To: MMA’s Legislative Policy Committee

Fr: Kate Dufour, Director, MMA’s State and Federal Relations (SFR) Department

Re: Agenda Development and Adoption Process

Date: August 31, 2020

At your Sept. 24 meeting the SFR staff will be on hand to guide you through the legislative development and agenda adoption process. Over the course of the initial meeting and a second meeting scheduled for Nov. 5, you will develop the list of municipal issues and concerns you’d like the in-coming Legislature to address during 2021-2022 legislative session.

Over the years, MMA’s Legislative Policy Committee (LPC) has utilized the following approaches for developing its two-year legislative platform.

Multiple Bills Approach. When the economy is doing well and state aid programs are not at risk, the LPC’s platform normally contains six to 10 bills designed to improve existing municipally relevant laws or enact legislation to assist municipal leaders deliver local level programs and services. In the past, the LPC has advanced bills to improve election laws, amend Maine’s property tax exemption laws, and increase the value of the homestead exemption.

Single Bill Approach. In other years, however, the LPC has focused its advocacy efforts on the advancement of a single bill targeted at reforming existing laws or implementing complex legislation. For example, during the 2003-2004 session, the Policy Committee’s legislative platform focused solely on the implementation of the so-called “Question 1A,” which obligates the state to fund 55% of total K-12 education.

Protect the Core. During economically hard times, especially when state funding for local government programs (e.g., revenue sharing, homestead exemption reimbursement, local road assistance, etc.) is at risk, the LPC has focused its attention on “protecting the core.” Under this approach, the Policy Committee does not advance legislation, but instead is entirely focused on ensuring that the actions of the Legislature do not adversely impact important state/municipal programs and Maine property taxpayers.

Regardless of the platform approach chosen, the LPC still establishes positions on all bills of municipal significance. Those positions are established when the Policy Committee meets monthly from January through April.

Also, MMA is staff is available to assist municipal officials draft legislation, find sponsors, and submit proposals to the Legislature for its consideration. However, this offer comes with the caveat that MMA’s position on the legislation is established by the LPC.

In order to prepare for the September meeting, I am asking you to complete the attached survey by Sept. 10, 2020 and either email or fax it to me at kdufour@memun.org or 624-0129.

The information you provide will be consolidated into a single report for the LPC’s consideration, as it decides how best to develop the 2021-2022 legislative platform.

Thank you for your assistance.
Legislative Policy Committee
2021-2022 Legislative Platform Development Survey

Name: __________________________
Municipality: __________________________

1. Which of the approaches described in the cover memo do you believe the LPC should use to develop the Association’s 2021-2022 legislative session? Please choose one option.
   a. Multiple Bills Approach _____
   b. Single Bill Approach _____
   c. Protect the Core Approach _____

2. If you selected either the multiple bill (1a) or single bill (1b) approach, please use the table that follows to describe the legislation you believe the Policy Committee should advance this session. Please do not hesitate to use a separate sheet to describe other proposals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy Area</th>
<th>Description of Bill</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Example: Adult-use Marijuana</td>
<td>Require the state to share 25% of adult use marijuana sales and excise revenue in the community where the transaction occurred.</td>
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1. 

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Thank you for input.

Please email or fax this survey to Kate Dufour at either kdufour@memun.org or 624-0129 by Sept. 10, 2020.