 – In only two weeks, the 2020 legislative session commences and suddenly everything changes in the city of Montpelier, which hosts the annual influx of legislators, lobbyists,
interested citizens, protesters, and special interests... Read more [8]

2020 Weekly Legislative Report No. 6 [9]
February 7, 2020 – Local Governments: The Real Losers in the Cannabis Tax Game. Last week, we reported that House committees were once again taking up S.54, a bill that would regulate the production and sale of cannabis and cannabis products. The... Read more [9]

2020 Weekly Legislative Report No. 5 [10]
January 31, 2020 – Local Government Day. Local officials get stuff done. They are all rightfully proud of the cities, towns, and villages in which they serve, and for so many reasons. And Local Government Day is their day (that is, your day) to... Read more [10]

January 24, 2020 – The Governor’s Budget. On Tuesday, Governor Phil Scott presented his budget to the legislature. Until the governor gives his budget speech there is little framework in which to discuss the priorities in his January 9 State of the... Read more [11]

2019 Legislative Wrap-up [12]
June 26, 2019 – A session that started with sky-high hopes of enacting a full-blown, veto-proof Democratic/Progressive agenda ended about as messily as it could in the House on May 24 and in the Senate five days later. The bickering between House... Read more [12]

May 3, 2019 – Cannabis. On Thursday night, the House Government Operations Committee passed out S.54, a bill that establishes a taxed and regulated cannabis market in Vermont. S.54 requires that before a cannabis retailer can operate within a... Read more [13]

2019 Weekly Legislative Report No. 16 [14]
April 26, 2019 – The End of the Session Looms. In the next two to three weeks, we expect the 2019 legislative session to wind down and close up shop. That means committees are working hard to finalize legislation and get bills to the full House or... Read more [14]

April 19, 2019 – Economic Development. Much of the work done in the State House this year has revolved around efforts to grow the economy. One idea with widespread support is to expand high-speed internet service to underserved areas of the state,... Read more [15]

2019 Weekly Legislative Report No. 14 [16]
April 12, 2019 – The Legislature Grinds On: What’s Next for VLCT Priorities? Crossover is long in the rearview mirror and legislative committees are now working on initiatives that have been delivered to them in bill form from the other chamber.... Read more [16]

Weekly Legislative Report 2019 No. 13 [17]
April 5, 2019 – The Road to Self-Governance. On Wednesday, following much debate on and off the Senate floor, an amended self-governance bill, S.106, passed the Senate.

Weekly Legislative Report 2019 No. 12 [18]
March 29, 2019 – Access to Broadband. On Tuesday, the House overwhelmingly passed H.513 – a bill that would address the lack of broadband access in Vermont, particularly in rural areas – by a vote of 139 to 2. The House Energy and Technology... Read more [18]

Weekly Legislative Report 2019 No. 11 [19]
March 22, 2019 – Self-Governance. On Tuesday, the Senate Government Operations Committee unanimously voted out S.106, the bill to establish a pilot program for self-governance authority at the local level. Towns would enjoy the opportunity to... Read more [19]

Weekly Legislative Report 2019 No. 10 [20]
March 15, 2019 – The Transportation Bill. The House Transportation Committee is currently putting the finishing touches on this year’s transportation bill. Local officials who attended a joint hearing of both transportation committees at Local... Read more [20]