**League of Wisconsin Municipalities State Budget Requests**

January 15, 2019

**State Aid Program Funding Increases**

* Shared Revenue Program – We seek a $54 million partial restoration of prior funding cuts. Over the last 18 years funding for this critical program for municipalities has been cut a total of $94 million, a 12.3% cut from $777 million in 2003 to $668 million in 2018. $54 million would restore funding to 2007 levels.
* Expenditure restraint program – We seek $42 million annual bump in funding for this $58 million program, which has not been adjusted up or down since 2003.
* Payment for Municipal Services Program – We seek funding levels that would reimburse 100% of municipal cost of providing state facilities police, fire, and garbage collection services. Currently the program is funded at $18.5 million annually, which covers about 38% of municipal costs. See 2015 SB 273 fiscal impact statement.
* As part of a larger goal of adequately and sustainably funding the state-local transportation system, we seek a $15 million increase in annual funding to the share of cost component of General Transportation Aids, which goes to cities and villages. (This portion of GTA was cut by $20 million in 2012. $15.5 million of that cut was restored in the last state budget. We are asking for restoration of remainder of 2012 cut plus $10 million.)
* Invest $10 million more than base in the mass transit operation aids program, annual funding for which is $5 million less than 10 years ago.
* Recycling Grant Program – Restore $13 million cut made to program in first Walker budget. Current funding level is $19 million annually. Prior to 2012 it was $32 million.

**Policy Changes**

* Adjust levy limits as follows:
  + Allow municipal property tax levies to grow by at least the rate of inflation or net new construction, whichever is greater.
  + Give cities and villages under 3,000 in population the ability to increase their allowable levy without having to go to a referendum unless the voters petition for one after governing body votes to exceed levy limits.)
  + Repeal language in the levy limit law requiring communities to reduce their levy when switching to a fee to pay for certain services, like stormwater, fire protection, and garbage collection (Sec. 66.0602(2m)(b), Wis. Stats.)
  + Allow for levy limit referendums to occur earlier in the year based on estimates for allowable increases.
  + Restore pre-2005 debt exemption.
  + Extend levy limit exemption for joint fire services to also include consolidated dispatch centers.
* Include dark store and *Walgreens* reversal bills in the state budget (2017 AB 386 & AB 387, as amended.)
* Restore ability of local governments to use eminent domain to acquire property for recreational, bike, and pedestrian paths.
* Enable one or more local governments to create regional transportation authorities with authority to impose a sales tax.
* Exempt from the Expenditure Restraint Program budget test increased expenditures allowed by referendum to exceed levy limits.
* Exempt from the Expenditure Restraint Program budget test increased expenditures necessary for a municipality to participate in a collaborative service delivery effort such as a multi-jurisdictional fire, EMS, or police district.