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February Floorperiod Delivers Wins for Municipalities

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Every biennial session inevitably comes down to the wire, and the Assembly's final days in the 2025-2026 regular session were no different. With two days of floor action during the week of February 9th and four straight days of session during the week of February 16th culminating in a vote on PFAS liability protections and grant programs around 9pm on Friday, tensions mounted at times, but in the end, collegiality and bipartisanship around efforts to support municipal governments prevailed.

League's 2026 Priorities

In the [December 22nd edition](#) of the Legislative Bulletin, the League laid out seven efforts we're focused on passing in 2026 as we near the end of this biennial session. This was followed by our [January 13th edition](#) of the Legislative Bulletin where we listed six efforts we're focused on stopping in 2026. Together, these lists make up our baker's dozen of legislation we're tailoring our efforts around to close out this session.

Below are two charts showing these issues, bill numbers, and statuses. As the Assembly adjourns their regular session, we can celebrate that six of seven positive priorities crossed the finish line in that chamber. For bills passed in both chambers, they will now head to the Governor for his action by April 9th.

Priorities with the League's Support

Legislation Description	Bill Numbers	Senate Status	Assembly Status
Addressing PFAS Contamination Liability and Costs	SBs 127 and 128 ABs 130 and 131	Heard in committee, awaiting their vote	Passed
Banning Drones from Flying Over Municipal Utilities	SB 766 AB 768	Heard in committee, awaiting their vote	Passed
Distributing Aid Payments for Energy Storage Facilities	SB 566 AB 559	Passed	Passed
Easing Requirements for Rehired Annuitants	SB 105 AB 138	Heard in committee, awaiting their vote	Voted out of committee, available for the floor
Improving Access to WHEDA Housing Loan Programs	SB 180 AB 194	Voted out of committee, available for the floor	Passed
Increasing the Allowable Municipal Court Fees	SB 470 AB 443	Passed	Passed
Modernizing Public Construction Bidding Thresholds	SB 216 AB 217	Voted out of committee, available for the floor	Passed

While the seven topics above have made up the list of positive priorities we're pushing to close out the 2025-2026 Legislative Session, many other pieces of legislation continue to receive the League's attention. This includes bills that passed the Assembly in the past two weeks to:

- allow Neighborhood Improvement Districts to fund the cost of new housing infrastructure (AB 737),
- create pilot grants for community EMT programs and fall prevention efforts (ABs 970, 971 and 1001),
- provide grants for smaller municipalities to obtain grant writing and compliance services (AB 326),
- establish a battery stewardship program to stop waste stream fires (ABs 706 and 911), and
- make the assured wetland delineator pilot program into a permanent state program (AB 808).

Priorities with the League's Opposition

Legislation Description	Bill Numbers	Senate Status	Assembly Status
Removing Economic Growth Opportunities in the ETJ	SB 873 AB 885	Referred to committee, no public hearing held	Heard in committee, did not pass
Discouraging the Formation of Regional EMS	SB 181 AB 197	Passed	Passed
Invalidating Established Municipal Wheel Taxes	SB 467 AB 483	Passed	Heard in committee, did not pass
Restricting Municipal Oversight of Advertising Signs	SB 497 AB 502	Voted out of committee	Passed
Impeding the Effectiveness of Homelessness Services Grants	SB 614 AB 625	Heard in committee	Passed
Prohibiting Local Regulations for Chickens and Gardens	SBs 37 and 44 ABs 41 and 42	Voted out of committee	Heard in committee, did not pass

For those bills above that have not passed the Assembly, they are effectively dead. That means, thanks to League lobbying and member engagement, the bills to restrict extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ), prohibit certain ordinances on backyard chickens, and invalidate local wheel taxes established without a referendum are all dead this session!

While the Assembly is expected to have adjourned its regular session, Speaker Vos has noted that negotiations are ongoing with the Governor and Senate on how to spend, or if to spend, the state's surplus. Policy proposals include income tax rebates, special education funding, school equalized aid funding, and property tax aids for K-12 districts. This proposal would likely be taken up in a special or extraordinary session which means the business in the session would be limited to those noticed topics.

We've had some significant victories throughout 2025 and in early 2026 and expect more to come as the Senate reconvenes in March to conclude its work this session. Stay tuned for our full session recap of the 2025-2026 Legislative Session after the Legislature fully adjourns. To learn more about municipal victories in the 2025-2027 State Budget, read [this article](#) or review the [full budget recap](#).

March Calendar

The Senate is expected to be on the floor in March to conclude its business this session. The dates they may meet include Tuesday, March 17th, Wednesday, March 18th, and Thursday, March 19th. We continue to encourage members to contact their Senators and ask them to bring Assembly Bill 194 to the floor in the March session. For more information on this bill and how to contact your Senator, read this [call to action](#).