



Director Murnieks and Mr. Platt:

Thank you for the opportunity to present some concerns the League has heard and is working on as our members react to the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak. We are hopeful the administration will consider providing leadership in these areas to the benefit of our communities. This is not a complete list of the needs and we look forward to the opportunity to continue working with the administration to better serve the residents of Ohio.

OML issues needing attention:

- We ask the administration support a dedicated LGF funding level based on current funding distribution amounts received through the Local Government Fund (LGF) to help stabilize local operating budgets from the impact of local tax collections shortfalls.
- Create an emergency fund from a percentage of the Budget Stabilization Fund (aka Rainy Day Fund) accessible to municipalities that may experience a spike in the infestation rate of the COVID-19 virus locally. The fund could be administered through the Ohio Controlling Board.
- Ease statutory deadlines/timelines imposed upon municipalities such as requests for public records, statute of limitations and other issues related to the operation of mayor's courts, the tolling of applications for access to public right of ways and deployment of telecommunications.
- Dedicated financial support for operations associated with the tasks of first responders and the anticipated need to invest in additional equipment, training and treatment.
- Clarification on the administration of the municipal income tax 718.11 20-day rule and the treatment of principal place of employment for withholding purposes
- Clarification of state tax policy changes to mirror federal changes impacting the municipal income tax
- Clarification on COVID-19 testing procedures for first responders determining if they should be tested at point of contact with a suspected infected patient, if first responder is exhibiting symptoms or if they should receive general priority testing ("front of the line" in receiving a test).
- Support legislation being drafted by Rep. Cupp to clarify the ability of local government meetings to be conducted remotely in accordance with the Ohio Open Meetings Act and the orders of the Governor through the declaration of emergency priorities.
- Consider changes to the toll requirements for the deployment of 5G technology and management of right of way issues.

I look forward to working with you and appreciate your leadership.

Best Regards

Kent Scarrett

Executive Director

Ohio Municipal League

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