City of Minneapolis

~~2012~~ 2013 Legislative Agenda

As Adopted on ~~December 9th, 2011~~

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Local Government Finance

~~**The priority issues for Minneapolis:**~~

State/Local Fiscal Relationships: Local Government Aid (LGA)

Minnesota has established a tax revenue system that centralizes most tax authority, collections and disbursements with the state. The system which began approximately 40 years ago has the state collecting and disbursing a portion of tax revenue to cities, counties and school districts. Local governments, however, are prohibited by statute from imposing local non-property taxes without legislative approval. As a result of the system, a major portion of a city's annual general fund revenue has been state resources in the form of property tax relief and or local government aid (LGA). The system works well when revenues are stable or rising. However, state revenues have been below expectations each year since 2003 and as a result there have been financial impacts on local governments.

In 2003, $105.0 million, or 40% the City of Minneapolis' general fund revenue consisted of state aid (LGA and property tax relief). The proposed ~~2012~~ 2013 budget estimates that $64.1 million, or 18% of the general fund will be state assistance. The declines mirror the reductions in state aid. In 2003 LGA was estimated to be $586.0 million but due to a state budget deficit LGA actually paid approximated $450.0 million paid to all eligible cities. In ~~2012~~ 2013 and for the next ~~three~~ two years the LGA appropriation is $426.0 million. The largest state property tax relief program (market value homestead credit) paid to local governments was eliminated for taxes payable in 2012 and subsequent years. As a result of the credit's elimination, the state's commitment to property tax relief was reduced by approximately $262.0 million annually. The city's share of the credit amounted to $6.3 million.

As cities prepare their ~~2012~~ 2013 budgets, the possibility of additional state budget deficits and resulting impacts on city revenues are a distinct possibility. The continued state revenue uncertainty has made it difficult for cities to plan and provide services.

Minneapolis Priorities:

- Provides cities with additional revenue sources including but not limited to sales taxes, street use utility and public infrastructure and other fees to fund services and capital projects.
- Target aid to cities that have high needs, low fiscal capacity as well as overburden created by non-residents (employees, students, visitors) using city services as well as the prevalence of tax exempt property located in the city.
- Aid distribution should also recognize the amount of state taxes generated in a city and the amount it receives from the state.
- ~~Extend the submission date of the LGA study commission report until the start of the 2013 session.~~
- ~~Direct the Minnesota Department of Revenue to provide information on state collected taxes by city in addition to current county and regional reports.~~
- Legislation amending Minnesota statutes 13.43 sub2 (e) to clarify that the term "public official" as used in the clause includes department head so that the City of Minneapolis would be covered under the clause.

Convention Center Lodging Tax Cap

- The 1986 Legislature authorized the City of Minneapolis to plan, finance ~~and~~ construct and operate a convention center. ~~To finance the construction and operation of the facility the city was permitted to levy~~ a city-wide sales and lodging tax as well as food and beverage taxes in a downtown taxing district. The lodging tax maximum rate was set at 3%. The actual rate however was subject to a cap based on the sum of sales and other lodging taxes. The combined rate could not exceed 12%. Sales taxes included state and local taxes. The 1986 calculation resulted in a 2.5% lodging tax. (State Sales tax 6% + city sales tax 0.5% + existing lodging tax 3% + 1986 lodging tax 2.5%) = 12 %). In 1991 the rate was adjusted to 2% as a result of the ½% increase in the state sales tax.

- The 2001 legislature amended the cap to 13% and, as a result, the lodging tax increased to 3%. In July 2009, the state sales tax rate increased to 6.875% and the lodging tax rate dropped to 2.625%. The reduction is estimated to decrease the lodging tax receipts by approximately $650,000 annually. The receipts are dedicated to the convention center fund. The City is the only city with a cap.

- It is proposed that the 1986 law be amended to eliminate the cap.

Minneapolis supports:

- Increased property tax relief to those residential properties that will have significant tax increases due to the elimination of the limited market value program, tax levy increases and changes in the property tax base.

- Repealing the state sales tax on local government purchases.

- Restructure the property tax relief programs to base property tax relief primarily on the income of the owner-occupant of residential property.

- The repeal of the sunset of the Historic Structure Rehabilitation credit, scheduled to expire in June, 2015.

Minneapolis opposes:

- Legislation including constitutional and statutory amendments, including levy limits that would limit government revenues and authority.

- Unfunded mandated services or procedures imposed by the legislature on local governments.

Capital Bonding

The following projects were submitted by the City of Minneapolis to Minnesota Management and Budget and adopted as the City's bonding priorities for the 2012 Session.

1. Nicollet Mall Rebuild $25.0M

~~2. 10th Avenue Bridge $7.6M~~

~~3. Target Center Improvements $8.0M~~

~~4. Granary Road $5.3M~~

5. 35W S & 35W N Storm Tunnel Preservation Project $4.5M

6. Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery Rehabilitation ~~$2.6M~~ $2.2M

The City of Minneapolis supports continued metro-wide efforts to secure bonding funds for local inflow and infiltration and other stormwater projects.

Minneapolis supports bonding for statewide bridge replacement and rehabilitation and the Transit Capital Improvement Program including funding for Bottineau, Cedar, ~~Central,~~ Northern Lights Express, 35W BRT and Southwest transit corridors.

Public Safety

Keeping residents and visitors safe is a top priority for the City of Minneapolis.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

General Public Safety

- Funding for the entire public safety system, including such critical functions as police, fire, prosecutors, public defense, communication systems, probation, the courts and victim services. Providing public safety, a core responsibility of local government, is threatened by insufficient funding.
- Changing the criminal code to address chronic offenders of indecent exposure laws and allowing for enhancement to felony level offenses.
- Creating a statewide coordinated plan for dealing with released sex offenders that addresses the overall concentration of offenders located within the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County and especially mitigates the concentration of sex offenders within vulnerable neighborhoods. To ensure this equitable distribution of sex offenders, the State must fund additional housing options and placement of half-way houses and should require the county of commitment to bear financial responsibility for released offenders.
- Prohibit carrying a pistol with a blood-alcohol concentration of .08 or more.
- Legislation classifying individual's email addresses as nonpublic data for the purposes of security information.

Prostitution and Human Trafficking

- Efforts to reduce prostitution and human trafficking.
- Legislation designating funding for treatment and creation of transitional housing programs to support prostituted people.
- Efforts to end the sexual exploitation of youth by building a system that responds effectively to their needs, including sufficient resources and training for law enforcement and service providers.

Domestic Abuse

- Amend the existing definition of "family or household members" to clarify that it does include persons *formerly* involved in such a relationship.
- Strengthen the existing domestic abuse no contact order statute to provide increased safety for victims and to enable police, prosecutors, probation and the courts to hold domestic abuse offenders who violate those orders more accountable
- Amend the domestic abuse gross misdemeanor statute to remove the requirement that the prior qualified offense be against a family or household member.
- Improve the processes to access court records.

Traffic and Driving Offenses

- Allowing for a gross misdemeanor and increasing penalties for careless driving offense if driving conduct results in a fatality or great bodily harm.

Minneapolis Supports:

General Public Safety

- Continued funding for re-entry programs and efforts to coordinate the programs with existing opportunities. Legislation supporting the re-entry of ex-offenders into their communities, such as voting rights, public/private training and employment programs, and access to affordable housing.
- Sufficient funding for programs that fund mental health treatment and other safety net services.
- Protecting the human rights of immigrant populations and establishing a culture of mutual trust between law enforcement and immigrant populations to foster greater community public safety.
- On a state-wide basis, imposing a wholesale level impact fee equivalent to a per-drink surcharge on alcoholic beverages and using the proceeds for public safety, crime prevention and rehabilitation of offenders.
- Initiatives to address livability crimes, including continued and increased state funding for restorative justice programs.
- Legislation supporting significant gun control measures including the mandatory reporting of any lost or stolen firearm, strengthening laws regulating the transfer of firearms, the prohibition of possessing replica guns in public, and measures to stop the flow of handguns to youth.
- Full exploration of the provision of forensic science services to law enforcement agencies in Hennepin County.
- Allow law enforcement to withhold data when access to the data would reveal the identity of a victim of or witness to a crime and the agency reasonably determines that revealing the identity of the victim or witness would threaten the personal safety or property of victims or witnesses in that case.
- <u>Efforts to promote cooperation between law enforcement and the pawn industry and to enhance the ability to identify illegal activity and recover stolen property.</u>
- <u>Continued and increased state financing of substantial local costs to participate in ARMER, including the acquisition and modernization of console and tower site equipment and subscriber equipment, such as portable and mobile radios required for ARMER users when such modernization is mandated and driven by a state timeline to comply.</u>
- <u>Classification of data collected from automatic license plate readers as private data, available to only the subject and not the general public.</u>

Domestic Abuse

- Legislation disqualifying an offender who violates a domestic abuse no contact order or interferes with an emergency call from owning or possessing a pistol.

Traffic and Driving Offenses

- Legislation enabling cities to efficiently leverage public safety resources by allowing the use of technology such as photo enforcement.
- Legislation making it a crime to drive under the influence of any drug that makes a person an unsafe driver, including THC.
- Amending the driving while impaired statute to change to .16, the level at which a person's alcohol concentration becomes an aggravating factor, allowing prosecutors to charge such an offense at a higher level.
- Amending the reckless or careless driving statute to address aggressive driving perpetrated with malicious intent.

- Establish an aggravating factor to the driving while impaired statute for having caused an accident resulting in property damage or physical injury to another person.

Vulnerable Adults

- Strengthening laws regarding the health, safety and wellbeing of vulnerable adults, including indecent exposure and neglect laws.

Fire Safety

- Mandated fire sprinklers in certain facilities such as large homes, nursing homes, high rises.
- Required inspections by the State Fire Marshall to include private schools, assisted living facilities and resorts.
- Methods to secure reimbursement for medical care provided by first responders.

General Changes to Criminal Code

- Legislation that would prohibit the solicitation of business at the scene of a mass casualty or disaster.
- Amending the burglary statues to make it a crime for a person to enter a building without consent and commit invasion of privacy offenses.
- Legislation creating tougher penalties for offenders convicted of tagging, which includes the suspending of drivers' licenses for up to one year; and also support a statewide age limit on the purchase of spray paint.
- Allowing "any equivalent crime in another state" to be added to the increased penalty for certain misdemeanors statute and clarifying when prosecutors may charge offenders.
- Allow for enhanced criminal penalties for injuries caused to animal control officers.
- Create a misdemeanor to refuse to submit to a chemical test if a peace officer has lawfully placed a person under arrest for carrying a pistol in public while intoxicated.
- Establish a gross misdemeanor for assault against code enforcement officers while they are performing their duties.

Minneapolis Opposes

- Oppose the expansion of fireworks.
- Efforts to decriminalize misdemeanor and livability-related offenses.
- Efforts to reduce the effective use of the Automated Property System (APS). ~~, to promote cooperation between law enforcement and the pawn industry, to enhance the ability to identify illegal activity and recover stolen property.~~
- Transfers from the dedicated Fire Safety Account to the state general fund.
- Efforts to divert dedicated ARMER funds to the state's general fund

Pension Sustainability

- Support reasonable pension legislation that helps guarantee the long term viability of all state-wide public pension funds without overburdening local governments while at the same time fulfilling the commitments made to our employees. This could include reasonable adjustments to investment assumptions, employee employer contributions as well as continued state contributions including those to all local funds folding into the state wide plans.

Transportation

The City supports increased funding for transit and highways that includes stable and secure financial resources to meet both the capital and operational needs of the expanding regional transit systems.

Minneapolis supports funding for all modes of transportation and puts a high priority on model options that provide alternatives to the use of single occupancy vehicles and supports legislation that requires that all state funded transportation projects consider appropriate accommodations for all transportation modes.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

- Funding for Southwest Corridor and Bottineau Boulevard and Northern Lights Express
- Funding for 35W BRT improvements including funds for the Lake Street Transit Access Project
- Funding for the state's portion of high speed rail funds for a Chicago to Twin Cities route
- Funding of all other transit corridors which help build a complete transit system.
- New funding mechanisms for alternative transportation ideas including street cars
- ~~Funding for 35W BRT improvements including funds for a Lake Street Station~~
- Funding for traffic mitigation efforts in and around the University of Minnesota made necessary because of the Washington Avenue Central Corridor LRT alignment
- Adequate funding for transit operations without reductions in metropolitan development funds
- Legislation creating alternative sources of revenue for transportation improvements, including local authority to create and make use of a street utility, new forms of Tax Increment Financing and the repealing of special laws that limit the City of Minneapolis' authority more than other cities in Minnesota.

Support issues for Minneapolis:

- Changes to Municipal State Aid standards that allow cities to design and build streets that safely meet the needs of all who use them.
- Increased funding for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and programming including programs that seek to incentivize innovation in bicycling infrastructure including appropriate flexibility on design standards.
- Minneapolis supports the State and all jurisdictions' implementation of Complete Streets policies and opposes any attempt to repeal the laws that require it for MnDOT projects.
- Local flexibility and ease of implementation when seeking to design and implement pedestrian and bicycling safety efforts unique to urban environments.
- A state-level study of the economic impact of bicycling.
- Legislation to clarify the issue of yielding to bicyclist in a bike lane. The proposed change would better align state statute with the current Minnesota Driver's Manual.
- Minneapolis supports adding bike lanes to the list of locations where vehicles are prohibited from stopping, standing, or parking.

Affordable Housing & Homelessness Prevention

Minneapolis has adopted and implemented policies to provide lifecycle housing throughout the City. Providing all residents with safe, quality and affordable housing is a priority in Minneapolis. In cooperation with public and private partners, the City has assisted in the production of affordable rental and owner-occupied housing.

The City's efforts in providing affordable housing have been slowed by the mortgage foreclosure crisis and the tightening of credit to potential homeowners. While the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Programs (NSP) have helped, additional resources are needed.

Recognizing that limited resources are available, Minneapolis plans to achieve its housing goals by partnering with local and statewide housing advocates and agencies, including MinnesotaHousing, and several nonprofit organizations.

Other affordable housing priorities in Minneapolis include safeguarding the current MinnesotaHousing programs that serve low-income residents.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

- Policies that prevent mortgage foreclosures, secure and reoccupy vacant and abandoned properties, and help stabilize communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment. Such policies include but are not limited to:

  - Improved notices of foreclosures to cities and renters
  - Modifications of mortgage terms
  - Increased availability and public awareness of counseling services
  - Modifying the foreclosure process to provide additional time prior to the sale
  - Maintain owner occupancy of foreclosed homes by current or new owner occupants
  - Lender-owner mediation
  - Funding for local governments or non-profits to purchase homes for owner-occupancy
  - Ensure that tenants' rights are protected in such arrangements as lease-to-own contracts
  - Expansion of the Tenant Remedies Action law to permit cities to seek a court appointed administrator to manage rental properties in cases where the owners have failed to comply with rental licensing standards.

- Appropriations for MinnesotaHousing at a level significant enough to have statewide impact on shelters as well as permanent, supportive, assisted and transitional housing that serve affordable housing needs throughout the State. The Legislature should also continue the homelessness prevention programs, including the outreach project and provide additional resources for housing preservation and mortgage foreclosure prevention programs.

- Allow cities to assess for the remediation of nuisance vegetation such as unsecured and exposed tree root balls and volunteer tree growth on abandoned properties.

Minneapolis supports:

- State income tax credits for affordable housing
- Initiation of a state-supported land trust project
- ~~The i~~Initiatives to prevent homelessness by improving transitions from corrections, including ensuring permanent state funding for additional prison discharge planners and the creation and funding for a jail re-entry pilot project in up to five Minnesota counties.
- Repeal of the $50 offset for households living in public or rent subsidized housing and receiving financial assistance from the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).
- Legislative action to eliminate tax incentives that encourage the conversion of single family housing to rental property.
- Funding, both capital and program, for the continued implementation of Heading Home Hennepin including capital funding for the equal opportunity center.
- Prospective repeal of the relative homestead property tax classification.
- Efforts including the ability of cities to acquire or hold properties to preserve neighborhoods impacted by the concentration of foreclosures

Municipal Governance

Minneapolis' ability to conduct business in an orderly and efficient manner is frequently regulated by state law.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

- Legislation repealing the numerous special laws that had been enacted between 1960 and 2002 establishing specific unclassified appointed positions in the City of Minneapolis. In 2003, the City passed a special law that allowed the City to determine which positions should be in the appointed unclassified service.
- Support a state law allowing the ~~Civilian Review Authority (CRA)~~ Office of Police Conduct Review (OPCR) to be granted limited subpoena power to compel the production of documents, records and other physical evidence to improve the quality of ~~CRA~~ (OPCR) staff investigations by obtaining information relevant to the allegations from entities outside the city organization.
- Legislation authorizing cities to conduct alternative voting methods including but not limited to expanded vote-by-mail, early voting, instant runoff voting and legislation that adopts rules to implement instant runoff voting or authorize the Secretary of State or cities to promulgate the rules.
- ~~Amendments to state law so that reasonable conditions may be imposed uniquely to a given liquor licensee whether the license has already been issued or not and without passing an ordinance laying out the terms and conditions for that particular licensee.~~
- Changes to support utility franchise agreements that allow for increased flexibility by municipalities to meet environmental and other energy goals.
- The City of Minneapolis believes that the Sewer Availability Charge (SAC) Program should be reasonable and fair for all municipalities across the region, and a healthy SAC fund is vital for Metropolitan Council's future investments.
- The City of Minneapolis supports a SAC program that emphasizes equity, simplification and lower rates and is supportive of the recent efforts by Metropolitan Council and Metro Cities to adjust SAC rules and processes around "net" credits, "grandfathered" credits and customer services.
- The City of Minneapolis supports a "growth pays for growth" approach to SAC and supports legislation or further rule changes amending the Metropolitan Council's SAC program so that fees are better based on the need of those paying into the system for their corresponding capacity.
- The City of Minneapolis also supports a comprehensive and long range study of the overall SAC program and structure.

Minneapolis supports:

- Legislation to assist the City in dealing with abandoned vehicles that are not claimed by their owners, including:
  - authority like that granted to private lot operator to bring deficiency claims against owner of abandoned vehicles for the cost of towing and storage of their car;
  - the creating of a statewide fund to assist impound lot operators in covering the costs of unpaid towing and storage fees not covered by the sale of abandoned vehicles;
  - other measures to reduce the costs associated with abandoned vehicles and the costs of operating one of only two public impound lots in the State of Minnesota.
- Legislation that eliminates outdated or unnecessary publications and permits cities to elect alternative means such as the web to publish notices and official proceedings.
- Legislation allowing local units of government to define "dependent" for purposes of group benefits for local government officers and employees.
- Legislation that would authorize state regulation of dog and cat breeders.
- Legislation that would permit qualifying nonprofit animal welfare organizations to provide subsidized spay and neuter services to animals belonging to low income persons.
- Support legislation to amend the Municipal Planning Act so that provisions for appeals to local government adoption or amendment of an ordinance, rule or regulation, final approval of the adoption or amendment, are consistent with similar provisions for county governments.

- Legislation that removes barriers to, and helps to more readily facilitate regional and cross jurisdictional partnership, joint powers and shared service agreements.
- Legislation concerning the process and regulatory requirements for the placement of high voltage power lines in urban areas.
- Allow cities to require write-in candidates for municipal office to register ahead of time.
- ~~Establishing Early Voting in Minnesota.~~
- Legislation allowing absentee ballots to be included in their respective Election Day precinct ballots for the purpose of post-election review, eliminating the potential costly burden of a jurisdiction-wide absentee ballot precinct.
- Legislation eliminating redundant audio testing of the AutoMARK voting equipment by election judges which duplicates testing already completed by election technicians before delivery of equipment.
- Authority in State Building Code to enhance and enforce local green building regulations related to housing.
- Allow for the collection of unpaid fines on a vehicle that has multiple unpaid parking violations through such means as placing a deficiency claim on the owner of a vehicle with unpaid citations, a lien on the vehicle, or other measures that would force the payment of unpaid fines before a vehicle title can be sold or transferred or before a license can be renewed.
- Legislation designating individual's email addresses submitted to a city for notification of city services and activities to be classified as private.
- Increased flexibility in the Municipal Contracting law to allow a city to select a software vendor whose product best matches the city's needs.
- Legislation that would clarify the process for establishing organized collection and make it clear that those cities already organized, that are seeking new competitive bids or requests for proposals, do not need to follow the same full process as those seeking to organize for the first time.

Minneapolis opposes:

- Legislation restricting the authority of cities to license industries such as pawnshops, massage establishments, tattoo and piercing establishments. Efforts to limit the authority of cities to set licensing and transaction fees that enable cities to recover their full regulatory and enforcement expenses.
- Legislation ~~or a proposed constitutional amendment~~ that requires a voter to present authorized photo identification in the polling place to obtain a ballot.
- Legislation placing additional, unnecessary and costly requirements upon city animal control agencies that would act to reduce their ability to provide the highest level of service to animals in their care.
- Attempts to limit the functions, powers or authority of municipal civilian review authorities.
- Any legislation that would allow inverse condemnation claims because of city private contracting decisions or automatic contractual damage claims for contractors that lose public competitive bidding processes including solid waste hauler in organized collection communities.

City Livability

The City works to keep Minneapolis a desirable place to live, work, conduct business and play.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

General City Livability

- Legislation authorizing the development of a statewide aviation policy to diversify air traffic throughout the State.

Youth Violence Prevention

- Establish competitive grant funds for existing state or local mentoring partnerships to increase the number of mentors statewide.
- Align existing state resources to fund prevention and intervention programs that address youth violence and associated risk and protective factors including but not limited to teen pregnancy prevention, school attendance, and community connectedness.
- Maintain state and federal workforce funding and policies to employ at-risk youth and youth reentering the community from the criminal justice system.
- Support policies that help local law enforcement track illegal guns and restrict the access of young people to illegal guns.
- Support funding for the Youth Violence Prevention Act of 2009
- Increased funding for youth development and early intervention programs including after-school activities and mentoring opportunities.

Public Health

- Maintain funding to community health boards for the State Health Improvement Program.
- Adequate funding and preservation of the Local Public Health Grant Program.
- Support proposals that will prevent childhood lead poisoning and promote healthier homes through the reduction of asthma triggers, and other indoor environmental health concerns.
- Expanding health care access and resources to help low-income persons obtain health care coverage and health services. Eliminating health disparities so that all residents can have equal opportunity for optimal health. Support health care coverage for all that includes a comprehensive benefit set that emphasizes primary and preventive care and includes physical health, mental health, substance abuse, dental services, medications and quality interpreter and translation services. Support a system that is made affordable for patients and other payers by controlling both administrative and clinical costs, assures culturally relevant high quality care, and is easy for patients to understand.
- Sufficient funding for and improved access to MinnesotaCare, Medical Assistance, and urban family planning programs.

Minneapolis supports:

- Sustaining the minor's consent law permitting adolescents to see medical providers for confidential reproductive, mental health and chemical dependency services.
- Strengthening physical and health education curriculum in schools to prevent obesity and promote healthy lifestyles.
- Ensuring efficient funding for public health emergency preparedness and response.
- Establishing and enforcing quality standards, and restoring and maintaining the funding for early childhood programs.
- Maintained funding for the Eliminating Health Disparities grants.
- Legislation to increase funding for public library operations and to exempt county sales tax proceeds from maintenance of effort requirements.
- The City supports and approves the Youth Coordinating Board (YCB)'s legislative agenda.
- Policies and enhanced funding to increase the number of children who can bike and walk to school safely.
- Legislation providing for gender-neutral marriage law, and enacting the Marriage and Family Protection Act.
- The use of Health Impact Assessments and funding to conduct them.
- Increased reimbursement for pre-school developmental and health screening, to ensure that reimbursements cover the actual cost of preschool screening.
- The Minnesota Health Plan Act, a single, statewide plan that would cover all Minnesotans for all their medical needs.

Minneapolis opposes:

- Legislation allowing the purchase of wine in grocery stores or other changes making it easier for minors to purchase alcoholic beverages.
- Legislation that further directs the City of Minneapolis on governance issues related to the neighborhood revitalization program.
- Efforts to further restrict access to health care programs for undocumented persons.
- ~~A proposed constitutional amendment entitled "Recognition of Marriage Solely Between One Man and One Woman" and urges Minnesota citizens to vote "No" on Tuesday, November 6, 2012.~~

Environment and Sustainability

Minneapolis supports strong environmental policies focused on improving air, water and soil quality. The City will partner with county, state, federal and other jurisdictions to meet these objectives.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

Extended Product Responsibility

- Support an Extended Producer Responsibility Framework approach that ~~creates~~ mandates effective, and environmentally beneficial producer-initiated reduction, reuse and recycling programs to address the lifecycle impacts of products including greenhouse gas emissions from design through end-of-life management, thereby reducing the local government responsibility for financing and managing collection and recycling activities.

- Support a Pharmaceutical Extended Producer Responsibility approach that ~~creates~~ mandates effective and environmentally beneficial, producer-initiated programs to deal with a medications' lifecycle impacts such as illegal use and water pollution from design through end-of-life management so that state, county and city governments do not have primary responsibility for such efforts.

Minneapolis supports:

Stormwater/Wastewater Management

- Support increased state funding of stormwater management costs to local governments for rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and costs associated with stormwater projects necessitated by impairments to water bodies through Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL studies. Support increased assistance costs associated with surcharges for excess inflow and infiltration, combined sewer overflows and flood mitigation. Priority should be given to projects that solve more than one stormwater problem and that also emphasize water quality. Future legislation should also ensure that the Metropolitan Council is eligible for all appropriate waste water funding programs and recognize the upcoming costs of stormwater management infrastructure and operation on municipalities from new regulatory mandates and load reduction requirements.

Municipal Waste and Recycling

- ~~Establishing rules for the licensing of facilities to accept mixed co-compostable organic materials.~~ Amend rules that expand urban composting efforts including the licensing of facilities to accept co-collected mixed yard waste and source separated organic materials and creates allowances for small composting sites.

Low Carbon Fuel Standard

- Support passage of a Low-Carbon Fuel Standard to reduce carbon impact of transportation fuels in Minnesota at least 10% by 2020. The LCFS is performance-based, greenhouse gas standard targeting transportation fuels sold in the state.
  ~~It does not promote specific technologies. California has already adopted a similar measure.~~

Preparing For a Changing Climate

- Support efforts to prepare for the impacts of climate change on infrastructure, natural systems and human health. Coordination across state agencies, funding for local efforts and infrastructure, and policies and legislation that supports resiliency are all important.

Climate Change Financial Incentives

- Support legislation that would provide local governments and non profits the same tax and financial incentives provided to private individuals and businesses for global warming initiatives including energy efficiency. This could include, but not be limited to consultants, fleets, fuels, renewable energy, capital projects, appliances and equipment purchases.

Renewable ~~Solar~~ and Distributed Generation

- ~~Solar as a clean, affordable energy technology is lagging in Minnesota when compared to other states.~~ Support incentives, mandates, and policies that increase distributed generation technologies, such as solar photovoltaic, ~~and~~ solar thermal production, wind, combined heat and power for both public and private entities.

Land Use Impacts on Climate Change

- Support amending the Met Council's comprehensive planning process to incorporate global warming reduction targets and solar energy resource planning.
- Support creating financial incentives for metro and greater Minnesota communities land use planning that would promote solar-energy resource planning and achieve global warming pollution reduction goals.
- Support amending the statutory goals of MnDoT to include a reduction in per capita vehicle miles driven and propose changes in other state agencies' goals or mission that can also foster reduction of global warming pollution through more efficient land use patterns and reduced need for driving.
- Support requiring analysis of energy use and direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions as part of the environmental review of projects that currently require review.

Artificial Turf

- Support previously proposed legislation to conduct health study of synthetic turf and crumb rubber adding a comparable analysis of alternatives.

Trees

- Support legislation and state agency procedures that will increase funding for incentives for tree planting and maintenance. In addition to a net loss of nearly 9,000 public trees over the past five years, the City has more than 200,000 trees, or 1/5th of its canopy, at stake with the arrival of the emerald ash borer. Planting the next generation of trees now will proactively mitigate the impact of the loss of these trees.
- Support research on insecticide to treat Emerald Ash Borer to determine effectiveness and impacts on human health and environment.

Local Food

- Support efforts that will remove regulatory barriers and provide incentives for expanding local food production, processing and distribution thereby increasing our food security, expanding green jobs, and reducing our carbon footprint.

- Support efforts to shift to a more sustainable food system including limiting regulatory requirements which hinder the production of food allowing for ~~that will~~ increased consumption of healthy foods, thereby improving nutrition and reducing obesity and chronic disease.

- Support efforts to ensure equitable distribution of food and expand access to healthy, sustainably produced, locally grown food for people with low incomes.

- Support efforts to make it easier to establish rooftop gardens/farms.

Protecting Children's Health from Toxic Chemical Exposure

- Support policies that identify and replace toxic chemicals in children's products with safer alternatives.

Green Chemistry

- Support incentives for manufacturers to stop using chemicals and instead look towards sustainable products and processes. Not only would this legislation protect our health and environment, but it would also promote business and job growth in this clean industrial sector.

Electric Vehicles

- Support efforts to promote electric vehicles and charging stations use development and manufacturing in Minnesota.

Asian Carp

- Support legislation and other state efforts ~~that~~ to addresses the spread of Asian Carp into Minnesota waters – including both measures to stop their progress past the Twin Cities, slow ~~stem~~ the ~~mitigation~~ migration, and support funding for research and ~~analysis~~ development of ~~mitigation~~ control measures ~~efforts~~.

Air Quality

- Support efforts to increase understanding of the air quality in the City of Minneapolis.

Minneapolis Opposes:

- Transfers and unintended uses of constitutionally dedicated conservation funds.
- Efforts to reduce or weaken existing environmental regulations and policies.

Jobs and Economic Development

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

Redevelopment and Economic Development

Minneapolis supports state financial assistance for redevelopment-related infrastructure improvements and economic development for cities throughout the state. The assistance should incorporate policies encouraging green manufacturing, and sustainability. Therefore the 2012 Minnesota Legislature should:

- increase resources and flexibility for the redevelopment fund
- provide resources for sustainable development including green manufacturing;
- provide additional resources for the brown field cleanup program
- ~~enact special legislation authorizing the extension of the timeframe to use TIF from three to six years for the North Minneapolis Capri Block TIF district damaged by the May, 2011 tornado.~~

Workforce

The City of Minneapolis has operated a jobs and training program that assists youth and adults in obtaining jobs skills and employment. The programs are funded with state and federal resources. Since 2006, the City has received a state appropriation for summer youth employment. The appropriation has provided approximately 1000 young people with jobs. Beginning in 2012, the legislature eliminated the City's direct appropriation and transitioned almost all youth employment funds to a state-run competitive grant program. The City supports:

- Increased funding for the summer youth employment program and adult job training and employment programs to ensure that programs previously receiving direct appropriations are able to continue to serve the same number of youth and continue to provide the same high-quality training and employment experience.

~~**People's Stadium**~~

~~The City of Minneapolis supports a People's stadium bill that would provide the following:~~

1. ~~Repurpose and direct the use of the current state-authorized Convention Center taxes as follows:~~

    a) ~~To the City to be used to fund debt service, capital, operating and marketing expenses of the Convention Center and Target Center, and any other capital projects or economic development purposes; and~~
    b) ~~To a new stadium authority to be used to fund a portion of the capital and operating expenses of a new People's stadium~~

2. ~~Maintain the current state-authorized Convention Center taxes for at least as long as needed for the above purposes; and~~

3. ~~The construction of a new stadium and improvements to Target Center must put Minneapolis residents to work, such that:~~

    a) ~~A percentage of construction contracts equal to or greater than other Minneapolis development projects must be awarded to women and minority owned businesses;~~
    b) ~~The construction workforce must include skilled minority, unskilled minorities and females and that workforce utilization goals must exceed current city goals;~~
    c) ~~The construction workforce must include workers from Minneapolis zip codes that have high rates of poverty and unemployment; and~~
    d) ~~Concessionaires at the new stadium must reflect the ethnic diversity of Minnesota.~~

4. ~~That the Minnesota Vikings work with neighborhoods surrounding the People's stadium to mitigate any negative game day impacts so that the stadium is viewed as a neighborhood asset.~~

Minneapolis supports:

- Statewide Tax Increment Financing (TIF) legislation for redevelopment districts that will facilitate the clean-up and redevelopment of property and transit-oriented development.
- This "Old House" program, a 10-year tax deferment on improvements made to houses built prior to 1960.

- Seek clarification that parkland dedication may be required outside of a platting/subdivision process and that a flat fee may be used for residential development.
- Authorizing the transfer of the proceeds of contamination tax to the clean-up grant account.
- Continuation of the Livable Communities Act programs.
- Increase funding for the Minnesota Historical Society's Historical and Cultural Grant Program.
- Extension of the state emergency unemployment benefits for those persons who do not qualify for federal benefits because they do not meet federal minimum earnings requirements.
- Allows cities to use Design-Build process for local project.
- The legislature directing the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDoT) to provide opportunities for private businesses to lease air rights on MnDoT properties.
- Amend eminent domain statute in response to MN Supreme Court decision holding that the fair market value of contaminated property in a condemnation proceeding is the value of the property as if the contamination had already been remediated.
- ~~Legislation creating employment guidance for state transportation projects and state bond funded projects regarding the recruitment and engagement of individuals and companies from communities experiencing high rates of unemployment, including from communities of color.~~
- Legislation that prohibits employers from refusing to hire unemployed persons.
- Eliminate the deduction in entitlement amounts for the non-issuance of bonds from 2008 through 2012.

Eliminating Racial and Gender Disparities

The City of Minneapolis supports policies to eliminate racial and gender disparities in employment and create employment opportunities for communities of color and women throughout the state.

- Policies that reduce access to and use of credit information and criminal records by employers, including mandated notification to job applicants of access to credit and criminal background check reports.
- Legislation creating employment *and contracting* guidance for state transportation projects and state bond funded projects regarding the recruitment, *training* and engagement of individuals and companies from communities experiencing high rates of unemployment, including from communities of color.