



**City of Milwaukee  
2017-18 Federal Legislative Priorities  
115th United States Congress**

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**Key Local Priorities for 2017:**

1. Ensure high-quality water is accessible to all Milwaukeeans through vigorous community engagement and access to local, state, and federal resources to address lead service lines.
2. Continue robust economic development and neighborhood revitalization through local-state-federal collaboration and expansion of public-private partnerships.
3. Support our police department in its continued focus on neighborhood policing through ongoing cooperation with federal law enforcement.

**Key City Positions:**

1. Honor all awarded federal grants to municipalities.
2. Retain current eligibility criteria for all existing grant programs.
3. Support additional infrastructure allocations directly to municipalities.
4. Maintain all current federal funding opportunities available to municipalities.
5. Preserve all direct appropriations received by municipalities.
6. Honor all ongoing administrative contracts between federal agencies and municipalities.

**Key Positions on Anticipated Federal Legislation of 2017:**

1. Support the 2017 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) bill including \$14 million for a new Housing Choice Voucher Mobility Demonstration included in the Senate-passed version.
2. Oppose any future attempted repeal of the Affordable Care Act.
3. Oppose the repeal of any internet-privacy regulations.

## **PRIORITIES BY FEDERAL AGENCY:**

### **Department of Commerce (DOC)**

- Maintain the Economic Development Administration's grants program.
- Support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Sea grant which would affect our University system as well as the health of the Great Lakes eco-system and economic wellbeing.
- Fund Milwaukee's 30<sup>th</sup> Industrial Corridor through multi-lateral improvements including infrastructure updates, workforce development, incentives for private development, and sustainable energy resources.
- Continue to fund the National Telecommunications & Information Administration's Broadband Technology Opportunity Program.

### **Department of Defense (DOD)**

- Support a minimum in \$1.263 billion in funding for the Army Corps of Engineers, which dredges our ports and serves as a critical partner to local and regional agencies including the Port Authority and the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District.

### **Department of Education (DoED)**

- Institutionalize funding for the My Brother's Keeper initiative.
- Continue support for the E-rate program.
- Increase direct support for public libraries through the Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA).
- Preserve the TRIO educational opportunity programs serving students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

### **Department of Energy (DOE)**

- Reinstate the Clean Power Plan, which would require local utilities to invest in renewable energy.
- Maintain current DOE grant programs to support local investments in clean, sustainable energy.
- Support municipal-led Energy Efficiency financing programs.
- Designate the Milwaukee region and Midwest Energy Research Consortium as the next National Manufacturing Institute for Smart Energy Manufacturing.
- Preserve the Weatherization Assistance Program which benefits City constituents through services administered by local nonprofits UMOS and Community Advocates.

### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

- Maintain support for the Brownfields grant and technical assistance programs.
- Preserve the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative including its \$300 million in annual funding.
- Support an increase to \$2.3 billion for the State Revolving Loan Funds, an increase beyond the current continuing resolution annualized rate.
- Maintain the Clean Water State Revolving Fund program – the City utilizes \$25-27 million in these funds each year.
- Maintain the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Funds and maintain the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN), which included \$20 million in funding for the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) program.

### **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

- Preserve Centers for Disease Control grants created as part of the Affordable Care Act.
- Provide continued support for the Women, Infants, and Children food and nutrition service.
- Increase funding for HIV treatment and prevention, including services for targeted at-risk populations and expanded community education.

- Provide funding for mental health services and opioid addiction.
- Preserve the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) which serves low-income Milwaukee residents through funding allocated to the County.
- Maintain the Meals on Wheels program which serves Milwaukee seniors through funding allocated to the County.

### **Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**

- Oppose any effort to ban foreign entry based solely on racial, ethnic, or religious considerations.
- Maintain support for U.S. Customs and Border Protection, a critical partner of our Port Authority.
- Maintain support for the U.S. Coast Guard, a critical partner of our Port Authority.
- Preserve the Port Security grants allocated to the Police Department and Port Authority.
- Restore funding for the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) program to Milwaukee; the City has not received funding from the UASI program since 2011.
- Increase funding for Federal Assistance to Firefighters Grants.
- Revise H1-B visa program to better suit needs of 21<sup>st</sup> century employers seeking highly skilled workers.
- Expand the fiscal cap on 5,000 T visas (trafficking) and 10,000 U Visas (domestic violence) to promote safer neighborhoods and cooperative communities.
- Support the continuation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program as a temporary solution until Comprehensive Immigration Reform is achieved.
- Provide FEMA pre-disaster planning funding to assess the public safety and economic risks of urban flooding.
- Create consistent national standards for the regulation of ships' ballast water and establish clear and exclusive federal jurisdiction over ballast water regulation to be administered by the U.S. Coast Guard.

### **Housing and Urban Development (HUD)**

- Maintain current funding levels for community and economic development programs designed to support our most at-risk neighborhoods (Community Development Block Grant, HOME, and Choice).
- Support a \$20 million increase to the current annualized rate of \$130 million to HUD for mitigation of lead-based paint and other hazards in low-income homes, focusing on homes where children reside.
- Protect the Community Development Block Grant – the City received \$14.5 million in FY16; the Block Grant funds many essential city services and a multitude of nonprofit community partners.
- Protect the HOME Investment Partnerships Program– the City received \$4.2 million in FY16.
- Preserve our \$30 million multi-year Choice grant dedicated to revitalizing Westlawn public housing.
- Expand funding to address various lead prevention, abatement, and hazard reduction programs
- Safeguard our Section 8 Rental Assistance– the City annually receives \$38 million for this program.
- Protect our \$9 million administrative contributions contract allowing the Housing Authority to operate.
- Re-establish the Renewal Communities tax credit program.

### **Department of Justice (DOJ)**

- Maintain the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grants - the City most recently received a COPS grant of \$1.875 million in FY16 which funds 25 Milwaukee Police Department officers, allowing us to maintain our sworn strength of 1,888.
- Oppose changes to the Asset Forfeiture sharing program.
- Oppose any effort to penalize “sanctuary jurisdictions” by withholding federal funding.
- Maintain all Office of Justice Program grants, including the Byrne Memorial grants program, an integral county-city partnership.
- Maintain the Office of Violence Against Women, including all grants and technical assistance programs.

### **Department of Labor (DOL)**

- Provide expanded investments in low-skilled and transitional jobs training for unemployed and underemployed Milwaukeeans.
- Expand investments in apprentice and vocational training with an emphasis on training for the needs of City-based employers and regional manufacturers.
- Expand Training programs that build transferrable skill sets or yield credentials for job seekers, including Trade Adjustment Assistance training vouchers or Title I Adult and Dislocated Worker/Rapid Response training allowances.

### **Department of Transportation (DOT)**

- Expand direct appropriations of federal funding for large-scale urban transportation and bridge projects.
- Preserve the Federal Transit Administration's Capital Investment Grant program, including funding for both the New Starts and Small Starts projects.
- Honor the City's awarded \$14.2 million DOT Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant to support the City's streetcar project.
- Expand funding for DOT's Surface Transportation Program for both street infrastructure and local transit and workforce development initiatives, including designating funds to revitalize the Wisconsin Employment Transportation Assistance Program (WETAP).
- Expand funds for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) programs.
- Focus on fixing existing infrastructure needs in America's cities before funding new projects.
- Expand funding opportunities for federal highway aid and federal bridge programs.
- Designate the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee as a TIER 1 University Transportation Center.
- Support revised protections to improve the safe transport of hazardous materials, including crude oil, on our nation's rail systems.
- Support rigorous inspection by the Federal Railroad Administration of railroad tracks, crossings, and bridges on which Bakken crude oil is transported.
- Preserve Amtrak funding and support a Milwaukee-Madison service expansion.
- Maintain a national railroad passenger network including the 15 existing long distance trains currently operating within Amtrak system and support the addition of a Chicago-Milwaukee-Twin Cities route.
- Advocate for Federal Highway Administration design flexibility to reduce the required size and scope of the I-94 East-West reconstruction project.

### **Department of the Treasury (TREAS)**

- Maintain the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (CDFI) and institute a competitive funding methodology for grant selection.
- Expand the eligibility of the New Market Tax Credits program, including restoring competitive funding methodology for grant selection.
- Through the US Army Corps of Engineers, maintain the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund and require the Harbor Maintenance Tax to be used to address the backlog of Great Lakes ports dredging projects.
- Support the exemption the movement of non-bulk cargo from the U.S. Harbor Maintenance Tax to encourage the movement of freight from congested surface transportation systems to marine alternatives.
- Preserve the Tax Exempt Status of Municipal Bonds.
- Support funding for the Export-Import Bank including authorization of full lending powers.

## **ADDITIONAL AREAS OF CONCERN**

### **Department of Agriculture (USDA)**

- Make significant investments in urban farming and ecological innovation targeted at cities to better address urban food deserts.
- Provide federal assistance for Emerald Ash Borer inoculation and control.
- Continue funding the federal Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program (SNAP).

### **The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS)**

- Maintain support for the Institute, which provides the State of Wisconsin with approximately \$3 million in support annually. Libraries in the City of Milwaukee receive funds to provide greater learning resources for students living in poverty.

### **Legal Services Corporation (LSC)**

- Milwaukee's victims of domestic violence are served through Legal Action of Wisconsin, which is a subgrantee of the City's Violence Against Women federal grant funding.

### **The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)**

- Maintain support for the NEA, which has supported the City of Milwaukee through financial support of the MKE Plays program, dedicated to building new playgrounds for children in historically underserved neighborhoods.

### **The Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation (NeighborWorks)**

- Two local organizations are heavily dependent on NeighborWorks' funding: Housing Resources, Inc, and Impact Seven.
- Expand eligibility for the National Foreclosure Mitigation Counseling program to borrowers at risk of losing their home to tax foreclosure.

### **Small Business Administration (SBA)**

- Maintain all current SBA loan opportunities.

### **Department of State (DOS)**

- Maintain funding levels for State Department and USAID, which provides support for our research institutions including Marquette University.
- Leverage diplomacy to maintain a robust export economy – the greater Milwaukee region is responsible for 34.7% of state exports (2015 figures from the International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce).

### **United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH)**

- Maintain support for the Council in which the City is an active participant in peer-to-peer networking and sharing of best practices.

### **Department of Veterans Affairs (VA)**

- Expand funding dedicated to wraparound services supporting veterans and military families, including enhanced support for mental health services, drug-addiction and rehabilitative services.