

City of Springfield
2022 Proposed
Legislative Priorities

General Priorities

Retain Local Control – The City of Springfield opposes legislation that would reduce or remove local authority, including **legislation that would move local government elections from April to Fall, introduce partisanship into local elections,** or impede local authority to set user and license fees.

NEW LANGUAGE

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.

General Priorities

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

- ~~the funding of the newly established Pretrial Witness Protection Services Fund (2020 Special Sess., HB 66),~~
- ~~amending State law to match Federal law regarding the possession of handguns by minors,~~
- ~~Expand the collection of DNA samples by requiring a sample be collected from any individual aged 18 or older who is arrested of any felony crime as defined by the revised statutes of the State of Missouri, and~~

General Priorities

Promote Public Safety – cont.

- ~~Legislation that is intended to provide additional funding for rape kit testing, reduce the incidence of sexual assault, provide additional protections for victims of sexual assault, and require timely and ongoing sexual assault training for law enforcement, prosecutors and applicable court personnel.~~

DETAIL MOVED TO SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

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 (including additional gas tax funding), 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. This includes adding Springfield to the list of cities enabled to form a Land Bank for the betterment of our neighborhoods.

GAS TAX – COMPLETED

LAND BANK – MOVED TO SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

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.

General Priorities

Promote Quality of Place – The City of Springfield supports legislation that promotes projects that improve livability, strengthens our ability to retain and attract talent, enhances our neighborhoods, enriches our visitor experience, and encourages an inclusive and welcoming community.

- ~~• We support legislation that requires the remove of covenant language from property deeds that prohibits ownership or occupancy due to race, gender, nationality or other similar factors.~~

MOVED TO SPECIFIC PRIORITIES

Specific Priorities

~~**Internet Sales Tax**— The City of Springfield asks our local delegation to introduce and support legislation that will “level the retail market playing field” in accordance with the intent of the recent South Dakota v. Wayfair Supreme Court case by appropriately including Internet sales in the current Use Tax statute.~~

COMPLETED

Specific Priorities

Hotel/Motel Tax – The City of Springfield asks our local delegation to introduce and support legislation enabling the Springfield electorate to vote on a hotel/motel tax or a convention and tourism and/or convention and sport tax in addition to the hotel/motel tax, at the same **rate** afforded the voters in Kansas City and St. Louis.

NEW LANGUAGE

Specific Priorities

Public Safety – The City of Springfield supports:

- Funding of the newly established Pretrial Witness Protection Services Fund (2020 Special Session, HB 66),
- Amending State law to match Federal law regarding the possession of handguns by minors,
- Expanding the collection of DNA samples by requiring a sample be collected from any individual aged 18 or older who is arrested of any felony crime as defined by the Revised Statutes for the State of Missouri, and

MOVED FROM GENERAL PRIORITIES

Specific Priorities

Public Safety (cont.) –

- Legislation that is intended to provide additional funding for rape kit testing, reduce the incidence of sexual assault, provide additional protections for victims of sexual assault, and require timely and ongoing sexual assault training for law enforcement, prosecutors and applicable court personnel.

MOVED FROM GENERAL PRIORITIES

Specific Priorities

Land Bank – The City of Springfield supports legislation that adds Springfield and other communities to the list of cities enabled to form a Land Bank, for the betterment of our neighborhoods.

MOVED FROM GENERAL PRIORITIES

Specific Priorities

Property Deeds – The City of Springfield supports legislation that requires the removal of covenant language from property deeds that prohibits ownership or occupancy due to race, gender, nationality or other similar factors.

MOVED FROM GENERAL PRIORITIES

Specific Priorities

~~**Statewide Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP)** — The City of Springfield encourages our local delegation to introduce and support legislation to establish a statewide PDMP. Although the City of Springfield and Greene County have each implemented local PDMPs, it is in everyone's best interest to establish a statewide PDMP.~~

COMPLETED

Specific Priorities

Pay Day 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 2019 was 474%.

Specific Priorities

Municipal Court

- **FACT Procedure** – The City of Springfield asks our local delegation to introduce legislation that will reinstate the FACT Procedure. Section 302.341.2's RSMo eliminated the FACT (Failure to Appear in Court for Traffic Violation) driver's license suspension procedure (302.341.1) 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.

Specific Priorities

Municipal Court

- ~~Municipal Court Warrants~~ – The City of Springfield asks our local delegation to introduce legislation that will allow warrants for defendants that fail to follow court judgments. Repeal of sections 479.353(3) RSMo and 479.360.1(3) RSMo. Missouri Supreme Court Rule 37.65, effective July 1, 2015, comprehensively addresses how courts are to operate procedurally in enforcing judgments. We need 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.

ADDRESSED BY SB 572 (2016)

Specific Priorities

Municipal Court

- **Community Service Support** – The City of Springfield asks our local delegation to introduce and support language to once again allow municipal courts to sentence to community service and require program cost recovery from non-indigent probationers. **We also support amendments that limit municipal liability for these programs.**

NEW LANGUAGE

Specific Priorities

Chronic Property Nuisances – The City of Springfield supports legislation that:

- Provides accelerated abatement process for chronic nuisances,
- Allows violation notices to be sent only to owners,
- Allows flexible notice mailing alternatives,
- Allows abatement costs to run with the land,
- Allows recovery of ALL direct processing and abatement costs, and
- Reviews and updates statutory language for clarity

Specific Priorities

Dangerous/Unsafe Buildings – The City of Springfield supports legislation that:

- Allows flexible notice mailing alternatives,
- Allows recovery of all direct costs associated with processing and abatement,
- Allows for collecting of processing and abatement costs through the County Collector as a real estate tax bill in lieu of a special tax bill, and
- Limits formal notice requirement to violation and need to abate only.

Specific Priorities

Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)

The City of Springfield recently withdrew from participating in the Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program due to insufficient residential consumer protections within the current statute. Our data highlighted numerous examples of disproportionately high energy efficiency project costs compared to the home's value. This circumstance resulted in surprisingly high property tax bills for many residents, whereby the energy use savings does not come close to covering the project-related property tax increase. As a result, we strongly support amendments to the current law to adequately strengthen consumer protections and ensure statewide monitoring of the program's application.

COMPLETED

Specific Priorities

American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA)

Funding – The City of Springfield asks our local delegation to:

- Support elimination of the State's local funding match requirement for ARPA funding allocations to State-funded entities (i.e., public colleges and universities), and
- Consider utilizing a portion of the State's federal ARPA allocation to assist local communities and counties, including the strengthening of public health infrastructure.

NEW ITEM

Specific Priorities

Sunshine Law - The City of Springfield asks our local delegation to support a statutory amendment that places responsibility on public record requestors to more effectively narrow the topical scope of requests, thereby reducing public time and cost to fulfill them. For 2021, we are projecting to fill nearly 21,000 requests (excl. on-line traffic accident reports). Due to the breadth of these requests, approximately 60% take less than an hour to 4 hours to fill, 30% take 6 to 8 hours to fill and nearly 10% take more than 8 hours to fill. We already work with the requestor to limit the search breadth. Yet, some of these requests produced from 5,000 to 20,000 documents. One request resulted in nearly 500,000 pages. We strongly believe in public document transparency, but continue to transition significant local resources from service delivery to addressing vague record fishing expeditions.

NEW ITEM



Questions?