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Vermont League of Cities and Towns 2025 Legislative Priorities



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What is VLCT?

Every city and town in Vermont, including yours, is a member of the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT), the nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that was founded in 1967 to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. In addition to legislative advocacy, VLCT provides:

- Educational workshops for local officials
- Comprehensive insurance coverage for municipalities
- Confidential legal guidance from experienced municipal attorneys
- The Vermont Municipal Data Project
- Help for state agencies and legislative working groups



NEW Our Municipal Operations Support Team is funded by a \$1 million USDA RD grant to assist local officials with financial management, grant funding, ARPA, project development, and more

VLCT 2025 Legislative Priorities

Support municipalities in meeting the obligations and functions of today's local government and help them take action to solve the challenges of the 21st century.



2025

Support

Lower Property Taxes

Enable municipalities to raise local revenues and control expenses, avoid shifting state costs and obligations to local budgets.

Invest Locally

Provide reliable funding beyond competitive grants to municipalities to support the delivery of essential services, innovative programs, and the maintenance of public infrastructure.

Improve Accountability

Ensure transparency, fiscal responsibility, compliance, and equity across state and local government.

Action

Create Housing

Authorize new incentives and investment in infrastructure to support housing growth and create shelter, transitional housing, and services to address Vermont's homelessness crisis.

Promote Public Safety

Increase treatment options, law enforcement training opportunities, and judicial accountability.

Build Resilient Communities

Work across government silos to address flood resiliency, water quality, sustainable growth, and the impacts of climate change.

Create Housing

Authorize new incentives and investment in infrastructure to support housing growth and create shelter, transitional housing, and services to address Vermont's homelessness crisis

- Authorize local governments to use performance-based contracts and extend tax stabilization to support **infrastructure** and housing development.
- Increase the threshold for **permit appeals** of projects located in designated areas.
- Allow for local regulations, fees, and taxes that could prevent the proliferation of **Short-term Rentals** and Second Homes.
- Reform the General Assistance Hotel/Motel program to ensure equitable and proportionate impact on municipalities and require the state to lead **homelessness prevention** and response efforts.



Lower Property Taxes

Municipal property taxes account for 20-30% of Vermont homeowners tax burden.

- Modernize the state withholding formula for LOT
- Return the growing special PILOT fund surplus to the municipalities that raised it.
- Hold municipalities harmless for uncollected state taxes.
- Reimburse municipalities for state mandated tax exemptions.
- Ensure no property owner pays less than \$0 in state taxes.
- Base implementation of environmental mitigation efforts on a cost-effectiveness analysis.
- Afford municipalities relief from compliance deadlines and impact fees when corresponding state funding is delayed, eliminated, or made competitive.
- Adopt for municipalities the monetary damages cap the legislature has already enacted for the State.



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Questions???



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