



MINNESOTA INTER-COUNTY ASSOCIATION

2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



BENTON • BLUE EARTH • CARVER • CHISAGO • CROW WING • DAKOTA • OLMSTED • OTTER TAIL • RICE • SCOTT • SHERBURNE • STEARNS • ST. LOUIS • WASHINGTON • WINONA

MISSION ★ VISION ★ VALUES

Mission

MICA supports County success through state policy advocacy, research, and analysis.

Vision

MICA is a source of innovative and cost-effective policy solutions that enhance equity and improve outcomes for Minnesotans.

Values

- ★ Integrity
- ★ Inclusiveness
- ★ Stewardship
- ★ Evidenced-based decision-making



2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

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TAX AND FISCAL POLICY PRIORITIES

MICA supports and urges the 2023 Legislature to:

- Increase County Program Aid (CPA) and Payment-In-Lieu of Tax Payments (PILT), and Index both to Inflation.
- Set Driver's License Agent Fees to Fully Cover the Issuance Costs for REAL-ID-Compliant Driver's Licenses and Related Costs.
- Ensure Sufficient Annual State Funding to Complete Border-to-Border Broadband.
- Enact a Refund Exemption for All Sales Tax Paid on Construction Materials for Use by Local Governments.



- Exempt counties from the sales tax on motor vehicles used for road maintenance, similar to the treatment of townships under current tax law.
- Reform payment in lieu of tax aid (PILT) for acquired natural resource lands.
- Adjust the Homestead Market Value Exclusion levels to support homeowner property tax relief.
- Maintain local control over property tax levy decisions and enhance transparency by streamlining public notice and state requirements to:
 - *allow counties to align preliminary tax statement and truth in taxation notification requirements with taxpayer preferences, including allowing for optional notification by mail.*
 - *not mandate additional, overly prescriptive financial or budget reporting requirements, or at least not without relieving counties of existing, multiple budget reporting requirements and/or eliminating expensive budget and financial statement publication requirements, especially when web publication better serves the information needs for the vast majority of the public.*
 - *prohibit time-wasting data practices requests from out of state "Finders" firms to counties and other local governments for lists of uncashed checks and their recipients before those checks are turned over to the state.*
 - *not reimpose levy limits, and not enact property tax freezes or reverse referendums on proposed property tax increases.*
 - *bring consistency to the determination of net tax capacity for property classes with two class rates.*

Go to WWW.MICA.ORG for a full description of these Legislative Priorities.

TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES

MICA supports and urges the 2023 Legislature to:

- **Fund federal IJIA Match Requirements that are then Sustained by Comprehensive Funding from Constitutionally Dedicated Revenues for Roads & Bridges and Dedicated Transit Funding.**
- **Appropriate \$200 Million in Bonds for the Bridge Replacement Program and \$250 Million in Bonds for the Local Road Improvement Program and Grants.**
- **Establish Base Funding for the Local Road Wetland Replacement Program.**
- **Retain the Distribution of Proceeds from the Sales Tax on Leased Vehicles Established in 2017.**
- Transfer 100% of funds from Sales Tax on auto parts from the General Fund to the Highway Users' Tax Distribution Fund.
- Improve the eminent domain appraisal process for property owners.
- Maintain current law related to setting speed limits on county roads.
- Provide transit funding.
- Provide state support for funding of turnback roads.
- Assure the integrity of the highway user tax distribution fund and oppose efforts to divert revenues dedicated to transportation.
- Require state water and wetland permitting agencies to implement recommendations to streamline the water and wetland permitting process.
- Make unprotected railroad crossings safer.
- Impose no additional increase in truck weights in 2023.
- Keep local decision-making authority on seasonal road restrictions.
- Maintain local decision-making authority on road right-of-way matters.



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PUBLIC HEALTH PRIORITIES

MICA supports and urges the 2023 Legislature to:

- **Strengthen the Local Public Health System to Protect the Health and Safety of All Minnesotans:**
 - **Provide Reliable Funding to the Local Public Health Grant.**
 - **Provide Reliable Funding and Increase Capacity for Local Public Health Emergency Planning, Preparedness, and Response.**
 - **Provide Reliable Funding for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control.**
- **Allocate Stable Funding for Family Home Visiting.**
- **Invest in Mental Health and Adopt Mental Health and Well-Being Framework that Supports a More Comprehensive Approach.**
- Continue Health and Human Services waivers and flexibilities.
- Streamline Minnesota's food safety system.
- Support advancement of technology to achieve efficiencies in provision and coordination of care.
- Ensure flexibility in use of funding for chronic disease prevention.
- Support opioid prevention/Settlement Fund.
- Expand reimbursable services for front-line health care workers.
- Prevent youth tobacco use addiction and vaping.
- Support evidence based public health approaches for the regulation of cannabinoid products if legalized.



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HUMAN SERVICES PRIORITIES

MICA supports and urges the 2023 Legislature to:

- **Evolve Health and Human Services Waivers into Ongoing Administrative Efficiency.**
 - **Dedicate State Surplus Funds to Modernize and Streamline HHS Programs and Technology.**
 - **Modify Human Services Financing:**
 - **Eliminate/Reduce County Cost Shares.**
 - **Eliminate/Modify Maintenance of Effort.**
 - **Modify Housing and Housing Support:**
 - **Increase Affordable Housing Stock.**
 - **Expand Metro-Wide Housing Support for the Homeless.**
 - **Increase State Investment to Address Workforce Shortages.**
 - **Ensure Strong investment Needed in State's Mental Health System:**
 - **Provide Bonding for Intensive Residential Treatment Services (IRTS) Facilities.**
 - **Sustain the Mental Health Infrastructure by Increasing Funding for the Adult Mental Health Initiative (AMHI) Grants.**
 - **Provide Medical Assistance Benefit for Children's Mental Health Services.**
 - **Address Eligibility Gap Between Elderly Waivers and Disability Waivers for Older Adults with Significant Mental Health Needs.**
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- A photograph of a young child with blonde hair, wearing an orange shirt, seen from the back. The child is blowing a stream of bubbles that float in the air. The background is a soft-focus green field.
- **Provide adequate funding for Child Protection Services.**
 - **Change educational neglect response from child protection to child welfare.**
 - **Allow virtual supervised visitation for Families Receiving Child Protection Services.**
 - **Align Minnesota's health records act with HIPAA.**
 - **Include county input in potential restructuring of Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS).**
 - **Increase access and targeted funding for the Basic Sliding Fee Childcare Program.**
 - **Ensure a Safe Harbor/No Wrong Door for sexually exploited youth.**
 - **Support and fund for implementation of the Minnesota Olmstead Plan.**
 - **Support the closure of unused foster care beds.**
 - **Protect counties from unintentional DHS financial errors.**

Go to WWW.MICA.ORG for a full description of these Legislative Priorities.

CORRECTIONS AND PUBLIC SAFETY PRIORITIES

MICA supports and urges the 2023 Legislature to:

- **Adopt A New State Funding Model for Probation Services and Increase State Appropriations to the Level Needed to Ensure Effective, Equitable Probation Services Statewide.**
- **Provide State Funding to Help Address the Mental Health Crisis in County Jails and Juvenile Facilities.**
- Ensure any bail reforms address programmatic impacts on county community supervision.
- Provide adequate state funding to counties and local governments for locally administered addiction response efforts.
- Provide base funding to all counties for emergency management planning and preparedness activities.

PENSIONS AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNANCE PRIORITIES

MICA supports and urges the 2023 Legislature to:

- **Maintain and Strengthen Funding Stability for PERA Pension Plans and provide full state funding for any benefits expansion.**
- **Fully Fund the Public Safety Officer Benefit Account under Minn. Stats. §299A.465 and Strengthen State Support for Treating Work Related Trauma Illnesses.**
- **Do Not Expand the Current Law Presumption that PTSD Workers Compensation Claims Are Employment-Related.**
- Ensure a pragmatic, phased, and universal approach to any state requirement for employers to provide paid family and medical leave.
- Reform the Metropolitan Council.
- Repeal the local government compensation limit (Minn. Stats. §43A.17, subd. 9).
- Support local control by eliminating or moderating state requirements that limit the ability of county boards to make certain compensation and benefits decisions.
- Amend state law to allow special elections to fill mid-term vacancies for County Attorney or County Sheriff.
- Amend open meetings law to appropriately accommodate elected officials experiencing medical conditions to meet remotely and/or from a non-public location up to three times per year.
- Maintain the current definition of disabled veterans and the preference points awarded to disabled veterans in recognition of their service to our Country.

Go to WWW.MICA.ORG for a full description of these Legislative Priorities.

ENVIRONMENT PRIORITIES

MICA supports and urges the 2023 Legislature to:

- **Reform the Solid Waste Management Tax and Allocate 100% of Revenues to Solid Waste Management Activities.**
 - **Increase State Funding for Solid Waste Management Infrastructure.**
 - **Maintain Waste-to-Energy (WTE) as an Eligible Energy Technology.**
 - **Strengthen Product Stewardship Requirements.**
 - **Increase State Aid for Aquatic Invasive Species and Establish Base Funding for Terrestrial Invasive Species Management.**
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- Ensure state resources are available for the long-term care of existing landfills.
 - Expand strategies to limit nitrates in groundwater.
 - Increase funding for the AgBMP (Agriculture Best Management Practices) administered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA).
 - Take state action to slow and mitigate the spread of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) including managing the resulting volume of wood waste.
 - Increased funding for implementation of the best practices identified in Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) developed under Minnesota Statutes 114D.26.



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**To learn more about The Minnesota Inter-County Association,
our 2023 Legislative Priorities, or our member counties, go to:**

WWW.MICA.ORG



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