



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR MORE INFORMATION
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Northwest Municipal Conference Unveils 2019 Legislative Program

Des Plaines, IL – On January 26, the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) hosted its annual Legislative Brunch and released its 2019 Legislative Program. “Our 2019 Legislative Program highlights how state and federal lawmakers can partner with us to modernize Illinois’ infrastructure, its revenue structure and its public safety pension system to provide long-term sustainability,” said NWMC President and Mount Prospect Mayor Arlene Juracek. Modernizing Illinois and our communities is critical for sustainably providing the same high quality services our residents and businesses expect.

The 2019 NWMC Legislative Program outlines opportunities for lawmakers to address the many critical issues facing our state and its communities.

Modernize Capital Funding to Sustain Our Infrastructure

As the 101st General Assembly begins, lawmakers have an opportunity to address the significant infrastructure needs facing Illinois and its communities. NWMC Legislative Committee Co-Chair and Glencoe Village President Larry Levin stated that “an efficient transportation network, safe clean water, a reliable water distribution infrastructure and effective stormwater infrastructure . . . are critical to our state’s attractiveness to businesses and residents.” Unfortunately, it has been nearly a decade since the state enacted a capital bill. Sporadic investment results in deteriorating infrastructure and higher maintenance costs. The Conference implores lawmakers to address critical infrastructure needs through a modern transportation revenue system for a state capital program and increased federal transportation investments.

Modernize Revenues to Sustain the Fiscal Stability of Our Communities

The state has an opportunity to set itself and its municipal partners on stable financial footing. NWMC Vice President and Morton Grove Mayor Dan DiMaria highlighted that “Municipalities ‘shared the pain’ in recent years as the state looked to balance its own books. NWMC communities lost approximately \$30 million in the last two state budgets.” He explained that the Conference wants to work with lawmakers to adopt a revenue structure that accounts for a modern economy, broadening the tax base and balancing the budget. Modernizing revenues means that Illinois can escape the cycle of budget crises while ensuring that local governments can provide the consistent delivery of critical services to residents.

Modernize an Inefficient System to Sustain Local Government Pensions

Illinois lawmakers have an opportunity to modernize public safety pension funds and provide taxpayer relief. The current public safety pension situation demands creative thinking. President

Juracek noted that when the Conference promotes pension reform, it is not advocating for “a reduction in benefits” but rather consolidation of the administration and investment of public safety pension funds. She added that “at a time when NWMC communities face over \$2 billion in unfunded public safety pension liabilities and local taxpayers grapple with ever increasing actuarially required contributions, the state cannot afford to continue operating an antiquated, inefficient system.” Local public safety pension funds are missing out on billions of dollars in increased investment returns coupled with millions of dollars in lower administrative costs. The Conference is working with the Illinois Municipal League (IML) and the other members of the Pension Fairness for Illinois Communities Coalition to build support for consolidation.

About the 2019 NWMC Legislative Program

To download the full 2019 NWMC Legislative Program, please visit <http://www.nwmc-cog.org/Documents/2019-NWMC-Legislative-Program.aspx>.

About the NWMC

Over the past 60 years, the Northwest Municipal Conference (NWMC) has worked to strengthen communities and enhance intergovernmental relationships in the north and northwest suburbs of Chicago. As one of the premier regional councils of government, the Northwest Municipal Conference represents over 1.3 million citizens residing in our 43 municipalities and 1 township. Our membership area covers over 300 square miles in Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake and McHenry counties.

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