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 and Senate members... Read more [1]

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 capacity to govern... Read more [2]

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 moratorium on school... Read more [3]

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 delivered his State... Read more [4]

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 who crowd the State... Read more [5]

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 House Government... Read more [6]

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 demonstrate this to the... Read more [7]

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 State Address.... Read more [8]

2019 Weekly Legislative Report No. 17 [9]
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 municipality, a... Read more [9]

2019 Weekly Legislative Report No. 16 [10]
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 Senate for votes... Read more [10]

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, which would remove... Read more [11]

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. This is the time... Read more [12]

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 [14]
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 Committee recognized... Read more [14]

Weekly Legislative Report 2019 No. 11 [15]
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 develop innovative... Read more [15]

Weekly Legislative Report 2019 No. 10 [16]
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 Government Day... Read more [16]

Weekly Legislative Report 2019 No. 9 [17]
Vermont Town Meeting. Next week is, of course, town meeting, Vermont’s treasured form of direct democracy. Many of your representatives and senators will be home for the week-long legislative break, and we hope they will attend town meeting and soak... Read more [17]

Weekly Legislative Report 2019 No. 8 [18]
Senate Government Operations Takes Up Self Governance Proposal. This week, the Senate Government Operations Committee began initial discussions of S.106, the first draft of a municipal self-governance program modeled after a similar one that was... Read more [18]

Weekly Legislative Report 2019 No. 7 [19]
Local Government Day 2019. Thursday dawned bright and clear, setting the tone for serious business at the State House, where approximately 130 Local Government Day attendees gathered to deliver multiple messages to their legislators. In his... Read more [19]

Weekly Legislative Report 2019 No. 6 [20]
An Emergency in Emergency Medical Services. This week, the Senate Government Operation Committee received the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Committee’s annual report to the legislature, which