



LEGISLATIVE RESULTS

The VLCT Board of Directors adopted several 2022 municipal priorities ahead of the 2022 legislative session. Thanks to our Advocacy team — and, most importantly, to the many members who spoke up, testified in the State House, and contacted their representatives — many of our priorities were acted on. Please be sure to thank your local legislator for the historic amount of resources and authorities coming to local governments this year.

This infographic illustrates updates from VLCT's 2021 municipal priorities.

1. AFFORDABLE HOUSING
Results: An historic amount of resources dedicated to housing. Appropriations in Acts 181, 182, and 185 equal \$90 million. Act 181 moves rental housing inspections to Dept. of Public Safety. Act 182 establishes several new programs.

2. CLIMATE CHANGE AND MUNICIPAL RESILIENCY
Results: Funding to help municipalities save on heating costs and fight climate change. Act 172 establishes the Municipal Energy Resilience Grant Program, which includes \$36 million in grants for weatherization, thermal efficiency, renewable, and electric heating systems. Act 185 appropriates \$206 million for climate-related initiatives.

3. MUNICIPAL GOVERNANCE
Results: A modest but important expansion of municipal authority. Act 157 expands municipal authority to conduct business during declared emergencies.

4. FUNDING TO SUSTAIN MANDATED PROGRAMS
Results: Appropriations in numerous bills fund mandated programs and transformative change initiatives.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
Results: A new environmental justice policy. Act 154 establishes an environmental justice policy and advisory council and provides \$220,000 for a statewide equity program that targets municipalities. The Vermont Office of Racial Equity will launch the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Action, Leadership (IDEAL) Program in the fall.

6. TAX REFORM AND STABILIZED COST OF LIVING
Act 178 reduced education property taxes by 1.45 cents, created new child tax credit, increased military and Social Security income exemptions, and preserved local option tax. Act 127 establishes new pupil weighting factors.

7. ASSISTANCE TO MITIGATE EFFECTS OF COVID-19
Results: Acts 77, 78, and 79 authorize alternative arrangements for 2022 town meetings, elections for local office, and fully remote public meetings if circumstances warrant.

8. ENSURE FAIR, EQUITABLE AND IMPARTIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT
Results: Act 128 establishes the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Act 126 mandates a study on qualified immunity. Act 161 requires collection of specific law enforcement data. Act 185 appropriates \$11 million to develop regional dispatch.

9. ELIMINATE ACT 250 JURISDICTION IN DESIGNATED AREAS
Results: Modest easing of Act 250 jurisdiction in designated areas. Act 182 expands the number of priority housing units that may be built in towns with fewer than 3,000 residents.

10. AUGMENTED ARPA FUNDING TO VLCT
Results: Act 185 appropriated \$250,000 to VLCT to establish the Federal Funding Assistance Program to help towns access federal grant and loan programs.

11. SUPPORT TIF PROGRAM, IMPLEMENT PROJECT-BASED TIF
Results: New grant program for municipal economic development projects. Act 183 extends eligibility for new Community Recovery and Revitalization Grant Program to municipalities for infrastructure improvements and funds with \$10 million and appropriates \$2.4 million for Vermont Downtown and Village Center Tax Credit Program.

12. NO-RISK FUNDING TO SUPPORT WATER QUALITY RELATED MANDATES
Results: New funding for water and wastewater projects. Act 178 provides up to \$55 million to address PCBs in schools. Act 185 appropriates \$109 million for water supply, stormwater and wastewater improvements.