

Item #4A:

Village President Underwood

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus & Lake County Municipal League



2013 Legislative Priorities

I. Top State Priorities

A. *Public Pension Reform for Current Public Safety Employees*

Across the State of Illinois, soaring public safety pension costs are at a crisis level and threatening the future of local governments. Legislation is needed to bring fairness to the Chicago and downstate public safety pension systems in order to relieve the burden of escalating pension costs on local taxpayers and ensure sustainable retirement benefits for public safety employees.

Caucus Position: The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus joins the Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities Coalition, the Caucus' participating suburban Councils of Governments, the City of Chicago and the Illinois Municipal League in calling for the following reforms of the Chicago and downstate public safety pension systems:

- Pause all cost-of-living adjustments (COLAs) for 10 years;
- Apply Tier- 2 COLA formula (the lesser of 3% or ½ of CPI, non-compounded) upon the end of the 10-year COLA pause;
- Increase employee contributions toward pension by 1% of salary per year for 5 years;
- Adjust the retirement age to 55; and
- Require 35 years of service to maximize pension benefit (return to formula utilized prior to reduction to 30 years to maximize pension = 2.5% of salary per year of service for the first 20 years of service, 2.0% of salary per year of service for the next 10 years of service and 1.0% of salary per year for the final 5 years of service).

The Mayors Caucus believes strongly that these reforms need to be acted on as soon as possible. It appreciates the fact that the Governor and Legislative Leaders have pledged to reform the Chicago and downstate public safety pension systems after legislation to deal with the State employee pension systems is adopted.

However, given the inability of the General Assembly to pass a bill to reform these systems in the past two years and faced with the possibility that it will take another session before such legislation is adopted, local governments and their taxpayers cannot afford to wait their turn any longer. Just as inaction on

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus is a forum by which the 274 Mayors in the greater Chicago metropolitan area collaborate and build consensus on key regional issues. Its members include the Mayor of the City of Chicago; the Mayors of the suburban communities represented by the DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference, Lake County Municipal League, McHenry County Council of Governments, Metro West Council of Governments, Northwest Municipal Conference, South Suburban Mayors and Managers Association, Southwest Council of Governments, West Central Municipal Conference and the Will County Governmental League; and the Mayor of the City of Rockford.

A. *Public Pension Reform for Current Public Safety Employees (cont.)*

State system reforms adds to the State’s unfunded liability and to the uncertainty of the future viability of those systems, delaying action on reforms of the Chicago and downstate public safety systems increases the cost of government for local taxpayers and adds to the anxiety local public safety employees feel regarding the sustainability of their retirement benefits.

The Mayors Caucus respectfully urges Governor Quinn, Senate President John Cullerton, Speaker Michael Madigan, Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno, House Republican Leader Tom Cross and all other members of the Illinois General Assembly to pass comprehensive pension reform legislation for the State, Chicago and downstate public safety pension systems without further delay. It pledges to work with them to ensure that this bill passes sooner rather than later.

B. *Protect Municipal Revenues*

Despite adopting an income tax increase two years ago to address its ongoing financial crisis, the State of Illinois still finds itself awash in red ink. Factoring out the State’s pension problems as noted above and focusing on other cost centers in the State’s budget, projections from the Governor’s Office show that this bleak situation will continue through at least 2016.

The Governor and the Illinois General Assembly have demonstrated a penchant in the last several years for raiding local government revenue sources to attempt to mitigate the State’s budget problems. Sometimes they have prevailed as they did with the personal property replacement tax (PPRT) in the fall of 2011. Other times they have not as with the Governor’s recurring proposal to raid the Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF).

The Metropolitan Mayors Caucus, the City of Chicago, the suburban Councils of Governments and the Illinois Municipal League have worked cooperatively over the past few years to fiercely oppose the State’s attempts to pillage local revenue sources. Given the State’s bleak budget projections, they will continue their coordinated efforts in 2013 and beyond to protect and defend all municipal revenues.

Caucus Position: Local governments have their own budget challenges to address in these difficult economic times. The State should not create added burdens by attempting to manage its budget deficit on their backs. **The Mayors Caucus working again through a coordinated campaign with other municipal groups will strongly oppose any legislative or administrative proposals which try to erode local revenues whether they are further attempts to reduce the local share of the LGDF or the PPRT or new efforts to go after other sources such as the 911 service fee or sales or property taxes.**

C. *Oppose Increasing the Cost of Local Government*

Unfunded and under-funded mandates are intrusive and costly. They generally result in situations where local governments must either cut services or raise local taxes in order to pay for them. The Mayors of the Chicago region are extremely concerned that the State will expand the use of mandates or pass on the cost of government programs and services traditionally provided by the State to local governments as possible solutions to its budget problems.

Caucus Position: The Mayors Caucus strongly urges Governor Quinn and the General Assembly not to exercise either of these options. This might bail out the State, but it will just add to the burden of local governments. **No legislation should be adopted which increases the costs of providing public services for local governments.**

From: Christine Gentes [christine@lakecountyleague.ccsend.com] on behalf of Christine Gentes [lcml@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, August 06, 2013 9:07 AM
To: David Lothspeich
Subject: News You Can Use - LCML

LCMLetter

News you can use
August 6, 2013

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- :: Fire Marshal Withdraws Rules Change
- :: \$10,000 Hole in One Challenge
- :: Welcome New LCML Member
- :: Governor Signs Medical Marijuana Bill
- :: Mayors Caucus Gala

Greetings!

The **LCMLetter** is published twice a month and its goal is to keep Lake County Municipal League members informed on municipal issues. As issues relevant to municipal officials arise, the **LCMLetter** will provide you with a synopsis of the issues and provide you with a link for further details.

Fire Marshal Withdraws Sprinkler Rules Changes

The Office of the State Fire Marshal **has withdrawn** its proposed rules on updating the NFPA Code and requiring residential fire sprinklers.

The rulemaking would have required all new single-family dwellings and duplexes to have a fire sprinkler system installed in the dwelling. It would have required all existing assembly areas where 100 or more people are gathered for entertainment purposes (dance halls, bars with live entertainment and areas where seating on the floor is allowed) to have fire sprinklers installed within five years. In addition, all existing high rises would have had to be retrofitted with fire sprinklers within 12 years.

Thanks to all who expressed their

Governor Signs Medical Marijuana Bill

Governor Quinn signed the medical marijuana bill last week. The law sets up a four-year trial program and takes effect on January 1, 2014. State regulators will develop rules determining who gets to open the 22 marijuana growing operations across Illinois and which businesses will get the 60 licenses to sell. Regulations will also be developed to determine how patients will get medical marijuana cards from doctors. All this could take until fall of 2014 before those eligible can legally purchase marijuana. Forty medical conditions would be included.

Local communities could enforce strict zoning laws, but they could not prevent a grower or dispensary from setting up shop in town.

concern to the OSFM. As with any rulemaking or legislation, nothing is ever really dead in Springfield. We will keep this issue on the radar screen.

New this year **\$10,000 Hole in One Challenge**



\$10,000 Hole in One Challenge sponsored by Country Financial.

Another new addition to the Annual LCML Golf Outing, September 4, at Deerfield Golf Course in Riverwoods. Sponsors and participants are still needed so don't delay. Click [here](#) for a registration form.

Welcome to New Member

The Village of Long Grove has joined the Lake County Municipal League. Welcome to Village President Angie Underwood, the trustees and staff from Long Grove.

According to the Chicago Tribune, "Marijuana use would be banned in public, in vehicles, around minors and near school grounds. Property owners would have the ability to ban marijuana use on their grounds. Employers would maintain their rights to a drug-free work place, meaning someone with a valid medical marijuana card could be fired for using the drug if their employer prohibits it."

Mayors Caucus Gala September 6

Join the Mayors Caucus for its Annual Gala at the Art Institute on Friday, September 6 for a special showing of the exhibit "*Impressionism, Fashion and Modernity.*"

All mayors, trustees, other elected officials, managers and spouses are invited to attend. Dinner Food Reception from 6:00-9:00 pm, Gallery viewing from 6:00- 8:30 pm. Cost is \$100 per person. Watch for an invitation in the mail.

Please share this LCMLetter with staff. It is our aim to keep elected officials and their village staff informed about the issues facing municipalities.

Sincerely,
Christine Gentes
Lake County Municipal League

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From: Christine Gentes [christine@lakecountyleague.ccsend.com] on behalf of Christine Gentes [lcml@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Tuesday, August 13, 2013 9:02 AM
To: David Lothspeich
Subject: News You Can Use - LCML

LCMLetter

News you can use
August 13, 2013

In this issue

- :: Tax Exemption Threatened
- :: \$10,000 Hole in One Challenge
- :: What's a Tree Worth?
- :: Governor Signs Bond Bill

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Tax Exemption on Municipal Bonds Threatened

Congress is attempting to eliminate the tax exemption on the purchase of Municipal Bonds. Take action today to protect the bonds you rely on to finance infrastructure projects, create jobs and keep your residents' taxes lower.

Because members of Congress are back in the District Offices, this is the ideal time to contact them either by phone or by letter. Click [here](#) for a sample letter urging that the tax exemption on municipal bonds remains in place. Addresses and phone numbers for the Lake County delegation's Congressional District Offices can be found [here](#). Please note Rep. Roskam is on the House Ways and Means Committee, so a letter to him would also be beneficial even if you are not in his district.

What is a Tree Worth to Your Community?

With many communities removing trees because of the Emerald Ash Borer, this is a perfect time to let your residents know what the economic worth of those trees is. iTree calculates the economic worth of the urban canopy down to the dollar.

iTree is a U.S Forest Service open-source software that enables municipalities to quantify the environmental service a tree provides. iTree works by calculating leaf surface area and assigning an economic value. The value is determined by how much ozone, particulates and nitrogen are removed from the air; the effect on building heating and cooling costs and the trees' effect on hydrology.

For more information, go to

You can also calculate how much more your municipality would pay if municipal bonds were not tax exempt. Go to <http://www.nlc.org/influence-federal-policy/advocacy/legislative-advocacy/protect-municipal-bonds> and click on the bond calculator.

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<http://itreetools.org/>

Governor Signs Bond Bill

HB 1404 / P.A. 97-0216

(Bradley, J./ Biss, D.) realigns the surety bond requirements for local government construction contracts with those for State projects. Local governments may choose to waive performance bond requirements on projects that are \$50,000 or less, which is the current standard for State construction projects. This may lead to lower bid prices and increased competition.



Coming soon IML's 100th annual conference. Register at www.iml.org.

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Sincerely,
Christine Gentes
Lake County Municipal League

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