

Karen Horn 2/7/17

About VLCT

Founded in 1967, the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) is a voluntary membership organization that provides services, including advocacy, to Vermont's cities and towns. VLCT is governed by a 13-member board of local officials. Since 1995, all 246 cities and towns in Vermont have been members. An additional 141 villages, counties, regional commissions, and housing authorities are currently associate members that receive training, technical assistance, insurance services, and more.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

VLCT Local Government Day in the Legislature, Montpelier

Tuesday, June 27, 2017

VLCT's 50th Anniversary Celebration, Montpelier

Wednesday and Thursday, October 4-5, 2017

VLCT Town Fair and Annual Meeting, Killington

Please visit

vlct.org/advocacy/legislative-platform

to read the **2017 VLCT Municipal Policy** in its entirety.



VLCT Advocacy Staff

Karen Horn (above left)
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy

Karen joined VLCT in 1987. She served on the Moretown and Washington West school boards, the Moretown Energy Committee, and currently serves as Vice Chair of the Moretown Planning Commission. Her areas of expertise include economic development; taxation; operating and capital budgets; environmental regulations including water issues; land use and planning; and employee-employer matters.

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Gwynn Zakov (above right)
Municipal Policy Advocate

Gwynn joined VLCT as staff attorney in 2014 and joined the Advocacy team in 2015. She served five years as second assistant clerk of the Vermont House, as zoning administrator in Richmond, and as a member of the Development Review Board in Barre City. Her areas of expertise include the principles, practices, and authority of local government officials; planning and zoning; transportation; employment, public safety and emergency management; and clerk-treasurer matters.

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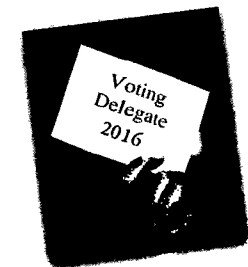


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2017

MUNICIPAL POLICY PRIORITIES



Serving and Strengthening Vermont Local Governments

VLCT Legislative PRIORITIES

Vermont Cities and Towns

In partnership with state and federal governments, our cities and towns work hard to provide a bright future for Vermonters. They are centers of innovation in governance and business; host local foods and agriculture movements; foster strong, connected, and inclusive communities; encourage local and sustainable enterprises; support long-time reliable employers; and provide fertile ground for economic success.

Municipalities need the authority, flexibility, and funding to secure those bright futures for Vermonters.

VLCT Board of Directors

Jared Cadwell, President
Selectboard Chair, Fayston

Honorable Chris Louras
Vice President
Mayor, Rutland City

William Shepeluk
Immediate Past President
Municipal Manager, Waterbury

Deborah Beckett
Town Clerk/Treasurer, Williston

Dominic Cloud
City Manager, St. Albans

Stuart Hurd
Town Manager, Bennington

Sandra Pinsonault
Town Clerk, Dorset

Karen Richard
Town Clerk/Treasurer, Colchester

Charles Safford
Town Manager, Stowe

Roland (Ted) Simmons
Selectboard Chair, Orwell

Honorable Miro Weinberger
Mayor, Burlington

Rebecca White
Selectperson, Hartford

Brendan J Whittaker
Selectperson, Brunswick

Municipal Authority/State Mandates

VLCT supports:

- providing cities and towns maximum flexibility in determining how to respond to state regulatory and statutory requirements;
- streamlining legislative approval of properly adopted municipal charters and charter amendments;
- programs that spur economic development at the local level;
- enabling all cities, towns, and villages to adopt consumption taxes; and
- state funding of all state-mandated programs and initiatives.

Transportation

VLCT supports:

- substantially increasing funding to all highway programs that affect local government;
- state funding of any new transportation program or initiative; and
- communication among state agencies, state entities, and local governments to eliminate redundant or contradictory oversight of municipal projects so that permitting processes are expedited and project reviews are tailored to each proposal.

Water Quality

VLCT supports:

- municipalities receiving technical and financial support necessary to implement mandates of the Vermont Clean Water Act (Act 64) and its associated Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs);
- conducting a cost benefit analysis for all mitigation efforts and then implementing those efforts based on the results of the analysis; and
- spending public dollars in the most fair, effective, and efficient manner to achieve TMDL goals and to mitigate phosphorus and other TMDL-related discharges.

Land Use and Energy

VLCT supports:

- increased technical assistance and funding to facilitate implementation of state-mandated local planning and zoning initiatives and programs;
- greater inclusion and consideration of local regulations, policies, and decisions in project approvals and permitting at the state level;
- flexibility in pursuing local economic development activities; and
- greater collaboration between state and local entities to best meet the needs of local communities.

