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February 9, 2007

Ms. Tonni L. Bartholomew
City Clerk
Troy
500 W. Big Beaver Rd.
Troy, MI 48084-5254

Dear Ms. Bartholomew:

Thank you for volunteering for an MML issue committee. Your offer to participate in this important forum for local government advocacy is greatly appreciated.

Therefore, it is with pleasure that I appoint you to the Elections Committee. The appointment is for a renewable one-year term beginning January 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2007. The chair of this committee will be Kent Vanderwood, Councilmember in Wyoming.

Committees will meet twice each year to create legislative proposals and respond to House and Senate bills. The meetings will be called by the chair and are expected to last approximately 2 hours. They will be held in Lansing or at the League's Headquarters in Ann Arbor. Meeting dates and locations are expected to be announced by the chair within the next month.

In addition, we will be utilizing two new technologies to have virtual meetings on an as needed basis. First, is a committee portal located at http://committees.mml.org and is a place to share documents, the committee calendar, contact information for committee members, links, and have a threaded discussion. Second, is Budget Conferencing, which provides for conference calls and the ability for committee members to view materials on your computer at the same time while have discussion.

These new tools will provide us with the ability to quickly solicit feedback from our members, as well as reduce your time commitment and cost of travel. Committee members will be receiving a user guide within the next few weeks and a virtual training will be set up to test the programs after committee members have had a chance to review the material.

Membership on the Elections Committee offers an important opportunity to contribute to the well being of local government and to review issues of importance to all Michigan cities and villages. As a local official you will bring a unique perspective relevant to the issues faced by your community. Your experience, commitment and willingness to speak out on behalf of the citizens you represent will guide you as your focus is broadened and you begin to view municipal policy from a statewide perspective.

Committee work requires the active participation, attendance and commitment of each member. The opportunity to speak out on behalf of better local government for your community and the communities you represent is lost if you are not there to present your unique perspective.

State and Federal Affairs Division
320 N. Washington Square, Suite 110, Lansing, MI 48933 • Phone: 517-485-1314 • Fax: 517-372-7476 • www.mml.org

As a new member of the committee it is important to understand the method used for reviewing legislation and recommending League positions to the Board of Trustees. The following paragraphs help to explain our process.

Approximately two weeks before each regular meeting you will receive a detailed agenda from our State and Federal Affairs Division. The agenda includes a description of bills selected for committee review and proactive ideas to consider for legislation. Questions about the bills to be discussed are frequently included to help focus committee discussion. Additional issues that surface in between meetings will require virtual meetings, using the new web portal and conference call technology. You will be notified by e-mail of the meetings and agendas.

Not all legislation affecting municipalities is brought to the committee. Some legislation so clearly complies or conflicts with League policies that a position recommendation to support or oppose it, is not necessary. For this legislation our policy statements clearly determine our position.

Some bills vary in their impact on municipalities depending on such factors as community size, service delivery and the like. These bills require a more technical review, usually by your municipal staff. Committee members provide critical guidance and clarification to League staff on the various impacts a bill can have.

Some bills are sent to committee members in their entirety. Often bills are only summarized. It depends on the complexity and/or clarity of the bill and the questions the bill raises. All legislation is available online at www.legislature.mi.gov.

The committee has several positions it may recommend for bills brought before it. It may **"SUPPORT"** or **"OPPOSE"** the bill. It may **"SUPPORT THE BILL IF AMENDED TO. . ."** urging that the bill be improved during the legislative process. It may take **"NO POSITION"**, frequently because of the politics associated with the bill. It may wish to **"SUPPORT THE CONCEPT"** of a bill, while asking League staff to pursue amendments to increase its effectiveness or eliminate troublesome elements.

As a League committee member you now play a powerful, unique role in the legislative process. Your participation in legislative review is also intended to enable you to approach legislators confidently to discuss specific issues impacting your community. Over the course of the legislative review process, you will benefit from the added perspective of fellow committee members, municipal staff and League staff to support your case.

I sincerely appreciate the commitment in time and effort you are making on behalf of better local government. State officials must hear the voice of local government. Together we will ensure that the municipal perspective is considered on State issues.

Sincerely,

Vicki Barnett

Vicki Barnett, President
Michigan Municipal League