



## Cities Bulletin e-newsletter

March 31, 2025 | Issue 12

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## [Minnesota House and Senate Release Committee Budget Targets](#)

The announcement is the first step toward the passage of a two-year state budget and sets priorities for committee jurisdictions.

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The measure, which the League opposes, would eliminate the recently enacted process of automatic Bureau of Mediation Services assignments of arbitrators for law enforcement grievance arbitrations.

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The legislation proposes that local bonding projects funded by state direct appropriations (earmarks) would need to submit a maintenance plan for their expected operational lifespan.

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#### [2025 LMC Annual Conference](#)

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A proposed tax credit could help convert vacant and underutilized buildings into modern housing and commercial spaces.

### [House Considers Sales Tax Exemption for Local Government Construction Projects](#)

The House Taxes Committee heard a bill that would streamline the sales tax exemption for construction materials purchased by cities for projects.

### [Bill To Restore City Authority Over Group Assisted Living Facility Licensing Heard in the House](#)

The proposed bill would reinstate city authority to impose rental licensing on group homes and introduces broader spacing considerations for licensing agencies.

### [Bill on Government Newspaper Publication Requirements Advances to General Register](#)

The legislation would allow online publication of public notices when a qualified newspaper closes.

### [Bill Would Require Cities To Provide Instant Solar Permits](#)

The proposal, backed by state and national solar installers, would mandate cities with populations over 5,000 install software allowing instant solar permits with limited inspections.

### [Local Government Salary & Benefits Survey 2025 Is Open for Data Input](#)

Data entry emails with a participation link were distributed to the top appointed officials or the chief HR representative for most cities on March 26 by Gallagher Surveys.

## More Information and Resources

[Explore 4M Fund Programs and Services at Free Webinar on April 8](#)

[Register Now for the 2025 Annual Conference in Duluth This June](#)

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# Minnesota House and Senate Release Committee Budget Targets

March 31, 2025

**The announcement is the first step toward the passage of a two-year state budget and sets priorities for committee jurisdictions.**

Legislative leaders in the House and Senate announced their budget targets for the next state budget cycle. The targets outline how much general fund money committees can spend or, in some cases, how much must be cut from its budget area. The targets follow Minnesota Management and Budget's [February state budget and economic forecast](#), which projected a \$456 million surplus for 2026-2027 and a nearly \$6 billion deficit in 2028-2029.

The Senate's budget targets propose reducing state spending by \$754 million in the upcoming two-year budget and a reduction of \$1.7 billion in future years. The House proposed a spending reduction of \$1.2 billion for the upcoming budget cycle and a reduction of \$2.6 billion in future years.

A notable element of the Senate's tax target would require the [Senate Taxes Committee](#) to raise revenue through tax increases or reduce funding for programs like local government aid (LGA). While no bills to reduce LGA have been heard this year, legislators have indicated that all options remain under consideration. The House tax target would also require the [House Taxes Committee](#) to raise revenue or reduce funding, but not near the level outlined in the Senate target.

- [View the Minnesota Senate budget targets \(pdf\).](#)
- [View the Minnesota House of Representatives budget targets \(pdf\).](#)

## What's next?

With under two weeks remaining before the [third committee deadline](#), finance committees will spend that time compiling their major budget bills for passage to the [Senate Finance Committee](#) and [House Ways and Means Committee](#).

After both chambers pass their budget bills, conference committees will need to reconcile the differences, with input from Gov. Walz's administration, before they can be passed into law. The constitutional deadline for the legislative session is May 19, and a budget must be passed by June 30 to avoid a state government shutdown.

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# Senate State and Local Government Committee Cancels Hearing on Zoning Bills

March 31, 2025

**The hearing scheduled for March 25 was canceled, but zoning and land use reform bills still remain under consideration in both chambers.**

On March 25, the Senate State and Local Government Committee was scheduled to consider several zoning and land use reform bills:

- SF 2229 — Minnesota Starter Home Act
- SF 2140 — More Homes Right Places Act
- SF 2286 — Transforming Main Street Act
- SF 1268 — People Over Parking Act

In preparation, the League met with committee members, issued an action alert to cities whose Senators serve on the committee, and facilitated outreach from city officials. The League also prepared both written and in-person testimony to express concerns about the bills. However, the hearing was canceled that morning.

## What's next for the bills

Despite the cancellation, these bills remain active in both the House and the Senate. They could be rescheduled for a hearing or included as amendments to other legislation at any time. The League continues to engage with bill authors in both chambers to address concerns.

The proposals have all advanced to their next committee stops in the [House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee](#) and the [Senate State and Local Government Committee](#).

## Your next step

While the Senate canceled its hearing on these bills during the week of March 24, the House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee is still likely to hear the legislation before the first and second committee deadline, which is on April 4. Cities should continue to contact their House and Senate legislators to share concerns about these bills.

## What's in the bills and how they would affect cities

The following is a summary of the bills at the time of this writing.

# Minnesota Starter Home Act

HF 1987 (Rep. Spencer Igo, R-Wabana Township) / SF 2229 (Sen. Lindsey Port, DFL-Burnsville)

The bills were heard by the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee and the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee on March 11.

The bills would require cities to:

- Permit at least two units on any single-family zoned lot and allow accessory dwelling units on lots with single-family homes.
- Limit minimum lot sizes to one-eighth acre for duplexes and single-family homes.
- Prohibit minimum lot sizes for townhomes larger than 1,500 square feet.
- Allow at least 80% lot coverage and restrict floor area ratio and setbacks.
- Prohibits minimum parking requirements for any development.
- Require an administrative review approval process for residential developments with no more than one public meeting (not hearing).
- Ensure development complies with city infrastructure, health, safety, and general welfare standards.

During the House hearing, Rep. Andrew Myers (R-Tonka Bay) and Rep. Wayne Johnson (R-Cottage Grove) proposed amendments to scale back parts of HF 1987. Their amendments aimed to:

- Exempt cities with populations under 10,000.
- Remove the required administrative approval process.
- Extend compliance deadlines for small cities.
- Eliminate prescriptive mandates on lot sizes and setbacks.

However, the committee did not adopt any of the amendments.

## More Homes, Right Places Act

HF 2140 (Rep. Larry Kraft, DFL-St. Louis Park) / SF 2231 (Sen. Liz Boldon, DFL-Rochester)

The bills were heard by the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee hearing and the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee on March 12.

A “delete everything” amendment, which replaces the original bill language with new language, was adopted by the committee, changing several components of the bill. Key components of the bill include:

- **Urban municipalities** (cities of the second, third, and fourth class within 1 mile of a city with more than 150,000 residents) must:
  - Upzone 75% of residential areas to allow townhomes, duplexes, triplexes by right, or any combination of development to permit an average density of one unit per 1,500 square feet.
- **Nonurban municipalities** (cities over 10,000 residents that don’t qualify as urban municipalities or first-class cities) must:



- Upzone 50% of residential areas to allow townhomes, duplexes, triplexes by right, or any combination of development to permit an average density of one unit per 4,000 square feet.
- **First-, second-, and third-class cities** must create “commercial corridor districts” along municipal state-aid streets, allowing higher density development per acre.
- The bill would also:
  - Limit setbacks, floor area ratio, lot coverage, and minimum square footage rules in mixed-use housing zones.
  - Prohibit minimum unit sizes, construction material requirements, and local design standards beyond state building codes.
  - Eliminate minimum parking requirements for all developments.
  - Limit usage of planned unit developments and conditional use permits.
  - Require an administrative approval process with no more than one public meeting (not a hearing).

## Transforming Main Street Act

HF 2018 (Rep. Liish Kozlowski, DFL-Duluth) / SF 2286 (Sen. Doron Clark, DFL-Minneapolis)

The proposals were heard by the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee on March 11, and in the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee on March 12.

The proposals would:

- Require all cities to permit multifamily and mixed-use development in any commercial zoning district, except for heavy industrial zones.
- Allow cities to require that developments authorized in the bill include commercial use on the ground floor but only if the development is replacing existing commercial or industrial structures.
- Limit city review of projects under 300 units, prohibiting consideration of traffic, noise, or nuisance concerns.
- Require first-class cities, St. Cloud, and all metro-area cities to allow multifamily buildings up to 75 feet tall in commercial districts.
- Prohibit cities from requiring egress, durability, or energy efficiency standards, and limits any setback and lot coverage requirements beyond those required for commercial buildings.
- Eliminate parking minimums for all new developments.
- Require developments to comply with city requirements regarding adequacy of existing public infrastructure and other health, safety, and general welfare standards.
- Require cities to award density bonuses for affordable housing.
- Mandate an administrative review process with no more than one public meeting (not hearing).

## Preemption of municipal design standards

HF 2013 (Rep. Jim Nash, R-Waconia)

This proposal was heard by the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee on March 11.

Note: A delete everything amendment limiting the scope of the bill was offered by Rep. Nash and adopted during the committee hearing.

The bill would:

- Prohibit all cities from imposing construction material or method requirements on residential developments with four or fewer units. This includes restrictions on architectural elements, building egress, durability, energy efficiency, and light access — unless required by the State Building Code
- Exempt historic districts from the requirement and allows cities to require an egress point on the street-facing side of the structure.
- Ban interim ordinances related to aesthetic mandates

## Prohibition on minimum parking requirements for development

SF 1268 (Sen. Omar Fateh, DFL-Minneapolis)

The proposal was heard by the Senate Housing and Homelessness Prevention Committee on March 13.

The bill would:

- Prohibit all cities from requiring minimum parking spaces for any new development including commercial, industrial, and residential.
- Allow cities to specify disabled parking requirements.

[Read more news articles.](#)

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# Bill Would Repeal Law Enforcement Arbitration Selection Process Enacted in 2020

March 31, 2025

**The measure, which the League opposes, would eliminate the recently enacted process of automatic Bureau of Mediation Services assignments of arbitrators for law enforcement grievance arbitrations.**

On March 26, the House Public Safety Finance and Policy Committee considered a bill that would overturn a significant law enforcement arbitration measure established in 2020.

HF 1375, sponsored by Rep. Bidal Duran (R-Bemidji), would repeal a law that requires the Bureau of Mediation Services (BMS) to maintain a six-person arbitrator roster for grievance arbitrations related to written discipline, discharge, and termination of peace officers under collective bargaining agreements. Under the current law, BMS assigns an arbitrator, preventing either party involved in the grievance from influencing the selection.

Before 2020, employers and employees selected arbitrators through a process allowing each party to eliminate individual arbitrators from a list until just one remained. According to some employment attorneys, this process could lead to arbitrators feeling pressured to rule in favor of employers and employees with equal frequency in order to avoid being stricken from future cases. As a result, legitimate disciplinary actions were sometimes overturned.

The 2020 law was enacted as part of a broader law enforcement accountability package following the murder of George Floyd by a police officer.

## Support and opposition of the bill

Supporters of HF 1375, including the Minnesota Police and Peace Officers Association and Law Enforcement Labor Services, testified that since the 2020 law went into effect, arbitrators have increasingly sided with employers in grievance arbitration proceedings.

League Board member and Edina City Manager Scott Neal testified against the bill on behalf of the League. In part, Neal said, “The grievance arbitration selection procedure that was passed into law in June of 2020 has been a success from the perspective of cities across the state. It has created parity in the assignment of arbitrators and has increased the overall integrity of the peace officer grievance arbitration process.” The Minnesota Chiefs of Police Association also testified in opposition.

## Next steps

The bill was laid over by the committee. It is unclear whether it will advance, particularly since Democratic-Farmer-Labor (DFL) members of the committee expressed concerns. Republicans

and DFLers hold an equal number of votes on the committee, meaning any motion receiving a tie vote fails. The proposal could still be included in the committee's omnibus bill without receiving a standalone vote.

The Senate companion, [SF 2111](#), sponsored by [Sen. Judy Seeberger](#) (DFL-Afton), has not been scheduled for a hearing in the [Senate Judiciary and Public Safety Committee](#), where it was referred upon introduction.

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# Bill Would Require Emergency Shelters as a Permitted Use in Most Zoned Areas

March 31, 2025

**The proposed bill would require cities to allow emergency shelter facilities in zones designated for multifamily, commercial, or industrial uses.**

On March 26, the [House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee](#) heard [HF 1299](#), sponsored by [Rep. Kari Rehrauer](#) (DFL-Coon Rapids). The bill would require all cities to permit emergency shelter facilities — defined as a safe, sanitary, accessible, and suitable emergency shelter for individuals, families, or both, experiencing homelessness — as a permitted use on any lot zoned for multifamily residential, commercial, or industrial uses. This would apply regardless of whether the shelter operates during the day, overnight, or both.

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in a future omnibus bill. The Senate version, [SF 1999](#) ([Sen. Doron Clark](#), DFL-Minneapolis), is awaiting action in the [Senate State and Local Government Committee](#).

## City concerns and local control

During testimony, the League acknowledged the urgent need for additional shelter capacity to address housing instability and homelessness, but raised concerns that the bill would limit local land use planning and zoning authority. As written, it would prevent cities from applying controls related to size, scale, or spacing of shelters, and raises concerns about shelters being located in inappropriate areas like heavy industrial zones.

## Proposed amendment and vote

During the hearing, [Rep. Ben Davis](#) (R-Merrifield) introduced an [amendment to HF 1299 \(pdf\)](#) that would have allowed cities to regulate shelters through a conditional use permit. This would have enabled local governments to apply reasonable conditions to ensure proper maintenance and operation of the facilities, without imposing stricter requirements than those applied to other conditional or special uses in the same zones. However, the amendment failed on a voice vote.

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# New Planning Requirement Proposed for Some Bonding Projects

March 31, 2025

**The legislation proposes that local bonding projects funded by state direct appropriations (earmarks) would need to submit a maintenance plan for their expected operational lifespan.**

A proposal, [HF 2418](#) (Rep. Brad Tabke, DFL–Shakopee)/[S.F. 2321](#) (Sen. Sandy Pappas, DFL–St. Paul), would add a new requirement for local government bonding projects that are funded individually in the state capital budget.

As introduced, the legislation includes broad provisions, such as requiring communities to establish a dedicated fund for maintaining and eventually replacing state bond-funded projects. HF 2418 has been sent to the [House Capital Investment Committee](#) for further consideration. SF 2321 is awaiting discussion in the [Senate Capital Investment Committee](#).

## Addressing concerns and refining the proposal

Variations of this concept have been brought forward for the past five sessions. The League and several state agencies have consistently opposed it, noting that it could disadvantage cities with the greatest infrastructure needs by making it harder for them to secure state funding.

Prior to the bill being heard in the [House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee](#) on March 26, Rep. Tabke met with the League and other local government groups. Based on that discussion, he introduced a [delete-all amendment \(pdf\)](#), significantly narrowing the bill's scope. The revised version:

- Applies only to direct appropriations and not projects funded through state programs.
- Removes the mandate for replacement funding accounts or plans.
- Requires only a plan outlining how the community will maintain the funded project.

## Stakeholder perspective

During testimony, the League, the Association of Small Cities, and the Minnesota Intercounty Alliance emphasized the state's crucial role in funding local infrastructure needs, and agreed that the amendment is moving the bill in the correct direction. While they acknowledged the bill's improved focus, they stressed the need for clarity on what a maintenance plan must include and at what stage in the legislative process it must be submitted. Ideally, both cities and

the responsible state agency should have a clear and straightforward way to confirm compliance.

## Next steps

The League will continue monitoring this legislation to ensure that efforts to improve transparency and planning do not unintentionally hinder cities, especially those with fewer resources, from accessing crucial state funding. If further action occurs this session, it will be covered in the *Cities Bulletin*.

[Read more news articles.](#)

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# Senate Committee Considers Tax Credit Proposal To Boost Building Redevelopment

March 31, 2025

**A proposed tax credit could help convert vacant and underutilized buildings into modern housing and commercial spaces.**

On March 27, the Senate Taxes Committee heard SF 768, sponsored by Sen. Zaynab Mohamed (DFL–Minneapolis). The bill would create the Catalyzing Underutilized Buildings (CUB) Tax Credit, modeled after the Historic Structure Rehabilitation Tax Credit, to make redevelopment projects more financially feasible. The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus tax bill.

Many cities are working with developers to turn vacant and underutilized buildings into affordable housing. Examples of potential qualifying projects include converting schools, office buildings, and shopping centers into housing and/or modern commercial spaces.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey testified in support of the bill and the League submitted a letter in support.

The House bill is HF 457, sponsored by Rep. Bobbie Harder (R–Henderson), and was heard earlier this session by the House Housing Finance and Policy Committee and the House Taxes Committee.

## LMC staff take

The CUB Tax Credit could be a great tool for cities both in the metro and in Greater Minnesota to repurpose buildings to create more housing, mitigate against property tax shifts due to declining valuations, and support economic development. The bill has bipartisan support, and interested cities should contact their legislators to voice support for the creation of a new redevelopment tool.

[Read more news articles.](#)

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# House Considers Sales Tax Exemption for Local Government Construction Projects

March 31, 2025

**The House Taxes Committee heard a bill that would streamline the sales tax exemption for construction materials purchased by cities for projects.**

On March 25, the House Taxes Committee heard HF 618 (Rep. Chris Swedzinski, R-Ghent) and HF 1248 (Rep. Matt Norris, DFL-Blaine). Both bills would provide a sales tax exemption for contractor-purchased building materials for local governments. The tax would be paid at the time of purchase, and the local governments would apply for the refund.

While both bills received broad support from committee members, concerns over the exemption's cost could hinder its passage this year. The bills were laid over for possible inclusion in the tax omnibus bill. However, committee co-chairs suggested that individual refund requests for specific projects are more likely to advance this year rather than the broad exemption.

## Background

In 2013, the Legislature reinstated the sales tax exemption for most local government purchases. However, the current process to get the exemption is cumbersome, expensive, and increases liability risks for cities. As a result, many municipalities avoid using the exemption, which drives up project costs and burdens property taxpayers.

Under current law, local governments seeking a sales tax exemption for construction materials must execute separate contracts for direct material purchases. This process increases administration complexity, liability, and costs, which can make utilizing the exemption impractical.

The proposed refund system, though not as simple as an up-front exemption, offers a more manageable alternative. It ensures that local governments receive tax savings while the Department of Revenue maintains oversight to confirm the exemption benefits the public entity rather than the contractor.

## LMC staff take

The increasing cost of the exemption has also led to a patchwork system of special refunds for individual local projects. In 2023 alone, the omnibus tax bill authorized 21 such exemptions, but no broad, statewide refund process. This practice creates inequities, as some communities secure exemptions while others with similar projects do not.

Ultimately, the current process raises the cost of local infrastructure projects, often requiring higher property taxes to cover the additional state sales tax burden. Moving toward a more standardized refund system could reduce administrative hurdles and ensure fairer tax relief for all local governments.

[Read more news articles.](#)

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# Bill To Restore City Authority Over Group Assisted Living Facility Licensing Heard in the House

March 31, 2025

**The proposed bill would reinstate city authority to impose rental licensing on group homes and introduces broader spacing considerations for licensing agencies.**

On March 27, the House Human Services Finance and Policy Committee considered HF 1477, sponsored by Rep. Danny Nadeau, (R-Rogers). The bill would repeal a recent law that prohibits cities from imposing rental licensing on group assisted living facilities with six or fewer residents.

The bill was laid over for possible inclusion in the House human services omnibus bill. The Senate version, SF 1130, sponsored by Sen. John Hoffman (DFL-Champlin) awaits action in the Senate Human Services Committee.

## Bill details

The bill would restore local authority to apply rental licensing regulations to these state-licensed facilities. This would help cities ensure compliance with habitability, livability, and life safety standards, while also holding housing providers accountable.

Additionally, an author's amendment was adopted, expanding the authority of licensing agencies. Under the amendment, agencies could deny initial licenses to assisted living facilities — with a licensed resident capacity of six or fewer people — if the facility will be within 1,320 feet of an existing living facility. It would also create a response time standard for complaints made to the licensing agencies.

## Bill testimony

Proponents of the bill included representatives from the League and several city officials:

- Scott Schulte, economic development director, Champlin
- Hollies Winston, mayor, Brooklyn Park
- Jason Newby, inspections and environmental health manager, Brooklyn Park
- Mark Bruley, chief of police, Brooklyn Park
- Samantha Brown, detective, Brooklyn Park

They highlighted the challenges that cities face with the increased concentration of group assisted living facilities in certain areas. They also emphasized the difficulty in holding housing providers accountable and the need for quicker responses to issues.

Opponents of the bill included the Association of Residential Resources in Minnesota (ARRM), Accessible Space, Inc.

[Read more news articles.](#)

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# Bill on Government Newspaper Publication Requirements Advances to General Register

March 31, 2025

**The legislation would allow online publication of public notices when a qualified newspaper closes.**

On March 24, the [House Elections Finance and Government Operations Committee](#) heard [HF 2231](#), which would modify the requirements for publishing notices in qualified newspapers. Sponsored by [Rep. Bobbie Harder](#) (R-Henderson), the bill received bipartisan support.

## Background

Since 2018, [more than 12% of local newspapers in Minnesota have shut down](#), averaging a rate of more than 11 closures per year. Many cities have been impacted by these closures, as publishing notices in alternative newspapers to satisfy the law is often costlier and reaches fewer city residents.

HF 2231 aims to address these challenges by allowing cities to publish legal notices on their websites and on the Minnesota Newspaper Association's (MNA) website for free until another qualified newspaper is designated. This flexibility ensures transparency while giving cities time to find alternate qualified newspapers.

The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), MNA, and League of Minnesota Cities worked closely with Rep. Harder on the bill's language. Supporters, including the League, along with the AMC, Prior Lake City Administrator Jason Wedel, and the Minnesota Association of Townships, testified on behalf of local governments in favor of the bill. Other testifiers included the MNA, Minnesota School Board Association, and Herald Journal Publishing.

[View a video of the testimony on HF 2231.](#)

The bill was approved by the committee on a voice vote and sent to the General Register for possible discussion and a vote by the full House. The Senate companion, [SF 2631](#), sponsored by [Sen. Eric Pratt](#) (R-Prior Lake), has not yet been scheduled for a hearing.

## Your next step

The League encourages city leaders to contact their legislators and share their support for the legislation, along with how it could help their city to budget and plan for new projects.

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# Bill Would Require Cities To Provide Instant Solar Permits

March 31, 2025

**The proposal, backed by state and national solar installers, would mandate cities with populations over 5,000 install software allowing instant solar permits with limited inspections.**

HF 2059, sponsored by Rep. Ned Carroll (DFL-Plymouth), and SF 1741, sponsored by Sen. Lindsey Port (DFL-Burnsville), would require all Minnesota cities with populations over 5,000 to install third-party software for issuing electronic, instant permits for the installation of residential solar energy systems. The legislation would also limit inspections to one or allow homeowners to submit photos or videos instead of an on-site inspection. Neither bill has received a committee hearing to date.

## Proponents' stance

The League has engaged in multiple meetings with bill advocates, including once this year, along with the bill sponsors. Advocates say that city solar permitting processes are taking too long, contributing to more than 20% of residential solar installations being canceled before receiving the necessary permits. They also claim that multiple inspections are unnecessary and the proposed system would streamline the process without compromising public health and safety.

## Issue background

Many cities support renewable energy adoption on residential structures as part of broader goals to improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote clean energy. However, cities face challenges in managing solar projects due to varying housing stock, differing electric utility providers, and limited building inspection capacity.

Public health and safety remain primary concerns. Electrical work must comply with state codes, and proper inspections ensure that installations are properly done. Additionally, solar systems require grid connections for utilities to accurately track excess power production credits, raising concerns for the utilities involved, as well as for safety.

## League position

The League opposes the proposed mandate. Cities are already free to adopt instant permit systems if they find them beneficial for their community. During the 2024 legislative session, \$2 million in new state grant funding was appropriated for local governments to install and implement a federally approved version of instant permitting software called SolarApp+. Cities could begin applying for these grants in March 2025. The impact of the new grant program on cities that opt-in should be evaluated before implementing a new statewide mandate.

Additionally, most cities do not report having long delays on permit issuance — permit processing times range from six to 14 days, with some issuing permits even faster. Cancellations can often be attributed to a wide range of other reasons, including financial considerations, changes in homeowner priorities, or issues unrelated to permit delays.

Lastly, the League maintains that having appropriate inspections are essential for verifying roof load capacity and ensuring proper electrical installation, both of which are critical to public health and safety.

## Current bill status

While the bills have yet been to be heard in the House or Senate, the [House Energy Finance and Policy Committee](#) briefly initially listed HF 2059 for a hearing before removing it from the agenda. Any future developments will be reported in the *Cities Bulletin*.

[Read more news articles.](#)

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Your LMC Resource

Craig Johnson

IGR Representative

(651) 281-1259 or (800) 925-1122

[cjohnson@lmc.org](mailto:cjohnson@lmc.org)

# Local Government Salary & Benefits Survey 2025 Is Open for Data Input

The League of Minnesota Cities and Association of the Minnesota Counties is delighted to announce the Local Government Salary & Benefits Survey is ready for your 2025 data entry. Data entry emails with a participation link were distributed to the top appointed officials (city manager or city clerk) or the chief HR representative (if applicable) for most cities on March 26 by Gallagher Surveys.

## About our survey:

- In 2023 we pivoted from an update anytime survey to a survey where each city updates their data once per year. With this process, there is a more robust data validation procedure to build greater confidence in data reliability. We would ask that you enter your data with salary and benefits information effective as of March 1, 2025.
- It is very important to update your data during the update period **March 26 to April 25, 2025**, as participation in the survey is required for free access. An annual fee will be charged for nonparticipating entities or other organizations requesting access.
- To purchase access to the 2025 survey, [view the request to purchase access form \(doc\)](#) or contact League HR staff for more information. (2025 access will be available to purchase mid-June.)

## Contact:

Mindy Corby  
HR Representative  
(651) 281-1217  
[mcorby@lmc.org](mailto:mcorby@lmc.org)

- The survey tool will allow you to compare salaries and benefits of your staff to those of other city and county organizations throughout Minnesota. 2025 data should be ready mid-June 2025.
- We are committed to making the data entry process as simple and convenient as possible, to that end Gallagher will provide a survey kick-off webinar on **April 2, 2025**, at 10 a.m. A link to this webinar was sent out by Gallagher Surveys in the data entry email sent on March 26. If you are not able to attend this webinar, please note this session will be recorded and posted on this webpage.
- Please contact Jessica Nikunen ([jessica\\_nikunen@ajg.com](mailto:jessica_nikunen@ajg.com)) or Thomas Cummins ([thomas\\_cummins@ajg.com](mailto:thomas_cummins@ajg.com)) for a link to the kick-off webinar or with questions regarding the salary and benefits survey.

- Please contact Thomas Cummins ([thomas\\_cummins@ajg.com](mailto:thomas_cummins@ajg.com)) if you require a link to update your city's data.
- Please contact Cynthia Dolan ([Cynthia\\_Dolan@ajg.com](mailto:Cynthia_Dolan@ajg.com)) regarding your survey dashboard questions.

## 2024 Salary & Benefits Survey

If your organization participated in the 2024 survey, you can still [access the survey results via a portal on the Arthur J. Gallagher website](#). (password protected)

Gallagher, the survey administrator, provided a recorded webinar in 2024 to review the survey reporting dashboard.

- [View the webinar on Vimeo](#).

*Disclaimer: The League provides the salary survey program to facilitate the exchange of information among elected officials and management of participating organizations. The League program relies on sophisticated methodology and proprietary technology. The League and its partners contract with Arthur J. Gallagher for the survey tool and each organization is responsible for entering its own data. Participating organizations are expected to allow access to elected officials and select management staff only.*

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Your LMC Resource

Mindy Corby

HR Representative

(651) 281-1217 or (800) 925-1122

[mcorby@lmc.org](mailto:mcorby@lmc.org)

# Policy Committee FAQs

## Shape the League's 2026 Legislative Platform: Sign Up for 2025 Policy Committees

The League welcomes members to join in discussing issues impacting their city and cities in general, and to help shape the League's legislative policies and get involved with legislative issues. Hearing from cities around the state will be critical as the League shapes its legislative policies and priorities for the 2025 session.

### Meetings will be hybrid format

As always, the League is happy to host legislative policy committee meetings both in person at the League building in St. Paul as well as online via Zoom. Members are encouraged to participate in whatever format is most comfortable and convenient.

#### Meeting 1

During the first meeting in July, each city official shares what issues are affecting their cities and what they would like the committee to address over the span of that year's meetings. Officials are encouraged to look at specific policies and offer suggestions to change existing policies, create new ones, and delete obsolete ones.

League intergovernmental relations (IGR) staff will also provide a legislative update on the regular legislative session and any special sessions. League staff will also go through each legislative policy and explain whether it was addressed during the previous legislative session or special sessions. Staff and committee members will then discuss potential speakers for meeting 2.

#### Meeting 2

At the second meeting in August, committee members will hear from guest speakers, including representatives from state agencies and interest groups, legislators, and other local officials, to learn more about the issues that the committee has decided to focus on. The committee will also further offer and review draft changes to legislative policies.

#### Meeting 3

During the third and final meeting in September, committee members will continue to discuss and make policy changes, and vote to approve draft legislative policies.

## After the meetings

In October, the draft legislative policies will be circulated to League members for their comments. In November, the League Board of Directors will consider member comments and vote on final adoption of the League policies. The approved policies will then be published on the League's website in a document called the *2025 City Policies*. To get an idea of what to expect, you can view the *2025 Cities Policies*.

[View the 2025 City Policies \(pdf\).](#)

## Sign up!

Last year, more than 150 city officials from all around the state participated in the four committees that set the legislative policies for the League's lobbying efforts. City officials that have served before and those that have never served are encouraged to sign up. Interested in signing up? Email Ted Bengtson at [tbengtson@lmc.org](mailto:tbengtson@lmc.org).

**Important note for members who served last year:** If you have not already done so, please sign up to confirm your participation again this year, even if you served last year.

PDF versions of packets will be emailed to members in advance of each meeting.

[Sign up for a legislative policy committee.](#)

## Frequently asked questions

Here are answers to some common questions for those considering participating in policy committees:

### Who can be on a policy committee?

Current city officials and staff are eligible. City council members, mayors, city administrators, assistant city administrators, clerks, human resources staff, municipal elections officials, public safety staff, engineers, finance directors, economic development staff, and others have been members of the committees. Committee members can be new to their city position, have many years of experience, or be somewhere in between.

### When and where are the meetings?

Here is the 2025 schedule:

#### [Improving Service Delivery Committee](#)

Monday mornings: *July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 15* | 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

#### [Improving Local Economies Committee](#)

Tuesday mornings: *July 22, Aug. 19, Sept. 16* | 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

#### [Human Resources & Data Practices Committee](#)

Tuesday afternoons: *July 22, Aug. 19, Sept. 16* | 1:30-4 p.m.

#### [Improving Fiscal Futures Committee](#)

Wednesday mornings: *July 23, Aug. 20, Sept. 17* | 9:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

# What topics does each committee address?

The topics include, but are not limited to, the following subtopics:

- Improving Service Delivery: Unfunded mandates, environmental mandates, elections, charter law, data privacy, government innovation and cooperation, and public safety.
- Improving Local Economies: Growth management, land use, boundary adjustments, housing, transportation, economic development, and telecommunications.
- Human Resources & Data Practices: Employment law, labor relations, data practices, Open Meeting Law, personnel, and pensions.
- Improving Fiscal Futures: Municipal financial management, property and other taxes, state aid programs, and financial reporting requirements.

## For more information

Still have questions? Interested but not quite sure if you should sign up? Please contact League IGR Administrative Coordinator Ted Bengtson at [tbengtson@lmc.org](mailto:tbengtson@lmc.org) or (651) 281-1242.

We look forward to you joining us!

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Your LMC Resource

Ted Bengtson

IGR Administrative Coordinator

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