



- 2019 Legislative Priorities -

STATE BUDGET and FUNDING OBLIGATIONS: We urge the State to enhance state aid to localities, and to not impose mandates on or shift costs for state programs to localities.

- Adequate state investment for local service delivery is crucial.
- The State should not alter existing funding formulas to save money or shift costs to localities.

PUBLIC EDUCATION FUNDING: We urge the State to fully fund its share of the realistic costs of the Standards of Quality (SOQ) without making policy changes that reduce funding or shift funding responsibility to localities.

- Localities need an adequately defined SOQ that closes the gap between what school divisions are providing and what the State currently funds in the SOQ.
- Localities spent nearly \$4 billion more than required by the State in FY17.

BROADBAND: We encourage and support state and federal efforts and financial incentives that assist localities and their communities in deploying universal, affordable access to broadband technology in unserved areas.

- We support additional dollars for localities and the private sector to help extend service to areas unserved by any broadband provider.
- Expansion should consider fiber/wireless, public/private ventures and regulated markets.

LOCAL REVENUE AUTHORITY: We urge the State to diversify revenue options available to localities, to include equalizing the revenue-raising authority of counties with that of cities, and to not restrict local revenue-raising authority.

- This proposal removes restrictions on meals, lodging, cigarette and admissions taxes.
- Any statutory changes must provide for local option sales taxes to be collected from remote sellers.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES ACT: We urge the State to be partners in containing costs of the Children's Services Act (CSA). The State should resist attempts to shift costs of serving children through CSA to localities and schools.

- Localities need flexibility to use State funds for mandated services provided by the locality.
- The State should maintain cost shares on a sum sufficient basis, and support local efforts to provide facilities and services on a regional level.

LAND USE and GROWTH MANAGEMENT: We urge the state to resist preempting existing land use authorities, and to provide additional tools to plan and manage growth.

- We support a broader and more workable impact fee authority.
- We support a climate where localities and applicants can openly discuss rezoning applications.