



**City of Milwaukee
2021-22 State Legislative Priorities**

City of Milwaukee Legislative Agenda

State of Wisconsin

2021-22 Legislative Session

Milwaukee is the economic hub of the State of Wisconsin. It is a premiere center of advanced manufacturing, freshwater research and development, green technology, health care, biomedical technology and financial services. Milwaukee's dynamic and accessible cultural activities, diverse workforce, and natural beauty attract tourism, business and investment in large and increasing numbers. Our transportation system is a gateway for tourism, conventions, commerce and economic development with benefits statewide.

Our diverse and resilient community both supports and challenges state policy makers. Since fiscal, economic and community ties between the City and State run strong in both directions, we have identified a multitude of opportunities to invest and reinvest in Milwaukee that will reap dividends for the rest of the State. This legislative package provides numerous ways for the State to build on our inter-dependence and improve Milwaukee's future ability to thrive. It also focuses on policies that will enhance self-sustaining prosperity.

Key Legislative Priorities

Stabilize the City's Fiscal Capacity and Enhance Operational Efficiency

1. Maintain and increase all sources of intergovernmental revenue, especially shared revenue.
2. Protect and expand the City's property tax base and ensure uniform assessment practices.
3. Establish new local revenue options to support the funding of City services and reduce the reliance on the property tax.
4. Seek parity for all municipal employees on pension and healthcare contributions.
5. Ensure that the City receives timely and reliable financial information from the State.
6. Protect matters of interest for city government and residents in utility rate cases.

Promote Racial, Social and Economic Equity for City Residents

1. Support fair, accessible and equitable voting processes that provide and institutionalize early voting and unfettered ballot access to all residents.
2. Promote employability and fair compensation for our residents by funding public and private sector-based training and apprenticeships, youth employment programs, and supporting a higher minimum wage.
3. Increase opportunities for employment by expanding access to driver's education and reducing barriers to former non-violent felony offenders.
4. Support programs that improve family support structures for minorities like the Fatherhood Initiative, the Black Male Achievement Council, and My Brother's Keeper.
5. Improve transitions into the workplace for the recently unemployed, underemployed, or incarcerated.
6. Support policies that promote a diverse, inclusive community regardless of immigration status to ensure that cultural resources are accessible to all citizens.
7. Support policies that promote the reduction of racial disparities and support racial equity.

Strengthen our Environment, our Mobility and our Infrastructure

1. Seek additional funding to support local road, water and sewer infrastructure improvements, with an emphasis on "fixing it first".
2. Support alternative forms of mobility such as rail, public transit, bicycles and pedestrian access, with a balanced funding approach to support urban density as prescribed in SEWRPC's Vision 2050 plan.
3. Ensure residents have a comprehensive and safe transportation system that provides convenient and affordable access to jobs.
4. Invest in freight, rail, air and waterways, especially in the Port of Milwaukee, the Amtrak Hiawatha line, the 30th St. Industrial Corridor and other multi-modal initiatives.
5. Support water, park and lakeshore health and overall sustainability of our environment and natural resources.
6. Support renewable energy, climate action and carbon reduction policies, along with financing strategies and funding to spur green economic growth.
7. Support the universal availability of affordable broadband access for all citizens.

8. Support policies that allow local governments to directly offer high speed Internet and other communications services and/or that permit local governments to participate in public/private partnerships for the purpose of offering competitive broadband and communications services.

Invest in and Support Public Safety and Public Health

1. Remove barriers to crime reduction by enacting policies that reduce access to illegal guns, reduce carjacking and modernize and appropriately fund the juvenile justice system.
2. Fund and support policies that reduce lead hazards from paint and water service lines.
3. Support evidence-based policies that protect our children and expand services for our veterans, the homeless and persons with mental health issues.
4. Fund and support policies regarding injury prevention, domestic violence prevention, efforts to stop human trafficking, sexual assault and harassment prevention.
5. Support collaborative efforts by stakeholders to address the opioid epidemic.
6. Fund and support Community Prosecution Units and related community-based public safety measures.
7. Fund and support services for community mental health needs resulting from exposure to violent trauma.
8. Support legislative changes outlined in the City-County Carjacking and Reckless Driving Taskforce.
9. Support legislation and funding for local governments shouldering the local costs of responding to the unprecedented pandemic and economic crisis.

Enhance our Neighborhoods and Economic Well Being

1. Invest in programs that prevent foreclosure and stabilize properties and neighborhoods.
2. Increase the number and type of economic development incentives, especially those supporting catalytic economic development projects and the manufacturing industry.
3. Fund local educational institutions in a manner that is conscious of educational quality and fair to our taxpayers and support proposals from Milwaukee Public Schools. Seek increased funding for early childhood initiatives.
4. Secure state support for local economic attractions and cultural institutions.

5. Support policies that preempt disaster-related and unwarranted evictions, and enhance efforts to prevent the displacement of homeowners in neighborhoods with rapidly increasing property values.
6. Support affordable housing access through recommendations of SEWRPC's Regional Housing Plan for Southeastern Wisconsin: 2035

Maintain Local Control and Flexibility

1. Seek repeal of prior legislative actions preempting local government authority and unfunded state mandates, while opposing future incursions on local government authority.
2. Strengthen the ability of local leaders to make decisions that affect their constituents and support and strengthen measures of local control.
3. Maintain full City control over zoning and building code decisions, and the disposition of City-owned real estate assets.
4. Ensure fair, population proportional city representation on state and regional boards and commissions like SEWRPC, MATC, 911 advisory boards, and MMSD.
5. Establish greater local flexibility for tax incremental, business improvement and neighborhood improvement districts and enhance other tools which improve local fiscal health.