

MAC Resolution #1 – 2022

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF FULLY FUNDING STATE MANDATES ON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, county governments serve as the “first-line providers of service” to Missouri residents; and

WHEREAS, the state of Missouri mandates that many of these public services be provided by the county in accordance with state law; and

WHEREAS, these services mandated by the state include, but are not limited to, the incarceration of state prisoners, the requirement to maintain accurate property valuation through biennial assessment maintenance efforts, the cost of administering state elections and complying with reform measures, and the requirement to furnish office space and cover certain utility expenses for state public defenders; and

WHEREAS, state lawmakers in the past have tried to push state funding issues onto counties, such as the conveyance of state-owned lettered highways and routes to counties, to help the state’s burden without proper funding support; and

WHEREAS, all counties incur costs in carrying out such state-mandated services and the combination of these unfunded and/or underfunded state programs and services that are now required of counties is reaching a critical level;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Association of Counties does hereby respectfully request that the Missouri General Assembly consider the financial burden that state mandates have on county government and the corresponding impact they have on a county’s ability to provide other necessary and essential services to Missouri citizens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Missouri Association of Counties does hereby respectfully request that the Missouri General Assembly and the Governor include the following in the state’s fiscal year 2023 budget:

- an increase in the appropriation for prisoner per diem reimbursement authorized under 221.105, RSMo., with reimbursement starting from the first day of incarceration in a county facility;
- an appropriation to fully fund state assessment maintenance reimbursements;
- an appropriation to fully fund any new obligations placed on the election officials of this state, including state payment of a proportional share of primary and general election costs;
- an appropriation to that would help with the mental health crisis and substance use issues found in Missouri counties and jails.
- an appropriation that would relieve counties of the cost of providing office space and certain utility expenses for the various state public defenders’ offices;
- a perpetual appropriation or funding stream to offset any statutory mandate increasing the salary and retirement contributions for any county-elected official;
- the General Assembly’s continuing to refrain from implementing the requirements of SB 711 relating to property tax enacted in 2008 until full state funding for the same is authorized; and
- an appropriation for county public administrators aimed at funding and coordinating the state’s public guardianship system, which is being operated independently by counties and the City of St. Louis, to ensure funding is balanced, sufficient and helps reduce caseloads that have become dangerously high at times.

MAC Resolution #2 – 2022

MAC STANDS IN OPPOSITION TO PREEMPTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the Missouri General Assembly should not be forced to “micro-manage” county government from Jefferson City due to the lack of local authority to deal with local issues; and

WHEREAS, Missouri county officials have expressed their opposition to the erosion of local authority which would allow counties greater flexibility in dealing with truly local issues and problems; and

WHEREAS, Missouri's county officials also believe it is critical to protect the citizens they represent when large scale developments infringe upon their constituents' way of life, including compliance with local planning and zoning and other ordinances; and

WHEREAS, county officials expressly oppose any effort to repeal or weaken 229.100 RSMo., that requires any individual, association or company to have the approval of the county commission prior to the erection of poles for the suspension of electric light or power wires, or the laying and maintenance of pipes, conductors, mains and conduits for any purpose through, on, under or across public roads or highways of any county of this state;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Association of Counties does hereby go on record in opposition to legislation that would preempt a county's authority to deal with local issues and problems.

MAC Resolution #3 – 2022

MAC STANDS IN OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATION THAT ERODES THE LOCAL TAX BASE

WHEREAS, the cost of county services continues to increase annually, prompting many to diversify their revenue streams through the use of sales taxes to supplement the property tax base; and

WHEREAS, some of Missouri's taxes are still structured around antiquated laws drafted and passed decades ago regarding tax collections and assessment; and

WHEREAS, county governments have an obligation to their constituents to look to the future to ensure that adequate funding sources will be available to meet the required service needs of local governments; and

WHEREAS, county governments need to be able to modernize tax collection services and the auction of properties that are delinquent in tax payments; and

WHEREAS, counties have provided services from revenue generated from the collection of *REAL* and personal property taxes; and

WHEREAS, legislators have proposed legislation in the past to cap assessments on properties and eliminated personal property taxes, which would cause financial burden to county services, as well as be harmful on the finances of other political subdivisions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Association of Counties does hereby call on the Missouri General Assembly to limit legislation that would have a negative budgetary effect on local governments without guaranteed replacement revenue and address issues that adversely affect the assessment and collection of county tax revenue that is used for county services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Missouri Association of Counties shall support changes in legislation that standardizes the local assessment of power generation and transmission, which includes alternative sources of energy (wind, solar, etc.), regardless of ownership with all related tax revenues to be taxed and distributed at the local level.

MAC Resolution #4 – 2022

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE FULL REPEAL OF THE PREVAILING-WAGE LAW IN MISSOURI

WHEREAS, the federal government enacted the Davis-Bacon Act in 1931, which established the requirement for paying the local prevailing wage on public works projects; and

WHEREAS, Missouri enacted similar legislation in 1957, Chapter 290, Section 250 of the RSMo., to incorporate setting the local prevailing wage performed by each type of worker in the locality it is performed on construction projects that use public funds; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Department of Economic Development sets the prevailing wage for specific labor on public works projects on a county-by-county basis; and

WHEREAS, in accordance to state law, any publicly funded construction project in Missouri must pay the prevailing wage performed by each type of worker; and

WHEREAS, the cost of construction projects may fluctuate every year based on locality, as well as other factors, including but not limited to, labor, materials, liability and health insurance; and

WHEREAS, local contractors may not be able to bid on public work projects in their area because they may not be able to comply with state law which requires them to pay the prevailing wage, leading to a lack of competitiveness in the bidding process that can drive up the costs on projects and put a strain on the budgets of local governments; and

WHEREAS, construction projects that are built without the assistance of any public funds may have a more competitive bidding process because these types of construction projects do not have to comply with the state's prevailing-wage law, thus saving money on construction projects; and

WHEREAS, if Missouri's prevailing-wage law was fully repealed, it may lessen the budget burden of the state, counties, municipalities and others that use public funds on public works projects by not having to pay the prevailing wage, and may lead to a more competitive bidding market by allowing contractors to bid on projects in their area because they no longer have to comply with the prevailing-wage law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Missouri Association of Counties does hereby go on record in support of legislation that calls for the full repeal of the prevailing-wage law in Missouri.

MAC Resolution #5 –2022

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE EXPANSION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT PUBLISHING OPTIONS FOR COUNTIES IN THE STATE OF MISSOURI

WHEREAS, past legislation called for the expansion of options available for county commissions to post annual financial statements for public review; and

WHEREAS, annually Section 50.800 RSMo., calls for county commissions, on or before the first Monday in March, to prepare and publish their annual financial statement in some newspaper as defined by state law or in 10 places within said county; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Association of Counties values the role local newspapers play in local government and the local political process; and

WHEREAS, lawmakers when approving the existing statute, related to the posting of annual county financial data, could not have foreseen the dawn of the internet and its impact on how 21st century individuals would obtain news; and

WHEREAS, the internationally recognized Pew Research Center in 2018, found for the first time that one-in-five adults in the U.S. get their news from social media, slightly higher than the share who often do so from print editions (16%) and that 43% of U.S. adults often get news from social media or news websites; and

WHEREAS, the Associated Press in 2019, in conjunction with the University of North Carolina, analyzed data and reports more than 1,400 towns and cities in the United States have lost a local newspaper over the past 15 years; and

WHEREAS, as local newspapers struggle to retain readership many Missouri counties have seen their local newspapers, increase advertising rates, reduce editions, or stop production entirely; constituents no longer have a watchdog to report on their local government; and

WHEREAS, posting county financial statement information on the internet can reach many more voters than any bulletin board in the county courthouse; and

WHEREAS, many Missouri counties no longer have a local newspaper, of general circulation, but instead must use regional newsprint to print public notices, ballot notifications, or annual financial statements; and

WHEREAS, the printing of a financial summary, as similar to that required by Missouri municipal governments, in a local or regional newspaper of general circulation, that in turn directs constituents to the internet for more details can benefit the constituent, county government and newspaper organization; and

WHEREAS, expanding the posting options available to county governments, to include a designated county website or news website, to Missouri counties will ensure more citizens have access to county financial data;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Association of Counties supports the expansion of financial statement publishing options for counties of second, third or fourth classification in the state of Missouri.

MAC Resolution #6 –2022

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ELIMINATING OR CHANGING THE DATE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE PRIMARY ELECTION IN MISSOURI WHILE MAINTAINING THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE APRIL GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION

WHEREAS, the last Presidential Preference Primary Election in 2020 cost the State of Missouri roughly \$8 million; and

WHEREAS, the results of said election are not binding, making the election nothing more than an opinion poll; and

WHEREAS, the major political parties within the State of Missouri are required to caucus to select their delegates for their respective National Conventions and could caucus concurrently to award delegates to the various presidential candidates; and

WHEREAS, administrating the March Presidential Preference Primary Election and April General Municipal Election within four weeks of each other is an unnecessary exhaustion of local resources that can lead to unintended errors; and

WHEREAS, the April General Municipal Election involves the largest number of entities of any election in Missouri, which creates the larger number of ballot styles; and

WHEREAS, the Missouri Association of Counties, along with the Missouri Association of County Clerks and Election Authorities, believes local entities are the most direct form of government and voters deserve an accurate and fair local election; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative to keep the April General Municipal Election on its own election date to avoid voter confusion, unintended errors by election judges handing out the wrong ballot style, or voter fatigue in completing prohibitively long ballots;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Missouri Association of Counties supports the elimination or changing the date of the Presidential Preference Primary Election in the state of Missouri and maintaining the independence of the April General Municipal Election.

MAC Resolution #7 – 2022
**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF RESTORING THE ABILITY OF THIRD-
CLASS COUNTY SALARY COMMISSIONS TO AMEND THE BASE
SCHEDULE OF COUNTY OFFICIALS TO INCLUDE ASSESSED VALUATION
FACTORS IN EXCESS OF \$300 MILLION**

WHEREAS, at the time when the base salary schedules were established for most, but not all county officials, the threshold between the third and second classification was three hundred million dollars of assessed valuation; and

WHEREAS, subsequently, when the threshold was raised, the legislature adopted what was then known as Section 50.327.4 RSMo., which gave third-class county salary commissions the ability to amend those base schedules to include assessed valuation factors in excess of three hundred million dollars; and

WHEREAS, during the 2021 session, the legislature adopted S.B. 53, which repealed provisions relating to the salary schedule for county sheriffs; and

WHEREAS, by the same act, the legislature also removed the aforementioned Section 50.374.4 RSMo., which MAC believes was done in error; and

WHEREAS, this perceived error negatively affects a number of counties of the third classification which have now, or soon may have, assessed valuations in excess of three hundred million dollars;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Missouri Association of Counties supports the restoration of Section 50.327.4 RSMo., in its original form to restore the ability of third-class county salary commissions to amend the base schedule of county officials to included assessed valuation factors in excess of three hundred million dollars.

MAC Resolution #8 – 2022
A RESOLUTION TO ENSURE THE PARTICIPATION OF COUNTY
GOVERNMENTS IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
BROADBAND EXPANSION EFFORTS

WHEREAS, members of the Missouri Association of Counties are uniquely positioned to advise and help facilitate digital connectivity for urban and rural areas for which long-standing connectivity inequities have been made more acute by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the expansion of broadband internet will require resources from all levels of government, but foremost will require the integration of local government in establishing the programmatic components that will successfully implement connectivity for all communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Missouri Association of Counties urges the General Assembly, Congress and involve state and federal agencies to commit to the inclusion and engagement of MAC members in the earliest phases of the strategic planning and expansion of broadband services and access.

MAC Resolution #9 – 2022

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EMPOWERING COUNTIES TO BE ACTIVE IN THE DEPLOYMENT AND OPERATIONS OF HIGH-SPEED INTERNET

WHEREAS, High-speed internet is an essential element of modern commerce; and

WHEREAS, local governments in many states are prohibited from being active participants in the deployment of these services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Missouri Association of Counties supports the removal of barriers to counties supplying infrastructure to the private sector, partnering with the private sector or operating internet services as a public utility when no commercial service is available.

MAC Resolution #10 – 2022

A RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONGRESS TO PASS LEGISLATION TO FORMALIZE THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH DATA GATHERED BY THE TESTIT AND OTHER GRANULAR INTERNET CONNECTION TOOLS ARE USED TO MODIFY THE BROADBAND COVERAGE MAPS

WHEREAS, the Missouri Association of Counties feels the current coverage maps tend to inflate the availability of service across the state but particularly in more rural areas; and

WHEREAS, these maps are an important source document in the development of state broadband deployment policy and the deployment of federal and state funds for broadband development; and

WHEREAS, having accurate coverage maps is essential to the development of good state and federal policy on broadband deployment;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Missouri Association of Counties encourages the General Assembly, Congress and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to create a formal process by which crowd-sourced data gathered by applications such as the TestIT app can be used to create new or update the existing FCC broadband coverage maps. Further, MAC believes that such legislation should require the FCC to test and certify the accuracy of these crowd-sourcing applications.