



2016 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

At the 2015 fall conference, the MML membership approved the following two legislative priorities:

Recommended Priorities:

1. **Municipal Highway User Revenues.** For the seventh year in a row, the Committee decided that advocating for the restoration of Highway User Revenues should be a top League priority. The Committee endorsed a commitment to work with the General Assembly and administration to restore these important transportation funds and to ensure predictable, stable funding into the future.
2. **Program Open Space Funding.** The Committee also recommended that the League actively oppose any effort to divert Program Open Space (POS) funds from their intended purpose to the general fund. In past years, the General Assembly has balanced the general fund on the back of the POS program, to the detriment of local governments.

The MML membership also supported the following three statements of strategic engagement. These statements reinforce the importance of these three issues and ensure that should legislation be introduced during the 2016 General Assembly on any or all of these issues, the League will be in the forefront among stakeholders interested in addressing these specific topics.

Statements of Strategic Engagement:

Police Body Cameras. The League supports the use of police body cameras as an effective and transparent law enforcement tool. As this is an evolving issue, the League shall actively monitor and engage in the legislative process. Municipalities want to be active participants in the development of legislation and guidelines regarding when cameras are used, how footage is stored, and the release of footage under the Maryland Public Information Act. The League will also pursue funding opportunities that support the use of police body cameras on behalf of member municipalities.

Foreclosure/Vacant Properties. The League supports the passage of legislation and the creation of programs that improve transparency and accountability in the foreclosure process and facilitates the process of addressing vacant properties created both by foreclosure and owner neglect. Solutions should include facilitation of a process to place properties into municipal receivership.

Double Taxation Elimination. The League reiterates its strong and longstanding support for the elimination of double taxation through state legislation requiring a tax differential or tax rebate. Municipal citizens should not be required to pay property taxes to two governmental entities for services received from only one.