



ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITIES

Dear City Official:

On behalf of the Board of Directors and staff, thank you for your membership in the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities (Metro Cities).

Metro Cities represents the shared interests of cities in the metropolitan region at the Legislature, Executive Branch and Metropolitan Council. This includes advocacy on issues such as transportation, housing, economic development, state aids, grant funding, regional fees, water supply, fiscal disparities, comprehensive planning requirements, and many others. Metro Cities alerts city officials on pending legislation of note, and lobbies state and regional policymakers on matters of importance for metropolitan cities.

Many bills of significance for metropolitan cities were considered, and some enacted, during the 2023 legislative session. Enclosed are highlights of Metro Cities' recent work and accomplishments.

Legislative policies serve as the foundation of Metro Cities' representation of metropolitan city interests at the Capitol and Metropolitan Council. Participation by city officials in this work is paramount to ensure that legislative policies reflect the shared objectives of cities in the region.

As the association gears up for its legislative policy setting process this summer, I encourage your involvement. Your participation gives your city a direct voice on policies. Policy committees allow city officials to get to know each other, to learn from each other, and to find common ground on issues.

Metro Cities is committed to providing high quality service for your dues. As your President, I will continue to advance Metro Cities' values of stewardship, partnership, quality, integrity, and leadership. I look forward to working with you over the coming year.



Jay Stroebel

City Manager, City of Brooklyn Park

2023 HIGHLIGHTS OF METRO CITIES' WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

LOCAL DECISION-MAKING AUTHORITY

Metro Cities opposed legislation that would impose one size fits all **statewide development land use policy on cities** and require local fiscal tools and policies to be immediately consistent with uses in long range comprehensive plans, regardless of timing, for metropolitan cities.

Metro Cities opposed legislation **requiring cities to allow natural landscapes**. This legislation passed into law.

Metro Cities supported legislation, now law, to allow local officials to participate in a meeting using interactive technology if medically advised, three times per year.

STATE AIDS AND TAXES

Metro Cities supported formula updates for the **Local Government Aid (LGA) program** to reflect current city needs, and an appropriation increase. These changes are now law.

Metro Cities continued to support legislation addressing the **construction sales tax exemption process**, which did not pass the Legislature.

Metro Cities supported modifications to clarify certain **tax increment financing** (TIF) statutes, which became law.

Metro Cities opposed **legislation expanding the 4d classification**. As this legislation advanced, Metro Cities argued for a sunset, transition aid and reporting to ensure property re-investment. The enacted legislation includes transition aid and a reporting process.

ELECTIONS

Metro Cities supported **funding for local elections administration** and legislation **protecting election workers** from intimidation and interference, both were enacted. Metro Cities opposed language, now enacted, that mandates **overly rigid requirements for local hours of operation** during an 18-day early voting period.

METROPOLITAN INFLOW-INFILTRATION FUNDING

Metro Cities supported a **\$12 million capital appropriation for metropolitan inflow-infiltration (I/I)** mitigation to assist metropolitan cities with mitigating I/I on public systems. This appropriation is now law.

Metro Cities participated on a task force of city and regional officials to make recommendations for private property I/I mitigation using regional funding and will provide further information as a program is set.

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL RELATED LEGISLATION

Metro Cities opposed proposed legislation to make the Metropolitan Council an elected body. This legislation did not pass, but the Legislature established a task force to examine the **governance of the Council**. Metro Cities was given appointing authority for a city official to serve on the task force and will closely monitor this work.

Metro Cities opposed legislation to impose one-size-fits-all requirements for metropolitan cities on **climate mitigation and adaptation content** in local comprehensive plans. The enacted law includes new regional requirements under which the Metropolitan Council and local governments can work collaboratively on plan content.

TRANSPORTATION

Metro Cities supported funding for the **Local Road Improvement Program and Local Bridge Replacement Program** as well as funding for **Corridors of Commerce, Safe Routes to School, and Active Transportation** programs. All were funded this year.

Metro Cities supported **increases to Municipal State Aid Street funding**, reliable funding for the **Small Cities Assistance Account**, and the **creation of a Larger Cities Assistance Account**, all of which were included in the Transportation bill.

Metro Cities supported appropriations for matching federal dollars from the **Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)**. New laws include matching funds in addition to technical assistance grant programs.

Metro Cities supported **state and regional funds for transit** operations and capital improvements. The legislature passed a 0.75% sales tax in the metropolitan region for transit funding, with revenue allocated to the Metropolitan Council and the seven metropolitan counties.

Metro Cities supported legislative proposals to ensure local **deputy registrars can function and meet evolving needs**.

2023 HIGHLIGHTS OF METRO CITIES' WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Funding was enacted to provide payments to deputy registrars based on transactions as well as a \$1 surcharge on filing fees. A report on the financial sustainability of registrars is due in January of 2025.



WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

Metro Cities supported state **funding to address PFAS/PFOS** included in the Environment omnibus bill. Metro Cities supported ongoing **funding included** in the bill to address emerald ash borer (EAB).

Metro Cities supported **funding for climate resiliency and water infrastructure improvements** in both the Environment bill and the Legacy bill passed this session. Metro Cities supported **funding for the local climate action grant program**, which also passed as part of the Environment bill.

Metro Cities supported **funding for regional parks and trails**, which received funding in the Environment bill, Legacy bill, and Capital Investment bill.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Metro Cities supported **flexible funding for cities to deliver public safety services**. The Tax bill included **\$300 million** in one-time funding, distributed on a per-capita basis.

Metro Cities supported **resources for local law enforcement** including crime prevention and crisis response grant programs, funding for equipment purchases, and training reimbursement funds, all of which passed as part of the Public Safety bill.

Metro Cities supported legislation making it illegal to possess, sell, and buy **catalytic converters** without appropriate documentation. This legislation is now law.

Metro Cities supported a change in law **establishing carjacking as its own offense**, which is now law.

Metro Cities actively supported legislative efforts led by the League of MN Cities for the public safety duty disability bill.

HOUSING

Metro Cities **supported state funding to meet local housing needs**, including funding for the Challenge program, housing infrastructure, the creation of a grant program to support naturally occurring affordable housing, and funding for local trust fund matching grants.

Metro Cities opposed a bill to establish a metropolitan regional sales tax for housing, as **state objectives such as housing should be funded using state resources**. The tax is now law.

Metro Cities opposed zoning preemption legislation that would **interfere with the ability of cities to set local land use and zoning policies**. Proposed legislation capped park dedication fees, imposed minimum density requirements, established mandatory statewide upzoning, and set limitations on a city's ability to impose aesthetic mandates and minimum square footage requirements. These proposals did not become law.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Metro Cities supported an increase in funding for the **Redevelopment Grant program**, as well as funding for the **Job Creation Fund** and the **Minnesota Investment Fund**, both of which were included in the Jobs bill.

ADULT-USE CANNABIS

Metro Cities worked with the League of Minnesota Cities and other local government partners to advocate for **local control and zoning authority, and revenue sharing for cities** as adult-use cannabis legalization was considered and enacted this year.

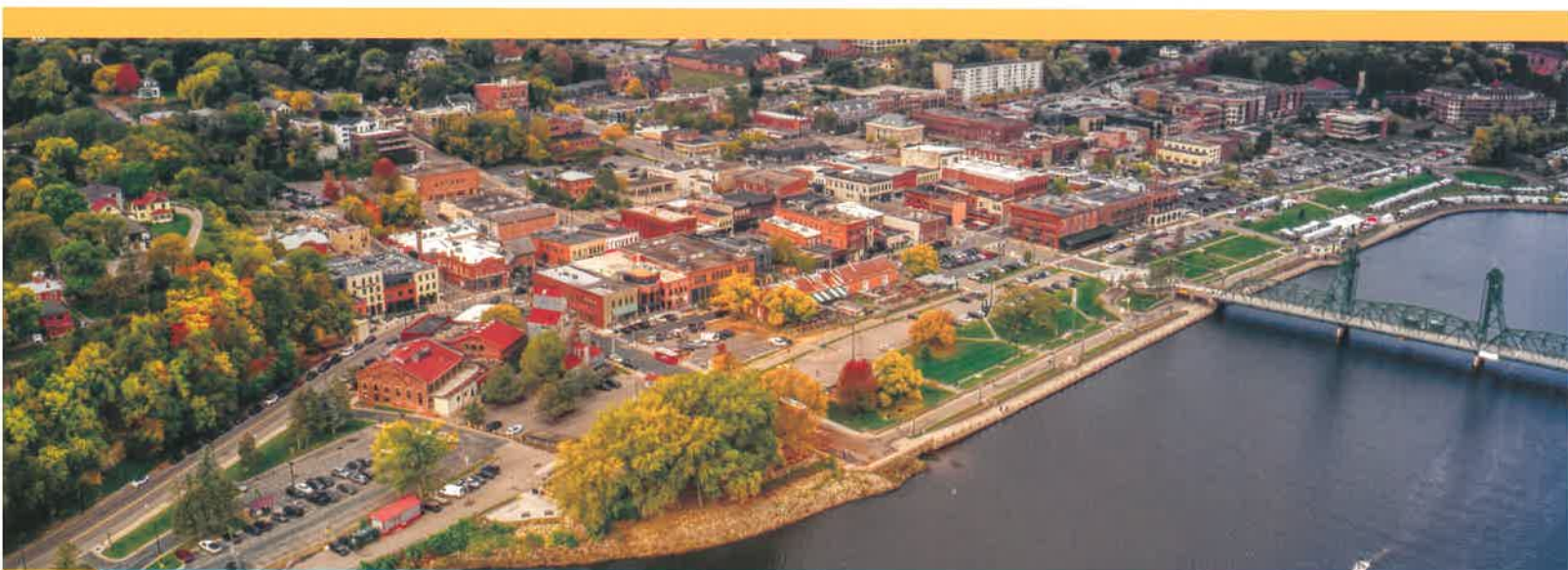
Metro Cities supported **zoning compliance requirements and population-based limits** on the number of retail locations in a given jurisdiction, which were included in the final legislation.

Metro Cities supported the creation of the **Local Cannabis Aid Account**, which will direct 20% of the 10% gross receipts tax on cannabis products to local governments.

2023 METRO CITIES MEMBERSHIP

Andover	Hopkins	Plymouth
Anoka	Hugo	Prior Lake
Apple Valley	Independence	Richfield
Arden Hills	Inver Grove Heights	Robbinsdale
Bayport	Lake Elmo	Rogers
Blaine	Lakeville	Rosemount
Bloomington	Lauderdale	Roseville
Brooklyn Center	Lilydale	St. Anthony Village
Brooklyn Park	Little Canada	St. Francis
Burnsville	Long Lake	St. Louis Park
Carver	Mahtomedi	St. Paul
Centerville	Maple Grove	St. Paul Park
Chanhassen	Maple Plain	St. Paul Port Authority*
Chaska	Maplewood	Savage
Circle Pines	Marine on St. Croix	Shakopee
Columbia Heights	Medicine Lake	Shoreview
Coon Rapids	Mendota Heights	Shorewood
Cottage Grove	Minneapolis	South St. Paul
Crystal	Minnetonka	Spring Lake Park
Dayton	Minnetonka Beach	Spring Park
Eagan	Minnetrissa	Stillwater
Eden Prairie	Mounds View	Sunfish Lake
Edina	New Brighton	Vadnais Heights
Elko New Market	New Hope	Victoria
Excelsior	Newport	Waconia
Falcon Heights	Northfield*	Watertown
Forest Lake	North St. Paul	Wayzata
Fridley	Nowthen	West St. Paul
Golden Valley	Oak Park Heights	White Bear Lake
Greenwood	Oakdale	Woodbury
Hanover *	Orono	
Hastings	Osseo	

*=Affiliate Member



BOARD AND STAFF

Metro Cities is governed by a 19-member Board of Directors of city officials from across the metropolitan area. Association staff include an Executive Director, two Government Relations Specialists and an Office Manager.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President

Jay Stroebel
Brooklyn Park,
City Manager

Vice President

Daniel Buchholtz
Spring Lake Park,
City Administrator

Past President

Matt Stemwedel
Coon Rapids,
City Manager

Bryan Bear

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City Administrator

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Chris Heineman

Little Canada
City Administrator

Laurie Hokkanen

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City Manager

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Mitra Jalali

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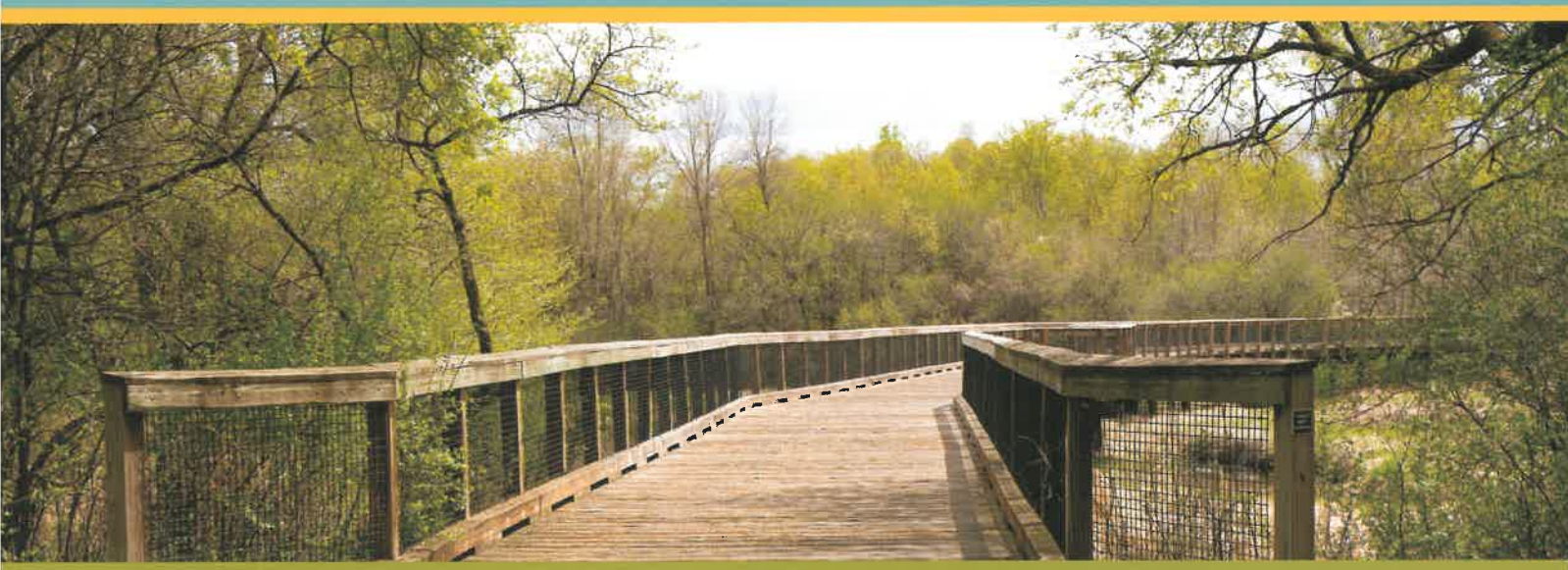
Government Relations Specialist

Michael Lund

Government Relations Specialist

Jennifer Dorn

Office Manager



HISTORY AND MISSION

Metro Cities is a lobbying association established in 1974 as the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities. The association’s mission is to represent the shared interests of cities in the metropolitan area at the state and regional levels of government.

Metro Cities is unique in its role in representing the shared interests of metropolitan cities at the Metropolitan Council. The association’s representation of city interests at the Council was a key reason for the formation of the association. The Metro Cities Board of Directors appoint city officials to the regional Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).



COMMUNICATIONS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Metro Cities publishes an electronic newsletter and issues legislative alerts and other communications to inform metropolitan city officials of pending legislative and regional policy and funding activity.

Metro Cities’ website includes published newsletters, legislative policies, and upcoming meetings and materials. The website also includes information and resources on specific key topics of interest to metropolitan cities. See our Policies and Resources page for information.

See our website at: MetroCitiesMN.org
Follow us on Twitter: @MetroCitiesMN



LEGISLATIVE POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Policies are developed and recommended by four standing committees that meet each year to review and recommend the association’s policies, based on input from member city representatives. Metro Cities serves as a forum by which metropolitan city officials can come together to share ideas, build consensus, and develop an understanding of other cities’ problems, concerns, and points of view.

Policy recommendations are transmitted to the Board of Directors and then to the general membership. Adopted legislative policies serve as the foundation of Metro Cities’ work at the State Capitol and Metropolitan Council. The 2023 policy adoption meeting will be held in November. Watch for details.



OTHER ASSOCIATION SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Metro Cities provides staff support to the Metropolitan Area Management Association (MAMA).

Metro Cities holds periodic forums on pertinent topics of interest for its members.

Metro Cities convenes an annual in-person meeting in April for Board of Directors elections and an annual virtual Legislative Policy Adoption Meeting in the fall.