



February 3, 2023 | nclm.org

The Weekly Recap

WHAT HAPPENED: The 2023 legislative session continued this week, at a pace typical for this part of the calendar. It's the long session of the General Assembly, which tends to ramp up slowly and methodically. But there are some important deadlines ahead.

WHAT IT MEANS: Bill-filing, for one aspect, continued this week, with proposals on a spread of issues, some of which have been considered in prior sessions but didn't become law. Neither chamber held floor votes this week, and the few committees that met to discuss bills didn't have anything of municipal interest on the calendar.

ON TAP: Don't let this year's [bill-filing deadlines](#) pass you by. They're vital in your conversations with your lawmakers, for example with local bills. The Senate's deadline for a senator to request that a local bill be drafted is this month, on Feb. 23. The House deadline for the same is March 1.

THE SKINNY: It's the early part of the session, but your attention to this space and awareness of the calendar matters. This Bulletin will be your go-to in the coming weeks as bills come forward of interest to cities and towns. Read on for more news relevant to the long session and how you can participate in the process.

Next 'Advancing Advocacy': Feb. 6

With the legislative session now in full swing, join us on Monday for the second in a series of our virtual Advancing Advocacy sessions, "In Session." This coming week, we will be focusing on one of the most contentious topics that cities face when it comes to

state policy: land-use planning. With the housing affordability crisis facing cities across the country and state, municipalities have been leading the way to try to find ways to create more affordable housing. The complexity of the problem, and those wide-ranging efforts, can get lost in policy discussions that sometime focus only on zoning.

[Join us](#) on Monday, Feb. 6 at 3 p.m. as we discuss the broad issue of housing affordability, heirs property proposals, and the land-use planning and building permit proposals that we could see at the General Assembly this year. We will also cover ongoing League efforts related to the topic. If you registered for our session on Jan. 30, you can continue to use the Zoom link that you received then. If not, or if you have lost the link, no problem. Just register [here](#). As always, it is free of charge. Hope to see you then.

Deadlines Ahead for Local Bills, Others

A whole host of issues can come before the legislature when in session, but there are deadlines for lawmakers to file different kinds of legislation. They include local bills, which have initial deadlines on the horizon. Please keep this in mind as you converse with your local lawmakers about legislation you'd like to see this session. Senate members have until Feb. 23 to request the drafting of local bills; House members have a March 1 deadline.

[See this full chart](#) from the General Assembly on deadlines for bill drafting and filing.

Legislative Goals Approved

After months of listening sessions, Legislative Policy Committee meetings and finally electronic voting by member cities and towns, the N.C. League of Municipalities has approved its Legislative Goals for the 2023-24 biennium. From 408 municipal goal proposals submitted through this process, falling into 50 distinct subject matter areas, 155 cities and towns approved a top 10 list of goals that now make up NCLM's final legislative agenda. Not surprisingly, infrastructure-related goals were again a top priority, closely followed by proposals involving keeping cities and towns financially healthy. Housing and law enforcement training were also top concerns of North Carolina's municipal leaders.

Here are the 10 Legislative Goals for 2023-24, along with the subject areas approved by the League Board of Directors:

RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

- Create an adequate and permanent funding stream for local infrastructure.
- Expand state transportation funding streams for construction and maintenance for municipal and state-owned secondary roads.

- Allow municipalities to use local resources and capabilities to expand broadband access in their communities through innovative partnerships.
- Expand incentives that encourage regionalization of water and sewer, as well as other municipal services, when appropriate.

HEALTHY FINANCES

- Provide local revenue options beyond property tax.
- Expand incentives and funding for local economic development.

VIBRANT COMMUNITIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS

- Revitalize vacant and abandoned properties with enhanced legal tools and funding.
- Expand federal and state resources for affordable housing.

RACIAL EQUITY

- Enhance state systems and resources for local law enforcement officer recruitment, training, and retention.

ADAPTIVE MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS

- Revise state contracting laws to better protect public entities from the effects of inflation.

You can also find PDFs of handouts – one listing talking points for each, and one a streamlined version – [here](#) and [here](#).

“Hundreds of cities and towns and their officials from across North Carolina gave their input and prioritized these legislative goals. These goals truly reflect the top priorities of all our cities and towns, whether small or large, and achieving them will move our economy even further ahead,” said Erin Wynia, NCLM’s Director of Government Affairs.

In addition to the voting, 111 officials from cities and towns participated in various in-person and virtual discussions, while the 65-member Policy Committee and NCLM Board of Directors played key roles in considering and narrowing priorities and developing goal language.

Cities, Towns: Let Us Know Your Goals

The League requests that member cities and towns share with us their own legislative goals for the new biennium underway. While the League has adopted its slate of legislative goals as shaped by municipalities (see above), individual cities and towns may have their own, written priorities for the sessions ahead. Please submit them to NCLM Grassroots Associate Abbie Britt at abritt@nclm.org. Thank you!



2023 Town & State Dinner: Register!

The N.C. League of Municipalities is proud to announce the 5th Town and State Dinner, a gathering of lawmakers and local leaders. This event provides an opportunity for our municipal elected officials to meet and build relationships with state legislators over dinner in downtown Raleigh.

The night begins with appetizers and refreshments, and a full plated dinner will shortly follow. Please join us Wednesday, Feb. 22 as we celebrate our communities and the leadership that makes their successes possible.

Legislators can register using the information emailed to them directly, or can contact us at TSD@ncml.org.

Local elected officials can register using the link below:

[REGISTER HERE](#)



WORKING AS ONE. ADVANCING ALL.

[CONTACT US](#)



Stay Connected with the North Carolina League of Municipalities

{{Companyaddress}}

[Manage Preferences](#)