

2018 Municipal Policy PRIORITIES

Vermont Cities and Towns

In partnership with state and federal governments, Vermont cities and towns are dedicated to providing bright and sustainable futures for Vermonters. Municipalities need the authority, flexibility, and funding to meet today's challenges.

VLCT supports:

- decision making at the local level, including local adoption of fees and taxes, streamlined adoption and full implementation of voter approved municipal charters
- a robust and ongoing partnership between state and local governments
- maximum flexibility of programs and initiatives at the local level to spur local economic development
- fully reimbursing costs for mandated programs and preparing fiscal impact statements to describe shifts in cost before the legislature or administration takes action.

VLCT **opposes** all cost shifts to local governments, pre-emption of municipal programs, and regulatory overreach.

Finance and Intergovernmental Relations

- reform all Vermont taxes to ensure simplicity, equity, balance, and sustainability
- assess Act 46 effectiveness in reducing costs without adversely affecting educational quality
- use Education Fund monies only for pre-K-12 education
- simplify the education finance system
- allow all cities and towns to vote to adopt consumption taxes.

Quality of Life and Public Safety

- allow law enforcement to implement the principles of procedural justice to build trust
- provide support for unmet social service needs related to short- and long-term mental health and addiction care
- engage all partners to reduce cost of care and improve the health and health care experience of all Vermonters using the “whole population” health care model
- empower and fund municipalities to respond appropriately to local public health and opioid addiction-induced crises
- ensure universal availability of opioid addiction treatment on demand, without delay, and funding these services
- authorize local emergency service agencies to recover all costs associated with complying with federal, state, and court-ordered licensing, registration, or testing requirements.



Water Quality, Environment, and Land Use

- delegate responsibility for Act 250 administration to municipalities that demonstrate the capacity and willingness to do so
- implement and fund water quality projects based on design and scoping to ensure success
- create a centralized statewide authority to collect impervious surface or per parcel fees, and develop and implement clean water projects
- urge ANR and EPA to implement the Integrated Planning Approach Framework to prioritize municipal Clean Water Act responsibilities and investments
- empower municipalities to reduce emissions, improve resiliency to climate change, and participate in the transition to a clean energy economy
- ensure the reliability of Vermont's energy supply and restore a balance between transitioning to renewable energy and protecting land use priorities established in municipal plans and state land use goals.

Transportation

- substantially increase funding to all highway programs that affect local government, especially those mandating clean water initiatives and mandates
- eliminate redundant oversight of municipal transportation projects, thereby expediting the permitting process
- tailor project review to the size and impact of the proposal

About VLCT

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a voluntary membership organization that provides services, including advocacy, to all 246 Vermont cities and towns. VLCT is governed by a 13-member board of local officials from around the state.

Read the entire *2018 VLCT Municipal Policy* at vlct.org/advocacy/legislative-platform.



2018

MUNICIPAL POLICY PRIORITIES

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Dates to Remember

Thursday, February 15, 2018
VLCT Local Government Day in the Legislature,
Montpelier

Wednesday and Thursday, October 3-4, 2018
VLCT Town Fair and Annual Meeting,
South Burlington

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**VERMONT LEAGUE
OF CITIES & TOWNS**

*Serving and Strengthening
Vermont Local Governments*

