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 5 internal issue committees
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 full-time legislature

- You have year-round access to your state legislators
SFAD – COMMITTEE PROCESS

MML internal issue committees:

1. Municipal Finance
2. Energy and Environment
3. Municipal Services
4. Economic Development & Land Use
5. Transportation, Infrastructure and Technology

• Committees made up of League members appointed every two years
• Review legislation
• Recommend positions to the League's board of trustees
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
• There are lobbyists for nearly every special interest
• In the age of term limits, lobbyists also educators
• Local officials must be proactive in educating their lawmakers
LOCAL CONCERNS ARE COMPLEX

- Financial structure
- Aging infrastructure
- Economic factors
- Personnel and human resources issues
- Remember, many legislators have little experience with local issues
- Be An Active Voice!
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
HELP US HELP YOU – STAY INFORMED!

- mml.org
- Inside 208 blog
- Sign-up on mml.org to receive action alerts, issue advisories and League newsletters
- Tell us when issues arise in your community
- Tell us when you will be in Lansing
- Attend League events
CREATE 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
• Ask for their cell phone number
• Get connected with them on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc).
BUILD THAT RELATIONSHIP

• Invite them to local meetings
• Host roundtable discussions
• Provide opportunities for lawmakers to address local officials and the public
• Ribbon cuttings
• Say Thank You!
STRENGTH IN NUMBERS

Build Coalitions

▪ Coalitions get the Legislature’s attention
▪ Other communities, associations, and local groups can be effective allies
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

• U.S. Reps & Senators need to hear from you too!
TRACKING LEGISLATION

Becoming familiar with legislation and the Michigan Legislature’s website: www.legislature.mi.gov

- Look up legislation
- Track bills
- Find committee meetings
- Find legislators
Reading Legislation

- Bold language
- Stricken language
- New acts
- Single vs. multi-section bills
QUESTIONS?