



MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM

Prepared for: **Naperville City Council**

By: City Manager's office

6/19/2025

A. MANAGER'S MEMORANDUM

Source:

1. Marcie Schatz,
Assistant to the
City Manager

Subject:

Legislative positions and
lobbying organizations

Action:

FYI

CITY OF NAPERVILLE MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 19, 2025

TO: Doug Krieger, City Manager

FROM: Marcie Schatz, Assistant to the City Manager

SUBJECT: Legislative positions and lobbying organizations

Purpose:

At its May 20, 2025 meeting, the City Council directed staff to prepare a report on the City's membership with the Illinois Municipal League (IML) and other lobbying organizations that represent the City. Specifically, staff was directed to include annual membership dues, the extent of the City's control over messaging, and what happens when the City wishes to remain neutral but the lobbying organization is taking a different position.

Discussion:

The City, as an organization, pays membership dues to the following organizations that lobby and provide legislative positions.

DuPage Mayors and Managers Conference (DMMC)

DMMC is an organization of 35 municipalities comprised of both elected and appointed officials. Beyond legislative support, DMMC fosters intergovernmental cooperation and provides research, technical assistance, training, and leadership development opportunities to members.

DMMC coordinates with other collar councils of government on issues and also facilitates coordination between DuPage County and municipalities. As a subregional council of government, DMMC receives approximately \$18M annually in federal surface transportation funds. A DMMC committee prioritizes transportation projects for this federal funding and distributes funding to member municipalities, including Naperville.

Annual membership dues:
\$28,814

Messaging:

The Mayor (voting member), a Council member, and a staff member actively serve on the Legislative Committee. The Mayor and City Manager serve on the DMMC Board as voting members. During legislative session, the City is engaging with DMMC staff at least weekly and most often multiple times within a week.

Of the five organizations listed in this memo, the City engages most actively with DMMC on state legislative topics. DMMC tracks and analyzes legislation, following a strict process and criteria when considering legislative positions and only takes positions on bills that affect their membership.

Position:

If DMMC is considering a position on a bill, DMMC staff members will present it to the Legislative Committee for consideration and then to the full DMMC Board for approval. With over 5,000 bills filed annually, DMMC will have positions on hundreds of bills. As bills move through the committee and legislative process, DMMC will submit witness slips, inform their lobbyist, communicate with legislators, and encourage municipalities to submit witness slips as well as communicate directly with their local legislators.

Will County Governmental League (WCGL)

WCGL is an organization of 32 municipalities comprised of both elected and appointed officials. Beyond legislative support, WCGL performs similar functions as DMMC for Will County such as distributing transportation funding and fostering intergovernmental cooperation, providing research, technical assistance, training, and leadership development opportunities to members.

Annual dues:

\$20,843

Messaging:

The City is a member of WCGL but has not actively participated in the legislative decision-making process or messaging.

Position:

WCGL legislative priorities and recommended positions are based on, and generally consistent with, the priorities of DMMC and the City of Naperville. For example, oppose unfunded mandates, legislation that usurps existing municipal or county authority, proposals that erode the municipal or county revenue base, and home rule restrictions.

Consistent with DMMC, as bills move through the committee and legislative process WCGL will submit witness slips, inform their lobbyist, communicate with legislators, and encourage municipalities to submit witness slips as well as communicate directly with their local legislators. WCGL also tracks and analyzes legislation, following a process and criteria when considering legislative positions and taking positions on bills that affect their membership.

Illinois Municipal League (IML)

IML has 1,294 member communities and publishes manuals to provide assistance to municipal officials and employees on aspects of their daily responsibilities and topics of municipal interest. This includes, but is not limited to, seminars, workshops, and webinars.

IML provides valuable municipal legal support and continuing education enhancing the City's Legal Department's ability to respond effectively to complex issues and maintain compliance with state and federal laws. Specific legal support is outlined below:

1. **Legal Support:** IML provides assistance to municipal attorneys, offering advice and support on various legal issues impacting local municipalities including access to policies on a wide range of municipal issues, ensuring up-to-date resources are available to address new and emerging regulations. For example COVID-19 regulations, the legalization of medical and recreational cannabis, and the implementation of the SAFE-T Act.
2. **Continuing Legal Education:** IML offers continuing legal education through seminars and workshops, keeping our municipal attorneys informed of the latest developments in municipal law. Additionally, IML maintains robust online resources, including a library of model ordinances, legal bulletins, and frequently asked questions, which are essential for staying compliant and informed.

Annual dues:

\$7,000

Messaging:

The City is a member of IML but does not actively participate in their general legislative decision-making process or messaging. IML bases their legislative agenda on core values to promote local decision making, promote and preserve home rule authority, oppose unfunded mandates, preserve the right of municipalities to decide employee wages and benefits, and protect state shared revenues. The City works closely with IML on specific topics as needed and does influence messaging on those efforts such as the recent pension discussions.

Position:

Legislatively, IML represents Illinois municipalities in matters before the Illinois General Assembly, state agencies, and federal government. IML maintains a legislative presence at those levels in order to effectively advocate for the interests of Illinois municipalities and is often included in bill negotiation. IML provides regular legislative updates and fact sheets for its members, files witness slips, and testifies in legislative committees.

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus (MMC)

The MMC is a membership organization of 275 municipalities and the councils of government (DMMC, WCGL, etc.) in the Chicago region. Members work on public policy issues and regional programs. In addition to legislative issues, the MMC has focused in recent years on ADA, aging, DEI, environment, grant programs, and housing. The MMC also offers grant programs for municipalities.

Annual dues:

\$3,860

Messaging:

The City is a member of MMC but does not directly participate in their legislative decision-making process or messaging. Both DMMC and WCGL have seats on the MMC Executive Board.

Position:

MMC bases their legislative agenda on protecting municipal revenues, rejecting unfunded mandates, and preserving local authority and home rule. The three current MMC legislative priorities are restoring Local Government Distributive Fund (LGDF), protecting and preserving public safety pension reforms, and ensuring sustained public transit for northeastern Illinois.

Naperville Area Chamber of Commerce (NACC)

Annual dues:

\$500

Messaging:

The City is a member of NACC but does not directly participate in their legislative decision-making process or messaging.

Position:

Staff meets with NACC legislative staff to share priorities as needed.

Lobbying organizations and City positions

When taking legislative positions, the City follows the flow chart that was approved by the City Council on January 21, 2025. (Attachment A)

Staff has heard directly from legislators that they value the City filing witness slips and appreciate knowing when Naperville supports or opposes a bill. If legislators are unsure, they will contact staff to confirm the City's position. Staff does not believe that our local legislators assume that we are always aligned with the positions, testimony, and witness slips of IML, DMMC, and WCGL.

The discussion at the May 20, 2025 City Council meeting was prompted by a bill that followed Path #2, "Bill is municipal related but not relevant to Naperville."

In these instances, staff will take no action. With over 5,000 bills introduced this year, there are hundreds of bills that fall into this category. Staff views taking no action as the equivalent to an "abstain" position.

As an alternative, staff considered the option of filing a "neutral" witness slip for bills that are municipal related but do not affect Naperville. This option is not recommended for the following reasons:

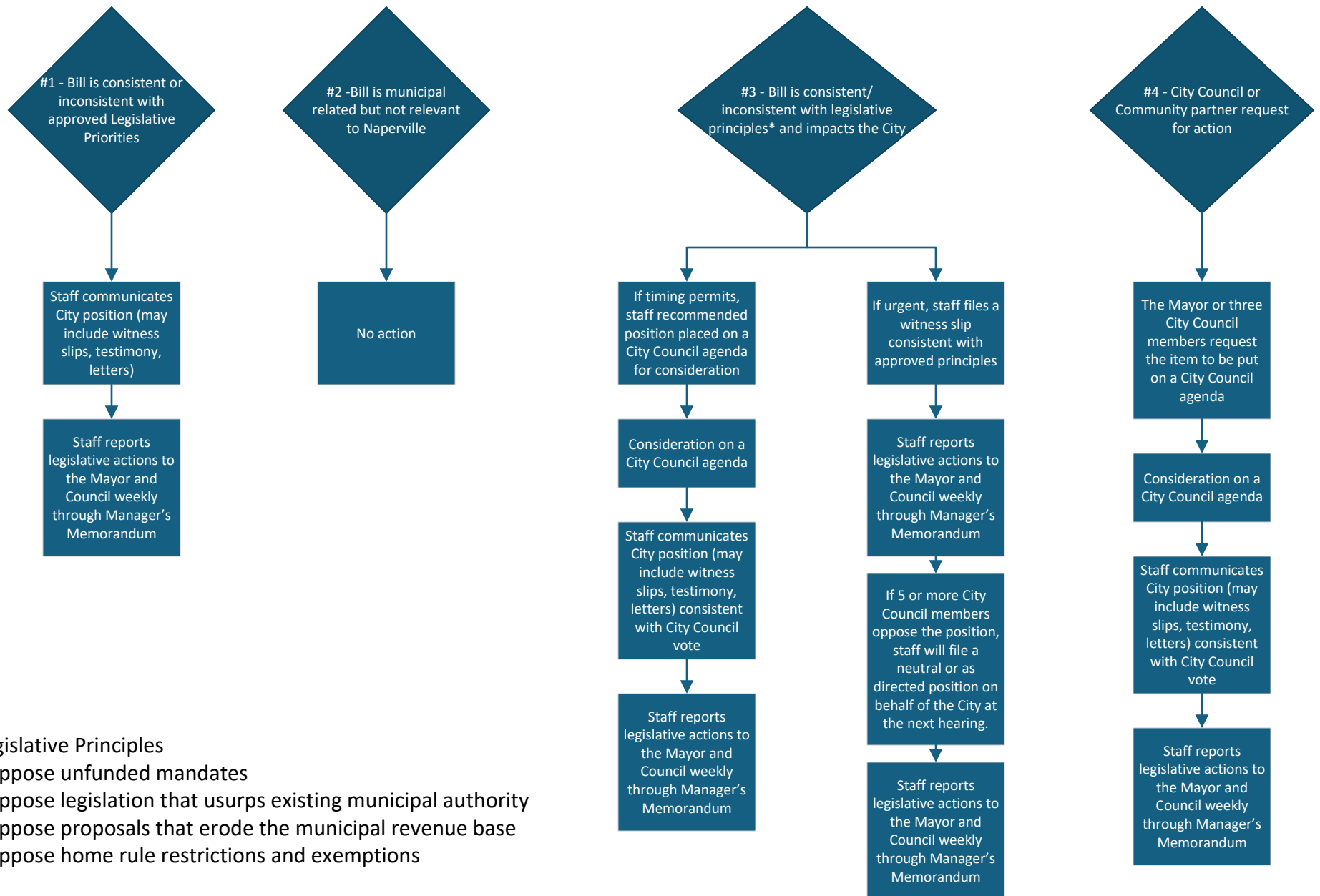
1. The vast majority of bills that IML, DMMC, and WCGL oppose are protecting municipal rights. It would be inconsistent with Naperville's legislative principles to file a position of neutral on these bills.
2. Filing a "neutral" position is used as a final position of parties on a negotiated bill in that parties negotiate to "neutral."
3. The position of "neutral" gives the impression that the bill has been fully evaluated by the City when in fact it has not. City staff only fully reviews and evaluates bills that are relevant Naperville.

If the City Council is interested in taking a position on a bill where the City has not engaged, staff recommends Path #4. Here, the Mayor or three Council members can request the item to be on a City Council agenda for consideration.

Recommendation:

Please include in the June 19, 2025, Manager's Memorandum.

Legislative Review Process



*Legislative Principles

1. Oppose unfunded mandates
2. Oppose legislation that usurps existing municipal authority
3. Oppose proposals that erode the municipal revenue base
4. Oppose home rule restrictions and exemptions