

RESOLUTION NO. 1254

RESOLUTION APPROVING CITY OF WEST BRANCH LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of West Branch, IA wishes to work in partnership with the City's representatives in the Iowa Legislature; and

WHEREAS, the City Council, therefore believes that providing our state legislative leaders with the legislative priorities for the City of West Branch would benefit the residents that we serve; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa League of Cities has adopted 2015 Legislative Priorities and this document is attached as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the City Council supports these 2015 Legislative Priorities with a special concern for three policy areas:

- 1) Tax increment financing – We are requesting no changes to TIF law and believe that cities should be allowed to exercise local control on this issue.
- 2) Transportation funding – We are requesting that funding for road and bridge infrastructure is increased.
- 3) Wastewater Infrastructure – We are requesting funding and/or supportive policies related to wastewater infrastructure development to meet the demands of increased environmental regulation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the West Branch, Iowa, that the Iowa City League of Cities' 2015 Legislative Priorities be provided to Sen. Robert E. Dvorsky and Rep. Bobby Kaufman.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution urging no changes to TIF law, increased transportation funding and increased funding and/or the enactment of supportive policies related to wastewater infrastructure also be provided to Sen. Robert E. Dvorsky and Rep. Bobby Kaufman.

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Passed and approved this 15th day of December, 2014.



Mark Worrell, Mayor

ATTEST:



Matt Muckler, City Administrator/Clerk



2015 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Local Budget Issues and Decision-Making

Our citizens need and expect cities to provide safe communities and quality infrastructure, in addition to other valued services. City budgets are put under pressure to maintain or increase services and to comply with increasing regulations and mandates with fewer resources. These pressures placed on city budgets can make difficult decisions that result in lessening the amount of services provided or increasing costs to residents. Cities cannot have an impact on those cost-drivers outside of their control and need additional resources and the ability to make decisions at the local level.

City Finances and Property Tax Backfill: Diversify funding options for cities and continue to ensure the commercial and industrial property tax backfill.

Transportation Funding: Increase funding and resources for road and bridge infrastructure.

Pensions: Pursue systemic changes to the Municipal Fire and Police Retirement System of Iowa (MFPRSI) and also ensure fairness for Iowa Public Employees Retirement System (IPERS) through long term sustainability while controlling costs to cities.

Environmental Regulation: Provide funding for and supportive policies related to water and wastewater infrastructure development to meet demands of increased environmental regulation. Assess the need for additional resources or policies to address the impacts caused by weather and other natural events.

Public Safety: Ensure cities have the tools to adequately provide and fund public safety services for our citizens.

Economic Development and Community Vitality

Cities are drivers and partners for economic development projects and provide services that make attractive communities. They need a supportive environment to continue to attract economic development and to provide the types of opportunities that make appealing places to live.

Local Economic Development Programs and Policies: Increase funding levels for economic development programs and preserve economic development policies, including tax increment financing, as flexible tools for economic growth.

Community Growth: Expand resources and provide supportive policies for community development to provide for locally-supported initiatives.

Workforce Development: Provide programs and policies that further develop the skills and knowledge of our workforce to attract economic development.