

Wisconsin Towns Association

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2017-18 Legislative Priorities

1. Transportation

- A. Supports a long term, sustainable, and equitable solution to growing Wisconsin's economy and ensuring public safety through road infrastructure investment across the entire state. After first accomplishing every efficiency, this can only be achieved by increasing revenue to meet maintenance and reconstruction demands.

2. Fire and EMS

- A. Supports a variety of legislation that would maintain and enhance public safety through incentivizing fire and EMS volunteerism:
 - i. Income tax credit for volunteer Fire/EMS service valued at \$20 per hour with a maximum credit annually of \$1,000. (SB32)
 - ii. Income tax credit for unreimbursed expenses for equipment and mileage by Fire/EMS volunteers with a maximum credit of \$400. (SB33)
 - iii. Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) reform. (SB31, Governor's Budget)
- B. Prohibit technical colleges that offer firefighter or emergency medical services training from requiring minimum participation of more than six enrollments.
- C. Opposes legislation that creates another level of local government to manage Fire/EMS. (LRB-0567)
- D. Supports legislation that enables towns to support volunteer/combination fire services through a fee absent a downward adjustment in tax levy, and support legislation enabling towns to charge a fee for volunteer/combination EMS services. Both options would require a certain level of consolidation.

3. Land Use

- A. Supports legislation that would eliminate “balloon on a string” annexation.
- B. Supports legislation that would reform “island” annexation.
- C. Supports modification of extraterritorial zoning authority of cities and villages.
- D. Supports eliminating the requirement that the county “must include a city or village plan without change” within the county comprehensive plan.

4. Rural Broadband

- A. Supports efforts to expand high-speed broadband throughout rural Wisconsin, including AB123-SB49.

5. Public Notice

- A. Supports legislation to eliminate the requirement to publish notice of the board of review and applications for retail alcohol licenses, allowing them to be posted on a town Internet site and in a physical location.

6. Managed Forest Law

- A. Supports legislation extending the hold harmless provision for those communities that would receive more in severance and yield tax than they will in closed acreage fees.

7. High Capacity Wells

- A. Rural economies are largely water centric. Agriculture, tourism, mining, and real estate all require adequate amounts of water. WTA supports legislative efforts to strike a common sense water use balance between the variety of economic and citizen interests.

Wisconsin Towns Association 2017-2019 Lobbying Team

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