



# League of Wisconsin Municipalities Update

WAPA Conference  
December 2, 2015

# About the League



- **Founded in 1898**
- **Nonpartisan**
- **Nearly 600 voluntary dues paying members**
- **190 Cities & 396 Villages**
- **Median size city/village is 1450**
- **16 member Board, 9 staff**
- **LWMMI and MPIC**

# Recent Changes at the League



- **New Executive Director**
- **New Offices**
- **New Communications Director**
- **New Strategic Plan**
- **New logo and New Look for our Monthly Magazine**

# About our Members



# Most League Members are Small Communities



# Thriving cities and villages are a key to Wisconsin's long-term economic success.



# Cities and Villages are where people live and work!



- 70 percent of the state's population
- 87 percent of the all manufacturing property
- 89 percent of all commercial property
- Wisconsin's metropolitan regions account for 75% of the state's Gross Domestic Product.

# League's Advocacy Efforts



Main reason League was created: to advocate for cities and villages in the state legislature.

## Core Principles:

1. Preserve Local Control
2. Preserve Local Revenue Sources

# 2015-2017 State Budget – A snapshot



- No cuts to major state aid programs affecting municipalities, including shared revenue.
- Despite significant problems with state's Transportation Fund, previously approved 4% increase in GTA and Transit Aids funded.
- Communities allowed to carry forward unused levy capacity for five years; maximum 5% annually.

# A Few Legislative Successes



- Budget provision makes it easier for municipalities to replace culverts without needing to obtain a waterway permit from DNR.
- Gov's budget provision making counties responsible for property assessment removed.
- Gov's budget provision imposing \$10 million annual cap on historic tax credits removed.

# Legislative Disappointments



- Recycling grant program cut by \$4 million in first year of the biennium.\*

\*SB 340, Introduced by Sen. Cowles and LRB-3610 being circulated by Rep. Tittl

- Room tax law changes.
- Prohibition on enforcing code compliance at time real estate is sold.

# What are we working on?



- Allowing communities with no licenses available under their quota to purchase a license from neighboring communities.
- Clarifying law regarding assessment of national chains like Walgreens and big box retail.

# Legislative Opportunities – Remainder of Session



- AB 210, Enabling county sales tax for funding transportation.
- TIF Legislation -- 8 bills making positive changes to TIF law working their way through the legislative process.
  - The Senate has passed 7 unanimously. 5 are moving in the Assembly.

# Legislative Opportunities



- SB 314/AB 459, Prohibiting persons from acquiring public lands by adverse possession.
- SB 310/AB 439, Changing publication notice requirement for municipal budget amendments.
- SB 340/AB 515, Restoring Funding to the Recycling Grant Program.
- SB 273/AB 350, Requiring full funding of the Payment for Municipal Services Program.

We need quality cities and villages for Wisconsin to prosper.



# Questions? Comments?

