

## 2025 Local Government Issue Prioritization Results

During the annual business meeting on December 13, 2024, AML members ranked a list of 28 issues by voting whether each is a low, medium, or high priority, or not relevant to their communities. The results show that AML members overwhelmingly call on the State to fulfill its obligations to provide basic services, like public safety, infrastructure, and education, without shifting costs to local governments. The issue prioritization results will help inform AML’s advocacy in the legislature in the upcoming session.

The full ranking is as follows:

Rank	Issue
1	State maintains an adequate level of services
2	Increase State funding for municipal public safety obligations (including police training, operations of Community Jails, and prosecutors and public defenders)
3	Cost-shifting of State expenses and programs to municipalities
4	Prompt payments of Community Assistance and other state payments or pass-throughs to municipalities
5	Increase investment in school construction and deferred maintenance (including by providing a Base Facilities Allocation)
6	Increase Community Assistance distribution and tie to inflation
7	Increase and inflation-proof the BSA
8	Oppose the transfer of maintenance responsibilities to municipalities as the requirement for transportation projects
9	Reinstate the Municipal Matching Grant program to help match or supplement local and federal funding for water/sewer systems
10	Address opioid epidemic
11	Increase compliance with fisheries bycatch regulations
12	State-funded water and wastewater operator subsidy
13	Sustainability of the Alaska Marine Highway System
14	Increase investment in training and workforce development for residents
15	Increase capital budget to address deferred maintenance (including through mechanisms such as general obligation bonds)
16	Maintain the authority of local governments to tax the extraction or production of local resources
17	Transfer of State land to municipalities
18	PERS/TRS: Return to a defined benefit plan as a significant tool for recruitment and retention
19	Oppose new or expanding mandatory property tax exemptions
20	Clean-up and remediation of PFAS-contaminated sites
21	Increase funding for adaptive fisheries management
22	Local control of licensing that contributes to economic activity
23	Resources for community relocation, adaptation, and resilience efforts, and climate action plans
24	Increase responsible resource development and reduce investment barriers alongside improved environmental risk management
25	Use PCE savings to reimburse municipal debt or investment in energy
26	Increase State revenue with a broad-based tax
27	Presumptions of compensability: Full State funding and the creation of a Presumption Trust
28	Include optional property tax exemptions in the calculation of the Full Value Determination for the education funding formula