



2018 Legislative Priorities

The City of Hutchinson has identified the following legislative priorities for 2018. The City generally supports the platforms of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities and the League of Minnesota Cities and these policies are not generally re-stated here except where they have unusual relevance or purpose for the City of Hutchinson.

To better assist our State legislative leaders, we have identified certain legislative priorities and general policy statements that are of specific impact and interest to the residents and business community of Hutchinson. These legislative priorities are intended to advocate on behalf of the City in a responsible manner that strengthens the partnership between our City and the State and brings forth our vision of an involved, progressive and innovative community that promotes our regional prominence while preserving our hometown character and delivering quality, cost-effective services.

I. GENERAL GOVERNMENT

- A. Local Control. 2017 was an unprecedented year with the State Legislature proposing several bills that attempted to eliminate or weaken local control. The City opposes any legislation that erodes local decision making and control, and believes that decision-making happens best at the local level.
- B. Deputy Registrars. In 2017, with the State's conversion to their new MNLARS program, the State shifted substantial clerical and auditing responsibilities onto the deputy registrar network, which includes Hutchinson. This shift includes no funding from the State of Minnesota, despite the fact that the State receives over \$1 billion annually in state fees and taxes collected through the deputy registrar network. The City of Hutchinson supports any legislation that provides deputy registrars with proper compensation by reallocating from existing state fee structures or other appropriate filing fee adjustments to ensure the valued service and continued presence in remains in Hutchinson to serve our citizens.
- C. Local Government Aid. The City of Hutchinson supports increased funding to the Local Government Aid program. We also support the current formula, unless any proposed formula change is agreed upon by all city organizations. On top of that, we oppose artificial, non-formula based limits on aid to individual or groups of cities.
- D. Airport Legislation. The City of Hutchinson supports legislation that clearly indicates maintenance and operation of an airport is deemed an essential public service; clarifies when state airport funds can be used for airport planning; allows for the approval of obstructions, without variance, if FAA analysis deems the obstruction non-hazardous; and updates to Airport zoning that deal with boundary limits, the integration of airport zoning with local planning/zoning, allows for flexibility to enact airport zoning, and aligns the process with the municipal planning process requirements.

- E. Health. The City of Hutchinson supports changing the state law so the minimum age to purchase tobacco products would be increased to age 21.

II. TRANSPORTATION

- A. Highway 212. The City of Hutchinson strongly supports the inclusion of funding from the Corridors of Commerce program to support the \$110 million of needed improvements that will complete the highway to continuous four-lane highway to Norwood Young America and that any maps or lists of Corridors of Commerce highways include US Highway 212.
- B. Highway 15. The City of Hutchinson supports any legislation that provides for additional funding to make improvements to Highway 15 between Interstate 90 and 94.
- C. Transportation Funding. The City of Hutchinson supports a comprehensive transportation plan with appropriate long-term funding. We also support funding for Corridors of Commerce and city streets independent of a comprehensive transportation package. In regards to the Corridors of Commerce, we support the current 50-50 split between Greater Minnesota and the metro area, and we reject a scoring system that allows more points for corridors that run through the metro area over those that connect Greater Minnesota cities.

III. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- A. Increased Funding. The City of Hutchinson supports increased funding for state programs to assist local economic development such as the Greater MN Business Development Infrastructure (BDPI) grant program, MN Investment Fund, Job Creation Fund, Redevelopment Grant Program, Demolition Loan Program, and greater MN workforce housing and child care programs.

IV. PARK AND RECREATION

- A. Dakota Rail Trail. The City of Hutchinson supports any legislation that provides funding to fully construct the remaining Dakota Rail Trail from eastern McLeod County to the City of Hutchinson.
- B. Parks & Trails Legacy Funding. The City of Hutchinson supports the current formula that allocates 20% of the Parks and Trails Legacy funding to greater Minnesota and oppose changes that would reduce that share.

V. ENVIRONMENT

- A. Water Quality Regulation. The City of Hutchinson states that water quality regulations, permits, and other restrictions affecting cities must be grounded in solid peer reviewed science and must be established in a manner that respects the due process rights of cities and other interested stakeholders.
- B. Labeling. The City of Hutchinson supports legislation that requires manufacturers of consumer products, including flushable wipes that could otherwise cause environmental harm and/or damage wastewater infrastructure to label their products with appropriate usage and disposal information.