

Worksession

Agenda Item #	8
Meeting Date	June 2, 2008
Prepared By	Suzanne Ludlow, Deputy City Manager
Approved By	

Discussion Item	Discussion of Legislative Action Requests (LARs)
Background	<p>Each year the Maryland Municipal League (MML) solicits legislative proposals from its member municipalities. Usually three are chosen for the League to pursue as its Legislative Priorities for the next legislative session. Requests are to be submitted by June 27 this year for consideration by the MML Legislative Committee in the summer, and, at the fall conference, by the municipalities as a whole.</p> <p>The submission requirements are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) An LAR that has been submitted twice in one four-year General Assembly cycle and rejected by MML is not eligible for submission. [We will be in the third year of the four-year cycle.] 2) The elected body of the submitting municipality must endorse the request. 3) Up to three proposals may be submitted for consideration. <p>In coming up with the proposed LARs for 2009, it should be remembered that these are for the items that MML would champion. The preference is for items that would benefit all Maryland municipalities.</p> <p>Staff has prepared a draft LAR on the key issue of enhancing revenue flexibility for Maryland municipalities.</p>
Policy	The City Council pursues legislation in the best interest of the City of Takoma Park.
Fiscal Impact	n/a
Attachments	None
Recommendation	Identify items for Legislative Action Request submission.
Special Consideration	

2009 MML LEGISLATIVE REQUEST

Name of Municipality, Chapter or Department submitting request: City of Takoma Park

Contact Person / Title: Suzanne Ludlow, Deputy City Manager

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*Please complete this form in its entirety. Attach additional sheets, if necessary, as well as documents related to your request. **FORM MUST BE RETURNED NO LATER THAN Friday, June 27, 2008.***

INTRODUCTION

1. Describe the problem or situation the request is intended to address: The State's "structural deficit" is a topic that will continue to be discussed during the 2009 Legislative Session. It is imperative that MML take a leadership role in ensuring that municipal revenue sources are included and broadened in any restructuring of State revenues.

2. Describe the requested legislation: For revenue, municipalities in Maryland must primarily rely on property taxes, a 17% rebate of income taxes paid by its residents, grants; and inconsistent and unchallengeable tax duplication rebates or setoffs. As changes to Maryland's revenue generation structure are considered, municipalities should be lobbying strongly for the authority to establish a variety of revenue generation options for themselves.

3. Describe how the requested legislation would remedy the problem: Municipalities would be allowed to address their particular fiscal needs using the tools most appropriate for their own communities.

4. The proposed legislation would address: _____ Only your municipality
_____ Only municipalities in your county Only statewide municipalities
_____ All counties and municipalities in the entire state

5. Would the proposed remedy have a significant fiscal impact on your municipality? Yes.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. *Could the problem be resolved by something other than a new law, i.e., action by another level of government or changes in administrative procedures?* No.
2. *If administrative remedies have already been pursued, what were they and what was the outcome?* Legislation is required; cannot be done by administrative remedies.
3. *What other state and/or local agencies, if any, would be affected by this proposal?*
Unknown.
4. *Have any state agencies been contacted about the proposal? If yes, what was their reaction?* No.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

1. *Has the League considered this proposal in a previous year? If yes, describe any significant changes in circumstances that might improve its chances of success in 2008:* In 2008, this issue was an MML Legislative Priority. Given the continued fiscal hardships faced by the State, counties and municipalities, this issue should continue to be an MML Legislative Priority in 2009.
2. *Has this request been considered by the General Assembly in prior sessions? If yes, please provide the bill number, year, and outcome of legislation, if known:* Not in a comprehensive way.
3. *Has this proposed legislation been implemented by any other city, county or state? If yes, please describe where it has been implemented and cite any existing law or model code upon which the proposal is based:* Many states allow municipalities to choose from multiple sources of revenue, limited only by the political will of the municipal voters.

Suzanne Ludlow June ____, 2008

**Signature of authorized municipal,
chapter or departmental official**

Indicate the date of the meeting where the governing body of the municipality, chapter or department endorsed the request: June __, 2008

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