

MAC Resolution #1 – 2017

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LEGISLATIVE ACTION TO DESIGN A COMPLETE AND DETAILED PLAN FOR UPGRADING STATEWIDE 9-1-1 WIRELESS EMERGENCY SERVICES

WHEREAS, a recent study revealed that Missouri is the *only* state in the nation that does not have a state wireless service recovery fee, and

WHEREAS, the long-time goal of county governments and other interested stakeholders is to achieve a communication system in Missouri that allows any citizen or visitor to contact the appropriate emergency service utilizing the three-digit number 9-1-1 from *any* communication device, and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Missouri falsely believe they are protected with 9-1-1 service when utilizing cellular services, and many Missouri residents travel extensively throughout the year to areas in the state where they are not protected by 9-1-1 service, and

WHEREAS, wireless subscribers continue to exceed wire-line subscribers at an increasing rate, and

WHEREAS, there are currently 16 Missouri counties that have no 9-1-1 service and 30 counties still cannot locate a 9-1-1 call from a cell phone, and

WHEREAS, the life cycle of 9-1-1 equipment is seven years, and the majority of Missouri's PSAP equipment is more than six years old and most cannot be updated to accommodate new communication technologies, and

WHEREAS, without a state wireless service recovery fee, Missouri will never attain statewide Enhanced 9-1-1 service and some existing PSAPs will cease to exist,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Association of Counties does hereby go on record in support of legislative action to design a complete, detailed, and integrated plan for upgrading statewide 9-1-1 wireless emergency services.

MAC Resolution #2 – 2017

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, 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,

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 incoming Governor include the following in the state’s fiscal year 2018 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,
- both an appropriation to fully fund the reimbursement for the detention and care of neglected and/or delinquent juveniles and the salaries of juvenile court personnel in single-county circuits,
- an appropriation that would relieve counties of the cost of providing office space and certain utility expenses for the various state public defenders’ offices, and
- an appropriation that would relieve counties from salary and retirement contribution increases for county prosecuting attorneys, and
- 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.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, recognizing the difficult budgetary constraints that the state of Missouri is experiencing and the dim prospects for additional state appropriations for these programs and, as a partner with the state in the delivery of these services, the Missouri Association of Counties requests that the Governor and the Missouri General Assembly hold county governments harmless from any further state budget cuts in these areas.

MAC Resolution #3 – 2017

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A TRANSPORTATION FUNDING PACKAGE THAT WILL ADDRESS MISSOURI'S DIRE INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS

WHEREAS, Amendment 3 funding ended in 2009, reducing significantly the amount of funding available for maintenance and repair of our current system and leaving virtually no new money for Missouri's transportation needs beyond our current system, and

WHEREAS, our transportation funding system is broken, all linked to the reality that Missouri has the seventh largest system in the nation and we rank 47th in funding, and

WHEREAS, federal funding for state and local transportation has prompted disagreement in Congress and could possibly be expected to diminish in future years, and

WHEREAS, Missouri currently has the 9th highest number of obsolete bridges in the nation, and

WHEREAS, Missouri has the most major bridges of any state in the country – 53 major bridges that cross the Mississippi or Missouri Rivers, and

WHEREAS, in addition to Missouri's 10,400 state-owned bridges, there are 14,000 bridges on the off-system and counties are responsible for 91 percent of these, as well as the 73,476 county-owned road miles, and

WHEREAS, the state's strong agricultural industry relies more than ever on our roads and bridges to transport grain, livestock, and other goods, and

WHEREAS, Missouri is within a 10-hour drive of half of the country's population and the state's vast riverways make it ideal for shipping both domestically and internationally, and

WHEREAS, if Missouri's road and bridge systems can be improved and river ports and rail be better utilized, the state could become a central distribution point, which would bring many new jobs to the state, and

WHEREAS, Missouri's state gas tax is 17 cents per gallon and only five other states have a lower motor fuel tax, and

WHEREAS, if new revenues are considered, they should be required to be allocated to transportation projects and not be diverted for other needs,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Missouri Association of Counties does hereby go on record in seeking the General Assembly's support for a transportation funding package that will address Missouri's dire infrastructure needs.

MAC Mission Statement – 2017

MAC STANDS IN OPPOSITION TO THE PRE-EMPTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

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.

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.

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.

The Missouri Association of Counties does hereby go on record in opposition to legislation that would pre-empt a county's authority to deal with local issues and problems.

MAC Mission Statement – 2017

MAC STANDS IN OPPOSITION TO LEGISLATION THAT ERODES THE LOCAL TAX BASE AND CALLS UPON THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ADDRESS MISSOURI'S ANTIQUATED TAX STRUCTURE

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.

Local businesses are at a competitive disadvantage to businesses that operate outside of the state of Missouri and do not collect state and local sales tax.

A serious erosion of the local tax base is occurring with the unprecedented growth of uncollected sales and use taxes on Internet purchases.

States and local governments are losing billions of dollars in tax revenue because many remote sellers are not collecting sales and use taxes on Internet, telephone and catalog sales, with those losses estimated to be \$26 billion in 2015.

Missouri taxes are structured around laws drafted and passed in the 1930s which were designed to tax the main focus of industry in the state at that time.

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.

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. The Association also asks that the General Assembly address Missouri's antiquated tax code, especially as it relates to sales tax, so that both state and local governments are well-positioned in the future to meet the increasing service needs of our citizens.