

## Looking Ahead to the 2019-2020 Legislative Session

**League's Annual Conference**  
 Curt Witynski, Deputy Executive Director  
 League of Wisconsin Municipalities  
 October 2018




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## League's Lobby Team

Curt



Gail



Jerry



Also, municipal officials and staff lobby team: 400 plus and growing

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## First, a Quick Look Back at 2017-2018 Session

We had a mostly good session.

Of 59 bills League supported, 31 were enacted into law. **52.5% of bills we supported were enacted.**

Of the 15 bills we opposed, only 3 were enacted. **80% of bills we opposed did not become law.**

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## A Few Good Bills Enacted into Law



Act 59 -- Repealing levy limit negative adjustment requirement for water utility fire protection fees.

Act 137 -- Lead water service pipe replacement financial assistance program.

Act 223 -- Allowing same positive levy limit adjustment when subtracting territory from TIF district as allowed when closing district.

Act 167 -- Exempting improvements constructed by a private person and donated to the local government from the competitive bidding.

Act 51 -- Allowing municipal officials to forego executing a bond as long as municipality has acquired employee dishonesty insurance coverage.

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## A Few Bad Bills Enacted into Law



Act 317 -- The Landlords' Bill, limiting municipalities' ability to inspect apartments.

Act 67 -- Establishing standards/process for issuing conditional use permits.

Act 59, prohibiting use of eminent domain for bike paths.

Act 59, removal of levy limit flexibility when pre-1995 debt is retired.

Act 59, prohibiting municipalities from banning home rentals of 7 days or more.

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## Are your legislators municipal champions?



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### Are your legislators municipal champions?



Sen. Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay)  
Rep. Rob Brooks (R-Saukville)  
Sen. Duey Stroebel (R-Saukville)  
Sen. Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green)  
Rep. Terry Katsma (R-Oostburg)  
Sen. Roger Roth (R-Appleton)  
Rep. Thiesfeldt (R-Fond du Lac)  
Rep. David Steffen (R-Howard)

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### Other Strong Supporters of Municipalities



Sen. Jerry Petrowski (R-Marathon)  
Rep. Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville)  
Rep. John Maaco (R-DePere)  
Rep. Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam)  
Rep. Gordon Hintz (D-Oshkosh)  
Rep. Paul Tittl (R-Manitowoc)  
Rep. Amy Loudenbeck (R-Clinton)  
Rep. Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit)  
Sen. Janice Ringhand (D-Evansville)

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### Priorities for Next Session



#### Strengthen Local Democracy

- Restore municipal powers taken away by previous legislatures and governors
- Preserve local control
- Exempt municipalities from Fair Dealership Law

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**Priorities for Next Session** 

**Diversify Local Revenue Sources; Improve Current State Aid Programs**

- Increase funding for shared revenue program.
- Improve Expenditure Restraint Program
- Fully Fund Payment for Municipal Services Program

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**Priorities for Next Session** 

**Close Dark Store Loopholes; Restore Fairness to Property Tax System**



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**Priorities for next Session** 

**Adjust Levy Limits for no-growth and slow growth Communities**

- Allow cities and villages under 3,000 in population an option short of referendum to exceed levy limits.
- Allow municipalities that experienced less than 2 percent growth in equalized value from net new construction for two successive years to increase their levy by 3 percent or CPI, whichever is greater.

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**Priorities for next Session**

**Adequately and Sustainably Fund State-Local Transportation System**

- Just Fix It.
- Invest in Municipal Streets.
- Ensure Workers can get to their Jobs -- Invest in mass transit systems.
- Regional Transportation Authorities.
- Protect Local Transportation Revenue Options against state Interference.



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**Priorities for next Session**

**TIF Law Improvements**

- Increase equalized value threshold from 12% to 18%.
- Allow small communities to create a maximum of three TIDs regardless of equalized value threshold.



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**Priorities for next Session**

**Remove Barriers to Cooperative Regional Service Delivery**

- Make it easier for neighboring communities to consolidate.
- Close incorporation law loophole.
- Create state funded incentives rewarding local governments that cooperate to efficiently deliver services.



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### The League's Strength is in its Membership

The only way to preserve local control and our revenue sources is to work together.



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### How you can help – First Step

Sign up for the League's Lobby Team

- In person lobbying three times a legislative session
- Legislative Update Webinars
- First Lobby Day in Madison – February 13
- Voter Voice – quick pre-written emails provides you with the opportunity to advocate for your community

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### How you can help – Second Step

Develop and nurture relationships with your legislators:

- Sign up for your Legislator's Newsletters
- Make sure they receive your Municipal Newsletter if you have one
- Invite them to your next Council/Board meeting to talk about the budget
- Give them a tour of municipal facilities

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**How you can help-Third Step** 

**Stay Informed** about legislative developments.

Subscribe to the League's Legislative Bulletin and Capitol Buzz

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**By working together and speaking with a unified voice we can make a difference.** 



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**Thank You!** 



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