



Legislative Update February 2016

It's almost over!



- Overview of the current political climate in the state capitol and forecast how the remainder of the legislative session will play out.
- Provide a status update on key legislation affecting municipalities

The 2015-2016 Legislative Session So Far



Session Began January 2015.

State Budget, Act 55, enacted July 12.

Legislature has enacted 152 new laws so far.

Session scheduled to end April 7, 2016.

Looking Ahead – rest of session



Legislature's schedule, themes, and goals for remainder of session.

Looking Ahead – Insurance Reform

“One area to consider for real reform is the way we administer health insurance for state employees, which some experts believe could save tens of millions of dollars. Tonight, I commit to investing every penny of savings to the general fund from these specific reforms to support public education.”

– Governor Walker State of the State, January 19, 2016

Recently Enacted Legislation we Like



- Act 113 – Reducing minimum staffing levels for ambulances serving less populated areas (under 10,000 in population).
- Act 114 -- Distributing excess sales tax revenue collected for Lambeau football stadium district to Brown County and municipalities within Brown County.
- Act 125 – Allowing municipalities to establish golf cart crossing points on a state trunk highway with a speed limit of 35 mph or less.
- Act 126 – Clarifying sales tax exemption applies for construction materials purchased by contractors for public construction projects.

Recently Enacted Legislation we opposed



- Act 65, limiting the authority of a city or village to create new occupational licenses or fees or to continue to regulate certain professions.

Successfully Defending Against attacks on home rule/local control



- Landlord Rights Bill – AB 568
 - Landlord registration
 - Rental inspection programs
 - Fees for inspections
 - Complete undermining of local historic preservation programs

Successfully Defending Against attacks on home rule/local control



- Property Rights Bill -- AB 582
 - significantly expanding the concept of vested rights
 - Developer's 50 percent discount on assessed value of vacant platted lots previously classified as ag property.
 - Personal notice to property owners affected by zoning changes.

Status of TIF Legislation



- TIF Study Bills -- 8 bills making positive changes to TIF law working their way through the legislative process.
 - The Senate has passed 7 unanimously.
 - The Assembly is poised to pass all 8 bills in February.
 - Currently paving the way for the Senate to concur in the one bill it hasn't passed – increasing equalized value threshold from 12% to 15%.

Status of Bills we Oppose



- **AB 290, Prohibiting Municipalities from regulating the residency of registered sex offenders.** Status: No committee action. Bill likely dead.
- **SB 203, Exempting the residential component of mixed use buildings from Business Improvement District Special Assessments.** Status: Public hearing held, but no committee vote taken yet. The bill is likely dead.
- **SB 213/AB 269, Requiring municipalities to pre-fund post retirement health benefits offered to new employees.** Status: Public hearings held by both Assembly and Senate committees but no committee votes. Likely dead for the session.
- **SB 263/AB 349, Sen. Stroebel's TIF Bill, requiring municipalities to apply certain financial accountability requirements before creating a new TID.** Status: Public hearings held in both Senate and Assembly but no committee votes. Committee votes this week.

Status of Bills we Oppose



- AB 563/SB 479 – Allowing Dane County Towns to Opt out of County Zoning
- AB 583/SB 446 – Restricting a Municipality's Ability to Prohibit or restrict homeowners from Renting their homes
- AB 730 – Prohibiting municipalities from banning use of plastic bags
- AB 497/SB 409 – Imposing statewide residency requirements for sexually violent persons on supervised release

Status of Legislation we Support



- AB 210, Enabling counties to enact a 0.5 percent sales tax and share the revenue with cities, villages and towns to be used for street maintenance and repair.
- AB 262/SB 195, Allowing city and village manager plan communities to impose residency restriction on city and village managers.
- SB 273/AB 350, Requiring the State to fully fund the Payment for Municipal Services Program.

Status of Legislation we Support



- AB 404, Allowing municipal employees to sell intoxicating liquor in Parks.
- SB 314/AB 459, Prohibiting Persons from Acquiring Publicly Owned Land by Adverse Possession.
- SB 340/AB 515, Restoring 75% of \$4 million Cut Made to the Recycling Grant Program for 2016.

Status of Legislation we Support



- AB 612, Allowing municipalities with no liquor licenses available under their quota to purchase licenses from neighboring communities; and creating a quota exception for developments in premier economic development districts.
- **AB 554/SB 432 – Modifying process for selling municipal water utilities.**
- AB 600 – Changes to the regulation of navigable waters and artificial water bodies, including storm water detention ponds.
- SB 516/AB 655, Allowing municipalities to spend room tax dollars designated for tourism promotion and development on economic development.

Status of Legislation we Support



- AB 714/SB 578, Modifying definition of “tourism entity” under the room tax law.

Update on two tax related legislative issues



- Dark store issue -- clarifying law regarding assessment of commercial properties like Walgreens and big box chains.
- Chargeback of tax refunds

Questions and Comments

