



VLCT 2021-2022 MUNICIPAL PRIORITIES

Relied upon as trusted partners with the state especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, local governments are taking the lead in innovative governance practices and responding to their constituents' needs. Each biennium, the VLCT Board of Directors distills the Municipal Legislative Priorities from the full Municipal Policy adopted by VLCT membership. The Municipal Priorities help guide VLCT Advocacy staff and the board in effectively advocating for you. In Vermont, where local government resources and innovation are severely constrained, cities and towns need the authority, flexibility, and funding to meet today's challenges.

VLCT SUPPORTS:

1.



Voter approved self-governance on matters solely affecting the municipality taking action, including (a) local option taxes; (b) measures to reduce emissions, increase resilience to climate change, and build a cleaner economy; and (c) law enforcement policy and oversight implemented in accordance with the municipal governance structure;

2.



Sustained funding and incentives to implement all state mandated programs reducing the burden on municipal property taxes;

3.



Authority to take meaningful action to eliminate racial disparities and to ensure equity, fairness, and systemic change;

4.



Legislation reforming Vermont's income, sales, cannabis, and property taxes to ensure sustainability, economic recovery and affordability, equity, and balance, particularly as those attributes relate to property taxes' contribution to the Education Fund;

5.



Providing authority, tools, and funding to local officials so as to **mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on residents and communities;**

6.



Providing the technology, authority, training, and funding to **ensure fair, equitable, and impartial delivery of law enforcement that builds trust and legitimacy in communities, including among minority groups;**

7.



Eliminating Act 250 jurisdiction over projects in designated downtowns, growth centers, new town centers, designated village centers, and new neighborhoods;

8.



Ensuring that grants pay for **federal and Vermont Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act priorities;** and

9.



No-risk funding that pays for project development to implement mandates such as Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) General Permits, Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), combined sewer systems, and Municipal Road General Permits (MRGPs).