

## THANK YOU TO MISSOURI'S LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHAMPIONS!



*Every year at this time, MML reports on the bills of municipal interest that failed or passed during the recent legislative session. Often, the end-of-session report sounds similar to the one from the previous year. This “déjà vu” effect happens because legislation is never completely dead – it often returns in subsequent sessions of the General Assembly.*

*This past session was a little different. Yes, we saw the same local preemption bills that we have had in previous sessions and yes, much of the League’s time was spent playing defense and striving to stop harmful legislation. However, one thing made this session of the Missouri General Assembly stand out from previous sessions – local government champions, in both the House and Senate.*

### Local Government Caucus

Former city, county and school board officials who are now members of the Missouri House of Representatives came together in the 2019 legislative session to form an officially sanctioned Local Government Caucus. The Caucus will study issues affecting local governments and educate their House colleagues on legislation. During House floor debate this past session, Caucus members stood up to support local control and oppose state mandates on local governments, even when that was not a popular thing to do. Members of the Local Government Caucus remember where they came from and the importance of home rule. The Missouri Municipal League, Association of Counties and the Missouri School

Boards Association stand ready to assist the Caucus in preserving local governance. We anticipate that the Local Government Caucus’ influence in the Missouri General Assembly will become stronger as more former local officials run for seats in the General Assembly. Representative Bill Falkner, former mayor of St. Joseph, is the chair of the Local Government Caucus. Representative Bill Falkner (R-ST. Joseph) and Representative Donna

Baringer (D-St. Louis), both former Missouri Municipal League Board Members, were instrumental in the formation of the Caucus. Thank you, Bill and Donna!

### Local Government Champion: Senator Sandy Crawford

Missouri local governments were very fortunate this session to have Senator Sandy Crawford as the chair

**Photo:** Former city, county and school board officials who are now members of the Missouri House of Representatives came together in the 2019 legislative session to form an officially sanctioned Local Government Caucus. Pictured are (L-R) Rep. Mary Elizabeth Coleman (R-Arnold); Rep. Dan Shaul (R-Imperial); Rep. John Black (R-Marshfield); Rep. Peggy McGaugh (R-Carrollton); Rep. Bill Falkner (R-St. Joseph); Rep. Jeff Coleman (R-Grain Valley); Rep. Craig Fishel (R-Springfield); Rep. Brad Hudson (R-Cape Fair); Rep. Danny Busick (R-Newtown); Rep. Roger Reedy (R-Windsor); Rep. Curtis Trent (R-Springfield).

of the Senate Local Government and Elections Committee. Not only did Sen. Crawford sponsor the League's internet sales legislation (SB 189), she watched for legislation that was harmful to cities. Sen. Crawford successfully blocked several legislative attempts to place mandates onto cities. She even "killed" one of her own priority bills in conference committee to prevent an amendment taking away municipal court fine revenue. A big thank you to Senator Sandy Crawford!

**Failure To Appear Champions:  
Senator Ed Emery,  
Representative Bill Falkner,  
Representative Mike Haffner  
And Representative Steve  
Helms**

With the passage of Senate Bill 5 in 2015 and Senate Bill 572 in 2016, many cities have struggled to maintain their municipal courts. Attempts to fix the unintended consequences brought about by these ill-conceived pieces of

legislation have met resistance from state representatives, senators, statewide office holders and special interest groups. It has not been an easy issue to tackle in the Missouri General Assembly. However, a senator and several representatives did just that. During the 2019 legislative session, Senator Emery, Representatives Bill Falkner, Mike Haffner and Steve Helms sponsored legislation that addressed the problem with municipal ordinance violators failing to appear for their municipal court hearing dates. Many hours were spent working to build a base of support, both in the House and Senate, for a failure-to-appear fix. Although the bill did not pass, these lawmakers' efforts changed the debate to one that is more positive and much less negative toward cities.

**Municipal Consolidations:  
Legislative Opposition To  
Statewide Vote**

No other issue during the past legislative session brought out more

legislators to speak out in of support of local control than the House and Senate resolutions opposing consolidations of the cities and counties by a statewide vote. What began as a statewide initiative petition drive by the special interest group known as Better Together to amend the Missouri Constitution to consolidate the city of St. Louis, the cities located in St. Louis County, and St. Louis County through a statewide vote, ended up being opposed by senators and representatives from across the state. Our champions led the charge in their respective legislative bodies. Thank you to local government champions: Representative Dottie Bailey, Representative LaKeySha Bosley, Representative Shamed Dogan, Representative Dean Plocher, Senator Jamilah Nasheed, Senator Carla May, Senator Gina Walsh and many other members of the House and Senate. 🍀



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## Déjà Vu: Bills of Municipal Interest That Passed And Failed In The 2019 Legislative Session

### Municipal Bills Of Interest That Passed

**HB 355** - Sale of municipal utilities in 4th class cities; trespass exemption for tree trimming for municipal utilities; offenses involving critical infrastructure, class D felony

**SB 333** - Certain cities and fire districts may impose a ½ cent sales tax, instead of current ¼ cent

**SB 21** - Local general sales tax may be placed on ballot at any rate up to one cent and public safety sales taxes for certain cities

**SB 68** - Economic development/workforce development

**SB 87** - Sales tax rate included on all sales receipts (exemption for small businesses) and transient guest taxes for certain cities

**SB 291** - 911 emergency communications

**SB 203** - Building inspections may be performed by registered engineer

**SCR 14** - Transportation funding, bonding for bridges

### Municipal Bills Of Interest That Failed To Pass

**HB 81** - Consolidation of municipal services

**HB 188** - Prescription drug monitoring program

**HB 559** - Working animal preemption

**HB 297** - Preemption of municipal dog regulations

**HB 374** - Local sales tax cap

**HB 473** - Preemption of local zoning authority – home occupations

**HB 483** - Preemption of municipal building codes

**HB 1044** - Eminent domain attack

**HB 762** - Municipal expenditure database

**SB 66** - Missouri Water Safety and Security Act

**SB 108** - Tax increment financing

**SB 122** - Stop Socialism Act

**SB 273** - Video franchise fee restructuring



## Cutting Edge Solutions



**Jeff Chronister**  
Senior Advisor

### The Top Emerging Risks for Public Entities

- Pressure to Reduce Costs & Align Budgets
- No Long-Term Documented Plan in Place
- Lack of Claims Management Strategy
- Cyber Attacks
- Legislative Changes
- Employment Practices Liability
- Rising Cost of New Hires
- Aging Workforce

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### IMPORTANT LEGISLATIVE DATES

- July 14, 2019 – Deadline for Governor to sign or veto bills
- August 28, 2019 – Bills that Passed by the General Assembly and signed into law by the Governor became effective (unless the bill had an emergency clause or another effective date)
- September 11, 2019 – Veto session (noon)
- December 1, 2019 – Pre-filing of bills for the 2020 legislative session
- January 8, 2020 – Second Session 100th General Assembly Convenes