

**City of Minneapolis
2011 Legislative Agenda**

As Adopted on December 10, 2010

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Local Government Finance

The priority issues for Minneapolis:

State/Local Fiscal Relationships: Local Government Aid (LGA)

For almost 40 years, the State of Minnesota has provided aid to cities, counties and schools, while limiting their authority to impose local taxes. Over the years the programs have been amended but the state has continued to share revenues with local governments. However, when the state experiences a revenue shortfall local governments, as well as state government, are subject to revenue reductions or, at best, no appropriations increase. Since 2008, cities and counties have been subject to reductions through unallotments and budget modifications while schools have received no increases but have been subject to shifts in payment dates.

Current Biennial Budget (FY2010/2011) Spending Changes Fall Heavily on Cities

Prior to 2010 legislative action, the current biennial budget appropriated \$33.5 billion in spending but was subsequently reduced by \$2.6 billion. The spending changes included timing changes (shifts) for school aid payments and permanent reductions. The shifts are to be paid to the schools in the future. The reductions represent 77% of the budget solution while the remaining 23%, or \$711 million, were revenue changes including, but not limited to, transfers from other funds, increased tax compliance enforcement, or delays in paying tax refunds. The major spending changes included:

- **\$404.3 million in local aid and credit program reductions, or 12 % of the budget solution**
- **\$146.6 million in reductions to higher education, or 4% of the budget solution**
- **\$114.3 million in reductions to state agencies, programs, and property tax relief not identified above, or 3 % of the solution.**
- **\$1.949 billion in payment shifts to school aids, or 56% of the budget solution.**

The budget solution falls heavily on cities and is disproportionate to the city's appropriation as compared to the total budget.

- City LGA and market value homestead credit (MVHC) paid to cities accounted for 3.6% of the budget prior to adjustments.
- Reductions in LGA and MVHC paid to cities were equivalent to 7.2% of the solution (revenue, shifts and reductions), or almost twice its share of the budget.

Excluding the revenue changes and the shift, approximately \$686.0 million in spending has been cut. **Of the total spending cuts, city aids and credits account for 35% of the spending reductions.**

Over the last three years the state has not paid the certified (promised) amounts and as a result, cities and counties have received reduced amounts. In 2009, Minneapolis was promised \$ 88.7 million but actually received \$ 80.2 million. The 2010 promised amount of \$ 90.0 million was reduced to \$64.0 million, a 29% reduction. In 2010, Minneapolis lost all of its market value homestead credit prior to a LGA reduction (\$6.4 million).

The unreliable nature of LGA has caused several cities to treat LGA as one-time funding, or use it for non-recurring expenses. Cities have also reduced services, instituted lay-offs and or increased property taxes to offset state aid losses.

Legislative LGA Study Commission. “Formula Reform” Delayed

While the amount of the actual LGA amount has been a major concern for cities, the statutory formula that distributes LGA has been subject criticisms that it does not measure city needs or a city’s ability to raise revenue. Concerns regarding special formula components by city size and location have also been identified. Being aware of the concerns, the 2008 tax bill contained a provision that established a LGA study group. The group which consists of city officials and legislators is charged to study the current formula and make recommendation to improve it. The report to the legislature was due by December 15, 2010 but the due date has been delayed to December 15, 2012

Minneapolis Priority

- Funding of the LGA program at, a minimum, its promised amount (\$526.0 million in 2011) during the 2012-2013 biennium.
- Move-up the deadline of the LGA study group to December, 2011.

Convention Center Lodging Tax Cap

- The 1986 Legislature authorized the City of Minneapolis to plan, finance and construct a convention center. To finance the construction and operation of the facility the city was permitted to levy a city-wide sales and lodging tax as well as food and beverage taxes in a downtown taxing district. The lodging tax maximum rate was set at 3%. The actual rate however was subject to a cap based on the sum of sales and other lodging taxes. The combined rate could not exceed 12%. Sales taxes included state and local taxes. The 1986 calculation resulted in a 2.5% lodging tax. (State Sales tax 6% + city sales tax 0.5% + existing lodging tax 3% + 1986 lodging tax 2.5%) = 12 %). In 1991 the rate was adjusted to 2% as a result of the ½% increase in the state sales tax.
- The 2001 legislature amended the cap to 13% and, as a result, the lodging tax increased to 3%. In July 2009, the state sales tax rate increased to 6.875% and the lodging tax rate dropped to 2.625%. The reduction is estimated to decrease the lodging tax receipts by approximately \$650,000 annually. The receipts are dedicated to the convention center fund. The City is the only city with a cap.
- It is proposed that the 1986 law be amended to eliminate the cap.

Minneapolis supports:

- Increased property tax relief to those residential properties that will have significant tax increases due to the elimination of the limited market value program, tax levy increases and changes in the property tax base.
- Diversifying revenue sources for municipalities, including but not limited to street use utility, sales tax, and other user fees including infrastructure maintenance fees.
- Repealing the state sales tax on local government purchases.
- Restructure the property tax relief programs to base property tax relief primarily on the income of the owner-occupant of residential property.
- Direct the Minnesota Department of Revenue to provide information on state collected taxes by city in addition to the current county and regional reports.

Minneapolis opposes:

- Legislation including constitutional and statutory amendments, including levy limits, that would limit government revenues and authority.
- Unfunded mandated services or procedures imposed by the legislature on local governments.

Capital Bonding

The following projects were submitted by the City of Minneapolis to Minnesota Management and Budget and adopted as the City's bonding priorities for the 2010 Session.

1. Plymouth Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation	TBD
2. Granary Road	\$5.3M
3. 10 th Avenue Bridge Arch Rehabilitation	\$7.6M
4. Target Center Improvements	\$6.5M
5. I-35W 3 rd and 4 th Street Interchange	\$2.5M
6. Grand Rounds Scenic Byway Lighting Renovation	\$2.0M
7. 35W South and 35W North Storm Tunnel Preservation Projects	\$2.0M
8. Hiawatha LRT Corridor Development	\$6.5M

The City of Minneapolis supports continued metro-wide efforts to secure bonding funds for local inflow and infiltration and other stormwater projects.

Minneapolis supports bonding for statewide bridge replacement and rehabilitation and the Transit Capital Improvement Program including funding for Bottineau, Cedar, Central, Northern Lights Express, 35W and Southwest transit corridors.

Public Safety

Keeping residents and visitors safe is a top priority for the City of Minneapolis.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

General Public Safety

- Funding for the entire public safety system, including such critical functions as police, fire, prosecutors, public defense, communication systems, probation, the courts and victim services. Providing public safety, a core responsibility of local government, is threatened by insufficient funding.
- Changing the criminal code to address chronic offenders of indecent exposure laws and allowing for enhancement to felony level offenses.
- Creating a statewide coordinated plan for dealing with released sex offenders that addresses the overall concentration of offenders located within the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County and especially mitigates the concentration of sex offenders within vulnerable neighborhoods. To ensure this equitable distribution of sex offenders, the State must fund additional housing options and placement of half-way houses and should require the county of commitment to bear financial responsibility for released offenders.

- Prohibit carrying a pistol with a blood-alcohol concentration of .08 or more.

Prostitution and Human Trafficking

- Efforts to reduce prostitution and human trafficking.
- Streamlining statutes in order to more effectively prosecute prostitution-related offenses.
- Legislation designating funding for treatment and creation of transitional housing programs to support prostituted people.-

Domestic Abuse

- Amend the existing definition of “family or household members” to clarify that it does include persons *formerly* involved in such a relationship.
- Strengthen the existing domestic abuse no contact order statute to provide increased safety for victims and to enable police, prosecutors, probation and the courts to hold domestic abuse offenders who violate those orders more accountable
- Amend the domestic abuse gross misdemeanor statute to remove the requirement that the prior qualified offense be against a family or household member.
- Improve the processes to access court records.

Traffic and Driving Offenses

- Allowing for a gross misdemeanor and increasing penalties for careless driving offense if driving conduct results in a fatality or great bodily harm.
- Extend sunset or make permanent Department of Public Safety pilot program for drivers who drive after cancellation, suspension or revocation.

Minneapolis Supports:

General Public Safety

- Continued funding for re-entry programs and efforts to coordinate the programs with existing opportunities. Legislation supporting the re-entry of ex-offenders into their communities, such as voting rights, public/private training and employment programs, and access to affordable housing.
- Sufficient funding for General Assistance Medical Care and other programs that fund mental health treatment and other safety net services.
- Protecting the human rights of immigrant populations and establishing a culture of mutual trust between law enforcement and immigrant populations to foster greater community public safety.
- On a state-wide basis, imposing a wholesale level impact fee equivalent to a per-drink surcharge on alcoholic beverages and using the proceeds for public safety, crime prevention and rehabilitation of offenders.
- Initiatives to address livability crimes, including continued and increased state funding for restorative justice programs.
- Legislation supporting significant gun control measures including the mandatory reporting of any lost or stolen firearm, strengthening laws regulating the transfer of firearms, the prohibition of possessing replica guns in public, and measures to stop the flow of handguns to youth.
- Full exploration of the provision of forensic science services to law enforcement agencies in Hennepin County.
- Allow law enforcement to withhold data when access to the data would reveal the identity of a victim of or witness to a crime and the agency reasonably determines that revealing the identity of the victim or witness would threaten the personal safety or property of victims or witnesses in that case.

Domestic Abuse

- Legislation disqualifying an offender who violates a domestic abuse no contact order or interferes with an emergency call from owning or possessing a pistol.

Traffic and Driving Offenses

- Legislation enabling cities to efficiently leverage public safety resources by allowing the use of technology such as photo enforcement.
- Legislation making it a crime to drive under the influence of any drug that makes a person an unsafe driver, including THC.
- Amending the driving while impaired statute to change to .16, the level at which a person's alcohol concentration becomes an aggravating factor, allowing prosecutors to charge such an offense at a higher level.
- Amending the reckless or careless driving statute to address aggressive driving perpetrated with malicious intent.
- Establish an aggravating factor to the driving while impaired statute for having caused an accident resulting in property damage or physical injury to another person.

Vulnerable Adults

- Strengthening laws regarding the health, safety and wellbeing of vulnerable adults, including indecent exposure and neglect laws.

Fire Safety

- Mandated fire sprinklers in certain facilities such as large homes, nursing homes, high rises.
- Required inspections by the State Fire Marshall to include private schools, assisted living facilities and resorts.

General Changes to Criminal Code

- Legislation that would prohibit the solicitation of business at the scene of a mass casualty or disaster.
- Amending the burglary statutes to make it a crime for a person to enter a building without consent and commit invasion of privacy offenses.
- Legislation creating tougher penalties for offenders convicted of tagging, which includes the suspending of drivers' licenses for up to one year; and also support a statewide age limit on the purchase of spray paint.
- Allowing "any equivalent crime in another state" to be added to the increased penalty for certain misdemeanors statute and clarifying when prosecutors may charge offenders.
- Allow for enhanced criminal penalties for injuries caused to animal control officers.
- Create a misdemeanor to refuse to submit to a chemical test, if a peace officer has lawfully placed a person under arrest for carrying a pistol in public while intoxicated.
- Establish a gross misdemeanor for assault against code enforcement officers while they are performing their duties.

Minneapolis Opposes

- Oppose the expansion of fireworks.
- Efforts to decriminalize misdemeanor and livability-related offenses.
- Efforts to reduce the effective use of the Automated Pawn System (APS), to promote cooperation between law enforcement and the pawn industry, to enhance the ability to identify illegal activity and recover stolen property.

Pension Sustainability

The Plan for Sustainable Pensions: Funding and Securing the Police and Fire Relief Associations.

In 1980, the Minneapolis Police Relief Association (MPRA) pension fund and the Minneapolis Firefighters' Relief Association (MFRA) pension fund were "closed" to new members. City

employees who would have been eligible for enrollment in those plans were enrolled in the Public Employees Retirement Fund (PERA) from that point on.

The MPRA and MFRA pension plans need to achieve full funding and secure pension benefits without undue burden to Minneapolis taxpayers. The City of Minneapolis supports merging MPRA and MFRA into PERA under the following principles:

- 1. Pension benefits based on a proper determination of amounts under state law, by-laws of pension plan, and court orders.**
- 2. Fixed annual city and state contributions sufficient to fund remaining unfunded liabilities.**
- 3. City approval**
- 4. Assure the continuation of retiree base benefits as required by law.**
- 5. Balance retiree and taxpayer interests.**
- 6. Simplify and link the annual cost of living adjustments in a manner consistent with other governmental pension plans.**
- 7. Establish a schedule of City contributions to fully fund the plans by 2020.**

The City's sustainability plan includes the following actions that require legislative approval followed by City Council approval:

- 1. Ensure that retirees receive consistent cost of living adjustments.** This could be achieved by replacing the annual change in unit value with a cost of living adjustment equal to or comparable with what other police and fire retirees in Minnesota receive.
- 2. Change the structure of governance for the closed funds.** The current administrative structure should be replaced with the Public Employee Retirement Association (PERA) and all of the funds' assets should be managed by the State Board of Investment (SBI). This will save significantly on the cost of administering these small funds.
- 3. Fund these plans consistent with the requirements of statewide pension plans.** The City's funding commitment will begin when the sustainability plan is approved by the legislature, agreement is reached on actuarial assumptions, the change in administration of the plans occurs, cost of living adjustments are linked to the COLA changes for similar Minnesota pension plans, and City Council approval is made.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

The City will in 2011:

- Pursue legislation that will merge the Minneapolis Police Relief Association (MPRA) and the Minneapolis Fire Relief Association (MFRA) into PERA - Police and Fire with an effective date no later than December 31, 2012. The merger plan will include continued financial contributions from the city and state of Minnesota, continuation of basic pension benefits that are at least equal to current levels as required by law, cost of living adjustments consistent with other PERA - Police and Fire retirees and a plan to transfer each plan's assets to PERA - Police and Fire at least six months prior to the effective date of the merger.

Minneapolis opposes:

- Legislation increasing benefits to MFRA and MPRA members until such time that a sustainable solution to ensure the long-term health of the funds can be reached.

Transportation

The City supports increased funding for transit and highways that includes stable and secure financial resources to meet both the capital and operational needs of the expanding regional transit systems.

Minneapolis supports funding for all modes of transportation and puts a high priority on model options that provide alternatives to the use of single occupancy vehicles and supports legislation that requires that all state funded transportation projects consider appropriate accommodations for all transportation modes.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

- Funding to complete development of the Central Corridor LRT line
- Funding for Southwest Corridor and Bottineau Boulevard and Northern Lights Express
- Funding for the state's portion of high speed rail funds for a Chicago to Twin Cities route
- Funding of all other transit corridors which help build a complete transit system.
- New funding mechanisms for alternative transportation ideas including street cars
- Funding for 35W BRT improvements including funds for a Lake Street Station
- Funding for traffic mitigation efforts in and around the University of Minnesota made necessary because of the Washington Avenue Central Corridor LRT alignment
- Adequate funding for transit operations without reductions in metropolitan development funds
- Legislation creating alternative sources of revenue for transportation improvements, including local authority to create and make use of a street utility, new forms of Tax Increment Financing and the repealing of special laws that limit the City of Minneapolis' authority more than other cities in Minnesota.

Affordable Housing & Homelessness Prevention

Minneapolis has adopted and implemented policies to provide lifecycle housing throughout the City. Providing all residents with safe, quality and affordable housing is a priority in Minneapolis. In cooperation with public and private partners, the City has assisted in the production of affordable rental and owner-occupied housing.

The City's efforts in providing affordable housing have been slowed by the mortgage foreclosure crisis and the tightening of credit to potential homeowners. While the federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) has helped, additional resources are needed.

Recognizing that limited resources are available, Minneapolis plans to achieve its housing goals by partnering with local and statewide housing advocates and agencies, including MinnesotaHousing, and several nonprofit organizations.

Other affordable housing priorities in Minneapolis include safeguarding the current MHFA MinnesotaHousing programs that serve low-income residents.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

- Policies that prevent mortgage foreclosures, secure and reoccupy vacant and abandoned properties, and help stabilize communities that have suffered from foreclosures and abandonment. Such policies include but are not limited to:
 - Improved notices of foreclosures to cities and renters
 - Modifications of mortgage terms
 - Increased availability and public awareness of counseling services
 - Modifying the foreclosure process to provide additional time prior to the sale
 - Maintain owner occupancy of foreclosed homes by current or new owner occupants
 - Lender-owner mediation
 - Funding for local governments or non-profits to purchase homes for owner-occupancy
 - Ensure that tenants' rights are protected in such arrangements as lease-to-own contracts
- Appropriations for Minnesota Housing at a level significant enough to have statewide impact on shelters as well as permanent, supportive, assisted and transitional housing that serve affordable housing needs throughout the State. The Legislature should also continue the homelessness prevention programs, including the outreach project and provide additional resources for housing preservation and mortgage foreclosure prevention programs.

Minneapolis supports:

- State income tax credits for affordable housing.
- Initiation of a state-supported land trust project.
- The initiatives to prevent homelessness by improving transitions from corrections, including ensuring permanent state funding for additional prison discharge planners and the creation and funding for a jail re-entry pilot project in up to five Minnesota counties.
- Repeal of the \$50 offset for households living in public or rent subsidized housing and receiving financial assistance from the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).
- Legislative action to eliminate tax incentives that encourage the conversion of single family housing to rental property.
- Funding, both capital and program, for the continued implementation of Heading Home Hennepin including capital funding for the equal opportunity center.
- Prospective repeal of the relative homestead property tax classification.
- Efforts including the ability of cities to acquire or hold properties to preserve neighborhoods impacted by the concentration of foreclosures

Municipal Governance

Minneapolis' ability to conduct business in an orderly and efficient manner is frequently regulated by state law.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

- Legislation repealing the numerous special laws that had been enacted between 1960 and 2002 establishing specific unclassified appointed positions in the City of Minneapolis. In 2003, the City passed a special law that allowed the City to determine which positions should be in the appointed unclassified service.

- Support a state law allowing the Civilian Review Authority (CRA) to be granted limited subpoena power to compel the production of documents, records and other physical evidence to improve the quality of CRA staff investigations by obtaining information relevant to the allegations from entities outside the city organization.
- Legislation authorizing cities to conduct alternative voting methods including instant runoff voting and legislation that adopts rules to implement instant runoff voting or authorize the Secretary of State or cities to promulgate the rules.
- Amendments to state law so that reasonable conditions may be imposed uniquely to a given liquor licensee whether the license has already been issued or not and without passing an ordinance laying out the terms and conditions for that particular licensee.

Minneapolis supports:

- Legislation to assist the City in dealing with abandoned vehicles that are not claimed by their owners, including:
 - authority like that granted to private lot operator to bring deficiency claims against owner of abandoned vehicles for the cost of towing and storage of their car;
 - the creating of a statewide fund to assist impound lot operators in covering the costs of unpaid towing and storage fees not covered by the sale of abandoned vehicles;
 - other measures to reduce the costs associated with abandoned vehicles and the costs of operating one of only two public impound lots in the State of Minnesota.
- Legislation that eliminates outdated or unnecessary publications and permits cities to elect alternative means such as the web to publish notices and official proceedings.
- Legislation allowing local units of government to define “dependent” for purposes of group benefits for local government officers and employees.
- Legislation that would authorize state regulation of dog and cat breeders.
- Legislation that would permit qualifying nonprofit animal welfare organizations to provide subsidized spay and neuter services to animals belonging to low income persons.
- Support legislation to amend the Municipal Planning Act (MS 462.351 to 462.364) so that provisions for appeals to local government adoption or amendment of an ordinance, rule or regulation, final approval of the adoption or amendment, are consistent with similar provisions for county governments (MS 394.) For example, presently the appeal period for a local government land use decision is six years, while the appeal period for a county land use decisions is 60 days. A shared time frame provides certainty for units of government and citizens and creates a uniform standard. This also aligns the process with the timeframe for appeals of quasi-judicial decisions (MS 606.01) which is also 60 days.
- Legislation that removes barriers to, and helps to more readily facilitate regional and cross jurisdictional partnership, joint powers and shared service agreements.
- Legislation concerning the process and regulatory requirements for the placement of high voltage power lines in urban areas.
- Allow cities to require write-in candidates for municipal office to register ahead of time.
- Allow local jurisdictions to combine precincts for municipal and state elections.
- Establishing Early Voting in Minnesota.
- Support legislation that gives cities greater authority and discretion to grant zoning variance to respond to the unique land use needs of particular communities.
- Revise the state law to clarify that the collection of unpaid service charges may be ordered without regard to valuation and is not subject to the special benefit rule.
- Authority in State Building Code to enhance and enforce local green building regulations related to housing.
- Limit the exemption in 169.346, Subd. 3, which requires the dismissal of a parking violation or misuse of a disability parking certificate violation if the certificate holder or the vehicle owner comes in with a valid certificate, to use of permits less than 6 months old.

- Allow for the collection of unpaid fines on a vehicle that has multiple unpaid parking violations through such means as placing a deficiency claim on the owner of a vehicle with unpaid citations, a lien on the vehicle, or other measures that would force the payment of unpaid fines before a vehicle title can be sold or transferred or before a license can be renewed.

Minneapolis opposes:

- Legislation restricting the authority of cities to license industries such as pawnshops, massage establishments, tattoo and piercing establishments. Efforts to limit the authority of cities to set licensing and transaction fees that enable cities to recover their full regulatory and enforcement expenses.

City Livability

The City works to keep Minneapolis a desirable place to live, work, conduct business and play.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

General City Livability

- Legislation authorizing the development of a statewide aviation policy to diversify air traffic throughout the State.

Youth Violence Prevention

Traditionally, public policy has addressed youth violence primarily as a public safety issue. As a result, solutions to the increasing problem of youth violence have been sought through the criminal justice system. Increased arrests, longer sentences, and trying youth as adults, however, have not solved the problem.

By changing our perspective and instead addressing youth violence as an issue of public and community health and wellbeing, public and nonprofit partners are better able to work cooperatively with youth, parents, teachers, health providers and other stakeholders to protect youth and prevent violence. Viewed through the lens of public health, the City is recommending policies that:

- Establish competitive grant funds for existing state or local mentoring partnerships to increase the number of mentors statewide.
- Align existing state resources to fund prevention and intervention programs that address youth violence and associated risk and protective factors including but not limited to teen pregnancy prevention, school attendance, and community connectedness.
- Maintain state and federal workforce funding and policies to employ at-risk youth and youth reentering the community from the criminal justice system.
- Support policies that help local law enforcement track illegal guns and restrict the access of young people to illegal guns.
- Support funding for the Youth Violence Prevention Act of 2009
- Increased funding for youth development and early intervention programs including after-school activities and mentoring opportunities.

Public Health

- Maintain funding to community health boards for the State Health Improvement Program.
- Support proposals that will prevent childhood lead poisoning and promote healthier homes through the reduction of asthma triggers, and other indoor environmental health concerns.
- Expanding health care access and resources to help low-income persons obtain health care coverage and health services. Eliminating health disparities so that all residents can have

equal opportunity for optimal health. Support health care coverage for all that includes a comprehensive benefit set that emphasizes primary and preventive care and includes physical health, mental health, substance abuse, dental services, medications and quality interpreter and translation services. Support a system that is made affordable for patients and other payers by controlling both administrative and clinical costs, assures culturally relevant high quality care, and is easy for patients to understand.

- Sufficient funding for and improved access to General Assistance Medical Care, MinnesotaCare, Medical Assistance, and urban family planning programs.

Minneapolis supports:

- Sustaining the minor's consent law permitting adolescents to see medical providers for confidential reproductive, mental health and chemical dependency services.
- Strengthening physical and health education curriculum in schools to prevent obesity and promote healthy lifestyles.
- Ensuring efficient funding for public health emergency preparedness and response.
- Establishing and enforcing quality standards, and restoring and maintaining the funding for early childhood programs.
- Continued funding and retention of the Local Public Health Grant Program.
- Maintained funding for the Eliminating Health Disparities grants.
- Legislation to increase funding for public library operations and to exempt county sales tax proceeds from maintenance of effort requirements.
- The City supports and approves the Youth Coordinating Board (YCB)'s legislative agenda.
- Policies and enhanced funding to increase the number of children who can bike and walk to school safely.
- Legislation providing for gender-neutral marriage law, and enacting the Marriage and Family Protection Act.
- The use of Health Impact Assessments and funding to conduct them.
- Increased reimbursement for pre-school developmental and health screening, to ensure that reimbursements cover the actual cost of preschool screening.
- The Minnesota Health Plan Act, a single, statewide plan that would cover all Minnesotans for all their medical needs.

Minneapolis opposes:

- Legislation allowing the purchase of wine in grocery stores or other changes making it easier for minors to purchase alcoholic beverages.
- Legislation that further directs the City of Minneapolis on governance issues related to the neighborhood revitalization program.
- Efforts to further restrict access to health care programs for undocumented persons.

Environment and Sustainability

Minneapolis supports strong environmental policies focused on improving air, water and soil quality. The City will partner with county, state, federal and other jurisdictions to meet these objectives.

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

Extended Product Responsibility

- Support an Extended Producer Responsibility Framework approach that creates effective, and environmentally beneficial producer-initiated reduction, reuse and recycling programs to address the lifecycle impacts of products including greenhouse gas emissions from design

through end-of-life management, thereby reducing the local government responsibility for financing and managing collection and recycling activities.

- Support a Pharmaceutical Extended Producer Responsibility approach that creates effective and environmentally beneficial, producer-initiated programs to deal with a medications' lifecycle impacts such as illegal use and water pollution from design through end-of-life management so that state, county and city governments do not have primary responsibility for such efforts.

Minneapolis supports:

Stormwater/Wastewater Management

- Support increased state funding of stormwater management costs to local governments for rehabilitation of existing infrastructure and costs associated with stormwater projects necessitated by impairments to water bodies through Total Maximum Daily Load or TMDL studies. Support increased assistance costs associated with surcharges for excess inflow and infiltration, combined sewer overflows and flood mitigation. Priority should be given to projects that solve more than one stormwater problem and that also emphasize water quality. Future legislation should also ensure that the Metropolitan Council is eligible for all appropriate waste water funding programs and recognize the upcoming costs of stormwater management infrastructure and operation on municipalities from new regulatory mandates and load reduction requirements.

Municipal Waste and Recycling

- Establishing rules for the licensing of facilities to accept mixed co-compostable organic materials.

Low Carbon Fuel Standard

- Support passage of a Low-Carbon Fuel Standard to reduce carbon impact of transportation fuels in Minnesota at least 10% by 2020. The LCFS is performance-based, greenhouse gas standard targeting transportation fuels sold in the state. It does not promote specific technologies. California has already adopted a similar measure.

Climate Change Financial Incentives

- Support legislation that would provide local governments and non profits the same tax and financial incentives provided to private individuals and businesses for global warming initiatives including energy efficiency. This could include, but not be limited to consultants, fleets, fuels, renewable energy, capital projects, appliances and equipment purchases.

Solar

- Solar as a clean, affordable energy technology is lagging in Minnesota when compared to other states. Support incentives, mandates, and policies that increase solar photovoltaic and thermal production for both public and private entities.

Land Use Impacts on Climate Change

- Support amending the Met Council's comprehensive planning process to incorporate global warming reduction targets.
- Support creating financial incentives for metro and greater Minnesota communities land use planning that would achieve global warming pollution reduction goals.
- Support amending the statutory goals of MnDoT to include a reduction in per capita vehicle miles driven and propose changes in other state agencies' goals or mission that can also foster reduction of global warming pollution through more efficient land use patterns and reduced need for driving.

- Support requiring analysis of energy use and direct and indirect greenhouse gas emissions as part of the environmental review of projects that currently require review.

Artificial Turf

- Support previously proposed legislation to conduct health study of synthetic turf and crumb rubber adding a comparable analysis of alternatives.

Trees

- Support legislation that will increase funding for incentives for tree planting and maintenance. In addition to a net loss of nearly 9,000 public trees over the past five years, the City has more than 200,000 trees, or 1/5th of its canopy, at stake with the impending arrival of the emerald ash borer. Planting the next generation of trees now will proactively mitigate the impact of the loss of these trees.
- Support research on insecticide to treat Emerald Ash Borer to determine effectiveness and impacts on human health and environment.

Local Food

- Support efforts that will remove barriers and provide incentives for expanding local food production, thereby increasing our food security, expanding green jobs, and reducing our carbon footprint.
- Support efforts to shift to a more sustainable food system that will increase consumption of healthy foods, thereby improving nutrition and reducing obesity and chronic disease.
- Support efforts to ensure equitable distribution of food and expand access to healthy, sustainably produced, locally grown food for people with low incomes.

Green Chemistry

- Support incentives for manufacturers to stop using chemicals and instead look towards sustainable products and processes. Not only would this legislation protect our health and environment, but it would also promote business and job growth in this clean industrial sector.

Electric Vehicles

- Support efforts to promote electric vehicles and charging stations development in Minnesota.

Jobs and Economic Development

Priority issues for Minneapolis:

Redevelopment and Economic Development

Minneapolis supports state financial assistance for redevelopment-related infrastructure improvements and economic development for cities throughout the state. The assistance should incorporate policies encouraging green manufacturing, and sustainability. Therefore the 2011 Minnesota Legislature should:

- increase resources for the redevelopment fund
- provide resources for sustainable development including green manufacturing;
- provide additional resources for the brown field cleanup program

Workforce

The City of Minneapolis has operated a jobs and training program that assists youth and adults in obtaining jobs skills and employment. The programs are funded with state and federal resources.

Since 2006, the City has received a state appropriation for summer youth employment. The appropriation has provided approximately 1000 young people with jobs. The City supports:

- increased funding for the summer youth employment program and adult job training and employment programs.

Minneapolis supports:

- Statewide Tax Increment Financing (TIF) legislation for redevelopment districts that will facilitate the clean-up and redevelopment of property and transit-oriented development.
- "This Old House" program, a 10-year tax deferral on improvements made to houses built prior to 1960.
- Seek clarification that parkland dedication may be required outside of a platting/subdivision process and that a flat fee may be used for residential development. Has been included in previous legislative agendas.
- Authorizing the transfer of the proceeds of contamination tax to the clean-up grant account.
- Continuation of the Livable Communities Act programs.
- Increase funding for the Minnesota Historical Society's Historical and Cultural Grant Program.
- Extension of the state emergency unemployment benefits for those persons who do not qualify for federal benefits because they do not meet federal minimum earnings requirements.
- Allows cities to use Design-Build process for local project.
- The legislature directing the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDoT) to provide opportunities for private businesses to lease air rights on MnDoT properties.
- Amend eminent domain statute in response to MN Supreme Court decision holding that the fair market value of contaminated property in a condemnation proceeding is the value of the property as if the contamination had already been remediated.
- Legislation creating employment guidance for state transportation projects and state bond funded projects regarding the recruitment and engagement of individuals and companies from communities experiencing high rates of unemployment, including from communities of color.

Eliminating Racial and Gender Disparities

The City of Minneapolis supports policies to eliminate racial and gender disparities in employment and create employment opportunities for communities of color and women throughout the state.

- Policies that reduce access to and use of credit information and criminal records by employers, including mandated notification to job applicants of access to credit and criminal background check reports.