

# NEWSBRIEF



**Date:** June 18, 2014

**To:** Council & Senior Staff

Turn the page for a list of what's included in this packet.

**(Items are alphabetized)**

1. AMM Metro Cities dated June 13, 2014
2. LMC Cities Bulletin dated June 16, 2014
3. Minnesota House of Representatives Rep. Mike Freiberg (45B) – Legislative Update
4. Sun Post article:  
*Promising assistance to military service members in the west metro*



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## Metro Citi Ju.

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### Department of Revenue Training on Tax Law Changes

In light of the property tax law changes enacted this year, the Department of Revenue held a conference call training presentation with it regarding the: supplemental agricultural credit, renter property tax refund, homestead credit refund, and eligible property tax refunds. The provided administrative facts, explanations of the changes and how they affect taxpayers as well as important timelines for refunds. For information you can watch the [presentation](#) or read the [transcript](#). The Department of Revenue also has a section of their [website](#) dev law changes and the ability to sign up for email updates.

### Candidate Filings for House of Representatives

The candidate filing deadline passed last week, with 164 candidates filing for State House districts represented in the 7 county metropol 73 districts in the metro area, 61 have incumbents running and two have unopposed races. To see the complete list of candidates filing their respective districts click [here](#). Metro Cities has also compiled a list of House districts in the 7 county region with their respective city can be found [here](#). Election Day is November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014. For additional links on election dates and more information on the legislature, \ 'Legislature' tab on Metro Cities' website.

### State Revenues Dip

This week the Minnesota office of Management and Budget (MMB) released its May revenue review with net general fund revenues tota billion for the month. This is \$17 million or 1.1% less than originally forecasted. This stems from lower individual income tax withholdings general sales tax receipts and corporate franchise taxes coming in less than forecasted. Other revenues, however, came in higher than helped balance the difference. For fiscal year 2014 to date, \$16.822 billion has been received with \$95 million less than forecasted.

As always, MMB notes that monthly revenue reports should be viewed with caution as variances occur each month. The next report, wh released in July, will include the prior years' individual income tax refunds and final payments as most 2013 returns will be processed. M expect the combination of refunds, final payments, and payments from extensions for tax year 2013 to result in an unfavorable variance fiscal year. The May report can be read [here](#).

### POLICY COMMITTEES—JOIN US!

Metro Cities' 2014 policy committee process is quickly approaching. Policy committees include a variety of city staff (city administrators, staff, community development staff, finance directors, and others) as well as elected officials, making this a good chance to meet and wo officials throughout the region on policies of shared interest to metro communities. We hope you will consider serving, and please share others in your city!

Dates and times are below. Please [click here](#) to sign up for a committee(s) and [click here](#) for meeting descriptions:

#### **Transportation and General Government**

11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Monday—July 14, 2014  
Monday—August 18, 2014  
Monday—September 8, 2014

#### **Municipal Revenues**

11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.  
Tuesday—July 15, 2014  
Tuesday—August 19, 2014  
Tuesday—September 9, 2014

#### **Metropolitan Agencies**

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Wednesday—July 16, 2014  
Wednesday—August 20, 2014  
Wednesday—September 10, 2014

#### **Housing and Economic Development**

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Friday—July 18, 2014

Friday —August 22, 2014  
Friday —September 19, 2014

For more information, contact Laurie Jennings at 651-215-4000 or [laurie@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:laurie@metrocitiesmn.org)

**Met Council Forum on Water Supply Plan**

The Metropolitan Council is hosting forums in three locations for city planning and water utility staff to initiate the process to update the Water Supply Plan and how it impacts the local comprehensive planning process. Two of the forums have already been held; the third is scheduled for

**Tuesday, June 24, 2014** from 8:30 – 10:30 a.m.  
**Eagan City Hall**, Council Chambers, 3830 Pilot Knob Road, Eagan MN 55122

For more information, contact Linda Henning at 651-602-1279 or [Linda.Henning@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:Linda.Henning@metc.state.mn.us).



**Metro Cities News** is emailed periodically to all Metro Cities member mayors, councilmembers, city managers and administrators to keep them abreast of important metro city issues. This information is also intended to be shared with city staff.

If you'd like to sign up to receive Metro Cities News, please email [Laurie@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:Laurie@metrocitiesmn.org) and provide the following: Name, Title, E-mail address. Thank you.

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# CITIES BULLETIN



Issue 19

June 16, 2014

## 2014 Law Summaries Now Available

Find out how laws enacted during the 2014 legislative session will affect cities.

## In Other News

### E-Cigarette Regulations Effective July 1

New regulations on the sale and use of electronic cigarettes go into effect July 1.

### Nearly 300 Candidates File for House Seats

The 134 House seats have 282 filed candidates, and there will be at least 15 new legislators in January.

### May State Revenue Collections Slightly Below Forecast

This is the fourth month that revenue collections have failed to meet budget projections.

### Reminder: Broadband Roundtable Happening This Week

The event will feature a discussion on the recently enacted Border-to-Border Broadband Grant program.

## More Information and Resources

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Clerks: There's Still Time! You Can Register On-Site for the Clerks' Orientation Conference

Audited Financial Statements Due June 30

What Are Your City's Safety Rules for EMS, Fire, and Police Responders? Share Them With Us!

Scholarships Available for City Participation in Sustainability Initiative

Up-to-Date Information on Every Minnesota City in One Place—Order the 2014 Directory Today

State Accepting Applications for Historic Preservation Grants

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The City Spot Blog: Do's and Don'ts of Prayer at City Council Meetings

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## Featured Events

2014 LMC Annual Conference  
*June 18-20—St. Cloud*

2014 Clerks' Orientation Conference  
*June 18-20—St. Cloud*

## Quick Links

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## LMC Business Alliance

LMC Business Alliance members provide valuable financial support to the League and help support our mission to serve Minnesota cities. [View Alliance members](#)

## Contact Us/Subscribe

*For legislative questions:*  
[Contact IGR Staff](#)

*For editorial or other Bulletin questions:*

**Contact Claudia Hoffacker**  
Editor  
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[choffacker@lmc.org](mailto:choffacker@lmc.org)

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## 2014 Law Summaries Now Available



**Find out how laws enacted during the 2014 legislative session will affect cities.**

The 2014 Legislature sent 169 chapters of new law to Gov. Dayton. The League's *2014 Law Summaries* provide details on how these new laws will affect cities.

This publication is intended to highlight relevant new laws, but is not intended to be comprehensive legal advice. It will help city officials understand new laws that may impact city operations as well as provide information on proposed legislation that didn't survive the legislative process.

The following is a sampling of the bills the governor has signed into law that impact cities:

- Sales tax exemption cleanup.
- City/region-specific capital investment/bonding projects.
- Local building official inspection authority.
- Housing infrastructure funding.
- Electronic cigarette use prohibited in buildings owned or operated by political subdivisions.
- Establishment of the Broadband Development Grant Program.
- Creation of the Legislative Water Commission.
- Establishment of the Public Employee Relations Board.

If you have any questions about new laws or legislation summarized in the *2014 Law Summaries*, please contact a member of the **League's Intergovernmental Relations Department** (Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/IGR-Staff.jsp>). The initials of the best staff member to contact for a particular law are listed at the end of each summary. You can find a key for the initials on page 3 of the *2014 Law Summaries*.

- **View the 2014 Law Summaries (pdf)** (Link to:

<http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/lmclawsummaries14.pdf>)

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** (Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>)

## E-Cigarette Regulations Effective July 1



**New regulations on the sale and use of electronic cigarettes go into effect July 1.**

(Published Jun 16, 2014)

**Chapter 291** ([Link to: https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=291&year=2014&type=0](https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/?id=291&year=2014&type=0)) contains provisions regulating the sale and use of electronic cigarettes. Though the Legislature fell short of adding e-cigs to the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act this session, the new law does prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in any building “owned or operated by the state, home rule charter or statutory, county, township, school district, or other political subdivision.”

The law also includes requirements for “child-resistant packaging” of the vapor liquid sold for use in electronic cigarettes, and regulation of this will fall to the licensing authority. That provision of the new law does not go into effect until Jan. 1, 2015. The Minnesota Department Health will provide more specifics on the packaging requirements.

More information on the new law is on page 27 of the League’s *2014 Law Summaries*.

- **View the 2014 Law Summaries (pdf)** ([Link to:](#)

<http://www.lmc.org/media/document/1/lmclawsummaries14.pdf>)

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### Your LMC Resource

#### Contact Ann Lindstrom

IGR Representative

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#### Contact Amber Eisenschenk

Law Clerk

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## Nearly 300 Candidates File for House Seats



**The 134 House seats have 282 filed candidates, and there will be at least 15 new legislators in January.**

(Published Jun 16, 2014)

Minnesotans this fall will elect a governor and lieutenant governor, attorney general, secretary of state, and state auditor. Although much of the publicity has been focused on these statewide offices, all 134 seats in the **Minnesota House of Representatives** ([Link to: http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/)) are also up for election this fall. A major step toward the general election occurred last week as filings for those seats closed.

Based on information compiled by the Minnesota Secretary of State's office, there are 282 candidates for the 134 Minnesota House of Representatives seats, including 119 incumbent legislators who have filed for re-election. The remaining 15 incumbent legislators have either announced their retirement from the Legislature or are running for another office. The non-returning members include:

- Tom Huntley (DFL, Duluth-07A)
- Kathy Brynaert (DFL, Mankato-19B)
- Kelby Woodard (R, Belle Plaine-20A)
- Mike Benson (R, Rochester-26B)
- David FitzSimmons (R, Albertville-30B)
- Kurt Zellers (R, Maple Grove-34B)
- Jim Abeler (R, Anoka-35A)
- John Benson (DFL, Minnetonka-44B)
- Steve Simon (DFL, Hopkins-46B)
- Ernie Leidiger (R, Mayer-47A)
- Andrea Kieffer (R, Woodbury-53B)
- Michael Beard (R, Shakopee-55A)
- Pam Myhra (R, Burnsville-56A)
- Mary Liz Holberg (R, Lakeville-58A)
- Michael Paymar (DFL-St. Paul-64B)

There are nine incumbent candidates who will not face a challenger this fall. Based on the Office of Secretary of State filing records, these candidates have no primary or general election challenger:

- Tim O'Driscoll (R, Sartell-13B)
- Tony Cornish (R, Vernon Center-23B)
- Duane Quam (R, Byron-25A)
- Kim Norton (DFL, Rochester-25B)

- Joe McDonald (R, Delano-29A)
- Marion O'Neill (R, Buffalo-29B)
- Kurt Daudt (R, Crown-31A)
- Joyce Peppin (R, Rogers-34A)
- Joe Hoppe (R, Chaska-47B)

For House seats where more than one candidate from a party has filed, a primary will be conducted on Aug. 12, 2014. Based on the candidate filings, there will be Republican primaries in nine districts and DFL primaries in six districts:

#### Republican Primaries:

- District 07B—Incumbent: Erik Simonson (DFL, Duluth)
- District 12A—Incumbent: Jay McNamar (DFL, Elbow Lake)
- District 30B—Incumbent: David FitzSimmons-retired (R, Albertville)
- District 35A—Incumbent: Jim Abeler-retired (R-Anoka)
- District 47A—Incumbent: Ernie Leidiger-retired (R-Mayer)
- District 48B—Incumbent: Jenifer Loon (R-Eden Prairie)
- District 51A—Incumbent: Sandra Masin (DFL-Eagan)
- District 55A—Incumbent: Michael Beard-Retired (R-Shaokpee)
- District 60B—Incumbent: Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Minneapolis)

#### DFL Primaries:

- District 05A—Incumbent: John Persell (DFL-Bemidji)
- District 06A—Incumbent: Carly Melin (DFL-Hibbing)
- District 44B—Incumbent: John Benson-retired (DFL-Minnetonka)
- District 55A—Incumbent: Michael Beard-retired (R-Shakopee)
- District 60B—Incumbent: Phyllis Kahn (DFL-Minneapolis)
- District 63B—Incumbent: Jean Wagenius (DFL-Minneapolis)

Information from the Minnesota Secretary of State candidate filing list does not include whether a candidate currently serves in another elected office, but based on a quick scan of the candidates, there appear to be 11 current elected city officials running for House seats including:

- District 19A—Kim Spears, R, Councilmember-North Mankato
- District 19B—Jack Considine, DFL, Councilmember-Mankato
- District 21A—Lynn Schoen, DFL, Councilmember-Wabasha
- District 22A—Diana Slyter, DFL, Councilmember-Florence
- District 30B—Eric Lucero, R, Councilmember-City of Dayton
- District 30B—Kevin Kasel, R, Councilmember-City of St. Michael
- District 36B—Peter Crema, R, Councilmember-Brooklyn Park
- District 44B—Tony Wagner, DFL, Councilmember-Minnetonka

- District 46B—Cheryl Youakim, DFL, Councilmember-Hopkins
- District 47A—Jim Nash, R, Mayor-Waconia
- District 55A—Jay C. Whiting, DFL, Councilmember-Shakopee

If you are a current city councilmember or mayor who is running for the Legislature, and we do not have you on the list, please contact Gary Carlson at **[gcarlson@lmc.org](mailto:gcarlson@lmc.org)** (*Link to: <mailto:gcarlson@lmc.org>*).

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### Your LMC Resource

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## May State Revenue Collections Slightly Below Forecast



**This is the fourth month that revenue collections have failed to meet budget projections.**

(Published Jun 16, 2014)

**Minnesota Management and Budget** (*Link to: <http://www.mmb.state.mn.us/>*) (MMB) released the monthly revenue collection memo on June 10 detailing the state general fund revenue collections for the month of May 2014. According to the memo, net state general fund revenues totaled \$1.451 billion in May, which was \$17 million, or 1.1 percent, less than projected in the February state budget forecast.

Individual income tax withholdings in May were \$27 million, or 4.1 percent, less than forecast, but higher than expected payments accompanying extensions reduced the individual income tax shortfall for the month to \$15 million, or 2.3 percent. Sales tax receipts in May were \$1 million (0.3 percent) less than forecast. Although only a small percentage of overall state revenues, corporate franchise tax receipts were off by \$22 million, or nearly 45 percent, while other revenues were up by \$22 million, or 5.9 percent. (See table below.)

For the first 10 months of state fiscal year 2014, which ends on June 30, the state's revenue year-to-date receipts are now \$16.822 billion, which is \$95 million, or 0.6 percent, less than forecast.

### State Monthly Receipts for May 2014 (\$ in millions)

	February 2014 Forecast	Actual	\$ Difference	% Difference
Individual Income Tax	\$677	\$662	-\$15	-2.3%
General Sales Tax	\$373	\$372	\$-1	-0.3%
Corporate Franchise Tax	\$47	\$26	\$-22	-44.7%
Other Revenues	\$370	\$392	\$+22	+5.9%
<b>Total Revenues*</b>	<b>\$1,468</b>	<b>\$1,451</b>	<b>-\$17</b>	<b>-1.1%</b>

\*Note: Totals may not precisely add due to rounding.

The memo cautions that the monthly state revenue collection report is preliminary and subject to revision and further cautions that monthly revenue variances can be subject to wide variances, which may be caused by variations in the rate at which receipts are received and refunds are issued. The state will issue its next revenue report on general fund revenue collections, which will include more complete information on final individual income tax refunds and final payments for tax year 2013, in July.

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## **Your LMC Resources**

### **Contact Gary Carlson**

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**[gcarlson@lmc.org](mailto:gcarlson@lmc.org)** (*Link to: <mailto:gcarlson@lmc.org>*)

## Reminder: Broadband Roundtable Happening This Week



**The event will feature a discussion on the recently enacted Border-to-Border Broadband Grant program.**

(Published Jun 16, 2014)

The **Blandin Foundation** (*Link to: <http://blandinfoundation.org/>*) and the **Telecommunications and Information Society Policy** (*Link to: [http://www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/slp/telecommunications/tisp\\_forum/](http://www.hhh.umn.edu/centers/slp/telecommunications/tisp_forum/)*) (TISP) Forum will present The Broadband Roundtable on June 17 at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs in Minneapolis.

Leadership was the key factor in broadband progress this year at the Legislature. This inclusive roundtable event brings together main leaders in the broadband policy debate. You will hear about lessons learned from this past year as well as next steps in implementation of the recently enacted Border-to-Border Broadband Grant program.

A lot remains to be done, and this roundtable discussion will help clarify where we are going. The idea behind this forum is simple and essential: purposeful exchange on key issues with engaged stakeholders to create a better information future.

The following people will participate in the roundtable discussion:

- Brent Christensen, President/CEO, Minnesota Telecom Alliance
- Gary Evans, President, Greater Minnesota Partnership and Minnesota Broadband Task Force Member
- Tim Flaherty, Flaherty and Hood, P. A.
- Bernadine Joselyn, Director, Public Policy/Engagement, Blandin Foundation and Minnesota Broadband Task Force Member
- Rep. Sheldon Johnson, Minnesota House of Representatives
- Danna MacKenzie, Director, Minnesota Office of Broadband Development
- Sen. Matt Schmit, Minnesota Senate
- Rep. Eric Simonson, Minnesota House of Representatives

The Broadband Roundtable will take place from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs in Room 180, located at 310 19th Ave. S. in Minneapolis.

For more information or to RSVP, contact TISP at [tisp@umn.edu](mailto:tisp@umn.edu) (*Link to: <mailto:tisp@umn.edu>*).

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## **Your LMC Resource**

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## **Audited Financial Statements Due June 30**

All cities with a population of 2,500 or greater must file audited financial statements with the state auditor by **June 30**. Cities with a population under 2,500 that choose to follow generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) must also file the audited financial statements by June 30.

These financial statements must be attested to by a CPA, public accountant, or the state auditor. An extension is available if the city requests it and demonstrates to the state auditor an “inability to conform” to the deadline. As usual, the financial statement can be filed through the online State Auditor’s Form Entry System (SAFES).

- **Access the SAFES system** (*Link to: <https://www.auditor.state.mn.us/safes/>*)
- **Access information on the requirements for audited financial statements** (*Link to: <http://www.auditor.state.mn.us/default.aspx?page=AccountingDocs>*)

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## Current Grant Opportunities

### Regional Indicators Initiative Scholarship

Scholarships are available for cities interested in participating in the Regional Indicators Initiative (RII), a program that measures annual performance metrics for Minnesota cities interested in increasing efficiency and sustainability. To participate, cities must collect and report data for 2008-2012. The cost to do this is about \$3,000, and a limited amount of funding is available to provide competitive matching scholarships to a few communities. Three to six cities are expected to be awarded scholarships on a competitive basis. For more information about the application process, contact Amir Nadav, GreenStep Cities co-director, at [anadav@gpisd.net](mailto:anadav@gpisd.net) (Link to: <mailto:anadav@gpisd.net>). The deadline to apply is **July 3**.

- **Learn more about the scholarship** (Link to: <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/blog/scholarship-funding-available-participate-regional-indicators-initiative>)
- **Learn more about RII** (Link to: <http://regionalindicatorsmn.uli.org/>)
- **Apply for an RII scholarship** (Link to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/RIIscholarships>)

### State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid Grants

In the 2014 legislative session, the Minnesota Legislature approved funding for the State Capital Projects Grants-in-Aid grants program for historic preservation projects. A total of \$1.4 million was set to be allocated to county and local jurisdictions as matching money for historic preservation projects of a capital nature, as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 138.0525. It is anticipated that approximately \$800,000 will be available in the fall 2014 grants cycle. Grants must be matched on at least a one for one basis. The minimum request is \$10,000. There is no request cap in place. Keep in mind that grants are spread across the state as much as possible. Funded projects will begin after Jan. 1, 2015. The pre-application deadline is **July 18**. The final application deadline is **Sept. 5**.

**Learn more and apply for this grant** (Link to: [http://www.mnhs.org/shpo/grants/state\\_capital\\_grants/](http://www.mnhs.org/shpo/grants/state_capital_grants/))

### Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Environmental Assistance Grants

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has issued a request for proposals to solicit projects for the fiscal year 2014-2015 Environmental Assistance Grant Program.

Applications are being accepted for proposals in the following nine focus areas:

- Focus Area A. Volatile Organic Chemicals (VOCs)
- Focus Area B. Food Waste Reduction
- Focus Area C. Green Chemistry & Design Curriculum
- Focus Area D. Reuse/Repair/Rent
- Focus Area E. Environmental Solid Waste Management Practices
- Focus Area F. Communities Adapting to Climate Change and Extreme Weather

- Focus Area G. City Sustainability Policy Development
- Focus Area H. State ENERGY STAR Commercial Buildings Goal
- Focus Area I. School Site Sustainability and Student Environmental Education

The deadlines are:

- **July 16** at 2 p.m. for Focus Areas B – I
- **Aug. 13** at 2 p.m. for Focus Area A

**Learn more and apply** (*Link to: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/about-mpca/assistance/financial-assistance/environmental-assistance-grants-and-loans/environmental-assistance-grants-program.html>*)

### **Funding from Minnesota Housing**

Minnesota Housing has the following request for proposal (RFP):

#### **Impact Fund**

The Impact Fund provides funding for developers and administrators of single-family, owner-occupied affordable housing activity throughout Minnesota. The deadline to apply is 12 p.m. on **June 17**.

**Learn more and apply** (*Link to: <http://www.mnhousing.gov/wcs/Satellite?c=Page&cid=1358906164357&pagename=External%2FPage%2FEXTStandardLayout>*)

### **Minnesota State Arts Board Cultural Community Partnership Grants**

The Cultural Community Partnership Grant program is designed to enhance the artistic and career development of artists of color. It supports collaborative projects between two individual artists, or between an artist and an organization. To help promote the work of grantees, each recipient will be expected to present some type of public event or exhibition as part of his or her project. Cities are eligible to apply for the grant. The deadline to apply is **July 18** at 4:30 p.m.

**Learn more and apply for this grant** (*Link to: <http://www.arts.state.mn.us/grants/cultural-community-partnership.htm>*)

### **Livable Communities Grants**

The Metropolitan Council Livable Communities 2014 grant application forms are now available. The 1995 Livable Communities Act (LCA) funds community investment that revitalizes economies, creates affordable housing, and links different land uses and transportation. LCA's voluntary, incentive-based approach leverages partnerships and shared resources to help communities achieve their regional and local goals. Over \$19M in grant funding is available. Deadlines are in May and June, depending on the type of grant.

**Learn more and apply for a grant** (*Link to: <http://metro council.org/Communities/Publications-And-Resources/LCA-2014-NOFA.aspx>*)

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>*)



## PERA Seeks City Input About GASB 68 Implementation

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) released two new standards relating to pension accounting and financial reporting for state and local governments in June 2012. Statement No. 68, Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions, affects the financial statements of employers who participate in the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA). In an effort to communicate and help PERA participating employers learn as much as possible about these new accounting standards, PERA is asking for your help.

PERA has created a survey asking basic information about your reporting practices. This eight-question survey should be directed to the person or persons in your organization responsible for preparing your organization's financial statements, and will be used to communicate important information about implementing this new standard.

- **Learn more from the PERA website** (*Link to:* )
- **Take the survey** (*Link to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PERAGASB68Survey>*)

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>*)

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## **NLC Encourages Mayors to Join in Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness**

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has a challenge for mayors all over the country. Through the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan is giving mayors a way to publicly express their commitment and provide the leadership to implement the strategies necessary for their communities to end homelessness among all veterans locally.

This is the nation's first strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness aimed to end veteran homelessness by the end of 2015. Since 2009, the number of veterans who are homeless has dropped 17.2 percent nationally.

### **Minnesota efforts**

Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges, St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman, and Gov. Mark Dayton have pledged to end veterans' homelessness locally in 2015.

During an event last week, Mayor Coleman, who is also the president of the National League of Cities, spoke about developing systems that provide "real time" information through partnerships with state agencies, non-profits and other stakeholders. In addition, Mayor Coleman discussed the importance of local leaders using their positions in the community to raise awareness about ending veteran homelessness and urging their peers in surrounding cities to join them.

To help gather support among local leaders, Mayor Coleman created the **Homeless Veteran Leadership Network** (*Link to: <http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/city-solutions-and-applied-research/housing-and-community-development/veteran-housing>*) (HVLN) within NLC. The HVLN supports the Mayors Challenge by engaging NLC members to join the Challenge, connecting them to technical resources and sharing best practices.

### **Collaboration with HUD**

Mayors are being contacted by staff at the HUD Minneapolis Office and are encouraged to consider joining the Mayors Challenge and consider using some of the resources available to local communities to end veterans' homelessness.

Other best practices shared by leaders from the **U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness** (*Link to: <http://usich.gov/>*), **National Alliance to End Homelessness** (*Link to: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/veterans>*) (NAEH), and **Department of Veterans Affairs** (*Link to: <http://www.va.gov/homeless/>*) and other cities such as New York and Tallahassee include:

- Engaging all sectors of the community and coordinating them through a lead agency designated and supported by the mayor.

- Using data-driven strategies such as Housing First to place homeless veterans into housing and include supportive services as necessary.
- Developing “coordinated assessment” systems to effectively and efficiently match available resources to those in need.
- Knowing all homeless veterans by name and prioritizing them for services using tools such as the Vulnerability Index.
- “Co-locating” federal VA officials in the same physical space as city and state agencies to reduce the amount of time and the number of trips veterans must make before getting needed services such as access to employment, healthcare, and education.
- Having trained police officers actively engaged with homeless service providers.
- Integrating employment efforts with the work of homeless service providers.
- Providing free public transportation passes to veterans.

**Learn more about the Mayors Challenge** (*Link to: <https://www.onecpd.info/homelessness-assistance/mayors-challenge/>*)

**Learn how NLC can help start or improve efforts to end veteran homelessness in your community**  
(*Link to: <http://www.nlc.org/find-city-solutions/city-solutions-and-applied-research/housing-and-community-development/veteran-housing>*)

**Read the current issue of the Cities Bulletin** (*Link to: <http://www.lmc.org/page/1/cities-bulletin-newsletter.jsp>*)

## For More Information

### Contact Dexter J. Sidney

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## Anne Norris

**From:** Rep.Mike.Freiberg@house.leg.state.mn.us  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 12, 2014 9:57 AM  
**To:** Announcements From Representative Mike Freiberg  
**Subject:** Rep. Mike Freiberg - Legislative Report - June 12, 2014

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# Minnesota House of Representatives

## Rep. Mike Freiberg (45B) - Legislative Update



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**Biographical Information:**  
**Home:** Golden Valley \* 6601 Olympia St., 55427; 763-234-8749  
**Occupation:** Public health attorney  
**Education:** B.A., government/Russian,

Friends,

We've had a couple of weeks to catch our breath after the end of the incredibly productive 2013-2014 legislative biennium. I still have a hard time believing the breadth and scope of what was accomplished on behalf of Minnesotans.

Before we dive into that, let's remember where we were as the 2013 legislative session was about to convene.

Minnesota faced a billion-dollar deficit, and we still owed our schools \$1 billion the previous legislature borrowed to fill its budget gap. In 2012, property taxes increased by \$375 million for homeowners, small business owners, and farmers, thanks to the elimination of the Homestead Value Tax Credit while big corporations kept their big tax breaks.

Property taxes all across the state were skyrocketing, up 87 percent in the last 10 years. Cities and counties were forced to raise them because St. Paul had dramatically slashed Local Government Aid.

Previous legislatures also cut aid to our kids' schools and took a scissors to the social safety net. Minnesota's middle class got stuck bearing the hardship the most.

The 2011-12 legislature promised a laser-like focus on jobs. What it produced was givebacks to the wealthiest Minnesotans and tax breaks to corporations. Nothing on the jobs front. But it did give us two highly divisive

## News Items

[Rep. Mike Freiberg - Legislative Report - March 28, 2014](#) - (Posted: Mar 28 2014 3:45PM)

[Rep. Mike Freiberg - Legislative Report - March 7, 2014](#) - (Posted: Mar 7 2014 3:51PM)

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Georgetown University; J.D.,  
William Mitchell College of Law  
**Elected:** 2012  
**Term:** 1st  
**Family:** Married, spouse Lauren,  
2 children

\* Prefers interim mail at this  
address.

constitutional amendments that divided Minnesotans.

Starting last year, we chose a different path. We've gone from budget deficits to budget surpluses. We've gone from skyrocketing property taxes to the first statewide property tax decline in 10 years.

The 2013-14 legislature made historic investments in education – \$725 million from early childhood to post-secondary. It rejected a decade-long cycle of deep budget cuts and shifts and gimmicks to pass a fair and balanced budget that will finally put Minnesota on sound fiscal footing, and deliver key investments for a stronger middle class.

The previous legislature borrowed \$2.4 billion from our schools. We paid that debt in full.

We've witnessed the disaster that is government in gridlock. And over the past 18 months, we witnessed something else – real progress.

Just take a look at some of the things that were accomplished:

#### **E-12 Education**

- Invested \$525 million in Minnesota's E-12 education system, providing needed funding for schools to reduce class sizes and boost student achievement.
- Fully funded all-day, every day kindergarten for every Minnesota child for the first time in state history.
- Invested in early learning scholarships aimed at closing the achievement gap.
- Paid back the IOU owed to our schools in full.
- Required school districts to adopt strong anti-bullying policies.
- Fully funded reduced price school lunches for students whose parents can't afford to pay for them.

#### **Higher Education**

- Froze college tuition for students at U of M and MnSCU schools after a decade of historic tuition increases and rising debt, and provided significant new resources to the state grant program.

### **Middle Class Tax Cuts**

- The legislature put middle class Minnesotans first with the \$1.2 billion surplus, providing \$550 million in tax cuts to more than 2 million Minnesotans.
- We delivered more than \$400 million in property tax relief by restoring the state's commitment to cities, counties and school districts.
- Thanks to \$178 million in direct property tax relief, property taxes are going down statewide for the first time in a decade — homeowners in particular are seeing more than a \$161 million decrease in property taxes (after direct relief).

### **Balanced Budget That Puts Middle Class First**

- Reversed 10 years of “all-cuts and gimmicks” budgeting with a responsible plan that asks wealthiest Minnesotans and corporations to pay their fair share to make investments in priorities Minnesotans broadly share — education, job creation, and property tax relief.
- Due to the growing economy and honest budget, this legislature turned a budget deficit into a \$1.2 billion surplus.
- The legislature added \$150 million to our budget reserve and there is a \$600 million expected surplus into the future. This is the first structurally balanced budget in more than a decade.

### **A Stronger Economy and Job Creation**

- Raised Minnesota's minimum wage in stages to \$9.50 for large business and \$7.75 for small businesses by August 2016. More than 350,000 Minnesotans will get a raise. No one who works hard and puts in 40 hours a week should have to live in poverty.
- Enacted the Women's Economic Security Act, which aims to close the gender pay gap, strengthen workplace protections and flexibility for pregnant mothers, and expand employment opportunities for women in high-wage, high-demand professions. When women have equal opportunities to succeed, it means stronger families, stronger communities, and a brighter economic future for our state.
- Focused on critical investments to grow our economy in Greater Minnesota, such as

broadband infrastructure, economic development resources, and farm-to-food shelf legislation.

- Invested in proven strategies to support job creation: the Minnesota Investment Fund to encourage small businesses expansion, the Minnesota Trade Office to help Minnesota small businesses compete globally, and key workforce development investments to help address our state's "job skills" gap.
- Cut \$346 million in taxes for small businesses – one of the largest tax cuts for small businesses in state history – by reducing the rate employers pay to fund the Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund.
- Approved more than \$1 billion for public works projects, some funded by bonding and some by a state budget surplus, which will create thousands of new jobs.

### **Health and Human Services**

- Prioritized nursing homes and long-term care provider by providing them with a much-needed funding increase.
- Funded mental health initiatives for adults and children, such as expanding school-based mental health services and mental health crisis response services.
- More than 200,000 Minnesotans have obtained high-quality, affordable health insurance through MNsure, many of them for the first time in their lives — and at the lowest rates in the nation. We're not going back to the days of denials for pre-existing conditions or having your coverage dropped when you get sick.
- Expanded access to quality care by implementing the Medicaid expansion option as available under the federal Affordable Care Act (ACA), covering 35,000 previously uninsured Minnesotans and saving the state billions of dollars.
- Passed limits on the sale of e-cigarettes to youths, along with restrictions on using them in government buildings, hospitals and elsewhere.
- Allowed some Minnesotans to use cannabis to relieve extreme seizures and other medical problem.
- Newborns will continue to be screened for more than 50 serious, rare, hard to detect, important to treat early disorders. Parents will be informed of

their rights to opt out of these services.

- Naxalone, an antidote to opiate overdose, will be more widely available and can be administered by people other than just doctors and paramedics. Those calling emergency responders to save the life of someone overdosing will not be subject to prosecution themselves, eliminating a disincentive to get help.

### **Public Safety**

- Spurred by recent transportation accidents and spills of crude oil, we invested more than \$11 million to improve the response to railroad and pipeline crude oil incidents. First responders will get funds for more training and equipment, and the number of state railroad inspectors will grow from one to four or five. Some crossings along oil train routes will be improved.
- Required drivers that hit something to stop and determine what (or who) they hit, eliminating an incentive to leave the scene and later claim a lack of knowledge as a defense in court.
- Authorized the use of electronic monitoring devices to increase the safety for domestic abuse victims.
- Those subject to orders for protection (restraining orders) for domestic abuse, sexual assault or stalking are required to surrender their guns and will not be allowed to purchase a new gun.
- Strengthened existing law on the misuse of private, sensitive data by public employees by tightening training and procedures, clarifying what constitutes a breach or misuse of data, improving investigations and reporting the results of those investigations, and increasing personal accountability on the part of those who break the law.
- Required smartphones to have “kill switches,” software or hardware that allows the owner to disable the phones if they are lost or stolen.
- Shielded some criminal records held by both public agencies and the courts from certain background checks to help reformed offenders get a second chance to become productive members of society and gain access to housing and jobs.
- Eliminated some barriers for tenant victims in

breaking a lease if necessary for their safety in cases of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking.

- Provided compensation, post-release services, housing, transportation and subsistence, and medical and dental health care costs to those who have wrongfully convicted.
- Synthetic drugs, items such as bath salts and products sold under names like K2, will be more difficult or impossible to buy at retail stores under a new law.

### **Marriage Equality**

- Made Minnesota the 12<sup>th</sup> state to give everyone the freedom to marry the person they love.

### **Environment**

- Invested nearly \$70 million to bring water from South Dakota into southwest Minnesota.
- Funded grants to local governments to conduct aquatic invasive species prevention and intervention activities, especially at public boat landings.
- Banned the use of lead or mercury in wheel weights, counterweights used in the auto manufacturing industry, and mercury thermometers, and triclosan in personal care products.

### **Miscellaneous**

- Passed a bill that allows online voter registration and online applications for absentee ballots.
- Approved increased funding to aid homeowners with problems paying for propane to heat their homes after a shortage prompted high prices and passed legislation to prevent propane price gouging.
- Passed legislation that will subject dog breeding facilities to oversight and regulation.

That is quite a record. Even more needs to be done for our families, students, workers, seniors and our local communities to put the damage of the past decade behind us. But the 2013-14 session was a good start. I'm happy to report that we're on the right path again.

Sincerely,

# Promising assistance to military service members in the west metro

Quad cities of Crystal, Robbinsdale, New Hope, and Golden Valley proclaimed Beyond the Yellow Ribbon communities.

**BY GINA PURCELL  
SUN POST NEWSPAPERS**

After more than a year in the making, the cities of New Hope, Crystal, Robbinsdale and Golden Valley will become official Beyond the Yellow Ribbon communities.

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon began in 2008 as a way to provide easy access to resources for all military service members and their families.

The idea sprouted from the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program, a national effort to provide resources through federal partnerships to service members and their families before, during and after a deployment.

"Minnesota really perfected that and set the standard for the nation," said Annette Kuyper, director of military outreach for the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs. "Minnesota took that to the next level. We took it to the communities and companies of Minnesota to expand the program further."

Unique to Minnesota, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon has several requirements that must be met before a city can be proclaimed a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon community. It is a process that takes nine months to a year, according to Kuyper.

The 16-step process includes leadership meetings, a kickoff event, an action plan and proclamation.

The action plan includes identifying existing support activities within the communities, developing commitments from resources in each key area and striving to obtain the highest level of support. Key areas include

city leadership, education, public safety, businesses and employers, faith-based organizations, veteran and civic organizations, social services and medical providers.

If a military family wants information about school districts for their children, they can reach out to Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. If they require medical assistance: Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. If they need financial help: Beyond the Yellow Ribbon. The quad communities Beyond the Yellow Ribbon committee can provide contact information regarding anything needed by a service member or a family member.

Last summer the quad cities brought Golden Valley resident Lynn Gitelis on board to help create an action plan. Along with Gitelis was a steering committee of dedicated community members who made this opportunity a reality. On June 15 the quad cities gathered to celebrate the achievement.

Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope and Robbinsdale joined more than 200 cities, 25 counties and a number of businesses statewide already proclaimed Beyond the Yellow Ribbon.

Once a city is deemed a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon community, the leaders of that initiative must complete an annual checklist and attend an annual training event.

According to Kuyper, the efforts have been positive.

"We are able to get help for our service members very quickly," she said.

Kuyper said the quad cities have already helped in supporting assistance to area service members. Golden Valley Mayor



## Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

Golden Valley, Crystal, Robbinsdale and New Hope celebrate a year of dedicated work to become Beyond the Yellow Ribbon communities. The proclamation means the cities will provide assistance and resources to military service members and their families when needed. (Submitted graphic)

Shep Harris recalls an instance when a military couple living with disabilities in Crystal were required by the landlord to clear out clutter from their garage or they would be evicted.

The couple contacted the state level Beyond the Yellow Ribbon who put them in contact with the city. The city teamed with Allianz to provide a dumpster and several volunteers to clear out the couple's garage so they did not have to move.

"That's what this program is about," he said.

Harris and the other mayors are thrilled to provide this type of opportunity to its service members.

"It's not so much of what it means to us, the City of Golden Valley, but really what does it mean to our veterans, what does it mean to the families of the veterans who have served and are

serving who live here in our communities," he said. "That we are here for them through thick and thin and that we are going to continue to recognize the service that they provided for years — years past, years to come. But if they need some help that we are here to help them. That they are not going to come home to a community that's going to ignore them."

The quad communities have yet to determine contact information for their Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program. If you are a service member or family member in need of information or assistance you can call Minnesota Family Assistance Center at 651-282-4055. The closest center is located at 5500 85th Ave. N., Brooklyn Park. Emails may also be sent to jonell.m.wilson.ctr@mail.mil.

Contact Gina Purcell at [gina.purcell@ecm-inc.com](mailto:gina.purcell@ecm-inc.com)

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### Community Briefs