Closing Days of Legislative Session

League Of Wisconsin Municipalities

February 2020
Split Party Control of Capitol – Dominant Theme

Political stalemate has resulted in:
--- Fewer floor days
--- Litigation over actions taken
--- Fewer bills being enacted. (69 as of Jan. 20)
--- But some good things still got done
Remember the Budget?

Shockingly, budget enacted on time except for transportation funding increase, status quo budget for municipalities.
State Budget Items Affecting Municipalities

- Shared Revenue, Expenditure Restraint, Payments for Municipal Services, and Recycling Programs – funded at same levels.

- Levy Limits -- Unaltered
Local Transportation Aids

• General Transportation Aids – 10% increase ($35 million). *Second such increase in a row.*

• Extra GTA for Certain Towns – $2.5 million annually.

• Mass Transit Operating Assistance – 2% increase
Local Transportation Aids

New, One-Time, Local Government Transportation Competitive Grant Program -- $75 million. “Multimodal Local Supplemental Program”

Awards announced any day now

- Cities and villages – 25% ($18.5 million)
- Counties – 36% ($26 million)
- Towns – 39% ($28.8 million)
Local Transportation Aids

• Demand blew away supply
• $1.4 billion in requests
• Cities/Villages applications: 461 — 2/3 Road-bridge, 1/3 other modes
Cable Franchise Fee Reduction

Budget reduces local cable franchise fees .5 percent each of next two years for a total of 1% effective 1/1/21.

The budget created a state aid program to compensate municipalities for lost franchise fee revenue.
State Budget Biggest Disappointments

--Legislature’s rejection of Gov. Evers’ shared revenue increase and levy limit changes.

--League budget amendment stripped by GOP leadership removing stormwater management from list of covered services for which new fee requires levy limit reduction.
Other new Legislation

• **Act 10**, penalizing Airbnb and other lodging marketplace providers that fail to collect room taxes and forward to municipalities. Also requires Airbnb and Expedia to collect and remit room taxes.

• Stay tuned for problems…
Other new Legislation

**Act 19**, Requires muni’s to continue paying health insurance for the surviving spouse and dependent children of first responder who dies in line of duty.
Bills we are still working on

• SB 108/AB 89, Cleaning up process for filling vacancies in city and village elective offices. *Advancing*

• AB 490, Repeals requirement that when a local government transfers responsibility for providing a service it must reduce its levy limit by amount of savings from transfer. *Amended in a manner we oppose*

• SB 203, Authorizing municipalities to allow clerks or other officials/staff to issue operator's licenses. *advancing*
Bills we are still working on

• SB 71 – Providing state aid payments to counties and municipalities for certain special election costs. *Past Senate, Stalled in Assembly*

• AB 620, Clarifying that personal property aid payments made to a TIF District transfer to other taxing jurisdictions after the district Closes. *Passed Assembly yesterday*
And then there’s water…
Assembly Water Bills

• AB 789-AB 801 passed Tuesday
• 10 were bipartisan
• $10 million mostly for research
• PFAS, nitrates, flooding, coal tar, regulations
• Senate likely to take up(?)
Assembly Water Bills

• AB 793 changes flood control grant criteria
• Eliminates emphasis on removal
• Requires consideration of cost-effectiveness and loss of tax base
• DNR opposes
• Local government supports
Senate pollutant trading

- Passed both houses, on the way to Gov.
- SB 91- Senator Robert Cowles
- Establishes two additional options
- Clearinghouse and third-party trading
- Meant to encourage more trades between point and non-point
- Bipartisan and League-supported
How could we forget PFAS?

- Regulation of PFAS compounds is quickly moving forward in Wisconsin at the legislative, gubernatorial, and administrative rule levels.
- Wisconsin Act 101 (Bans PFAS Foam for firefighting...except in case of fire)
- AB 792 DNR/DATCP collaborate on PFAS data collection
And more PFAS

• AB 842/AB 843
• $7.7 million cleanup and remediation grants
• A priority for budget leader Nygren
• League supports
• Business opposes
• Tick, tick, tick…
The PFAS dance has just begun

Groups representing municipal water and wastewater utilities.

Advocate collaboratively for science-based PFAS standards, educate the public about PFAS, and communicate our concerns to DNR and the Legislature about potential high cost of complying with the proposed PFAS ground water standards.
Questions and Comments?