SFAD – What we do

- Follow member-developed Core Principles and Legislative Agenda
- Testify before legislative committees
- Meet with legislators and staff
- Work with various State Departments and other interest groups as new policies are developed and implemented
- Provide information for you to talk with legislators
- Staff five internal issue committees
SFAD – Committee Process

• Staff five internal issue committees:
  
  1. Energy, Environment and Technology
  2. Land Use and Economic Development
  3. Municipal Finance
  4. Municipal Services
  5. Transportation and Infrastructure

• review legislation
• make recommendations to the League’s board of trustees, which then reviews the policy positions
The League at work for you

- Follow member-developed Core Principles and Legislative Agenda
- Staff five internal issue committees that:
  - review legislation
  - make recommendations to the League's board of trustees, which then reviews the policy positions
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The Michigan Legislature...

Makes decisions daily that impact communities

• 4,000 bills introduced each session on average; 2/3 will affect your municipality

• Michigan is one of only a handful of states with a true fulltime legislature

• You have year-round access to your state legislators
The League at work for you

...in Washington, D.C.

• Monitor federal legislation and budget that impacts communities

• Meet with congressional leaders and staff in Washington D.C.

• Work with the National League of Cities on legislative efforts
  • www.nlc.org
Day of a legislator

- Face hundreds of issues daily, majority of which are complex and they may have little background in.
- Always at work, whether in District or in Lansing.
- Lobbyist for nearly every special interest.
- Meet with many lobbyists each day.
- In the age of term limits, lobbyists also educators.
- Exactly why local officials must be proactive in educating their lawmakers.
Local concerns are complex

• Financial concerns

• Aging infrastructure

• Economic factors

• Personnel and human resources issues

• Again, many legislators have little experience with local issues = Be An Active Voice!
Help us help you

Stay Informed

• mml.org

• Inside 208 blog

• Sign-up on mml.org to receive action alerts, issue advisories and the weekly Legislative Link e-Newsletter

• Tell us when issues arise in your community

• Tell us when you will be in Lansing
Relationships with lawmakers

- Make it a priority to develop relationships with your legislators
- Talk regularly during legislative session on key issues
- Meet with them in district
- Let them know your priorities
- Build relationships with their staff
- Get connected with them on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc).
Say “thank you”

• Thank legislators and the governor when they help your community

• Ways to express gratitude:
  – Simple phone call
  – Favorable remarks at local functions
  – Acknowledgments on cable television, etc.
  – News releases
  – Press events
  – Council resolutions
  – Public letters
Invite lawmakers to town

- Invite them to local meetings
- Host roundtable discussions
- Provide opportunities for lawmakers to address local officials and the public
- Get them on your local T.V. stations, radio talk shows and in the newspapers
Constant contact

• Both when there is an issue and when there is not.

• Put your issues at the top of their “to-do” list:
  • Contact legislators frequently and repeatedly
  • Phone, email, letters (use our online Action Center for info.)
  • Never assume they know your position
Strength in numbers

Build coalitions

• Coalitions get the Legislature’s attention

• Other communities, associations, local groups can be effective allies

• An opponent on one issue may be an ally on another
Elevate the conversation – media

• Build relationships with media outlets in your area
  • Brand yourself as a helpful resource for reporters
  • Meet with editorial boards

• Information to Share:
  • Impact of state proposals / new bills on the community
  • Ceremonies / events
  • New community projects
  • Recently passed resolutions
Be active with the League

• Visit Lansing and spend time in our Capital Office!

• Attend League events like *Capital Conference*

• Build relationships with your legislators

• Testify before legislative committees

• Respond to League action alerts
Michigan Legislature Website

Becoming familiar with legislation and the Michigan Legislature’s website:

www.legislature.mi.gov
Don’t forget Congress

U.S. Reps. and Sens. need to hear from you too!

- Phone calls, emails, Capitol Hill visits
- Invite senators and representatives to your community when they are in town.
- Visit face-to-face on Capitol Hill
- https://www.congress.gov/
Legislative Team

• **State:**
  - Chris Hackbarth, Director, State Affairs
    - Municipal Finance, Appropriations, Labor, Elections
    - chackbarth@mml.org
  - Nikki Brown, Legislative Associate
    - Economic Development, Land Use, Municipal Services
    - nbrown@mml.org
  - John LaMacchia, Legislative Associate
    - Transportation & Infrastructure, Energy & Tech
    - jlamacchia@mml.org
  - Derek Tisler, Legislative Assistant
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• **Federal:**
  - Summer Minnick, Director, Policy Initiatives and Federal Affairs
    - sminnick@mml.org
Lobbying 2.0

Questions???