

## **Resolution in Support of Local Government Empowerment**

WHEREAS, Illinois state law creates a "one size fits all" approach to collective bargaining for local units of governments. This approach creates added costs which are ultimately passed on to taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, voters and local officials should determine what is a subject of bargaining - not the State; and

WHEREAS, more than 280 unfunded mandates have been imposed in recent years on communities across Illinois, costing those communities billions of dollars. Rolling back mandates and stopping any new unfunded mandates will create more flexibility in local government budgets; and

WHEREAS, Illinois' workers' compensation costs are the seventh highest in the nation – and more than double the costs in Indiana; and

WHEREAS, updating how injuries are apportioned to insure employers pay for injuries that occur on the job, a clarification regarding the definition of "traveling employees" to insure a reasonable standard that excludes risks that would impact the general public, and implementation of American Medical Association guidelines when determining impairment would result in major cost savings for local governments; and

WHEREAS, reforming the law that mandates employer funding of health insurance premiums under the Public Safety Employee Benefits Act to require that the federal definition of "catastrophic injury" be used to determine eligibility for benefits would reduce municipal health insurance costs; and

WHEREAS, Illinois' economy is not producing enough jobs to drive economic growth, create opportunity for families, and generate sufficient tax receipts to invest in the state's future. New ideas should be discussed, such as empowering voters in our communities to create local empowerment zones via referendum, though many municipal governments do not support the creation of empowerment zones within their boundaries; and

WHEREAS, state law sets thresholds for workers on state and local construction projects increasing costs significantly; and

WHEREAS, enacting reforms and moving all decisions regarding prevailing wage and project labor agreements to local governments would provide local control over construction and project costs; and

WHEREAS, local governments face unfunded pension liabilities that threaten core services and functions of government. State action on pension reform for future work should provide local governments the ability to address pension reforms that encompass benefit changes for future work and structural changes to how those benefits are provided as well;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lake County Municipal League supports discussion on major reforms in state government, to be cooperatively negotiated between the Governor's Office, General Assembly, and local elected leaders, that will encourage local control, reduce costs on local governments, empower local voters, and increase competitiveness in our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that passage of this resolution reflects support for the broad conceptual reforms contained herein, several of which municipalities have supported for many years, and does not represent an endorsement of any specific policy or program until such time as the Lake County Municipal League has an opportunity to review the details.

This Resolution shall take effect from and after its passage and approval as provided by law.

This adopted Resolution shall be sent to the Governor of the State of Illinois and Members of the Illinois General Assembly.

PASSED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

Board Members:	Aye:	Nay:	Absent/Abstain:
_____	_____	_____	_____
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_____	_____	_____	_____
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APPROVED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lake County Municipal League President

ATTEST:

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