

**Joint Resolution by
The Cities of St. Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, St. Joseph, and St.
Augusta**

**Advocating Support for Proposals and Policies of Common Interest to the
Central Minnesota**

WHEREAS, the Central Minnesota-St. Cloud area has a strong history of collaboration and coordination amongst its local units of government to facilitate well planned communities that provide municipal services in the most cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner possible; and

WHEREAS, to better assist our State legislative leaders, we have collectively identified certain legislative proposals and general policy statements that are of specific impact and interest to our communities to enable them to respond in a manner that strengthens the partnership between our local units of government and the State in fostering the continuation and enhancement of socially, economically and culturally vibrant cities.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Councils for the cities of St. Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, St. Joseph, and St. Augusta, Minnesota that the following legislative proposals and legislative policy statements are of common interest or concern to the Central Minnesota Region and therefore we officially support and advocate for the following actions of the MN State Legislature:

LEGISLATIVE POLICY AND FUNDING PROPOSALS:

Policy Proposals

1. **Licensing & Regulation of Hotels/Motels:** APPROVE Legislation allowing cities under 30,000 in population to adopt ordinances to license and regulate hotels and motels.
2. **Mobile Home Relocation Act and Uniform Relocation Act:** AMEND these regulations to clarify to role the local government jurisdiction plays in a development where relocation of mobile home residents is required and whereby the affected property is privately owned but public assistance is provided. Require the Developer to be solely responsible for the relocation and do not allow Uniform Relocation Act benefits to be apply making the City solely responsible for the relocation and its costs.
3. **Right-of-Way Management:** APPROVE Legislation to clarify cities' rights to control the right-of-way on streets and highways lying in two jurisdictions and clarify statutory authority on the municipality's rights to manage the public right-of-ways that would be applicable to all public utilities.

4. **Tax Exempt Credit Program:** SUPPORT legislation to assist Cities with disproportionately high amounts of government and/or nonprofit business properties such as Colleges, Universities, and Hospitals.

Funding Proposals

1. **St. Cloud Regional Human Rights Office:** APPROPRIATE funds to support outstate offices of the State Department of Human Rights with a full-time office for the St. Cloud Region (\$180,000).
2. **Expansion of I-94 to St. Cloud:** Continue to FUND lane expansions of I-94 from St. Michael to the St. Cloud area.
3. **City of Sartell, 50th Avenue South Project (West Metro Corridor):** APPROPRIATE funds to support the completion of the West Metro Corridor transportation project, otherwise known as 50th Avenue South Project.
4. **City of St. Cloud, Heatherwood Road:** APPROPRIATE funds to construct Heatherwood Road connecting the I-94 Business Park to the new Coborns & Marco Business Park (\$6,000,000).

STATE BONDING APPLICATIONS:

1. **Waite Park, Amphitheater Regional Park:** APPROVE \$5 million for the events and regional park construction.
2. **City of St. Cloud, George Friedrich Regional Park:** APPROVE \$6 million for planning, land acquisition, and park construction.
3. **City of St. Cloud, Downtown Accessibility Program:** APPROVE \$2 million for planning and private and public projects to improve accessibility of St. Cloud's historic downtown.
4. **City of St. Joseph, Pedestrian Bridge over CR #75:** APPROVE \$1.25 million for planning, design, land acquisition, and construction of a pedestrian bridge over CR#75 in central St. Joseph.
5. **City of St. Joseph, East Park (Sauk River):** APPROVE \$ 300,000 for designing and constructing a canoe access, bathrooms and parking facilities.
6. **City of St. Joseph, Jacob Wetterling Recreation Center:** APPROVE \$2.5 million for designing, constructing a regional recreation center focusing on youth programming.

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENTS:

1. **Franchise Authority and Right of Way:** SUPPORT legislation that continues to preserve local government's authority in right-of-ways that is owned by the local government entities to manage this property and the utilities that are allowed to

locate in these areas. OPPOSE any legislation that takes the local jurisdictions rights away for managing their rights. Encourage utilities to work with local governments through franchise agreements.

2. **Water Standards, Regulations, and Permitting:** SUPPORT legislation that advocates for a more comprehensive clean water framework which focuses its efforts to address water pollution in the state in an efficient and fair manner and one that is supported by science. Require independent scientific peer review of regulations that will impose excessive costs on communities, allow cities more time to evaluate waste water permits, and provide funding for any additional requirements that are adopted.
3. **Publication Requirements:** SUPPORT legislation that would allow municipalities to utilize alternative publication methods for legal notices.
4. **Regional Collaboration:** SUPPORT legislation and funding for a program to encourage locally initiated regional efforts of local government jurisdictions to encourage these types of efforts.
5. **Sales Tax Exemption for all public purchases:** SUPPORT legislation that would clarify the local government sales tax exemption approved in 2013 to define exemption for all purchases made by local units of government.
6. **North Star Commuter Rail:** SUPPORT extension of North Star Commuter Rail service northward to the St. Cloud area in a manner that serves the needs of public, business and commercial travels, that is highly expandable, and is priced affordably to optimize use.
7. **Street Improvement District Authority:** SUPPORT legislation that would give municipalities the authority to establish street improvement districts to collect fees from property owners within a district to fund municipal street maintenance, construction, reconstruction, and facility upgrades.
8. **Local Government Aid:** SUPPORT legislation that reduces pressure on the property tax system and equalizes property tax bases with LGA appropriations.
9. **Levy Limits:** SUPPORT facilitating local accountability by allowing local authorities to formulate and adopt budgets without state restrictions.
10. **State Mandate Relief:** SUPPORT legislation that reduces or eliminates unfunded and/or onerous mandates to local governments. Further, Support legislation that sunsets any unfunded mandates for evaluation.
11. **State Fee Increases:** SUPPORT measures that preclude State agencies and operations from shifting funding reductions and/or cost increases on to municipalities in the

form of fee increases.

12. **Administrative Authority:** SUPPORT the expansion of authority of Statutory and Home Rule Charter cities ability to impose and collect administrative penalties to include enforcement and traffic infractions.
13. **Private Well Installation:** SUPPORT retention of local control of private water well installations.

Adopted by the Cities of St. Cloud, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, Waite Park, St. Joseph, and St. Augusta prior to the 2018 Legislative Session.

Mayor Dave Kleis

Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll

Mayor Kurt Hunstiger



Mayor Rick Miller

Mayor Rick Schultz

Mayor Bob Kroll