

RESOLUTION NO. 030716-01  
CITY OF WAITE PARK

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 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. **Licensing & Regulation of Hotels/Motels:** APPROVE Legislation allowing cities under 30,000 population to adopt ordinances to license and regulate hotels and motels.
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. **Expansion of I-94 to St. Cloud:** Continue to FUND lane expansions of I-94 from St. Michael to the St. Cloud area.
5. **City of Sartell, 4<sup>th</sup>/50<sup>th</sup> Avenue South Project(West Metro Corridor):** APPROPRIATE funds to support the completion of the West Metro Corridor transportation project, otherwise known as 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue South Project.
6. **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. **City of St. Cloud, George Friedrich Regional Park:** APPROVE \$6 million for planning, land acquisition, and park construction.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **Stearns County, Lake Wobegon Trail Extension from St. Joseph to Waite Park:** APPROVE \$1 million to extend the Lake Wobegon Trail from St. Joseph to Waite Park.

## GENERAL POLICY STATEMENTS:

1. **Publication Requirements:** SUPPORT legislation that would allow municipalities to utilize alternative publication methods for legal notices.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **Amendment to MN Statute 429.** SUPPORT legislation to modify MN Statute 429 requiring assessing 20% of the cost to utilize bonding without referendum and adding language to provide a meaningful method to determine benefit from replacing failing underground infrastructure.
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 2016 Legislative Session.

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Mayor Dave Kleis

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Mayor Sarah Jane Nicoll

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Mayor Brad Gunderson




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Acting Mayor  
Charles Schenider

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Mayor Rick Schultz

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Mayor Bob Kroll