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FOR INFORMATION CALL

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Common Council sets legislative priorities with approval of 2027-28 State Legislative Package

Today (**Monday, November 16**), the Common Council's Judiciary and Legislation Committee recommended approval of file **#261089** – a resolution relating to the City of Milwaukee's 2027-2028 State Legislative Package. The State Legislative Package will assist the City's elected officials, departments, and governmental-relations representatives in communicating the City's priorities to state policymakers and other stakeholders.

"The City has identified state legislative priorities intended to protect and strengthen local decision-making, support effective delivery of municipal services, and advance the interests of City residents," said **Common Council President José G. Pérez**. "As new leadership and representation come to State government, we must remain focused on what's important – working to enact change at all levels of government that support every Milwaukee resident."

Six priorities are identified to guide the City's advocacy:

1) **Protect Home Rule and Local Decision Making**

As Wisconsin's economic engine, Milwaukee must retain the authority to govern in ways that strengthen growth, attract investment, and support the workforce that drives the state's economy. To remain competitive, the City is prioritizing reforms in building codes, the disposition of City-owned real estate, transportation planning, and related development powers. Local control over housing standards, ordinances, public-safety policies, licensing, and the design of infrastructure suited to an urban environment is essential.

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2) **Restore Fiscal Capacity**

The City of Milwaukee requires adequate revenue streams to enable our government to deliver essential services to our constituents. The City supports additional funding for the shared-revenue program, the allowance of municipal user fees, and direct state support for public safety and infrastructure funding. The City supports equitable valuation practices across all property types and opposes state-mandated exemptions or tax shifts that increase the burden on residents. Additionally, Milwaukee prioritizes public accountability, regulatory simplicity, and transparent operations

3) **Rebuild Infrastructure**

Milwaukee's role as Wisconsin's economic engine depends on strong, reliable infrastructure that supports residents and local businesses. The City seeks increased funding for critical infrastructure needs, including road repairs, lead pipe replacement, and upgrades to water and sewer systems without conditions that divert resources away from these essential projects. The City of Milwaukee will pursue policies that mitigate the effects of climate change and increase equitable sustainability measures.

4) **Advance Fairness, Opportunity, and Access**

Milwaukee's economic strength depends on policies that expand opportunity for all residents. To promote equity and support a stable, competitive economy, the City backs legislation that protects voting rights, reinforces strong anti-discrimination policies in housing and employment, and expands access to local health care. In addition, the City supports environmental policies that build healthier communities and greater resiliency. The City remains committed to supporting proven policies and practices that address social determinants of health, reduce racial disparities, and foster equity.

5) **Make the City Safer and Healthier**

The City of Milwaukee is responsible for the safety and health of its residents and visitors. The City supports community-oriented policing, maintaining appropriate public-safety staffing levels, and using enforcement technologies that fit Milwaukee's needs - while opposing rigid, statewide mandates that limit local flexibility.

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The City seeks common-sense gun safety measures and funding for mental-health care, substance-use treatment, and homelessness-prevention services tailored to Milwaukee residents, recognizing that these services are essential to long-term safety, stability, and overall public health.

6) **Strengthen Neighborhoods and the Local Economy**

To strengthen the local economy, Milwaukee supports economic incentives that foster business growth, job creation, and workforce development, especially in underserved neighborhoods and City-designated innovation districts. The City seeks funding for education and workforce programs that prepare residents for competitive industries, as well as investments that expand affordable housing, prevent foreclosure, and improve access to quality housing while opposing statewide mandates that overlook local conditions.

"I want to thank my colleagues for their work on this legislative package and for providing input that will help push Milwaukee forward. Together, the Council can work to advance the needed change for Milwaukeeans," President Pérez added.

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