

# **Pennsylvania Municipal League**

## **2024 Resolutions**

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### **Resolution 1**

2020 Policy Review

### **Resolution 2**

Adoption of National League of Cities' 2024 Municipal Policy and 2024 Federal Action Agenda

### **Resolution 3**

Park Protected Bike Lanes

### **Resolution 4**

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### **Resolution 5**

Commonwealth's Responsibility to Pay Stormwater Fees

### **Resolution 6**

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### **Resolution 7**

Prohibition of Ghost Guns

### **Resolution 8**

Regulation of Skill Games

### **Resolution 9**

Equity, Fairness, Inclusion and Justice

## **Resolution #1-2024**

**Submitted by: The League's Legislative Committee**

### **Policy Review – 2020 Resolutions**

Whereas, The League adopted a policy review process in 2016; and

Whereas, that process establishes a review of adopted policy after four years; and

Whereas, the policy adopted via the 2020 Resolutions is up for review and has resulted in the following policy recommendations to the membership:

- Support for addressing unfunded liability of other post-employment benefits – Reaffirm
- Support for a temporary reduction in assessed value resulting from COVID-19 – Remove
- Support for altering the current standard to repeal an Act 111 arbitration decision – Reaffirm
- Support the repeal of the Consumer Fireworks Law – Replaced with Resolution 9 of 2022 regarding consumer fireworks data
- Support for wage garnishment tool to collect delinquent municipal claims – Reaffirm
- Support project delivery options for bidding construction projects as alternatives to the Separations Act – Reaffirm
- Oppose a blanket fee on all municipalities for State Police services – Reaffirm
- Support developing a process for removing a negligent locally elected official – Reaffirm
- Support recognition of local governments' role in public health – Reaffirm
- Support an alternative home rule process for Act 47 municipalities – Updated by (Resolution 9 of 2023
- Prioritize and support equity, fairness, inclusion and justice as an organization and within our municipal membership – Update and reaffirm by Resolution 9 of 2024

Therefore, be it resolved: The League's Policy Statement will be updated accordingly.

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*This resolution follows the policy review process adopted in 2016 to review adopted policies after four years. The 2020 policies are under review this year.*

## **Resolution #2-2024**

**Submitted by: The League's Legislative Committee**

### **NLC's 2024 National Municipal Policy Statement and Federal Action Agenda**

Whereas, Pennsylvania's municipalities are concerned with a wide range of issues at the federal level; and

Whereas, when appropriate, The League sets forth these issues in correspondence with the members of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation; and

Whereas, federal devolution has pushed the responsibilities for funding and administration of many programs onto states and localities; and

Whereas, federal devolution and the federal budget process continue to result in fewer dollars available for municipal programs; and

Whereas, municipalities cannot continue to meet the growing fiscal and societal demands for services and programs without their federal partner; and

Whereas, The League, as a State Municipal League member of the National League of Cities (NLC), takes its lead on federal issues from NLC; and

Whereas, NLC in its *2024 Federal Action Agenda* is asking Congress and the Administration to work in partnership with local governments to maximize support for programs vital to municipalities across the nation.

Therefore, be it resolved: The League reaffirms as its basic federal policy the *2024 Federal Action Agenda* of the National League of Cities.

Be it further resolved: The League reaffirms as its 2024 federal agenda, NLC's *2024 Federal Action Agenda*:

- Make Government Work for All Communities;
- Support A Local Workforce Pipeline;
- Build Safe and Healthy Communities;
- Prevent Federal Overreach of Local Governments;
- Increase Housing Supply and Stability; and
- Support Local Economic Growth and Opportunity

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*This resolution adopts NLC's 2024 National Municipal Policy Statement, as well as its 2024 Federal Action Agenda.*

## **Resolution #3-2024**

**Submitted by: The League's Legislative Committee**

### **Parking Protected Bike Lanes**

Whereas, a safe biking network is part of a comprehensive municipal transportation system; and

Whereas, parking protected bike lanes are a traffic safety tool that uses parked cars as a barrier separating motorists and cyclists; and

Whereas, this tool is used successfully in other states; and

Whereas, the Pennsylvania Vehicle Code currently requires vehicles to be parked within 12 inches of the curb, thereby prohibiting the use of parking protected lanes; and

Whereas, tools that give municipalities flexibility in designing roadways, utilizing various modes of transportation and promoting public safety should be easily accessible.

Therefore, be it resolved: The League supports amending Title 75 (Vehicle Code) to allow parking protected bike lanes by removing the requirement that vehicles must be parked within 12 inches of the curb.

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*This resolution calls on the General Assembly to amend the Vehicle Code to allow for parking protected bike lanes.*

## **Resolution #4-2024**

**Submitted by: The League's Legislative Committee**

### **Repeal of COVID Sick Leave Benefit for Police**

Whereas, in response to the COVID pandemic, the General Assembly passed Act 17 of 2020 providing sick leave to police officers who contracted COVID; and

Whereas, Act 17 amends the Heart and Lung Act and is outside of the normal sick leave benefits provided to police officers; and

Whereas, even though COVID is no longer the threat to public health and safety it once was, and Pennsylvania's state of emergency has been lifted, the Act 17 benefit continues; and

Whereas, this benefit is no longer necessary and is an added expense for municipalities.

Therefore, be it resolved, The League supports the repeal of Act 17 of 2020 and the use of normal sick leave benefits for COVID related illness.

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*This resolution supports repeal of the COVID sick leave benefits provided to police officers under Act 17 of 2020.*

## **Resolution #5-2024**

**Submitted by: The League's Legislative Committee**

### **Commonwealth's Responsibility to Pay Stormwater Management Fees**

Whereas, municipal authorities and second class townships are authorized to use stormwater management fees to defray the cost of unfunded federal and state mandates requiring stormwater management; and

Whereas, stormwater management fees are often levied based on the amount of impervious surface on each property; and

Whereas, all properties benefit from a stormwater management program, including state-owned property; and

Whereas, the Commonwealth has been unwilling to pay its fair share of stormwater management fees in communities that have levied them; and

Whereas, this refusal negatively impacts the rest of the property owners who ultimately pay more to cover the Commonwealth's share.

Therefore, be it resolved: The League supports legislation making it clear the Commonwealth and its entities is not immune from paying stormwater management fees.

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*This resolution seeks clarification by the General Assembly that the Commonwealth is responsible for stormwater management fees levied on its property or the property of its entities, such as universities.*

## **Resolution #6-2024**

**Submitted by: The League's Legislative Committee**

### **State Funding for Local Government Cybersecurity**

Whereas, local governments provide essential services to residents and any interruption in those services could have dire consequences; and

Whereas, ever evolving threats and recent cyber-attacks on local entities have brought cybersecurity to the forefront of municipal government; and

Whereas, while the number and scale of threats have increased, so have the costs for municipalities to maintain and improve their cybersecurity protections; and

Whereas, the federal government, through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, provided state and local governments with one time funding through the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program to assist with cybersecurity efforts; and

Whereas, the General Assembly is also considering cybersecurity legislation to provide local governments with funding – for example Senate Bill 1247, making a one-time \$10 million appropriation to start a state level local cybersecurity grant program; and

Whereas, while one time funding may be helpful in the short-term, local governments need ongoing support to keep up with ever-evolving cyber security technology.

Therefore, be it resolved: The League supports legislation that creates a sustainable, reliable and continuous source of funding to aid local governments in developing and maintaining cybersecurity initiatives.

Be it further resolved: The League supports the development of a state offered cybersecurity training program for municipal employees.

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*This resolution supports the creation of a sustainable and continuous source of funding for local government cybersecurity, as well as a state offered cybersecurity training program for municipal officials.*

## **Resolution #7-2024**

**Submitted by: The League's Legislative Committee**

### **Prohibition of Ghost Guns**

Whereas, privately manufactured firearms, also known as ghost guns, are sold in kits or may be 3D printed, meaning the firearms are untraceable because they do not have a serial number and can be purchased without a background check; and

Whereas, ghost guns have become more prevalent over the last few years and have been increasingly used in crimes; and

Whereas, according to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the recovery of ghost guns increased by 1,083 percent between 2017 to 2021, and to put it in a Pennsylvania perspective, the City of Philadelphia recovered 575 ghost guns in 2022, up from only 12 in 2018; and

Whereas, ghost guns are in violation of the PA Uniform Firearms Act, which requires all firearm buyers to have a background check and all sellers to maintain records of sales; and

Whereas, a rule published by the Department of Justice in 2022 places ghost guns under the federal Gun Control Act requiring kit manufacturers to obtain a license, place a serial number on the firearms and perform a background check on buyers; and

Whereas, the rule was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in August 2023; and

Whereas, House Bill 777 mirrors the federal rule and puts the three provisions of the rule into law in the Commonwealth, effectively banning ghost guns; and

Whereas, both the Cities of Philadelphia (in January 2021) and York (in May 2024) have passed legislation banning ghost guns within their jurisdictions; and

Whereas, in February 2024, the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court upheld Philadelphia's ban of ghost guns.

Therefore, be it resolved: The League supports the statewide prohibition of ghost guns.

Be it further resolved: The League also supports local government autonomy to regulate ghost guns in their communities if the state chooses not to pass legislation.

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*This resolution supports a statewide ban of ghost guns, and if the state fails to act, it supports local government autonomy to regulate ghost guns.*



## **Resolution #8-2024**

**Submitted by: The League's Legislative Committee**

### **Regulation of Skill Games**

Whereas, skill games have become more commonplace in the convenience stores, restaurants, bars and social clubs within our communities; and

Whereas, the courts in Pennsylvania have ruled that the results of these games are solely based on a player's ability, not on chance, making them unique from traditional gambling machines; and

Whereas, currently, skill games are not regulated or taxed in the Commonwealth; and

Whereas, the General Assembly has introduced legislation to require licensing for establishments and regulation for the placement of skill games, as well as taxing the revenue gained from the machines; and

Whereas, regulation of skill games will place greater demand on municipal public safety services and resources to ensure the proper enforcement of the law as well as the proper behavior of patrons and game players; and

Whereas, while waiting for the General Assembly to act, the City of Philadelphia approved legislation limiting skill games to establishments that has both a casino and liquor license and can serve at least 30 patrons; and

Whereas, the law passed by the City of Philadelphia highlights the importance of local decision-making.

Therefore, be it resolved: The League supports the local regulation of skill games.

Be it further resolved: The League strongly supports legislation that includes a local share of skill games' revenue to help with municipal public safety costs and enforcement.

Be it further resolved: The League strongly supports legislation that allows local governments to regulate skill machine game placement through zoning as well as allowing communities that do not wish to have skill games in their community to opt out.

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*This resolution supports the regulation of skill games and requests such regulation include a local share of revenue as well as the ability to regulate skill games machine placement through zoning and/or an opt out provision.*

## **Resolution #9-2024**

**Submitted by: The League's Legislative Committee**

### **Equity, Fairness, Inclusion and Justice Policy Update**

Whereas, municipal officials play a significant leadership role in their communities; and

Whereas, municipal officials' commitment to equity, fairness, inclusion and justice fosters health, safety and prosperity for the entire community; and

Whereas, all individuals no matter their race, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation have a right to live in their communities with dignity and freedom from discrimination; and

Whereas, The League supports municipal officials seeking to continue to educate themselves and increase their awareness to be able to fully serve and represent every constituent in their community; and

Whereas, municipal officials have an opportunity to lead by example by advancing policies and programs that benefit all citizens; and

Whereas, a solution includes a comprehensive look at policies, practices and procedures across all municipal departments, agencies and systems to advance policies and programs that instill equity, fairness, inclusion and justice; and

Whereas, this allows municipal officials to make data driven decisions about municipal wide equity initiatives to prioritize and allocate resources; and

Whereas, a sustained investment is necessary in the work to achieve equity and requires a long term commitment.

Therefore, be it resolved: The League supports local officials and staff in their work to advance the principles of equity, fairness, inclusion, justice and belonging and offers training to interested municipalities.

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*This resolution supports staff and local officials' leadership roles in the community to advance the principles of equity, fairness, inclusion, justice and belonging in every community in the Commonwealth.*