



**House Government Operations Committee
Municipal Policy Priorities
Vermont League of Cities and Towns
*Wednesday, January 11, 2017***

Thank you for the opportunity to welcome you back to the State House and to testify to you about city and town priorities for the 2017 - 2018 biennium.

I have copies of the 2017 VLCT Municipal Priorities Brochure for your information. We look forward to working with you on these issues and any others that might affect local governments as they arise. The brochure has the contact information for the VLCT Advocacy team.

VLCT is committed to working on ways to provide more flexibility in devising strategies for responding to and implementing state regulations. This is particularly true for implementation of the Vermont Clean Water Act.

We are also very interested in investigating ways to make it easier to adopt non-controversial charter changes that have been approved at the local level. There have been several ideas in past years - we are committed to finding a more efficient way to handle charter changes. We are happy to hear that the Secretary of State is interested in streamlining at least the paper trail for giving notice of charter changes.

VLCT and the Secretary of State's office have been working on components of a municipal toolbox bill, items that are somewhat technical in nature, clarify statutory intent, and will make it easier for local officials to conduct business. Items that are included in this legislation are considered non-controversial. We hope to provide that proposal to you in then next week or so.

A House bill to allow municipalities to vote to appoint the clerk or treasurer is being introduced.

We are working with the Clerks and Treasurers' Association to update statutorily established fees and to put them on a regular schedule for updates. These will go through the House Ways and Means Committee.

We have been working on dispatch issues over the course of the summer and Gwynn Zakov is a member of the summer study committee, which is having its last meeting today.

We are happy to discuss other local government priorities with the committee!

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