



## 2023 Legislative Agenda January 2023

### Requests for Direct Sponsorship

- **City Request – Public Safety Pension Reform:** For municipalities that operate an Article 3 (police) or Article 4 (firefighter) downstate public safety pension fund, current law requires the city council or the board of trustees of the municipality to contribute an amount sufficient to bring the total assets of the pension fund up to 90% of the total actuarial liabilities of the pension fund by the end of 2040. This amortization schedule is significantly shorter than other statewide, state-administered and Chicago-based pension systems despite downstate public safety pension funds having better funding ratios (excluding Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF)). Support legislation that extends the amortization date for downstate public safety pension funds to the end of 2050 or later.
- **City Request – Automated Traffic Law Enforcement System Amendment:** Peoria is preempted from exercising authority to use automated traffic law enforcement systems. Support legislation that would add Peoria County (and Peoria by inclusion) the ability to use automated traffic law enforcement systems for speed control on City streets.
- **City Request – 9-1-1 Surcharge Extension:** The current \$1.50 9-1-1 surcharge is insufficient for funding vital public safety communications services and has a sunset provision that requires periodic action by the General Assembly to sustain the fee. Support an increase to the 9-1-1 surcharge to \$3.00 from the current \$1.50 and permanently establish the fee with no sunset provision.
- **City Request – Extension of the Stadium TIF:** Minor League Baseball is requiring significant improvements to the Peoria Chiefs Stadium. Support a legislative extension of the TIF for 12 additional years to finance the improvements needed to the facility.
- **City Request – Vacant and Abandoned Properties:** Legislative changes are necessary to address properties that are vacant, abandoned, or substandard that harm Illinois communities. These properties erode property values and further cost municipalities to maintain them in the absence of an owner. Support legislation that assists communities to address blighted and vacant property – A cohort of Illinois communities are working on drafting changes to state legislation that would help to reduce sale in errors on property tax purchases, eliminate “resets” after a sale in error is granted, amend the abandonment criteria to accelerate the public acquisition of abandoned property and improve tools for communities to recoup expenses related to remediating code violations.
- **City Request – Tax Incentives:** Currently, Illinois property tax law taxes land and the improvements on the land. Property taxes discourage construction, maintenance, and repair because taxes increase with improvements. A site valuation tax (SVT) is a levy on the value of land without regard to buildings, personal property and other improvements. Because the supply of land is essentially fixed, land rents depend on what tenants are prepared to pay, rather than on

landlord expenses. Support legislation that would allow for taxing bodies to adopt a site valuation tax by ordinance within the Property Tax Code. Once set by a City, the traditional assessment could be reduced to allow for a more efficient collection of property taxes.

- **City Request – Economic Development Incentives:** Illinois has limited tools to support economic development. Support expanded economic development tools for Illinois cities that comparable states have established (such as Missouri, Indiana, Texas, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina). Tools range from job-development credits, set-aside benefits for economic development, life sciences manufacturing tax credit, etc.

#### Funding Requests

- **City Request – Appropriations for Rebuild Illinois Authorized Projects:** Locally, over \$106 million has been authorized for almost 50 projects through Rebuild Illinois, but many haven't been appropriated. Include in the SFY2023 Budget appropriation authority for these projects.
  - Main Street (\$25 million)
  - Peoria Riverfront (\$15 million)
  - Southside Fire Station and Community Center (\$5 million)
  - Pioneer Parkway (\$3 million)
  - MacArthur Highway (\$3 million)
- **City Request – Smart City Initiatives:** Provide funding (\$5.0M) for the City of Peoria and Distillery Labs to undertake SMART City projects such as autonomous vehicle research, electric vehicle infrastructure, smart street lighting, broadband rollout within the City of Peoria.
- **City Request – Co-Response Law Enforcement Model:** Provide *continued* funding (\$3.0M) to support the efforts of the Peoria Police Department to develop an integrated co-response model for persons experiencing emotional distress or a mental health crisis.
- **City Request – Violence Reduction Programs:** Provide *continued* funding (\$3.0M) for the City of Peoria to undertake comprehensive, evidence-based violence reduction programming.

#### Vertical Capital Projects

- **City Request - Warehouse District Parking Structure:** Support funding (\$9.0-12.0 M) for a parking deck in the Warehouse District to accommodate the parking needs of new residential units (District 1).
- **City Request – Relocation of the State Street Post Office:** Support the acquisition and relocation of the US Post Office on State Street on Persimmon (\$10.0M). This 15-acre area would extend the development of the Warehouse District and provide a potential passenger rail station location.

### Horizontal Capital Projects

- **City Request - Pioneer Parkway:** Support funding (\$40.0M) for the rehabilitation of Pioneer Parkway from Knoxville to Allen Rd and the extension of Pioneer Parkway to Route 91 (District 5).
- **City Request – Allen Road:** Support funding (\$15.0M) for the rehabilitation of Allen Road from Northmoor to Willow Knolls (District 5).
- **City Request – Laramie Avenue:** Support funding (\$10.0 M) to assist in reconstructing Laramie Avenue for residential and commercial redevelopment (District 1).
- **City Request – Rte 116 Pavement Restoration:** Support funding (\$50.0 M) for IDOT to mill and overlay Lincoln and Howett from Adams to Western (District 1).
- **City Request – Springdale Cemetery Road Network:** Support funding (\$5.0 M) for improvements to the road network within Springdale Cemetery (District 3).

### Request for Position Support

- **City Request – Protect State-Shared Partnership Revenue:** Oppose legislation that diverts funding from units of local government to the State, including Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF) revenue, Personal Property Replacement Tax (PPRT) revenue, local sales tax revenue, Motor Fuel Tax (MFT) revenue and any other state-collected government revenues that enable local governments to provide appropriate levels of service to their residents. Support efforts that protect and enhance existing revenue base of local governments in the face of increasing pressure to use traditionally local revenues to bridge the State budget gap.
- **City Request – Broaden Sales Tax Base:** Taxing services (in addition to goods) would increase state and local revenues, bring Illinois in line with most other states, and allow localities to lower home rule sales tax rates on goods.
- **City Request - Preserve Home Rule Powers:** Support efforts to preserve home rule authority when drafting statewide legislation.
- **City Request – Reduce Sales Tax Administrative Fee:** Repeal the 1.5% administrative fee on locally imposed sales taxes and restore these critical funds to county and municipal governments for the direct funding of programs and services for their residents.
- **City Request – Automatic Appropriation Authority:** Annual appropriation authority is needed for MFT, video/casino gaming, Use Tax and 9-1-1 revenues to be distributed to local governments. Making these revenue sources continuing appropriations would eliminate these important local revenue sources from being dependent on the state budgeting process.
- **City Request – State Historic Tax Credit Extension:** Support the extension of the State Historic Tax Credit outside of the River Edge Redevelopment Zone. The Historic Preservation Tax Credit (called the IL-HTC) 35 ILCS 31/10 (a) runs through December 31, 2023.
- **City Request – IHDA Land Bank Funding:** Continue to support Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) to provide funding for land banking initiatives and blight reduction efforts.

### Contact

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