



TO: Key Officials

FROM: Judy A. Silva, Executive Director
Cordell A. Johnston, Government Affairs Counsel

DATE: August 13, 2018

RE: 2019-2020 Legislative Policy Conference ~ Friday, September 14, 2018

Floor Policy Proposals

Enclosed please find copies of the floor policy proposals that have been submitted for discussion and vote at the NHMA Legislative Policy Conference. These supplement the policy recommendations prepared by the three legislative policy committees, which were mailed to each municipality on June 20, 2018. Delegates at the conference will vote on the policy recommendations and the floor policy proposals, along with NHMA's Legislative Principles. If you need copies of any of these documents, you can find them on the NHMA website, www.nhmunicipal.org. (Near the top of the home page, click on the "Advocacy" tab, then use the menu on the left to find "Legislative Principles," "2019-2020 Legislative Policy Recommendations," and "2019-2020 Floor Policy Proposals.")

Voting Delegate

Each member municipality has one vote at the policy conference. Each governing body is asked to appoint a voting delegate to cast the municipality's vote on the policy proposals presented. **We are sending a voting delegate card to the chief administrative officer in each municipality (or the governing body chair if no administrative staff) to return to us indicating the governing body's appointment for voting delegate.** Please mail this card back to us no later than Friday, September 7. See the Legislative Policy Process Questions & Answers document, also sent with the June 20 mailing and available on the NHMA website, for a description of who will have voting privileges for a municipality in the absence of any formal designation.

Policy Conference

The Legislative Policy Conference is scheduled for **Friday, September 14, 2018, at 9:00 a.m.** at **NHMA's offices at 25 Triangle Park Drive** in Concord.

We urge the governing body of each municipality to discuss the full slate of policy recommendations, along with these floor proposals, and take a position on each proposal to give guidance to your voting delegate. ***Do not send your positions on the policy recommendations to NHMA; they are only for the guidance of your voting delegate, and each municipality can register its positions only by voting at the conference.*** At the conference, delegates may vote to approve, reject, amend, or table a policy proposal. They may also vote to change the order of priority of the various policies.

This is an important opportunity for each member municipality to participate in determining NHMA legislative policy for the 2019-2020 biennium—we count on your input! As always, please do not hesitate to call or e-mail (governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org) the Government Affairs Staff with any questions, comments, or concerns. We look forward to seeing you on September 14!

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New Hampshire Municipal Association
2019 - 2020 Legislative Policy Process

Floor Policy Proposal

RECEIVED
JUL 16 2018
NHMA

Submitted by (name): Hudson Board of Selectmen

Date: July 10, 2018

City or Town: Hudson

Title of Person Submitting Policy:

Selectmen

Floor Policy Proposal approved by vote of the governing body on *July 10, 2018*

To see if NHMA will SUPPORT/OPPOSE:

To see if NHMA will support legislation to lower the abatement interest rate that municipalities pay from 6% to 4% (RSA 76:17-a) to better align it with the interest rate on delinquent taxes that were recently lowered by the NH Legislature.

Municipal Interest to be accomplished by proposal:

To align abatement interest paid by a municipality with the recent lowering of interest rates on delinquent property taxes.

Explanation:

Currently, after the timely payment deadline has passed on payment of property taxes, usually 30 days or more of grace time, 12% interest is charged, for a period of six (6) months, and then 18% interest is charged after those six (6) months. The NH Legislature and the Governor have passed into law, a significant decrease in the interest rate that is charged on late property tax bills. As of January 1, 2019, after the timely payment deadline has passed on payment on property taxes, 8% interest is charged, for a period of six (6) months and then 14% interest is charged. This proposal seeks to lower the interest rate on abatements paid by a municipality from 6% to 4% to better align with delinquent property tax interest rates.



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**New Hampshire Municipal Association
2019-2020 Legislative Policy Process**

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JUL 24 2018

NHMA

Floor Policy Proposal

Submitted by (name) Jill White Date: July 23, 2018

City or Town Holderness Title of Person Submitting Policy Chair, Select Board

Floor Policy Proposal approved by vote of the governing body on (date) July 23, 2018

Submitted by (name) Brent T. Lemire Date: July 24, 2018

City or Town Litchfield Title of Person Submitting Policy Chair, Select Board

Floor Policy Proposal approved by vote of the governing body on (date) July 23, 2018

Submitted by (name) Rick Hiland Date: July 25, 2018

City or Town Albany Title of Person Submitting Policy Select Board - Chairman

Floor Policy Proposal approved by vote of the governing body on (date) July 25, 2018

Submitted by (name) David W. Swenson Date: July 31, 2018

City or Town New Durham Title of Person Submitting Policy Chair, Select Board

Floor Policy Proposal approved by vote of the governing body on (date) July 31, 2018

To see if NHMA will SUPPORT legislation clarifying that the Town Moderator has authority to postpone the official ballot voting session of town meeting in the event of severe weather or other emergency and establishing clear rules for addressing any practical issues involved in postponing the voting session.

Municipal interest to be accomplished by proposal: Preserve local control over elections and enable local officials to take necessary steps to protect public safety.



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New Hampshire Municipal Association
2019-2020 Legislative Policy Process

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JUL 26 2018

NHMA

Floor Policy Proposal

Submitted by (name) Bedford Town Council Date July 18, 2018 City or Town
Town of Bedford Title of Person Submitting Policy Rick Sawyer, Town Manager

Floor Policy Proposal approved by vote of the governing body on (date) July 18, 2018

To see if NHMA will SUPPORT/OPPOSE: legislation that would allow municipalities to be able to regulate the use of outdoor watering on all properties.

Municipal interest to be accomplished by proposal:

The proposal would allow municipalities to place outdoor watering restrictions on all properties during drought conditions not just residential properties as currently permitted under RSA 41:11-d.

Explanation: During two of the last three years the State of NH has faced drought conditions and the State Department of Environmental Services has recommended that municipalities ban or limit the outside watering of lawns, car washing, etc. Currently RSA 41:11-d limits the ability to place such a restriction to only residential land. It is very challenging to enforce such a restriction on our residents when the commercial properties they drive by are watering their grass and it significantly reduces the potential replenishment of the aquifer that the restriction could bring. During the last legislative session HB173 came close to providing for this change with the House approving it 249-100, but it ultimately failed in the Senate.

A sheet like this should accompany each proposed floor policy and should record the date of the governing body vote approving the proposal. It should include a brief (one or two sentence) policy statement, a statement about the municipal interest served by the proposal, and an explanation which describes the nature of the problem or concern from a municipal perspective and discusses the proposed action which is being advocated to address the problem. Mail to 25 Triangle Park Drive, Concord, NH 03301; or email to governmentaffairs@nhmunicipal.org.
Must be received by August 10, 2018.



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NHMA

**New Hampshire Municipal Association
2019-2020 Legislative Policy Process**

Floor Policy Proposal

Submitted by (name) Robert Thibault Date August 9, 2018

City or Town Easton Title of Person Submitting Policy Selectman

Floor Policy Proposal approved by vote of the governing body on (date) July 30, 2018

Submitted by (name) Eric Meth Date August 9, 2018

City or Town Franconia Title of Person Submitting Policy Selectman

Floor Policy Proposal approved by vote of the governing body on (date) July 30, 2018

Submitted by (name) Margaret J. Connors Date August 9, 2018

City or Town Sugar Hill Title of Person Submitting Policy Select Board Member

Floor Policy Proposal approved by vote of the governing body on (date) 7/30/2018

To see if NHMA will SUPPORT/OPPOSE:

Support a bill that would clarify that the Site Evaluation Committee does not have jurisdiction over use of municipal roads by merchant utility projects.

Municipal interest to be accomplished by proposal: Maintain local control over municipal roads.

Explanation:

On Page 282 of the Site Evaluation Committee's March 30, 2018 written decision denying Northern Pass a certificate of site and facility the SEC explains why it believes it have the authority to supersede existing state law that gives the authority over control of use of municipal roads by utilities to the governing body of the municipality. Either the SEC has the authority to supersede municipal control over municipal roads or it doesn't. This needs to be made clear for all municipalities and for all future potential applicants to the SEC. While it is clearly stated in RSA 162:H (the authorizing statute for the SEC) that its authority supersedes local land use regulation, there is no reference at all to control over municipal roads. Municipalities are vulnerable to losing control over their own roads if this legal confusion is not cleared up.