

July 17, 2012



City of Tigard

Craig Honeyman, Legislative Director  
League of Oregon Cities  
PO Box 928  
Salem, OR 97308

Dear Craig,

The Tigard City Council discussed the League's 2013 legislative priorities at our meeting on July 10 and attempted to reach consensus on our top four priorities, but were able to identify just two as important to Tigard:

*A. Jobs and Economic Development Initiative*

*M. Defeat legislation that would extend or make permanent the moratorium on raising existing or levying new local gas taxes and/or any legislation that proposes to restrict or preempt cities ability to charge any transportation-related fee or tax.*

The spirit of all the proposed issues is that the League should be working to safeguard cities' flexibility to act locally according to the wishes of its citizens; and advocate for legislation that avoids restrictions on local control. The City of Tigard would support any protective measure that gives cities the greatest amount of control over its resources.

The Council was unable to reach consensus on other proposed objectives because we all felt we needed a better understanding of how these objectives might specifically impact Tigard and other cities of our size; and because of the extensive scope of issues that the League pursues for cities. In this vein, Tigard works to participate in the regional meeting process, but would welcome a more in-depth briefing by League staff about how these nineteen objectives evolved and how the League's work on them will benefit Oregon cities more broadly.

In the fall of each year, we invite our State Representative and State Senator to join us in the development of Tigard's legislative agenda. We would welcome participation by League staff in order to shed light on how the League's, and Tigard's, agendas can complement one another.

For that reason, the City of Tigard recommends that the League focus on the attached topics that we *could* find some consensus on for the 2013 legislative session. And of course, the entire Council continues to support major reform in revenue and land use law and their effect on local government. We appreciate your continued support for change in these arenas and thank you for soliciting the input of all cities in the development of the League's agenda.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig E. Dirksen".

Craig E. Dirksen  
Mayor, City of Tigard

cc: Angela Carey, Intergovernmental Relations, LOC | Marty Wine, Tigard City Manager

City of:

TIGARD

Please mark 4 boxes with an X that reflects the top 4 issues that your city recommends be added to the priorities for the League's 2013 legislative agenda.

**Community Development**

- A. The Jobs/Economic Development Initiative that supports funding for industrial site development.

**Energy**

- B. Energy Efficiency Strategy for Public Buildings.

**Finance & Taxation**

- C. Allow local governments a more flexible use of transient lodging tax revenues.  
 D. Restore equity in our property tax system by resetting assessed value to real market value when a property is sold or constructed.  
 E. Eliminate the 3% discount for the early payment of property taxes.

**General Government**

- F. Reform the court fines system in a manner that recognizes the value of both state and local courts.  
 G. Amend the public contracting code to remove costly requirements that do not aid in the delivery of public improvements and defend against any new requirements that do not serve the public interest.  
 H. Pass legislation that will allow cities greater authority to regulate liquor serving establishments.

**Human Resources**

- I. Eliminate the requirement that public employers provide subsidized health insurance for retirees.  
 J. Clarify that binding arbitration decisions may be overturned when those decisions violate public policy interests as defined by a local government.

**Telecommunications**

- K. Pass legislation renewing the 9-1-1 tax.  
 L. Defeat legislation mandating the consolidation of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs).

**Transportation**

- M. Defeat legislation that would extend or make permanent the moratorium on raising existing or levying new local gas taxes and/or any legislation that proposes to restrict or preempt cities' ability to charge any transportation-related fee or tax.  
 N. Continue to support the development of greenhouse gas emission toolkits and scenario planning models and standards for Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) cities as long as they are funded with new revenue and do not expose cities to additional litigation.  
 O. While supporting the creation of a dedicated, non-roadway transportation fund, oppose any attempt to fund it from existing revenue streams – especially transfers from local governments to the state.  
 P. Support legislation to supplement and perhaps eventually replace the gas tax as the principle road user fee funding the state's road and highway system.

**Water/Wastewater**

- Q. Recapitalize the Special Public Works Fund, Water Wastewater Fund, Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant Program, and the Clean Water State Revolving Fund.  
 R. Support state authority for Oregon Water Resources Department to act as contracting agency with federal entities to facilitate water procurement.  
 S. Advocate for toxic pollution prevention through proper collection and disposal strategies.