

MAC Resolution #1 - 2009

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

WHEREAS, Missouri recently commissioned a Pennsylvania firm to analyze its 9-1-1 problems, and the study revealed that ours is the only state with no funding mechanism for wireless users who need emergency service, and

WHEREAS, the lack of a cohesive, uniform 9-1-1 service system in Missouri creates gaps in coverage, 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, there are 3.2 million wireline subscribers in Missouri, but there are 3.8 million wireless users, and

WHEREAS, currently there are 21 Missouri counties (18 percent) that do not have in place an established and operating 9-1-1 service, and

WHEREAS, of the 171 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) in the state, only 68 have enhanced wireless 9-1-1 service, and

WHEREAS, the life cycle of 9-1-1 equipment is seven years, and 77 percent of Missouri's PSAP equipment is more than six years old, and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that PSAPs are receiving 642,377 wireless calls per year, and

WHEREAS, in a widespread emergency, few of Missouri's 9-1-1 systems will be able to communicate effectively with one another, if at all,

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

MAC Resolution #2 - 2009

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

WHEREAS, 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 Governor Blunt include in the state’s fiscal year 2010 budget (1) an increase in the appropriation for prisoner per diem reimbursement authorized under 221.105, *RSMo*, (2) an appropriation to fully fund state assessment maintenance reimbursements, (3) an appropriation to fully fund any new obligations placed on the election officials of this state, (4) 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, and (5) an appropriation that would relieve counties of the cost of providing office space and certain utility expenses for the various state public defenders’ offices.

MAC Resolution #3 - 2009

RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE PRE-EMPTION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY

WHEREAS, the passage of Amendment 1 in April 1995, deleted the “uniformity” provision in the Missouri Constitution which required that a law applicable to a county in a class apply to all counties in that class, and

WHEREAS, the repeal of that provision further requires non-charter county officials to seek state legislative approval for individual laws to help solve local problems due to the inability to effectively deal with them at the county level, and

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,

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 #4 - 2009

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

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

WHEREAS, 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 projected to range between \$21.5 billion and \$33.7 billion by 2008, and

WHEREAS, in 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, 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,

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 affect on local governments without guaranteed replacement revenue, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Missouri Association of Counties requests 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.

MAC Resolution #5 – 2009

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

WHEREAS, Amendment 3 funding ends 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, federal funding for transportation is expected to diminish over the next several years, and

WHEREAS, Missouri currently has the 6th 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 10,276 state-owned bridges, there are 13,864 bridges on the off-system and counties are responsible for 91 percent of these, of which 35 percent are over 50 years old, 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 river ways 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.

Adopted Nov. 24, 2008