

Resolution #2022-8

SUPPORT FOR PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES AND ACCOUNTABILITY

BACKGROUND

Montana cities and towns provide critical public safety services to the majority of Montana residents. Emergency response, law enforcement, and fire protection are important components of creating and maintaining thriving, prosperous communities. The League expresses its appreciation for the work of our local police officers, firefighters, emergency responders, and other public safety employees.

Our members expect the highest standards of conduct from all municipal employees and support appropriate disciplinary and legal action when an employee is found to have violated an applicable oath, ethics code, or a local, state, or federal law. Our members also expect all municipal employees to be transparent, accessible, and accountable, including in the provision of public safety services.

ACTION

The League will support:

1. Legislation and policies that ensure adequate equipment, training, and funding for municipal emergency response, law enforcement, and fire protection services. In particular, the League supports an increase in training spots at the basic law enforcement academy. In the absence of such increase in training spots, the League will support bills that will allow local law enforcement to be certified to provide its own training or send recruits to other certified training facilities.
2. Efforts to ensure public safety programs are funded at levels that keep our citizens and communities safe and provide the level of transparency necessary to maintain the public's trust.
3. Legislation and policies that assist and strengthen transparency, accessibility, and accountability in our communities, so long as the proposal includes the necessary funding or funding flexibility to enable municipalities to comply.
4. The League supports fixing the recreational marijuana statute to provide for the correct distribution of local marijuana tax funds to municipalities within a county by comparing the percentage of a municipality's population to the population of all municipalities in the county.

The League will oppose:

1. Legislation and policies that undermine the efficacy, responsiveness, or accountability of public safety systems or require municipalities to cut funding to other public services to comply with unfunded mandates imposed by the state.
2. While the League did not take a position on the ballot measures to legalize recreational marijuana, we will oppose legislation and policies that reduce or impede funding to address community impacts that may result from legalization.