City of Springfield
2024 Proposed Legislative Priorities

General Priorities

Retain Local Control – The City of Springfield opposes legislation that would reduce or remove local authority, including the setting of user fees and license fees.

CHANGE RECOMMENDED

To consolidate Avoid Unfunded Mandates and Municipal Elections into this item.

General Priorities

Special Interest Legislation – The City of Springfield requests that legislation with statewide impact not be used to address localized concerns.

NO CHANGE

General Priorities

Avoid Unfunded Mandates – The City of Springfield opposes any legislation that would result in a new net cost and related tax burden to the City of Springfield and/or its citizens.

CHANGE RECOMMENDED

To consolidate this item into Retain Local Control.

General Priorities

Promote Public Safety – The City of Springfield supports legislation that promotes safe communities and reduces violent crime.

NO CHANGE

General Priorities

Promote Economic Vitality – The City of Springfield supports legislation that strengthens Springfield's ability to: compete for jobs, enhance education and workforce development, improve transportation, provide affordable housing, create healthy neighborhoods, stimulate downtown revitalization, grow tourism funding, and ensure broadband access for all citizens - all without compromising our natural environment.

NO CHANGE

General Priorities

Promote Fiscal Sustainability – The City of Springfield supports legislation that honors municipal taxing independence, preserves current revenue streams, and ensures stable service delivery and infrastructure.

NO CHANGE

General Priorities

Promote Quality of Place – The City of Springfield supports legislation that promotes projects which improve livability, strengthen our ability to retain and attract talent, enhance our neighborhoods, enrich our visitor experience, and encourage an inclusive and welcoming community.

NO CHANGE

Specific Priorities

Municipal Elections – The City of Springfield opposes legislation that would move municipal elections from April to Fall or introduce partisanship into municipal elections.

CHANGE RECOMMENDED

To consolidate with Retain Local Control and Avoid Unfunded Mandates.

Specific Priorities

Public Safety – The City of Springfield supports:

- Sustained funding for ~~mental health service,~~ the Pretrial Witness Protection Service fund, rape kit testing, sexual assault reduction and victim assistance needs;

  CHANGE RECOMMENDED – Verbiage in separate priority.

- Amending State law to match Federal law regarding the possession of handguns by minors,

  CHANGE RECOMMENDED – Combine with 4th PS bullet point.

- Expanding the collection of DNA samples by requiring a sample be collected from any individual aged 18 or older who is arrested for any felony crime as defined by the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri, and

Specific Priorities

Public Safety (cont.) –

- Efforts to reduce gun violence in our community and across the state of Missouri. ~~U.S. active shooter cases have nearly doubled (31 incidents to 61 incidents) from 2017 to 2021, killing or wounding 243 people in 2021 alone. In 2020, Missouri was ranked 4th for firearm mortality (ranked 17th in 2005) and 5h for firearm homicides per 100,000 persons. In addition, Springfield calls for shots fired has increase 82% (227 to 414 proj.) since 2019.~~ ~~(Sources: U.S. Dept. of Justice – Federal Bureau of Investigation, CDC, Pew Research Center and SPD data)~~

CHANGE RECOMMENDED – Delete support information to create additional document space and include 2nd PS bullet point.

Specific Priorities

Land Bank – For the betterment of our neighborhoods, the City of Springfield supports legislation that allows Land Banks to accept property through the judicial tax sale system without its prior tax obligations (general or special reals estate taxes, penalties, liens, etc.), and adds Springfield and other communities to the list of cities enabled to form a Land Bank.

NO CHANGE

Specific Priorities

Payday Loans – The City of Springfield asks our local delegation to introduce and support legislation that will limit refinancing and cap the amount of interest that can be charged by payday loan and car title loan companies. ~~that tend to prey on the poor. According to the State Commissioner of Finance's report to the Governor, the average interest rate for "payday" loans in Missouri in 2023 was **365%.**~~

CHANGE RECOMMENDED – Delete support information to create additional document space.

Specific Priorities

Municipal Court

- **FACT Procedure** – The City of Springfield asks our local delegation to introduce legislation that will reinstate the FACT (Failure to Appear in Court for Traffic Violation) procedure. In 2015, SB 5 eliminated the FACT driver's license suspension procedure found in RSMo 302.341.2 for "minor traffic violations". Under current law, the driver's license for those who fail to appear in Municipal Court after receiving a citation can no longer be suspended for minor traffic violations. As a result, arrest warrants are immediately issued for these defendants. The FACT process did allow for driver's license suspensions but provided for a 30-day warning/grace period. This process gives defendants a chance to address their case before their license is suspended. Additionally, we have found a much higher compliance rate with the FACT process than with the warrant process. Other legal incentives that have the result of increasing court appearances are also supported.

CHANGE RECOMMENDED – Reduce verbiage to create additional document space.

Specific Priorities

Municipal Court (new verbiage example)

- **FACT Procedure** – We ask the legislature to reinstate the FACT (Failure to Appear in Court for Traffic Violation) procedure that was eliminated in 2015. This approach allows for a drivers license suspension after a 30-day warning/grace period for failing to appear in Municipal Court related to minor traffic violations. We also support other legal incentives that result in a higher court appearance rate.

Specific Priorities

Municipal Court (cont.)

- **Municipal Court Warrants** – The City of Springfield asks our local delegation to introduce and support legislation that will amend RSMo Section 479.360.1(3) to clearly allow courts the ability to utilize warrants for those that fail to abide by the judgment of the court or fail to show cause for not abiding by the judgment of the court.
- **Community Service Support** – The City of Springfield asks our local delegation to introduce and support language to once again allow municipal courts that utilize community service in lieu of traditional sentencing to obtain program cost recovery from non-indigent probationers. We also support amendments that limit municipal liability for these programs.

Specific Priorities

Chronic Property Nuisances – *NO CHANGE*

The City of Springfield supports legislation that:

- Provides accelerated abatement process for chronic nuisances. The City asks our local delegation to introduce and support a bill that will allow a single, one-year notice for the abatement of tall grass and weed nuisances to more expeditiously address chronic violation locations.
- Allows violation notices to be sent only to owners.
- Allows flexible notice mailing alternatives such as Fed Ex or UPS, as long as the recipient's signature is required.

Specific Priorities

Chronic Property Nuisances (cont.)

- Allows nuisance abatement costs to run with the land.
- Allows recovery of all direct costs associated with processing and abatement of nuisances.
- Reviews all statutory narrative for topic and definitional clarity.

Specific Priorities

Dangerous/Unsafe Buildings

The City of Springfield supports legislation that:

- Allows flexible notice mailing alternatives such as Fed Ex or UPS, as long as the recipient's signature is required.
- Allows recovery of all direct costs associated with processing and abatement.
- Allows for collecting of processing and abatement costs through the County Collector (real estate tax bill) in lieu of a special tax bill.
- Limits formal notice requirement to violation and need to abate only.

NO CHANGE

Specific Priorities

State Provided Mental Health Services – The City of Springfield asks our local delegation to introduce and support legislation investing in community mental health services. Roughly 1 of 5 individuals live with a mental illness or substance use disorder. While progress is being made, decades of divestment has resulted in a significant need for services on the behavioral crisis continuum (includes crisis call centers, mobile crisis, 24-hour rapid access units, stabilization units, and co-responders), substance use disorder treatment and safety net services. We believe this investment will pay for itself many times over in both community dollars spent and lives saved.

CHANGE RECOMMENDED – Reduce verbiage to create additional document space. Also includes mental health services funding verbiage previously included under Public Safety.

Specific Priorities

State Provided Mental Health Services –

(new verbiage example)

We ask for legislative investment in community mental health services (e.g., call centers, mobile crisis, 24-hour rapid access units, etc.). Roughly 1 of 5 individuals live with a mental illness or substance use disorder. We believe this investment will pay for itself many times over in both community dollars spent and lives saved.

Specific Priorities

SB 1662 Home-based Business Law -

The City of Springfield asks our local delegation to support legislation to repeal or significantly amend the home-based work and home-based business sections of HB 1662. This new law disrupts the equitable application of municipal zoning across residential, commercial and industrial areas. It also directly pre-empts Missouri cities from applying reasonable zoning regulations necessary to adequately protect the peace, quiet and tranquility of our residential neighborhoods from an unlimited list of incompatible commercial and industrial activities.

CHANGE RECOMMENDED – Reduce verbiage to create additional document space.

Specific Priorities

SB 1662 Home-based Business Law -

(new verbiage example)

We ask the legislature to amend or repeal the home-based work/business statutes changed by HB 1662 in 2022. These laws create legal zoning inequities and severely constrain cities from reasonably protecting residential neighborhoods from incompatible commercial and industrial activities.

New Items

New Items for Consideration

- **Video Lottery Terminals (VLTs)** – Ask the State legislature to lawfully define VLTs as illegal gambling devices under State law.
- **Transportation Development Districts (TDDs)** – Ask the State legislature to clarify the statutory use of TDD funds.
- **Annexation** – Ask the State legislature to amend State law to enhance cities' ability to apply the voluntarily annexation process.

New Items

New Items for Consideration (cont.)

- **New Legislative Funding Requests**
  - **Interstate 44 Improvements** – Ask the State legislature to fully fund all I-44 (from Kansas Expressway to Highway 65) project components to include widening to six lanes, lane rehabilitation, bridge replacements, safe pedestrian/bicycle connectivity and safe interchange access from Highway 13.
  - **LeCompte Road/Eastgate Extension Funding** – Ask the legislature to fund $3.4 million for Eastgate Extension to fully fund industrial park transportation connections.
  - **Family Connects Program Funding** – Ask the legislature to fund $1 million per year for three years an evidence-based newborn to early childhood care program that significantly decrease the likelihood of mental health, substance abuse and medical risks during this critical stage of child development.

Questions?