

Greater Lake Minnetonka Area Legislative Coalition

1. The Need for Collaboration and a Unified Voice for Lake Minnetonka

Inefficiency of Solo Advocacy: Currently, individual cities expend resources to advocate on common issues, often duplicating efforts. A unified coalition provides greater efficiency and a stronger, consolidated message at the county & state level.

Maximizing Influence: A coalition representing the collective interests and residents of the Greater Lake Minnetonka area will carry significantly more weight and influence with state legislators and county officials than a single city alone.

Proactive Engagement: By pooling resources including potential allies out state, we can more effectively monitor, respond to, and proactively shape legislation and opportunities that impact our area, ensuring our voices are heard before decisions are finalized.

2. The Proposed Solution: Partnering with Carnival Berns P.A.

Experienced Advocacy: We propose contracting with John Berns and the firm of Carnival Berns P.A. to serve as our joint advocate.

Deep Bipartisan Relationships: John Berns and his team have a proven track record, having worked extensively with the entire legislature and holding personal relationships on both sides of the aisle.

This includes direct connections with leaders like Speaker of the House Lisa Demuth, House DFL Leader Zack Stephenson, Senate Majority Leader Erin Murphy, and Senate Minority Leader Mark Johnson, as well as committee chairs and nonpartisan staff at the state and county.

Broad Government Access: Their reach extends beyond the legislature, as they regularly work with the Governor's staff, state agency Commissioners and staff, and key local government leaders, ensuring comprehensive representation of our interests across all levels.

Relevant Background: Mr. Berns' experience as a former State Representative (District 33B) and an elected Wayzata City Council member provides him with a unique, insider perspective on both state and local government needs and processes.

3. Key Areas of Shared Policy Concern (ranked in order of priority)

Based on discussions among Lake Area Mayors, there are critical areas where coordinated advocacy is essential:

Protecting Local Control: Our top priority is maintaining local control over fundamental municipal functions—specifically zoning and land use regulations—to ensure decisions reflect the specific needs and character of our communities.

Regional infrastructure - advocating for investment in critical infrastructure for Lake area Communities.

Property Tax Reform: We aim to build a statewide coalition to advocate for property tax reform at both the County and State levels, focusing on fairness for Lake Area residents and taxpayers including transparency on tax assessment services

4. Financial Investment and Next Steps

Estimated Investment: The total estimated investment for this dedicated, high-level advocacy work is approximately \$30,000 plus an administrative fee of \$2,500.

Fair Cost Allocation: The contract will be held by one city, and the cost will be divided among participating cities via a pro-rata allocation based on the city's taxable market value and the number of housing units with a cap. In addition, a discount will be applied to the City of Deephaven who will hold the contract to account for the staff time to administer the contract. This ensures an equitable distribution of the investment based on relative size.

See attached

Call to Action: We are asking for your support for this collaborative approach. If you are aligned with this strategy, please bring this proposal (Carnival Berns) forward to your council for:

Approval of the partnership and the financial investment.

Directing staff to work with the City Administrator of the City of Deephaven designated to finalize the agreement and move forward with a unified plan of action.